CROWLEY'S RIDGE COLLEGE THE INSIDER

FALL 2023



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The Insider is the feature magazine for Crowley's Ridge College, developed to inform and connect our alumni, students, faculty, staff, and friends. It is published twice a year, during the spring and fall semesters. You may suggest changes, send letters to the editor, and other comments to:

nharrell@crc.edu



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23RD ANNUAL BIBLE LECTURESHIP

CROWLEY'S RIDGE COLLEGE

UNLEASHING THEANOINTED (Youth Night)

Games • Dinner • Worship • Giveaways
Scholarship Opportunities



Keynote Speaker: Luke DockeryCarter Activities Center | 6pm

Luke Dockery, M. Div. is a Youth & Family Minister for Cloverdale Church of Christ in Searcy, AR and an adjunct instructor of Biblical Studies at Harding University.

crc.edu/lectureship

This semester so far...

























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MABEE FOUNDATION CHALLENGE ACCEPTED



Dr. Richard Johnson President

My article in the Spring 2023 edition of The Insider summarized many blessings taking place at Crowley's Ridge College, from new degree programs and partnerships with Harding University and Freed-Hardeman University followed by construction plans this year for a new Chemistry building along with correcting a critical

infrastructure area by installing a new lift station. I hope you enjoy reading this update about those important areas, along with some other blessings that God has helped CRC with since the previous edition of The Insider.

First, the new lift station design and approval process is coming along nicely. However, the entire process has taken longer than the experts hired for this project anticipated when I wrote my Spring 2023 article. Without getting into the details of the changes in design, location, and how it will be powered; the lift station must be designed and approved before construction begins on the new Chemistry building. Construction on the lift station is still expected to be completed later this year. However, we are having to push the beginning construction date on the new Chemistry building into next year due to this delay. None of this will adversely affect our new degree programs that will be using the new Chemistry building, which is excellent news.

Second, nothing has changed with the new Chemistry building, other than the cost may be higher than anticipated with the impact of inflation and the economy on the price of building materials, and the adding of an extra parking lot across the street to better accommodate the terrain and the need for more parking at this new building and the existing Physical Sciences building. The total cost of both projects; the

lift station and Chemistry building is now estimated at \$3,311,667. I applied to the J.E. and L.E. Mabee Foundation to fund 20% of the total cost for these two projects. They agreed to do that and will give CRC a grant of \$662,333 provided we can raise an additional \$1,071,204 by July 11, 2024 in order to receive this generous grant gift. When CRC raises \$1,071,204, the Mabee Foundation will then send the College a grant gift of \$662,333. Receiving this grant will go a long way in helping us fund the lift station and new Chemistry building.

Third, both projects are part of our Mission Possible \$12 million capital campaign. We have been working diligently in visiting with friends and foundations asking them to contribute major gifts for the campaign, especially for the lift station and Chemistry building, which are connected to several new degree opportunities made possible by partnerships with Harding University and Freed-Hardeman University. Donors have blessed the College with generous gifts and pledges toward the Mission Possible capital campaign to date totaling \$2,296,614, which is 19.1% of the \$12 million campaign goal! You can read more about Mission Possible and the numerous ways it will help CRC forge ahead at crc.edu/mission-possible.

Fourth, meet Brett Carlile, CRC's new Director of Advancement. Brett's background in ministry and business-to-business sales and advertising, and church involvement will assist CRC's fundraising efforts. Brett and his wife, Lisa, attend the 7th & Mueller Church of Christ in Paragould, AR and have two daughters and six grandchildren. Brett will be helping direct our annual giving program, coordinate church visits and civic club visits, and solicit sponsorship gifts for the Spirit of America event. He will also be involved in helping to organize our Mission Possible capital campaign as we look for opportunities to host regional events around the country to tell friends and potential supporters about Crowley's Ridge College.

As we have emphasized before, the theme of our Mission Possible capital campaign is from Matthew 19:26, "with God all things are possible."



Dr. Johnson and Brett Carlile pictured with U.S. Congressman Rick Crawford, who recently visited campus.

meeting about our Mission Possible campaign. Thank you for your prayers, love for the College, friendship, and partnership. Looking forward to hearing from you and visiting soon.

In Christ,

Richard Johnson, Ed.D. President (CRC '84)

It is obvious that God is working in the midst of CRC receiving so many blessings. You see that in our record-breaking year for CRC Day 2023 (\$112,065), our increased enrollment for the 4th consecutive year, and in the impact of Art Smith in his 40 years of service at the College and a fantastic reason to honor him as his son, Cade, is doing in the creating of a new endowment fund (see page 5). You see God's blessings at CRC in helping us to take care of a critical infrastructure area with a new lift station that will service all current and future buildings on our campus. You see God's work in the \$662,333 grant opportunity to help CRC fund the lift station and new Chemistry building if we can raise an additional \$1,071,204 by July 11, 2024. I hope you will help us do that by returning the reply card below or by making a gift online at crc.edu/donations. I am also happy to come visit with you to discuss this with you in person, or perhaps you know someone that you would like for me to meet or invite to a regional

P.S. As you consider your Year-End Gift to CRC, giving to meet the Mabee Challenge Grant can be a tremendous help to the college and help us more than double our Year-End gifts, which are certainly needed to meet the many giving areas included in this edition of The Insider. Another option to consider is to endow your annual giving, or support one of our degree programs, or a scholarship, or honor a loved one, by including CRC in your will or estate plan. A third option is a partial gift, partial investment through a charitable gift annuity, which provides you a fixed income for life with fixed rates from 3.3% to 9.7% based on the age of the donor(s). A FREE illustration can be created and mailed to your home. For more information about any of these areas, contact me at 870-236-6901 or rjohnson@crc.edu.



Phone

CRC MISSION POSSIBLE CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

□ \$100,000 □ \$ 50,000 □ \$ 25,000	□ \$10,000 □ \$ 5,000 □ \$ 2,500			_	
Name					
Address				_	This will be a:
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Mail this slip to:

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CRC, Attn: Richard Johnson, 100 College Dr, Paragould, AR 72450 or make donation online at www.crc.edu/electronic_transactions/donations.html

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# of years	beginning			
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☐ Please contact me to discuss my gift to				
CPC's MISSION POSSIBLE Capital Campaign				

scan here for more info

ENDOWMENT FUND CREATED IN HONOR OF CRC GREAT, ART SMITH

by CADE SMITH

For my entire life, I have known that the most important things to Art Smith (Dad) were faith, family, and friendships. Crowley's Ridge College has embodied all of these things for my dad. For the past 40 years, CRC has been a major part of his ministry, a big part of our family, and a place where life-long friendships have been made.

CRC has made a huge impact on our family. It is where my dad met my mom. It is where he taught hundreds of students about ministry. It is where our family has made friends that have become family.

Some of my earliest memories about CRC involve us attending basketball and baseball games. I remember being in the administration building during phone-athons. We have gone on countless backpacking trips, where many of those friendships were forged. The homecomings, Barnyard Bashes, Pioneer Days, and Lectureships were always on our calendar.

CRC has been a blessing to our family. While it would be hard for him to say it, I think it is safe to say that my dad has been a blessing to CRC as well. From his role as an adjunct professor which began 4 decades ago to his transition into full-time work in fundraising, teaching, and administration to his leadership on mission trips and sending out ministers to area churches, it is evident that he has made an impact. It is impossible to quantify the lives that have been touched because of the ways that God has continued to use him.

It was certainly an honor for him and our family to be the Spirit of America Award recipient this year and I think it was well deserved. Our family is delighted to endow a scholarship in dad's name that will benefit CRC students and help to continue his legacy for many years to come.

On behalf of our family, we thank the faculty, staff, and students of CRC for being such an integral part of our family history and we are forever grateful to be



affiliated with this great institution.

Students eligible for the scholarship awards provided by the Arthur D. Smith Endowed Bible Scholarship Fund will include current and future students at Crowley's Ridge College. First preference will be given to students who have selected Bible as their major or for expense needs connected with ministry such as mission trips, workshops, Bible, or other ministry areas.

Anyone may add to this endowment fund at any time. Gifts can be made by mailing a check to Crowley's Ridge College at 100 College Drive, Paragould, AR 72450 or can be made online via a checking account or credit card at www.crc.edu/donations. Once on this page, select "Art Smith Endowed Bible Scholarship" from the pulldown menu "Type of Donation" and then complete the remainder of the form.

CONTINUING TO GROW

by NATALIE HARRELL, Editor

Crowley's Ridge College experienced its fourth consecutive enrollment increase for the Fall 2023 semester with a total headcount of 225 students, an 11.94% increase from last year. These 225 students represent 20 states with 121 or 54% participating in CRC's collegiate sports teams and 104 or 46% are not participating in our collegiate athletic program. Overall, CRC has a Full Time Equivalency (FTE) of 188.53 students.

CRC strives to keep its enrollment growing by adding new degrees, new partnerships with other colleges and universities, visiting more churches, public and private schools, and reaching out to home school students, families, and associations. CRC strives to provide students with a safe, challenging, and enjoyable Christian college experience that prepares them for success in all aspects of life. CRC is a private Christian college at a public school price. Find out more at crc.edu/admissions or crc.edu/financial-aid or crc.edu/financial-aid-scholarships.

Contact us today if you have a son, daughter, grandchild, niece or nephew or friend that you think can benefit by enrolling at Crowley's Ridge College.

A RARE WORK ETHIC

by NATALIE HARRELL, Editor

One of the most significant experiences recommended during your time as an undergraduate student is an internship. In fact, it's required by all four areas of study at Crowley's Ridge College in order to graduate with a four year degree. Gaining work experience is key in boosting your employability, and several CRC students stood out at their recent internships during the Summer 2023 term, including Senior Sports Management major, Avery Perkins, and Senior Biblical Studies Major, Caleb Krimmel.

Avery Perkins is simply a gem. At least that's what the President and CEO of the Jackson Rockabillys referred to him as. The Rockabillys, a summer collegiate baseball team that competes in the prospect league and is located in Jackson, Tennessee were graced with an outstanding intern team this summer including Perkins. Avery had a wide range of responsibilities covering almost all aspects of the in-season game day duties. His duties ranged from season



ticket and box office ticket administrating, umpire coordination, equipment preparation, food and beverage, merchandise and on field preparation. "Avery was always the first to volunteer for any duty - no matter the assignment," said Lisa Bastien, Rockabillys Executive

Vice President/Operations. "When Avery was given a task or responsibility we knew we were in good hands. No matter how many duties he took on in a day, he would always ask if there was something else he could do. It is rare to find that kind of work ethic and we were very fortunate to have him as part of our team," added Bastien.

Jordan Malone, Perkins' academic advisor, sang his praises too. "Avery is one of the most motivated kids that I've had in my program. He knows what he wants and he goes for it," said Malone. "I am so proud to see a student really dive into the world of Sports Management and let everyone see that the jobs that you dream of are attainable if you work for it."

Perkins is the son of CRC Head Men's Basketball Coach Chris Perkins and is a guard for the Pioneers. He will graduate in May and plans to pursue a job with a minor or major league baseball team. He credits many of his business courses at CRC as major contributors to his standout internship performance, including Business Communication and Leadership. However, it's hard to beat his work ethic.

Caleb Krimmel, another soon-to-be CRC alumni, spent his summer making a mark as well. A senior Biblical Studies major from Michigan served as a summer intern at Fairview



Heights Church of Christ in Fairview Heights, IL. His tasks revolved around preparing for and leading Wednesday Bible classes, preaching occasionally, and leading various youth trips.

Krimmel was named Mr. CRC 2023, the most remarkable award a student can receive. Presented by President Johnson, the Mr. CRC award is voted on by faculty and staff and is awarded to an upperclassman that demonstrates school participation, leadership, friendliness, attitude toward peers, academic excellence, and most importantly dedication to Christian living. His work ethic was admired by the Fairview Heights' church leadership this summer too, so much so that they offered him the full time position of Youth Minister to begin January 2024. Krimmel is quick to credit CRC for his preparation and success this summer. "Many of my classes have helped with my Bible knowledge as a whole," says Krimmel. "I have myriads of pieces of information that I need and want to learn about the Bible, but my knowledge has greatly increased since being at CRC."

Jeremy Pierce, Krimmel's academic advisor, says he has about as much pride in Krimmel as a father does for his own son.

"It has been an absolute delight to have Caleb as a Biblical Studies major and watch him grow not only as a student of God's Word but also a spiritual leader on campus. I look forward to seeing him thrive in his upcoming years of ministry, for the glory of God and the expansion of God's kingdom," says Pierce.





RIDGE CONNECTION UPDATE

by CALEB HAMBELTON, Campus Minister

We've had a very strong start to the school year. There's nothing like seeing the students come back on campus. For both returning and new students, it is a reminder of the huge, yet extremely important work ahead. We have many things that will still be familiar from last year, but we have some new stuff added.

The theme for Summit this year is "Your Name." Specifically, we are looking at the different names of Jesus which we find in Scripture. Acts 4:12 says, "And there is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved." The goal for this theme is to look at what the different names tell us about Jesus, what He does for us, and what that means for us and our relationship with Him.

Small groups, service projects, and Women's Campfire Devos are all new things happening this semester for us. We currently have three separate groups that are meeting (two women's and one men's). At the time of writing this, we will have gone to Mission Outreach twice to serve food. There are plans to expand into other things in the community as well. We are confident that with God's help, this will be a great opportunity for His light to shine through the students. Once the school year started, an idea was brought up by one of the students to start a Women's Campfire Devo. We are excited to see the outcome of these new activities and how they will develop and grow as the school year progresses.

We are also gearing up for our Fall Retreat which will take place in Branson, Missouri. I know there is already a lot of excitement for this trip by students. While many of the final details are still in the

works, it can be said that there will be a lot of fun, relaxation, and time of fellowship. As long as the weather holds out for us, there will be devotional times around a campfire.

Even though the school year is just getting started, great things are already happening! We want to invite you to follow along with us on Facebook or Instagram. It is our hope that we will be like Paul and Apollos in Romans 3:6, planting and watering so that God will give the increase. We ask for your continued prayers as we minister to the students here at CRC!







PIONEER ATHLETICS

by WIL TEAGUE, Sports Information Director

With the 2023 summer officially closed and the 23-24 academic school year underway, Pioneer Athletics soon roared back to life. Like so many years before, Lady Pioneer Volleyball would play its role as the athletic plow, kickstarting the year and paving the way for the Pioneer Athletic teams. Carissa Winn, now in her fifth season as head coach, looked excitedly at this new year as the Pioneers had a bit of a rebuilding year in the 22-23 season. CRC Volleyball opened the new 23-24 season on August 24th with a tough matchup against Harris-Stowe State University on the road in St. Louis, MO, but proved to carry the momentum from last year into this season's efforts. CRC would eventually fall to the Hornets in their season opener but it would take a decisive 5th set to overtake the Pioneers, unlike like season where HSSU bested the Pioneers with a three-set sweep. The Pioneers quickly bounced back two days later as they hosted Highway 412 rival Williams Baptist University on their court in the Carter Activities Center on Saturday, August 26th. Much like the matchup against HSSU, the Eagles of WBU got the better end of things last season but this year Coach Carissa Winn commanded her team to a thrilling 3-2 set comeback victory allowing CRC to claim their first win of the season with their season home



opener. This win seemed to be the key the Pioneers needed to unlock that extra heart for those long matches as CRC won the next three games, improving to a fourgame win streak, as they defeated Pensacola Christian in 5 sets, Central Baptist College in five sets, and Champion Christian College in 3 sets. The Lady Pioneer have 4 seniors this season, middle blocker

Emi Elms, outside hitters Hannah Halverson & Brooklynn Passmore, and defensive specialist Heather Conaway. These four seniors, along with a slew of returners have already made an impact on the success of the young season by guiding and leading the newly signed freshmen as they improve to 4-1 overall. The Pioneers have started down the right road in hopes of clinching a Continental Athletic Conference (CAC) berth that will take place in November.

RUN IT BACK! This year Pioneer Volleyball would not be the lone sport kicking off the school year. The CRC Cross Country team reemerged and took to the course for the first time in four years on September 8th at the Lyon College Invitational. The commander and chief of the newly reformed XC teams would be first-time coach Shannon Beasley. Beasley is a familiar face to the students as many of them have attended some of his classes and lectures, but don't let the books fool you,

Beasley is not new to the running game. He currently runs a gym in Paragould where he acts as a coach and personal trainer. Beasley took 6 runners, 4 male and 2 female, to Batesville, Ark. where the team collected 4 top 10 finishes and 2 top 15 finishes, bringing home some hardware back to the Ridge. Freshmen standout Anthony Holladay and Senior veteran Pioneer Shelby Elrod both crossed the finish line 6th overall in their divisions. The cross country teams look to compete in their second meet of the season in Memphis, TN at Rhodes College on September 16th.



CRC Men's & Women's Golf is scheduled to tee off on September 18th at the Williams Baptist University Invitational. Head Coach Adam Meeker, entering his fourth year, looks to push his group with the help of seniors Isaac Langley and Creston Sweet. The Pioneers look to beat last year's efforts of a bronze finish at the CAC tournament.

Men's and Women's Basketball are both scheduled to debut on November 3rd in Pensacola, FL. The Pioneers are led by 17-year seasoned veteran head coach Chris Perkins at the helm. Perkins' partner in crime will be different this season as CRC added Brady Flynn to the coaching staff this summer. Flynn was formally a graduate assistant at Shorter University but now will serve as the men's assistant coach. The Pioneers look to build off last year's team with 6'6 forward Braxton Cousins returning and the addition of North Arkansas College Transfer and newcomer, 6'3 guard George McCurdy. The Lady Pioneers are looking to be led by returners, senior Travia Woodruff and sophomores Hunter Gibson and Brinley Morgan but will have two new faces in their leadership positions as Chris Richardson and Chris Hahn will head the Lady Pioneers in action. Richardson, who joined as an assistant coach late last season, will take control as head pilot in the cockpit for the Lady Pioneers and be joined by Chris Hahn, formally at Greenville HS, in the co-pilot seat. Richardson and Hahn have added some talent in the offseason, looking to help take the Lady Pioneers back to the CAC tournament.

Honor Roll of Donors

Crowley's Ridge College is blessed with a generous family of supporters. The next few pages are CRC's "Honor Roll Listing of Donors" followed by those giving "Memorial & Honor Gifts" for special friends and loved ones. This listing represents gifts from February 21-September 14, 2023. CRC would not be possible without generous support of our donors. Thank you friends for making this wonderful Christian ministry possible and helping us to bless our students each day.

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February 21 - September 14, 2023

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Carolyn Cason

Eddlemon, James Boyd Rosemary Eddlemon

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Hall, Dr. Ronald Cheri Walker

Hamilton, Virgie Rodney and Audra Williams

Hardin, Don Chuck and Donna Conley Richard and Andrea Johnson

Haynes, Valerie Kenneth and Kay Monroe Inman, Betty Richard and Andrea Johnson

Johnson, Jennings Bryan "Grandpa" Logan and Alye Johnson

Johnson, Jennings Bryan Kevin and Laurie Eubanks Rav Gravham Ken and Linda Hoppe G.S. Brant Perkins

Killough, Drew Barbara Mood

King, Ray "Board Member" Dorothy R. King

Lemmons, Chuck **Junior and Sheila Hancock** Daniel and Marta Summitt

Linam, Raymond and Effie Larry and Jane Linam

McClanahan, Fran Richard and Andrea Johnson

McClelland, Eva Union Central Church of Christ

McGuire, Delton Richard and Andrea Johnson

McHenry, Dr. Hugh Charles and Donna Conley Richard and Andrea Johnson

McKelvy, Tommy Kenneth and Kay Monroe

McNabb, Lilly Cathy William McNabb

Morgan, Gerald G. Terry Johnson

Newsom, Alberta David and Barbara Cole Richard and Andrea Johnson Carolyn Leach Kenneth and Kay Mills

Page, Peggy Kenneth and Kay Monroe

Parker, Charles Kevin and Laurie Eubanks Richard and Andrea Johnson

Pierce, Anzly Caidyn Daniel and Marta Summitt

Powell, Albert Kevin and Laurie Eubanks

Robinson, Jeanette Kenneth and Kay Monroe

Selvidge, Betty Jimmy Selvidge

Smith, Bob J. leanette Hoskins Rebecca Redman

Stayton, Johnny & Glenda Leon Stayton

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Memorials

- Continued

Stormes, Mary AliceBruce and Evelyn Lemieux

Stout, Nancy Kenneth and Kay Monroe

Taylor, Dr. TriceChris and Shelly Gardner
Edwin and Carolyn Grogan
Richard and Andrea Johnson
William and Carole Johnson
Glenda Robb
Tommy Womack

Vinson, Stan Linda Vinson

Walton, Joe and Joyce Mitch and Terri Walton

Wood, Gene Joe and Karen Pillow

Wood, Jo Ann Joe and Karen Pillow

Honors

February 21 - September 14, 2023

Bradford, CodyNorthside Church of Christ

Coburn, J. Juanice Rebecca Redman

Howard, Tim and Julie Tina Davis

Kieffner, Fayrene
"Get Well"
Mtn. Home Church of Christ

Luna, James "Jim"
"Happy 99th Birthday"
Peggy Crouch, Beverly Miles,
Sandra Morris

Newsom, DanDavid Cole

Pillow, Jerry and Linda Joe and Karen Pillow

Richardson, James "Happy Birthday" Zach and KristyAnn Grimes

Rippee, Evan *Northside Church of Christ*

Rush, Edith Homer and Mary Jane Kennon

Ryan Reddick Family Frank and Diann Reddick

Smith, Mr. and Mrs. Stan Anonymous

Spencer Furby Family Frank and Diann Reddick

Tankersley, Vickie "Happy Retirement" *Richard and Andrea Johnson*

The Ridge Connection, "Most impressed with the article about it!" Ronald and Marla Roberts