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Homecoming '09
Information Inside!



More Than Football

McMurry's New Beginnings

FALL 2009

Journal

McMURRY
UNIVERSITY

THE MCMURRY UNIVERSITY
MAGAZINE FOR ALUMNI & FRIENDS

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear McMurry Alumni and Friends:

All of higher education is operating in an environment shaped by some complex economic challenges. How we respond to the various opportunities that unfold during challenging times says a lot about an institution—like McMurry—and its future. I happen to think that such a response—our response—says a lot about McMurry’s past...and its values.

A father of an incoming freshman student approached me about two years ago to tell me that his daughter had decided to attend McMurry because we appeared to them to be a “happening campus.” Curious, I asked why they felt that way. He replied that at the other campuses they had visited, they did not appear to be very progressive, and very little new construction was underway.

This father-daughter team visited McMurry when dust was flying around the Furr Welcome Center construction site in the summer of 2007. They were impressed that the University and its donors were making a commitment to new and improved campus facilities. I acknowledged their observation and thanked the father for the confidence he was showing in McMurry by enrolling his daughter. I wish I had said more!

New Beginnings are reflected in a variety of areas highlighted within this *Chieftain*. Some discussion of brick and mortar is obligated in answer to all of the dust we’ve kicked up during the past year and the parking spaces that have been displaced by our construction. But like my experience with the aforementioned visitors of 2007, there’s more to be said. This *Chieftain* tells that story.

How McMurry deals with the current economic landscape will be shaped by its people. It will be defined by the creativity of faculty such as Dr. Don Frazier and Dean K.O. Long, who led an effort to develop a new academic

program, bringing together the strengths of our business and history programs. Even though these two are veterans on the McMurry faculty, they’re bringing “new guy” enthusiasm to shaping a superb interdisciplinary program. I should have told our 2007 visitors about K.O. and Don.



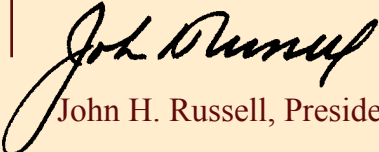
McMurry’s Core Values and how we live them each and every day tell the world a lot about us. We breathe life into the core value—Service as the Measure of Life—when we introduce students to the joy of doing something for others. The Service Enriched Education initiative will afford students that opportunity. Read about it here—that’s another one I would like to share with our 2007 visitors.

Head Football Coach Hal Mumme has recently become a part of the McMurry family and has brought with him a dynamite staff to shape the future of McMurry Football. As you read the *Chieftain* article on Coach Mumme, you’ll

learn how he and his staff were encouraged by the values of this institution and the Abilene community. They see the potential to make a difference in the football program and on our campus. People making a difference—yesterday, today and tomorrow—that’s who we are. I really wish I could do that 2007 visit again.

I know you’ll enjoy this *Chieftain* because of these three articles as well as the others. They talk of *New Beginnings*. But they highlight who we are and where we’re going....because of who we’ve been and what we value. 2007 may be gone, but we’re writing a great story for 2009...and beyond.

With Warm Regards,


John H. Russell, President

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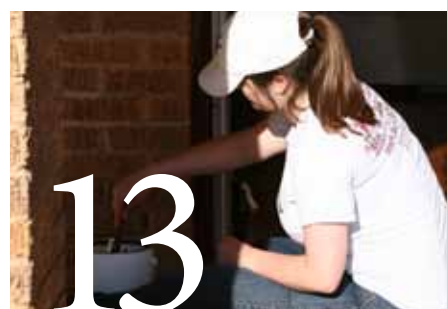
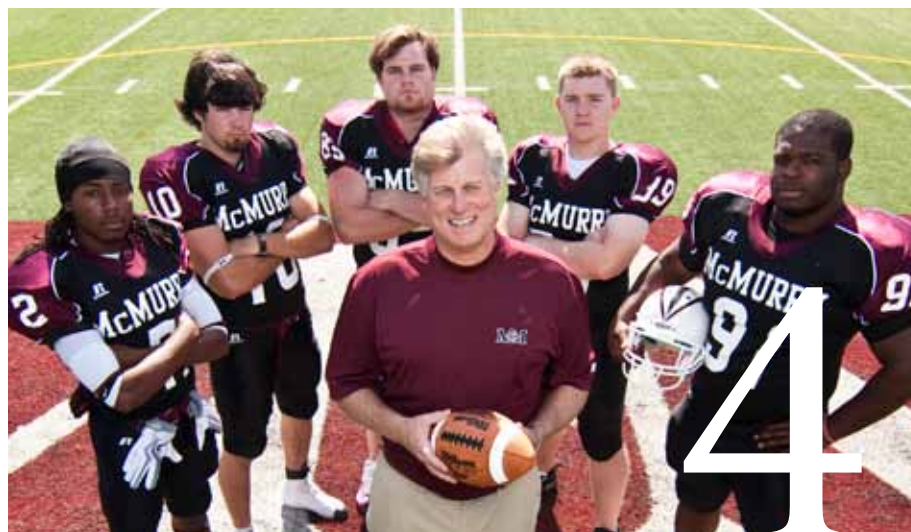
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a new year, a new perspective...

A New Beginning

IF YOU LOOK IN THE DICTIONARY, “beginning” is defined as the point at which something originates or comes into existence. We might further describe it as the onset of something new, a creation. Then in further analysis, isn’t the term “new beginnings” somewhat redundant? Or maybe it insinuates a fresh twist in the creation of something, innovative planning, and trying new things that haven’t been done before. This definition certainly applies to McMurry University in the year 2009, and so the theme “*New Beginnings*” for this issue of the *Chieftain* is both appropriate and serves as a descriptive moniker for the McMurry Experience.

Visitors to the McMurry campus receive immediate visual proof of *new beginnings* on campus through various building projects. These projects don’t just happen. There is a well-developed plan involved. The “Big Bang Theory”



doesn’t apply here. We recognize that if we, as a university, don’t move forward, we will most surely move backward. In a quote from Victor Hugo, “Where no plan is laid,

where the disposal of time is surrendered merely to the chance of incidence, chaos will soon reign,” we are reminded about the consequences of action without purpose. Without planning for the future, we sink into mediocrity in the short term followed by imminent decline.

In the creation of the world, in the beginning, God had a grand plan that was laid out for us in the *Bible* in the book of Genesis. The transformation that is visible on McMurry’s campus is likewise building with a grand plan in mind and creating for a specific purpose. In-depth planning by dedicated leadership, with guidance from God as the Divine Architect, is reflected in the renovation of Bynum Band Hall, the addition of Furr

Welcome Center to Radford Auditorium, improvements to athletic facilities, the introduction of a “learning commons” in Jay-Rollins Library and the planned restoration of Old Main.

New beginnings are not only evident in bricks and mortar. The McMurry Experience is impacted more profoundly through relationships—between students and faculty, students and coaching staff, administration and faculty, etc. In *Chieftains* of the past, successful graduates are often in the spotlight. Without fail they expressed appreciation to a faculty mentor who imparted knowledge, to a coach who recognized potential, or to a staff person who guided them. People are the heart of a university, and McMurry recognizes the value of cultivating relationships and of attracting caring, talented and dedicated servants to fulfill leadership roles. Through this issue of the *Chieftain* and other communications throughout the year, you too will develop relationships with these individuals who have

big plans for McMurry and a vision for the future.

Planning for the future is not without its obstacles. The current economic situation, coupled with societal challenges and requirements of a global workplace, are a few factors that lead to a constant re-evaluation of plans and redefining of goals. In an environment that embraces new beginnings, McMurry thrives and is nourished by the constant flux and quest for excellence. In a quote by Maxwell Maltz, he asserts that “we find no real satisfaction or happiness in life without obstacles to conquer and goals to achieve.” Enjoy this issue of the *Chieftain*, and celebrate our achievements with satisfaction and happiness. Ala Cumba. ■

We recognize that if we, as a university, don't move forward, we will most surely move backward.





Let the Games Begin

A New Beginning for Football



WHAT DOES A WORLD WAR II strategic battle initiative and McMurry's 2009 football season have in common? You guessed it. The Air Raid! The Air Raid offense, a staple for many successful college football programs, first received notoriety when introduced by Coach Hal Mumme in the mid-1980s. Coach Mumme adopted the moniker for his fast-paced style of play, and since then, the Air Raid has become a household name for football fanatics across the nation. With Coach Mumme's recent arrival at McMurry and his subsequent hiring as McMurry's Head Football Coach, students, faculty and alumni will have an opportunity to get to know the man behind the Air Raid. The addition of Coach Mumme to the McMurry family has certainly generated a lot of interest, and I recently interviewed him in an effort to provide a glimpse of the man and a sneak preview of what you can expect from the upcoming season, which promises to be a new beginning for McMurry football.

An Interview with Coach Hal Mumme, McMurry Head Football Coach, 2009-
By Nancy Smith, *Chieftain* Editor-in-Chief

N.S. *Coach Mumme, it's great to have you at McMurry. What was the #1 factor that was pivotal in your decision to pursue McMurry's head football coaching position?*

H.M. The people—I wanted to work with the people here. There were questions that had to be answered and things about the program I couldn't back down on. But it was the people that made me want to come. I brought Mason Miller with me, and he drove me around. At the end of the day back at the hotel he said, "it happened 48 times." Mason's from the south, and his dad is a Marine colonel. Politeness counts with him. He explained that "when I go to a community, I hold the door and see if people say thank you. Abilene was an all-time high—48 times in one day. We've been to other places where that doesn't happen." That was a comment from the outside looking in, and that speaks well for Abilene.

N.S. *What made you decide to leave D-1 and its resources for a D-3 school with a dismal win-loss record?*

H.M. I think Grant Teaff said it best—it's easier to make the transition from D1 to D3 if you actually came from there. In 1975, I graduated

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2009 Season Ticket Information

Season Tickets

\$30 for admittance to all six home games—a savings of \$18 if purchasing a ticket at the gate for all home games. Purchase of at least 2 season tickets will include a preferred parking pass in white parking area west of Kimbrell Arena.

Individual Game Ticket Prices

September 5 Trinity vs. McMurry	\$10
September 12 Austin College vs. McMurry	\$6
September 19 Mississippi College vs. McMurry	\$6
October 3 East Texas Baptist vs. McMurry	\$6
October 17 (Homecoming) Sul Ross State vs. McMurry	\$10
November 7 Hardin-Simmons vs. McMurry	\$10

Additional Pricing Information

Children under age 12 accompanied by an adult will be admitted to all home games free of charge.

McMurry faculty, staff, and students will be admitted to all home games free of charge with a valid University ID.

For more information, visit <http://athletics.mcm.edu>



Or, watch the game live online!

Visit the McMurry Athletics website at <http://athletics.mcm.edu> to learn how to become a McMurry Sports Insider!

McMurry Athletics Twitter Account:
www.twitter.com/mcmsports

McMurry Athletics Blog:
<http://mcmurrysports.blogspot.com>

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from Tarleton. My dream job was to coach someplace like McMurry. I just kept getting offered bigger jobs and when I was younger, I kept taking them. But this is where I started. Also, I never felt 19-year-olds at Kentucky were more important than 19-year-olds at Valdosta State. It's all about educating kids. And people at Iowa Wesleyan and McMurry want to win as much as the people at Kentucky.

N.S. *Your coaching staff appears to have come here on a “leap of faith.” To what do you attribute their decision to follow you here?*

H.M. I guess they're totally crazy! Seriously, I think they like the way we work and the way we compete. We have a lot of good young coaches. They are very talented, and they're going to move up. They may not be here more than a year or two, but there will be others moving up behind them. I enjoy coaching kids, but I also enjoy coaching coaches.

N.S. *Was there a moment in time or a significant event that led to your decision to become a football coach?*

H.M. It was a point in time. I attributed my love for the game to my mom—she was at Brackenridge High School, and she was the first cheerleader at Alamo Stadium, probably in the late 1930s. Then, when I was 8 or 10 years old, my parents would take me to watch my cousins in San Antonio play at Alamo Stadium. I was fascinated with watching the players and coaches. When I started playing the game, I became fascinated with coaching the game and the strategy involved. Then as I got older, I reached a crossroads. I had to decide whether to pursue a career in the military or learn how to be a coach. I chose being a coach.

N.S. *As head coach at McMurry, how would you define success?*

H.M. We have to win more than we lose. We have to teach kids how to win. I can't promise anything for this year—we got such a late start on recruiting and

only had half of spring practice. We also have a difficult schedule, but I do think we can have a winning program. When I was a young coach, I studied up on Bill Walsh, and later I became friends with him. When he took over as coach of the San Francisco 49ers, they were desperate to win, and they looked for someone who had a vision for what they could do. He had that vision, and I learned a lot by watching him.

I have to be the catalyst and point out the sense of urgency—during games and practice, in recruiting, and in promoting. I have felt that the people here have the same sense of urgency. They want to win. Coaches have a pretty big motivation to make that happen. Mike Leach's story of the chicken and the pig is really true. A good ham and egg breakfast requires a commitment and sacrifice from both the chicken and the pig, but the pig's commitment is a whole lot greater than the chicken's.

N.S. *What was your thought process in developing the Air Raid Offense, and why has it received such notoriety?*



H.M.

I didn't create the Air Raid offense. I just packaged it. I had a great mentor in Coach Lavell Edwards at BYU and Bill Walsh with the 49ers. What we do in practice and game situations is from Coach Walsh. What we do on the field in terms of plays comes from Coach Edwards. They run the same version—short passing game and stretching the field. I started doing it at Copperas Cove HS in 1986. I took their ideas to the high school level and we had success with it. It received some notoriety and led to coaching jobs at several colleges. Several players and assistant coaches, including Mike Leach at Texas Tech, are now D-1 coaches. All of them paid attention and they started doing similar things. We're now working on the third generation of guys who learned the Air Raid offense. It's a small but effective

cult. To do what I enjoy doing, which is turning programs around, is easier to accomplish from an offensive standpoint. It captures more attention. The old saying that "defense wins championships, but offense sells tickets" is really true.

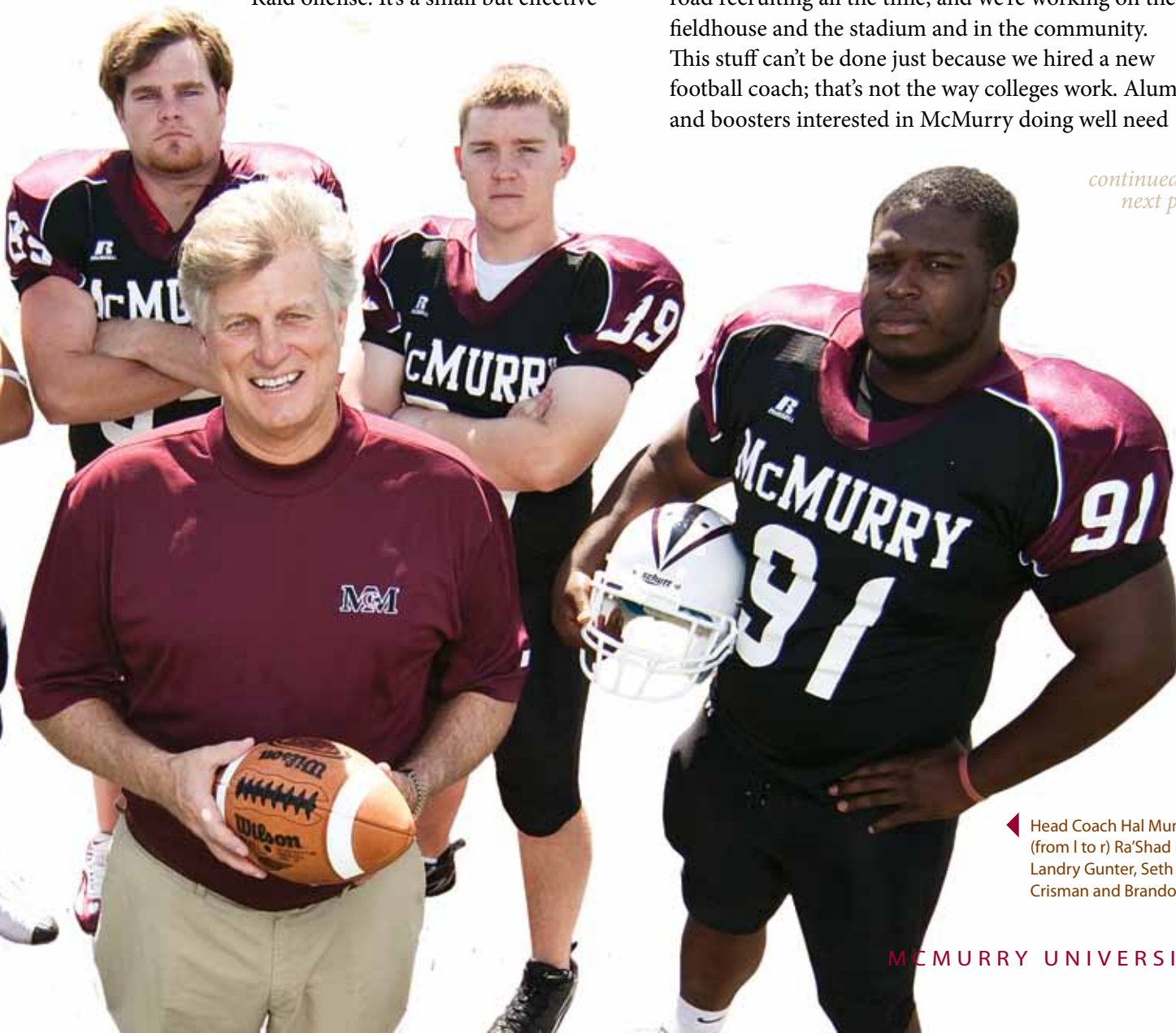
N.S.

In "Field of Dreams," the popular line is "if you build it, they will come." Do you think that applies to McMurry football?

H.M.

That's just a famous line from a movie. It's more involved than that. It's the chicken and egg deal; my grandfather had a farm, and I know what came first. It was the chickens and there were two of them! We have six or seven coaches on the road recruiting all the time; and we're working on the fieldhouse and the stadium and in the community. This stuff can't be done just because we hired a new football coach; that's not the way colleges work. Alums and boosters interested in McMurry doing well need

*continued on
next page*



◀ Head Coach Hal Mumme with (from l to r) Ra'Shad Lemon, Landry Gunter, Seth Waller, Alex Crisman and Brandon Murray

to understand that this is a commitment by everyone. The sense of pride and accomplishment by simply winning more games than we lose at a school like McMurry is a really neat thing, and that's what we're committed to.

N.S. *What is your opinion regarding what constitutes a great game-day experience?*

H.M. People having fun. There are different groups—band parents, cheerleaders, social clubs, student body, alums who look back on college as the best days of their lives—and having a great atmosphere for games is important. I had a great visit with Dr. Chris Neal, our band director, and he has a great perspective on the setting of college football. I share the same goal. We want to make McMurry the best small college football setting.

N.S. *“Promoter,” “visionary,” “tenacious” are three descriptors I have for you. What descriptor would you use for McMurry, in the short time you’ve been here?*

H.M. I know it sounds trite, but it's “potential.” Mason Miller, Matt Mumme and I jumped in a car and came over to get a feel for the place to find out if I wanted to apply. I came down Sayles and pulled up in front of the visitor's center. The campus was empty during Spring Break. We walked around and just thought of the potential that was here. I have a vision of what it should look like, but it may take a couple of seasons to get there.

N.S. *You’ve made an effort to reach out to alumni, former lettermen, and former coaches including Coach Wilford Moore, Grant Teaff, Spud Aldridge, and Steve Keenum. What do you hope to accomplish through your efforts?*

H.M. Being a history major, the history of a place is fascinating to me. I think it's important to understand where successes were in the past so you can have them in the future. There are several eras of success with the different coaches. Alums in the different eras share a lot of the same experiences and stories, and it's been fun to listen to their stories. Fraternities and sororities share unique experiences. It's the same type of thing for football players.

N.S. *For many non-scholarship programs, retention of student-athletes is a challenge. What steps would you take to improve retention?*

H.M. There are things that work and they're pretty simple. We knock on doors to make sure they're up for class; we have study hall; and we have penalties for not going to class. I really prefer the D3 model where student athletes are held accountable. I'm proud of the fact that although I'm only 4 for 5 in turning around football programs, I'm 5 for 5 in retention. Our players graduate and get jobs. If you make a lot of memories in football but don't graduate, it doesn't turn out to be a very good memory in the long run. You have to get that right. And our faculty needs to know that we expect our players to be accountable, not their professors.

N.S. *What is your perception of the impact on McMurry of a successful football program?*

H.M. A good season and a fun game day atmosphere produces good memories. Ron Holmes [Athletic Director] pointed out that the unique thing about football and volleyball is they're the first sports of the year. He said that if you're successful in those sports, it's easier to be successful in the others. It gets the year started off right—like the lead-off hitter who gets on base. We can't make everyone happier, but we can set an atmosphere to make everyone happy.

N.S. *I really appreciate your honesty, Coach Mumme, and the time you've taken to visit with me. I know I've asked you a lot of pretty tough questions, so how about if I end with an easy one—what's your favorite color?*

H.M. Maroon, of course.

N.S. Great answer and a perfect way to end our interview. Thank you, Coach, and welcome to McMurry! ■





Operation Maroon Pride



McMurry has enjoyed a close relationship with Dyess Air Force Base for many years. We proudly support our military families and invite you to do the same. Through Operation Maroon Pride, you may purchase season tickets for active military personnel and their dependents. Your tax deductible gift

benefits both McMurry football and the men and women who proudly serve our country.

Donation Information

Cost per ticket is \$30 for admission to all six home games. (Children under age 12 accompanied by an adult will be admitted to home games free of charge.) Tickets may be purchased in any of the following ways:

- 1) Online: <http://nation.mcm.edu/maroonpride/>
- 2) In Person: Tickets may be purchased on campus in Kimbrell Arena.
- 3) Personal Check: Make checks payable to McMurry Football and mail with form below to: Box 188 McMurry Station, Abilene, TX 79697

Name: _____

Phone: _____

Street/P.O. Box: _____

City: _____

State: _____ Zip: _____

E-Mail Address: _____

Ticket Quantity:

_____ Tickets @ \$30 each = \$_____ TOTAL

All gifts are tax deductible. Donors to Operation Maroon Pride will be listed in the game day program for every home game. Thank you for your generous support of our military personnel.

BOOM-boom-boom- boom, BOOM-boom- boom-boom...

IN THE LATE FALL of every McMurry school year the steady, low and deliberate drum beat of Homecoming echos off the brick and mortar of Presidents Hall, Gold Star Dorm, 'Iris Graham,' 'Old Main' and the tower of Radford. In the fall of 1957 those buildings were standing as silent sentinels, watching over a campus that proudly maintained strong ties to honored and well-established traditions. During that particular Homecoming, as those stoic buildings were standing watch, they not only heard the drum beat of tradition, they were given a voice. They were the first to hear—and through echo the first to repeat—a chant that would become the audible voice of a new McMurry tradition – “Ala Cumba.”

The word “tradition” means “a long-established or inherited way of thinking or acting.” It is the handing down of statements, beliefs, legends or information from generation to generation, especially by word of mouth or by practice. Traditions are much more than just the repetition of “the way we have always done things.”

Aristotle said,
“We are what we repeatedly do.”
Our traditions are defining statements to the world about what we believe and at our very core, who we

are. Like the colorful threads on a weaver’s loom, those traditions have been respectfully and lovingly woven into a tapestry that beautifully depicts the history, personality and vision of this proud institution. Reflected in the pattern of our shared past is the captured image of our core values and the truths that define us.

It is the maroon thread that connects the beautifully woven patterns of our shared past and the bright threads of what will be our shared future.

Over the years, the chant “Ala Cumba” has become tightly woven into our tapestry. What does it mean and where did it come from? Was it really part of a Native American language, or is it even part of a real language at all? If we locate its maroon thread and track it back to the point where it was first introduced, perhaps we can answer some of those questions. But, as with any woven artistry, it may be easier to see where the pattern began than to understand how it got there.

Although there appears to be no written documentation, the general consensus is that the chant “Ala Cumba” was not used prior to the fall of 1957. Wayne Tiner '59 was a cheerleader at that time. He remembers that the chant was added to the beating of the drum at Tipi Village. He was told it meant “On to Victory.” It was not widely recognized on campus until the fall of 1965 when it made the leap from Tipi Village to Indian Stadium by way of Coach Grant Teaff '56.

Coach Teaff recounts in detail the first prominent use of the chant in his book *I Believe*. McMurry College was facing off against Abilene Christian College for bragging rights to an unofficial city championship. The game has since come to be known among alums as the “Ala Cumba” game. Coach Teaff said in an interview by phone that he had heard the chant “Ala Cumba” used a few times on campus in the late 50s and was under the general assumption that it meant “Give us Victory!” McMurry had lost the previous three games to the cross-town rival and was not favored to win the fourth. Wanting to give his team a psychological boost, he decided to take the chant “Ala Cumba” and make it his own.

Prior to the game Teaff secretly ordered new jerseys for the team to wear for the big game. Employees of Athletic Supply worked all night to finish them. The jerseys were meant to send two specific messages—one to the players on the field—the other to the fans in the stands. He had “Cumba 4” printed on the front of the jerseys, so that each of the ACC players would have to look head-on at the proclamation that we believed the fourth time was a charm and the outcome was settled—Victory 4. He also, for the first time in McMurry’s history, had each player’s name printed on the back of his jersey. Coach Teaff believed that this created a personal accountability of each player to those who were watching. “I wanted the fans to know who made the play on the field—or who did not.” The outcome

was that of which legends are made and traditions are born. McMurry won only four games that year but the 9-8 win over the ACC Wildcats was the sweetest. “Victory” and “Ala Cumba” would forever be woven from the same maroon thread in McMurry’s tapestry of tradition.

Since that first chant that began at Tipi Village and echoed off the tower of Radford Auditorium, every athlete, student, alum and Village visitor has heard and likely joined the resounding call of “Ala Cumba!” This brings us back to the questions with which we began. Where did it come from? Is “Ala Cumba” a real Indian word? In searching for the tribe of origin, we may find that it is uniquely a McMurry Indian word. What does it mean? Ask any member of the McMurry Indian tribe. You will hear that it means “Give us Victory!,” “On to Victory!” or just “Victory!” Any of those definitions will weave well into our tapestry. Victory, personal

accountability, finding the strength inside yourself to produce victory when faced with likely defeat...those are core values that McMurry University declares to the world. That philosophy is a part of all we do at this university. “We are what we repeatedly do.” It is the maroon thread that connects the beautifully woven patterns of our shared past and the bright threads of what will be our shared future. “Ala Cumba” McMurry! It has a nice ring. ■

If you have any information about the origin of the chant “Ala Cumba,” please contact Greeley Myers ’93 in the Alumni Department at (325) 793-4603 or myers.greeley@mcm.edu.

Special thanks to the following alumni who shared their opinions and offered their research: Grant Teaff ’56, Mary Ester Bynum ’52, Wayne Tiner ’59, Bishop Dan Solomon ’58, Bynum Miers ’59, Richard Countiss ’58, Dr. Pug Parris ’73, Don Boyd ’59, Gene Tucker ’57, Carla Woolley ’73, Orland Gilbert ’57, Delmar Day ’62, Joe Bill Fox ’56, Betty Lou Giddens ’61, Bob Worsham ’57, Hershel Kimbrell ’50, Joe and Susan

Ala Cumba!

A New Beginning for
an Old Tradition

ON TO VICTORY







◀ Mallory Vassar (left) Lauren Sanford (middle) and Sarah Ashton (right) during Big Event

Our Core Values at Work

New Beginnings in Service to Others

MISSION OF McMURRY UNIVERSITY

The mission of McMurry University is to provide a Christian liberal arts and professional education that prepares students for a fulfilling life of leadership and *service*.

CORE VALUES

Christian Faith as the foundation of life,
Personal Relationships as the catalyst for life,
Learning as the journey of life,
Excellence as the goal of life,
and *Service* as the measure of life.

BOTH OUR MISSION STATEMENT and our core values attest to McMurry's emphasis on service. If we truly deem our mission to be worthy, and we most certainly do, we as a campus community must model service to each other, to the University, and to society.

The University's Focus for Non-Profit Partnerships

McMurry University is proud to encourage and actively support various community initiatives and organizations that are committed to the well-being of Abilene and its citizens. One of our five core values that we emphasize on campus is "Service as the Measure of Life." Our students, faculty and staff demonstrate their commitment to service in numerous ways, both on-campus and throughout the city. Because service is so ingrained in every aspect of the McMurry Experience, it is our goal to enhance our relationships with our non-profit community and the impact of our community service and charitable giving. To accomplish this, we have developed a number of strategies centered around a university focus for our service emphasis.

continued on next page

The focus we have adopted for the 2009-2010 academic year is children's causes. Our plan for the year is to partner with non-profit organizations to support their fund-raising and volunteer efforts, as well as to educate our on-campus community about various children's issues and efforts in place to help us address challenges and change lives. "Children—They are Precious in His Sight" will be promoted in a variety of ways, and

we will establish partnerships with a select number of non-profit organizations that will remain in place throughout the year.

We're excited about the potential for a partnership that will mutually benefit the University and our non-profit partners; but more importantly, we are excited about the potential for significantly impacting children's lives in our community.

Instilling in our Students a Lifestyle of Service—Putting Words into Action

McMurry University must continue to fulfill its role among today's colleges and universities by offering a unique experience to its students. We accept our challenge to enable McMurry to remain skilled in its mission of educating students and sincere in its passion for nurturing students. Shaping our students for career success and for a life of service to others requires actively practicing what we believe and instilling those behaviors in students.

As a catalyst to infusing service into the McMurry educational experience, the University is implementing a new initiative, Service Enriched Education, or S.E.E., beginning in the fall of 2009. All incoming full-time freshmen and transfer students, and all new students entering McMurry in subsequent semesters, will provide service hours in a variety of on-campus and off-campus positions. Participating students will continue in the S.E.E. program through the remainder



▲ Josh Poorman works the scoreboard at the football games.

of their college careers at McMurry. Students will work with supervisors in determining service assignments, and where possible, students will serve in positions related to their major fields of study.

A covenant of understanding and commitment will be signed by both the students and their supervisors, and participating students will practice the following service and professional ethics: reliability, teamwork, collaboration, initiative, motivation, responsibility, accountability, quality of performance, and good communication skills. By instilling such traits in service to others, the education that our students receive here is not only an education or a qualification for a degree—it is an education for life... the best intellectual training under the best possible moral and Christian auspices.

The Marriage of Servanthood and Academics

Besides a new name, Expeditions—McMurry's First-Year Experience, a class for all incoming freshman students (formerly McMurry 101)—has been re-designed to enhance the transition of new students into the collegiate environment. A new text to be utilized for the course, entitled *Outcasts United*, documents the influx of refugees into the United States and the melding together of often divergent cultures. Similarly, the college environment brings together students from increasingly diverse backgrounds, and the First-Year Experience class, through academic study and an accompanying service component

in partnership with the International Rescue Committee, will encourage understanding and appreciation of other cultures, all co-existing and growing together in the McMurry family. As an added service component, faculty and staff will model leadership through service by volunteering their time as instructors for the Expeditions course.

Shaping our students for career success and for a life of service to others requires actively practicing what we believe.

Innovative Partnership Leads to Exciting Career Opportunities

New Beginnings in the Classroom

Regardless of the grandness of the collegial environment and the influence of deep-rooted traditions, a university's worth is ultimately based on the quality of the career preparation our students receive. *New beginnings* in the classroom signal innovations in curricular offerings, pedagogy and career opportunities. McMurry is home to a hotbed of innovative student-centered ideas designed to enhance the value of our students' academic experience. One example is the result of a partnership between two academic departments and between the University and a growing industry. Beginning with the fall 2009 semester, McMurry University's School of Business, in conjunction with the Department of History, will offer a unique business concentration in Heritage and Cultural Tourism.

"The new concentration will prepare students to enter the fast-growing heritage and cultural tourism industry," said Dr. K.O. Long, Dean of the McMurry School of Business. Students will take business core courses and the 18 credit hour concentration in the School of Business. In addition, they will be able to earn a minor in history. According to Dr. Long, "McMurry's Heritage and Cultural Tourism program is an innovative, interdisciplinary approach that will offer students a solid foundation in business, coupled with a historical perspective, and will provide them a 'hands-on' learning opportunity through an internship at the Buffalo Gap Historic Village."

According to 2008 statistics from the Abilene Convention and Visitors Bureau, the Texas tourism industry is a \$56.7 billion a year business, roping in more than \$374 million and providing 3400 jobs to the Abilene

economy each year. It was that data that led history professor Don Frazier to contact Dr. Long, and the two worked together to develop the McMurry program, which he says is unlike any other undergraduate program in the country. "We're the first in the country taking this approach," he said. "That means we're either innovative or crazy."

Dr. Frazier will teach a new class in heritage and cultural tourism, and students will be required to

serve a three-hour internship specializing in marketing at the Buffalo Gap Historic Village. The internship will allow students to develop firsthand knowledge and skills to operate destination sites like the Village, which includes tending to the display and care of historical artifacts, managing, maintaining, marketing, and providing event support, while

gaining credit for the experience.

"This is the perfect liberal arts blend," Dr. Frazier said. "It takes the broad knowledge and cultural context provided by a history background, and the practical skills of a business degree, and marries them into a great package. The fact that there is an eight-acre, well-established heritage tourism facility with robust visitorship and recognized market position that is willing to serve as a place for our students to learn the trade is an opportunity unique in the United States."

This unique partnership is one more way in which McMurry demonstrates its commitment to develop innovative methods of providing practical career preparation to address current and future industry needs. ■



▲ Student Jesse Husbands mans the store at the Buffalo Gap Historic Village.

The Biography of a Renaissance Man

Extraordinary Leadership for College's New Beginnings

IN 1923, a new beginning in Methodist higher education in West Texas was signaled with the opening of McMurry College. Dr. James Winford Hunt served as the College's first president, and his life is chronicled in a recently published book co-authored by Dr. Robert Sledge, former history professor and Dr. Darris Egger. Dr. Egger was a 1942 graduate of McMurry University and earned a doctor of ministry degree from Perkins School of Theology at Southern Methodist University in Dallas in 1947. Throughout his life, he served in a number of pastorates including Wylie, Moran, Clyde, Hamlin, Colorado City and Sweetwater. As a student attending chapel and other campus events at McMurry College in the late 1930s, young Darris recalled seeing a plaque in the library with the inscription—"In loving memory of President James Winford Hunt, 1875-1934."

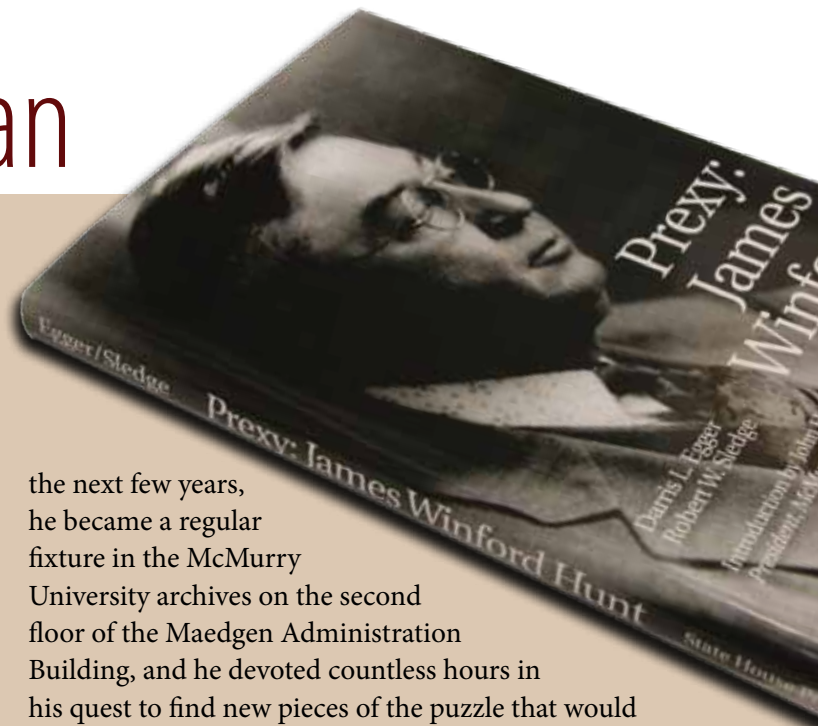
Curious about McMurry's founder and the man behind the Methodist college in Abilene, Texas, he began his labors to find out "what made the man tick." What he discovered was, although there were source documents and articles, there was no definitive biography of the man whom many described as a West Texas version of a "Renaissance Man."

After his retirement from the active clergy, Dr. Egger decided that the life of a man like Hunt needed to be researched and made public. The author of several other books, including *A History of St. Paul Methodist Church* and *Prairie Parsons*, he began his research in 2001. Over

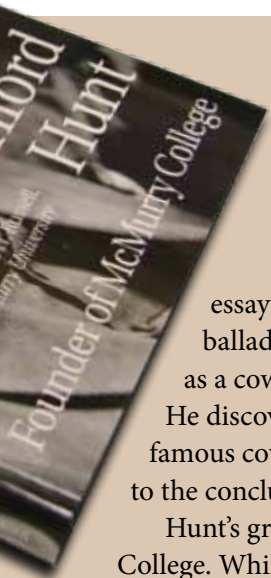
the next few years, he became a regular fixture in the McMurry University archives on the second floor of the Maedgen Administration Building, and he devoted countless hours in his quest to find new pieces of the puzzle that would help him complete the biography of McMurry's founder and first president. Dr. Egger had completed a draft of the book and was working on his second draft when his health deteriorated and he had to give up his dream of finishing the book. He passed away on June 2, 2007 at the age of 87.

Dr. Rob Sledge, McWhiney Foundation Historian in Residence and former McMurry professor of history, who had been originally designated by the McWhiney Foundation to edit the book, took up the challenge of completing Egger's dream of writing the first biography of Dr. Hunt. "Through interviews, letters and printed sources, Darris had compiled a large amount of information," said Dr. Sledge, who took on the responsibility of condensing the book while fleshing out parts of it that needed more information.

In the book, Dr. Hunt's remarkable life is chronicled. Born on a Kaw Indian Reservation, Hunt moved with his family to the High Plains of Texas in 1881. In his lifetime, Hunt was a cowboy, a newspaper editor, a preacher, president of two colleges, and also a poet, an



Hunt's greatest accomplishment was founding and leading McMurry College.



essayist, a crusader, and possibly the author of a very famous cowboy ballad. “In Dr. Egger’s notes, one area that was thin was Hunt’s life as a cowboy,” Sledge said, which he further researched and expanded.

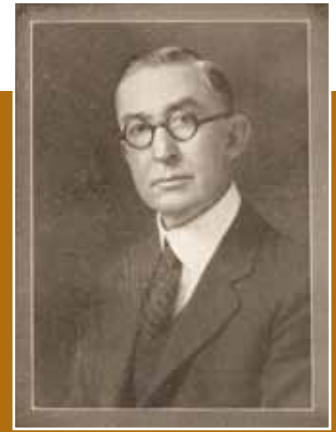
He discovered a surprising possibility that Dr. Hunt was the author of a famous cowboy ballad called *Cowboy’s Prayer*. Sledge investigated and came to the conclusion that Dr. Hunt’s claim to the poem was convincing.

Hunt’s greatest accomplishment was founding and leading McMurry College. While serving as pastor at St. Paul Methodist Church, he dreamed of a new Methodist college in the area and succeeded in enlisting support from the Abilene community and the church. In 1920 he was appointed to lead the fledgling school, and in 1923 he presided over the opening ceremonies of McMurry College. For the next decade, Hunt stood at the helm and drove himself to make the college a success. He passed away in 1934 at the age of 59.

Dr. Sledge worked for a year to finish the book, and with funding assistance from McMurry President Dr. John Russell, 1500 copies of the book *Prexy: James Winford Hunt: Founder of McMurry College* were published in spring 2009 by the McWhiney Foundation’s State House Press. As a by-product of Dr. Sledge’s work on the biography, he was able to reorganize a special section of the McMurry archives to house all the information he found on Dr. Hunt.

Dr. Darris Egger’s dream of a biography had come to pass with his hard work and the help of others. McMurry University President Dr. John Russell summed up the importance of the book in his introduction: “Service and Christian commitment provide much of the core that has defined the history of McMurry. The authors make it clear that Dr. Hunt instilled those attributes in the faculty, staff and students of McMurry—from its 1923 start. These values find themselves embedded in our vision for McMurry’s future.” ■

Prexy: James Winford Hunt: Founder of McMurry College will be available for purchase on the Saturday of Homecoming from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. in Windjammers Lounge for \$23.99 or at the registration table. For more information contact Greeley Myers at (325) 793-4603.



The management of McMurry College conceives that the highest work of any school today is in the training of character and in the development of manhood and womanhood. It is the endeavor of the institution to send out into the world people who personally know God and are, therefore, best equipped to lead in the work of church and state.

- J.W. Hunt, 1925 Totem

DEVELOPMENT CORNER

EXCITEMENT BUILDS every summer in the hearts and minds of hundreds of McMurry students, faculty and staff as we anticipate the beginning of another academic year. The level of excitement is even greater this summer with numerous innovations and enhancements that will greet over 1500 students who will be enrolled for the fall 2009 semester.

New beginnings is an appropriate theme for this issue of the *Chieftain*—new beginnings are evident in so many areas at McMurry this year. This is a vibrant, growing, ever-evolving campus environment, focused on ensuring academic excellence, inspiring student spirit and fostering an improved living and learning environment for our students. At a time when most businesses and higher education institutions are challenged to maintain programs and services, we are proudly moving forward with the implementation of new programs and services. Several are highlighted in this issue as concrete examples that McMurry is committed to providing for our students the highest quality educational experience necessary for success in a global society, as well as ensuring they have access to a campus environment that broadens perspectives, builds friendships and creates treasured memories for years to come.

Over the last several years, course offerings and degree programs have undergone a rigorous review by the faculty. This process has helped the University to focus on achieving academic excellence throughout our university curricula, and it further translated into our reaccreditation in June by both the Southern Association of Colleges (SACS) and by the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry (GBHE). Though the reaccreditation process is now behind us, we continue to move forward in launching new

initiatives, such as the Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP) to enhance our student-athlete academic performance. Another initiative is the renovation this summer of the first floor of Jay-Rollins Library to create and support a “learning commons” for the purpose of centralizing academic support and providing more space for individual and group student interactive learning. Curricular innovations include the introduction of an interdisciplinary course for business and history majors designed to prepare them for careers in the growing cultural heritage and tourism industry.

Students arriving on campus will benefit from an enhanced partnership between McMurry and ARAMARK, our food service provider. A strategic

planning process resulted in the grand opening last spring of a new coffee shop concept on the first floor of Jay-Rollins Library. This summer, the partnership resulted in the renovation and re-design of the main dining facility to provide new food options and enhance student interaction in their dining experience. Advancements in academic offerings and improvements in facilities become catalysts for other innovations, thus resulting in an environment

in which student expectations are raised and a culture of excellence becomes the norm, both in and out of the classroom.

A new season for any athletic team signals a new beginning. In recent years, our 19 McMurry sports have achieved outstanding success in conference competition and on the national scene. Not content with past accomplishments, McMurry has enlisted new leadership in two key athletic positions—Athletic Director and Head Football Coach. While continuing to focus on continued athletic success and excellence in other sports, the University has demonstrated its commitment to a

At a time when most businesses and higher education institutions are challenged to maintain programs and services, we are proudly moving forward with the implementation of new programs and services.

new beginning for our football program with the hiring of an experienced football staff. Coach Hal Mumme has already inspired alumni, faculty, staff and most importantly, student-athletes with his belief in the future of the program, and with his huge investment of time and energy in facility and game day enhancements. On Saturday, September 5, the McMurry "Nation" will converge on Wilford Moore Stadium to usher in a new era in McMurry football.

We invite our alumni and friends to "catch the spirit," along with our students, faculty and staff. Join us here at McMurry for our fall athletic events, for Family Weekend on September 19, and especially for Homecoming on

October 15-18. Come witness many new beginnings with your alma mater. A university that is visionary, progressive and innovative—a university that honors our heritage and plans for the future. *Ala Cumba!* ■

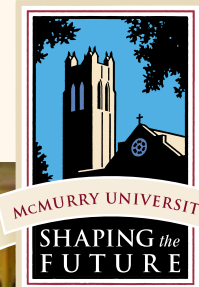


Steve Crisman

STEVE CRISMAN
Vice President for
Institutional Advancement

Renovations continue...

IMAGINE



Field House



Dining Hall



Java City in Library



Future Learning Commons in Library

Oct. 15-18, 2009

ALA CUMBA

McMURRY UNIVERSITY HOMECOMING

2009

As we gather for Homecoming 2009, it is time to reminisce, rekindle friendships and continue cherished traditions like Tipi Village, Beating of the Drum and Coronation of Chief and Princess McMurry. Join us for all of the Homecoming festivities and see all the exciting changes that have taken place on campus since last year!

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 15

9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. | Ryan Fine Arts Gallery

Alumni Art Exhibit

Van Moore '00 and Eric Villarreal '99

Art Faculty Exhibit in the Furr Welcome Center

Artist Reception – Saturday 11:00 a.m. Ryan Fine Arts Gallery

5:00 p.m. | Wah Wahtaysee Park

McMurry Band Concert

5:30 p.m. | Wah Wahtaysee Park

Sunset Ceremony & Tipi Raising

Music provided by Campus Activities Board (CAB)

7:00 p.m. | Mabee Room, Garrison Campus Center

Distinguished Alumni Awards Dinner

Honoring Dr. Stephen Mittelstet '67 and Dr. Pug Parris '73

Special recognition of the 2009 Cross & Flame Award recipients

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 16

9:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m. | Furr Welcome Center

Alumni Registration

Complimentary snacks & beverages

McMurry Bookstore open from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. | Wah Wahtaysee Park

Tipi Village Tours

9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. | Ryan Fine Arts Gallery

Alumni Art Exhibit

8:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. | McMurry Tennis Courts

Alumni & Friends Tennis Tournament

Prizes/T-shirts

11:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. | Gypsy Ted Art Gallery (south of Ryan Fine Arts on 2117 Hunt St.)

McMurry Student Art Exhibit

Featuring McMurry graduates

12:15 p.m. | *Diamondback Golf Club*

McMurry Golf Classic

12:15 p.m. Lunch

1:30 p.m. Shotgun Start

1:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m. | *Aldersgate UMC Sanctuary*

Chanters Reunion Rehearsal

3:30 p.m. | *Aldersgate UMC Sanctuary*

Chanters Choral Concert

Reception immediately following in the Aldersgate Fellowship Hall

4:00 p.m. – 6:30 p.m. | *Presidents' Dining Room*

McMurry Football Reception

5:30 p.m.

Class Reunion Dinners

J.W. Hunt Society honoring the Class of 1949

Including the class of 1958 and prior

East Foyer, Ryan Fine Arts (no steps on west side)

50th Reunion honoring the Class of 1959

Mabee Room, Garrison Campus Center

40th Reunion honoring the Class of 1969

Village Market Meeting Room, Dining Hall

Decade Reunion honoring the Classes of '79, '89, '99

Joe Allen's Corral (301 S. 11th Street)

7:00 p.m. | *Kimbrell Arena*

East Texas Baptist University vs. McMurry Volleyball

7:30 p.m. | *Radford Auditorium*

Homecoming Musical - The Music Man Coronation

Immediately following coronation

Bonfire & Pep Rally

Wah Wahtaysee Park



SATURDAY, OCTOBER 17

9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. | *Welcome Center*

Alumni Registration

Complimentary snacks & beverages

McMurry Bookstore open from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

7:00 a.m. | *Wilford Moore Stadium*

32nd Annual McMurry 5000 Road Race

Registration & Check-in 7:00 a.m. until 7:45 a.m. at Hunt P.E. Center, Room 200

Summer phone 793-4632; 692-4437

Race begins at 8:00 a.m.

Awards at 9:00 a.m.



9:00 a.m. | *Library, First Floor*

J. W. Hunt Society Breakfast/ Induction of New Members (Class of 1959)

9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. | *Ryan Fine Arts Gallery*

Alumni Art Exhibit

Artist Reception – Saturday 11:00 a.m.

9:00 a.m. | *Wah Wahtaysee*

Tipi Judging

9:30 a.m. | *Bynum Band Hall*

Music Alumni Breakfast

9:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. | *Windjammers Lounge, Garrison Campus Center*

Book Signing

Dr. Rob Sledge will be signing the book he co-authored with the late Dr. Darris Egger, *Prexy: James Winford Hunt: Founder of McMurry College*. This book details the colorful life of Dr. J. W. Hunt, McMurry's founder and first president.

9:30 a.m.

Mississippi College vs. McMurry Volleyball

9:30 a.m. – 10:45 a.m. | *Quad (In tent between the Library and Maedgen)*

Deans' Reception for the Five Schools

Join us in the Quad for a reception for alumni and former students of the School of Business, School of Education, School of Arts and Letters, School of Natural and Computational Sciences, School of Social Science and Religion and the School of Nursing. This event will

continued on next page

ALA CUMBA *y'all*

McMURRY UNIVERSITY HOMECOMING 2009

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 17 cont'd

be hosted by the six Deans of the Colleges and Schools of McMurry University.

10:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. | *Bottom floor of Gold Star*

Honors Program Reception

Honors Living and Learning Community

10:30 a.m. | *Windjammers Lounge, Garrison Campus Center*

McMurry University Retiree Fellowship (MURF) Reception

10:30 a.m. | *Presidents' Conference Room (Maedgen Administration Building)*

Boyce Hall Reunion

11:00 a.m. | *Jay-Rollins Library (mezzanine, second floor)*

Alpha Phi Omega Reunion

11:00 a.m. | *Room 214 Hunt P.E. Center*

Track Reunion

11:00 a.m. | *Quad*

Spirit Painting and Walk to Victory

Join us in this tradition as we invite the whole campus to the Spirit Painting of the McMurry football team in the Quad. Then help us form a victory line from the Library to Wilford Moore Stadium, as our players walk the path to victory!

11:30 a.m. | *Presidents' Dining Room, Garrison Campus Center*

Servant Leadership Preceptors' & Mentors' Reunion

11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. | *Quad, near Library*

Family Tailgate

Bring children for fun events and snacks!

11:30 a.m. – 12:45 p.m. | *Mabee Room, Garrison Campus Center*

Café Ala Cumba Luncheon

All alumni invited!

12:30 p.m. | *Blue Tent in Wilford Moore Stadium*

McMurry Cheerleaders' Reunion

The alumni cheerleaders will be invited to start the game with the current McMurry cheerleaders by leading the crowd in the McMurry Beat (formerly the Indian Beat).

Social club reunion schedules available at registration.

Abilene hotel information may be obtained at www.abilene.com/visitors. Reference McMurry Homecoming. Make your reservations early!

2:00 p.m. | *Wilford Moore Stadium*

Sul Ross State University vs. McMurry Football

Half-time Presentation of Chief & Princess McMurry, Class Favorites & Distinguished Alumni Award Recipients

5:00 p.m. | *Kimbrell Arena*

Mary Hardin-Baylor vs. McMurry Volleyball

6:00 p.m. | *Presidents' Dining Room, Garrison Campus Center*

McMurry Student Government Alumni Reception

7:30 p.m. | *Radford Auditorium*

Homecoming Musical - "The Music Man"

10:00 p.m. | *Interior Courtyard, Garrison Campus Center*

Social Club Songs & Alma Mater

Sunday, October 18

8:30 a.m. & 10:45 a.m. | *Aldersgate UMC*

Homecoming Worship Service

Rev. Namiqa Ardhuerumly Shipman '79

Homecoming Musical October 16 and October 17, 2009

The McMurry University Theatre presents

The Music Man

Book and Music by Meredith Willson



An affectionate look at Smalltown, U.S.A. of a bygone era, Meredith Willson's *The Music Man* follows traveling salesman Harold Hill as he cons the people of River City, Iowa, into buying instruments and uniforms for a boy's band he vows to organize. His plans to skip town with the cash are foiled when he falls for Marian the librarian, who transforms him into a respectable citizen by curtain's fall. This award-winning, critically acclaimed Broadway classic is an all-American institution! A musical treat for the entire family!

2009 *distinguished* alumni

Dr. Stephen Mittelstet will be honored as the McMurry University Distinguished Alumni for 2009 at the Distinguished Alumni Dinner on Thursday, October 15 as part of McMurry's Homecoming festivities.

Dr. Stephen K. Mittelstet '67

Dr. Stephen Mittelstet has been a consistent McMurry donor and supporter and credits his life success to his McMurry Experience.

Dr. Mittelstet has long been affiliated with the Dallas Community College System. During his tenure at Richland College, he has established an international language institute, a multi-cultural center, a global studies curriculum, a NEH-sponsored classics cluster curriculum, reading program, visiting professorships, faculty exchanges and an international business degree. He frequently speaks to local, regional and national groups on the value of foreign languages, multi-cultural studies and the use of multimedia in intercultural communications. He has taken foreign language proficiency certification training along with his entire foreign language staff.

While at McMurry, he was Chief McMurry, Student Body President, Student Judge, and I.H.R. President. He was involved in Kappa Delta Pi, Sigma Tau Delta, was named Sophomore Class Favorite, and received many other honors.

Since graduating in 1967, he has been a McMurry commencement speaker, served for several years in creating, editing and publishing the McMurry Alumni Newsletter for Texas and New Mexico, has hosted many Dallas-area McMurry Alumni events at Richland College, and provides a McMurry student recruitment table at National College Night for Richardson ISD students.

Dr. Mittelstet has won many awards. The National Community College Humanities Association named him Distinguished Humanities Educator. He was named Principal of the Year, Region 17, 1998. He won the Baldrige National Quality Award. He received an

Honorary Doctorate in Humanities from McMurry. He has won the Master Teacher Award, National Institute for Staff and Organizational Development, Distinguished Graduate of the University of Texas at Austin Community College Leadership Program, Educational Leader of the Year, Educational Leader of the Year, American Council on Teachers of Foreign Languages, and many other awards and honors.

Dr. Mittelstet is a graduate of Leadership Dallas, founder of Leadership Richardson and served on the Advisory Board. He has also served other organizations including the Board of Directors of North Dallas, Richardson, Garland, French-American Chambers of Commerce; President of Richardson Rotary; YWCA fund-raising chair; and the Richardson Medical Center Board. He has built countless community partnerships between Richland College and numerous public schools, institutions of higher learning, community organizations, and businesses. He has raised funds for worthy causes, obtained millions of dollars from private foundations and federal agencies, built healthy communities and enhanced local economic development.

Dr. Mittelstet has served on the Board of Directors of the United Methodist Church of Richardson, as a guest speaker to numerous church groups, as a Sunday school teacher, on the capital fundraising campaigns and on the Greater Dallas Community of Churches, PRAXIS Council. He helped establish and implement campus ministries in all seven Dallas County Community Colleges. In recent years he has been actively involved locally and nationally, emphasizing the role of spirituality in public higher education, establishing Richland's Mind-Body-Spirit Health Institute. ■

2009 *distinguished* alumni

Dr. Pug Parris will be honored as the McMurry University Distinguished Alumni for 2009 at the Distinguished Alumni Dinner on Thursday, October 15 as part of McMurry's Homecoming festivities.

Dr. Pug Deavenport Parris '73

Dr. Pug Deavenport Parris stepped on the McMurry stage as one of the most enthusiastic freshman ever to hit the campus. This enthusiasm and love for McMurry has continued to grow from those first few weeks of freshman orientation where she learned the sacred traditions we all hold so dear. Now decades later, her service and outstanding leadership continue to be a blessing to McMurry University, her church, her fellow alumni, her community and her family.

Dr. Parris began her tenure on the faculty at McMurry College in 1978 and currently serves as Professor/Program Director of the Department of Kinesiology. She is a leader in her profession, having served as President of the Texas Association for Health, Physical Education and Recreation, a 5000-member professional alliance.

Dr. Parris is the co-author of two physical education activity books and is the creator of a physical education product called Fitness Dice that has been marketed in the USA, UK and Japan. Her peers have recognized her with several outstanding awards including the Bennett Award for Outstanding Teaching, Service and Leadership, the Sears National Collegiate Award for Outstanding Teaching and Leadership, the Samuel Taylor Fellowship for Research in Physical Education, and the Texas Association for Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance Honor Award. She is a much sought after presenter of Health and Physical Education workshops throughout the United States and Germany.

Dr. Parris is very active in community organizations in Abilene and West Texas, and in particular she is an ardent supporter of the efforts of the Salvation Army. She is a volunteer bell ringer and in 2008 was honored

as having collected the most donations of any volunteer in Abilene. She has organized exercise classes which are conducted each semester and are open to the Abilene community. In the past, she served on the Parks Board for the City of Abilene and currently serves on the Physical Education Advisory Board for Abilene ISD.

In 2003 she was inducted into the Athletic Hall of Honor and received the Bob and Clara Brown Indian Award for Exceptional Support of Athletics. In addition, she and her husband Rickey are faithful, constant financial supporters of McMurry, and she serves as an ambassador for McMurry by recruiting new undergraduates, encouraging students while they attend McMurry, and mentoring graduates long after they leave the campus. She has become "a keeper of the traditions" for McMurry – making sure the rich, unique heritage of McMurry is not forgotten and is passed on to each new generation of students.

Dr. Parris is an active member of Aldersgate United Methodist Church and plays in the Handbell Choir. As a certified lay speaker for the United Methodist Church, she has filled the pulpit of numerous churches in West Texas and New Mexico with her message of hope, love and laughter. In 2003 she received the Cross & Flame Award for outstanding service to McMurry University through leadership in the United Methodist Church.

She has been married since 1972 to Rickey Parris, a McMurry graduate and retired physical educator. Their son, Brad Parris '01, is the assistant track coach at McMurry. Brad is married to the former Corissa Thompson, a nurse at Abilene Regional Medical Center, also a graduate of McMurry. Dr. Parris is the proud grandmother of twins, Braxton & Brody Parris. ■

Or register and pay online at
<http://nation.mcm.edu>

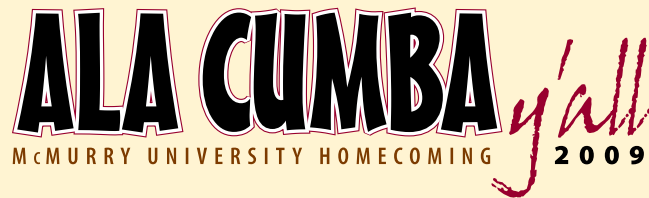
registration form

Please fill out this form and return by Friday, October 9 to:

McMurry University
 Homecoming 2009
 Box 938 McM Station
 Abilene, TX 79697

For more information call
 (325) 793-4600 or visit
<http://nation.mcm.edu>

For more information about
KIVA'S 70th ANNIVERSARY
 visit www.kivabirds.com



The events listed below require a ticket to attend. Please indicate the number of tickets you wish to reserve for each event and include payment with your registration.

Quantity	Event	Cost	Total
Thursday, October 15			
	Distinguished Alumni Dinner	\$25.00	
Friday, October 16			
	Alumni & Friends Tennis Tournament	\$50.00	
	60th Class Reunion/J.W. Hunt Society Dinner	\$12.00	
	50th Class Reunion	\$12.00	
	40th Class Reunion	\$12.00	
	Decade Reunion Dinner honoring Classes of '79, '89, '99	\$12.00	
Saturday, October 17			
	McM 5000 Road Race Advance registration (\$25 day of race)	\$18.00	
	Music Alumni Breakfast	\$8.00	
	Café Ala Cumba Luncheon	Adults \$9.00 Children \$3.00	
	Family Tailgate	Adults \$9.00 Children \$3.00	
	The Music Man Tickets		
	<input type="checkbox"/> Friday, October 16 <input type="checkbox"/> Saturday, October 17		
	Qty _____ Adults	\$12.00	
	Qty _____ Students	\$10.00	
	Sul Ross State vs. McMurry Football		
	Qty _____ Adults	\$10.00	
	Qty _____ Students	\$5.00	
	6 & under	Free	

Total Amount Enclosed \$ _____
 Check # _____

Personal Information

Name (Last, First, Maiden) _____ McM Class of _____

Name (Last, First, Maiden) _____ McM Class of _____

Mailing Address (Address Correction Requested) _____ City, State, Zip _____

Telephone Number _____ Email (optional) _____



A Path Re-Chartered

New Beginnings for a Historic Social Club

CHI OMICRON (XO), a men's social club established in 1957 and phased out around 1980, is experiencing a *new beginning* at McMurry with a group of men eager to keep the club's legendary charisma alive. Re-chartered in the spring of 2008, its membership has already doubled. This past spring, the club had the second largest pledge class with nine new members inducted.

XO's history includes many stories of pledging and pranks that were not only unique but creative and humorous. Several of these stories have become legendary not only with the club members but around campus as well. Many alumni might recall the club's participation in Tipi Village that included an alligator, a pump jack and a Cadillac, as well as numerous non-traditional tipis—an igloo, adobe huts, etc. Many of the men of XO graduated and entered professions ranging from science to business. Several alumni are responsible for scientific discoveries and technological advances with major corporations.

Currently, XO's new history is being charted in similar ways with members majoring in the sciences, social sciences and business. A large percentage of the members are student-athletes participating primarily in baseball and football. Today's club embraces its history of non-traditional approaches to pledging and other

campus activities, but it has also developed its own uniqueness. While celebrating its history, the current club has adopted an identity of its own—the pirate. Known for its swashbuckling energy, the pirate's code and strong brotherhood, XO has attracted new members to the club in search of a less restrictive membership organization and pledging. Members have also sought to establish the club as a service organization by attending Chapel and organizing workshops on enhancing alumni relations and giving to McMurry through social clubs. XO's current structure and goals seem to be attracting today's student, in contrast to the national trend of declining interclub membership.

According to President Blake Ortiz, the club is interested in expanding this new course for XO on the McMurry campus with the help of alumni members. One such strategy is an opportunity to meet together at the XO Reunion as part of Homecoming 2009. Blake says that he "wants to celebrate the new beginning of today's XO with the storied history of the past." Former members should look for more information in club emails and mailings in the coming weeks. ■

▲ 2008-09 Members and 2009 Pledges

▼ 1976 Members of XO (courtesy of Tim Hogsett)





For the full athletics update, please visit us on the web at <http://athletics.mcm.edu>.

ATHLETICS UPDATE

SPRING SPORTS

Track & Field

The McMurry men's track & field team had another stellar year as they finished runner-up at the National Outdoor Championships and fourth at the Indoor Championships – in addition to winning the program's 11th-straight ASC title. The outdoor season was highlighted by long jumper Gavan Bass, pole vaulter Thomas Dimitri, high jumper Zach Shew and sprint specialist Hann Ollison, earning all-American accolades for their performances at the Outdoor Championships in late May. In addition, Ollison repeated as national champion in the 400-meter dash.

The McMurry women also continued their dominance in the ASC as they won their fourth-straight conference title and their 10th in the last 11 years. Ten McMurry women's track & field athletes garnered all-conference recognition as the McMurry women cruised to another conference title. In addition, five McMurry women qualified for the National Outdoor Championships in Marietta, Ohio. Head Coach Barbara Crousen was named both the ASC Men's and Women's Coach of the Year, as well as the U.S. Track & Field and Cross Country Coaches Association South/Southeast Region Men's Coach of the Year.

The 2009 season concluded the illustrious McMurry track & field career of Ollison, a six-time national champion and a 17-time all-American.

Tennis

The 2009 McMurry men's tennis team had its best season in school history as they

finished 14-7 and won the program's first ASC West Division Championship, which allowed McMurry to host the 2009 ASC Tennis Championships for the first time and McMurry coach Mark Hathorn to win his second consecutive West Division Men's Coach of the Year Award. The 2009 season marked a rebuilding year for the McMurry women as most contributors were freshmen and sophomores. With a year of collegiate playing experience now gained by most of the team, the young McMurry women's squad is poised for a successful 2010 campaign.

Baseball

The successful and proud McMurry baseball tradition continued in 2009 under the leadership of first-year head coach John Byington. Coach Byington had big shoes to fill taking over for former coach Lee Driggers, who built the McMurry baseball team into a perennial NCAA Division III contender in his 13 years at the helm. While the soft-spoken Byington has different methods of coaching than his predecessor, he carried on the winning legacy as McMurry made its 11th ASC postseason tournament appearance in 2009 and finished with a 26-17 record.

Golf

Coach Russ Evans and his McMurry men's and women's golf teams marked another great year in 2009 as the men finished third and the women finished fourth, respectively, at the ASC Golf Championships. Top women performers for McMurry included Monica Harris, who earned a spot on the all-ASC first team for the second consecutive



Hann Ollison

continued on next page

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ATHLETICS UPDATE

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year by virtue of her third-place finish at the conference tournament, and Libby Scarlett, who made the all-ASC second team by virtue of her eighth-place finish at the conference tournament. On the men's side, Larry Courtney and Nick Mehigan earned spots on the all-ASC second team based on their performances at the conference tournament. Mehigan tied for sixth place overall and Courtney tied for eighth.

WINTER SPORTS

Men's Basketball

Coach Ron Holmes and company returned McMurry to a dominant force in the ASC in 2009 as they finished 19-8 and won the program's seventh ASC West Division title before losing a heartbreaker to Mississippi College in the semifinal round of the ASC Tournament.

Four McMurry players earned all-conference recognition highlighted by senior standout Jonathan Walker making the all-division all-ASC team. In addition to making the five-member all-division all-ASC team, Walker made the ASC West Division first team and was named the ASC West Division Newcomer of the Year as well as a third-team All-Region selection by d3hoops.com. Senior guards Dewayne Hall and Robert Moreno also garnered all-conference recognition as they were both respectively named to the ASC West Division's second team, while junior guard Ricky Burney rounded out McMurry's all-conference recognition as he was an honorable mention West Division selection.

Women's Basketball

The 2008-09 McMurry women's basketball team continued the program's proud tradition as they finished 21-6 and won their third ASC West Division title in school history. McMurry lost a heartbreaker in the semifinal round of the ASC Tournament.

The McMurry women were rewarded for their stellar season as four players earned all-conference recognition.

In addition, nine McMurry women's basketball players were named to the ASC Academic All-Conference team.

Swimming

Head coach Bev Ball and her McMurry men's and women's swimming teams had another solid year during the 2008-09 season. At the Independent Conference Meet in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, the women's team placed fourth and the men's team placed seventh in spite of competition with many scholarship-based programs. The 2008-09 season was the last year for standout swimmer Marlee Hager, who is arguably the greatest female swimmer in school history. The McMurry women, though, are slated to return Erin Johnson and Amber Perkins, who both broke numerous school records last year as freshmen. On the men's side, team leader Craig Osterman is slated to return for his senior season next year and Coach Ball has recruited many new swimmers who are expected to make an immediate impact.

FALL SPORTS

Football

On April 15, 2009 McMurry named Hal Mumme the 20th football coach in school history. Despite arriving rather late in the spring, the well-respected coach known for turning around struggling programs has already made his impact felt. Mumme's change in the McMurry football culture can already be seen as he completely renovated the R.M. Medley Fieldhouse, as well as embarked on cosmetic renovations to Wilford Moore Stadium. Mumme's other endeavors, such as season-ticket packages and a McMurry coaches' television show, are also being implemented to





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help instill pride back into the McMurry football program.

Change is also anticipated on the field as Mumme brings his record-breaking "Air Raid Attack," which has shattered passing records everywhere Mumme has coached. In addition, new McMurry defensive coordinator Joe Lee Dunn brings his highly acclaimed 3-3-5 defense, which might prove problematic for many opponents in 2009 as most of them haven't been exposed to the unique defensive formation.



American recognition from the American Volleyball Coaches Association. More of the same success is expected in 2009 as three all-conference performers (Brown, libero Sarah Anding, and outside hitter Danielle Kelton) are slated to return as well as many other key contributors from last year's squad.

Soccer

In 2008, both the McMurry men's and women's soccer teams battled many injuries and tough-fought losses in a rebuilding year for both teams. Despite a tough season in 2008, three McMurry men's soccer players garnered all-conference recognition, including goalkeeper Leeland Karpf earning first-team all-ASC recognition. In addition, seven McMurry soccer players (four women and three men) earned ASC all-academic honors.

Volleyball

McMurry volleyball icon Cammie Petree returned as coach in 2008 and led McMurry to a 19-8 record and an appearance in the ASC Conference Volleyball Championship Tournament. Five

McMurry players earned all-conference recognition, with middle blocker Terah Brown being named the ASC West Division Most Valuable Player for the second consecutive year. Brown also became the first McMurry volleyball player to receive all-

Cross Country

With both teams returning many key runners, McMurry cross country coach David Chandler is expecting another great year from his men's and women's cross country teams in 2009. The highest-profile returner for Chandler is Ken Wheeler, who last year as a junior became the second McMurry runner to ever qualify for the NCAA Division III Cross Country Championship, and also returns tied for the school record in the 8,000-meter with his time of 25:54.31. The 2008 season proved to be another solid year for Chandler's squads as the men finished second at the conference meet and the women finished third, respectively, with six runners (four men and two women) garnering all-conference recognition. Success was also achieved in the classroom for the McMurry men's team as the U.S. Track & Field and Cross Country Coaches Association recognized the men's team as an All-Academic Team award winner for the third consecutive year. ■



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www.twitter.com/mcmuniv

FRIENDS & FAMILY

Dear Alumni and Friends,

I am starting my fifth year as Director of Alumni Relations here at McMurry. This has caused me to stop and think about some of the progress McMurry has made in the last five years. Through the generosity of H. Bedford and Oneta Furr and the Dodge Jones Foundation, we have constructed the beautiful Furr Welcome Center. We have renovated the Bynum Band Hall into a state of the art facility that still honors the cherished traditions of our Band program. Our housing facilities have been renovated, we have added an artificial playing surface on our football field, and installed a new track which is home to our National Championship Track Team.

Signs of *New Beginnings* have also been seen here in the Office of Alumni Relations. Our Alumni Board of Directors went through a process of revising their by-laws over a year ago. This has resulted in a more effective Board that will continue to represent the interest of all of our alumni. We are approaching the one year anniversary of the launch of McMurry Nation, our online alumni community. This resource provides to you updated news and information on McMurry and your fellow McMurry friends. During the next year we will continue to broaden our use of McMurry Nation that will make it a more beneficial resource for you. Those of who you are especially savvy in technology can follow your alma mater on Facebook and through “tweets” on Twitter.



As we have read in this issue of the *Chieftain*, McMurry continues to experience *New Beginnings* from the renovation of our library to the hiring of our new football coaching staff. As McMurry alumni we can be proud that our university is taking these steps to continue to move forward. All of this progress however is only possible because of the strong foundation that has been laid for us. On a daily basis I come into contact with alumni who reiterate to me the positive impact that McMurry had on shaping their lives.

Our McMurry Experience and traditions that have shaped us need to be reflected upon, cherished and celebrated. What better way is there to celebrate than by attending Homecoming this year?

Please make plans to join us October 15-18 for our annual time to celebrate not only our proud traditions, but also our *New Beginnings*.

Please refer to the information found in this *Chieftain* or go to <http://nation.mcm.edu> to register.

See you there!

Ala Cumba,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Greeley R. Myers".

Greeley Myers '93



Jacob Field was this year's Harry Soloday Award Winner which goes to the outstanding graduate of the year. ◀

FRIENDS & FAMILY

Mrs. Gerri Russell visits with Marsha Hartos during the Annual Spring Iris Tea. ▼



Alicie Brake '82 visits with Jim Bourne '70 and Carol Gillingham '81 at the Shaping the Future Event in Houston. ▲



Blake Ortiz receives his McMurry official ring during the Spring Official Ring Ceremony. ▶



Kelsey Heinrich was named the 2009 Ginny Carlson recipient which goes to the outstanding female graduate. ▲



Josh Poorman received the Anthony Hunt Award for the outstanding male graduate. ▲

Dear McMurry Alumni and Friends,



It is a pleasure to be writing to you as the President of the McMurry Alumni Association Board of Directors. I want to thank Dale Evers for his service the last two years as President.

There are many exciting initiatives underway that involve the efforts of McMurry alumni. Our Alumni Board recently met on August 22nd. We are continuing to implement some changes that the Board approved a year ago, and so far the results of those changes are making our Board a more effective group that best serves the interest of our alumni.

I also want to call your attention to another initiative that is underway for this football season. For many years, McMurry has enjoyed a close relationship with Dyess Air Force Base. Last football season, we successfully hosted a Military Appreciation Day for active and retired service members and their families. This season, we would like to enhance our support of military families by instituting Operation Maroon Pride. This initiative enables you to purchase season football tickets for active military members and their dependents. All tickets sold for the program will be for seats in a specially designated section at Wilford Moore Stadium. Donations are tax-deductible, and donors will be listed in the game program for all home games. Each season ticket is \$30. Children under age 12 will be admitted free when accompanied by an adult.

There are three ways to purchase season tickets:

- 1) Online: <http://nation.mcm.edu/maroonpride/>
- 2) Personal Check: Make your check payable to McMurry Football and mail it to: Operation Maroon Pride, Box 188 McMurry Station, Abilene, TX 79697.
- 3) In Person: Tickets may be purchased on campus at Kimbrell Arena.

I encourage you and your business to please consider making a tax-deductible gift that will benefit both McMurry football and the men and women who bravely serve our country.

Sincerely,
Chris Montoya '00
McMurry Alumni Association President

FRIENDS & FAMILY

classnotes

1969

Art Haggerton was recently named the 2009 Las Cruces Chamber of Commerce's Crystal Apple Award winner. The award is presented by the chamber each year to honor a Las Cruces-area educator who has shown excellence in teaching. Haggerton has been a teacher for 38 years, including 24 with Las Cruces Public Schools and 20 at White Sands Middle School.

1971

Carolyn Kirby Hefner ex '71 and her husband, Bob, of Sweetwater welcomed a new granddaughter, Emalyn Kate, born to Darron and Megan Hefner



of Abilene on July 13, 2009. Carolyn's mother, Evelyn, is the switchboard operator at McMurry.

1973

Billy Enriquez was named the Minority Small Business Champion of the Year from the U.S. Small Business Administration. He was honored as the top minority business advocate in the Lubbock district, which covers 71 counties in West Texas and is one of six districts in Texas. The award was presented during a meeting of the Hispanic Business Council of the Abilene Chamber of Commerce. Enriquez is a past chairman of the council and owner of several local automobile businesses. His community activities include membership on the Critical Needs Task Force for the Abilene Independent School District.

FRIENDS & FAMILY

1977

This year, Harvey Oaxaca Sr. '77 will begin his 32nd year in education. He is an administrator for McKinney ISD. Harvey Oaxaca Jr. '01 is a graduation coach for Ridgeview Charter School in the North Fulton County School District in Atlanta, Georgia.



1999

After graduating with a bachelor's degree from McMurry University in Abilene, Texas, **Dr. Stacey Beaty '99**



received his medical degree from University of Texas-Houston Medical School in Houston. He completed his Residency in Orthopedics at University of Texas-Houston Medical School in Houston. Dr. Beaty is currently completing his orthopedic sports medicine fellowship at Steadman-Hawkins Clinic of the Carolinas.

He has gained experience caring for athletes of all ages and competitive levels including time spent with the Colorado Rockies professional baseball team, Greenville Drive minor league baseball team, and the University of South Carolina Upstate Spartans. Dr. Beaty and his family are excited to come home to West Texas and to join the San Angelo community.

Dr. Cari Roark Sloma '99 reports that she is now living in Dominaca, a beautiful island in the West Indies. She is starting a new position teaching at a medical school. Her teaching responsibilities will primarily be in Microbiology, but she will teach some Immunology as well.

2001

Sheila Breeden Kitts '01 and her husband, Carey, welcomed Jackson and Carter to their family on



Easter morning, April 12, 2009. Sheila works as Associate Director of University Relations at McMurry and Carey is currently working toward his teaching certificate.

2003

Jennifer Agirre '03 was recently hired by JK Design as a new web producer. Jennifer has a diverse background in education and computer technology. Prior to joining JK Design, she worked as a computing instructor, web developer and network administrator.



Brandon Atkins '03 and his wife, **Katie Phillips Atkins '04**, welcomed Elizabeth Kay to the family on May 9, 2009. Brandon has been employed by AT&T Yellow Pages since graduation. Katie is manager of

a microbiology lab at Analytical Food Laboratories. They currently live in Arlington.

Candido Ramirez '03 was promoted to Captain in the USAF at Randolph AFB near San Antonio in addition to receiving a Commendation Medal.

2004

Jeremiah Young ex & Jennifer Roemisch '04 were married on March 14 in Snyder, Texas, where Jennifer coaches at Snyder High School and Jeremiah works for West Texas State Bank.



FRIENDS & FAMILY

2005

Derrick Adams '05 married ShawLe Smith of Brownwood, Texas on August 1, 2008.

2006

Kelley (Stowers) Lawrence '06 and Rhett Lawrence were married November 1, 2008 in Pampa, Texas. Kelley is a pediatric nurse and Rhett is an electrical engineer.



McMurry University is very proud to announce that **TSgt. Todd Duquette '06** was awarded the prestigious Bronze Star for his exemplary service in the US Air Force. Todd is currently serving in Afghanistan. Thank you, Todd, for your service!

Matthew Armbruster '06 and **Michelle Alexander '07** were married on May 16, 2009 at First United Methodist Church in Lovington, New Mexico. Rev. Bill Libby officiated. Michelle received her Bachelor of Science degree in biology from McMurry University in 2007. She is seeking a doctorate in physical therapy at the Allied Health Science Department of Texas Tech.

Matthew received his Bachelor of Arts in criminal justice from McMurry University in 2006. He is employed with the Lubbock Police Department.



2007

Jennette Rasch '07 is excited to announce the birth of her son Gabriel Christian Rasch. He was born to Jennette and her husband, Shawn, on February 25, 2009. Gabriel was 7 lbs, 12 oz. and 21 inches long. Jennette will also begin

graduate school at the University of North Dakota in the fall of 2009. She will be working on her Master of Fine Arts in painting.

Marie Sward Sweezey '07 and Stephens Sweezey were married on August 9, 2008 in Santa Fe, New Mexico. They have recently moved to Chugiak, Alaska (near Anchorage) where Stephens will be managing Birchwood Methodist Camp.



classnotes

The Alumni Relations Office and your former classmates are always eager to know what you are doing and where you are doing it.

Let us know about your life, your career, your family and other news by sending this form (with a photo!) to:

Alumni Relations Office, Box 938 McMurry Station, Abilene, Texas 79697, or email myers.greeley@mcm.edu.

Name _____ Maiden Name _____

Address _____ Graduation Year _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ Email Address _____

Notes of Interest: _____

FRIENDS WE'LL MISS

Alene Hope Livengood Adcock '45 of Sugarland, Texas, died April 25, 2009.

Gordon Asbury of Abilene, Texas, died July 16, 2009.

Stanley Wayne Austin '67 of Hamlin, Texas, died April 11, 2009.

Judge Raleigh H. Brown of Abilene, Texas, died May 23, 2009.

Michael Hugh Brusewitz '84 of Clyde, Texas, died June 17, 2009.

Marion Buchanan died May 23, 2009.

Richard Blake Burton '94 of Abilene, Texas, died July 15, 2009.

R. I. Collinsworth of Granbury, Texas, died May 2, 2009.

John Marvin Crow died May 5, 2009.

Dr. John Coke Dickey '55 of Lubbock, Texas, died May 24, 2009.

Charles Eager of Merkel, Texas, died March 23, 2009.

Molly England died April 3, 2009.

Earlene Brown Faulkenberry of Brownfield, Texas, died March 22, 2009.

Randal Fitzhugh '76 of Abilene, Texas, died May 18, 2009.

Sylvia M. Forrester of Abilene, Texas, died April 11, 2009.

Catherine Gee died March 10, 2009.

William D. Grosvenor died March 2, 2009.

Homer Don Haden '69 of Merkel, Texas, died July 5, 2009.

Burl H. Hambrick of Abilene, Texas, died July 8, 2009.

Nancy Hamm of Colleyville, Texas, of June 23, 2009.

Mary Elizabeth Aiken Hart '40 of Ranger, Texas, died July 9, 2009.

Dr. Vernon N. Henderson '29 of Abilene, Texas, died March 21, 2009.

Alberta Jean Hart Hobbs '48 of Abilene, Texas, died March 19, 2009.

Virgia Juanita Hawkins Jayroe '41 of Hamlin, Texas, died July 7, 2009.

Dwight C. Key died March 27, 2009.

Judge Weldon Kirk of Sweetwater, Texas, died July 9, 2009.

Archie Lee Little '96 of Wichita Falls, Texas, died June 15, 2009.

Trudy M. Maddox died May 1, 2009.

Elsie McAnally of Lockney, Texas, died July 11, 2009.

Marguerite Melson of Abilene, Texas, died June 6, 2009.

Marjorie Munger Middleton '37 of Abilene, Texas died March 11, 2009.

William Marion Miller '63 of Llano, Texas, died June 15, 2009.

Noah Zachary Moreland '06 of Abilene, Texas, died June 6, 2009.

Harriet Godwin Mothershead of Houston, Texas, died July 5, 2009.

Lee Ellen Balfanz Oder died March 22, 2009.

Nola Van Gibson Pierce '64 of Dallas, Texas, died March 11, 2009.

Patsy S. Pool '68 of Abilene, Texas, died June 14, 2009.

Dr. Lou H. Rodenberger of Baird, Texas, died April 9, 2009.

Colonel Harold G. Russell of Riverside, CA, died June 8, 2009.

David T. Scogin of Abilene, Texas, died March 20, 2009.

Dr. V. H. Abbott Shoultz '81 of Abilene, Texas, died May 13, 2009.

Stephanie Ann Silba '93 of Baird, Texas, died April 1, 2009.

Lisa Simpson '88 of Friendswood, Texas, died May 28, 2009.

Rachel Jane Sonntag of Abilene, Texas, died May 2, 2009.

Jan Stone died May 20, 2009.

Jim Toliver of Stafford, Texas, died April 29, 2009.

Frieda Anne Henderson Truss '01 died March 5, 2009.

Ruth Tucker '49 of Keller, Texas, died April 15, 2009.

Dr. John Walke died May 23, 2009.

Juana Williams of Lubbock, Texas died April 22, 2009.

Joel C. Wilson '40 of Abilene, Texas, died May 30, 2009.

Rev. Thomas Lynn Wilson '61 of Roby, Texas, died July 12, 2009.

Obituaries

J.V. Patterson

J.V. Patterson, 91, of Lufkin, formerly of Stamford, passed away Monday, October 6, 2008. Reverend J.V. Patterson was born on January 17, 1917 in Mexia, Texas to the late John Perry and Lela Isabel (Riddle) Patterson. He was a lifelong minister of the First United Methodist Church and Northwest Texas Conference. Upon retirement he has resided in Lufkin, Texas for 14 years. J.V. was always

involved in his community. He was an active member of St. Paul United Methodist Church, a volunteer for ten years at CISC, a member of the Lion's Club, Masonic Lodge, and Senior Citizens Center where he enjoyed singing and playing the mandolin. J.V. loved people and gave his life to service. He was preceded in death by his parents; his wife of 51 years, Vada Melissa (Taylor) Patterson; seven brothers and sisters; and great-grandson,

FRIENDS WE'LL MISS

Matthew Hailey.

Mr. Patterson is survived by his wife of 11 years, Dorothy Freeman Patterson of Lufkin; two daughters, Melissa Abeldt and husband Buford of Lufkin, and Gloria Caton and husband Lynn of Boerne; two stepdaughters, Darla Hood and husband Richard of Lufkin, and Dana Freeze and husband David of Houston; stepson, Duane Freeman and wife Sherri of Lufkin; 12 grandchildren; 12 great-grandchildren; and a host of other relatives and friends.

Vernon Henderson '29

Vernon Neely Henderson, 106, of Abilene passed away on March 21, 2009. He was born on September 20, 1902 in Granger, Texas.

In 1925, Vernon attended a national meeting of youth of the Methodist Episcopal Methodist Church, South (now the United Methodist Church) in Memphis, Tennessee. During this meeting Vernon felt his first "call to ministry." In April 1926, he was given a Local Preacher's License and quickly entered McMurry College, graduating with a B.A. degree in 1929. He attended to Southern Methodist University in Dallas, Texas and in 1931 graduated with a Bachelor of Divinity degree (now Master's).

On September 20, 1931 Vernon and Viola Martin of Westover, Texas, his sweetheart during McMurry days, were united in holy matrimony. On November 12, 1931 Vernon was accepted as a clergy member of the Northwest Texas Annual Conference, and Bishop Abiff Boaz appointed him pastor of a three-church circuit. From that first appointment Vernon and his loving wife, Viola, received numerous appointments throughout the 38½ years in Vernon's full-time ministry. Appointments included 11 years as District Superintendent, and four years in Lubbock, Texas serving as Executive Secretary for Adult Education in Sunday Schools throughout the Northwest Texas Annual Conference. Vernon was accepted as a chaplain in the U.S. Navy in 1943 and was stationed in the Philippine Islands when World War II

ended.

He is survived by daughter Mrs. Vernola Loranc; Travis Gene and wife Nell Henderson; grandchildren Vernon E. Bartley, Shirley MacNeill and husband Robert MacNeill Jr., Charles Bartley Jr. and wife Lisa, Elizabeth Turvin and husband Ralph, Cerena Suarez and husband Rick, Kelly Ives and husband Terry; great-grandchildren Charles Alan Hughes and wife Michelle, Heather MacNeill and husband Dominic, Robert MacNeill III, Matthew and Kayla Suarez, Rachel and Kevin Ives; great, great-grandsons Ashton and Landon Hughtes; and a large number of nieces and nephews, as well as a host of very close friends.

Bill Miller '63

Bill Miller of Llano, Texas passed away June 15, 2009. Bill was a charter member of the McMurry Hall of Honor—inducted in 1984—for his outstanding performance in track and field.

Coming to McMurry from Winters, Bill won back-to-back NAIA long jump championships and was the runner-up at the 1963 NCAA championships. In 1967, Bill Miller was the top-ranked indoor long-jumper in the nation with wins at the Los Angeles Times Indoor Championships and the Madison Square Garden Indoor Championships. In April 2009, Bill Miller was inducted into the Big Country Hall of Fame at a ceremony held in Abilene.

Bill remained connected to his alma mater and provided moral and financial support to McMurry's track program. The pride he held for the McMurry student-athletes was never more evident than when he addressed the National Championship Men's Team at the campus recognition event last fall.

His coaching career began at Madison Junior High School in Abilene, Texas and ended at the University of Texas in 1976, where he served as an assistant track and field coach. During his athletic career, Bill was a Triple Crown winner of the long jump at the Texas, Kansas and Drake Relays. He was an NCAA All-American in the

FRIENDS WE'LL MISS

long jump, and made the long jump finals at the 1964 and 1968 U.S. Olympic trials. He was also a two-time NAIA National Champion in the long jump, the first Texan to long jump over 26 feet, and a member of the 1967 U.S. National Track and Field Team, competing in England, Italy and Germany. He is a member of the NAIA Hall of Fame.

Prior to moving to Llano, Bill lived in Cleburne, where he and his wife, Serena, reared their two children. During his years in Llano, Bill was a member of the Lutie Watkins Memorial United Methodist Church. He was active in the community, serving on the Llano Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors as President, where he enjoyed telling stories and fundraising.

Survivors include his wife, Gene Hall Miller; son Bill Mark Miller and wife Kim of Lubbock; daughter Kaylea Schultz and husband Jeff of Coppell; brother Bob Miller and wife Sue of Grand Prairie; grandsons Campbell and Andrew Schultz of Coppell; and granddaughter Shelby Miller of Lubbock.

Joel Wilson '40

Joel "J.C." Wilson, 91, of Abilene died Saturday, May 30, 2009. Born January 20, 1918 in Princeton, Texas, J.C. was the son of the late Charles A. Wilson and Alice C. (Lewis) Wilson. He moved to Abilene in 1923. J.C. attended McMurry College and graduated with a bachelor's degree. After graduation he taught high school in Kermit, Texas for three years. He then worked as a facility manager for the U.S.O. for five years during World War II near training camps. He then went to work as the director of the YMCA in Abilene for five years. J.C.'s longstanding career was at W.T.U. He worked there for 30 years, holding many positions during that time.

He was formerly the President of the Abilene Rotary Club, where he was also a member for 50 years. J.C. attended the Episcopal Church of the Heavenly Rest where he sang in the church choir for 55 years.

J.C. was preceded in death by his sister and brother-

in-law, Mildred and J.S. "Pinto" Allen. He is survived by his brother Paul Wilson of Wichita, Kansas; three nieces, Carol Koetke of Bloomington, Illinois, Martha Wilson and Johanna Wilson, both of Wichita, Kansas. He is also survived by a longtime family friend, Donna McMinn of Abilene.

Blake Burton '94

Richard Blake Burton passed away on July 15, 2009 at the age of 39. Burton was born June 16, 1970 in Abilene. He graduated from Cooper High School in 1988 and was a manager for the Cougars' legendary back-to-back state championship baseball teams.

For the last 20 years, Burton was a constant at McMurry basketball games, becoming somewhat of an institution at a school that prides itself on the traditions of its men's basketball program. And for the last 15 seasons, Burton worked the sound and chose the music that the players and fans listened to during games.

He came to McMurry as a freshman in 1989 where he served as the manager for Hershel Kimbrell who was in the final season of his legendary 31-year career as men's basketball coach. From there, Ron Holmes took over the program in 1990 and inherited Burton as a sophomore. Even after graduating in 1994, Burton has continued to support and contribute to the program.

In the most recent years, Burton operated the music that played in pre-game and during timeouts at McMurry basketball games.

Blake is survived by his parents, Dick and Shotti Burton of Abilene; two sisters, Becky Burton of Fort Worth and Patricia Fleming and her husband Stan of Chesapeake, Virginia; and six cousins including Bruce and Brent Unrue, Mary Jean Baker, Carol Murphy, Jim and Steve Burton and their families. ■



Bleacher Creatures on the Loose

When you think of future McMurry football players, you probably imagine big high school men, but in one of Coach Mummé's new programs, future prospects are a bit smaller. The new program, called Bleacher Creatures, brings young boys and girls to McMurry for a two-day summer camp and teaches them football. It is put on by McMurry football staff, players and cheerleaders. This year's program was held on July 31 and August 1.

"During the camp we tried to teach the kids many different positions on both offense and defense," said camp coordinator, Klay Koester. "We had the entire football staff and about eight players getting out there with the kids."

Each day twenty-three boys and three girls worked on throwing at the quarterback station, running patterns at the receiver and runningback positions, and kicking field goals.

Along with the players and coaches, the McMurry

cheerleading squad helped motivate the kids.

"The girls had a choice to come and learn cheers with us," said cheer squad member Megan Thomas, "but they all chose to get out there and get rough with the guys! They were just as tough as all those boys!"

So what was the favorite part of the day for the kids? "They loved tackling the tackling dummy," Koester said. "The kids would knock it down and punch and kick it like it was a rival."

Along with the skills the kids learned during the camp, the kids also came away with a camp T-shirt, season tickets for the family, and the privilege of leading the football team out of the new spirit tunnel during home games this year.

So when you come to see McMurry football this year, don't be scared of the new creatures in the stands; they're just the Bleacher Creatures!