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Photo by Stephanie Huskey ‘10
Fueled by the excitement of the opening of the new school year, energy and enthusiasm are in abundant supply on our Dayton, Chattanooga, and Knoxville campuses! As we drive up Landes Way, our new entrance from U.S. 27, we praise God for His marvelous provision for that which literally and symbolically opens Bryan to greater opportunities. Perhaps at no other time in our college’s 82-year history have we been poised to accomplish our mission through so many different venues.

The school year opened with record numbers: 294 students in the entering class; 790 students in our traditional program in Dayton; and more than 1400 students total including our combined adult, online, and graduate programs. With a standing-room-only crowd for our first chapel, we were challenged and encouraged by Pastor Buddy Hoffman from Grace Fellowship Church, Snellville, Georgia, keynote guest for our Spiritual Life Conference.

Tragically, the buoyant spirit on campus changed as we received word that one of our commuters, Meaghan Jones, a junior from Chattanooga, passed away on the fourth day of classes. Meaghan’s life and testimony truly embodied what her father referred to as “Jesus Christ lived out in the body of Meaghan.” Hundreds of students attended a memorial service in the Grassy Bowl as many members of our Bryan community shared of their journey with Meaghan. Although Meaghan “graduated to heaven” ahead of her class, she exemplified Bryan’s mission and made a difference in our world. We will all miss her.

During our Convocation service August 31, Dr. Duane Litfin, former president of Wheaton College, challenged us to see afresh our risen Savior. Speaking from John 17, Dr. Litfin spoke of Jesus’ request to have His glory restored to Him, the glory that became veiled through His incarnation, and the glory of our risen Savior that John saw restored in Revelation 1. Wesley said it best in his wonderful 18th century hymn, And Can it Be That I Should Gain: “Emptied Himself of all but love and bled for Adam’s helpless race.” Thank God we serve a risen, glorified, and powerful Savior who enables us to run well the race set before us!

As you read this edition of Bryan Life, I know you will celebrate with us God’s manifold blessings from those who are a part of our Bryan community. We thank the Lord for the life and ministry of Jim Barth (and family) as well as the wonderful support from the Huston Foundation whose founder, Ruth Huston, served Bryan faithfully for more than 20 years on our Board of Trustees. If you have not visited the campus recently, I invite you to return home; come and see the wonderful opportunities our God has given.

Stephen D. Livesay

Letter from the President

“Emptied Himself of all but love”
– Charles Wesley
I came to Bryan in the fall of 1954 along with others from my church including Harry Goehring, Tom Sutton, and Larry Fehl. Dale Fehl, Vera Fehl, and my sister Janice came down the following years.

I arrived on campus not knowing what to expect, and my first semester I was very homesick and would have like to have gone home. I was in a room with three other girls on the third floor of the main building which was where all the girls lived. We shared clothes and food and built many good friendships.

The boys lived in the Octagon or in rooms below the chapel.

One funny incident in the Octagon was when one of the guys who was not familiar with washing and drying clothes hung up his wet clothes in the closet until the mildew smell became very obvious.

One memory was campus cleanup day. We had no classes and we were all put to work raking and cleaning up the grounds. We did it with a lot of laughter and it was followed by a picnic that evening.

Another was Sadie Hawkins Day. The boys were put in the center of the Triangle with the girls on the outside. When the whistle was blown the girls ran in to catch their fellow and the guys ran (some fast and some slow). And I remember once having snow and some of the upper class guys took cafeteria trays out of the kitchen and we used them for sleds.

My junior year was a big turning point in my life. Bryan hired its first coach and athletic director. His name was Jim Quinn and he had just graduated from Wheaton College. I was the cheerleading captain and we were together a lot. It was not very long before we were attracted to each other. Only there was a big problem. He was engaged and getting married the following summer. After several months, we decided something had to be done, so he had his fiancé fly down for the weekend to discuss it. The night before she came down we had devotions together and read Romans 5: 1-8. And we prayed for the Lord’s will.

That Sunday night I went to church at Pesby with Rev. Allem preaching and the scripture he chose was Rom. 5: 1-8. Was it a coincidence? No way! The Lord was leading. Jim picked me up after church and said they had broken the engagement and we started officially dating then.

Even though he was on staff we had to always have a chaperone if we went out in his car, as did the rest of the students. Except we were allowed to go alone the night he asked me to marry him. The dean of women knew what he was planning.

The teachers were fantastic and so involved in our lives. Dr. Anderson, Dr. Jensen, and Alma Rader and many more made a lasting impression on me. My degree prepared me well for my life as a wife, mother, and teacher. Jim and I were married after I graduated, and we settled in Pennsylvania. He was a principal and athletics director until he retired. I was an elementary school teacher. We raised four great daughters.

Christ Above All was the motto of our lives. We were active in our church all our lives, and Jim sang with a Southern Gospel octet.

In June 2005 we were booked in Hawaii for 17 days and we celebrated our forty-seventh wedding anniversary there by renewing our wedding vows on the beach. Two months later, in August, Jim died from an infection following minor surgery.

These days are still very difficult but Christ Above All still has to be my motto. I am so thankful for Bryan and all the good memories and training I received while there, along with a wonderful husband. God has been so good.
President Stephen D. Livesay’s challenge to “clothe yourselves with the Lord Jesus Christ” (Romans 13:14) took on an unexpected urgency as the Bryan family was confronted with the death of a student as the school year began.

Victories and blessings – including completing the new entrance project and record enrollment among others – coupled with exciting opportunities for faculty and students are reasons to continually remember our need to rely on the Lord, he said. “I sense there is a strong spiritual revival going on in our midst,” he told faculty and staff members in his State of the College message during the faculty workshop.

He picked up on that theme as the college welcomed a record 294 freshmen and transfer students on Aug. 20, commending the new students on their spiritual commitment, academic achievement, and desire to prepare to make a difference in their world.

“The world today is in pretty rough shape,” he said. “You wonder, ‘Where is God in all this? Why doesn’t He fix it?’ But He has chosen each one of you to be the ones He works through. Like the disciples and the little boy who had just a few loaves and fish, see what you have in your hand. That’s what He expects from you.”

Student body President Vincent Smith welcomed his new constituents: “Remember, make the most out of every day. Learn as much as you can. Find why God brought you here. Look to find out what you can give to people and what you can gain.”

Dayton Mayor Bob Vincent added his greetings on behalf of the city he leads. “You have chosen well,” he said. “The educational path here is second to none.”

Late on Aug. 29, word was received on campus of the death of junior Meaghan Jones, a commuter student from Chattanooga. At a memorial service the following evening, college counselor Jonathan Doran reminded the hundreds of persons present that “Jesus wept, Jesus mourned” at the death of His friend Lazarus.
Meaghan Jones, a junior communication studies major who commuted to Bryan from her home in Chattanooga, Tenn., died Aug. 29, in Chattanooga.

According to her family, she was taken ill that night and died on the way to a hospital.

The Bryan family held a memorial gathering in the Grassy Bowl the following night, when faculty, staff, students, and members of her family remembered Meaghan and the influence she had on their lives.

In his remarks, Meaghan’s father, Pat Jones said, “When somebody is totally surrendered and lets Jesus Christ live through them, you have a Meaghan.”

Dr. Duane Litfin, who recently retired as the seventh president of Wheaton College, challenged the college family to develop a deeper understanding of the Lord Jesus Christ.

“We are sticking out more and more like a sore thumb in Christian higher education. In the decades ahead, that’s likely to continue,” he said. “To be on our feet moving forward, living out Christian higher education will require a very full and rich understanding of Who you serve.

“That concerns me because I believe for many their Jesus is too small. For a great many people, their view of Jesus is too small. It will not bear the weight of a liberal arts education or stand up in the maelstrom of culture.”

Speaking from John 17, Dr. Litfin encouraged his listeners to learn to pray large prayers, like Jesus did in that passage. Jesus, he said, reminded His Father that He had completed His assigned tasks and asked for His glory to be restored to Him.

“We will never outgrow the Jesus of the Gospels, but He has outgrown that,” he said. The Jesus John saw in Revelation 1 “is the exalted Christ of Heaven. This is the Christ at the center of your education, at the center of Christ Above All.

“We live in an era hostile to Christian education, as Jesus warned us. As culture continues to change, it’s going to be more and more difficult. How will you stand? That will only happen if we understand the One Who truly is the Lord Jesus Christ.”
The Presidential Merit Scholarship is the highest academic award presented by Bryan College. Scholarship recipients are selected on the basis of high school grades, college entrance test scores, and an interview with faculty members. The 2011 class of Presidential Merit Scholars includes:

Anna Beaty, Clemmons, N.C.  
Mathematics: Secondary Education

David Benedict, Clemson, S.C.  
Business Administration: Management Option

Christina Corwin, Lenoir City, Tenn.  
Business Administration: Economics/Finance

Madison Cothran, Cashiers, N.C.  
Biology

Jonathan Creasy, Maryville, Tenn.  
Music

Daniel Katz, Powell, Wy.  
Biblical Studies

Timothy Metcalf, Maryville, Tenn.  
English Literature

Crystal Passburg, Dayton, Tenn.  
Biology

Chelsae Stills, Louisville, Ky.  
Music: Instrument Performance Option

Sarah Vest, Cleveland, Tenn.  
Communication Studies: Corporate Option
Bryan College Arboretum

Bryan College has joined a small family of East Tennessee institutions boasting certified arboretums with its recent recognition by the Tennessee Urban Forestry Council and the state Department of Agriculture’s Division of Forestry.

Dr. Roger Sanders, associate professor of science and assistant director of the Center for Origins Research, said the Level I arboretum is one of 10 such centers between Chattanooga and Knoxville.

Dr. Sanders led an effort during the past two years or more to meet Level I criteria, including identifying a minimum of 30 different species of trees, labeling the plants with their correct names, demonstrating care for the plants using good arborist techniques, and showing appropriate landscape management techniques.

The next goal is to reach Level II certification, which will require identification and labeling of 60 different species, plus production of a map and pamphlet about the arboretum. A map of the current 32 species already is in hand.

For more information visit www.bryan.edu/arboretum.

Soul Care Minor Offered

Bryan’s Psychology department is offering a minor in Soul Care beginning this semester, designed to equip students for a life of helping others become conformed to the image of Christ.

Jonathan Doran, director of counseling and soul care, said, “the new minor will address an interest of students who want training in counseling, including those who do not intend to pursue a clinical counseling setting.

“Our soul care happens on a variety of levels, from individual friendships to pastoral counseling to clinical psychological counseling,” he said. “The minor will give students a basic theoretical and experiential understanding of soul care and a foundation to prepare for specific ministries in church and parachurch settings.”

The biblical notion of soul care finds its support in Hebrews 13:17 for believers to submit to leaders who “provide watch care over their souls.” Mr. Doran said the ministry of soul care is characterized by a mature believer prayerful listening to and counseling another believer based on the Word of God and attentiveness to the Holy Spirit.

Mr. Doran explained that “soul care” is a term that addresses nurturing one’s spiritual life. Modern psychology has reduced this study to human behaviors and thought processes. “At Bryan, we intend to have a thoroughly biblical approach to counseling the whole person. There is a growing interest in evangelical circles for the academic study of spiritual formation and soul care,” he said. “With this minor, Bryan will be the one of only a few institutions in the country with formal academic emphasis on soul care. You find it at the graduate level in programs such as pastoral counseling and spiritual formation.”

Criminal Justice Major?

Criminal justice, now a minor in the politics and government department, is being proposed as Bryan’s 20th major, and program director Kevin Clauson hopes for approval this fall.

Bryan becomes one of “a small number of Christian colleges with criminal justice programs,” Professor Clauson said. Unlike criminal justice
majors at other colleges—and like other Bryan majors—the criminal justice program will be permeated with a biblical worldview emphasis. As well, the program probably will reach beyond law enforcement to international issues such as human trafficking, slavery, and terrorism.

“Most criminal justice programs start with a sociological approach,” he said. “That means considering what are the trends and where are things going. Ours will be more of a philosophical approach, dealing with what is right, what is just, what is justice, and take off from there.”

Across the country, criminal justice has been a growing field. “Before 9/11, criminal justice and law enforcement were among the top 10 growth areas for jobs. For several years after 9/11, it was number one. Not that jobs are driving this, although it’s good to know the jobs are there. But (Dr.) Ron (Petitte) and I thought that criminal justice is a field where Christians need to be involved.”

Classes in the new major will come from a legal rather than technical angle to the issues of criminal justice. Students will be introduced to criminal and constitutional law and public administration rather than extensive courses on law enforcement methods and procedures.

“Most criminal justice students know how to shoot a gun, and many of the other areas of law enforcement will be covered in police certification programs new officers usually are required to take,” Professor Clauson said. “Here, the Philosophy of Law course is foundational, and everything else grows out of that.”

Bryan’s Career Services offers Bryan Connect

Bryan’s Career Services office is planning a monthly series of roundtable luncheons, offering students an opportunity to meet alumni in a variety of fields.

The initial Bryan Connect luncheon on Sept. 9 featured a conversation with Klon Kitchen, ’99, a counterterrorism analyst, and Bob Jensen, ’80, a retired Secret Service agent, who discussed their preparation for their career and personal experiences.

Students from Dr. Ron Petitte’s and Prof. Kevin Clauson’s politics and government and criminal justice classes participated in this first session.

“I see this as an opportunity to enhance students’ educational experience by hearing from alumni in a variety of fields,” Director of Career Services Marica Merck said. “Bryan Connect allows students to learn about various career paths, to network with alumni, and to create possibilities for internships.”

She pointed out that experiences such as this can present new job or career ideas to students, or confirm plans they already have made.

Mrs. Merck invited alumni interested in making a presentation to students to contact her at marica.merck@bryan.edu or by phone at 423.775.7312 to discuss participating in future Bryan Connect luncheons.

Nelsons Endow Scholarship

A former Dayton resident and her husband have endowed a scholarship to benefit the Bryan Opportunity Program, Vice President for Advancement Blake Hudson has announced.

Virginia K. and Gordon Nelson, who live in Maryville, Tenn., recently made the gift in memory of Mrs. Nelson’s parents, Carlos T. and Hazel Tallent Knight. Mrs. Knight taught for 34 years in Rhea County and Dayton City schools, and Mr. Knight was a school principal before going into the produce business.

“This is something we had been thinking about for some time,” Mrs. Nelson said. “Dayton was my home, and I know a lot about Bryan College. The college has a reputation for being a good Christian school.”

When the Nelsons contacted Mr. Hudson, he mentioned the Bryan Opportunity Program, which helps students from low-income Tennessee families afford to attend the college.

“We were interested in establishing a scholarship, and this sounded good,” Mrs. Nelson said.

Income from the endowed scholarship will be used to support the Bryan Opportunity Program. This year some 70 students are expected to attend Bryan because of support from the program.
“Training” took on a different meaning for several Bryan student-athletes this past summer as they found opportunities to share their faith and strengthen their spiritual foundations.

Nathan Adams, a soccer player, Chelsie Blackburn, a member of the volleyball team, and Shannon McGowan, a member of the Lady Lions soccer team, had ministry-focused summers that found them stretched in ways that strengthened their spiritual walks.

Nathan, a junior from Frederick, Md., and a communication studies major, spent the summer playing with Bridges FC, a Christian-based soccer program that introduces American players to the rigors of a professional soccer career and includes a schedule of games against European teams.

“We trained all summer, then in the middle of July went to Europe and played 10 professional teams in Holland,” Nathan said. “We played against some of the top players, some who obviously will be playing professional soccer the rest of their lives.” A highlight of the trip was his scoring a goal and an assist.

Although many of his teammates came from Christian backgrounds, he said it was apparent that there were not many with a deep commitment of their own.

One day, a player approached him and said, “I’ve been watching you. You have genuine joy,” and told Nathan he had been turned off by Christians who don’t live out their faith.

“I just showed him the Gospel and told him my story,” he said. “I told him it’s only by God’s grace that He saved me and allowed me to be in a solid church with Christians who don’t want to fake anything. Later, we had a conversation one night that lasted four hours. He asked good questions and I tried to answer them. I got to pray with him.”

As Nathan considers where soccer will take him, he is learning some valuable lessons. “This summer was an eye-opener to the fact that professional soccer is a difficult, challenging, time-consuming career. I also saw that being a Christian in that environment is an amazing calling, but it can be very tough.”

Shannon, a senior history and politics and government major from Tulsa, Okla., had a more traditional mission-oriented summer. She traveled to India with two other Bryan students as part of the college’s Acts Project, an international missions internship program.

Working with Word for the World (WFW), an Indian ministry, she and her teammates worked in a leper hospital and colony, held vacation Bible schools in fishing villages on the Bay of Bengal, helped with WFW’s ministry to children with disabilities, and worked in a slum ministry in Mumbai.

Helping introduce Indian nationals to Christ taught Shannon some lessons as well. “I learned to develop relationships with people and to look at the larger picture,” she said. “For example, I came to realize slums are not a problem of a group, but of individuals. The Gospel is the only thing that can change people’s lives. Many of the people in the slums have been kicked out of their villages for bad habits. The Gospel can make a difference in their lives, not economics.

“I learned about living sold out for the Gospel. Everything we do or have is God’s. What right do we have to hold back?”

At the same time, she was encouraged to learn that there
are strong Christian families in southern India who see the need to be missionaries to the West. “They say, ‘We need to take Christianity to the West because they are dying in darkness, and to say thank you for what they have done for us.’”

Chelsie’s experience was closer to home, in Colorado, Haiti, and the Dominican Republic. She participated in a discipleship-building program operated by Kingdom Building Ministries of Aurora, Colo., a suburb of Denver, which included two weeks of classroom instruction and in-town practical application before traveling to Haiti and the Dominican Republic.

Chelsie, a senior exercise and health science major from Cleveland, Tenn., has a passion for children, sports, and serving people with whom she comes in contact. As she worked through the Kingdom Building program she learned about how to share the Gospel and about herself.

“I learned a lot about being intentional in relationships and getting to know people,” she said. “We worked on that in Denver when we would go downtown not to see how many people we could tell about Jesus, but to find one person we could get to know and share with.

“In the Dominican Republic, we worked at a school with American students, a lot of troubled teens. We had eight or nine girls we spent time with,” she said. “I don’t know if any came to Christ, but I think we might have helped nudge them to the next step.”

They also spent time in a village teaching Bible school for children and English classes for adults, before going to Haiti where they helped with construction projects on a home for missionaries.

While she was working, she also was learning. “I’ve been a Christian since I was 7,” she said. “This summer was a time of taking hold of Who God is to me, not to someone else. It was a time of learning about grace and the power of prayer. I saw prayer answered day after day. I’m praying now with a feeling of confidence in my faith and in Who God is.”

Although these student-athletes are not certain about their next steps, their experiences this summer have strengthened their confidence that God will reveal His plan for them in His good time.

Dr. Sandy Zensen, Bryan’s athletics director, said Nathan, Shannon, and Chelsea reflect the true aim of the athletics department: honoring the Lord who gave them their abilities. “Not only are these students fine athletes, they are young men and women of faith, who love God and love people, and are committed to serve the cause of Christ wherever God places them.”
“Bryan College can’t be named after that radical William Jennings Bryan I read about last night,” the caller demanded. “That has to be another man!”

The homeschooling mother had just met another of the stereotypes of the man for whom Bryan College is named, and she was struggling to reconcile the images she found in a history book with the ideal of a godly statesman popular in conservative evangelical circles.

She is not alone; over the past 85 years his friends and foes have asked similar questions.

In Mr. Bryan’s mind, his politics in large measure grew out of his faith. “From an early date Bryan believed that religion included the whole of life and could not be compartmentalized. The church must not only preach the gospel to save individuals, but it must cry out against the evils of the day and help bring about a better society. And this requires the cooperation of all, laity and ministers” (Smith, 27).

He was reared in a rural area in a family that revered the ideals of Jeffersonian democracy and trusted absolutely in the God of the Scriptures. He grew up with the belief that the common man, the farmer and laborer, often needed protection from the moneyed interests, and that government was bound to offer that protection.

Looking at causes he espoused, it is clear that he was interested in improving the lot of the common man, the vision of progressives of his day. Included in that list were the 16th, 17th, 18th, and 19th Amendments to the Constitution (graduated income tax, direct election of senators, prohibition of liquor, woman suffrage), direct primaries and legislation, Federal Reserve Act, Federal Farm Loan Act, government regulations of railroads and telegraph/telephone, safety devices and pure food processing, government control of currency and banking, regulations regarding trusts and corporate monopolies, establishment of departments of health and education and labor, public regulation of political campaign contributions, workman’s compensation, the minimum wage, the eight-hour day, tariff reform, promotion of public parks, defense of rights of minorities, anti-imperialism, settling of international differences through arbitration, and support of legislation to provide for equal-time consideration of Darwinian evolution and Biblical creationism in the public schools (Cornelius).

“Armed with a Christian vision of reform, Bryan became the leading figure in a group of unsung progressives who had substantial grassroots support and, in a few years, would be able to boast a strong record of legislative achievement” (Kazin, 149).

Although he may not have developed these progressive positions, he certainly played the major role in bringing many of them to the political forefront. His ability to understand how ideas affected individuals and groups of the disenfranchised made him sensitive to their political potential. His strong Christian faith and commitment to the ideal of a government that protects the weak in society gave him the stamina to advocate tirelessly for what he believed to be righteous causes.

“In Bryan’s mind, righteousness required more than a passive avoidance of improper behavior. Humankind, in his view, stood capable of approaching perfection; his faith required him to do whatever in his power to remove the obstacles that prevented people from achieving their full, God-given potential. Once Bryan had decided that a cause was righteous, his faith obligated him to pursue that cause with a zeal and earnestness that set him apart from most other politicians, reformers and conservatives alike” (Cherny, 201-02).

The list of reform positions above
contains many points American society accepts today as foundational, but in the early years of the 20th century, they were considered beyond simply progressive.

Biographer Louis Koenig points out that among the moneyed class, Bryan was viewed as a socialist, a communist, and an anarchist. “The New York Times carried letters from a reader who contended at length that Bryan was insane” (Koenig, 10). Their differences with The Commoner ranged from the money question—whether the United States should retain a “strong” currency backed by gold or accept silver coinage as a way to ease the debt burden for farmers, the primary issue of the 1896 presidential campaign—to fair labor practices such as the eight-hour workday and a minimum wage.

Bryan, of course, rejected those accusations and rejected the concept of socialism. Instead, he argued that reforms were a way to combat socialism. “The best way to oppose socialism is to remedy the abuses which have grown up under individualism but which are not a necessary part of individualism,” he said (qtd in Cherny, 107).

He made this position even more clear when he accepted his third presidential nomination. “In his speech he defined the paramount question of 1908: ‘Shall the people rule?’ All other issues, he proclaimed, formed only separate manifestations of this single question. ‘Shall the people control their own government and use that government for the protection of their rights and for the promotion of their welfare?’ he asked, ‘or shall the representatives of predatory wealth prey upon a defenseless public, while the offenders secure immunity from subservient officials whom they raise to power by unscrupulous methods?’” (Cherny, 111).

In many ways this might be an apt summary of his progressive philosophy and explain his commitment to ideals that kept him focused despite political defeats and verbal abuse across three decades. It was his view of the virtues of the common man that drove him to support policies that gave “the common man” a set of protections we generally consider normative today.

Perhaps it is the current understanding of the term “progressive” that gives modern conservatives such pause when considering The Great Commoner. It is important to remember that Bryan never lost his focus on the individual. As historian Robert Crunden observed, progressives of Bryan’s day generally “shared moral values and agreed that America needed a spiritual reformation to fulfill God’s plan for democracy in the New World (Crunden ix).

“Progressives were not collectivists of the New Deal variety. If they lived into the 1930s, they either changed significantly in order to support the measures of the New Deal, or they flatly opposed those measures as being contrary to the reform spirit as they understood it” (Crunden xi).

Thus, he could advocate for policies which served to protect the powerless and improve opportunities for workers—progressive ideas in his time—while maintaining a firmly conservative Christian position.

Bryan gave the best answer to this seeming contradiction when queried by a reporter in May 1925, about two months before his death:

“People often ask me why I can be a progressive in politics and a fundamentalist in religion. The answer is easy. Government is man made and therefore imperfect....If Christ is the final word, how may anyone be progressive in religion? I am satisfied with the God we have, with the Bible and with Christ” (qtd in Smith, 18).

FOR FURTHER STUDY


Huston Hall is “a place to enjoy late-night talks with new friends,” according to Resident Director Karie Harpest, a description that would delight the building’s namesake.

One of 11 major buildings on campus named in honor of a friend of the college, Huston is home to more than 100 women during the school year, and houses hundreds more during summer conferences.

Huston is named for the late Ruth Huston, a member of Bryan’s Board of Trustees for nearly 22 years, who spent more than 50 years as a missionary to and friend of the people of the southeastern Kentucky mountains.

“Huston Hall is the only thing named for Aunt Ruth,” her niece, Nancy Hansen, explained. “Her parents didn’t want anything named for them. She didn’t want it to be Ruth Huston Hall, just Huston, to honor her parents as well.”

Born into the family that owns Pennsylvania’s Lukens Steel Co., Ruth learned from her parents a love for Christ and the joy of sharing that love, as well as a love for education.

It was on a summer visit to Kentucky with friends from Pennsylvania that Ruth fell in love with people in remote areas of southeastern Kentucky. She returned to work for one year in 1924 and ended up staying for more than 50.

She had multiple goals, Mrs. Hansen said, but underneath them all was a passion to introduce men, women, and young people to the Lord she loved. She taught Bible studies in her home, supported educational efforts in the isolated mountain schools, supported numerous students through college, and started a mobile library service, among other endeavors.

Close to her heart was Camp Nathanael, in Emmalena, Ky., home of Scripture Memory Mountain Mission. After her death in 1982, Miss Ruth was buried at Camp Nathanael.

She became acquainted with Bryan College because of her work with the founders of Camp Nathanael, who sent four children to the college. She became a trustee in 1959.

Mrs. Hansen recalls that “she loved William Jennings Bryan and what he stood for at the Scopes Trial. She touted Bryan College to us. She felt that a Bryan graduate should be hired and supported. Bryan is holding fast to those principles today. What a wonderful legacy.”

Karin Traylor, administrative assistant to Bryan’s academic vice president, remembers Miss Ruth’s visiting the campus and her love for the college as well as the people to whom she ministered in Kentucky. “She loved Bryan, and she wanted to support this institution in every way possible,” Mrs. Traylor said.

Mrs. Hansen said that her aunt’s love for her Kentucky friends led her to write her first
book, *Observation of God’s Timing in the Kentucky Mountains*. “She took it to a national publisher and he wanted to change it,” she said. “She was afraid he would not respect the mountain people, so she published it herself. She wanted it not so much for people around the country but so people in the mountains would have something to remind them of what their life had been like, as she saw it.”

That lifestyle included travels on horseback along mountain paths too narrow for vehicles or through creeks, sometime swollen with spring rains. “She saw friends and families feuding, shooting at each other, over moonshine or something, and saw the need to bring the peace of Christ to them,” Mrs. Hansen said.

She said she remembers her aunt’s sense of humor, high energy, and love for horses. “When she moved to Florida in her 80s she lived near a horse racing track. She never did bet, but she loved to go see a good horse run.”

In 1957, Miss Ruth and her brother, Charles, established the Huston Foundation to continue the family’s charitable support of Christian and humanitarian causes. “One reason was to continue in the family the evangelical connection,” Mrs. Hansen said. “I think she decided the foundation would extend her ability to give and create in the next generation a desire to serve.”

Her interest in the future included a passionate desire to see her Lord face to face. When doctors told her they had bad news about the illness that caused her death, she responded in a way they might not have anticipated, Mrs. Hansen said. “She told them, ‘That’s what I’ve been living for all my life, to go into the presence of my Lord.’ She was not at all reticent but really anticipated with joy through the pain.”

Today, Huston Hall stands on the Bryan campus as a tribute to Ruth Huston and her family, honoring lives lived to introduce men and women to the joy of a personal relationship with Jesus Christ.

Huston Hall is Bryan’s second-oldest residence facility and is the sister building of H. D. Long Hall. It opened in March 1964, three months following the opening of Long.

Huston contains 52 rooms which are individually climate controlled. Each student room has a sink and is furnished with beds, wardrobes and study desks. Some rooms are fitted with movable, modular furniture. Each floor has a lounge, kitchen, bathrooms, laundry rooms and storage areas.
WE'LL HELP...DESIGN OR REVIEW YOUR ESTATE PLAN

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FOR THE HAYNESES, ESTATE PLANNING IS MORE THAN JUST BUSINESS

Planning is something that is an ordinary part of life for John Haynes, a businessman and chairman of Bryan’s Board of Trustees. Whether it’s ordering inventory for his bookstore or making arrangements for board meetings, he knows having a plan in place is the best way to avoid unpleasant surprises.

Recently he and his wife, Markie, have taken advantage of Bryan’s estate planning service to make sure their personal affairs are in order, a step he believes everyone should take.

The Hayneses learned about Bryan from friends at their church in Lilburn, Ga. Two of their children, Walker and Shay, attended the college, and Bryan became a regular stopping point for the family.

“At the time, I was on active duty (with the Air Force) in Washington, D.C., and when I came home we would meet at Bryan,” Mr. Haynes said. With Walker active in Hilltop Players and Shay a cheerleader, there were many opportunities to visit the campus and learn more about the college.

“I think Bryan is unique in so many ways,” he said. “For one thing, it has stayed true to its focus of Christ Above All. Another way is its diversity.” The college has a large number of students with experience in or who are nationals of other countries, and encourages international experience, he pointed out.

“Because Bryan instills a global vision, their reach is global. The example of the faculty and staff helps students understand their calling is to be Christians first, in whatever field they pursue.

As Mr. Haynes reached his 65th birthday, he prepared a “bucket list” of things to accomplish in the remainder of his life. High on that list is sharing the Gospel with people he has known. His experience on a mission trip to Cuba helped him understand that to be effective, he must communicate in ways his hearers understand. “That’s the same thing I see many Bryan students doing in Dayton, in other parts of the country, and overseas.”

Another priority is making sure the estate plans he and Mrs. Haynes have prepared accurately reflect their desires.

“We both had parents who died without adequate estate plans, which increased the tax liability and the cost of settling their estates. That’s why I’m so bullish about estate planning,” he said. “It’s important to be educated on taxes and strategies you can write into a will. You have a choice: give the money to people as you want or let the government do it for you.”

Taking advantage of the estate design service available through the Bryan College Office of Planned Giving, the Hayneses completed a confidential estate inventory and consulted with Bryan’s planner to develop an estate design that would achieve their goals. “It’s not good to rush these plans, but you need to get started,” he said. “I hope to have ours all tied up by Dec. 31 this year. I have a good will now, but I’m going to have a great will when we’re through.”

Steve Keck, director of gift and estate design, said, “Expressing God’s plan of stewardship for your estate is the primary focus of our office. We are here to help you through what can be a confusing and complex process so you will have a plan that will transfer your estate at the lowest possible cost and with the fewest delays. This is a no-cost, no-obligation service.”

For more information or for assistance with developing an estate plan or using our estate design service, contact Mr. Keck at steve.keck@bryan.edu or call 423.775.7581.
I have four perfect nieces. Daughters of Steve, ’85, and Lisa (Barth), ’87, Stewart. Ever since we entered their lives seven years ago, they have shown genuine love and acceptance to me and my boys. All are extremely intelligent and very lovely. Well, look at their mother, grandmother, and aunt….sorry, but I digress.

The oldest, Victoria, graduated in three years with a 4.0. Anna, a junior, and Clarissa, a sophomore, have 4.0 gpa’s as well. (I was corrected…Anna has a 3.914. One A-!) Very engaged with life on campus, they all demonstrated leadership in various venues. Each excelled in national speech and debate tournaments. Kathryn, the youngest, is a senior in high school.

The Goat thing? Well, during the first couple years together, I would invent creative, albeit OLD-sounding middle names for each of them. As any loving niece would do, they reciprocated. Farm animals came to mind (not sure why…) and a goat seemed the least offensive. So, for the past three years of being Hall Parents, we have been introduced as Aunt Anna and Uncle Goat. Since it came from them, I wear it proudly!

Cute story, but so what, David? I tell you about them because of the rest of their story. It is how they came to choose Bryan College. Victoria and Anna both have brilliant minds, one toward government and politics, the other philosophy and ministry. Both looked closely at Hillsdale, King’s, Covenant, and other schools. Initially, Anna was thinking anywhere BUT Bryan! Much to the credit of their parents, they were never expected or pushed toward Bryan. Well, maybe by Uncle Goat, but even he kept reasonably quiet about it!

After serious analysis and visits to many schools, they ultimately settled on Bryan. Academically, it would challenge them to their highest potential. Socially, they would be a part of a very strong community. Spiritually, they would be encouraged to seek God with every part of their being.

Clarissa decided early that Bryan would be the place for her. She knew from many visits to campus that her heart for the Lord would be nurtured and fed, and she would have opportunities to participate in plays and musicals. She was comfortable with the strong, rigorous academic load she would carry.

My point? Please consider Bryan for your child. I am so thankful that more and more of you are doing just that. I would strongly encourage you to get on the Bryan website and see if we have what you and your child are looking for. Our level of academic excellence is second to none. Case in point, Victoria did an internship with Suzanne Michel, ’81. Suzanne had worked in Washington, D.C., for 15 years and trained dozens of interns from Ivy League schools. She told Victoria that she was equal to or better than any Ivy Leaguer she ever had. According to Dr. John Anderson (retired Greek professor), this is the finest group of faculty in the history of Bryan College. They will be surrounded by a marvelous group of people who love and live out Christ Above All. Athletics? Our teams are stronger than they have ever been.

Dear alums, your alma mater is a school of excellence on every level. We would be honored if you would consider sending your son or daughter to Bryan. I promise. Uncle Goat will take very good care of them!

In His Grace,

David Tromanhauser
Alumni Director

Clarissa Stewart, Tori La Plue, Anna, & Kathryn Stewart
1. David, ’91, Jacqueline (Myers), ’91, and Nicholas Johnston.
2. Doug, ’90, Sharron (Licking), ’87, and Kevin Padgett.
3. Lewis, ’86, Terri (Goodman), ’86, and Robbie Alderman.
5. David, ’85, Ruth (Snyder), ’86, and Elizabeth Hobbs.
6. Chris (Bair) Meredith, ’89, and Rachel Meredith.
7. Chris, ’91, Rebecca (Bradbury), ’93, and Grace Lusardo.
9. Keith, ’85, Elizabeth (Robeson), ’84, and Dean Franklin.
10. Dottie (Long), ’84, and Tori Smith.

11. Karin (Fary), ’84, and Jay Carpenter.
13. David, ’90, Sylvia (Suganandam), ’89, and Benjamin Banks.
15. Deborah Ellis, ’05, and Jacob Miles.
17. Diana (Bradshaw), ’86, and Rebecca Armstrong.
50s

Dr. MARY ELLEN BOUGH, ’59, and Jim Briscoe were married April 23, 2011. The Briscoes live in New Holland, Pa.

60s

Among members of the Paulson family who held a reunion this summer at Fort Bluff Camp in Dayton were a number of alumni including DON, ’63, and RACHAEL “RAE” (PAULSON) REED, ’63; NAOMI (PAULSON) VAN LIEW, ’65x; STEVE and KERI-LYNN (LESTMANN) PAULSON, both ’98; and JEFF and MARCY (WHISMAN) PAULSON, both ’99. The family remembered Rae and Naomi’s oldest brother, PHIL PAULSON, ’62x, who died in a traffic accident after his freshman year and who was honored by gifts given to help build Rudd Auditorium.

70s

CURTIS COULTER, ’70, was honored July 9 with a reception on his retirement from the Hamilton County, Tenn., public school system after 40 years of service. Curtis served as an elementary, middle, and high school teacher, and coached middle school and high school basketball and baseball. Since 2006, he served as the system’s director of student management and state reporting.

80s

BOB and BECKY (WOODALL) JENSEN, both ’80, announce the adoption of two granddaughters, Amaya Lea Jensen, 11, and Nivea Grace-Danielle Jensen, 9, by their daughter, Kristina, in January 2011. Bob has retired from the Secret Service, and he and Becky have moved to Chattanooga, Tenn., from Northern Virginia. Becky works as a paramedic with the Hamilton County Emergency Medical Services.

MARC MEZNAR, ’82, was promoted into the Senior Foreign Service early this year, a presidential appointment requiring approval by the Senate. Marc has been a career diplomat with the U.S. Department of State for 23 years, mainly serving abroad, most recently in Barcelona, Brussels, and Managua. He has been serving since 2009 in Detroit, Mich., where he opened a passport agency at the busiest land border crossing in North America. This summer, his wife, ANITA (BETSCH), ’81, received her certification to teach in Michigan. Their daughter, Claire, graduated from high school, and Marc’s parents, RON, ’52, and GLADYS (JENNEWEIN), ’50,
MEZNAR were on hand for the celebration.

BRENDA (JACOBS) KOPP, ’82, and her son, Andy, with another parent, took eight other individuals with special needs to Nancy, France, to do disability ministry similar to what they enjoy at College Church in Wheaton, Ill. The group performed three concerts where they sang, played chimes and autoharps, and gave their faith stories.

BRIAN, ’86, and ANNE (GORDON) KEAY, ’87 are founders of TruthAction ministry, which creates custom Gospel material for unreached people groups in remote areas of the world. In cooperation with missionaries and national pastors, they work to develop culturally relevant Gospel booklets and teaching materials to use in evangelization efforts. Through this summer, some 9,000 Gospel booklets—hand-cut and assembled by volunteers—are available in a number of countries around the world.

90s

MARK SMITH, ’93, married Sherry Peters on June 4, 2011. Mark, Sherry, and his four children, Madeline, Benjamin, Kaylen, and Wesley, live in Tulsa, Okla. He is self-employed, and has a background in ministry and missions.

TARA (LUTHER), ’96, and Brent RANDALL announce the birth of their son, Stephen James, on June 1, 2011. Stephen weighed 10 lbs., 14 oz., and was 21 inches long. He joins big sister Celia Grace, 4. The Randall family lives in Concord, Calif., where Brent works as an architect and Tara stays at home with the children and occasionally teaches English as a second language.

Klon Kitchen, ’99, who holds the National Counterterrorism Center Chair at National Defense University, has been named a 2011 Lincoln Fellow by the Claremont Institute. Lincoln Fellowships are offered to professionals serving elected officials or appointed policy-makers in the federal government and other areas. His book, Strategic Influence in Wars Amongst the People, will be published by Borderstone Press in late 2011.

00s

SUE (HUBER), ’01, and Tony ORLANDO announce the birth of their second son, Giovanni Gaetano, on June 21, 2011. Giovanni weighed 6 lbs., 9 oz. He joins big brother Anthony, Jr., 2. The Orlando family lives in Saint Petersburg, Fla., where Tony is a general manager for ARS and Sue is an accountant who is able to work from home while caring for her children.
MITCH, ’01, and JENNY (HUGHES), ’03, HOSKINS were hosts in July for fellow alumni MARILYN LASZLO, ’59, and SERGE YUROVSKY, ’98, at their home in Papua New Guinea, where they serve with New Tribes Missions. Marilyn served as a Bible translator in PNG and now is an ambassador for missions and returned recently to help distribute Bibles to unreached groups. Serge is taking the next step in his life as a traveling photographer/IT consultant, using his skills to help missions or other groups in their efforts.

ERIN (DAVIS), ’02, and John WISEHART announce the birth of their son, Carter Gavin, on April 12, 2011. Carter weighed 8 lbs. The Wisehart family lives in Newnan, Ga., where John is an engineer with Georgia Power Co., and Erin is a marriage and family therapist.

KRISTI (LESTMANN), ’02, and Adam DYER announce the birth of their fourth daughter, Caroline Marie, on May 31, 2011. Caroline joins big sisters Caden, Holly, and Avery. Kristi enjoys staying home with the girls and home schooling Caden. Adam is a network administrator for Volstate Internet and completed his bachelor’s degree through the Bryan degree completion program in September.

HENRY ’04, and CHRISTEN (CONRAD), ’06, BARRIOS announce the birth of their daughter, Abigail Grace, on Feb. 23, 2011. Abigail weighed 7 lbs., 3 oz. and was 19.5 inches long. Abigail’s name means “source of joy.” The Barrios family lives in Houston, Texas, where Henry is the seventh grade life science teacher at River Oaks Baptist School and the varsity soccer coach at Incarnate Word Academy. After working 3 ½ years as an administrative assistant at their church, Christen is now a stay-at-home mom.

MASON, ’04x, and KRISTI (SIMMONS), ’01, HUDLOW announce the birth of Kenna Lynn on March 2, 2011. Kenna weighed 8 lbs., 10 oz., and was 22 inches long. She joins big sister Kayden, 4, and big brother Jonathan, 6. Kristi is enjoying staying home with the children after working for the past three years as a school counselor. The Hudlow family lives in Pueblo, Colo.

SARAH (BASS), ’05x, and Joal HENKE announce the birth of their son, Christian “Blake,” on Dec. 16, 2010. Blake weighed 6 lbs., 10 oz., and was 19 inches long. The Henke family lives in Chattanooga, Tenn.

MATTHEW and KELLY (CRANE) ROGERS, both ’05, announce the birth of their daughters, Amelie Joy, and Grace Elisabeth, on March 25, 2011, which also is Kelly’s birthday. Amelie weighed 7 lbs., 10 oz., and was 21 inches long, and Grace weighed 8 lbs., 1 oz. and was 21 inches long. The Rogers family lives in Knoxville, where Matthew owns and operates Macville Productions, a film and video production company. Kelly does the
accounting for the company and said she is working on a Master’s in baby wrangling.

JESSIE PENDERGRASS, ’07, and Jena Tager were married Aug. 6, 2011. Jessie attends Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary where he is pursuing a degree in biblical counseling. He works at a granite fabrication plant and Jena works at the YMCA in Franklinton, N.C., where they teach the youth Sunday school class at Mount Carmel Christian Church.

DREW, ’08, and SHARALYN (SCHMIDT), ’09, GOODMAN announce the birth of their son, Aiden James, on July 12, 2011. Aiden weighed 8 lbs., 5 oz., and was 21 inches long. The Goodmans live in Dayton, Tenn., where they are preparing to go to Madrid, Spain, to serve with Young Life International.

BRANDON HODGE, ’08, and Brandy Donnell were married July 2, 2011, in Monroe, N.C. Alumni at the wedding included MATT and SARAH (BROWN) JOSS, both ’07; DAVID, ’09, and Leigh BEISNER; ROSS LEE, ’07; TIMOTHY FURNANZ, ’08; CHRISTINA JOHNSON, ’07; JACQUELINE (HOLUBZ) ROTH, ’08; and JONATHAN BROWN, ’09. The Hodges live in Monroe.

JOSH COURTRIGHT, ’09, received his RN degree from the University of North Carolina-Charlotte in May. He works in a psychiatric unit in one of Charlotte’s main hospitals.

MATT DILLARD, ’10, and DANIELLE LOVINS, ’11, were married April 28, 2011, in Chattanooga. Alumni in the wedding included DAYNA (LOVINS) FALZONE, ’07; ANNA HULL, ’11; MATT DAVIS, ’09; and ANDREA MILLIGAN, ’11. Current student Annalyn Ebersole also was in the wedding. Matt works in the IT department at Bryan, and Danielle is an admissions counselor.

KRISTEN PHELPS, ’11, works in the admissions department at Liberty University in Lynchburg, Va., and is a volunteer court-appointed child advocate.

ALICIA SCHULZE, ’11, and Patrick Roberts were married June 11, 2011. Alumni involved in the wedding included EVE HILDEBRANDT, ’09; TIMMY SUNDAY, ’10; JENNY IRWIN, ’09; STACEY BRADSHAW, ’09; EMILY JOHNSON, ’11; ABRAM ROBERTS, ’10; and NATHAN BAILEY, ’11. Current students Kristen Underwood, Audre Vordenbaum, Anna Roberts Hipp, Kyle Thomas, Matt Albin, and Aaron Shears also were in the wedding.
Mr. Bernie Belisle, Mr. Jared Cole, and Ms. Lindsey Wolfe took part in the “25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee,” which was performed in June at the Tennessee Valley Theatre in Spring City.

Dr. Matt Benson, Jonathan Doran, Ben Norquist, and Jeff Eenigenburg attended the Summer Institute for Campus Ministry at Whidbey, Wash., in June.

Dr. Mike Chase, Dr. Adina Scruggs, and Dr. Jeff Bruehl attended an Innovative Learning Solutions seminar in May in Knoxville. They are now certified to teach the Marketplace Live Simulation game, which will be used in the MBA strategy course.

Dr. Ed Fickley attended the Tennessee Association of Middle Schools annual conference in Sevierville in June, where he conducted a workshop titled “Making Learning Meaningful.”

Dr. Phil Lestmann attended the 18th biennial conference of the Association of Christians in the Mathematical Sciences at Westmont College, Santa Barbara, Calif., in June. He was a panelist for a discussion of the topic “Mathematics and Computer Science: Divide and Conquer or Merge and Multiply?”

Mr. David Montgomery, regional director in Knoxville, has been appointed to the Knoxville Chamber of Commerce Economic & Community Development Committee.

Mr. Bruce Morgan, Mr. Tim Shetter, Ms. Karie Harpest, Ms. Kim Crowe-Tuttle, and Mr. Jon Slater attended the annual conference of Christians in Student Development in June in Springfield, Mo.

Mrs. Keri-Lyne Paulson attended “Giving Undergraduate Research a Worldwide Voice: Institutional Repositories as Publishers” in March at Kennesaw State University in Georgia.

Dr. Travis Ricketts and four students attended the Purpose & Prosperity: Exploring the Confluence of Faith, Economics, and Public Policy conference hosted by the Values and Capitalism Project at the American Enterprise Institute in Washington, D.C., in June. He also received a grant from the Council for Christian Colleges and Universities to develop a course, “History of Free Market Thought,” to be taught this fall.

Dr. Bradford Sample was a consultant for the Doctorate of Organizational Leadership division of Indiana Wesleyan University in June.

Dr. Roger Sanders’ efforts to develop an arboretum on the Bryan campus were rewarded in June when the Tennessee Urban Forestry Council awarded a Level 1 certification to the project.

Dr. Adina Scruggs traveled with four MBA students to the Czech Republic in July and August. They toured local businesses, talked with executives, and learned about international business.

Ms. Lindsey Wolfe was director for the play “One Hot Summer,” part of the 24th annual Scopes Festival in July. Mr. Tom Davis chaired the festival steering committee.
Greetings New Faculty and Staff

Danielle Dillard, admissions counselor
Courtney Jergins, instructor in English
Rhonda Kettenring, academic records specialist
Bethany Smith, enrollment management assistant
Lorraine Doran, assistant director, Academic Support Center
Josh Bradley, assistant cross country coach
Benton Jones, AGS regional director, Chattanooga
Jeff Eenigenburg, director of worship arts
David Montgomery, AGS regional director, Knoxville
Jason Glen, adjunct faculty
David Haggard, financial aid director
Bonnie Spallinger, resident director, Arnold Hall
David Shumaker, head coach, volleyball
Elizabeth Lewis, athletic trainer
Mickey Walker, operations

Kara Nissley, admissions counselor
Matt Johnson, director of institutional effectiveness and planning
Jason Smith, head coach, women’s basketball
Nathan Bailey, admissions counselor
Clint McCauley, assistant baseball coach/fields manager
Sam Young, adjunct faculty
Tomas Gomez, operations

Not pictured: Andrew McPeak, coordinator of Worldview Teams, and Dan Ammons, AGS admissions counselor, Chattanooga.
Thank You For Your Years Of Service
For most alumni, their college experience includes four years at school, graduation, moving on to a vocation, and maybe returning to campus for homecomings.

Jim Barth, ’57, had a different plan, using his first four years at Bryan as a prelude to a close working relationship that has lasted some 55 years. And though Jim plans to retire in June 2012, the relationship will continue for years to come.

His Bryan history has included time as a student, trustee, vice president, operations director, major donor officer, and director of planned giving. His legacy includes being the father of five alumni and the grandfather of a growing number of students and alumni. “Last count, I think there are 26 members of my extended family who have attended Bryan,” he said.

Jim followed his older sister, Mary (Lehnhart, ’55), to Bryan, where he majored in math and minored in extracurricular activities. “I was vice president of my class for three of the four years, played basketball and was one of the starting five all four years, ran track four years and cross country one year,” he said. “My claim to fame in track is that our high hurdler pulled a hamstring at a meet and the coach asked me to run in his place an event I had never run. He said I could get a point for our team if I just finished, since there were only two other runners. About halfway through the race I realized the leader and I were step-for-step. When we crossed the last hurdle, I laid it on and beat him by about a foot and a half.”

During his student years Jim made lifelong friends, one of whom became his wife. He and Judy King were married Jan. 25, 1959, while he was in the Army. After completing his military service in the 101st Airborne Division, Jim and Judy moved to his hometown in Ohio where he went to work for his father in the poultry and egg business.

“I worked there for 25 years,” he said. “The last year we sold 6 million dozen eggs and about a quarter million turkeys, mostly to grocery stores, restaurants, and institutions in Ohio.” Some of his turkeys found their way to Bryan College and were featured in Sunday meals from time to time.

In 1964, Jim and Judy were hosts for the leader of a Gospel Messengers team who also happened to be a member of the Bryan board of trustees. That meeting resulted in an invitation from then-President Dr. Theodore C. Mercer for Jim to join the trustees, just eight years out of college. “I was so young the chairman asked me to chair the student affairs committee. I served as chairman of that committee for 22 years and still have students from that time come up to me and say, ‘I met with you many times when I was a student leader on campus.’”
He served 22 years on the board and resigned in 1986 to become Bryan’s vice president of administration at the invitation of then-President Dr. Kenneth G. Hanna, one of his Bryan classmates. Dr. Hanna remembers in his first year as president the college was facing a time of unprecedented financial challenges. “Jim was on the board, and we needed someone with business and administrative experience,” he said. “He had a long association with Bryan, and sufficient background in business to help us. We needed someone who knew Bryan well and was willing to make a commitment because we weren’t in a position to offer a big salary.”

Later, when the college began downsizing, Jim recommended his vice presidential position be eliminated and he became director of buildings, grounds, and services. It was during this time that he helped develop the plan for Bryan’s first campus wide computer network and called it BryanNet.

In 1993, Jim moved to the Advancement Department, his home for the past 18 years, where he worked with major donors before moving into the planned giving position he holds.

In this role he has helped hundreds of alumni and friends of the college find ways to support the college while reducing their tax obligations and increasing current income.

He said, “In talking with alumni and friends of the college concerning the design of their estates, three problems continually arise. First, people do not understand the estate design process. The technical language involved and the inability of many professionals to communicate in layman’s terms tends to make it a very complex process in the minds of individuals.

“Second, many individuals do not have the priorities of the planning process in proper perspective. To many, taxes and probate are the greatest concerns, sometimes to the detriment of inter-personal family relationships.

“And third, many individuals just never get around to planning their estates.

“My goal is to help people better understand the process and help them gather the information necessary to establish a proper estate plan and to help motivate them to ‘do it.’

“The result is a document that expresses God’s plan of stewardship for their estate. It is designed to transfer the estate that God has entrusted to them to their beneficiaries, and transfer their estate at the lowest possible cost and with the fewest delays.”

While his employment at the college is nearing an end, his connections remain strong. “We have three grandchildren at Bryan this year with another 13 possibilities in the future, and since we live within a mile of campus, I know we’ll be around to see them, follow the basketball team, and take in many of the great plays and concerts at the college” he said.
## With the Lord

**Rev. J. WARD TRESSLER, ’45x,**
of Fremont, Ohio, died Jan. 9, 2011.

**RALPH MAYNARD, ’54,**
of Kissimmee, Fla., died July 5, 2011.

**SARAH (DAVIS) GIBSON, ’56,**

**GERTRUDE S. LANDIS, ’59,**
of Lancaster, died April 21, 2011.

**HAROLD YOUNG, ’61x,**
of Lookout Mountain, Ga., died Nov. 25, 2010.

**Rev. EDWARD WAYNE BROOKS, ’67,**
of Roanoke, Va., died July 14, 2011.

**MARVIN DENTON, ’67x,**
of Dayton, Tenn., died Sept. 1, 2011.

**PAULETTE (MILLER) BAILEY, ’81x,**
of Palm Bay, Fla., died July 30, 2011.

**BENJAMIN JOSEPH OSBURN, ’94x,**
of Pullman, Wash., died June 16, 2011.

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**Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made.**

*John 1:3*

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