



# alumni news & focus

Fall 2003

## Warner Southern College Specialty License Plate

As an Alumni, have you ever wanted to support the college in a new and different way and have something to show for it. Well you can with the soon to be available Warner Southern College Specialty License Plate from your Florida vehicle tag office.

The Warner Southern License Plate can be ordered whenever purchasing or renewing a vehicle registration. The college is one

of 21 institutions of the Independent Colleges and Universities of Florida to



have specialty license plates to promote their school. The cost is \$27 in addition

to the normal vehicle registration fee. The State returns \$25 to the school giving alumni the chance to help the college.

The design of the plate features the college logo, the cross tower at the top of the Pontious Learning Resource Center, a palm tree and the name of the college. For more information about the tag call the Advancement Office at Warner Southern at (863) 638-1465.

## Love Essence

Warner Southern College was very proud to unveil and dedicate the Esther Augsburger sculpture called *Love Essence* on May 10, 2003. The nine-foot high, two piece sculpture is cast in fiberglass and resin mixed with marble dust. Augsburger explained that she purposely designed the sculpture to have no personality or identifying characteristics but only to

capture the symbolism of Jesus washing Peter's feet.



Photo by Ryan Bailey

President Greg Hall said, "The Love Essence sculpture is a visible

and impressive tribute to that part of the college's mission emphasizing Christian servanthood. We are pleased to have this outstanding work of art on our campus."

*Love Essence* is a gift from Lowell and Juelidine Rupp of Lake Wales, Florida. The sculpture is located between the Rigel Student Center and the Pontious Learning Resource Center on the west campus.

# Around the World

## With The Alumni Team

**Eileen (Earle) Price (98)** and her husband Phil were very proud to announce the birth of their first child, Toby Andrew, on January 3, 2003. He was 11 lbs, 3 oz and 22 inches long. Their new little boy is the joy of their life!

**Aaron and Katie (Harris) Ferry (98)** just gave their oldest son Kaleb a little sister. Leah Katherine Ferrying was born 6 lbs, 6 oz in March of 2003.

**Jesse (82) and Joi (Buckley) McLain (81)** were proud to announce Jesse just graduated from Asbury Theological Seminary in May of 2003. He was a member of the inaugural class located in Orlando, Florida and earned a Master of Divinity. Jesse was inducted into the Theta Phi Honors Fraternity and selected to represent Asbury in the 2002 Hispanic Summer Program. Jesse also completed his tenth year as pastor of the First Church of God in Middleburg, Florida. He is serving as an adjunct professor of Evangelism at Warner Southern and as an adjunct instructor of Appropriate Technologies at HEART.

**Tim and Sharon (Schnell) Allen (00)** were blessed with the birth of their first child, Kristen Faith Allen, June 23, 2002. Sharon is working at Northridge Christian Academy and Tim is working at Eagle Lake Christian Academy.

**Cindy (Norris) Casey (83)** is retiring from the United States Air Force in March of 2004 after 20 years of service. Thank you Cindy for serving our country and good luck with your retirement!

**Brian and Michelle (Kitchens) Beatty (03)** were married June 21, 2003 in Palm Beach Gardens, Florida. Brian and Michelle now live in Lakeland, Florida where both are educators. Congratulations!

**Naomi (Lilly) Green (84)** was married August 5, 2003 to Wayne Green. They now reside in Avon Park, Florida. Good luck on starting your life together!

**Brian and Jennifer (Owens) Boyce (01)** welcomed their first child, Matthew, on June 24, 2003. He weighed 10 lbs and was 21 ½ inches long. Brian is the Assistant Vice President of Commercial Lending at Citrus and Chemical Bank in Winter Haven, Florida. Jennifer is teaching 7<sup>th</sup> grade Language Arts at Denison Middle School.

**Carol Blevins (76)** wanted to thank everyone who prayed for her father who was battling cancer. After six months of fighting cancer, Reverend Omer Blevins, went to be with his Father October 20, 2002. Reverend Blevins pastored several Church of God congregations starting in 1954 and was one of the first trustees for Warner Southern College.

**Kristi McCullough (02)** has been accepted to *Teach For America*, a national teacher corps that places recent college graduates in teaching positions in under-resourced areas throughout the United States. Kristi will be teaching ESE in Philadelphia for the next two years.

**Trevor and Nicole (Aspden) Garvey (00)** just purchased their first house where both are teaching in Tampa, Florida!

**Micky Caban (00)** wrote to say she was teaching music at Janie H. Wilson Elementary School in Lake Wales. Keep up the good work!

**Katherine Coon (95)** received her Master of Arts Degree in Corporate Communication and Technology from Rollins College in May 2002. She is also a member of the Lambda Pi Eta National Communication Honor Society. Katherine is working for Health First, an integrated healthcare organization in Brevard County, Florida. She is part of a 10-person Marketing and Public Relations Department and does communication for the entire organization.

**Genny (Pierce) Crigler (96)** has been teaching at Florence Elementary in Boone

County, Kentucky since 1996. In 1999, Genny, graduated with a Master's Degree in Education from Northern Kentucky University and is happy to announce that she has just completed her Rank I in Instruction Leadership from Northern Kentucky. After completing the program she was inducted into the Pinnacle Honor Society. She is now going to take a well deserved break!

**German (00) and Summer (Adrian) Portillo (02)** are expecting their first child in October 2003. Congratulations!

**Tony Johnson (91)** recently completed his EdS degree in Administrative Leadership from the University of Alabama. His daughter, Hannah Nicole, just finished up her kindergarten year and his son Devin, is two years old. Tony is the associate pastor at Fairview Church of God and will be busy as the pastor takes a three month sabbatical. Good Luck!

**Eve Underhill (01)** is currently working as Human Resource Manager for the University of South Florida in Lakeland and gave some updates about Warner Southern alumni who are also working at the University of South Florida. **Willette Roach** has recently been promoted to Director of Student Affairs and **Brian Beatty (03)** has been promoted to Coordinator of Human Services. Eve says, USF is delighted to have Willette and Brian and they are happy that what they learned at WSC helped them to obtain promotions.

**Donna (Bath) Kadron (87)** and her family feel blessed they were able to purchase a farm in East Tennessee and are home schooling their large family of eight. They are looking forward to many more happy years!

**Dwight (00) and Stacey (Bishop) Burton (96)** were married on August 24, 2002 in Blacksburg, Virginia, where several Warner Southern graduates attended as well as being officiated by two alumni, **Phil Woody (00)** and **Brandon Lenhart (00)**. Stacey and Dwight just moved into their first home in Roanoke, Virginia. Stacey and Dwight are

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both working at Lewis Gale Medical Center in the Radiology Department.

**Tammy (Belcher) Pope (88)** has been teaching for ten years for the Polk County School Board and is returning to school to earn her Master in Social Work degree. Her desire is to see the mental health needs of young people be better addressed within the public school system. Tammy also recently became a school therapist for the Polk County School Board and is involved in improving group therapy for a middle school in Winter Haven and a High School in Mulberry.

**Susan (Rice) DeLisle (91)** has just completed her first book, *My View From the Parsonage*. The book is now available and shows the lighter side of ministry.

**Monica (Piper) Ragan (97)** wrote to say God blessed her and her husband, Scott, with a beautiful baby girl!

**Nathan Gile (99)** wrote to say after finishing his MBA at Webster University and completing years with Bombardier he and his small family are headed north to settle in Lebanon, New Hampshire. Nathan was

hired to be part of the Health Decision Research Team at Dartmouth Medical School Center of the Evaluative Clinical Sciences. Nathan and his wife are expecting their second child in November of 2003.

**Cynthia Zahn (95)** was working for the Department of Health and Social Services, Division of Epidemiology in Alaska and is making the move back to the Sunshine State! Along with her full time position in Orlando, Cynthia is also looking to do some part time teaching at an area college.

## Opening Convocation: Second Generation Students

Anyone who attended Warner Southern and experienced the first chapel of the year, Opening Convocation, remembers it well. It was a time of great promise for freshman and the beginning of the end for the graduating seniors. So much hope wrapped into one 45 minute chapel!

This year's Opening Convocation, August 21, 2003, began with President Greg Hall welcoming all incoming freshmen, returning students, new School of Business faculty and recognizing two alumni staff members for furthering their education. Sherill Harriger (95) and Pamela Bloomquist (98) completed the Master of Library and Information Science program at the University of South Florida. The Reverend Tom Bates, Senior Pastor at Bayside

Community Church in Safety Harbor, Florida gave the Convocation message.



*Francie Portwood and Jeremy Dunn are robed in a special ceremony at convocation.*

A special "Robing of Freshman" ceremony took place to acknowledge the

joining of the freshmen students to the academic community and the start of their four-year educational experience. The ceremony was conducted by Warner Southern's Professor of the Year, Terry Fasel. Francie Portwood and Jeremy Dunn were the freshmen students who were robed during the ceremony and both are alumni's children. Francie is the daughter of two Warner Southern alumni, Randy Portwood who graduated in 1975 and Arlene Portwood who graduated in 1985. The family lives in Babson Park and is immensely involved with the college. The Portwoods also have a son, Evan Portwood, who is attending Warner Southern. Jeremy Dunn is the son of the Reverend Bobby and Mrs. Jackie Dunn from Chilhowie, Virginia. The Reverend Bobby Dunn is a 1975 graduate of Warner Southern College.



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## Phon-A-Thon Going Year Round

The Warner Southern Phon-A-Thon is starting up in October and we hope that you will hear from one of our current students. If not, go to [www.warner.edu](http://www.warner.edu), alumni and friends. Send us an update to make sure that the Advancement Office has all of your correct information.

Warner Southern students will be calling to ask for your help. The US News and World Report Rankings are a good way for a college to know how well their school is performing in comparison to other colleges. One measurement is through alumni giving. The ranking of alumni giving is not decided by the amount of money the college receives from alumni but by the percentage of alumni that give. We at Warner Southern College want to make it as easy as possible for you to give which will assist us with our ranking.

One way to give as alumni is to purchase an alumni

brick that can be personalized with your name and year of graduation or personal message. It will be placed in Warner Southern's new landscaped walkway on the west campus. This is a way to help pave the way for Warner Southern to continue to provide a Christian education for tomorrow's students. A brick can be purchased for a one time payment of \$100 or paid for monthly or quarterly.

If \$100 is too much, you can show your support for Warner Southern by giving \$10 to help increase the percent of alumni who give. We at Warner Southern know that economical times can be very tough for many and we would like to make it possible for everyone to give. Your gift of \$10 can speak volumes that you are willing to give whatever you can to show that you believe in the mission of Warner Southern.