

Gordon College

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PRESIDENT'S REPORT

fall
2011



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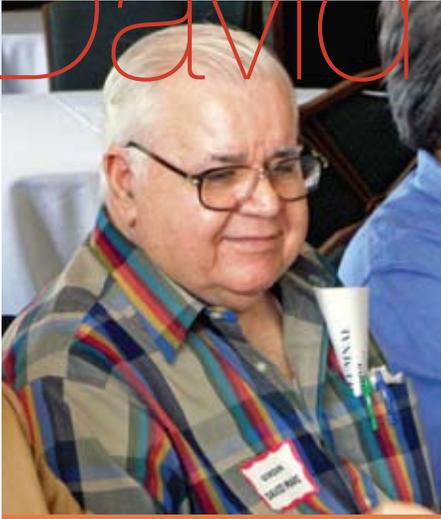
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David Mari at the November 2004 Gordon College Alumni Association of Puerto Rico reunion.

David Mari came to Gordon College from San Juan, Puerto Rico, in 1951.

The distance between his Puerto Rican culture and that of the South was great, especially marked by language. The geographical distance between the two locations was as great as between Barnesville and Salt Lake City, or Barnesville and Quebec. Like so many young men who came to be educated at Gordon Military College, he experienced a very different and new world from what he had known in his past, and he thrived. Gordon was a portal to a life of opportunity and success, and no matter what future barriers arose to interpose between him and the College, they did not succeed.

His goal, after graduating from Gordon, was to go to the University of Georgia, but he had his doubts that he would be accepted. Despite the instruction he received at the Catholic School in Ponce, his English skills were still deficient when he came to Barnesville, and both he and Miss Marion Bush knew it. From what

David's wife, Virginia, said, Miss Bush made him toe the line, but he did not take it personally and was forever grateful that she bore down on him at times. He knew he needed to fortify his language skills.

Although he worked hard on his English, Mari still worried about being accepted into UGA, and he expressed this concern to President C.T.B. Harris, who was a personal friend of William Tate, UGA's dean of men. Harris told Mari not to worry, he would get him into UGA, and he did. There Mari met his wife and from there he went into the U.S. Army, serving in Augsburg, Germany, for two years.

In the coming years, he and Virginia would return every three or four years for UGA reunions, and each time they would also visit Gordon.

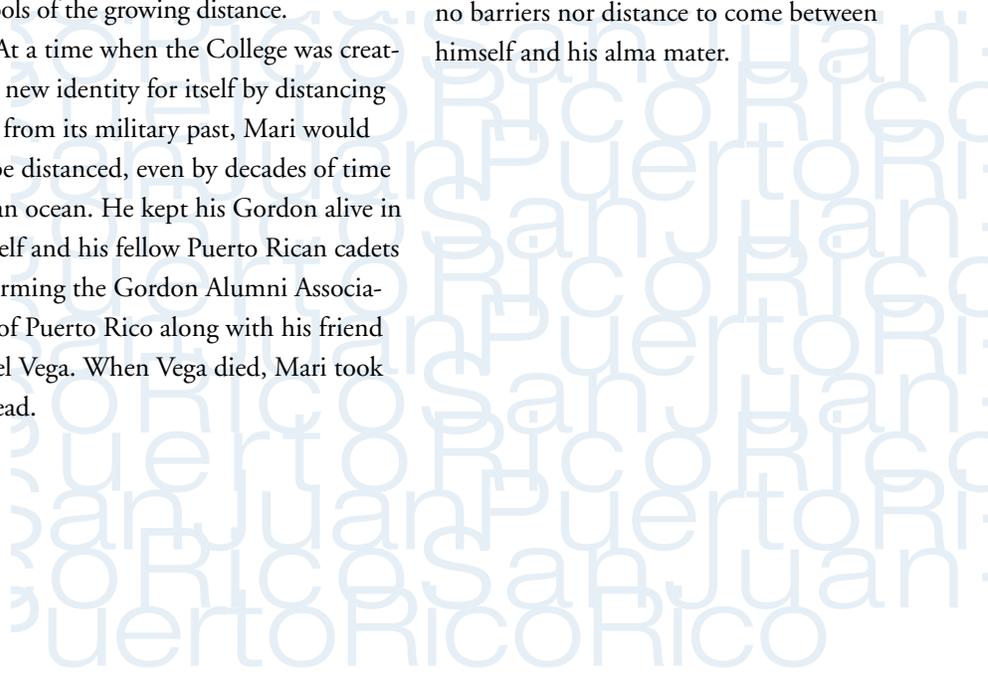
It was during this time that the greatest distance opened between Mari and Gordon Military College. In 1972, it became a part of the University System of Georgia, and much of its military culture started to disappear. The demolition of North Barracks and Lambdin's portico were dramatic symbols of the growing distance.

At a time when the College was creating a new identity for itself by distancing itself from its military past, Mari would not be distanced, even by decades of time and an ocean. He kept his Gordon alive in himself and his fellow Puerto Rican cadets by forming the Gordon Alumni Association of Puerto Rico along with his friend Rafael Vega. When Vega died, Mari took the lead.

And so a significant piece of Gordon history continued in Puerto Rico, unknown to the College until one spring day in 2004. This is when Mari and his wife were walking around the campus and met the editor of *The President's Report*, Peter Boltz. Hearing that an active Gordon alumni association existed in Puerto Rico, the College went to work arranging a delegation from Gordon to attend the next reunion. Gordon President Larry Weill, Gordon Foundation Chair Peter Banks, Vice President Rhonda Toon, alumni advisory board chair Kike Seda and Boltz attended the November 2004 meeting in San Juan.

With David Mari's help, the College regained a significant part of its history and culture. In 2005, the Gordon College Foundation awarded the Gordon Alumni Association of Puerto Rico with the Distinguished Service Award, recognizing the years of dedication this group of alumni led by Mari had given to preserving and honoring the memory of Gordon.

When he died on April 29, 2011, Gordon College lost a constant friend who seldom missed an opportunity to visit the campus and remember friends and faculty. This year's *President's Report* is dedicated to David Mari in honor of his loyalty and love of Gordon. He allowed no barriers nor distance to come between himself and his alma mater.





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PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Fall 2011, Volume 9, Number 1

On the Cover: Bobby Lee Cook, Gordon High School Class of '43, stands in the library of his Summerville law office. In 1941, he left the little town of Lyerly, Ga., to come to Gordon Military at the young age of 14. Cook, dubbed by the *ABA Journal* as one of the "Lions of the Trial Bar," is known for his defense of high-profile clients like Savannah socialite Jim Williams.

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FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Friends,

I would like to congratulate the Gordon College Alumni Association for putting together such a successful all-class reunion last April. Don Neuner, the outgoing chair of the Association, has done a great job, and we wish the new chair, Jim Graham, even greater success.

This has been a busy year for Gordon College as you will see in the following pages, and once again the *President's Report* has stories about some of our many interesting alumni and faculty. If there is one thing I've learned while serving as the College's president, it is that for a small school it sure has a large number of outstanding alumni.

I am thankful for my time with you. I am proud to have been part of your history, and your future.

Sincerely,
Shelley Nickel
Interim Gordon College President



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR



The Burousas House

October 18, 2010

Dear Peter,

Buddy and I really enjoyed the *President's Report* that we recently received, but the part about the restoration of the Burousas House was most interesting. It is a joy to know that the house that my grandfather and grandmother, Soterios (Joe) and Aurelie Burousas built back in 1930s will be Gordon's new "Honors House."

Their children, Jimmie Burousas, Sr. (Class of '35), Alex, Helen and Kiki all lived in the house and attended Gordon. My father, Jimmie, recently died and he shared many fond memories of the house and Gordon with me. We have the many mementos and pictures of the times back then.

He enlisted in the Marine Corps, later transferred into the Army Air Corps, and retired as a master sergeant in the U.S. Air

Force. He saw service during three wars: World War II, Korea, and Southeast Asia.

Though he was born in Chicago, his whole family considered Barnesville their home. Grandfather Joe operated the Gordon Café in downtown Barnesville for many years, it later becoming Tampa's Cafe. You wrote about the café in an earlier addition.

I am sure that he and the entire Burousas family would be proud of what is happening to their old Barnesville homeplace.

Yours truly,
Bobbie Carol Burousas Waller (Class of 1964)

July 14, 2011

Dear Gordon,

During the passing years, many changes have taken place at Gordon. Porter and I are proud of the strides that have been made on campus, which we hope it will continue to make.

But a school cannot forget its legacy and the people who have gone before – for some the ultimate price has been paid. I guess those of us who went on to the military may feel that just a little bit deeper.

Porter and I take pride in the contribution that he made in supporting his country through his service. That is why we feel it is important to support the Gordon Military Memorial. We want to see this come to fruition, and challenge not only those who graduated in 1968, but all of those children of the sixties and seventies who answered that call or walked the halls of our school.

Gordon changed our lives. Thank you Gordon.

Sincerely,
Porter and Sue Conger Caughtman



Bobby Lee Cook

Legendary Defense Attorney

by Peter Boltz



One of the first things anyone would notice about the offices of Cook and Connelly in Summer-ville is how easy it is to pass them without ever having seen them, even if you were deliberately looking for the building with a good set of directions in your hands. The building is modest, just a two-story gray building stuck between two large store fronts: Shamblin Hardware and the Cherokee Antique Market (now out of business). The building has a modest sign in front, but it is hidden any time a car is parked on the street.

No matter, Bobby Lee Cook doesn't need a building nor a sign for people to find him. Anyone in this town of 4,500 people is likely to be able to point the way for you; all you have to do is ask.

As much as the building is unassuming on the outside, its interior is more impressive, its "second floor" really just

room for extra high ceilings and large windows. The ceiling height is especially useful in Bobby Lee's law library where volumes of books are shelved floor to ceiling.

Everywhere you look inside boasts a successful and thriving law practice that the outside doesn't even hint at and perhaps even tries to downplay.

The fact is, he has no need for an impossible-to-miss location with a not-so-modest sign. After 61 years of practice, Cook has defended so many high-profile clients that many call his career "legendary." And he wins many more cases than he loses – the *ABA Journal* estimated in 2009 that Cook had won 80 percent of his murder trials. The same publication also estimated his annual net income at \$1 million.

It would be a wild flight of fancy for Gordon College to claim Bobby Lee Cook and his success as its own, but the fact of the matter is that he does attribute at least some of

"I never use jury experts because I think they are full of ****. Picking a jury is about common sense and something down deep in your gut. It's not about science."

"If you can railroad a bad man to prison, you can railroad a good man."

"It's incumbent upon a good lawyer to realize that a bad man deserves a fair trial and the same rights as a good man."

"Some things you do because you feel that there is a high principle involved, that somebody – pardon the expression – that somebody needs to be kicked in the butt occasionally, when they are doing things they have no right to do."

"As old as I am, I've outlived most of my detractors."

"If a lawyer believes as I believe, if he looks after his clients, if he is loyal to his clients and he applies himself assiduously and with deliberation to what he does, he'll make all the money that he needs."

"I have often said to the clients, you might fool me, but I'm not the one that you need to fool. You need to tell me the truth so I can deal with your problem and put it in the right perspective."

"Stated in simple mountain language, I enjoy getting up every morning and kicking somebody in the ass that needs it."

"You can't throw a skunk in the jury box and then tell them they didn't smell it."

his success to Gordon. "I think I can attribute everything I've done, to the better," he said, "to the two great years I spent at Gordon," 1941-1942 and 1942-1943.

Holding the 1942 *Taps* yearbook in his hands in his law library during a December 2010 interview, he harkened back to his time at Gordon. "I was a young fellah," he said. "I was 14 when I started and 16 when I finished. The two years I was at Gordon were very productive." Then, perhaps nostalgically, he added, "They were the best years of my education."

Born in Lyerly, Ga., on Feb. 12, 1927, Cook recalled that the local school did not offer science nor language programs, and so he set about looking for a school beyond Lyerly. Cook said one of his most important criteria in his research was to find a school his family could afford, since his parents were already supporting a brother at Georgia Tech. "I checked into Gordon, and \$495 a year included everything," he said. "Today you might have a hard time making it through a week with that amount." As a parent of three children, he knows this firsthand, since he put one of them through the University of Virginia, one through Vanderbilt and one through the University of Georgia.

Comparing the cost-to-quality ratio of his education at Gordon with that of his children's schools, he said simply, "No comparison."

"You hear stories about how parents sent their obstreperous children off to military school, but it was my choice to go," he said. "I felt privileged to go to Gordon. It was the most formative time of my academic life."

Mr. Cook still remembers being "terribly homesick" when he first arrived at Gordon. "I had never been away from

home before. I came from up here in the hills and mountains, and every morning I woke up, I could see mountains in three different directions. When I woke up at Gordon, it was very upsetting to me not to have the mountains."

But he also remembers he received a "very cordial welcome" from both faculty and fellow cadets, especially the older cadets who took younger cadets under their wing. In addition to the welcome of faculty and older cadets came the welcome sight of young women on campus. "The school was rather unique because it was coeducational," he said. "Many young women of Barnesville came to Gordon, which made for a real good mix."

This seemed obvious when Cook began to recite the names of classmates he remembered: Jeanette Kiker, Bobbie Piper, Marjorie Smith, Ruth Thurman and Doris Wellbecker. "My only contact today is Betty Smith," he said, "a lovely, sweet, pretty young lady. I told her not long ago that I would treat all the surviving members of our class to a weekend at the Ritz Carlton," but to date, they haven't gotten any further than the idea.

Cook also remembered many of his fellow cadets, Herb Kassner, Chuck Brooks, Hanson Farmer and Scott Kenton to name a few. In particular he remembers Joe Guillebeau. "Joe's daddy was president of the school, Col. J.E. Guillebeau. He lived on the ground floor of North Barracks."

"I was very competitive academically with him. The last I heard of him was 15 to 20 years ago; he was teaching at Emory at Oxford."

Among the faculty, he especially remembered Miss Marion Bush as "a remarkable professor. She was as good as I'd ever seen anywhere. Her courses in humanities and

English literature were as good as you will ever find in any of the finest universities. An outstanding, exemplary teacher.”

“Mr. E. Parker Mosely was my mathematics teacher. Prof. Bush was my chemistry teacher, a very dedicated educator the likes of which probably still do exist, but”

As if moving away from home at 14 were not enough of a jolt for the young Cook, Pearl Harbor happened between the only two times he went home during an academic year, Thanksgiving and Christmas. The memory reminded him of the bus ride from Barnesville to Lyerly. About as long as flying to China today, he said.

He remembers going to a movie in downtown Barnesville and then returning to North Barracks. “As we approached, we saw Sgt. Roy Slayden out in front of the barracks. He announced that the Japanese had bombed Pearl Harbor. As I recall, no one knew where Pearl Harbor was except for Slayden. Our war had started.”

In 1942, during his high school junior year, he was on the staff of the *Taps* yearbook as a typist, but in the next year, he had nothing to type, because there was no *Taps*. “The staff decided not to publish,” he said, “and took the idea to the student body which agreed. By that time the Japanese had taken over what was then Indochina and the Dutch East Indies. It was a tight time. When we went to mess, there was no sugar. We had rationing all over the country.”

Still too young to enter the service after graduating from Gordon, Cook went to Vanderbilt and completed two years work in one, and then joined the Navy in 1944. “Things were on a fast roll,” he said. “War speeded up things considerably.”

He was a gunner stationed on a destroyer in the Pacific, and other than his admitting to being “a pretty good shot,” people are not likely to get more than that out of him about the war. Many of his shipmates were young men from Alabama, so after his discharge in 1945, he went to Tuscaloosa and the University of Alabama, and then studied law at Vanderbilt.

From there he launched a law career that any attorney would be jealous of, dubbed by the *ABA Journal* as one of the “Lions of the Trial Bar.” One wonders at his energy and drive throughout the years, but perhaps the clue lies in his experiences at Gordon: “I remember when we all left. Life moved fast during and after the war. Fast as could be. There was no time to rest.” 🍷

Some of Bobby Lee Cook's

More Notable Cases

1975 Cook appealed the convictions of James Creamer, George Emmett, Larry Hacker, Bill Jenkins, Hoyt Powell, Charles Roberts, and Wayne Ruff for the murders of Drs. Warren and Rosina Matthews on May 7, 1971. Cook won the appeal, proving that the prosecution's main witness, Deborah Ann Kidd, had lied about witnessing the murder.

1982 Bobby Lee Cook defended Savannah socialite Jim Williams in his first of four trials. Although Williams was convicted and sentenced to life in prison, Cook presented new evidence and the judgment was overturned and a new trial ordered.

1986 Cook defended Tennessee banker C.H. Butcher Jr. He pleaded guilty to bank fraud, bankruptcy fraud and tax fraud, serving six years of a 20-year sentence and paroled in 1993.

1988 Cook represented former Auburn University All-American football star Bobby Hoppe, who was charged with killing a man 31 years after the fact. The jury deadlocked 10-2 for acquittal, and the case was never retried.

1992 Cook defended Christopher P. Drogoul accused of making more than \$5 billion in illegal loans to Iraq in the late 1980s in the Banca Nazionale del Lavoro fraud case.

2006 Cook represented Wayne Williams, who was appealing his 1982 conviction for the murder of two black youths in what was known as the Atlanta Child Murders. The appeal, brought by another defense attorney, was rejected.



Charles Van Rysselberge

“There’s No Traffic on the Extra Mile”

by Peter Boltz

The day after Charles Van Rysselberge formally retired, the Charleston, S.C., *Post and Courier* editorialized that he had “received very little attention” for his accomplishments as the chief executive officer of the Charleston Metro Chamber of Commerce. And in the very next sentence, the newspaper made a revealing observation about the man: “Charles Van Rysselberge likes it that way.”

Indeed, for nearly 40 years Van Rysselberge’s mission was not his own self-promotion but the economic well-being of the community he served.

Van Rysselberge, who started at Gordon in the 8th grade in 1959 and graduated from high school in 1964, reflected on becoming a boarding student so young. “You mature fast when you go off to school without your parents nearby and have a hundred-some people telling you what to do.” In fact

his parents were not anywhere nearby; his mother and father, a consulting engineer with the World Bank, were frequently traveling the world or living in Ecuador.

This is not to say his parents were out of the picture or disengaged, in fact his mother was quite involved in his schooling.

“I owe much to my mother, because she thought speech and drama should be in my curriculum, so she paid extra for me to take Ms. Zedene Long’s class, which was small, sometimes only six students,” he said. “She was a fabulous person who would have students over to her home, just a couple of houses from Lambdin Hall.”

Van Rysselberge remembered that she wanted him to act in plays, which he said he did “reluctantly,” and that what really intrigued him was “her role of directing and managing a production.” Little did he realize it at the time, but this role became central to his professional life, as did another influence she had on his life.

“I never before had a teacher quiz me on my interests, and one day she told me I should apply to journalism school at the University of Georgia. I sent off for the catalog, and at age 16, I knew my path. I looked at the coursework and thought, ‘This looks fun.’ Zedene put me on the path to journalism school.”

Van Rysselberge remembered paying a visit to Dr. Frazier Moore of UGA’s Grady School of Journalism and telling him how impressed he was with the school’s student body, because so many of them worked in the field as students. This may sound a bit pretentious for an incoming freshman, but Van Rysselberge said he carried a maturity beyond his years, thanks to five years at Gordon. Moore was so impressed with his first meeting with the former cadet

“I owe much to my mother, because she thought speech and drama should be in my curriculum, so she paid extra for me to take Ms. Zedene Long’s class, which was small, sometimes only six students,” he said. “She was a fabulous person who would have students over to her home, just a couple of houses from Lambdin Hall.”

that he helped Van Rysselberge get a part-time job at the Athens Chamber of Commerce. Later, a summer internship followed at the Columbia, S. C., Chamber.

After his graduation from UGA, he found he had seven months on his hands before the Army put him on active duty. He was married and needed a job, and through his connections, he was hired by the Greenville, S.C., Chamber of Commerce as a gofer.

“It was one of the best jobs I ever had, because the chamber’s communication manager had left for another job, so I went to the boss. ‘How about giving me that job? I’ll work my remaining six-and-a-half months at my same salary.’”

What Van Rysselberge got in return for working below salary was “a good experience, a tremendous experience,” because it meant churning out 26 issues of the chamber’s weekly

newsletter, proof of professional experience and value.

After this short stint with the Greenville Chamber, he started his active service entering Signal Officer’s School at Fort Gordon in Georgia. Before he completed his training, he took a trip to Fort Jackson in Columbia, S.C., to prepare a way for himself after graduating from the Signal Officer’s Basic Course. Attributing this wisdom and maturity to what he learned at Gordon, he said he was simply looking down the road to manage his way.

Fort Jackson’s public affairs office “printed a post newspaper, had a radio station and wrote speeches. I asked the colonel in command if he would have an opening by the time I finished at Fort Gordon. He said he’d consider it. When schooling was over I saw that I had been assigned to Fort Jackson’s information office just as I wanted. The



A final luncheon of Tau Sigma Chi days before the end of school. From left to right: Steve Van Ostran, Charles Van Rysselberge, Billy Humber, Dale Stave, Jim Smith, Bob Lovein, and Alex Perkins.



Van Rysselberge with his “chrome dome” in ‘61-’62.

colonel I had spoken with had retired, but he had set things up for me before he left. I became the fort's public information officer."

Van Rysselberge remembered it was a great time to be a public information officer in the Army because this was when it was planning to go voluntary, and Fort Jackson was a test post. "We were trying to figure out what would attract recruits, but it was also the time when CBS broadcast *The Selling of the Pentagon*, which was a critique of the Army's efforts to recruit volunteers."

It just so happened that sequences of the broadcast were from Fort Jackson on Armed Forces Day which typically included a firepower display for public viewing. According to Van Rysselberge, CBS misrepresented the cost, and Senator William Fulbright was so angry that he saw that the Army's public relations budget was cut by 30 percent. This didn't mean Van Rysselberge lost his job; it meant he had to be more effective and creative in his job.

"After the first 10 months in the Army, I had orders to Vietnam. Ten days after I got the order, I got a call about a 'special offer' to volunteer indefinitely. What this meant was that I'd spend two years at Fort Jackson and then in a third year I'd go to Vietnam." But by the time his second year of active service was over, the Army was cutting back its number of troops in Vietnam. As things worked out, he only had to serve one month of the third year he had volunteered "indefinitely" for.

Van Rysselberge said he learned a lot about managing from his time in the Army. In his two years in Fort Jackson's public information office, he worked for four different colonels and with a staff of 30 people. After his PIO duties, he became a basic combat training officer, having to oversee

12 drill sergeants and by default, their trainees, during his last seven months of service.

"I had a wonderful tour of duty."

With only reserve duty left to his military service, Van Rysselberge was able to return to his work for different chambers of commerce, and Chattanooga was his first stop. As the chamber's community communications manager, he got his first hot potato, a racially charged garbage strike. Instead of taking a confrontational approach, solutions were found, things calmed down, and garbage was collected. His work there put him in direct situations with unions, the Chattanooga Black Panthers, Jesse Jackson, and many others over the years.

Van Rysselberge went on to recommend to his boss that the Chattanooga Chamber of Commerce cosponsor the city's annual Martin Luther King Jr. celebration. He was inspired to make the recommendation after being one of only four white people at a church service on MLK Day in 1975. "It was electrifying," he said. "We cosponsored the event for the next few years."

Also during his time in Chattanooga, he remembers teaming up with the legendary editor of the *Chattanooga Times*, Johnny Popham, to file an application for the city to be recognized as an All-American City. He remembers Popham as a reporter straight out of the '30s, which he was, having become a reporter in New York City in that decade. "He sat at his desk with his hat on," Van Rysselberge said, "and he was extremely eloquent... a poet of phrasing."

After a stint as the chief executive officer of the Dalton, Ga., chamber in the early '80s, he became the CEO of the Shreveport, La., chamber at a significant time. Shreveport, which was built in large part on oil money, was going



Bobby Earls and Billy Humber (R).

Remembrances of Billy Humber

Thoughts from Charles Van Rysselberge's Eulogy for His Friend

It was during his first year at Gordon that Charles Van Rysselberge had one of his most memorable encounters with William "Billy" Francis Humber. So memorable that the commandant at that time in 1959, Ed Legge, remembers it too.

According to Van Rysselberge, Humber "had a knack" for making him laugh and could change his expression, in a second, from laughing "to a straight face without a hint of a smile." In short, he had a knack for looking innocent of any commotion he initiated, and this is what got the two of them in trouble one day, sitting next to each other in the back of their 8th grade English class.

The teacher, a substitute, had trouble pronouncing Humber. Instead of saying "hum-ber," she said "um-ber." This led to Humber saying something that Van Rysselberge could not resist, and so he laughed. When the teacher looked to see who was doing what, Humber's face was blank and Van Rysselberge's was



The junior/senior prom
in the spring of 1964.

through a bust. Oil went from \$30 a barrel to \$10 a barrel. And if that were not enough, AT&T laid off 3,000 workers at the same time.

“You learn more going down than going up,” Van Rysselberge said. “My experience in Shreveport prepared me for the 2008 recession in Charleston. One has to act quickly in such a time to cut the budget. The mistake is to wait to see what happens.”

After Shreveport, he took the No. 2 position at the Atlanta Chamber of Commerce.

“The month I arrived was the month of the National Democratic Convention,” he said. “We set up a 24-hour newsroom, because when you have all these reporters in town, they are going to want stories besides about the convention. The newsroom provided good news and bad news stories about Atlanta. Probably the worst thing about Atlanta at the time was the stigma about the murdered and missing children in the 1970s that Wayne Williams was convicted for.”

Furthermore, “Atlanta had just won the U.S. bid for the Olympics in May 1988,” he said. “It now had to bid against international competitors. The movement was low on money, and it came to the Chamber for help. The Seoul Games were only months away at the time, and Billy Payne, who headed up the effort for Atlanta, needed money for a color booklet for the U.S. bid finale and soon after, money to entertain the Olympic committee members with southern hospitality in Seoul.”

smiling, if not openly laughing. And so, Van Rysselberge was sent to see the chief disciplinarian of cadets, Commandant Legge.

“As I was standing at attention in front of Lt. Legge, beginning to explain why I was there and that there was this new cadet who was making me laugh,” Van Rysselberge said, “his secretary came in and said there was a Cadet Humber at the door who had also just been kicked out of class.”

Van Rysselberge pointed to Humber as the culprit, and told Lt. Legge, “That is the funny guy who made me laugh,” and so was born one of Legge’s legendary sayings.

“Come in here funny man,” Legge yelled out to Humber in the anteroom, “and make me laugh.”

Despite this bit of trouble, the two of them became close friends. In fact, Van Rysselberge credits Humber for making him “more cautious and aware of our surroundings, in life, than I would have been prepared for had I not met him at such an early age.”

Humber’s father was killed in World War II and his mother was not well, and so he was raised by his grandfather, who died during Humber’s first year at Gordon.

“Billy was what you would call streetwise. He was mature beyond his years, brought about by being in a tough grammar school where he had to deal with a lot of difficult situations,” Van Rysselberge said.

As a result of his experiences, Humber taught Van Rysselberge to be “more perceptive of my environment and of people in general. This was very helpful to me for the three summers I worked in New York City when I was 16, 17 and 18 years old.”

Others gravitated toward Humber and everyone became friends. In their senior year, these friends, these seven, became the highest ranking cadets in high school.

“At Gordon,” Van Rysselberge said, “you had only one sergeant major, four first sergeants

The Atlanta Chamber contributed \$50,000 in the spring and then \$125,000 more in the summer. As is well-known, Payne's efforts were successful.

Van Rysselberge characterized his time in Atlanta as "an exhilarating experience," but then there was no way he could have predicted the "exhilaration" of his next chamber position.

In 1993, he was approached by a corporate headhunter to become the next CEO of the Oklahoma City Chamber of Commerce. "I wanted to remain in Atlanta," he said, "but I told him to send me some materials anyway. What I discovered was that the city wanted to jumpstart its economy after its oil bust, and so its leaders were contemplating a sales tax for a renaissance of the city downtown."

Several projects for reviving Oklahoma City's downtown were proposed including building a San Antonio-like river walk, building a new Triple-A baseball field, expanding the convention center, building a 20,000 seat sports arena, building a new library, renovating the civic center music hall, and creating a renaissance of the old warehouse district called Bricktown.

In building a river walk, it would be necessary to dig a canal from scratch, out of the pavement, and in renovating Bricktown, it would be necessary, in Van Rysselberge's words, "to create a wow factor." Such ambitious building projects would take a lot of money, and when the proposed one-cent sales tax that would pay for it came to a vote, the city voted 54 percent in approval in December 1993.

Then came April 19, 1995.

"I was at the Chamber building, which was three-and-a-half blocks from the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building," he said. "We didn't lose any windows, because we were

blocked by another building, but the building next door lost windows. We felt the explosion, and all the plumbing throughout the building rattled and shook. My wife was 12 miles away, and she could hear and feel it."

"I went to investigate, but the police had already taped off the area. So I went back to the office where I was informed by other Chamber employees that everyone had been ordered out of the downtown."

He spent the rest of the day in a temporary office at the Oklahoma Publishing Company just trying to get a handle on the situation, talking on the phone and gathering what news he could. The next day, he set about organizing the Chamber's two major efforts to help: setting up a business emergency assistance center in the Chamber building and setting up a news media center in the lobby of the Medalion Hotel about two blocks away.

"Probably 2,000 news people came from all over, and from as far away as Paris and Tokyo," he said. "The hotel had 400 rooms and 380 of the rooms went to the press. The remaining 20 went to the U.S. General Services Administration. The Oklahoma City Restaurant Association was in the convention center giving cooking demonstrations. After the bombing, they stayed and cooked for the rescue teams."

Another of the Chamber's responses was to manage a business relief fund that private contributors started. Years after the bombing, the Chamber was still screening applicants for loans and grants to help businesses. "Our goal was to minimize disruption of payrolls while others worked on helping the victims," he said, and with 2,000 cars destroyed, 10 buildings collapsed, 300 damaged, there was much to disrupt payrolls.



Humber in his '51 Chevy coupe.

Continued from page 7

and several master sergeants. In our group, we had the only sergeant major (Alex 'T.A.' Perkins), two of the four first sergeants (Humber and Dale Stave), three master sergeants (Bob 'Short' Lovein, Steve Van Ostran and Van Rysselberge), and one staff sergeant (Jim Henry 'Satch' Smith)."

The seven of them felt like they "sort of ran the school."

The seven of them, plus four juniors, wanted to buy an ad in the school annual *Taps* that would say "Compliments of the Stud Club," but this was kiboshed by the faculty adviser. To get around this obstacle, something that Humber was a master at doing, the name was changed to Tau Sigma Chi, which in the Greek alphabet looks like SEX. And this is how the ad went in, along with a photo of the seven seniors.

After graduating from Gordon High School in 1964, Humber and Van Rysselberge went to Georgia Southwestern College where they were roommates for two years before Van Rysselberge transferred to the University of Georgia.

"We were a lot more mature than our fellow freshmen," Van Rysselberge said,

“Oklahoma City is one of my favorite places in the world,” Van Rysselberge said. “The spirit is incredible – a large city with small-town friendliness. At the end of any banquet everyone stands and sings *Oklahoma*.”

“The city has ‘a build-it-and-they-will-come’ philosophy,” he said, and it has put its money where its mouth is in two more sales tax levies, one raising \$700 million for the city’s public school students and another for a similar amount to be spent on improving the quality of life in the city. The Oklahoma City Thunder NBA team is there today because of the renaissance started in 1993.

“I’m very, very proud of the state,” he said.

But he and his wife had no family there, and they had just become grandparents. It was time to move closer to family and so they returned to Atlanta, where he went to work for a chamber of commerce fundraising firm. Then came 9/11 and “no one wanted to sign contracts, so I was vulnerable to a move.”

As luck would have it, Van Rysselberge was once again approached by a corporate headhunter to recruit him for the CEO position of the Charleston Metro Chamber of Commerce, the oldest chamber in the United States, founded in 1773.

During his tenure in Charleston, Van Rysselberge pulled the Chamber out of a deep debt and operated it with a surplus his entire nine years at the helm. The *Post and Courier* wrote that he was one of the most influential people “in passing a half-cent sales tax to generate funding for local infrastructure, keeping area military bases open during a time of national consolidation and luring three discount airlines to Charleston.”

Not long before his retirement on March 31, 2011, he was asked if he had any advice for students who were about

“having been in a military school for five years makes you grow up quickly. We were not very impressed with many of the students there who we felt were very immature. We felt like we were parents living in the same dorm with children.”

As mature as they both were, they still pulled their pranks, oftentimes heading to the Hasty House in Americus in Humber’s 1951 Chevrolet coupe. There Humber would engage a stranger in conversation and “take them for a ride on some fantastic story that was all baloney.”

And when the two of them needed to get out of town altogether, they would go to Marshalville and stay with Van Ostran’s parents, Bud and Helen. Van Ostran wouldn’t be there because he was still at Gordon, but his parents welcomed and cared for the two all the same. Their son’s bedroom was in an outbuilding, a “little house,” about 50 feet from the main house.

“Steve’s father,” according to Van Rysselberge, “would often say,



Every year cadets went through government inspection (known also as GI inspection) by an active Army officer. Here is Van Rysselberge in the '59-'60 year all set for inspection with his roommates Bud White (middle) and Ricky McRae (right). The girl in the photograph is White’s sister who was that year’s Watermelon Queen in Vienna, Ga.

to graduate. He said he would give them the same advice he gave a staff member.

“Make your work as complete as possible, because your work is a signpost of who you are. The attention you put into your work will pay off,” he said. “One of my favorite quotes comes from a chief executive of an Arkansas chamber I met 40 years ago: ‘There’s no traffic on the extra mile.’ If you do this, you will be rewarded.” ☺

“We didn’t know who was out there, but they always showed up in our kitchen for breakfast!”

As the years went by, the two of them saw less and less of each other, parted by geography and family duties, but when they did manage a phone call or a visit, they always seemed to take up where they left off, as if no time had passed.

Shortly before Humber passed, Van Rysselberge got to see his good friend a last time.

“Billy was never one to display emotion very much to his peers, but the last time I saw him, he hugged me and said, ‘Shoot, you’ve been like a brother to me,’ and then he got in his car and drove off.”

Billy Humber was buried in Savannah just after Christmas 2006. To this day, Van Rysselberge remembers him as the “most unforgettable character and friend” in his life.

Beryl & John

THE FURET SIBLINGS

Gordon High School Classes of '42 and '44 by Peter Boltz



Beryl Furet Barrett and her older brother John Furet on St. Simons Island.

Beryl Furet Barrett is not what you would expect if you were told she is a four-time survivor of cancer at age 83. To meet her for the first time is a bit disorienting, since she appears to have never been ill a day in her life. And if life has dealt her hardships, they seem only to have inspired her to live her life with the vigor of a youth. To speak with her is to call to mind Helen Keller's quote: "Life is either a daring adventure or nothing."

She and her brother, Jack Furet, kindly invited *The President's Report* into their home on St. Simons Island in May 2011 to talk about the role Gordon Military College played in their lives. The siblings decided to live together after they lost their spouses and their children had gone to start families of their own.

Jack, 86, had graciously offered to meet us at The Village and guide us to the house, where Beryl met us at the door, arms wide open. Once we were settled in a room that overlooked her backyard garden, she started the interview by saying that she and her brother loved Gordon. And then the litany of faculty and friends poured out of them.

Marion Bush for English, Reynolds Bush for chemistry, Gus Witcher for language, C.C. Chandler for military science and tactics, and Parker Mosely for mathematics.

Jack especially remembered Nurse Garnett Quillian, because she had befriended him, perhaps after he had spent some time in the infirmary with a case of the measles. "She and I were dear friends," he said. "I remember her saying, 'You and I will sit together at meals.'" And so he became Nurse Quillian's dining companion during his time at Gordon.

While going through the list of professors they remembered, Beryl recalled Prof. G.P. Oldham. With a mischievous look in her eyes, she confided, “We used to call him creeping Jesus.”

Nancy Chandler, Van Baker, Joanne Prout, Jean Liberty, Margaret Cook, Bobby Bush, Willie Hunt Summers, Althea Sappington, Oscar Higgenbotham, Jacolyn Bush, Joe and Alice Guillebeau, Bobbie Morris, Kiki Burousas, Cyrus Neuner, George William Snell, Henry Wisebram, Estelle Pharr, Bill Webster and many more. And there were those who died in World War II: Tommy Summers, Mell Witcher and Marvin Owen.

Beryl looked at us thoughtfully and said, “There are not so many of us left, are there?”

Jack and Beryl were born in the Dominican Republic in the ‘20s. Their father was an American working for the South Puerto Rico Sugar Company and their mother was the daughter of a Spaniard who had moved to the island nation from Seville. The two of them still remember riding horses in an area near their home which is now the Casa de Campo resort located in the southeast part of the country.

Jack spent his first 13 years in the Dominican Republic, and then his father, wanting his children to be educated in the United States, starting writing different schools for information. “This was during the terrible depression,” Jack said, “and father wanted a school that fit his budget.” At

\$500 a year for tuition, room, board and a uniform, Gordon was the choice. The year was 1938, movies were just 15 cents, and hamburgers were a nickel.

In the company of her mother, Beryl followed her brother’s “footsteps” in 1940, traveling on the Norwegian passenger liner *Leif* to New York City and then by land to Barnesville. When she said that the ship had been circled by a Nazi U-boat, Jack corrected her and said it was a Free French destroyer. Unperturbed, Beryl said her brother may be right, but hers was the better story.

Beryl said her brother may be right, but hers was the better story.

Whether a French destroyer or a Nazi submarine, the United States and Germany were not at war until the Japanese attacked Pearl Harbor on Dec. 7, 1941, and brother, sister and mother were in Barnesville at the time. Beryl said she was in the apartment with her mother when she heard the news on the radio, and Jack said he was standing in the street.

“Next day,” Jack said, “it was the talk of the school, especially for me as president of my class. I remember sev-



Beryl's freshman high school photograph. She is in the front row, second from the right.



Jack with Bill Huff in Naples after World War II ended in 1945. Jack remembers Huff was a University of Oregon track star before the war.

“The streets were like Times Square. We couldn't move because of the crowds, holding their babies for us to kiss.”

eral of us sitting in a car, all wondering what war would mean for each of us.”

When he graduated in 1942, he went to Georgia Tech as a freshman, studying to be an engineer. He and a bunch of his classmates enlisted in something called the Enlisted Reserve Corps, which should have allowed him to finish his schooling before induction, “but when casualties started, they drafted all of us around March 1943.”

He was sent to Anniston, Ala., for training, and then in December 1943, he was sent to Casablanca, Morocco, on board the *Louis Pasteur*, a French troopship, along with 7,000 other soldiers “packed in like sardines, one on top of the other.”

Even though U-boats were a threat, they made their weeklong crossing unescorted. The *Pasteur* could outrace a U-boat 25-knots-to-6, and unless the Germans intercepted, there was little or no chance of an encounter. The chances were further reduced because the *Pasteur* zigzagged all the way to the Strait of Gibraltar. For many of the soldiers, this was enough assurance, but for Jack and a friend of his, it was not. Fearing they would never get out from below decks if torpedoed, the two of them slept on the deck the entire voyage.

Jack was a rifleman in the 34th Combat Infantry Division, a Minnesota National Guard outfit, which saw some of the hardest fighting of the war, including Monte Cassino and Anzio. The 34th spent so much time in combat and suffered so many casualties, that it is a wonder Jack survived.

At Monte Cassino he remembers being part of an attack that met such fierce opposition that half of his platoon was lost, and he ended up hugging the ground. Needing to have a look around, he lifted his head from the ground, about three inches. The instant he lifted his head, a bullet passed between his head and the ground. He figured this could have only been the work of a sniper who was zeroed in on him, so he played dead for half an hour, raising his head again only after American troops were once again on the attack. In another combat situation, so many of his platoon were killed or injured that there was no one to lead the remnants – so Jack did, and this is how he became a staff sergeant.

It was by chance that he was one of the Americans who entered and liberated Rome. He was walking along when a tank came up near him and a captain in the turret said, “Hey soldier, want to go to Rome?” Jack hopped on the tank, and the Americans rode into the city unopposed.

“The streets were like Times Square,” he said. “We couldn't move because of the crowds, holding their babies for us to kiss. But the next day, not one Italian was on the street, although there were some who stared at us from their balconies. We later found out they didn't want to be out, should the Germans return and retaliate.”

Jack said his knowledge of Spanish made it easy for him to manage Italian, but on his way out of Rome, all he needed was eye

contact with a pretty girl looking out from a second floor balcony. She came downstairs with a bottle of wine, but he had to leave. “We kept moving.”

When the war ended, he had free time, and so he enrolled in something called the GI University, a program that offered college credit coursework for those soldiers who wished to continue the college education the war had interrupted. Then, after being overseas for 28 months, he was sent home with two Purple Hearts.

He returned to Georgia Tech in 1946 to continue his studies as an engineer, but then he realized he didn't want to be an engineer, so he transferred to Mercer and earned a business degree. Jack still appreciates how Mercer President George Connell, who was once a Gordon faculty member, helped him get Tech classes transferred and accepted at Mercer.

His first job after graduation was with Pan American World Airways as assistant sales manager in the Dominican Republic from 1949 to 1952. In 1952 he joined the Aluminum Company of America (Alcoa), which had a bauxite mine on the border of Haiti and the Dominican Republic. From there he transferred to Pittsburgh in 1954, becoming an architectural sales engineer based in Albany, N.Y. In 1956, he joined Citibank until recently when he joined HSBC (The Hong Kong and Shanghai Banking Company) as a consultant to the Dominican Republic.

“I'm very proud to still be working at 86 for a major worldwide financial institution like HSBC, one of the two or three largest banks in the world,” he said. “Every five weeks, I travel to the Dominican Republic to develop the bank's interests.”

Life did not stop for Beryl after her brother was sent overseas. She continued her high school education at Gordon, living the life of a teenage girl. Even though the war intruded with terrible news of lost lives, shortages and rationing, semblances of normalcy continued. Beryl's mother had returned to be with her husband, and so Beryl lived with Mrs. Bush.

“I remember once when a magician was going to perform at the movie theater downtown,” Beryl said, “and so my friend Harriett Daniel and I wanted to go, but we were told we could not. We decided that we would just sneak out, so we did. We did confess it after the fact, and Mrs. Bush was so unhappy with us. Harriett was older than I, but she was a very good friend. We had a lot of fun together.

“Gordon had some very big name bands, and we had a lot of dances,” she said. “The girls always were the ones to decorate for the dances, and I enjoyed that. I was



A Love of Golf

Their mother Francesa de la Rocha Furet played golf. Their father Charles H. Furet played golf. And when they were old enough, about 9 or 10, Jack and Beryl played golf every summer at the nine-hole “sand green” golf course near their home in La Romana, the Dominican Republic. (Today, if they were to play golf in the city of their birth, they would play golf at the famous Casa de Campo resort.)

And one of the reasons why St. Simons Island is such a good home for the two of them is because of the golf.

Beryl has six club championships all from the Essex Country Club in West Orange, N.J., 1960 to 1966.

According to the club's official website, it is the oldest country club in New Jersey, founded in 1887 and with a notable membership, including Thomas Alva Edison.

Jack has championships in four different countries:

Dominican Republic

- National amateur champion, '49, '50, '51, '52, '62 and '64
- Inducted into the Dominican Republic Golf Hall of Fame, '10

Puerto Rico

- Five time club champion, Dorado Beach Country Club
- Three time Amateur of the Americas, '60, '70 and '71
- Club champion, Berwind Country Club, '60

Venezuela

- Club champion, Valle Arriba Country Club, '76
- Carabella Open champion, '78
- Caracas Open champion, '78
- National doubles champion with partner Armando Cabrera, '79

United States of America

- Senior club champion, La Gorce Country Club, Miami, '81



Above: Senior class president Jack Furet, seated, far right.

Right: Staff Sergeant Jack Furet in Rome shortly after its liberation in June 1944. He said he was smiling because he was watching American bombers heading to attack Germans.



a member of the Utopia Club, and all the girls were close friends. The Utopes liked to play pranks.”

After graduating from Gordon high school, Beryl went to Wesleyan College in Macon, Ga.

“All the girls hitchhiked back then. It was safe, but my father did not think it was appropriate. Wesleyan was a distance out from downtown Macon, and we often hitchhiked there, but when my father found out, he was very upset and decided Wesleyan was not the place for me.”

He moved her completely out of the South to the Katherine Gibbs School in Boston, and after graduation and earning a business degree, she returned to the Dominican Republic to work for her father, which she said she did not really like.

“A former classmate and friend of mine was working in Washington, D.C., and she was a friend of the American ambassador to the Dominican Republic. He told her about

a job he had, and she called me and told me about it,” she said. “I worked there in the ambassador’s office in Santo Domingo for one-and-a-half years, mostly as a translator, but then I met my husband there, Hugh Barrett.

“I remember the first time I saw him. My, he was handsome. He was wearing white leather bucks and had that all-college-boy look.”

Any further getting acquainted had to wait after this initial meeting, because Beryl was helping her father with a golf tournament in La Romana. When she returned, he called her, something he did on a regular basis for about six weeks, before he asked her out.

“We were married for 53 years,” she said, “and we had a very happy and good life.”

They honeymooned at the Cloister on Sea Island, and anyone who honeymoones there has their photo made and placed in a book. Beryl and Hugh are in there in the same year as President George H. Bush and his wife, Barbara, Jack said.

“We spoke Spanish to my daughter, and she is bilingual,” Beryl said. She is the well-known painter and children’s book illustrator Lindsey Barrett George.

“When my husband and I decided to retire, we were living in New Jersey and we searched up and down the eastern seaboard. We wanted a place near the ocean and then we thought, why not St. Simons?”

“We had honeymooned at the Cloister and had spent vacations on St. Simons – it seemed right,” she said. “There were few houses in the area when we moved here. I still golf, though not as often recently due to my illness, but I am active in the church and I stay busy. When my husband died and I was by myself, it seemed the natural thing to have Jack move in here as he was also alone. I had the addition done to the house, and we both have our privacy but enjoy each other’s company.”

They are not beyond teasing and joking with and about each other. Jack will warn visitors to watch out for “Sherry’s” tall tales, and Beryl will underplay her brother’s accomplishments, saying things like, “He’s okay,” or reminding visitors that he is not the only golf champion in the house.

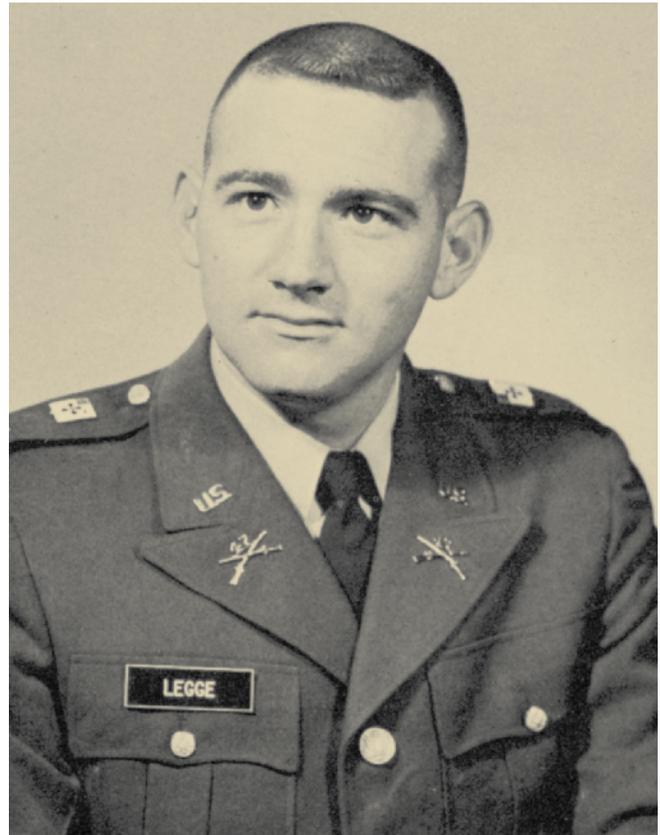
The name “Sherry” came about after Beryl transferred from Wesleyan to Katherine Gibbs, and people confused Beryl with Cheryl, and then further confusing Cheryl with Sherry. It being easier, Beryl just went with Sherry, a name which she is known by in St. Simons to this day. When she has to sign her name and writes Beryl, she said, her friends and acquaintances wonder who that person is.

“I go to Mass every day,” she said, “and I thank God for every day of life He has given me.” ☺

ED LEGGE

by Peter Boltz

IN THE CENTER OF A LARGE ROOM FILLED WITH PEOPLE, ED LEGGE AND A MAN OF ABOUT THE SAME AGE WERE TALKING. THEY WERE SIDE-BY-SIDE AND SPEAKING EYE-TO-EYE, LEGGE'S ARM AROUND THE MAN'S SHOULDERS.



WHATEVER THEY WERE TALKING ABOUT, THEIR FREQUENT OUTBURSTS OF LAUGHTER MADE IT PRETTY CLEAR SOMETHING HILARIOUS WAS GOING ON.

As if their rowdy laughter were not enough, Legge punctuated his punch lines by pulling the man near, as if he were about to put him into a headlock. But then he'd let go, and the two of them would go back to talking.

Just as this wrestling match of a conversation was going on, Jim Graham walked into the room, stopped, and noticed Legge. "Look at that man," Graham said. "You would never know it from all the laughing and joking around, but at one time cadets would shake in fear in front of him when he was commandant of Gordon's cadets."

To see Legge's high school freshman picture in the 1948 *Taps*, it's hard to imagine the man who moved so easily through a crowd or the man who excited such terror in cadets, but anyone who knows him could easily pick his photo out of all those young faces.

Legge came to Barnesville from Macon, where he and his family lived near Camp Wheeler where they boarded soldiers and their wives during World War II. The soldiers would go off to war, sometimes coming home to their wives, sometimes not coming home at all. By the age of 10, he had heard more war stories than a person can imagine.

In 1948, he was a freshman in Gordon Military High School. By 1955, he was a college sophomore..., and battalion commander.

There's a story about this....

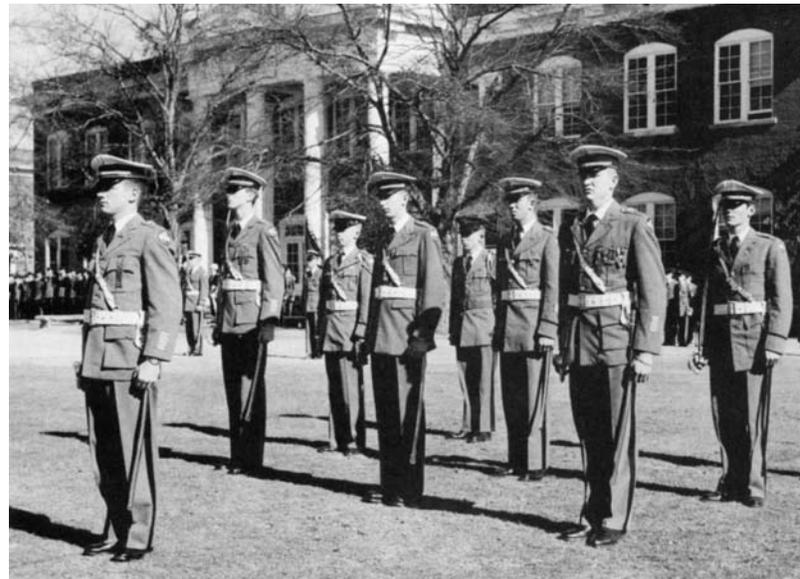
To see Legge's high school freshman picture in the 1948 *Taps*, it's hard to imagine the man who moved so easily through a crowd or the man who excited such terror in cadets. . . .



said, "his mother would ask, 'Have you been promoted yet?' One day, Goodwin told him to promote himself."

Legge said that to this day he doesn't know how he ever got to be battalion commander or why Goodwin promoted him to the post but not to the associated rank. Legge served as battalion commander at the lower rank of major right up until the last two weeks of the year. Only then was he promoted to lieutenant colonel and even then, Goodwin told him to promote himself. So Legge did just that by posting notice of his promotion.

One time, when he was a battalion commander, a cadet named Joe White grabbed his hat and ran off with it – a common enough bit of cadet horseplay but not with a battalion commander. Legge took off after him, quickly tackling him. "Just as we were wrestling in the grass,"



At the 2011 Alumni Weekend at Gordon College, a group of men and women alumni gathered at Maxi's in downtown Barnesville for supper and conversation. Legge's ears should have been burning that night, for the conversation turned to him a number of times, including a story about Legge and Maj. M.W. Goodwin, the professor of military science and tactics (PMST) when Legge was a sophomore at Gordon Military College in 1955.

It was Goodwin who promoted Legge to become the highest ranking cadet officer, making him battalion commander. One former cadet remembered that even though Legge was promoted to battalion commander, he was not granted the associated rank of cadet lieutenant colonel.

"Every day when Ed would go home," the former cadet

Legge said, "here comes Goodwin."

At this point in his story, Legge paused and changed his tone of voice, indicating he was about to quote Goodwin. "Mr. Legge, come to my office. You've got too many friends to be battalion commander."

Legge remembers another run-in with Goodwin that had to do with a mix-up of orders. Legge was supposed to have ordered platoon drills but had ordered squad drills instead. "He chewed me out for that," Legge said, "and when he was done, I walked away, swung my saber and cussed."

The outburst lost him his weekend, having to stay on campus to oversee squad drills.

"I had no sense."

Then he said, "I had a good time."

But Legge did not just have a good time while at Gordon, as Bobby Wines discovered when he began compiling Legge's accomplishments, which he did secretly with the help of Legge's wife, Virginia. What Wines learned became part of a special presentation to Legge by the Class of '60 during their golden reunion in September 2010.

The class tribute to Legge included speeches by several members of the class as well as the dedication of a camellia garden at the Georgia Avenue entrance to the campus. The camellias were from Wines' Nursery in Florida.

During Legge's high school years, he was a drummer in the band (1948-1950), he rose in the ranks from sergeant first class in 1952 to first lieutenant and battalion adjutant in 1953. In addition to this, during his high school years he was a member of the NCO Club, squad leader of Company



C, a member of the Sabre Club, editor of *Taps*, and president of his senior class.

Through the years of *Taps*, he was listed in the Who's Who section as most athletic, most popular, best all round and typical Gordon boy.

As a Gordon Military College freshman, he rose in rank to captain and company commander, among other honors and activities. In his sophomore year of 1954-1955, he rose in rank to lieutenant colonel and battalion commander. Sen. Herman Talmadge personally presented him with the battalion commander's sabre.

As if his military achievements were not enough, he was elected mayor when Barnesville held its Youth Week.

He completed his bachelor of science degree in education



at the University of Georgia in 1958, was commissioned as a second lieutenant and went off to infantry school at Fort Benning and assigned as platoon leader.

Legge said he had thought he wanted to make a career of the Army, but, he said, it didn't fit him or he didn't fit it – something to do with his sense of humor and the Army's lack of it.

Even while serving as a captain in the Army Reserves, Legge went to work for Gordon as its assistant commandant and then commandant, leaving Gordon in 1963 to work for the Atlanta Gas Light Company as a salesman. He returned to Gordon for six months in 1965 to work as the school's alumni and public relations director, and then, as he said, "Magic Chef found me."

"I loved working for them," he said, which he did for 30 years, retiring from the company in 1996 after it was bought out by Maytag.

In his retirement, he worked for the Atlanta Falcons football team as one of the communication staff. As Legge joked, he called plays from the sidelines.

All this information about his life from high school to retirement had been collected by members of the Class of '60 as part of a surprise to honor him with a camellia garden dedicated to him during the Golden Reunion of the Class of 1960. That morning a crowd of 40 to 50 people gathered in the newly landscaped area between the College's Honors House and Georgia House to hear speaker after speaker laud their former commandant.

The words of Alan Giles, College Class of '60, are an insight into Legge's meaning to Gordon Military alumni.

"The most impressive thing about Ed's accomplishments is the role model he set for us. I came here as a lost little kid of 13, and I needed a role model," Giles said. "I needed someone to look up to, and Ed Legge will never know how many lives he touched. And it wasn't just me; it was a lot of other people.

"He was a man and he made us do the right thing.

"Ed knew the value of changing young men's lives and setting an example for young cadets to follow. He was a real role model and to more students than he will ever know. As impressive as his accomplishments may be, what he did for us cadets was much more," Giles said.

Legge's response was self-effacing and humorous.

"I was the commandant and I made \$250 a month and there were 500 of you, 500 boarding students," he said. "Y'all, I got 50 cents a month for each of you, and some of you weren't worth that."

But Legge's actions, past and present, belie his jokes.

Even students who ended up facing the disciplinary committee and being expelled from Gordon were of value to him, and he showed this by being for the boy in the end, seeing them off instead of them leaving unnoticed, driving them back to their homes. Legge may have been a fearsome commandant, but he never wrote a boy completely off.

And if he discovered that a younger cadet was being abused by older cadets in the barracks, Legge would send one of the football players from T-Street Barracks to put the fear of God into the abuser. In return for this service, Legge would always find a way to alert T-Street when a surprise inspection was coming.

This is not to say the cadets were not an endless source of amusement for him, then or now. Legge recently told the story of a cadet, whose name he doesn't remember, who needed a haircut.

Legge ordered him to get one.

At the next commandant's formation, a morning accounting of cadets, Legge noticed from his office window that the boy had gauze wrapped around his head. Legge sent his cadet officer of the day to bring him the boy, and when he arrived, Legge heard his story about how he had injured his head.

Then the boy heard Legge say he was going to unwrap the bandage. If he found a wound, the boy would be let off. If he didn't find a wound, he would give the boy one tour of the bullring for every turn of the bandage.

As it became more and more apparent with each unraveling that the boy was just hiding his long hair, Legge started laughing, and so did the boy. By the time Legge was done, he had counted 12 turns, which were converted into 12 hours on the bullring.

"Ain't many of you had any sense," he said. 🍷

a few **accomplishments**

- '48-'50 drummer in the band
- '52 promoted to first lieutenant
- '53 battalion adjutant
- member of the NCO Club
- squad leader of Company C
- member of the Sabre Club
- editor of *Taps*
- president of his senior class
- most athletic
- most popular
- best all round and typical Gordon boy

A remembrance of **Virginia Cherry Legge**

"I built this house in 1960. It's 30 feet by 30 feet, and it cost me \$10 a square foot," Ed Legge said.

Pointing across a stream that runs through his property at the bottom of a hill, he indicated where his family lived when he was younger. There's a bridge that crosses the stream to connect with a city road.

"Virginia always wanted a bridge," he said, "and so I had one built."

Virginia Cherry Legge was his high school sweetheart, his college sweetheart and his wife. She passed away on Feb. 7, 2011, but she lives on in countless ways and nowhere more than in Ed when he is at his home.

Virginia was an artist, and she turned her home into a work of art that Ed proudly shows off to visitors, and the media she used involved anything that goes into a house or makes the house itself.

For example, the floors of the house are plywood, but to look at them, a visitor would think they were marble tile. She made a fireplace cover that bears the inscription "Virga. 1737." (It looks like cast iron, but it's really plywood.) A lit cabinet she designed contains some of her pottery and sculptures. On a door, she hung a pastel calligraphy poster that she drew with the following words written on it: "Go to your studio and make stuff."

One of the three doors into the house has a nine-paned window that anyone would think was a stained glass window, but it is a design of colored plastic film. In what was going to become her art studio in an addition to the house, she designed another floor, this time with the following sayings: "If you believe, you can achieve it," and "Home is where the art is."

Everywhere there hangs or stands a piece of her art or some "found" art such as an antique butter paddle or wooden plane. Ed said she loved Shaker, but she also apparently loved paper, because she used quite a bit of it in making two-dimensional, painted paper-mache that she framed and hung. Ed said one of the pieces was made from all their old returned checks and bank statements, another from honey baked ham packaging.

There wasn't enough paper in the world for Virginia, he added.

At the end of a visit, Ed will invite his guests to leave via the bridge. It is an invitation to share in one more of his wife's creations, something to remember her by, one more act of art.





Nursing and Allied Health Sciences Building Opens

A ribbon cutting to celebrate the opening of the Nursing and Allied Health Sciences Building on the Gordon College campus was held April 1, 2011.

“It truly is the jewel of our beautiful campus. And most importantly, it will enhance the education, training and skills our nursing

and allied health sciences students receive during their academic experience,” Interim President Shelley Nickel told the crowd of approximately 150 who attended the event.

The program’s former home, Smith Hall, which was built in 1939, will soon be renovated and will eventually house the education program.

At just over 59,000 square feet, the three-floor building is designed to function much like a teaching hospital. The first floor contains two theater-type lecture halls. There are also two regular classrooms and a multi-function collaborative learning center.

The main entrance to the building is from a plaza that leads from the center of campus.

The second floor was designed to simulate an actual hospital ward as closely as possible. There is a classroom on this floor as well as four named labs.

Through a generous donation from Upson Regional Medical Center, the hospital was able to have two labs named after long-time board trustees.

The William C. Byrd Pediatric Simulation Laboratory is named after the URM Board of Trustees member who served from 1987 to 2006. The lab is designed to simulate a pediatric ward and it is here that students will practice with realistic “sim-babies” that can be programmed to cry, move and react to stimuli.

Down the hall is the George H. Hightower Sr. Adult Simulation Laboratory. The late Hightower served on the URM Board of Trustees from 1987 to 2003. In this lab are realistic adult mannequins who respond much like live patients.

Also on the second floor is the Pat Brown Practice Laboratory that is named after Griffin resident Pat Brown who served as interim director of the Gordon College Nursing Program from 1985 to 1993, again from 1999 to 2000 and from 2002 to 2006 when she retired.

The Practice Lab is where most of the teaching takes place. Brown was known for her nurturing approach to teaching and her famous mantra “Don’t forget to wash your hands!” Nursing alumni and friends made this lab possible.

The Aldora Check Off Laboratory was named after the Town of Aldora which has helped support the quality of life in Lamar County since the town was incorporated in 1906. In the check off lab the student practices all of the critical skills that are fundamental to becoming a nurse. This lab is where the students demonstrate what they have learned in a one-on-one controlled environment.

The building’s third floor contains administrative offices, a classroom, computer lab and an anatomy and physiology lab.

Gordon’s respected nursing program was started in 1973 when 50 students entered the program. Since then, approximately 2,200 students have graduated from the program.

“We have nurses working all over the United States,” said Joan Cranford, former chair of the Division of Nursing and Allied Health. “And several have stayed right here as instructors. ☺



Honoring Pat Brown

A few weeks before the Nursing and Allied Health Sciences Building officially opened, nursing faculty treated former interim chair and nursing instructor Pat Brown to lunch and then a tour of the building.

They had a surprise they had carefully crafted to keep secret.

“And here we are,” said Joan Cranford, then chair of the nursing division as she guided Cranford and her daughter Christy down the hall. “Look, this is your practice lab.”

Like most surprises, it took a second for what she saw to sink in. Moved to tears, Brown put her hand up to her face as she read the words, “The Pat Brown Practice Laboratory” on the wall, realizing the lab had been named in her honor.

“I appreciate this more than you will ever know,” Brown said. “Oh, this is just wonderful.”

Gordon's nursing program is known for the high pass rate of its students taking the National Council Licensure Examination (NCLEX). In the last two years, 100 percent of Gordon's nursing students have passed on their first try.

Weeks later, at the official ribbon cutting ceremony, Brown was again recognized, this time by Interim President Shelley Nickel in her address to the crowd.

“The last naming on my list today is one that is especially dear to many of the people in this audience – the Pat Brown Practice Laboratory. Pat Brown has been with Gordon College for more than 20 years. She has been a

“WHAT A WONDERFUL TESTAMENT TO PAT BROWN AND WHO SHE IS, AND WHAT AN ACCOMPLISHMENT FOR THE NURSING ALUMNI OF GORDON COLLEGE.”

Shelley Nickel
Interim Gordon President

teacher, head of the division, mentor and friend. This lab was named not with a single, large gift, but with checks for \$25, \$50, a thousand dollars. This lab was named largely through the work of Gordon College's nursing alumni – those 2,000 plus women and men who have received their diplomas and have gone into the workforce to care for people like you and me. What a wonderful testament to Pat Brown and who she is, and what an accomplishment for the nursing alumni of Gordon College.”

Kezia Mobley of Hampton, who graduated in 2002, attended the ribbon cutting ceremony. She remembers Pat Brown as a tough but supportive instructor.

Mobley, who now works at Emory University Hospital, recalled having to show Brown that she could establish and maintain a sterile field, so a patient will not be infected during a medical procedure.



“I'll never forget her looking over those glasses and telling me I contaminated the field and to start over,” Mobley said.

Although the words stung, she said, the lesson was not wasted on her.

“To this day I get it right,” she said. ☺



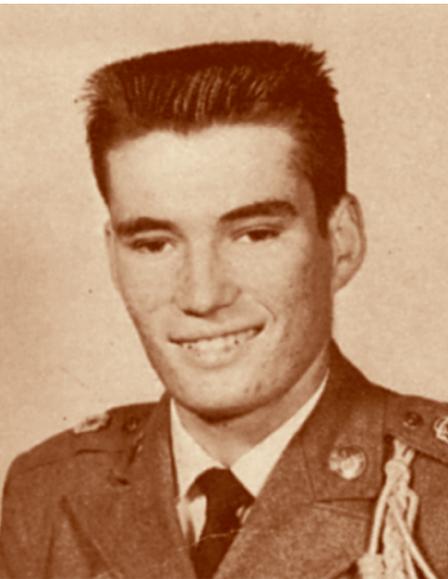
John Kelly on his Triumph 650 at Bonneville Salt Flats in Utah.

john

KELLY

Likes going fast

by Peter Boltz



John Kelly, Gordon High School Class of '59, was born in New York City, but he spent the first nine years of his life in Canada. When he was 9, his family moved to Miami Shores in Florida.

“As a kid,” he said, “I was into racing my motorcycle in drag and scrambles which are now called motocross.” He was also into street racing, which was as illegal then as it is now.

“I was a ‘bad-ass,’ with one too many times street racing. One night, I came home, and the police were parked in my parents’ driveway. There had been a street race, and the police were rounding up ‘the usual suspects.’” Ironically, Kelly hadn’t even been racing that night; instead, he had gone to the movies.

According to Kelly, having the police camped out on their driveway, waiting for their son, was the last straw for his parents, and they determined to send him to military school. “It’s what got me into Gordon,” he said. “Frankly, I didn’t appreciate it at the time, but Gordon did improve my life for the better.”

He may not have embraced the military culture at Gordon, but he behaved. He said that when he first saw cadets walking the bullring, he thought to himself, “I don’t want any part of this.”

“This” was walking a prescribed circle in front of Lambdin in full view of everyone on campus, wearing a pack and steel helmet, and carrying an M1 rifle.

“I have an inborn tendency to avoid adversity,” he said. “The bullring was for slow learners.”

He entered the 10th grade in the fall of 1956 and graduated as a high school senior in 1959. Even without his annual in front of him he remembered his roommates Dan Carter, Tommy Wester, Jan Green and Robert Melvin. Kelly easily found others who shared his love of cars, and when his JC Whitney car parts catalog arrived in the mail, his fellow cadets were eager to pour over it.

Even though cadets were not supposed to have cars, he owned a '54 Ford, which he kept off campus. He honed his mechanic’s skills on the vehicle, working on it to improve its performance.



“We were sent to study hall, and the choice was either to sit and stare at the walls or do something. That something was to study.”

John Kelly

“There was little or no free time at Gordon,” he said. “We were sent to study hall, and the choice was either to sit and stare at the walls or do something. That something was to study.

“We could go to town on two different occasions,” he said. “Once a week for a part of the afternoon and Saturday night.” He’d spend the afternoons at the Frosty Palace or the pool hall (where cadets were not supposed to go). His choices of entertainment on Saturday night were either the movie theater or the pool hall.

“I found military training interesting, but I had enough of it at Gordon to last a lifetime. The structure of it was good for me,” he said. Then he added, “I wonder if I wasn’t ADD at the time. I know I don’t have it now.”

Naming Faith Porch, Ora Lee Howard and Capt. J.A. Medcalf, he remembers that everyone at Gordon was friendly and that his time at Gordon was good for his attitude, not to mention his academic abilities. He said that he did “really well in college” after he transferred to Florida State.

At Florida State a friend advised him to become an accountant, which he did, going to work for Haskins and Sells, which afterwards became Deloitte. He went to work in New York City, which, he said, constrained and disallowed his three loves: cars, guns and motorcycles. He said he has a gun “accumulation” rather than a collection. Among other firearms, like his Holland and Holland shotgun, he has 16 Colt Single Action Army Model 1873 pistols, nicknamed “the Peacemaker.”

Unable to pursue his loves as he would have liked, and rather than drinking every night like many of his contemporaries, he attended graduate school at Pace University, which is why he worked as an adjunct for Rutgers University even while he was working for Deloitte full time. He later taught at Florida International College where he met his wife of 30 years, the other half of Kelly and Kelly.



As an accountant for Haskins and Sells, he was afforded the fastest ride of his life, a flight on the Concorde jet.

Haskins and Sells had obtained an Italian airline client, and since Kelly had experience with airlines and the client wanted him near, he lived in Rome for two years. But on one occasion he was back in the United States when the client was experiencing some kind of emergency that needed Kelly's immediate and near attention. There being no faster commercial way to get from the United States to Europe, they flew him on the Concorde at twice the speed of sound.

In his private practice in Ft. Lauderdale, his love of cars and motorcycles, and speed is on display everywhere in his office. His computer's desktop screen is a picture of him suited up in 30 pounds of leather and armor on his Triumph 650cc, ready to start his August 2010 run on the Bonneville Salt Flats in western Utah.

It's almost possible to hear the whine of the engine running on 112 octane, at rest, turning between 1,800 and 2,000 rpm. As Kelly put it, this is not a street-legal vehicle, despite its street-legal looks. This is what defines the class he races in. The bike's engine can be modified, but otherwise it has to be "stock," that is, equipped with handlebars, seat, gas tank, etc., that it would have if bought from a dealer.

On Aug. 16, 2010, the Southern California Timing Association and Bonneville Nationals Inc. certified that he

broke the record in the SCTA class for 650cc/P-PP at the Bonneville Salt Flats – for the third time in three years.

He went 100.459 mph.

Kelly describes the Bonneville Salt Flats as "a whole bunch of nothing" with only distant mountains as refer-

On Aug. 16, 2010, the Southern California Timing Association and Bonneville Nationals Inc. certified that he **broke the record** in the SCTA class for 650cc/P-PP at the Bonneville Salt Flats – for the third time in three years.

ence points. Otherwise it is a vast flat expanse of white salt that seems to stretch out forever into the horizon. Without a marked course, a racer might get lost.

Temperatures frequently reach into the 100s, so Kelly waits in the air-conditioned truck of his partner, a "rocket scientist" who works at Sandia National Laboratories, before he has to warm his bike up, which he does without his leather and armor top.

He also has friends who come in a bus-sized trailer, which affords Kelly and his friends a little more relief from the harsh environment. "If you want shade, water, anything," Kelly said, "you have to bring it yourself."



From left to right: Walt Medlin, co-owner; Gordon Van Leiw, sponsor; Unknown; Mrs. Van Leiw; John Kelly co-owner; Mrs. Bettenhausen, driver's wife; Tommy Smith, crew chief; Manny Alou, mechanic; Tony Bettenhausen Jr., driver; Archie Beach, mechanic; and Joe Snyder, assistant chief. The car is an AAR Eagle Indy.

Even though the salt makes a good surface for setting records on, Kelly said that “if it’s too wet, it cakes up on the tires, and you get rooster tails which slow you down. If too dry, it becomes too slippery and tires spin on it, again, with a loss of speed.” The ideal condition is when the salt is slightly damp.

Kelly suffered a setback one year when he raced at the Salt Flats. His bike malfunctioned and that was the end of his attempt to break a record for that year. A bumper sticker he saw on a trailer at Bonneville gives a little insight into how he must have felt: “Four years of work for a 90 second ride.”

Kelly was once involved in racing at the Indianapolis 500, an involvement that escalated into investing in an Indy race car with a partner. They had to travel to England to buy it, an '82 March for \$100,000. In addition, they needed three spare engines that cost \$50,000 apiece. But they couldn't keep up with the technological advances, and it wasn't but a few years later that the car became obsolete. “One of the great untruths of racing,” he said, “is that it won't cost.”

Now he goes to the Indy 500 “just to watch,” but he doesn't regret his earlier participation. He says he got into it “when racing was what it used to be. If you needed something, like a part, fuel, a mechanic, even an engine, someone would lend it to you.”

He used to drive in races himself a member of the Sports Car Club of America. He said he was once in a race

and his steering failed. “I turned the wheel and no one was home.” The car went out of control and hit the wall so hard that the engine dropped out. He walked away without an injury. In fact, he's been in several racing accidents, and the most he's suffered is a single concussion. He's known others not so lucky, even suffering death.

Today he no longer races cars, even selling off a number of his cars, but don't take this to mean he is slowing down. Come October 2011, he'll be found on the Bonneville Salt Flats again, intent on going faster than he, or anyone else, has ever gone before on a Triumph 650cc. 🍷

The car went out of control and hit the wall so hard that the engine dropped out. He walked away without an injury. In fact, he's been in several racing accidents, and the most he's suffered is a single concussion.



WITH

Mark Milewicz

Looks Can Be Deceiving

by Tamara Boatwright

Sophomore Anni Skurja said she has had Mark Milewicz as an instructor three times and remains totally amazed by him.

“For a political science professor to remain as unbiased as he is, is a miracle,” she said. “I have talked with him many times in and out of the classroom, and I still don’t know how he thinks. I really respect that.”

Milewicz, who has been teaching political science at Gordon for nine years and was recently promoted from associate professor to full professor, smiled at hearing those words.

“My political opinions have no value in the classroom,” he said. “I am not here to persuade the students toward a particular political stance. I believe in complete neutrality while I am teaching. The challenging part of the classroom is ascertaining the students’ interest and academic perspectives, and tailoring the material to fit the class.”

Skurja agreed he does just that.

“He is good about applying the material and bringing in outside sources, yet again without imposing his beliefs in the process.”

And he gets high marks from other students. One comment on the *Rate Your Professor* website states, “Dr. Milewicz is an excellent teacher. I went in knowing little about politics, economics, democracies, and ideologies but truly left feeling like a champ from everything I learn....”

Another student gives him a hot pepper. It indicates something to do with his appearance, apparently. And his appearance has confused more than one person on campus into thinking he is a student instead of a faculty member.

Rhonda Toon, vice president of advancement, started at Gordon about the same time as Milewicz. They were assigned offices in what is now Spencer House.



Mark Milewicz with Anna, his 4-year-old daughter.

“There was a house next door that was then being used as a dorm,” Toon explained. “I was alone in Spencer House when I heard someone struggling at the door. I opened it and there stood a tall young man with a box or two in his arms. He was wearing Converse sneakers, long shorts and a T-shirt. I just assumed he was a student and was at the wrong place. I said, ‘Oh you need the house next door, that’s the dorm.’ To which Mark replied, ‘I am Dr. Mark Milewicz, and this is where I was told my office is.’ I was so embarrassed, but it quickly became a funny story to share and the beginning of a friendship I value.”

Even today he can be seen at times sporting long shorts, a T-shirt and those Converse sneakers, milling about the students with only a few strands of gray hair giving him away.

Milewicz can’t recall what drew him to develop an interest in political science. His father was a marketing professor and his mother ran a household that included six children – Milewicz is the oldest.

“I have just always had an interest in power and politics and how they work,” he explained. “Few things have such control over our lives as governing institutions and the processes that result from those institutional arrangements have

always fascinated me. Study of government is very important and part of the foundation to a liberal arts education.”

He calls Alabama home even though his family moved several times while he was young. He attended Jacksonville State University and earned his master’s and Ph.D. at the University of Alabama in Tuscaloosa.

While a grad student at ‘Bama, Milewicz was chosen as a Junior Fellow in the Blount Undergraduate Initiative Honors Program. As a Junior Fellow he served as a teaching assistant and lived among the students in the program. It was actually there that the seed for what later became Gordon’s Honors Program was planted.

“I was able to use my experience there to help develop the program here,” he said.

But there is more to Milewicz than teaching. He met his wife, Liz, while they were students at Jacksonville State, and they have a daughter, Anna, who is 4. And while his family comes first, he tries to make time for his interest in carpentry – he likes Mission style furniture for its clean lines and classic look – and has made several pieces used around their Griffin home.

But there’s also another Mark Milewicz, an alter ego of sorts who at one time played a mean bass guitar and enjoyed a following across the Southeast.

He grinned his wide, friendly grin and sighed.

Milewicz, aka Pose, was in a rock and roll band called *Pain*.

Pain was “a musical group comprised of six dumb males, one voluptuous female (Liz Milewicz) and a drummer. Lots of horns and lots of good times. A healthy new

“I HAVE JUST ALWAYS HAD AN INTEREST IN POWER AND POLITICS AND HOW THEY WORK, FEW THINGS HAVE SUCH CONTROL OVER OUR LIVES. . . STUDY OF GOVERNMENT IS VERY IMPORTANT AND PART OF THE FOUNDATION TO A LIBERAL ARTS EDUCATION.” *Mark Milewicz*

dose on the old school punk tip with fresh news grooves to widen your smile,” according to Interpunk.com.

“We started the band in 1993,” Milewicz said. “We started playing locally, developed a following and started attracting some attention. Our bookings grew, we were touring across the Southeast and then some across the country and it became a full-time thing. I was spending less and less



From left to right: Mark Kramer, Liz Milewicz, Adam Guthrie (front), Mark Milewicz (back), Jason Reid, Dan Lord, Jay Campbell and Stuart McNair.

time in school which I really missed so, in 1999, we stopped touring and I returned to my graduate studies.”

But *Pain* lives on through iTunes and in a little ditty that plays on the Cartoon Network from time to time (ironically, Milewicz says he has never heard it) and in reruns of a show called Network Radio where in one episode a character is wearing a *Pain* tour T-shirt.

“I’ve never seen that either,” he admitted. But *Pain* is officially a thing of the past, and the members are giving it a solid send off.

“We’ve just completed a posthumous DVD of some of the band’s performances on the road which was a significant project,” he said. “I have a great respect for those who do that kind of work. It takes a small army to gather together, digitize, author, and edit a retrospective like that.”

And that nickname, Pose?

“I have no idea where that came from, but I can always tell when someone from home is calling. They ask for Pose.”

Home to the Gordon College Honors Program

In the 1930s the voices of the Burousas children filled the rooms of the little brick house at the end of Georgia Avenue. Living as they did on the edge of the Gordon campus, the family had a front row seat to watch cadet parades. They often began and ended their days with the sound of the bugle.



During their time in the house built by their father, a sign was erected just yards away to mark the Federal Emergency Administration of Public Work’s construction of a new academic building on the Gordon campus—the building we now know as Smith Hall. Other signs and constructions followed.

The campus grew and expanded; the children grew, many of them attending Gordon; the house became home

to another family; and in 2010, the little house at the end of Georgia Avenue was no longer on the edge of the campus—instead it became part of it and home to the Gordon College Honors Program.

Today students fill the rooms of the house talking about books over coffee, planning trips, and learning from their professors. Round table discussions held in the house have focused on political ideologies and literature among other topics. Honors students have made trips to Spivey Hall for concerts, attended the Georgia Shakespeare Festival together and viewed the Dali exhibit at the High Museum of Art. They assumed leadership roles on campus. The 2010/2011 president of the Student Government Association was honors student Anni Skurja.

According to the new director David Janssen, who assumes the work begun by Mark Milewicz, plans for 2011/2012 include the start of an Honors Book Club and the establishment of the Student Honors Council.

“I think we’ve just begun to tap into the possibilities for which the house could be utilized as the central site of the honors program at Gordon,” said Janssen. “It’s such a wonderful space, and I would really like to see more students here on a day-to-day basis.”

GORDON CONTINUES TO DRIVE AREA ECONOMY

Despite tough economic times, Gordon College's contribution to the regional economy increased \$27 million to \$136 million during the 2010 fiscal year.

The Selig Center for Economic Growth at the University of Georgia's Terry College of Business analyzed data collected between July 1, 2009, and June 30, 2010, to calculate the economic impact of the 35 institutions that make up the University System of Georgia.

Gordon's economic impact on the region has increased steadily since FY07 (fiscal year 2007) when its contribution to the regional economy was \$92 million. In FY08, the contribution was \$102 million, and in FY09, \$109 million.

The report also revealed that Gordon College provided 1,311 jobs to the area during FY10, an increase of 259 jobs compared to FY09. Of those jobs, 269 were on-campus jobs while 1,042 were off-campus jobs that existed due to institution-related spending.

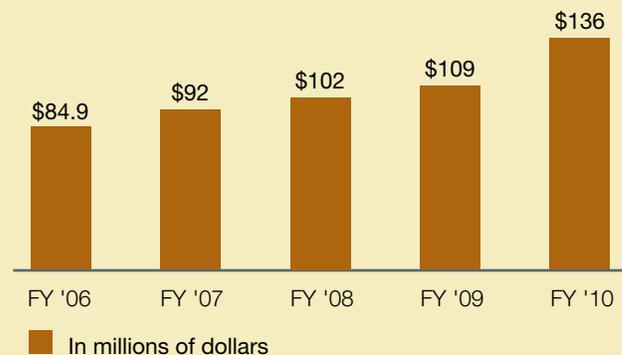
"Colleges and universities are key drivers in economic development," said study author Dr. Jeffrey M. Humphreys, director of economic forecasting for the Selig Center. "Higher education institutions educate the workforce, innovate through basic and applied research, and collaborate with employers to help them become more competitive."

Spending by students also jumped during FY10. According to the report, student spending accounted for \$81 million of the total \$136 million contributed to the local economy.

The study also showed that Gordon College provided the regional economy with \$92 million in value-added impact, up from \$66 million in FY09; and \$55.5 million in labor income impact, up from \$43 million in FY09.

To view the entire report go to: www.icapp.org/pubs/usg_impact_fy2010.pdf

Economic Impact of Gordon College



Jeb Dills Chosen to Represent Gordon College

GORDON COLLEGE STUDENT JEB DILLS was invited to represent the recipients of the Regent's President's Choice Scholarship at the 2011 Regents' Awards for Excellence in Education held in downtown Atlanta in March.

The University System of Georgia Foundation established the event in 2005 to recognize contributions and achievements of its students, faculty, and alumni. Monies raised from the annual event's silent auction and sponsorships fund a number of initiatives. Among them is the President's Choice Scholarship. At Gordon, the recipient is selected by the president and must have a strong academic record as well as extracurricular involvement.

Jeb Dills was chosen as the 2010 recipient of this award. Dills excelled academically at Buford High School. He was also a star baseball player and served in a number of leadership capacities. The director of the Gwinnett Student Leadership Team, a leadership development program conducted by the Gwinnett Chamber of Commerce, remarked that business and community leaders in Gwinnett County predict that Dills will become one of his generation's outstanding leaders.

Dills plays for the Gordon Highlanders baseball team and intends to seek a career in the medical field. He has maintained his strong academic record at Gordon. His coach and professors echo the words of the Gwinnett business community in their praise.

In Dill's scholarship essay he wrote, "If I could pick one word to describe myself, that word would be integrity. A person of integrity can survive in this tough world because he can endure hardships and stand for what is right."

Among Dills' responsibilities at the Atlanta event were to assist former first lady Rosalyn Carter to the stage. Dills delivered a brief welcome to the attendees in his role representing all of the institutions' presidential scholars.



A Part of History

After a grueling year of once-a-week marathon classes, the first cohort of 25 nurses to graduate the RN to BSN program all breathed a collective sigh of relief graduation day. The program is for registered nurses who already have their associate degree and want to earn a baccalaureate degree.

“I am so glad it is over,” said Ashley Sanders of Barnesville, who earned her Associate of Science in Nursing at Gordon in 2004 and is part of the historic first cohort to earn a bachelor’s degree in nursing.

“It was such a challenging year, but so rewarding. We’re a part of Gordon’s history now.”



Bottom row, left to right: Kathy Davis (associate professor of nursing), Jodi Tallman, Jeff Kinney, Don Brunton, Ashley Sanders, Constance Takang, Katina Brown, Jean-Marie Blasingame, Quavardes Barkley, Regina Norton and Christina Quinn (associate professor of nursing).
 Top row left to right: Starla Brown, Kim Barney, Melinda Broxson, Sandra Cherry, Alicia Small, Katie Clark, Amanda Cates, Allison Rogers, Rebecca Johnson and Sabrina Simokaitis.
 Cohort members not in photo include: Jennifer C. Boland, Joi Felder, Jamice Gresham, Alex Bradshaw, Jamice Gresham, Jennifer Boland, Sam Worsham and Bryce Barnes.

Gordon Gets Greener, Fresher

Gordon College recently made significant moves toward being better stewards of the environment and the health of the students, faculty and staff.

Last fall, bright blue recycling bins were placed at each employee’s desk while larger collection containers were placed throughout the campus.

The bins are collection points for paper, plastic and cardboard.

“Together we can have a significant impact on the amount of waste that ends up in the landfill,” said Interim President Shelley Nickel.

Effective June 1, 2011, Gordon College became a tobacco-free campus.

“This is part of an overall wellness initiative that we will be implementing involving students, faculty and staff,” said Nickel.

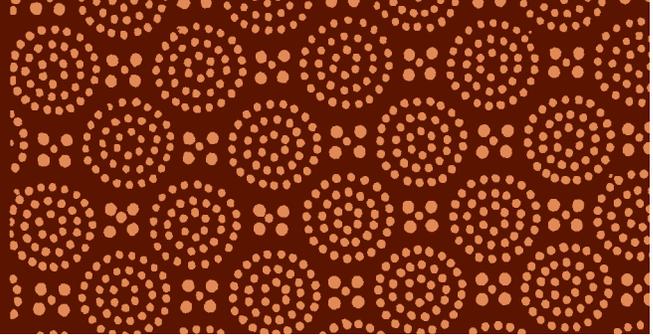
All forms of tobacco use are now prohibited on all college-owned property.

This includes parking lots, walking trails, the amphitheater, open-campus areas and college-owned vehicles. The policy applies to all faculty, staff, students and visitors to the Gordon College campus.

“We want healthy Highlanders, and this is our first step in achieving that goal,” Nickel said.



A Grill, A Hotel Room, A Garden and a Beach



All play a part in the 2011-2012 Gordon College Theatre season

Spitfire Grill

Music and Book by James Valcq
Lyrics and Book by Fred Alley
Based on the film by Lee David Zlotoff

Sept. 28-Oct. 1

A feisty parolee follows her dreams, based on a page from an old travel book, to a small town in Wisconsin and finds a place for herself working at Hannah's Spitfire Grill. It is for sale, but there are no takers for the only eatery in the depressed town, so newcomer Percy suggests to Hannah that she raffle it off. Entry fees are \$100 and the best essay on why you want the grill wins. Soon, mail is arriving by the wheelbarrow full and things are definitely cookin' at the Spitfire Grill.

The Hotel Plays: A Night of Tennessee Williams' One-Acts

Nov. 16-20

An unusual evening of early and late Williams one-act plays set in rooming houses and hotel rooms.

Much Ado About Nothing

William Shakespeare

Feb. 22-26, 2012

This is one of William Shakespeare's most popular comedies. Combine two pairs of lovers – Benedick and Beatrice and Claudio and Hero – mix in some love, trickery and confessions, add a bastard, toss in some revelation and you get a hilarious confection of a play.

Psycho Beach Party

Charles Busch

April 18-22, 2012

Imagine Gidget crossed with *The Three Faces of Eve* and *Mommie Dearest*. Chicklet, a perky teenager in Malibu Beach, circa 1962, wants to learn to surf and join a group of beach bums led by the great Kanaka. Unfortunately, she suffers from a multiple personality disorder. Seeing red causes her to transform into various other selves, including a sinister vamp out to conquer the world. Complications arise when a movie starlet flees the set of her latest rotten movie to hide among the surfers. The climax is a wild luau scene where hypnosis reveals the shocking root of Chicklet's psychosis.

Wednesday-Saturday shows are at 7:30 p.m.,

Sunday shows are at 2:30 p.m.

All presented in the Gordon College Fine Arts Auditorium.



Meagan Hand and Thommy Harless in the past production of
Early One Evening At the Rainbow Bar and Grill.

Jennifer Holcomb

Gordon's 2011 Outstanding Scholar

Jennifer Holcomb was honored to find out she was selected the 2011 Gordon College Outstanding Scholar.

Holcomb was recognized, along with 35 other students in the University System, by the Georgia General Assembly during its 2011 Academic Recognition Day.



Ed Wheeler awards Jennifer Holcomb with Gordon's 2011 Outstanding Scholar certificate.

"Jennifer is a teacher's delight. She readily admits that she enjoys school and does not shy away from challenging assignments," said Elizabeth Watts Warren, an associate professor of sociology who nominated Holcomb for the recognition. "I can always count on her to bring a wealth of everyday experiences to whatever topic we are discussing, with candor and insight."

"I am very, very honored and appreciative," Holcomb said. "I work very hard, and just a little bit of recognition of that work means a lot to me."

Things haven't always been so easy for Holcomb.

Just before her 10th birthday and ironically, just a day before Halloween, her life and the lives of her younger sister and brother spiraled into a nightmare.

"There were some issues at our house, and we had to be put into foster care," Holcomb said. "I was scared to death. They split us up and I never lived with my little brother again. I thought it was my fault."

But even at that young age, Holcomb realized that whether her life was a success or a failure, that choice was totally up to her.

"So I decided what road I would take and stuck to it," she said. "I worked hard in high school and I managed to graduate in 2007 with honors.

Then she set her eyes on a career in law.

"I knew that any military experience would be helpful, so I joined the 190th Military Police Company of the Georgia Army National Guard," she said. "And I started taking classes at Gordon. I will graduate in July and continue my education at Kennesaw State University."

She wants to either continue as a law enforcement officer or earn a law degree and become a prosecutor in family court.

"I know what it is like on the other side," she said. "That is a unique perspective that will help me with cases involving children and family dynamics.

"I also want to be an inspiration to others, let them know that there are some kids who grew up in foster care who are doing quite well," she said. "Not everyone ends up an emotional mess, on drugs and living a life full of bad choices. I want my choices to make a difference in my own life and the lives of others."



Flint River Cleanup

Gordon College's Earth Wind Fire Science Club spent a Saturday morning in early spring cleaning up a portion of the Flint River near Thomaston. Shown, from left, are club president Christie Jackson; adviser Linda Hyde, professor of biology; club secretary Megan Babb; and members Walter Jones and Laura West. The Earth Wind Fire Science Club is one of many clubs on campus that serve the College and surrounding communities.

Gordon Students Support Troops

Lt. Col. Joe Combs accepted a banner signed by Gordon College students during Impact Day 2011. Combs, stationed at Ft. McPherson, said he will pass the banner on to a unit leaving for service in Afghanistan or Iraq.

"This shows great support for our troops," he said. "It shows that you care."

Combs' son, Xavier Combs, is a student at Gordon and a member of SAAB, the Student African American Brotherhood, which coordinated Impact Day 2011. The event was designed to give Gordon College students information on charitable organizations in the community that are in need of volunteers.

SAAB emphasizes participants' understanding of their responsibilities as mentors, role models, husbands, future fathers and productive citizens.



Lt. Col. Joe Combs, Xavier Combs, Gary Garland, and SAAB adviser professor Michele Perry-Stewart.

Science Olympiad

Draws 200 Students, 14 Schools

Gordon College played host this year to more than 200 area sixth- to ninth-grade students participating in the 12th Annual Science Olympiad.

The students, from 14 different schools in the area, competed in science projects that required them to solve crimes, view and record objects in the daytime sky, build weight-supporting towers and project bottle rockets among other activities.

Ann Tran, an eighth grade honors student from Babb Middle School in Jonesboro participated in Tower Building, Solar System and Write It/Do It.

As she was observing the daytime sky under the guidance of Gordon College professor Richard Schmude, she said she found all three competitions exciting and interesting.

“I like to do things that are outside of the classroom,” she said.



Dr. Cristina Fermin-Ennis assists Brandon James and TaNia Nash of Fayette Middle School during the Science Olympiad

Brandon James and TaNia Nash, who attend Fayette Middle School, were participating in a crime scene investigation in Dr. Cristina Fermin-Ennis' laboratory.

Both said they want to study law.

“But I will need chemistry to understand facts surrounding evidence in criminal cases,” Brandon said.

“This has been my favorite part of the day so far.”

BEING A GOOD NEIGHBOR

Gordon Helps with Tornado Cleanup



IN THE EARLY MORNING HOURS OF APRIL 28, several tornadoes cut a swath through Lamar County destroying homes and taking the lives of two people.

When asked to help, Gordon nursing faculty and students did not hesitate, establishing and manning a first aid station on Grove Street, one of the hardest hit areas of the county.

“I am so proud of these student nurses,” said Samantha Bishop, associate professor of nursing, who helped set up the station. “They had a lot on them at the time with classes coming to an end and finals just around the corner, but they didn’t hesitate when asked to help.”

The student nurses dispensed bandages, took care of minor wounds, handed out water and sometimes just lent an ear to those in the area working to clear land and roads and trying to make sense of the destruction.

And they didn’t stop there. The spring 2011 nursing class also donated money to a relief fund.

Nursing students and faculty weren’t the only group lending a hand. Several members of the Gordon College faculty and staff gathered over several weekends to help with debris cleanup. theater professor Tony Pearson coordinated several volunteer efforts.

“I felt like anyone who was able bodied and escaped damage during the storm owed it to their neighbors to get out and do something,” Pearson said. “A small group of us worked on clearing debris from a property and were able to put a dent in things. Still, I was horrified at the damage and dumbstruck by how much more work there was to be done.”

Gordon’s Baccalaureate Offerings Grow



Gordon history professor Thomas Aiello with Penny Cliff, the Thomaston-Upson County Archives director.

Beginning this fall, Gordon College will offer a Bachelor of Arts in English and a Bachelor of Arts in history. The English program will be directed by Stephen Raynie and the history program by Thomas Aiello.

Gordon currently offers baccalaureate degrees in early childhood education, mathematics, biology and a RN to BSN completion degree as well as associate degrees in 40 programs of study.

“We are very pleased to be able to offer students two additional degree opportunities,” said Interim President Shelley Nickel.

“Our excellent baccalaureate degrees in the core areas of biology, English, history, and mathematics will provide the regional workforce with employees with excellent critical thinking and communication skills and will provide opportunities for our students to move on to graduate and professional studies in a variety of areas including health services, medicine and law.

“Further, since each of these majors includes a track that permits students to complete teaching certification, these majors will help address the growing statewide need of highly qualified teachers within these disciplines.”

When Mark Twain Met Federico Fellini

An English Honors Class Matches Learning with Entertainment

INVITING GUEST SPEAKERS into the classroom is nothing new – not unless you invite the likes of Jane Austen, Oscar Wilde, Mary Shelley, Ernest Hemingway and Dr. Seuss... in the flesh.

This is what Gordon English professor David Janssen did with his spring 2011 English honors class... sort of. He designed an end-of-semester project based on the 1970s PBS series created by Steve Allen, *Meeting of the Minds*.

“I remembered when I took advanced placement English in my high school days, and my teacher had us do a similar project,” he said. He was not sure how well it would work in his honors class, but when he remembered his experience as a high school student playing Voltaire, he forged ahead.

What he remembered is that he “became” Voltaire after he realized he was writing in Voltaire’s voice in his journal. If he could help his students have a similar experience with the writers they chose, they would be similarly rewarded for all their hard work.

He also remembered that the experience was fun.

“I bristle at the idea that academic work and pleasure don’t mesh,” Janssen said. “If academic work gets utterly serious, it kills the thing you’re studying.”

The element of fun does not mean that Janssen, who has a doctorate in English, did not get the kind of superior work expected from honors students. They had to write a research essay, keep a journal, submit progress reports, and be grilled by their classmates about their writers in a game called “stump the minds.”



In the last “episode” of David Janssen’s *Meeting of the Minds*, Matthew Bozeman (far left) performed as Oscar Wilde, Janssen played Steve Allen’s part as moderator, James Daniel performed as Mark Twain, and Tim Graham performed as Federico Fellini.

The most difficult thing of all for them was to work together on a script for their episode of *Meeting of the Minds*. One script was needed for those portraying Samuel Beckett, Sigmund Freud, Edgar Allan Poe and Mary Shelley; another for Jane Austen, Ernest Hemingway, Dr. Seuss and J.R.R. Tolkien; and another for Federico Fellini, Mark Twain and Oscar Wilde.

Janssen performed as the moderator of each of the three shows, so he had to write three scripts and two read-throughs for each show.

“It was probably the most academically rigorous course I have ever taught,” he said. “My worry was the reception I’d get from my students, but they were into it from the beginning.”

The three “episodes” were held the last week of April in the lounge area of Gordon’s Honors House, and Janssen invited the entire faculty to attend. Considering the warm reception for this first set of performances, Janssen may have to issue tickets for next year’s performances, since seating and standing room are limited.

Crediting Gordon

SCOTT KENTON, CLASS OF '43, met with Rhonda Toon, Gordon's vice president of advancement, during a recent visit to Chicago. Meeting for lunch, Kenton told her of his memories of Gordon Military College.

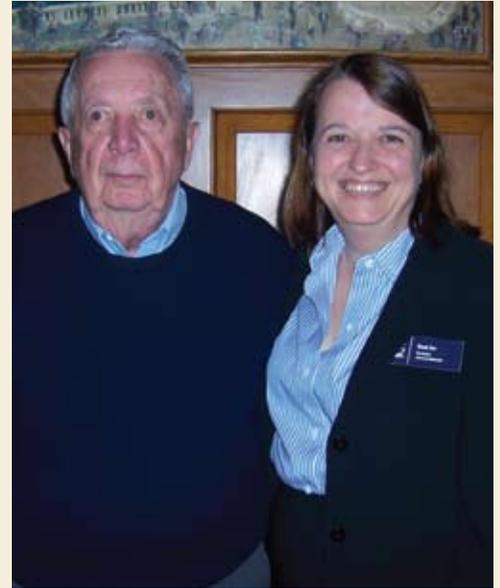
As one of the mess hall's waiters, he recalled how Mrs. Slayden ran the kitchen. "I mean, she 'ran' the kitchen," he said.

Kenton also played drums in the Gordon band.

"We played for dances at Bessie Tift—that was always fun," he said. "In 1943 for our senior dance we had the Jan Garber band, and they let me sit in with them. They wanted to hire me right then out of school to travel with them, but by that time, I had already enlisted in the Marines."

At one point in his education at Gordon, he was flunking Spanish, so he was moved to typing class.

"Everywhere I went for the rest of my life, I could type, and that skill gave me entry to a lot of good places. I do owe Gordon my life. I had a successful career, and I credit Gordon for the opportunity."



Scott Kenton with Rhonda Toon, VP, Institutional Advancement

PASSING THE GAVEL

Don Neuner (right) passes the gavel to Jim Graham, marking the beginning of Graham's tenure as chair of the Gordon College Alumni Association. Neuner served as the association's chair for the last three years.

As chair, Graham will be kept busy representing the association at Gordon events held throughout the year, and planning and presiding over advisory board meetings.

As a member of the local rock 'n' roll band *Junkshun*, chair Graham may also have the added duty of arranging music for alumni events – something he already did at the 2011 Alumni Weekend barbecue.



When Georgia Bulldogs Meet. . .

they sometimes find out they're also Gordon Bulldogs

Jon Hardwick has lived on St. Simons Island since 1974 and at his current address on the island since 1991. John Williams has been living on the island since March 2008. The two of them live just four houses apart, and Hardwick often drives around in a golf cart visiting with his neighbors, including Williams.

"We had yard work in common," Hardwick said, and that is what the two of them would talk about, with the addition, perhaps, of grilling and the Georgia bulldog statue Williams has in his front yard. Perhaps the bulldog was what got them talking about football, but neither of them really knows for sure.

All they know is that they didn't know they were more than just fellow Georgia bulldogs – they were also fellow Gordon bulldogs.

For three years they had been having their neighborly conversations, and neither of them brought up that they were Gordon cadets until Hardwick brought up that he had played football. When Williams asked him where, all of a sudden the two of them had more than yard work and grilling to talk about.

Hardwick, Gordon College Class of '72, still remembers competing with 135 other football players for one of the 30 slots open on the first team. And if this were not stressful enough, he also had to compete academically. He still remembers struggling with an English assignment from Mrs. Ora Lee Howard, an essay on who he was, where he was going, and why.

"I did not know if I would be drafted into the Vietnam War," he said in the 2004 *President's Report*. "I did not know if I could continue to make the team. I did not know if I could make good grades."

As things turned out, he made the first team and made an A+ on his essay.

Williams started the 11th grade at Gordon in 1966 and graduated as a college sophomore and brigade commander in 1970.

"My daddy thought it would be good for me to go to Gordon," Williams said, adding that his father went to North Georgia College as a cadet. He entered World War II as a first lieutenant and served as a fighter pilot flying P38s and P39s.

After graduating from Gordon, Williams went on to complete a bachelor's degree in agronomy at the University of Georgia, then returning to his family's farm in Dooly County, where he lived with his wife,



John Williams (L) and Jon Hardwick



John Williams



Jon Hardwick

Frances, and children, Wendy and Bubba, until he retired in 2007.

Although Williams says his children are the best crop he ever raised, he is also an outstanding farmer, having been awarded the 2002 Farm Press High Cotton Award winner for the Southeast Region.

According to Farm Press Publications, the goal of the High Cotton Award "is to identify the top cotton producers in each major growing region and to share their successful production methods with the readers of *Southeast Farm Press*, *Delta Farm Press*, *Southwest Farm Press*, and *Western Farm Press*."

"I was very surprised by the honor," Williams said, "also very humbled."

ALUMNI WEEKEND

2011



**Make a Date for Next Year
Join Us for Gordon College
Alumni Weekend 2012: April 20-22**

Come join us for a weekend of renewing friendships, making new friends, reminiscing, good food and drink, and fun.

Have a idea for an event at next year's reunion? Have a question about lodging, travel or plans?

Contact the Alumni office at 678-359-5073 or e-mail rhondat@gdn.edu.

We can also be reached via the U.S. Postal Service: Gordon College, Advancement Office, 419 College Drive, Barnesville, GA 30204.



This year's reunion of Gordon alumni, of all classes, had more attendees than ever with 260 alumni and spouses visiting the campus and each other during the weekend of April 15.

The weekend started off overcast and a bit chilly on Friday afternoon in the courtyard of Alumni House, but people put on jackets and sweaters and the "Faculty and Staff Reception" went on as if the weather were warm and sunny. It also helped that rain only threatened and never fell. Dr. Neil Boumpani played jazz from the deck of Alumni House, and Sodexo caterers provided delicious finger food.

In greeting the alumni, staff and faculty who had gathered for the reception, Interim President Shelley Nickel said that today's Gordon was continuing the teaching

excellence of past teachers like Miss Marion Bush and Maj. Sonny Paget. "This is your school," Nickel told alumni.

Lynn Yates, Gordon's alumni relations coordinator, planned the weekend to have events, but she also built in periods of open time to accommodate one of the alumni's favorite pastimes..., visiting with each other. Friday night supper was one of those times and alumni dispersed in all directions and restaurants and groups after the reception in the courtyard.

Alumni continued to register at Alumni House on Saturday morning, and again the courtyard filled with people for brunch and visiting. An antique car show was held in the parking lot of the Women's Clubhouse, and inside the Clubhouse, Jim Graham and Don Neuner hosted the "Football Roundup Reception," where veterans of Gor-



don's gridiron met and watched game footage on two large screens at either end of the Clubhouse dining/meeting room.

Saturday is also when Mike Mouchet and Cindy Overcash were married in the gazebo in the green between Russell Hall and Smith Hall. This was a first in Alumni Weekend history. Romances have rekindled and friendships renewed at these all-classes reunions, but never before has there been a marriage.

Saturday night's barbecue was so large, seating overflowed from the courtyard into the parking lot. The band *Junkshun* played rock 'n' roll while people went through the serving line, ate and visited. A large group of the Class of '56 were present and gathered for a group photograph. Another group, who would have been the class of '73 had

Gordon Military College existed one more year, also gathered for a group photograph.

Of course these were not the only photographs being taken. Cameras were everywhere recording people visiting with each other, and this is the reason this year's alumni weekend was successful – the people. Gordon is fortunate to have such a wonderful group of Gordon alumni, their families and their friends, and the College looks forward to seeing everyone again next year, especially more of you from all classes.

Whether you attended Gordon when it was a military school or after it became part of the University System of Georgia, whether you attended in the last century or this century, you are welcome to Alumni Weekend 2012.

Come visit. You won't be let down.

2010 Alumni Survey We asked, you answered!

Last fall we included a survey in the 2010 edition of the *President's Report* in order to get your input on alumni events.
What did we learn?

- You prefer that we contact you through the United States Postal Service.
- Fewer than half of you said you preferred to be contacted by email.
- The majority of those responding were post-1972 graduates of Gordon College. Twenty-eight percent were at Gordon from 2001 to 2010 and 23.7 percent of the respondents were at Gordon between 1961 and 1970.
- Fewer than one third of the respondents had ever attended an alumni event at Gordon and the top reason for not doing so was family and/or job commitments followed by geographical distance.
- Almost half of the respondents favored a barbecue as their event of choice, followed by a concert. Tied for third was a wine tasting or theater performance.
- Eighty percent said that Saturday was the best day for an alumni event, followed by Sunday and Friday.
- Once again the majority of both the pre-1972 and the post-1972 alumni chose a spring weekend for the all-classes alumni weekend. The annual Buggy Days Weekend came in second. Some respondents who live in Lamar County wrote in remarks and asked us not to change to Buggy Days. Since the festival is a community event involving churches and civic organizations many local respondents said they would be unable to attend if the alumni event were held during that weekend due to their own involvement with the festival.

Your Comments from Alumni Weekend 2011 Survey. . .

"I thought the reunion was perfect... , can't think of anything negative. (It would have been better if we) forced more of my classmates to attend—wait that is my job!" – anonymous

"We enjoyed all the food and the campus tour. We also enjoyed meeting people from other classes. After all, we have Gordon in common no matter what year we were there." – anonymous

"I'll never miss another one." – Ed Legge, C '55

"The tour of the campus was by far the highlight of the entire weekend! No complaining regarding other activities at all! Maybe add more time at the library. I know it was hard because it was the weekend, but I could have stayed longer. I will try to find other classmates for future reunions, and you should charge a bit more. I think you must have lost money on this year's reunion! Way to go!" – Bill Hobgood, C '67

"Everything my wife and I attended was great. The Gordon staff and food service staff do an outstanding job!" – Alan Giles, HS '60

"The food quality and the presentation of it was excellent as well as being flavorful; the band was good but too loud; the tour, library open, and archival material displayed was all well-received. We just need more alumni recruiting classmates to attend." – anonymous

"The BBQ and the music were awesome! The room where the sports videos and the sports memorabilia were displayed was very interesting. I will try to contact more alumni for next year." – anonymous

"The reception was nice and the food was excellent. The food was very good at the farewell breakfast, too. I did not attend the BBQ, but I was glad to see so many people there this year. Great crowd! I would like to see more military items in the bookstore to purchase. I hope we can have a Gordon baseball game taking place during the weekend next year. I have really enjoyed watching the Highlanders play on my other visits." – anonymous

"This was the best weekend ever! The location was great! The food was great! The entertainment was great! I had a great time. Thanks to Gordon College and to its alumni for such a great weekend." – anonymous

"Great job! I am sure we are all unaware of all of the efforts that Gordon's staff puts into this weekend and I want to say that we are all very grateful! I had not seen my classmates in years and this was a great start to renewing relationships." – anonymous

Good Friends Meet Again

Bill Hobgood and Grover Kelley



Grover Kelley (L) and Bill Hobgood



Grover Kelley



Bill Hobgood

They met as incoming Gordon Military College freshmen in September 1965. Grover Kelley, from Colquitt, Ga., and Bill Hobgood, from the D.C. area. Kelley was the middle child of three, raised in a farming family, and Hobgood was the second of six children, raised in a Navy family.

As different as their backgrounds were, they quickly became friends, sharing the uncertainties and hardships of what Bill would later call “the relatively brutal freshman year at Gordon Military College.”

“We were assigned to rooms across the hall from each other on the second floor of the east wing of Connell Hall,” Hobgood said. “There were 22 other new cadets in East Wing, all of whom became friends. It is amazing how quickly you become close to your dorm mates in that sort of environment.”

Hobgood said, “Living so far away from Northern Virginia, I often went home on weekends with dorm buddies..., many times with Grover.”

After they graduated as college juniors in May of 1967, Kelley transferred to Georgia Southwestern and Hobgood joined the corps of cadets at Texas A&M.

After graduation, Kelley moved to Donalsonville with his wife Betsy, and took over his father-in-law’s department store. Hobgood was commissioned in the Navy and with his wife Becky spent the next 22 years as a naval aviator and 15 more after that as a Florida businessman. He now lives in Cedar Park, Texas.

Despite their claims to being “fully” retired, today Kelley offers audio/video production services, and Hobgood “dabbles” in real estate photography.

The April 2011 Alumni Weekend was the first time they met after they graduated from Gordon Military College 44 years ago. They are now planning another reunion in 2013, but this time they want to recruit more of the “East Wing guys” to join them. For more information, you can contact either Bill Hobgood at hobgood.bill@gmail.com or Grover Kelley at groverkelley@yahoo.com.

“East Wing guys” or anyone else interested in reuniting with classmates can also contact the alumni office at 678-359-5073 or rhondat@gdn.edu.

They are now planning another reunion in 2013, but this time they want to recruit more of the “East Wing guys” to join them.



Standing, from left to right: April Abreu (orc name: Mudder), Rachel Gardiner (Mini), Brian Abreu (Tonka Skye), Caleb Brown (TarTug), April Dixon (Dautra), Chris Elliot (Skinny Bones).
Kneeling, from left to right: Seth Brown (Flog), Troy Piper (Sypher), Ross Bell (Kromleck).

Live Action Players

Find Relaxation and Friendship

It is a different world in NERO land, and any visitor to an out-of-the-way campground at Hard Labor Creek State Park at the end of April would figure this out right off. People – and creatures – dressed and behaved as if they were from the Middle Ages or from Tolkien’s Middle Earth. Monsters lurked in the woods around the campground, and heaven only knows what they looked like.

Several Gordon alumni and current students are among these live action role players (LARP) and are members of the NERO Atlanta LARP Chapter. NERO is the trademarked name of “a live action role playing game based in a medieval fantasy genre,” according to the nerolarp.com website.

Brian Abreu (Class of '92), his wife April (Class of '92) and James Hartley, a pre-pharmacy major, all play the role of orcs, an ogre-type character created by J.R.R. Tolkien in his classics, *The Hobbit* and *The Lord of the Rings*. Abreu earned a bachelor's in finance from the University of Georgia in 1995, whereas April earned her Pharm.D. at the UGA in 1999. Abreu, like Hartley, is currently a pre-pharmacy major at Gordon.

An adult, especially a well-educated adult, acting like an orc may appear childish to some, even unseemly, but Abreu and Hartley make no apologies. The fantasy world of LARP is playing, and the two of them are well-aware of the benefits of play.

Abreu said “LARPing” is a way he can escape the mundane for a short while and become someone or something else. He said he started role playing in 1996 and was



“It allows you to free your mind from the stress of academics. I know that there have been many times that I have had to step away from my schoolwork to allow my brain to soak in what I learned, which sometimes takes days. LARP is a physically active way to do just that.”

James Hartley
pre-pharmacy major

attracted to how welcome he felt. “It was the other players and friends who kept me coming back for years to come.”

He said that battles that are a signature part of a LARP weekend create strong bonds between players that cross over into their workaday worlds.

“Even though we know it’s not real, we still fight like our lives depend on it. Even though we know we aren’t in physical danger, at the end of the day we feel that sense of camaraderie forged from working and playing hard together.”

Hartley has been into LARP for a little more than four years.

“To be able to take a weekend a month and not worry about the problems of the real world and hang out with my friends is something that gives me great pleasure,” he said. “It allows me to become immersed in my imagination and create a character that has a story limited only by my thoughts.”

Hartley, like Abreu, finds LARPing to be salubrious, even claiming it helps him with his studies.

“It allows you to free your mind from the stress of academics. I know that there have been many times that I have had to step away from my schoolwork to allow my brain to soak in what I learned, which sometimes takes days. LARP is a physically active way to do just that.”

So, you might ask, out of all the different characters they could play, why orcs?

Hartley said orcs “are the prime nature of us all.”

Abreu said being an orc is a great way to set himself apart from the other players. To be an orc requires quite a bit of time applying makeup, green makeup, and that few other LARP characters work as hard to get into character.

“This is where we take pride in our efforts,” he said. “It’s our way of standing out among a crowd of shiny ‘properly’ dressed noblemen.”

1940s

Jack Potter '46 continued his education at the University of Florida. He resides in Freeport, Fla.

1950s

Jean Whatley '53 released her first novel, *A Note to Teacher* in April of 2011. After graduating from Gordon Military College, Jean attended Winthrop College, and later Jacksonville School of Music in Jacksonville, Fla. She has taught piano and voice since 1960 and worked in various churches as organist, pianist, and/or music director. Jean and her husband, George, live in Mooresville, N.C.

1960s

Joseph Dwight Winburn '60 entered the Navy and served in Vietnam. After he returned, he worked in road construction, hot-dipped galvanizing, and commercial refrigeration before retiring in 2002. He and his wife, Donna, have three children, six grandchildren, and one great-grandchild. They live about six months of each year at their mountain home outside of Cleveland, Ga., and the rest of the year in Claxton, Ga.

Patsy Dumas Brown '60 retired from her position as a radiologic technologist. One of her most interesting positions was at Johns Hopkins Hospital in Baltimore, Md. She has four children and seven grandchildren and enjoys golfing, reading and gardening. Patsy lives in Barnesville, Ga.

Harry Bruce Carson '60 retired in 2002 from the State of Florida after 32 years. He and his wife, Brenda, are in the business of recovering unclaimed property. They reside in Tallahassee, Fla.

Gloria Watson Chaffin '60 retired two years ago as a manager from Fine Jewelry and now works part time as a cashier. She enjoys playing bridge, reading, and visiting family and friends. Gloria has a daughter, a son, and five grandchildren. Gloria lives in Barnesville, Ga.

Elton "Cris" Crisman, Jr. '60 earned his BS in physics at Rollins College in Winter Park, Fla. He spent 35 years in the aerospace industry then started a new career with GM Motorsports in North Carolina. He and his wife, Margot, have been married 48 years. They have two children, two grandchildren and one great granddaughter. They reside in Kannapolis, N.C.

Jimmy Dunbar '60 graduated from the University of Georgia. He served two years as an Army officer and 34 years in the environmental protection division for the state of Georgia. He and his wife, Sue Milam Dunbar '64, have one son, one daughter and five grandchildren.

Clyde I. Eldridge '60 retired from investment banking/investment securities in 2006. He is currently development director of Upstate Forever, a land trust and environmental advocacy nonprofit. He and his wife, Ann, have two daughters and three granddaughters. They live in Greenville, S.C.

Gary Faber '60 retired in 1998 as a chemistry professor from the College of Charleston. At one point, he taught for a summer aboard the USS Mt. Baker, an ammunition supply ship in the Mediterranean. He and his wife, Carla, a German professor, are staying busy in their retirement by traveling. "Life is simple," he said, "and not bad."

Blaine Fielding '60 graduated from Ohio State University in 1965 and law school in

1967, and then became an environmental lawyer for the EPA. He has been living in Seattle since 1993. He has four children and four grandchildren.

James "J.J." Gary '60 taught school for a number of years. He also served as mayor of Georgetown, Ga., and became superintendent of schools of Georgetown until his retirement.

Winston Gregg '60 graduated from the University of Georgia. He worked for IBM and Equifax computer/network management until his retirement in 1998. He and his wife, Nancy, have two children and five grandchildren. He is a member of the Towns County Lions Club. He enjoys his grandchildren, traveling and volunteering.

Cam Higgins '60 is a retired corporate meeting and event producer. He enjoys golf, travel, wine and food, church choir and men's ministry. He plans to retire to Florida in 2012. He has four children.

James Harris '60 retired in 1984 as a lieutenant colonel in the Army Military Police Corps. He currently works as a health care information systems project manager for MedStar Health in Silver Spring, Md. He and his wife, Sarah, have a daughter.

Edward Jacobs '60 served in Army Military Intelligence, 500th MI Group, Tay Ninh, Vietnam. He has been at Louisiana Tech University since 1972 as a professor of English and dean of the college of liberal arts. He and his wife, Karen, have four children. They reside in Ruston, La.

Norman M. 'Bo' Lovein '60 graduated from UGA in 1964. He served in the Army 93rd Evac Hospital for two years. He has worked with the Ford Motor Company since 1966. He has been a Ford dealer since 1979 at Bo Lovein Ford, Inc. He and his wife, Carol, have been married for 46 years. They have two sons and five grandchildren. He enjoys golf, reading, and is active in church and civic affairs. He is a member of the Rotary Club and a big "dawgs" fan. He and his wife live in Nashville, Ga.

Curtis Martin '60 retired from the Coast Guard. He and his wife, Patty, live in Oahu, Hawaii.

Earle McKey '60 retired as a public school art teacher. He maintains his professional art career. Earle lives in Valdosta, Ga.

Winston Jackson "Jack" McKey '60 and his wife, Betty, are naturalists who live in Augusta, Mont. See www.zikia.org.

T-Street Roommates

Joe White (left), Class of '56, and Billy King, Class of '56, point out the room they shared in T-Street Barracks. White and King were two of the 260 registered attendees at Gordon's 2011 Alumni Weekend.

Class of '61 Reunion Planning Committee

Members of the Class of '61 reunion planning committee take a break from their labors in Gordon's Alumni House. They are (back, left to right) Jed Lyles and Richard Boggs, and (seated, left to right) Doug Smith, Nancy (Bush) Shugart, Penny (Pharr) Calloway and Joan (Brooks) Ruffin.



Frank 'Mac' McKinney '60 served in the Marine Corps for four years. He worked for Southern Bell Telephone for 30 years. He and his wife, Christie, have four daughters, four granddaughters and two grandsons.

Yvonne Cooper Melvin '60 retired after 34 years of service from the Georgia Department of Public Health in Lamar County. She worked an additional 14 years in public health in several counties, training and consulting. She and her husband, Harvey, owned an antique shop in Griffin. Yvonne and Harvey live in Barnesville, Ga.

Gordon Mohler '60 graduated from Auburn University with a degree in textile management and then spent 39 years in the field. He was employed by B.F. Goodrich Co., and INT Playtex, Inc. He also worked as a consultant in Honduras for Vanity Fair. Gordon and his wife, Rachel, have three children and three grandchildren. They live in Newnan, Ga.

Robert "Jep" Morgan '60 attended Auburn University. He began his second year of college at Ringling School of Art in Sarasota, Fla. He studied commercial art and advertising. He worked for Consumer and Industrial Marketing Corp. as an artist and illustrator. After serving in Vietnam, he made documentary films and TV commercials. He is now a chef, specializing in seafood and cooking demonstrations. He and his wife, Linda, live in Acworth, Ga.

Kent Moss '60 transferred to the University of South Florida. Kent enrolled in the officer candidate school in the Marine Corps. He was commissioned to active service until 1964, and was a member of the reserves until 1966. He joined New York Life as an insurance agent in

1965 and has been in the top 250 agents for over 30 years. He and his wife, Lee, have been married for 47 years and have two daughters and two granddaughters. They live in Tampa, Fla.

Bill Murphy '60 served in the Army then became a corporate pilot for a major oil company for 25 years. He operated and owned his own aviation business for 12 years. He and his wife have a son and daughter and live in Midland, Texas.

Dal Newman '60 retired after 29 years with the Oak Ridge Plant in various mechanical and electrical positions. Dal's hobbies include astronomy, ham radio, gardening, cooking and finishing his mountain cabin. He lives in Sevierville, Tenn.

Robert Olliff '60 retired as director of operations for Jameson Inns, Inc. He and his wife, Virginia, share four daughters, one son and 15 grandchildren. They live in Dillard, Ga.

Alice Armistead Parker '60 earned an education specialist degree from Georgia State University. She worked as a social worker for Central State Hospital in Milledgeville, Ga., and Georgia Rehabilitation Center in Warm Springs, Ga. Alice taught 8th grade math classes until her retirement. She lives in Barnesville, Ga.

Harriet Jane Pippin '60 spent 42 years in the decorative industry working with interior designers at Atlanta Decorative Arts Center. She owned a catering company. Her hobbies include oil painting, sketching, and traveling. She serves as vice president on the board of directors for Wellington Buckhead Condominium Association.

James "Jim" Reynolds, Jr. '60 served five years in the Air Force. He is a mechanical engineer and owner of Reynolds Machine Design, LLC. He is semi-retired and works out of his home. Jim is very active in the Gideon's International and holds a state position. He is active in his church. He and his wife, Bea, have been married for 34 years. They live in Griffin, Ga.

William Arthur Roberts '60 entered the Marine Corp's PLC program and attended the University of Miami, receiving his BBA. After graduating from the University of Miami, he went to Washington to work for a congressman as his legislative assistant and then moved to the office of the vice president. After, he went to Westinghouse Electric Corp. and later became a Westinghouse Corp. Consultant. He and Roselee Nichols Roberts have been married for 44 years. They have two daughters and four grandchildren. They live in Maryland.

Walter A. Rollins '60 attended the University of South Florida. He accepted a position with an international shipping company. This job led to Guatemala City to help establish a national flag ocean shipping line with a Guatemalan entrepreneur. He returned to Tampa in '69 and assisted in managing shipping lines from the United States, Europe, Mediterranean and Central America. He established his own shipping company from '84-'91. Later he went to work for the U.S. Postal Service and retired from there in '07. He lives in Tampa, Fla.

Billie Ruth Rainey Tucker '60 retired from Olan Mills Portrait Studios. She also worked for the State of Georgia as a juvenile correctional officer. Billie Ruth and her husband, Kevin, live in Macon, Ga.

Ray Valdivieso '60 graduated from Emory University in 1964 with a BA in psychology. He received his MS from Columbia University School of Social Work with a concentration in community organization. He received his Ph.D. in sociology from New York University. Early in his career, he was a social worker, community organizer and college professor. After moving to the Washington D.C. suburb of Bethesda, Md., he worked as administrator in various organizations that specialized in policy analysis, advocacy or research. He retired last year as director of the board and program director at the Institute of Education Sciences. He and his wife, Carol, have a son and a daughter. Ray enjoys yoga, gardening and music. Ray and Carol reside in Bethesda, Md.

William 'Buzz' Veal '60 attended West Georgia College for two years. He was drafted in '66 to serve in Vietnam. After completing his military service, Buzz earned a bachelor of science in business administration from West Georgia College. Buzz graduated from Cumberland School of Law in Birmingham and is still practicing law there. Buzz and his wife, Dell, have been married 20 years. They share four children and ten grandchildren. Buzz and Dell were Grand Marshals in the Memorial Day parade in Hudson, N.H. They live in Birmingham, Ala.

Hank Whitmore '60 was an Air Force mechanic, flight instructor and co-pilot. After 32 years, he retired as a captain for American Airlines. After retiring Hank and his wife, Jare, lived on a 50-foot sailboat for four years, sailing the Caribbean in the winter and New England in the summer. They have one son and two daughters and 14 grandchildren. Hank and Jare live in Nokomis, Fla.

Mable Moore Wilson '60 was the first female time-study analyst at William Carter Company. She continues to work for Mental Health and Substance Abuse Intensive Housing facilities of the McIntosh Trail Community Service Board. She is an organist and bible study teacher. She works with the Alzheimer's Day Program and senior adult ministries. Mable and her husband, Wade, have been married for 48 years. They share three sons, two daughters, six grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren. They live in Barnesville, Ga.

Jennie Woodlee '60 retired from Coca-Cola after 22 years. Jennie currently serves on the Gordon College Alumni Advisory Board. Jennie's volunteer activities have included 25 years of service (in the capacities of secretary, treasurer, vice chair and chair) on the Board of Directors of Goodwill of North Georgia where she continues to serve on the Emeritus Council. She has also been a member of various other nonprofit organizations. Jennie lives—most of the time—in her Atlanta townhome with her dog, Gracie. They continue to visit Jennie's home in Barnesville, and both are enjoying Jennie's retirement very much!

Donald Beard, HS '61 is semi-retired, no longer teaching, just coaching football at Terrell Academy. Don was head coach for 33 years there and had a 139-94-6 record. The Eagles won three GISA state titles with him as their head coach during the '90s and another state title last year with him as an assistant under current coach Bill Murdock. In 2007, Terrell Academy named its football field Don Beard Field. Donald and Linda Hicks Beard have one daughter.

Joan Brooks Ruffin '61 and her husband Johnny celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary this year. They live in Yatesville, Ga.

Lloyd H. (Sonny) Cummings '65 earned an AB in education at Morehead State University in Kentucky in 1968. Coach Cummings returned to Gordon Military College to coach football from 1970 to 1972. He now resides in Lagrange, Ga.

Patsy Carter Fountain '66 graduated from Gordon Military High School and attended one year of college at Gordon before transferring to the Medical College of Georgia's School of Nursing. Her first job was as administrative assistant to the director of the Macon-Bibb County Clean Community and Energy Commission, where later she became the energy coordinator. She was employed by First Presbyterian Day School as their first development director. After 20 years of service, she retired from FPDS as the admissions director, and she and her husband, Bob, built their dream home on Lake Sinclair. They enjoy their grandchildren – four girls and two boys – as well as spending time with family and friends at their lake house. Patsy is presently serving on the Gordon Alumni Advisory Board.

1970s

Jimmy Bankston '67 '70 attended Georgia Southwestern University in Americus for two years. He farmed with his father, worked for Champion Homes and Redman Homes. He served with the emergency medical services for Webster County for many years. He was also appointed chief of Stewart County EMS until 1999. He attended the Law Enforcement Academy and was the honor graduate for his class. Jimmy was sworn in as a deputy sheriff that year fulfilling his lifelong dream to be a law enforcement officer. He retired from the sheriff's office as chief deputy in October of 2010 when he was appointed to finish out the term of the probate judge/chief magistrate for Webster County. He married the former Debbie Burton and between them have two sons, one daughter, and five grandchildren.



Let's Be on the "Same" Page Join Gordon College's Facebook Page

THE GORDON COLLEGE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION has a very active alumni group page on Facebook with more than 350 members. On the group page you will find lots of photographs uploaded by alumni, postings from our office, as well as postings from individual alumni and information about events.

Please consider joining Gordon's Alumni Association Face-

book page, but make sure you join the correct group. There is a Gordon College located in Wenham, Mass., so don't confuse its page with ours. Our page has a picture of the Gordon Highlander mascot as its graphic symbol. Check it out by pasting the following link into your browser's address bar. www.facebook.com/home.php?sk=group_201600795594.

Twins by Name Only

At first it was thought to be an error. The registration table during the 2011 Alumni Weekend had two Jimmy Bankston name tags on it.

The name had also caused some confusion on Gordon's alumni association Facebook page. Someone named Jimmy Bankston made a post, and then he made another post. The only problem was that the photo attached to one Jimmy Bankston did not match the photo of the other Jimmy Bankston.

Was someone pulling a prank on Gordon's advancement office? It wouldn't be the first (or last) time a cadet did such a thing.



James H. Bankston (left) and James C. Bankston

But no, there was no prank. There are two Jimmy Bankstons. James C. graduated from Gordon Military High School in 1964 and Gordon Military College in 1968. James H. graduated from Gordon Military High School in 1970.

John Hancock '67 '70 was inducted into the Georgia Skeet Shooting Association Hall of Fame in 2009. In 1961 the shooting, hunting and firearms industry created the National Shooting Sports Foundation as its official trade association. The NSSF established the Scholastic Clay Target Program in 2001 to introduce youths in grades 12 and under to the clay target sports. John continues his involvement with the Scholastic Clay Target Program as a guest instructor and fundraiser.

Jim Poore '69 '71 graduated from Monroe Academy in 1973. He earned a BS from East Tennessee State University in 1977. In 1985, he graduated from the General Motors Institute in Flint Michigan. Jim is a commercial truck sales fleet accounts manager.

Dan Andrews '71 has been employed by Aldora Mills for 37 years. He married Janice Moore in 1972. They have two children and two grandchildren. He and Janice live on the Rainbow Ranch in Barnesville, Ga.

Hoyt A. Hutcheson '72 transferred to West Georgia College. He left in 1974 to join the Marine Corps. He served as sergeant and crew chief on a UH1E helicopter. He worked in food and beverage manufacturing for 28 years. He currently works for Atlanta Communities Real Estate Brokerage Co. He and his wife, Paula, have one daughter and three grandchildren. He and his wife live in Norcross, Ga. He loves working in his garden.

Patty Nicholas '72 is employed by United Bank and loves being part of the United Bank family. She lives in Barnesville, Ga.

Rick Roquemore '77 graduated from Gordon Military High School in 1971. Rick served in the Air Force from 1971 until 1973 with an ICBM missile combat crew until honorably discharged. He returned to Gordon College in 1975 and earned an associate degree in criminal justice in 1977. He and Helen Capebianco of Warner Robins, Ga., have been married for 34 years. They have two daughters. He has been in retail management for the past 35 years with companies including Kmart, Rose's and currently CVS/Pharmacy as a set-up project manager opening new stores and remodeling existing stores.

1980s

Nancy Bray Goldsmith '81 '82 earned her associate degrees in general studies and business. Nancy says she received her education and life skills from Gordon College. She began as a student assistant from 1975 through 1977. After graduating in June 1977, she returned as a full-time employee in plant operations in October of 1977 through 1985. Nancy met her husband, Mike, when he came to work on the grounds crew in 1979. She and Mike have two children and live in Cleveland, S.C.

Bob Wright '83 retired in 2008 as director of personnel for Lamar County School System. Bob and Patti traveled for a year to all 50 states, four provinces of Canada, Central America, Colombia, the Virgin Islands and several other Caribbean nations before returning to work in a new capacity.

1990s

Blake Watts '90 was one of five leaders to receive the coveted title "CEO of the Year" by Health Management Associates.

Paul L. Holmer-Monte '94 graduated with an AA in political science and an AS in business administration. He attended Southwest Missouri State University, Georgia College and State University and Columbus State University. He graduated in August of 1997 with an AAS in computer science and went on to earn a BBA in May of 2000. He has worked for TSYS Acquiring Solutions since January 1997. He has served on the Columbus State University Alumni Association Board for the last 5 years. He also is involved with Pierce Chapel UMC serving on the children ministry team, leading the United Way Campaign for TSYS Acquiring Solutions in Columbus, and volunteering for the Parkinson's Unity Walk held annually in Central Park, New York City.

Niki Yates DeFreitas '95 earned a BS in environmental science at University of Georgia in 1998. Niki is the industrial hygiene project manager for S&ME in Greensboro, N.C. Niki finished her first triathlon, the Ramblin' Rose, in August 2010 and the Mistletoe Half-Marathon in December 2010. Niki married Dave DeFreitas on Dec. 31, 2010. They share two children and live in Winston Salem, N.C.

Melanie Maxwell Grayer '95 is employed at Warner Robins Air Force Base.

Marci Smith Vining '99 was the 2010 - 2011 Teacher of the Year for the Lamar County School System in Barnesville, Ga.



Fund-Raising Committee Members Celebrate Success

Samantha Bishop (left), Pat Brown, Jack Prue and Theresa Buchanan take a moment to celebrate the successful fund-raising for the Pat Brown Practice Laboratory in Gordon's new Nursing and Allied Health Building. Bishop, Prue and Buchanan are all professors of nursing at Gordon, and they also just happen to be Gordon nursing alumni. Bishop is Class of '94, Prue is Class of '95, and Buchanan is Class of 2000.

2000s

Anne Greenwald '02 received her ASN from Gordon's Nursing department. She received the prestigious Oticon's people-to-people award for her accomplishments working as a RN in the operating room although deaf. Diagnosed at birth with a hearing loss, Anne has never allowed her hearing loss to stand in the way of her desire to serve those in need. She designated the Bend Oregon Chapter of the Hearing Loss Association of Oregon as the recipient of a \$1,000 donation from Oticon Inc.

Kevin Blosser '01 '02 was elected as vice chair of the Gordon Alumni Association.

Elizabeth Boyt '09 received her BSED from Gordon College. She started working at Bethlehem Elementary in Locust Grove in September 2009. She worked as a special education teacher for grades K-5. Last year she was chair of special education, and co-taught and taught resource for grades K-2. This school year she will continue as department chair of special education. She will co-teach K-1 and teach resource K-1. Elizabeth will also be a part of a new committee within the county called the GRASP.

Janette Geasley '09 received her BSED from Gordon College. She taught 3rd grade and 5th grade at Jordan Hill Elementary in Spalding County. She will be teaching 5th grade EIP at Moreland Road. She received three teaching grants worth over \$1,700. Her plans are to begin working on her master's degree. Janette said, "Gordon's education program helped us all by creating a wonderful teaching environment that we have been able to apply to our own classrooms." She and her husband have a baby girl and they live in Hampton, Ga.

Megan Wallace LeMaster '09 received her BSED from Gordon College. She began her first year of teaching in 2010 as a kindergarten teacher at Pleasant Grove Elementary School in Stockbridge, Ga. She went to school there as a fifth grader the first year it opened. She has been married for two years and just had a daughter who is 2 1/2 months old.

Michelle Faass Lee '09 received her associate degree from Gordon in 2006. She entered the education program in 2007 and received her BSED from Gordon in 2009. She was part of the first graduating class from the education program. She started teaching kindergarten at Dutchtown Elementary in 2009 in Hampton, Ga. She married Jacob Lee on Feb. 19, 2011. They live in McDonough, Ga.

Autumn Schaffer, '09 graduated summa cum laude from Gordon with a bachelor's degree in early childhood education/special education general curriculum. She was among the first graduating class of Gordon's bachelor program. She was also Gordon's 2007 Outstanding Scholar. She is currently in a master's degree program in instruction technology at Georgia Southern University. She is currently employed as a math intervention/computer lab teacher in an elementary school located in Griffin, Ga.

Kenneth L. Vaughn '09 received his BSED from Gordon College. He is employed by Thomaston-Upson County Schools teaching 5th grade reading/language arts. He is pursuing a master's degree in education in curriculum and instruction from Georgia Southwestern State University and plans to continue with his education by pursuing certification and advanced degrees in educational leadership and reading education. Professional goals

for him include becoming a school or district administrator and becoming a professor of reading education at the university level. He started his teaching career at Upson-Lee North Elementary in the fall of 2010.

Amanda Sullivan Cates 2011 earned her associate degree from the nursing program in 2006. She has worked at Atlanta Medical Center in Women's Services as a RN for the past five years. She returned to Gordon last June 2010 and started the RN to BSN program. She just graduated with the first RN-BSN class May 2011. Her plans are to begin graduate school starting in January to become a nurse practitioner. She and her husband, Keith, live in Griffin, Ga. The two of them met at Gordon College.

What's New with You?

The *President's Report* would like to know.

We would like to stay informed about what's new in your personal and professional activities so we can share your news with other alumni and friends in our Class Notes section in next year's magazine. Please send your items to the Advancement Office, Gordon College, 419 College Drive, Barnesville, Ga., 30204, e-mail rhondat@gdn.edu or call 678-359-5073. You may also fax information to 770-359-5738. We want to know your news!

The Annual Donor Roll includes the names of those whose gifts were received between July 1, 2010, and June 30, 2011. In preparing this document every effort has been made to ensure accuracy and completeness. If a mistake was made in the way a donor is identified or if a donor's name was omitted from a gift list, we sincerely apologize. Please report any corrections to the Office of Advancement at 678-359-5124 or rhondat@gdn.edu. **Thank you.**

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One Man, Two Scholarships

Dan White is an admirer of Franklin Delano Roosevelt, so much of an admirer that he loaned Gordon College a maquette of the 32nd president, which is on display at the entrance of the Hightower Library. It shows the president sitting at one of his favorite outdoor overlooks, which is now part of the Franklin D. Roosevelt State Park in Georgia.

White's admiration did not stop here. He was so impressed that Gordon College was awarded a Georgia Historical Marker to commemorate FDR's 1938 speech on campus, that he decided to endow a scholarship in Roosevelt's name. First, however, he needed permission to use the family's name.

While waiting for this permission, White decided to endow a second scholarship, the Bill and Doris White scholarship, in honor of his parents who lived in Yatesville, Ga. This scholarship was awarded for the first time in the fall of 2010.



Dan White with Rhonda Toon, vice president of advancement.

It was also in the fall of 2010 that the Roosevelt family gave White permission, and Gordon student Isaac Fenwick became the first recipient of this scholarship on the anniversary of FDR's speech, Aug. 11, 2011.

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 Tony Byars
 Robert C. Carter
 Harold Chamberlain
 Mrs. Nettie Chastain
 Albert H. Colley
 Maj. Roy E. Congleton
 Charles and Carolyn Connell
 John R. Cook
 Virginia F. Cotter
 Maude and Mack Daniel
 Richard S. Davis
 Cleonard E. Dawkins
 Brad Edwards
 Thomas (Tommy) R. Fountain
 Mary E. George
 Linda Joyce Haire
 Colonel C. T. B. Harris
 John Hartfield
 Allison Hayes, Jr.
 Carolyn S. Heaton
 Joanne Prout Hewitt
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 Maurice Lee
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 John T. Middlebrooks
 H. Prentice Miller
 Dr. R. D. Mohler
 Graves T. Myers, III
 Mary Elizabeth Nicholas

Sterlyn A. Parish
 Margaret Willis Partain
 James A. Pharo
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 L. V. and Ida Pharr
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 Sarakay E. Willis
 Elizabeth (Libbo) Wilson

Gifts Were Given

in Honor of

Pat Brown
 Don and Nancy Estrin
 (60th wedding anniversary)
 Jimmy Hammett
 Norma Hauck
 Yolanda Jenkins
 Jim Poore
 Sylvia L. Prout
 Hightower Library Staff
 Harvey (Buddy) Tillery
 Rhonda B. Toon
 Bill and Estelle Webster



Development funds helped Ric Calhoun, a professor of business at Gordon College, to attend a conference of the Southern Association for Information Systems.

Cy Neuner's Legacy Continues to Aid Gordon Faculty and Staff

In 2007, Cyrus Neuner started a fund that would help Gordon's faculty and staff develop their careers as soon as the fund's corpus reached \$100,000.

It took four years to reach this goal, and this last academic year, the Cyrus Neuner Faculty and Staff Enrichment Fund awarded its first recipients.

The fund supplements division and departmental development budgets after they've been depleted, so now more applicants can be awarded. Even though the fund reached its \$100,000 corpus, it is still an active fund, and donors are invited to direct their gifts to this fund.

The Voice of

Marion Bush

Ms. Marion Bush dedicated a plaque honoring Clay Smith on Nov. 1, 1969.



Time and again, alumni, when remembering their professors at Gordon Military College, will remember their English professor, Marion Bush, fondly. They also remember how well she prepared them for their futures. Now, because of a generous donation of audio tapes from the Sammons family, former students can hear her voice again from a recording of the dedication of Russell Hall on Nov. 1, 1969.

As part of the dedication, Maj. Clay Smith, Gordon's band director for 37 years, was also honored. Ms. Bush gave a short laudatory speech about Smith, unveiling a plaque that was later installed in Lambdin Hall and is now part of the Hightower Library's archives.

The following is the text of the speech:



Maj. Clay Smith

"Clay Smith was richly endowed. He had an understanding heart, a ready wit, and an abiding loyalty. He loved people, young and old, rich and poor. He loved beauty in flowers and in music, and he shared his joys with others.

"He possessed a delightful sense of humor. His laughter which came quickly, was always kindly, never caustic. It never occurred to him to act sorely. His loyalty was clear and lasting, be it to a former classmate, to a worthy cause, to friends and family or to his alma mater.

"We do not need a plaque to remember him but we dedicate this work to his memory that others may know of our devotion and strive like us to be like him: faithful, kind and true.

"A gift from the college faculty, the plaque, which will be in Lambdin Hall, will now be unveiled by his great nephews Howard and Wallace Smith, who were members of the junior band, and I want to read the inscription on the plaque after they unveil it. "In memory of Clay Smith, director of bands, 1933-1969, Gordon Military College. Talented musician, loyal alumnus, faithful friend."

The recording can be heard on the Web at: www.gdn.edu/podcast/marionbush.asp. The Sammons donation also included a tape of bugle calls, including *Taps*. To hear these calls, go to: www.gdn.edu/podcast/bugle.asp.

Gifts Were Made to Continue the Support of these Funds and Scholarships

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Scholarship
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Scholarship
W. A. "Buster" Duke /Daughtry
Foundation Scholarship
Brad Edwards Memorial
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Gordon College Achievement
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Gifts Given in Support of the 350 Project to Build a Gordon Military Memorial

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Burousas/Waller Donation

This photograph of Buddy Waller displays just some of the donations of memorabilia that he and Bobbie Carol Burousas Waller donated to the College on Feb. 17, 2011. Not only did the couple donate uniform jackets and pants, but many of the things you can see in Waller's picture: service ribbon bars, rank insignia, crest pins, hats and hat covers, dress shirts and ribbons.

One of the most interesting donations from the Wallers is a photograph of three squads of cadets working on their Browning automatic rifles in front of the old Gordon Institute's auditorium/armory. This building, which dated back to the earliest days of Gordon, was destroyed by fire in 1946.

The two have also been very generous in allowing the College to scan photographs from their extensive Gordon Military College collection. These shots include scenes from downtown Barnesville.

Cadet uniforms, insignia, photographs, diplomas,



yearbooks and so much more from Gordon's military past are invaluable to today's Gordon College, because so many artifacts of the College's past have been lost.

With the help of alumni like the Wallers, Gordon is building an archive, where present-day and future Gordon students can begin to understand the College's rich history and learn about its many outstanding graduates.



Class of 1960 **50th** Reunion

Dal Newman, Gordon Mohler, Cam Higgins and Tom Papageorge. Second row: Harry Carson, Jep Morgan, Alan Giles, Ray Valdivieso, Yvonne Cooper Melvin, Patsy Brown, Mable Wilson, Billie Ruth Rainey Tucker and Byron Smith. Third row: Blaine Fielding, Wally Rollins, Frank Pattillo, Bud Pogue, Gloria (Watson) Chaffin, Julianne (Boyles) Shannon, Harriet Pippin and Martha (Berry) MacFadyen. Fourth row: Jim Pike, Jack Gibbons, Ed Owen, Dwight Winburn, Jennie Woodlee and J.T. Zellner. Fifth row: Ed Jacobs. Sixth row: Kent Moss, Earl Mackey, Winston Gregg, Bob Wines, Curtis Martin, Chris Crisman, Bo Lovein and Bob Olliff

The President's Report Is for All Gordon Alumni



Even if you attended Gordon for only a semester, you could be receiving a free copy of the *President's Report*. Let us know who you are, and we'll start your subscription. Contact the Alumni office at 678-359-5073 or e-mail rhondat@gdn.edu. You may also fax your contact

information to 770-358-5738. We want you on our roll of alumni. Gordon College, Advancement Office, 419 College Drive, Barnesville, GA 30204.