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While looking out over the campus this week from my office window, I could not help but reflect on the goodness of our God. Seeing many of our new students crossing the Triangle, I could read in their faces the eagerness and excitement they are experiencing as they begin their journey as new members of the Bryan community. I eagerly anticipate hearing about the many ways that they, along with our returning students and alumni, will impact our culture for Christ in the coming year.

Two icons passed into eternity this summer after having made a significant impact on our pop and political cultures: Michael Jackson and Senator Edward Kennedy. We likewise have opportunities to shape our culture with the power of the gospel of Jesus Christ. This year’s chapel theme calls us to image Christ in our culture and the arts. Our students responded enthusiastically to our Spiritual Life Conference speaker, Dr. Gary Stratton of Act One in Hollywood, as he challenged us to get involved through prayer and action in bringing the redemptive message of Christ to the film and television industry.

Dr. J. Daryl Charles, our new Director and Senior Fellow of the Bryan Institute for Critical Thought and Practice, led our opening convocation. From Proverbs 30 he challenged the Bryan community to emulate four small, yet exceedingly wise creatures—to know the seasons and take advantage of these times to grow and broaden our Kingdom influence. With 250 new students who average above a 25 on their ACT scores, this is an academically well-prepared and spiritually minded student body eager to live out our mission to make a difference in the world.

In this issue, we feature our Class of 2013 Presidential Merit Scholars who were selected from over 100 equally qualified applicants. We continue our focus on the life of William Jennings Bryan with an insightful article written by Bryan alum Dr. Ron Zartman, ’64. With much appreciation, we recognize the leadership of the immediate past chairman of our Board of Trustees, Ramon Perdue and his wife, Trudy, and welcome our new Academic Vice President, Dr. Bradford Sample, coming to us from Indiana Wesleyan University.

From my window I see the ingredients of a college whose students and alumni are impacting our culture and making a difference in our world: talented and prepared students, a superior faculty committed to teaching from a biblical worldview, a strong academic program, a supportive and sagacious Board of Trustees, an effective spiritual life program, a staff committed to discipling students, and beautiful yet functional facilities. Won’t you join me in celebrating the goodness of our God as we begin our 80th year making a difference in today’s world?

Stephen D. Livesay
“Something’s happening” just might be the unofficial motto for the 2009-10 academic year at Bryan College, as speakers’ encouragement, construction, and enrollment combined to create an air of expectation as school opened in August.

President Stephen Livesay challenged parents and new students at the first orientation session Aug. 22 to follow the admonition of Psalm 37—“Commit everything to the Lord, trust Him, and He will do it.”

Earlier that day, environmental services staff members had to add beds to rooms in Robinson Hall to accommodate more students than had been expected just the day before. And less than a week later, the work plan for the new entrance was modified to include building a new parking lot for student vehicles.

Dr. Livesay later said that college officials had been concerned about enrollment because of the uncertainties in the economy. “We were afraid a lot of students would not be able to return, or freshmen would not be able to come this fall. But enrollment, and the number of students’ cars on campus led us to build a new parking lot, which eventually will become the location of the building for the Bryan Institute for Critical Thought and Practice.”

As new students gathered for their first orientation session on Aug. 22, Dr. Livesay reminded parents that “there has been a lot of prayer for your children and for the activities on this campus.”

Those students were an answer to prayer, as 252 new students enrolled.

During the orientation session, Dayton Mayor Bob Vincent welcomed the newcomers, saying, “You have chosen your college well.” County Executive Billy Ray Patton added, “I would like to offer you the key to the county, but in Rhea County we never lock anything up. Welcome to Rhea County.”

Upperclassmen returned to campus on Aug. 24, and registration was completed the next day. When the official count was made Sept. 7, traditional enrollment stood at 793, with 305 in the Aspire program, and 50 in the MBA program. Total enrollment of 1,148 compares with 1,079 a year ago.

The academic year formally began with the convocation program Aug. 25, featuring an address by Dr. Daryl Charles, new director and senior fellow of the Bryan Institute for Critical Thought and Practice.

Dr. Charles challenged the college family to consider the examples from nature mentioned in Proverbs 30:24-28, illustrating the concept “small but significant.”

“First, they are not just ‘wise;’ they are said to be exceedingly wise. Second, three of the four are plural, underscoring the notion of community, corporate dependence, and collective effect. Third, and perhaps most importantly, all four are united rhetorically by strong contrast.”

Ants’ “little strength” is contrasted with their foresight and sense of season. Conies, with little power, live in strongholds in rocks. Locusts, without a leader, “evoke great fear because of their sheer destructive power.” The lizard is an ordinary creature that can be found in extraordinary places.

He suggested that “we here at Bryan are entering a season of building, and thus of significant change. Properly understood, differing seasons root us and mature us, reminding us that enduring faith is needed to embrace what ultimately is out of our control or what perhaps is new, and therefore disorienting, in our experience.”

The proverb of the conies “comforts us by reminding us of our dwelling place, that is, where we find ourselves at home.
Our identity is in [God] the Rock; our safety is in the Rock; our sustenance is in the Rock; our preservation is in the Rock. This ‘dwelling place,’ it needs reiterating, is impenetrable, making us unassailable.

Individually, locusts are insignificant, but their armies are “stunning reminders of what can be accomplished in community. Reflect for a moment on the degree of devastation and havoc that they can wreak. In the spirit of this analogy, let us work together in Christian community. Let us attempt to see the ‘devastating’ effects of a unity of purpose and vision. May that unity accomplish wonders at Bryan.”

Finally, the lizard “is depicted in the proverb as ordinary yet extraordinary. Notice the contrast: the common ending up in uncommon places—that is, where you would not expect. God’s nature, as most of us have learned through personal experience, is to do the unexpected, and I’ll be the first to admit that I struggle at times with this aspect of the divine character; it can be unsettling.

“May we as a community discern the season. May we live in the shelter of the Rock. May we advance together in bands, doing the unthinkable. And may we as ordinary people end up in extraordinary places.”

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Photos by Tom Davis, Steve Keck, and Jenifer Manzo
They were youth pastors or teachers, baristas or legal secretaries, maybe even fresh out of college, but they share at least one thing in common: they are Bryan alumni who now work at their alma mater.

From the “senior” staff member – Jim Barth, a 1957 graduate – to the newest “freshman” – D.J. Scheidt, Class of 2009 – a love for the college and for what God is doing here has brought them back to work at Bryan after receiving their diplomas.

Thirty-six of Bryan’s 157 full-time employees are alumni, working in positions from professor to environmental services.

Asked what led them to return to Bryan as an employee, their responses included “I love the school,” “I wanted to inform, influence, and challenge students to make a difference,” “I wanted to give back,” “I loved my time here as a student and (wanted to) see other students have a similar experience,” “God’s leading,” and “(I was) inspired by my professors at Bryan.”

A question about the most rewarding aspect of their jobs elicited similar responses: “Helping students meet their goals and seeing them mature;” “seeing students commit to Christ;” “seeing God use graduates for Kingdom work;” “helping high schoolers find the college the Lord is calling them to;” “the relational aspect of the job (and of Bryan) is what I enjoy so much;” “having the opportunity to see young people grow in their relationship...
with Christ;” “the interaction with students;” “reconnecting with old friends and interacting with current students;” “class discussion and student interaction;” and “helping students meet their goals.”

Dr. Steve Bradshaw, professor of psychology, seemed to capture the attitude of alumni working at the college: “I am very excited about being at Bryan, even after 32 years as a professor and four years as a student. I am more committed to the mission of this school than ever!”

Dr. Bob Andrews, ’67, dean of graduate and professional studies
Jonathan Bacon, ’04, environmental services assistant
Jim Barth, ’57, director of planned giving
Dr. Steve Bradshaw, ’75, professor of psychology
Dr. Jeff Bruehl, ’76, professor of business
Tiffany Christian, ’04, admissions counselor
Pamela Davis, ’05, instructor in English
Dr. Brian Eisenback, ’02, assistant professor of biology
Caleb Fendrich, ’08, admissions counselor
Dr. Ken Froemke, ’68, accreditation liaison
Alice Gray, ’83, receptionist, office of the president
Taylor Hasty, ’06, head baseball coach
Rachel Hathaway, ’08, administrative assistant to athletics director
Christopher Henderson, ’01, assistant admissions director
Tim Hostetler, ’84, vice president of operations
Margie Legg, ’95, executive assistant to the president, director of foundation and community relations
Jordan Mattheiss, ’04, sports information director, facilities coordinator
Bruce Morgan, ’82, dean of students
Ben Norquist, ’04, assistant director of spiritual formation
Steve Paulson, ’00, database administrator/manager
Vickie Patterson, ’07, adult and professional studies financial aid counselor
Polly Revis, ’04, supervisor, library technical services
Paula Kay Ricketts, ’84, advancement assistant/events planner
Katy Saynes, ’04, assistant professor of education
Adina Scruggs, ’91, director of the MBA
Tim Shetter, ’98, resident director
Jennifer Travis, ’97, coordinator of field experiences/education specialist
Karim Traylor, ’64, administrative assistant to the academic vice president
David Tromanhauser, ’80, alumni director
Kim Tuttle, ’84, special events coordinator for admissions
William Wade, ’08, enrollment management data analyst
Marlene Wilkey, ’05, director of career planning/corporate relations
Ben Williams, ’04, executive director, Worldview Initiative
Matt Williams, ’01, resident director
Bonnie-Marie Yager, ’07, director of programming, Worldview Initiative
A new name, a new director, and a renewed vision to equip the Bryan community to influence the wider culture mark a new era in the development of the Bryan Institute for Critical Thought and Practice.

Known as the Bryan Center until earlier this year, the Bryan Institute is led by Dr. J. Daryl Charles, who has taught during the last two decades at Taylor University and Union University. In 2007-08 he was William E. Simon Visiting Fellow in Religion & Public Life at the James Madison Program in American Ideals and Institutions, Department of Politics, Princeton University.

“We are delighted to have a scholar of Dr. Charles’ stature come to lead the Bryan Institute for Critical Thought and Practice,” President Livesay said, noting that Dr. Charles’ professional work has focused on applying the contours of a Christian world- and life-view to a wide array of contemporary issues and thus expresses the very mission of the Bryan Institute. As affiliate centers of the Bryan Institute examine issues such as religion and public life, social justice, bioethics, human origins, and law and public policy, Dr. Charles “will provide leadership and support to help the Institute and the College make thoughtful, biblically consistent contributions to matters of public concern.”

Dr. Livesay explained that the decision to change the name from the Bryan Center to the Bryan Institute “more accurately defines the restructuring of the Institute now that we have five Centers—William Jennings Bryan Center for Law and Public Policy, Center for Origins Research, Center for Worldview Studies, Center for Leadership Initiatives, and the Center for International Development. Each of the centers provides students and faculty with opportunities to research and apply a Christian worldview to crucial components of our culture.”

He also expressed his appreciation to Dr. Charles Van Eaton, the founding director of the Bryan Center. “He did outstanding work in birthing the Center and providing the vision for what could be accomplished through the Bryan community as we networked with other colleges and universities.”

Dr. Charles is author, co-editor, or translator of 11 books on topics ranging from natural law, war and peace, and the moral life to wisdom literature, Protestant evangelicalism, and the New Testament epistle of Jude, and author of more than 100 articles published in scholarly journals. He had spoken at a Bryan Center symposium on “just war” in 2007, an experience that left a deep impression. “I sensed, during those days, that I was among kindred spirits,” he said.

Educationally, Dr. Charles describes himself as a “mongrel,” one who is “all over the board, as evidenced by my writing. I’m very interdisciplinary. I love interaction between the academic disciplines.”

Two factors excite him about being at Bryan: that the college has committed itself to what is enduring, to Christ and His lordship over all of creation; and that the vision of the college is to develop creative modes of expression and to explore, as best it can, all realms of knowledge through the lens of Christ’s cosmic lordship.

“That, after all, should be the task of the university,” he said, “since the university, in its twelfth-century genesis, was the product of distinctly Christian vision.”

To illustrate the breadth of vision that should typify the Christian academy, Dr. Charles lists as possible topics for future Bryan Institute symposia “the new biology,” genetics and brain science, evolutionary psychology, bioethics, media and culture, journalism, Christian conviction and business, Christians in the arts, and the state of liberal arts education.

“I have a burden to see interdisciplinary interaction in the collegiate context,” he said,
and as an example cited the recent interdisciplinary summer seminar in Christian scholarship on genocide at Calvin College in which he participated. “It is my hope that our academic departments will be at the forefront of deciding what topics need to be treated in future symposia; let us think as widely and broadly as possible. I do hope that the yearly symposia will have a trickle-down effect on the whole institution, especially showing itself in energetic classroom discussions. If the various academic departments take ownership of the symposia, as is my wish, these events will not merely amount to some sort of ‘mountaintop experience’ occurring several times a year; rather, they will help us all think more Christianly about life.”

“Interdisciplinary” may be an academic passion for Dr. Charles, but it also might describe his entire life. He earned a bachelor’s degree in health education at West Chester State University, where he competed in two sports as a student. After graduating, he traveled with a gymnastic troupe for five years, finally landing in Chicago.

During his time at a Christian arts school in Canada—in response to his interest in music—he met his wife, a social worker and nurse from Germany who was interested in dance. “We returned to Chicago where we were married, and then went to (former West) Germany, where we spent the early years of married life,” he said. “Without question, those were the most formative years of my life. Two of the three years there, I studied the German language and linguistics at the university and became fluent in German. Later, I translated a book on the Old Testament from German to English. I could not have done that without those years being wholly immersed in the culture itself.

“Throughout the 1970s I had been exposed to a good bit of missions travel, and in this period I had witnessed great diversity in the body of Christ. During those years of living in Germany, however, I began to experience a deepening of my desire to learn and go back to school. Up to that point, I had never been a good student, active learner, or much of a reader; in my 30s, however, that began to change. Living in Germany, experiencing a different culture, and observing God’s work in my life—perhaps all three factors—combined to produce a significant change in my appetites.”

Dr. Charles went on to pursue doctoral studies at Catholic University of America and Westminster Theological Seminary, where he earned his Ph.D. in hermeneutics.

The variety of life experience and academic diversity has given Dr. Charles a deep appreciation for Christian liberal arts education and preparing students for a broad range of careers. “Some of our students will become pastors and youth ministers, but not many,” he noted. “Most will end up being butchers, bakers, candlestick-makers, and so on. The great challenge is the market-place. But how will we prepare them?”

He sees a need to be “holistic in our approach toward both life and education. If, as Jesus admonishes us, we are called to love the Lord with all of our heart, soul, mind, and strength, then we must deeply appreciate the life of the mind and be good stewards of all the knowledge that we possess, whether it applies to the arts, the sciences, business, or the humanities. One of the great advantages of Christian liberal arts education is that we have the joy and privilege of plumbing the depths of all areas of knowledge. Hence, it behooves us, at an academic institution that confesses its loyalty to the Creator of all things, to think in the broadest and most cosmic of terms.”

With this goal in mind, Dr. Charles sees the Bryan Institute providing opportunities to supplement classroom learning by exposing students to in-depth consideration of topics that both their professors and the wider culture consider important. At the same time that Christians are called to be creative and innovative, Dr. Charles stressed, they are called to be faithful to the historic Christian faith. “While I was a visiting scholar at the James Madison Program at Princeton,
I was immersed in a culture of secular fundamentalism. That environment reminded me of how important our foundations are. I was reminded that we have to understand and be conversant with the assumptions that drive culture; we must be thoughtful students of the culture and discern the shifting currents of the contemporary Zeitgeist. At the same time, we are to be rooted in what is permanent and unchanging. This bedrock will allow each of us not only to answer ‘What do I believe?’ but to probe critically important questions such as ‘Why do I believe what I believe?’ and ‘What are the public ramifications of my faith?’

As students apply themselves in their particular majors and take advantage of programs such as those offered through the Bryan Institute, Dr. Charles expects to see Bryan graduates in increasing numbers represented in challenging post-graduate programs and vocations nationwide. “Bryan students will be seen for what they are,” Charles insists. “I fully expect to see them go to the best graduate schools and to influence all corners of our culture.”
Nine freshmen have been awarded Presidential Merit Scholarships, the highest academic award presented by the college. Presidential Merit Scholarships are awarded based on high school grades, college entrance test scores, an essay, and an interview with faculty. New Presidential Merit Scholars include:

**Rachel Abbott**, daughter of Don and Joy Abbott of Seymour, Tenn., biblical studies major. Rachel, a graduate of Heritage High School, was editor-in-chief of Highlights, the school yearbook, a member of the National Honor Society and Student Council and president of Future Business Leaders of America. She has been a volunteer at Chilhowee Baptist Center and a living history volunteer at Fort Loudon State Historic Park. She was a delegate to Volunteer Girls’ State in 2008, and pianist at The Church at the Baptist Center. She learned about Bryan when the Worldview Team visited her church when she was in the eighth grade. She decided to come to Bryan because of the biblical worldview emphasis and the community atmosphere. At Bryan, she plans to participate in one of the Practical Christian Involvement ministries. Lauren’s plans for life after graduation are undetermined.

**Lauren Estes**, daughter of Glenn and Lisa Estes of Durham, N.C., business major. Lauren, a home school graduate, was involved with drama, played basketball, taught piano, and was a member of the community chorus. She learned about Bryan when the Worldview Team visited her church when she was in the eighth grade. She decided to come to Bryan because of the biblical worldview emphasis and the community atmosphere. At Bryan, she plans to participate in one of the Practical Christian Involvement ministries. Lauren’s plans for life after graduation are undetermined.

**Brian Huff**, son of John and Donna Huff of Chapel Hill, N.C., music/musical theatre major. Brian, a home school graduate, is a member of the National Honor Society. He is an award-winner from the North Carolina Theatre Conference. He learned about Bryan from his drama teacher, who knew students who attended Bryan. Brian decided to attend because he is “a strong believer that Christians should be active in the arts and media. I felt like Bryan was the best choice for me to get the right kind of training for that ministry.” He hopes to be involved in drama and music programs. Brian is considering being an actor or playwright after he graduates.

**Jordan Kelly**, daughter of Kevin and Melody Kelly of Tullahoma, Tenn., English major. Jordan, a home school graduate, has been a member of teams that won state competitions and placed second and fifth in national consumer quiz competitions. She has been president, secretary/treasurer and senior representative for the Coffee County Home School 4-H Club, and was active in the National Christian Forensics and Communications Association. Jordan learned about Bryan while doing research about colleges. She decided to attend because she was impressed with the strength of the English department and the care of the faculty and staff for students. She hopes to be involved with a Practical Christian Involvement ministry, drama, and student government. After graduation, Jordan plans a career as a writer.
Josh Kirkland, son of John and Lorie Kirkland of Indian Trail, N.C., biology-pre-medical major. Josh, a home school graduate, was a member of the National Society of High School Scholars Honor Society, an academic tutor and mentor for inner-city Hispanic high school athletes, and a coach and referee for his church’s soccer program. He learned about Bryan through Danny Harvey, a 2005 Bryan graduate, and communication studies professor Dr. Jeff Myers. Josh decided to enroll because of Bryan’s worldview emphasis, academic reputation, and Christian environment. He plans to play soccer and is considering being involved with Practical Christian Involvement and student government. After graduating, he plans to attend medical school to prepare for a career in medical and sports missions.

Anna Stewart, daughter of Steve and Lisa Stewart of Cleveland, Tenn., business administration/management major. Anna, a home school graduate, was involved with the National Christian Forensics and Communications Association Speech and Debate league, earning regional and national honors; was first runner-up in the Cleveland Junior Miss program; and was assistant concertmaster for the Chattanooga Youth Symphony Orchestra. Her grandparents, parents, sister, and several other family members attended or are enrolled at Bryan. She decided to attend because she believes Bryan offers “a first-rate, well-rounded education that doesn’t leave God out of the picture.” Anna hopes to participate in student government, musical opportunities, and possibly debate or the Worldview Initiative. She is undecided about her plans after graduation.

Courtney Tuggle, daughter of Ron and Malinda Tuggle of Murfreesboro, Tenn., liberal arts/nursing major. Courtney, a home school graduate, was active in the Youth Leadership Rutherford (County) program, and in speech and debate and dance competitions. She learned about Bryan from older siblings and from her involvement with Summit Ministries. Bryan’s commitment to its mission statement and the quality of the faculty helped her decide to enroll. While at Bryan, Courtney hopes to become involved with a Practical Christian Involvement ministry and possibly with theatre productions. After graduation, she plans to become a nurse practitioner and pursue ministry in missions.

Tori Woodson, daughter of Terry and Scheloe Woodson of Chattanooga, Tenn., English/secondary education major. Tori, a graduate of Silverdale Baptist Academy, was vice president of the student council, a member of National Honor Society, Beta Club and Interact Club, and was captain of the cheerleading squad. She learned about Bryan at a college fair at her high school, then saw a presentation by the Worldview Team. Although she initially did not consider Bryan, “Bryan kept coming up.” Tori was impressed by the personal attention from admissions counselors, Prof. Bill Harle, and the “warm and genuine atmosphere” she experienced. When she was notified she had received the Presidential Merit Scholarship as well as a prestigious grant from another school, “I had to give it to God. What I had been praying for was peace. I had it when I decided to come to Bryan.” Tori is interested in becoming involved with the Student Government Association and the Tutoring ministry. After she graduates, she plans to teach high school English, and may become active in politics.
Dr. Bradford Sample has been named academic vice president of Bryan College, succeeding Dr. Cal White, who resigned earlier this year to pursue other interests.

Dr. Sample comes to Bryan from Indiana Wesleyan University, where he served for the past six years as director of liberal arts and electives, dean of the college of adult and professional studies, and most recently as an historian and associate dean of the school of social and behavioral sciences and business.

He said he was attracted to Bryan because “I have always wanted to be a part of a community of scholars and a school dedicated to spreading God’s Word to the world. I love Bryan’s commitment to God’s Truth and its reputation as a place of great community and instruction. In addition, who wouldn’t love to move to Tennessee?”

Core values he brings with him include working to ensure the college “remains true to the mission that is inspired by our faith; upholds high academic standards; and enhances our commitment to innovation and creativity that will inform administrative decisions and curricula and aid our students after they leave our institution.”

Dr. Sample and his wife, Michelle, are the parents of Caleb, 7, and Grace, 5.

President Stephen Livesay said, “We’re excited to have Dr. Sample lead our academic team. He brings a breadth of academic experience and a deep passion for a Christian liberal arts education. His academic credentials, scholarly work, biblical worldview, and commitment to Jesus Christ make him a great fit for Bryan.”

Fifty computers that have been taken out of service at Bryan College will become the newest educational technology for a school in mountainous central Honduras.

Director of Information Technology Services Stefon Gray said the computers have been donated to Destino del Reino, a ministry operated by alumna Rhonda Jackson, ’77. “We have to dispose of old equipment,” Mr. Gray said. “This way we pull the computers out of service before they die, and we don’t have to send them to the landfill.”

While the computers may be old by American computer standards, they have been thoroughly tested and reprogrammed with “open source” educational programs that do not violate copyright laws.

Serge Yurovsky, ’98, who helped arrange the gift, said Destino del Reino does not have any consistent computer equipment in the school needed for an educational environment. “Bryan’s gift will allow them to create two computer labs, help develop a network, and eventually place a computer in each classroom,” he said. “Most of the students who attend the school at Destino cannot afford to attend any of the other schools in this very poor region. This gift will give students access to technology and learning that are otherwise unimaginable.”

Mr. Gray said David Snyder, ’87, who owns an Internet service business in Dayton, Tenn., is working with a team planning to go to Destino del Reino to install the network for the computers.

“This really is a Bryan thing,” Mr. Yurovsky said. “We have alumni from different generations working together on this project. We have Bryan in common.”
While rummaging through the remains of our parents’ estate several years ago, my brothers and I came across a treasure from our childhood days. It was a ring, cast in pot metal with an adjustable band, featuring a silver bullet with a secret compartment. This Lone Ranger ring was practically worthless except for one detail—recovery of this relic provided a provocative tool for reflection.

The Lone Ranger, befriended by his faithful companion, Tonto, was the sole survivor of a company of Texas Rangers who had been wiped out by a gang of outlaws. He and Tonto worked to right the world’s wrongs; and when justice was done, the Lone Ranger—as a token of his service—left behind a silver bullet before he rode off into the sunset. Adding to the drama, his identity was obscured by a mask. Upon his departure, with Silver’s hoofbeats fading into the distance, the question was always asked “Who was that masked man?” I believe this question must be asked of many historical personages, not the least of whom is William Jennings Bryan.

Who was William Jennings Bryan? We can answer that question with the basics: born in Salem, Ill., on March 19, 1860; father Silas Lillard Bryan, mother Mariah Elizabeth Jennings, wife Mary Elizabeth Baird, children and extended family; education, career. He moved to Lincoln, Neb., in 1887, got involved in politics, was elected as a Democratic representative to Congress in 1891 (not bad in a solid Republican state), attended the Democratic National Convention in 1896, gave a sensational speech and became the presidential candidate (with repeat performances in 1900 and 1908). He served as Secretary of State under President Woodrow Wilson from 1913-1915 and resigned over convictions relating to World War I. He assisted the prosecution at the Scopes Trial in Dayton, Tenn., in 1925, passed away in that town at age 65, and was catastrophically recreated in Lawrence and Lee’s play “Inherit the Wind” in 1955. How do all those interesting and informative facts come together to constitute greatness?

I’m convinced that the true identity—thus importance—of WJB is slowly being unmasked and recognized. Robert Cherny’s A Righteous Cause (1985) offers much to a reconstruction of Bryan’s true identity and importance. Michael Kazin’s A Godly Hero (2006) contributed immensely to a rediscovered Bryan. The Atlantic (Dec. 2006) defines Bryan as the 36th most influential person of all American history. (Lincoln was first, Washington was second and Albert Einstein was 32nd.) Putting Bryan in a larger arena, 1,000 Years, 1,000 People (1998) asserts that Bryan was one of the 1,000 most influential people of the last millennium. But who was that masked man?

In the case of The Atlantic, 10 highly-regarded historians were asked to list America’s 100 most influential persons. When run through a journalistic blender, the list was compiled. But the process begs the question, “How do you define ‘influence’?”

The book 1000 Years, 1,000 People went into greater detail to develop its list of major personages, raising the ante from American history to world history, and from 100 years to 1000 years. On this global list, Bryan was number 911 (preceded by Karl Barth at 910).

A biographical system was developed to define “importance” for the many historical figures being considered. Points were awarded in response to five basic questions asked of the life and contributions of each individual. Let’s consider those five questions.
1) What is the lasting influence of this person’s life on the millennium? What lasting influence did Bryan pack into those years between 1860 and 1925? It was his far-reaching Christian/political legacy built on his Christian worldview. That’s the fundamental difference between a ten-day Bryan and the total Bryan. During his time as Secretary of State (1913-1915), for example, Bryan was instrumental in negotiating dozens of peace treaties which had as their cornerstone a “cooling off” period to pursue peaceful alternatives to conflict. His efforts found traction in Article XII of the Charter of the League of Nations when founded in 1919. The League became the United Nations after World War II. The case could be made that WJB was the grandfather of the United Nations.

2) How did the person contribute to the sum total of wisdom and beauty in the world? Bryan wasn’t a Michelangelo or a Mozart, and he never won a beauty contest! He was a prolific writer, albeit of a relatively common genre. I would suggest his significance begins with his masterful use of words. To his opponents he gave verbal advantage. To his listeners he extended commonality. To the undecided he offered companionship in struggle. And to his supporters he set their feet in concrete. His “Cross of Gold” speech was astounding—considered by some the most important political campaign speech ever made. Cheering went on for 45 minutes after which, having served in Congress for just two terms, Bryan was nominated for president, the youngest major party candidate ever designated to run for the nation’s highest office. Bryan knew how to “mine” the masses over common issues. He was a Populist of first magnitude.

3) How did this person influence his contemporary world? Bryan’s faith system was bonded with his political life in a way seldom seen today. He was a staunch conservative theologically and a rank liberal politically—the exact opposite of what we encounter today. But his sense of justice and righteousness produced a number of contributions to contemporary society—among them the 16th through 19th Amendments to the Constitution, workers’ compensation, minimum wage, Federal Reserve Act, and Departments of Health, Education, and Labor. His value system enabled him to see beyond the immediate landscape. In that context, his concern over the Darwinian drift of American education was more far-reaching than most of us realize today.

4) To what extent were this person’s achievements the result of his own originality? Bryan’s power to merge the obvious with the ordinary to create the ingenious was at the heart of his thinking. His connectedness with the common gave him license to make the commonplace profound. “Destiny is not a matter of chance; it is a matter of choice....” Not truly profound, but profoundly true! The campaign issue of 1896, bimetallism, had been kicking around since the Civil War, but he gave it structure and meaning. Likewise, he had the knack to reduce complex issues to meet the understanding of the common man. Bryan’s talent was expressed in the packaging as well as in the product. As portrayed by some, he was not considered an original thinker nor was he deemed brilliant. His genius was evidenced in taking what were often-times brown-paper issues and wrapping them in silver and bows. In this he was without peer in the political world of his day.

5) How charismatic was this person? To what extent did Bryan emotionally bond with his constituency? Did the people love him? They surely did. Bryan’s Chautauqua circuit always brought out the largest crowds. People would travel hundreds of miles to see and hear him. In his passion to be with people—speaking 16 to 18 times daily—
Ramon Perdue may have come to know Bryan College later in life, but his love for the school has driven him to make up for lost time.

Five years after he retired as senior vice president and chief officer of the life department of Provident Life and Accident Insurance Co. in Chattanooga, Tenn., he joined the Bryan Board of Trustees at the invitation of trustees Erwin “Lat” Latimer and the late Bill Graf.

“They knew my Christian beliefs were compatible with the school, and were familiar with my business experience,” Mr. Perdue recalled. “They approached me and we began a dialogue about it. They invited me to see the campus, and I met then-President Bill Brown. One thing led to another, and I joined the board in October of 1999.

“I remember thinking at the time that Christ Above All was not just a motto but the overall feeling I observed. That led me to a sudden realization: I wished I could have made it available to my own three kids.”

Four months after his joining the board, a fire devastated the school’s administration building, challenging the very existence of the college.

“I’ll never forget the morning of the day after the fire,” he said. “Dee Mooney (then vice president for finance) walked me down to the basement of Rudd where they had set up the school’s administrative offices. My first thought was ‘This is what London must have looked like during the blitz in 1940.’ There was a moment of personal panic, then I realized that they were running a college from that site, and it was working.

“In two weeks, we had trailers set up for faculty offices and classrooms. I have never been quite as impressed as then. I have had my share of difficulties over the years, but I have never seen any business or organization take a hit like that, come up swinging, and never look back. To this day, I am amazed at the answers to prayer reflected in the new library, new administration building, and it hasn’t stopped to this day.”

Fellow trustee Ralph Green recalled that Mr. Perdue “provided good insight and wisdom in the aftermath of the fire, with his experience in the field of insurance.”

While the fire was a milestone for the college and his service on the board, Mr. Perdue said the most important event in his tenure has been selecting Dr. Stephen D. Livesay as president. “That is not a political statement, it’s a pragmatic statement,” he said.

“I think it has been borne out as we look back over the past six years, and I’m proud to say I had something to do with it.”

“Something to do with it” was chairing the search committee, “a time of very intensive work,” Mr. Green said.

Dr. Livesay is quick to return the compliment. “Ramon and Trudy Perdue are a true blessing to the entire Bryan community,” he said. “It was during Ramon’s tenure as chairman of the board that the college made significant strides in increasing enrollment, developing new programs, strengthening our endowment, adding new facilities, and paving the way for our new entrance and road to campus.

“I cannot adequately express my appreciation for Ramon and Trudy and their love for our students and faculty. It is Ramon’s talents and gifts of business acumen coupled with his deep love for Jesus Christ and Christian ministry that has provided leadership for our board and enabled me and all of us at Bryan to live out our motto and mission.”

As he reflects on his service on the board, including serving as chairman from 2004 to 2008, Mr. Perdue said, “Recovery from the fire, a new library, upgraded...
Where does all this bring us today? I suspect that the only Bryan many people know would be the Bryan of July, 1925. That’s a ten-day Bryan. The interpretation of William Jennings Bryan through “Inherit the Wind” didn’t foster a namesake of whom we could be proud. The college administration has taken a proactive role in presenting the total Bryan which is also the true Bryan. It has been the secular world that has again caught our attention; but this time they’re saying, “You folks ought to stand tall in honor of that man!” It is noteworthy that Presidents George W. Bush and Barack Obama have read Kazin’s book and have spoken favorably of Bryan.

WJB’s shadow has been cast long across American and world history. We are a most privileged college community, my fellow alumni and friends, and we are positioned to extend the legacy of the unmasked Bryan to make a difference in today’s world. She is my example of a Proverbs 31 wife, and I am proud to be referred to by most people as ‘Trudy’s husband.’

Resources for further study:


The Atlantic, December 2006

Dr. Ronald R. Zartman, ’65, is executive director of Riverbend Ministries, Inc., in Grandville, Mich.
THE ADVANTAGES OF GIVING

Give Now and Get Cash Back for Life

Get money back and a tax deduction with certain gifts

Most people are surprised when they first learn that they can give to Bryan College and get cash back. Not only can you support Bryan College, but you may also receive valuable tax savings, capital gains benefits and income for life.

It is easier than you might think to make a gift for life income, and there is still time to receive tax advantages this year.

Gift Annuity

One of the simplest ways of making a gift and receiving cash back is with a charitable gift annuity. A gift annuity is a contract between you and Bryan College, where you make a gift and we agree to pay you fixed income for life at a rate based on your age. You will receive an income tax deduction for your gift and may even avoid capital gains tax on a gift of your appreciated property.

Other Options to Meet Your Objectives

The Office of Planned Giving would be happy to provide you with specific information. We will personalize an example for your situation or provide you with other planning ideas which meet your objectives.

To receive a complimentary personalized illustration, call or email us.

Bryan College
Planned Giving Office
Jim Barth, Director
721 Bryan Drive
Dayton, TN 37321

Here's a Win-Win Proposition

Receive a Guaranteed Lifetime Income Stream and a 2009 Tax Deduction

Sample Gift Annuity Payout and Effective Rates for One Life
(lower two-life rates are available)

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*The effective rate assumes a 28% marginal tax rate and illustrates the effect of tax-free income and the charitable income tax deduction.

Compare this to your CD rates. Where else can you double your CD return?

Sign up for our Free eNewsletter!
Mr. Jim Barth, Mr. Tom Davis, and Mr. Steve Keck had roles in “One Hot Summer,” a new play presented during Dayton’s 22nd annual Scopes Festival in July.

Mr. Adam Crownoble and Mr. Steve Paulson attended a “Skills for Managers and Supervisors” seminar in Chattanooga, Tenn., in May.

Mr. Stefon Gray and Mr. James Sullivan attended the Tennessee Independent Colleges and Universities Association Information Technology retreat in Nashville, Tenn., in May. Mr. Gray gave a presentation on classroom technology configuration and Mr. Sullivan gave a presentation on network tools.

Mr. Taylor Hasty attended baseball showcases in Atlanta, Ga.; Marietta, Ga.; and Knoxville, Tenn.; and a camp in Kentucky in June and July.

Mr. Jeremy Kauffman has resigned his position as head athletic trainer to accept a similar position at his alma mater, Messiah College, in Grantham, Pa.

Dr. Phil Lestmann attended the 17th biennial conference of the Association of Christians in the Mathematical Sciences at Wheaton College in May. During the conference, he gave a talk, “Are Mathematical Entities Real?” While there, he and his wife, Darlene, met with Rich and Kathy Barnhart. Rich was the chair of the Bryan Math department who hired Phil in 1977.

Dr. Jeff Myers was keynote speaker for the Christian Home Educators Fellowship of Alabama conference in Birmingham and the Association of Christian Schools International conference in Virginia Beach, Va., in June, and spoke at the Summit Ministries session at Liberty University and Bryan College in July.

Mrs. Marlene Wilkey attended the Strategic Business Conference in Chattanooga, Tenn., in July. The conference theme was “Effective networking through Linkedin, Facebook and Twitter, and Customers and Communication.”

Mary Stewart Lewis, regional director for AT&T Tennessee, recently presented a check for $1,575 to Bryan College through the AT&T Foundation’s employee and retiree matching gifts program. “AT&T employees have a long tradition of giving back to their communities and our employees can maximize the impact of their giving through our matching program,” Ms. Lewis said. “We are proud to support Bryan College in this way.” Bryan President Stephen D. Livesay said, “We are pleased to have the support of AT&T employees and retirees and appreciate the foundation’s matching gift.” State Sen. Ken Yager and State Rep. Jim Cobb commended AT&T for supporting educational and cultural institutions in the state. Pictured, from left, are Dr. Livesay, Ms. Lewis, Rep. Cobb and Sen. Yager.
Over the past 20 months, I have been blessed to reconnect with so many alums. I have heard dozens of life stories, some filled with tragedy, others with triumph. I have heard and seen of God’s riches and grace being poured out on our Bryan family. I have witnessed Christ Above All being lived out on a daily basis.

I have two stories to share with you that should warm your heart, and again, give you a glimpse into the kind of family you are a part of, the Bryan College Alumni Family.

The first one is about Sheila Barber ’80. Recently, God blessed her with a wonderful husband. They were married in May in Alexander City, Ala. They had a surprise guest at the wedding: Dr. Ralph Paisley, science professor at Bryan from the mid ’70’s to the mid 80’s. He came from UTAH to see his former student get married! When I heard that, I realized that our professors were not only interested in our academic achievement, they were interested in us personally. He came almost 2,000 miles to see his friend get married. This reminds me of a comment I heard from a visitor to campus last year who asked a senior why she came back to Bryan. She said, “I love my professors! But better than that, they love me back.” We started with professors, who became mentors, who became friends. Doc Anderson still stops by my office about once a month to “see what’s new and shakin’.”

The second is a wedding I attended in Detroit, Mich. Jenny Ruark, ’03, daughter of Ron and Nancy Ruark, ’80, got married in August. Her friends from Bryan came as well. Laura Smith Strode came from Oklahoma. Jason and Amanda Erickson came from Seattle. Lisanne Boling came from D.C. Rachael Palmer Bailes came from Birmingham, Ala. Heidi Rew came from Atlanta. Kauri Tallant came from Chattanooga. I was very impressed with the level of friendship and commitment to each other that these young ladies had. There were 21 alums in attendance that day.

I heard there were over 50 alums at the wedding of Elisabeth Cochrane, ’09, daughter of Paul and Barb Cochrane, ’83, and Taylor Hollingsworth, ’09, son of Professor Randy Hollingsworth.

Is there any significance to be attached? Maybe not. Then again, to me it is an indication of the level of love and relationships we developed here on Bryan Hill—relationships that can be picked up after 30 years without missing a beat. When you gather as friends and alums, let us know. I am grateful that many of you have responded these past months and sent me updates on your life. I would like to encourage you to keep it up! As we all know, the first place we turn in Bryan Life is Lion Tracks, to see who is listed there. Am I right? Well, your classmates want to know about you, so send me a blurb to put in the next edition.

In the meantime, plan a trip back to campus. You will be amazed.

In His Grace,

David Tromanhauser
Alumni Director
WILBUR PICKERING, ’56, continues to serve as a missionary with Wycliffe Bible Translators in Brazil. His church there organized a special celebration for his 75th birthday this year and arranged for his two daughters to join him for a five-day visit.

MARLENE (SCHAIKER), ’65, MARSH, widow of ROBERT MARSH, ’64, married the Rev. Ronald E. Crump of Indianapolis, Ind., on May 30. The Crumps are making their home at 3310 Oak Tree Dr., N.; Indianapolis, Ind. 46227.

Dr. JEFF BRUEHL, ’76, business professor at Bryan, visited with members of the DRAKE family, including current student Jonathan and alumni JOSHUA, ’00; ADAM, ’03; and JEREMIAH, ’08, during a visit to Franklin, N.C., this summer.

GAIL (BREESE) BAUER, ’79, received her Master’s degree in social work from Edinboro University of Pennsylvania in May. While in school she was a member of the Phi Alpha Honor Society and the Graduate Social Work Association. She is a caseworker in child welfare, a position she has held for the past nine years. She and her family live in Cochranton, Pa.

1980’s

SHEILA BARBER, ’80, and Michael Gray were married on the shore of Lake Martin in Alexander City, Ala., on May 16. Former Bryan professor Dr. Ralph Paisley and his wife, Bonnie, traveled from Utah to attend the ceremony. The Grays live in Birmingham, Ala.

NANCY WHITE, ’81, is a member of the Macon, Ga., city council, and has served as director of senior health services and government regulations for Coliseum Health System since 1992. She is active in her community as a member of Christ Episcopal Church and a number of civic and professional organizations. She and her husband, Jeff, and son, John, live in Macon.

DR. JACK HELLER, ’85, is in his eighth year teaching at Huntington University, and was granted tenure in May. He teaches general education courses in English, as well as Shakespeare, and English Literature to 1800. Since 2007, he has assisted with Shakespeare Behind Bars, a Kentucky prison program guiding inmates at the Luther Luckett

1990’s

Michael & Sheila Gray
Correctional Complex through the study, rehearsal, and performance of one play per year. This year, he will be talking with the men about “A Winter’s Tale.”

**KAY (POWELL) BRUNER, ’88**, received her Master’s degree in counseling from Dallas Baptist University Aug. 7. She plans to take her licensure exam in October, then find a job as an intern. Kay and her husband, **ANDY**, live in Duncanville, Texas, with their four children.

**BETH (HORNISH), ’90**, and Jim **ALMACK** announce the birth of their third child, Sarah Grace, on May 8. Sarah weighed 8 lb., 2 1/2 oz. She joins big brother Daniel, 5, and big sister Rachel, 4. The Almacks are missionaries in Madrid, Spain.

**MATTHEW, ’95**, and Trish **MCCLAIN** announce the birth of Blake Bradfield and Maisy Carol on June 22. They join big sister Quinn, 4. Matthew received his Master’s degree in counseling in 2006, and works as a school counselor in Fort Morgan, Colo. He is the district positive behavior support coach, and is in his second year as vice president of the Colorado School Counselor Association. Trish is director of nursing at Northeast Colorado Health Department.

**ANNETTE (SHARPE), ’96**, and Matt **CUMMINGS** announce the birth of their third child, Paul Josiah, on Jan. 6, in Nagoya, Japan. The Cummings are serving a year term with a church-planting team in Nagoya, but hope to continue with long-term missions work in Japan.

**Dr. JENNIFER GRUENKE, ’96**, has left Bluefield College in Bluefield, Va., to begin her first year on the faculty of Union University in Jackson, Tenn. Her teaching and research will focus on the immune system. Additionally, she hopes to pursue interests in bioethics and the philosophy of biology.

**CRISTY (KROEKER), ’96**, and Erik **VAN OOSTEN** announce the birth of their second son, Daniel Lucas, on April 20. Daniel joins big brother, Benjamin, 2. The van Oostens live in Brazil and are attempting to befriend an indigenous group to begin Bible translation.

**DARA (BALLARD), ’00**, and Bryan **DYKES** announce the birth of their daughter, Carys Brynnan, on Oct. 10, 2007. Carys was born prematurely at 30 weeks, but is healthy, happy, and doing well. They also announce the birth of their son, Charles Steadfast, on...
Oct. 8, 2008. Bryan is an attorney in Chattanooga, Tenn., and Dara is at home with the kids.

BYRON, ’01, and JOIE (STONE), ’02, ROSSI, announce the birth of their son, Jett Paulo, on Feb. 9. Jett weighed 7.8 lbs and was 20 inches long. Bryon works for Kensington Community Church as music director and Joie works part time as a nanny for two young boys, and takes Jett with her to work.

ANNA LUFI, ’02x, has been promoted to learning client consultant for retail and business banking at Fifth Third Bank in December 2008. In her new role she does performance consulting and then creates user guides and develops formal communication, classroom training, e-learning, and online classes as needed. She lives in Naples, Fla.

JENNIFER WILSON, ’02 and Heath ELLIS were married April 11, at The Farm in Rocky Face, Ga. Jennifer’s twin sister, CARRIE (WILSON), ’02, McWILLIAMS served as matron of honor, and friends HANNAH (HAMMOND) LEDBETTER, ’01, and JOANNA (HARVEY) LAWS, ’02, served as bridesmaids. MILES and SONIA (SAMUELSON) ERICSON, both ’02; KATHI (HOGREFE) MITCHELL, ’01; MIKE SHEDDAN, ’03; and BRIAN EISENBACK, ’02, were present. Jennifer received a Master’s of Educational Leadership degree in 2004, and an Educational Specialist degree in Curriculum and Instruction in 2008. Jennifer and Heath are elementary teachers for Dalton Public Schools, and live in Ringgold, Ga.

KENT, ’02, and BROOK (FLEMING), ’03, SUTER announce the birth of their daughter, Lilley Grace, in October 2008. The Suter family lives in Lilburn, Ga., where Kent is in his fifth year as youth pastor at Cornerstone Bible Church.

DAVID, ’03, and Ashley BRANSON announce the birth of their first children, Audrey Marie and Kate Alexis, on April 4. Audrey was 4 lbs., 5 oz. and 17 inches long, and Kate was 4 lbs., 10 oz. and 17 inches long. The Bransons live in Spring Hill, Tenn., where Ashley is a full-time mom and David just opened his own business, DBR High Performance. Visit his web site at www.dbrhighperformance.com.

BETH (EPPINGER), ’03, and Kip WILKINS announce the birth of their first child, Lucy Jane, on Feb. 28, in Panama City, Fla. The Wilkins family recently moved from Florida, where Kip was in the U.S. Navy Dive School, to Cambridge, Mass., where he is attending MIT studying naval architecture. Beth is a stay-at-home mom and hopes to become involved as a church counselor and mentor.

ELAINE DA VIS, ’03, completed her Master of Science degree
in teacher education with a concentration in art education from the University of Tennessee, Knoxville, in August. She works at the Knoxville Museum of Art.

BOB, ‘03x, and ABIGAIL (SNEAD), ‘05, ANGOVE announce the birth of their daughter, Adeline May, on April 4. Addie was born prematurely and weighed 4 lbs., 4 oz, but is perfectly healthy.

COLIN, ‘04, and ALEXIS (LASSETER), ‘05, JAEGE announce the birth of their first child, Cadence Joy, on Jan. 5. Cadence weighed 7 lbs., 10 oz., and was 20 inches long. Colin teaches elementary physical education and health in Toms River, N.J., and Alexis teaches middle school math in New Egypt, N.J.

RACHEL TANNAHILL, ‘05, and Jason Hahn were married Nov. 29, 2008. They met while working at Wycliffe Bible Translators. Jason now works as a high school Bible teacher and dean of men at Orlando Christian Prep. Rachel continues to work as the Kidz Program coordinator for Wycliffe’s new member training program as well as coach for new members as they raise their financial and prayer teams.

PAMELA DAVIS, ‘05, completed her Master of Arts degree in English with a concentration in Literary Studies at the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga this summer. She is working at Bryan as an instructor of English and director of the Writing Center.

KATIE FLYNN, ‘06, and Nilavanh “Nil” Sosayachanh were married Aug. 30, 2008. They live in Twentynine Palms, Calif., where Katie works with Joshua Tree National Park’s department of natural resources through the Student Conservation Association. Nil is a gunnery sergeant in the U.S. Marine Corps.

GLADE SMITH, ‘06, and BETHEL RAGLAND, ‘09, were married Feb. 28 in Buffalo, Ky. The wedding party included alumni AMANDA (CROUCH) GROSS, ‘08; HALEY KAYE, ‘09; TRISHA EWING, ‘09x; LEANNE (MC DANIEL) RAGLAND, ‘08; REBEKAH TOOLEY, ‘08; JESSIE LAPLUE, ‘09; JENNIFER COCKS, ‘08; CALEB RAGLAND, ‘08; STEVE ORNER, ‘06; JONATHAN LUCAS, ‘07; KEE LAN DIEHL, ‘06; and students Josh Ragland and Lauren Simpson. DAVID RAGLAND, ‘83, officiated, and JACKIE HOLUBZ, ‘08, was the photographer. Glade and Bethel live in Cozad, Neb., where Glade is a cattle rancher and Bethel teaches piano lessons.

JUSTIN and RACHEL (GENTRY) LONAS, both ‘06, announce the birth of their first daughter, Canaan Elizabeth, on July 5. Rachel just finished her third year teaching high school English while Justin is editor-in-chief of Pulpit Helps magazine. The
Lonases live in Chattanooga, Tenn.

ASHLIE PARKER, ’06, and Andrew Pereiras were married on March 28. The Pereiras moved to Bakersfield, Calif., where Andrew works with Shell Oil Co.

BETHANY (PERSEGHETTI), ’07, and Nathan WRIGHT announce the birth of their daughter, Eliana Joy, on Nov. 27, 2008, Thanksgiving Day. Eliana is the first grandchild for JACKIE, ’82, and Doug PERSEGHETTI. Bethany and Nathan live in Dayton, Ohio, where Nathan works for the Air Force and Bethany teaches piano.

KYLE PARKS, ’08, and LIESL SCHOENHALS, ’09, were married July 4, in Amarillo, Texas. They live in Greenville, S.C., where Kyle works for Thirst Missions as a missions consultant and trip leader.

ANTHONY, ’08x, and DAYNA (LOVINS), ’07, FALZONE announce the birth of their daughter, Aurelya Mercy, on Feb. 9. Aurelya joins big sister Addyson, 2. The Falzone family lives in Dayton, Tenn.

KORI (WRIGHT), ’09, and Adam HOLLAND announce the birth of their daughter, Kameran Jayde, on June 21, which was Father’s Day. Kameran weighed 7 lbs., 11 oz., and was 21 inches long. The Holland family lives in Dayton, Tenn.

DAVID VILLANUEVA and JANA WATSON, both ’09, were married May 17, in Cedar Mountain, N.C. They live in Ramseur, N.C., and teach at Faith Christian School.

JEREMIAH NASIATKA, ’10, and MELODY FINDLEY, ’08, were married May 11, in Dayton, Tenn. The Nasiatkas live in San Antonio, Texas, where Jeremiah is national campus coordinator for Christians United for Israel. The organization works to develop student leaders with biblical and moral reasons to support Israel.

With The Lord

MAE (WELLS) HALL, ’38x, of Winchester, Ky., died May 25.

JACQUELINE (JONES) LEWIS, ’50, of Siloam Springs, Ark., died June 17.

ROBERT LEHNHART, ’54, of Lake Forest, Calif., died Aug. 17.

STUART C. MEISSNER, ’56, of Waxhaw, N.C., and former vice president for advancement, died, Aug. 1.

DEROTHIA (BOWERS) SHAVER, ’63, of Mary Ester, Fla., died Aug. 3.

JAMES RIGBY, JR., ’69, of Fullerton, Calif., died Jan. 16.

PATRICIA VIGIL, ’69x, of Olathe, Colo., died March 9.
In the fall of 1947, I left northwest Missouri by train for Dayton, Tenn. I felt like I was in a totally foreign country. I was so homesick those first few weeks! “When I go home at Christmas, I’ll never come back.”

The sub-floor of what was to become the White Chapel was being nailed in place as I arrived at Bryan. The prevailing wage for student labor was $.32 an hour, a fair wage because tuition, room, board, everything, was just over $400 a quarter. During my years at Bryan, I milked cows and enjoyed operating Bryan’s grey Ford tractor. I helped construct forms and pour concrete in the steel-reinforced columns and beams for the two upper floors of the north half of the administration building.

I hung around Professor Lloyd E. Fish as he was wiring the White Chapel. He taught me residential electrical wiring as well as psychology. That cured my homesickness. By Christmas vacation I couldn’t wait to get back to Bryan. A year later when my brother, Jim, came to Bryan, Professor Fish took us both under his wing and taught us commercial wiring as we wired the two upper floors of the north half of the administration building.

I recall my first three roommates in the Octagon: one Marine and two Navy veterans. They lived, walked, and talked a consistent Christ-like example in a way I’d never witnessed before.

Dean Alma Rader’s Old Testament course and other Bible classes compared favorably with the instruction I received later in seminary.

I was a biology major, and remember the ecology field trips we often took. It was a very small, close-knit class of four, plus our instructor, Miss Rough. Once after class on Friday, I drove our class in my red Champion Studebaker to the Great Smoky Mountains National Park. We five were eating supper around a wooden picnic table in total darkness except for one flashlight. Suddenly, we all froze in silent fright. A big black bear had his head over the shoulder of a girl, only inches from her face. A boy had the presence of mind to grab a paper sack and make a rustling noise. The big black bear backed away and ambled off into the woods.

I remember my one ‘campus’ at Bryan. About 9 p.m. one day, someone noticed a giant fire in the south end of Dayton. The dorm suddenly came alive, and I think every fellow rushed to the two-story grade school to help. The whole two story center section was engulfed in flames when we got there, breathless from the mile-and-a-half run. None of us had remembered we were supposed to sign out when we left the hill, especially at night. We were all campused that week.

Bryan College gave me so very much, including my wife, Loretta Craig, who is now with Jesus, along with many who we knew then. I just say, “Thank you, Jesus, for Bryan then, for Bryan today, and for all those touched by Bryan!”
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<td>Mrs. Genevieve Wright</td>
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The MBA at Bryan provides an accredited graduate program in business that seeks to develop leaders and managers who can compete in an increasingly complex business environment.

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