

The  
**VOICE**  
of Kentucky Christian University

A portrait of Donald R. 'Dick' Damron, a middle-aged man with a receding hairline, smiling slightly. He is wearing a dark suit jacket over a white shirt and a dark tie. The background is a light, textured surface.

"ALWAYS  
REMEMBER  
WHO YOU  
ARE AND  
WHAT YOU  
STAND FOR"

- DONALD R. "DICK" DAMRON

*The  
Dick  
Damron  
Story*

# *The Dick Damron Story*

Senior faculty member Dr. Dick Damron would never want this much attention, so why are we devoting this issue of *The Voice* to telling his story?

There are several reasons.

This year Dr. Damron reached a milestone that few faculty anywhere ever achieve. He has taught with excellence for thirty-five years at only one university! Kentucky Christian University has many faculty with long tenures in higher education, but few began their professional career on this campus. Most of those who began their careers here are still some distance from the thirty-five year mark.

No one better embodies the KCU faculty spirit and ideal than Dr. Damron. On many campuses there are faculty who regard their employment as a job. They put in their time, draw their check, perform adequately in the lecture hall, but rarely participate in campus events or involve themselves in the lives of students beyond the classroom. While KCU is blessed with many devoted faculty, Dr. Damron has established a benchmark that will challenge even the very committed.

Our campus family was recently stunned by the news that Dr. Damron has been diagnosed with stomach cancer. While we are praying for his complete recovery, we are moved as a campus community to celebrate his career, his significant contribution to


higher education, and his excellent example of what it means to serve Christ and the church. In a sense, to honor Dick Damron is to honor the noble profession of teaching in a Christian college or university, and to celebrate his life is to celebrate the Christian ministry. He is a master teacher with a pastor's heart. It would be accurate to describe him as a Christian minister disguised as a university professor.



I recall a particularly troublesome time as President of the University. Without going into the details of that experience, I will never forget that it was Dick Damron who came to me privately with a word of encouragement. He prayed for me as a true brother who was genuinely concerned for my welfare. His prayers and words of wise counsel carried me through that difficulty.

Recently one of the members of the Damron family described Dick as the rock upon which the family leans and from which it draws its strength. There are many others who are members of Dick's extended family at the University and at the Oak Grove Church of Christ where he has served for 27 years as senior minister that would agree. Dick is always quick to credit others and to focus attention on the Rock of Ages which is Christ the Lord. He does not desire, nor has he ever sought public praise or recognition, which is all the more reason he is worthy.

As you read through this issue of *The Voice*, we hope that you will join us in the celebration of a life that continues to be an amazing example of faith and courage. You will quickly see in the comments of others that the impact of his life and ministry has been truly profound. He would be quick to say that whatever his accomplishments have been, they would not have been possible without Linda, his bride of 44 years. Together they have labored to the glory of God and for the benefit of others.

To Dick and Linda Damron I say thank you for 35 years of faithful service and for providing the rest of us with a marvelous example of the Christ-filled life. May God strengthen your heart and fill your days with gladness and joy as you continue to serve the church and the University. 



Dr. Dick Damron is one of the most highly regarded faculty at the University. He has earned the respect and admiration of his colleagues and several have written personal notes to express their appreciation.

"...What a blessing you have been to so many lives. I have always appreciated the Christian example you have set before the students and your colleagues. You have shown great wisdom in the choosing of your mate and the rearing of Godly children...."

- LaVern Karns  
KCU Professor Emeritus

"...God has used you to touch the lives of so many others in this generation and many to come. Thank you for being a dedicated and faithful servant of our King, willing to share your life with so many...."

- Kim Robinette

"...You have served here at KCU for many years. You have been a witness for Christ both as a teacher and an athletic coach. The number of students you have influenced must be in the thousands. This is your legacy and it is a good one...."

- Dr. David Fiensy

"...You have certainly been a friend to me and the School of Nursing. I can remember encouraging words you have spoken to me and congratulation to the nursing program in general as we passed various approval and accreditation points...."

- Dr. Gail Wise

"...You're my brother. You've always been in my life. We actually like each other. No lies, no secrets; just love and respect; watching out for each other. You are also a role model to me because if Jesus is a friend who is closer than MY brother, He HAS to be Lord of my life...."

- Mary Marshall (Dick's Sister)

"...Dick, you are a man of strong character who always acts with integrity. You have contributed to the spiritual growth and faith of many who are now leaders in the church. You have helped your colleagues in difficulty and you have been a spiritual guide to many students. Your remarkable success is a testimony to the power and glory of the grace of God...."

- Dr. Donald A. Nash  
KCU Professor Emeritus

"...You are enjoying a great life teaching the Word of God and letting your light shine very bright for our Lord wherever you are. As you well know, I never had any concerns about your teaching. You excelled at leading the basketball players to a number of national titles. You were "The Great Coach" among our sister colleges. Your peers stood in awe and respect because of your character and expertise in leading so many young men...."

- Dr. L. Palmer Young  
KCU Chancellor

"...You must know how valued, respected and loved you are around this campus. I am awed by how your presence is comforting and important to so many of us...."

- Margaret McLaughlin

"...You are a cheerful, encouraging colleague. You are a living example to us of the power of a long-term ministry in one field - in this case KCU. We praise God for your example...."

- Drs. Leonard & Fawn Knight

"...It has been delightful to labor beside a fellow professor at Kentucky Christian University who speaks with much practical wisdom on difficult issues. Many students have been deeply affected by your obvious love of history and of our God who invented and guides all history...."

- Dr. James & Laurel Girdwood

"...You have set and live such a wonderful example for us as a pastor, educator, parent, and by being such a great person...."

- Jina Tackett

"...One only needs to live in a community so long until it is discovered who are its most influential citizens. You are one of those in Carter County and the surrounding area...."

- Drs. Robert & Karen Ford

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### Editor:

Keith P. Keeran, Ph.D.

### Consulting Editor:

Terri Waggoner

### Assoc. Editor/Designer:

David Bennett

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# *An Interview with Dick Damron:*

Kentucky Christian University is proud of its faculty. More than the administration or operations staff, the faculty have a profound impact on our students and our commitment to being a genuinely Christian university. By their example, their mentoring, and their classroom instruction

they are shaping the character of students and molding the image of the University.

Among the faculty, no one has had a greater prolonged impact on the

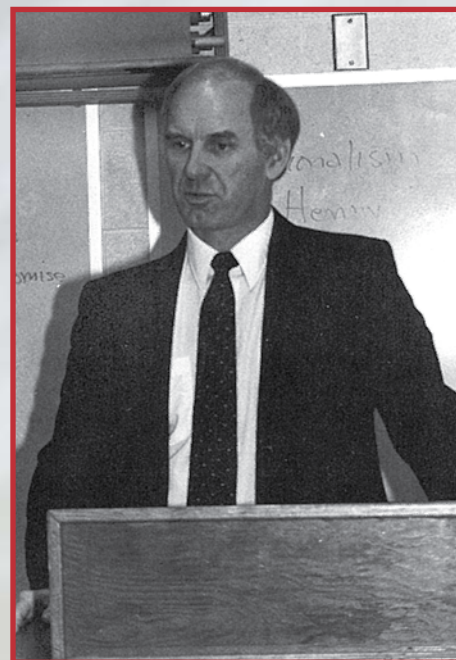
lives of KCU students than senior faculty member Dr. Dick Damron. For the past 35 years he has devoted himself completely to nurturing, counseling, coaching, teaching, and encouraging the young people who sit at his feet. Recently *The Voice* interviewed Dr. Damron to ask him about

his career, his passion for teaching, and his love for ministry.

**VOICE:** *Dick, you have been on the faculty of the University for 35 years, but before you began your teaching career, you served two churches as senior minister and you continue to serve as a preaching and teaching minister today. Why are you passionate about preaching and congregational leadership?*

**DR. DAMRON:** It is my firm conviction that the world is going to be reached for Christ through what the apostle Paul called, "the foolishness of preaching." We desperately need more young men who are challenged in the setting of a local congregation of God's people to accept the call to lead local churches and faithfully share the truth of God's word in all its simplicity.

**VOICE:** *Your ministry with the Oak Grove Church of Christ has spanned 25 years and during that time you have maintained a full-time faculty appoint-*



*ment at KCU and served as head men's basketball coach for a nationally ranked program. Somehow you have managed to balance all of these responsibilities while at the same time raising a wonderful Christ-honoring family. What advice do you have for the rest of us who are trying to balance our lives?*

**DR. DAMRON:** I had the privilege of teaching courses in Sociology during my years here at KCU. In that field you are made very much aware of the fact that we all fill many roles in our life. Some would refer to this as the wearing of many hats. There are times when you wear the hat of father, or husband, or employee, or teacher, or coach, or friend, or mentor. I always tried to be sure I wore the right hat at the right time and then replaced it with the hat more appropriate when the situations changed. Having a loving and supporting wife never hurt either, especially one that understood the various pressures involved in each role.

**VOICE:** *Dick, you love to teach and the affirming comments of your students show that you are consistently ranked among their favorite classroom instructors. Why is teaching such a driving force in your life?*





**DR. DAMRON:** Nowhere in the gospels is Jesus ever referred to as a preacher. He is always addressed as teacher. If teaching was what Jesus considered as most important then I would be foolish not to consider it such in my life as well.

**VOICE:** Your academic discipline is United States history and you have a special interest and expertise in the Civil War. Why is it important to study history?

**DR. DAMRON:** We are developing a society of people who have no clue as to what it has meant to be an American. We have in many instances lost touch with the social, moral, and spiritual values that were so prominent in our development into the most powerful nation on the face of the earth. To those who have an understanding of history, the words "In God We Trust" are not something to adorn our currency, but they are the very foundation upon which our country stands or falls. If we do not



know where we have come from it is going to be very difficult to chart a course that would provide any real bearing as to where we want to go.

**VOICE:** Dick, you have amassed 400 career wins as a men's basketball coach and you have coached four teams to national championships. What have been the keys to building such a successful program?

**DR. DAMRON:** Getting good coaches, good players and always remembering the challenge we

presented before every game . . . "Always remember who you are and what you stand for."

**VOICE:** How does intercollegiate sports competition at a Christian university help prepare students for life?

**DR. DAMRON:** The one thing about a cliché is that it becomes such because it is recognized to be accurate in a general sense of the word. Athletics teaches discipline, self-control, teamwork, acting together to achieve a higher goal, and literally scores of more attributes that are important. Especially for a Christian athlete there is the understanding that it is often easy to reflect Christ in church but much more difficult in heated competition. And yet that is where our witness is most effective.


**VOICE:** Most of our readers are aware that you recently underwent surgery for stomach cancer and are now going through a series of chemotherapy and radiation treatments. How are you coping with this and what

would you say to others who may be facing similar challenges to their health?

**DR. DAMRON:** I have simply turned my situation over to the Lord. I want people to see that what I have devoted my entire life to preaching and teaching is not a fairy tale to me. God has promised He will care for me either here or with Him in eternity. I am perfectly prepared for

whatever form He chooses for that care. To others I would simply say, "If your faith means anything at all it means something in situations such as this. Trust that faith because the One who made you those promises is faithful."

**VOICE:** Dick, you are very much in touch with the difficulties young people face and they frequently seek your counsel. If you could share just one piece of advice with young college-age students what would it be?

**DR. DAMRON:** I go back to that simple statement I made earlier in this interview. Just remember who you are and what you stand for. 



"...I have always said that I hated history until Dr. Damron - so I have to thank you for that - seeing that I am a history major now. You will always hold a special place in my heart. Thank you for leaving the right kind of impact in all of us kids' lives. Your footprints have imprinted my heart and I have been molded into more of the Christian I should be because of your consistent witness...."

-Jerrica King

"...Throughout my time at KCU, you have been a constant encourager in my life...."

- Megan Oliver

"...You have a way to brighten everyone's day whether it is your funny little sayings in class, or by just saying hello and asking how we are doing...."

- Keri Vanderhoof

"...Your teaching style, classroom manner, and personal integrity are all foundations of my own personal teaching philosophy. I do not believe I would be a teacher today if not for the honor of sitting under your tutelage...."

- Rick Robinette

"...No matter what I've gone through during the week I know that on Sunday I can go to church and hear some encouraging words from you in the pulpit..."

- Tiffany Lindeman



## Ron Arnett KCU Dean of Students

What do you talk about when you spend hour after hour on the big bus heading for exotic destinations like Circleville, Pippa Passes or Toccoa Falls?

Over the years there were many great topics and long, detailed discussions about the complexities of coaching and other equally important topics, like the state of the economy. But when things got serious the conversation always turned to our favorite topic - the kids. Dick would always say, "It's not about us, it's about the kids. They are what is most important." We would rank players by position and talk about current teams as they would match up against teams from the past, and it was always about the kids.

A sense of accomplishment would be evident when special players from the past and their present situations would come up. Often times players and staff would wander forward on the bus for great lectures on historical figures and we would have verbal quizzes that would last for hours. But when it was quiet and the players were in the back of the bus our talk would always come back to how our kids were doing. Those distant destinations contributed to the very strong building blocks for my relationship with my players. I am most fortunate to have been able to benefit from those long bus trips with Coach Damron.

Watching Dick coach was important to my learning but not nearly as important as watching him live. On campus, at Church or in town he modeled for anyone watching how one should serve the King. His ability to be available for those in need has always impressed me. The long days and nights necessary to cover all his responsibilities kept him busy.

"...You are one of the most knowledgeable civil war historians that I know. You are a Christian gentleman and it is an honor to know you...."

- Gerald Dyson

"...There are times that better job opportunities arise outside of the Christian college realm and can be more beneficial in the financial aspect but you chose to teach at KCU and it will not be forgotten...."

- Amber Aigner

"...You have a gift to teach history like it's a story and it really helped me understand what was going on...."

- Tabitha McNamara

"...In class, the fact that you shared some of your life experiences with us and the way you taught us from an experience point of view in your classes, leaves me speechless to think that I can 'encourage' you...."

- Holding Fenelus

"...Right from the beginning you were one of my biggest supporters. I could always count on you for good honest instruction and advice. While I played under you I learned as much or more about life in that year than I did about basketball...."

- Tom Swart

"...You are the only one to make me laugh at 8:00 a.m. You are a great teacher and a wonderful person...."

- Jenn Lawhorn



## What's in a Name?

by Brent Baker

President, KCU Alumni Association

Sometimes when we hear a particular name we immediately associate that name with a significant accomplishment. For example, if I were to say the name Colonel Sanders, Kentucky Fried Chicken comes to mind. If I say Sam Walton we think Wal-Mart.

Similarly, there is one name if spoken around the KCU family or the Grayson community that immediately brings many different associations to mind.

Speak the name "Dick Damron", and we think of the significant roles he has played in our lives whether we be current KCU students or alumni who sat at his feet years ago. Many would think of the word "coach", and what a great coach he is not only on the court but also in life. Some would think of the word "professor" and a great teacher of history and its lessons for our lives, others would think of the word "pastor" recalling the encouragement he offered to us in a time of need. Other words come to mind as well, like friend, example, encourager, mentor and most importantly, man of God. To the Damron family, very powerful words come to their minds like husband, father and grandfather, brother, uncle.

Many alumni have written letters of appreciation and encouragement to Dr. Damron to thank him for his exemplary service. Many (too many to include here) have shared deeply what he has meant to them. Thank you Dr. Damron for being an example to me and to thousands of other alumni, and know that we are praying for you!

"...We are thankful for the opportunity to have witnessed your relationship with the Lord and especially the love you have for your wife, Linda...."

- Jason & Yvette West

"...Almost thirty years ago I walked into your freshman World History class and for the next three weeks, this young, brash, loud New Yorker didn't understand a thing you said. I had never heard a southern accent before then. Then, twenty-five years ago we were blessed to have you officiate our wedding ceremony. I can assure you that we are one of your successes...."

- Michael & Suzy Cassara

"...To have you marry us will forever hold a special place in our hearts...."

- Eric & Renae Sudlow

"...As we recall those good old days, we commend you on the great contribution you have made to the school. You have indeed touched and changed so many young lives...."

- Bill & Alice Truitt

"...Dick and Linda, thanks for all that you and your family have meant to us. You continue to be a great encouragement...."

- Bob & Marsha Grider

"...In the days of our youth, we were classmates, teammates, and long before the term was in use, soul mates. When our children came along, they called you Aunt Linda and Uncle Dick, our son has his name because of you...."

- Larry & Ruth Smith

"...Your willingness and ability to share what you had studied and learned was valuable. We still remember and use the phrase, 'stomp a mud hole in them,' with laughter...."

- Kenneth & Gayle Gemeinhart

"...We've had several laughs with our children about the 'language barrier' we experienced our first few weeks at KCU. We can still hear the 'Damronisms' and of course, the drawl! You supported thousands with love and humor and chided many as you would your own child when that too was necessary...."

- Eric & Lori Augustus

"...We have listened to you as you have held revivals and other programs through the years. You always proclaimed God's message in a great way. You have represented KCU with dignity and great respect...."

- Quinton & Kathy McNabb

The best way I can honor Dr. Damron is to list the four lessons I learned under his leadership:

1. Right things done right produce right results. We practiced the exact same practice everyday from October to March - nothing ever changed. The result was quality.
2. Trust God to provide your needs. Coach never recruited, yet we ended up with better players than I played with in a scholarship program.
3. You get more with kind encouragement than fear. Coach is proof you don't need to curse, threaten, or demean anyone to get the best out of them. We respected him and loved him so much we wanted to produce for him!
4. Character is what counts. Coach always reminded us that we would wear a jersey only for a short time, but we would live in our skin for the rest of our days. Before every game Coach D would say, "Remember who you are and what you stand for!" And before leaving for away games he would add, "If you need a reminder it is printed in eighteen inch letters across the bus."

- Eric Barnes



## Take a moment and digest these statistics:

- 400 wins in 20 seasons—  
an average of 20 wins per year  
for 20 years
- Four NCCAA II National  
Championships
- Two “National Coach of the Year”  
Honors
- And the head coach of 11  
First Team All-Americans and  
three Maravich Award winners  
that were voted “National Player  
of the Year”

The numbers speak for themselves—Dick Damron was an incredible basketball coach! But to be truthful, there are a lot of basketball coaches in America that will leave their university with similar statistics. Very few, however, will leave the kind of impact that Dick Damron has left on KCU. Today, most big-time basketball coaches do one thing—coach. And because of that, their sphere of influence is typically limited to 12 or 15 guys. Dick Damron not only taught X's and O's, but he has taught Eisenhower and Vietnam for 35 years as well.

Many of us also know this incredible man of God as a pastor. Week-in and week-out, Dick Damron is one of the most solid preachers on the planet. There's nothing flashy about his style, but the truths of God's Word resound loud and clear.

He always made it clear that he cared more about how we represented Jesus than anything we might accomplish on the court. Yes, I admire Dick Damron as a coach, pastor, and professor, but my greatest admiration is for the way he runs this race that we call Christianity.

*Article by Rick Cooper (KCU '96), radio announcer for KCU Knights and Lady Knights basketball and Special Assistant to the President at Kentucky Christian University.*

# We Call Him “Coach D”

## Aaron E. Mitchell (KCU Class of 1977)

Coach Damron has been and still is the most important man in my life. I am the first All-American in KCU history, and I achieved that honor because of him. He taught me that I could achieve anything that I put my mind to. When it comes to spiritual matters, Coach is a man who truly “practices what he preaches.” After leaving KCU, I met and competed against some of the most famous and successful coaches in basketball and none of them could ever walk in Dick Damron's shoes. I am truly blessed to have him as my friend, my mentor, my coach.

## Aric Russell (KCU Class of 1993)

The first word I think of when I think of Coach is “Integrity.” He preaches it and most definitely lives it. Coach Damron always taught us to keep our priorities straight and he made it clear that nothing should come in front of our relationship with Jesus, and I live by that daily. Coach is very special to me and I take pride in the fact that I played on his first National Championship team. But, I take even more pride in knowing that I was taught and coached by a man who always “remembers who he is and what he stands for.”




## Eric Sudlow (KCU Class of 1991)

Coach Damron has impacted my life in more ways than I could ever express on paper. Not only was he my basketball coach at KCU, but I also served on his staff as an assistant coach. Coach Damron has been my coach, my mentor, and my friend. But the most important contribution he has made to my life is the portrait of a Christian man that he provided by his own example. He will always be remembered for one unforgettable phrase. There is one thing that remains most obvious about Coach. Regardless of life's circumstances, he is always faithful to Christ and wants Him to be honored above all.

## Jeff Kinney (KCU Class of 1997)

Coach Damron is a lover of many of God's best gifts. Some of which most people know, but others some may not be aware of. He is a lover of his wonderful wife Linda, his children and grandchildren, a good movie and popcorn, fundamentals, watching his sons play

and coach football, history prior to 1865 and after, a good Rook game on the way to Lincoln Christian, a pre-game Skyline meal before defeating Cincinnati Christian, Oak Grove, KCU, but most of all, his Savior Jesus Christ! 



**Kelly Combs, Men's Basketball Coach  
Union College**

"...Today as a college coach I still use the things you taught me about basketball and about life as a Christian man, coach, teacher, husband, and father...."

**Harold L. Holbrook, Former Coach  
Prichard High School**

"...I admire you and know that if everyone lived their life as you have that it would be a better world. I have been honored to have had you as one of my basketball and baseball players. I have always been proud to say that I was your high school coach...."

**Tim Barton, Men's Basketball Coach  
Appalachian Bible College**

"...I would like to thank you for your positive influence in the lives of many young people and in the NCCAA...."

**Dr. Ralph Swearngin, Executive Dir.,  
Georgia High School Association**

"...Basketball was important to you, but it was apparent that your ministry to the Lord (both on and off the college campus) was most important. You modeled the idea that a person can be intensively competitive while being a Christian gentleman...."

**Don Rekoske, Men's Basketball Coach  
Bryan College**

"...Your teams carried themselves with class and were an example of what Christian athletics are all about. You were held in high regard by all the coaches in the NCCAA because of the way your teams represented excellence...."

**Loran Dace, Former Basketball Coach  
Kentucky Christian University**

"...I recall the many times you went out on the basketball court, on knees that gave you extreme pain, and never, ever, one time did you complain or give the team less than your very best...."

**Chad Leach, Former Player and Coach  
Kentucky Christian University**

"...Not only did you teach us how to win on the court, but also that winning is secondary to how we represent our Lord. You taught me humility by your example...."

**20 Years of Coaching,  
20 Winning Seasons!**

Dick Damron is admired and respected by coaches across the country. While they comment frequently on the consistency of his winning record, they are much more impressed by his ability to achieve something far better and more important than winning. Coach Damron wanted the teams he coached to push the limits of their abilities and reach their potential on and off the court. He wasn't pleased with a win on the scoreboard if his team didn't give their best effort. He knew that a team with more ability and talent could be beat by a team with greater drive and determination, and this was often the threat that opposing coaches feared most when Damron's Knights were on the schedule.

Winning was definitely in Coach D's DNA, but he was not willing to put winning ahead of character, integrity or maximum effort. This helps to explain why Dick Damron is so good at what he does, whether its coaching, teaching, preaching or being a father and husband. He exemplified for his players the ability to focus on the task at hand and give it his best. Others may have greater ability, but ability alone is no guarantee of success, and talent is often no match for dogged determination.

If you ever saw Coach D upset with his boys during a game, it wasn't because they were falling behind on the scoreboard, it was because they weren't playing up to their potential - they weren't focused, they weren't playing smart. He knew that if he could get his boys to give their best effort and work together as a team the score would take care of itself. The record shows that it did - 20 years of coaching, 20 winning seasons!

We have included on this page several excerpts from coaches across the country who have written to express their appreciation for Coach Damron.

**Bruce Dixon, KCU Women's  
Volleyball Coach****Tom Bender, Former Coach  
Kentucky Christian University**

"...You taught me how to teach basketball players to play the game but more important were the lessons about being part of the Kingdom of God...."

**Jim Kessler, Men's Basketball Coach  
Grace College**

"...Your life has impacted many young men and women, some of whom you have never met, because the students who you directly impacted passed the baton they received from you to their sphere of influence. I always respected your willingness to schedule high levels of competition for your team in order to help them develop to their potential...."

**Byron Deel, Former Basketball Coach  
Free Will Baptist Bible College**

"...You challenged me to be a better coach by the simple fact of what you did each and every day to demand excellence from both yourself as well as the players whose privilege it was to play for you...."

**Del Wubbena, Men's Basketball Coach  
Clearwater Christian College**

"...You are a man who is loved and respected, not only by the NCCAA family, but especially by your players and fellow coaches. You have a great legacy...."

**Will Shouse,  
KCU Men's  
Basketball Coach**

"...You have laid the foundation for the basketball program that I have the privilege of coaching. I know you are proud of the accomplishments of the young men on the team, but none of this would be possible without you providing the leadership in the early days of the program. The talks that we have had, and will continue to have in your office are as valuable to me as any coaching books or tapes...."



# Thanks

## to a Great Friend and Mentor

*By Dr. Betty (Hall) Jones*

One of my favorite movies from my high school years is *To Sir With Love*. Actor Sidney Poitier portrays a teacher whose influence turns troubled teens into responsible citizens. A line from the movie's theme song says, "How do you thank someone who has taken you from crayons to perfume?"

Grayson, Kentucky is not London, and over the years, most of KCU's students have not been troubled teens; however, Dick Damron's influence has been as powerful as Poitier's was in *To Sir With Love*. Many immature students enter the doors of Lusby Center as freshmen and leave as mature, well-educated graduates because of Dick Damron.

I have known Dick since I was 16-years-old. He was called to pastor the East Athens Church of Christ in 1967. Our small struggling church in Athens, Ohio, was excited about this young, energetic minister. While he stayed less than two years, Dick left a mark on my life and on my brother Roger. We both are graduates of Kentucky Christian because of Dick. For 19 years, I was Dick's colleague on the faculty. In fact, I have always believed that he helped make that possible for me. So much of who I am as a teacher and colleague today is because of Dick's belief in me. As I write this tribute, memories from more than 30 years surface.

One of Dick's greatest gifts is storytelling. This serves him well in the pulpit and in the classroom. Many students have told me how much they enjoy his history classes because of the stories he spins around historical facts. Some of

my husband's favorite Dick Damron stories are about the bizarre Eastern Kentucky weddings at which Dick has presided. As with any great storyteller, Dick's tales become more embellished with each telling, but they are always entertaining.

As Dick's friend and KCU classmate Rick Beam says, "You'll never hear stories in which Dick is the victim." However, his KCU roommate Joe Bliffen told a good one. Joe wrote, "It was 1962, our first year in Prof. Andy Dale's homiletics class. If you went to class and preached once a year, you got an A."

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*"His loyalty to the college has been unfailing. For 35 years, he has challenged students in the classroom, on the basketball court and in worship services."*

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But Dick had never preached in his life. On one Monday morning, Dick and his good friend, Rick Beam, sat waiting on the front row of the chapel, dressed in their suits and ties. Dick had mistakenly borrowed a sermon from Rick, who at 19, had a church and preached every Sunday. Rick asked Dick if he wanted to preach first, but Dick was too shaken. He told Rick to go first. Rick took the pulpit and began to preach. As Dick sat there, he was stunned to hear Rick preaching the exact sermon Dick had in his hands. Everyone in the class was in on the joke, and you could hear stifled laughter in the 'congregation' of irrever-

ent preacher boys. When it was Dick's turn to preach, he had no choice but to preach the very same sermon Rick had just delivered. When he finished Mr. Dale and the class critiqued Dick's sermon. Mr. Dale's only comment was "That wasn't too original, was it Dick?"

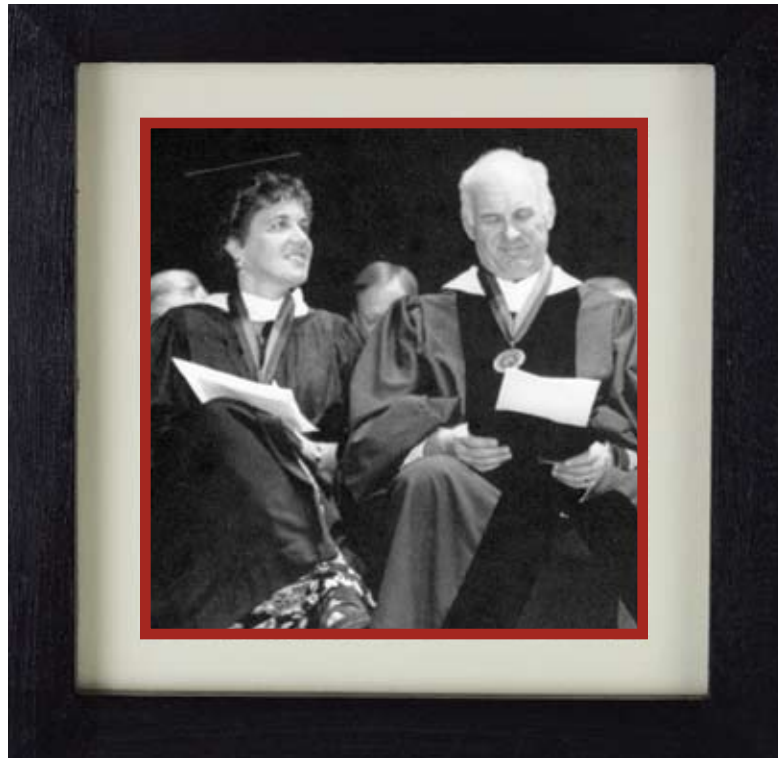
That may have been the last unoriginal sermon Dick ever preached. For 19 years as his colleague, I watched him research and write sermons weekly, typed on 11" X 8 1/2" paper, folded in half and stored in files. And I knew of many young, first-time "preacher boys" asking to borrow one of those original Dick Damron sermons.

Along with his gift for storytelling is his great sense of humor. Whenever I became too serious, he could always tease me into a better mood. You knew if Dick was "abusing" you, he was fond of you. One of his favorite expressions of exasperation is "Duck milk!" While it makes no sense, it is true Damron!

Throughout the years, Dick was often my diet partner. However, we realized that drinking diet Pepsi while eating M&Ms did not quite create a healthy balance. Dick and I have joked often that we have lost enough weight between us to make four people. Each morning when I came to work, I would see Dick running around the parking lot. That always inspired me to get moving.

Another of Dick's great gifts is loyalty. During my years at Kentucky Christian, Dick was my confidante. I knew that whatever I told him, he would never repeat, and he would never judge me for





my words or actions. In all those years, I never knew him to gossip. Always, he has respected people's dignity and guarded their pride.

In 1978, I went through a painful divorce. Many of us working at the college in the 70s were earning incredibly low salaries. I remember one time in which I had just enough money to buy diapers and food for my two-year-old. It was another week before payday. I don't know how Dick knew, but he handed me an envelope with \$50 in it. Throughout the years, many needy students have been recipients of Dick's private generosity. The Damron home was open often to students, some of whom lived there when they couldn't afford the dorm.

At a time when others told me my ministry was limited because I was a woman and divorced, Dick saw in me a gift for working with young people. I stood alongside him in two congregations as his youth minister and served as his assistant when he was campus minister.

His loyalty to the college has been unflinching. For more than 30 years, he has challenged students in the classroom, on the basketball court and in worship services. During our years together on

the faculty, he was the colleague I most admired. While he would voice his concern for the college honestly, I never heard him complain negatively just to be complaining. While many of us who taught with Dick throughout the years have left for other endeavors, he remains as the senior faculty member at KCU.

Dick and I share the same philosophy about working with college students. Both of us believe we can encourage students to excellence—he on the basketball court and I on the stage. Our paths crossed often in these two areas because the stage is in the gymnasium. Rather than be upset because the thespians were in his domain, Dick helped build sets. As head basketball coach, Dick was never impressed with "stars." Instead, he encouraged each group of young men to work together as a team. He always told them to "Remember Whose You Are."

Dick's loyalty to his hometown is endearing also. With his talent and

education, he could have taught anywhere in the United States, but chose to remain where his roots run deep. Born to Donald and Anna (Prichard) Damron, Dick was raised in Grayson. He graduated from KCU in the mid-60s. He and Linda have lived in Carter County for more than 40 years, except for the short time in Ohio. They raised their children in Grayson, and most of their grandchildren are being raised there also. And for the past 25 years, he has served the church in which his father also preached.

Dick is a private person. He is not outwardly emotional. To his family and friends, he is a stoic rock of courage and faith. No one in the packed KCU gym in March 1978 will ever forget the voice that sung, "It is Well With My Soul" above all the others. It was his daughter Andrea's memorial service, and Dick's display of dignity and courage in profound grief inspired all of us.

Now Dick is facing the greatest challenge of his life. While the diagnosis is not good, Dick has complete faith in his Lord and in his physicians. He told me last month that he is not worried or afraid. I remember years ago when Andrea was so ill, he said he truly believed that for a Christian, death is the ultimate healing. However, I believe that Dick will be with us for a long time. I hope that he, once again, will be able to teach his classes, stand at the pulpit of his beloved Oak Grove and watch his grandchildren grow.

We've been through a lot, my dear friend. Thank you for helping me to mature as a teacher and a Christian. Thank you for the sacrifices you made on my behalf. Thank you for your unfaltering belief in me as a human being. And thank you for the thousands of lives you have touched at Kentucky Christian all these years. 🇺🇸

*Dr. Betty (Hall) Jones was a professor at KCU from 1976-1985. Currently, she is an instructor at the Grady College of Journalism and Mass Communication at The University of Georgia — [betjones@grady.uga.edu](mailto:betjones@grady.uga.edu).*





# Class of 2007



## Bachelor of Social Work

Courtney Bowman  
Shannon Gulley  
Ashley Henry\*

## Bachelor of Science

Sarah Atkins\*\*  
Megan Back  
Charles Baker\*\*  
Jennifer Bare\*  
Danielle Bartlett\*  
Adam Bengston  
Tisha Bennett\*  
Andrew Bisotti  
Bonny Boyer  
Shanna Brammell\*  
Matthew Brown  
Jennifer Button\*\*  
Nicholas Byble  
Michael Cannon\*\*  
Tiffany Clark

Kevin Crater  
Kyle Dickerson  
Stacey Doss  
Bryan Edwards  
Jennifer Fouch\*\*  
Lisa Gessford\*\*  
Kristy Gilder  
Megan Giurgevich\*  
Brian Glasser  
Daniel Greider\*  
Zachary Gripenstroph  
Megan Harris  
Carmen Heller\*  
Christopher Hirsch  
William Horn, Jr.\*  
Randi Ison\*  
William Jenkins  
Stephanie Kandray  
Alexander Kitchen\*  
Matthew Laver  
Stacy Layne  
Christiano Louis  
Jessica Lynn\*

Amy Maynard  
Malachi McDaniel  
Becky McNeely  
Andrea Miller\*  
Donna Mills  
Kimberly Morgan  
Cedric Njiru  
Jacqueline Ober  
Megan Oliver\*\*



Micki O'Neal  
Daniel Prevet  
Kevin Price  
Nicole Price\*  
Braun Ream\*\*  
Christopher Riddle  
Miranda Riddle  
Tracy Rimmer  
Heather Rose\*  
Megan Rucker  
Carmella Shick\*  
Nathan Shivers\*  
Chad Smith\*  
Nellie Smith\*  
Shawn Smith\*  
Carolyn Spangler\*  
Nicole Stamper\*  
Randall Stant\*  
Amber Thompson\*  
Sabrina Thorn\*  
Christen Turnbull

Shannon Volters\*  
Denita Warren  
Tyler Watson\*

## Bachelor of Arts

Kurtis Charlton\*  
Amy Girtton  
Yevgeniya Golovina\*  
Jeffery Gujjarlamudi  
Kristina Lindeman  
Patrick Mayer  
William Nation\*\*  
Melissa Shicks  
Brittany Watts\*\*  
Brooke Williams\*

## Master of Arts in Christian Leadership

Matthew Belwood  
Stephen Cox  
Yun Kang  
Diana Petrus  
Todd Smeltzer  
Jack Sweany

\*Cum Laude \*\*Magna Cum Laude







## We Call Him "Daddy"

by Donald Damron and Dane Damron

His name is Donald R. Damron. We have always been amused that people assume his middle name is "Richard". This would explain why his friends call him "Dick" Damron. The "R" actually stands for "Reid" – the first name of his paternal grandfather. His father, Donald Franklin Damron, started calling him "Deacon" because of the 'proper way' he sat in his high chair. This was later changed to the pet name "Deakie", but people thought he was actually being called "Dickie". This stuck as his boyhood name and was later shortened to "Dick". We realize that you probably know him by one or more of his many other names such as "Coach", "Mr. Damron", or "Dr. Damron" but for the four Damron children (Andrea Lynn, Amy Laura, Donald Marshall, and Dane Matthew) growing up in the tan brick house just behind Snodgrass Hall, well, we called him "Daddy".

Strangely enough, his three remaining children, all above the age of 35, still call him "Daddy" today. We have often talked about how difficult it is to call him anything other than "Daddy". We have tried on occasion, especially us Damron brothers, to 'man-up' and call him

One of our father's closest friends, Dr. Darrell Coates, told us one time with astonishment, "Your father amazes me, not just because of all the things that he does, but the fact that he does them all well!" Truer words were never spoken!

As we reflect back on our Dad's legacy we see excellence in everything that he has done. As a minister he has always gone above and beyond expectations to meet the needs of his church family and the local community. As a preacher, week in and week out, it would be a challenge to find anyone, anywhere that does a better job than our father. As a professor, day in and day out, it would be difficult to find anyone that can stand up and deliver, all the while making history come alive.

As Dean of Men, who could have been more firm, more fair, and more concerned for the young men in the dormitories? As coach, where could you find anyone, anywhere more capable of competing at such a high level simply by taking whoever showed up on campus and turning them into championship level teams that play with heart, pride and determination without sacrificing their Christian witness.

Quite frankly we don't know of anyone that could have done all of these things at the same time... let alone doing them all with excellence.

For the Damron children the most impressive aspect of our father's does not lie in any of the areas mentioned above. One might assume


that with everything he was involved in the family had to suffer. That is just not true! The most significant thing to us and the most important thing that we want



Dick and Linda with Dane and Delisha at Dane's appointment as KCU head football coach.

everyone to realize is that in spite of all that he has done, his most impressive work has been as a devoted husband and as a loving father. Looking back on things it is now obvious that Daddy was always busy, but we never knew that. We knew that he loved his children and loved our mother like nothing else in this world. None of us have ever questioned that.

Another thing that we have never questioned is his love for God. His prayer throughout this time of trial is that God would give him the strength to truly live-out what he believes. We are confident that the man who coined the phrase "Remember who you are, and what you stand for!" will in no way disappoint. Our father is a rock. We have seen him weather many a storm with God's help. He will pass through this time as well. We encourage you to join us as we continue learning from him because his greatest lessons are being taught right now!

Over the last several months it has become crystal clear to us from the emotional response of the KCU family that he has been looked upon as a great father by many more than just the four kids growing up in that tan brick house. Countless young people "growing up" in the tan-brick dorms and apartments over the years at KCU have expressed to us that he was indeed a father figure to them as well. Children growing up in that situation may tend to feel jealous... we never did...because our Daddy, Donald R. "Dick" Damron has proven time and time again that there was always enough of him to go around. 



Dick Damron reads the Bible to his grandchildren and son, Donald.

"Dad", but it just doesn't seem sufficient. We have always referred to him in the most endearing term for a father that we know of – simply as our "Daddy".





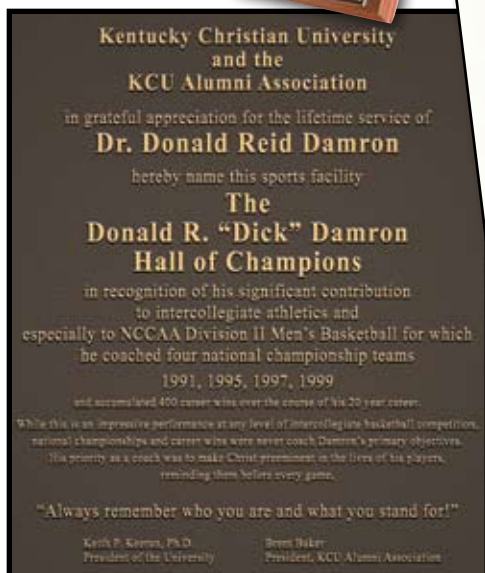
Dr. Damron, receives first Distinguished Professor rank ▶



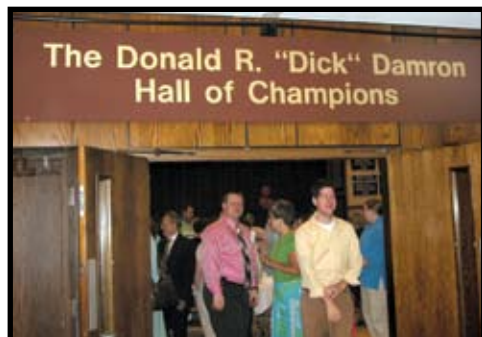
▶ A record crowd turned out for the Alumni & Friends Banquet to honor Dr. Damron for his outstanding accomplishments as a professor, coach, minister, and friend



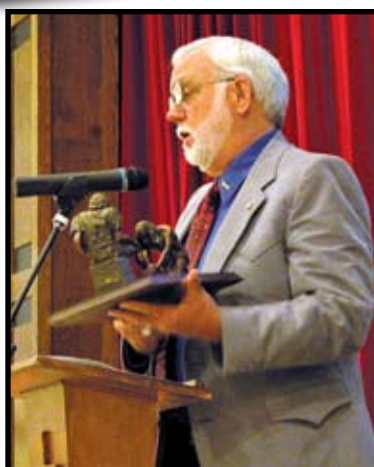
▲ Children Dane, Amy, and Donald share special moments during the banquet



The Board of Trustees unanimously approve the naming of the gymnasium, ***The Donald R. "Dick" Damron Hall of Champions*** ▼



Over 200 letters were received in honor of Dr. Damron



▲ Board Chair, Bobby Waters presents Lifetime Service Award

## Damron Inducted into Coaches Hall of Fame

The National Christian College Athletic Association has announced that Dr. Dick Damron has been voted into the NCCAA Coaches Hall of Fame. Formal induction ceremonies took place at a banquet in his honor on June 1, during the association's annual meeting in Overland Park, Kansas. To qualify for Hall of Fame honors, a coach must have given outstanding leadership and service to the association and be nominated by a peer from another NCCAA member institution. Inductees must have had at least five years of involvement with the NCCAA, exhibit high moral character and Christian integrity, demonstrate a positive contribution of service to Christ and society, and maintain a continuing commitment to Christian higher education and intercollegiate athletics.



# It's Academic: News From Across the Campus

## Drs. Haynie and Knight Awarded Promotion in Academic Rank

In 2004 KCU introduced a new faculty rank and promotion policy. The standards for promotion in rank are rigorous. While the institution has long valued excellence in teaching, under the new policy faculty members are required to demonstrate their excellence in teaching as well as proficiency in other areas such as scholarly productivity and the systematic use of assessment results to make improvements. Dr. Jeff Metcalf, Vice President of Academic Affairs, has recently announced the promotion of two faculty members under the new policy. Dr. K. Fawn Knight has been promoted to the rank of Professor of English, and Dr. Brendan Haynie has been promoted to Associate Professor of Chemistry and Science.

"KCU's approach to expectations of faculty," says Dr. Knight "have appropriately emphasized scholarly productivity and University service. The unique angle KCU has taken, though, is in the explicit expectation that faculty members document regular and systematic ministerial service and Christian mentorship to students as well as service to the church and the greater Christian community. The process was extremely taxing but I am proud to have been among the first to receive promotion under the new process."

## School of Arts and Sciences

**Dr. Fawn Knight**, Professor of English and Dean of the School of Arts and Sciences is involved in prison ministry and has led inmates at the East Kentucky Correctional Center in West Liberty, KY in a critically acclaimed program called Shakespeare Behind Bars as well as co-editing *The Accused*, a brief play written by inmates. Dr. Knight's recent scholarly work also maintains a Shakespearean theme. In March 2007 she presented a paper at the annual meeting of the



Kentucky Philological Association entitled "Audience in Little: Young Men in Portrait Miniatures (1590-1642) and The Blackfriars Audience."

**Dr. Brendan Haynie**, Associate Professor of Chemistry and Science has co-authored a paper entitled "The Dynamics of Interaction of Magnesium Atoms on Methoxy-terminated Self-Assembled Monolayers: An Example

of a Reactive Metal with a Low Sticking Probability" for the Journal of Physical Chemistry (2007). Dr. Haynie's research explores reactivity between metal



atoms and certain organic molecules for potential uses as components in molecular electronic computers. Molecular electronics is a field within nanotechnology which desires to build a computer chip molecule by molecule, where a single molecule mimics current microscopic chip components (semiconductors, memory bits, etc.). With such ability, a computer chip with the equivalent of 400 Pentium processors can be constructed into the size of a grain of sand.

**Dr. Charlie W. Starr**, Professor of English, is in his second year of writing a monthly column for *Lookout* magazine on Christianity and Culture. In the last year he has also contributed chapters to four pop-culture studies books, analyz-

ing, from a Christian perspective, the television shows *Lost* and *Battlestar Galactica*, the X-men comic books and movies, and the computer game *Halo*. Dr. Starr



also writes and lectures on the works of C. S. Lewis. During the past year he presented papers at three conferences (after which two of the papers were published in journals) on how C. S. Lewis's theory of meaning shows the importance of such visual art forms as painting, sculpture and, especially, film. A third paper on Lewis's theory of meaning and its importance to our understanding of truth was published in the journal, *Mythlore*.



**Dr. Mitch Marshall**, Professor of Science, is providing leadership in health care awareness. He remains current in health care research, while maintaining

licensure as a dentist and extensive continuing education in fields related to health care in the community. During 2006-2007, he completed training in topics ranging from "Oral Cancer" and "Hepatitis C" to "Emergency Preparedness."

**Dr. John Wineland**, Professor of History, edited a new book, released in Fall 2006, *The*

*Light of Discovery: Studies in Honor of Edwin M. Yamauchi*, which focuses on the ancient Mediterranean world. Dr. Wineland is also a contributor to *The New Interpreter's Dictionary of the Bible*. The five-volume set includes new articles on 7,100 topics related to the Old and New Testament, and the Apocrypha. Nine hundred scholars from 40 nations have contributed. Volume I, released in 2006, includes seven articles by Dr. Wineland. He recently presented a paper, "The Iron Age Gate Structure at Khirbet Mudaybi," at the 2007 Annual Meeting of the Near East Archaeological Society, Washington, DC.





## School of Business

**Dr. Tim Nischan**, Dean of KCU's School of Business, has announced that a \$56,250 grant has been awarded to the School of Business from the Appalachian Colleges Community Economic Development Partnership. Supported by the Jessie Ball duPont Fund, the program will assist four Appalachian College Association institutions in their efforts to help strengthen communities and competitive businesses in Central Appalachia. The KCU School of Business will be partnering with local business and community leaders to develop the Appalachian Tax, Accounting, and Legal Outreach Program (ATALOP).



**John L. Dundon** (Vice President of Strategic Operations and Administrative



Professor of Business), took a leadership role in the conception of ATALOP and spearheaded the successful effort to attract funding. Mr. Dundon will

be working to train student ATALOP workers during the summer months.

## Sack School of Bible and Ministry

**Dr. Perry Stepp**, Associate Professor of New Testament, has recently been appointed Dean of the Sack School of Bible and Ministry. In making the

announcement, President Keeran said, "I am excited about Dr. Stepp's vision for the future of biblical higher education and the unique role that the Sack School of Bible and Ministry can play in meeting the needs of the church."

Dr. Stepp holds an M.A. from Lubbock Christian University and a Ph.D. in New Testament from Baylor University. He joined the KCU faculty in 2003.



**Dr. David Fiensy**, Dean of the KCU Graduate School of Bible and Ministry, has completed the final edits of a forthcoming new book, *Jesus the Galilean*. The book, which will be released by Gorgias Press early this summer, takes soundings in the life of Jesus based on four readings from the Gospel of Mark which represent some of the most controversial issues in the current theological discussion about the historical Jesus. Dr. Fiensy has also contributed an article accepted for inclusion in the soon to be released *Dictionary of Ancient Judaism*, entitled "Hellenistic Synagogue Homily." He will present a paper in Vienna, Austria this July for the Society of Biblical Literature International under the title, "The Attitudes



Toward Wealth in Three Mediterranean Religious Movements."

**Dr. Randall Tan**, Assistant Professor of Biblical Studies, has been invited to speak at the first Open Theology and Science Seminar in Boston. The Seminar, which brings together the best open theologians to converse with prominent scientists, is hosted by Eastern Nazarene College. Program organizers chose Dr. Tan to participate in a scheduled debate about God's knowledge of the future because of his current and potential contributions to the emerging field of open theology and science. He is also scheduled to present a paper for the Hellenistic Greek Language and Linguistics track of the Society of Biblical Literature International Meeting in Vienna, Austria in July 2007.



**Dr. Gregory Widener** has joined the University's faculty as an Associate



Professor of Homiletics and Communication. Dr. Widener and his wife, Jeanne, currently reside in Columbus, Ohio where he is concluding a nine

year ministry at the East Columbus Christian Church. In addition to having academic and occupational experience in preaching, Dr. Widener holds a M.Div. from Emmanuel School of


(continued)

# Al Serhal to Oversee Estate Planning and Church Relations

Alumnus Al Serhal ('91) has been appointed as the University's new Director of Estate Planning and Church Relations. Serhal will replace Tom Burbrink who is retiring from the position. "We are grateful for the excellent service provided to the University by Tom Burbrink," said President Keeran, "and I am thrilled with Serhal's experience and vision." Burbrink recommended Serhal for the position and will assist him during the transition.

Serhal, who also holds a Master's Degree from KCU, has provided leadership to churches in West Virginia and Indiana. For the past 16 years he has served as senior minister of

Fairfield Christian Church in Oakford, Indiana. The church, which had 80 members when he started, has gone through two plant expansions and now has over 400 members.

Serhal gave vision and birth to the popular National Preaching Summit. The NPS meets annually in Indianapolis and draws more than 500 church leaders from across the country. He directed NPS for 10 years before handing it off to College Press. Eleven years ago he launched a similar program, the African Preaching Summit in Zimbabwe, which remains under his direction. Al and Patty Serhal have five children. 

Religion and a Ph.D. in Communication from the University of Kentucky. Dr. Widener will teach homiletics and will assist in teaching Introduction to Speech. Jeanne is a registered nurse and a Ph.D. candidate in Nursing at Ohio State University. The Wideners have two adult children, one son and one daughter.



**Dr. Rick Chromey**, Assistant Professor of Youth Ministry, recently completed the Doctor of Ministry degree at George Fox University in Portland Oregon.

The focus of Chromey's doctoral program was on the evolving role that technology will play in 21<sup>st</sup> Century education especially as it relates to educational leadership and the equipping of the next generation of youth leaders. Dr. Chromey's doctoral dissertation, "E-Learning and the Academy: A New Paradigm for Training Youth Ministry Students" provides a model for technology-based youth ministry training.

### School of Nursing



**Dr. Gail Wise**, Dean of the School of Nursing, has announced the appointment of **Carol Brickey**, Assistant Professor of Nursing, as nurse practitioner for KCU students, faculty, staff and their families. Brickey, who coordinates KCU's BSN program will work as a representative of King's Daughters Medical Center and will provide services to the

campus community through KDMC's newly constructed Medical Specialties building located on the KCU campus (see below).

campus community through KDMC's newly constructed Medical Specialties building located on the KCU campus (see below).

### School of Social Work and Human Services

**Margaret McLaughlin**, Dean of the School of Social Work and Human Services, has announced plans to engage Social Work students in service and practicum opportunities at international venues. She will return to Kenya, Africa, this



summer to continue efforts to globalize KCU's Social Work program in partnership with Into Abba's Arms, a social service ministry dedicated to serving neglected and orphaned children.

**David Messer**, Assistant Professor of Social Work is pursuing similar opportunities in the Dominican Republic, where he is working in cooperation with Orphanage Outreach.

"The idea," says Messer, "is to place senior Social Work students in practicum experiences that will enable them to develop global understanding through a total immersion experience in another culture."



### School of Music

**Dr. Mark Deakins**, Dean of the School of Music, with Ars Nova, a select group of KCU music students, conducted the operetta *Puss and Boots* in April. The operetta which was written by Amy Golightly, daughter of Dr. and Mrs. Wes Golightly, is based on a popular children's story. Dr. Golightly is a professor



*David Messer with children from Orphanage Outreach in the Dominican Republic*





in the KCU School of Music. The operetta was performed before enthusiastic audiences at Campbellsville University (KY) and KCU.

**Dr. Charise Lindsay**, Assistant Professor of Music Education, was selected to conduct a "Movement Education Workshop" for music education students in Florida. The event was hosted by Florida Christian College in Kissimmee.



### Keeran School of Education

**Dr. Sherry L. Curtis**, Dean of the Keeran School of Education, has been appointed as a member of the Education Professional Standards Board's Reading Committee and serves the EPSB Board of Examiners as a member of its accreditation teams. The Education Professional Standards Board provides professional accreditation for all qualified teacher education programs in the State of Kentucky.



**Dr. Karen Ford**, Professor of Education, has been appointed to serve as the Teacher Educator on Kentucky Teacher Internship Program Committees for seven first year teacher interns. These committees assist and mentor first year teachers in Kentucky P-12 schools.



**Dr. Matthew Pinder**, Assistant Professor of Education, provided a seminar on "Classroom Management" for the teachers of East Carter Middle School in Grayson, Kentucky. East Carter Middle School's principal is Shannon Wilburn, a 1987 graduate of KCU's teacher education program. 🎓



## Gifts through November 1, 2006 - May 4, 2007

### Gifts in Memory

#### In Memory of:

##### S. W. Ackley

By: Gladys C. Ackley

##### Myron Barnett

By: Mr. & Mrs. David Barnett

##### Steve Bliffen

By: Mr. & Mrs. Jeffrey Bliffen  
Mrs. Lynn Woodhouse Thomsen

##### Geneva Burton

By: Mr. & Mrs. R. L. Brown  
Corinth Christian Church,  
Stamping Ground, KY  
Dr. Sherry Curtis  
Dr. Karen Ford  
Dr. Kirk L. Fridrich  
Dr. & Mrs. Darrel Fyffe  
Dr. & Mrs. Keith P. Keeran  
Mr. & Mrs. J. R. Rudd  
Drs. Kail & Rosalyn Ruffner  
Margaret Schuyler  
Joyce Verkruyse

##### Sid Colley

By: Ruie G. Colley

##### Andrea Damron

By: Oak Grove Church of Christ,  
Grayson, KY

##### John E. Eggleton

By: Mr. & Mrs. Paul Eggleton  
Mr. & Mrs. Arthur Hurst

##### Paul & Helena Fyffe

By: Dr. & Mrs. Darrel Fyffe

##### John W. Gilbert

By: A. Carol Scott

##### Ruth Gray

By: David Gray

##### Dr. Charles Gresham

By: Dr. & Mrs. David Fiensy  
Brett A. Kendle  
Oak Grove Church of Christ,  
Grayson, KY  
Michael Shryock

##### Pauline B. Hendricks

By: Mr. & Mrs. John J. Cook

##### Dr. Ard & Dorothy Hoven

By: Marshall W. Boll  
Vickie L. Hoven  
Mr. & Mrs. Thomas K. Slabaugh

##### Sam P. Jones, Evangelist

By: Arnold's Creek Christian Church,  
Middlebourne, WV

##### Melvin Keeran

By: Mr. & Mrs. Kenneth L. Aulen  
Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Bender  
Mr. & Mrs. Tom Burbrink

Mr. & Mrs. Loran A. Dace  
Mr. & Mrs. William E. Disbrow  
Mr. & Mrs. John L. Dundon  
Mr. & Mrs. Donald Fleischman  
Jim Fleischman  
Dr. & Mrs. Keith P. Keeran  
Dr. & Mrs. Jeff Metcalf  
Mr. & Mrs. Neil Miller  
Mr. & Mrs. Ken Perkins  
Mr. & Mrs. Harold W. Stried

##### William D. Leamon

By: Mr. & Mrs. J. Tom Burbrink

##### Walter & Dorothea Lyon

By: Dr. & Mrs. Darrel Fyffe

##### George Markey

By: Dr. & Mrs. Keith P. Keeran

##### Erby & Lorraine Messimer

By: A. Wendell Messimer

##### Orval Morgan

By: Mr. & Mrs. W. L. Woodward

##### William C. Peebles

By: Mr. & Mrs. William D. Peebles

##### Carole Phillips

By: Oak Grove Church of Christ,  
Grayson, KY

##### James E. Quisenberry

By: Mr. & Mrs. Fred M. Busroe  
Mr. & Mrs. Clinton Curtis  
Hemlock Grove Christian Church,  
Pomeroy, OH  
Lynne Hobstetter  
Mr. & Mrs. H. V. "Bud" Lucke  
Mrs. Martha Quisenberry  
The Christian Church,  
Salt Lick, KY  
Ann White  
Roy A. Wright  
Judith O. Yancy

##### June Rankin

By: Mr. & Mrs. John Owston

##### Eleanor Sapp

By: Dr. & Mrs. Keith P. Keeran

##### Hugh Sensibaugh

By: Mrs. Betty Rose Sensibaugh

##### Lewis D. Smith

By: Mrs. Annie Smith

##### Harold Stanley

By: Mr. & Mrs. Tom Burbrink  
Mr. & Mrs. Keith Isaacs

##### Kathy Stewart

By: Tara L. Woolard

##### Wick H. Strother

By: The Commercial Bank of  
Grayson (KY) Foundation

#### Larry Stump

By: Peggy M. Dougherty  
Mr. & Mrs. David L. Grafton  
Mr. & Mrs. Joseph A. Schultz  
Linda Stump

#### Howard Taylor

By: Glima Cool Hall  
Ripley Church of Christ,  
Big Prairie, OH

#### Garnet Waite

By: Dr. & Mrs. Keith P. Keeran

#### In Honor of:

##### C. Billy Essick Family

By: Mr. & Mrs. Brian Dykes

##### Bill & Judy Honercamp

(Southland Manufacturing Co.)

By: Dr. & Mrs. Jack Dyer

##### Ruby Maggard

By: Mr. & Mrs. Glenn Webb

##### Bill Rector

By: Keystone Christian Church,  
Indianapolis, IN

##### Jack & Edith Strother

By: Mary S. Stoops  
Mr. & Mrs. Jack W. Strother, Jr.

##### Bethany Wray Taylor

By: Mr. & Mrs. Barry Taylor

##### Kathy Taylor

By: Glima Cool Hall  
Ripley Church of Christ,  
Big Prairie, OH

##### Julie Stowers Waldrip

By: Mr. & Mrs. Julian L. Stowers

##### Dr. L. Palmer & Elva Young

By: Reba T. Lacy

#### Other Endowed/ Scholarship Gifts:

Mrs. Carol Brumlow  
Mr. & Mrs. Trenton Merricks  
Dr. & Mrs. Jeff Metcalf  
Dr. & Mrs. L. Palmer Young

#### Bequest Society Gifts:

Terecie Bullock Estate  
William & Frances Kindelberger Estate  
Willis S. & Gladys Roberts Estate

**Damron Gifts:** Gifts given in honor of Dr. Dick Damron will appear in the next issue of the Voice.

**Please Note:** We have made every effort to ensure the accuracy of this information. Should you discover an error, please accept our sincere apology and bring it to our attention so that we can correct our records.

Contributions and tuition payments can be accepted online at [www.kcu.edu](http://www.kcu.edu)



**Megan Oliver**  
NCCAA II National  
Player of the Year



**Lisa Gessford**  
NCCAA II National  
Tournament MVP

# Lady Knights Win 10th National Championship!

The Lady Knights entered the 2006-2007 season in very unfamiliar circumstances; they weren't the defending national champions. In what can be described as one of the most incredible championship runs in collegiate sports history, eight titles in the previous eleven seasons, KCU did not have the ultimate bulls-eye on their backs. With a solid core of returning players and an excellent recruiting class, they were determined to change that.

In typical fashion, the Lady Knights endured and grew from a non-region schedule designed to prepare them for a championship run. After losing two starters and a key reserve from the previous year's national runner-up squad, Head Coach Ron Arnett knew he not only had to replace the lost starters but also develop the depth necessary to win a title.

Kentucky Christian (27-8) remained undefeated in region contests and entered the region tournament as the #1 seed. The Lady Knights won the region title beating their opponents by an average of 30 points and no starter playing more than 25 minutes in a game. With the Mideast Region title in hand, their sights were set on the championship that had eluded them last year.

KCU opened the national tournament as the overall #1 seed and favorite to win it all. North Central University (Minneapolis, MN) defeated Ozark Christian College (Joplin, MO) to advance to the quarter-finals of the tournament and a date with the Lady Knights. Kentucky Christian won the game 60-47, but more importantly, was able to keep the starter's minutes to a minimum in this three games-in-a-row format.

With Southeastern University (Lakeland, FL) as the next foe, Ron Arnett and his squad got the opportunity to avenge an early season loss handed them by the national tournament's host. Southeastern beat the visiting Lady Knights 69-65 in early November and broke KCU's consecutive win streak of 207 games versus NCCAA II opponents in the regular season. The streak extended back to December 1991.

The game had the feel of a national championship contest with neither team able to develop a significant lead. In the end, KCU won the game 73-64 but the margin of victory was hardly indicative of the overall competitiveness displayed by both teams. With the semi-final game in hand, the Lady Knights awaited their title shot on Saturday.

Maranatha Baptist Bible College (Watertown, WI) had negotiated an improbable run through the bracket as the #7 seed and awaited KCU. The Lady Knights extended their lead to 30 points early in the 2nd half and then began to substitute liberally. Although the lead was never in jeopardy, MBBC demonstrated why they were in the title game. They continued to cut into the KCU lead but when the final horn had sounded, the Lady Knights were National Champions. The 75-63 victory raised the already gaudy championship total to 10.

## NCCAA II Awards:

**1st Team All-Mideast Region** ....Christen Daniels, Lisa Gessford, Megan Oliver  
**All-Mideast Region Honorable Mention** ..... Amber Roberts, Jennifer Swann  
**Mideast Region Player of the Year** ..... Megan Oliver  
**1st Team All-American** ..... Lisa Gessford, Megan Oliver  
**2nd Team All-American** ..... Christen Daniels  
**National Player of the Year** ..... Megan Oliver  
**Scholar Athlete** .. Lisa Gessford, Sheena Murphy, Megan Oliver  
**All-Tournament Team MVP** ..... Lisa Gessford

"The girls never really celebrated," said Coach Arnett "Their focus was to win and they never believed it would not happen. The celebration bug hit them on the way home and it got interesting." It is worth mentioning this senior class accounted for 125 wins, three national titles and one runner-up finish. You can't do much better than that! 🏆



# Knights Finish Third in Nation



First Year Head Coach Will Shouse Named All - Midwest Region Coach of the Year

A new era in Knights basketball has begun, but the results seem eerily similar. Under the leadership of first year coach Will Shouse, the Knights found themselves in very familiar territory – the NCCAA National Tournament. Inheriting what can only be described as a daunting schedule, Coach Shouse set about preparations to mould this squad into a competitive force.

Ever aware of the lofty expectations that have become tradition at KCU, his desire to uphold this legacy was never far from his mind. "Anyone familiar with small college basketball in Kentucky knows about KCU," stated Shouse "I do not want that to change on my watch."

KCU entered the post-season as the NCCAA Midwest Region's #1 seed by finishing the regular season with a 12-1 record. The only Midwest Region loss was registered at Cincinnati Christian

University during their homecoming festivities. The Knights turned the region tournament into a mere formality as they defeated their opponents (Ohio Christian, 96-77 and Johnson Bible 103-62) by an average of 30 points.

Mid-America Christian University (Oklahoma City, OK) served as host for the NCCAA II Men's Basketball National Tournament. With two titles and a runner-up finish, it is a floor that KCU has enjoyed over the years. The #2 seeded Knights opened the tournament with an extremely close-fought 97-93 victory over Grace Bible College (Wyoming, MI). This win set the stage for one of the most amazing games played in NCCAA tournament history.

Kentucky Christian University's opponent, #3 seed Southwestern Christian University, was more than a match for the Knights as they defeated KCU 134-125 in double overtime. Even with a tying three at the end of regulation and the first overtime, the Knights could not shake SCU. With the loss, KCU was relegated to the consolation game. The Knights ended a very successful season (22-14) by defeating Wesley College 84-76 to capture a third place finish. 🏆

# Lady Knights Win Regional Volleyball Title

The Lady Knights Volleyball team came into the 2006 season with a considerable number of question marks. They finished the regular season as the NCCAA II Midwest Region Champions and a trip to the national tournament.

A roster that contained as many freshmen (7) as upper-classmen (7) did not appear to have the makings of a tournament team but as the season progressed, Kentucky Christian (19-17) slowly rounded into form. "With such a young squad, I knew our play would be up and down," said Coach Bruce Dixon, "Give them the credit, their determination and willingness to work hard and sacrifice for each other made the difference. Those lessons have tremendous spiritual implications that last eternally."

On route to their first region title, KCU dominated the region tournament by losing only one game in their four matches. Even though national tournament results fell short of their goals, the team competed very well in their first trip to the championships in over 15 years. The future looks very exciting for this volleyball team. 🏐



## NCCAA II Awards:

1st Team All-Midwest Region Matt Hackenberg, Akeem Scott  
All-Midwest Region Honorable Mention ..... Jimmy Wooten  
All-Midwest Region Coach of the Year ..... Will Shouse  
1st Team All-American ..... Akeem Scott  
Scholar Athlete ..... Phil Johnson  
All-Tournament Team ..... Matt Hackenberg

## NCCAA II Awards:

1st Team All-Midwest Region ..... Bryee Hawkins, Kori Sweatman  
All-Midwest Region Honorable Mention ..... Nellie Smith  
2nd Team All-American ..... Bryee Hawkins  
Scholar Athlete ..... Nellie Smith



## Knights Soccer

The 2006 edition of KCU Soccer welcomed David Messer as its' new men's coach. Coach Messer has been involved in coaching soccer for over 20 years and his experience will be invaluable in taking this program to the next level. Even though their record (4-12-1) did not reflect the progress Coach Messer desired, it is evident the Knights are on the correct path.

"I want a high level of dedication from the players," said Messer "This stance may have cost me some players, but in the long run, our program will benefit greatly. Hard work and focus on the task at hand will produce results, not only on the field, but in a Christian's life as well." With that type of leadership, Kentucky Christian will be back to their winning ways very soon. 🏆

### NCCAA II Awards:

**1st Team All-Mideast Region** .....Ryan Duncan, Brian Elkins, Dan Greider  
**2nd Team All-Mideast Region**.....Michael Johnson, Matthew Lama, Brandon Thomas



## Lady Knights Soccer

The Lady Knights posted the school's most successful season to date. The 9-7 record represents this fledgling program's first winning season. KCU finished the regular season as the region's # 1 seed and entered the post-season as the favorite to represent the Mideast Region in the national tournament.

With the unfortunate loss in the championship game, the Lady Knights fell short of their pre-season goal to earn a ticket to nationals. Although the disappointing finish produced many tears, the accomplishments of this team cannot be ignored. Their contributions during the 2006 season have laid a foundation of success that will be built on for years to come. 🏆

### NCCAA II Awards:

**1st Team All-Mideast Region** ..... Samantha Baker, Shaunna Edwards, Stephanie Kandray, Kristina Lama, Kendall Scott  
**All-Mideast Region Honorable Mention** ..... Rachele Weldy



## Knights and Lady Knights Cross Country

KCU Cross Country teams finished very competitive seasons in 2006 and continued to demonstrate steady progress. While competing against much larger schools and many with significant scholarship dollars, the Knights and Lady Knights seem to be running uphill. Even in the face of these competitive imbalances, both squads are determined to dedicate their best to the sport.

Mark Collins (So.) led the way for the Knights as he collected a team first place in every meet. With this being his first season running cross country, that makes the accomplishment all the more amazing.

Two Lady Knights put their stamp on KCU Cross Country history as Stephanie Wood (Fr.) placed at #6 and Emily Prosise (So.) placed at #8 on the Top Ten times list. With the majority of both squads returning and a promising recruiting season under way, next year just can't get here fast enough. 🏆

### NCCAA II Award:

**Scholar Athlete** ..... Samantha Reams

# Knights Football Kickoff

As has been widely reported, Kentucky Christian University has thrown its' helmet in the intercollegiate football arena. Coach Dane Damron was chosen to lead the most aggressive athletic undertaking in the school's history. KCU has an excellent reputation within the intercollegiate athletic community and the response to the new football program has been nothing short of amazing.

The various phases of the program's total implementation are well under way. The first varsity contest will be in the fall of 2008. The past year has been a whirlwind of activity with the development of facility plans (*see back page for coverage of groundbreaking festivities*), hiring coaches, fundraising, equipment purchases and recruiting. Being able to strap on a helmet and participate in drills is the reality the players want to experience. They look forward to the upcoming season and the enjoyment of college football.

The KCU JV season will begin in September with a six game schedule that contains all away games. With no home contests scheduled during the 2007 season, this will allow for the final stages of construction for all football related facilities. If recruiting efforts remain consistent, approximately 60-80 football players will take the field this fall and prepare to play their first games.

The first varsity contest is a little over a year away. The vision of football on the campus of KCU is plain and clear. Christian young men are very excited about the opportunity to pursue a sport they love, in an environment that meets their spiritual needs. KCU Football is meeting both needs. 🏆



### 2007 KCU Football Schedule

September 10 (4:00 pm) ..... Centre College  
 September 22 (2:30 pm) ..... Faulkner University  
 September 29 (6:00 pm) ..... Kentucky Wesleyan University  
 October 5 (7:00 pm) ..... Southern Virginia University  
 October 15 (4:00 pm) ..... Georgetown College  
 October 22 (4:00 pm) ..... Wilmington College





# Insider

Alumni Office  
606-474-3277  
alumni@kcu.edu  
www.kdu.edu

Alumni Association  
Executive Committee  
Brent Baker - President  
Jerry Morris - Treasurer  
Ron Whitacre - Past President

NEWS & EVENTS FOR ALUMNI & FRIENDS

## Alumnus Rick Cooper Appointed as Special Assistant

*Alumni Leslie Menix and Aimie Walker Join the Team*

Dr. Keeran has announced the appointment of **Mr. Rick Cooper** (KCU '96) as Special Assistant to the President. The administrative position provides direction and oversight to the three units of the University that relate most specifically to overall community development. "Developing a sense of community," said President Keeran, "is an important part of the administrative agenda and will be the focus of the Special Assistant's overall responsibilities."

The three units for which Cooper will have administrative oversight include campus ministry, alumni relations, and athletics. "The spiritual, relational, and physical development of students is an important function of the co-curriculum at KCU. What happens outside the classroom is at least as important as what happens inside," said the President. "And the involvement of our alumni, as a key segment of the KCU community, will be given much more focus under Cooper's leadership."

While the intercollegiate athletics program is ultimately under the oversight of the President, Cooper will insure that athletics is kept in balance with KCU's expectations for student spiritual development and academic success.

Rick Cooper, who is known affectionately as "Coop", joins the University staff following service as Student Minister at Madison Christian Church in Groveport, Ohio. He and his wife, Lynn (Hoover, KCU '97), have two sons, Ricky (5) and Price (3). Prior to his ministry in Ohio, "Coop" spent three seasons as a broadcaster on the Marshall University Football Radio Network, working primarily as their sideline reporter. He has recently completed 14 years as the sports broadcaster for Knights and Lady Knights basketball at KCU.



Through sports broadcasting, "Coop" has had the opportunity to meet some of the biggest names in sports. He has interviewed Michael Jordan, Tiger Woods, A.C. Green, Mark Price, Randy Moss, Orel Hershisier, Mike Singletary and many more. He is an energetic and popular conference speaker and uses his experiences in sports to reach young people for Christ. Commenting on his new position as Special Assistant to the President, Cooper said, "I am really pumped about this opportunity to bring energy and direction to these three areas of campus life. When you consider the mission of this University, it isn't hard to see how ministry, athletics, and alumni involvement are

key contributors to the successful development of future Christian leaders."

While Cooper will provide administrative oversight for campus ministry, alumni relations and athletics, he will by no means be "going it alone." Cooper will be joined by two outstanding and very capable full-time assistants. Joining Rick Cooper in the office of the Special Assistant will be Leslie (Arnold) Menix and Aimie (Arnett) Walker.

**Leslie Menix**, a 1998 Business graduate of KCU previously served as an admissions counselor and then as a successful Director of Admissions from 1998 to 2006. In her role as Director of Campus Ministry to Women, Menix will provide overall leadership in the organization of spiritual development activities. The special focus of her role will be to provide leadership in ministry to women on the University campus.



**Aimie Walker** who has served as an assistant women's basketball coach with the KCU Lady Knights and as an adjunct instructor of mathematics will be the Director of Alumni Communication and Involvement under Cooper. In this role, she will be in charge of organizing alumni events, will maintain communication with KCU alumni throughout the world, and will work to involve alumni in future development initiatives. Walker is a 1992 Education graduate of KCU and holds a Master of Education degree from Morehead State University.



## 1960's

**Beulah (Hunter) Eastman** ('64) has written a novel, *Rachel's House*, released in February, 2007. Beulah lives in Youngstown, OH, with her husband **Jay** ('68) who is a Chaplain with Hospice of the Valley and is Minister of the Canfield (OH) Christian Church. They have three children: **Janet** (attn: '84-'86), Monty, and David. 2756 Rosewae Dr., Youngstown, OH 44511. jaysbest@sbcglobal.net.

## 1970's

**Terry** ('72) and **Alexis (Dale)** ('72) **Jones** relocated to Christ's Church at Tiffin in September 2006, from a 20 year ministry in Elizabethtown, KY. 46 Siesta Dr., Tiffin, OH 44883. terryjones@christchurchattiffin.org. **Betty (Hall)** ('73) and **Barry Jones** announce that Betty received the 2007 Outstanding Teaching Award for the Advertising/Public Relations Dept. at the University of Georgia. In 2005, she received UGA's Outstanding Faculty Advisor Award for her work with Public Relations Student Society of America. 300 Deertrigger Landing, Athens, GA 30605. betjones@grady.uga.edu.

## 1980's

**Steven** ('86) and **Kayleen (Waugh)** (attn: '84-86) **Holbrook** have three children, Cody (19), Lindsey (17) and Sean (14). Steven recently earned his Masters in Education with an emphasis in Special Education from the University of Findlay. He is a Substitute Teacher with

Hardin County Schools and Preaching Minister at Pandora Church of Christ. Kayleen is a Computer Billing Technician. 207 West St., P.O. Box 203, McGuffey, OH 45859. steven\_holbrook@yahoo.com.

**Pauline (Polly) Horner** ('89) has two children, T.J. (15) and Megan (12). Polly graduated with honors from Muskingum College with a Masters of Education. Her specialization is in Special Education. She currently works for Perry Hocking ESC. 9955 Walnut St. S.E., Corning, OH 43730. polly43756@yahoo.com.

## 1990's

**Dusty** ('99) and **Jessica (Taylor)** ('00) **Delafield** announce the birth of their son Isaiah David born on August 5, 2006. Dusty is a Preaching/Outreach Minister at Miami-town Church of Christ. Jessica is an Administrative Assistant. P.O. Box 717, Miamitown, OH 45041. ddelafield@miamitowncc.com.

**Michael** ('98) and **Angie (Thompson)** ('98) **DeSarro** announce the birth of Caitlyn on December 11, 2006. She joins brother Johnathan (3). P.O. Box 57, Harrisburg, NC 28075. mrsdesarro@yahoo.com.

**Brian** ('98) and **Misty (Bear)** ('97) **Gorman** announce the birth of their daughter Samara born on September 30, 2006. Samara joins brother Elijah (2). Brian is a Minister of Adults at First Christian Church of Kenosha. 6221 248th Ave., Salem, WI 53144.

**Homer** ('97) and **Erin (Goodlin)** ('98) **Holsted** announce the birth of daughter Kate on November 27, 2006. She joins sister Claire (3). Homer is an Associate Minister at Bethlehem Church of Christ. Erin works as a Mental Health Therapist.

P.O. Box 275, Russellville, OH 45168. homersyouth@yahoo.com.

**Kendra (Keur)** ('95) and **Chip Hutchins** announce the birth of their child, Leyton born on May 3, 2006. Leyton joins Gabriel (3). Kendra is a Financial Coordinator. The couple owns and operates CK Concepts Home Builders. 4756 Millis Rd., North Branch, MI 48461. kennerkl@yahoo.com

**Ray** ('98) and **Jody (Edwards)** ('05) **Jester** announce the birth of Gretchen born November 11, 2006. She joins brother Asa (2). 1027 Marlin Lakes Cr., Apt. 1321, Sarasota, FL 34232. ray@sarasotachristianchurch.org.

**Mac** ('99) and **Laura (Doezema)** ('00) **McLaughlin** announce the birth of Joy on September 17, 2006. She joins Allena (6) and Luke (2). Mac is a Youth Minister at Mount Gilead Church of Christ. 333 Iberia St., Mount Gilead, OH 43338. m\_a\_m@rocketmail.com and allenasmommy@yahoo.com.

**Leslie (Arnold)** ('98) and **Eric Menix** were married on September 30, 2006. 13938 State Hwy. 2, Grayson, KY 41143. lmenix@aim.com.

**Jim Ross** ('95) has relocated to Austin, TX. 9500 W. Palmer Ln., Apt. 235, Austin, TX 78717.

**Kari (Pendleton)** ('99) and **Jeff Stedge** announce the birth of their first child Brayden on November 14, 2006. Kari is a Substitute Teacher for Prairie Heights School Corp, and Jeff is a Pastor. 3401 S. Golden Lake Rd., Pleasant Lake, IN 46779. karistedge@yahoo.com.

**Allison (Hall)** (attn: '90-'91) and **David Steineker** announce the birth of Melody on November 14, 2006. Melody joins Madelyn (4), Mason (3) and Micah (1). 9909 Glenda Ct., Louisville, KY 40223. steinekerfamily@insightbb.com.

**David** ('80) and **Kimberly (Tribble)** ('82) **Welsh**. David is the Senior Pastor at Central Christian Church in Wichita, KS. mail@ccc.org. **Brian** (attn: '92-'94) and **Heidi (DePeel)** (attn: '93-'95) **Whitehurst** announce the birth of their first child, Chloe on August 16, 2006. Brian works for the Wake Co. Public School System in the Purchasing Dept. Heidi is a RN with Wake County Human Services. 3042 Rambling Hills Dr., Morrisville, NC 27560.

## 2000's

**Kimberly (Satterfield)** ('03) and **Tim Adams** were married on November 4, 2006. Kimberly is a Community Business Director at Atria Senior Living. Tim is an Electrician Apprentice. 7237 Columns Cr., Apt. 205, New Port Richey, FL 34655. kimberlysatterfield@hotmail.com.

**Scott** ('02) and **Amber (Ulrich)** ('03) **Ancarrow** announce the birth of their first child, Emery born on June 16, 2006. Scott is the Student Minister at Northview Christian Church. Amber teaches 7-8 grade math and language Arts at Danville Community Middle School. 345 Chestnut St., Danville, IN 46122. amberancarrow@hotmail.com.

**Melissa (Moore)** ('00) and **Peter Berg** announce the birth of Katrina on July 8, 2006. She joins sister, Martha (3). 212 3rd St. S.W., Little Falls, MN 56345. princess4930289@cs.com.

**Heather Caldwell** ('00) is Corporate Compliance Officer with St. Mary's Medical Center in Huntington. 915 Third St. W., Huntington, WV 25701. heather.caldwell@st-marys.org.

**Sara (Wickline)** ('03) married **James Hatch** of Georgetown, KY on December 16, 2006. She is working as a 3rd Grade Teacher for Bethel-Tate Schools. 16 Amelia Olive Branch #7, Amelia, OH 45102. swicklineccc@yahoo.com.

**Scott** ('01) and **Holly (Ramsey)** ('01) **Haulter** have a daughter Isabella (17 mos.). Holly has a Masters in Clinical Psychology from Appalachian State University. Scott is the High School Minister at First Christian Church Kernersville. 621 Asheby Woods Rd., Kernersville, NC 27284. scotth@fcc-kville.org.

## Alumni 2007 CALENDAR

**North American Christian Convention  
Alumni & Friends Reception • July 4, 2007**

**Alumni Soccer Games • August 25, 2007**

**Alumni Reception Following Feast of  
Christmas • November 30, 2007**

Many of the above events have online registration.



**Joy (Becker)** ('01) married Phil **Helbig** in June 2006. Joy is a Special Education Teacher at the Thomas E. Wilkey School. 1670 Yellowglen Dr., Cincinnati, OH 45255. becker20@hotmail.com

**Heather Hill** ('01) is a Substitute Teacher for Ferguson Florissant School District. 3272 Yvette Ct., Florissant, MO 63031.

**Charles III** ('03) and **Krystal (Klendworth)** ('04) **Kleine**. Charles is Banker at Huntington National Bank, and Krystal is a Receptionist at Mason Christian Village. 5037 Park Ridge Ct., West Chester, OH 45069. unity9.24@hotmail.com.

**Kay (Schiltz)** ('03) and Michael **McHolm** have a son Gabriel (17 mos.). Kay is a stay at home mom, and Michael is a Computer Programmer. 119 Woodside Ave. N.E., North Canton, OH 44720. mcholmk@hotmail.com.

**Alysen Merrill** ('05) is working with local ministries in Wigston, England, as well as the national organization of Christian churches. She is pursuing her Masters in Missions through Birmingham Christian College and

the University of Wales. 100A Central Ave., Wigston, Leicester LE18 2AA, U.K., O. acrosshepondministries@yahoo.com.

**Josie Porter** ('00) is Administrative Assistant in the KCU Keeran School of Education. She is also owner/seamstress of Seams Unlimited. 208 College St., Grayson, KY 41143. josie\_porter@yahoo.com

**Danny** ('04) and **Megan (Gregory)** ('04) **Reischel** announce the birth of Elijah on February 9, 2007. He joins Noah (1). Danny is an Assoc. Minister at Bux-Mont Christian Church. 829 Purple Martin Ct., Warrington, PA 18976. Reischel730@aol.com.

**Nicholas** ('04) and **Elizabeth (Doss)** ('04) **Skinner** announce the birth of Kensington on February 13, 2007. nicandliz@windstream.net.

**Josh** ('03) and **Trista (Shriver)** (attn: '01-'03) **Todd** announce the birth of Gabriel on January 28, 2007. 324 Lincoln Ave., Louisville, OH 44641. tristatodd@yahoo.com.

**Jason** ('03) and **Michelle (Christner)** ('01) **Toller** announce the birth of Elisha on October 2, 2006. He joins sister, Abigail (5). Jason is

the Youth Minister at Delta Church of Christ and Michelle is a Library Assistant at Delta Public Library. 515 W. Main St., Delta, OH 43515. dccjason@metalink.net.

## In Memoriam

**John W. Barto** ('61) died February 4, 2007. His wife **Martha Barto** (attn: '57-'61) died January 5, 2007. They are survived by four children, Becky Gaytko, **Sally (Barto)** (attn: '80-'83) **Kleiner**, John P. Barto and Suzi E. Barto. 1422 E. Third St., Dayton, OH 45403. baskkleiner@sbcglobal.net.

**Karel Desgrange** ('49) passed away on August 4, 2006. He is survived

by his wife **Mary Jane (Shelton) Desgrange** (attn: '46-'48). 2605 Nebraska Ave., Flint, MI 48506.

**Richard Evanson** ('70) passed away on March 2, 2007. He is survived by his wife **Betty Lou (Lutz)** ('69) **Evanson**. 3501 E Camelback Rd. #212, Phoenix, AZ 85018.

**Wendell Hoover**, a long-time friend of KCU, passed away April 7, 2007. Mr. Hoover had served faithfully as a member of the KCU Board of Trustees. He is survived by wife Beverly and daughters **Lynn (Hoover)** ('97) **Cooper**, and Susan Attkisson.

**George Markey** ('67) passed away February 13, 2007. He is survived by wife **Pam (Pemberton)** (attn: '65-'67) **Markey**. 212 College Hill, Grayson, KY 41143.



## Homecoming '07



Former baseball players and coaches recognized

Homecoming King Malachi McDaniel & Homecoming Queen Erin Severns



Pioneer Award given to members of KCU's first basketball team, "The Rockets"



## ALUMNI BANQUET '07



# Audio Adrenaline: Still Humble, Still in Touch

*By Dr. Mark Deakins, Dean, School of Music*

The first week of December is always the Tennessee Christian Teens for Christ convention at the Convention Center in Gatlinburg, TN. For many years, Sandra and I would attend the convention and represent the school at the KCU booth. This one year Audio Adrenaline was the featured band. Their song, "Big House" was a big hit and Audio Adrenaline was understanding what it meant to be famous. During a break in the convention scheduling the band stopped by the booth and we sat on the floor and talked about the school, the band's ever increasing schedule and their desire to tell teens about Christ. It was at that point that I realized that fame had not changed our "boys" at all. They were still the humble young men who had just graduated a few years before from KCU.

Just three years ago I went to King's Island in Cincinnati with our church youth group on a day at which Audio Adrenaline was the featured group. Our son, Preston, was very excited about seeing the group and knew every song they sang. As we were waiting in line for a ride I saw his eyes get wide and then he pointed at the young man walking toward us. It was Will McGinniss. We stood and talked for a while and caught up on the happenings of the band and the school. All the while young people were walking around us, pointing at

Will, calling out his name, and asking for autographs. He just took it all in stride, smiled at the teens, waved at them, signed autographs and kept talking. Even at this moment I realized once again that fame had not changed our KCU grad. Will was just as humble then as he was years before in Gatlinburg.

Audio Adrenaline has been on the road for 15 years – the longest running rock band in the history of Christian music. They have sold over three million recordings, had 18 number one hits, received four Dove Awards (1996 Dove Award for Long Form Music Video of the Year for "Big House"; 1998 Dove Award for Modern Rock Recorded Song of the Year for "Some Kind of Zombie"; 2000 Dove Award for Rock Recorded Song of the Year for "Get Down"; 2003 Dove Award for Rock Album of the Year for *Lift*) and garnered a total of six GRAMMY nominations and received two GRAMMY awards – the first for the 2003 recording, "Worldwide" and the second for their latest release, "Until My Heart Caves In." Audio A's recording, "Bloom," was certified Gold by the RIAA in 1999, signifying sales of more than 500,000 units, and they were awarded the prestigious "Song of the Decade" in the 90s for *Big House* by CCM magazine.

AudioA's music has been heard recently on ESPN, in the new film, "Angel War," and on VH1! "Religion - A Pop Culture

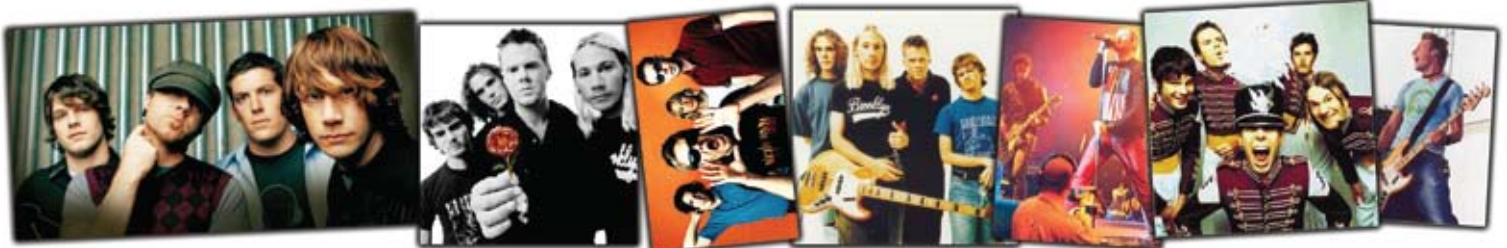
History." This documentary featured an interview with the band, as well as other Christians who have been able to reach out to the secular market.

On April 28, 2007 they performed their final concert in Hawaii.

Mark Stuart and Will McGinnis - the only two remaining original members of A-180 turned AudioA – are ready to begin another ministry and adventure for the Kingdom. This new journey began with their biggest hit... "Big House."

Underneath the song's catchy, upbeat surface is a deeper story about how the members of an increasingly popular band decided to devote significant portions of their time, money and celebrity to the cause of impoverished orphans in Haiti. During the summer of 2005, even though the members of Audio Adrenaline have been on the road for months, they decide to take another journey – to the poor Haitian town of Cyvadier, where their foundation is building an orphanage for Haitian children.

Before there was Audio Adrenaline, band member Mark Stuart's parents served as missionaries in Haiti. Mark's time in Haiti had a profound impact on him. "I've always had a love for Haiti," Mark says. "It was something that has been a part of me, way before Audio Adrenaline. This is like home for me. When I come





here, I just melt into who I am supposed to be—if that makes any sense. God gave me a heart for the country of Haiti and for its beautiful people, especially the children. Soon afterward, I embarked on my crazy career with Audio Adrenaline. God has so blessed us over the years, and one of our responses to those blessings has been to start The Hands and Feet Project in Cyvadier, Haiti."

"The lyrics for the song 'Big House' were actually lyrics to a song that the kids taught us to sing here," says Stuart. "I was in junior high or high school on the north shore of Haiti working with my parents, and these kids would be singing this song. We wrote 'Big House' using those lyrics. It's just a song about the hope of heaven."

"If you're a kid living here, you most likely live in a hut with a mud floor and a tin roof. You've got 10 family members sleeping with you. You might even have to sleep in a chair or something. One day, you look down the street and see a house. You think, I wonder if that's what heaven is like—a big house with everything we need: a room, a bed and all the food we need. Someday, I'll go there, to my Father's house. So that song means a lot to the kids here."

The band purchased a parcel of land in August 2004; and today the Hands and Feet Project is helping orphans in Haiti. Members of Audio Adrenaline have served as public champions for an understanding of Christian living that balances faith and action.

All that's not bad for a bunch of guys who have always considered themselves the underdogs of the Christian music industry. More important than the hit records and the accolades have been the lives that have been touched by the music and ministry of Audio



Mark Stuart, Dave Stuart, Will McGinnis, Kent Childers, and Barry Blair perform a concert as A-180 prior to becoming Audio Adrenaline


Adrenaline. Countless young people have looked up to the band for encouragement and inspiration and have found a template for their own lives. AudioA has always been known as the band that is heavily into missions and they have encouraged teens to follow in their footsteps.

The members of the band see Audio Adrenaline as an example of how God can use people who are obedient. "I think that it's a testimony to any one if you are willing to turn your heart and life over to God, that you can do many things," says Stuart. "We certainly aren't the best band. We have our weaknesses spiritually and we're not the best musicians, but I think He works outside those things. He just uses you. I don't think we ever thought we could have gone this long, but we just wanted to be humble and serve God in a faithful way and He's used us."

That humble, self-effacing view of their own talents has spawned an underdog mentality among the members of the band that has made them work harder and never rest on their laurels. "The last 15 years of music, ministry and mayhem have been an incredible blessing," says Stuart. "In fact, we look at the existence of Audio Adrenaline as nothing short of a miracle. Everyday we spent writing, recording, traveling and performing together are dear memories. And to be

able to live out our dreams together with the greatest fans on the planet was indeed a privilege. To say 'goodbye' is never easy, but knowing where God has brought us from makes us so excited about where He's taking us."

Former member Barry Blair is in Nashville and works as an independent producer. Former member Bob Herdman, came off the road in 1999, but continued to contribute by writing songs for the band, and heading up Flicker Records, an independent label started with Stuart and McGinniss. The label launched several new acts, most notably Pillar, before the partners sold the label to Sony/BMG's Christian arm, Provident Music Group in 2006. Herdman, Stuart and McGinniss will continue to work the label in an A&R (Artist and Repertoire) capacity.

In May, 2006, Audio Adrenaline received the KCU Pioneer Award for advancing the Lord's Kingdom through music ministry. KCU is proud to have been a part of the lives and ministry of Audio Adrenaline. Their ability to remain relevant to today's teens kept their music vital in an ever-changing music scene, but it was their humble spirit that continued to draw teens to their ministry, knowing full-well that this 15-year journey was never about them – it was about pointing the way to Christ. 



Audio Adrenaline receives Grammy Award





# Ground Broken For Athletic Fieldhouse



Ground was broken May 9, 2007 for a new athletic fieldhouse. This facility will include locker rooms for both soccer and football teams, a weight room, training room, laundry facilities, storage, and a meeting room. Construction should be completed by November of this year.

Site preparation and construction for the stadium is slated to begin in Spring 2008. Both the soccer and football teams will begin play in the stadium in the Fall of 2008.



Soccer coaches David Messer (top) and Kris Langstaff pray during program



Athletes, Coaches, Faculty, and Administrators participate in groundbreaking ceremonies of new athletic fieldhouse



Head football coach Dane Damron speaks during groundbreaking ceremony about the new facility



Local media outlets were on hand to report this occasion to the tri-state area

**Alumni  
& Friends**

Reception @ NACC  
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July 4



Kentucky Christian University  
**Graduate  
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Modular Classes  
August 13-17  
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November 28 -  
December 1

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## The Voice

of Kentucky Christian University

Phone 606-474-3000

Fax 606-474-3155

Postmaster send address changes to:

The Voice

Kentucky Christian University

100 Academic Parkway

Grayson, KY 41143-2205

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