REDEEMING FAITH
Read three redemption stories from the SAU community

UNIVERSITY HALL
SAU dedicated a new residence hall in September

SOCCER STADIUM
This fall, Cougars will compete on a new FIFA 2-star soccer field

REInventing education
with Michigan's Teacher of the Year
Spring Arbor University is dedicated to serving students with the highest degree of education grounded in the Christian faith. Recognized as a top-tier university by U.S. News and World Report and one of just 10 recipients of the M.J. Murdock Charitable Trust Award by the Council for Christian Colleges and Universities, your University remains committed to delivering an excellent and affordable education through traditional and innovative approaches.

Our strategic goals set the course for this action. Last fall, a representative university committee developed a strategic plan that all employees helped morph before the start of the 2010-11 academic year. The top priorities are certainly no secret to the community, but they are vital to the future of your University. Spring Arbor University will strive to optimize transformational program offerings; achieve targeted enrollment growth; strengthen and expand student services; and secure and deploy needed human and financial resources. What does all of that mean? Let me share a few key objectives that are currently in focus.

We continue to offer academically rigorous and relevant programs for students. On page 7, read how our School of Education is offering the most up-to-date programs needed for instruction. Developing more affordable international learning experiences is also in focus at Spring Arbor University. Beginning in Fall 2011, incoming freshmen will be able to select from a variety of three-week study abroad experiences at no additional cost beyond normal tuition, passport and immunizations. This is an educational opportunity offered by few higher education institutions and no other Christian university.

In order to strengthen and expand student services, we continually strive to update facilities and infrastructure. In September 2010, we dedicated a 214-bed University Hall, the second residence hall completed on campus within the past four years. This spring, we will break ground on a soccer stadium to serve the needs of our growing soccer programs and provide intramural space for all of our on-campus students. We are currently seeking leadership gifts for a 20,000-square-foot expansion and remodel of Kresge Student Center; a center built for 700 students now servicing 1,720 students.

With these goals in focus, we welcomed a record number of freshmen in the fall. Spring Arbor University is now the largest evangelical university in Michigan. If there is ever any doubt about our efforts to offer a quality education, we can simply look at the impact our graduates are making in their communities around the world. In focus presently is Michigan’s Teacher of the Year, alumna Matinta Ragatz. I hope you enjoy her story and the many stories of success and growth that continue to fill our campus community.

Charles H. Webb, Ph.D.
President
SAU community shares redemption stories
Jacob Atem, Angus McLachlan and Ruth McLachlan share their stories of redemption.

World languages department adds German
This fall, Spring Arbor University will begin offering three German language and business courses for campus students.

Athletics plans to build soccer stadium
In April, Spring Arbor University will break ground on a new 3,600-square-foot soccer stadium that will feature a turf surface, locker rooms, coaches’ offices, a press box and lighting.

View photos from SAU fall/winter events
From concerts to cookouts, reunions to guest speakers, view a photo recap of Spring Arbor University’s fall and winter events.
BEYOND the PENCIL
Reinventing education with Michigan’s Teacher of the Year

By Julie Tison

“Outside the box” loosely describes the curriculum Mattea Ragatz ’89 develops for her global studies classes. Some teachers take their classes outside on sunny afternoons; few travel the globe to teach about social differences. Some teachers use websites to enhance lessons; few utilize Facebook to teach students alternative economic lessons.

For Ragatz, who also teaches secondary social studies and world languages at Grand Ledge High School, building lessons that teach youth about the world through firsthand experiences using the latest technology is a way of life. She utilizes the same techniques as leaders and innovators in other fields, like business, to succeed in her teaching profession.

Her unique teaching methods have made her a favorite teacher in her high school. Last year, her dedication and innovation helped her land the coveted honor of Michigan Teacher of the Year by the Michigan Department of Education. While she has found success in education, Ragatz almost chose a different career path.
Choosing education

The daughter of African diplomats, Ragatz always visualized herself as a teacher growing up, but never officially vocalized her dream. Ragatz comes from a long line of hardworking women. Her grandmother lived in Africa, where she ran a vegetable stand and had the foresight to ensure each of her children received an education. Ragatz’s mother was the first woman in her country to earn a college degree, and she was the first female teacher in the family. Until recently, when she retired, Ragatz’s mother was a university dean at the age of 79. Her successful career came from a combination of hard work and the continual reinvention of her craft — something Ragatz has tried (and successfully) modeled as a teacher herself.

Because parents often want more for their children, her mother’s career path was not what was envisioned for Ragatz. After all, she was the daughter of a diplomat and a teacher. As her parents’ diplomatic duties took them around the world, Ragatz acquired her primary education in Morocco, Ethiopia and Nigeria, and her secondary education in Spain and Germany.

For her, they wanted a law career. Though she never shared their aspirations, she began the journey to law school by earning a bachelor’s degree in history, political science and pre-law from Messiah College (Penn.).

Early in her marriage, Ragatz and her husband applied for graduate school simultaneously with the pact that whoever was accepted first, would go while the other worked; then they would switch roles. Ragatz’s husband began studying at Michigan State University, while Ragatz pursued, what she thought would be, a temporary job as a teacher.

Ragatz needed to earn her teaching certification, which led her to Spring Arbor University, where she completed her teaching certificate and Spanish minor in 1989. She began her teaching career at Lansing Christian before settling at Grand Ledge High School, where she has taught for the past 18 years.

While she never followed through with her parents’ desires for her career, she looked to them as role models for how to reach her students. Using their examples of sacrifice for others and innovative ways of thinking, Ragatz has created a learning environment that accommodates students’ current interests — like technology and world travel.

“The point of coming to school is to uncover students’ talents and not just for me to tell them what they need to know,” says Ragatz. “Twenty-first century students discover their own abilities when provided with real-life learning, with a real-life audience and a real-life purpose. They must understand the end so that they can better accept the means.”

Reaching students

Throughout her career, Ragatz has tried many different teaching methods to get the most out of her students — or rather, so her students could get the most from her. It wasn’t until about five years ago that Ragatz developed a hybrid classroom that allows her to act as more of a facilitator in the classroom, ensuring student-centered learning is achieved.

“I had a gut feeling that technology was where the students needed to be and where they were,” says Ragatz, who chose technology as her platform as Michigan Teacher of the Year. Ragatz credits part of her entrepreneurial thinking to her days in Prof. David Hamilton’s class at Spring Arbor University, where he challenged his students to think creatively to get students’ attention — to think through new ideas as they set lesson plans.

While she continues to prepare lectures and moderate discussions, her students also go online for research, and use a learning management system Ragatz designed for iPods. They can even take tests on a Nintendo Wii.

Ragatz’s model is effective, but it is also time consuming and requires a lot of up-keep. Ragatz tries to stay on top of the latest trends by studying every day for an hour or more. She also utilizes websites filled with relevant (and free) information, like ted.com or youtube.com.

Assessing outside of tests

Just as Ragatz emphasizes technology over more traditional aids for instruction, students are assessed differently, too. For one of her
classes, Ragatz’s students complete service projects — where the actual project also becomes the assessment. “Students feel empowered to achieve success outside of tests; they become excited to reach goals for the project,” says Ragatz.

Aside from technology, Ragatz also promotes collaborative learning that mirrors a professional setting where adults work together to learn and accomplish goals. Her work doesn’t stop when the final bell rings, either. Ragatz volunteers and spends countless hours encouraging other educators to serve their students.

Exploring the world

For nearly 20 years, Ragatz has been modeling her own experiences with her students, as she has been taking her students outside of the classroom and, often outside of the continent, to learn more about the world.

As the child of African diplomats, Ragatz never studied in the same school or country for more than three years until she reached high school. She learned to adapt to the new culture while she explored the world.

Just as she learned to adapt to new cultures, she encourages her students to open their minds to the world beyond their backyard, beyond their city, beyond their state, beyond their time zone. Her ideas about world travel align closely with what Spring Arbor University has been doing for years. Similar to how the University prepares students for study abroad experiences, Ragatz helps students study about the cultures they will explore.

When a group was set to travel to Japan, Ragatz contacted a teacher from Lansing who teaches Japanese language and culture. The fellow educator guest lectured for Ragatz for six weeks to prepare students for the many differences between the two cultures.

Despite her dedication and success in the classroom, Ragatz’s latest distinction caught her off guard. She was nominated by the guest Japanese teacher with whom she discussed ways to teach some of the culture shock that comes from differing cultures. Little did Ragatz realize, that Japanese language teacher would eventually nominate her for Michigan Teacher of the Year. “Receiving this award was a major shock,” says Ragatz.

Beyond her classroom

In addition to her fulltime teaching position and countless volunteer hours, Ragatz is the founder and director of Project Management of Interface Global Alliance, a nonprofit organization that promotes economic development in underprivileged communities through project-based education. She is currently developing education-based projects in West Africa to promote cross cultural “voluntourism” and language exchange for American students at primary and secondary levels. She has presented extensively in this field and promoted the adoption of technology in teaching in numerous professional development forums for teachers.

In 2008, Ragatz received Microsoft’s Innovative Teacher Award and represented the United States in Hong Kong at the International Innovative Teacher Forum. In 2009, she received accolades at the Michigan Association of Computer Users in Learning.

Technology and travel serve as aids to her classroom instruction, but they are not the focus. While some educators try to make sure their students can succeed in college, Ragatz goes a step further.

“Are you preparing your students to go out into the community to give?” she asked an auditorium of college students and educators when she stopped by SAU for a day last fall.

During her stint as Michigan Teacher of the Year, Ragatz is serving as an ambassador for all Michigan teachers, and urging students and others to consider teaching. Ragatz wants current and future teachers, alike, to break down walls that stand between their instruction and their students’ learning — to reach them where they are through technology, self-directed instruction, travel or any means necessary. As technology advances, Ragatz will continue to reinvent education. Learn more about Ragatz and her initiatives at matinga.com.

The secret to success in teaching and happiness in general is ... giving. Give of yourself, your talents, your time. Giving to others cures depression, loneliness, and any other obstacles. It’s that simple.” MATINGA RAGATZ
Think about someone who influenced your decision to enter a certain profession. If you’re like many people, you thought of a teacher who helped encourage you to dig deeper than you ever imagined and chase after your dreams. Inspiring, challenging and believing in students is something that sets Spring Arbor University’s School of Education apart from other universities. The faculty understands the impact future teachers make on students, and eventually, future generations.

“How do we model the type of teachers we want our students to become?” asks Linda Sherrill, School of Education dean. “We infuse the same passion and excellence into our curriculum and the classroom to model for our students the same care they will need to show in their future classrooms.”

While many successful businesses and people have secrets to success, Spring Arbor University’s School of Education proudly promotes its formula for success — caring faculty who place students first.

Before a student is admitted into the School of Education, each one must take a mentoring course, which emphasizes the professional skills teachers need; skills like reading, writing and speaking. The course culminates with a professional skills lab and a group interview. “This course enhances the school’s desire to help future teachers succeed,” says Philippa Webb, assistant professor of education and First Lady, who is charged with teaching this foundational course.

Webb helps her students think about their field from a professional standpoint — much like other pre-professional students. “My goal is to make them think about behavior and their professionalism, while giving them the information they will need to complete the education program successfully,” says Webb.

That compassion and persistence continues as education students work through their coursework.

“My dad was a teacher, so I saw firsthand the life-changing role a teacher can play in a student’s life. I believe teachers can make a difference, influencing future generations, and ultimately our own future as a society,” says senior Brooke Harris. “Seeing my dad at work in the classroom, and knowing what his students took away from their year or semester with him, has always inspired me. He truly loves his students; and he loves the Lord. That focus set him apart from other teachers. The students knew that he cared — tough love and all.”

And the results are evident. Matinga Ragatz ’89 took top honors in Michigan this past year as Michigan’s Teacher of the Year. For Spring Arbor University, honors like hers are more the norm, rather than the exception. The School of Education has produced two Michigan student teachers of the year and five runners-up in the past seven years. Two alums were also awarded the Milken national Educator Award. This prestigious award is given to 100 teachers nationwide (two per state), and in 2004, both Michigan recipients were Sau graduates.

Additionally, when the Michigan Department of Education evaluated Michigan’s teacher-prep programs, Spring Arbor University’s education program was assessed among the top with exemplary ranking. Each year the Michigan Department of Education has evaluated colleges granting teacher education degrees and Spring Arbor University has earned a top ranking.

“As I have been at SAU, I have seen sincere care and love for students from my professors, and it reinforces how important it is to view students the way the Lord does. Through this lens and by His strength, we, as teachers can genuinely love every student that walks through our classroom door.”

Brooke Harris, Class of 2011

Left] A School of Education student participates in a mock “show and tell” during a methods course at SAU.
certification, Spring Arbor University has received an exemplary mark.

The School of Education currently serves 654 students seeking both bachelor’s and master’s degrees in the education field. In addition to campus programs, the School of Education offers teacher preparation programs in Lansing, Gaylord and Petoskey.

In-demand majors and programs

To provide the best instruction for future teachers, the School of Education offers instruction in the most contemporary content areas. In 2010-11 alone, five new programs were added to the robust School of Education curriculum including the new cross-categorical Master of Special Education degree.

In Fall 2008, the State of Michigan approached Donna Bergman to create an entirely new certification program to serve students with special needs in K-12 school districts. This summer, Spring Arbor University will offer this new degree, which prepares teachers as inclusion specialists for children with mild to moderate disabilities and provide a cross-categorical K-12 endorsement.

The program differs from others offered at peer institutions elsewhere in Michigan by allowing the teacher to be a generalist, instead of specializing in one area. Most programs endorse special education teachers by a particular category, such as Specific Learning Disability, Autism Spectrum Disorder or Emotional Impairment. This endorsement will be referred to as “Mild to Moderate Intervention Specialist.”

Teachers in the program will prepare to assist regular classroom teachers, be experts in developing and implementing intervention techniques, work with small groups of children and individualized instruction, advocate for students, and help students in resource rooms. Their expertise will enable children with special needs to remain within general education settings, in keeping with the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA).

“In recent years, there has been a significant increase across the country in the percentage of special education children being taught in general education classrooms,” says Bergman. “In many instances, special education teachers certified in only one disability area are working with a population of students with multiple disabilities. We are very excited about this program and feel this new endorsement will prepare teachers to meet the various challenges they will face in the K-12 arena.”

Other new SOE programs include:
- Elementary certification redesigned to meet most current standards;
- Undergraduate reading minor;
- Reading specialist endorsement for graduate students; and
- English as a Second Language.

This new reading specialist endorsement equips teachers to become K-12 reading specialists who can serve as teacher-consultants and literacy coaches, work with struggling readers, and coordinate and supervise early childhood through adult reading and literacy programs.

“The program uses Michigan Department of Education standards to deliver comprehensive preparation for leadership in literacy initiatives in K-12 education,” says Kathleen Wilcox, assistant professor and reading coordinator. This program began in 2009 and is offered in an online format.

Now, Spring Arbor University students enrolled in an undergraduate education program also have the option to minor in English as a Second Language, which prepares students to teach ESL to children and adults with varying degrees of English-speaking and writing proficiencies, who come from diverse backgrounds. Students are taught how to teach English listening, speaking, reading and writing.

Mission-led principles

The School of Education’s tradition of excellence is fueled by the mission statement, which drives the curriculum and fuels the
Using the Spring Arbor University Concept as a foundation, this statement of purpose defines the function of education programs and curriculum:

**Our Christ-centered mission is to develop and empower dedicated professional educators committed to student learning in a global society.**

Our Christ-centered mission is to develop and empower dedicated professional educators committed to student learning in a global society.

The mission, along with day-to-day commitment from the faculty, helps keep instruction relevant. “We are continually looking for ways to keep our curriculum fresh. And we practice the same techniques we teach. This commitment has set SAU on a path of excellence,” says Sherrill.

**Modern technology for top preparation**

On the cutting edge of modern teaching strategies, the University has a model classroom for teaching elementary language arts and social studies, science and math, which includes “Smart Board” technology that is filtering into school systems across the nation. Students in methods courses specifically, as well as graduate courses, use this classroom to enhance their teaching and curriculum so they are better prepared to address the instructional needs for the technology-savvy students in their own classrooms.

**Partnering with education leaders**

Since Sherrill took over as dean, the School of Education has increased its outreach efforts to offer workshops for teachers and expanded partnerships with community schools. In 2008, the University partnered with the Hurst Foundation to offer a Professional Learning Community mini-academy for teachers. As one of the strongest and fastest-growing trends in higher education, the academy helped educators understand what it meant to participate with professional learning communities.

In 2009, the University welcomed assessment and standards-based educational research expert, Dr. Robert J. Marzano. Over 500 teachers and administrators from Michigan and Ohio participated in the two-day event, which was expanded to include further instruction in Spring 2011.

“These outreach opportunities help us stay connected with what’s going on in the education field,” says Reuben Rubio, SOE assistant dean and assessment/accreditation director. “We want to provide the surrounding communities with a service that will help reach teacher populations that are overlooked.”

To read more about new accreditation standards the School of Education is pursuing, and how the faculty is serving as leaders in their field, visit arbor.edu/journal.
The Bible tells us we are surrounded by a Great Cloud of Witnesses — some who’ve encouraged us through their stories told through the Word, others who have personally impacted the story of our own lives. As the body of Christ, we rely upon the work of others to nourish and sustain our work for the Lord. The Lord always provides someone to plant the seeds, another to water the seeds, and another to reap the harvest that our lives produce for Him. In this edition of “Let the Redeemed,” we look at three lives who can attest to the power of God manifested through the people who have poured into their lives, and those people whom they have had the privilege of ministering to — planting seeds of hope, encouragement and even redemption.
Jacob Atem was born in the small village of Maar in Southern Sudan in the 1980s. His first few years of life were spent in a normal fashion—living on the family farm, caring for animals with his parents around him. Atem's life would have continued on that course, had Sudan been able to maintain peace between the north and south. Little did Atem know, the civil war that started in 1983 would come to his own home front.

When Atem was 6, Muslim Arabs to the north invaded his hometown. For 11 of the 45 years Sudan has had independence, the country has been in civil war, which started when the president in the north revoked the autonomy the south had achieved, and imposed Islamic law. The south, consisting largely of non-Arab Christians, tried to resist, but the bloodshed weighed heavily. In the 22-year war, entire villages were destroyed and millions were displaced. Among them were Atem and his cousin, Michael.

“That war is where I lost my parents, and not only my parents, but 2.5 million people died. And that’s the war where we happened to walk to Ethiopia and to Kenya,” said Atem.

Being so young, Atem's cousin carried him for much of the way. Atem believes if Michael had not carried him, he would not be living today. “I don’t know—what was the conversation between Michael and God and Jesus? What motivated him to carry me to be who I am today?” asks Atem.

Danger met the boys at every turn. It took about three months to travel to Ethiopia. He stayed there for a couple of years until Ethiopia forced him and his countrymen back into Sudan, where the Arabs still sought their lives. They escaped back into Ethiopia and eventually made their way into Kenya—another three-month journey. In the meantime, the young boys learned survival skills, to avoid those seeking to kill them as well as wild animals. In retrospect, Atem clearly sees God’s hand guiding and protecting him.

“I was in deep trouble. When I was crossing the river from Ethiopia back into Southern Sudan and being saved from the crocodiles and from not being shot at; well, He was there. There’s no way I can deny that,” said Atem.

After arriving in Kenya, the boys entered the Kakuma refugee camp where 100 refugees from across Africa had settled. Atem recalls going days without food. But, he found sustenance in God's word.

“We would eat once or twice and then spend two or three days without food. And, as a Christian, I started growing spiritually and reading the Bible, and I kept telling my friend, ‘I think we are fasting by accident,’” said Atem. “A lot of people died, even in Kenya, at the refugee camp—died of starvation. I’d barely gone to school, although, we never missed church. The only person we could turn to was God.”

In 1998, the U.S. government began granting the refugees, called The Lost Boys of Sudan, amnesty. They had their stories recorded by United Nations lawyers, who were tasked with deciding which Lost Boys were candidates for the U.S. In 2000, the Lost Boys began arriving in America. Atem was not sure he’d be one of them.

“My life depends on that person. A lot of people failed. But, to me, they didn’t ask much. I realize it’s another grace of God. I wonder what was He doing to that person, the lawyer, who says, ‘This person is going to the United States to have this opportunity.’ To other people, they think it is random, but it is God. The theme here, all along, has been Him helping me through other people.”

Atem left for the United States in 2001. He traveled from Kakuma to Nairobi, to Amsterdam, to New York, to Chicago, to Lansing, where he was taken to Webberville, where his new foster mom, Jane White, was waiting.

Atem entered high school, but knew little English. And while his studies were challenging, adjusting to a new culture and new people was just as difficult. But, God was there to see him through every obstacle and give him strength to press on.

“Through my daily life, I’m trying to show that God is always there to give me the right passion. Because when you believe in Jesus Christ, everything will be given you,” said Atem.

Although it took time, patience and forgiveness, Atem grew to love Webberville. He graduated in 2004 and considered college—something he had never dreamed possible when he was at a refugee camp fighting for life. One of his coworkers encouraged him to look into Spring Arbor. Atem wanted to apply for a nearby state school, but he agreed to give SAU a try, a decision he would not regret.

“The Lord always, like I said, redeems. The Lord always has the answer. The theme here, all along, has been Him helping me through other people.”

Tell us YOUR redemption story.
redeemed@arbor.edu
way. So, I filled out an application for Spring Arbor University. And there it is. Realistically, should they have accepted me? By GPA standards? Yes. ACT? No. And that’s where God, again, through other people, has helped me."

As a boy walking through the desert, much like the Israelites in the Bible, Atem dreamt of becoming a doctor. Once, when running from a lion, he gashed his knee with a sharp stick. The cut reached his bone. At that moment, he vowed to become a doctor. The wound healed, but left a scar, which became a constant reminder of his boyhood dream. After enrolling at SAU, Atem saw his dream becoming a possibility.

YOU KNOW, IF I HAD GONE TO MICHIGAN STATE OR UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN, I HAVE FAITH IN GOD, BUT REALISTICALLY, THERE WOULDN’T HAVE BEEN THESE PEOPLE WHO PUT ME ON THEIR WINGS AND SAID, ‘NO MATTER WHAT, YOU CAN DO IT!’” JACOB ATEM

At SAU, Atem struggled with his studies, but professors helped. When he wanted to give up, they encouraged him to keep going. Atem graduated from SAU in 2008 with a bachelor’s degree in biology. Atem’s knowledge about science grew at SAU, but, perhaps equally important, his understanding about God blossomed — helping to clarify his goals and mission — to build a health clinic in Maar.

“You know, if I had gone to Michigan State or University of Michigan, I have faith in God, but realistically, there wouldn’t have been these people who put me on their wings and said, ‘No matter what, you can do it!’”

Atem pursued medical school, but his M-CAT scores were not high enough. Discouraged, Atem sought alternatives. That’s when he heard about Michigan State University’s master’s in public health and felt God leading him to apply. He recently graduated with his master’s and will soon begin a Ph.D. program at the University of Florida, studying health services research management and policy.

The Lord continued opening doors for Atem to open a clinic in Maar. He teamed with another Lost Boy, Lual Deng, to raise funds, and earlier this year, began construction on the facility. In January, he married another Maar refugee, Linda James (Achirin Amou), who came to the U.S. in 1994. Atem met her on a return trip to Africa.

“There’s no doubt God had connected us. And, I cannot wait to grow spiritually with her and, eventually, to have kids to raise them to know Jesus.”

Angus McLachlan has a memory that stretches far back. It closely follows the bends and curves along the road of his life. They say hindsight is 20/20, and McLachlan has had the privilege of seeing with perfect clarity how God has guided him every step of his way, to keep his foot from slipping and his arms from growing weak as he strove to be God’s instrument to those he was sent to serve.

One of McLachlan’s earliest memories is from 1920, when he attended his younger sister’s graduation from Spring Arbor. After the ceremony, he went with his family to see the laying of the cornerstone for the new Spring Arbor Free Methodist stone church. That memory would remain with him, even during times when he would stray from the Lord.

“I went to Western Michigan University to prepare for some field of agriculture. Around that same time, the president closed all the banks — and most of the money I had in the banks was lost,” said McLachlan.

“It was during this time of turmoil and anger that the Lord reached out to McLachlan and showed him the path to everlasting life. “I came to Christ and that began to start changing things,” said McLachlan, who first accepted Christ at a revival meeting. The Lord helped him keep momentum. He attended a camp meeting where he met a young lady named Alice Hazeldine HS ’30. They struck up a friendship.

“We went to church together, which started what we thought was just a camp meeting flare-up; but it started the romance going,” said McLachlan. Hazeldine was attending Spring Arbor Junior College at the time, and after she graduated from there, went to Greenville College to complete her degree. Meanwhile, McLachlan began moving into pastoral ministry. At the Free Methodist General Conference, he was inspired by an impromptu singing of the hymn, “Oh Could I Speak the Matchless Worth.” At that moment, he felt he was called to serve in pastoral ministry.

As McLachlan and Hazeldine prepared for marriage, one couple made a lasting impression on them. Dr. and Mrs. LeRoy Lowell came alongside the soon-to-be newlyweds, giving them advice and encouragement. For McLachlan, Dr. Lowell, who was president at Spring Arbor at that time, really left an indelible impression.

As McLachlan began working as a pastor, the Lord put many people in his path, but especially young people who needed to hear the Gospel.

One such young man was Michael “Skip” Griest JC ’59.
While McLachlan was serving in Charlotte, his church held a vacation Bible school. Griest, who was a young boy at that time, heard the commotion coming from the church down the street, and went to investigate. He came from a very poor home and did not own any shoes. When McLachlan saw him, he took him to get some shoes and then invited him to join the other children at the VBS.

Though the encouragement of McLachlan and others, Griest attended Spring Arbor and later Roberts Wesleyan University. He went on to work for the State of New York. In retirement he served as a lay pastor. As he began preparing for his own sermons, Griest remembered McLachlan and others, including Mrs. Eldon Post at Spring Arbor, and even a local farmer who had loved and cared for him. “And so, Michael built his sermon on seeds, and how seeds can grow,” said McLachlan.

Ruth (Cooley) McLachlan says her life has always been characterized and shaped by the various crossroads she’s encountered. At each fork in the road, McLachlan has had a choice. By the strong and gentle hand of God, He has led her along the path of life and love.

McLachlan was born into a pastor’s family. Although her mother died when she was 6, her father remarried a godly woman who became a wonderful mother to her. She had early opportunities to give her heart — and her life — to God. “I remember I would go to the altar after my father’s sermon and I’d be the only one seeking. I cannot remember any particular time when I was saved, but I know I was seeking the Lord — and have been seeking Him — all my life.”

She attended a Christian high school, went to Roberts Wesleyan for junior college, and later finished her degree at Greenville College where she pursued teaching. She was offered a teaching job in a small mining town. “I didn’t have any textbooks for my sophomore English class. I had to make up all the work. I was so young, but it was a growing experience.”

McLachlan decided to give up teaching and pursue work as a secretary. Over the next few years, she held four different jobs, including work for a defense factory, loan company and later as secretary to the president of Houghton College.

She was seeing a young man she had first met while attending Roberts Wesleyan. Rod Smith JC ‘38 was on Spring Arbor Junior College’s debate team and they had competed against each other. The couple both went on to Greenville College. Once World War II broke out, Smith signed up for the Air Force and was deployed to Africa.

While Smith served overseas, McLachlan had to trust that God would keep him safe. She remembers one time when God clearly showed her that He was watching over Smith during his time overseas. “One night, my roommate was awakened at 3 o’clock to pray for Rod. She didn’t know him and had never met him. She got on her knees and prayed for him. I wrote and told him about it and he looked up in his diary and he had been on a particularly difficult mission that night.”

For McLachlan, it was difficult not knowing if Smith would return, or if she should wait for him. She needed assurance that if he returned from war, he would come back to her. So, she wrote to him. “So, I got a cablegram asking me to marry him. I said ‘yes,’ and we planned to marry as soon as he came back a couple months later.”

After Smith returned from the war, and once the two were married, he studied public school administration. After serving in New Jersey for some time, Smith learned he was going to be offered the president position at Spring Arbor Junior College. On the day he was to be named president, McLachlan went into labor with their second child.

McLachlan remembers the years spent at Spring Arbor while her husband was president (1957-61), which included teaching French to students and faculty, alike. She also remembers the people who touched her life during that time.

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McLachlan decided to give up teaching and pursue work as a secretary. Over the next few years, she held four different jobs, including work for a defense factory, loan company and later as secretary to the president of Houghton College.

She was seeing a young man she had first met while attending Roberts Wesleyan. Rod Smith JC ’38 was on Spring Arbor Junior College’s debate team and they had competed against each other. The couple both went on to Greenville College. Once World War II broke out, Smith signed up for the Air Force and was deployed to Africa.

While Smith served overseas, McLachlan had to trust that God would keep him safe. She remembers one time when God clearly showed her that He was watching over Smith during his time overseas. “One night, my roommate was awakened at 3 o’clock to pray for Rod. She didn’t know him and had never met him. She got on her knees and prayed for him. I wrote and told him about it and he looked up in his diary and he had been on a particularly difficult mission that night.”

For McLachlan, it was difficult not knowing if Smith would return, or if she should wait for him. She needed assurance that if he returned from war, he would come back to her. So, she wrote to him. “So, I got a cablegram asking me to marry him. I said ‘yes,’ and we planned to marry as soon as he came back a couple months later.”

After Smith returned from the war, and once the two were married, he studied public school administration. After serving in New Jersey for some time, Smith learned he was going to be offered the president position at Spring Arbor Junior College. On the day he was to be named president, McLachlan went into labor with their second child.

McLachlan remembers the years spent at Spring Arbor while her husband was president (1957-61), which included teaching French to students and faculty, alike. She also remembers the people who touched her life during that time.

Ruth Cooley McLachlan says her life has always been characterized and shaped by the various crossroads she’s encountered. At each fork in the road, McLachlan has had a choice. By the strong and gentle hand of God, He has led her along the path of life and love.

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For the second time in four years, Spring Arbor University dedicated a new residence hall on campus. “Living in a residence hall is an experience like no other. These men will see each other through good times and bad, during times of laughter, times of tears and times of prayer. They will learn to become men of God as they struggle with a new concept, new relationships and the daily challenges of life,” said University President Chuck Webb during the ceremony.

The 53,000-square-foot residence hall houses men and contains four floors of 107 double-occupancy rooms to accommodate 214 students. The facility features an open lounge area on the main level, a study lounge area with computers and printing capabilities, a conference room, laundry room, reflection room, exercise room, television room and game room. Named “University Hall,” this new residence hall resembles Gainey Hall, which was completed in 2006. University Hall is located at the corner of Cottage and College Streets where the former Gallagher House once stood.

“My favorite part about living in University Hall is the community aspect. The theater room and lounge area are perfect for hanging out,” says junior resident Brandon McCarrell.
The University’s decision to build the new residence hall was driven by current overcrowding of campus housing. Within recent years, the University often housed three individuals in rooms typically reserved for two.

A mere 18 months separated the approval to completion timeline, which Greg Schupra ’78, SAU Board of Trustees chair, noted was miraculous. “I thank God for His provision and mercy. Here, students’ lives will be impacted, molded and changed — that’s really what this is all about.”

The timing could not have been better as University Hall is filled to capacity.

We truly seek to provide transformative education at SAU and the residential hall is an integral part of that process. Men will enter this Christ-centered community that establishes the intellect and enlightens the spirit, emerging ready to engage our world for Christ.”

CHUCK WEBB

Spring Arbor University contracted with Wieland-Davco Corporation of Lansing as construction manager for the project, and chose Hobbs-Black Architects of Lansing as its architect.

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For generations, Germans like Heinrich Göbel (electric light bulb inventor), Manfred von Ardenne (television inventor), Karlheinz Brandenberg (MP3 inventor), Albert Einstein (theoretical physicist and author of theory of relativity), and Johannes Gutenberg (movable type printing press inventor) have inspired students to explore their creativity and expand their ingenuity. Soon that inspiration will spread to Spring Arbor University where students can soon take classes in German language and culture.

SAU will offer the beginner German language and a business German course starting this fall. Each course will also focus on German culture and, in the business German course, students will learn about cultural differences between English and German-speaking people, business etiquette and practices between the USA and German-speaking countries.

Kim Bowen, a 37-year veteran of teaching German and world languages at Northwest Schools in Jackson, will join the world languages department at SAU to teach German courses.

Bowen has a bachelor’s in German and elementary education from Michigan State University. He also has a graduate-level plus reading specialist degree. He is certified by the Michigan Department of Education in German and developed a robust and reputable program at Northwest. He hopes his fervor for the German language and culture will ignite passion among the students at SAU. “I’m really passionate about teaching and I’m really excited about German,” said Bowen.

Although German language programs have been slower to catch on in the U.S., compared with languages like Spanish and French, the study of German is gaining in appeal. Much of that may be due to the demand increase for German-speaking employees among some top-level companies, who have either German roots or do considerable business with German-speaking nations.

Currently, there are 288 German companies based in Michigan and 1,200 German companies situated throughout the Midwest, including DaimlerChrysler and Behr Systems, Inc. In Eastern Europe, German is the primary language, above English, and it is second only to English in Western Europe. Germany is one of the most important trading partners with the U.S. and it leads in imports and exports throughout the world. It has the largest economy in Europe and is the third largest in the world.

“SAU students who take German will improve their employability, have access to over 120 million native German speakers, and access to a world of scholarly research. Multinational employers seek qualified German speakers for business within Europe and as representatives between Europe and North America,” says Carla Koontz, executive director for the Center for Global Studies and Initiatives. Koontz says there are plans to eventually expand the program to include study abroad opportunities in Germany, in addition to the three-week Germany destination offered through the cross cultural program.

This addition to the lineup of foreign languages offered at SAU, which includes Spanish, French and Chinese, will contribute to the University’s goal to increase its global awareness and reach.

“Offering more world languages only enhances our globalization efforts. One of the benefits of taking any foreign language is that one begins to understand the culture in which the language is rooted and the people who speak it as a mother-tongue. This understanding is essential in our shrinking global village,” says Koontz.

**COURSE OFFERINGS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>COURSE</th>
<th>DESCRIPTION</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>GER 101 Elementary German</td>
<td>Basic reading, writing, speaking and listening. German culture.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GER 102 Elementary German</td>
<td>Advanced reading, writing, speaking and listening. Further exploration into German culture.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GER 120 Elementary Business</td>
<td>Everyday situations, cultural differences, business etiquette and practices.</td>
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Bowen also foresees this program opening doors to spreading the gospel, as well as closing business deals. While Germany continues to flourish in the areas of the arts and sciences, it has increasingly become more secularized. To Bowen, learning the language is the first step to reaching the hearts of the German people.

“I’m really enthusiastic about it,” says Cathy Crater, chair of the world languages department at SAU. Crater hopes the world languages department will maintain this momentum with her next goal of growing the French minor into a major.
Online business degree offered through SAUonline

Spring Arbor University recently began offering its associate and bachelor’s degree programs in business through SAUonline. These programs complement the University’s other online business degree programs, including its Bachelor of Science in Organizational Management, Master of Business Administration and Master of Science in Management. This allows students to complete three business-based degrees consecutively — all online.

“It’s not just business. It’s personal.”

As part of a transformational learning experience grounded in the Christian faith, both business degrees provide an education with a strong liberal arts foundation, basic skills and knowledge critical to the practice of the business field. Both degrees are offered in an accelerated format, providing a foundation in business to equip students for business occupations and for further study.

Those who finish the bachelor’s degree can also apply for SAU’s MBA program or Master of Science in Management program, which are also offered online.

“Spring Arbor University is known for innovative programs that prepare adults for further education or enhanced careers. We want to make those opportunities even more accessible for individuals by offering additional degrees online,” says Betty Overton-Adkins, provost and chief academic officer.

Through SAUonline, students can get the advanced degrees they are seeking without disrupting their busy lifestyles. “For leaders to succeed in the 21st century, they must know how to collaborate through technology. SAUonline teaches teamwork through technology in ways no face-to-face program can match. Students collaborate through discussion boards and virtual chat sessions, which helps builds the type of leadership necessary today,” says Todd Marshall, dean for SAUonline.

The Department of Communication and Media at Spring Arbor University Invites You to

FORUM 4:15
featuring
QUENTIN SCHULTZE

The communication department at Spring Arbor University offers its inaugural conference — Forum 4:15, April 15-16, at Michindoh Conference Center (Hillsdale). Titled “Listen, Laugh, Love: Essentials of Faithful Communication,” the conference features keynote speaker Quentin Schultze, Ph.D., who is well known for encouraging thoughtful scholarship and faithful communication.

Guided by the scripture passage, Ephesians 4:15, Forum 4:15 explores communication that focuses on both motive and message. “We want participants to open their minds to how spiritually-charged and prophetic communication can bring about redemption and shalom in a world of broken communicators,” says Wally Metts, director of graduate studies for the department of communication and media.

SAU faculty members Paul Patton ’74, communication department chair and associate professor of communication, and Mary Albert Darling ’78, associate professor of communication, also serve as speakers for the event.

Schultze’s writing and publishing workshop will provide practical tips on writing and publishing Christian nonfiction books by a veteran author and scholar.

Forum 4:15 is open to scholars, pastors, students, alumni and guests who want to foster scholarship and stewardship in communication. Graduate and undergraduate credit is available. For more information, visit forum415.arbor.edu.

APRIL 15-16
FORUM415.ARBOR.EDU
Assistant Professor of English, Jack Baker’s book review J. Robert Lennon’s, Castle was published in the Sycamore Review.

Kathryn Bell, School of Education graduate program director, led a year-long professional development on teaching writing for Paragon Heritage Academy K-8 teachers, meeting twice monthly during the 2009-10 school year.

Bruce Brown, music department chair, has been commissioned to create a new orchestral composition for the Jackson Symphony Orchestra. It will be performed at the final concert in May, 2011. Brown is the JSO’s composer in residence as well as the host of the popular “Backstage Glimpses” preconcert series.


Tammy Dindoffer, School of Graduate and Professional Studies associate dean, was a presenter at the Ethnographic & Qualitative Research Conference in June 2010. Dindoffer’s qualitative discussion was titled “How Women Presidents, Provosts and Vice-Presidents of Christian Colleges and Universities make Meaning of Their Experiences.”

J.D. Garn, assistant professor of art, had an original ceramic piece juried into the exhibition titled: “Faith As Art/Art As Faith.” The exhibition was hosted at the Brandenburg Galleries of Olivet Nazarene University. This is a national exhibition of faith-based faculty artists.

Garn and Jonathan Rinck, affiliate professor, received the Blended Learning Grant from SAU to develop, implement and assess the blend of online and classroom learning formats for the general education art courses.

Sharon Joplin, associate professor of education and early childhood education director, served on the Michigan Department of Education Michigan Test for Teacher Certification (MTTC) Bias Review Committee and the Early Childhood Education Specialist for the Phoenix Child Care and Academy.

Angela Kirby, assistant professor of education, wrote an article, “State Reforms Threaten Remote Communities” for the Ethnography and Education, an international peer-reviewed scholarly journal. It is scheduled for print in the Summer 2011 edition.

Jen Letherer, assistant professor of communication, authored an episode of radio theater called “Candy Matson: Lost in Liberty Falls” in Spring 2010. Letherer also directed two one-act plays “The Great American Cheese Sandwich” and “You’re Not Paying Attention.”

Julie Miker, assistant professor of mathematics, was selected as a Project Next Fellow. Project Next is a national fellowship for first year math faculty that enhances teaching and leadership skills in the mathematical community. Miker attended the American Mathematics Society sectional meeting in Lexington, Ky., where she presented a talk titled, “Eigenvalue Inequalities for a Family Spherically Symmetric Riemannian Manifold.”

In January 2010, Bonita Miller, associate professor of developmental education, received the 2009 Michigan Campus Compact Faculty/Staff Community Service-Learning Award from Michigan Campus Compact.

Jeremy Norwood, assistant professor of sociology, received two Title VI, U.S. Department of Education Foreign Language and Area Studies (FLAS) Fellowships for his doctorate program in sociology at Michigan State University this year, one for the 2009-10 Academic Year for studying Advanced Swahili, and another for the 2010 Summer Cooperative African Language Institute (SCALI) at Michigan State University for studying Introductory Acoli.

Paul Patton, associate professor of communication, directed touring plays, “Meeting in Munich” and “Meeting in Kansas” at several Free Methodist Churches in the Southern Michigan Free Methodist Conference and led the 2nd annual SAU theater retreat. He wrote, directed and produced the premiere of “Crisis at Newburgh,” the one-act play in conjunction with SAU’s Constitution Day celebration, and served as executive director of the Great Lakes Christians in Theater Arts Conference, hosted by SAU.

Phil Popham, adjunct instructor, led his chamber music group, Helix Collective, in performances at the White Lake Chamber Music Festival, as well as a tour of Texas and a series of concerts in Cincinnati, Ohio.

Dan Runyon, associate professor of English, was awarded a Faculty Scholarship Grant to speak at the Triennial Conference of the International John Bunyan Society at Keele University in England in July. His lecture is titled, “Lessons on Allegory in Luther’s Galatians Commentary: A Tutorial for Bunyan.”

In January 2010, Kathleen Wilcox, assistant professor of art, had a gallery show held at Waldorf College, September 10 through October 29, 2010. The presentation was titled, “A Landscape of Faith: Contemporary Landscape Photography.”

Kathleen Wilcox, assistant professor of art, has arranged partnerships with Paragon K-8 teachers who mentor and facilitate classroom observations for over 75 elementary teacher candidates in the English Language Arts methods courses each fall and spring.

Four faculty members recently completed coursework and defended their dissertations to earn doctoral degrees.

Jack Baker, assistant professor of English, successfully defended his dissertation, “Desiring to be Known: The Diction of Glory and Fame in Old English Literature,” in April 2010, at Purdue University and was awarded the Doctor of English in May 2010.


Kyong-Jin Lee, assistant professor of theology, recently earned her doctorate from Yale University. Her dissertation was titled, “The Authorization of the Torah in the Persian Period.”

Sally Ingles, associate professor of education, recently earned her doctorate from Capella University. Ingles’ degree specializes in teacher preparation and teacher candidate selection. Her dissertation was titled, “A Study of the Group Assessment Procedure for the Selection of Teacher Candidates at a Small, Private University in the Midwest.” She presented her research findings to the education faculty at Trinity International University (Chicago) in September 2010.
A well-placed purpose

When senior Michael Nordmann was elected as student government president, he had ideas about how to improve SGA, how to make the student experience better, and how to improve the daily operations of this student-run organization. But, Nordmann had another addendum to his agenda. He saw the potential for impacting the world beyond campus, and calling those around him to rally behind a greater cause than just what is served in the dining commons.

Specifically, God was telling him to build wells.

Prior to the election, Nordmann felt God’s call to help with African freshwater initiatives. Although he had heard the message many times, it wasn’t until Nordmann ran for SGA presidency that he considered those messages might have been for him.

“I have no connection to Africa or clean water initiatives, but here it is on my heart and I don’t know what to do with it. So I said, ‘Okay God, what do you want?’ And, it was just something that I knew I had to do,” said Nordmann.

The summer before he started as SGA president, Nordmann researched all the clean water initiatives and organizations involved in Africa to find an organization to partner with.

“I found Samaritan’s Purse. They are a nonprofit out of North Carolina. Billy Graham’s son, Franklin Graham, is the president of Samaritan’s Purse. They were the ones doing exactly what I was imagining — drilling wells for clean water in Sudan, Africa, with the purpose of doing it for Jesus Christ, not just — here’s clean water,” said Nordmann.

With an organization in place, all he had to do was raise the money. But, with no fundraising background, he sought help. Nordmann began spreading his message around campus; he spoke to as many groups as possible and began selling bracelets that were donated by a man from Concord.

A group of communication students approached Nordmann about helping. They needed to select a project that would make an impact in the world for a senior seminar class. Nordmann’s project quickly came to mind. They organized a penny war on campus. Plastic water jugs were placed in residence halls throughout campus. Each hall competed for a top prize of extra open hours for one day.

“Pennies would count for positive and silver change/cash would be negative and take away from the total penny count. So in the end, whoever had the highest penny count would win,” said Alyssa Curtis, who worked with Bryan Dennis, Matt Boivin, Breinne Reeder and Brendan Lay to raise the money. They promoted the contest with a video project. In the end, they raised $500.

To date, Nordmann has raised $2,500 to go toward building a well. It takes $10,000 to build one well, but Nordmann is determined that, before he graduates in May, he will have raised enough money to build three wells.

“I have a goal. I spoke at chapel this year about dreaming big, and I live by what I say. My goal is to build three wells by the time I graduate. Obviously that is $30,000, and I only have $2,500 so far, so it is a little scary, but I am going to do everything I can do to reach that and fulfill what was placed on my heart.”

Nordmann believes strongly in the work of Samaritan’s Purse, who builds wells next to churches they have established there. So, the potential for spreading the Gospel is just as great as the potential for getting clean water into the communities.

“They all have an immediate outreach when those villagers are coming to the well,” said Nordmann.

For more information, contact Nordmann at michael.nordmann@arbor.edu.

SAU partners with universities worldwide

Partnerships around the world are becoming commonplace at Spring Arbor University. Several University administrators, faculty and staff traveled to various locations in November — international education month — to further existing partnerships and seek new opportunities. Those efforts paid off with
extended partnerships in China, Russia and a new opportunity in South Korea.

A Spring Arbor University delegation made up of President Charles Webb, Betty Overton-Adkins, provost and chief academic officer, and Carla Koontz, executive director of the Center for Global Studies and Initiatives, visited Wuhan University of Technology as part of the ongoing exchange program. While there, Webb and Zhang Lianmeng, Wuhan’s vice president, signed a 2+2 program agreement that will allow Wuhan students to come to SAU after completing two years of study at Wuhan. Upon completion of two years at both universities, students will earn a degree from Spring Arbor University.

Participating students will be able to choose from two tracks at Spring Arbor University — English literature and global studies. “The program allows us to increase the number of international students attending SAU. That is great outreach for us, a way to share our educational programs and a way to enrich the entire campus by bringing new perspectives and cultural views into our environment,” says Overton-Adkins.

Also in November, James Coe, Gainey School of Business dean, Naomi Larsen, School of Arts and Sciences dean, and Randall Lewis, professor of finance, traveled to Russia to discuss future ventures with Nizhny Novgorod University, and to help St. Petersburg Christian University celebrate its 20th anniversary.

This was the second consecutive year the two universities have teamed up to discuss civic engagement and servant leadership and ways to improve social issues — two areas of importance in Russia as faculty and students, alike, know very little about volunteering and working to improve social issues.

Using Spring Arbor University as a model, Nizhny Novgorod is working to weave faith and learning into its curriculum. A state university and research center that serves 45,000 students, Nizhny Novgorod has partnered with SAU faculty to develop a textbook that will include topics presented at last year’s Russian-American Symposium on Teaching and Learning Civic Engagement, which SAU hosted in November 2009. “This text, with faith and learning integration, could be utilized by all freshmen entering NNU,” says Coe.

Most recently, SAU signed an agreement to promote international education and leadership with Korea Nazarene University. This partnership could include the exchange of teaching and research faculty, joint research projects, joint classes utilizing technology and more.

This partnership was discussed when Linda Sherrill, School of Education dean, Donna Bergman, director of special education, and Kathryn Bell, director of education graduate programs, visited South Korea to teach at an international Christian educator conference for the Association of Christian Schools International. In addition to teaching courses, they met with KNU to discuss future ventures. KNU is leading the way in accommodating for handicapped students within South Korea. KNU is the first South Korean university to offer a handicap accessible dormitory, where two non-disabled students are paired with one disabled student. They also have a floor in their library for handicapped students/people, as well as classrooms.

The School of Education thinks this partnership will open doors for education students to fulfill student teaching requirements, especially those specializing in special education.

“Korea Nazarene is leading the way in serving a population that has been traditionally overlooked,” says Sherrill. “We are hoping to glean information from them and their service of handicapped individuals as well as share our knowledge as this partnership grows.”

Partnership for justice

Spring Arbor University recently partnered with the National Partnership for Juvenile Services to offer continued service to the community and to the University’s growing criminal justice program. Headquartered at Spring Arbor University, NPJS will continue to run its business as usual, but will also team with SAU to train students through technical opportunities and internships.

“This partnership will be advantageous for both organizations as we seek to serve a higher purpose with aligning missions,” says Betty Overton-Adkins, provost and chief academic officer.

Founded in 2004, NPJS is a union of five organizations, each serving different disciplines of the juvenile justice continuum. The five organizations include the Council for Educators of At-Risk and Delinquent Youth (CEARDY), the Juvenile Justice Trainers Association (JJTA), the National Association for Juvenile Correctional Agencies (NAJCA), the National Juvenile Detention Association (NJDA) and the National Association for Children of Incarcerated Parents (NACIP).

The goal of the partnership is to allow the organizations to focus on their respective missions and disciplines while minimizing
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Arbor Arts Festival

Spring Arbor University Hosts the Inaugural Arbor Arts Festival April 29-30.

The Arbor Arts Festival will be the University’s signature spring event to increase public knowledge and appreciation for fine arts and fine crafts featuring artists from Michigan and beyond.

The University has established a strong arts tradition, with a competitive arts academic program, and has Ganton Art Gallery, the largest single-space art gallery in southern Michigan where student and professional artists regularly feature their works.

For more information, visit arbor.edu/artfestival.

Beauty in Tradition

Greens celebrations at Christmastime and wanted to see the tradition started at SAU. As the campus began preparing for this new event, the Christian meaning of “Hanging of the Greens” was then defined. In a memo to the campus community, Hanging of the Greens was defined as the event that “traditionally marks the beginning of the advent season, a time of preparation for the joyous celebration of Christ’s birth at Christmas.”

The elements of the wreath and holly were explained for their significance to the Christian faith, with the holly berries reminding Christians of Christ’s drops of red blood from his prickly crown of thorns, and the round wreath signifying Christ’s victory and triumph over the grave, and the eternal nature of God.

Visit arbor.edu/journal for the rest of the story.

Need to Breathe

Live at SAU April 30

7:00 PM doors open at 6:00 $20 >> $25 at the door

To purchase tickets visit iTickets.com or call 800.965.9324

For information 517.750.6330 or arbor.edu/NeedtoBreathe
Spring Arbor University caught a glimpse of history last semester when the University Archives, located in the White Library, displayed a Spring Arbor Seminary graduation dress from 1903 during the Fall 2010 semester. The two-piece dress, along with diploma, photographs, and a copy of the valedictorian speech were artifacts of Jennie Walls Hamilton, the only person to graduate from the Seminary in 1903.

Valerie Trexler, retired SAU adjunct professor, granddaughter of Hamilton, donated this treasure to the SAU Archives. Trexler’s husband, Fred Trexler, is a retired SAU professor of physics.

Hamilton’s parents both died while she was in her teen years and her aunt sent her to Spring Arbor Seminary to earn a teaching degree. Her valedictory address was titled “The ministry of Difficulties.”

She married Rev. R.H. Hamilton in 1905. Hamilton had spent his boyhood in pioneer Free Methodist parsonages.

According to Trexler, “The young couple began a lifetime ministry of pastoring, evangelism, and Free Methodist church planting. Together Jennie and Henry built their first two churches and parsonages plus a barn at Estevan and Weyburn, Saskatchewan, Canada.” They started many other churches in the Saskatchewan/Manitoba region, where he served as district superintendent for six years. During this time, they raised 11 children, including one adopted daughter.

When they moved to Ontario in 1934, Jennie assisted Henry with more pastorates, also supporting him in his roles as district superintendent, denominational board member, and Free Methodist evangelist. She helped him found the church publication Free Methodist Herald, which he edited for its first 25 years of circulation.

Hamilton was quietly promoted to heaven on Nov. 29, 1963.
Complex kick starts **Soccer Changes**

If the 2010-11 school year had a moniker bestowed upon it, one suggestion might be “The Year of Soccer.” As the year begins to draw to a close, looking in retrospect, few could deny the soccer programs at Spring Arbor University have had a banner year and that they anticipate even greater seasons this fall.

**Countdown to the complex**

It all started with an amazing women’s soccer season. First, the women secured the MCC title, then they went on to also record the first ever NCCAA national title for SAU in women’s soccer. Then, for the second time in SAU history, the women went on to compete in the NAIA national tournament. Along the way, head women’s coach, Jason Crist (’90-’93, ’96-’01), earned the title of NCCAA Coach of the Year and was honored in January at the National Soccer Coaches Association of America (NSCAA) convention in Baltimore (see story on page 24).

In early 2010, the athletic department hired a new men’s coach, Eric Rudland, a Spring Arbor native who has the drive and excitement to take the men’s program to another level. In addition to a new soccer coach, this fall both the men’s and women’s teams will increase in size from 22 players to 28 for the women, and to 29 for the men. That number will multiply the following year with 37 for the women and 38 for the men. With these roster increases, SAU plans to start a reserve team for both programs, which will compete with other reserve teams on a shortened schedule.

To top it all off, and in what will be the crowning glory of the soccer programs, SAU will begin construction this April on a 3,600-square-foot soccer field and athletic complex. The complex comes complete with bleacher seating, public restrooms, locker rooms, coaches’ offices, a team meeting room, a laundry facility, a press box, and, most importantly, a Federal International Football Association (FIFA) 2-star turf field. A FIFA 2-star rating is the highest rating a turf field can receive. SAU’s complex will be among a handful located in North America.

“The soccer stadium will be a benefit in many ways. First, the surface will be artificial turf, which means we will get maximum use of the playing facility. There will be no concern about abusing the field or preserving it for games since it is designed to handle a great deal of play. It will be a great assistance in recruiting as the coaches will be able to showcase a first-class facility,” says athletic director, Sam Riggleman ’73. He says the field will take 10 weeks to complete and he anticipates the entire project to be completed by mid-to-late summer.

The potential the complex holds is immeasurable. If anything, it has the potential to become an even greater unifying force for the campus, uniting the “Cougar Crazies.”

“The construction of our new soccer complex is a monumental moment in the soccer programs here at Spring Arbor University,” says Crist. “The complex will have a positive impact on recruiting. The facility will be lighted allowing for campus and community involvement at our games, which is also very exciting.” The intramural programs will also have a chance to use this new facility during off-peak times.
The University will work with Roberts & Associates architectural firm to design the facility. The new complex will be located in the soccer field’s current location, but will likely shift to the east to accommodate the clubhouse. Harold DeCan HS ’40, a nearby resident, graciously gifted the University a 25-foot parcel of his property so the University would have sufficient space to build.

“I am greatly honored by Mr. DeCan’s generous gift to the University, which helps to make this soccer facility a reality,” says President Charles Webb. “I am excited about the potential this facility holds for SAU Athletics, as well as the University-at-large.”

The University will work with Foster Flooring, a Michigan company who also installed the floor in the Dunckel Gymnasium, to install the turf field. The field will be 75 yards by 120 yards — about three-to-four yards wider than the current field.

Following construction, FIFA will send representatives to the SAU field to test it and officially bestow the 2-star rating.

“This will be a tremendous facility for both our student athletes as well as our students participating in intramurals. With the quality of this field, we will be able to open our campus to many soccer tournaments and activities,” says Jerry White, vice president for finance and administration.

Why turf?

Ask any longtime soccer player and they’ll tell you, turf is the best.

Junior Jason Klepal (Lansing), an SAU soccer player who has been playing the sport for nearly 17 years says, “The playing surface doesn’t have all the bumps that tend to mess up passes and such. However, playing on a FIFA 2-star field will be even better because, in addition to having a flat field, which is very conducive to playing the game of soccer, the quality of the turf will make it seem like we are playing on grass — a combination that makes me excited to play on this new field.”

According to FIFA, “The basic construction of the newest generation of artificial turf is a blend of grass-like fibers attached to a special backing with a mix of sand and/or rubber brushed in. This construction has proven to be the most favorable for football to date.”

The campus waits with eager anticipation for the exciting changes coming to the soccer programs, but nobody is more excited than the soccer players themselves.

“I’m excited for it because usually people want to get their homework done right after classes or go to dinner usually around 4 or 5 when our games are played. And even other athletes have practice during our games. And so, I’m hoping it will just be a different experience for the campus,” says junior Alyssa Curtis (Brighton), one of the captains of the women’s soccer team.

“The surface will provide both the men’s and women’s teams with an opportunity to run training sessions on a full-sized field, which will be very beneficial to both programs,” says Crist. “When completed, Spring Arbor should have one of the premier soccer-specific facilities in the Midwest. To say that everyone involved with the soccer programs is excited about the possibilities the new facility brings would be an enormous understatement.”

Rudland to lead men’s soccer program

Spring Arbor University welcomed Eric Rudland as the new men’s soccer coach in January. A Spring Arbor native, Rudland is eager to continue fulfilling the call to train scholar athletes as they prepare to become critical participants in the contemporary world.

Rudland prepped at local Western School District, where he played for the varsity soccer team. He then attended Seattle Pacific University, where he distinguished himself as a standout player. Following graduation, he returned to Michigan and served in a variety of coaching capacities, including coaching for the girls’ team at Northwest High School in Jackson, serving as an assistant coach for men’s soccer at Albion College and the women’s soccer program at Madonna University, and, currently, he is director of coaching for the Northville-based soccer club, Michigan Rush.

In addition to coaching the men’s soccer team, he will oversee the reserve team that will play a separate, shortened season.

“It’s exciting to be at SAU! The program has a huge upside with the development of the new stadium and the desire the current players have to be successful. We have work to do, but I’m confident the boys will represent SAU well next fall,” says Rudland.

Rudland lives in Ann Arbor with his wife, Kristin (Faraday ’07) Rudland.
Women’s soccer claims 2010 NCCAA national title

The women’s soccer program has been developing a solid reputation as a competitive program for years and now they have the title to prove it. The Cougars won the 2010 National Christian College Athletic Association (NCCAA) National Championship last December. Shortly after achieving the win, Jason Crist (’90-’93, ’96-’01), head coach, was named coach of the year.

The Cougars faced off against NCAA Division II Palm Beach Atlantic in the championship in Kissimmee, Fla. The Cougars had been on an unstoppable roll, and a combination of excellent goal-tending and field play eventually clinched the win for SAU and gave the women’s soccer team their first NCCAA championship title in SAU history. The team also competed in the NAIA national championships, a feat they hadn’t achieved since 2004. Although they lost in the first round, the loss did not dampen their spirits or affect their resolve to maintain their momentum.

“Winning the NCCAA national tournament was an exciting accomplishment. The players worked hard and overcame injuries. To finish with a conference championship, a trip to the NAIA national tournament and ultimately a national championship is something I am sure that they will never forget. I am proud of their resolve, commitment to excellence and glorifying God, on the field, in the classroom and around campus,” says Crist.

The icing on this proverbial cake was Crist being named 2010 Coach of the Year. Crist was honored at the National Soccer Coaches Association of America (NSCAA) convention in Baltimore, Maryland, in January 2011.

“I was both honored and humbled to be selected as the NCCAA National Coach of the Year,” says Crist, who led the Cougars to an 18-5-2 record. “I credit the players in our program for the award. Their hard work led to a wonderful season. Soccer is the player’s game. As coaches, we just try to manage it the best that we can.”

Crist now sets his sights on continuing to build a competitive collegiate soccer program.

For the first time next fall, the soccer program will have a reserve soccer team, which will play a shortened schedule with other regional reserve collegiate teams.

Men’s cross country honored by NAIA

In 2010, the men’s cross country team finished second in the MCC conference championships, making it the best finish for the team since 2005. Junior Nathan Martin (Three Rivers) set a new school record and was named MCC conference champion. Martin and freshman Lance Nelson (Indianapolis), qualified for the NAIA national cross country championships held in Vancouver, Wash., last November.

Martin earned All-American honors for finishing 25th in the nation. Sophomore Bryan Burk (Cass City) was also named a MCC All-Conference runner.

Head coach Dante Ottolini credits the entire team for such praiseworthy finishes in 2010.

“Men’s cross country

This move will hopefully assist in bolstering the already strong soccer program at SAU.

Crist anticipates the return of exceptional players to help the program stay the course.

“The six seniors we lose will be tough to replace, but we return eight of our starting 11 players and have signed several players who can have immediate impact on the team,” says Crist. Offensively sophomores Maegan Smith (Hickory Corners), Braydan Wiles (Pendleton, Ind.) and freshman Karly Linton (Midland) will shoulder attacking duties, while Alyssa Curtis (Brighton) and Hannah Adams (Westfield, Ind.) will play key roles on the defense. We have a strong nucleus of players to work around, and I am excited about the possibilities for next year’s team,” says Crist.
They help incoming freshmen on move-in day and are active in the all-athlete Bible study,” says Ottolini. The men have also assisted with a local marathon held on the Falling Waters Trail in Spring Arbor, and by partnering with a local ministry during cross country camp for two years to renovate and paint a skate park.

“My hope is that this honor challenges them to continue pressing on to fulfill the good works God has for them,” says Ottolini.

The team also received the Team of Character Award from the NAIA, and the Team Scholar Award with the team carrying a collective GPA of 3.47. The men finished third out of 46 teams who earned the Team Scholar distinction. Teams must have a 3.0 collective GPA to qualify. Three harriers were named Academic Scholar athletes: Voss, Tingley and Merillat.

Ten runners honored as scholar athletes

Ten Spring Arbor University women’s cross country runners were honored as scholar athletes by the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics in 2010. Presented to juniors and seniors who distinguish themselves, award recipients must have a minimum GPA of 3.5 and excel on the cross country course for their teams.

“To have 10 receive the honor is a great accomplishment and speaks volumes about what this program is about,” says head coach Bill Bippes ’93. The recipients included seniors Rebecca Campbell (Grand Rapids), Michelle Crouch (Grass Lake), Hannah Ringer (Kent City), Sierra Koker (Jackson), Hillary Halfmann (Shepherd) and Sam Tennis (Hudson). The junior recipients were Michaela Crew (White Lake), Liz Hess (Burton, Ohio), Libby Allen (Farmington Hills) and Kaitlin Stevenson (Otsego).

Even more were honored when the National Christian College Athletic Association announced its 2010 All-Scholar Athlete team. Senior Jamie Wise (Fowlerville) joined the aforementioned athletes to receive this honor. “These scholar athletes are all amazing Christian women who have continued to forge the program in God’s image,” says Bippes.

The women’s program had a successful season placing second in the Mid-Central College Conference meet and concluding the year by receiving votes from the NAIA national raters’ committee.

During the NAIA national tournament in Vancouver, Wash., the team was recognized by the NAIA national office as the eighth best active cross country program in NAIA national history.

“Each one of these girls has a heart for the Lord and, collectively, they strive to honor Him in all that they do,” says Bippes.

Winkler to lead new women’s golf team

Rob Winkler will lead Spring Arbor University’s new women’s golf team, which is being added to the sports lineup next fall. The new team will compete in the Mid-Central College Conference and against other colleges during the fall and spring months.

“We’re excited to add this sport at Spring Arbor University,” said Sam Riggelman ’73, director of athletics. “As we serve the athletic interests of a growing student body, this is a tremendous opportunity to serve the interest in women’s sports.”
Spring Arbor University will be the fourth MCC institution to offer women’s golf, joining Marian University, Bethel College and the University of St. Francis.

Winkler has a diverse athletic resume, which includes coaching high school and community college golf, track and field and basketball. His golf experience includes instruction with some of the top names in golf, including Jim Flick of Flick Golf School. He has also served as a caddy for storied professional players, Olin Browne, Larry Nelson and Jack Nicklaus.

Outside of golf, Winkler holds a bachelor’s degree in physical education from Eastern Kentucky University and a pair of master’s degrees in education and physical education from Texas A&M and Ball State Universities, respectively. Most recently, he was employed in the Grand Ledge School System where he taught courses in physical education, social sciences and personal finance.

“I look forward to recruiting student-athletes who reflect the mission of the University, and want to be challenged academically and athletically. I would like to field a competitive team that loves to practice and compete at the highest level,” says Winkler.

“I am pleased we were able to identify a candidate with the passion for golf and eagerness to start a new program,” says Riggelman. “I am confident our lady golfers will benefit from his knowledge of the game.”

Men’s tennis finishes 8-3

Resilience characterized the men’s tennis team this fall. Despite some early setbacks, the Cougars emerged with an 8-3 record and captured the second spot in the MCC Conference tournament.

Two matches into the season, Captain Patrick McIlrath (Clarkston) told Coach Terry Darling ’78 he planned to accept an internship with the Blue Jackets, a National Hockey League team, in Columbus, Ohio. Within a week, McIlrath played his last match as a Cougar. For Darling and the team, McIlrath’s departure left a void in the lineup and within team leadership.

Darling described McIlrath as an upbeat, encouraging person, who kept the team organized and contributed a lot behind the scenes. “That’s a role that was not easy to replace,” said Darling.

Also, for most of the season, Rafael Schuster, a junior from Corinho, Brazil, struggled with knee injuries. Schuster said that the hardest part was not letting the injury get to his head. “I knew I was not able to play even close to my best,” said Schuster. “That was really frustrating.”

An MRI showed no tears and Schuster demonstrated resilience as he continued to play through the pain, going 6-3 at the #3 singles position. Despite the absence of their captain, and Schuster’s injuries, the team only lost two regular-season matches. Beyond their athletic commitment and skill level, the team’s resilience was fueled by team spirit. Sophomore Aaron Mayes (Elk Rapids) said there is a spirit of camaraderie that goes beyond the tennis court. “When one of the guys can’t pull off a close match, we encourage him,” says Mayes.

The first loss came against Huntington, who went undefeated in regular and postseason play. After the rough 3-6 loss, the Cougars regrouped and defeated the University of St. Francis 9-0. Four of the singles victories on the day were won 6-0, 6-0.

After losing a close 4-5 match against Taylor University in regular season play, the Cougars returned to face them in the MCC semifinals. Sophomore David Darling (Spring Arbor) and Schuster led the way in doubles, defeating their opponents 9-7. The Cougars claimed a 7-2 victory, going 5-1 in singles and 2-1 in doubles.

Although the Cougars fell short of a NAIA National Tournament berth with a loss to Huntington in the MCC tournament finals, the team experienced one of the most successful fall seasons in Cougar history.

Read the rest of the story at arbor.edu/journal.
STUDY ABROAD
NOW INCLUDED AS PART OF A CHRIST-CENTERED
SPRING ARBOR UNIVERSITY EDUCATION. FALL 2011

CULTURAL ENCOUNTER
OF THE GLOBAL KIND.

International educational experiences have been a hallmark of a Spring Arbor University education for 25 years. In celebration of the life-changing impact study abroad experiences have on our students, Spring Arbor University announced a new initiative to make this a more affordable part of your Christ-centered education.

Beginning Fall 2011, incoming freshmen will be able to select from a variety of our three-week international travel experiences at no additional cost beyond tuition, passport and immunizations. Other international experiences will be offered at reduced rates, which will make our study abroad experiences affordably within your reach.

Destinations include Argentina, Cambodia, China, Czech Republic, Dominican Republic, Egypt, France, Germany, Greece, Guatemala, India, Italy, Japan, Morocco, South Korea and Uganda. For more information about cross cultural experiences and semester abroad opportunities at SAU, visit arbor.edu/studyabroad.
Loaded cars carrying student belongings converged on campus as students moved in for the start of the 2010-11 academic year. Thirty-eight teams participated in the inaugural Spring Arbor University Open. Communication professor, Mary Albert Darling ’78, greets fans at a book signing for her latest book with Tony Campolo. Student government association president, Michael Nordmann, welcomes new students to campus. Hannah Baker pauses during the concert portion of Hanging of the Greens. A graduate lines up to receive his degree at fall commencement, Nov. 20, 2010. Spring Arbor University participated in a mock disaster in Summer 2010 to test its disaster preparedness. Homecoming 2010 featured activities for Cougars of all ages. Renovaré Ministries founder, Richard Foster, served as keynote speaker for fall Convocation. Steve Carroll of Green Scholar’s Initiatives delivers a medieval manuscript to SAU, which English Professor Jack Baker will research. Students make University Hall home. Students participate in the 10th annual Hanging of the Greens candlelight processional. Jesse Spicer and Brooke Harris were crowned Homecoming king and queen in 2010. Shawn McDonald headlined the Back to School Bash. Alums reconnect at Homecoming. An ice-covered campus in February. The theater and music departments, together, produced “The Music Man” in February. The men’s basketball team huddles before tip-off at Western Michigan University. Sawing logs is part of the Choptoberfest tradition each fall at SAU.
On Sept. 13, 2010, 38 teams participated in the inaugural Spring Arbor University Open, which took place at the beautiful Country Club of Jackson under ideal weather conditions. The 27-hole golf course allowed ample room for the 152 players to play in a well-paced scramble format, which featured a variety of contests, including a hole-in-one contest with a $10,000 prize.

SAU was pleased to have CP Federal Credit Union on board as the signature sponsor for the debut of this event. New sponsorship options were also available for the Open that included a chance to sponsor a member of the SAU men’s golf team. This provided an extra-man advantage for nine holes and helped raised funds for the golf team. President Chuck Webb was on hand to greet each team as they played throughout the course. It was a wonderful time of fellowship, networking and golf. At the conclusion of the day, each team celebrated at the awards dinner featuring former SAU golf team member, Dan Page ’02 as the guest speaker.

We want to congratulate American Office Solutions (AOS) for taking home the championship. SAU would like to thank our corporate partner teams, businesses and community members who participated in this event. Each of you played an integral role in the success of the open. We look forward to the 2011 Spring Arbor University Open that will take place on Friday, Aug. 12, at Calderone Golf Club in Jackson. If you are interested in a sponsorship opportunity, please contact Malachi Crane at malachi@arbor.edu.

We hope to see you on the green!

For more information about SAU’s Corporate Partner program, contact Malachi Crane, executive director of donor relations, at 517.750.6543 or malachi@arbor.edu.
All in the family

Andrew and Edith Tjepkema have both passed away, but their extended family still holds a reunion every five years. Their most recent gathering, hosted by David '72 and Janice (Taylor '79) Tjepkema, and Janet (White '68) Tjepkema, was in June 2010 at SAU. Of the 26 family members who traveled from Michigan, Arkansas, California, Georgia, Illinois and Washington to join the weekend celebration, 12 were alumni including Wava (Adams HS '41) Tjepkema Stone, Audrey (Tjepkema JC '47) Thorsen, Leone (Tjepkema JC '50) Taylor, Paul Tjepkema JC '60, Mark Tjepkema JC '61, Mary (Tjepkema '70) Scott, Amy (Tjepkema '91) Hawkins, Brent Hall '95, and Beth (Tjepkema '93) Hall.

1966

Elden Lee '66 retired in July 2010 after serving 41 years as a pastor in the East Michigan Conference of the Free Methodist Church. He and his wife, Linda (Scherling '66) reside in Coldwater.

leehouse2@cbpu.com

1974

Claudia (Sherwood '74) Kallman and her daughter, Etta (Kallman '08) Woods started a master’s of divinity program at Western Theological Seminary in November 2010. A full-time student, Claudia also works as a substitute teacher. She resides in Grandville with her husband, Ted 1972-74, a business consultant and project management specialist.

cask@i2k.com

In November 2010, Nathaniel Lake '74 was recognized by the Lansing branch of the NAACP with the President’s Award. The award honors those who have excelled in the area of community advocacy. He resides in East Lansing with his wife, Patricia Ann.

1977

Evon Horton '77 has published his first book, From a Father’s Heart, a guide designed to strengthen family relationships. He resides in Pace, Fla., with his wife, Deborah (Price '77) who owns Perfect Presence, a shop specializing in antique china.

ehorton@brownsvilleag.org

1979

Thomas McCarrrell '79 joined Tri-Star Trust Bank as vice president and trust officer. He is a chartered financial analyst and manages investments for high net worth clients. Thomas is also president of the Jackson Area Estate Planning Council and a member of the CFA Society of Detroit. He resides in Parma, with his wife, Donna (Keenan ‘88), and their children, Brandon, 21, and Kayla, 19.

tdmccarrell@yahoo.com

Kathleen Phipps '79 serves as account manager, IP Rules for Thompson IP Management Services. She presents best practices on intellectual property issues to IP executives and legal teams worldwide. She recently led five sessions at the International 2010 IP Solutions Customer Conference. Kathleen resides in Harper Woods.

kjphipps2000@yahoo.com

1981

In August 2010, Diana (Strait '81) Stanton was named director for the Matinee Musicale Women’s Chorus of Indianapolis. A member of the choir and alto soloist at Zion Evangelical United Church of Christ, she sings with Castlewood
Communication heritage

A year ago, Jason Archer ’94 became executive director of communication for the Free Methodist Church of North America (FMCNA). Charged with overseeing communication strategy and technology, Archer set goals to connect the church globally as missionaries and community churches strive to attain resources to serve their communities.

The Free Methodist Church has a rich communication heritage that dates back more than 100 years. The first issue of Light and Life magazine, in 1860, contained an article about communication strategy innovation. They stayed on top of communication advances for many years with early radio ministries and a printing press.

Archer is taking the lead to get the denomination back on top. “The communication landscape has changed. We want to keep up and get ahead of that change to make the greatest impact,” says Archer.

At the FMCNA General Conference this summer, a new communication strategy, with four channels, will be revealed. Those channels will allow individuals to access Free Methodist communication through a website, a print piece (a smaller version of Light and Life), tablet applications (for use through Kindles or Nooks) and mobile device application for phones, iPads, etc.

“The Holy Spirit has been the engine behind this movement,” says Archer, who lives in Spring Arbor with wife, Micki ’02, ’09, and daughter, Grace, 13.

1982

Carl Boutilier ’82 [ 3 ] was named 2010 Manufacturer Rep Top Achiever by Foodservice Equipment and Supplies magazine. He is president of Mirkovich & Associates, a company he has owned since 2005. He and his wife, Stacey, reside in Wheaton, Ill., with their daughters, Meggan, Jordan and Annie.

horsepondroad@sbcglobal.net

1986

Carol (Hitchcock ’86) Nicholson, of Sammamish, Wash., was honored in January as a recipient of the Golden Apple Award. The award is given annually to recognize teachers and programs in Washington who show an outstanding commitment to excellence in education. Carol teaches second grade at Elizabeth Blackwell Elementary School.

1987

Beth Habecker ’87, of Portland, Ore., was named full professor in the department of physiology and pharmacology, graduate program, School of Medicine at Oregon Health and Science University. She is also involved in research focused on restoring the heart following a heart attack, and also speaks at conferences worldwide.

1989

Lynn (Carpenter ’89) Vela received a master’s in mathematics from the University of Texas at Brownsville. She teaches mathematics at Hidalgo Early College High School and resides in Donna, Texas, with her husband, Jesse, who works in the food industry.

1993

Susanne Carpenter ’93, of Davison, was named principal at Van Y Elementary School in Burton. She received her master’s in leadership from Western Michigan University in 2006.

1994

In June 2010, Enzley Mitchell ’94 was named athletic director for Illinois Institute of Technology. He joined IIT from Northern Mexico College where he served as athletic director and head men’s basketball coach. He is completing a doctorate in sports administration from the University of New Mexico. Enzley resides in Chicago with his wife, Kendra, who is a stay-at-home mom to their daughter, Kenley, 2.

1997

Eric Platt ’97 was a Fulbright Fellow to the Netherlands in 2005-06, and received a doctorate from the University of Wisconsin in 2009. He teaches history at St. Francis College in Brooklyn, N.Y., where he also resides with his wife, Elisabeth (Gaikema ’98).

2001

Tara (Foster ’01, ’05) Angus exhibited artwork titled “Spring Renewed” in the 2010 ArtPrize competition in Grand Rapids. She is a counselor for alternative high school students in the Kelloggsville School District. Her husband,

MLK Medal of Service Award

Judi (Colson HS ’60) Ganton received the 2011 Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Medal of Service Award from Jackson Community College. She was recognized for community service that carries out the dream and vision of the late civil rights leader. Honorees were chosen by a vote of community leaders, college and elected officials and previous winners. Ganton, who has received a number of other recognitions, said this one is very special. “I was very humbled and overwhelmed by this award,” she said. “This really comes from the community.” She was presented with her award in January, following a celebration dinner with over 400 guests in attendance.

A former winner of the award describes Ganton as “tireless” in her efforts to assist local organizations, giving money and countless hours of her time to support a variety of programs. She has been a volunteer with Salvation Army, Toys for Tots and Ella Sharp Museum; served on the boards of the United Way, Cascades Humane Society, Foote Hospital Auxiliary and the American Cancer Society; supported the Florence Crittenton Services, AWARE Shelter, Higby Street Church of Christ Fall Festival, Jackson Community College and churches and schools in Africa. Ganton is a past president of the SAU Alumni Board of Directors and currently serves as a member of the University’s Board of Trustees.

Judi is co-owner and COO for Lloyd Ganton Retirement Centers. She resides in Spring Arbor with her husband, Lloyd HS ’54, JC ’56.

Steve Vissia ’97, ’99 has taught social studies at Fremont Public High School for 14 years. He also coaches girls’ and boys’ varsity soccer. His wife, Heidi (Lake ’97, ’99) is a stay-at-home mom to their four children, Grant, 8, John, 5, Caleb, 2, and Esther, 11 months.

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send us your news and help us keep our alumni family updated >> go to arbor.edu/alumni to submit your updates.
Brad (1996-97), is the audio tech director for Ridgepoint Community Church in Holland. They reside in Jenison with their daughter, Zoe, 3.

2004

Nicole Gray ’04 married Justin Fortune [5] on Jan. 30, 2010. They reside in Beverly, Ohio, where Nicole is a homemaker and substitute teacher and Justin is a retail manager.
snoopyspring@hotmail.com

Niki Oechsle ’04 has completed her doctorate in musical arts at Louisiana State University, with a major in piano performance and a minor in piano pedagogy. She resides in Baton Rouge, La.
ni_music@yahoo.com

2005

John Williams ’05, ’09 was recently named K-6 principal for Addison School District. He was previously a tenured teacher with Jackson Public Schools, teaching second and sixth grade. John is also working toward his doctorate. He resides in Spring Arbor, with his wife, Carrie (Shaw ’05), who is a resident director at SAU.

2006

Irene Geisler ’06 received the All History Award. She spent the 2009-10 academic year in Latvia on a Fulbright Dissertation Fellowship and expects to receive her doctorate in history from Western Michigan University in June. Irene resides in Kalamazoo.

John Ropp ’06, of Concord, was named president of the Michigan Boating Industries Association. He previously served as the executive director of the Albion-Homer United Way.

2007

Adam O’Neil ’07 and Jessica Ellens ’09 [6] were married in March. Adam is attending Thomas M. Cooley Law School in Ann Arbor, and Jessica is working in finance and marketing for RAC Acceptance. They reside in Taylor.
adamconeil@yahoo.com
jlyn8605@aol.com

elizabeth.antonsen@gmail.com

2008

Paul Korson ’08 and Erin Pennington [8] were married on Jan. 8. They reside in Spring Arbor, where Paul works for SAU as conference services coordinator. Erin is an art education student at SAU and is currently student teaching at Concord High School.
paul.korson@arbor.edu
erin@korsonstudios.com

Greg and Kim ’08 Monroe, of Parma, welcomed a son, Reid Stanley, on Jan. 1. He joins big brother, Riley, 1. Kim teaches at Noah’s Arkademy Christian Preschool. Greg, a substitute teacher, will graduate from SAU in May and begin student teaching.

Lita Swartz ’08 married Michael Jordan [9] on June 5, 2010. Lita is a youth pastor and Michael works in general labor and participates in many aspects of ministry. They reside in Cincinnati with their son, Noah, 9.

Etta (Kallman ’08) Woods and her mother, Claudia (Sherwood ’74)
Alumna Unsung Hero

Deborah Yarbrough ’09, site coordinator at Edison Environmental Science Academy, received one of five Communities In Schools (CIS) Unsung Heroes Awards. Yarbrough received the prestigious award on Capitol Hill in September 2010. It was last presented in 2007.

“I have been trained, held accountable and supported to do my job by CIS of Kalamazoo. I credit all of those who support me day in and day out, the support from my school site team, our CIS partners, and my family,” says Yarbrough.

In the three years Yarbrough has worked at CIS, she has gone above and beyond to help students. “I wanted to be in a place where I could make a real difference,” says Yarbrough, who first heard about CIS as a student in Spring Arbor University’s family life education program.

“We are changing the lives of students here. And it’s not just children’s lives we’re talking about. It’s whole families. I’m proud of the parents here.”

“Students who come to school hungry, with no socks...that bothers me,” says Yarbrough. “It helps knowing I have the resources of KCIS community partners that help address these needs, like socks, soap, toothbrushes, coats. Together, we’re meeting these children’s needs.”

Kallman both began their master’s of divinity program at Western Theological Seminary in November 2010. Etta and her husband, Archie ’08, ’10, reside in Chelsea and are expecting their first child.

2009

Nicole Praniewicz ’09 and Ken Zaagman [10] were married on May 16, 2010. Nicole is a senior graphic designer and Web designer for GEMS Girls’ Club in Grand Rapids; she also owns a photography business, Jenuine Creations, LLC. Ken is the owner of Zaagman Home Remodeling. They reside in Byron Center.

nicole@gemsgc.org

Kris Rose ’09 has moved to Washington D.C. to join Congressman Dave Camp’s staff. Camp represents Michigan’s 4th District and is the incoming chairman of the House Ways and Means Committee.

kristopher.w.rose@gmail.com

2010


Joshua Noble ’10 and Danielle Rose ’10 [12] were married on July 10, 2010. They reside in Columbia, S.C., where Josh is a teacher and coach, and Danielle is pursuing her master’s degree.

Zack Tracy ’10 and Kaitlyn Haddad ’10 [13] were married on July 10, 2010. Kaitlyn works for SAU as coordinator of donor relations, and Zack plans to pursue his graduate studies at Eastern Michigan University. They reside in Jackson.

kaitlyn@arbor.edu

IN MEMORIAM

Christopher Backus ’00, of Jackson, passed away on Aug. 22, 2010. He was 54. Christopher served in the United States Marine Corps for 20 years, then worked at T.A. Wilson Academy and was a football coach at Parkside High School for many years. He is survived by his wife, Julie, and their three children.

Kellie (Grate ’84) Blewett, of Grand Blanc, passed away on Nov. 21, 2010; she was 47. She was employed by Dort Federal Credit Union for over 25 years, and was an accomplished pianist and singer. She is survived by her husband of 29 years, John ’81; and their three children.

Sara (Fisher ’99) Cole, of Jackson, passed away on Feb. 5; she was 35. She was a floral designer and wedding consultant for Brown Floral. Her newborn daughter, Miranda, passed away a few days after Sara. She is survived by her husband of 14 years, Chad ’99; two sisters; a brother; and her parents.

James Bright, of Galion, Ohio, passed away on Nov. 17, 2010. He was 77. Jim served on the SAU Board of Trustees for 17 years and was granted life trustee status after his tenure. He served in the United States Air Force from 1953-57, and was a longtime member of the Galion Free Methodist Church. Jim retired from J.R. Bright Agency. He is survived by his wife of 58 years, Esther; daughter, Pamela ’83; son, Troy; and seven grandchildren.

Mabel (Johnston HS ’31, JC ’35) Fields, of Warren, Ind., passed away on May 17, 2010; she was 96. She was a pastor’s wife alongside her late husband, Charles, who served in the...
Indiana Conference of the United Methodist Church. Mabel is survived by two daughters; five grandchildren; and seven great-grandchildren.

Viola (Lovett JC ’42) Fritz, of Spring Arbor, passed away on March 16, 2010. She was 81. He served in the U.S. Army, and taught in the Vandercook Lake and Jackson School districts for more than 30 years. She is survived by his wife of 58 years, Carolyn (Zeller HS ’48, ’65); two children, Patricia Harbottle ’92, and James ’80; six grandchildren; and eight great-grandchildren.

Elaine (Holsted JC ’47) Jackson, of Spring Arbor, passed away on Jan. 19; she was 83. She retired from Spring Arbor University and was a member of Spring Arbor Free Methodist Church for over 40 years. She was preceded in death by her husband, Stuart, and is survived by her children, Elizabeth Jackson-Schrader ’80, Kent, and Linda Collings; and a grandson.

Walter Johnson JC ’38, of Hebron, Ind., passed away on Aug. 4, 2010; he was 93. He pastored churches in the Central Illinois Conference and was also a professor at Greenville College and Seattle Pacific University. He is survived by Virginia (White JC ’38), his wife of 68 years; three children; nine grandchildren; and four great-grandchildren.

Lucille (Carnes JC ’42) Johnston, of Platteville, Wis., passed away on Dec. 8, 2010; she was 89. A Free Methodist minister’s wife, she was also a high school English teacher and librarian until her retirement in 1991. She was preceded in death by her husband, James; one brother; and a sister, Violet (Carnes JC ’42) Elliott. She is survived by her sister; three children; seven grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren.

Norma (BeitelSchies JC ’48) McFerran, of Spring Arbor, passed away on Nov. 23, 2010; she was 82. She was an elementary teacher for 31 years, a pastor’s wife and served her church by leading the children’s choir and singing in the adult choir. She was preceded in death by her husband, Joseph HS ’50, JC ’52. Norma is survived by her children, Colleen Perry ’80, and Mark ’82; six grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren.

Wallace Pike JC ’48, of Swartz Creek, passed away on Aug. 21, 2010; he was 88. A World War II veteran, he practiced medicine in Swartz Creek from 1956-1986. He was preceded in death by his wife, Marcella (Whims HS ’39), and is survived by their four children; 12 grandchildren; and 20 great-grandchildren.

Wilbur Sebree ’71, of Auburn, Wash., passed away on Dec. 4, 2010; he was 61. He practiced law in the Seattle area for 29 years. He was preceded in death by his mother, Agnes (Traver HS ’47). He is survived by his son, Nathaniel; father, Herbert HS ’47; brother, Roderick ’80; and sisters, Lauretta Falvo, Marietta Robinson, and Lynette Mullinex ’76.

Edith (Robertson JC ’45) Tjepkema, 89, of Cadillac, passed away Nov. 23, 2010. She taught school in Michigan for 33 years and was a prolific writer. She was preceded in death by her husband, Andrew HS ’42, and a sister. She is survived by her sisters, Winifred Knowles HS ’42, Gertrude Rosales, and Ann Baker.

George E. Kline III, former vice president for marketing and program development, passed away on Jan. 11. He was 72. Kline served the University for over 30 years before retiring in 2001. He was among the vanguard of educators who created and promoted degree-completion programs for adults. Kline oversaw the formation and expansion of a network of over 20 affiliate colleges and universities nationwide, which developed, on their own campuses, degree-completion programs created under his leadership.

Kline earned a bachelor’s at Southern Nazarene University in Oklahoma, a master’s in philosophy at the University of Oklahoma, and a master’s in English at Roosevelt University in Chicago. He was awarded an honorary Doctor of Humane Letters by Western Baptist College in Salem, Ore. Kline was a member of the First Presbyterian Church of Concord, where he served as a deacon.

He is survived by his wife of 51 years, Faith; daughters, Alexandra Metricarti and Elizabeth Strodtbeck ’00; son, George IV; and seven grandchildren.

Kenneth R. Beardslee JC ’48, former vice president for business affairs, passed away on Jan. 24. He was 86. Beardslee served the University for 41 years before retiring in 1992. He also coached four athletic teams and taught business classes. Beardslee helped found the Association of Business Administrators of Christian Colleges, geared toward improving the standard of business management in evangelical Christian colleges. He earned a bachelor’s at Western Michigan University and an MBA at the University of Michigan.

He served on the Western School Board of Education for 38 years (26 years as president), was elected to the Jackson County Commission, and was a leading layman in the Spring Arbor Free Methodist Church. Named Jackson County Republican of the Year, he also received Jackson Citizen Patriot’s Citizen of the Year award in 2000. He was inducted into the Michigan Education Hall of Fame and the SAU Athletic Hall of Fame. He also earned the LeRoy M. Lowell Award from the SAU Alumni Association for his exemplary service to the University.

Beardslee is survived by his wife of 60 years, Estella (Cleveland JC ’59, ’67); daughters, Janice Johnson ’74, Linda Adams ’77 (current SAU board of trustees member), Kendra St. John (1977-78); son, Paul ’85 (current SAU Alumni board member); 10 grandchildren; and seven great-grandchildren.
Looking to relocate, or searching for a mentor? Access the SAU Mentoring Alumni Program (MAP). The MAP is a professional networking tool available to all SAU students and alumni. Simply go to arbor.edu/mentoring and choose a state or profession you are interested in to find alumni professionals in that area. The listing page will include the name, e-mail, phone and occupation of the professionals who have volunteered for MAP. This program provides our students and alumni with an invaluable opportunity to gain information from contacts who have had first-hand experience in that region or field.

To volunteer to be a contact in your region or field to mentor SAU students and alumni, go to arbor.edu/mentoring or submit your name, title, career field and contact information to Lynne Markiewicz at lynnem@arbor.edu or 517.750.6687.

IN MEMORIAM

Merlyn Voller HS ’32, JC ’34, of Fenton, passed away on Aug. 29, 2010; he was 95. He worked at Beecher High School, serving as principal, math teacher, counselor and basketball coach over the course of his 34-year career. He was preceded in death by Mabel (Hicks HS ’34), his wife of 72 years, and is survived by their children, Mary Lee Cain JC ’59, Diane Nowlin HS ’60, Douglas, and Vickie Banks; 10 grandchildren; 29 great-grandchildren; and one great-great-grandchild.

Richard Zeller HS ’38, of Spring Arbor, passed away on Nov. 11, 2010; he was 89. An aviator in the U.S. Marine Corps from 1943-1981, he retired as a Lt. Colonel. He worked for Goodyear Tire & Rubber Company for 17 years, and was active in church and mission work all his life. He was preceded in death by his wife, Pauline (Jones HS ’34, JC ’36). He is survived by their children, Kay Martin ’70, Sandy Dunckel, Rick, Corinne Scully, and Wendy Davis; 19 grandchildren; 33 great-grandchildren; and five great-great-grandchildren.

Mary Wortman ’88, of Addison, passed away on Nov. 20, 2010; she was 62. She worked for Hillsdale Hospital for more than 20 years. She is survived by her husband, James; a daughter; siblings, Carol Davidoff, Kathy Hartzell ’05, and Robert; four grandchildren; and one great-grandchild.

Mary Wortman ’88, of Addison, passed away on Nov. 20, 2010; she was 62. She worked for Hillsdale Hospital for more than 20 years. She is survived by her husband, James; a daughter; siblings, Carol Davidoff, Kathy Hartzell ’05, and Robert; four grandchildren; and one great-grandchild.
alumni chapter EVENT RECAPS

SOUTHEAST MICHIGAN

DETROIT HISTORICAL MUSEUM
On July 25, 2010, alumni and friends enjoyed tours of the exhibits by museum staff, as well as lunch with music by Jay Kilgus of Piano Pleasures. The afternoon ended with an ice cream social on The Streets of Old Detroit, an authentic cobblestone street scene from the 19th century.

Get involved with the Southeast Michigan Alumni Chapter by contacting Kim Jones at kdj43560@hotmail.com.

LANSING LUGNUTS | On Aug. 15, 2010, over 100 Lansing-area alumni and their families attended Christian Family Day at Cooley Law School Stadium, home of the Lansing Lugnuts baseball team. Following the game, kids were invited to run the bases.

Get involved with the Lansing Alumni Chapter by contacting Dawn Welch '06 at dwelch@arbor.edu.

CHICAGO

SUMMER SOCIAL | On Aug. 28, 2010, Chicago-area alumni and friends gathered at downtown Chicago’s Frankie’s Scaloppine restaurant for the chapter’s annual summer social event. The group shared SAU stories and fond memories. The presidential couple, Chuck '69 and Philippa (Barnwell '69) Webb, reported on the University’s successes and new developments.

Get involved with the Chicago Alumni Chapter by contacting Susie (Bolton '01) Likovic at susie.likovic@gmail.com.

JACKSON

CHRISTMAS ANNUAL | On Dec. 11, 2010, alumni and friends took a break from hectic holiday schedules to spend a relaxing afternoon together that included a wonderful meal, music and program. The Christmas event was held at the Cascades Manor House in Jackson, with Wade Wilson ’67 serving as master of ceremonies.

President and Mrs. Webb brought greetings and spoke about their individual Christmas family traditions. A men’s quartet comprised of Ron Boomstra, Duane Cleveenger, Tom Kilgore ’70 and Steve Larson performed two Christmas songs. Guests also enjoyed a Christmas reading performed by Cassandra Kramer, a current student and first runner-up in the Miss Michigan pageant. Gift drawings were done throughout the afternoon and concluded with caroling led by pianist Danny Lacy.

Get involved with the Jackson Chapter by contacting Wade and Margé (Stark ’69) Wilson at hiwadeandmarge@gmail.com.

LAKE LAND, FLORIDA

LIGHT & LIFE PARK REUNION
On Jan. 15, over 180 alumni and friends attended with Lorna (Casement ’68) Angus as emcee. The event featured a barbershop quartet, comprised of Bill Acton JC ’57, Bill Cryderman JC ’57, Ed Harrow JC ’51 and Decker Spotts. John Williams, associate professor in teacher education, attended with a group of current SAU students who were in Florida for part of their coursework.

President Webb shared University updates and then invited three of the students, John Williams and two staff members to share why they came to SAU and what impact it had on them. The inspirational testimonials illustrated that the core values of SAU continue to be Christ-centered. Next year’s reunion is scheduled for Saturday, January 14, 2012.

Get involved with the Lakeland Alumni Chapter by contacting Lois (Close HS ’54) Crandell at jalocrandell@juno.com.

from the desk of...
IRENE PRICE GREINER
Director, Office of Alumni Relations

Spring has arrived and with it comes Heritage Alumni Celebration week. Here is the exciting lineup of events for the high school and junior college Classes of 1961 and earlier, along with other exciting events for alumni and friends. Visit arbor.edu/alumni for more details on all SAU alumni excursions and events.

HERITAGE ALUMNI CELEBRATION
Spring Arbor, main campus · Wednesday, May 11 - Saturday, May 14

Golden Anniversary Dinner
For the high school and junior college Classes of 1961.
Ralph Carey Forum
Thursday, May 12

E.P. Hart Luncheon
Classes of 1961 will be inducted into the E.P. Hart Club.
Fellowship Hall, Spring Arbor Free Methodist Church
1961 Reunion Reception
Ye Old Carriage Shop
Friday, May 13

SAU Baccalaureate
Spring Arbor Free Methodist Church
Saturday, May 14

SAU Commencement
Campus · 10:30 a.m.
Graduate & Professional Studies · 2:30 p.m.
Fieldhouse

LANSING LUGNUTS GAME
Sunday, August 14

Christian Family Day
Cooley Law School Stadium, Lansing

CHICAGO ALUMNI & FRIENDS REUNION
Saturday, August 27
Frankie’s Scaloppine Restaurant
One Magnificent Mile, Chicago

NEW YORK CITY THEATRE EXCURSION | SOLD OUT |
Thursday, September 22 · Sunday, September 25
Experience four fun-filled days of shopping, sightseeing and theatre. New York

HOMECOMING & FAMILY WEEKEND
Friday, October 7 · Sunday, October 9
Enjoy a Michigan autumn weekend with family and friends.
Spring Arbor, main campus
PRAY
Your gifts are important ... but your prayers are essential. As an Arbor Associate, you’re instrumental in petitioning the Lord for the following:
• Transformational education
• Student leadership
• President Webb, faculty, staff and administration
• Facility and program development

PROMOTE
Represent the mission and vision of SAU in your community through:
• SAU events
• Student recruitment
• Invite others to become Arbor Associates
• Ask others to support SAU at any level

PROVIDE
Give a minimum annual gift of $1,000 to the SAU Annual Fund to support vital aspects of an SAU education:
• Student scholarships
• Faculty recruitment and teaching excellence
• Facilities improvements
• Program development

For questions on how to become an Arbor Associate, please call us at 517.750.6543 or visit us online at arbor.edu/arborassociates