Robert F. “Bob” McDonnell ’89 Law and Government is sworn in as Virginia’s 71st Governor.
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Regent University admits students without discrimination on the basis of race, color, gender, disability, or national or ethnic origin.
The world of virtual technology is fraught with ethical concern, but should Christians jump aboard to use it as an educational tool?

Regent Vice President for Academic Affairs Dr. Carlos Campo is unanimously named the university’s president-elect.

Special Event: ELS speakers remember 9/11, address American Constitutional rights and freedoms, and share insight on economic development and the future of business. Clash of the Titans® hosts political heavyweights to discuss “America’s Future: Can Capitalism Survive?”

News & Notes: The School of Undergraduate Studies hosts a Government Camp for high school students. Regent professors meet terrorists during a fellowship study tour. Alumnus David Acuff starts a website for faith-based films. The School of Education receives TEAC accreditation. Regent’s first ROTC student is sworn in. The School of Divinity launches the Youth and Urban Renewal Center. Regent honors Military Spouse of the Year. RU Global emphasizes global learning. Alumnus Scott Rigell successfully navigates automotive market. Regent celebrates Hispanic Heritage Month. SIFE scholarships help Regent students reach career goals.
The year 2010 is one of important milestones, and we invite you, our dear alumni and friends, to celebrate them with us. The Christian Broadcasting Network celebrated its 50th anniversary in January, the School of Education marks its 50th in April, and we will inaugurate Dr. Carlos Campo as the university’s eighth president this October. The Southern Association of Colleges (SACS) also reaccredited Regent for another 10 years. This reaffirmation means that Regent has fully met the demanding criteria established by SACS.

Our School of Education also received an important new accreditation from the Teacher Education Accreditation Council for its educational leadership and teacher preparation programs. As we gratefully commemorate these historic moments, we also look ahead to an exciting season of expansion detailed in this issue. Last October, we dedicated to the Lord the future site of our new Chapel and Divinity School classroom building. Our board unanimously supports this endeavor; in fact, we have already heard from many folks who want to honor family members through a legacy gift that blesses generations to come. You can also participate in the early phase of the project’s development by becoming a Cornerstone Builder. I encourage you to read the special feature article in this issue to find out how.

Still another proud moment came in celebrating the inauguration of alumnus Robert F. “Bob” McDonnell, ’89 (Law and Government), as Virginia’s 71st governor. Bob’s achievement is a living illustration of Regent’s leadership mission, and we pray for the Lord’s wisdom and blessing upon our new governor. We are thrilled to see one of our own fulfill the mission and vision of this university by serving the people of the Commonwealth of Virginia.

Finally, in our special section, “Faces of Leadership,” you will meet six other outstanding alumni who are truly making an impact from the streets of Historic Downtown Los Angeles to a public school in Canton, Ohio, to the stages of theatres in San Francisco and beyond, in our special section. We are thankful for each of our outstanding alumni who are truly making an impact from the streets of Historic Downtown Los Angeles to a public school in Canton, Ohio, to the stages of theatres in San Francisco and beyond, in our special section. We are thankful for each of our alumni who daily take the Christian leadership skills they honed at this university into the largest of metropolitan cities and the smallest of towns and villages all over the world—changing our world for Christ. We are proud of you and will continue to keep you in our prayers.

Blessings,

Dr. M.G. “Pat” Robertson, Chancellor and President, Regent University
"I was introduced to the 3-D virtual world known as Second Life (SL) at an educator’s conference. Awe by the computerized environment the speaker presented, I thought, “This environment could solve an educational dilemma.” I surmised that instructors could use technology with strong visual and customization abilities to create an environment in which students can develop specific skills.

Virtual worlds like SL simulate a real or imaginary world, using virtual reality (VR) technology that enables a user to interact with the computer-simulated environment.

Since completing a few research studies using SL, I believe a 3-D virtual world can have limitless potential. In one study, student counselors used a virtual counselor-training facility and patient avatars (computer-generated graphic representation of a person or his/her alter ego) to develop their mental health interviewing and diagnostic skills. Despite my findings, other Christians are wary of the new and different.

As Christian leaders, should we write off the potential good of new technologies like virtual worlds without investigating how educational institutions, companies and governments have implemented these new and mysterious virtual places positively? Should we create locked and secure learning and working settings for our students and employees? If so, does this truly prepare potential Christians leaders to change a world they are protected from?

For nearly a decade, virtual worlds have provided millions of users with a place to participate in educational or training opportunities, business endeavors, and entertainment activities. The total population of Internet-based virtual worlds at the end of the second quarter of 2009 was approaching 600 million people.

Second Life, one of the most well-known virtual worlds, is geared toward adults, and hundreds of educational institutions use the SL environment. The Smithsonian, NASA, IBM, Northrop Grumman and the U.S. military use SL for meetings, events and training opportunities.

When explaining SL to my colleagues, they often respond wide-eyed with jaws dropped—unable to imagine what I am describing. Most people need to see and experience SL to understand its potential.

An Internet user accesses SL by logging into the environment using an account and free software. Using an avatar, the user can communicate and complete activities.

While many people expect “game” to be in the description, SL does not have a specific objective. Instead, participants can explore, interact with other users or content, participate in individual and group activities, and create and trade virtual property. This creates a perfect environment for completing simulations and interactive activities or for those needing a low-cost alternative for conducting business.

“Really, is it too real?” a colleague asked me. However, this “realness” is what makes the environment practical for instances such as testing a product, holding a meeting, simulating the human respiratory system or training a student counselor to interview a patient exhibiting the traits of a mentally ill person.

Often when I ask others about their SL experiences, they have none, yet they can reiterate a negative report from a media source or a friend. The reactions emulate many of society’s reactions to various technologies: the World Wide Web, blogs, wikis, etc.

Many people said the Web would never become useful. Likewise, several organizations refused to invest in building and maintaining a website and learning to use the technologies offered. Now, few organizations lack a website. Today, millions of blogs and wikis fill the Web, but some people are still scratching their heads, wondering why people invest so much time in these personal sites.

Ultimately, the early adopters and innovators provide the foundation and leadership for those who follow, and most everyone else eventually jumps on board. So I ask, are we leading, following or not even on the path?

According to Gartner Research, 80 percent of active Internet users will have a “second life” in the virtual world by the end of 2011. KZero Research estimates that by the end 2012, nearly 900 virtual worlds will exist. Are we as leaders prepared to serve others using new technologies? Without isolating ourselves from reality, how can our organizations provide leadership and help our students or employees develop skills to work with new technologies?

Dr. Victoria Walker ’09 (Education) is director of continuing education and web development in the School of Psychology & Counseling.
Regent Announces New President-Elect

Dr. Carlos Campo assumes his new role as Regent’s president in August 2010

Dr. Campo (center) engaged in a lively discussion with Regent students

Dr. Carlos Campo is a man with an optimistic outlook, an eagerness for authenticity and a profound faith that with God all things are possible. With great confidence in his commitment both to embody and advance Christian leadership to change the world, Regent’s board of trustees unanimously appointed Campo the university’s eighth president, a role he will assume on August 1.

“I enthusiastically endorse the board’s selection,” says Chancellor and President Dr. M.G. “Pat” Robertson, who announced his approaching retirement last spring. “Dr. Campo’s commitment to academic quality is equal to his commitment to supporting the spiritual vitality of our university.”

Campo, who joined Regent less than two years ago as vice president for academic affairs, says he very much feels at home at Regent and is excited for the school’s future. “Every university needs to know its distinctives,” Campo explains.

“One could attend a number of great schools for the academics or a Christian environment, but Regent is called to the complete experience of academic excellence, spiritual depth and revolutionizing our world. Regent was built on worship, the vision of seeing lives transformed and a foundational theme of calling.”

Campo brings to Regent more than 20 years of award-winning experience in higher education, including former leadership positions in Nevada’s largest educational institution, the College of Southern Nevada. He immediately used his experience to help Regent secure a successful SACS accreditation, and embark on a global initiative and aggressive growth campaign as the schools reposition financially in response to a volatile stock market and the global recession.

Regarding future plans, Campo applauds Regent’s shift from the singular vision of a graduate institution to one that embraces on-campus undergraduates and a rapidly growing online community. He says the undergraduate community will continue to expand, with additional campus housing approved for 2012 and Regent’s place as an online leader in Christian education solidified.

Regent also will become increasingly intentional as a leading global center of Christian thought and action. The university is looking to develop a program aimed primarily at churches to provide customized curricula to meet their needs for credit and not-for-credit courses. Workforce development is an untapped segment under consideration to provide professional and leadership training from a Christian perspective.

“With every opportunity, we will maintain Regent’s commitment to excellence and selectivity but with readiness to embrace all God has for us,” Campo explains. “We exist for God and people and want to build strong partnerships.”

Without a doubt, Campo leads with a spring in his step and a sparkle in his eye. He references Chick-fil-A founder Truett Cathy to explain his affirmative mantra and the positive culture he sees infusing Regent: “How do you know if a man needs encouragement? If he’s still breathing.”

As he contemplates his role in advancing initiatives that will bring transforming leadership, Campo’s eyes brighten. “I see a victorious future and a community emerging that is serious about academics and God and ready to share Him with the world with a brilliance that changes lives.”

“I see a victorious future and a community emerging that is serious about academics and God and ready to share Him with the world with a brilliance that changes lives.”

A proponent of collaboration, Campo made it an early priority to learn from seasoned Regent employees, interviewing all those who had more than ten years experience. “I wanted God’s vision,” he explains. “I wanted to hear where and how He was being manifested in and through Regent. Then I wanted to know how to take the lid off.”

Already, Campo looks back in awe of God’s hand. “I learned in six months what normally would’ve taken years,” he explains. “And I absolutely carry a heart of thankfulness to God for teaching me to discern what is most needful and to Regent colleagues and students for their unifying spirit.”
Leadership for Freedom, Teamwork, Economy

ELS ’09 speakers include Adm. Vern Clark, Judge Andrew Napolitano, Pat Williams and Brian Wesbury

On a day when the nation paused to remember the tragedy of 9/11, the words of retired Admiral Vern Clark rang true: “This is a day that changed the course of history for every citizen in the United States. I can think of no other like it … Commemorating this event helps us remember that a nation like ours, with such diverging opinions, can come together in unity in an absolutely amazing way.”

Clark, who was serving as Chief of Naval Operations in 2001, made these comments to a capacity audience of about 300 business, military and community leaders at Regent University’s Executive Leadership Series (ELS) kick-off luncheon on September 11. A distinguished professor in Regent’s Robertson School of Government and School of Global Leadership & Entrepreneurship, Clark discussed “Leadership Lessons from 9/11.”

“This is one of those special days in history that virtually everybody has a story about,” he said. “Nearly everyone I have met talks about where they were, what it felt like and what they thought.”

Clark’s 9/11 story places him as one of the top military officers making command response decisions in the early moments after the attack on the World Trade Center. That morning, Clark was in a meeting at his Pentagon office after just returning from a trip to the western Pacific. His executive assistant came in to tell Clark about the first plane hitting the tower, but no one realized the significance until he came in a few moments later with news of the second plane.

Clark immediately went to his desk where he had a number of direct-dial telephones and began trying to reach the chairman of the Joint Chiefs, then the vice chairman. Neither answered, so he placed a call to the commander of the Navy’s Atlantic Fleet to assess strike capabilities.

“From that moment, the game was on,” he said. “We weren’t waiting for direction, we were in react mode. Now, I feel very humbled because at the time, I didn’t give any thought that they (the terrorists) were coming to my house (the Pentagon) next.”

Clark lost 42 people in the attack on the Pentagon, and 90 percent of his command’s offices were destroyed.

Among the many lessons learned from 9/11, Clark honed in on four aspects that leaders must demonstrate in times of crisis: leaders must be visible, composed, vocal and resilient.

For hundreds of business and military leaders, Regent’s ELS provides opportunities to hear from the most innovative voices of leadership in business, politics, academia, entertainment, government, the military and religion.

In October, FOX News Senior Judicial Analyst Judge Andrew Napolitano spoke on the “Constitution in Exile: Analyzing Our Rights and Freedoms.” As a tenacious defender of natural-law freedoms guaranteed by the Constitution, Napolitano is regarded as the American media’s most outspoken analyst of the legal system. For his ELS audience, Napolitano outlined citizens’ guaranteed rights and freedoms under the Constitution and shared his views on how America’s prosperity is fueled by rugged individualism, not government intervention.

In November, the NBA’s Orlando Magic Senior Vice President Pat Williams addressed the importance of building strong teams in “Extreme Dreams Depend on Teams.” One of the nation’s top motivational speakers, he provided guidance on how to establish a dream, build a team to undergird it and merge dreams with teams for powerful results.

In December, Economic forecaster Brian Wesbury rounded out the ELS fall lineup with his thoughts on the 2010 recovery. Named a top forecaster by the Wall Street Journal and USA Today, Wesbury shared insights on economic development and the future of business. He also expounded on principles from his latest book, It’s Not as Bad as You Think, including how to analyze economic indicators and government policy to increase wealth and why capitalism provides an overriding economic strength.

For information, visit www.regent.edu/els.
America’s Future: Can Capitalism Survive?

*Clash of the Titans* debate features Howard Dean, Arianna Huffington, Dick Armey and John Kasich

by Joan Benson

The seventh annual Clash of the Titans® debate gave four national leaders the opportunity to engage in a lively and occasionally heated debate on the weighty and relevant question: “America’s Future: Can Capitalism Survive?” With economic and political change transforming the way America does business, the current trends lead axiomatically to a discussion of the future of capitalism in our nation. And that discussion packed Regent University’s main theater in October when the apt and often humorous Joe Scarborough moderated the debate that featured Howard Dean, Arianna Huffington, Dick Armey and John Kasich—a representation of diverse perspectives from both the left and the right.

Scarborough is a former congressman, author and host of *Morning Joe* on MSNBC, as well as *The Joe Scarborough Show* on ABC radio. Howard Dean is former chairman of the Democratic National Committee and former four-term governor of Vermont who ran for president in 2004. Arianna Huffington co-hosts PBS’s popular radio roundtable, *Left, Right & Center*, and is co-founder of *The Huffington Post*, a widely read and frequently cited news and blog site on the Internet. Dick Armey, author, outspoken defender of microeconomics and freedom from big government, is a former U.S. House Majority Leader. John Kasich, a *New York Times* best-selling author and television host, is a former nine-term congressman from Ohio. Today he hosts *Heartland with John Kasich* on FOX News and holds staunchly to the view that bigger government is not the answer.

Scarborough introduced the four leaders. Each individual, unique in his or her experience and convictions, was recognized as a loyal patriot, one who upholds our Constitution and democracy. Scarborough brought laughter when he insisted that after the many positive

“When Patrick Henry said, ‘Give me liberty or give me death,’ the government gave me Medicare!”

Dick Armey on Medicare
introductory comments, it was time to “scratch and claw until blood is drawn.”

Dick Armey began by explaining how the Founding Fathers understood limiting government to its most necessary role, to provide the rule of law, after experiencing failure with the first colony’s experiment with socialism. Referencing the early Founders’ assignments of separate tasks to specific divisions of government, Armey said, “When government rejects that, it may perish.”

Arianna Huffington responded vigorously, announcing that capitalism will only survive if we start practicing it again. She firmly denounced government intervention in business. Referring to the need for morality on Wall Street, Huffington said capitalism should work in accord with the law of the jungle: “If you make a mistake, you fail.” Noting the lopsided economic recovery with Wall Street giving enormous bonuses while millions face joblessness and foreclosures, Huffington said, “This is a failure of the government-sponsored capitalist system!”

John Kasich momentarily shifted the tone. He applauded some of the positive things that make America special, saying it has a “DNA of entrepreneurship.” Kasich remarked, “Kids learn that if you have a great idea, you can be something.” He added, “Greed is not good. Profit is good.” Kasich then stated that the government has been growing so fast and so large that it’s choking small businesses, keeping us from moving forward.

Tweaking the topic to focus on the elephant in the room— the role of government in healthcare reform—Scarborough invited Howard Dean to weigh in. Dean elaborated on how the past election shifted control of the country to a less partisan younger generation. Stating that more people under 35 had voted in the 2008 presidential election than those over 65, Dean remarked that the young are more desirous of working together.

After Scarborough invited the panelists to take off their debating gloves, Armey jumped in with, “Every serious scholar knows that there has to be government. It should be its essential task to stay out of things that are not its business.”

Huffington punched back by quoting Armey in 1995, saying he didn’t support Medicare for the free world. Getting a rise from the audience, Armey chuckled, saying he expected such an armed attack from Huffington. He clarified his position, saying that Medicare would be a great thing if people could choose participation, without penalties for opting out.

Kasich, Huffington and Armey bantered back and forth about the viability of Medicare and Social Security. Then Huffington dropped in some humor, comparing a recent scandal on Wall Street to the Social Security plight—paying for programs now with monies garnered from the future.

Dean and Kasich continued to jab each other about the current economic stimulus and healthcare controversies. Kasich claimed the Republicans were shut out of the process. Dean tossed the ball back by pointing to Republicans who didn’t want healthcare reform to be a trophy for President Obama, and then confessed that there was plenty of conspiracy on both sides.

The most heated discussion ensued when Armey shared an analogy of government control in the nutrition of senior citizens, making a point that people would not be happy with that kind of interference in personal lifestyle. Huffington adamantly replied that Armey was wasting everyone’s time. “I’m here to debate. I’m not going to dignify your question,” she announced. Armey cautioned that the analogy was true, and the principle could well be applied to government interference in our healthcare.

After the intellectual wrangling, each participant had an opportunity for closing comments. Dean encouraged the younger generation to remain engaged, stating that politics is about organizing other people to do good.

Kasich concluded by saying, “Great leaders get us to raise our own game. If we all in our own way, with the groups we associate with, become great leaders, we can change the world.”

Huffington shared, “Whatever we do, in our economy and in our democracy, has to be for the greater good.”

Armey said his prayer is “that government would be smart enough to know the goodness of its people and decent enough to respect them.”

Scarborough concluded with a moving story about Thomas Jefferson and John Adams, political opponents who learned that their shared love of country was greater than even their most egregious differences. Scarborough encouraged Americans to live out the spirit of Jefferson and Adams for the future of our nation.
Several of the 25 high school students who enrolled in Regent University’s Government Camp 2009 cited the television series 24 as a reason why they were drawn to the camp’s theme of national security, counter-terrorism and intelligence. But after experiencing a week packed with presentations from military experts and visits to high-profile security installations, the students quickly learned that there is more to the war on terror than the television experiences of Jack Bauer.

“The camp changed my perspective on terrorism,” explains 16-year-old Nakia Ridgeway of Lexington, Ky. “My mom researched different government camps for me to go to this summer, but it was Regent’s terrorism theme that stood out to us. The camp made me realize that it takes a lot of intelligence and hard work in the U.S. to be advanced in the area of national security.”

And the students did not leave camp without their own stories of action-packed, often suspenseful field trip tours. They crawled through constructed mountain caves, rode Mine Resistant Ambush Protected (MRAP) vehicles, and witnessed firsthand all of the latest technologies and preventative measures that bomb technicians use—all in just one day.

“Each night my wife and I got a very detailed synopsis of each day from our son Harry, so we knew that this camp was really a hit with him,” says Douglas Burdett. “It even got to the point where he was calling during the day from camp; usually, ‘Dad, you’re never going to believe what I’m doing at camp right now!’ I noticed that each night he was researching on the Internet various aspects related to each day’s activities.”

Government Camp Director Dr. Gerson Moreno-Riano, also chairman of the School of Undergraduate Studies’ Department of Government, History and Criminal Justice, had two goals in mind when he organized the camp down to the last detail on the itinerary: to instill both a passion for and education of government leadership into the students. As a result, many of the campers said that they were encouraged in their future government careers.

“Both of my parents served in the Navy,” says 16-year-old Raechel Rickard of Virginia Beach, Va. “But I want to eventually join the Coast Guard.” Throughout the camp, Rickard spent time networking with the various presenters to understand the details of each military branch. At least half of the campers said that they eventually want to work for the government, and several knew the specific division they want to work in.

Field trip tours included Langley Air Force Base in Hampton; Xe’s (formerly Blackwater Worldwide) comprehensive security training facility in Moyock, N.C.; Computational Intelligence and Machine Vision Laboratory at Old Dominion University; U.S. Coast Guard Integrated Support Command in Portsmouth; Virginia Beach Police Bomb Squad; U.S. Naval Station in Norfolk; the Navy Ordnance Disposal Training & Evaluation Unit Two in Virginia Beach; and Virginia Department of Emergency Management in Richmond.

As a Government Camp veteran, Andrew Adams of Portsmouth, Va., said that last year’s schedule was engaging, and this year’s was kept fresh. “There were new things on the agenda that I really liked—especially the demonstrations at the Virginia Beach Police Explosives Unit.”

Tex Cunningham came to Virginia Beach from Dallas to attend camp. He traveled to the area on his own, and praised the Government Camp staff and chaperones for looking out for him when camp was not in session. Professing a passion for leadership, he said that the camp helped him understand what leadership really means. “The places we visited on our field trips were centers of leadership,” he says. “And I saw real leaders in action.”

The Cunningham family later contacted Moreno-Riano about writing a letter of recommendation for Tex to attend the U.S. Naval Academy.

“Many parents thanked me for the camp and for all that their children had done and learned,” Moreno-Riano says. “This was by far the most enriching and fulfilling aspect of the week for me.”
Defending Democracy, Defeating Terrorism

Regent professors meet terrorists face-to-face during scholarly trip

Teaching about terrorism takes on an entirely new dimension once you’ve come eye-to-eye with a terrorist. That’s one of the lessons Dr. David Meyer, Regent University School of Undergraduate Studies (RSU) professor, brought home from a fellowship in Israel last spring.

“There’s nothing quite like standing face-to-face with terrorists who tell you that they might be at peace because they’re weak, but when they’re strong, they’ll take the land (Israel) from the river to the sea,” Meyer said of the terrorists he met at an Israeli prison. “We talked to people who were murderers. It’s chilling how nonchalant and unrepentant they are.”

Robertson School of Government Professor Dr. Jennifer Jefferis came away from the same fellowship trip with a new appreciation of how terrorism impacts the lives of Israeli citizens.

“I gained a much better understanding of the mind-set that has brought Israel to the decisions it has made,” Jefferis said. “You can study this from a theoretical perspective, but talking to people and seeing the culture for yourself gives you a much better understanding of foreign policy.”

Both Jefferis and Meyer were selected for a prestigious academic fellowship by the Foundation for the Defense of Democracies that gave them firsthand access to the top practitioners and latest research in the field of terrorism. Jefferis learned about the fellowship at a conference several years ago. Meyer was familiar with it from talking to other colleagues.

“Everyone raved about the excellence of the fellowship, and I knew that I wanted to do it at the soonest opportunity,” said Meyer. Jefferis was one of three women in the group of about two dozen participants.

The seminar, “Defending Democracy, Defeating Terrorism,” featured an intensive, ten-day course on terrorism and the threat it poses to democratic societies. Using Israel as a case study, professors received cutting-edge information about terrorist threats to democracies worldwide. The program covered terrorist ideologies, motives and operations, and how democracies can fight them.

“We spent the first three days in Tel Aviv, with presentations from 8:30 in the morning until 6:30 at night,” Jefferis said. “We heard from about 20 speakers, and they were phenomenal.”

Traveling to a Jewish settlement in an armored bus was a memorable experience for both scholars. Jefferis described the county as “very tense,” although Meyer noted that the crime rate in Israel is lower than in many major U.S. cities.

Despite the demanding schedule, trip participants did have time for more typical tourist activities, such as dining out at a rooftop restaurant in Jaffa, visiting religious sites and taking ample photos. Jefferis even managed to squeeze in one run along the Mediterranean Sea in Tel Aviv.

“I now have pictures of terrorist weapons and many locations to show my students in class,” Meyer said.

Jefferis, a member of the Regent faculty since 2007, specializes in Middle Eastern politics, religion in social movements and international relations. Meyer, who joined Regent in July, is an expert on Russia and the former Soviet Republics. His specialties include international relations, ethnic conflict resolution, and the history and politics of Africa, Western Europe, the Middle East, and Central and South Asia.
Wired4Film Connects Hollywood and Faith

Alumnus David Acuff impacts the entertainment industry with faith-based film forum

David Acuff ‘02 (Communication & the Arts) came to Regent with three goals in mind. “One,” he says, “was to get film-specific hands-on training; two, to network with other Christian filmmakers; and three, leave with a healthy demo reel of projects I’d worked on.”

He did all of those things and more, including directing Regent’s 2001 summer film Byline, which won more than ten national film festival awards, including a CINE Golden Eagle.

After graduation, Acuff longed to keep the Regent film connection alive. Today, he is taking advantage of the world’s Internet preoccupation to bring Christian filmmakers together through Wired4Film.com.

“As I reconnected with other alums on Facebook,” says Acuff, “I saw there was no place on the Web that covered all the film projects Regent alumni had in the works.

I saw the need for a Hollywood Reporter for faith-based movies.”

Enter Wired4Film.com. Acuff launched the site on January 5, 2009, with the goal of not only collecting and posting news on faith-based films from around the Web, but also approaching other filmmakers to discuss their work so Christians in the industry could learn from peers and be encouraged.

Thanks to Wired4Film and his film-student-at-heart perspective, Acuff has had the opportunity for discussions with industry people like independent filmmaker Dan Millican and Hollywood producer Cloud Ten Pictures.

“Wired4Film has touched a nerve in Hollywood,” says Phil Cooke, StuffChristiansLike.net, GoIntoTheStory.com and Ralph Winter, as well as for partnering with individuals and other websites like Phil Cooke, StuffChristiansLike.net, GoIntoTheStory.com and independent filmmakers to discuss their work so Christians in the industry could learn from peers and be encouraged.

André van Heerden, CEO of Cloud Ten Pictures Inc., agrees that Wired4Film is filling a need in the industry. “Wired4Film is a key resource. Often we’re very close to getting into production and are looking for one more piece to the puzzle. Heading to Wired4Film often leads us to that piece.”

Acuff is currently aware of a dozen faith-based films in production. “And those are just the ones we know about,” he says. “At least four of them have Regent alumni at the helm.”

God is calling Christians back into the arts, affirms Acuff. “Wired4Film is specifically for those who believe they have been called by Christ to the film industry. The site will empower and equip them to excel. And it will leave a record for generations to follow.”

Acuff plans on expanding Wired4Film.com to cover events such as San Antonio Independent Film Festival (SAICFF) and Sundance Film Festival, and posting behind-the-scenes footage of faith-based films in the works. Other Wired4Film.com developments on the horizon include discussion boards, filmmaker blogging, and original script posting and rating.

SACS Reaffirms Regent Accreditation

Regent University Founder, Chancellor and President Dr. M.G. “Pat” Robertson announces Regent’s reaffirmation of accreditation by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS).

On Tuesday, December 8, 2009, at a SACS meeting in Atlanta, Ga., Regent’s President-elect Dr. Carlos Campo, SACS liaison Dr. Randall Pannell, Executive Director of Institutional Effectiveness Dr. Jim Downey and Assistant Vice President of Online Learning/Instructional Technology Ginger Zillges received official notification from SACS. Regent was last reaffirmed in 1999.

“This is outstanding news for Regent,” said Campo, who also recognizes the team that has managed Regent’s application for reaffirmation over the past three years.

“I am extremely grateful to all who worked tirelessly on the campus-wide self-study and on the development of Regent’s Quality Enhancement Plan,” he continues. “Our team provided extraordinary leadership during this lengthy and arduous project to move the process to a successful conclusion. The quality of Regent University is a direct result of the quality of our faculty and staff.”

“Though it was an enormous amount of work, preparing for reaccreditation by SACS was a positive experience because it helped us reaffirm our mission and clarify our goals for Regent,” Campo says. “This review also helped us establish benchmarks that will help us sustain our academic excellence far into the future.”

SACS accreditation is a voluntary, independent review of an institution’s educational programs and its adherence to accepted academic standards.
TEAC Accredits School of Education

The landscape of today’s learning environment has changed, demanding more accountability for programs offered by higher education institutions. Rising to a high call of excellence, the School of Education (SOE) educational leadership and teacher preparation programs have received accreditation by the Teacher Education Accreditation Council (TEAC). This accreditation certifies that the programs have provided evidence that they adhere to TEAC’s quality principles.

“It is seen as the best endorsement education programs can receive,” SOE Dean Alan Arroyo explains. “In receiving this honor, Regent joins the ranks of other prestigious universities such as Princeton, Rutgers and the University of Virginia. This is a significant milestone for SOE.” Arroyo says the school’s accreditation indicates that it has grown in quality as well as in quantity, with more than 800 students now studying from all over the world.

The programs have received a five-year accreditation, from January 9, 2009, to January 9, 2014. According to TEAC, less than half of the nation’s programs that prepare professional educators are currently accredited.

“Much credit is due to the SOE faculty and staff’s hard work. They engaged in the TEAC accreditation process beginning in 2005. The rigorous three-year process involved a comprehensive look at the data for each program, providing very specific evidence to TEAC for their claims.”

“It was not an easy process, validating what had been verbalized and printed in public venues about program claims and student learning outcomes,” SOE Associate Dean Glenn Koonce says.

“The SOE faculty’s hard work, dedication and patience throughout the accreditation process paid off. Koonce explains that for the students enrolled in the programs, TEAC accreditation gives great weight to specific evidence of student accomplishment and provides proof that its graduates are competent. In addition, it helps programs develop an ongoing, valid and influential quality control system aimed at continuously improving teacher/leader preparation.

“Our moral and spiritual imperative is to continue active engagement in assessment and improvement for all SOE programs.”

Regent Welcomes First ROTC Student

Last September, Cadet Ben Huzzey, a 27-year-old native of Rexburg, Idaho, was sworn in as Regent University’s first Army Reserve Officer Training Corps (ROTC) student. Members of the Regent community, military veterans and enlisted men and women in uniform surrounded him to witness the event. These included the Chaplain Corps Navy Captain Dale Parker, Army Captain Erin Harkins, Commandant of the Joint Forces Staff College Army Brigadier General Kathleen Kasun and Navy Captain Charles “Chuck” Hollingsworth, executive officer at the Navy’s Center for Personal and Professional Development at Dam Neck. When he graduates in May 2011, Huzzey will be commissioned as a 2nd Lieutenant in the U.S. Army.

“When I looked at graduate schools, I saw the ROTC program on Regent’s website,” Huzzey says. “I knew that I wanted to go the ROTC route because of the long tradition of military leadership in my family, dating back to the Revolutionary War ... it’s in my DNA.”

The Army ROTC program has some of the best leadership courses in the country and is part of the college curriculum. The coursework includes military science classes, physical training (PT) and field exercises. Through the training, participants learn firsthand what it means to lead others, motivate groups and conduct missions as an officer in the Army.

Regent is a cross-enrollment affiliate with the ROTC in Norfolk, Va. Huzzey will take his coursework at Regent, earning a master’s degree in the Robertson School of Government, while fulfilling his ROTC duties at ODU. The benefits of the ROTC program, he says, include a full two-year scholarship—covering books, fees and tuition.

“I am excited to be able to give back to the Army when I graduate,” Huzzey says. “They invest a lot of their resources in the ROTC program and its cadets. Not only is it fair that I pay them back, but I will also get to do in the Army what I’ve wanted to do for many years—lead some of America’s finest troops to accomplish missions critical to the safety and security of the United States.”

“I am excited to be able to give back to the Army when I graduate.”
“If the church is to have a lasting impact on the world, it must encounter those who live in urban areas,” says School of Divinity Dean Michael Palmer.

Urban pastors regularly confront issues of broken families, unemployment, gang violence, homelessness, teen pregnancy and more within the communities they serve. In these urban communities pastors are called on to do more than deliver sermons.

“At one time, seminary was a place to train preachers and scholars; now seminary is a place to prepare people with a ministry calling that is broader,” explains Dr. Antipas Harris, assistant professor in the School of Divinity. “Preaching on Sunday morning isn’t enough.”

Harris is spearheading the School of Divinity’s efforts to launch the Youth and Urban Renewal Center (YURC) whose primary purpose is to provide educational and collaborative opportunities for students, scholars and practicing urban ministers. It is an initiative Harris says has the potential to touch many people connected to churches in urban areas.

Palmer agrees. “The Youth and Urban Renewal Center will serve as a bridge between the School of Divinity and various constituencies in urban areas.”

He explains. “We expect that the center will provide services to people, organizations and churches that we would not otherwise be able to provide.”

“America’s cities are the homes of people from diverse cultural backgrounds; they are places of extraordinary opportunity, but also tremendous need,” he adds.

These days, talking about urban areas can often lead to incorrect assumptions in regards to ethnicity and race, something that Harris is quick to correct. “[The term urban] is not as culturally driven as it is issue driven,” he explains. Often, people assume that urban means African American or Latino, but issues in urban areas are not confined to these groups.

Urban populations also tend to have a higher immigrant population which, Harris notes, can create an additional set of challenges for pastors confronted with issues of immigration status and language barrier. Children of immigrants can struggle with generational and cultural barriers as well.

Harris also adds that urban pastors are in the unique situation of being confronted in their daily work by ethical issues such as gun control and abortion. They face the people who are personally impacted by these hot topics of debate.

While the YURC itself is new, the School of Divinity has noticed an increasing number of students with urban interests. One of those students is Alton Jamison, a 2008 graduate who recently left his job to work full-time as a motivational speaker and life coach. He travels around the U.S. with “No More Handcuffs,” a presentation geared toward at-risk youth and the adults who work with them.

His message focuses on motivating teens to break out of negative patterns set by family members and friends. He not only speaks to urban audiences, but acknowledges the major urban influences in the groups.
Honoring a Military Spouse Hero

When Michelle Galvez was named 2009 Military Spouse of the Year as part of the Navy Special Warfare (NSW) Heroes at Home program, she got more than she bargained for. This Air Force daughter, mother of three and wife of Navy Chief Warrant Officer Robert Galvez also received a full-tuition-paid presidential scholarship to Regent University where she will pursue her master’s degree through the Robertson School of Government.

The Navy named Galvez Military Spouse of the Year for her dedication, support and leadership example among military spouses, which is one of the keys to the success of the nation’s service members. She is also a former Army National Guard combat medic, and has served voluntarily for ten years as an ombudsman at four Navy commands. “To have served as an ombudsman four times not only shows how devoted Michelle is to Navy families, but also speaks to her consummate effectiveness in this vital role,” explains David Boisselle, Regent’s director of military affairs.

According to retired Navy Admiral Vern Clark, distinguished professor of government and leadership at Regent, Galvez received the Regent scholarship because she has a proven record of serving, caring, giving, growing and making a difference. “Michelle Galvez has chosen to live a lifestyle of service in a grand way, and I’m pleased that we have an individual like this to confer this scholarship on,” Clark says. Clark presented the scholarship to Galvez as part of a luncheon hosted by Regent that honored Educational Service Officers (ESO) and other members of the Hampton Roads military community.

The Heroes at Home award program began four years ago in conjunction with the annual celebration of Military Spouse Appreciation Day, established in 1984. It is designed to recognize and thank the military spouses who support the active duty members of the Hampton Roads community. Galvez was selected from among 105 nominees to receive the Military Spouse of the Year Award. Regent University participates in the new Department of Defense program called the Military Spouse Career Advancement Account (MyCAA), which allows military spouses to be eligible for up to $6,000 in financial assistance toward their education.

For more information, visit www.regent.edu/military.
Technology and Religion Degrees Approved

The School of Undergraduate Studies has received approval from the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS) for three new bachelor’s degrees in Information Systems Technology, Christian Ministry, and Biblical & Theological Studies and one associate’s degree in Information Technology.

“These degrees were selected after surveying prospective students about their desired degrees and reflect some of the most popular fields in the current educational market,” says Dr. Carlos Campo, president-elect. “They also reflect Regent’s mission in equipping students in pivotal professions. They will serve students well in a number of jobs that will allow them to be Christian leaders who change the world.”

Information Systems Technology (B.S.) represents a blend of information systems and information technology programs and provides graduates with a synergistic way of combining skills and knowledge of these disciplines. Information Systems (A.A.) provides a foundational level of learning in the discipline. Topics include computing, business and mathematics. Christian Ministries (B.A.) educates students for the practice of ministry within a challenging and diverse global community. Biblical & Theological Studies (B.A.) provides excellent preparation for students planning to pursue seminary or graduate studies in Bible, theology, church history and related fields.

Currently, Regent offers 12 associate’s degrees and more than a dozen bachelor’s degrees in fields including business, communication, education, English, government, leadership, psychology and religious studies. Regent undergraduate online programs rank second nationally, based on the Online Education Database (OEDb) third annual Online College Rankings released January 5, 2009.

For more information, visit www.regent.edu/undergrad.

RU Global’s Transformation Emphasis

Regent’s horizon continues to expand through worldwide initiatives

In its ongoing efforts to promote global learning, Regent hosted the second global roundtable in February 2010 with a focus on the nature and challenges inherent in the call for Christ-centered leadership in the Middle East. As QEP Director Dr. Corné Bekker explains, “It is only as we truly understand the complexities of our world that we will be able to participate in a redemptive manner in its rebuilding and transformation.”

Among other initiatives, the Regent Library produced “Road 2 Regent,” a multimedia exhibit that chronicled the journeys taken by 11 students from as far afield as Singapore, Taiwan, China, India, South Africa, Nigeria and Morocco—beginning with their decisions to come to Regent University and culminating with the impressions they have formed since their arrival.

Through the ongoing efforts of its QEP, Regent University continues to reach out boldly to touch the world.

Visit www.regent.edu/ruglobal to gain access to resources on global learning.

“Regent is at a critical juncture to reaffirm and reinforce its Christ-centered and biblically focused foundations.”

Dr. David Geyertson

The goal to participate in the ongoing transformation of the world through Christ-centered leadership has always been part of Regent University’s vision—a vision that echoes the 400-year-old declaration of Robert Hunt, vicar of the original Jamestown settlement, who proclaimed at Cape Charles that “from these very shores the Gospel shall go forth to not only this new world, but the entire world.”

In February 2009, Regent renewed its commitment to that vision by announcing a five-year plan to enhance the quality of its academic programs by increasing global learning in curricula, developing faculty expertise in intercultural engagement, and fostering opportunities for leading in Christ-centered global thought and action.

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For more than a year and as part of a Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP), Regent has focused on redesigning the curricula for both its School of Undergraduate Studies (RSU) and its School of Global Leadership & Entrepreneurship (GLE) to include a renewed focus on global learning. For these two schools the focus on global competencies is central in their goal to graduate Christian leaders who can address global complexities and provide innovative solutions.

In February 2009, Regent’s Center for Teaching and Learning (CTL), in coordination with the Office of Academic Affairs and GLE, hosted Regent’s Global Mission and the QEP: “How Now Shall We Teach and Learn.” Eight GLE professors led a spirited discussion about the significance of global competence. In commenting on the purpose of this roundtable, Dr. David Geyertson, GLE distinguished professor and past president of Regent, said, “There’s a creative tension between academic excellence and Christian worldview integration. Regent is at a critical juncture to reaffirm and reinforce its Christ-centered and biblically focused foundations.”

Regent’s horizon continues to expand through worldwide initiatives.

“I am excited to lead Regent University through this five-year period of transformation, in which we will achieve our goal to graduate Christian leaders who can address global complexities and provide innovative solutions,” said Dr. Carlos Campo, Regent president-elect.

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Driving Forward in Servant Leadership

Alumnus Scott Rigell applies optimism and innovation to overcome market shift

Many people talk about global awareness, but for Scott Rigell ’91 (Global Leadership & Entrepreneurship) global awareness is a way of life—personally and professionally. “It’s important to understand how the world works,” Rigell says, while sharing a story of meeting a young man, Roger Orozco, in Central America where his daughters were serving on a mission trip in 2000. Roger grew up in a village of huts with no running water, no electricity, no bathrooms and no windows. Touched by his circumstances and his ambition, Rigell and his wife, Teri, brought the young man to America a year later, giving him opportunities that didn’t exist in his village.

“In fall 2008, at the worst time with my business, I would come home at night and think of Roger’s village. Having that perspective helped get me through,” he says.

Rigell attributes his company’s success to his commitment to servant leadership—a concept he deems “simple, yet powerful.” “It’s not a trend; it has been proven in my life. It’s something of substance,” he affirms.

“I encourage my people to keep a mindset of helping each person achieve his or her personal objectives. When you focus on them and invest in them, good things happen.”

Rigell experienced that pain in fall 2008 when the economic crisis hit hard. “It was a challenge to adjust to the new reality of the market,” he says, while noting that his company has fared better than some.

When the market for cars shifted, Rigell took immediate actions but did not follow the path taken by many of his competitors, such as cutting back on advertising.

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Celebrating America’s Hispanic Heritage

Regent embraces diverse cultural threads during a month-long festival

Right in step with Regent University’s campus-wide initiative to strengthen its sense of community are the many goals of its Center for Latino Leadership (CLL). One of these goals is the university’s annual celebration of Hispanic Heritage Month (HHM), which began on September 15 and concluded one month later.

As of July 2008, the estimated Hispanic population of the U.S. was 46.9 million, ranking Hispanics as the nation’s largest minority. “Celebrating HHM is a way for Regent to honor the continuing role of Hispanics as they develop as a culture and work to achieve success in America,” says Dr. Marcela Chaván-Matviuk, CLL director.

CLL partnered with other Hampton Roads organizations in Virginia to host several events, among them “Oremos Juntos,” a day of prayer that focused on the role of Hispanics in building community and faith in the U.S. Two other HHM events this year were the education summit and the business expo, both of which were new and open to the public.

Dr. Carlos Campo, Regent’s president-elect, was joined by representatives from Virginia Wesleyan College, Virginia City Public Schools, Tidewater Community College and the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia on a panel that participated in the education summit. This event engaged its audience in a critical discussion of the role of higher education institutions in meeting the educational needs of a growing Hispanic population as they navigate through the U.S. educational pipeline. “The connection to community is a huge reason why Hispanics stay in college,” says Campo. “Educators need to hear from the business community.” He also stressed that education is crucial to the strength and development of the workforce and the need for more Hispanic community leaders who are teachers and faculty. “It is a complex need,” Campo says, “but it’s important for connecting with the students.”

The business expo, a partnership between CLL and the Hampton Roads Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, began with a reception and an awards ceremony that honored WVXX (Radio Selecta 1050), Mrs. Olga Crupper and Regent University.

Radio Selecta won the Exemplary Business Award. For about five years, Radio Selecta has broadcast Spanish music and programs 24/7 in Hampton Roads. They also help unite ethnically diverse listeners and provide information on current events, social happenings and legal/social matters.

Crupper, who won the Exemplary Citizen Award, founded the Human Relief Organization, which provides medical assistance, education, food, clothing and hope to less fortunate countries around the world.

Regent University won the Friend of the Chamber Award. Through the CLL, Regent has worked for many years to provide educational workshops for businesses and help develop young entrepreneurs. Regent is the only university in the Hampton Roads area that has a center dedicated to building the Hispanic community beyond its campus.

The business expo attracted businesses that, according to Chaván-Matviuk, are catalysts for education and development. “These events are not just about one ethnic group,” she says. “They are about the future of education and business in America.”
Sowing Seeds of Success

Regent trustee changes the future of SIFE Scholarship recipients

Because of Danny Sellers, Regent student Kristin Gwaltney can move more freely toward her career goals, which, she says, will include consulting with not-for-profit organizations. “I’m studying organizational development interventions,” explains Gwaltney, who will earn her M.A. in Organizational Leadership through the School of Global Leadership & Entrepreneurship (GLE) in 2010. “I want to help organizations that aren’t being effective. I’m learning the questions to ask so I can get to the cause of issues that are causing problems.”

Sellers, a Regent trustee since 1998 who has served in an advisory capacity to GLE for much of that time, made a gift to GLE that established The Sellers Endowed Fund for SIFE and The Sellers Endowed Honors Scholarships for SIFE. SIFE (Students in Free Enterprise) is an international not-for-profit organization active on more than 1,400 university campuses in 48 countries.

Gwaltney, who is president of Regent’s SIFE chapter, credits SIFE with teaching her to think more critically and creatively. “SIFE allows me to work in the community with real people,” she explains. “I’m learning how to go to Plan B if Plan A doesn’t work.”

Plan A for Danny Sellers is to meet the students who benefit from the scholarships that bear his name. “It’s a treat hearing about their future plans,” says Sellers, adding that students would have been excluded from the competitions because they lacked the necessary travel expenses,” Winston says.

Sheila Strickland wasn’t as concerned with travel expenses as she was with tuition. “My SIFE scholarship was an answer to prayer,” explains Strickland, a sophomore in the School of Undergraduate Studies. “I was on the verge of dropping out because of finances.”

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Now, Strickland can also take concrete steps toward her future. When she graduates, she will pursue her master’s and perhaps her doctorate. She wants to design her own line of women’s clothes. “I’m concentrating in international management because the fashion industry is so global,” she says. “I can design a garment today that might be worn on the other side of the world next week. Plus, a Ph.D. would allow me to work in this highly competitive field with a level of intelligence that will set me apart.”

Something else sets Strickland apart. She wants to reform sweatshops that use indigenous people groups as laborers. “These people work under horrible conditions, and I’d like to change that,” she says. “By designing my own line, I can impact the way the garments are made; I don’t want them made in sweatshops.”

For freshman Danielle Peña, SIFE’s impact began on her life when she learned she’d received one of the Sellers-endowed scholarships. Peña is pursuing her B.A. in Communication. “It was confirmation that decisions I’d recently made were in line with God’s direction for me,” she says.

Peña’s plans include engaging the latest technology in her work as a graphic designer. She says that SIFE is also teaching her about teams. “I’ve learned that everyone brings different tools to the table. I’m also learning how to be flexible in order to adapt to various personalities.”

Sarah Stone, a sophomore working on her B.A. in Cinema-Television, says that SIFE has inspired her to start a production company when she graduates. “I want to produce commercials, documentaries and music videos,” Stone says, adding that her goal is to see her work on the Discovery Channel. For Stone, a SIFE scholarship means she can take classes during the summer, something her other scholarships don’t cover.

Gwaltney, Strickland, Peña and Stone are four extremely resourceful young women working hard to achieve their goals. When they do, Danny Sellers will surely be celebrating with them.
A CORNERSTONE OF WORSHIP, CELEBRATION & RENEWAL

Regent University Unveils New Chapel and Divinity School Building Campaign

BY STEPHANIE IAQUINTO
On a crisp day last fall, students, faculty, staff, trustees and friends stood on the site of what will be the new Chapel and Divinity School, the excitement already palpable. In anticipation of breaking ground in just a few months, the momentum is building.

The Psalmist wrote, “The Lord has been our dwelling place in all generations.” This chapel will stand for generations as a place to encounter God and His people in a spirit of gratitude and worship. It will be the spiritual heart of Regent University, a haven and a place of worship.

“The time is now to establish a global center for spiritual formation and renewal,” Dr. M.G. “Pat” Robertson, the university’s chancellor, founder and president, affirmed to the crowd. “This worship and academic leadership training center will prepare Christians to serve the Lord through their calling, empowered by the Holy Spirit.”

This time of joyful dedication began as a vision in the hearts and minds of the university’s earliest supporters and trustees. It takes its place among some of Regent’s most significant milestones in 2010, including the celebration of Dr. Robertson’s 80th birthday, the 50th anniversary of both the Christian Broadcasting Network and the birth of the modern Charismatic Renewal Movement—a cornerstone of the School of Divinity’s academic and ministry training—and the inauguration of Dr. Carlos Campo as the university’s eighth president.

The birth of the Chapel and Divinity School occurs at a pivotal time in our nation, as Regent strategically prepares graduates for a future in which they will face a globally interconnected, increasingly secular world. With more than 13,000 graduates serving around the world, Regent recognizes the importance of establishing an enduring representation of our foundational values: Christ-centered, biblically based education.

“The Chapel and Divinity School project comes at a time when Regent must stand firm in our biblical and renewal foundations,” says Conoly Phillips, chairman of the university’s board of trustees. “And because so many students, faculty and alumni expressed their desire to rally around this expansion, the board unanimously supports it. We’ve given it our financial support and are helping to lead a campaign to raise the necessary capital.”

Trustee Bob Snelling, a longtime Regent friend, recounts that he felt an inspired calling in 1980 for the creation of the Chapel as the board considered Regent’s future. He is thankful to see this long-awaited vision come to pass during his tenure.

A Place to Practice the Presence of God

The Chapel was inspired by the architecture of St. Martin-in-the-Fields, a London church with medieval roots that represents, for many, the archetypal church design. It will be a place for worship, reflection, celebration, remembrance and community.

The 22,164 sq. ft. building will feature a prayer room that will be open 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. The 1,000-seat chapel auditorium will allow for the largest groups ever on campus to gather for worship and other events. Connected to the Chapel by a covered walkway, the Divinity School will be 36,645 sq. ft.

“This Chapel will be more than just a building,” asserts President-elect Campo. “It’s being intentional about who we are, what we are. As we lay a foundation that is both literal and figurative for this place, we declare that we are set apart in a spirit of renewal.”

Dr. Vinson Synan, dean emeritus of the School of Divinity, says, “This will be a campus centerpiece that gives testimony to the world that we are a deeply committed Christian institution.” The Chapel will be both iconic and intimate. The opportunities to gather there will be unlimited. “It is important that our students, faculty, staff and alumni have a place to celebrate significant moments in their lives,” says Robertson. “Whether it be convocations, commencement ceremonies, weddings, memorials, alumni homecomings or individual times for prayer, the Chapel will be known as a place where the presence of God is felt and lives are changed—a place to practice the presence of God.”

CBN President and Regent Trustee Michael Little sees the Chapel as a spiritual magnet that will also draw the Regent and CBN communities to worship together in one place. “We need a physical point for a spiritual connection,” he says.

Ben Kay, a sophomore in Regent’s School of Undergraduate Studies, sees the Chapel as a place for students to strengthen their faith and draw closer to God. “Every time we see the Chapel, we will be reminded that ultimately we are here to define who God wants us to be and His purposes for us,” Kay says.

Dan Backens ’99 (Divinity), senior pastor at New Life Providence Church in Virginia Beach, Va., considers the School of Divinity the spiritual heart of Regent University. “Now is the time to invest in a much-needed chapel in order to propel the entire campus into the future with the Holy Spirit’s fire,” he says.
Tradition and Technology

Maintaining aesthetic integrity, the Chapel will be technologically progressive, boasting superior acoustics and an IT system to accommodate any kind of performance or event hosted by Regent or CBN. But even more compelling is the Chapel’s hallowed symbolism.

A rendering of the complementary brick buildings stands in the clearing between the Student Center and the Communication and the Arts building. Viewing the two-dimensional image against the blue sky and solid ground provides an indication of how seamlessly the new construction will fit into the university’s Georgian-style campus. The Chapel’s most distinctive feature will be its 123 ft. steeple, which will be the tallest point on the university campus.

Historically in church architecture the prominence of the steeple was intentional for aesthetic elegance and symbolic import. “If you were in a shop in Trafalgar Square next to St. Martin,” says Dr. Michael Palmer, dean of the School of Divinity, “you would peek out your window to the church, and immediately your eyes would be directed upwards. It symbolized the same connection that Michelangelo demonstrated—the connection between man and the Divine.” Palmer touches fingers together, reproducing the famous image from the Sistine Chapel. The spire touching heaven represents the same concept, he explains. “It moves our eyes toward God.”

A Global Center and with a Global Impact

While the Chapel will be a spiritual focal point for the lives of the entire Regent community, no other school will feel its impact quite like the School of Divinity, as construction plans also call for a new building to be annexed to the Chapel to house the school’s growing numbers.

“We’re at our limits now,” Palmer concedes. “With enrollment reaching 800 and an ambitious growth plan, a larger facility is a necessity.” The change will allow the school to spread its wings, attracting the next generation of student leaders. “This says that Regent highly values the School of Divinity, that it’s an important part of the university and central to its mission,” Synan declares. With this new facility, he says, the school “will come into its own as a major part of the university.”

Campo agrees. Noting that each school is an integral part of the university, he acknowledges a unique role for Divinity—“the sharp end of the spear, if you will.” Given the significance of holding fast to the university’s foundational beliefs, Divinity often serves as a spiritual sounding board. “If there’s a single school that’s the keeper of that fire,” he says, “it’s Divinity.” For Campo, the new building will reflect the honor of that essential role, as well as serve the needs of students who, by the very nature of their calling, might be embarking on a more austere lifestyle. “The school can be a place of relief and respite,” he says, “a place that brings honor to the work they’ve chosen in a way they might not always see.”

As RU Global, the five-year educational initiative designed to increase global learning, gains momentum across campus, the School of Divinity is witnessing a transformation in the ambitions of its graduates. The school is comprised of a more diverse student body and an increasing number of students who are moving into nontraditional ministry roles, many of which take them throughout the world.

“Every time we see the Chapel, we will be reminded that ultimately we are here to define who God wants us to be and His purposes for us.”

Ben Kay, Student, School of Undergraduate Studies

“They’re international, they’re multicultural, and they’re increasingly interested in ministering to the inner city,” Campo explains. He gratefully recites the background statistics of this year’s incoming class and names places around the globe where graduates currently serve. “That nontraditional interest is fostered here, in terms of the way we teach leadership for the church and the way we teach missions.”

It’s also fostered in the hallways and gathering places of the school, as students share news of their projects, missionary trips, research papers and leadership positions. Palmer anticipates that the consolidation of all the students and faculty in a single area will do much to nurture these relationships. “The friendships made here are not just for a season,” he says. “They become lifetime friendships ... the conversations continue.”
The Influence of Renewal Studies
As the School of Divinity embraces the opportunities offered by RU Global, it is also poised to quickly become a recognized leader for Christian studies throughout the next century. To understand the level of influence Regent wields, one must look both to the university’s spiritual foundation—built 27 years ago at the height of the Charismatic Renewal Movement in the United States—and beyond our borders, as a wave of Charismatic Renewal sweeps through countries in Africa, Asia and South America.

Today, 640 million Christians around the world describe themselves as Pentecostal/Charismatic, making that group the second-largest family of believers in the world. “It’s the fastest growing movement in Christianity in the last thousand years,” says Synan. “We started the world’s first Renewal doctoral program. That’s given us a tremendous role. We’ve become the theological and historical center for higher studies in the Renewal Movement.”

Synan cites the accumulation of a vast library of primary sources in the movement, valuable resources for attracting top scholars worldwide who will write the theologies and histories of the Renewal Movement. “Regent is home to the most distinguished faculty of any school that teaches Renewal Studies,” Synan declares.

Robertson believes that Regent can be seen as a global center for renewal faith. “It’s a great responsibility,” Synan adds. “The School of Divinity will be a beacon of solid theology and biblical studies for the world.”

Establishing the Legacy
The construction phase of the two-building project will span 18 months, from ground-breaking to ribbon-cutting ceremonies, and will cost approximately $17 million. Everyone will play a vital role in the project—the trustees who shape the vision, the partners and alumni who provide the financial resources, the workers who lay the brick and the international Regent and CBN family who will pray daily for the project.

Campo is confident in the decision to move forward now. Recalling the prophecy given to Robertson at the university’s inception, Campo is firm in his conviction that even as other institutions of higher education scale back, Regent must be uncompromising in preparing for its future. “We believe that a promise has been made, and we’re stepping forward to fulfill this promise.”

Robertson notes the vital role that Regent University serves at this moment and in the future.

“Our nation’s first universities have drifted from their original mission to teach the gospel and train ministry leaders. At Regent, we are resolved to stand firm in our mission and foundations. The Chapel and Divinity School represent a cornerstone opportunity to establish a legacy to honor God, the Holy Spirit and our shared calling to see lives changed. This campaign touches us all and will serve as a lasting legacy for generations to come.”

BECOME A CORNERSTONE BUILDER TODAY.
A Cornerstone Builder is one who generously supports the Chapel and Divinity School building project with a gift of $1,000 or more.

Your financial contribution will:
• Attract prospective students who will know that Regent is, above all else, a deeply committed Christian institution
• Create a source of inspiration and comfort to our wider Regent community, including our alumni who serve across the globe
• Support our School of Divinity as it becomes a recognized global educational leader
• Equip our graduates as they spread the light and hope of Jesus Christ throughout the world

A Cornerstone Builder will have his or her name, or that of a loved one, permanently placed in the physical cornerstone of the chapel as an enduring reminder of those who supported the vision with an early gift. Additionally, a mural at the chapel will thank and recognize all Cornerstone Builders.

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When Virginia’s new governor, Robert F. “Bob” McDonnell ’89 (Law and Government) stepped through the doors of the Magnolia Room in Richmond’s Omni Hotel on January 16, 2010, the buzz of excited voices quickly turned to a loud cheer. Surrounded by former classmates, colleagues and friends, McDonnell beamed as he shook hands, patted backs and shared plenty of hugs. Earlier that January afternoon, in a colorful ceremony that celebrated the vibrant history and diverse heritage of Virginia, McDonnell became the Commonwealth’s 71st governor, making history for Regent University as the school’s first graduate to begin service in the highest office of any state. A man of principles, steadfastly clinging to his core values of service, honor and hard work throughout a hard-hitting campaign, McDonnell, former Virginia attorney general, gained the overwhelming support of Virginia voters, pulling a stunning victory from a gubernatorial contest of national interest. In contrast to his 2005 race for attorney general, a nail-biter determined only after weeks of court cases and ballot recounts, McDonnell’s 2009 gubernatorial triumph came to a swift conclusion. By 8:00 p.m. on Tuesday, November 3, the major news networks called the election for McDonnell, who commanded a 17-point victory. “The inauguration of Bob McDonnell as governor of Virginia is a clear illustration of Regent University’s
motto: Christian Leadership to Change the World,” says Regent’s President-elect Dr. Carlos Campo, adding that this was crystallized when Bob spoke at the inaugural prayer breakfast. “Bob recalled a portrait of George Washington kneeling in prayer at Valley Forge,” Campo explains. “He said this picture will hang behind his desk to always remind him that great leadership begins with the acknowledgement that we are God’s servants, and to be truly successful, we must be led by Him.”

Many Regent alumni and staff attended the Inauguration Day reception, which McDonnell hosted for alumni from each of his schools, including the University of Notre Dame and Bishop Ireton High School in Alexandria, Va.

While McDonnell’s friends are naturally proud of his election, several from his high school days recall his “real” claim to fame—catching a touchdown pass against the now-famous T.C. Williams team (Remember the Titans), which had not allowed a touchdown in 20 quarters.

“I threw it, and Bob caught it,” says Scott O’Brien from Myrtle Beach, S.C., who graduated from high school with McDonnell in 1972 and was best man at his wedding. Bishop Ireton football fans recall that McDonnell caught seven passes for more than 100 yards that day, intercepted a pass, recovered a fumble and scored his team’s only touchdown.

Regent students and alumni find McDonnell an inspiring
As I watched McDonnell being sworn in as governor, I saw a picture of what my future could entail,” says Paul Boller ’08 (Undergraduate Studies) ’11 (Law and Government). “I never expected to be impacted so much by watching McDonnell take the oath of office. Essentially, he embodies what I hope to be in 20 years.”

Bells from Capitol Square’s Old Bell Tower tolled the noon hour that marked the start of the ceremony on the Capitol’s South Portico on January 16. Among the honored guests assembled were Virginia Senator Jim Webb, former Virginia Senator John Warner, Republican National Committee Chairman Michael Steele and a number of congressmen from districts across Virginia.

A jubilant crowd of about 7,000 supporters clapped, cheered and shouted their approval when the new governor completed his oath of office. As howitzers sounded a 19-gun salute and the Colonial Williamsburg Fife and Drum played, four F-22 Raptors from the Virginia Air National Guard roared overhead.

A few moments later, in a solemn tribute, chiefs and tribal representatives from Virginia’s eight native tribes escorted McDonnell and his family to the plaza where they stood as tribal members performed a Native American dance and drum ceremony honoring their new governor.

“McDonnell stands as the foremost example of how to lead without sacrificing either core biblical values or common sense policies,” says Benjamin Titter ’12 (Law and Government).

The unseasonably pleasant Saturday—temperatures in the mid-50s and sunny in a city with remnants of a snowstorm two weeks earlier—caused Virginia’s new governor to joke, “I’ve kept my first campaign promise. I said it would be warm and sunny on my inauguration day.”

The excitement for this day began building the moment of McDonnell’s November 3rd election. As McDonnell’s faithful followers, many of whom have supported him for more than 15 years, assembled in Richmond that night, palpable anticipation filled the hotel ballroom. National news networks and political pundits had hyped this election for months, drawing attention to a potential conservative wave in Virginia. The gathering crowd was expectant, waiting for the realization of their hopes, while ballots were tallied statewide.

The end of this vigorously run campaign, often berated by its opponents but always on-message, concluded with waves, high-fives and lively music. Colorful beach balls bounced across the glittering ballroom to the amusement of buoyant supporters waiting for McDonnell to appear. Finally, to the delight of his followers, the governor-elect stepped onstage for his acceptance speech, accompanied by his wife, Maureen, and their five children—all beaming that warm, wide McDonnell smile.

Amid cheers and flashing cameras, McDonnell thanked his enthusiastic fans by saying, “Eight months ago, I applied for the job of Governor of Virginia. Tonight you have hired me! Thank you.”

The newly elected governor quickly assured Virginians of his intentions to keep his campaign pledges, an earmark from his personal playbook. Speaking to his conservative economic principles, he promised to keep legislation, spending and taxes to a minimum in order to grow the economy and develop needed job opportunities, a message to which he stayed true throughout the campaign and elaborated on during his inaugural address. McDonnell also asked those who didn’t vote for him to give him a chance to earn their trust for the betterment of the Commonwealth.

In a reflective moment on this election night, McDonnell paused to say, “I had the privilege of growing up in an average middle-class family in the shadow of Mount Vernon. They taught me to respect my neighbor and to follow the Golden Rule. But, I never dreamed that I’d have the chance to follow in the footsteps of Thomas Jefferson and Patrick Henry.”

Recalling the inspiration he gleaned from his role model, George Washington, McDonnell promised to “protect life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness here in Virginia.” Before signing off, McDonnell pledged, “Tonight you’ve given me the title of governor. Working together, we will leave Virginia better than we found it!”

Throughout his inaugural address, the new governor again made numerous references to historic figures in Virginia and
significant moments in Virginia’s history that were also pivotal in the nation’s history.

“Standing here today, on the steps of our state Capitol, in the inspiring shadows of the shared history behind us, we embrace the limitless future opportunities stretching out far before us,” McDonnell said. “And now, it is here, in this place, that I ask all Virginians to mutually pledge to work together to create ‘A Commonwealth of Opportunity’ for all Virginians, and to add our collective footsteps to Virginia’s journey.”

McDonnell honed his principles, yet remained practical in application of his conservative positions, during his many years of public service. His faithful, unwavering stance focuses more on the bread-and-butter issues that face all Virginians than on ideologies.

The national impact of McDonnell’s winning campaign is significant to Dr. Charles Dunn, dean of Regent’s Robertson School of Government. “By leading the Republican Party out of its wilderness wanderings in Virginia during the last decade, McDonnell immediately becomes a model for forging a Republican comeback nationally in 2010 and 2012,” Dunn explains. He notes how McDonnell’s approachable demeanor and pragmatic leadership model of social and economic conservatism “hews to Ronald Reagan’s winning model on the national stage.” Dunn suggests that this quality will enable McDonnell to reach across the ideological and political divides in America, “forging successful solutions to intractable problems.”

Dunn’s observation on election night that McDonnell has become a “model” already has been validated. Just a few days after taking office, the national Republican leadership selected the new governor to deliver the GOP response to the president’s State of the Union address at the end of January.

McDonnell’s progression as a public servant has been focused and steady. After graduating from Regent, he served as a criminal prosecutor in the Virginia Beach Commonwealth’s Attorney’s office for two years. Recognizing the need for greater victim’s rights and policies that would keep citizens safer, McDonnell soon sought a greater role in protecting Virginians.

In 1991, he dislodged a 20-year incumbent from Virginia Beach to take a seat in the House of Delegates. After winning that first election, McDonnell has yet to lose.

While in Richmond, he rose to leadership roles of Assistant Majority Leader and Chairman of the House Courts of Justice Committee. McDonnell was the chief patron of numerous bills and authored many pieces of legislation dealing with welfare reform, stronger penalties against sexual predators and juvenile justice reform.


Buoyed by his legislative successes, McDonnell stepped up to an even greater challenge in 2005 by running for attorney general. After winning the closely contested race, McDonnell began fulfilling promises: tougher penalties for child sex predators, increased penalties for drug dealers and reduction of Internet crimes and identity theft.

Most of McDonnell’s legislative proposals became law while he was in office, and were often accomplished by his capacity to reach across the political aisle to find common ground.

Dean of the Regent University School of Law, Jeffrey Brauch, praises the “grace, perseverance and humility” McDonnell displayed throughout his gubernatorial campaign. “I am deeply proud of him,” Brauch says.

“Regent University is about training leaders who will serve others with excellence and integrity. Alumnus—and now Governor—Bob McDonnell is just such a leader. I am eager to see how he positively impacts the lives of Virginians and millions of Americans as he assumes a leadership role on the national stage.”

With pundits speculating about the future of this rising political figure, McDonnell is steadfastly focused on leading Virginia. Recognizing the hard work it requires to find real solutions to the problems at hand, he promised to use innovation and cooperation while strengthening the free enterprise system. Wisely, McDonnell called on Virginians to unite, recalling these simple truths: “A couple of things transcend politics; we’re all Virginians, and we’re all Americans.”

His legacy awaits.
Online Study Means No Easy A

by Karen Haywood Queen
If you think going to school online is an easy A, go to the back of the class. Yes, students in Regent University’s online graduate and undergraduate programs appreciate the flexibility of digesting lectures at their leisure, participating in their pajamas, and saving time and money on commuting. *But easy? Not really.*

Students earning their degrees online at Regent have included models, ministers, active duty military, band members, dancers, men and women with full-time jobs from nearly all 50 states, and international students from all over the world says Tracy Stewart, executive director of the School of Undergraduate Studies and vice president of information technology. Many of these students were not able to earn a degree at traditional universities because of career and family demands.

“They can experience Regent University from anywhere in the country without having to relocate here,” Stewart says. “That’s great for younger students who can’t afford to live on campus. It’s also beneficial to working adults. We have one student who is a ballerina, another who is a model. Some are in bands. Some have career aspirations or are already working professionals … but because of the flexibility of our online programs, they’re all able to work and attend college at the same time.”

Regent’s online courses are as academically challenging as on-campus classes both in terms of time and involvement in the university community. Extra credit: students say the connections with classmates, professors and people in the community are just as deep as if they lived in Virginia Beach. Lasting friendships are formed with fellow students, faculty and staff. “We have visiting lecturers students can watch online,” Stewart says. “They can participate with them. We have town hall meetings where online students can ask the administration questions. We’re conscious about including our online students in everything we can.”

Online students can forge personal connections through a variety of extracurricular activities including: a psychology club, Regent Undergraduate Council, Students in Free Enterprise, Jabez Praise Dance Ministry, Regent Students for Life, Omicron Delta Kappa (leadership honor society), the pre-law chapter of Phi Alpha Delta Law Fraternity International, Student Alumni Ambassadors,
Toastmasters International, and the International Student Organization. Chapel services are also archived and available online.

“I thought getting my degree would be easier online,” says Colette Blakeley ’09 (Psychology & Counseling). “But honestly, it was more work than I’d expected. I studied all the time. Most of my classmates did the same thing. It was a rigorous program. Expectations are high. The professors said, ‘This is going to be intense. We are not going to lessen the material or expectations, but let us know if you need help.’ You are communicating online, but it’s mandatory. You have to be online, writing posts to answer assignments, seeking classmates’ input. You have to give an intelligent response.”

Those high expectations pay off. “Every minute of my life and even my weekends were consumed,” says Dr. Lonnie D. Laughlin of Litchfield, Ill., a medical doctor and minister who earned a master’s from the Robertson School of Government. “But I have no regrets. If online degrees had not been available, I could not have done it. I couldn’t leave Illinois and take two years out of my life to be on campus.”

Students can take classes online in all of Regent’s graduate schools except the School of Law. Additionally, 76 percent of undergraduate classes are being taught online, Stewart says. Regent began offering four-year undergraduate degrees online starting in 2005.

“You could enroll as a freshman and never set foot on our campus,” Stewart says. “We wanted to expand the reach of Regent University. We had already been quite successful with online learning in the graduate programs. It was a natural progression to extend to undergraduate programs.”

Enrollment has grown from 1,026 students in the fall of 2005 to 1,920 in the fall of 2009.

Psychology is the most popular degree program. Bachelor’s degrees also are offered in animation, biblical and theological studies, business, Christian ministry, cinema-television, communication, criminal justice, interdisciplinary studies, English, government, history, information systems technology, mathematics, organizational leadership and management, religious studies, and theatre. A number of Associate of Arts degrees also are offered.

### Giving Youth a Helping Hand

Adrian Blanco doesn’t choose between success and service. Even as he excels as a rising sales executive at PepsiCo, Blanco, who received his MBA in 2007 from Regent’s School of Global Leadership & Entrepreneurship, believes strongly in helping others overcome the obstacles he faced as a first-generation high school and college graduate.

Blanco, who won competitive awards from PepsiCo last summer for both sales and charity work, sees himself as a bridge to help today’s Latino youth succeed.

“Only about 60 percent of Hispanics complete high school,” says Blanco, national sales manager for PepsiCo North America. “Only 20 percent complete college. Their whole family motto is: you go get a job, and you work. They don’t understand you can work a little smarter, get more education. They don’t see themselves as good enough. They don’t believe in themselves. There were so many times I could have dropped out. I’m glad I stuck to it. I can use my life as an example to connect with young people to say, ‘You can do it, and here’s how.’

Last summer, PepsiCo awarded Blanco its Harvey C. Russell award for his three years of efforts securing a competitive grant from the PepsiCo Foundation to help underprivileged Hispanic students. In 2009, only 88 people out of 150,000 eligible employees worldwide achieved this honor.

Blanco helped establish a nonprofit community center called Escalera (which means “up” in Spanish) in Kansas City, Mo. Escalera provides mentoring, field trips, coaching, volunteer opportunities and other resources for Latino high school students to help them make the connections and learn the skills they’ll need to get accepted to college and excel.

“They learn about leadership,” Blanco says. “They learn how to do interviews. They practice interviews. They learn how it is to be in the business world. They have people like us who come in and show them what it looks like to work in different places. They learn how to apply to college. They take the college entrance exams. They write. They learn about legislation.”

In the 2008–09 school year, 26 teens started the program, and 23 graduated. This year’s program has 35 students. Blanco, who credits his mom with helping him with college, sees much more success ahead for those he is mentoring.

“One of the students came up to me and said, ‘I want to be just like you when I grow up,’ Blanco says. “I wanted to cry. I said, ‘No, you’re going to be better than me. When I was your age, I didn’t have as many people who believed in me like I believe in you. I didn’t have the resources available. I didn’t have enough people behind me telling me I could do it. You can go farther than I can think or dream.’”

But Blanco’s charitable work hasn’t overshadowed his day job. “I have business goals, and I have personal goals,” Blanco says. “I try to manage all of those. I always want to be in the moment.”

Also last summer, he received PepsiCo’s distinguished Ring of Honor, given to the company’s top sales people worldwide after a two-year performance and nomination.
Deaf for a Day

En route to a degree in counselor education and supervision from Regent University’s School of Psychology & Counseling, Colette Blakely ’09 plugged up her ears and became deaf for a day. Blakely attended a church service, a play and a volleyball game for the deaf. “I had to pay attention to the mouths of the people who spoke to me,” Blakely says.

Blakely’s immersion into deaf culture came as part of her multicultural counseling class, taught by Dr. Elisabeth Suarez and Dr. Agatha Parks-Savage. Blakely, 55, who lives in Chicago, stepped into deaf culture and saw her misconceptions knocked down. “I used to use terms like ‘deaf mute’ and ‘deaf and dumb’ to describe the deaf,” she says. “But once I started trying to interact with that culture, I learned that those terms were no longer used.”

As part of a class assignment to immerse herself in another culture, Blakely plugged up her ears for 12 hours—at work one day and then on a Sunday. At work, where she is a school counselor and professor at Concordia University, she was a hard-of-hearing person struggling to work in a hearing world. “I could hear some with my ears plugged, but it was difficult,” Blakely says.

At the church service and volleyball game, Blakely struggled to function in the deaf culture. She knew just a few phrases of American Sign Language and none of the cultural norms. “I felt very intimidated because I felt I was pushing my way into another culture,” she says. “I had to learn how to act and how to respond.”

At the volleyball tournament Blakely realized that deaf people rely more on sight and touch to communicate. They didn’t stand at the tournament because then they couldn’t see facial expressions. Their gestures are bigger because, since they can’t hear, it’s important to be seen. “Where we might touch someone on the shoulder to express something, the deaf would actually push you,” Blakely explains.

Now Blakely feels she has more empathy not only for people who are deaf and hard of hearing, but for all members of unique cultural groups. One key for a counselor, she says, is not to become so fixated on cultural differences that you miss other important factors such as gender, sex and class. “I am now more empathetic, more understanding of others’ values and worldviews,” she says.

Saving Time for Her Clients

If you can save 15 minutes a day, you’ll save 91 hours in a year. That’s the premise behind Patricia Rex’s virtual assistant business, ExecAssist. Rex, who graduated from Regent’s School of Undergraduate Studies with a B.S. in Organizational Leadership and Management, handles administrative tasks, freeing her clients to focus on what they do best: growing their businesses.

“I had the idea to start the company, but I didn’t have all the skills or the credibility,” says Rex, who was inspired after attending a seminar on operational excellence. “I thought, ‘This is something I could help other companies learn how to do.’ There was an opening at my company, but they wouldn’t even consider me because I was a receptionist and hadn’t been to college.”

Rex, who had taken college classes on campus but not online, enrolled at Regent in the fall of 2005—the first year that four-year undergraduate degrees were offered online. “When my kids were little, I went to a college and took classes on-site,” she says. “I had to get a babysitter, leave home, drive there.”

She was pleasantly surprised to find even more personal interaction through online classes. In the classroom at the other college, “I didn’t know the person sitting next to me because we were together only an hour a week,” Rex says. “You go, listen to the instructor give his speech, and then you go home.”

Taking classes online through Regent’s program allowed her to make connections with her fellow students and professors. “Your personality comes through in your writing,” she says. “There are no wallflowers online.”

Rex learned techniques she could apply immediately in founding her business.
Enrollment has grown from 1,026 students in the fall of 2005 to 1,920 in the fall of 2009.

76 percent of undergraduate classes are being taught online.

“At Regent, the class I took in strategic planning gave me the basis to sit down with my business and look for strengths and weaknesses. I’ve learned I need to network more. The degree also gives me credibility.”

ExecAssist performs a wide variety of tasks for clients: accounting and billing, business cards, word processing, database management, sermon notes, personal correspondence and more. “I fill in the gaps for small businesses that don’t have the budget to hire an employee but need to get a project done,” she says. Businesses benefit by outsourcing because they pay only for the hours they need and don’t have to pay employee benefits and other associated costs.

Not only does Rex perform these tasks to free up busy business owners, she also comes up with ways work can be completed more efficiently. For example, she recommended to one boss that he return signed checks to her in a box to put in envelopes to mail—instead of paper clipping them back to the original folders. That’s a simple change saved 30 minutes a day for Rex and another 30 minutes day for her boss—a gain of one productive hour a day. Whether you make $10 an hour or $100, that time adds up.

Her ultimate goal is to give back by donating her services to missionaries. “Missionaries have to fill out enormous amounts of paperwork,” she says. “I can help them from where I live in Canton, Ohio, so they can get out and reach the world. I don’t have to go to Africa to be part of mission work.”

Taking the Lead in Fostering Christian Unity

If you had told Dr. Lonnie D. Laughlin 30 years ago that he’d earn a master’s degree in political leadership online, he would have said you were crazy. “I knew in seventh grade I wanted to be a doctor, and I set my mind to that goal,” says Laughlin ’09 (Government). “That’s all I thought I’d be.”

But in August 2007, 29 years after graduating from medical school, Laughlin enrolled as an online student in Regent’s Robertson School of Government. He pressed hard to finish and graduated in May 2009 as the school’s outstanding graduate. “I had no downtime for two years,” Laughlin says. “I used every minute of my life. I just made it work.”

He enjoyed the connections he made with students decades younger. “As I interacted on discussion boards and in other places with students who were in their 20s, I felt they often asked questions of me just because I had lived life,” says Laughlin, 57. “I was drawing on that experience. I was able to learn from them the electronic stuff just by asking questions online.”

Laughlin had built a successful medical practice, but felt that something was missing from his life. First, he helped start a small Christian group. When the group evolved into Living Stones Church, Laughlin became its pastor, juggling his medical practice and his church work for 12 years. He retired from medicine in 2007, after what he calls “the hardest decision of my life.”

About the same time, he felt another tug—to learn more about government and leadership. “On a whim, I looked to see if Regent happened to have a School of Government,” says Laughlin, whose son graduated from Regent. “One of the first things I saw on the School of Government website was the quote from Abraham Lincoln: ‘I will study and prepare should my time come. It felt like that’s where I was in life.”

Laughlin’s role as pastor and his leadership studies have coincided in his work in an ecumenical group that meets every year at the Vatican to foster unity between Catholics and Protestants. A senior Vatican official—Bishop Brian Farrell, secretary of the Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity—moderates the now annual meetings.

“No one expects the Protestants to be converted to Catholicism or vice versa,” Laughlin says. “The idea is to come together and emphasize the things we do have in common and also to begin to dialogue about doctrinal things we differ on. It’s an effort to begin to understand people and to promote a sense of unity where we can find it.”

Laughlin is also part of a second smaller group, with six Catholics and six Protestants, that meets annually to discuss doctrinal issues. Communication breakthroughs are already emerging.

“We find that each group has its own language,” says Laughlin, chair of the Protestant group. “Catholics say ‘Tradition’ with a capital T to mean all previously established Scriptural doctrine. When they say, ‘Our Traditions are unchanged,’ they’re saying, ‘We don’t move on our fundamental scriptural thoughts.’ Protestants might think of tradition as church ceremony, ritual or forms of worship in the church service.”

Now that he’s graduated, Laughlin is open to new directions as he also continues at his church. “One of the greatest impacts the school as a whole had on me is my ability to write well. Writing concisely, expressing exactly what I need to say: no matter what else happens in my life, I am a much better writer. The whole online experience was outstanding.”
FACE OF LEADERSHIP

MEET SIX REGENT GRADUATES WHO LIVE TO INSPIRE, INFLUENCE AND SERVE OTHERS IN EVERY SPHERE OF LIFE.

BY JOAN BENSON
From being one of the original Jell-O Pudding kids in Bill Cosby commercials to her current hit, a one-woman show, Faith Alpher ’96 (Communication & the Arts) has unquestioningly demonstrated a gift to communicate. An entertainer by design, she has now garnered a broad range of experience in television/film, commercials, theater and comedy. Alpher is also a popular choice for mistress of ceremonies, well known for the enjoyment she brings with her quick wit and high energy. With a knack for tugging people’s heartstrings across generations, cultures and belief systems, she often moves her audience from hysterical laughter to quiet sobbing, all accomplished in her self-scripted one-woman show Through the Eyes of Faith. She is currently performing in the San Francisco Bay area, with plans underway to take her performance across the country.

Alpher has always enjoyed entertaining people. A friend of her family suggested that with six-year-old Alpher’s smile and spirited personality she would be aptly suited for television. Soon after, Alpher’s parents submitted her photo and application for an audition with Bill Cosby to advertise Jell-O. Hundreds of commercials and film parts were to follow, and Alpher knew what she wanted to do the rest of her life—entertain people.

While enduring the strict structures of her formal education, Alpher’s creative mind and naturally funny personality lay mostly dormant. “I knew how to be funny, but knew not to cross the line,” Alpher recalls. School wasn’t very exciting to Alpher, though thinking out of the box was. With such creativity, her unique learning style was problematic at times. If test directions were to fill in A, B or C, Alpher yearned to draw an oval for her own answer. D. And, occasionally, she did. In sixth grade, one of Alpher’s teachers recognized her spark: Sister Lucy told young Alpher, “Faith, someday you’re going to do something brilliant.” Alpher says today, “She planted good seeds in my life.”

By the time Alpher finished high school and struggled through some undergraduate courses, it seemed unlikely that Sister Lucy’s prophecy would be fulfilled. But challenged to prove the negative voices wrong, Alpher became motivated to change the opinions of all the doomsayers. And she did. After graduating from college in New Jersey, Alpher applied to Regent, with an inner knowledge that it was precisely where she was supposed to be.

Today she has written her own two-act show, which she performs solo. Her husband, Daniel, lovingly prodded her to write her life story, believing she could powerfully touch lives. The show is a history of how Alpher tried to hold on to hope, even when things weren’t looking good. “It’s everything I saw in my life … through my eyes,” Alpher says as she relates the 25 different characters she takes on. In 2009, Through the Eyes of Faith was performed in numerous theaters in the San Francisco area, bringing people to their feet with cheers and tears.

What’s next for her and her family? A business plan is underway with a vision to tour New York City in the future. Alpher is currently seeking sponsors so she can reach more hearts. With an assurance of God’s hand on her life, she believes she is waiting in the wings … waiting for a grand new adventure to begin. “Don’t lose hope. Laugh. Find the joy in the here and now,” she advises. You can visit her website at www.funnygirlfaith.com.

“Don’t lose hope. Laugh. Find the joy in the here and now.”
Adrian Thomason, a public school principal in Canton, Ga., continues his quest for excellence as an educational leader. Packing an M.A. ’99 (Education) and an Ed.D. ’06 (Education) from Regent, Thomason recently participated in the Harvard University Principal Center’s Summer Institute—one of only 176 principals selected from around the world. He jokingly calls his experience “Nerd Camp” and proudly claims the title. “Regent gave me the confidence,” Thomason reflects. “I said, ‘Why wouldn’t Harvard take me? Look at what I went through at Regent … the rigor, the breadth.’” While attending last summer’s session with educational leaders from around the world, Thomason found himself intellectually prepared to sit at such a table of reform. “The dissertation process taught me how to think deeply, not just react from old mindsets,” he says.

Thomason taught in the middle grades for a few years before selecting a university through which to earn his M.A. and ultimately his Ed.D. Comparing the educational offerings of various schools, Thomason selected Regent. During the interview process Dr. Linda Grooms, associate professor in the School of Education, confirmed that Thomason’s doctoral program would combine a thorough academic program with a Christian worldview. Once involved in his studies, Thomason observed a team approach as the faculty worked with the students. “Everybody said, ‘Let’s look at this in terms of how it will help you reach your goals,’” Thomason recalls.

Leading a staff of 66 at a large middle school, Thomason reflects on what he has learned about the nature of quality leadership. “If the leadership is not innovative, the organization will not reach its full potential.” In his first year as a principal, he found himself using a more direct approach than he usually prefers. Having invited the parents and staff to lay out their concerns, Thomason knew he had to jump in and make precise decisions while striving to build purpose and vision for his new faculty. With that well-defined initiation behind him, he has now turned to a more collaborative model, pulling together a capable leadership team to help navigate the challenges. “Whatever the situation requires, we have to be flexible enough to fill the role,” he states.

“My training at Regent has forced me to think deeply and broadly about public education and myself as a leader.” As he contemplates the pressures of educational leadership in today’s climate of testing and accountability, Thomason remarks, “The demands don’t compare to the rewards.”

His administrative style includes not only being a public face of the school, but being personally engaged in the lives of students and teachers. Even with a student body over 800, Thomason’s goal is to know as many of the youngsters as possible. He has even carved out time to meet with some struggling young men in need of a positive male role model. Thomason believes his responsibility is to set an example for his students and staff. “I believe kindness and love are beyond religion,” Thomason says.

He knows that some people may think of secular education as a restrictive environment, but he does not. Following the desires of his heart, Thomason chooses to serve in the public arena, aspiring to someday expand his role at a high school and perhaps in a superintendency. Looking for godly understanding, he seeks wisdom that doesn’t come from man. His motto: “Use wisdom in the way you let your light shine.”
“I’ve worked my life backwards,” laughs Gary Ottman, ’05 (Undergraduate Studies) and ’07 (Global Leadership & Entrepreneurship). After nearly 28 years as a successful businessman, why did Ottman choose to pursue not one but two degrees at Regent University? The answer is simple to this energetic visionary. “Life seems to be a series of opportunities for persistence, staying the course … being where God wants you,” Ottman remarks. He explains that he felt compelled to finish what he began many years ago in his youth.

“ ‘You can’t be 90 percent filled with integrity … Whatever we do, because we’re glorifying God, we want to be great.’ ”

As the founder and president of AMSTAR, Louisville, Ky., Ottman has accrued 25 years of experience in commercial construction and is chief strategy officer for two subsidiary companies, which complement the operation. In addition, he founded and served as chairman of SOZO International, a nongovernmental organization to serve the disadvantaged in Afghanistan and Sri Lanka.

Even with these prosperous endeavors under his belt, Ottman had a passion to know more about doing business God’s way. While attending a meeting in 2003, Ottman met Dr. John Mulford, director for Regent’s Center for Entrepreneurship and Economic Development. Ottman was intrigued with a newly launched distance-learning program at Regent and was soon on board, ready to take on this new enterprise.

Regent filled the educational niche Ottman desired. A major attraction was how he could integrate his studying into an already demanding schedule, online from home in Kentucky. Ottman speaks highly of the professors who inspired him, referring to them as firmly grounded, outstanding leaders. “Fun to do! Fun to gain education in that environment!” says Ottman. He reports some surprise at the easy camaraderie established among fellow online students, people with whom he forged encouraging relationships that he maintains even today.

Ottman sought specific and realistic answers as he attained degrees in organizational leadership and management: What does it mean to have a Christian business? What does it mean to apply Christian principles in the marketplace? “My studies were extremely valuable both for me, and ultimately for others,” Ottman says. Personally taking great care to employ a principled approach at AMSTAR, quality, honesty and expertise have been trademarks of Ottman’s growing commercial construction business. Now carrying his quest a step further, he has taken his knowledge to others. Hosting men’s small groups, Ottman has mentored many in ways to make workplace decisions with integrity.

When Ottman heard of the enormous needs in a newly freed Afghanistan, he desperately wanted to act. “I’m one of those ‘just do it’ people,” he reflects. In 2002, Ottman founded a private agency to serve the thousands of disadvantaged refugees. The government of Afghanistan provided several hundred acres, an ad hoc refugee area. The challenge? Sand, lots of sand, and no water, no food, no anything. With these obstacles before him, Ottman plied his skills in community development. The agency established wells, housing, micro-lending for small businesses, agricultural projects and education, accruing resources and building hope for the hopeless. Ottman knew he was to be the road builder, one to develop the organization with the opportunity serve; likewise, in 2007, he knew it was time to turn the leadership over to others.

Though Ottman may have lived some life events in reverse, integrity has been his theme throughout. “You can’t be 90 percent filled with integrity. You either have it or you don’t,” he says. “Whatever we do, because we’re glorifying God, we want to be great.” To live that high standard, Ottman works to be transparent and accountable to those around him: family, friends, faith groups and business associates.

This remarkable man is not finished learning. Ottman has been accepted at Oxford School of Missionary Studies in England and is confident he will continue studying. Despite living his life “backwards,” he says, “God has continued to bless me and my family. I’m more excited about tomorrow than I’ve ever been.”

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GARY OTTMAN
CARLETTA N. PERRY

Compassionate encourager. Skilled marriage and family counselor. Qualified clinician and consultant. From counseling families of the Navy SEALs to children in foster care, Carletta Perry ’08 (Psychology & Counseling) has dedicated her life to caring about others. Being one of a small percentage of African-American females who have earned a doctorate, Perry fills a unique niche. Aware of the potential impact she may have on those she intends to serve, she says, “I have a unique calling to help others. Every day I am my own counseling tool, helping one person at a time.”

Years before, with initial aspirations in the field of law, Perry observed numerous shattered marriages while working as a paralegal. Always a natural encourager, she found people seeking her advice … counsel … a kind word. “I wanted to find a way to help the people more,” Perry says. “I believe in marriage. It’s just a passion.” With her employer’s suggestion to return to school, Perry soon settled on the field of psychology, believing it would prepare her to make a more lasting difference.

In choosing her university, Perry considered Regent not only because it was geographically accessible but, more importantly, it provided the specific research and clinical program she sought. As she visited the campus, Perry says she discovered friendly, accepting people, a capable faculty and the necessary curriculum to meet her goals in marriage and family counseling.

Perry has worked as a Family Resiliency Trainer for the Navy SEALs, providing counseling and consultation to services members and their families. Her role with the SEALs enhanced relationships in a setting in which there can be high levels of stress, impacting family dynamics. “The clinical psychology skills I was taught at Regent seem to me to be universal,” Perry says. She explains that no matter what the situation, first she applies the principles of clinical psychology to the unique family setting and, secondarily, considers the community perspective.

Perry most recently worked as director of social services for the Bair Foundation in Chesapeake, Va., a Christian foster care organization headquartered in Pennsylvania. She provided leadership to the staff of intake workers, case managers and interns. She orchestrated state and national regulation compliance, managed the budget and ensured the quality of care for the clients. The overriding goal was to create a team approach, networking with staff, children and parents. “I don’t see children without seeing family,” Perry says.

“Every day I am my own counseling tool, helping one person at a time …”

She reflected on some important takeaways from her studies at Regent. “What I learned most was not always in the books, but from watching my professors,” she recalls. “They were men and women of humility, able to combine teaching about Christ and teaching about clinical psychology.” Perry believes she is a different kind of doctor of psychology because she carries love, compassion and truth into each setting.

A life-changing class at Regent helped shaped Perry’s paradigm for counseling. Having developed curriculum for training on marriage and parenting, Perry and 11 other young women traveled to Tanzania, Africa, as a culmination of their Mental Health Missions course. Deeply moved by the people she had quickly grown to love, Perry returned to the United States with an even greater burden to help the African people. Dr. Glen Moriarty, her professor and mentor, advised that Perry couldn’t save the whole world, but she could start by helping one person at a time. Perry explains, “And so, every day I am my own counseling tool, helping one person at a time, whether in my office, or in an elevator, whether with Navy SEALs who have seen the world, or children who have never seen the outside of their small town.”

Perry envisions someday establishing her own marriage center, working with couples and families. With the educational tools she has acquired, with a belief that her life and character must be intact to accomplish her goals, Dr. Carletta Perry is a woman ready to lead … in service to others. —
Who could imagine a renaissance where vagrants, crime and dilapidated buildings were once the status quo? With vision and devotion, Audrey Madrigal Cox ’97 (Government) has been an instrumental transformer, serving as the project manager of the Historic Downtown Los Angeles Retail Project. Five years later, the once-seedy, crime-ridden area now bubbles with life from attractive boutiques, cafes, galleries and loft apartments.

While pursuing her undergraduate degree in California, Cox read about Regent University’s program in public policy. Accepted for a graduate program in her home state, Cox instead traveled from coast to coast to capture the unique offerings at Regent. “I chose Regent because the classes were taught with biblical principles. I wanted a broad foundation so I could best execute urban planning in the area I wanted,” Cox explains. At Regent, she studied the principles of law, economics and history, all of which she has applied to her current redevelopment project. “I was challenged to keep up with everything current, and my mind opened to a broader perspective,” Cox states.

While at Regent, she briefly considered applying her education at the national government level in Washington, D.C. However, always having had an interest in local government, Cox was encouraged by one of her professors to return to her beloved Los Angeles. “Dr. Morgan told the class, ‘Audrey gets it … she goes back to her city,’” she says, fondly reminiscing. It was the convincing nudge she needed to return her to her destiny.

Cox always loved her hometown of Los Angeles, but in 2004 she turned zeal into action. With a commitment to serve others, she was confident that the opportunity to launch and manage the L.A. redevelopment project suited her educational background and passion to restore dying neighborhoods.

A key to Cox’s success has been creating the perfect mix of urban living and working establishments, making the Historic Downtown a convenient, exciting place for residents and shoppers alike. Architectural gems from the 1920s have been restored to their original glory. New life abounds as people discover the convenience of living in a restored urban center. With innovative entrepreneurial ventures springing up all around to stimulate economy, crime rates dissipated. There are now 40 art galleries with thousands visiting monthly to see the displays.

“Find a way to serve others in an area you really enjoy. Seek your passion.”

As the only full-time staff person for this urban project, Cox delights in providing assistance to individual businesses. Not only does she get them off the ground, she is a conduit of resources to keep them going profitably, providing consulting, training and financing. “Small business is the key to our economy,” Cox states. “It’s the small business owner with that entrepreneurial spirit that creates jobs and tax revenue.” With her expertise, tax incentives, financial lending programs and one-on-one assistance, 55 businesses have been established with countless more on the way.

“I am very much a service provider to those in need,” Cox explains. Recalling those who have come to her with a passionate desire to see their business dreams realized, she finds her role very humbling. “The impact I make is so much greater than the one person I help,” she comments, recalling a greater economic impact that a successful business can make. “It puts a huge smile on my face.”

Recalling the Regent motto, Christian Leadership to Change the World, Cox knows she found such an opportunity in Los Angeles. She recognizes her strength in helping others one-on-one and plies her skills in the area of redevelopment. Having gained so much experience in Los Angeles, Cox will soon embark on a new venture: marriage and a subsequent relocation to Houston, Texas. Though Cox is not sure what shape her future takes, she is passionate about finding ways to serve. Cox advises thoughtfully, “Find a way to serve others in an area you really enjoy. Seek your passion.” Audrey Madrigal Cox has done this very thing.
“What's next?” pondered Dr. Craigan Gray ’05 (Law) in 2000. At a time when most people begin thinking of retirement, Gray, a career physician and hospital medical officer, pulled a switchback. With an avid zeal for living and learning, Gray weighed the idea of attending law school after many years in the field of medicine. The idea began to germinate after Gray worked with lawyers on a number of medical and related leadership issues.

“We press on toward the high calling of God, but our relationship with God also calls us to excellence in relationship.”

While attending a conference, Gray first heard about Regent’s School of Law, which wasn't then on his list of potential law schools. “The opportunity to learn the law in the context of the Christian faith was very intriguing to me,” Gray says. After visiting the campus, he chose to apply to the law school with a quiet assurance that it was where he should be.

Gray fondly recalls his experience at Regent with its staff-student camaraderie and freely given respect from those who were mostly many years his junior. While earning a degree and competing with students in their 20s might have been a daunting exercise for some seasoned professionals, Gray took it in stride. “I am probably one of very few people my age who can say I have more than 150 friends who are 25,” he chuckles.

Many people attain education in order to prepare for a profession, but Gray has uniquely acquired not only an M.D., but an MBA and, most recently, a J.D. from Regent University. Beyond the extraordinary feat of acquiring such a mass of knowledge, Gray is currently applying these distinctly diverse areas of expertise as director for the Division of Medical Assistance for North Carolina.

Now as a health policy leader charged with running the largest healthcare delivery system in North Carolina, Gray is a point man for state healthcare reform. Years ago, North Carolina started Project Access for the uninsured, dividing up Medicaid. In order to provide a quality-driven process while extracting $1.5 billion from the healthcare system of North Carolina this year, he plans to focus on quality. Gray knows that a volume-driven system is not as effective as one that measures outcomes. He acknowledges that his management must not only measure performance, but build consensus in order to consolidate among all the diverse players in case management: medical, social services, mental/behavioral health, staff, vendors and beneficiaries of the services. “My job here is to carry the vision—hold a ‘flashlight’ on the path, just one step ahead of the person I’m leading. That has been successful; I do not micromanage,” Gray reports.

While working as a chief medical officer at Bon Secours in Ashland, Ky., Gray was invited to run the Medicaid program in North Carolina. He faced this new challenge with energy. Combining a change in attitude, morale and vision with a strong business model, Gray happily reports that he is seeing new efficiencies in the system. “A staff of only 430 people care for 1.6 million Medicaid beneficiaries,” he points out. “Creative thinking has to be applied within the context of government, which is a trick within itself,” he laughs.

Challenged, but not overwhelmed, as a director of the Division of Medical Assistance, Gray says, “The beauty of this opportunity is that I took it because I wanted to, not because I had to.” He wants to enhance the self-worth of all he works with, publically recognizing and celebrating positive accomplishments. As the director, Gray strives for fairness at all times.

Possessing an incredible breadth of knowledge, Gray shares two simple words to summarize his advice on leadership:

“Press on.” Gray says, “Those words have a spiritual connotation. We press on toward the high calling of God, but our relationship with God also calls us to excellence to others—in relationship.” It is obvious to all who have observed the prodigious life of Dr. Craigan Gray that he has lived his message.

Press on, Dr. Gray. —

CRAIGAN L. GRAY
Take the quaintness of any New England town, combine it with a fairy tale story like Robin Hood, throw in a dash of English tea, and you have the city of Oxford. It is here that 15 other Regent students and I took part in the Robertson School of Government’s study abroad program.

Home to the oldest English-speaking university in the world, Oxford was the intellectual birthplace of individuals like William Tyndale, John Locke, George Whitefield, John Wesley and C.S. Lewis. Outside of London, I can think of no other place in Great Britain to host so many individuals who would decidedly influence the direction of the English-speaking world, developing foundational treaties of self-governance and the first English translation of the Bible.

With cobblestone streets running throughout, the church towers of Oxford create a picturesque skyline typically found on a painter’s canvas. Walking through the city, I could imagine being transported back in time. On the left there is a college chapel built in the mid-1400s, while down the street there is another college founded in 1249.

Nathan McGrath, a third-year law student at Regent, was impressed by Oxford’s combination of history and grandeur. “As you walk through the streets and halls of historic Oxford, surrounded by its amazing architecture, where the likes of C.S. Lewis, J.R.R. Tolkien and many others engaged in intellectual pursuits, you cannot help but feel the aura of the greatness and the proud intellectual history that surrounds you,” McGrath explains.

With this collage of history and art setting the stage, our group engaged the ideas and intellectual forces that are shaping tomorrow’s headlines. The first half of the Oxford study abroad program addressed the topic of Islam and European politics. The understanding we developed concerning this topic proved astounding. In only a few weeks, I found myself entrenched in discussion of how Europe’s policies toward its growing Muslim population could help define its future as a continent.

I was awakening to a realization of just how important it is for Europe’s continued success to develop policies that address Muslims’ needs while preserving a European approach to life.

The second half of the program focused on understanding the early English Constitution in relationship to the ideas that gave birth to the American Constitution. Again, the historical perspective we developed at Oxford gave us fresh eyes through which to understand the current course and direction of the British and American peoples.

This course intensified my appreciation for the role of parliaments in the world. Americans see elected officials as their representatives, operating through delegated power. Members of Parliament conversely see themselves as a physical gathering of the people themselves, and therefore exercising the actual political power of the people. So, while I grew to love their distinctively English understanding of self-governance, it also gave me a deeper

By Paul Boller
love for the ideas that make America unique from its English heritage.

While we found ourselves awakening to new ideas and concepts, we were also physically engaged. Moving ideas from the abstract to the concrete, Regent facilitated multiple field trips to one of the greatest cities in the world—London. As we walked through that ornate city, we saw buildings and places that stood as physical results of putting ideas into practice. For example, the idea of self-governance is now a reality in the modern existence of Parliament. On one side of the city stands Parliament as the embodiment of the rule of law, while on the other side of the city stands the Mosque of London as a symbol of the relationship between the British and Muslim peoples.

The Oxford study abroad program was structured to allow us the maximum freedom to travel, and London proved just the beginning. Taking advantage of the amazing British rail system, one day a group would be at the iconic Stonehenge and the city of Bath, while another group was touring the capital city of Wales. About this blend of academics and travel, Ben Titter, a joint degree student in Regent’s Schools of Government and Law, said that trying to quantify what he gained from the trip would be like trying to understand the word “usufruct.” “The academic portion of the program was well worth the trip,” says Titter, “but combined with the chance to spend time in London, see Stonehenge and visit the Roman baths, it was awe-inspiring.”

If the Oxford program had a motto, it would be “experience it.” We ate fish and chips at the pub where C.S. Lewis and J.R.R. Tolkien lingered and talked about their literary works that would go on to fill the imaginations of readers by the millions. We enjoyed afternoon tea in the great hall of one of Oxford’s oldest colleges. We ate the traditional British bean and toast breakfast. We gazed upon the art collection of Her Majesty the Queen. We punt ed the River Thames by using long wooden poles to propel our flat-bottomed boats down the river. We watched both the Members of Commons and the Lords of the House debate matters of national policy. Simply, we did.

Ultimately, Oxford proved to be about more than just academics—it also proved to be a journey. And like the best journeys, you don’t travel alone. While we may not have known it then, “we happy few” students who embarked on the journey of Oxford became like Shakespeare’s band of brothers. The friendships we developed in those brief weeks were of a depth that typically only comes over the course of time. The places we saw and the things we experienced will live in our memories all the more because of the friends we now share those memories with.

“So many mundane moments were transformed into magical ones because we were with good friends in such fantastic places,” explains government student Ivette Diaz, “from fighting mysterious bugs at Stonehenge and nightly ice-cream runs, to heart-to-heart conversations on a train rolling through the English countryside.”

Even the professors could not escape the wake of the Oxford study abroad program. “I had wonderful opportunities to interact with students on an individual basis,” says government professor Dr. Jennifer Jefferis. “It meant I could learn more about an individual student’s expectations and interests and tailor my teaching accordingly. I made friendships there that will extend far beyond the trip.”

Regent’s Oxford study abroad program was unforgettable. The faculty and the staff were exceptional. The places we saw were eye-opening. The friendships we formed were deep. The subjects we learned were invaluable. Dave Lettieri, another joint degree student in the Schools of Government and Law, says that perhaps the greatest aspect of the trip was strengthening old friendships and making new ones. “I hope they will last a lifetime,” Lettieri says. “I knew the trip would be great, but it was far better than I ever could have imagined.”

Oxford’s motto is Dominus Illuminatio Mea, meaning The Lord is My Light. For many of us on the trip, it was indeed a moment of Divine illumination.
Regent University graduate, Bruce Smith ’06 (Divinity), knows what it’s like to run a marathon; after all, he’s run nine thus far. His ministry calling—the race God has set before him—is even more exhilarating, rewarding and reaches lives all over the world. As CEO of Wycliffe Associates, Smith has a hand in ensuring those who want the Bible translated into their own language have a chance of receiving it.

Can you imagine opening a life-changing letter that you couldn’t read because it wasn’t written in a language you understood? What if you knew it contained information that was vital to navigating life’s challenges and circumstances, yet no one was around to decipher this wisdom for you?

Living in a place where Bibles are readily available, it’s hard to imagine not being able to read and understand God’s letter to us. We don’t have just one version; we have many translations, interpretations and topical styles. Twenty English-language versions are available on biblegateway.com alone. We can purchase Bibles such as the Experiencing God Study Bible, Life Application, Extreme Teen, Spirit-Filled Life, red letter editions or giant print, all in multiple translations. Our choices are seemingly endless.

For many in this world, however, there’s not even one Bible from which to choose, as none have been written in their native tongue. They have no idea what Scripture has said to them regarding how to live, love, serve or how to run their own race. And they haven’t heard the most important message in the Gospel of John: how much God loves them and has offered salvation through His Son, Jesus. For them, reading John 3:16, one of the most revered verses in Christianity, might feel something like reading this:

“Ti noatepae, Kotone i haemo beto mole so whi kolene sinolo yaala soko furaalu, ama mo beta betere Naaletei i haepaae wopolo dotonalepo. Mepaae so whi dene ai dotono betere Naalepaae kisipa tiro betepa, ti atetere so whi aluni, mo ti beto tawaalo ai ape.”

“For God so loved the world, that He gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life.” (KJV)

Thankfully, someone hand-wrote that foreign translation in Folopa, a language used in Papua New Guinea.

Every Verse, Every Tongue, Every Task: that’s the mission of Wycliffe Associates, an organization dedicated to playing a significant role in making God’s Word accessible to all.
role in making sure the Bible will be available in every person’s language.

Smith completed his Doctorate of Ministry from Regent’s School of Divinity in 2006. In 2009, Regent named him Alumnus of the Year, recognizing his important contribution to the Great Commission. He has dedicated the past ten years of his life to the company whose mission recognizes God’s Word as central to everything they do. Smith is so passionate about his work because of the impact of the Bible in people’s lives. He calls biblical characters like Joseph, David, Elijah and Caleb his personal mentors. When facing tough issues in life, the Bible is where Smith finds his answers. “I’ve experienced that power personally and seen its power transform the lives of people around the world.”

Around the time he began his studies at Regent, Smith was experiencing a personal trial, wanting answers from God. Digging into the Book of Job greatly impacted his journey. He understands why the Bible is needed to transform people’s lives and hearts. “My heart breaks for people who live beyond the reach of God’s Word. Some are isolated by geography, politics or illiteracy. I’ve seen the Bible transform the lives of men and women living in the most desperate circumstances of the world—in poverty, war, sickness and ignorance. I see Christians in other nations experience their own reformation when, for the first time in their lives, they hear God’s voice in their own language. They move beyond dependence on someone else for spiritual interpretation to being able to receive and understand God’s Word personally and directly. I see people who have lived their entire lives in hopelessness and antagonism to Christ find hope and love for the first time.”

Even though Smith was already serving at Wycliffe when he began studying at Regent, he feels his coursework has impacted the work he does: “I learned new things, heard new perspectives from writers and professors, and applied these new things directly to Wycliffe Associates’ ministry challenges. Regent was, and is, a community of faith that strengthens each of us as we serve God.”

In 1999, 3,000 languages still needed to be translated into Bibles. Wycliffe Associates has a worldwide dream with partner ministries: it’s called Vision 2025. Smith describes this as “a desire to see God’s Word reach every language still needing Scripture by the year 2025. At the historic rate of 20 new translations beginning each year, this would have taken until 2150 just to begin these translations. Partners in Bible translation worldwide agreed to make every effort to accelerate Bible translation to see God’s Word impact the world in our generation.”

They aren’t quite on target with this timeline yet. Wycliffe is doing its part to mobilize translators by supplying volunteers all over the world to help them. Volunteers may have no idea how to translate Scripture, but they can donate other talents and services to free up translators to work on Scriptures. Smith says, “Wycliffe Associates volunteers are teaching in mission schools, doing accounting, maintaining computer networks, managing projects, building facilities and doing countless other administrative and technical support tasks to enable Bible translators to stay focused on their work. Last year, 4,100 volunteers served in 49 countries in support of Bible translation.” Wycliffe is also working on a video project to translate the Bible into 300 sign languages.

The Bible contains nearly 800,000 words divided into over 31,000 verses. Translation into just one language takes a great deal of time and effort. But Smith is up to mobilizing fellow missionaries for this task. He humbly admits, “If there is any eternal impact from my work in supporting Bible translation, it is only because of the power of His Word.”

Smith has a wonderful family surrounding him in support. He married his high school sweetheart, Jan, who serves alongside him in ministry. They have two grown daughters, Abby and Lindsey, and recently became grandparents for the first time.

As Smith fulfills his important call of God, he brings new meaning to the verse “Let us run with patience the race that is set before us.” (Heb.12:1b KJV) Or as written in Haitian Creole, “Ann kouri avek pasians non chemin Bondie mete devan nou an.”
Can two weeks change lives? You will hear a resounding “yes” if you ask the 17 faculty, students and alumni from Regent University’s First Response Trauma Team who went to South Africa to work with the Basotho tribe.

Regent professor Dr. Benjamin Keyes and his team made their first trip in summer 2009. They were well prepared because of extensive training before the trip—training in helping people deal with issues such as grief and loss, trauma within the family, domestic violence and sexual abuse.

Besides participating in higher education classes, team members got certified through Green Cross Academy of Traumatology courses, taught by Keyes. While the Red Cross focuses on physical needs during crises, the Green Cross helps with emotional needs.

Regent faculty members joining Keyes included Dr. Merrill Reese and Dr. Joseph Francis, both assistant professors, and Keyes’ wife, Kim Harris, an adjunct professor. “The vision for the team is to go where we’re called,” says Keyes, “to be able to respond to the needs and to go places that God calls us to.”

They chose Qwa Qwa as their first mission, working with Thrive Africa, an organization that equips leaders in their communities by focusing on relationships with God. They believe without that strong relationship, lasting behavioral changes are not possible. Keyes states, “The people of Thrive Africa are missionaries who have a deep love for the people they’re working with ... Most of the missionaries who come in are from church and youth groups. Our group was new for them.” The Regent team’s approach was unique. They trained teachers and coaches—who work directly with the children and families of the region—to deal with trauma and abuse. As the team trained 120 of them on issues like domestic violence, they realized some were actually victims.

Cassie Phillips is the coach development manager for Thrive Africa. Coaches are young adults with a passion for their communities who teach classes. Their young ages grant them a special connection to young people. Cassie says, “One of the biggest benefits I’ve seen from Regent’s work is the increase in confidence the coaches have displayed. They now have a deeper understanding that grief, loss, trauma and domestic violence happen across the globe. This has intensified their passion to help students through difficulties.”

The stories of lives changed through these two short weeks are countless, including helping people deal with rape, incest, AIDS, family deaths and poverty. The trauma team visited hospitals, schools, churches and people whose homes are made of tin scraps. They planted vegetables, delivered Bibles and prayed with families.

Then, an unexpected opportunity arose: a Mampoi school recently had lost its headmaster to a heart attack, and the students were struggling with shock and denial. The assistant headmaster of the school asked the trauma team to help. So they rearranged their plans to meet with more than 350 students.

Professor Kim Harris had a profound experience, taking over the headmaster’s science class. “I learned the students were in the classroom with no teacher, ” Harris explains. “The headmaster’s writing was still on the board. Luckily for me, they were learning about sound waves, and sound is part of the science curriculum I teach. I drew a wave up on the board, being very conscious of the headmaster’s handwriting, intentionally writing above it. About halfway through the lesson, a student got up from her seat and erased the headmaster’s writing off the board, making more room for me to use on the chalkboard. We continued the lesson. I found that these students were thirsty for
knowledge, but more importantly they were looking for a way to move past the grief they were experiencing. I felt very blessed to provide them with this opportunity.”

This trip allowed Keyes to watch his team in action after investing much time in preparing them for the work. “I ranged from a mixture of pride and amazement at how well they adapted their skills. They learned to be present with people in one-on-one, group or conference situations. They let people tell their stories. That’s where counseling starts. We heard difficult stories … It breaks your heart time and again, and yet these people are looking for hope.”

The team had to avoid personalizing what they were hearing and put the Basotho people first. Team member Laurena Kleckner, who received her M.A. in Counseling from Regent in 2009, knows what it means to set aside personal needs for others. The day at the Mampoi school hit home for her, as it fell on the third anniversary of her grandmother’s death. “God had to help me separate personal and professional—to be with these students in their moment of need. He provided me with this strength, and I was able to do His work in a moment when I was definitely weak.” She set aside her own pain for the students, to help them understand they are allowed to grieve their loved ones.

Students and alumni who joined the team felt equipped and trained to handle the situations they faced in Africa. Kleckner says, “The training I have received in the M.A. in Counseling program and the extracurricular trauma team training gave me much to work from. I found myself reverting continuously to what I had been taught to help them.”

Another team member, Phil Myers, agrees that his M.A. in Counseling equipped him with skills and tools needed to connect with people. “A piece of my heart stayed in South Africa. The people were beautiful inside and out,” he says. “I admired their courage, strength and simplicity. My view of the world has been broadened, and my love and understanding of others has grown.” Sensing the impact they had, Myers hopes to remain in global ministry.

Jennifer Marion, Thrive Africa’s ministry administrator, knows the team’s visit has continued to have a huge ripple effect. “They were able to touch thousands of lives,” Marion says. “Educating the nationals who constantly encounter hurting students facilitated immediate results. The people who attended the counseling sessions will be using what they learned to influence, impact and help those who need it most on a daily basis. They left a long-lasting mark on the people.”

The trauma team hopes to train others interested in this type of work. They envision a continuing program for those with a heart to make a global difference—whether they choose to be involved for two weeks, two years or longer.

“I truly believe that we each can make a difference as individuals,” says Keyes. “Sometimes it’s a small difference, sometimes giant. In our short time there, we saw people changing their outlooks, changing their focus … and there is much more work out there. We want to encourage other schools to develop trauma teams like this. Can you imagine 200 to 300 schools doing this annually? You’d have so much hands-on work being accomplished.”

Two weeks may seem like it’s only enough time to contribute a small piece. But when the small pieces are put together, they add up to a major difference—to the life of the missionary and every life they touch along the way.

For Regent University’s First Response Trauma Team, this trip to Africa was just the beginning. —
## Communication & the Arts

During the 2009–10 year, the School of Communication & the Arts (Com/Arts) hosted renowned guests such as Sam Haskell, former executive vice president and worldwide head of television for the William Morris Agency. Other guests included entertainment attorney J. Scott “Skip” Rudenske, author Josh McDowell, author Max Lucado and actress Cassie Davis from *Tyler Perry’s House of Payne*.

The Elinor Malendoski Alumni Endowed Scholarship was officially launched as a living legacy to honor Admissions Counselor Elinor Malendoski for her continued and devoted service in Com/Arts. The scholarship will be awarded to a full-time Com/Arts student.

In May, Com/Arts hosted the ReelDreams film competition, which awarded a full-tuition scholarship to Aaron Steiner who won for his film *Powers of the Air*. Lauren Nicolette won the Audience Favorite Award for her film *The Anchor* and is currently enrolled in Regent’s cinema-television program.

During the summer 2009 C.S. Lewis class at Oxford participants had the opportunity to hear Lewis scholars Michael Ward and Walter Hooper. They also studied several of Lewis’s major works at Hertford College and toured where Lewis taught and lived for 30 years. The next program is scheduled for June 26 – July 4, 2010.

MFA in Acting students and one underclassman performed two shows, *Twelfth Night* and a contemporary, musical version of *Pilgrim’s Progress*, for a summer tour. At the end of their tour, they conducted a full-length Summer Acting Training Camp with The Drifting Theatre in Tennessee, which culminated in a production of Disney’s *Mulan Jr*.

In August, four MFA in Acting alumni performed in a critically acclaimed production, *The Confessional*, written by alumnus Jayson Akridge, as part of the NYC Fringe Festival. The Fringe Festival is the largest performance arts festival in North America.

Animation camp, new for 2009, joins theatre and film as featured programs for Regent University’s 2009 Summer Creative Arts Mentorship Program (C.A.M.P.), open to young students (www.regent.edu/summercamp).

As of October 2009, Com/Arts cinema-television students had won 45 film awards for 2008–09, bringing their total to date to 233 awards.

## Divinity

The School of Divinity is pleased to announce that Dr. Amos Yong has been appointed as the first holder of the J. Rodman Williams Chair of Theology.

In February, divinity professor Dr. Antipas Harris helped coordinate several events for Black Heritage Month (BHM), including an Urban Renewal Symposium and a Gospel Fest. As part of the celebration, divinity professor Dr. Clifton Clarke offered the lecture “When We Were Kings,” which revisited the days of African kings and kingdoms.

In April, Clarke and the Rev. Ella R. Thompson, director of career and alumni services for the School of Divinity, were featured speakers at the Intercultural Leadership Seminar themed “Diversity in Community.”

In October, the School of Divinity hosted the Charles Holman Honorary Lecture Series, featuring Professor Loren Stuckenbruck of the Princeton Theological Seminary. Stuckenbruck presented a series of three papers at Regent.

The School of Divinity hosted its annual Ministry Fair in October, which serves as a networking forum for churches, parachurch ministries, chaplaincy sites, international ministries, students and alumni.

In February 2010, the renewal studies doctoral program hosted “The Great Commission and the Non-Christian Religions” symposium. A panel of scholars reflected on a renewal approach to the Christian mission in a world of many faiths. Specific presentations explored the Christian encounter with Islam, Hinduism and Buddhism.

Also in February, Visiting Professor Dr. Mark Wilson lead a 15-day study tour through the ancient cultures of Israel and Jordan (www.regent.edu/studytour).

## Education

The School of Education (SOE) celebrates its 30th year anniversary and is recognizing the more than 350 alumni honored as Teacher of the Year in their districts to date.

In June, SOE student Antwan Perry was appointed president-elect of the Virginia College Personnel Association (VCPA), a state division of the leading professional student affairs organization, American College Personnel Association (ACPA).

In September, SOE celebrated its 11th annual Salute to Teachers event, which drew 400 people to honor the Teachers of the Year in the Hampton Roads, Va., area. Forty-four of these teachers are SOE alumni.

In October, SOE hosted the 2009 Virginia Federation of the Virginia Christian School (VA CEC) conference on campus at Regent. This year’s conference was on “Balancing Trends and Issues: 21st Century Special Education.”

Dr. Alfred Rovai, associate vice president for academic affairs and SOE professor, was named a 2009 Darden College of Education Fellow at Old Dominion University. Rovai is one of only five scholars this year selected for the honor.

Rovai and SOE professors Dr. Michael Ponton and Dr. Jason Baker were awarded the Design and Development (D&D) Outstanding Book Award for 2009 for *Distance Learning in Higher Education* and received a plaque at the D&D luncheon during the Association for Educational Communications and Technology (AECT) annual convention.

## Global Leadership & Entrepreneurship

Since its inception in 2007, the School of Global Leadership & Entrepreneurship (GLE) has trained close to 10,000 Peruvian youths through its entrepreneurship initiative in Lima, Peru, and adjacent cities. This year’s program, “Generating Business Ideas,” ran from August 2008 through March 2009 and empowered approximately 6,000 young professionals through skill-building and business development.

GLE welcomed Harvard University’s Ronald A. Heifetz, founding director of the Center for Public Leadership at the John F. Kennedy School of Government, as guest speaker for the GLE doctoral residency in May. Heifetz, a global speaker and consultant to leaders in business and government, spoke to the students on the topic of “Adaptive Leadership.”

In May, the school hosted a successful 2009 Roundtable of Contemporary Research and Practice, which featured plenary speaker Larry Spears. Participants came to Regent from countries such as Norway, Jamaica and South Africa. Dr. Kathleen Patterson and Dr. Corné Bekker are planning the 2010 event, which is scheduled for May 15–16.

Regent’s Students in Free Enterprise (SIFE) team, in association with GLE, launched MBA Entrepreneur magazine to inspire entrepreneurs to global action. Articles examine the launch of new ventures, growing a business, and managing and leading people. Involvement with the magazine provides another avenue for SIFE Team members to serve others, gain valuable business insights, expand their résumés and portfolios, and increase their project management experience. MBA
Entrepreneur magazine is available online at www.regent.edu/mbamagazine.

In June, GLE partnered with Inside Business to co-host the 2009 Entrepreneurial Excellence Awards (EEA). EEA celebrates the innovative spirit of Hampton Roads entrepreneurs by honoring individuals who create successful businesses and have a positive impact on the community.

Government
The Robertson School of Government (RSG) celebrated one of its highest enrollments ever in fall 2009, increasing credit hours by 16 percent and new student enrollment by 11 percent as compared to fall 2008.


Government students Emil Abu-jaber and Guido Arana Jauregui traveled to New York to register and serve as nongovernmental organization (NGO) representatives to lobby committees at the United Nations (U.N.). This opportunity is part of a new independent study course organized by RSG professor Dr. Doug Walker in cooperation with Dr. Mark Mostert, director of the Institute for the Study of Disability & Bioethics and School of Education professor.

RSG students have also been registered to serve as NGO representatives at two other United Nations meetings to take place this semester. Students assigned to these meetings will promote pro-nationalist policies and lobby for pro-family, pro-life and pro-disability wording in the documents and decisions made by U.N. committees.

In September, Dr. Pingfan Hong, chief of global economic monitoring for the Department of Economic and Social Affairs at the United Nations, was the keynote speaker for RSG’s Global Economic Forum. Hong spoke on “How China Could Contribute to a Benign Global Rebalancing” to a standing-room only audience of students, staff and faculty.

Also in September, best-selling author Joel C. Rosenberg spoke at Regent, sponsored by RSG and the School of Law, about the release of his latest project, the Inside the Revolution DVD. This documentary film takes viewers inside what he believes are the three most dramatic movements of current times: radicals, reformers and revivalists.

RSG students Carin Miller and Elizabeth Miller were accepted into a prestigious internship at the Joint Forces Staff College in Norfolk, Va. The internship involves the Purple Lightning exercise, which is a simulation to submerge the senior military leaders studying at Joint Forces Staff College in an environment where they have to deal with the complexity of planning and executing joint, multinational and interagency operations.

Law
Eighty-five percent of Regent University School of Law graduates passed the February 2009 Virginia Bar Exam on their first attempt, according to the Virginia Board of Bar Examiners. The average pass rate for statewide first-time bar exam takers was 58 percent.

During summer 2009, Regent Law and the Christian Legal Society partnered to develop a unique online resource for lawyers and students who believe faith is central to practice and study. CrossandGavel.org provides research tools, discussion boards, networking opportunities and more.

Regent Law is beginning a student and faculty exchange agreement with Shantou University Law School in Shantou, China.

During Regent Law’s first Community Service Day in August, 110 students, faculty and alumni served six different locations in Hampton Roads. Cleaning up trash, stocking food shelves and rehabilitating oyster beds were among the 550 hours of community service completed in just one day.

In October, Regent Law’s trial competition team won the National Pretrial Competition Championship at Stetson Law School in Gulfport, Fla. They captured the Best Brief Award at this tournament a year ago. This year, they won the Best Brief Award, as well as the Best Oralist Awards and overall championship. The team finished ahead of trial powerhouses Baylor, Stetson and Chicago-Kent.

Psychology & Counseling
In May 2009, School of Psychology & Counseling (SPC) Professor Dr. Rosemary Thompson and alumna Dr. Suzanne A. Waterstruss (’06) were honored for their excellence in counseling with awards from the Hampton Roads Counselors Association (HRCA) during an April meeting at Norfolk State University. Waterstruss was named the 2008–09 HRCA Counselor of the Year. Thompson, who is also coordinator of the SPC’s new online Clinical Mental Health program, received the Virginia Beach HRCA Career Service Award.

In June 2009, SPC inducted 63 new members into the Alpha Omega Lambda chapter of Chi Sigma Iota (CSI), the international academic honor society for students, professional counselors and counselor educators.

Dr. Jennifer Ripley, director of the SPC Marriage and Ministry Assessment Training & Empowerment Center (MMATE), helped launch The Hope Project website in June, which is a comprehensive site dedicated to aid counselors, pastors and couples in promoting better marriages (www.mmatecenter.com).

Regent University’s Center for Trauma Studies deployed their trauma team to Harrismith, South Africa as part of the 2009 summer study abroad practicum in trauma. Under the supervision of Dr. Benjamin Keyes and Dr. Merrill Reese, team members had the opportunity to provide trauma counseling in villages, prisons and hospitals in the area.

In September 2009, SPC faculty, students and alumni were among the presenters at the Association for Assessment in Counseling Education (AACE) 2009 National Assessment Conference held in Norfolk, Va.

The 2009 World Conference of the American Association of Christian Counselors was held September 16–19 in Nashville, Tenn. Featured presenters at the conference included many Regent SPC faculty, students and alumni.

Undergraduate Studies
Regent’s School of Undergraduate Studies (RSU) now offers on-campus classes in the traditional, 16-week semester format. Thirty-eight semester-long on-campus classes were offered in fall 2009 and 44 in spring 2010.

The third annual Scholars Weekend drew 26 of the best and brightest minds to campus to compete for full and partial scholarships to RSU. Five scholars received a full-tuition scholarship and five received a half/partial scholarship. The 2010 Scholars Weekend was held February 4–6.

In May, CIO magazine chose to honor Regent for its comprehensive Marketing Measurement System, which launched in February 2008. Regent built the system to measure and analyze online recruitment marketing methods for RSU.

The second annual Government Camp drew 25 campers from across the United States. Campers participated in site visits to Langley Air Force Base, the Navy Ordinance Disposal Unit and Xe (Blackwater). The next Government Camp will be held July 19–23, 2010.

Regent faculty and staff are invited to forward school news or any changes in curriculum, faculty or staff to schoolupdates@regent.edu.
Alumni Referral Grant: Choose Who Receives a Grant to Attend Regent University

As an alumnus of Regent University, you have a special opportunity to choose who receives a grant to attend Regent University through Regent’s Alumni Referral Grant Program.

The Alumni Referral Grant is valued at $500 per semester for students enrolling in the School of Undergraduate Studies (may not be combined with other school-based financial aid) and a one-time $500 grant for those enrolling in any of Regent’s graduate programs (may be combined with additional school-based financial aid).

Simply visit www.regent.edu/alumnigrant to complete the online referral form. Your friends/family members will receive an email letting them know you referred them and a link to complete a Request for Information form. The friend/family member must use the link provided in the email to request information to ensure that s/he receives the grant.

The grant may be extended to any friend, family member, student or colleague. If you have any questions, please contact Melissa Fuquay at mfuquay@regent.edu or 757.352.4270.

Regional Alumni Gatherings

Over the last several months the Office of Alumni Relations had the opportunity to connect with alumni through events in Hampton Roads; Williamsburg, Va.; Winston-Salem, N.C.; Dallas, Texas; Orlando, Fla.; Burbank, Calif. and Raleigh, N.C.

The events provided alumni with updates on the university and additional opportunities to get involved.

Regent University’s Alumni Association has officially established regional alumni chapters in Dallas; Hampton Roads; Washington, D.C.; Central Florida; Los Angeles; New York City and Raleigh, with plans to open more chapters in the coming months.

For more information on Regent’s alumni chapters, please contact Michelle McGrath, manager of Regional Alumni Programs, at mmcgrath@regent.edu or 757.352.4612.

Now You Can Connect to the Online Alumni Community with Facebook

If you’re already enjoying the benefits of social media through Facebook, now you can link your Facebook account to Regent University’s alumni online community for even more benefits and networking opportunities.

New users can begin simply by clicking “First Time Login” at regentalumni.org to establish your account.

All users with a Facebook account can enjoy an easy connection to their Regent alumni community by clicking the “Connect with Facebook” icon at regentalumni.org. Then, just log in using your Facebook username and password.

Enjoy the many benefits of the online community, including:

- Online Alumni Directory
- Job Bank
- Personalized Profiles
- News Listings
- Regional Chapter Events

Alumni Day at Busch Gardens, Williamsburg.
Dr. Robert Scott (Communication & the Arts) has been teaching at Southeastern University in Lakeland, Fla., since fall 2007. He is an associate professor in communication, teaching mass communication courses.

Bob Maxey (Law) started the firm Higher Ground Mediation, LLC in Tampa, Fla. This is a state-wide mediation firm focused on applying biblical contexts to mediation and helping people to reach agreement without going through the challenges of litigation.

Stephen “Steve” Rogers (Government) is a corporate counsel with a multinational oil services firm, Frank’s International.

Edward Bryant (Government) was selected by the St. Louis Business Journal to receive one of its Inclusive Leadership Awards.

Cheryl McKay (Communication & the Arts) lives in Los Angeles, where she relocated in 2000 after going through the Act One: Writing for Hollywood program.

Daris Meeks (Government) is working at the House Republican Conference, chaired by Congressman Mike Pence.

Stacey Haines (Communication & the Arts) was the winner of a gold award for the Home & Gardens category at the National Magazine Awards held in Toronto, June 5, 2009. With four nominations, Haines was one of the most nominated photographers.

Michael Ray Smith (Communication & the Arts) led a three-panel program on convergence, backpack journalism and multimedia writing for College Media Advisers on October 29, 2009, in Austin, Texas. Smith is a professor of communication studies at Campbell University.

Cyndy Wolk (Communication & the Arts) produces and edits documentaries for Wycliffe Bible Translators. She is independently creating an international children’s television show.

Dr. David C. Alves (Divinity) is the co-founder and director of Frontline Ministries, Inc., a ministry that, for over 20 years has shared the Father’s heart with churches and organizations worldwide. He is also co-pastor of New Life Fellowship in Concord, N.H., where he has served for 13 years.

Elizabeth Snead Combs (Law) was appointed by the executive secretary of the Virginia Supreme Court to serve as chief magistrate for the 28th Judicial District, Region 1 (Washington and Smyth counties and the City of Bristol in Virginia). She previously served as an assistant commonwealth’s attorney in Russell County, Va.

Dr. Linda D. Grooms (Global Leadership & Entrepreneurship and Education) is currently an associate professor of education at Regent University and gave three presentations at the International Mentoring Association in Las Vegas, Nev. She also chaired a panel, “The Tapestry of Mentoring Leaders in Diverse Educational Contexts,” which included research from two of her doctoral graduates’ dissertations.

Nancy Olsen (Divinity and Global Leadership & Entrepreneurship) developed a Web-based strategic planning application, MyStrategicPlan, which was awarded Best New Product at the Stevie Awards in 2009.

Dr. Cheryl Wilson-Bridges (Divinity) is the minister of music at the Community Praise Center Church in Alexandria, Va. She is a theologian, worship leader and international lecturer.

Maryrose McEvoy (Divinity) and her husband, Bill, officially kicked off their new church plant in Lake Ronkonkoma, N.Y., on June 7, 2009.

Quinard Adams (Divinity and Global Leadership & Entrepreneurship) launched a church plant, Simple Grace Ministries, in Hampton Roads, Va. The first service was held on Resurrection Sunday.

Alvin Ray Yount (Communication & the Arts) was a candidate for Arizona governor in the 2009 election. Since graduating from Regent, he has taught as a professor at Prescott College.
2005

Gerald “Jerry” Adams (Education) has been a member of Toastmasters International, a nonprofit and educational public speaking and leadership organization, for almost two years. He served the club in dual officer roles as vice president of public relations and vice president of membership. On July 1, 2009, he became the club’s president.

Dr. Justin Irving (Global Leadership & Entrepreneurship) was chosen as the 2009 winner of the Thematic Paper and Keynote Speaker Competition for the American Society for Business and Behavioral Sciences (ASBBS) annual conference. His paper, “Intercultural Competence in Leadership Education: Keys to Educating Global Leaders,” was unanimously chosen by a three-member committee. This award gave Irving the distinct honor of serving as keynote speaker for the ASBBS annual conference held in Las Vegas, Nev., in February.

2006

Tera DeLane Simmons (Education) received an honorable mention for the biennial Dr. Hope Richardson Dissertation Award of the International Mentoring Association. The award is given to foster and disseminate research in the practice of workplace learning and performance. She also recently presented a portion of her dissertation research at the International Mentoring Association in Las Vegas, Nev.

2007

Nathaniel Dame (Undergraduate Studies) and his wife are starting a ministry, Called to Youth Ministry, to coach youth pastors. They hope to create a distance-learning approach in their teaching that emphasizes reflective practice.

Tim Ingle (Communication & the Arts) is the chairman of the nonprofit ministry Let’s Love Japan, which uses animation to share the Gospel in Japan. The ministry started a new mobile initiative, which uses mobile phones to deliver animated stories that are relevant to the Japanese culture.

Dr. Jeanine Parolini (Global Leadership & Entrepreneurship) returned from Northern India where she trained pastors and church leaders on peacemaking and reconciliation at a week-long conference. There, she also mediated conflicts within the ministry, preached at a church and spent several days coaching key leaders on how to apply the principles to their ministry setting.

2008

Stephen Casey (Law and Divinity) was named the 2009 Young Alumnus of the Year by LeTourneau University, his undergraduate alma mater. He is also completing a judicial clerkship with Justice Scott Brister of the Supreme Court of Texas and is a candidate for the Texas House of Representatives in 2010.

Melissa Fletchall (Psychology & Counseling) has worked in therapeutic foster care in the Tidewater, Virginia area since her graduation. Throughout her counseling residency, she assisted abused and neglected children and adolescents in finding safe forever homes. Beginning February 2010 she will teach English abroad.

2009

In February 2009, Linda Hudson (Divinity) was ordained to serve as a minister in the Mt. Olive Baptist Church.

Valerie Payne (Law) is practicing immigration law as a staff attorney at Just Law International in the Washington, D.C., area.

Dianne B. Steinbeck (Education) presented a portion of her dissertation research at the International Mentoring Association in Las Vegas, Nev.

Dr. Victoria L. Walker (Education) was recently promoted to director of Continuing Education and Instructional and Web Technology at Regent University.
**Marriages**

Jennifer Bittinger ’09 (Communication & the Arts) and Kristopher BoGray were married on August 1, 2009, in Norfolk, Va.

Maria DeMesa ’99 (Law) and Joel Derek Peacock were married in March 2009.

Brenda Farrell ’07 (Communication & the Arts) and Michael Greene were married on June 14, 2009, in West Greenwich, R.I.

Laura Hansen ’07 (Government) and Timothy Bilbrey were married on September 27, 2008, in Virginia Beach, Va.

Hannah Miltenberger ’07 (Global Leadership & Entrepreneurship) and Emory Brien Duke were married on March 21, 2009, in Norcross, Ga.

Dan Whiting ’05 (Global Leadership & Entrepreneurship) and Sunshine Phebus were married on May 31, 2008.

**Births**

Holly Wathe Callan ’00 (Communication & the Arts) and Andrew Callan ’00 (Global Leadership & Entrepreneurship) celebrated the birth of their son Andrew Kelby-John on May 15, 2009.

Sheila Cathcart ’03 (Global Leadership & Entrepreneurship) and her husband, Chad, celebrated the birth of their son, Ethan Harold, on November 12, 2009.

Mark J. Cote ’02 (Divinity) and his wife, Kristin, celebrated the birth of their daughter, Rachel Elizabeth, on July 6, 2009.

Jason Davis ’97 (Government) and his wife celebrated the birth of their daughter, Abigail “Abby” Joy, on April 23, 2009.

Alvin Dockett ’07 (Divinity) and Michelle Dockett ’07 (Divinity) celebrated the birth of their daughter, Sydney Elise, on August 4, 2009.

Christina Durham ’06 (Education) and her husband, Brooks, celebrated the birth of their son, Brooks Paul Jr., on February 14, 2009.

David Mundy ’02 (Law and Government) and his wife, Erin, celebrated the birth of their son, Watson Lee, on August 20, 2009.

Stephen Pfeiffer ’07 (Law) and Shelly Pfeiffer ’07 (Law) celebrated the birth of their son, Stephen DeLatte, on February 3, 2009.

Stephanie K. Prewitt ’99 (Law) and her husband, David, celebrated the birth of their daughter, Madeline June, on April 28, 2009.

Kristy Stekl-Chalfin ’00 (Divinity) and her husband, Todd, celebrated the birth of their son, John Reid, on March 25, 2009.

Kellyann (Doscher) Walker ’99 (Law) and her husband, Stephen, celebrated the birth of their son, Seanan Craig, on March 11, 2009.

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**Want your class note to appear in the next issue of Christian Leader?**

Please visit www.regentalumni.org, and click on “Submit” under the Class Notes section.

We look forward to hearing from you.

We do our best to include all submissions. However, if your submission is not received in time to include in the upcoming issue, please look for it in the next one.
Alumni
1999
Dr. Michael Ray Smith
(Communication & the Arts)
was quoted in the April 11, 2009, issue of Arizona Republic. His quote was used in Bill Goodykoontz’s article, “The Scoop on Journalism in the Movies,” which examines the portrayal of reporters in the film State of Play. Smith also published two of journal articles in Grassroots Editor: “The Seven Questions and the Daily Record” and “Hyperlocalism and The Daily Record.”

1995
Cheryl McKay
(Communication & the Arts) has recently authored books and tapes for Tommy Nelson Publishers with Frank Peretti. She also wrote a teen drama for Family Theater Productions, authored the screen adaptation of The Ultimate Gift and co-authored the novel Never the Bride, based on her original screenplay.

2000
Dr. David C. Alves (Divinity) released his book We’re the “sons of God” . . . So What? in June 2009. The book was awarded Editor’s Choice by the publisher, iUniverse. com. We’re the “sons of God” shares a biblical checklist for spiritual formation that assists the reader in understanding who God says he or she really is.

2005
Dr. Eddie L. Hyatt (Divinity) recently released his book REVIVAL FIRE: Discerning Between the True & the False. The book addresses those who hunger for genuine revival. Drawing on scripture, Church history and his own personal experience with revival, Hyatt offers guidelines for discerning revival.

2003
Dr. Elizabeth F. Desnoyers-Colas (Communication & the Arts) published her book Sistah MC Droppin’ Rhymes with a Beat: Rap, Rhetoric and Resistance in 2009. The book is based on her dissertation research and outlines the challenges African-American women have faced in their collective historic quest to establish and sustain their own voice.

2004
Dr. Cheryl Wilson-Bridges (Divinity) is the author of the newly released publication Levite Praise: God’s Biblical Design for Praise and Worship (Creation House). Levite Praise delves deeply into the Scriptures to help worship leaders and worshipers develop a full understanding of what it means to direct and take part in God’s perfect model for praise and worship.

2007
Dr. Theresa Adams
(Global Leadership & Entrepreneurship) recently released her book Parents as Leaders: Strategies for Great Parenting Leadership, which focuses on how to be a great parent. The book is a comprehensive guide that explores how parents’ decisions affect themselves, their children and the family as a whole unit.

2009
Dr. Victoria L. Walker
(Education) authored and co-authored several journal articles discussing the use of virtual environments and other innovative technologies in the education of graduate-level student counselors to ensure better understanding of course content and the development of effective counseling skills and techniques. Articles include “3D Virtual Learning in Counselor Education: Using Second Life in Counselor Skill Development”;

Faculty
Dr. Amos Yong, J. Rodman Williams professor of theology and director of the doctor of philosophy program in the School of Divinity, published his new book Hospitality.
and the Other: Pentecost, Christian Practices, and the Neighbor. In the book, Yong shows that the religious “other” is not a mere object for conversion but a neighbor to whom hospitality must be both extended and received.

Dr. Gerson Moreno-Riano, director of general education and associate professor of government in the School of Undergraduate Studies, recently published his book The Prospect of Internet Democracy.

Dr. Victor H. Cuartas, instructor for the School of Divinity and executive director of Comhina, a Missions Movement among Hispanics in the United States, recently released his book Empowering Hispanic Leaders: An Online Model. The Latino population in the United States is set to triple in size and, according to census projections, Hispanics will make up 29 percent of the United States population by 2050. This book offers suggestions for training Hispanic leaders who will be involved in ministry in various regions of the United States. Published by Church Starting Network, Empowering is available on mission2819.org and Amazon.com.


Dr. Jeffry H. Morrison, associate professor in the Robertson School of Government, recently published two books, The Political Philosophy of George Washington and The Forgotten Founders on Religion and Public Life, which was co-edited with Daniel Dreisbach and Mark David Hall.

Dr. Bruce Winston, dean of the School of Global Leadership & Entrepreneurship (GLE), along with GLE Professor Dr. Kathleen Patterson and GLE alumna ’07 Dr. Jeannine Parolini, co-authored the article, “Distinguishing Transformational and Servant Leadership,” published by the Leadership Organizational Development Journal. Take a moment to tell us about your new book release. Send submissions to www.regentalumni.org/classnotes.

School of Global Leadership & Entrepreneurship Assistant Professor Dr. Jay Gary received Emerald Management Review’s Citation of Excellence for his article, “The Future According to Jesus: A Galilean Model of Foresight,” placing it in the top 50 of 15,000 management articles published in 2008.

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A Visitor’s Salute

Regent executive leaders explore USS Harry S. Truman
By Dr. Carlos Campo

The plane’s cabin floor filled with a vapor so thick I could not see my feet. Across the aisle my two colleagues, Regent University Vice Presidents Tracy Stewart and Sherri Stocks, were all but unrecognizable. Around their necks hung green, burlap self-inflating life preservers, their begoggled heads wrapped in protective helmets with double ear protection against deafening engine noise.

My sole focus for the next hour was the riveted metal seatback in front of me. I was in one of the many seats on this C2-A Greyhound that lacked a view out the plane’s tiny windows. There would be no drink service, snack boxes, headsets, magazines, pillows or any of the usual airline amenities on this flight, clearly unlike any we had ever taken, and the best—or worst, depending on your perspective—was yet to come: an arrestor landing aboard the aircraft carrier USS Harry S. Truman.

We were among 11 civilians participating in the Aircraft Carrier Distinguished Visitor program, which takes regional leaders to sea to familiarize them with what Navy men and women do day in and day out. We were in for a variety of experiences over the next two days, but at this moment, one fastened itself like a vise upon our imaginations: the landing, which relies on a tailhook, a few arrestor wires stretched across the ship’s deck, and the expertise of our very young-looking pilot. The landing that will take us from 130 mph to zero in 3.8 seconds. The landing described to us by not-so-well-meaning colleagues as something between a rollercoaster ride and a bone-jarring stop likely resulting in substantial bodily harm. Here it comes …

By the time our collapsed lungs refilled with air it was over. We were out of the plane, across the deck and into the labyrinth of hallways and stairs that make up the Truman. Through my goggles, I saw sailors clad in multicolored suits, the grey deck peppered with sleek aircraft, mingling with the eternal blue of the sea. Up two flights of steep metal steps and we were in a control tower, munching fresh fruit as the ship’s commanding officer, Captain Joe Clarkson, welcomed us.

Our schedule was packed. Beholding operations from the bakery to dentistry, from media to engineering, we now understood why this carrier is called a “floating city.” Throughout our stay, we realized that these brave sailors were surely destined for deployment, and that—someday soon—these practice operations would take on a completely different tenor with far higher stakes.

Highlights? Standing 30 feet from an F-18 landing on the deck in front of us; having breakfast with a young sailor from Kentucky who now oversees more men and women than live in his home town; watching night operations in the stillness along a catwalk, the breeze blowing off the blackness of the ocean, and then the sudden roar of a jet landing. Any of these qualify, but I am haunted by another memory, a collective reminiscence: the grease-stained face of a young uniformed woman peering out from under a helicopter’s engine. Two sailors clad in bright green signaling to a fighter pilot preparing for takeoff. Three sailors huddled in a hallway talking about their families; others standing erect and saluting the captain as we walked past. They are repairing engines, praying in chapel, studying in the library, sending emails, sharing a meal, and in them all is the bright strength of America’s future, this unparalleled volunteer force who have left behind family and friends, hearth and home for our sakes—for freedom’s sake. Yes, they will stay with us many days after this visit ends, these young heroes we cannot begin to thank.

We cinch down the straps of our restraints, preparing for the catapult launch that will fling us past the slate-colored deck and out over the unchanging Atlantic. I glance out the window for one last glimpse of the carrier. We surely do not yet know all its intricacies, and it will go on with its mission unchanged by our presence, but we cannot say the same. They may have called us “Distinguished Visitors,” but it is they who have distinguished themselves in our memories and in our hearts, and through this visit we have been transformed by their courage and commitment.

Dr. Carlos Campo, former vice president for academic affairs at Regent University, is Regent’s president-elect.
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David Stine
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Each man should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.

II Corinthians 9:7

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