Winter’s Fury = FUN for CRC students

This season’s recent snowstorms brought a lot of laughter and fun for CRC students as well as other young people in the community as they came to our hilly campus for sledding and snowball fights!

CRC BIBLE MAJORS ... making a difference!

Senior Bible Major Michael Chaffin (right) is now preaching fulltime for the Northside Church of Christ in Blytheville, Arkansas. Michael is married to the former Emily Smith (granddaughter of CRC Founder Emmett Smith). Junior Bible Major Josh Parnell (left) conducted a Gospel Meeting for the Crockett Church of Christ in Senatobia, Mississippi last summer and made quite an impression on them. CRC recently received a generous gift from this congregation in support of our Bible Program and in honor of Josh. He and his fiance, Laura Reed, CRC sophomore, plan to be married this summer.

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So much has happened since our last Insider, and I am excited to share that information with you. A picture on the front page of our last Insider (see below) showed a bulldozer starting the excavation on the new student center. Compare that picture to the one you see to the right. The exterior of the building is completed and we are now in the process of finishing the interior. We have moved the construction process along quite well in spite of the very uncooperative weather. Our students can hardly wait to start using this wonderful facility. Even in its unfinished state, a visit to our campus now includes a tour of this new facility.

February 15 was President’s Day and I was asked to speak in chapel. I spoke about the five CRC Presidents who have served before me and emphasized the dedicated service of CRC’s founder, Emmett Smith. I told our students about Bro. Smith using Nehemiah 2:18 as a text for his first sermon that he preached at the Seventh and Mueller Congregation on October 17, 1948. “Let us rise up and build. So they strengthened their hands for this good work.” I am confident that Bro. Smith would be delighted to see the progress of each construction phase and the resolve of CRC’s supporters to see this “good work” through to completion.

My chapel talk included a discussion concerning just how thankful students should be for CRC’s generous donors. I explained that each school year 75% of CRC’s operational cost is covered by students paying tuition and fees. The other 25% each year comes from donors who have made a conscious decision to support CRC. I then showed our students the following power point slide:

I believe we can safely say that there has never been a building built on the CRC campus from students paying tuition and fees. Building projects are funded by interested donors, and how thankful we are for generous donors that support CRC.

On January 13, 2010, CRC was notified by The Mabee Foundation of Tulsa, Oklahoma that CRC had been awarded a challenge grant of $63,000 for financial assistance toward the student center project. Vice President for Advancement, Richard Johnson, had submitted a proposal to the foundation on November 9, 2009, requesting the $63,000 grant. The Mabee Foundation Board met on January 12, 2010, and approved CRC’s request. The following statement is from the foundation’s approval letter:

“The Mabee Foundation Board considered your application and does hereby issue a challenge grant in the amount of $63,000 toward this project provided you raise the balance needed for the total project ($257,000) from other contributors by June 30, 2010.”

I am confident that one of the reasons that the Mabee Foundation approved our request was because of the large amount of funds that had already been contributed toward this project which showed donor loyalty, confidence, and ability. As of today, 72 gifts totaling $160,230 have been received toward the $257,000 amount needed. Meeting the Mabee challenge will require CRC to raise an additional $96,770 by June 30, 2010 in order to receive the $63,000. Here is another way to view this wonderful opportunity for CRC. From this point forward every $1,000 gift toward the student center project will generate a $630 matching gift from the Mabee Foundation. Every $1 raised will be matched with 63 cents until our entire project cost is met. CRC donors are very concerned about stretching their gifts and seeing that a lot of good is accomplished with every donated dollar. What an excellent opportunity to make your gift pay huge dividends for CRC! In my opinion, the Mabee Foundation might as well go ahead and make out their $63,000 check because CRC’s generous donors will meet the challenge!
Imagine the positive impact on Crowley’s Ridge College, if a good number of our supporters included a gift to CRC from their will or estate plan? Including a charitable bequest in your will or estate plan to CRC could eventually mean a significant amount of money coming to the College. Perhaps it would be $10,000, $25,000, $50,000 or more than a $100,000.

Imagine what CRC could accomplish if we received five to ten of these gifts each year? We could pay for annual scholarships provided to students, we could offer additional scholarships, we could improve existing facilities, build a new dormitory or a Bible and Chapel building. We could add on to the Administration Building and Learning Center. We could pave the entire campus and all parking areas. We could . . .

However, according to the National Committee on Planned Giving, only 6 to 8 percent of USA households include charitable gifts in their will. Another finding that equally alarms me, estimates that 60 to 70 percent of USA households do not have a will in place. If one dies without a will, the laws of the State dictate what happens to the assets that you worked so hard to accumulate and more importantly, the State will determine the guardianship of minor children.

I believe that friends of Crowley’s Ridge College have done better than these statistics reveal. One excellent example of our friends remembering CRC in their estate plan was received in November of 2009, when Jerry and Darlene Meeker visited campus and brought a $29,276.58 estate gift from Jerry’s mother, the late, Edith Meeker Simpson. This generous blessing was from the Edith O. Simpson Charitable Remainder Trust, which she set up in 1999 to honor her first husband, Laman Meeker. The trust paid income to Mrs. Edith (Meeker) Simpson for her life. At her death, her heirs received the same payment for a term of years. Once the end of the term paying her heirs was completed, the remainder was divided equally between Crowley’s Ridge College and another charity. Mrs. Edith (Meeker) Simpson was a faithful member of the church of Christ. CRC is grateful that part of her legacy included her thoughtfulness in blessing this needed ministry.

There are a number of simple ways to leave a charitable gift to Crowley’s Ridge College or the Church or your other favorite charities from your will or estate plan. Here are several of the most common methods:

1. Leave a gift in your will, as either a specific amount or specific property or as a percentage, or, whatever remains in your estate after your other beneficiaries have received what your will or estate plan designated for them.

2. Name CRC as the beneficiary of your pension plan or IRA or as a percentage beneficiary. Certain assets such as IRAs, qualified pension plans, and savings bonds are subject to income taxes because their income has not been taxed during life. If you intend to give to charity from your estate, these assets are usually the best assets to use considering these tax issues, which do not occur when these assets are given to charities such as CRC. Other assets that do not have these tax issues would be more wisely used as gifts to heirs.

3. Life insurance is another option that many choose when making charitable gifts. Perhaps you have a paid up policy that is no longer needed. Transferring ownership of the policy to CRC would be an easy way to make a gift to the College and provide an immediate income tax deduction to you for the cash surrender value of the policy. A second option to consider is designating CRC as a full or partial beneficiary of the death benefit of an insurance policy. A third option would be for you to make annual gifts to CRC to pay for a life insurance premium on your life that at your death will provide a substantial gift to the College. You receive an income tax deduction for your annual gift that in effect, reimburses CRC the amount of the premium payments. Many other planned giving options exist for life insurance, but these are some of the simpler ones that can provide a substantial charitable gift to CRC.

Many donors worry that making charitable gifts during their life in the above and other ways will take away from their income needs, especially during challenging times such as a health and/or financial crisis. Or, that providing a charitable gift from their will or estate plan will take away from what their heirs will receive. I have worked with many financial advisors and attorneys in the planned giving and estate planning field since 1994. The first items I have learned to address are to make certain you have the income needed for life and to meet each of your objectives, such as providing for heirs. This can usually be done in a way that will generate tax savings and an income stream for yourself, a spouse or children and redirect what normally would be paid in taxes, to instead, go to your favorite charity such as CRC.

I hope you will contact me to find out more about creating an estate plan that provides for your needs and values first. If you are interested in making a charitable gift to CRC through your will or estate plan, I can show you how without taking way from you or your heirs. Our services are free and completely confidential.

Richard Johnson, MNM (‘84), Vice President for Advancement • rjohnson@crc.edu • 870-476-0942 (cell)
CROWLEY’S RIDGE COLLEGE • 100 College Dr • Paragould, AR 72450 • 870-236-6901 or 1-800-264-1096 • www.crc.edu

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SPIRIT OF AMERICA • April 23, 2010

featuring Grand Ole Opry’s MIKE SNIDER
& The Mike Snider String Band

Dinner at 6 p.m., Program at 7 p.m.

Spirit of America XVIII is scheduled for April 23, 2010 on the CRC Campus. Mike Snider and The Mike Snider String Band will be our featured performers. This event is CRC’s premier community event and scholarship fundraiser.

Sponsorship Opportunities:
$2,500 - Event Underwriter
$500 - Corporate Sponsor
$50 - Individual Tickets

An Event Underwriter receives up to five tables for up to 40 preferred seating tickets. Corporate Sponsors receive eight preferred seating tickets.

Mike Snider, who was born and lives in Gleason, Tennessee, made his way on the country music scene in the 1980's with his incomparable wit and stellar banjo playing. Mike first worked his way into people's hearts through his hundreds of spots on TNN's Nashville Now, and his seven-year stay in the cornfield on “Hee Haw,” a syndicated television show. In addition to his television work, Mike and his band entertained crowds for seven years at Nashville's Opryland USA.

Mike's popularity ultimately garnered him a membership among country music's elite - The Grand Ole Opry. A Grand Ole Opry member since 1990, Mike continues to draw laughter and entertain crowds with his music. Within the last year, though, Mike has seen his dreams of musical evolution come to fruition. He has assembled a band of crack musicians who love to play real, heart-felt American fiddle tunes as much as Mike does. This love for playing has not gone unnoticed. Eddie Stubbs, Grand Ole Opry announcer and 650 WSM Radio DJ, calls The Mike Snider String Band, "The best string band in the nation.” Now, in addition to Mike's genuinely funny demeanor, crowds have been raving about this group's music. The string band has a distinctly great sound that comes from playing traditional tunes from across the nation with fresh, engaging arrangements.

Mike's show is exciting, funny, moving, easy-going, but above all, honest---from his heart. We hope you will join us at Spirit of America XVIII. For tickets or more information, contact us at (870) 236-6901 or (800) 264-1096.

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10th Annual Bible Lectureship:
The Ten Commandments

Sunday, April 18, 2010
7:00 p.m. - Keynote Session
Songs - Chase Akins
Speaker - Spencer Furby
“No Other Gods”

Monday, April 19, 2010
9 a.m. - Combined Session
Speaker - Paul McFadden
“Introduction”

10:00 a.m. - Class No. 1 (Men)
Speaker - Ron Combs
“Moses”

10:00 a.m. - Class No. 2 (Women)
Speaker - Maria Sullivan
“Miriam”

11:00 a.m. - Chapel
Speaker - Stan Dauck
“Don’t Commit Adultery”

1:00 p.m. - Combined Session
Speaker - Glen Knabe
“Don’t Steal”

2:00 p.m. - Combined Session
Speaker - David Lawrence
“Aaron”

7:00 p.m. - Keynote Session
Songs - Royce McMillon
Speaker - Ron Newberry
“Don’t Bear False Witness”

Tuesday, April 20, 2010
9 a.m. - Combined Session
Speaker - David Flanrey
“Jethro”

10:00 a.m. - Question & Answer
Speaker - Earl Edwards

11:00 a.m. - Chapel
Speaker - Jay Allen
“Honor Your Father & Mother”

1:00 p.m. - Combined Session
Speaker - Ken Roden
“Don’t Murder”

2:00 p.m. - Combined Session
Speaker - Michael Chaffin
“Who is on the Lord’s Side?”

7:00 p.m. - Keynote Session
Songs - Kevin Rowe
Speaker - Johnny Hinton
“No Idols”

Wednesday, April 21, 2010
9 a.m. - Combined Session
Speaker - George Hulett
“Three Required Feasts”

10:00 a.m. - Class No. 1 (Men)
Speaker - Tommie Boles
“Battle With Amalek”

10:00 a.m. - Class No. 2 (Women)
Speaker - Glenda Robb
“Shiphrah & Puah”

11:00 a.m. - Chapel
Speaker - Spencer Furby
“Don’t Take God’s Name in Vain”

1:00 p.m. - Combined Session
Speaker - Larry Owen
“Remember the Sabbath”

2:00 p.m. - Combined Session
Speaker - Michael Chaffin
“The Ark of the Covenant”

7:00 p.m. - Keynote Session
Songs - Larry Brinkley
Speaker - Sid Smith
“You Shall Not Covet”

(All classes held in Gay Carter Activities Center)
MitCh walton of Pocahontas was recently named the Crowley’s Ridge College Distinguished Alumnus for 2010. On Tuesday, February 16, CRC President Ken Hoppe and CRC Vice Presidents Art Smith and Richard Johnson presented this award to Mitch at a home basketball game in the Sloan-Hendrix gymnasium in Imboden, Arkansas. Mitch is the superintendent for the Sloan-Hendrix School District.

Surprised by the award, Mitch said, “I cannot adequately express the gratitude I have for those who influenced me in past years as a student at CRC from 1975-77 and as a staff member from 1980-82. I have been blessed more than I deserve in my lifetime, but I can honestly say the years spent at CRC were a major part of the foundation of my life. The privilege of getting to know and work with Emmett Smith, Boyd Morgan, Phil Wilkerson, Carter Geer, Jim and Kay Gowen, Metta Dean Moore, Joe Alley, Mike Runcie, and many others was priceless!! Many people that I now count as friends came about because of my association with Crowley’s Ridge College. The traveling that was associated with the Ambassadors quartet and Choralaires allowed me to see a great portion of our great state and nation. So many valuable spiritual lessons were learned through the great influences of my teachers and friends at CRC.”

Mitch is the son of the late Joe Walton and Joyce Walton of Walnut Ridge, Arkansas and graduated from Crowley’s Ridge College in 1977. He graduated from Harding University with a Bachelors degree in Social Science in 1979 and worked as an Admissions Counselor at CRC from 1981-82. He later earned a Master of Science in Education degree in Secondary Administration from Arkansas State University.

Mitch is married to the former Terri Futrell. They have one son and daughter-in-law, Matthew and Alicia, and one daughter, Paige. Mitch was appointed Principal for the Sloan-Hendrix School District in 1993, and continued in that position until 2009, when he was appointed Superintendent. He also serves as an elder for the Pyburn Street Church of Christ in Pocahontas, Arkansas.

“CRC is proud to present this award to Mitch in recognition of his outstanding service to the Church, the Community, Christian Education, and Public Education,” said President Hoppe.

On Saturday, February 20, 2010, CRC history was made. For the first time, four upper classmen candidates, chosen by the student body, were included in the Homecoming Court. These four candidates, along with four freshmen and four sophomores represented their classes. Members of the student body served as escorts for the attendants. Kenyon Forehand and Zoie Delmont (grandchildren of CRC employees Larry and Sonia Johnson) presented the crown and flowers. The entire group is pictured above.

Paige McFadden of Walcott, Arkansas was selected as the 2010 Homecoming Queen. She was escorted by Jay Lyles of Paragould, Arkansas. Paige is a Junior Business Major, a member of Who’s Who, and is the Junior Class Vice-President. Jay is a Sophomore Bible Major, a member of Justified, Who’s Who, and Sigma Chi Eta.

This history making day was enjoyed by the large crowd that attended. An Alumni Reception during the ballgame gave the alumni a chance to “re-connect” with each other. The Pioneers played an exciting game, tying it up late in the second half, but fell a few points short in the end to the Ecclesia College Royals.
Check out our new **ALUMNI NEWS** button on the website to keep up with all the great things our alumni are doing AND let us know of exciting news you would like to share!

**Special Events Information**

**Prospective Student Information**

**Schedules for Volleyball, Basketball, Baseball and Softball - COME SUPPORT THE PIONEERS!**

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