



FLETCHER

*Spirit*

A Newsletter for the alumni and friends of Fletcher Academy, Inc.

## RECENT NEWS

### Graduation Weekend 2008

– by Julia Bonney '10

Graduation weekend began as the Class of 2011 left their “Freshy” title to the Class of 2012; the Class of 2010 readily jumped to upper-classman status; the Class of 2009 prepared to be Seniors and the Class of 2008 spent their last moments together. Throughout the weekend, there were many opportunities for the Class of '08 to look back on the times they shared, to thank the people who got them to where they were, and to look ahead to their futures.

Graduation weekend began on Friday night with Consecration. Jon Smith, the speaker for the evening, focused his address on the theme of wanting something so badly that you're willing to work long and hard for it. To illustrate his point, Mr. Smith told a story of a freshman boy who was scrawny but determined. Early every morning for four years, he got up and worked-out in the school's gym. By his senior year, he was in great shape and the best-looking boy in the school. His goal, however, wasn't to be good-looking or popular. His intentions were much more endearing. There was a beautiful girl in the school who was paralyzed. This young man had decided as a freshman that he wanted to take her to the prom, so he had worked hard towards his goal. The night of the prom, he was strong enough to pick her up and carry her the entire night. Not long later, he asked her if he could carry her for the rest of her life.



Craig Johnson spoke for the church service on the value of time. He encouraged us to use our time wisely and talked about how valuable time is. His illustration was the story of a father who was too caught up in his job to spend time with his family. He would buy them anything they wanted, but he didn't do things with them. At his eldest son's graduation, the young man thanked all the people who had helped him. The father was dismayed and hurt when he wasn't

mentioned. The father asked his son why and the son replied, “I didn't want things; I just wanted your time.”

Graduation morning, May 25th, Christina Whary, the Valedictorian, spoke to her class about being extraordinary: “As you begin the rest of your life, I'm here to challenge you. I'm here to remind you that life doesn't have to be average. You don't have to settle for pitching your tent at the bottom of Mount Everest when you really want to climb to the top...Don't settle for ordinary when you can have eternity.”

The Commencement speaker, Sam Leonor ('88), entertained us all with quotes from his yearbooks in which his “friends” and teachers poked fun at him and called him names. While we laughed until we almost cried, we learned from this honest experience that we shouldn't define our success by the world's standards but should use God's standards to determine our success in life.

Class of 2008, you may find that you don't remember what the speakers said during those three days of ceremony, but we hope you'll always remember to work hard for your dreams, to use your time wisely, to be extraordinary, to determine your success by God's opinion and to never forget that we love you.

### Curt Watkins Passes the Torch

– by Jon Smith COO

At the close of February 2008, Curt Watkins, CEO & President of FAI, turned in his resignation, calling for the next phase of leadership to come to the corporation. Mr. Watkins encouraged the FAI CEO Search Committee to look for specific qualities (formal accounting training, experience running an educational institution and bridge-building skills) among the applicants to find the leader who will take the corporation into the future.

Mr. Watkins' initial focus when he became CEO was improving communication and relations with the local community. He held several Townhall meetings during which he discussed relevant FAI issues, shared a vision for the future and communicated the organization's accomplishments.

He also initiated an action plan to improve the FAI campus and grounds. The improvement in the appearance of the campus has been dramatic!

Mr. Watkins worked with both Captain Gilmer and Fletcher Academy, initiating changes which resulted in

strengthened programs and increased enrollments. The schools have increased their student enrollment significantly over the last three and a half years.

Mr. Watkins raised the level of expectation for all areas of corporate leadership. This resulted in increased efficiencies and more profitable operations. During his tenure, long term debt was decreased.

Other notable achievements in which Mr. Watkins was involved include several interviews with 3ABN, the construction of the new faculty-housing subdivision and the organization of the Century 100 Club. FAI owes Mr. Watkins a big debt of gratitude for the many improvements brought about through his Christ-centered leadership.

Friends and employees of FAI have established an endowment in his honor as an expression of appreciation for his leadership. This endowment will result in two yearly scholarships given to one male and one female student who intend to study business and who serve as leaders in the Academy.

### Timothy Tidwell Accepts the Torch

– by Erin Syfert Teague '96

After many hours in prayer, the review of 26 applications and thorough interviews with some of the exceptional candidates, FAI's CEO Search Committee recommended Timothy Tidwell to FAI's Board. The Board then met on June 30 and offered Mr. Tidwell the position.

Tim Tidwell, currently a resident of Cleburne, Texas, is a Certified Public Accountant with more than 20 years of experience, serving in the General Conference Auditing Service, the Texas Conference as Undertreasurer, and in public accounting. For the last nine years, Mr. Tidwell has served as the Vice-President and then President of Southwestern ColorGraphics, a printing company on the campus of Southwestern Adventist University.

“I am so excited to be able to become a part of the history of Fletcher Academy and certainly count it a privilege. God has a special plan for the whole organization serving His purpose until Jesus returns. It will be my pleasure to offer Him my talents. I will depend on His providential



guiding, while working with the wonderful talent He has already brought to the organization.”

Mr. Tidwell is married to Kim (Moreno) originally from Cleburne, TX. They have been married for over 20 years and are the parents of Megan and Ryan, who will be attending Fletcher Academy this next year. The family enjoys the outdoors and traveling.

We look forward to Mr. Tidwell's leadership and his service to God on our campus.



**Thank you** to all of the Search Committee members for their dedicated effort in seeking FAI's CEO. Rob Gettys, Bob Hansen, Ruben Lopez, Don Lowe, George Pendleton and Diane Sedgwick.

### Rob Gettys Accepts Call to Blue Mountain Academy

– by Christina Whary '08

In April 2008, Rob Gettys made a “most difficult decision” and chose to follow God's unexpected call to accept the principalship of Blue Mountain Academy.

During his time at Fletcher Academy, Mr. Gettys lead with a Christian spirit and encouraged those around him to strive for the best. Under his leadership, Fletcher Academy's enrollment increased yearly, the academy secured its SACS

accreditation, a study hall and tutoring program was implemented, new classes were added to the curriculum, the Library was remodeled, and a number of other goals were accomplished.

Mr. Gettys also made a special effort to immerse himself in the lives of the students. From stopping them in the hall just to say how much he appreciated their smile and playing intramurals to attending student-led Bible studies and

praying with individuals, he tried to show the students that he cared about each one of them personally. He was well-loved and respected by the students, faculty, and community of Fletcher.

Though his presence will be greatly missed, Mr. Gettys' influence has made a significant impact on the legacy of Fletcher Academy, and we know that God will continue to work through him at Blue Mountain.



# Peter Cousins Accepts Call to Fletcher Academy

– by Salli (Spaulding) Jenks '84



Late in May, Fletcher Academy extended an invitation to Peter Cousins to become FA's principal. Mr. Cousins, formerly of Indiana Academy, has a BS in Education and a Masters in Educational Technology. Mr. Cousins has always been involved in missionary endeavors. After high school, he spent four years coordinating Maga-book programs in Colorado, Nebraska, Wisconsin, Illinois, Michigan, and Indiana. He then went to the University of Michigan where he earned a BS in General Science and a minor in Mathematics and Education. During the last ten years of teaching he

has taught biology, physics, computer science, Bible 10 and 11, geometry, algebra and PE. He spent the last few years serving as the principal and computer teacher at Indiana Academy.

We welcome the Cousins and wish them God's grace.



**Thank you** to all the Search Committee members for their dedicated effort in seeking the Academy's new Principal: Bill Bass, Kathy Hadley, Salli Jenks, Janet Novak, George Pendleton, Jon Smith.

# AROUND CAMPUS NEWS

## Boys' Dormitory Enters Phase II of Renovations

– by Julia Bonney '10

Over the summer of 2008, Fletcher Academy, Inc. is entering Phase II of its Boys' dormitory renovation/expansion project.

Last summer, FAI completed Phase I. Both community bathrooms were gutted and redone. FAI installed new fixtures, plumbing, ceilings, and stall partitions. New porcelain tile now covers the floors and the walls. Visiting alumni have commented on the vast improvement to the dorm by this effort.

FAI's Phase II includes extensive preparation and further improvements to the structure. A new air-conditioning and heating system is being installed,

which will bring relief from hot summer days and cold winter nights. To maximize the effect of this improvement, all of the rooms' windows have been replaced. The building is being wired for Internet and a new fire-safety and security system. All of this work is leading up to the new wing, which will add 8,280 sq ft to the dorm for more rooms and improved accommodations for



the deans. FAI is deeply appreciative to the major donor who has made Phase II possible. We appreciate everyone's support and we're all, especially the boys, looking forward to when the project will be complete.

# BARN BURNING



FAI said "Goodbye" to the barn as the Fletcher Fire Department helped us improve the appearance and safety of our campus.

# ALUMNI NEWS

Please visit [www.fletcheralumni.com](http://www.fletcheralumni.com) to see pictures from Alumni Weekend 2007! (thank you Midge Haney Shock '60)

As you review the enclosed copy of the Alumni Weekend Business Meeting report, please note the decision under "Honor Class Designations." The Alumni voted to extend the honor classes. The honors class for Alumni Weekend 2008 and the future are:

| Honor Classes       | 2008 Honor Class |
|---------------------|------------------|
| 10-year class       | 1998             |
| 20-year class (new) | 1988             |
| 25-year class       | 1983             |
| 30-year class (new) | 1978             |
| 40-year class       | 1968             |
| 50-year class       | 1958             |
| 60-year class (new) | 1948             |
| 70-year class (new) | 1938             |

## Alumni Weekend 2008 October 3-5

For information on local airports, hotels, etc., please visit [www.fletcheralumni.com](http://www.fletcheralumni.com).

## Fred Veltman Memorial Education Scholarship

Fletcher Academy graduate, Fred Veltman, of the Class of 1945 passed away in December 2006. In his memory, the family has established a scholarship fund for academic excellence for the benefit of Fletcher Academy students. The scholarship will be awarded to a student who is planning to study Education or Theology after high school and who maintains a 3.0+ GPA. This scholarship is open to the support of Fred's friends and schoolmates. Please send your gift of support to Fletcher Academy, PO Box 5440, Fletcher, NC 28732 and write "Fred Veltman Scholarship" on the memo line.



## Investing in Education for Eternity

Contributions through annuities are lasting gifts that benefit the corporation for years to come. They also provide you with an immediate tax deduction. There are a variety of opportunities to help you achieve your philanthropic and financial goals. Contact FAI Advancement Office: Erin Teague at PO Box 5440, Fletcher, NC 28732, 828-687-5125. E-mail: [ETeague@FAIncorp.org](mailto:ETeague@FAIncorp.org).

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