

# Bluefield College

a magazine for alumni & friends

FALL 2010



*It's back!*

## Football Returns to Bluefield College



BC Celebrates the Revival  
of Football: 6



Bogdan Ready to Relinquish  
Claim to Fame: 9



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## BLUEFIELD COLLEGE

### Our Vision

Bluefield College will be a nationally recognized Christ-centered liberal arts college, preparing innovative learners and transformational leaders to impact the world.

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*Homecoming* Sampler®  
Bluefield College 2010





Dear Bluefield Alumni and Friends:

The start of a new academic year is always an exciting time in the life of Bluefield College, but this year seems to have an added level of excitement. Our traditional student enrollment is the highest it has been since 2004, and with the increased enrollment we have a larger residential population, nearly reaching our existing capacity. As you will read in the pages to follow, the return of football is certainly generating a great deal of excitement, as well as lending to hopes for even higher enrollments in the years ahead.

An exciting initiative that launched this fall is the *Living and Learning in Appalachia* program. The program is designed to promote degree completion for first generation Appalachian students whose chances of succeeding in college are lessened by their cultural, geographical, socioeconomic, and academic backgrounds. The first cohort of students has already formed, with half of the group comprised of students from Appalachia and the other half being from various geographical areas. These students will live in close proximity to one another and take many of their General Education courses together. A faculty mentor will meet with the group at least once a week in a setting outside of the classroom, as well as travel with the group to regional cultural events and a culmination experience in Washington, DC. At the heart of this initiative is our desire to help our students succeed with their academic quests.

Other exciting activities, programs and projects are underway on campus, and I am eagerly awaiting the completion of our first athletic/recreational field on the property across College Avenue from the main campus. This is the first phase, with others to come, of implementing our collective vision set out in the Campus Master Plan for that undeveloped land. Additionally, our students will soon enjoy a newly renovated Student Activities Center in Shott Hall. With the enhancements, our students will have an even better ambiance as they enjoy their Starbucks beverages in the Quick Shott Café or listen to live music being performed on the new stage.



On a final note, our greatest excitement comes from the achievements of our students. Bluefield remains committed to its Christian mission, and we strive to encourage our students to find and live out their passions for service and ministry. In the pages following, you will learn about the efforts of students who are living their passions to impact the lives of those in Haiti and Peru.

These are indeed exciting days in the life of Bluefield College. We could not do what we do without you. Please continue to share what you can -- your prayers, your time, your treasure -- in furthering the College's mission of transforming the hearts, minds and souls of our students!

As always, you are invited to be a part of the journey...  
and bring your imagination along!

In faithful service,

David

David W. Olive

President



# Bluefield College Students Offer Hope to Haiti

James 1:27 states, "Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress and keep oneself from being polluted by the world."

This verse has been on the heart of Bluefield College senior Emily Wingfield since her childhood. God gifted her with a passion for the people of Haiti when she was merely 14 years old. Though a fire burned in her heart to help Haiti, she remained patient, prayed, and listened for an answer as to when and how.

Wingfield came to Bluefield College from Gloucester, Virginia, in the fall of 2007. While pursuing a degree in psychology with minors in business administration and Christian studies, she shared with Professor Harry Snodgrass her calling and her hopes for Haiti.

"When I think of Haiti, I think of a hopeless situation of distress, need, and poverty," Wingfield said, "where Haitians are left with very little opportunity for growth and success."

Professor Snodgrass' reply: "What are you going to do about it?" and with that sparked a new energy for Wingfield

for the nation of Haiti. She, Professor Snodgrass, and fellow student Evan Sherman of Dillsburg, Pennsylvania, began generating ideas to help the Haitian nationals before settling on the idea of education.

"We decided that Haiti would benefit most from a program that empowered Haitian students to learn," said Sherman, a BC business major. "We did a little research about Haiti, and we found the word 'ayiti,' which means mountainous land or blue mountains. We thought that kind of got to the root of Haiti, which is what we want to do with this project."

Thus, Educating Ayiti was born as an organization designed by the BC students to fund a college education and teacher training for Haitian nationals. Through Educating Ayiti, after completing their high school studies in Haiti, the Haitian students will travel to the United States, obtain teacher training through four years of college, and then take their skills back to Haiti in order to teach future generations.

"We are not striving to fish for the Haitians," said Sherman, "but rather to teach them to fish for themselves."

Since creating Educating Ayiti this past spring, Sherman and Wingfield have registered the organization as a Virginia non-profit corporation, created a board of directors and an advising committee, and attracted attention from many within the BC family.

"Educating Ayiti has given me an opportunity to be involved, beyond academics, in something bigger than myself," said



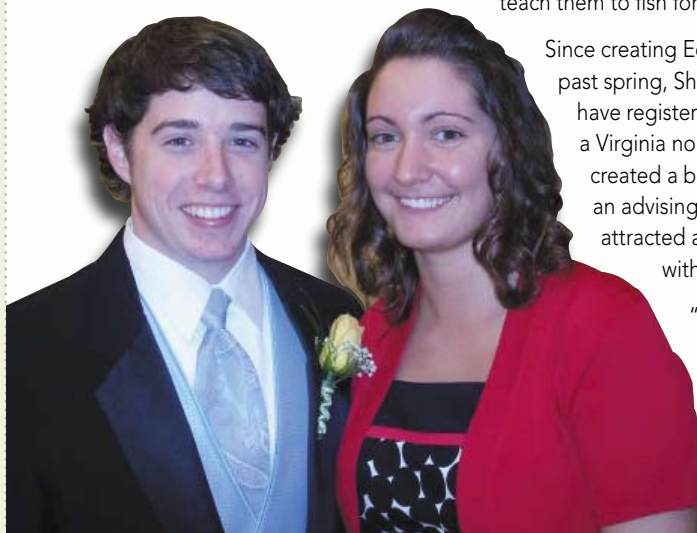
Professor Snodgrass, "something that will have a lasting impact on both the lives of my students and the lives of Haitian nationals."

With added support from numerous individuals, organizations and churches throughout the East Coast, along with proceeds from t-shirt sales, speaking engagements, private donations and grants, the hope is to bring a Haitian student to the United States by the fall of 2011.

"The earthquake that struck in January [a 7.0 magnitude earthquake that destroyed schools, government buildings and private dwellings, and displaced Haitian nationals all over the country] worsened the conditions of this already crumbling nation," said Sherman. "Haiti needs help to rebuild. Through the education and empowerment of Haitian nationals, the people of Haiti can turn their country around. George Lewin once said, 'Too often we give children answers to remember, rather than problems to solve.' Haiti has a number of problems that can only be solved through the education, practice, and will of their inhabitants."

To join the BC students in Educating Ayiti, visit [educatingayiti.org](http://educatingayiti.org).

Article by BC student Evan Sherman.



Students Emily Wingfield (right) and Evan Sherman, founders of Educating Ayiti, a non-profit organization designed to help Haitian nationals earn a college degree.



# Bluefield College and Virginia Baptist Teens Impact Southwest Virginia

in service to God and the community



Virginia Baptist teens spend a week on the BC campus this summer making an impact on underprivileged families in southwest Virginia.

One hundred forty youth from 13 Baptist churches across Virginia converged on the Bluefield College campus, June 27-July 3, to make an "impact" on Greater Bluefield through service projects in the community.

On the Bluefield campus as part of Impact Virginia, the teens spent the early mornings and evenings each day in devotion and worship in BC's Harman Chapel, but the bulk of their daily time in the community, renovating 11 homes in Tazewell (VA) and Mercer (WV) counties.

Part of the ministry of the Virginia Baptist Mission Board (VBMB), Impact Virginia is a one-week mission opportunity for youth that focuses on home repair and spiritual growth. Hundreds of teens in grades 7-12 participate in the program annually, which serves various regions of Virginia, including Greater Bluefield.

"The main goal of Impact Virginia is to make the dwellings of homeowners safer, dryer and warmer," said Campus Minister David Taylor.

The Impact youth in southwest Virginia, along with their adult leaders and crew chiefs, built decks, repaired and constructed porches, renovated roofs, and restored windows, plumbing, and more.

"One young couple just purchased a home in Pocahontas (VA), and the husband lost his job," said Impact construction coordinator Dan Agee. "He has been trying to keep his family warm in the winter, but did not have a

good place to store his coal and wood. Impact was able to rebuild a roof on his storage area to keep him from having to dig out his wood and coal with the heavy snow and ice from the winter."

The teens also added space to houses and constructed ramps to provide better access to homes, and the work in many cases would not have been possible without the Virginia Baptist missionaries in Bluefield.

"These families would not have been able to make the improvements themselves," said Agee, "and local and government agencies were not able to assist them, but Virginia Baptists were, and we were able to share the love of Christ through this ministry."

Using the Bluefield College campus as missions central, the group also participated in daily devotions and worship prior to and at the end of each service day.

"Bluefield College provided the logistical support we needed with sleeping, eating and worship space," said Agee, a 1973 BC graduate. "This helps the region see the real partnership acted out between the college and Virginia Baptists. This partnership makes me even more proud to be an alumnus of Bluefield College."

As part of its mission, Bluefield College strives to be "in service to God and the global community." Collaborating with the VBMB to

bring Impact Virginia to Bluefield is just one way, Taylor said, the school can fulfill its mission.

"Partnering with the Virginia Baptist Mission Board and Impact Virginia allows us to reach low-income families in Mercer and Tazewell counties," said Taylor about BC's fourth year of participation in the program. "We believe passionately in service above self and strive hard to prepare compassionate students who impact their world."

Shortly after the youth from Impact Virginia departed, the college welcomed dozens of additional missionaries from Georgia Baptist churches, who come annually to the BC campus to restore homes, support local church ministries, and share the love of the Christian faith in Greater Bluefield.

The participating churches are a part of the Hephzibah and Kilpatrick Baptist Associations in Georgia, who partner with the Mountain State Baptist Association in Princeton, West Virginia, to bring volunteers to southern West Virginia to conduct ministries in the community and to perform much-needed construction and renovation on churches and private residences.

During the weeklong mission trip headquartered at Bluefield College, the Georgia Baptist missionaries offered Vacation Bible Schools, Backyard Bible Schools, block parties, street ministry programs, prayer walks, and repair work to church and private individual facilities.







BC students use their spring break to share the love of Christ with children in Peru.

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## BC Students Serve on Mission in South America

A group of Bluefield College students spent their spring break on mission in Peru as part of Virginia Baptists' greater effort to share the Gospel and to grow churches in South America.

Armed with a slingshot, soccer ball, candy, and the Good News, the BC missionaries spent five days in Matucana and Lima in communities where there are no Baptist churches.

"We went there with the express purpose of strengthening the work of the International Mission Board (IMB) in Peru," said Campus Minister David Taylor, "to increase the Baptist faith and to build the foundation for Baptist churches in South America."

Co-sponsored by the IMB and the Virginia Baptist Mission Board, the students used their soccer ball and candy to engage children in the town squares. They also used the slingshot to connect with kids and to share the story of David and Goliath and the God that David served.

"We went all the way to South America with a story and a few simple tools, and we were able to share the Gospel with another part of the world," said Taylor about BC's mission to be a Christ-centered college in service to God and

the global community, "but you don't have to go abroad to share your faith. You can witness right here at home to a neighbor, a friend, a co-worker, or a family member. We're all missionaries with a story to tell."

The eight students and two faculty advisors -- including Taylor and Professor Greg Kerr and students Melissa Kerr of Bluefield, Virginia; Devon Matthews of Gate City, Virginia; Evan Sherman of Dillsburg, Pennsylvania; Ben Taylor of Bluefield, Virginia; J.D. Taylor of Bluefield, Virginia; Katie Warren of Princeton, West Virginia; Heather Wells of Tazewell, Virginia; and Emily Wingfield of Gloucester, Virginia -- played soccer, volleyball and freeze tag with the local children, all for the purpose of later sharing testimonies and leading Bible studies with the locals.

"The kids just love you," said Wells. "They're not really sure why you're there, but they don't care. They just want to play and learn more about you."

The BC group also visited local schools, taught English, and participated in other activities to support the cause of the

International Mission Board and its career missionaries in Peru.

"That was one of the coolest things about the trip," said Taylor, "to see how excited the other Christians were to see us there. They were very appreciative. All they kept saying was 'God bless you.'"

The spring 2010 mission to Peru is just one of many ways the school strives to fulfill its mission of being a Christ-centered college. Last spring, BC students traveled on mission to China. In the spring of 2008, students served on mission in South Africa, and in 2007 at Graffiti Church in New York City. Other missions abroad have included trips to China in the summer of 2006, Brazil in the spring of 2006, and Europe in the summer of 2005.



BC students witness to children in the town square.

# Longtime Staffer Rita Blevins Bids Farewell to BC

The writer of the book of Proverbs observed that, "A good name is more desirable than great riches." The name "Rita" is a good name. Its origin lies in an abbreviated version of the Spanish word, "margarita," from which we also derive the name "Margaret," which means "pearl," that admirable, precious, valuable gem.

Bluefield College has been blessed to have a precious pearl in its midst for nearly the past 40 years in Rita Parsons Blevins, but with the culmination of the 2009-2010 academic year also came the end of Rita's long and prosperous career with BC as she bid farewell to full time employment in order to turn her attention to retirement and family.

In addition to the name "pearl," Rita also has assumed in recent years the precious title of grandmother, or "Deda," as her grandson Noah calls her. Noah has been tugging at Rita's heart of late, which led to her decision to leave her work at BC to spend as much time as possible with him during these tender years of his childhood.

"Rita will be missed," said Dr. Robert Shippey, vice president for academic affairs. "She is loved. Like the pearl her name represents, she is of rare value. This college has been blessed by her good name, and all of us are grateful for her faithful service and wish her every good blessing in her retirement."

Rita came to Bluefield College first as a student in 1971, but a serious car accident nearly kept her from graduating.

"I withdrew from college at one point, but professor Tom Farrar kept calling me and encouraging me to return," Rita said. "He actually telephoned me while I was having surgery to say he would not take no for an answer. I am thankful for his persistence."

Rita did return and earned her associate's degree from BC in 1974. A year later, she was working on staff at the college as an executive secretary to the president, a position she held for eight years before taking time off to raise her children.

She returned to serve four years as secretary to the director of alumni relations, before concluding her nearly 30-year career with the college as a 16-year veteran administrative assistant and office manager for academic affairs, during which time she earned the school's 2003 Distinguished Staff Award.

"In many ways, the college has been a second home to me," Rita said. "Staff, faculty and students have been here for me through the good and the not so good times in my life. I can't help but feel blessed by this institution."

While still on staff in 2007, Rita returned to the BC classroom to earn a bachelor's degree in behavioral science. She said witnessing the faculty's commitment to providing a quality Christ-centered liberal arts education made her "yearn for that full bachelor's degree."

"I watched proudly as my daughter, Amy, earned her degree, then married and became one of my co-workers, and as my son, Jonathan, made the brave decision to defend our country in the military," Rita said. "It seemed I had just closed my eyes and reopened them to find my children were not children anymore, and a still, small voice whispered to me, 'It's your turn; go for it!'"

She did and graduated magna cum laude in May 2008, but not before earning the school's 2008 Wampler Caudill Leadership Award, being named student Commencement speaker, taking part in international study trips abroad to London, Paris, Italy, and Greece, and participating in a music mission trip to New York City, where she sang at Carnegie Hall with BC's select voice ensemble, Variations.

While much has changed at Bluefield College over the past 30-40 years, Rita says that one thing has not, and that's the school's commitment to Christian values.

"It is such an honor to work in a place where Christian principles are important," Rita said. "Bluefield College is not just an institution; it is a ministry and has offered me a unique way to serve God. While I am looking forward to spending much more time with Noah, one thing that will never change is that I love Bluefield College. It has been a blessing to work here."

*Rita Blevins (left) accepts her 25-Year Service Award in 2006.*







BC football, 1936.

# Football Returns to Bluefield

*The year was 1941.*

It was Thanksgiving Day, Thursday, November 20, and time for the traditional Homecoming season finale for the Bluefield College Ramblin' Reds football team.

The opponent: Rio Grande College. The importance: a must-need win for the Reds to avoid a losing season. The outcome: a victory for BC, led by freshman Richard "Dick" Bogdan, a highly-touted running back out of Fort Johnson, New York, who spearheaded Coach Tony Lotito's single wing offense.

Bogdan scored often against Rio Grande, including the final touchdown of the game, which capped a 30-7 win for Bluefield, who ended the 1941 campaign at 4-4 overall.

"It was a play designed for me," said Bogdan about the last touchdown run. "I know, because I called it. We were down near the goal line, and I went in off the center, sort of like a quarterback sneak. It was a thrill!"

The big BC win over Rio Grande sparked a great deal of optimism for the upcoming season. After all, the Reds had won their last

four out of six games in the 1941 campaign, including victories over Rio, Hiwassee and Tennessee Wesleyan, and would be returning players like Bogdan, Frank Denardo, Rufus Witt, Nelly Frazier, and Frank Lotito.

"I was looking forward to next year (1942)," said Bogdan. "Coach Lotito was talking about putting in the T-formation on offense, and we had a lot of good players coming back."

But, it was not meant to be. On December 7, 1941, less than three weeks after the Ramblin' Reds had celebrated their season finale win, the Japanese attacked Pearl Harbor, and the United States found itself at war. Thousands of young American men were called to active duty, including many -- in fact, most -- of the men who attended and played football at Bluefield College.

"I was in church at the time," Bogdan recalls about the day the Japanese declared war on the U.S. "I remember hearing a kid run down the street screaming about Pearl Harbor. It was chaotic. Everybody back on campus was talking about it."

Bogdan, like most of the BC football team, went from manning the offense to manning machine guns, from driving touchdowns to driving tanks, and from firing passes to firing rocket launchers. Little did he know that the touchdown he scored to cap the Rio Grande win would be his last, maybe even the school's last.

"I didn't realize it at the time. I had no way of knowing," said Bogdan. "Coach Lotito said we'd be back soon, that the war wouldn't last very long, but four years later we were still there."

Bogdan joined the Navy Air Corps. For four years, he served the underwater defense unit in New Guinea, the East Indies, and the Philippines. At the same time, back on the Bluefield College campus, since most of the men were off fighting a war, there were not enough players to field a football squad. Consequently, the school scrapped the program, and by the time the war ended in 1945, football at Bluefield College was a mere memory...

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## Bluefield College Football Timeline:

### SEPTEMBER 1922

BC creates its first football team, joining not only basketball, baseball, tennis and track, but also wrestling and boxing as sports on campus.



### NOVEMBER 1922

BC records its first football win over Alderson High School in West Virginia.



BC's new football helmet, unveiled by (from left) President David Olive, Tony Lotito, Jr., Dick Louthan, and Board Chair Julie Johnson.

## College

### *That is until now.*

On June 4, 2010 in front of alumni, friends, supporters, the media, and local and state dignitaries, like former Virginia governor and U.S. senator George Allen, ending months of speculation and culminating a nearly four-year-long feasibility study, Bluefield College officials formally announced the return of football to the school, some 69 years after the last touchdown.

"This is a terrific day for Bluefield College," said President David Olive. "We envision this new program broadening campus diversity, enhancing student enrollment, and providing numerous opportunities for young men throughout our region to obtain a college education while pursuing their passion for football. Over the past few weeks as people have speculated about our starting

a football program, I have sensed a great deal of excitement from not only the campus community, but from the surrounding community as well."

The plan, Dr. Olive said, is to first hire a new head coach, who will recruit and field a team of players in club competition by the fall of 2011 and in intercollegiate play by the fall of 2012.

"This is something that is right for Bluefield College at this important point in time," said BC alumnus and trustee Joseph K. Tatum. "What great times of tailgating, fun and fellowship we envision for the Greater Bluefield community at future home games. It also will be another opportunity for the college to instill Christian values into a group of student-athletes and to help prepare them for futures much brighter than they would have known otherwise."

Preliminary plans also call for the new football team to practice and train at nearby Pocahontas (VA) High School, where BC officials made the formal announcement about the return of football. Vacant since 2008 when the Tazewell County Board of Education decided to consolidate the school, the Pocahontas facilities have been made available to Bluefield College through the generosity of the Tazewell County Industrial Development Authority (IDA).

"On behalf of the Tazewell County Board of Supervisors, Industrial Development Authority, and Recreational Authority, we would like to thank Bluefield College for their interest in the Pocahontas community and congratulate them on their announcement being made today," said county administrator (continued on page 8)



#### SEPTEMBER 1929

University of Alabama All-American B.E. "Mullie" Lenoir becomes the head football coach and leads the team to prominence, recording an overall record of 79-18-2 over an 11-year span.

#### APRIL 1933

Amid news of economic burdens at the college, community leaders respond with financial support to prevent the elimination of football at BC.

#### NOVEMBER 1933

After nearly missing the 1933 season due to lack of operating funds, the football team records its first ever undefeated season, 9-0, including wins over Concord College, Salem College, and Appalachian State University.





Mitchell Stadium, proposed site of Rams' home football games.



## Football Returns (continued)

Jim Spencer about the return of football to a community that once boasted the smallest high school varsity football program in Virginia. "Bluefield College is a great partner to Tazewell County, and today is another example of this cooperation. We expect great things in the future for both Bluefield College and the Pocahontas community."

Games for the new football team will be played at nearby Mitchell Stadium in Bluefield, West Virginia. Home to the football teams at Graham High School in Bluefield, Virginia, and Bluefield High School in Bluefield, West Virginia, Mitchell Stadium seats 10,000 fans and was the site of games between West Virginia University and Virginia Tech in the 1950s and 1960s.

"I am excited about Saturday collegiate football for Bluefield," said Jim Justice, who played at Mitchell Stadium as captain of the 1965 Bluefield Beaver state championship team. "There is a tremendous amount of football history and heritage in this area, and I feel there are many young men who

would like to play football after high school, but just do not get the opportunity. To get a great education in a Christian atmosphere and to have an opportunity to participate in intercollegiate athletics, especially football, is a win-win for any young man. Bluefield College should be applauded for its efforts to bring this level of excitement back to Bluefield."

As the college rolled out the details of its new football program, it also rolled out a new Ram athletic logo, unveiling the image for the first time on a BC football helmet. Guests attending the program also participated in a ceremonial tailgate on the Pocahontas football field, marked already with lines for play and the new Ram logo for branding.

In addition to Senator Allen and Spencer, among the dignitaries on hand to join in the celebration were Will Morefield and Morgan Griffith of the Virginia House of Delegates; The Honorable Thelma White; Doyle Rasnick, Curtis Gillespie, Jim Boyd, Monty Rife and Kyle Hurt from the Tazewell County IDA; Seth White, Jim Campbell, and John Ashby from

the Tazewell County Board of Supervisors; Adam Cannoy, mayor of Pocahontas; Arthur C. Scott from the Pocahontas Town Council; Mike Watson, town manager for Bluefield, Virginia; Steve Danko from the Bluefield, Virginia Town Council; Andy Merriman, city manager for Bluefield, West Virginia; Pete Sarver, director of parks and recreation for the City of Bluefield; Tony Littito, son of a former BC football coach; Dick Louthan, son of a former BC football player; and BC trustees Cookie Johnson and Julie Johnson, chair of the Board who made the formal announcement about the reinstatement of football.

Unable to attend, but still wanting to be a part of the festivities, Bogdan, now 87 years old, shared his excitement and advice for the new generation of Ramblin' Reds.

"I think it (the return of football) is going to be a great thing for the college," he said. "It was a whole different world when we played, a whole different game. We loved to play just for the fun of the game, and I encourage the next generation of players to play for your school, for the sport, and for the love of the game."

Former U.S. Senator George Allen congratulates the college on the reinstatement of football.



### NOVEMBER 1933

Running back Pete Young leads the nation in scoring with 128 points, prompting the popular singer/songwriter Rudy Vallee to write the song "Mr. Touchdown, USA."



### SEPTEMBER 1941

Coach Tony Lotito becomes the new head coach for football.

### NOVEMBER 1941

Running back Richard "Dick" Bogdan scores the final touchdown of the 1941 season in a 30-7 win over Rio Grande College.





# Alumnus Richard Bogdan Ready to Relinquish Claim to Fame

*"...over time I realized, 'by golly, I scored the last touchdown for Bluefield College.'"*

—Richard Bogdan

Alumnus Richard J. "Dick" Bogdan never knew his claim to fame would be scoring the last touchdown for Bluefield College football. It's a claim he's ready to relinquish.

Bogdan came to Bluefield in the fall of 1941 on a football scholarship. After four years of stellar play for Wilbur Lynch High School in Amsterdam, New York, including three years as a starting quarterback and running back, BC's football Coach Tony Lotito invited him to join the Ramblin' Reds.

"Coach Lotito was a great guy," said Bogdan. "He was very emotional. He would get all excited and really give it to us at halftime. You had to love him. He loved football, and he loved us, and we loved him."

Bogdan played just one season for the Ramblin' Reds, starting every game, playing the first four games with a concussion, and scoring the team's last touchdown in a win over Rio Grande College during the 1941 campaign.

It would be his last as most of the players on the BC football team were called to active duty in World War II. In fact, the war took nearly all the young men on the Bluefield campus, forcing the school to abandon its football program after the 1941 season.

"I never thought about it too much," said Bogdan about the prospect of his touchdown being the school's last, "but over time I realized, 'by golly, I scored the last touchdown for Bluefield College.'"

He'll soon lose that claim to fame and gladly, thanks to an announcement by BC officials on June 4, 2010 that football will be returning to campus after 69 years of absence. More touchdowns will be scored for the Reds, now Rams, and Bogdan will have to be known for his many other successes.

While a student at BC, in addition to football, he ran track and was a member of the Varsity Club and the Newman Club for students of the Catholic faith. He also worked in the dining hall to help pay for his tuition, room, and board.

"I enjoyed my time at Bluefield," he said. "Dr. [Edwin C.] Wade was president at the time, and he was such a nice man. Coming from New York to Virginia was quite an experience, but it was fun. It was such a friendly place."

After serving the U.S. Navy Corps for four years during World War II, Bogdan attended Albany Business College and then Sienna College in New York. He earned a bachelor's degree in economics and business administration and a master's degree in secondary education from Siena, before becoming an instructor and later a full professor at Albany.

He also coached basketball for 20 years and was the athletics director at Albany Business College, retiring from that work in 1985 to pursue another passion, golf. In fact, he created Custom Golf in 1986 to manufacture and repair custom golf clubs. In that endeavor he earned acceptance into the Club Makers Hall of Fame in 2008 and a Distinguished Service Award for the New England/New York Division of the Pro Golfers Association.

Now 87 years old and living in Schenectady, New York, Bogdan said he's excited about the prospect of relinquishing his touchdown claim to fame. He also shared a little advice to the next generation of Ramblin' Reds.

"Play the game like it's meant to be played," he urged the newcomers. "Be a good winner and a good loser, and remember it's only a game."



Richard Bogdan then (above, #21) and now (left).

## OCTOBER 1942

BC fails to produce enough players to field a football squad for the 1942 season and abandons the program because of the loss of most male student-athletes to duty in World War II.

## OCTOBER 2006

The college's Board of Trustees creates a Football Feasibility Study Group to conduct extensive research on the viability of a return of intercollegiate football to BC.



## JUNE 2010

BC officials formally announce the return of football to campus with plans for club play beginning in the fall of 2011 and intercollegiate play beginning in the fall of 2012.

# BC Names Coach to Lead New Football Program

The list of football coaching legends at Bluefield College includes the likes of B.E. "Mullie" Lenoir and Tony Lotito, who together amassed an 83-22-2 win-loss record over a 12-year span during the infancy of BC football.

Just who will be the next legendary coach at this small Christian college nestled in the Appalachian Mountains of southwest Virginia?

Coach Mike Gravier. At least that's what Bluefield College leaders declared during a press conference, July 23, 2010, announcing the hiring of Gravier as the new head coach for BC football.

While Coach Gravier's legend on the sideline will have to wait, his claim to fame for now is the fact that he is Bluefield College's first head football coach in 69 years, considering the college abandoned the sport after the 1941 season as a result of the loss of most male student-athletes to World War II.

But, in June 2010, after an extensive feasibility study and a tremendous show of support from alumni and friends, the college announced the revival of its football program and embarked on the critical search for the right person to lead the resurgence.

"Hiring the right coach, someone who identifies with the college's mission and has a passion for transforming young men's lives through the game of football, is critical to the success

**"I will do everything in my power to make this a very successful program...one that the school and community can be proud of."**

of this new program," said BC president, Dr. David Olive. "I'm convinced we have found that person in Mike Gravier."

Gravier helped launch a football program as an assistant coach and offensive coordinator at Malone University in Ohio in 1992. Two seasons later, he became the head coach of the young program, where during a four-year span he amassed a 30-12-1 win-loss record, three Mid-States Football Association (MSFA) championships, a MSFA Coach of the Year honor, and two National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA) national tournament bids.

"Mike brings an excellent understanding of the game and effective coaching style to Bluefield football," said BC's athletic director, Pete Dryer. "In addition to his experience and success on the field, we are excited to have a football coach with strong character, a passion to live out his faith in Jesus Christ, and a desire to serve and mentor student-athletes."

Coach Gravier began his career with five years of coaching at the high school level after playing football and earning his bachelor's degree from Grand Valley State University in Michigan and while earning his master's degree from Western Michigan University.

He spent the next six years as an assistant coach at Kalamazoo College in Michigan, Western Michigan University, Southeast Missouri State University, and Michigan Technological University, before beginning his six-year stint with Malone.

He was called back to his alma mater to coach in 1998 and spent two additional seasons as a high school coach in Georgia before devoting his career in 2001 to faith-based ministries, including Christian Outreach International in Florida, where for three years he served as director of sports ministry.

Today, while last serving as an assistant coach for football at Concord University in Athens, West Virginia, Gravier is the director of OperationSHARE for Heaven Sent Ministries in Princeton, West Virginia, but now he is ready to turn his attention to Bluefield College.

"I'm very excited and humbled," said Gravier about the opportunity to lead the new BC football program. "It's always an honor to be the first person chosen to lead a football program. It's a role I don't take lightly, and I look forward to the challenge. We will play an exciting brand of football. We will play fast. We

Coach Mike Gravier



will be very aggressive, and I believe we will win."

Starting a new football program, Coach Gravier said, will be a special endeavor. Like the players from 1941 who hold memories from the last game played, players on the new BC roster, he said, "will someday share stories about the first touchdown scored, the first win, or the first championship." Those firsts, he added, "are something only the new players can experience."

Coach Gravier said in reviving BC football he wants the new players and fans to remember why the program was dropped in 1942 and to honor the young men who joined the war effort and risked their lives to secure our freedom.

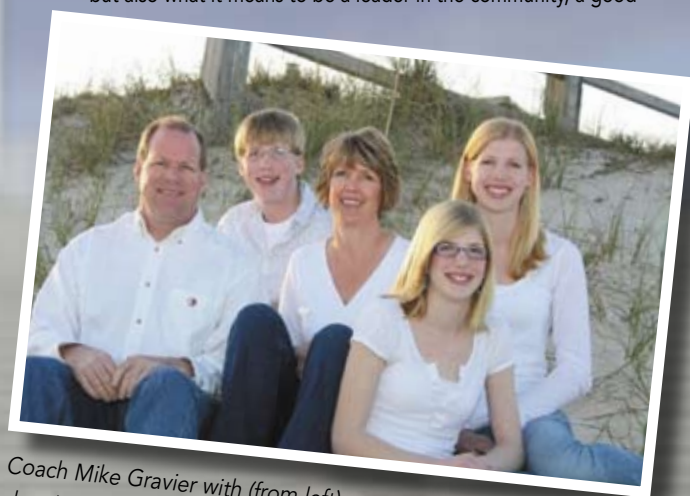
"I've enjoyed reading all of the stories about past teams and past games," said Gravier. "We will use that past as part of our future. It is my desire to honor those former players in some way. If any are still living, I want them to visit and be a part of our team. If they are no longer with us, their families are always welcome."

Coach Gravier acknowledged that a new football team will, no doubt, boost the Greater Bluefield economy, offer an additional source for gridiron entertainment to an already football-hungry community, and give more local student-athletes an opportunity to continue their football careers at home in front of family and friends. But, the impact he's looking forward to most is the one that will involve his players in community outreach.

"We will be involved," the coach said. "Whether it's reading to kids at a local elementary school, holding a football camp for kids in the community, or serving hot dogs to people at an event in the park, our players will be a vital part of the community"

In line with the Bluefield College mission, Coach Gravier said he hopes to develop players both academically and spiritually. In addition to what the student-athletes will gain in the classroom from professors, through a mentor program with leaders in the community the coach said he wants to develop the players' career and leadership skills. The purpose, he said: to develop the whole player.

"We want to show our players what it means to be a good football player, but also what it means to be a leader in the community, a good



Coach Mike Gravier with (from left) son Kevin, wife Lynda, and daughters Molly and Anna.

husband, and a good father," said Gravier. "Football will be a small part of their college experience, and hopefully the other things they learn they will carry with them through the good and bad times of life."

Gravier will begin recruiting players now to begin club play for Bluefield College in the fall of 2011. The team will begin intercollegiate play, most likely in the NAIA's Mid-South Conference, in the fall of 2012.

"I'm very excited about this opportunity," added Gravier, "and I will do everything in my power to make this a very successful program, both on and off the field, one that the school and community can be proud of."

## Who Will Be the Next Coach Mullie Lenoir?

Original content from "Lighthouse on the Hill: The Bluefield College Story" by Rev. David M. Armbrister



B.E. "Mullie" Lenoir became the head coach for football at Bluefield College in 1929, and while the school had enjoyed a measure of success in its sports previously, that success would be nothing like what lay ahead under Coach Lenoir.

The new leader was an All-American in football at the University of Alabama and played, with success, other sports there. He spent a brief period playing semi-pro football, but left that after deciding he wanted to coach. He spent three years coaching at Georgetown College, leading its football team to an 18-2 record, losing only to Vanderbilt and the University of Tennessee.

During his 11 years at Bluefield College, 1929-1940, the football team won 79 games, lost 18, and tied two. The team was champion of the Southeastern Conference of Junior Colleges four of Coach Lenoir's first five years. In 1933, the team went undefeated, 9-0, behind the sensational backfield star Pete Young.

The late Jim Dudley, who played football under Coach Lenoir, declared that junior colleges did not want to play Bluefield, and four-year schools hesitated about putting the college on their schedules lest they lose. He added that the coach loved the game and knew it, and he loved the boys who played for him.

What was it about Coach Lenoir that brought such success to football at BC? A local sportswriter at that time, Stubby Currence, described him as a "tough taskmaster" who would not tolerate laziness. He said Coach Lenoir knew how to get football players, and that, under his guidance, these players saw a man who lived by a high moral code. His integrity could not have been questioned, nor was it. His expectations for his players were to emulate him.

Apparently the Mercer County Board of Education sought to entice Coach Lenoir to accept the coaching job at Beaver High School in Bluefield, West Virginia. He did not accept. In fact, he turned down many other offers, as well.

Dr. J. Taylor Stinson, president of the college at the time of Coach Lenoir's reign, spoke highly of the coach, stating "Mr. LeNoir is a fine, upstanding Christian gentleman, and I have no man on the campus who has a finer influence over the men than he."

Bluefield College was forced to abandon its football program after the 1941 season because of the loss of most male student-athletes to duty in World War II. But, when the school announced June 4, 2010 that the sport would be returning to campus after a nearly 70-year absence, alumni and supporters alike couldn't help but think back and ask, "Who will be the next Coach Mullie Lenoir?"

# Trustees Endorse Football and New Academic

BC's Board of Trustees convened on campus in April, and during the two-day session the trustees approved resolutions to launch intercollegiate football, a rural healthcare education initiative, an online criminal justice program, new officers to lead the Board, and faculty promotions for five professors.

Culminating a nearly four-year-long feasibility study and ending months of speculation, the Board endorsed and announced the return of intercollegiate football after a 69-year hiatus. The trustees launched a football feasibility study in the fall of 2006, and based on the results of that extensive research the Board concluded the study with a resolution giving the administration "the authority to commence the launch of a Bluefield College football program."

"This is something that is right for Bluefield College at this important point in time," said alumnus and trustee Joseph K. Tatum. "Football will provide an opportunity for the college to instill Christian values into a group of student-athletes and to help prepare them for futures much brighter than they would have known otherwise."

As part of the return of football, the Board

approved a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Tazewell County Industrial Development Authority (IDA) to lease and manage the former Pocahontas (VA) High School building and football field for practice and training. The former high school facility also will give BC resources to expand academic and community outreach programs.

As part of the school's Strategic Plan to expand academic offerings, the Board also approved the administration's plans to initiate a degree completion program in rural healthcare education and an online program in criminal justice.

Once fully developed, the rural healthcare education program will offer local healthcare providers the opportunity to pursue a bachelor's degree in nursing through the school's inSpire degree completion program. The new online criminal justice program approved by the Board will offer students interested in the field "a completely technology-based, online platform" to pursue a bachelor's degree.

During the spring meetings, the Board also approved new officers and trustees for the

coming year. Alumna Julie Hull Johnson of Bluefield, West Virginia, was named chair of the Board, becoming the school's first-ever female chair of the governing body. Johnson, a 1988 BC grad, is a financial trust officer with First Century Bank. Dr. David Bailey, a 1960 BC graduate and longtime political advocate from Richmond, Virginia, was named vice chair. Rev. Jack Marcom, a 1962 alumnus and

*Chairman of the Board Dan Grabeel (left) passes the gavel to new chair Julie Hull Johnson, BC's first ever female chair.*



12

## Board Honors Longtime Service of Trustee

Very few trustees have served the Bluefield College Board of Trustees the way Dr. Daniel E. Grabeel has, and his colleagues acknowledged that fact with special recognition and the approval of an honorary degree for the longtime BC leader during the Board's spring 2010 meetings.

Dr. Grabeel, a native of Bluefield, Virginia, attended Bluefield College from 1953 to 1955 after studying at Graham High School where he

also played football, basketball, baseball, and track.

"Bluefield College was my savior," said Dr. Grabeel, who excelled in basketball at BC, "because I didn't make very good grades in high school. Bluefield College gave me a second chance and got me started back on the right path again."

After BC, Dr. Grabeel earned a bachelor's degree from the University of Richmond and

a medical degree from the Medical College of Virginia before beginning a career in dentistry in 1967 in Lynchburg, Virginia.

He still practices in Lynchburg today after more than 40 years, but what his colleagues recognized during the spring Board meetings was his commitment to his first alma mater. Dr. Grabeel became a member of the BC Board in the late 1970s and has served in

that capacity for 28 years.

"I was just a country boy from Bluefield, Virginia, when I used to visit Bluefield College and see the trustees on campus," Dr. Grabeel recalled when reflecting on his nearly three decades of service on the Board. "I thought then it would be something special to serve on the Board, but never in my wildest dreams did I think I would be the chairman of the Board."

Chairman of the Board for, in fact, six consecutive years, alongside three different presidents, including Dr. Dan MacMillan, (interim) Dr. Charles Warren, and Dr. David Olive.

"I have really enjoyed serving with the other trustees on the Board, but as chairman I've enjoyed developing a closer relationship with the faculty and staff," said Dr. Grabeel, who gave particular praise to Diane Shott, the president's assistant. "We've had our disagreements, but that's okay. We have one of the best faculties we've ever had, and we have some enthusiastic people on staff and on the Board. I truly believe we are on the verge of something great at Bluefield College."

*Chairman of the Board Dan Grabeel (center) is recognized with an honorary doctorate degree for his tireless efforts as a BC trustee.*





# Programs

retired minister and military chaplain from Fredericksburg, Virginia, was named secretary.

The Board elected Rev. Donald Reid, a pastor from Mechanicsville, Virginia, to his first four-year term as a trustee and renewed four-year terms for current trustees Dr. Michael Duval, a 1975 alumnus and pastor from Roanoke, Virginia; Rev. William Hartsfield, a pastor from Covington, Virginia; Margaret Newcomb Leonard, a 1955 alumna and retired school teacher from Blacksburg, Virginia; Camden McLaughlin, a 1973 alumnus and owner of Medias, Inc., a sleep medicine provider, from Blacksburg, Virginia; and William Winfrey, an attorney from Princeton, West Virginia.

Five BC professors were granted promotions by the Board during the spring trustee session, including Dr. Cindy Bascom, full professor of communication; Dr. Thomas Bell, associate professor of exercise and sport science; Rebecca McCoy-Reese, assistant professor of theatre arts; Dr. Doug Minnix, associate professor of exercise science; and Dr. Donna Watson, associate professor of teacher education.

## Dan Grabeel

During his six years as chairman, under Board direction the college launched a football feasibility study and consequently reinstated its football program. The school also hired Dr. Olive and approved a new Strategic Plan under Board supervision. Dr. Grabeel also played a key role in the construction of BC's first new residence hall in more than 30 years and the creation of the MacMillan Center for Service, Mission and Ministry.

The Board acknowledged Dr. Grabeel's service and leadership during its spring meetings as he passed the chair's gavel on to Julie Hull Johnson. The Board also approved the presentation of an Honorary Doctor of Science Degree to Dr. Grabeel, an award he accepted publicly during BC's Spring Commencement.

Dr. Grabeel's service to the college also includes a three-year tenure as president of the Alumni Association and chairman of the Lynchburg portion of the 75th Anniversary Campaign. He is a member of BC's Sports Hall of Fame, serves on a variety of state and national dental societies, and is a deacon, choir member and Sunday School teacher for his church.

## Faculty-Staff Update

A host of BC faculty and staff earned a variety of professional development distinctions during the spring and summer of 2010.

**Dr. Cindy Bascom**, associate professor of communications, was promoted to full professor.

**Dr. Thomas Bell**, assistant professor of exercise and sport science, was promoted to associate professor.

**Kristin Crotty Wilburn**, administrative assistant to Athletics, was promoted to division manager for Athletics.

**Peter Dwyer**, head coach for men's soccer, was promoted to acting athletics director in addition to his role with soccer.



Amy Ellison

**Amy Ellison**, the school's controller, received BC's 2010 Distinguished Staff Award for her leadership, honesty, professionalism, and willingness to help.

**Dr. Kim Farmer**, associate professor of criminal justice, received a 20-year service award from BC.

**Danny Flores**, assistant coach for men's baseball, was promoted to director of facilities and event management in addition to his baseball duties.

**Steve Kessinger**, director of administrative and academic systems, was promoted to director of information services and technology.

**Rebecca McCoy-Reese**, instructor of theatre arts, was promoted to assistant professor.

**Dr. Rob Merritt**, professor of English, led a workshop on the use of writing in therapy at the 30th Annual Conference of the National Association for Poetry Therapy (NAPT) in Washington, D.C.

**Doug Minnix** successfully defended his doctoral dissertation at Virginia Tech, completing the requirements for his Ph.D. in health education, sport psychology and higher education. He also was promoted from assistant professor of exercise and sport science to associate professor.

**Shirley Mutter**, student accounts manager for the Business Office, was promoted to officer manager.



Dr. Tracey Stout

**Dr. Tracey Stout**, associate professor and chair of the Division of Christian Studies, authored and published a book entitled *A Fellowship of Baptism*.

**Dr. Donna Watson**, assistant professor of education, was promoted to associate professor. As chair of the Division of Education and director of the Teacher Education Program (TEP), she also spearheaded an accreditation process for the TEP with the nationally recognized Teacher Education Accreditation Council. In addition, Dr. Watson earned BC's 2010 Distinguished Faculty Award.



Mike White

**Mike White**, head coach for men's baseball, was promoted to assistant athletics director in addition to his duties with baseball.

**Eric Wohlford**, manager of network services, was promoted to manager of network services and campus facilities.

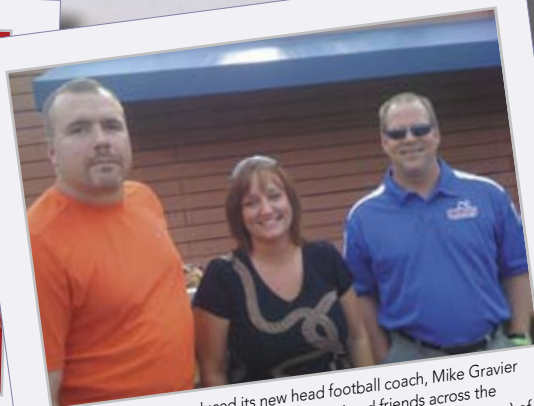
# Who's Making News?



Fulbright Scholar Dr. Peiqin Zhou (pictured) spoke to BC students in April about Internet censorship in China, a very timely and globally significant issue. A native of China, she spoke about living under a government that controls media. In fact, she said the stark comparison between media in China and the United States inspired her to become a part of the visiting Fulbright Scholar program.



Students Micah Denton, Brooke Durham, Ben King, Della Limbert, Steven Mahood, and Ben Shumate (all pictured) represented Bluefield College in the Destination Imagination Global Finals at the University of Tennessee in Knoxville this summer. More than 1,000 teams of various ages and competitive levels participated in contests of creativity, teamwork, and problem solving, and against the likes of 19 other university level squads, the BC team earned second place in the global event.



The college introduced its new head football coach, Mike Gravier (pictured right), to dozens of alumni and friends across the Commonwealth, including alumna Kim Christian (pictured center) of Salem, Virginia, with a Football Coach's Caravan that made stops in Roanoke, Newport News, Richmond, and Fredericksburg throughout the months of August and September.



After touring Norway, the Netherlands, and the United States, including stops on Oprah, Dr. Phil, and the NBA All-Star Game, the world-renowned Canadian Tenors performed live in concert on the BC campus in April. More than 600 fans filled Harman Chapel to capacity to hear the group's mix of music from theatre, classical, operetta, and alternative world pop, sang in English, French, Spanish, Portuguese, Italian, and Maltese.



The college received a boost to its new football program in September with a major gift from the Cole family. Helping the college bridge the gap between its football program from decades ago and the new generation of Rams, brothers (pictured front, from left) Bill, Charlie and Tom Cole presented a \$5,000 check to BC officials, connecting one generation of giving to a new generation of giving for the Cole family.



BC hosted its Ninth Annual Alpha Natural Resources Golfers' Challenge at Pipestem State Park and Resort in August, and local golf enthusiasts who participated or supported the project helped the school earn thousands of dollars in scholarship aid for student-athletes. A foursome from Citizens Supply Company won first place honors in the captain's choice tournament.



BC's Fine Arts Community School (FACS) hosted a series of camps, classes, and lessons this summer. Dozens of local children camps, classes, and lessons this summer. Dozens of local children and adults enjoyed instruction in music, art (pictured), theatre, math, and science. Created for the purpose of enabling children and adults in the area to explore and study the arts with the guidance of mentors who have appropriate training and experience, FACS has been in existence for more than 16 years.



The college signed a partnership with officials from the Tazewell County Industrial Development Authority (IDA) in June to bring new educational and recreational programs to the county, particularly the Town of Pocahontas. The new deal will give the college access to facilities at the former Pocahontas High School in order to develop and manage academic and athletic programs, including the school's new football team.





The college paid tribute to the work of local journalists in April during its 11th Annual Media Appreciation Day, which featured inspirational remarks from congenital amputee Kyle Maynard and the presentation of a \$1,000 Excellence-in-Media Award to journalist Greg Carter (pictured left) and a \$1,000 Excellence-in-Media Student Scholarship Award to communications student Greg Moon (pictured right).



Dozens of local business leaders gathered on campus in May for the Chick-fil-A Leadercast. A professional development opportunity sponsored by Chick-fil-A and broadcast live from Atlanta, Georgia, to hundreds of locations around the world, the Leadercast featured speeches from the likes of Tony Dungy, former head coach of the Super Bowl champion Indianapolis Colts; Jim Collins, author of the best-selling book "Good to Great;" and John Maxwell, world-renowned leadership expert, speaker, and author.



BC women's basketball coach Steve Hardin taught local girls the fundamentals of the game (pictured) during one of his three basketball camps in the Dome this summer. BC coaches hosted eight summer sports camps in all in June and July. Hundreds of local youth took part in individual boys basketball camps, boys team basketball camps, individual girls basketball camps, and individual boys and girls soccer camps.



Congenital amputee, turned inspirational athlete Kyle Maynard (pictured center) shared his motivational story of overcoming odds as the keynote speaker for BC's High School Speech Contest in May. More than 200 enthusiasts gathered on campus to hear Maynard speak. Some competed for scholarship dollars by offering speeches of their own, including Monica McAfee of Rural Retreat, Virginia, who earned a \$2,000 first place scholarship prize.



BC students celebrated the culmination of the 2009-10 academic year with Mud Pig Day in May. For the 32nd year in a row, students took time out from classes and books before the start of final exams to participate in the time-honored activities of the water slide (pictured), mud pit, novelty contests, picnic, music, fellowship, and other fun.



The college completed its spring 2010 Annual Fund Phonathon in March, and alumni and friends pledged more than \$40,000 to the effort -- the third highest pledge total in BC Phonathon history. For four weeks this spring, 13 current BC students phoned some 5,684 alumni soliciting support for the BC Fund for Scholarships.



The college ceremoniously kicked off the 2010-11 academic year with the pomp and circumstance of its annual President's Convocation in September. The traditional ceremony featured formal greetings to President David Olive, the Board of Trustees, and the students from President David Olive, the Board of Trustees, and the Student Government Association. The event also included special music (pictured) and a matriculation ceremony, formally inducting new students into the BC student body.



Bluefield College and the Town of Bluefield welcomed students back for another academic year with a Welcome Home College-Town Social in August in downtown Bluefield, Virginia. Activities for the traditional back to school event included karaoke (pictured), inflatable games, music, a cookout, a scavenger hunt involving downtown businesses, and other activities designed to bring the college and town together to celebrate the start of a new academic year.



# 129 Seniors Accept Diplomas during Spring Commencement



One hundred twenty-nine seniors accepted diplomas, May 15, during the school's 87th Annual Spring Commencement, which also featured remarks from Virginia Secretary of Education Gerard Robinson and the presentation of three distinguished awards.

Honored as BC's exceptional professor for the 2009-2010 academic year, Dr. Donna Watson, chair of the Division of Education, received the school's Wampler Caudill Distinguished Faculty Award for her "Christian character" and "classroom excellence." Nominated by her colleagues for the award, Dr. Watson served as faculty president in 2009-2010 and spearheaded an accreditation process for the Teacher Education Program with the nationally recognized Teacher Education Accreditation Council.

"She is passionate about her students and the college," said President David Olive, "and committed to educating the future teachers of this region."

In like fashion, graduating senior George T. Glazner of Chesapeake, Virginia, received the school's Wampler Caudill Outstanding Student Award, recognizing the most outstanding student from the inSpire Degree Completion Program. In addition to his classroom excellence, Glazner was acknowledged for his church leadership and his commitment to the values of truth and equality.

"He inspired his classmates," said Dr. Robert Shippey, vice president for academic affairs, about Glazner, who is the acting deputy fire chief for the City of Norfolk, Virginia. "He motivated them to complete the program and to finish what they started."

During the Commencement ceremony, the college also recognized Dr. Daniel E. Grabeel with an Honorary Doctor of Science Degree for his 28 years of service on the BC Board of Trustees, including six consecutive years as chairman of the Board.

"Dr. Grabeel has contributed much to Bluefield College, his profession, and society," Dr. Olive said, "and is well deserving of this Honorary Doctorate Degree."

As part of the Commencement program, Secretary Robinson spoke about the value of Christian education and the importance of the graduating seniors fulfilling a Christian mission, regardless of their career path. Speaking at his first college commencement since becoming Virginia's Secretary of Education, Robinson, who has led numerous initiatives for urban school reform, told the BC graduates that they not only have a degree, but also a decree.

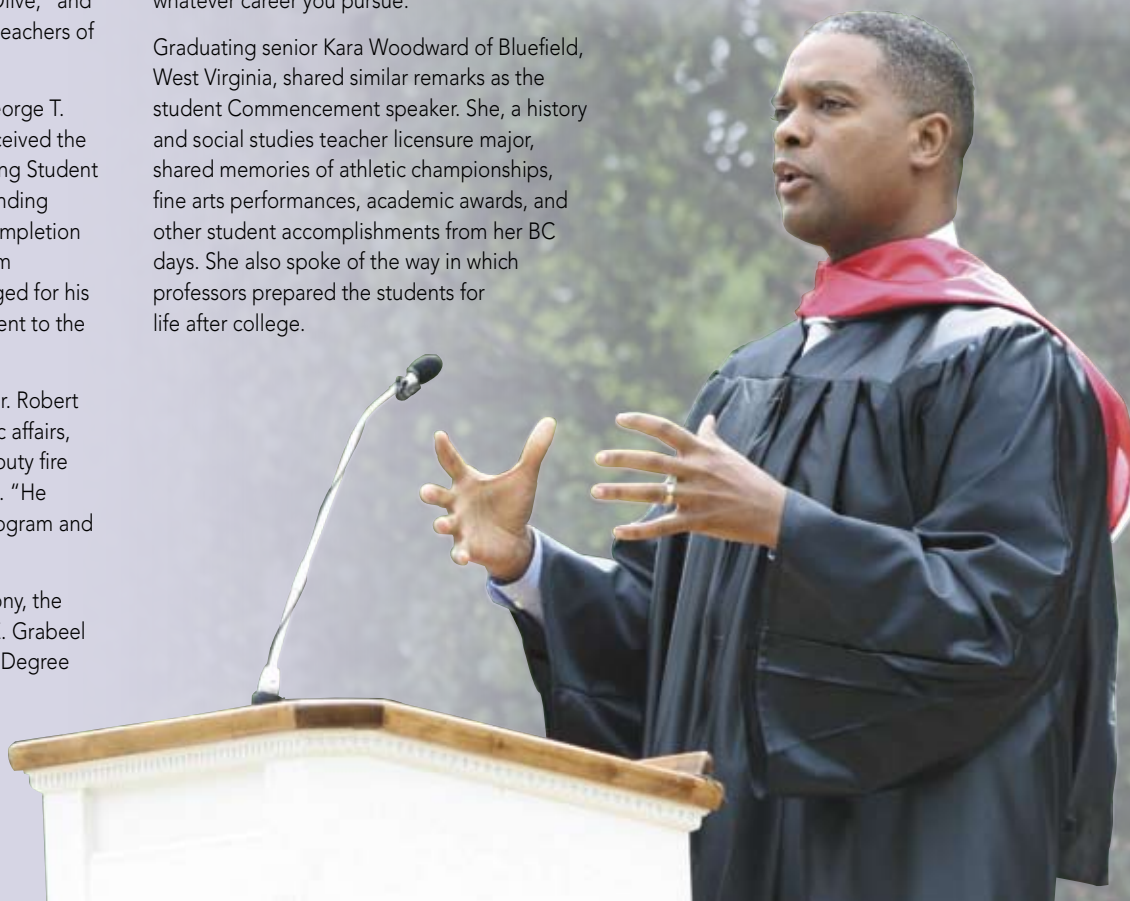
"As you leave this campus today, you take with you not only a degree from Bluefield College, but a decree," said Robinson, "to go out into the world and do great things. Make sure you take your Christ-centered education with you in whatever career you pursue."

Graduating senior Kara Woodward of Bluefield, West Virginia, shared similar remarks as the student Commencement speaker. She, a history and social studies teacher licensure major, shared memories of athletic championships, fine arts performances, academic awards, and other student accomplishments from her BC days. She also spoke of the way in which professors prepared the students for life after college.

"Our time here as students has shaped us not only academically, but also spiritually," said Woodward, a member of the Alpha Chi National Honor Society and BC's select voice ensemble, Variations. "Graduates, as you leave here today, be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid, for the Lord God is with you always."

Others, including BC Board Chair Julie Johnson and Alumni Association President Dan Agee, addressed the seniors. Professors Bryant Moxley and Lisa Moxley and student Jamar Bennett provided special music for the program. Ann Looney shared a scripture reading, and Dr. Olive, Dr. Shippey, Dr. Watson, and Registrar Cathy Matherly conferred the 129 degrees.

For a complete list of spring 2010 graduates, visit [bluefield.edu/springcommencement](http://bluefield.edu/springcommencement).





# Homecoming 2010: Indulge in the Memories

While Homecoming 2010 on the BC campus, October 15-17, is a weekend full of activities for all alumni, it's the golden grads and former student-athletes who will be featured often throughout the three-day affair.

Alumni from the class of 1960 and beyond will be recognized first on Friday, October 15, during a Golden Graduates Society Dinner in Shott Hall. The golden anniversary alum, along with earlier graduates who have yet to be formally recognized, will be inducted into the Golden Graduates Society and will receive a Golden Graduates medallion. The Golden Grads Dinner begins at 5:30 p.m. with a social hour starting at 5 p.m.

On Saturday, October 16, the golden grads will reunite in Shott Hall for a Golden Anniversary Breakfast at 8 a.m., and later that day at 2 p.m. gather for a class of 1960 Gift Dedication and Memorial Service in Van Dyke Circle, during which time the golden grads will honor former classmates who have passed away and dedicate a class gift to their alma mater.

Former BC student-athletes also will be featured guests during Homecoming weekend, beginning first with a Golfers' Challenge on Friday at 1 p.m. at Fincastle Country Club. Former BC golfers are invited to return to the links to compete for awards and prizes and to support current student-athletes. All proceeds from the \$100 entry fee will go to the BC Fund for Scholarships.

Former soccer players are invited to an Alumni Soccer Game on Friday at 7 p.m. The past players will mix with current players for a friendly match at East River Soccer Complex.

The former soccer players are then invited to return to East River Complex on Saturday to watch a doubleheader soccer match between BC and local rival Concord University. The Lady Rams play at 10 a.m., and the men play at noon.

Former basketball players are invited to the Dome Gymnasium to watch BC's men's junior varsity squad battle the prestigious Oak Hill Academy, Friday at 7 p.m., followed by a JV game against Hiwassee College at noon on Saturday.

Then, alumni basketball players, both men and women, can lace up their own sneakers and return to the Dome court for an Alumni Basketball Game against current Rams, Saturday at 2 p.m. The basketball action will end with a BC varsity battle against Hiwassee College at 4 p.m. on Saturday.

All alumni are invited to join the golden grads and former student-athletes for these and other events. For a complete schedule of events for Homecoming 2010, see page 18 or visit [bluefield.edu/homecoming2010](http://bluefield.edu/homecoming2010).

## Cline Named Director of Alumni Relations

A native of Tazewell, Virginia, Cline graduated from Bluefield College in May 2009, and immediately thereafter joined the BC staff as an advancement officer, cultivating donors, organizing fundraisers, and developing alumni communications. Following the departure of longtime alumni director Teresa Stanley, BC called on Cline to fill the void and asked that he bring with him his "passion to connect."

"I have gotten to connect with many really great people who share that common thread called Bluefield College," said Cline. "I look forward to bringing those threads together to make a strong cord called the Bluefield College Alumni Association. I want to see alumni connect with the college to help it further develop and grow. I want to see alumni connect with students to continually build a strong future for our alumni network, and I want to see alumni connect to their communities so that everyone knows what great things happen at Bluefield College."

Cline says his goals as alumni director are simple. He wants to see an increase in alumni participation and the development of career networking services. Above all, he wants to see fellow alumni having fun.

"Hopefully, college was one of the best times of our life," he said. "As such, what we do when we gather together as alumni should be fun."

Cline said he hopes to increase alumni participation through active involvement in Homecoming, local alumni chapters, and service projects. In addition, he said he hopes alumni will increase their giving of both money and time.

"As a small school we cannot rely on the thought that someone else will do it for us," said Cline. "Bluefield College is a wonderful place that changes lives for the better, and in turn those changed lives change even more lives for the better, and that is certainly something to take pride in."



Josh Cline, Alumni Director

When alumni return to campus this fall for Homecoming 2010 they will be greeted by a new alumni director, but not necessarily a new face to the BC family.

Alumnus Josh Cline has assumed the role of director of alumni relations after earning a business degree from BC and working a year as an advancement officer on staff.



# Homecoming Sampler®

## Bluefield College 2010

*Indulge in Sweet Memories at BC's Homecoming, Friday–Sunday, October 15th–17th, 2010!*

### FRIDAY, OCTOBER 15<sup>TH</sup>

8:00 AM - Back to School 101

1:00 PM - Golfers' Challenge

5:00 PM - Golden Graduates Society  
Dinner at Shott Hall

### FRIDAY, OCTOBER 15<sup>TH</sup>

7:00 PM -

Men's Alumni Soccer Game  
East River Soccer Complex  
and

Friday Night Lights  
Basketball Game

### FRIDAY, OCTOBER 15<sup>TH</sup>

7:30 PM - The Bluefield College  
Theater Department presents  
Mark Twain's *The Diaries of Adam  
and Eve* at Harman Chapel

9:00 PM - Coffeehouse Concert  
Student Activities Center  
in Shott Hall

### SATURDAY, OCTOBER 16<sup>TH</sup>

8:00 AM - Golden  
Anniversary Breakfast

9:00 AM - Noon -  
The College  
Cruise-In

### SATURDAY, OCTOBER 16<sup>TH</sup>

10:00 AM - Live Scholarship Auction &  
Women's Soccer Game

12:00 Noon - Alumni Luncheon & Men's  
Soccer Game & JV Basketball Game vs.  
Hiwassee College at The Dome Gymnasium

1:00 PM - The Annual Alumni  
Association Meeting

### SUNDAY, OCTOBER 17<sup>TH</sup>

8:30 AM - Alumni  
Breakfast

9:30 AM - Campus  
Community  
Homecoming  
Worship Service

### SATURDAY, OCTOBER 16<sup>TH</sup>

3:00 PM - Campus Tours  
Lansdell Hall Front Steps

4:00 PM - Bluefield College Rams vs. Hiwassee  
College Basketball Game

6:00 - 10:00 PM - The Alumni Awards Reception

9:30 PM - 12:00 AM - Student Homecoming Dance

### SUNDAY, OCTOBER 17<sup>TH</sup>

11:30 AM - Sunday Dinner

2:00 PM - The Bluefield College Theater  
Department presents Mark Twain's *The  
Diaries of Adam and Eve* at Harman Chapel

### SATURDAY, OCTOBER 16<sup>TH</sup>

2:00 PM - Alumni Basketball Games  
& Class of 1960 Gift Dedication &  
Memorial Service



## Class Notes

1948



**Rees Woody** of Meadows of Dan, Virginia, recently won the Amateur Roadster Pony Class Championship of the Bluefield Shriners' Horse Show. Rees has been showing horses for the past 47 years.

1955

**William P. Tuck** of Midlothian, Virginia, recently published a book entitled *The Left Behind Fantasy: The Theology Behind the Left Behind Tales*.

1962

**Rev. Latta Terry** of Hurt, Virginia, retired in April 2010 as pastor of Monte Vista Baptist Church after nearly 44 years of service. His retirement plans include working on family genealogy, gardening, spending time with grandchildren, and community service.

1963

**Richard "Dick" Murray** of Quebec, Canada, is now retired from Budson Associates, a Canadian health, safety and environmental regulatory intelligence company he created in 2006. Before Budson, Dick worked in government relations in the United States and Canada for more than 35 years, serving as president of the Canadian Paint and Coatings Association, as well as technical director for the National Paint and Coatings Association.

1968

**Betty Sue Maggard Honaker** of Richlands, Virginia, was selected as the 2010 Tazewell County Teacher of the Year. She teaches at Cedar Bluff (VA) Elementary School and said after receiving her award, "I am proud to say that Bluefield College played an important role in my training as an educator."

1973



**Shirley Chapman Meador** of Roanoke, Virginia, is enjoying a hobby in Christian clown ministry as a member of Joy Makers of First Baptist Church-Roanoke. Shirley plays

Patches with Joy Makers, who visit churches, nursing homes, the homebound and sick, shopping malls, and civic groups with a fun, yet serious message about life in Christ.

1979

**Polly Franks Sweeney** of Richmond, Virginia, has been named a special advisor to Governor Bob McDonnell on disability issues for the workforce. An advocate for victims of violent crimes since 1995, Polly is the founder of the Franks Foundation, a non-profit organization dedicated to protecting children from sexual predators. Her commitment to the cause stems from her experience as a mother of two children who were victimized by a former neighbor and family friend. Polly is also a founding board member of the National Coalition of Victims in Action.

1986

**Gloria Little Bowman** of North Tazewell, Virginia, recently received a 2010 Excellence in Education Award from Tazewell County Schools. Gloria has been teaching for 24 years.

1989

**Timothy D. Havens** of Rocky Gap, Virginia, has been elected to New York Life Insurance Company's Agents Advisory Council, a prestigious group of 24 New York Live sales representatives elected by their peers to present agent views and issues to the Home Office. Tim has been a New York Life agent for four years.

1995

After 15 years of service, including a deployment to Iraq, **Cary Shinn** of Grayson, Kentucky, has become a Navy chaplain.

1996

**Zach Roberts** of Greensboro, North Carolina, recently served as editor in the publication of *Baptimergent: Baptist Stories from the Emergent Frontier*. He is currently the associate pastor for education at Ridge Road Baptist Church in Raleigh, North Carolina, and working on his D.Min. at Columbia Theological Seminary. He and his wife, **Jennifer Newcomb ('97)**, have two children, Landyn and Harrison.

1997

**Shirley Calahan** recently earned her master's degree from Radford University. She is now a financial manager in Marion, Virginia.

1998

**Rev. Jason Duncan** is the lead pastor of the Great Commission Fellowship in Wilmore, Kentucky, where he is leading the planning stages for the construction of a new worship center and the renovation of youth and children's ministry facilities. He is also currently pursuing a doctor of ministry degree from the Beeson Divinity School at Samford University.

**Karen Starks** of Bastian, Virginia, is engaged to be married to Eric Faulkner of Rocky Gap, Virginia. Karen works for the Pempco Corporation in Bluefield, Virginia. Eric works for the New River Regional Jail in Dublin, Virginia. The wedding is set for October 2.

**Eric Workman** of Bluefield, Virginia, was promoted in September 2010 from principal of Rocky Gap (VA) High School to administrator of Bland County (VA) Schools. Before Rocky Gap, he served as a teacher and assistant principal for Tazewell (VA) County Schools.

1999



**Toby Curry** and his wife, Katie, of Louisville, Kentucky, celebrated the birth of a son, Carter Jackson, born November 2, 2009. Toby is the head coach for boys basketball and a physical education teacher at

Waggener Traditional High School in Louisville.

2000

**Thomas Hundley** of Wytheville, Virginia, was elected in June 2010 to the Wytheville Town Council.

**Michael Swan** of Bristol, Virginia, has been named head coach for women's soccer at Catawba College in Salisbury, North Carolina. Michael has also coached at Flagler College in Florida, Virginia Intermont College, and King College in Tennessee.

2002

**Rev. Kenneth Dupin** of Salem, Virginia, was featured in the July 2010 issue of *AARP Bulletin* in a section called "A Portable Alternative to Nursing Homes."



**Lacey Miller Parker** and her husband, **Kevin ('03)**, of Cary, North Carolina, recently celebrated the birth of their first children, triplet girls -- Reagan Olivia, Hadley June and Madeline Helen -- born May 19, 2010.

2004

**John Meeks** has been named head coach of the men's basketball team at Wallace State University in Hanceville, Alabama, after two years as head coach of Louisburg College in North Carolina, where his overall record was 51-15 and included an Elite Eight appearance in the National Junior College Athletic Association National Tournament. Prior to Louisburg, John served three years as an assistant coach at Lee University in Cleveland, Tennessee, one year as an assistant coach at Martin Methodist College in Pulaski, Tennessee, and several years as an assistant at Bluefield College.

2005

**Jessica Duncan Cox** of Gladys, Virginia, is now teaching fourth grade at Gretna Elementary School after two years of teaching at Gladys Elementary. She and her husband, **Kyle ('05)**, have a daughter, Lacey Ann.

**Jon Link**, a former standout BC baseball pitcher from South Riding, Virginia, made his Major League Baseball debut for the Los Angeles Dodgers on April 20, 2010. Jon began his professional baseball career in 2005 with the San Diego Padres' Class A team in Eugene, Oregon. He has since been traded to the Chicago White Sox and now the Dodgers.

2007

**Felicia Cegelski** of Bracey, Virginia, recently founded an organization called Children's Support Services, designed to provide mentoring and support for at-risk youth and their families in Mecklenburg County (VA). As executive director of the organization, she manages a variety of clinicians, counselors, and paraprofessionals. Visit her web site at [childrenssupportservices.com](http://childrenssupportservices.com).

**Kristin Crotty** of Princeton, West Virginia, married Joshua Wilburn on May 30, 2010. Kristin also was promoted from administrative assistant to division manager for the Department of Athletics at Bluefield College.



**Nicole Duckett** of Culpeper, Virginia, recently accepted a job with the federal government working in the northern Virginia area.

**Lisa Robinson** married Joseph Yost on June 19, 2010. They are now living in Blacksburg, Virginia.



**Josh and Laura Whited ('08) Grubb** of Williamsburg, Virginia, celebrated the birth of their first child, Gavin Finn, born March 22, 2010. Josh, a director of finance for Corinthian Colleges' Everest College in Newport News, Virginia, also recently won a Parthenon Award as the best finance director among Corinthian's 23 colleges in the south.

## 2008

**Michael Folker** of Hampton, Virginia, has been accepted as a special agent with the Naval Criminal Investigative Service (NCIS).

**Michael Gullion** of Pocahontas, Virginia, is now pursuing a degree from the School of Pharmacy at Virginia Commonwealth University.



**Susan A. Smith** of Powhatan, Virginia, is now a regional GED test control officer.

**Leah Woodrum** of Peterstown, West Virginia, married Jarrette Hesse on October 3, 2009.

## 2009

**Rikki L. McGinnis** and her husband, Justin, of Tazewell, Virginia, celebrated the birth of a baby boy, Jarret Drew, born April 27, 2010.

## 2010

A longtime postal carrier, **Marlon Grant** of Petersburg, Virginia, has accepted a job as a contract officer with the Department of Defense Supply, a promotion he said would not have been possible without his degree from BC's inSPIRE Degree Completion Program.

fisherman, he was a member of the Wytheville Independent Order of Odd Fellows and the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW).

## 1936

**Elizabeth Garry Hodgins**, 91, of Bon Air, Virginia, died April 21, 2010. After BC, she was the only female in her graduating class from the University of Michigan's School of Architecture. She was happily married to the late Donald Albert Van Houten Hodgins for 66 years, and together they founded a real estate investment company. In addition, she was a founding member of St. Michael's Episcopal Church in Bon Air.

## 1941

**Ret. Major William Irvin "Irv" Bondurant**, 88, of Wytheville, Virginia, died March 2, 2010. A U.S. Army veteran of the European Theatre with the 602nd Engineer Camouflage Battalion, Irv was a mechanical engineer who also served the Army Reserves.

## 1943

**Edwin Carter Wade, Jr.**, 86, of Huntington, West Virginia, passed away August 28, 2010. A native of Bluefield, West Virginia, he was the son of the late Dr. Edwin C. Wade, Sr., the fourth president of Bluefield College. Edwin was a retired electrical engineer for Westinghouse Electric Corporation where he worked for 35 years. He was a senior member and served on a National Committee of the Institute of Electrical and Electronic Engineers. A U.S. Air Force veteran of World War II, he participated in 25 bombing missions, survived being shot down, and was awarded the EAME Service Medal with four Bronze Stars and the Air Medal with two Oak Leaf clusters. He also served as a deacon of the First Presbyterian Churches of Bluefield and Huntington, president of the Presbyterian Church Quest Class, board member of the Huntington Kiwanis Club, and president of the Ohio Valley Camera Club.

## 1947

**Eldie C. "Buddy" Caldwell, Jr.**, 85, of Bluefield, West Virginia, died December 24, 2009. An elder and deacon of First Presbyterian Church of Bluefield and a U.S. Army veteran of World War II, Buddy retired from the Norfolk Southern Railway after 40 years of service as a chief clerk to the superintendent. He also was a 20-year volunteer at Bluefield Regional Medical Center and was a member of the Bluefield Lions Club, Elks Lodge, and American Legion.

**Claude Hunter Martin Jr.**, 90, of Lynchburg, Virginia, died August 6, 2010. A veteran of the U.S. Air Force, he was the retired owner and operator of Martin Realty Company. He also served multiple terms as president of the Danville Board of Realtors and vice-president of the Virginia Association of Realtors. A member, deacon and Sunday school teacher at First Baptist Church of Danville for 50 years,

he was a director for the Danville Exchange Club, board member for Friends In Service to Humanity and the Danville Salvation Army, and member of the Danville Masonic Temple.

## 1949

**Atwell E. Gilmore**, 88, of Woodville, Ohio, died March 1, 2010. A U.S. Navy veteran from World War II, Atwell owned and operated Zip's Cafeteria in Woodville for 20 years. He was a member of the United Methodist Church of Woodville for 50 years and served on the Woodville Town Council for six years. He also was a member of the Woodville Civic Club and American Legion.

## 1955

**Clarence "Mac" McClure Sr.**, 76, of Roanoke, Virginia, died August 3, 2010. A first generation college graduate, Mac worked for 30 years as a public educator, including 27 as a superintendent of schools. He also was a member of the Roanoke Seventh Day Adventist Church.

## 1960

**Joella Ferguson Means**, 69, of Appomattox, Virginia, died Wednesday, June 23, 2010. After BC, she attended Carson-Newman College in Jefferson City, Tennessee. She was a charter member of Grace Hills Baptist Church.

## 1963

**Marian Martin Watkins**, 73, of Roanoke, Virginia, died August 11, 2010, after serving 38 years as educational secretary at First Baptist Church in Roanoke. She was a member of Bonsack Baptist Church.

## 1964

**Joseph Lawrence Self**, 66, of Dale City, Virginia, died December 19, 2009. He was a member of Nomini Baptist Church and was retired from the U.S. Department of Labor.

## 1968

**Donald Preston Reid, Sr.**, 62, of Mechanicsville, Virginia, died May 17, 2010 after a courageous battle with metastatic melanoma. After Bluefield College, he attended Carson Newman College in Tennessee and Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Kentucky, before beginning a long career in ministry, serving last as pastor of Mechanicsville Baptist Church in Gordonsville.

## 1969

**Leland Bailey Lacy**, 60, of Blacksburg, Virginia, died June 1, 2010 after a valiant battle with cancer. After BC, he earned a bachelor's degree in engineering from Virginia Tech and a doctor of pharmacy degree from Mercer University. He loved to study the history and culture of Native Americans and was an avid student of early American history and the National Park Service. He enjoyed photography, reconstructing his own cabin from authentic hand-hewn logs, and watercraft recreation.

## 2005

**Shelia Williams**, 52, of Fredericksburg, Virginia, formerly of Princeton, West Virginia, died July 2, 2010, after a courageous battle against cancer.

# Obituaries

## 1935

**William O. George, Jr.**, 97, died June 8, 2010. A native of Tazewell, Virginia, and a veteran of World War II, William was a former treasurer for Tazewell County and was associated with the Farm Bureau and the Tazewell Oil Company.

**Helen Dixon Steele**, 96, of Louisville, Kentucky died April 3, 2010. A longtime resident of Bluefield, West Virginia, and a retired bookkeeper, Helen was a Sunday school teacher, greeter, and circle leader at First Baptist Church-Bluefield. She was also a member of the Bluefield Quota Club, Woman's Club, Auxiliary of the Union Mission, and the Bluefield College Town and Gown Society.

**Blair Linkous Whitt**, 94, of Wytheville, Virginia, passed away January 31, 2010. A U.S. Army Air Corps veteran of World War II, Blair worked for the Bailey Lumber Company and was an elected Commissioner of Revenue for nearly 30 years. An avid hunter and

# What's new with you?

Submit your class note for the next alumni magazine: [bcnews@bluefield.edu](mailto:bcnews@bluefield.edu).





Fellow Alumni:

It's that time again -- time to publish a new Bluefield College Alumni Directory, and we need your help.

To make sure we print the latest details about where you are and what you're up to, we need you to submit or confirm your contact, career, family, social, and other biographical information to be included in the 2010 Alumni Directory.

Like the U.S. Census, this information is imperative. It not only strengthens the ability of the college to serve alumni, but also helps alumni network and stay connected to one another.

You can provide this vital information by completing an online Alumni Directory Census on the Bluefield College web site: [www.bluefield.edu/2010directory](http://www.bluefield.edu/2010directory).

Completing the online Alumni Directory Census will only take a few minutes, and while you're there you can share memories and stories to be included in the 2010 Directory. Better yet, place an advance order for your own personal copy of the latest BC Alumni Directory.

When hundreds of Bluefield College grads get their new 2010 Alumni Directory, don't be the only one listed with out-of-date information. When your former classmates turn to the 2010 Alumni Directory to find out where you are, don't be one of the few not even listed. Update your biographical information in BC's database today!

With excitement for what God has in store for the Alumni Association and Bluefield College,

Joshua D. Cline ('09)  
Director of Alumni Relations

P.S. If you don't have access to the Internet, complete, detach, and mail the form below to Bluefield College, Alumni Directory Census, 3000 College Drive, Bluefield, VA 24605.

## Include me in the 2010 Bluefield College Alumni Directory!

If you're not able to access the online Alumni Directory Census at [www.bluefield.edu/2010directory](http://www.bluefield.edu/2010directory), simply complete, detach and mail this form to Bluefield College, Alumni Directory Census, 3000 College Drive, Bluefield, VA 24605.

Full Legal Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Preferred Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Class Year: \_\_\_\_\_  
FIRST MIDDLE OR MAIDEN LAST

Home Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
STREET OR P.O. BOX CITY STATE ZIP CODE

Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Work Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Mobile Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_ BC Degree(s) Earned: \_\_\_\_\_

Employer: \_\_\_\_\_ Job Title: \_\_\_\_\_ Field of Work: \_\_\_\_\_

Marital Status: \_\_\_\_\_ Spouse's Full Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Spouse's BC Class Year: \_\_\_\_\_  
INCLUDE MAIDEN NAME IF APPLICABLE

Children (names, birth dates): \_\_\_\_\_

Church and Community Involvement: \_\_\_\_\_

For more information regarding the 2010 Alumni Directory, call 276.326.4208 or e-mail [jcline@bluefield.edu](mailto:jcline@bluefield.edu).

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Remember Bluefield College in your will and estate plans.

## Mark Your Calendar

**October 14-15**

Fall Board of Trustees Meetings

**October 15-17**

Homecoming 2010, featuring a Golden Graduates Society induction ceremony, alumni games for basketball and soccer, and other reunion fun

**November 11**

Tierney Scholarship Awareness Dinner, featuring keynote speaker Collins Tuohy, sister to the NFL's Michael Oher, portrayed in the movie *The Blind Side*

**December 18**

19th Annual Winter Commencement

Show your Bluefield College pride wherever you go with a new customized BC license plate.



To transform imagination into reality, Bluefield College is embarking on the largest fundraising effort in its history. **Capturing the Imagination** will put vitally needed resources behind priority projects.



## MyBC: Your Connection to Bluefield College

- Find former classmates.
- Update your profile in BC's database.
- Get BC news by e-mail as a member of MyBC.
- Make an online gift to the BC Fund.

Go to [bluefield.edu/getmybc](http://bluefield.edu/getmybc) for more information or to become a member.

Update your MyBC profile in time to be included in BC's 2010 Alumni Directory.