Gordon’s new bachelor’s degree in early childhood education

George Bugg
From Used Appliances to Used Cars

Oliver Halle
Taking the Harder Right

Stephanie Odom
Christian Ministries Hospice

Dan Jackson
Faculty profile
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(Editor’s note: Last year’s President’s Report ran a story on Ambassador Luis Guinot Jr. The story included a photo of the Gordon Canteen in 1950, but only four of the 11 people were identified. From the left (in front of the counter) are Dot Askin, an unidentified cadet, Luis Guinot, two more unidentified cadets, and an unidentified student wearing a Pembroke sweatshirt, Jim Barbaree, Betty Jo Prescott and one more unknown cadet. The following note came to the President’s Report after a plea for help with the names.)

Mr. Boltz,

The student in the Pembroke High School jersey is J. Caldwell Morrison from Pembroke, Georgia. He was in college from ’50-’52. He was a mortician and owned Morrison Funeral Home in Pembroke. He died from cancer in 1998. We were classmates of Dot Askin. Barbaree and Prescott were one year behind us. Guinot was two years behind us. The man behind the counter was Bennett Amos. He operated the canteen and post office.

Gerald Strickland, Glennville, Georgia
Cyrus NEUNER gave his time and energy to help Gordon College right up to the time of his death on July 9, 2006. When he was asked to help with new fund-raising materials in May 2006, Mr. Neuner did not excuse himself from one more call to service. Instead, he was genuinely pleased to help, opening his home and giving of his possessions. For many of the people who worked with him on this project, this was their first encounter with Mr. Neuner. And even though they could not have known him well, they all report a sense of loss that they will not see him again.

Cyrus Milton Neuner graduated from Gordon Military High School in 1937 and Gordon Military College in 1939. When World War II ended, he returned to Barnesville and served as a member of the Gordon College board of trustees, and in that capacity helped guide the College through more than 50 years of change. The strong, vibrant Gordon of today owes much to the stewardship of Mr. Neuner.

In a personal interview just a month before his death, Mr. Neuner displayed a natural modesty and self-effacing manner that belied his many and enduring accomplishments. “I was never a strong student,” he said. So much so that when he went to Maj. G.B. Connell to get his records so he could apply to Georgia Tech, Connell told him he would never get through the program. But he did. He said it took him three years to do so, but he got through the program with a degree in mechanical engineering. “I graduated on June 7, 1942, and I went into the service on June 20, 1942. I was on my way overseas by the end of July. The ship was supposed to go to the Pacific, but orders were changed en route. It took 30 days to get from New York City to Cairo, and I was seasick the whole way.”

Uncertain of his fate, he postponed marrying his sweetheart, Mary “Kebie” Scott, before leaving. With war’s end, he and Kebie married and settled in Barnesville. “I had a chance to go to South Carolina,” he said, “but I just wanted to stay at home.”

He took a job as the head of the personnel office of General Tire at Aldora Mills, but soon took over as plant manager at the young age of 28. His community service included 25 years on the Barnesville City Council and appointments by Georgia Govs. Herman E. Talmadge, S. Ernest Vandiver Jr. and Jimmy Carter.

At his funeral on July 13, Mr. Neuner’s grandson-in-law Bruce Bowers recalled that Cyrus did not have an explosive nature, akin to a volcano. This was not his way in the world. Rather, he was constant, sure and even, like a river. Back in 1942, after he debarked from his 30-day ocean voyage, he sent Miss Kebie a telegram which simply read “Arrived in Palestine.” She remembered thinking at the time, “Oh Lord, I’ll never see him again.” But constant, sure and even, he found his way back to her. We at Gordon share the hope that she and all of us will get to see this good man again.
On May 16, I invited the Gordon College community to log onto a live webcast of the Board of Regents meeting to watch the history of Gordon being made – and it was. The Regents approved the College’s application to offer a bachelor of science degree in early childhood education, and with that approval, Gordon College became a four-year college. As much as this is a dramatic and historic change, the College will continue to do what it has done for 154 years, provide for the education needs of middle Georgia and beyond. Gordon will continue its mission as an access point for the University System of Georgia, but now it will also provide a bachelor of science in education.

Even as we were fulfilling our mission and applying for four-year status, we were busy working on our reaccreditation with the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS) completing a major component of the process, the Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP). The focus of our plan is academic literacy, which we plan to enhance with an expanded new student orientation program, a learning communities program, and a first-year experience course.

I am confident that at the end of this three-year reaccreditation process in June 2007, Gordon College will have the approval of SACS.

To conclude this letter to you our alumni, faculty, staff and friends, I would like to add my thanks to all of you who have supported the College with your donations to the Gordon College Foundation. Your generosity ensures that your Gordon College, whether you attended in ’60 or ’06, will continue its two-year mission as well as its new four-year mission.

— Lawrence V. Weill, President
In the end, the proceedings of the Board of Regents seemed quite matter of fact and routine. The chair of the academic affairs committee, Dr. Frank Butler, made a motion to the Board for revised mission statements, change of sector, and new bachelor degree programs for Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College, Middle Georgia College and... Gordon College. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

While members of Gordon College President Larry Weill’s party at the proceedings kept their composure, faculty and staff watching the proceedings via a webcast in Russell Hall broke out into cheers and applause.

The day was May 16, 2006, almost six months after Gordon College submitted its new program proposal for a bachelor’s degree in early childhood education on Nov. 22, 2005. Work on the proposal began much earlier when the Regents gave the College the go-ahead to apply for the first step in the process, a change of sector.

In their May 16 press release announcing their approval, the Regents cited a 2004 report by the Georgia Professional Standards Commission and population growth: “Early childhood education is one of the top three shortage areas in the field of education, based upon the number of provisional teaching certificates issued by the Commission. The geographic area served by Gordon College includes four fast-growing suburban counties in south metro Atlanta – Henry, Fayette, Clayton and Spalding counties. This new degree program will help meet the needs of this region for early childhood teachers.”

Local support for the program in early childhood education poured in from the Lamar County Board of Commissioners, the superintendents of Lamar, Pike, Butts, Newton and Fayette county schools, the city of Barnesville and many other community organizations and leaders.

According to President Weill, the bachelor of science in education (BSE) will allow Gordon to
address the critical need for teachers in the state, particularly for the region served by the College. He set fall 2007 as the first semester Gordon will be enrolling students in the new degree program.

The first thing the Regents’ approval means is that the College’s mission will change, and though not a radical change, it did prompt caveats from both Chancellor Erroll B. Davis Jr. and Dr. Butler at the May 16 Regents’ meeting.

The chancellor told the Regents before the motion was made that there have been “concerns” and that the vote the Regents were about to take was not going to be an “inconsequential” decision. He said he asked himself about alternatives such as distance learning or if the programs could be handled elsewhere in the system but reached the conclusion that the proposals presented by Gordon, ABAC and Middle Georgia were “the best way to deliver the programs.”

Dr. Butler reminded the Board of the 2002 moratorium on mission change, saying that when two-year colleges move to the new degree level of four-year programs, they need to keep in mind their mission remains serving students as an access point to the larger University System of Georgia.

Gordon’s new mission statement does just as Dr. Butler recommended, keeping its access mission primary, while stating that the College will “prepare students for entry into and success in specific occupations and careers especially demanded by the surrounding community through appropriate associate and baccalaureate programs.”

According to Dr. Weill, access has always been an important part of Gordon. “We are proud of our history of ensuring that students have the resources available to them to help them succeed throughout their college careers. It is an important role for our College to be an access point, academically, geographically and economically,” he said. “The addition of this program at Gordon allows us to take that role even further.”

The second thing the Regents’ vote does is change the sector of Gordon College. What this means is that Gordon has moved from the two-year institution “sector” of the USG, to the four-year sector, albeit limited in its baccalaureate offerings. Gordon is no longer simply a “college”; it is a “state college.”

The third thing the Regents’ vote does is approve the instruction of students through all four years of their studies in early childhood education (pre-kindergarten through fifth grade) on the Gordon campus in Barnesville starting in the 2007-2008 academic year. The fall 2007 start date allows for the College to have the program accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS) and the National Council for Accreditation of Teachers of Education (NCATE).
Most of George Bugg’s 40,000 sq.ft. warehouse is filled with antique cars, which easily exceed $3 million in value. Such an expensive hobby is an indication of how far he has come from humble beginnings.

Sharing space with his Model A Fords, his 1931 Plymouth Roadster, his 1932 Hudson Coupe, his 1963 Studebaker Hawk GT, and many more cars and trucks is something of his humble beginnings. In plain sight of his showcase of beautiful cars are stacks of used microwaves and rows of used stoves, refrigerators, air conditioners, washers and dryers. The contrast between his beautifully detailed antique cars and his inventory of not-so-beautiful used appliances is jolting, but without used appliances, Mr. Bugg would not have the cars.

Of course it takes something more than used appliances to make a man a success, and in his case, Mr. Bugg believes it is education, something he almost failed to get during his junior high school years.
“During this time,” Mr. Bugg said, “I had a failing grade in chemistry, a 59 average. Worse, the chemistry teacher would delight in humiliating me. Knowing that I would not know an answer, he’d call on me, then taunt me.”

He said that when he told his mother he was quitting, her response was a surprise – she didn’t protest.

“My mother was a smart woman, and instead of arguing with me, she took me on a road trip. She took me around to several colleges, ending our tour at Gordon Military College.

“I don’t know why, but I decided this was where I wanted to go, and my mother enrolled me then and there.

“The structure and discipline Gordon had to offer probably saved my life. I remember my mother crying at my graduation from Gordon and again at my graduation from the University of Georgia. She said that she never thought she’d see the day I’d graduate from college because of my rebelliousness in the 10th grade. And, if not for Gordon, I probably wouldn’t have.”

Mr. Bugg added that his chemistry studies went well at Gordon, studying under Prof. Reggie Coggins. “He was a mild-mannered gentle man, and that made a big difference in the course,” he said. “I completed chemistry with a B+.”

After he graduated from Gordon as a college sophomore in 1955, he met his wife Beverly and “had a couple of babies right quick.” So for about five years he worked instead of finishing college.

How to Succeed in Business

When asked for some advice to Gordon College students majoring in business, George Bugg came up with the following six practices for success in business: determination, sacrifice, hard work, good credit, a good reputation and honesty.

Determination is “the act of deciding definitely and firmly,” according to the Merriam-Webster dictionary. There is a lot of risk in business, and as Mr. Bugg put it, “It is not easy to be in business for yourself.” The keyword in this sentence is “yourself.” People starting their own businesses are on their own. The risk is theirs alone as is the failure or success.

Business people sacrifice their time and energy to their businesses. “If you are in business for yourself,” Mr. Bugg said, “when problems arise you have to take care of them. And if you go into business without any money, like I did, you have to borrow. When I started, I didn’t even have a truck.”

Hard work isn’t just a matter of exhausting your energy; it’s also an exhaustion of your time. “Last night,” Bugg said, “I was in the office until 9 o’clock, while those with 9 to 5 jobs were home relaxing.”

Good credit means you “should always live within your means and pay your bills on time.” Business people with good credit will be given better terms by their suppliers, and those better terms translate into profit.

A good reputation will ensure a good relationship with your customers. Mr. Bugg said that the reason his business succeeded is because we treated people fairly and were honest. Because of this, we ended up doing repeat business and earning the loyalty of generations of families. If we had parents as customers, we also had their children. We got to the point we didn’t have to do much advertising; it was all word of mouth.”

For Mr. Bugg, honesty is about treating all people with dignity and respect, regardless of education, money and status. And he does this across all his interaction with people in all situations, not just in his business dealings.
During this time, he knew he wanted a bachelor’s degree, as did his mother, so he applied to the University of Georgia, which he remembers as “a very interesting experience.”

When he didn’t hear anything back and time was growing short for enrolling, Mr. Bugg called the registrar who asked him to visit with him in Athens.

“Now this was before UGA was integrated,” Mr. Bugg said, “so what he wanted was to see what I looked like. Isn’t that strange?”

One of his strongest memories of his return to college is to recall his family’s finances.

“My wife worked in the rare book section of the UGA library for Dean Tate’s wife, Ms. Sue Fan Tate, earning $40 a week. It’s hard to afford a family and school on this. It was all we had to pay for a car, rent, food and other necessities.”

One of those other necessities was to provide his own stove and refrigerator for their married student housing. When the stove he bought from a used appliance store in Atlanta broke, he fixed it, discovering in the process that he had a knack for repair. And when he returned to the same store for a used washer and dryer, the owner asked him a question that eventually led to his entry into the business of retail appliances. “Why not buy a few things and resell them in Athens?”

“So I put a trailer on my ’50 Studebaker and did just that,” Mr. Bugg said.

Back in Athens, his father-in-law let him store the appliances on his back porch where Mr. Bugg repaired and cleaned them up. He ran ads, sold the appliances and made a profit. “I had never done anything like this before,” he said, “and I liked it. I liked earning money.”

Liking the feel of success, he wanted more, so his next step was to rent business space in Athens so he could increase his inventory and have a convenient location for customers. The building, now just a concrete slab on Oak Street near the heart of Athens and the University, cost him $30 a month.

“I went to school in the morning,” he said, “and I cleaned up my items in the afternoon – so clean they looked new. I also learned, by trial and error, how to repair items, and the business grew.”

When he graduated from UGA in 1963, he had a working and profitable small business, and once again, he decided to expand his business. Winning a franchise to sell General Electric appliances, he began to sell brand new merchandise alongside used appliances. He also expanded the number of employees, adding delivery and maintenance people to help him, his wife and his father-in-law. A short time later, he branched out into electronics like televisions and stereos and then furniture.

“I really worked hard to pay my bills on time, and because I did pay them all on time, my credit grew,” Mr. Bugg said. “This enabled me to buy
some things direct from the manufacturer and not the middleman distributor. I remember one electronics salesman wanted to sell me a stereo for $175, but a factory direct salesman offered me the same stereo for $75. The distributor didn’t like this, but I increased my profit by $100.”

Mr. Bugg gave a couple of other examples of how his good credit led to profit. In one case, he was selling replacement clutches for a minibike for $16.95, for which he paid $13. One day a factory salesman told him he would sell him the clutch for a unit cost of $4 if Mr. Bugg would buy 50 at a time. He sold another item, a cable, for $1.98, which cost him $1.60. “The same thing happened as with the clutch,” Mr. Bugg said, “and I was able to buy 50 at a time for a unit cost of 20 cents.”

One day his landlord came by his business just to chat, but this little chat would significantly alter the course of Mr. Bugg’s business career.

He remembers the man came in while he was cleaning an appliance and just started making small talk. In the course of it all, he told Mr. Bugg that he made money even when he was sound asleep. He was, of course, talking about his rental properties. This sounded pretty good to Mr. Bugg, realizing as he did that he had to be awake and on the job if he wanted to make money.

His first venture into real estate occurred when a friend told him about a couple getting a divorce and selling their house. He bought it and

Sally Ann and the ’40 Ford

One of George Bugg’s newest additions to his antique car collection is a 1940 Ford Model 01C panel truck, a vehicle which, not long ago, was rotting away in the woods of Michigan’s Upper Peninsula. This is the kind of antique Mr. Bugg likes to buy because not only is it authentic, with all the restoration work done to the specifications of the vehicle’s original plans, it also has a story.

During its restoration, workers found a name written across the sides of the truck, “Sally Ann Bread, Iron, Mich.” Further investigation uncovered that the truck belonged to a baker named Frickleton who owned the Frick bakery and named one of his breads after his daughter, Sally Ann.

When Mr. Bugg bought the ’40 Ford, he not only got a beautifully restored panel truck, but also a photo album documenting the step-by-step restoration, an issue of the magazine Collectible Automobile containing a story of the truck, and, most importantly, a story he could tell guests to his antique car showroom.

He has stories of every vehicle in his collection. Point to any car in his warehouse, and he can tell you when and how he acquired it, what makes it unique, and almost always something about those who restored it.

Sometimes the stories are related to the car, like the 1928 Ford “Huckster,” a Model A with a cab and a bed from which peddlers sold wares and vegetables. “The last owner was a retired UGA professor who restored the white oak bed using a set of instructions for making the original.”

Sometimes the stories have nothing to do with the car, but they say something about the seller. Mr. Bugg has a 1939 Ford Deluxe two-door sedan, and its original V-8 engine has only 13,000 miles on it. According to Mr. Bugg, the seller told him a curious story of lost money. “He had $25,000 wrapped in tinfoil that he kept in his freezer,” Bugg said. “One day his wife cleaned out the freezer and threw everything onto a piece of vacant land that they owned. When he went to the spot, all he found was the tinfoil.”

Bugg will pause a second or two in telling this story before he delivers the punch line with a touch of mischief and amusement. “I think the wife took it.”

And when the moment passes, Mr. Bugg will start another story or explain a detail about one of his cars, and time passes in a most pleasant way.
rented it for more than the cost of its monthly mortgage, and when he made enough money from the house, he bought another property. He quickly learned that if he paid cash and closed a deal in 10 days, he could make some very good real estate buys because sellers found this very attractive. Eventually he had enough rental property that he had customers coming into his store not only wanting to buy appliances but also to rent a place to live.

The question goes unanswered, but from the amused look on his face, Mr. Bugg still hasn’t found the answer to the busted commode nor to much of the human behavior he encounters.

When his wife fell ill with multiple sclerosis, he decided to sell the business so he could take care of her.

“By the time I sold the appliance business, I had enough property to earn a living,” he said. “I bought an office and hired some help. By the time I was 35, I was a millionaire. By 45, a multimillionaire.”

His current rental business includes private and commercial tenants; he employs 10 people to maintain about 400 rental properties; and he owns about 20 vehicles including trucks, bulldozers, backhoes and ditch diggers. He contracts all the repair work on his properties himself, which keeps his costs down and ensures the work will be done in a timely manner.

“People think what I do is easy,” he said, “but they don’t know my business. I have to keep my properties in shape from the wear and tear of tenants. Something always needs repair, and some things are hard to imagine. For example, busted commodes. How do people manage to bust a commode?”

The question goes unanswered, but from the amused look on his face, Mr. Bugg still hasn’t found the answer to the busted commode nor to much of the human behavior he encounters. He just accepts that there are all kinds of people, even those who can manage to bust the heavy ceramic of a toilet. He may not understand them, but he clearly understands he has to repair what they break.

In recent years, Mr. Bugg has grown to appreciate a particular facet of his education at Gordon College, a facet that has allowed him, yet again, to expand his business.

He said that while at Gordon he didn’t intend to take Spanish as a subject, but as a boarding student, he was in close contact with other boarders, many of whom were Spanish speaking. In fact, Bugg’s roommate was from Caracas, Venezuela, so he heard it spoken every day. It only made sense for him to study Spanish under Prof. Gus Witcher.

“When I came to Athens,” he said, “I didn’t hear Spanish for about 45 years. Then there was an influx of Spanish-speaking people, and a great number of them didn’t know English.”

Mr. Bugg quickly responded to his new customers’ need to communicate by re-educating himself. He kept a Spanish/English dictionary at his office and another one at his home and practiced with his Spanish-speaking tenants until he gained enough fluency to talk business with them. He still remembers the day a Spanish-speaking woman came with a friend; when she spoke, her friend translated. Shortly into this three-way conversation, he stunned the woman by asking her in Spanish why she wasn’t talking directly to him. According to Mr. Bugg, people no longer bring interpreters with them when they come see him for housing.

Once again, Mr. Bugg has cut out a middleman.
On the Gordon campus in Barnesville, the impact of the Vietnam War and the Civil Rights movement had yet to be fully felt, but the rumblings of significant change had begun.

It was in that climate that a young man from New York found himself at Gordon Military College as a cadet. He remembers being mocked for his strong Staten Island/Brooklyn accent not only by fellow cadets but also by faculty. When he graduated in 1965 with his junior college degree, Oliver Halle says he ended what he calls “the worst two years of my life.” And yet, they were years that ultimately shaped his views in the ensuing years.

It is not that Mr. Halle was without support from better people, like his military science professor Maj. Gerard Wynn, a West Pointer who had already spent time in the Vietnam war zone. While at Gordon, Maj. Wynn made a point of encouraging Halle’s goal of entering the U.S. Naval Academy, something Mr. Halle remembers fondly to this day. Wynn returned to Vietnam after his Gordon assignment and was killed in action on November 14, 1967.

“I modeled my leadership style after his,” Mr. Halle said. “If you were a junior officer, he was the kind of leader you would want to serve under. He was a tough guy but a good guy.”

It was 1963. Coca Cola introduced its first diet drink, Tab, and a first-class stamp cost four cents. Martin Luther King Jr. gave his “I Have a Dream” speech in front of the Lincoln Memorial. There were 15,000 U.S. military advisers in South Vietnam. President John F. Kennedy was assassinated.
Mr. Halle said that when he was attending Gordon, he “hadn’t seen anything of life,” but by the time he was working in the FBI’s organized crime unit in New York City, he “had seen a lot and done a lot.” And he liked it so much that he felt he had been given a free ticket to a show.

To be honest, he credits this metaphor to a septuagenarian he worked with in New York City, Carl Bogan.

“He was a retired New York City detective first grade then working with the U.S. Attorney’s Office in Manhattan,” Halle said. “He looked so much like Telly Savalas that I called him Kojak. He even had his picture taken with Savalas, and the only way you could tell the difference between the two was that Savalas was taller.”

“He had a beautiful view of life,” Halle said, and then, imitating Bogan in a gruff New York accent, said, “My job is a free ticket to a show!” For Halle, it has been quite the show too.

He spent 28 years with the FBI as a special agent, and much of that working against organized crime in New York and public corruption investigations in Atlanta.

He holds a Juris Doctor degree from the University of North Carolina School of Law, a Master of Laws from New York University and was a commissioned naval officer, serving on the cruiser USS Springfield as a division officer. He also served as an officer-in-charge of a swift boat in Vietnam and was awarded the Bronze Star with Combat V for meritorious action during that duty. Among his honors is membership in the New York City Police Department Honor Legion, earned for his role in the FBI/NYPD investigation and prosecution of the hierarchy of the Columbo organized crime family.

It is all of those things and many more that fuel Halle’s enthusiasm for what he has accomplished since leaving Gordon in 1965, but it is his current pursuit that will bring him back to the Gordon campus in 2006.

Halle wants to make people aware of the consequences of their actions and the value of making the right choices.

When Halle retired from the FBI in 2003, he was not content to turn to leisurely pursuits. Trained by the FBI as a legal adviser and ethics instructor, he felt compelled to address the dilemma that he had confronted all those years before at Gordon and that had been so much a part of his career – why do good people make unethical choices?

The United States Military Academy at West Point has a line in its cadet prayer that has become Halle’s mantra. It reads: “Make us to choose the harder right instead of the easier wrong, and never to be content with a half truth when the whole truth can be won.”

For the past three years, Halle has taken that prayer to the road in a seminar and in a book that he calls by the same name: *Taking the Harder Right*. This fall he will deliver the seminar on the Gordon campus.

In spring 2006 he stood before about 100 men and women who had just finished a buffet breakfast at a hotel near the Hartsfield-Jackson Airport. They were a jovial group, trading barbs across tables and whispering among themselves. As Halle began to speak, the room quieted.
A man leaned across a table and whispered to his colleagues, “I heard him last year, and I drove all the way from Savannah yesterday to hear him again today. This is powerful.”

In the two and a half hours that followed, there was no other conversation at the table – only an occasional gasp as Halle’s story unfolded. There was no tinkling of ice in glasses. No chairs scraped across the floor. All eyes were riveted on Halle and the speakers who followed him.

“This isn’t about people who set out to do the wrong thing. This is about people who are probably a lot like you, who had much to lose – self-respect, reputations, jobs and families. Good people with good foundations of morality can make poor choices. Strong effective ethics in an organization depend on good leaders,” Halle said.

Much of the first part of the program centered on a corruption investigation Halle had been part of in Atlanta – an investigation that ultimately ended the political careers of several men. The speaker who followed Halle had a connection to the same investigation but from a different viewpoint. Their carefully crafted telling of their intertwined parts in the events leading up to the exposure of the corruption was as effective as any suspense thriller. There were no dramatic chase scenes or special effects, only the gripping words of men who had experienced something few would ever want to experience.

The last speaker was an attractive young woman who told how she had embezzled a half million dollars from her employer and eventually ended up abandoned by her husband and serving time in a federal penitentiary – a sentence that began just weeks after giving birth to her youngest daughter. The actions that led to her downfall made a riveting tale and one not easily forgotten.

In a calm and even voice, she shared how friends of her daughters were no longer allowed by their parents to spend time at her home and the heartbreak of watching the impact of her actions on the lives of her parents and her children.

On Oct. 17, 2006, Halle’s seminar will be held on the Gordon College campus in the Fine Arts Auditorium at 2 p.m. The two and a half hour program will be free to students and the community.

Halle is looking forward to returning to the campus he left in 1965, especially because he sees it as a very different place.

“Not everyone who has attended Gordon has found it to be a good experience. I was one of those students, but I can’t say that what happened here did not make a difference in my life. It did. It gave me a resolve,” Mr. Halle said.
It seems out of place to hear a health care worker speak about helping her patients die well rather than recover and live well, but Stephanie Odom is a special kind of health care worker. She is the chief executive officer of Christian Ministries Hospice,
and her goal is “patient comfort and maximizing quality of life rather than taking a curative approach and focusing on quantity of life.” To qualify for hospice care, a physician must certify that a patient has six months or less to live, then the health care focus shifts from extending patients’ lives to improving the quality of life they have left.

No one will deny the tragedy of losing a loved one to a terrible disease, but those who have called on Ms. Odom and CMH for help tend to remember their loved ones died well, and that memory comforts them. One who remembers the care given his father and his grandfather by Ms. Odom is the mayor of Griffin, Rodney McCord.

When he spoke at the Second Annual Community Health Fair in Griffin on May 20, 2006, Mayor McCord remembered her as being there for him in his time of need. “I cannot think of Stephanie without choking up,” he said. “When my father fell ill in 1998, she came to my home to care for him up until his death in April 1999. Watching my father die was not an easy thing, but she helped me cope by communicating with me all along the way.”

Then, in 2003, when there was no one who could provide care for his grandfather, Ms. Odom again came to Mr. McCord’s aid by taking his grandfather into Victorian Manor Personal Care Home, one of CMH’s facilities in Griffin.

The mayor said the move to Victorian Manor was “a most miraculous story.” Not because his grandfather recovered, but because “he renewed his life.” When his grandfather was still at home, he was bedridden, but once he entered the care of CMH, he started sitting up and eventually became ambulatory in a wheelchair. “His last few months of life were great,” the mayor said, “and it chokes me up every time I think about it.”

Before she went into hospice work, Stephanie Odom worked as an oncology nurse in Griffin, Georgia, where she learned that a special population of her patients needed more care and support than anyone was providing. These were people who had undergone chemotherapy and radiation therapy but were not getting better. In fact, they were dying. In many communities and regions of the country, a special service of care and support called hospice existed for these patients, but in the late ‘90s the closest thing to hospice in middle Georgia was an inpatient facility in Riverdale, and it did not focus on comprehensive care for the dying.

According to the American Academy of Family Physicians, hospice care includes control of pain, psychosocial support for both the patient and family, specially trained personnel and an interdisciplinary team approach to patient care.

“When you work in a cancer environment,” Ms. Odom said, “you see patients and family members run ragged and with no options for relief.” To help these patients and their families, she started Christian Ministries Hospice in 1998, only three years after she had graduated from Gordon College’s nursing program.
You see these people grasping for help. You see family members run ragged and with no options for relief.”

To help these patients and their families, she started Christian Ministries Hospice in 1998, only three years after she had graduated from Gordon College’s nursing program. At first CMH started as an outpatient home hospice for patients and families “when the need came,” that is, when a family could no longer handle the unbearable pain or horrendous nursing needs of a loved one.

Mike Statham, CMH’s director of volunteer services, is an unabashed supporter of Odom and serves as the corporation’s chief operating officer. “She is the most innovative person working in hospice in the Southeast because she is always looking forward to what can be done for the benefit of patients.” He jokes that her “natural pose is running” from job to job.

Odom herself marvels at how her business has grown from home hospice care to one that includes an inpatient hospice facility and two assisted living facilities. She has a 12-bed facility in Griffin and a 30-bed facility in Riverdale (10 beds devoted to residential care, five beds for terminal/ventilator patients and 15 beds for inpatient hospice care). She has about 100 staff, many of whom are graduates of Gordon’s nursing program. She also has a social worker and a chaplain on staff to help patients, family and other staff cope with the difficulties of their work. In addition to one-on-one counseling, CMH also holds grief support meetings, which Odom likens to gripe sessions that include patients, family and staff.

Much of this counseling work is modeled after the stages of death and dying documented by Dr. Elisabeth Kubler-Ross. In her book, *On Death and Dying*, Ross showed how people go through the stages of denial, anger, bargaining, depression, and acceptance, and in that order. Odom agrees with Ross, having seen many patients and family members go through the stages just as Ross reported. The sad thing, Odom said, is those who don’t go through them.
“The stages start,” she said, “about the time a patient’s doctor tells him or her that treatment has failed, and they have a life expectancy of six months or less.”

When asked why it took until 1998 for hospice to be accepted in middle Georgia, Odom and Statham could only speculate.

“The prejudice is that hospice is a place to go to die, but it is not a place, it is a program,” Statham said. “Even now we are trying to change years of precedence of no hospice care.”

Odom said that medical care has traditionally been one of doctors and nurses aggressively trying to make someone well.

“We in hospice deal with how to die well,” she said.

But dying well is not the only focus of Ms. Odom and CMH. In fact, in sponsoring the Community Health Fair, she promoted a theme of preventative medicine, a message that says she is concerned with total health care, not a narrow field of health care.

Georgia Secretary of State Cathy Cox recognized this in her address to Health Fair participants, where, in remembering her father, she recognized Ms. Odom’s contribution toward prevention of disease.

“My dad died 17 years ago from colon cancer. He kept putting off doctor’s appointments,” Secretary Cox said. “He kept putting it off until it put him down, and eight months later he passed. I want us to reach out to all those hard-headed daddies like mine. Pass the word, call a friend and tell them what’s going on here, thanks to Christian Ministries Hospice.”

Then Secretary Cox commended Ms. Odom for her hospice work that delivered “exemplary and compassionate end-of-life care to the citizens of Georgia.”

As secretary of state, Ms. Cox designated Ms. Odom as “Outstanding Georgia Citizen” and said that there is no one with more vision for the people of Georgia than Stephanie Collier Odom.

When Georgia Secretary of State Cathy Cox designated Ms. Odom as “Outstanding Georgia Citizen,” she remembered her father’s death. “He kept putting it off until it put him down, and eight months later he passed. I want us to reach out to all those hard-headed daddies like mine. Pass the word, call a friend and tell them what’s going on here, thanks to Christian Ministries Hospice.”
The back of Lambdin Hall in the 1930s.

A close-up of the back of Lambdin Hall in the 1930s. The different looking brick work shows where the third floor was expanded.

The back of Lambdin Hall in the 1950s.

A close-up of the back of Lambdin Hall in the 1930s. The missing part of the third floor is apparent.

A close up of the back of Lambdin Hall in the 1950s. The different looking brick work shows where the third floor was expanded.
When Lambdin Hall reopened on Feb. 25, 2006, after a little more than two years of renovation work, it was obvious to everyone who came to the ceremony that the interior underwent dramatic alterations, including a new dual staircase. The exterior, however, appeared unchanged, except for a new small patio attached to the ground floor break room.

Completed in 1907, the building is the oldest building on the Gordon College campus. It was originally known as the classroom administration building of the Sixth District Agricultural and Mechanical High School, which opened for classes in April 1908 with 65 students. By an act of the General Assembly in 1929, the A&M added two years of college work to its curriculum and became the Georgia Industrial College. In 1933, the state closed the college provoking the following response from its last president, T.O. Galloway: “The closing of the Georgia Industrial College is the biggest disappointment that has ever come into my life…. It was the work of a few local politicians who did it for selfish purposes.” *The Barnesville News-Gazette* called the closing a “death.”

The closing, in fact, was the doing of more than just a few local politicians. The beginning of the end of all of Georgia’s A&Ms came in 1931 when they were placed under the authority of the newly created University System State Board of Regents. Shortly after the closing, the buildings and property of the Georgia Industrial College became part of Gordon Institute, founded by the namesake of Lambdin Hall, Charles Lambdin.
The acquisition greatly increased the physical size of the Institute, which was located in the city block that now contains the Barnesville/Lamar County Library and the Barnesville/Lamar County Chamber of Commerce.

The Sixth District A&M was one of 12 that came into being with the Perry Bill of 1906, but as early as 1902, Gov. Joseph M. Terrell was promoting the A&M schools as “an opportunity for the intelligent teaching and training annually of several thousand young men and women engaged in agricultural and kindred pursuits.” Terrell was so strongly associated with the creation of the A&M school system that he appears in the front of the Fourth District A&M’s first catalog rather than the governor of the time, Hoke Smith.

As part of the statewide plan, a single architect designed the A&M buildings. This was Atlanta architect Haralson Bleckley, and his design would define the appearance of nine of the campuses built in 1907, including the Barnesville A&M. As part of his design, the main building, or the classroom administration building, was situated between two other smaller buildings – one to board male students and one to board female students. The similarity between the buildings of the different campuses suggests a “cookie-cutter” approach. To this day, the buildings that remain in use at the University of West Georgia, Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College, and Gordon are strikingly alike. In photos taken shortly after 1907, the different campuses and buildings are virtually indistinguishable.

In photos of the Fourth and Sixth A&M classroom administration buildings, it is difficult to identify them correctly unless you know what to look for. Between these two buildings, it is the location of the cornerstones that give them away. The Barnesville A&M’s cornerstone is on the left (north) side of the building; the Carrollton A&M’s cornerstone is on the right (east) side of the building.

Another feature of these two buildings that can be seen in photographs is that they did not have a full top floor. That is, none of Lambdin’s third floor offices on the College Drive side of the building existed in the original building. It is uncertain as to when the addition was made, but it is clear an addition was made in photos taken during President C.T.B. Harris’s tenure from 1953 to 1962. One photograph in particular shows telltale mismatched brickwork at the southeast corner of the building. When the rest of the third floor was added, the bricklayers did not bother to match brick, mortar nor pattern.

This detail cannot be seen today because at some point, the back wing of Lambdin, which contained the auditorium, kitchen and mess hall, was demolished and a brick façade was put up to give the north, south and east sides of the building a single look. The west side of Lambdin shows the original brickwork pattern except for the scar left when the building’s columns were removed.

Despite being unable to see the evidence of the third floor addition from the outside, it is still possible to see it from the inside. Just go into the south stairwell on the third floor, and you’ll see the brickwork you see in the photo at the bottom of page 16. In the north stairwell, evidence of the renovation is hidden by a brick façade.

The history of a building necessarily includes the history of people, and foremost is Charles E. Lambdin, who, along with Azman Murphy, established Gordon Institute in 1872 and became its first president. Lambdin, a Confederate veteran, named the school after his commanding general, John B. Gordon.

It is not clear exactly when the classroom
administration building became Lambdin Hall, but there is a clue as to the year it happened. In the 1944 yearbook, the building is simply called the administration building. In the 1945 yearbook, it is called Lambdin Hall.

Another name associated with the building is Jere M. Pound who took over the presidency of Gordon Institute six months after the death of Lambdin on March 3, 1888. Pound was the state school commissioner under Gov. Hoke Smith, and as commissioner, oversaw the creation of the A&M system, including the building of the Sixth District campus in 1907.

While one Gordon Institute man played a significant role in the building of Barnesville’s A&M, another played a significant role in the demise of the school. This was Gov. Richard B. Russell Jr., a graduate of Gordon Institute. In 1931, Russell promoted the creation of a state board of regents, and by 1933, the regents closed the Sixth District A&M. Its campus and all its buildings became part of Gordon Institute.

The first principal of the A&M was Thomas G. Scott, the father-in-law of Cyrus Neuner, longtime trustee of the Gordon College Foundation and the great grandfather of Don Neuner, vice president of the Gordon College Alumni Association.

One last association deserves mention and involves the architect of the A&M buildings, Haralson Bleckley. Even though Bleckley never went to Gordon Institute, he was nevertheless associated with the school through his uncle, Gen. John B. Gordon.

I have in hand an invitation to attend the ribbon cutting ceremony at Lambdin Hall next Saturday morning. I am making plans to attend. If I make it, I intend to seek you out and introduce myself.

In September 1946, I (a high school sophomore) and my dad (a Gordon Institute student in about 1913), boarded an Eastern Air Lines DC-3 in Tampa, Florida, and flew about 4-5 hours to the Atlanta airport. It was my first ride in an airplane. In Atlanta, we boarded a train (the Nancy Hanks) that took us to Barnesville in about two hours. It was my first ride on a train. At the depot in Barnesville, we took a cab to the campus of Gordon Military College. It was my first ride in a taxi. The taxi put us out in front of the most impressive building I had ever seen – Lambdin Hall. The picture in my mind is as clear as if it were yesterday. You could not begin to imagine the memories this invitation I am holding brings to my mind.

For the next three years until I graduated in 1949, Lambdin Hall was the center of my universe. Col. Joe Guillebeau had his office there as well as Maj. Roy Slayden, the Commandant of Cadets. It housed the mess hall, the auditorium (where I graduated and delivered the valedictory address), the canteen, my classrooms, and the office where every Monday I could claim my $2 weekly allowance. Day after day after day, I stood in the ranks in front of Lambdin Hall and saluted the raising and lowering of the flag. On more than one occasion, I walked the “bull ring” in front of Lambdin Hall to carry out Maj. Slayden’s “sentence” for my infractions of the rules. To again be standing in front of Lambdin Hall next Saturday would be a very poignant moment for me.

Having been away from Gordon for 57 years gives me a unique perspective of how my three years at Gordon so dramatically affected the rest of my life. The academic education I received there at the hands of the faculty was absolutely superb. My senior chemistry class under Prof. Reynolds “Jooker” Bush convinced me to become a chemical engineer. The discipline of the military culture I learned there allowed me to excel as an artillery officer during the time of the Korean War. The independence of self, acquired as a consequence of daily living outside a conventional home environment, gave me a sense of personal security and confidence that has served me well through all these years. In short, Gordon has much to say as to what I have accomplished in life, what I value and why I am where I am today. And it is a matter of record that what Gordon did for me, it has done for countless others. The list of Gordon graduates that have distinguished themselves in all walks of life is very long indeed.

I have had conversations in recent months with some of my classmates about the possibility of our having a 60th anniversary celebration in 2009. I was the president of the senior class, and it seems it is up to me to get it together. We had a gathering for our 20th, 30th and 40th but not the 50th. If there are enough of us left, we might just do it! – Eston E. Melton Jr.
In her history of Lamar County, Augusta Riviere Lambdin wrote that by April 1908, the city of Barnesville contributed $51,000, 300 acres and free utilities for five years to launch an educational enterprise by the state of Georgia. Today we know this enterprise as Gordon College, but at the time of Lambdin’s book, the school was known as the Sixth District Agricultural and Mechanical High School, which, at the time, was nothing short of revolutionary for a state government. At the turn of the 19th century, Georgia taxpayers provided for the primary education of its children. Few pursued an education beyond the sixth grade, and with labor demands of agriculture as they were, children tended crops and many of them did not even complete sixth grade.
In 1906, the Georgia Assembly passed the Perry Bill and with that was created a publicly funded high school in Barnesville.

It was one of a kind in Barnesville, in Lamar County, in all of the Sixth Congressional District of Georgia…, but not in all of Georgia. There were 11 others, one in each of Georgia’s other Congressional districts.

The photographs on the following pages show the work of Haralson Bleckley, an Atlanta architect who was commissioned to design the buildings for the new A&M high school campuses – a classroom administration building, a building to house female students and a building to house male students. These were situated on a working farm, which constituted the school’s campus.

The image stretching across this page is the Sixth District A&M after its evolution into the Georgia Industrial College and then Gordon Institute. From left to right are North Barracks, the Administration Building, and the Armory. (South Barracks is not shown). The photo is undated, but several of the cars in the picture were manufactured in 1934, one year after the Gordon Industrial College was closed and its campus turned over to Gordon Institute.

The photographs on page 22 are all shots of Bleckley’s classroom administration building. Can you tell which ones are not of the Barnesville A&M? Two of them are from the Carrollton Fourth District A&M, one of them from the Clarkesville Ninth District A&M, and two from the Barnesville Sixth District A&M. The answers also are on page 22.
The Carrollton Fourth District A&M classroom building is labeled 1 and 2. The Clarkeville Ninth District A&M is labeled 3, and the Barnesville Sixth District A&M building is labeled 4 and 5.
Many of these Lambdin Hall look-alikes are still in existence, and all you have to do is drive to see them. The one at Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College in Tifton is an especially good site in that the three building configuration of the original A&M is still extant. In other places, like the former Fourth District A&M in Carrollton (now the University of West Georgia), the classroom administration building no longer exists, but if you want to see what Gordon’s North and South Barracks once looked like, you can look at Melson Hall. Next to it is a park where once stood the Fourth District A&M’s classroom administration building – its cornerstone the only thing remaining.

Can YOU tell which ones are NOT of the Barnesville A&M?
MR. CHARLES E. LAMBDIN took over an ailing school shortly after the Civil War and rejuvenated it to the point that the school now boasts 154 years of continuous operation, educating some of the most notable Georgians and Americans in the history of the state and the nation. He renamed the school from the Barnesville Male and Female High School to Gordon Institute in honor of his wartime commander, Confederate Gen. John B. Gordon.

According to a history of Gordon College, Gen. Gordon joked at the Institute's first commencement that “Barnesville was taking a great risk in naming a school after a living man,” but it seems that whatever the risk, it has paid off. Both the school and the namesake prospered over the years, both reinforcing the good name of the other.

Mr. Lambdin died young by today's standards; he was 49.

On Feb. 25, Gordon held a public celebration of the reopening of Lambdin Hall after about two years of renovation work. Several descendants of Charles Lambdin were present: McKee Nunnally, great-great-grandson; Charles Lambdin Hardy, great-grandson; Ellen Hardy Shea, great-great-granddaughter; Annie Shea, great-great-great-granddaughter; Lambdin Barrett Hardy, great-great-great-grandson; and Anna Caroline Hardy, great-great-great-granddaughter.

In her book, *Heritage of Gordon Military College in the Heart of the Deep South*, Ms. Faith Porch wrote that “the year 1888 brought to an end President Lambdin’s life and labor. For many weeks, pale and suffering, President Lambdin rode from his home to school growing gradually feeblener, but never relaxing his hold nor lowering his standards.

“When the probability of permanent absence presented itself, Mr. Lambdin remarked, ‘The work will go on. Night brings out the stars.’

“He died March 3, 1888. No darker shadows ever hung over any people than those which followed his death.

“He loved, he worked, he accomplished. The result of his labor abided.”

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LAMBDIN, the man

From left to right, sitting: McKee Nunnally and Anna Caroline Hardy. Standing: Ellen Hardy Shea, Annie Shea, Paula Hardy, Lambdin Barrett Hardy, and Charles Lambdin Hardy.
A New Home for Alumni Events

Soon there will be a place on the Gordon Campus exclusively for the College’s alumni during special occasions like Barnesville Buggy Days, class reunions and graduations.

The “place” is a house the College recently purchased, and it is conveniently located across the street from the Instructional Complex Building on Stafford Avenue. The Women’s Clubhouse is right next door.

The former home, now with just the generic name of the alumni house, will serve as an event location, a meeting place and a rest stop for alumni who visit the campus. In the past, the Foundation Room in the Student Center has traditionally been used for alumni functions, but the room is in such demand that the house truly comes at a good time. The property also includes a small apartment the College hopes to use to lodge visiting guests. It includes a bedroom, a sitting room, bathroom and kitchen.

The Gordon College Alumni Advisory Board hopes to renovate the property and furnish it with appropriate items and material including artifacts and historic items. The Class of ’56 hopes to adopt the reception area and provide funds to furnish it, and plans are underway to develop parking in the rear and to extend the existing deck in the back. When renovations are completed the College plans to hold an open house.

Others interested in supporting the establishment of the Alumni House can contact Institutional Advancement at 770-358-5739.
DAN JACKSON, PhD
Professor of Chemistry
If you ask Dan Jackson what stands out in his career today, he will tell you his students. Dr. Jackson never seems to weary of talking about them, nor helping them make their own careers as rewarding as his.

Dr. Dan Jackson has lived through some pretty heady days in his career – trips to Vienna and Paris with his wife for New Year’s Eve, criminal investigations of severe wrongdoings by military personnel, and combat duty in Vietnam with the First Infantry Division, the Big Red One – but if you ask him what stands out in his career today, he will tell you his students. Dr. Jackson never seems to weary of talking about them nor helping them make their own careers as rewarding as his.

Take Mindy Crowell as an example. She took Dr. Jackson’s introductory Principles of Chemistry classes during fall 2005 and spring 2006 semesters, and she was not even graduated from Lamar County

Continued on page 29
Any student who has taken Dr. Jackson’s chemistry class is aware of the EXPLODING CHEETO demonstration. Potassium chlorate is heated in a test tube, creating an oxygen-rich atmosphere. And into this goes the Cheeto.

Within seconds of being dropped into the test tube, smoke curls off the Cheeto, which then bursts into flame.

The Cheeto is no longer visible, but its calories are, feeding a flame that jets out the end of the test tube and extinguishing into smoke.

Within seconds, the flame retreats until all that is left is a little smoke and a blackened test tube.
High School at the time. As a “post-secondary option” student, her chemistry classes with Dr. Jackson applied to her high school degree as well as her college degree.

Visibly proud of her, he said she was one of the top three students in those classes, and as proud of him, she invited him to the LCHS awards banquet for outstanding graduates as her choice for her outstanding teacher. “He’s been there for me through everything,” she said. “He made college an easy transition for me.”

Ms. Crowell’s respect and admiration are not an isolated critique of Dr. Jackson in his career as college chemistry professor. During the spring 2006 semester, six of his pre-pharmacy students were accepted into doctorate of pharmacy programs in Georgia; all of them praised him as an adviser and a teacher.

Stephanie Nemyer’s words could summarize all their remarks: “The pharmacy students are lucky to have such a great teacher and pre-pharmacy adviser. He organized meetings where Mercer and other pharmacy schools would come to campus and meet with us; he made sure we understood what was required by the Pharmacy College Admissions Test; and he gave us all a lot of personal attention despite all the advisees he has.” She added that had he not encouraged her, she would have lost her chance to be admitted to pharmacy school in the fall.

His advising is not prejudiced toward chemistry-related careers, but it is prejudiced in favor of his students. He advises according to what they have to say about their goals and strengths and dreams, in addition to what he sees in their grades. He had one student who he realized was struggling with the sciences but who had declared herself a pre-pharmacy student. One day she just volunteered her love of the French language and culture which developed after a family trip there when she was younger. Dr. Jackson asked her if she spoke French, and she said she did and wanted to teach in French one day.

Thus began his plan of getting her into the foreign language degree program even though Gordon College taught only Spanish. The student is currently working on her associate’s degree in foreign language, taking French courses at other University System of Georgia colleges and the rest of her class work at Gordon.

Dr. Jackson listened to this student, heard her dreams and goals, and he saw her weaknesses in the sciences and her strengths in the humanities. “I just help students find a way to a career that gives them fulfillment,” he said.

Even though Dr. Jackson has been with Gordon College for 12 years, at one point serving as the College’s interim dean of academic affairs, academia is not his first professional home. And before he enjoyed the respect and praise of college students, he was earning the respect of fellow servicemen and -women in the U.S. Army.

One exceptional expression of this respect was his induction into the Army’s Criminal Investigation Command Hall of Fame, and considering the nature of the Command’s work, this is no small honor.
While with the Command, commonly known as the Criminal Investigation Division (CID), he commanded the Army’s forensics laboratories around the world. His job was to supervise and oversee these teams in their collection, analysis and interpretation of evidence from crime scenes, and then to use the evidence to link the crime to the perpetrator.

He remembers one case where the crew of a Marine helicopter on a live fire training exercise in North Carolina committed a crime.

After their training exercise was over, the crew realized they still had ammunition left, and so they decided to fire it before returning to base. On the way, they spotted what appeared to be a dilapidated old barn, not far outside the boundary of the military reservation, and they fired on it. Once they were back on the ground, the crew might have thought themselves in the clear since all their guns were removed for cleaning along with many other guns of the same kind. This being the case, pieces of the guns, especially the barrels or “tubes” were switched, making any trace through ballistics problematic.

Had the dilapidated barn been uncared for, they may have gotten away with their poor judgment, but someone did indeed care because this barn contained an antique car collection. It wasn’t long before Marine prosecutors called in the help of Dr. Jackson and the CID laboratory.

Jackson’s team was able to unequivocally link shell casings and rounds recovered from the scene to the type of gun, and then link this evidence to the gun barrels from the weapons on the helicopter. The crew was found guilty.

In another case, a disgruntled seaman aboard an aircraft carrier in the Mediterranean took a knife and cut a guideline holding an aircraft secure on deck. Jackson said the seaman was “agitated” with some of his superiors, and in an attempt to

The Army must have realized what they had in Jackson, because after he returned from his tour in Vietnam in 1967, it paid for his doctorate of chemistry (magna cum laude) from Georgia Tech.
get even with them, he was going to destroy a multi-million dollar jet.

Fortunately, someone noticed and a new guideline was installed. An on-ship investigative team inspected the “frayed” line and, thinking it suspicious, sent it off to Dr. Jackson’s CID lab at Ft. Gillem, Georgia. There it was confirmed the line was cut, and this launched a search of the carrier. When the knife was found, it was sent off to Ft. Gillem by express. Jackson’s lab was able to link knife with cable, and so when the captain decided to hold a court martial while still at sea, the team had to fly to the floating courtroom to testify. They traveled from Atlanta to Paris and then to Cannes where they boarded a Navy aircraft which landed them on the carrier.

The evidence they presented was incontrovertible, and the seaman was found guilty.

As a ROTC student at Canisius College in Buffalo, New York, Dr. Jackson majored in chemistry, and when he graduated in 1963, he graduated with a chemistry degree and an officer’s commission. Within a month, he was on active duty, eventually going to Vietnam as a specialist in chemical, biological and nuclear warfare. The Army must have realized what they had in Jackson, because after he returned from his tour in Vietnam in 1967, it paid for his doctorate of chemistry (magna cum laude) from Georgia Tech.

From there, he was assigned to teach chemistry to cadets at the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, New York. The academy is where he learned the trade of educator in academia and how the discipline of a military academy can be used to teach discipline in a college course.

“I like to have fun,” Dr. Jackson said. “I slam a yardstick down on the desk, and it really gets my students’ attention.” And, he added, “I do it with a smile.”

After that, he said, it’s easy. He lays down the guidelines for his class, letting students know from the start what is expected of them.

Through the years, he’s found an effective way to inform his classes about his cell phone policy.

“I hold up a cell phone,” he said. “Then I ask them what it is and whose they think it is. They always guess it’s mine, and I say, ‘yes, and this is the last time you will see it.’ They get the message. I probably hear one or two beeps in a year.”

But discipline is not the only thing they learn from the retired U.S. Army colonel. He teaches them to analyze what they want to do in comparison to what they don’t want to do, and what their strengths are in comparison to what their weaknesses are. He teaches them to pay attention to their dreams and to what interests them in their studies. In a way, he still is on active duty, caring for the troops under his care.

This care extends to his faculty colleagues such as Dr. Cris Fermin-Ennis. “When Dan is at the helm,” she said, “you can guarantee things will run smoothly. He is organized, highly efficient and a great team leader. Dan has a personality that encourages people to volunteer willingly.”

When Dr. Ennis first arrived at Gordon, Dr. Jackson became her mentor. “Fate must have been working overtime when I got hired at Gordon College,” she said. “Unbeknownst to either one of us, we had more in common than we realized. I was a student of Fr. Healy at the Ateneo de Manila University in the
Philippines.” The good father turned out to be Dr. Jackson’s uncle!

Sue Dotson, the administrative assistant for the Math and Natural Sciences Division where Dr. Jackson works, used the verb “encourages” to describe what he does for students, faculty and staff. She remembers when he was acting chair of the division when it also included nursing.

“It’s not that I was complaining about the work load,” Ms. Dotson said. “He just picked up on the enormity of my job.”

She said that one day he just told her, “Look, I know this is a major job, but I am depending on your expertise and knowledge of the Nursing Program paperwork, and I trust your ability to prioritize and get the job done.”

With just this simple acknowledgement of the difficulty of her job, she said she was “really inspired to work hard at getting the job done thoroughly and on-time. It was so encouraging to know that Dr. Jackson appreciated my efforts and that he trusted me with greater responsibility within this large division.”

She added, “He’s somebody you want to work for because he’s so dedicated and cares.”

When Dr. Jackson became the College’s interim academic dean, he worked with Brenda Blackstock, one of the office’s administrative assistants.

“I was really impressed that when he became academic dean, he didn’t give up his advisees or students,” she said. “If they came by, he dropped everything, no matter how busy he was, to talk to them. It’s not hard to understand why the Board of Regents appointed him twice as Distinguished Professor of Teaching and Learning at Gordon College.”

And he always smiled, she said. “If he ever had a bad day, you would never know it. His favorite expression was and still is, ‘It’s a grand day!’”

Since his retirement from the Army in 1992, he and his wife of 43 years, Celine, have maintained their residence in Fayetteville, Georgia. When he reminisces about his military career, he sometimes remembers something she said not long after their move to Georgia. “Two years ago we were in Paris for New Year’s Eve,” she said. “A year ago, we were in Vienna. This year, we’re in Fayetteville.”

Despite the contrast between their life in the military and in academe, the two careers suffer no real contrast in the man who’s lived them.

“Everything I have done in life,” Jackson said, “has involved working with people, helping people.”

“His favorite expression was and still is, ‘It’s a grand day!’”
**A Wickedly Good Upcoming Theater Season**


The GCT started its season as it has for the last several years with *It's Wonderful to Be Wicked* on Sept. 6. This third production written by Connie Whitt-Lambert is called *Dolly's Darling Daughter* and ran until Sept. 16.

*The Diviners*, by Jim Leonard Jr., will open Oct. 11 and run through Oct. 15. In it, a disillusioned preacher, C.C. Showers, is determined never to preach again, but when he comes to town his determination is tested by the townsfolk and a young man named Buddy.

From Nov. 29 until Dec. 3, the GCT will present *A Christmas Carol* based on a novel by Charles Dickens and adapted by Gordon College Theater Prof. Dan Robbins. If you are not already familiar with this tale, it is about a mean-spirited man named Scrooge who is taught the meaning of Christmas by the ghosts of Christmas Past, Present and Future. Featuring a large cast, old Christmas carols, and a wonderful story this play is a must for the whole family.

To start off the spring semester, the GCT will present *Alice in Wonder*, an adaptation of Lewis Carroll’s *Alice in Wonderland* and *Through the Looking Glass* by Virginia Koste opening on Feb. 16, 2006. All of the wonderful characters are there, including the Cheshire Cat, the mad Duchess, Tweedle Dee Dee and Tweedle Dee Dum, the White Knight, and of course, Alice. Recommended for all ages.

To end the semester and the academic year, the Gordon College Theatre will present the musical *Chicago*, opening on April 18 and ending on April 22. It is a tale of murder, stardom, a sleazy lawyer and two wronged and wrong-doing women. The winner of six Tony awards, *Chicago* was originally written by Maurine Dallas Watkins, with music by John Kander and lyrics by Fred Ebb.

Roxie and Velma, two murderesses on death row, vie for the spotlight and the headlines. Billy Flynn, their flamboyant attorney, vows to get them out with a little razzle dazzle. Come see this over-the-top, tongue in cheek, look at the Roaring Twenties! Some of the songs you may recognize include: *Cell Block Tango (He Had it Coming)*, *All That Jazz*, *Mister Cellophane*, *Razzle Dazzle*, and many more.

Please call the box office number for ticket sales and information: 770-358-5295.

**Outstanding Student of the Year**

**Zack Murdock** of McDonough has been named the 2006 Outstanding Student at Gordon College.

As Gordon Outstanding Student, Murdock joins those chosen from other state colleges and universities this year and recognized by the state legislature for their excellence in academic achievement as well as personal development. He graduated summa cum laude on May 13, 2006, with an associate of science in pre-pharmacy.

Since his enrollment with Gordon College in 2004, Murdock’s commitment to superior academic achievement has earned him the highest possible score in all his courses, said Gordon Vice President for Academic Affairs Robert Vaughan. “Continuing this commitment will ensure Murdock a rich career and a brilliant future in the years ahead,” Vaughan said.
Gordon College students say they are academically challenged, and this is a good thing, since it means they are more likely to be successful in accomplishing their academic goals.

This is the overall conclusion drawn from the 2005 Community College Survey of Student Engagement, a nationwide survey of community colleges and two-year schools. This is the first year the University System of Georgia has participated in the national survey, and 13 of its two-year colleges (called the consortium) were surveyed.

The survey measured “student engagement” according to five benchmarks: academic challenge, active and collaborative learning, student effort, student-faculty interaction and support for learners. Researchers found that high scores in these benchmarks lead to learning, retention and graduation — that is, it indicates academic success.

Overall, the results were encouraging in three of the five benchmarks for Gordon College. Student effort, which measures a student’s behavior contributing to learning and the likelihood of achieving personal educational goals, was five points higher (55.7) than the average score for all the small colleges in Gordon’s comparison group. This group was composed of the participating 150 two-year colleges with an enrollment of under 4,500 students.

Student-faculty interaction, measuring contact with instructors leading to effective learning and achievement, was the next highest score (54.9) against the comparison group of small colleges. Academic challenge, which indicates the nature and amount of assigned academic work that challenges students in cognitive tasks and addresses intellectual challenge, was the final substantive benchmark (51.3).

75 percent of students said they chose Gordon because of its reputation for attention to students.

The three benchmark scores are indicative of a college that enjoys a relatively low student-teacher ratio and good advising. The report revealed that 96 percent of both full-time and part-time Gordon students valued the importance of advising and that more than 80 percent of Gordon students are satisfied with the assistance they receive when faced with academic difficulty. This correlates closely with Gordon College’s 2006 Survey of Presently Attending Students with respect to academic advising where 71 percent of respondents indicated that their advisors provided them with useful information for selecting classes, and 75 percent said they chose Gordon because of its reputation for attention to students.

Gordon students were found to make good use of skills labs, computers and of working on projects with one another. A majority of Gordon students rated the importance of support services higher than their counterparts in other small colleges, and more importantly, Gordon students were making slightly more use of such services.

Other comparisons to consortium participants reveal another indication of student engagement leading to academic success. Overall, 81 percent of the Gordon students surveyed said their teachers used computers and other technology in the classroom. This is 10 points higher than students in all other consortium colleges, confirming considerable usage of technology by Gordon’s faculty. Having such an engaged and technically-oriented faculty confirms the College’s significant initiatives in having “high quality faculty” and leadership “in the integration of technology with teaching and learning.”
EarthWindFire Cleansing the Flint River

A five-mile stretch of the Flint River is cleaner thanks to Gordon College students.

The members of Gordon’s science club took part in what has become an annual ritual for the club as they canoed the river to pick up trash. “We picked up lots of things from the river,” said club adviser Linda Hyde, who led the cleanup and is an associate professor of biology at Gordon.

The effort marked the third Flint River cleanup for the club and extended from Sprewell Bluff State Park to the Flint River Outdoor Center near Georgia 36. Along with the trash and garbage, the students fished out old seat cushions, a swimming-pool float, aluminum siding and a large tire, Hyde said.

For the first two years, the cleanup was held in conjunction with the Georgia Rivers Alive cleanup campaign, but this year the Gordon cleanup augmented that effort, she said.

The adviser said nine members of the club – EarthWindFire – took part, bagging the trash which was disposed of by the outdoor center.

“This is a good club project and gives the students a chance to see how much litter is out there,” Hyde said. “It raises students’ awareness of this problem, which can be found not only along rivers but also highways.”

Student Center to Expand

When Governor Sonny Perdue signed the state budget in May 2006, $4 million in bond funds for construction of the student success and retention center were approved.

The project will add more than 13,000 square feet to the current student center and enlarge the small bookstore. The new space will consist of counseling and advisement centers, group study rooms, a computer tutorial center and two classrooms.

The current bookstore was built in 1978, and at the time, Gordon College had a population of 1,400 students. In fall 2005, more than 3,500 students were enrolled at the College, and often lines to purchase books stretched through the student center and out of the building.

“This addition will relieve a critical need for more bookstore space, and ultimately it will make for a more pleasant experience for our students,” said Jerry Turner, vice president of business affairs. “We’ve made a lot of changes on campus this past year to improve student services. The renovation of Lambdin Hall was one of those changes. The changes there improved the ease of registration and payment of fees. The student center expansion will allow us to centralize a number of counseling and advising programs and better serve our students.”
The International Speaker Series hosted three ambassadors and an assistant secretary of the Navy during the 2005-2006 academic year.

President Ronald Reagan’s roving ambassador and special envoy to Central America.

At his talk on Oct. 20, 2005, he told the audience that the United States will eventually win the war on terrorism. The end, though, will not come soon, he said.

Busby told the students the United States is “in the forefront” among nations in its counter-terrorism efforts. “Conceptually, we are way ahead of the rest of the world,” he said, having a counter-terrorism strategy and organization in place.

Ambassador Silva, coffee production accounts for 34 percent of the rural jobs in his country.

John Hamilton was the U.S. ambassador to Peru from 1999 to 2002 and ambassador to Guatemala from 2002 to 2005. The ambassador finished the year’s series on April 11, 2006, telling the audience that the United States should not be “especially” concerned about a shift to the political left in Latin America – and its often accompanying anti-U.S. sentiment – as long as leftist leaders work within a democratic system.

He said countries where politicians indulge themselves in criticizing and insulting the United States will cause a strain in relations. “We need to be prepared for a possibly prolonged period in which the public rhetoric coming out of Latin America will often be unpleasant to American ears,” the ambassador said. “We will undoubtedly, as we engage in a no-holds-barred debate over immigration policy, bring some of this upon ourselves.”

He said the United States should stay “focused on a positive agenda,” noting that U.S. policy since the first Bush presidency has been “structured on support for democracy, free markets and hemispheric economic integration.”

He said he hoped the United States will maintain foreign aid programs, despite what might be seen as growing anti-Americanism. He said that, as a taxpayer, he is a “huge advocate” of such programs and as ambassador saw them doing good.

“Our programs are effectively protected against corruption and waste by a system of strict audits, and they have become quite effective in generating employment and income among poorer populations.

“Our programs in health are also first-rate, especially in the area of women’s reproductive health.”
Advances in Health Care Education

In April 2006, officials at the University System of Georgia announced a $5 million initiative to make the expansion of the System’s production of nurses a key priority. Among the efforts funded under the initiative was the expansion of the Medical College of Georgia’s existing Doctorate of Nursing Practice external degree program to the campus of Gordon College.

“We will accelerate the production of nurses at as many locations and in as many different ways as possible,” said Chancellor Erroll B. Davis Jr. “Our goal is to drive our budget allocations toward systemwide priorities and compelling needs in key policy areas. The nursing shortage represents a critical need for the state.”

To further address the state’s health care needs, Gordon College has teamed with Darton College in Albany to offer three health-field related degree programs. The two-year associate of science degrees will be offered in health information technology, medical laboratory technology, and histologic technology through Darton College’s health technologies collaborative program, which is funded by the Darton Rural Technology Network congressional grant.

Through a joint agreement reached by the two schools, those interested in pursuing the degrees can attend professional courses online through accredited programs at Darton College and complete laboratory course requirements at Gordon College.

In each of the course offerings, candidates must meet certain admission criteria and other requirements as well as technology equipment requirements. Prospective students must apply for admission to Darton College and then for acceptance into the programs.

Registered health information technicians play important roles in data collection and analysis, among other duties. The medical laboratory program prepares graduates for jobs as laboratory technicians in hospitals, clinics, physicians’ offices and other health care facilities. Histotechnicians are experts in the preparation of tissue specimens for microscopic examination by a pathologist or physician.

Financial aid is available to qualified applicants and includes scholarships, the Federal Pell Grant, the Federal Supplemental Education Opportunity Grant, HOPE, the Georgia Student Incentive Grant and institutional scholarships.

For additional information, access http://online.darton.edu/degrees/HIT.htm, http://online.darton.edu/degrees/MLT_proginfo.htm or http://online.darton.edu/HT.

Gordon Logo Travels to War Zone

Abbie and Chris Bennett of Barnesville teamed up to submit the winning entry in the Gordon College logo photography contest. They won the Apple IPOD prize for their entry.

The winning photograph shows Chris Bennett dressed in battle gear in Iraq and holding Gordon’s new logo as he stood in front of a military base sign. Bennett is a sergeant in the 48th Brigade Combat Team of the Georgia National Guard. Abbie Bennett is a former Gordon student.

Sgt. Bennett was home on leave when the contest was announced. “My sister and I read about it in the local paper,” Abbie said. She decided she would enter the contest and that the logo “should go somewhere it had not been before.”

She got a logo from the school, and her husband carried it with him to Iraq. A fellow soldier snapped the shot of the sergeant holding the logo in front of a sign marking Bennett’s military base at the time.

Contest entries placed the logo in many different locations and situations. For example, one photo was taken of a sky diver in flight with the logo on his or her chest, and another was an aerial photograph of the Gordon campus with the logo stuck to a visible part of the aircraft.

The logo traveled to the Space Needle in Seattle, to a replica of Stonehenge in New Zealand, and to a number of ballgames and amusement parks.

“Even though the contest has ended, we’re still curious about where the G is traveling,” said Rhonda Toon. “You can send in your photos to us at rhondat@gdn.edu or mail them to 419 College Drive, Barnesville, Georgia 30204. We have a number of photos of the logo on car bumpers displaying various state tags. I’d like to collect one from every state in the country. If you need an adhesive G, email us, and we will send you one for your bumper!”
Gordon College Hosts

International Conference

BY KIM MADLOM

Gordon alumni often remark on the international nature of the College saying that in their day, students came from European, African, Caribbean and South American nations.

Today, Gordon continues to enjoy international status, but who would have thought vampires would be involved?

On May 26-28, 2006, the College hosted Buffy the Vampire Slayer scholars from around the world for a conference on this popular television show, now in syndication. Called the Slayage Conference on the Whedonverses, the conference had a particular focus on the show’s creator, writer and director, Joss Whedon and his view of the universe, thus the neologism, Whedonverses. Two of the leading Buffy scholars in the world, and co-hosts of the conference, were featured speakers on Joss Whedon: Dr. Rhonda Wilcox, a Gordon College English professor, and Dr. David Lavery, an English professor from Middle Tennessee State University.

Dr. Wilcox explained what it is that scholars find so interesting in Buffy. “I think the most important facet of this particular field of study is that it allows us to share knowledge from so many different perspectives with this one common text,” she said. People from diverse academic disciplines like history, classics and even the law see the show from different perspectives, and the conference brings all these
perspectives together for discussion. “I think that’s why it’s so exciting academically, and I think that shows the power of art,” she said.

Indiana English professor and linguist Michael Adams also noted the interdisciplinary value of Buffy studies. “I’m a linguist, and I don’t think about television production at all; but there are television production people here, and we have great conversations about what it takes for language to be produced on TV. What’s the spin-off from that? Not only do I think about it more, but I talk about television language with my students in class as we make comparisons between what’s natural and what’s artificial in our use of language.”

Justine Hall was among the attendees who traveled farthest to the Gordon campus. An attorney from Australia, Hall said she discovered southern hospitality and intellectual stimulation at the event.

“I had no idea what it was going to be like because I haven’t been to one of these types of conferences before,” she said. “I’ve been to legal conferences but not academic conferences. I was expecting high things, and every one of my expectations was met and exceeded. I’ve had an absolute ball. I am enthused, and I want to write something now.”

“...I talk about television language with my students in class as we make comparisons between what’s natural and what’s artificial in our use of language.”

Lorna Jowett, a senior lecturer in American studies at the University of Northampton, U.K., and a featured speaker at the conference, said the gathering provided both an opportunity to explore the topic and to learn more about American culture.

“It’s great fun,” Jowett said. “We’ve got people from all over the place who are coming at the subject from different angles, and that’s what makes it interesting. It’s interesting for me to be in the States because my subject is American studies, and I’m always trying to teach British students about America, so this has been an opportunity to learn more about American cultural aspects.”

Canadian college professor Bryan Thiessen praised the conference for its content, as well as for Gordon’s execution of the event. “It’s been the smoothest conference I’ve yet attended,” Thiessen said. “Everyone has been so helpful. That’s been great. This is my holiday for the summer, and I would rather be here than on a beach somewhere.”
Cheryl DeLuca was named the recipient of the Diane Jolly Morris Heart for Nursing award at the 2006 pinning ceremony held in May. She is the second recipient of this annual award, which was given to Christina Oboh Bugh in 2005.

Jennie Morris, Diane Morris’ daughter, presented the award which was established in memory of her mother for the purpose of honoring a student who exemplifies a heart for nursing.

People who knew Morris knew her mantra: To be a successful nurse, you have to have nursing in your heart. This belief ran so strongly in Diane Morris that it has become permanently associated with her.

Morris died in November 2005 after a long career of teaching nurses at Gordon and other Georgia schools. “When she was teaching, she would always say that you had to have nursing at heart,” said Pat Brown, interim director of the Gordon nursing program. “And when we would ask, ‘How can you measure that?’ she would say that the student has to demonstrate a caring attitude.”

Morris, who taught obstetrics at Gordon, died in her home after a long battle with stomach cancer. She first came to Gordon as an instructor in 1988 and taught until 1991, when she left to devote time to her family. She returned in 1997. She was forced to take extended sick leave after being diagnosed with her illness in 2004. She retired from Gordon in May 2005.

Brown said Morris’ journey to Grady Memorial Hospital School of Nursing after graduating from Cedartown High School was her first extended trip away from home. She was leaving a large support system — her parents, relatives and several brothers and sisters.

Morris remembered well what her father told her when she left home: “Don’t just be a nurse, be the best nurse.” She included that quote in a letter that was read when the award named after her was presented for the first time, Brown said.

She was a devoted teacher, Brown said, and popular with students. “When you would go by her desk, there would be six or seven students around her, and she was always teaching.”

To Morris, nursing was everything, according to a Gordon colleague, Ann Purvis, also a nursing professor. “Nursing was her calling, and she felt like it should be a calling and that not everyone could be a nurse,” she said. “She thought that you couldn’t be cold and clinical and be a nurse.”

Morris had two children with her husband, Tom, and gave time to her community and church. “She was a special person with a great sense of humor. She was always able to defuse a situation with her humor,” Brown said.
Gordon’s Changing Campus

Sometimes Gordon’s campus changes dramatically. Sometimes the change is apparent, and sometimes it is not. Gordon Road is one of those apparent changes, and Connell Hall is one of those not-so-apparent changes.

Connell Hall was closed this year and no longer houses students. Studies conducted by architects and consulting firms have shown that renovating Connell Hall to today’s standards would be more costly than razing the building and replacing it with new construction. According to Vice President of Business Affairs Jerry Turner the average life span of a college campus building is 50 years.

“We have conducted a number of assessments of the building to see how we might renovate it to meet the housing expectations of our students,” he said. “Unfortunately, demolition and new construction is a much more cost-effective choice.”

Connell Hall was built during the tenure of Col. C.T.B. Harris, and a number of local people attended the groundbreaking which utilized a rocket buried in the ground as part of the festivities. According to President Larry Weill, the College will mark the leave-taking of the building with equal fanfare.

“Anytime there is a change, there is some sorrow with it,” noted Weill. “Many students have fond memories of their first experience away from home, and their home at Gordon was in Connell Hall. We are not sure how or in what way yet, but we are looking at how we can honor the man whose name is on this building.”

“One of my favorite stories of Connell Hall has to do with Col. Harris walking a visitor across campus. He pointed to a plot of grass and asked the visitor if he liked the addition to the campus. When the speaker responded that he did not see any addition, Harris told the visitor to come back the next year. Col. Harris said that he already could see it and that next year the visitor could see it too. That addition was Connell Hall,” said Weill.

The change in Gordon Road came about as a result of the College’s master plan for its physical facilities, as required by the University System of Georgia. In the most recent plan, 2002, the architectural firm of Richard + Wittschiebe made a number of recommendations to the College.

One recommendation was that Gordon Road, between its intersection with College Drive and its intersection with the Gordon Commons, be moved behind Gordon Hall, placing it in the valley adjacent to the playing fields. The road no longer hugs the side of Alumni Memorial Hall and no longer separates it from the building that was once the maternity clinic, now called Gordon Hall.

Work began on this project in March 2006 and was completed July 2006, opening approximately 20 acres of developable land to be integrated with the academic core area. The road relocation also allows for unimpeded safe pedestrian access to the main body of the campus.

Plans are being developed for a walkway along the old roadbed. This pedestrian thoroughfare will connect new student housing and parking to the academic core. With the help of alumni and other donors, the College hopes to add pedestrian friendly features such as benches and an architectural element to the walkway.
Gordon College Recital Series

Last year’s Gordon College Recital Series started Sept. 22, 2005, with Dr. Joe Chapman, a solo piano artist who presented an evening with Chopin. Dr. Chapman has presented numerous solo piano recitals throughout the Southeast including solo recitals for public radio and television. He has also toured the United States and overseas as conductor, accompanist and soloist.

On Nov. 1, 2005, Colombian soprano Patricia Caicedo, a leading international concert and recording artist, performed in Gordon College’s Fine Arts Theatre. She has performed her repertory of Latin American and Spanish art song at numerous concerts in Colombia, Europe and the United States.

Atlanta Symphony Orchestra Concertmaster Cecylia Arzewski came to the Fine Arts Theatre on Jan. 24, 2006, accompanied by pianist William Ransom. Arzewski previously was a member of the Boston Symphony for 17 years, rising to the position of assistant concertmaster, and then joined the Cleveland Orchestra as associate concertmaster for three years before coming to Atlanta. William Ransom is a graduate of the Juilliard School and teaches at Emory University.

The last performer of the recital series was pianist Oni Buchanan on Mar. 16, 2006. Ms. Buchanan has performed solo recitals in the Harvard University Hall Concert Series, and the Paderewski Piano Series in Boston. She is currently on the faculty at the New School of Music in Cambridge, Massachusetts. She is not only a recording artist but is a published poet, recently winning a poetry competition sponsored by the University of Georgia Press.

Gordon to Join National Collegiate Wrestling Association

Wrestling is returning to campus with the announcement in spring 2006 that Gordon will once again compete in this arena.

Beginning in October 2006, Gordon College athletes will compete with their counterparts from large universities, such as the University of Georgia and the University of Alabama.

Gordon will join the Southeastern Conference of the National Collegiate Wrestling Association (NCWA), which is the major athletic association for wrestling in the Southeast.

The NCAA, the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics, and the National Junior College Athletic Association have schools in other areas of the country but none in Georgia, according to Scott Henderson, Gordon’s athletic director. The NCWA includes teams from senior universities as well as two-year schools and community colleges. The University of Georgia is a member, as well as Georgia Tech and the University of Alabama. Other members include Darton College and Santa Fe Community College in Gainesville, Florida.

Henderson said scheduling of teams will begin soon. In addition, Gordon will be eligible for the conference tournament and a national NCWA tournament.

The wrestling coach will be Darren Broome, who teaches full time at Gordon and previously coached a club-level wrestling team at the school. Henderson said the coach should have a good pool of area athletes to draw from because wrestling has been gaining popularity in high schools locally and across the state.
To be sure, Walter “Jay” Griffin, Class of ’54, is a serious writer. According to the New Georgia Encyclopedia, he has more than 400 national and international publications to his credit appearing in such well-known magazines as The Paris Review, The Southern Review, The Atlantic Monthly, Harper’s and the New Yorker. His book of poetry Port Authority was nominated for a Pulitzer Prize in 1979. In 1972, he founded The Atlanta Poets Workshop and served as its director until 1998.

In the rarified circle of working poets, he is the former Master-Poet-in-Residence for The Georgia Council for the Arts and Humanities. Mr. Griffin is the sole bearer of that title since he is the only one conferred the status by The Georgia Council and by the National Endowment for the Arts to date.

As much as he stands out from his fellow cadets, one of his strongest memories of Gordon Military College is about not standing out, but of being joined in the one body of the cadet corps. “The sameness and the familiarity of it all” is how he puts it in his current work in progress – a book of short stories called The Night Blooming Cereus. “We were together and we belonged,” he writes.

“In many ways, Gordon was and represented the first ‘home’ and the first exposure to male identification that I ever had, thus leaving a lasting impression on my life,” he said.

He believes Thomas Wolfe was right that you can’t go home again, “but that doesn’t keep a lot of us from trying. Those years at Gordon were the best years of my life.”

“My emotional attachment to Gordon and Barnesville is and has always been an enduring one,” he said. “It’s like a glass crystal that I take out every now and then, polish and look at, then put it away for another time. I have always done that, especially during the darker times in my life. It remains that way today.”
“THE NIGHT BLOOMING CEREUS”

We marched to church on Sunday mornings past the ante-bellum and Victorian houses that lined the streets of Barnesville, where many of the day students lived.

Together in company formation and dressed out in our Class “A” uniforms with white ducks, grey blouses and white topped garrison hats with their shiny brims, we moved as one in lock step and quietly, with only the hypnotic “slap, slap, slap” of our spit-polished shoes from Mansour’s Department Store on the pavement past the glorious old homes, knowing that the locals just might be looking out of the tall windows with their families. They were, of course, and were proud of us.

In a way, even though we were boarding students from all across the country and South America, we were their boys. With our shoulders back, we marched, our chests bursting with pride, just as if we were on the parade field behind South Barracks and Passing in Review. And soon we reached the church, were quietly dismissed out front, and filed into the old building with its creaking floors and wooden pews.

Inside, we sat with the other townsfolk, mothers and fathers, whole families with little children and old people who turned and looked at us. Sitting side by side, we also felt like family, aware of the color of our uniforms all around us, the sameness and familiarity of it all. Despite any disagreements we might have had among ourselves on campus, on that day we felt like brothers, and we knew we were home. We were not just kids shipped off to a military school to be out of the way or for whatever other reason. We were together and we belonged.

by Walter Griffin
Queen Anne
Manual at Halftime

The rifle slipped in water
diadems from the small of
the stock in air, poised. The
thin wrist was not quick enough
and the young cadet picked up
his piece from the football field.

Our lives were shorter that night,
marching back to the bus, loading
like fawns in stadium lights, on
the way home, laughing, later
to dream of the slipping, the
falling of slender rifles in rain.

WALTER GRIFFIN
Sweethearts of Gordon

Friendships made at Gordon that last lifetimes.

Martha Howard McCarter (1906) and Col. Elmer H. McCarter (USAF/Retired)

Martha: Members of the Howard family have a long tradition at Gordon. In the 1890s, my father, John Morgan Howard, was a member of the cadet corps at Gordon Institute. As captain of the Barnesville Blues, he traveled with the National Guard to El Paso, Texas, in 1916. Their mission was to guard the Mexican border, which was in danger of encroachment by a Mexican militant group led by Pancho Villa. After that assignment, he was called to serve at Fort Sam Houston in San Antonio, Texas, during World War I.

After the war, my father returned in 1919 to the Howard farm, one and a half miles north of Barnesville. My grandfather had accumulated a large plantation over the years and was eager to have his sons share in the operation of the land acquired. He deeded acreage to my father; he settled on it, built a home, raised four daughters who all attended Gordon, and grew pecans and pine timber.

I was born on Christmas Eve 1919. My attendance at Gordon Grammar School, Gordon High School and Gordon Military College pointed the way to my future.

In 1936, the same year that I graduated from Gordon High School, my future husband, unknown to me at the time, was graduating from Clemson University in South Carolina with a degree in chemistry. Our future together began soon after Mac McCarter arrived at Gordon to accept the position of commandant of cadets. His mission was to teach chemistry in addition to carrying out the duties of commandant. He was a second lieutenant.

He was assigned an office around the corner from the office of Col. Guillebeau, the president, and the office of Maj. Connell, the vice president. After a few weeks on the job, he strolled in to the president’s outer office. According to him, he saw a young lady seated there who was unusually good looking. He was introduced to me by George Connell, and he claims to be a victim of love at first sight.

Anyway, after a courtship of several months, which included picking me up each evening after the ticket office closed at the Ritz Theater and driving me home, we were engaged. I was very busy during this period, as I was attending junior college at Gordon, taking piano lessons and doing the cashier job at the theater. My salary at the theater was only $10 a week, but it was enough to buy a trousseau and make plans for a home wedding. We were married on March 4, 1938. We’ve now been married for 68 years.

Mac retired from the Air Force in 1966 after having served 30 years. He had a second career at Clemson University. Since retirement from Clemson, they have enjoyed living in the foothills of the Blue Ridge Mountains. They have a son, Jack, who is a M.D. in Greenville, S.C., and a daughter, Andrea of Atlanta, who is a Ph.D.
LYNNE: It was destiny. I awakened to reveille and went to sleep with a cadet playing the traditional taps. To recall my first relationship with Gordon, one would have to understand that some teachers had living quarters on campus. From my first home at age two weeks when we lived in South Barracks, until a move to Stafford Avenue to share a home with then Vice President George Connell and his family, I was the “youngest student resident” and definitely a Gordon girl! Having parents who were teachers at Gordon for all of their careers completed my feeling of home, where military parades, marching bands and formal dances were the order of the day.

At the same time in history, a young man who was a student at Gordon caught my eye. Gene says he knew me in grammar school, but this is something we still debate!

My parents, Major and Mrs. Witcher taught both of us in high school and college. So the groundwork was laid for our romance. Gene was in college, and I was a rising senior in high school when we began to date.

We often enjoyed hamburgers and ice cream at the Frosty Palace, which was a favorite student gathering place, and wonderful dances held at the Gordon gymnasium. This young cadet captain was my date for several of these dances, where students spent hours decorating the gym elaborately with a theme for the occasion – Christmas, Valentine’s or the senior dance. Formal dresses, including hoop skirts and corsets, were a part of the exciting festivities. Gene was well on his way to owning the key to my heart. Even though I left to attend the University of Tennessee, and Gene became a staunch Bulldog at the University of Georgia, we very happily became a united couple of DAWG fans.

Our Gordon romance blossomed and last year we celebrated our 50th anniversary of marriage with our children and grandchildren.

We have had a lot of wonderful experiences along our journey together, but we fondly reminisce about our days at Gordon (which celebrated its Centennial while we were there.) Mother and Dad received many letters over the years from former students. They told them how much they learned as cadets at Gordon Military College even though they didn’t appreciate it until later in life sometimes.

It was a unique situation with girls attending a military school, but I’m so glad we were a part of it, and I still have my favorite cadet to remind me of “the good ‘ole days.”

Still dancing…. 
more sweethearts

Linda McCard REEMS ('66) and Pete REEMS ('66)

PETE: “We were going into our senior year, and I met her at the football field. I was a high school football player. Not long after that we met at a dance, and we started dating. Dating back then meant I walked to her house, and we walked somewhere. As a cadet, we weren’t allowed to have a vehicle, and we were not supposed to ride with locals. That doesn’t mean we did not do it, but we were not supposed to do it. We also could not wear civilian clothes. So, I’d walk in my uniform to her house and then we’d spend a lot of time together at church functions and at the Frosty Palace. That was dating. We’ve been together ever since 1965. We celebrated our 37th wedding anniversary in June 2006.”

LINDA: “Pete was there our junior year, but I never met him. I was dating someone else, but we never met – not until going into our senior year. We were pre-registering and getting ready for school. He was on the football team, and there was a dance after the game when he asked me to dance. It was a slow dance, and he held me tight. I knew it was special. We both graduated in 1966, and we were married in 1969. I went on to Tift, and Pete went back to Gordon College. After we were married, he commuted to West Georgia to finish his degree.”

Pete and Linda live in Pike County, Georgia, and they have two daughters, Amanda Ward and Emily Reems, and two grandchildren, Andrew Ward and Elizabeth Ward. Pete is the owner of Reems Jewelers, Inc., and Linda serves as Director of Pike Lamar Services, an organization that serves people with disabilities.

Kate Sisterson EVANS ('03)
Justin EVANS ('03)

KATE: Justin and I met fall 2001. We had music classes together; however, we didn’t really speak. When it comes to talking to someone I like, I am very shy. It took a few weeks before we spoke to each other. We started to notice each other when we were approached to sing for A Christmas Carol. The College was putting the play on that December. That’s when Scott Sanders and Jennie Bassett stepped up and told us we would make a “cute” couple. So, we decided to go out and see if they were right. We hit it off straight away, and since then we have never been apart.

That spring, Dr. Stephen Mulder asked us to sing a duet in the chorus concert. It involved a little kissing, and Justin had no problem with that!

The following spring (2003), Justin and I played Danny and Sandy in the musical Grease. After school got out for the summer, we were married on May 14, in Pigeon Forge, Tennessee.

After being married a little over a year, we had a beautiful little girl, Leah Margaret Evans. That was the highlight of our year. We will be married three years this May, and we are expecting another child in September.

I am so happy I met someone as loving as Justin who has made all my dreams come true.

I would like to thank Scott and Jennie for setting us up and of course Dr. Mulder for talking us both into being in the music program. If it had not been for him, we would have never met each other and would not be together now.

Justin and Kate attended Gordon from 2001 through 2003. Justin is currently pursuing a bachelor’s degree in business at Walden University. Kate plans to enroll there after the birth of their second child.
The world’s first artificial satellite was only about the size of a basketball and weighed less than 200 pounds. It circled the earth in a little more than an hour and a half. The launch of the Russian satellite Sputnik is credited with ushering in a multitude of new political, military, technological and scientific developments. Today, looking backward we mark that single event in October 1957, as the beginning of the race to space.

It is of little surprise that the 1957 senior class of Gordon Military High School is looking to their 50th reunion in 2007 to blaze a trail. They want to be one of the first classes of Gordon College to establish an endowed scholarship. Their efforts to raise funds for the scholarship were started in 2005, and donations from graduates of the class have steadily grown as their 50th anniversary approaches.

According to records at the College, only one other scholarship has been established by a graduating class, and that was by the Class of 1939, the year many of the graduates of the Class of 1957 were born.

According to the advancement office, a number of gifts made by class members have been made in memory of deceased classmates. Surviving family members have been quite appreciative of these gestures.

“Each time I have contacted a family to confirm where to send a notice of the gift, the family has been so pleased to learn that their loved one was being remembered by their peers,” said Rhonda Toon, vice president of advancement. “Working with the class on this project has been a real joy. The members of the Class of 1957 continually talk about giving back because they received so much from Gordon. I like to think that we are entering a new era in alumni relations at Gordon, and the Class of 1957 in many ways is our Sputnik.”

Even though this is a project of the Class of 1957, they welcome donations from anyone, alumni or not, Class of 1957 or not. Their goal is to be able to completely fund a perpetual scholarship and to award their first recipient by the time of their reunion in 2007. Those wishing to be sputniks, or “traveling companions,” with the Class of 1957 may send donations to the Advancement Office at Gordon College, 419 College Drive, Barnesville, Georgia 30204 and marked “Class of 1957 Scholarship Fund.”

The Class of 1957 Blazes a Trail in Giving

On Saturday, October 5, 1957 my roommate, Ken Cherry, and I discussed Sputnik and its implications over a copy of the Atlanta Journal & Constitution during breakfast at a diner that used to be at the corner of 41 and 341. The event and that discussion has stayed with me ever since. Ken got real busy on the comeback several years later when he worked at The Cape. Somewhat later I would report to Colonel Frank Borman (Apollo 8) on a daily basis at Eastern Airlines. Fast forwarding finds Russia and the USA collaborating on the International Space Station, which is like nurturing a space dinosaur. It is long past time when we should have developed and activated a replacement for the Space Shuttle and ventured further into space. Perhaps the Class of ’57 Scholarship will nurture some bright young scientist, who will pave the way.

– Paul Kilpatrick (Class of 1957).
1940s

John W. Carroll ’44
retired after a lengthy executive career with a major law book company. John graduated
from the University of Alabama and is an avid follower of the Crimson Tide. In his
leisure time he plays golf and is active in his church and other organizations. He and his
wife, Dean, have been married for 55 years. They have four children and three
grandchildren. John’s address is 605 Wedgewood Dr., Gulf Shores, AL 36542-3021 and can be reached by e-mail: deananjohn@gulftel.com.

Don Estrin ’45
is retired from the moving and storage busi-
ness. Don and his wife of 55 years, Nancy,
are the parents of two boys and the grand-
parents of four grandchildren. They enjoy
the kids and retirement. He would like to
hear from his classmates at
Divleg@aol.com.

Leonora Ginn ’43
a lifelong resident of Barnesville, Georgia,
Ms. Ginn worked at Robins Air Force Base
during WWII and is now a retired account-
ant. She has served three terms on the
Barnesville City Council and also served for
three governors on the State Health Strategy
Council. She has written six books: Towaliga
Lore, Days to Remember, A History of
Johnstonville School, A History of Ebenezer
Church, The Chinaberry Tree, The
Wraparound Porch and The Kitchen Table.

Bill (Billy) E. Palmer
(Wilson) ’47
finished school at Russell High School in
1948. Bill retired in 1969 from the Air
Force as a special agent of the office of
special investigation. Bill retired in 1994
from Clayton County Sheriff’s Department.
He and his wife, Dianne, have been mar-
ried more than 50 years. They have two
daughters, and one son. They have three
grandchildren. Bill’s favorite pastime is golf-
ing. Bill and Dianne reside in Fayetteville,
Georgia. Bill’s address is 130 Greenwood
Ct., Fayetteville, GA 30214. He can be
reached by e-mail: bepalm@bellsouth.net.

Eston E. Melton Jr. ’49
retired in 1996. Dr. Melton has been enjoy-
ing retirement (first career, chemical engi-
neer; second career, teacher) in the beautiful
mountains of Rabun County. Not completely
retired, Dr. Melton [Ed.D.] is the chairman of
the Rabun County Board of Commissioners.

Clayton (Sonny) Hawkins ’49
graduated from North Georgia College in
1951 with an education degree. After grad-
uation he was commissioned in the Army,
25th Division. He served in the Korean War
in 1952 and 1953. He was platoon
leader, company executive officer and com-
pany commander. During the 40 years he
served in education, he was a teacher,
counselor and coach. He completed his
masters and six-year degree from the
University of Georgia. After he quit coach-
ing he was the public announcer for 25
years at Milton H.S. in Alpharetta. After he
retired the football stadium was named
Clayton Sonny Hawkins in his honor. He
and his wife, Betty, have been married 52
years. They have two daughters and one
son. His greatest source of pride is that all
of his children work in public service.
Sonny’s and Betty’s address is 211 Upshaw
Dr., Alpharetta, GA 30004, and he can be
reached by e-mail: granhawk@bellsouth.net.

James (Hoss) Matthews ’49
graduated from North Georgia College in
1951 with a BS in physical education and
math. Hoss served three years in the Army’s
7th Division during the Korean War. Hoss
then served in the Army Reserves’ 81st
Division until 1970. He worked for 36
years in Rich’s Department Store Security.
Hoss remains very active with North
Georgia Military College. He has six sons.
Hoss said that he enjoys woodworking in
his spare time, but with four sons in college
that doesn’t leave much time for woodwork-
ing. He and his wife Sharon reside at
5485 Crestland Ct., Stone Mountain, GA
30087 and can be reached by e-mail: jmatthews@bellsouth.net.

Sid Stringer ’49
attended Florida State University until he
enlisted in the Air Force. He spent two years
in the Air Force during the Korean War.
After he was discharged from the Air Force,
he joined the National Guard and was
attached to the Army Reserves. He earned
his pharmacy degree at Florida A&M
University. Sid retired after 30 years as the
pharmacy manager at Thagard Student
Health Center at Florida State University.
Since retiring, Sid attended sea school and
received a U.S. Coast Guard Master
Captain’s license. He guides inshore and
offshore fishing parties out of St. Marks,
Florida. He is active in the Miccosukee
United Methodist Church. Sid is married to
the former Carolyn Fairchild and has three
sons, one daughter, four grandsons and one
granddaughter. Sid’s address is 6242 West
Washington, Monticello, FL 32344. He can
be reached by e-mail: rarehare@nettally.com.

1950s

Guy Barber ’50
retired Army lieutenant colonel, now resides
in Bainbridge, Georgia, with his wife,
Flora. He retired in 1994 from the
Southwest Georgia Oil Company, Inc. Guy
has served as director, judge and board
member of scholarship, beauty and com-
modity pageants. He is a frequent speaker
at seminars and workshops for judges and
contestants. His hobbies are hunting and
fishing. Guy and Flora had three children,
two daughters, and one son. Guy’s address
is 910 Elizabeth Place, Bainbridge, GA
39819. He can be reached by e-mail:
MITECA@webtv.net.

Jim Hightower ’51
transferred to Troy State University on a
basketball scholarship. He stayed two
quarters before joining the Navy and was
on active duty for 26 months. He complet-
ed his education with a BS in physical education and administration at Howard College in Birmingham, which is now Sanford University. He began coaching at the high school in Americus. He received his master’s and EDS from Peabody College, Nashville, Tennessee. He retired from coaching at Georgia Southwestern University in 1989. Jimmy won seven championships in four different sports: two in football, one basketball, one baseball, and three golf. Jimmy was inducted in the Georgia Hall of Fame in 1989. He also was inducted in the Georgia Athletic Coaches Association Hall of Fame in 2004. His former players include Dan Reeves former coach of the Atlanta Falcons and Chan Gailey former coach for the Dallas Cowboys. After retirement he ran a golf shop and was also director at Americus Sumter Recreation Department. He and his wife Carol have four children and three grandchildren. They reside at P.O. Box 1511 or 102 Woodland Acres, Americus, GA 31709 and can be reached by e-mail: JimmyHightower@bellsouth.net or by phone (229) 928-0634.

Wayne Stallings ’51

transferred to the University of Georgia after leaving Gordon Military College. Wayne retired from the Army/GA National Guard as brigadier general 1983. Wayne now resides in Nashville, Georgia, with his wife of 52 years, Sylvia. The Stallings have two daughters. He retired from State Farm Insurance in 1983. Wayne’s address is P.O. Box 634, Nashville, GA 31639-0607. He can be reached by e-mail: granny5@alltel.net.

Charles M. Story (Sonny) ’52

resides in Concord, Georgia, where he serves as mayor. Mr. Story is owner and CEO of Sonny’s Ice Company. He and his wife, Joanne, have been married for 50 years. They have three children and five grandchildren. Sonny’s address is P.O. Box 254, Concord, GA 30206.

Harry F. Heaton ’54

joined the Army after leaving Gordon Military College. He served 18 months in Hawaii. Harry retired from Georgia Power in 1992. He and his wife Carolyn just celebrated 50 years of marriage. They have three daughters and eight grandchildren. They spend their leisure hours at the beach. Harry’s address is 2500 Lake Douglas Road, Bainbridge, GA 39819.

Sid Eagles ’57

retired in 1991 as a colonel from the Air Force Reserve and retired again two years ago after a 21-year career on the State Court of Appeals in North Carolina. Today he works for Smith Moore LLP, a North Carolina law firm. He is president of the 10th District Bar Association in Raleigh and is in the House of Delegates of the American Bar Association. He is also chairman of the board of trustees of Barton College in Wilson, North Carolina, and is on the Law Board of Visitors for the Wake Forest University Law School. He and his wife of 41 years, Rachel, have two adult daughters, and all of them live in Raleigh.

Seven Graduates Hold Their Own Reunion

Seven Gordon Military College graduates got together Apr. 4, 2006, in Perry, Georgia, to meet and eat after some 50 years of separation – they plan to do it all again in six months. From left to right in the front are Dewese Haley (’49) of Marietta, Guy Barber (’50) of Bainbridge, Jimmy Hightower (’51) of Americus, Sonny Hawkins (’49) of Alpharetta and Sid Stringer (’49) of Monticello, Florida. From left to right in the back are Wayne Stallings (’51) of Nashville, Georgia, and James (Hoss) Matthews (’49) of Stone Mountain.

All of these men served in the armed forces and later had very successful careers in business, industry and education. Guy Barber and Wayne Stallings completed 20 years or more of military service and retired as officers; these two men were also graduates of Gordon Military High School.
John Boesch ‘57
is staying active in various sports pursuits. From January until March ’06 he worked for the Turin Olympic Organizing Committee on the XX Winter Olympics. He helped organize the “Parade of Athletes” for both the opening and closing ceremonies. Between the two ceremonies, most of his time was spent working in the skiing venues in the Italian Alps. This summer he led the “International Sports Symposium” at St. Mary’s College in California.

Hamp Whittle ‘58
is currently president and CEO of O.H. Whittle & Co., Inc., an insurance brokerage located in the coastal St. Simons Island, Georgia, area. He has been in this field for more than 44 years and is a lifetime member of The Million Dollar Round Table. He is the great-grandson of Gordon’s founder, Charles Lambdin and a 1962 graduate of Emory University with a degree in business administration. He is married to the former Anne Tomlin, and together they have four children and eight grandchildren. He is an avid golfer and a member of the Sea Island Gold Club. He and Anne are members of Christ Church Frederica and reside in The Island Club at St. Simons Island. Anne is owner of Planters Exchange, a gift shop also located on the island. They travel at every opportunity. He has the honor of serving on the Board of the Glynn County Humane Society and looks forward to retirement, so that he may devote more time to this community.

1960s

Peter Dakan ‘61
graduated from the University of West Virginia in 1965. Following graduation he served in the Air Force for six years. After 25 years at Boeing Company, Peter is retired. He married Carol Moore in 1965. They have two children and four grandchildren. Peter’s address is 12821 S.E. 285th St., Kent, WA 98030.

Ambrose Hooper Skardon ’61
and his wife, Sue, reside in Simpsonville, South Carolina. Hooper retired after 32 years in the industrial division of Sears and Roebuck, Co. He and Sue have two sons and one granddaughter. In their spare time they enjoy traveling. They can be reached by e-mail: ahooperskardon@aol.

Mary Ann (Parker) Salmons ’66
retired in 2000 as a special events coordinator from the Coca-Cola Co. in Atlanta, Georgia. Mary Ann spends most of her time taking care of three children. In her spare time she likes to travel. Mary Ann’s address is 331 Woodbrook Lane, Marietta, GA 30068-3558. She can be reached by phone: 770-973-8313.

George Michael (Mike Sweat) Scott ’68
transferred to North Carolina State University and graduated in 1971. Mike was commissioned as a 2nd lieutenant in the Marine Corps where he spent three years on active duty. He retired from the Reserves in 1990 as a major and retired from the Gwinnett County Sheriff’s Office (Lawrenceville, Georgia) in 1999. He graduated from Brenau College with a master’s degree in public administration from Georgia State University with a master of science in criminal justice. After retiring from Gwinnett County Sheriff’s Office he was chief of police in Pineview, Georgia, for two and half years. He worked with the Wilcox County Sheriff’s Office (Abbeville, Georgia) as the D.A.R.E. Officer for four years.
years. After working in law enforcement for 29 years, he retired June 1, 2005. He lives with his wife Nancy in Pineview, Georgia. Mike’s address is P.O. Box 58, Pineview, GA 31071.

Ron Zellner ‘69
graduated in 1974 from West Georgia College with a double major in history and sociology and a minor in political science. Ron is currently a territorial manager of Conklin Metals in Atlanta where he has been employed for more than 28 years. Ron has one daughter. Ron’s address is 3540 Haddon Hall Dr., Buford, GA 30519. He can be reached by e-mail: ronzell@bellsouth.net.

Kay Davis Peddie ‘69
and her husband Buddy live in Florida. Kay and Buddy have two daughters and two granddaughters. Kay says that they have discovered a hobby/sport that has taken them to some very interesting and beautiful places. It is called geocaching – essentially a scavenger hunt using GPS technology. Kay’s address is Kay Davis Peddie, 608 E. Belleview Dr., Quincy, FL 32351. She can be reached by e-mail: kdpeddie@netquincy.com.

1980s
Allison Worley Howard ‘86
works for Texwood Industries Quality Doors in Cedar Hill, Texas. She has been married to Kurt Howard for 18 years. They have two children. Allison’s address is 401 Cook Road, Griffin, GA 30224.

Karen Smith Kennedy ‘89
transferred to Valdosta State University graduating in 2002 with a BBA in business management. Karen is employed by Georgia State DFCS as a multi-county supervisor. She and her husband Jeff live in Thomaston, Georgia. They have a son and a daughter. Karen’s address is 5778 Crest Hwy., Thomaston, GA 30286.

1990s
Scott Passmore ‘90
graduated from Georgia State in 1993 with a BBA in accounting. Scott is the IT accounting and finance manager with Cingular Wireless HQ. He and his wife Sloan reside in Thomaston with their daughter.

Lynn Yates ‘90
is currently employed by Gordon College in alumni affairs. She and her husband, Durand, reside in Thomaston, Georgia. They have a daughter. You can reach Lynn by e-mail: lynny@gdn.edu.

Niki L. Yates ‘95
graduated from University of Georgia in 1998 with a BS in environmental health. Niki is an environmental project manager with S&ME, Inc. in Charlotte, North Carolina. She loves to travel abroad, snow ski and mountain bike. Niki lives in Charlotte, North Carolina and can be reached by e-mail: niki_yates@hotmail.com.

Shay Taylor English ‘95
1997 with a BBA in risk management. Shay is employed by State Farm as an auto claims specialist adjuster. Shay and her husband, Ricky, have a daughter. She can be reached by e-mail: shay.english.hcg5@statefarm.com.

Karen McCard Renfroe ‘95
graduated from the University of Georgia in 1997 with a BS in environmental health science. Karen is an environmental consultant for Booz Allen Hamilton. She and her husband, Chris, have one son. Karen and Chris reside at 150 Valley Dr., Stockbridge, GA 30281. She can be reached by e-mail: kmrenfroe@yahoo.com.

DeeGee Brown Gassett ‘96
graduated from Columbus State in 2000 with a bachelor’s in business administration. DeeGee started her pet-sitting company, Fur, Feathers and Fins, in August 2000. She lives in Thomaston with her...
Finding His Passion

Shane Allman, class of ’01

Shane Allman, a native of Rex, Georgia, and a graduate of Gordon, is studying for a Ph.D. in physics at the University of Colorado.

Allman and his colleagues at Boulder’s National Institute of Standards and Technology are probing what scientists call quantum computing. Although still in the experimental stages, the process could lead to computers that would, in human terms, work on solutions to several different problems all at the same time.

The Georgian’s work is a quantum leap from his recent past. Not only was he a high school dropout, but he had toiled for several years in auto body shops.

Before dropping out of Morrow High School midway through his junior year in 1993, he had taken vocational classes. His parents told the 17-year-old that he had to go to work, and he did, at an auto body shop in Griffin. After a couple of years there, he took at better paying job at a paint and body place in Atlanta.

“It was hard work, but the job was going OK,” he said. As years rolled by, though, he began to realize there was not much future in it. “I would have to bust my knuckles the rest of my life,” he said.

By 1997, he was ready to go back to school. That’s when he discovered Gordon College.

“A crucial part of our mission is to serve as a point of access for students who need additional preparation in order to be successful in college-level classes,” said Robert Vaughan, vice president of academic affairs at Gordon.

“I went to school during the day and worked in the evening,” he said. “It was tough; there was a lot of driving.”

Along the way, he said, he fell in love with math. “It was something I liked really well, and the faculty at Gordon, particularly Dr. Joscelyn Jarrett, helped inspire me.”

He was also making good grades – in fact, the best – 4.0. Maturity helped, he said. “And I had an interest in what I was doing. I had been out in the real world and had seen what it was like.”

Allman was also interested in science – particularly chemistry and physics, thanks to professors Dan Jackson and Chad Davies – and the student took all the science courses Gordon had to offer. “The science faculty at Gordon is phenomenal,” he said.

He decided to major in chemical engineering and headed to Georgia Tech, where he also met academic success. At the Atlanta school, he entered a co-op program in which a student works in his or her major field. Allman discovered he needed to change directions again, and this time switched to physics.

In a recent email exchange, Allman said he had made yet another change in direction, this time in his personal life. In regard to his work and studies, he said, “I guess the only thing that’s changed since my last correspondence is that I’ve gotten engaged.”

Her name is Olivia.

Angela Huber ’96

works in OB/GYN as a registered nurse in Conyers, Georgia. She has two sons. Angela says she loves being a mom. In her spare time she helps with her son’s Boy Scouts group and attends his baseball games. Angela’s address is 151 Mills Dr., Covington, GA 30016. She can be reached at: ahuber74@bellsouth.net.

Cassandra (Cassie) Wilson ’97

received a BS in biology from Mercer University in 2000. She received her Doctor of Medicine from Mercer University School of Medicine in 2006. In July 2006, Dr. Wilson began her residency training in pediatrics at the Medical Center of Central Georgia in Macon. She and her husband, Brad, have an 11-year-old son. Dr. Wilson’s mailing address is 109 Manor Terrace, Macon GA 31210.

2000s

Carol Hunter Knizek ’00

received her certified occupational health nurse degree in 2003. Carol is employed by Healthcare of New York Trust. She conducts training and injury prevention for
nurses and other healthcare providers. She and her husband, Ray, live in New York. Carol’s address is 4961 Bliss Road, Ballston Spa, NY 12020.

Brad Wilson ’02
graduated from Mercer University 2006 with a BA in criminal justice. Brad and his wife, Cassie, reside in Macon, Georgia. They have one son. Brad’s address is 109 Manor Terrace, Macon, GA 31210.

Janet Forrest ’02
graduated from the University of Georgia in 2004 with a degree in wildlife and environmental resources. Jan is currently pursuing a masters in forest resources. Jan is a graduate student at the Warnell School of Forestry and Natural Resources. She is emphasizing in conservation education and outreach. She was named a teaching instructor for the Governor’s Honors Program for summer 2006. This is a six-week program for intellectually gifted and artistically talented high school students. She can be reached by e-mail: forrestj@owl.forestry.uga.edu.

Jena Beverly ’02
graduated from Mercer University May 2006 with a doctor of pharmacy. Jena is employed by CVS pharmacy in Macon. Jena’s address is 103 Denham Rd., Thomaston, GA 30286.

Lauren Kosko-Patty ’02
works as a communications specialist for the U.S. Poultry and Egg Association in Tucker, Georgia. She married Jim Patty in 2005. Lauren’s address is 2442 Gene Ct., Snellville, GA 30078. You can reach her at: lreportr@aol.com.

Lindsey Long ’04
graduated in May 2006 from Valdosta State University with a BS in education. Lindsey has started her master’s program at Valdosta State University in communication disorders. Lindsey’s address is Staten Crossing, 3925 N. Oak St. Ext., Apt. 1015, Valdosta, GA 31605.

Marlana Howard ’05
is currently enrolled at the University of West Georgia where she is studying prelaw. Her plans are to finish her law degree at Georgia State. She is currently employed by Belk’s in Carrollton. Marlana’s address is 915 Lovvorn Rd. Apt. 505D, Carrollton, GA 30117.

Jason W. Pruitt ’05
is currently attending Southern Polytechnic University where he is pursuing a degree in construction management. He is also a member of Sigma Nu Fraternity where he serves on three committees. Jason’s address is 1160 South Marietta Pkwy 13045, Marietta, GA 30060. His e-mail address is jasepruitt@yahoo.com.

Monica Eidson ’06
graduated with an associate of science degree in health/physical education. Monica is currently attending emergency medical technician (EMT) school at West Central Technical College in Waco, Georgia. Her plan is to eventually be a firefighter like many of her family and friends. Monica’s address is: 39 Belmont Park Dr., Newnan, GA 30263.

Hannah Carline Mathes ’06
graduated with an associate of arts degree and the associate of science in nursing degree. She graduated cum laude.

Daniel H. McKinley ’06
graduated summa cum laude with highest honors, with a co-op degree (air conditioning technology) from Griffin Tech. He has a 4.0 grade point average on the seven courses he took on the Gordon campus while maintaining a 4.0 average at Griffin Technical College. Daniel works at Gordon College in plant operations. His e-mail address is: danielm@gdn.edu.
At some point after a long career as a U.S. Army nurse, retired Lt. Col. Florence B. Thomas decided to bequeath Gordon College with a scholarship in her name for “a traditional or nontraditional student who desires a career in nursing.”

She never articulated why she chose to remember Gordon College in her will, but many like to think that the College may have drawn her attention because it was once a military school and because of its excellent nursing program.

Her cousin Mary Brannon and her niece Brenda Vitale said that Lt. Col. Thomas was a woman ahead of her time, convinced of the value of education, and committed to nursing and the Army. Ms. Brannon called her “a self-made gal” who was “a lot of fun.” Ms. Vitale said her aunt was “way before the women’s liberation movement. She was a very determined woman.”

In a story written about her in The Free Press, a funny recollection of Thomas’ was the confusion she caused the G.I.s who encountered her. She explained that G.I.s were drilled in saying “yes sir” to an officer and that her presence often created confusion for them.

From what Brannon and Vitale say, Lt. Col. Thomas grew up poor, which impacted her education. Getting to school was so difficult that Thomas dropped out, but as Ms. Vitale put it, it didn’t take the future nurse long to realize she needed to complete high school “to make her plans happen.”

Thomas was 24 when she graduated from high school in 1935. By May 23, 1939, she completed nursing training at Hillman Hospital in Birmingham, Alabama, and by Dec. 20, 1939, she was certified as a registered nurse by the Alabama State Board of Examiners of Nurses.

After the attack on Pearl Harbor on Dec. 7, 1941, Thomas joined the Army. She reported that she felt it was the best way she could serve her country. Two days after D-Day, she landed in Normandy and began the difficult work of treating combat injuries.

She left the Army after the war’s end, but “she missed the excitement and travel that her career in the Army had provided,” so she rejoined in 1952. Her work took her to a number of places in the states including Hawaii. She served in Thailand as an operating room supervisor, where she reported she was afforded the respect given any other officer, although some of the young recruits still had difficulty deciding whether to say “yes ma’am” or “yes sir.”

Not long after her retirement from the Army, The Free Press wrote: “Col. Thomas finds that many young women are interested in the Army Corp of Nurses. She certainly recommends it for the young lady desiring excitement, travel and rewarding service.”

Lt. Col. Thomas died on Dec. 1, 1994, at age 83. Along with her gift to establish the Florence B. Thomas Scholarship, the College received photographs, news clippings, a number of official documents and certificates heralding her training as a nurse and a military medical manual. These papers will be placed in the holdings of the Hightower Library.

“We never had the pleasure of knowing Ms. Thomas, but her remembrance of Gordon will long be felt here,” said Lawrence Weill, president. “The College depends on people like Florence Thomas – people who have passion about their chosen careers who want to impact the lives of those who come after them. We are experiencing a shortage of trained health care providers, and Florence Thomas is making it possible for us to put a qualified nurse into the workforce. Her reputation as an ambassador for the profession of nursing continues.”
Military History Library

Donated to Gordon College

John Hall was a reader. Books lined the shelves of his office and his home. They filled the shelves he had constructed in his basement, and they were found in almost every room of his Conyers, Georgia, house.

During his lifetime he amassed a collection of military history books that filled 20 boxes. His wife, Jacqueline, said she knew exactly what he wanted to happen to his books after his death in September 2005. In his will he requested that the book collection be given to Gordon College.

History professor Gary Cox inspected the books soon after they arrived at the Hightower Library and was impressed. “This is a wonderful collection of both popular and scholarly volumes that offers something of interest for any student of military history. This is an important addition to the Hightower Library holdings,” he said.

As a young boy Hall had attended Georgia Military Academy, and he later graduated from Georgia State College. Ms. Hall believes he left the books to Gordon because he knew of Gordon’s history as an honor military school.

“He just loved to read. He loved nonfiction and he thought that there would be people at Gordon who would value the books as he valued them,” she said.

John Hall served in World War II and the Korean War, both times enlisting as a Marine. During the war in Korea he served in “D” Company, 2nd Bn. 7th Marines, 1st Marine Division. He was a member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, the American Legion, and the Ebenezer United Methodist Church, all in Rockdale County.
It all started with a drive by T-Street Barracks, his old home while he was attending Gordon Military College from 1949 to 1951. For some time Sonny Story had been thinking about establishing a scholarship, so he decided to stop into Lambdin Hall to see what had to be done.

One story after another poured out of him on that visit as he recalled his days as a cadet and football cheerleader when he was voted “most popular.” And the thing that made him popular was that he could hambone. That is, he could slap his thighs and chest in rhythm, an art he learned behind a woodpile from his friend Baby Ruth.

Another of Sonny’s stories was about his difficulties in passing chemistry. After failing the class twice, he worked up enough nerve to talk the professor, Reynolds Bush, into letting him take the course a third time. In danger of failing chemistry a third time, he went to see Prof. Bush who told Sonny, “I’ll give you a D if you promise never to go anywhere near chemistry again in your life.” He also told Sonny if he were not so popular and so good at doing the hambone, he wouldn’t have given the D.

Mr. Story (although he prefers to be called Sonny) laughed about that because he said that even today he has stayed away from chemistry. “I still remember that big table (the periodical table of the elements) that hung behind Mr. Bush in class, and I still don’t know what it means.”

Around the time Mr. Story was 70, he and his wife ran into his old professor at a restaurant in Griffin. Prof. Bush yelled, “Story, come over here,” and proceeded to tell Mrs. Story about her husband’s trouble with chemistry. Bush asked him what business he was in, and Story said ice. Bush’s response was, “Good. At least you don’t have to treat the water!” Then Bush had Story do the hambone right there in the middle of the restaurant.

Although Mr. Story is a successful businessman and the mayor of Concord, he still remembers how he felt as a young cadet standing outside the canteen smelling the hamburgers cooking on the grill and being “just too broke to buy one.”

“That’s the kind of student I want to give money to,” he said, “the student too broke to buy that hamburger.”

He shared his idea with his friend Bill Jones, and Mr. Jones, who has known financial hard times, joined with Mr. Story in creating the Jones and Story Student Assistance Fund.
Mr. Jones became a teacher and then superintendent of the Butts County School System. While in this job, he earned a law degree from UGA the same way he got his bachelor’s degree, by working and paying his own way. After his law degree, he was elected to the Georgia General Assembly, and today he is the owner of Jones Petroleum and several other businesses.

When Mr. Jones and Mr. Story paid a visit to the Institutional Advancement Office, Mr. Jones said he remembered telling himself something when he lived on a cotton farm with his family. “If I ever get off this farm,” he said, “I am going to put as much distance between me and chopping cotton as I can.” And even though he is a successful businessman, he will tell you that he “still doesn’t feel safe even today” from the return of hard times.

After graduating from the University of Georgia, Mr. Jones became a teacher and then superintendent of the Butts County School System. While in this job, he earned a law degree from UGA the same way he got his bachelor’s degree, by working and paying his own way. After his law degree, he was elected to the Georgia General Assembly, and today he is the owner of Jones Petroleum and several other businesses.

Mr. Story said that he and Mr. Jones are not creating the fund to give themselves “a pat on the back. We are simply trying to show young people today that with hard work and determination, they can achieve their goals no matter what their situation.”

The fund they envision would solve a critical need the College has. Often students who qualify for assistance experience delays in the start of class and the delivery of their funding. At times students have money for tuition but not for books. The fund will be operated from the financial aid office. Eligible students will be identified and assisted with emergency loans which will be repaid when other funding comes in to the College.

Another part of their vision is to actively build the corpus of the Fund by working in conjunction with the Office of Institutional Advancement.

According to Financial Aid Director Larry Mitcham, “Many colleges have funds like this one. Most were established by donors like Mr. Story and Mr. Jones – people who know what it is like to be in a tough situation. They want to give back to Gordon, and they exemplify the very best of our graduates. We are all about educating students, and when they are successful and want to give back to Gordon, we have the pleasure of seeing their good work make a difference in the lives of young people.”

The Jones-Story Student Assistance Fund provided its first interest-free loans to students at the beginning of the fall 2006 semester. In order to fully meet the needs of students additional funds are needed. Donations to the fund may be given to the Gordon College Foundation and marked “For the Jones-Story Fund.” Call Rhonda Toon at 770-358-5124 for further information.
In Memory of

PEARL

**When Pearl died** shortly after taking a Gordon College Community Education class, Kristi Rowell (Class of ’89) of Jackson made a donation to the Gordon College Foundation in her memory. Pearl was a Boston terrier.

“This was the first gift that I know of made to the College in memory of a beloved pet,” said Rhonda Toon, vice president of advancement. “The staff of the community education department loved Pearl. When the gift came in, they immediately pulled out a photo of her.”

Ms. Rowell adopted Pearl from a rescue organization called Kanine Kids in Atlanta, after the dog’s owners abandoned her, and when community education offered a canine good citizen program called “Dog Cotillian,” Ms. Rowell enrolled Pearl. The cotillian was an American Kennel Club Canine Good Citizen certification program designed to reward dogs who display good manners at home and in the community. Participants attended free seminars on choosing breeds to match lifestyles, dog diet and nutrition, and health and behavior issues.

The cotillian’s instructor, Rosemary Logan, is a Barnesville resident who has been training and showing dogs across the nation for more than 30 years. She has served as a judge in the national Bulldog Club of America show and is in the Breeders Hall of Fame.

“It is very important for dogs to have good behavior,” she said, adding that a trained dog is a well-balanced pet. Dogs need to get along with each other and with people, especially in these days with more and more people caring for more and more pets, she said.

During the good citizen training, dogs learned to accept a friendly stranger, sit politely for petting, permit someone – such as a veterinarian, groomer or friend of the owner – to groom or check them out, and walk with loose lead. Dogs also learned how to walk through a crowd, along with obeying the sit and down commands. And they were tested by an accredited judge at the conclusion of the eight sessions.

Pearl was among the first graduates of the canine good citizen program.

Ms. Rowell said that the program really made her feel like she had a partnership with Pearl. “It was very gratifying to me when she responded to my commands and to have a well-behaved dog that I could have at the office with me and take anywhere,” she said. “I wish that every dog and their owners could go through the training, and I wish I could find a way for dogs in shelters to get the training in hopes that they would have an easier time finding permanent homes.”

She said that she and Pearl had such a positive experience that she wanted to do something to give back to Gordon.

Pearl’s successor is Ling Ling, also a rescue, from Alabama Boston Terrier Rescue, who successfully completed Gordon’s Canine Good Citizen program in May 2006.

Others wishing to make donations in memory of their pets can do so by contacting the Office of Institutional Advancement, 770-358-5124.
Gifts made in memory and in honor of the following people between July 1, 2005 & June 30, 2006.

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