



FLETCHER

Spirit

A Newsletter for the Alumni and Friends
of Fletcher Academy, Inc.

Meet the President...

Dale Twomley is the product of Adventist education. A graduate of Adventist elementary and secondary schools in Michigan, Dr. Twomley later graduated from Andrews University, also in Michigan, with a B.S. in Business Administration. He later graduated with an MBA from the University of Tennessee and earned a Ph.D. in Administration from the University of Maryland.

Dale's career has been split between education and business. He taught high school classes and served as the business manager in two Adventist academies, including four years at Takoma Academy. The next several years he was the principal/business manager of two academies, including four years at Shenandoah Valley Academy during the mid-1970's. At Andrews University he became the first Dean of the School of Business.

Choosing to leave the Adventist school system after 14 years, Dale was invited to lead Worthington Foods, Inc. in Columbus, Ohio, for the next 16 years; 14 as President and CEO. When the publicly traded company was sold to Kellogg ten years ago, he began a new career working to rescue troubled Adventist academies.

At Mt. Vernon Academy in Ohio enrollment went from 71 to 150 during his four years there. Returning to Shenandoah Valley Academy for three years, enrollment grew from 135 to 225. For the first eight months of this year, Dale has worked with Takoma Academy in efforts to improve the curriculum and physical plant.

Dale and Connie, his wife of 40 years, have two grown sons; Jonathan, a computer programmer living in Phoenix, and Rob, a nurse, living in Columbus, Ohio. Dale enjoys racquetball, off-road motorcycles, and walking.



New Beginnings... at 100

by Dale E. Twomley, President,
Fletcher Academy, Inc.

FLETCHER ACADEMY, INC. began 99 years ago providing medical care and Christian education in response to Mrs. Ellen White's answer to a question from Mrs. Rumbough regarding what she could do for the "cause" in this area. Over the ensuing years, Fletcher medical work flourished at times with the Mountain Sanitarium and Hospital, the School of Nursing, and the Fletcher Hospital. The educational work has continued, but the medical work of Fletcher ended when the nursing school closed and the hospital was sold in 1984.

As Fletcher Academy turns 100, we think it is timely to focus on protecting the legacy of our educational institution. We believe that Fletcher Academy should attract and prepare for success the best and the brightest elementary and secondary students who are committed

to developing their God-given talents and enhancing their relationship with Jesus. When I interviewed with the Board of Directors, they asked me to outline the major goals I had for Fletcher Academy (FA) and here they are:

- 1. SPIRITUAL:** FA will provide opportunities and an atmosphere where students can develop a saving relationship with Jesus. FA will endeavor to develop students who understand and are committed to the unique beliefs and mission of the Seventh-day Adventist Church and help them become fully devoted disciples of Christ.
- 2. ACADEMICS:** FA students will be recognized for academic excellence. All students will gain the knowledge required for college level study through a curriculum that offers honor classes and dual credit classes (where students can earn college credits and high school credits from the same class offered on campus). FA will also provide remedial and tutoring to those students who need academic assistance outside of class.

(Continued on Next Page)

FLETCHER ACADEMY
ALUMNI NEWSLETTER
NOVEMBER 2009

Fletcher Spirit
ALUMNI OFFICERS

President.....Ken Hodges '79
Vice President.....Sandy Williams '75
Secretary.....Jeannie Larrabee '88
Treasurer.....Sharon McGraw '79

FAI BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Jon Smith, **Director of Development and Alumni Relations**
Robert Hansen, **Chairman**
Dale Twomley, **President**
Frank Costerisan, Ken Hodges, John Krishinger, Reuben Lopez, Donald Lowe, Jo Ottinger, George Pendleton, Kelly Pettijohn, Diane Sedgwick, Stuart Yoon, Robert Zollinger



New Beginnings (cont'd from pg. 1)

3. **WORK STUDY PROGRAM:** FA will focus on its original mission of developing strong work skills and work ethics in all students. All students will be required to work and earn a significant portion of their school expenses.
4. **RELATIONSHIPS:** FA students will develop strong Christian relationships with their peers and the FA staff who will guide their behavior. All students will be a part of a Campus Family that meets often for Prayer Time.
5. **STUDENT WELL-BEING:** Students will be safe – spiritually, socially, and physically. High standards of behavior will be a part of developing a lifestyle centered in Christ-like values.
6. **CHARACTER DEVELOPMENT:** Students will progress in developing their Christian character and abilities to think, to choose, and to act as responsible citizens.
7. **HEALTH AND WELLNESS:** Students will develop an awareness and lifestyle to engender on-going health and wellness.
8. **COMMUNITY SERVICE:** FA will develop and implement outreach and witnessing projects and programs which serve our community. Our music and other organizations will visit nearby churches to bring youth-centered ministries to their community.
9. **FUN:** FA students will have fun and be noticeably happy.
10. **FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT:** FAI will operate with prudent financial management and conservative investments to assure the financial future of its mission and enterprises. Through our work study program, campus industries, and other financial aid, no student will be turned away from FA because of finances.

Because we are created in the image of God (Genesis 1:27), I believe the primary purpose of Fletcher Academy is to develop the God-given, Creator-like powers in our students: creativity, individuality, and the power to think, to choose, and to do. We exist to provide a quality education in an environment where students and staff are in the process of continuously improving their love, trust, and relationship with Jesus Christ and each other. For me, then, the object of education at Fletcher Academy is to develop these qualities in our students so that they will think and act as individuals, and not merely as reflectors.

Attracting and preparing these students for success will require more well-qualified teachers, particularly in math, science, and English. We need to hire a learning specialist to organize and carry-out a comprehensive tutoring program, and to invite adults and other students to help those who are not ready for physics, pre-calculus and calculus. We need to hire a guidance counselor to work with our freshmen in providing aptitude and interest tests, and in building a portfolio of important completed school work, including writing assignments, artistic projects, academic accomplishments, and performance valuations from their work supervisors.

We must hire a full-time work coordinator who will determine student job descriptions in conjunction with FAI work supervisors as well as potential employers in the local communities. By serving as a manager of "Fletcher Academy Temporary Employment Agency," the work coordinator will prepare students in "hard skills"

(Continued on Page 10)

FA Musicians Anticipate Tour Of Russia

By Rob Knipple, FA Choral Director

On February 24, 2010, the Fletcher Academy Choir will travel to the country of Russia to present their ministry through music. While there, students will have opportunities to share their ministry through concerts in various churches and schools including a joint concert with the Zaoksky Adventist Seminary Choir.

Students will experience the history and culture of the Russian people by visiting historical sites in St. Petersburg, Moscow, and the Tula region.

In conjunction with their music ministry, students will be involved in several outreach projects, including a VBS program for local orphanages near the Adventist Seminary in Zaoksky, and a Week of Prayer program for the seminary high school students.

"I'm really excited about visiting the children in the orphanages there, and telling them about Jesus," says FA junior Morgan Ludders. Senior Julia Bonney says she's excited about the trip "not only for the chance to visit a new country and explore the culture there, but also for the opportunity to share God's awesome love with the people our age."

During the ten day tour FA students will have opportunities to bond with their Russian counterparts through planned social activities and enhance their cultural experience by staying with the families of Zaoksky.

Our young FA musicians are eager and excited about the opportunities before them. Sophomore Emerald Johnson speaks for many, saying "I can't wait to share God's love through music to the people of Russia!"



St. Basil's Cathedral, one of the sites FA musicians will visit.



The Adventist Seminary in Zaoksky, Russia, where FA choir members will perform in a joint concert with the Seminary Choir.

ALUMNI WEEKEND 2009

Alumni Gather For Annual Brunch And Business Meeting

By Jeannie Bradley Larrabee '88

On Sunday, October 4, FA alums gathered in the Fletcher Academy cafeteria for the annual FA Alumni Brunch and Business Meeting. Tables made pleasant with fresh mums and seasonal decorations greeted guests, as aromas from several heavily laden tables tempted the palate.

After the brunch, Pam Haney Pickett ('77), 2009 Alumni President, welcomed the guests, followed by reports of Secretary Katie Calandra Sigsworth ('75) and Treasurer Sharon Sanders McGraw ('79). An informative presentation by Katie Sigsworth shared news of the new CNA (Certified Nursing Assistant) training program for Fletcher Academy students. Ten students completed the course in June under the direction of Mrs. Sigsworth and Mrs. Jennifer Gann, several of whom are currently working as CNA's.

Dr. Dale Twomley, recently appointed CEO and president of FAI, shared with the group his goals and vision for Fletcher Academy, presenting as primary objectives spirituality, relationships, enhanced curriculum, and work ethics. He highlighted the needs in the Girls' Dormitory and encouraged the Alumni Association to actively promote funding for the \$540,000 matching grant.

Century 100 Club President, Don Lowe, reported that the club had recently voted to donate \$70,000 to provide the urgently needed new roof for the Girls' Dormitory. Another \$4600 from the Endowment Fund was also voted by the Alumni Association to be used for this project.

Ken Hodges ('79) was voted to serve as the 2009-2010 Alumni Association President, and Jeannie Larrabee as secretary. Sandy Grant Williams ('75) and Sharon McGraw will continue to serve as vice president and treasurer respectively.

Before closing the meeting, generous alumni members pledged an additional \$17,000+ toward renovations for the girls' dormitory. Fletcher Academy expresses sincere thanks to each of you for continuing to support your alma mater.

Remember, next year's Alumni Weekend will celebrate our 100th birthday over the weekend of October 1-3. Save the date and plan to attend this very historic event.



Your serious 2010 FA Alumni Officers at work: Sandy Grant Williams ('75), Vice President; Ken Hodges ('79), President; Jeannie Bradley Larrabee ('88), Secretary; Sharon Sanders McGraw ('79), Treasurer.



2009 FA Alumni President Pam Haney Pickett ('77)



Mr. and Mrs. Delmar Anderson. Mr. Anderson, class of 1939, was the oldest attending alumnus.



Robin Miller Whaley, Eddie Longshore, and Faye Martin Cullen, classmates of '76 reconnect.

HONOR CLASSES 2009

CLASS OF 1999

(L-R) Jessica Danner Lee, Sara Yingling Halvorson, Saundra Gooche Chitwood, Roseanne Miles Lyles, Rebecca Todd McCarty, Natalie Moore Soulsby.



CLASS OF 1989

Back Row - (L-R): Denise Wolf, Marie Smith, Rosellen Martinez Brown, Tamara Sermersheim Krishinger, Christine Hamilton Cordwell, Michelle Hayes Sundin, Kim Kyle, Debbie Thompson Schmidt **Front Row** - (L-R): Rob Taylor, David Collins, Greg Bush, Jeff Hatley, Michael Powers, Jeffrey Skaggs

CLASS OF 1984

Back Row - (L-R): Adrian Hensley, Robert Stepp, Tom Whidden, Todd Trace, Kristin Brown Pelle, Chris Cox, Paul Jenks, Salli Spaulding Jenks. **Front Row** - (L-R): Robyn Schwalm Clark, Janel Adams Bickerton, Loucretia Ball Campos, Kim O'Guin Rollins, Pagett Van Hooser, George Pendleton, Carol Goodwin McKenney, Dawn Burger Gunderson, Melinda Crissup Cox.



CLASS OF 1979

Back Row - (L-R): Mark Hyder '78, Ken Hodges, Debbie Moffitt McCann, Ric Spaulding, Kevin Sherbert, Dan Workman
Front Row - (L-R): Susan Williams Slusher, Carol Kuist Lindsey, Lina Crews Ridge, Sharon Sanders McGraw, Dianne Walter



CLASS OF 1959



Back Row - (L-R): Nolan Darnell, Max Moffitt, Clifford Nestell, Gail Vance Knighton, Janet Powell Domky, Rebecca Crittenden Banks
Middle Row - (L-R): Gary Cobb, Delores Ham Weisburg, Zelma Poole Lang, Delores Rhoney Ayers, Ellen Sweeney Lamb, Loraye Long Riebow
Front Row - (L-R): Pauline Hill Low, Mary Jo Blankenship Pierce, Nancy Stevens Blankenship, Nancy Bean Ridge, Janice Jenkins, Mary Davenport Sears

FLETCHER ACADEMY

Yesterday & Today



Every FA alum remembers this walk.



The Fletcher Academy Drama Team



Juniors Hannah Simmons (seated) and Megan Baker relax in the dorm.



Boys' Club at Thanksgiving - 1961



The Fletcher Academy Select Choir, directed by Rob Knipple



Mrs. Salli Jenks ('84) helps students become technology savvy in IC 3 Computer Class.



FA faculty and students receiving new bus - 1970



FA Academy and community band - 1960



Students working in the Fletcher Academy Laundry



The Fletcher Academy Band, directed by Greg Lindquist



Members of the 2009 Acroknights team.

Fletcher Academy Alumni and Friends 2009-2010 Scholarships

Donor

Class of 1984 Scholarships	\$1,250/ea.
Alex & Margaret Clark Memorial Scholarship	\$ 225/ea.
Anne and Andy Carey Memorial Scholarship	\$ 500/ea.
B.J. Kohler Memorial Scholarship	\$ 625/ea.
Class of 1959 Jim Garey Scholarship	\$1,000/ea.
Class of 1963 Scholarship	\$ 500/ea.
Class of 1970 Scholarship	\$ 275/ea.
Curt Watkins Endowment	\$1,250/ea.
Dee Moore Memorial Scholarship	\$ 500/ea.
Derrick Watkins ('78) Memorial Scholarship	\$ 250/ea.
Fred Veltman Memorial Scholarship	\$ 500/ea.
Gordon Brown Memorial Endowment	\$ 250/ea.
Prof Nestell Memorial Scholarship	\$ 300/ea.
Ray Hoffmann Memorial Endowment	\$ 500/ea.
Scott Kinzer ('96) Memorial Scholarship	\$ 250/ea.
William Clayton Hodges ('37) Memorial Scholarship	\$ 350/ea.

Total Scholarships Granted **\$ 13,400**

Recipients

Hannah Simmons (Jr), Isaac Martinez (Soph)
 Katrina Lomax (Soph)
 Jeremy Holt (Fr)
 Dakota Hines (Jr), Keilyn Ojeda (Jr), LaQuinta Reed (Jr), Jared Ryan (Fr).
 A. J. Valcin (Jr)
 Alyssia Dewey, (Soph)
 Sarah Graham (Soph)
 Marissa Hagan (Sr), Bradley Montgomery (Sr)
 Christopher Bass (Soph)
 Samantha Hean (Fr)
 Monica Gaytan (Sr), Megan Jenks (Sr)
 Stephanie Sossong (Sr)
 Caleb Fries (Soph)
 Jessica Perez (Sr)
 Maggie Pickens (Jr)
 Courtney Willison (Jr)

New Beginnings at 100 (continued from pg. 1)

such as Microsoft Office and web design, as well as “soft skills” such as answering the telephone, receptionist skills, and working cooperatively with others.

The girls' dorm will require major renovations, including a new HVAC system, new beds, desks, chairs, and other furniture for each room. The bathrooms must be updated with new showers, sinks, commodes, and partitions. The remodeling project is budgeted at \$540,000. The Century 100 Club recently donated \$70,000 to the girls' dorm project, which was used to install a new roof during the past few weeks. The FA Alumni raised an additional \$20,000 at their business meeting in October. We have a major donor who has agreed to match dollar-for-dollar up to \$270,000 to remodel the girls' dorm, and we really cannot let this matching grant get away. Between the FA alumni and the Century 100 Club, we need to raise the remaining \$180,000 to fund this project. We hope you will consider sending a donation to the Girls' Dorm Project or the Century 100 Club at Fletcher Academy before December 31, 2009.

The boys' dorm recently had a new HVAC system and windows installed, but the rooms need new furniture, as does the lobby. The cafeteria should be updated as well and the music facilities are in need of physical improvements.

Since Fletcher Academy is not owned by a conference of the Adventist church, we must turn to our alumni and friends to help us with these significant capital improvements. We would welcome the opportunity to tell you more about what is planned for your alma mater and how you can help. Money is always needed. And please remember to pray for the students and staff at Fletcher...by name, if you can. We need you to be ambassadors for Fletcher Academy and tell your friends about the changes and improvements underway here.

We all are working very hard for Fletcher Academy to become the school God can bless and where the angels love to dwell.

Dale E. Twomley, Ph.D.
 President



A memory for every step.

100 Years of “Educating for Eternity”

By Ken Hodges
(’79)

*2010 Fletcher
Academy Alumni
President*

May 20, 2007 was a special day for the Hodges family. We gathered together in the Lelia Patterson Center to celebrate the fourth generation of our family to graduate from the campus of Fletcher Academy. I smiled with pride and simultaneously felt a tear of joy run down my cheek while I watched my son, Brett Hodges, march down the aisle and receive his diploma.

The emotion of that moment reminded me of another graduation, now 30 years ago, when on an equally beautiful May afternoon in 1979 I saw my dad, Floyd Hodges, both smile and cry as he watched me receive a similar diploma, on the same hallowed grounds where he himself had received his diploma 26 years earlier in 1953. And while my grandfather, Lester Hodges Sr., never attended Fletcher Academy himself, his brother, Clayton Hodges, graduated from Fletcher in 1935. And after completing college at Madison, he returned as farm manager for many years, including the years my father Floyd was a student.

It was then that I started to realize just how special Fletcher Academy really is. Like so many of you who were privileged to have attended this little school nestled in the Blue Ridge Mountains of North Carolina, I did not truly appreciate the opportunity I had been given by the countless men and women who selflessly gave of their time and money to make possible the education that played such a vital role in shaping my value system, in pointing me down the road that leads to eternity. I came to see it was this same educational ministry providing the very same values and direction to my son that it had provided my father and great uncle in their formative years.

In a few short weeks, we will embark on the 100th year that this self-supporting institution has been educating young people for eternity. This institution was begun in obedience to the instructions and vision that God gave His servant Ellen G. White in 1910, and remains open today in obedience to that same instruction. In a century where many well funded educational organizations with very deep pockets have failed and closed their doors, Fletcher Academy’s continued existence is evidence of God’s continued calling and anointing upon this institution.



Ken Hodges (’79), Brett Hodges (’07),
Floyd Hodges (’53)

Those of you who were in attendance this past Alumni Weekend, October 2-4, both saw and heard firsthand how God is still at work, using the dedicated staff at Fletcher to educate young people for eternity. Its mission is more relevant and its services more needed than ever before. There was no greater validation of this than to hear the current Fletcher Academy students sing praises to their Creator and listen to Fletcher’s new president and principal, Dr. Dale E. Twomley, share Fletcher’s continued vision of educating young people for eternity at the Alumni business session Sunday morning.

As a Fletcher Academy alumnus who has benefited greatly from the generosity of those who freely gave of their time and money enabling me to have a Seventh-day Adventist education, I am compelled to embrace the continued vision and challenges of equipping this institution to embark on a second century of service.

Friends and alumni, I would like to suggest five ways that you can join me in assisting Fletcher to educate for eternity:

1. Make plans now to join me October 1-3, 2010 at the Lelia Patterson Center to celebrate Fletcher’s 100th Birthday and give glory to God for all the great things He hath done at Fletcher Academy.

2. Reconnect with your FA classmates and friends. Organize class reunions or become a class agent and help update your classmates’ contact information, allowing us to keep them informed and plugged in.

3. Become a member of Fletcher Academy’s Century 100 Club. Alumni often want to know how they can partner financially to help support the special needs of this self-supporting non-profit institution. The Century 100 Club was organized and is operated by friends of Fletcher who want to assist with special specific needs of the school. Recent projects include roofing the girls dorm, and the purchase of computers and IT equipment. To learn more about becoming a member, contact Century 100 Club President Don Lowe at 828-381-0851.

4. Become a Fletcher Academy Ambassador. Share with family, friends, church and community the blessing Fletcher has been to you. Contact the academy office for free promotional brochures, or share Fletcher Academy’s website address (www.fletcheracademy.com). Encourage parents and young people to tour the campus and learn first hand how FA can assist them in educating their young people for eternity.

5. Pray for the leadership, staff and students of Fletcher Academy. The devil is not happy with the mission or longevity of Fletcher Academy. The fact that Fletcher is now celebrating its 100th year of service is proof of God’s faithfulness and special blessing on this institution. Let us continue claiming the promise, “Greater is He that is for us, than he that is against us.”

I would like to encourage you to prayerfully consider joining me in partnering with Fletcher in all five of these areas as we embark on a new century of “Educating for Eternity.”

In His service,

Ken Hodges, Fletcher Academy Alumni President



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FLETCHER ACADEMY

is pleased to announce its

CENTURY CELEBRATION

100 YEARS OF "EDUCATING FOR ETERNITY"

Alumni Weekend
October 1-3, 2010

Come be a part of this historic event!
Watch for future information.

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