The Progress and Momentum Continues

It is always a delight to share information concerning the successes of Crowley's Ridge College with our loyal friends. We are most grateful that many have recognized CRC as a valuable "good work" and worthy of support. I have three successes to share with you followed by one request. As we enter the 47th year of CRC's existence, we do so with a great amount of enthusiasm as we look to the future and as we realize, with great appreciation, what God and His people can do in His service.

Record Enrollment: The 2011 fall enrollment was a record with 221 students. This is a 10% increase over last year and a 27% increase in the last two years. Students attending CRC are from 11 states. Students, from many different backgrounds, are drawn to CRC for a variety of reasons. Low cost, close-knit student body, attractive scholarship program, and a large amount of individual attention within a Christian Community are reasons most often given by students as they enter CRC.

New Student Center Now One Year Old: This wonderful addition to the CRC campus, which was paid for 100% by donor gifts, has now been in service for over a year. Our students are most appreciative of having this new facility. They have enjoyed many hours of relaxing and building life-time relationships in a beautiful and functional space, which was designed with the students in mind. We are delighted that the student center is also used for Sunday night worship for our students. This new facility provides a wonderful lobby for events in the Carter Activities Center, including Barnyard Bash, Spirit of America, CRC's Lectureship, and our intercollegiate sports programs. Thousands of students and visitors have been to the CRC Student Center this year. A donor plaque listing all gifts of $1,000 or more toward the student center capital campaign is displayed by the east entrance. It is a common practice to name structures on college campuses to honor donors. We would love to name this structure after you or a family member in honor or memoriam. It would be my pleasure to discuss this unique naming opportunity with you.

Construction Starts on Joe A. and Wanda Hall Johnson Honor Housing Unit: A Ground Breaking Ceremony was held on September 23, 2011 at the construction site on the CRC campus. We are so thankful that Joe and Wanda Johnson could be in attendance for this very special event. (see picture below) Paragould Mayor Mike Gaskill and Board Chairman Jimmy Smith spoke about the progress of CRC, as Board Members, students, faculty, family and friends looked on. The Johnson's initial seed gift of $100,000 was instrumental in making this housing project and Capital Campaign possible. A $450,000 Capital Campaign was launched for the purpose of building two triplex units. Each unit contains 3,328 square feet and accommodates 10 students in a comfortable apartment style arrangement that is to be ready for students by fall 2012. High enrollments over the past several years have resulted in Wilson Hall and Winters Hall being at capacity. As the 2011-2012 school year began, special arrangements were made to rent a new apartment complex that had been constructed about one mile from our campus to remedy the above capacity situation in our housing.

A call for "the year of the gift:" One of the greatest pleasures in my role here at CRC has been in working with our donors. I am constantly amazed at the generosity often exhibited. As our advancement team makes contact with donors in many ways, we listen attentively to what our donors are telling us. We have learned that donors like to give to a "cause" or "institution" in which they have confidence and feel that their gifts are being used wisely. CRC is such an institution. Our gift needs are fairly simple to explain. Each year, our goal is to raise $515,000 in unrestricted gifts. Unrestricted gifts added to student revenue pays for the day-to-day operation of CRC, including faculty and staff salaries. When it comes to building new structures, and remaining in a fiscally sound condition by avoiding debt, we request gifts from our faithful donors, such as in the $450,000 capital campaign now underway. As the year-end approaches, will you consider making this “the year of the gift?” We believe that many of our donors are looking for just the right need to be identified to make a major gift to CRC. We believe that there are donors who are capable and willing to make major gifts of $5,000, $10,000, $25,000, $50,000, $100,000, or more who are looking for just the right reason. Supporting day-to-day operations and helping us build structures that will be used for many years are vital needs of CRC. Can we count on your support? Will you make this “the year of the gift?”
May, 2011. They reside in Paragould. Elise is the Development/Elementary Secretary at CRA and Casey is the head soccer coach at CRC.

Kristal Cornish ('07) graduated in May 2011 with a BA in Psychology from Ashford University, where she is currently working on her Master’s degree in Healthcare Administration. She and her husband, Stephen, have 3 children, Ayla, Seth and Ethan.

Gennie (Smith) Holland ('93) lives in Success, Arkansas with her husband, Terry, and 10 year old daughter, Savannah. They attend Success C of C.

Rose (King) Johnson ('80) lives in Nashville, AR where she is a bank teller. She and her husband, David, have a daughter, Mica. They attend Blue Bayou C of C.

Kevin Hurt ('75) was recently selected as the Greene County Tech Teacher of the Year. He has been a teacher for 33 years. Kevin played basketball at CRC and went on to a successful basketball career at Arkansas College (now Lyon). He and his wife, Susan have been married for 35 years and have two grown sons.

Greg Hogue ('84) and his wife, Jennifer and daughter, Sophie, live in Jonesboro and attend the Valley View C of C where Greg serves as Missions Deacon. He was recently promoted to Northeast Regional Environmental Health Manager for the Arkansas Department of Health where he has worked for 24 years.

Janna (Watts) Hamm ('88) is a substitute teacher in Batesville, Arkansas. She and her husband, Donald have two children and attend Harrison Street C of C.

Lincoln Dias ('04) and his wife, Erin, proudly announce the birth of their son, Paxton James Dias on June 12, 2011. He weighed 7 pounds 6 ounces.

Roger and Barbara (Leonard) Richardson ('68) live in Lewis Beach, Delaware. Roger is a retired Histologist and Barbara is a retired Registered Nurse. He preaches on 1st & 5th Sundays at the Frankford C of C in rural Frankford, Delaware. They enjoy spending time with their family (including granddaughter and great-grandchildren), their church family, and being "beach & pool bums" in the summer.

Terry ('88) and Teri ('88) (Robertson) Frizzell live in Stuart, Florida, where Terry is the Minister for the Stuart C of C. They have two children, Casey and Creston.

Don House ('65) is a former Arkansas legislator, is serving his first term as Mayor of the City of Walnut Ridge, AR. He spent a career preaching and doing mission campaigns. He still preaches part time for the Downtown Hardy, AR C of C. He owns a funeral home in Walnut Ridge and has turned operation of the business over to his son, Jim Ed House ('89).

Don is a member of the CRC board of trustees and was named the first Distinguished Alumnus of CRC. Married to the former Mary Jane (Busby) ('65) who is a retired elementary teacher. They are the parents of a daughter Kerri, deceased, and a son Jim Ed.

CRA Mourns Loss of Two Great Servants

Crowley’s Ridge College has lost two special supporters recently. CRC Board Member Jack G. Justus of Searcy, Arkansas passed away on July 31, 2011. Jack was elected to the CRC Board in 1997, and served for 14 years. He is survived by his wife of 61 years, Sue, two sons, and five grandchildren. Jack was a loving husband, committed father, endearing grandfather, doting great-grandfather, insightful elder of the Church, motivating Bible teacher, accomplished speaker, friend to farmers and faithful servant to the Lord.

WCRC Founder and former CRC faculty member, Metta Dean Moore, also of Searcy, Arkansas passed away on October 10, 2011. She taught health and physical education. She also began and promoted CRC Pioneer Days with its competition in pioneer activities. In 1970, she started Women For Crowley’s Ridge College (WCRC) which has provided volunteer services for the school and has raised more than $350,000 over the years.

These two great servants will be truly missed by all of us at Crowley's Ridge College.

Year-End Giving Techniques for the “Year of the Gift”

1. IRA Charitable Rollover option extended through 2011

A provision commonly known as the “Charitable IRA Rollover” has been extended until December 31, 2011. This provision allows taxpayers, age 70½ or older, to make tax-free transfers of up to $100,000 per year directly from their traditional or Roth IRA to charity. A husband and wife with separate IRAs could give up to $200,000 per year. Unless the legislation is extended again, the opportunity for Charitable IRA Rollover gifts will expire after December 31, 2011.

• Such gifts can be made without increasing your taxable income or withholding.
• Funds transferred from your IRA to charity will NOT subject your Social Security income to higher tax levels.
• Funds transferred from your IRA to charity WILL COUNT toward your required minimum distribution.
• To avoid being taxed, the distributions should be made directly to one or more charities from your traditional or Roth IRA. The check should be payable to the charity and not to your name.

Crowley’s Ridge College can furnish you and your IRA custodian with the appropriate information to help with this tax-free transfer from your traditional or Roth IRA.

2. Giving Appreciated Assets may cost You less

A gift of an appreciated asset is a popular alternative to a cash gift because it actually saves taxes twice.

You receive an income tax deduction for the full fair market value of the asset (if you’ve owned the asset for more than one year) and you also save the capital gains tax on the appreciation. Plus, it may cost you less money out of your pocket to give an appreciated asset (worth more than a year) compared with giving the same amount in cash.

For example, you decide to give $10,000 to Crowley’s Ridge College as a year-end gift for our Honor Housing Capital Campaign. You have $10,000 in the bank that you could give and you also have an asset that you paid $5,000 for two years ago, which is now worth $10,000. Which asset should you give? The appreciated asset will cost you $5,000 less out of your pocket compared to making a cash gift of $10,000. Plus, you receive a charitable deduction for the full fair market value and avoid capital gains tax on the appreciated asset.

Remember, to take advantage of the capital gains tax savings on appreciated stock or other securities; have your broker transfer it directly to a brokerage account of Crowley’s Ridge College. If the security is sold and the proceeds are given to CRC, you will not be eligible for the capital gains tax savings.

Appreciated assets can be given to CRC’s Annual Fund Campaign or for our Honor Housing Capital Campaign or as a gift toward one of our existing or a new scholarship endowment fund to help future students each year.

3. Could You or Your Parents benefit from a Charitable Gift Annuity (CGA)?

A Charitable Gift Annuity is an excellent, safe alternative to provide you and/or your spouse or any two persons a fixed, guaranteed income for life. Perhaps you have parents that need to increase their income, especially if most of their income is from social security. You can make a gift to CRC in exchange for a CGA to help provide your parents with their higher retirement income. On a Deferred CGA can be an excellent way to increase retirement income for someone in their 40’s or 50’s, but don’t want the payout until they retire in their 60’s.

For more information about any of these Year-End Giving techniques, contact: RICHARD JOHNSON, Vice President for Advancement 870-236-6901 or rjohnson@crc.edu.