

THE BAPTIST EDUCATOR



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IABCU Meeting to Focus on 400th Anniversary of Baptists and Provide Program Sessions for Seven Administrative Disciplines

The theme for the Hester Lectures at the 2009 annual meeting and workshops of the International Association of Baptist Colleges and Universities (IABCU) May 31-June 2, 2009 will focus on the 400th anniversary of Baptists and how Baptists have influenced Christian higher education.

IABCU Board Chair Lee Royce, President of Mississippi College, will moderate all three plenary sessions and the annual business luncheon on Monday. Workshops and plenary sessions will appeal to presidents, chief academic officers, financial officers, public relations and marketing officers, development officers, student affairs officers and denominational relations officers.

There will be three workshop times with multiple sessions covering each of the administrative disciplines represented by participants (see tentative schedule on page 2).

The meeting and workshops will be at the Renaissance Ross Bridge Hotel in Hoover, Alabama, a suburb of Birmingham.

IABCU board members will meet for their June business session from 1-4 p.m. on Sunday. Board members of the Consortium for Global Education (CGE) will meet at 6 p.m. on Sunday.

Samford University will serve as host school for the meeting and a banquet will be held on campus on Monday evening followed by a dessert reception at the home of Samford president Andy Westmoreland and first lady Jeanna Westmoreland.

This year there will be three Hester Lecturers each dealing with a different aspect of the 400th anniversary of Baptists. Lecturers include Brad Creed, Provost and Professor of Religion at Samford University; Pamela Smoot, Assistant Professor of History and Black American Studies at Southern Illinois

University; and Wayne Flynt, Distinguished University Professor Emeritus, Auburn University and retired historian and social activist.

The annual legal affairs briefing for presidents and chief academic officers will provide updates on legal issues facing higher education. The briefing will be led by attorneys James Guenther and Jaime Jordan of Guenther, Jordan and Price, PC.

Carolyn Bishop, President of CGE will brief presidents on current international education opportunities for students, faculty and staff of participating schools. Bishop will make her presentation at the annual president's breakfast on Monday.

The annual business luncheon is set for Monday with an annual report from Michael Arrington, IABCU executive director.

A special tour for spouses is planned for Monday morning. The tour will include visits to Southern Progress and the Botanical Garden, which is the site of the Southern Living Garden. The group will have lunch at the Rotunda Club at Samford University.

Southern Progress Corporation has a heritage in the publishing industry, dating back to 1886 and publishes *Southern Living* and many other magazines and books.

On Tuesday, spouses will attend a breakfast followed by a workshop led by Phyllis Hoffman, Hoffman Media, on "Tips for Entertaining." Spouse registration is \$55 including the tour, lunch, the banquet and reception at Samford and breakfast on Tuesday. Spouses may attend all other sessions of the meeting.

Registration fee for participants is \$275, which includes attendance at all sessions plus two breakfasts, business lunch, and banquet and dessert reception at Samford Monday evening.

Vendors from organizations providing services for higher education will be represented in exhibits located near the conference meeting rooms.

The special reduced-room-rate at the Renaissance Ross Bridge Hotel is \$169 per night plus applicable taxes. The price is for single or double occupancy with \$20 additional for a third or fourth person. Children under 12 stay free with their parents.

The Annual Bob Agee Golf Tournament will begin at 2:30 p.m. Tuesday following the close of the conference.

To make hotel reservations and to register for the meeting and workshops go to the IABCU website at <baptistschools.org>. ■



Brad Creed



Pamela Smoot



Wayne Flint

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“Legal Notes” is designed to provide accurate and authoritative information on legal issues facing Baptist-related higher education. It is provided with the understanding that the publisher and editors are not engaged in rendering legal counsel. “Legal Notes” is not intended as a substitute for the services of a legal professional. If your institution needs legal counsel, a competent attorney should be consulted.

An annual subscription to *The Baptist Educator* is \$9.00.

TENTATIVE AGENDA 2009 IABCU ANNUAL MEETING AND WORKSHOPS

**Renaissance Ross Bridge Hotel
Hoover, Alabama (Birmingham) May 31–June 2, 2009**

SUNDAY MAY 31

- 1:00–4:00 p.m. Board of Directors Meeting
2:00 Exhibitors Arrive for Set-up
3:00–6:00 Registration
4:30–5:45 First Plenary Session: Hester Lecture: Brad Creed, Provost and Professor of Religion, Samford University
Evening is free for dinner and fellowship time.
6:00 CGE Board Meeting

MONDAY JUNE 1

- 7:30–8:45 a.m. Buffet Breakfast Meetings
CAOs: Panel Discussion: “Reactions to the Economic Crisis”
Other Sub Group Sessions: TBA
9:30 Buses leave for spouse tour of Southern Progress, lunch at the Rotunda Club at Samford University and then buses will take them for a visit to the Botanical Gardens
9:00–10:30 Second Plenary Session: Hester Lecture: Pamela Smoot, Assistant Professor of History and Black American Studies, Southern Illinois University
10:30–10:45 Break
10:45–12:00 Workshops
Presidents, CAOs and others: Legal Affairs Briefing, Jim Guenther and Jaime Jordan, Guenther, Jordan and Price, PC
PR/Marketing: Bill Wagnon, VP Communications, and staff, Birmingham-Southern College, “Case Study on Crisis Communications (Arson Fires)”
Workshop sessions for all other groups TBA
12:15–1:45 p.m. IABCU Business Luncheon—All groups meet together
1:45–2:00 Break
2:00–3:00 CAOs: James Guenther and Jaime Jordan: “Focused Legal Briefing for CAO issues” and panel discussion
PR/Marketing: Sean Doyle, principal and other staff, Fitzmartin, Inc., “Branding for Higher Education”
5:30 Buses leave for banquet and dessert reception at Samford University

TUESDAY JUNE 2

- 7:30–8:45 a.m. Breakfast—All groups meet together: Topic to be announced
8:00–9:30 Spouse Breakfast: Phyllis Hofman, “Tips for Entertaining”
9:00–10:15 PR/Marketing: Bill Todd, Public Relations for o2 Ideas, Inc., “Developing Social Media as a Marketing Tool in the Not-for-Profit Sector”
Other Groups: Don Schmeltekopf, Provost Emeritus, Baylor University, “Report on the Seminar on Academic Leadership”
10:15–10:30 Break
10:30–12:00 Third Plenary Session: Hester Lecture: Wayne Flynt. Distinguished University Professor Emeritus, Auburn University, retired historian and social activist
12:00 p.m. Adjourn
2:30 Annual Bob Agee Golf Tournament

Comment:

A Message from the Past

By Michael Arrington, Executive Director

International Association of Baptist Colleges and Universities

Since joining the staff of IABCU last year, I have sought information regarding the original purposes for which our organization was founded. Happily, my friend and colleague, Tim Fields, the affable, multi-talented Director of Communications for IABCU, recently sent me a copy of the formal announcement sixty years ago of the establishment of the association of Baptist colleges. It contains a message from our forebears that Baptist educators in 2009 may find both informative and relevant.



Michael Arrington

Dr. Charles D Johnson, Editor of *The Southern Baptist Educator* (established in May, 1937), explained the reasons for the decision to create an association of Baptist colleges in a March, 1949, column entitled "These Problems Are Not Too Big." Dr. Johnson, who authored *Higher Education of Southern Baptists*, served as chairman of the Southern Baptist Education Commission from 1932 to 1953. His career included positions from 1916 to 1962 as professor, department chairman, dean and president at Ouachita, Arkansas A&M at Monticello, Blue Mountain College and Baylor University.

Johnson explained that each Baptist school had "its own peculiar problems," but that there were also "certain problems that are common to all of our schools." Both types of problems, Johnson wrote, were given attention in articles in *The Baptist Educator* and in publications of the Education Commission, but he acknowledged that "there has been and still is a lack of coordination of planning and cooperation on the part of our Baptist colleges."

Johnson recognized that the Great Depression and World War II created turbulent times for Baptist colleges. "Now that The Southern Association of Baptist Colleges has been organized; officers have already been elected and the constitution is published in this issue of *The Educator*," Johnson wrote. "A meeting has been called and member colleges have responded readily to the call. ...Much optimism has been created in the ranks of our Baptist educational forces."

His closing remarks reflected his positive outlook on the future of Baptist higher education and are certainly applicable to our schools today. "That our educational problems are complex and numerous we do not deny, but that they can be met with intelligence and with vigor is our firm belief," Johnson wrote. "Our Baptist schools are in capable hands, and the Southern Association of Baptist Colleges provides the organization through which our educators may cooperate in their planning for the welfare of our Christian educational institutions."

Subsequently, the organization now named the International Association of Baptist Colleges & Universities held its first meeting on July 25, 1949. As we send out the call to attend the 60th anniversary meeting May 31–June 2, 2009, in Birmingham, we pray that our current member institutions will respond as enthusiastically and faithfully as they did in 1949.

In the first decade of the 21st Century, our institutions and our world are once again experiencing significant economic problems and a global war. Perhaps it is of some comfort to be reminded that the IABCU was founded for such a time as this and that our common call is a sacred trust that we share together. May God bless the faculty, staff and students of our schools. ■

In Memorium: Thomas E. Corts, 1941–2009

The untimely death of Dr. Tom Corts on February 4 shocked and saddened us all. A Georgetown College alum, Corts began his work in Baptist higher education as executive vice president of his alma mater.

His distinguished career in Baptist higher education also included successful presidencies at Wingate (1974–1983) and Samford (1983–2006).

During his presidencies at Wingate and Samford, Corts served for several terms as a board member of the International Association of Baptist Colleges and Universities (IABCU) and helped the Association in the transition in December 1996 from the auspices of the now defunct Southern Baptist Education Commission to its independent status owned and governed by its member institutions.

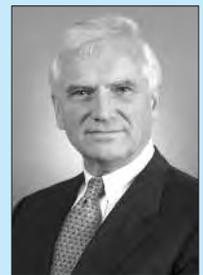
In 2006, the IABCU honored Dr. Corts with the Charles D Johnson Award in recognition of his distinguished contributions to Baptist higher education. Dr. Corts served during 2007 as IABCU's Executive Director, resigning to accept a position in President Bush's administration.

He initially served as coordinator of The President's Initiative to Expand Education and subsequently as Coordinator of Basic Education in the Office of the Director of Foreign Assistance, U.S. State Department.

The program provided aid to four million school children in Ethiopia, Ghana, Honduras, Liberia, Mali and Yemen.

Corts is survived by his wife of 44 years, Marla, two married daughters, a married son and six grandchildren.

Thank God for servant leaders such as Tom Corts. He made a positive difference for Christ throughout the world. Peace to his family and to all who loved him. We will miss him. Memorial gifts can be made to the Corts Scholarship Fund, Samford University, 800 Lakeshore Dr., Birmingham, AL 35229; or Eddie Gibson International Ministries, P. O. Box 610188, Birmingham, AL 35261. ■



Tom Corts

People, Servant Leadership, and Competitive Advantage

By Coleman Patterson

Director of the Leadership Studies Program

Professor of Management and Leadership

Hardin-Simmons University

“Here is the church, here is the steeple, open the doors and see all the people.” Those who grew up going to Sunday School and Vacation Bible School are probably familiar with that child’s rhyme and the hand motions that go with it. The rhyme gives the impression that the church and the people are separate things. As a child, I also remember going “to” church for worship services and to see friends. It took me years to realize that the church is more than just the buildings and meeting facilities; it is the people. The true church met together in homes, on the grounds for picnics and celebrations, and together on Sundays and Wednesdays for meetings and worship in the church’s facilities.

Colleges and universities, likewise, are more than academic, administrative, and office buildings and well-manicured campus grounds. They are more than endowments, computers, libraries, dormitories, lab equipment, athletic facilities, and records systems. Colleges and universities are the people who give them life—without people, college campuses would be empty buildings and unused equipment. Higher education is about the transmission and acquisition of knowledge between students and teachers in dynamic and intellectually stimulating environments.

Until recent decades, many businesses and organizations failed to fully recognize the importance of people. Through the industrial revolution, workers were viewed as machine parts. Managers would hire and train workers to perform highly specialized tasks with little attention paid to human needs or motivation.

Employees who were unable to keep up with the pace of production were replaced with workers who could maintain the pace. Control, efficiency, and rationality were stressed above all else.

It took American industry decades to realize the true value and importance of workers. Starbucks Coffee Company is a prime example of an organization that has grown and become successful in large part because of the value placed on its people. Howard Schultz, CEO of Starbucks, built the company on the belief that long-term organizational success is directly related to the value placed on its people. When members feel that the organization trusts, respects, appreciates, and values them as human beings and is willing to share the success of the company with the workers, they will pass that sense of appreciation and respect on to their customers. Starbucks lives by the philosophy that if they want to exceed the expectations of their customers, they have to exceed the expectations of their people. Exceptional service to others begins with exceptional respect and appreciation of organizational members. Schultz has said that Starbucks is not in the coffee business serving people; they are in the people business serving coffee. Starbucks uses its people-centered culture as a source of competitive advantage.

In today’s challenging economic and competitive environment, it is more important than ever for our Baptist colleges and universities to recognize that their people are their greatest assets

and sources of competitive advantage. Colleges and universities don’t need fancy buildings and beautiful campuses to be exceptional in what they do. They need people who can inspire and touch the lives of others—students, faculty, staff and external constituencies—in the pursuit of worthwhile and enviable goals.

Our Baptist colleges and universities are well positioned to use people as a source of competitive advantage. As followers of Christ, we are to serve and care for others. Christian institutions should likewise reflect a servant nature. Servant leadership, as a management philosophy, suggests that superiors should strive to meet the needs of their workers and do what they can to allow their people to grow and perform to the best of their abilities. Higher-level workers should be concerned with freeing people to perform, grow, and develop to their maximum potentials. When whole organizations are made up of people who look out for the needs of coworkers and those they serve, organizations can do exceptional things. Everyone in the organization must practice these philosophies—from top to bottom. Institutional leaders must create cultures and organizational systems that promote people-centered, high-performance work environments.

In a speech at the University of Southern California, Schultz stated that “If you can exceed the expectations of your people, if they feel that they are working in an enterprise or company that

values them as human beings and not as paychecks, values them as human beings and not as line items on the balance sheet, and they in turn can take that feeling of being respected and appreciated as an employee and share that with someone else...it comes back to you.” Schultz considers the human

resource function as the most important discipline in an organization—cracking the code on ways to attract, retain, and inspire people to capitalize and leverage human capital.

Baptist colleges and universities should likewise place primary importance on human resource functions. Our schools must hire, nurture and retain exceptional and servant-minded people—they are the lifeblood of our institutions. Policies and procedures must exist to keep the institutions in touch with their people. As schools get bigger and grow more complex, it becomes even more important to figure out ways to keep in direct contact with everyone—asking for their input, building trust and respect, and sharing the success of the institution.

So the next time that you go to church, Starbucks, or the hallowed halls of your college or university, remember that *people* are what make those institutions what they are. To paraphrase Howard Schultz, Baptist colleges and universities are not in the education business serving people; we are in the people business serving life-changing experiences. ■

Our schools must hire, nurture and retain exceptional and servant-minded people—they are the lifeblood of our institutions.

Editors note: Submission of articles to *The Baptist Educator* from administrators, faculty and staff of IABCU member schools is encouraged. Please e-mail submissions to Tim Fields, managing editor, *The Baptist Educator* at: <tim_fields@baptistschools.org>.

Personal Growth through Online Education: Success at Charleston Southern University

Charleston Southern University began to offer blended-online courses in the fall semester of 2003. “The intent was to meet the growing requests from local and near regional busy adults who desire to obtain a degree from CSU,” said Stan Parker, Dean of the Evening College at CSU.



Stan Parker

“Working with the older student required us to understand they needed flexibility, accelerated course options, and consistent services to keep them on track towards their degree.”

Charleston Southern currently offers a 48 semester-hour business management program that has become popular for the busy working adult student. The Bachelor of Management Arts (BMA) degree completion program gives students 23 years of age and older the ability to move faster and accomplish a satisfying degree program that can support their need to enter, change and advance careers.

Aron Simons, Marketing and Customer Service Manager with Briggs Industries, represents many of the students who enroll in this program.

“I attempted to balance the need for education with the reality of the demands of work and life. Internally, there was no real decision to make; I had to get my degree to be able to compete,” Simons said. “In fact, I was presently working a job that required a degree. I had tried another school in the past, but something was missing.”

“When I researched the Bachelor of Management Arts program at Charleston Southern University and saw how it worked, it suddenly clicked. I truly believe God led me to the BMA program because I have been so motivated by the possibilities before me. Since starting the program, the CSU mission has been

apparent in the conduct of the faculty and it has fostered my personal growth,” Simons said.

“Like most of the students enrolling in the BMA, Aron responded to local newspaper and radio advertising,” Parker explained. “We also partner with The Learning House, Inc., a comprehensive online education solutions company, in promoting the program in a variety of offline and online venues including www.eLearnPortal.com.”

Rather than trying to pull together the resources needed to deliver Web content and online courses on its own, CSU found a strategic partner in Learning House, highly specialized in online education.

“Learning House provided the tools necessary for us to move from having a class totally in the classroom to engaging students through the Internet. They worked with us to ensure that each of the 16 program courses met the requirements of Charleston Southern University,” Parker said. “Offering online courses requires strong technical support. We liked the 24/7, 365 days a year technical support and excellent training Learning House provides to both students and the professors.”

The Bachelor of Management Arts (BMA) program has allowed CSU to expand into new opportunities for meeting nontraditional student needs. “CSU has a distance education task force chaired by Dr. James Colman, VPAA, to identify other degree programs, courses, and continuing education certifications that can be offered completely online.

We hope the benefits of online education will spread across the academic programs at CSU beyond undergraduate adult education. Online education can help us deal with classroom availability challenges and perhaps expand the summer term offerings. The possibilities are exciting,” said Parker.

Like other Christian colleges and universities, CSU “backed into” offering the blended-online courses. “The BMA has been a mixture of strategic planning and an involvement in how we do things at CSU. This is good, and the future is bright for the online learner who can take courses, programs, and career related certifications at Charleston Southern University.”

“I cannot say enough about the quality of the education and the convenience of the format of the Bachelor of Management Arts program. For the first time, I feel like a degree is actually within my reach,” Simons said.

“Supporting working students like Aron is possible as we continue to expand our reach, and online education is going to be the vehicle to serve them,” Parker said.

About Charleston Southern University

Charleston Southern University (www.csuniv.edu) was established in 1964 as a liberal arts higher education

institution, founded on and driven by strong Christian values and academic excellence. CSU is accredited by the Commission on Colleges of

the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools to award associate’s, bachelor’s and master’s degrees.

About Learning House

The Learning House, Inc. (www.learninghouse.com) is a comprehensive online education solutions provider that helps colleges and universities offer and manage their online degree programs. Learning House provides creative and support services in course publishing, learning management systems, marketing, technology support, faculty and staff training, online education, infrastructure and consulting. ■

“Supporting working students like Aron is possible as we continue to expand our reach, and online education is going to be the vehicle to serve them.”



Names & Faces

Samuel W. 'Dub' Oliver to Assume Presidency of ETBU in July

By Mike Midkiff

ETBU Director of Public Relations

The East Texas Baptist University Board of Trustees has elected Dr. Samuel W. "Dub" Oliver of Waco, Texas, as its next president. Oliver will succeed current president Bob E. Riley who is retiring effective July 16, 2009 after 17 years at the helm.

Oliver currently serves as the Vice President for Student Life at Baylor University. He has served in various positions and has been employed at Baylor for 16 years. Oliver will join ETBU as its 12th president effective June 1, 2009.



Samuel "Dub" Oliver

"After an extensive nation-wide search, Dr. 'Dub' Oliver comes to ETBU highly recommended to lead this university as its next President," said Cornish, who also served as the chair of the Presidential Search Committee. "His credentials as a senior administrator are very extensive and impressive. In his current position, he is responsible for over 14,000 students and supervises a staff of over 500 people."

"Dr. Oliver has responsibility of what is normally referred to as Student Services plus Spiritual life and is also in charge of the Baylor University Health Center which provides medical care to students attending Baylor," added Cornish.

"Susie and I are humbled and excited to have this opportunity to serve at East Texas Baptist University," said Oliver. "We're thankful for the Presidential Search Committee, the Board of Trustees, President Bob and Gayle Riley, and the ETBU family who have been so welcoming and encouraging to us."

A native of San Antonio, Texas, Oliver is a graduate of Baylor University with a Bachelor of Science degree in Education. He holds a Master of Science degree in Educational Psychology from Texas A&M University. Oliver earned his Doctor of Philosophy degree in Educational Administration from Texas A & M as well. He is also a licensed and ordained Baptist minister and has served since October 2003 as the pastor of Canaan Baptist Church of Crawford, Texas.

Oliver came to Baylor in April 1992 from Texas A&M University, to serve as Director of Student Activities. In June 1999, he took on additional responsibilities as the Associate Dean for Campus Life. Then in June 2001, Oliver was promoted to be the Dean for Student Development, a post he held until June 2005 when he was named Assistant Vice President for Student Life. For a year he served as Interim Vice President for Student Life before being named the Vice President for Student Life. Oliver has also served Baylor as a Visiting Professor in the Hankamer School of Business, an Adjunct Professor in the School of Education, and Interim University Chaplain. He served in the United States Air Force stationed at Carswell Air Force Base in the late 1980's. Before entering graduate school, he was a third grade teacher in the Fort Worth Independent School District.

Dr. Oliver's wife, Susie, is currently an adjunct faculty member and full-time cheerleader coach at Baylor. She and Dr. Oliver have a daughter, Callie, who is a junior in high school.

"East Texas Baptist University, near the conclusion of its first century of service and at the beginning of a new century of faithfulness, is well positioned for increased excellence in all its endeavors. In doing so, the University will, by God's grace, become an even brighter light on the hill to a world that is desperately in need," said Oliver. ■

Union President David W. Dockery Featured in New Baptist Theology Book

Union University President David S. Dockery is featured prominently in *Baptist Theology: A Four-Century Study*, the monumental 700-page work on Baptists by James Leo Garrett Jr.

Garrett has been a Baptist theological educator for more than 50 years, teaching at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Southern Baptist Theological Seminary and Baylor University.

Gregory A. Thornbury, dean of the School of Christian Studies at Union, said Garrett's new "Baptist Theology" book is now the standard volume on the identity of Baptists throughout history.

"The significance of the work is that the Baptist movement is one of the major tributaries flowing out of the Protestant Reformation, and no one had attempted such a comprehensive intellectual history of the movement before," Thornbury said. "To begin in the 17th century and to bring it up to 2009 is an astonishing achievement. And no one could have told the story better than James Leo Garrett."

Thornbury added that ideas and theology shape movements, and that's what Garrett has captured in his book.

After tracing the roots of Baptist beliefs, Garrett starts with English General Baptists, and moves then to English Particular Baptists. From there he turns to Roger Williams and other early American Baptists, then Baptists leaders and theologians up to the present day. Dockery is included in Garrett's final chapter, "New Voices in Baptist Theology." The chapter includes summaries of John Piper, Tom Nettles, D.A. Carson, Wayne Grudem and Timothy George, among others.

Garrett provides a brief biographical sketch of Dockery and a summary of his writing and editing projects, including such works as *Baptist Theologians*, *Theologians of the Baptist Tradition*, the New American Commentary series, *Shaping a Christian Worldview: The Foundations of Higher Education*, *Biblical Interpretation Then and Now* and dozens of others.

"Dockery's greatest specialization has come in biblical hermeneutics, beginning with his doctoral dissertation," Garrett writes.

Thornbury observed the significance of the space dedicated to Dockery.

"He gets as much coverage as E.Y. Mullins," Thornbury said. "David Dockery has been more productive and prolific than any other Baptist theologian in recent history. He's been involved in building movements and shaping coalitions that have impact and effect?"

Thornbury also cited Dockery's role in helping to bring about a renaissance of Christian higher education by focusing on the Christian intellectual tradition.

"He's a major figure in Baptist history," Thornbury said. ■

OBU President Whitlock Has a Passion for People and a Vision for the Future

When David Whitlock met the woman who would become his wife, he was wearing an overcoat. Already a college faculty member, he also was becoming a special project for friends seeking to find him a female companion. One friend called Whitlock's office and told him she was bringing over a friend who had come to visit the Southeastern Oklahoma State University campus in Durant. He kindly pointed out that he was wearing brown—perhaps not his most flattering fashion color—and he probably did not have enough spare time to meet the lady. The friend was undeterred.

Anticipating the meeting, Whitlock told his secretary he was putting on an overcoat. If he did not want to spend time visiting with his friend's friend, he would simply excuse himself and head out of the building. Minutes later, the two ladies arrived, and the bachelor professor met Dana Searles for the first time. The women immediately noted his coat and apologized for catching him on the way out the door.

"Oh, I'm not going anywhere," David said.

His answer was correct at that moment, but his life has been in constant motion ever since.

Humor and adaptability come easy for Whitlock. The latter can aid development of the former. A fifth-generation Oklahoman, he had the opportunity to live in several communities while growing up. Finding the humor and light-hearted aspects in new situations helped ease transitions. It is a skill which has served him well in the early days of his tenure as Oklahoma Baptist University's 15th president.

When he officially took office on Nov. 1, 2008, Whitlock brought with him 24 years of experience as a college educator and administrator. After 14 years on the faculty at a regional state university, he spent nine years at Southwest Baptist University. In recent years, his administrative responsibilities were steadily increasing. Looking back, he sees a path of preparation for his current job. He can trace the start of the journey back to his first visit to Bison Hill in 1993. Touring OBU's new Bailey Business Center just before it opened more than 15 years ago, Whitlock was impressed with the University's focus as a Christian liberal arts institution. Returning home to Durant that night, he told Dana he believed God was calling him to OBU. He was focused, but he had no clue as to the timetable for that call.

Whitlock is not wasting time making his focus and passion apparent to the University's constituents. He is working to convey his vision for the University known for faith integration and academic excellence, surging forward to fulfill its commitment to the Great Commission and the Great Commandment.

Although he will often couch statements in humor, his message is clear. He sees OBU building on historic strengths while seeking ways to expand its influence through initiatives to bolster academic achievement and through globalization of the curriculum. He acts with the personal fervor of a man who sees fresh opportunity to use gifts and talents he recently learned to appreciate. To a degree, that is an accurate depiction of his personal experience.

Whitlock graduated from Wayne High School, and opted to pursue a chemistry degree at SEOSU. His extended family has long-standing Baptist connections, and his great-grandfather and grandfather were both Baptist ministers. It was easy for him to form friendships with students active in the Baptist Student Union at SEOSU, but he did not make a decision to accept Christ as his personal Savior until after he and Dana were married. Becoming a Christian "later in life," as he describes his conversion, gave Whitlock



David Whitlock

a passion to make sure others did not need to wait so long to find that joy in life's journey.

Already on a career path in higher education, he sensed God calling him to expand his work without abandoning that core profession. He became a bivocational pastor in 1993, called by Hendrix Baptist Church south of Durant. He was co-pastor of Wellspring Baptist Fellowship in Bolivar from 1999 until his move to OBU in the fall of 2008. One of his pastorates nearly altered his academic career path. While serving as pastor of Silo Baptist Church in a small town northwest of Durant, he was offered a dean's post at Southwest Baptist University. But at the time, the church was in the midst of a building program, and he felt he was unable to leave the congregation. A year later, with the building project nearing completion, he was invited to reconsider the SBU position, which the university had left unfilled over that span. The coincidental timing was not a coincidence in Whitlock's view.

The pastoral experience, coupled with his academic background, gives him a leadership style which seems somewhat laid back, but can quickly cut to the heart of instructional issues or academic delivery models.

Whitlock hopes to be a servant-leader who can follow a philosophy of higher education leadership which he traces to mentors including OBU President Emeritus Bob R. Agee; SBU President C. Pat Taylor, who was OBU's chief academic officer for 10 years; and C. Henry Gold, a long-time administrator at SEOSU. An avid reader, Whitlock says his views have been informed by noted evangelical academicians, including Arthur Holmes, George Marsden, Michael Beatty and David Dockery.

On one hand, he is leading with strong academic preparation. He completed an M.B.A. degree from SEOSU in 1985, and finished a Ph.D. degree in educational leadership 10 years later. He knows higher education models for both public and private institutions. He has written or edited books on business. He has been an academic dean, an associate provost, a strategic planning specialist, and the director of graduate, off-campus and adult education programs. He knows what academic success looks like.

On the other hand, he is leading with a strong sense of God's call on his life. He knows what it feels like to have your life redirected by a commitment to Christ. He has been a pastor, a mission team leader, and a local ministry volunteer. He is the father of four sons, including one who is on active service in the U.S. Navy and another who is a college student.

Integration of his faith and his academic profession is not difficult for Whitlock. He knows it has been a working model for OBU throughout the University's history. David Wesley Whitlock appreciates the history, which is evident in his delight at sharing the middle name of OBU's longest-tenured president, Dr. John Wesley Raley. He is delighted to be in the middle of the effort to carry on the OBU legacy of academic excellence and commitment to a Baptist heritage.

When he was first introduced to his wife, he had plans for a hasty escape. But things worked out better than he could have imagined. When he came to OBU, it was the culmination of a 15-year plan he sensed God had for him. He has taken off the overcoat and anticipates a long, focused relationship with the University.

Inauguration Slated For May 1

OBU will inaugurate President David W. Whitlock at 10 a.m. May 1 in Raley Chapel's Potter Auditorium. Bob R. Agee, OBU president emeritus, will present the inaugural address. An inaugural worship service is planned for Thursday, April 30, at 7 p.m. in Potter Auditorium. ■

Hardin-Simmons University Names Lanny Hall as New President

Lanny Hall, President of Howard Payne University since 2003 has been named President of Hardin-Simmons University. Hall will be the 15th president in HSU's 118-year history as he returns to the university where he was a student more than 40 years ago and served as President and then Chancellor.



Lanny Hall

Chairman of the HSU Board of Trustees, Hilton Hemphill says, "Dr. Hall knows and loves the school and has an exciting vision for enhancing its academic excellence and facilities. He has extensive experience in fundraising and in the financial management of a university."

Hall began his administrative career in higher education in 1986 as the Executive Vice President and Chief Academic Officer at Howard Payne, leaving there in 1989 to take over the reins as President of Wayland Baptist University in Plainview

where he served until 1991.

Hall then served as President at Hardin-Simmons from 1991-2001 before being named chancellor in 2001. As Chancellor, he held the Haggerton Chair of Political Science and served as Executive Director of the HSU Institute for Leadership.

He served as president of Howard Payne from 2003 to 2009.

During his previous administration at HSU, the school experienced growth in many areas, including enrollment, endowment, academic programs, and campus facilities.

Under his leadership, HSU added numerous new campus buildings, including the Skiles Social Sciences Building and the Connally Missions Center. Hall also managed to more than double the University's endowment.

"Carol and I love the work in which we have been engaged over the last twenty years," says Dr. Hall. "We welcome the opportunity to put all of our experience, ability, talent and energy to work again for Hardin-Simmons University."

Two committees, the Presidential Search

Committee and the Search Advisory Committee, jointly evaluated numerous candidates. The search committees were made up of people from a wide variety of roles at the University—trustees, faculty, staff, members from various HSU boards, and the HSU student body president. Committee Chairman Hemphill said, "Personal interviews were conducted with the top ten candidates with more in-depth visits with the four finalists."

Hall has a distinguished career in education and government. It includes service as a public school teacher, congressional aide, state agency executive, and university professor, vice-president, president, and chancellor.

He was a member of the Texas House of Representatives from 1979 to 1984 and served in key government leadership positions at the national level.

Hall earned his Ph.D. in Educational Administration from the University of Texas in Austin in 1985.

He and his wife, Carol, have two children—Lana McCutchen and Chad Hall—and three grandchildren. ■

Loans Help Administrators and Faculty Pursue Doctoral Degrees

Robertson/Farmer/Hester Educational Loan funds designed to assist full-time faculty or administrators at qualifying Southern Baptist-related educational institutions to obtain their doctoral degrees and postdoctoral study/research are available from the Southern Baptist Foundation.

Applicants are required to be active members of a local Southern Baptist church and they must have been accepted in a program of doctoral or postdoctoral study. Professors and administrators can be awarded up to a maximum of \$10,000 over a five-year period with a maximum of \$2,000 per semester and \$1,500 per summer term.

The loans are to be paid back in service at a qualifying Southern Baptist school at the rate of \$2,000 per academic year. If a loan recipient ceases to be employed by a qualifying Southern Baptist educational institution for any reason or fails to complete the degree in five years the loan must be paid back in cash plus interest.

Applications and policies can be requested by calling Margaret Cammuse at the Southern Baptist Foundation, 615-254-8823. Deadline for applications is April 15 for consideration for the next academic year. ■



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Tuition Remission Program at 37 IABCU Member Schools Provides Valuable Benefit for Faculty, Staff and Administrators

Under the guidelines of the Tuition Remission Program coordinated by the International Association of Baptist Colleges and Universities, dependent children of full-time faculty and administrators in Baptist colleges and universities that enter into the Tuition Remission Agreement and are eligible to receive tuition benefits at their home institutions will ordinarily be eligible to receive benefits at a participating institution.

The president of the home institution must certify to the host institution that the teacher or administrator is eligible for such benefits and that he or she holds full-time appointment.

If the parent ceases to hold appointment in the home institution, the benefit in the host institution may be withdrawn. The Internal Revenue Service definition of child dependency will be used to determine a student's eligibility. If the student ceases to meet the IRS definition, the benefit may be withdrawn by the host institution.

What are the Admissions Qualifications?

Eligible students must meet the usual requirements for admission in a host institution, and accept its usual academic and social regulations. Enrollment must be in a full-time program of study; guest or transit students may not participate.

The host institution reserves the right to refuse admission to certain programs of study which may already be at capacity enrollment.

What is the Tuition Remission Benefit?

That portion of the annual comprehensive charges which is designated as "tuition" by the host institution will be remitted. The benefit will continue as long as the student is in good standing in the host institution and as long as he meets the definitions of eligibility in the first paragraph above. Other charges (room, board, fees) are the responsibility of the student. Although students may

ordinarily live in college residences, no guarantee of residence space can be given in cases of capacity enrollments. Where residence space is available, students may be required to live in the host institution dormitory, depending on its usual residential requirements.

What About Other Forms of Financial Aid?

A student may be required by the host institution to apply for any tuition grants (state, federal, or other) for which he is eligible. Any such aid must be applied to the cost of tuition at the host institution, and the balance of the tuition will then be remitted. If a student can demonstrate need beyond tuition, he will be eligible to receive other forms of financial aid according to the usual regulations of the host institution.

When Does the Agreement Take Effect?

Tuition remission benefits will be available immediately and will be in effect until an institution withdraws its participation. The Tuition Remission Agreement is subject to annual review and possible re-negotiation by all institutional parties to the agreement. Each institution may make a decision annually to accept or refuse new students under the agreement for the following academic year.

Each institution is expected to be willing to accept no fewer students than it exports, but in any case each institution agrees to accept at least 5 qualified students per year. An institution may, at its discretion; limit enrollment to 5 students per year, provided it accepts as many students as it exports.

What Other Institutional Agreements are Involved?

It is understood that the host institution reserves the right to make exceptions to the agreement, for good and sufficient reason, in considering the eligibility of a given applicant; but as a matter of policy, each institution accepts the

provisions of the agreement and indicates its willingness to work as consistently as possible within them. Where an exception is necessary, notification to the president of the home institution is expected as a matter of courtesy. Note: Some institutions have qualifying provisions to their participation, e.g., one-for-one exchange, exclusions from specific programs, limitation to undergraduate study, and limitation to specific institutions accepted for mutual participation.

Participating Member Schools of the International Association of Baptist Colleges and Universities agree to participate with all other member schools unless a school explicitly excludes another school or schools from its list. A school can withdraw membership in the program at any time and each school will be notified if a new school is added or deleted from the program.

A Reminder on Tuition Remission Agreement

Each college is protected by:

1. Maintaining its own admission standards.
2. Remitting only the tuition portion of costs.
3. Enrolling a combined total of only five students per year under the plan.
4. Reviewing the program annually.
5. Retaining the right to exclude certain programs from the agreement, and
6. Retaining the right to establish conditions on or make exceptions to the agreement.

What is the First Step?

When contacting the Admissions Office of the prospective host institution, the student should:

1. make it clear that admission is being sought under the Tuition Remission Agreement,
2. present a letter from the president of the home institution certifying eligibility on the terms described in this agreement, and
3. present a signed copy of the letter of intent that is appended to this agree-

ment.

Institutions Participating in the Tuition Remission Agreement

1. Anderson University
2. Baptist College of Florida
3. Belmont University
4. Bluefield College
5. Brewton-Parker College
6. California Baptist University
7. Campbell University
8. Campbellsville University
9. Carson-Newman College
10. Charleston Southern
11. Chowan University
12. Clear Creek Baptist College
13. University of the Cumberlands
14. Dallas Baptist University
15. East Texas Baptist University
16. Gardner-Webb University
17. Georgetown College
18. Hannibal-LaGrange College
19. Hardin-Simmons University
20. Howard Payne University
21. Houston Baptist University
22. Judson College (Alabama)
23. Louisiana College
24. Mary Hardin-Baylor, Univ. of
25. Mid-Continent University

26. Mississippi College
27. Missouri Baptist University
28. North Greenville University
29. Oklahoma Baptist University
30. Ouachita Baptist University
31. Southwest Baptist University

32. Truett-McConnell College
33. Union University
34. Virginia Intermont College
35. Wayland Baptist University
36. William Carey University
37. Williams Baptist College

Sample Letter of Intent for Baptist Colleges and Universities Tuition Remission

I understand that I am provided the opportunity to participate in this tuition remission program:

between _____ (home institution) and _____ (host institution)

because of benefits provided a member of my family through his or her employment. I agree to accept this tuition exchange opportunity and enter into the agreement with a full understanding that I will represent myself in all ways so as to be in agreement with the practices, policies and understanding of the two institutions, and I will be responsible for the charges other than tuition, and that I will agree to avail myself of every scholarship or grant opportunity, public or private, which may be available through either of the institutions. I accept this agreement as a position of trust as well as an opportunity to continue my studies in a Christian College environment.

Student Signature _____ Date _____

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President
Baptist College of Florida
5400 College Drive
Graceville, FL 32440

Dr. Betty Sue McGarvey

President
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Memphis, TN 38104

Dr. René Maciel

President
Baptist University of the Americas
8019 South Pan Am Expressway
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Dr. David E. Garland

Interim President
Baylor University
P. O. Box 97096
Waco, TX 76798

Dr. Robert Fisher

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Dr. David Olive

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3000 College Drive
Bluefield, VA 24605

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8432 Magnolia Avenue
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2200 Hickory Street
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President
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7502 Fondren Road
Houston, TX 77074-3298

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President
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1000 Fisk
Brownwood, TX 76801-2794

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Marion, AL 36756

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1400 Coleman Avenue
Macon, GA 31207

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99 Powell Road East
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Dr. Tommy King
President
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Hattiesburg, MS 39401-5499

Dr. Jerol B. Swaim
President
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Walnut Ridge, AR 72476

Dr. William S. Phillips
President
Yellowstone Baptist College
1515 South Shiloh Road
Billings, MT 59106 ■

Palm Beach Atlantic University President David Clark Receives Prestigious Broadcasters Award

David W. Clark, president of Palm Beach Atlantic University, is the 2009 recipient of the prestigious William Ward Ayer Distinguished Service Award given by the National Religious Broadcasters (NRB) at their national convention held recently in Nashville.

"I have had the wonderful privilege of serving the Lord in many aspects of Christian broadcasting over the years," said Clark in accepting the award. "I am deeply honored by this award in the name of William Ward Ayer, one of the pioneers and founders of NRB."

A member of the NRB board of directors for 30 years, Clark served two three-year terms as chairman and also as treasurer. He launched and raised money for the Legal Defense Fund and served as chair of every major committee of NRB.

Clark's extensive work in the communication field includes vice president of marketing for CBN, founding dean of the College of Communication at Regent University, vice president of media for the Southern Baptist Convention in North America, president of KMC Media, and FamilyNet.

While at FamilyNet he executive-produced dozens of television and radio programs, including the Emmy Award-winner "We Shall Not be Moved."

Clark also has appeared on many television programs, such as the Today Show, to discuss Christian broadcasting. ■

How the Stimulus Law Makes Aid To Church-Related Schools Constitutional—But, There May Be No Aid Anyway



The whole universe of those persons who have actually read “(3)-modernization, renovation or repair of facilities,” of “(c)-Additional Prohibition,” of “Section 14004-Uses of Funds By Institutions of Higher Education,” of “Title XIV-State Fiscal Stabilization Fund,” of “Division A-Appropriation Provisions,” of the act of Congress which goes by the “short title” (and that is all that is mercifully “short” about it) of “The American Recovery and Restoration Act of 2009,” must be small. Having found that little section, I joined that universe, but I am too tired to be proud.

But if a lawyer is going to talk about the law, he ought to first read the law. Valid proposition? If so, might this also be a valid proposition: For a senator or congressman to vote on a law, he ought to first read the law. Maybe so, but surely no legislator who voted for the stimulus bill would claim to have first read it.

Here is what 14004(c)(3) of Division A of Title XIV says: “No funds awarded under this title may be used for. . . modernization, renovation, or repair of facilities (A) used for sectarian instruction or religious worship, or (B) in which a substantial portion of the functions of the facilities are subsumed in a religious mission.”

That’s what, out of all the pages it took to write this law down, I most needed to know. I knew that private higher education had lost out on direct aid. But, I also knew that the governors are going to get discretionary funds to help the states fund: “key services,” and that “education” is a key service. So my question was: Can a state governor use some of the money to fund a private college or university, and, can a governor fund a church-related private college?

I first discovered that the governors were told in the Act that they “shall not consider the type or mission of an institution of higher education, and shall consider any institution for funding for modernization, renovation and repairs.” So far, so good. “Any institution” includes private institutions, and “type of mission” seems to suggest that my Baptist college and university clients, with their Christian mission, might be included among those who could be “considered” for financial help.

But, I needed more. Anytime congress or a state legislature makes funding directly available to a church-related college or university, the question arises: “Is the funding an unconstitutional establishment of religion?”

There it was! In this prohibition, Congress recited the mantra created by the courts. In those few words quoted above, Congress said it knew what it was doing. It knew what limitations were needed in order to make this possible funding of church-related schools pass constitutional muster. While private, church-related institutions of higher education with their special mission might receive direct funding, that money could not be used for sectarian instruction or religious worship or for a facilities whose use was “subsumed in a religious mission.”

If Congress had passed this stimulus bill with church-related schools in line for direct assistance and had not put in that limitation, the Constitution would have effectively inserted it anyway. So, just to signal that they understood their legislative restrictions, Congress said it.

While none of our elected representatives could have read all this bill, at least one Senator, Jim DeMint (SC), had keyed in on this provision. The Senate version had originally said this a little differently. “A” had read:

Facility funds may not be “used for sectarian instruction, religious worship, or a school or department of divinity.”

(I suspect the congressional staff and administrative bureaucrats who were in the trenches struggling with the words decided that this version was redundant, so they dropped “or a school or department of divinity” since “sectarian instruction” would cover divinity schools).

We had alerted our higher education clients to this language, and opined (a) that church-related schools, even those which might be deemed “pervasively sectarian,” would be eligible to receive funding at the option of a governor, as long as the funds were not used in facilities used for sectarian instruction or worship; and (b) that such aid would be constitutional.

But, DeMint was not certain about the constitutionality. So he asked the Congressional Research Service for an opinion. The response he received said, “A prohibition of this sort. . . likely is required to be included under U.S. Supreme Court precedent.” The opinion went on to summarize the state of the law thusly:

Early Court decisions required direct aid programs to be limited to secular use. However, even if the aid was limited to secular use, the Court often found the aid program to be unconstitutional because it presumed that, in pervasively sectarian institutions like religious schools, it was impossible for public aid to be limited to secular use.

Later Court decisions lowered the constitutional barriers to direct aid to sectarian schools, specifically abandoning the assumption that religious schools are so pervasively sectarian that direct aid results in the advancement of religion or fosters excessive entanglement. The Court still requires that direct aid serve a secular purpose and not lead to excessive entanglement. It also requires that the aid be secular in nature, that its distribution be based on religiously neutral criteria, and that it not be used for religious indoctrination.

The Congressional Research Service opinion concluded that the law, with this prohibition in it, is constitutional, that repairing educational facilities serves a secular purpose, and that no excessive entanglement with religion would result from funding going to a religious school. The Service also concluded the aid itself was secular and that all schools were eligible without regard to their religious character.

So, while the drafting was fast and the enactment route a bit tortured, the stimulus package got it constitutionally right. Unfortunately, it is probably unlikely that governors will use any of the money to aid private institutions.

Did we win the battle but lose the war?

Jim Guenther is a partner in the law firm of Guenther, Jordan and Price, P.C. in Nashville, Tennessee, 615-329-2100. ■



Mercer Announces Four-Year Graduation Guarantee

With a goal of reducing the cost of a college education for students and their families, Mercer University has announced an initiative called the “Four-Year Pledge” to help more undergraduate students earn their degrees on time.

Trends over the past decade indicate that college students are increasingly failing to graduate within four years. Nationally, the average time from matriculation to graduation now exceeds five years, with only 37 percent of students graduating in four years. This trend is making a college education significantly more expensive by inflating the direct costs of college—tuition, fees, room and board—as well as the indirect costs associated with delaying entry into the employment market.

“At a growing number of colleges and universities, a four-year undergraduate degree is going the way of the dinosaur,” said Brian Dalton, Mercer’s vice president for enrollment management. “The Mercer Four-Year Pledge reflects the commitment of our faculty and staff to the success of our students. It is designed to encourage students to be intentional and responsible in successfully pursuing an undergraduate degree within four years of matriculation. And it encourages the University to be a responsible partner in working with students to achieve this desired outcome,” Dalton said.

In keeping with the institution’s 176-year tradition of excellence, leadership and innovation in higher education, Mercer pledges to provide an educational environment that enables and encourages students to graduate within eight semesters of matriculation. Beginning with the freshman class of 2009, students who do their work, pass their classes, and follow the advice of faculty advisers will graduate within four years. Under the program, if a student does not graduate within this time frame, the cost of whatever additional courses are required to graduate will be absorbed by the University.

One of only a handful of universities in the country to offer such a guarantee, the University is backing up the pledge with major investments in technology upgrades to allow even better tracking, monitoring and advising as students and their academic advisers navigate progress toward a four-year degree. Mercer will provide written audits to students at the end of each academic year, documenting progress toward their goal of graduating in four years. The institution will also continue invest-

ing millions of dollars in institutionally funded scholarships to ensure that the University offers the affordable value that national publications have recognized. *The Princeton Review* has designated Mercer as a “Best Value” for its excellent academics and “relatively low costs of attendance,” while *U.S. News & World Report* includes Mercer on its list of “Great Schools, Great Prices.”

“With this pledge, we seek to ensure that our students enter the next phase of their lives much faster than the national average—avoiding the additional financial burden that results from prolonging an undergraduate education and accelerating their journey to becoming productive and successful citizens,” Dalton said.

The Mercer Four-Year Pledge states: “If the student adheres to all pledge stipulations and is not able to graduate within four years of matriculating, Mercer will provide the student a waiver of tuition and fees for all additional courses required for graduation. If the student has lived in campus housing all four years, then the University will provide a waiver of on-campus housing costs. If the student has utilized campus meal plans for all four years, then the University will provide an equivalent meal plan at no cost for the additional required time of enrollment.”

“A college education represents one of the most precious opportunities in our society,” said Mercer President William D. Underwood. “Mercer University is committed to helping reduce the cost of higher education, thus lightening the financial burdens on our students and their families.” For more information on the Four-Year Pledge, go to <www.mercer.edu/pledge> or call (800) 840-8577 or (478) 301-2650.

Baylor University Launches Search for New President

The two committees involved in selecting the next president of Baylor University kicked off their efforts March 24, 2009 in a joint session held on Baylor’s campus.

The Presidential Search Committee and the Presidential Search Advisory Committee got to work immediately, discussing responsibilities of the committees and developing a comprehensive plan for forthcoming listening sessions with members of the Baylor family, including those represented by the Presidential Search Advisory Committee: Baylor faculty, alumni, staff and students, Texas Baptists and the Waco community.

The plans developed by the committees for the listening sessions include more than a dozen separate meetings to be held in Waco and around Texas. Plans call for separate sessions to help ensure that each group has the opportunity to provide equal input.

Additional topics of discussion included the selection of the Atlanta-based firm of Baker and Associates which has been chosen to assist with the national search for Baylor’s next president.

The committees recommend the Baylor Presidential Search web site a: <www.baylor.edu/president/search> for updates as the search process moves forward. The web site also features information on the full membership of both committees and an online form where the Baylor family is invited to provide input.

Samford Dedicates Building as William Self Propst Hall

Samford University dedicated its \$27-million science building as William Self Propst Hall March 10, honoring a 1961 Samford graduate who became one of the nation’s most successful pharmacists.

“William Self Propst has given us appropriate cause for celebration, with one of the most significant gifts in the 167-year history of our institution,” said Samford President Andrew Westmoreland.

“His gifts will endow the upkeep of this building in perpetuity, they will provide enrichment funds for the natural sciences and for pharmacy, and they will secure a measure of strength for the breadth of Samford University, now and in all the years ahead.”

The 96,000-square foot building, known as the Sciencenter since its completion in 2001, is home to Samford biology, chemistry and physics programs. It also houses a 2,000-square foot medicinal plant conservatory, the Christenberry Planetarium and the Vulcan Materials Center for Environmental Stewardship and Education.

Propst began his pharmacy career in his hometown of Huntsville, Ala., with one store after graduation, but initiated the concept of leased pharmacy operations in Kmart stores that eventually saw 1,278 pharmacies operating in the discount chain. He served as president of the Kmart pharmacy operation for 17 years. ■

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Taking the 'Evangelism' of Education Seriously: A Chinese and American Perspective

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We frequently read in the news about China's value for rapid urbanization and economic growth as we watch the growth of global companies like Haier and Lenovo become world trade names.

Is there any serious educational value to be learned from their success? A CGE delegation's visit to the headquarters of Haier several years ago included a session with Haier's president. He told us that one day he walked through their factory and saw evidence of less than quality product. He asked some workers to bring out examples of their new products and in front of all the gathered workers he took a sledge hammer to the products. As the workers expressed shock, their leader seriously explained that if they produce junk, this is what should become of it.

From then on he raised the value of expectations, pride, and work ethic for Haier which has now out produced most other Chinese companies. Haier's president passionately and seriously educated his workers that day!

Can values and principles be taught in international educational experiences and become a sparkplug for learning? Could this approach be called a type of educational "evangelism"?

One reporter wrote that Chinese bureaucrats are taking their "evangelism" of education seriously (Erard, Michael. "The Mandarin Offensive, inside Beijing's global campaign to make Chinese the number one language in the world," *Wired Magazine*, April 2006).

For westerners, this phrase appears to be an interesting use of "evangelism" to convey China's ardent commitment, in this article, to expanding the use of Mandarin language learning. China officials want to emerge as a global power without threatening global security and see Mandarin language learning

as a vehicle. In the article this philosophy was articulated in meetings by China's president and educational leaders, when responding about the development of Confucian centers in America. They reported that the Chinese have been very careful and thoughtful about "assuaging the fears of the rest of the world and that there is a benign element of their language strategy: to help educate."

CGE gained some additional perspective on the viability of educational "evangelism" this past January as we hosted 25 Chinese high school teachers of English from Beijing's Chaoyang District.

Their program objective was to increase their understanding of America as a harmonious English speaking partner nation and to develop their English teaching ability using American methodology and skillful classroom teaching practices. We accompanied the teacher's group—two Chinese district officials, and one China Star director—for five days in Washington D.C., a brief visit to Atlanta, and two weeks in Birmingham to study on Samford's campus.

In thinking back on their reactions and reflections, four impressions emerge:

1) the Chinese teachers knew basic American history with a high factual knowledge of America's Founding Fathers yet had a lesser knowledge about principles or values that shaped decisions for creating our new nation's laws and establishing personal freedoms;

2) all had experience teaching English while their emphasis on the value of speaking effectively was widely varied;

3) their ability to reflect and their enthusiasm for more than surface value learning seemed to increase rapidly when encouraged and nurtured by the American professors;

4) their desire for teaching creatively in the classroom appeared developed in thoughtful principle yet seemed hampered

by a strict adherence to a national curriculum.

The American faculty adding educational and creative value to what was basic knowledge seemed to be like adding water to a thirsty plant. Each day seemed to bring more enthusiastic responses, questions, challenges, connections to prior learning, application to what was just learned and requests constantly for more and more teaching practice. Maybe this "watering principle" and "educational evangelism" can be applied to many CGE programs and practices as we also want to increase the power of education without the threat to anyone's security.

Just as educational "evangelism" was expressed and promoted by their own Chinese leaders, this group seemed to flourish with added value being given to known fact and practice.

Even their visit to the National Cathedral just seemed to whet an appetite for learning religious vocabulary of faith practices. During the following two weeks they often related that to their research opportunities and cultural experiences.

These vibrant responses were evidence of the professionalism and core values lived by all CGE participants from Samford, as the lead school, and Anderson and Mercer as additional hosts for the Chinese officials.

The teaching and study of languages in America should not be ignored as an important "evangelistic" tool for adding value based learning experiences and portraying key principles that produce critical outcomes.

Not only can CGE members connect better in language study practices with China and other countries, we can also connect effectively with the hearts and minds of international colleagues to share core values that are a vibrant part of CGE campuses. ■