

Connecting is a publication of Richmont Graduate University, which was originally founded as the Chattanooga Bible Institute (CBI) in 1933. Richmont's mission is to provide graduate education, integrating professional counseling, applied psychology and practical theology for Christ-centered transformation. Richmont is accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools to award master's degrees in professional counseling and marriage and family therapy. Our campuses are located in Atlanta, GA and Chattanooga, TN.

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Why do you serve...?

This section of *Connecting* is an ongoing column that highlights various individuals that serve Richmont. Consider what capacity the Lord might be calling you to serve.



Andrea Farnham, Richmont Student

Being in a place like Richmont has been very stretching and healing in my own walk. I cannot help wanting to encourage others along in the same process. The faculty and staff here have been so encouraging and empowering through the examples they set and I am grateful for the chance to be instructed by so many

Godly men and women. I count it a privilege to be able to give back and serve my fellow peers as we all work out our faith in this vocation of caring for souls. Like most people here, I imagine serving is where I feel most at peace and at one with the person God has made me and how he has gifted me.

Simone Alexander,

SGA President, Atlanta Campus

I serve to be a blessing to others as Richmont has been to me. I endeavor to offer the same warmth and genuineness to my classmates, teachers, and clients that has been extended to me. I am blessed by students and faculty who emulate the love of Jesus on a daily basis. It is a privilege to be part of this organization that is changing lives.



Amanda Blackburn, Clinical Faculty

I have loved my first year at Richmont Graduate University. It has been so enjoyable to see clients, interact with students, and become involved in a graduate program that desires to empower students to do kingdom work. At Richmont, I am honored to be a part of the "bigger picture" in what God is doing to restore and redeem the world.



**WHY
DO YOU
SERVE?**



CONNECTING

WWW.RICHMONT.EDU

FALL 2010

The Next Steps

Having dinner with another couple a short time ago, one of our friends asked a poignant question that I am hearing (and perhaps even feeling sometimes) more and more these days. The question was: “Where can we go to church?”

I knew what she meant. That question wasn't about finding the closest location, the right doctrine, the best programs, or the most eloquent preacher. The question was about finding an authentic group of people, those who would be willing to be real with one another. It was about Christian leaders actually trying to act like Jesus. Another friend of mine meets with a home church. No big buildings. No gymnasiums, pools or workout facilities in the “family life center.” There is no permanent leadership. No big promotions. They actually do a reverse tithe: Because there is no paid staff, the group pays musicians with 10% of offerings and then vote every month where to contribute the other

90%. What's more, there's an openness to discuss the issues of life in the context of the scripture's authority.

What does this have to do with Richmont?

I believe that the Lord has called us to prepare leaders for the twenty-first century Church. For years, the integration movement has been helping people recognize, share and ultimately cope with their problems and fears. As one of the first schools training Christian counselors, PSI—and now Richmont—has had a tremendous impact on the Church. That impact will continue—and expand. I believe that Christian counselors, marriage and family therapists and psychologists all have a part to play in shaping an authentic church.

There is more, though. It's important to know that our mission has never been about counseling, or psychology, or theology, or even integration per se. Our mission has always been about

transformation. We facilitate transformation in order to serve the Church.

I say all of this to foreshadow some incredibly exciting programs that you will see Richmont initiating in the coming months. New initiatives that may surprise you; we will play a part in the emergence of a new kind of ministry training (see the story inside). We're shaping a model of ministry which takes seriously Bible, discipleship and practical application.

I believe that even in our struggling generation the Lord has a plan for how to lead his church. And I want Richmont to be a part of it. Hold on. It's about to get interesting!

Soli Deo Gloria



C. Jeffrey Terrell, Ph.D.
President



“**RISE FROM THE SHADOWS:
UNDERSTANDING SEXUALITY,
SELF-ESTEEM AND SHAME
IN FEMALE DEVELOPMENT**”

PRESENTED BY KIM ECKERT, PH.D.

Save the Date ALUMNI REUNION

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 12, 2010

Mt Paran Church of God Great Hall • 2055 Mt. Paran Road NW, Atlanta, GA 30327

Heavy hors d'oeuvres reception beginning at 4:30 PM.

Three-hour continuing education seminar from 6:00 PM-9:00 PM

Continuing Education: Three NBCC- approved clock hours awarded. CE credit for psychologists has been applied for.

Fees: Students, faculty, Richmont clinical supervisors, and members of the Richmont Alumni Association: FREE Nonmembers/friends of alumni: \$25.00

To reserve your space: Richmont Alumni Association members: please contact Melissa Vander Horst (mvanderhorst@richmont.edu) or 404-835-6123 and leave the following information: name, year of graduation, and home email address.

Nonmembers and Guests: please send your name, email address, and check or cash to: Richmont Graduate University, The McCarty Building, Attn: Alumni Relations 2055 Mt. Paran Road NW, Atlanta, GA 30327 (please make check payable to Richmont Graduate University)

Difference-Making 101



McCall Garner

Recruiter

With her heart for traveling and for Richmond's mission, McCall joins the recruiting team ready to hit the road and meet prospective students. McCall received her Bachelor of Arts in studio art from the

University of Georgia, with an emphasis in pottery and painting, and worked for the Cobb County School District as a teaching assistant before joining the Richmond family. McCall commented, "I absolutely love working for Richmond. Through lots of prayer, the Lord led me here to this amazing group of people who have such a heart to see Him move in the lives of others." When she's not recruiting, McCall enjoys painting, hiking, running, and spending time with her friends and family. She was recently married in September to Josh Garner and is excited to begin the adventure of marriage.

Bethany Bagwell

Assitant to the Director of Admissions

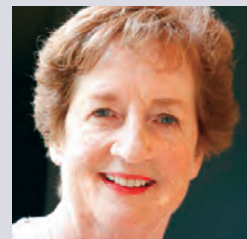
Bethany grew up in Brunswick, GA and received her Bachelor of Science in psychology from Brenau University in Gainesville, GA. After returning from Cape Town, South Africa where Bethany and her husband Dave lived as missionaries, God led them to Richmond. Bethany became part of the Richmond family as a full time student in spring 2010, pursuing a Master of Arts in professional counseling with a trauma counseling certificate. She joined the Richmond admissions staff in October and is excited to help prospective students learn more about the school she loves. Bethany loves traveling and visiting other countries and in her free time she enjoys running, hiking and spending time outdoors.



New Trustee

Judy Finley Stone

Trustee



Judy Finley Stone was born in Chattanooga, Tennessee, and graduated from the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga with a degree in Business Administration with a concentration in accounting. She went on to obtain her CPA designation and practiced in the estate and trust tax area at Joseph Decosimo and Co. in Chattanooga for more than ten years. Because she had a child who was diagnosed as learning disabled at an early age and there was no school in Chattanooga to serve these children, she helped start Scenic Land School for children with learning problems. Judy served on the board in various leadership positions for many years. She also served on the board of Bachman Academy, also a school for children with learning problems, which was supported in part by the Presbytery of East Tennessee. Education is Judy's primary interest for her charitable outlets. She currently serves on the UC Foundation, the board of King College in Bristol, Tennessee, and Girls Preparatory School in Chattanooga. Judy is the mother of four children, Bill, Cathy, Bobby and Cindy, and has two granddaughters.



Atlanta campus interns from left to right: Julie Koon, Amanda Eskridge, Debra Sustaita

Richmont Community Counseling Center Update

Richmont interns and alum continue to serve the church and community at several locations. Here are the 2009-2010 stats:

Counseling sessions provided by:

- Atlanta Hope Center interns: 3,411
- Atlanta Faculty & Staff: estimated 1,500
- CBI staff: 13,573
- CBI interns: 574
- Community Counseling Center: 2,710

To make an appointment at our counseling centers please call:
Chattanooga: 423-648-2250 and Atlanta: 404-835-6110.

Richmont Statement of Purpose:

Richmont Graduate University provides graduate education, integrating professional counseling, applied psychology and practical theology for Christ-centered transformation.

Richmont Locations:

1815 McCallie Ave
Chattanooga, TN 37404-3026
888-267-4073 (toll free)

McCarty Building
2055 Mt. Paran Road NW
Atlanta, GA 30327-2921
888-267-4073 (toll free)



RICHMONT ALUMNA WINS JACK MANGHAM AWARD

Richmont Alumna, Kim Genger, was recently awarded the Jack Mangham Award by the Experiential Learning Committee of the Georgia Association of Colleges and Employers (GACE). She received a monetary award for exemplifying outstanding characteristics in experiential learning for the 2009-2010 academic year in the category of Arts and Sciences.

For more than a decade, Kim Genger has worked among those who are in desperate need. She has worked extensively with survivors of torture, refugees, and inner-city teens. Kim describes her passion to serve in the following remark, "Realizing the great need for counseling among the poor, inner-city population of Atlanta, I hope to split my time back in the business world with time counseling in an inner-city private practice, so I can provide reduced fee services for those who need it most."

STUDENT SCHOLARSHIPS

The following students have been selected for the 2010-2011 school year based on academic eligibility, financial need, application essays, and interviews with the scholarship committee:

Baird McClure Memorial Scholarship

Christina Brown	Bevin Gracy
Socrotiff Carruth	Lauren Litton
Danielle Evans	Alyssa May
Casey Gann	Travis Sanders

Harrison Griffith DeKay Scholarship

Katie Herndon	Amanda Newman
Katie Lockerbie	Christie Price
Lorien Magnus	Katherine Setterberg
Shirley Miller	Barbara Wilson

June Braund Scholarship

Sandra Richey

Paul L. Walker Merit Scholarship

Bethany Blanco and Katie Rider

Willingham Rollinson Scholarship

Shonda Foublasse

All of the above, in addition to the **Willingham Rollinson Scholarship** and the **June Braund Scholarship**, are open for applications for the 2011 academic year. Applications and scholarship criteria can be found on the website: richmont.edu/prospective-students. Applications for scholarships must be received by May 1, 2011. Please contact Novell Blain, director of admissions, for more information, 404-835-6111.

We are so grateful for the individuals and families that have established scholarships for Richmont students. If you would like to learn more about how to set up an endowed scholarship please contact Jeff Terrell, president, at 404-835-6117.

Congratulations to the 2010-2011 SGA representatives!

Atlanta SGA



From left to right:

Sarah Neilson (secretary), Stan Hoover (chaplain), Rachel Newsome, (social officer), Socrotiff Carruth (orientation officer), Simone Alexander (president); Not pictured: Philip Zaffos (social officer), Peter Miller (orientation officer)

Chattanooga SGA



Top row: Christine Weisgerber (president), Jody Buttram (orientation officer), Kelly Johnson (social officer), Nadiyah Gibbs (secretary), Paul Laskowski (chaplain) **Bottom row:** Karisa Kay (social officer), Autumn Stephenson (orientation officer)

FACULTY RECOGNITION



CHRISTIAN COUNSELING INTEGRATION OF PSYCHOLOGY AND SPIRITUALITY

WILLIAM F. DOVERSPIKE, Ph.D.

When I was invited to speak at the 2010 Richmond graduation ceremony, my first thought was that I was not Christian enough to give the charge to the graduates. It would be like an old alkaline battery trying to share a few electrons with a new hydroelectric power plant. So, I asked one of my former students what I should speak about. I was told three things: “Give us encouragement, hope, and love.” Another student replied, “Tell us what you really think of us.” I will try to respond to both requests—in reverse order.

Sometimes, I feel like if the only thing I knew of the Christian faith was what I have learned from Richmond graduates, then I would know all I really need to know. Of course, there’s more to it than that. I was trained as a scientist and a psychotherapist—not a theologian. For me, the truth of the resurrection is found in the change of those whose lives have been touched by it. The empirical evidence is seen in the lives of those who have been transformed. Those of us who have been teachers have seen the transformations in your lives. I have seen the way you balance your commitments to your studies and to your work, to your homes and your houses of worship, to your husbands and wives, and to your ongoing clinical training. I have also seen the way that you sacrifice yourselves for others. You are much brighter, more creative, and much more talented than most of us who have been your partners in education. You also have much more to give, and when you give completely, you will discover that there is more of you to give. And when the day comes that you have nothing left to give, you will realize that the only thing you really have to give is yourself.

You are not only professional counselors; you are state of the art in professional counseling. You are not only Christian counselors; you are the standard of excellence in Christian counseling. You have earned Masters’ degrees in both counseling psychology and Christian theology—integrating the sacred and the secular. To paraphrase the words of the great psychoanalyst Carl Jung, you have learned your books and theories well, and now it is time to put them aside when you touch the miracle of the living soul (Jung, 1953, p. 4).

Let God use your words to speak to others, but more importantly, let God use your ears to listen to others, because it is in your listening that healing occurs.

Fifty years of psychotherapy research (as well as 40 years of my own study of psychology) have revealed three things that the Master therapist taught us 2,000 years ago: empathy, authenticity, and unconditionality—the necessary and sufficient conditions for positive therapeutic change (Rogers, 1957). In the words of a former President of the American Psychological Association, “Many studies have taught us that empathy, the ability to form an emotional connection, and forging an alliance with the client will create a far stronger foundation for change and quality of life than any treatment manual validated by a plethora of randomized clinical trials” (Koocher, 2006, p. 5).

Empathy is the ability to feel, understand, and respond to the suffering of others. It is the prerequisite of compassion, more active and vigorous than empathy, which allows us to enter into and maintain a relationship of caring. Derived from its Latin roots, *com passus* means “to suffer with.” Although you will listen and learn a lot from the people you serve, they will not care how much you know so much as they will know how much you care.

Authenticity is also known as genuineness or congruence. It refers to your being a fully integrated person; it is the opposite of wearing a mask or maintaining a façade. It is not just talking the talk, but walking the walk. It is the consistency between what you believe and how you behave, what you think and how you act, who you are and what you do. In the ethics literature, it is referred to as *integrity*. In the Bible, it is what is sometimes described as *wholeness*.

Unconditionality is described in the psychology journals as unconditional positive regard. It is the secular version of that which in our faith tradition we call *agape*—a caring for the other that is greater than one’s care for oneself. Of course, caring for others must be balanced with care for oneself. In the words of St. Augustine, “Fill yourselves first, for only then will you be able to fill others.” Unconditionality involves radical acceptance, which, for lack of a better word, we call love. In the words of a Cistercian writer, “The beginning of love is to let those we love be perfectly themselves, and not to twist them to fit our own image.

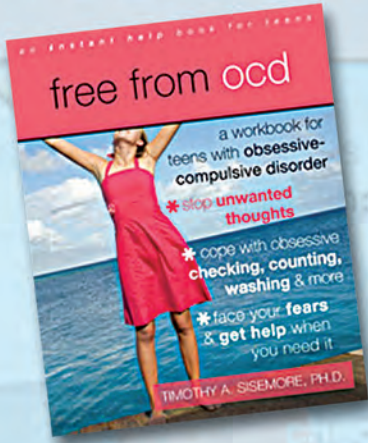
Otherwise, we love only the reflection of ourselves we find in them” (Merton, 1955, p. 168).

So, what does all this have to do with encouragement, hope, and love? First, by completely being with others where they are, rather than where you wish they were, you give love, bringing into expression what they are meant to be. Second, by seeing in others the image of unlimited potential that they do not see in themselves, you give hope, permitting them to become what they are destined to be. Third, by completely accepting others as they are, rather than how you would want them to be, you give encouragement, allowing them to become whom they were created to be.

As counselors, what better example do you have than the Wonderful Counselor (Isaiah 9:6) who taught how to meet others exactly where they are. As healers, what better example do you have than the Great Physician (Matthew 9: 12) who listened to the lives of others? As the one who completely integrated the sacred and the secular, your Master listened to the pleas of the lepers, and the outcasts, and the condemned.

Some of you may be called to die for your faith, but all of you are called to live your faith. As you leave your houses of worship each week, I challenge you to be living legacies to the faith that brought you here in the first place. I challenge you to be living testaments to the faith that will take you beyond any horizon that you can see tomorrow. As you enter your offices each week, I challenge you to be role models to your clients, as they progress beyond any vision that they can see when they first begin their journeys with you. I challenge you to be visionaries, as you see in your clients the unlimited potential that they do not see in themselves. I challenge you to be witnesses, as your clients’ images of themselves as broken beings are transformed into visions of whom they were created to be.

In your clinical training, you learned the psychological skills of empathy, authenticity, and unconditionality. I ask you to let these skills be transformed into the virtues of compassion, integrity, and love. Just as vigorously as you continue to sharpen these skills and strive to practice these virtues in yourselves, I ask you to encourage their expression in others—allowing them to be transformed into lives that are more empathic, more authentic, and more unconditional in their love for others.



Do You Feel Trapped in Your Own Thoughts and Rituals?

We congratulate Dr. Tim Sisemore, Clinical Professor of Counseling and Psychology, for his latest book on OCD. Here is a abstract of his work:

You may not know anyone else who suffers from repetitive “stuck” thoughts and compulsive rituals, but plenty of other teens experience symptoms of obsessive-compulsive disorder (OCD): the need to repeatedly wash their hands, check to make sure everything's okay, count possessions, put things in order, or even repeat thoughts over and over. Rituals like these may calm you down when you're feeling stressed or anxious, but you know all too well that the relief is temporary and you'll have to repeat the ritual when you start feeling uneasy again. This cycle can make you feel trapped, but also may seem impossible or even frightening to break.

Free from OCD offers forty easy cognitive behavioral exercises to help you move past your symptoms and live freely and flexibly, without fear. You'll finally be able to stop compulsive thoughts in their tracks and keep them from coming back.

ALUMNI

New Alumni Association Members

Kimberly Alexander
Gordon Baker
Renee Bell
Janice Calzolari
Shannon Cramer
Justin Forgette
Cindy Gaultney
Lauren Hester
Laura Johnson
Susan Kelley
Tiffany Kingsfield
William Lockett
Edward Moore
Ann Riley
Barbara Russell
Lily Scivicque
Paula Smith
Randy Smith
Audrey Starnes
Laura Ward
Kelli Willard



Sarah Tate ('91), Lee Tate, and Yelen Vorobyov (Richmont student) at Alumni Reunion 2009.

RICHMONT ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

The Richmond Alumni Association helps graduates stay connected to the Richmond family. Its aim is to help each alumna foster a network of both professional and spiritual support. The alumni association also connects alumni to Richmond, helping to promote our mission, programs and services. To join the Richmond Alumni Association or to read about the different memberships, please visit our website at: <http://richmont.edu/alumni-association> or you may call 404-835-6123 and speak with Melissa Vander Horst. Founding Memberships are \$100, and basic memberships are \$25. Annual renewal fees for both memberships are \$25.

Alumni Update e-Newsletter

The Office of Alumni Relations sends out a monthly *Alumni Update* e-newsletter to all Richmond alumni with up to date email addresses. The Alumni Update features CE opportunities, updates from our alumni, and other important Richmond updates. If you would like to receive this and you do not think we have your current email address, please contact Melissa Vander Horst, mvanderhorst@richmont.edu

RICHMONT LAUNCHES NEW SCHOOL OF MINISTRY

Enhancing Ministry Formation through KNOWING, BEING AND DOING

The Board of Trustees, Administrative Council, faculty and staff of Richmond Graduate University are pleased to announce the establishment of a School of Ministry that will offer its first degree (a Master of Ministry) beginning in the fall of 2011. The School of Ministry will be headed by Leland Eliason, who has served for years as a pastor and as the vice president and provost of Bethel Theological Seminary in Minnesota. This will be an innovative program that will blend, with equal emphasis, a curriculum that features spiritual formation, practical ministry skills and academic theology.

Richmont Graduate University has a remarkable track record for fulfilling its mission statement and achieving its four primary objectives of providing: 1) Master's-level counselor education from a Christian perspective; 2) Clinical training and community counseling through its network of counseling centers; 3) Contributions to the growing body of integration research; and 4) Service to the church and ministry agencies. Richmont's reason for offering an MA in ministry is founded in the simple desire to expand what we already do in a way that will impact more lives for the Kingdom.

Vision and Mission Statement

Richmont's goal in offering a MA in ministry is to greatly enhance our ability to fulfill our mission and institutional objectives. Specifically, a ministry program will enhance our ability to serve the church by equipping those already in Christian ministry and preparing others who feel called to ministry.

Another goal of offering a MA in ministry is to help meet the significant educational need in the contemporary Church by providing a new kind of educational program for training ministers. The proposed program will provide training for ministers who are already serving in local church ministry and will therefore make use of both distance learning and retreat formats. While the specific curriculum of the training program is still in process of being developed, we do have several themes that will be present in this new offering. These include: 1) Balanced vision; 2) Contemporary focus; 3) Commitment to Transformation; and 4) Practical theology.

- **Balanced Vision:** The program will be balanced, celebrating all of the great traditions of Christian faith: Contemplative (the prayer-filled life); Holiness (the virtuous life); Charismatic (the Spirit-empowered life); Evangelical (the Word-centered life); Social Justice (the compassionate life); and Incarnational (the Sacramental Life). Over the years, non-Christians have come to expect divisions and conflict as markers of the Church, instead of love and respect. We emphasize commonalities first, while being sensitive to divergent points of view.
- **Contemporary Focus:** The program will focus primarily on the unmet needs of contemporary Church and ministry agencies. Our vision is to train the developing contemporary church in all its expressions. (One of the early stimuli for consideration of this degree was the growing awareness that contemporary churches rarely hire ministers who come from traditional training programs. They hire from within and then often have no formal training available.)

➤ **Commitment to Transformation:** The program will emphasize authenticity and integrity as hallmarks of leadership. As part of this approach a heavy emphasis will be placed on the Christian formation of each student. Having produced several generations of Christian counselors who have worked behind the scenes to build authenticity in all kinds of relationships, RGU is ready to use those tools in service of a different, but related goal. We have always understood that our mission is not counseling, but rather transformation. Counseling was the tool we used to produce that transformation.

➤ **Practical Theology:** The program will focus on practical application. The intent of this degree program is to produce servants not scholars. Though our scholarship will be first-rate, the learning in this program will be designed to make a difference in the lives of God's people. From homiletics to theology to pastoral care, all of the content domains will focus on immediacy of application.

Description of Program

There is much excitement about the possibility of creating a distinctive training program in ministry that will provide opportunities for: 1) Christian formation and character development; 2) Enhanced practical ministry skills; and 3) Advanced theological and Biblical studies.

The theological foundation for this new program will be built on the early creedal statements of the church and the great traditions of Christian faith: Evangelical (Word-centered life); Contemplative (prayer-filled life); Charismatic (Spirit-empowered life); Holiness (virtuous life); Social Justice (compassionate life); and Incarnational (sacramental life). While purposefully ecumenical, the curriculum will be wholly consistent with the statement of faith provided by the National Evangelical Association.

In addition to the envisioned three-part nature of the training (e.g. giving equal attention to Christian formation, practical skills, and academic theology) as well as commitment to ecumenical dialogue, the new program will be distinctive in its innovative delivery system of coursework. Students who are working full time will be able to complete the program without having to move to the Atlanta or Chattanooga areas. This will be accomplished by providing on-line coursework, intensive classes offered in a retreat center setting, and, at least initially, designating one evening each week for offering courses in a more traditional format.

Target Audience

The target audience for the MA program in ministry will be men and women who are called to full or part-time Christian ministry. While we plan to focus the program around the needs of those who are already serving the church—but lacking in formal ministry education—we also desire to meet the needs of those not in ministry.

We are looking forward to this important new chapter in the life of Richmond/CBI. Our mission has always been one of transformation—not just counseling. And now we will be providing a unique program that focuses on the “knowing,” “doing,” and “being,” of ministry formation.

DEVELOPMENT OUTLOOK



RICHMONT ANNUAL FUND

Because Everyone Needs Hope

TRAINING MINISTERS OF RECONCILIATION

Did you know that fully 25% of the mental health positions in the Chattanooga area are occupied by Richmond graduates? These men and women are dedicated to God and to His ministry of reconciliation, bringing broken people into right relationship with God, their families and others. God is using Richmond graduates to affect the full spectrum of society through counseling in schools, churches, and missions organizations as well as to refugee populations, in homeless shelters and in prisons. With 959 alumni in 36 states and 4 foreign countries, it is estimated that current graduates will impact 7.6 million souls.

We need your help to continue to train these wonderful men and women to be God's instruments of reconciliation. Each student invests their time and on average \$11,000 for their training each year at Richmond. Our actual costs to properly equip them is closer to \$15,000 per year. Will you prayerfully consider how God may be calling you to bridge the gap to train one student for a year, (\$4,000), for a semester (\$2,000) or for one or more semester hour (\$140 each)?

Your investment in Richmond will pay dividends for God's glory by bringing hope to the hopeless and broken people into right relationship with Him. Thank you for your consideration.

MAKE YOUR GIFT ONLINE

Please visit www.richmont.edu to make a onetime or recurring secure gift online to the Richmond Annual Fund. If you wish to mail the gift, please send your check to Richmond Annual Fund, 1815 McCallie Avenue, Chattanooga, TN 37404.



Richmont supporters and students gathered in May to hear how God is using Richmond graduate Brenda Keck. Brenda's ministry, Sanctuary: Soul Care for Ministers and Missionaries, enables pastors and missionaries to minister more effectively and remain in right relationship with God, their families and their teams. Pictured above (left to right): Dr. Cara Cochran, Jenn Hand '06, Brenda Keck '08, Donna Austin Morris '07, and current student Rachel Smith.

HONORS & MEMORIALS

The following are individuals in whose honor and memory gifts have been received from March 2010 through August 2010.

IN HONOR

Ken Calwell
Dr. Mike Reid
Starr Hoover
Dione Mashburn
Brittnee Millholland
Carmesia Arnold
Nanci Reilly
Michelle Wetenhaver
Holly Edwards

IN MEMORIAL

Mrs. Earl Evans
Carter Paden
Ann Layman Riggs

We are grateful for those that pay tribute to special people in their lives through gifts to Richmond.



*A higher standard.
A higher purpose.*

Richmont Graduate University is a member of the Evangelical Council for Financial Accountability (ECFA), which is committed to helping Christ-centered organizations earn the public's trust through developing and maintaining standards of accountability that convey God-honoring ethical practices.

Harriett Caldwell Scholarship Fund

Each of our lives tells a enduring story. We all leave a legacy behind. Harriet Caldwell's legacy is one of healing and wholeness. To quote her oldest son,

Hacker Caldwell, "She was a faithful Christian."

Hacker continues, "I think she had a rare understanding of how Christian theology could be distilled or simplified enough to be actively practiced in everyday life. She lived her faith, an in so doing, was the greatest kind of evangelist, one who never needs to speak a word and yet all people will see, hear and fully understand the message. I thought of her as possessing a peculiar wholeness that made her seem to transcend the boundaries of the term Christian."

Harriet was soaked in God's grace and showed those around her with His love. She was a cherished wife, adored mother and gracious

friend, especially to those who didn't have one. She was involved in many valuable causes, including those that promoted mental health and care for seniors. Harriet also served in her church, the Church of the Good Shepherd in Lookout Mountain, Tenn., by teaching Sunday school, and she was the first woman to become a member of the vestry.

Upon her death in 1989 at age of 61, Harriet's family received numerous letters from people who had encountered her only briefly but who had been immeasurably blessed by her loving, wise and encouraging spirit. As a lay counselor, she was highly self aware and easily related to others, modeling a life connected to Christ that produced a joy and peace she hoped others would allow themselves to experience.

Harriet's daughter, Tina Currin, and Tina's husband, Sam, have established the Harriet Caldwell Scholarship Fund at Richmond Graduate University. Tina serves on Richmond's board and suggested the scholarship to memo-

rialize her mother's emotional and spiritual generosity.

"God is love. He wants us to be healed. He wants us to be whole. That's what my mother believed and stood for with her unshakable faith," Tina explains. "Mom understood that healing means good health not only for the body but also for the spirit and that wholeness only occurs when both body and spirit are healthy. Richmond's mission is to heal the spirit, so that is why I wanted to honor my mother with a scholarship there."

The Harriet Caldwell Scholarship Fund will assist students pursuing a master's degree in professional counseling or marriage and family therapy at Richmond. Scholarships will be awarded to students who demonstrate a financial need and, like Harriet, exemplify a deep understanding of healing and wholeness along with profound faith.



CBI UPDATE: LIVE JOYFULLY

Boy, I thought for awhile there I might not survive the heat this summer. I am so grateful to have at least cooler nights and the promise of cooler days before too long.

The fall semester is under way at CBI. Yeah!! It is so good to have “my people” back in class. We are offering two new Beth Moore classes this semester: *Jesus, the One and Only*, and *Revelation: Here and Now, There and Then*. Our Beth Moore studies are always very popular and well-attended. Between Beth’s teaching and our own Susan Cross’s facilitating it’s a win-win. We also are offering an old favorite – *Boundaries*. I wish everyone could take this class. Wow! It is simply choked full of good relational advice and all Biblically based. Our on-going classes remain equally well-supported. We are so grateful to have Marshall Robinson, Everett Gossett, Ed Kleiner, and Ginny McPherson who continue to commit their time and devotion to sharing their knowledge with the participants here. CBI is well-blessed by those who love to serve.

I am still on the prowl for new venues to teach my class *The Nature of God*. I will go anywhere, anytime. You know when I first started taking classes here at CBI, we averaged five or six people per class. Today that is considered small. We typically tally in at around eight or nine now, and so many new faces are in those numbers. I love it when someone has a good experience and then brings his/her friends back the next time. I believe our number of returning participants and the number of new faces reflects well on the teaching, fellowship, and applicability of what we are doing here.

From Angie Conroy, the volunteer director of Chattanooga Bible Institute.




This world is crazy busy, crazy demanding and sometimes just plain crazy. (I know I need all the help and support I can get.) Through the classes here at CBI, we hope to help each other keep our balance and feel loved and valued. I am so honored and blessed by this place and if we can pass along that blessing to others, then we have done our job.

Fall also brings with it our annual Thanksgiving lunch. This is truly one of my favorite events all year long. CBI has hosted this community “pot luck” feast for years and everyone is welcome: students, faculty, staff, participants, friends, and family. The more the merrier. We provide the turkey and dressing, gravy, rolls, and beverages. Everyone else brings a side, salad or dessert. So mark your calendars for **Tuesday, November 16**. We’d love to see ya there! And until next time, live joyfully- we are well-loved by God!

CBI Basics:

Located on the Chattanooga campus, Chattanooga Bible Institute is an interdenominational ministry of Richmond Graduate University, providing the community with Christian classes, Christian counseling services and The Poindexter Library- a Christian resource library open to the public. Please visit www.richmont.edu to find out more about CBI’s counseling services and to view the CBI group and class schedule.

Mercy and Music

On August 21st, the Richmond Community Counseling Center (RCCC) held a benefit concert which was hosted at Christ United Methodist Church in Chattanooga, TN. This concert served to raise awareness of the counseling services provided by the Richmond Community Counseling Center to children, adults, and families that are uninsured, under-insured, and/or have financial barriers that have prevented mental health treatment. The concert featured gifted recording artists Andrew Peterson and Eric Peters from Nashville, and local group, *Concerning Lions*. The opening act, “Concerning Lions” recently won the Local Artist Showcase award by J103 (the largest Christian radio station in the Chattanooga area), and they did a wonderful job of opening the concert with their blend of vocal harmony accompanied by eclectic traditional and bluegrass instruments. Our second artist, Eric Peters, is known for his folk style acoustic guitar and soulful lyrics that are relevant to the life struggles common to our work in the counseling field. Concert headliner Andrew Peterson is a Dove Award nominated artist, and recently released a new album called “Counting Stars” which is getting wonderful reviews. Andrew is known for his songs that incorporate issues of family, faith, and the resilience that helps with overcoming life obstacles. All artists performed pro bono so that 100% of the proceeds could support the ministry of the Richmond Community Counseling Center.

There were approximately 275 people in attendance at the concert, and the ticket sales and donations from the night of the concert brought in a profit of \$5,600 to the RCCC. Dr. Jana Pressley and the staff/interns of the RCCC would like to thank the many Richmond students, staff, and faculty who either volunteered the night of the concert or gave money toward publicity expenses. We also owe a debt of gratitude to the artists who donated their time and talent to the RCCC ministry, and we hope this is the beginning of an annual tradition.



CONVERSations

A FORUM FOR Authentic TRANSFORMATION



Learning from Martin Luther King, Jr.: Contemplation in Action

by Ruth Haley Barton

"Every genuine expression of love grows out of a consistent and total surrender to God."

Martin Luther King, Jr.

One of the things that disturb me most about the way we talk about spirituality and related themes in religious circles today is the way we often create false dichotomies between being and doing, prayer and action, contemplation and missional engagement with the world.

"Oh, she's a contemplative," we might say, while on the inside we might also be thinking, *"so all she does is sit around and pray all day."*

Or, *"He's an activist... so that means he doesn't pray very much."*

Or, *"She's a mystic... so that means she's dangerous and theologically unsound."*

Or, *"If we focus too much on spiritual formation, we will neglect evangelism and involvement with the needs of the world."*

"Soul stuff is soft stuff," this line of thinking goes. *"Let the contemplatives (or desert fathers) sit around and gaze at their navels while the activists fly over their heads and get the job done."*

I actually heard a statement like that made from the platform at a leadership conference, and for many reasons I have never forgotten it. First of all, it made me feel embarrassed about who I was—someone who was discovering the presence of God very powerfully in solitude, silence, and contemplation—and someone who was an activist and desperately did not want to believe that that meant "flying over the heads" of the desert mothers and

fathers whom I had come to respect so deeply. I was *frustrated* that a respected leader would use his platform to further cement a false dichotomy that is rooted in so much fear and misunderstanding.

But the fear is real. The activists fear that if contemplatives emphasize prayer and the inner life too much, people will become self-focused and narcissistic and never get anything done. The contemplatives fear that activists don't pray enough, that they are shallow, and that too much action causes people to become disconnected from the reality of God within. And then because we are afraid of falling into the excesses of one side of this polarity or the other, we subtly or not so subtly dismiss and diminish aspects of the spiritual life that *must* be held together in tension if our spirituality is to be healthy. It is time we get beyond this.

Sometimes a picture is worth a thousand words, and the life of Martin Luther King, Jr., is a powerful illustration of what it looks like when a person fully integrates a life of prayer and deep spirituality with a profound commitment to decisive and loving action in the world. For King, it was never prayer *or* activism. It was never being in God *or* doing something for God. It was never missional engagement with the problems of the

world *or* contemplation of the presence of God within. It was both, all the time. He was profoundly non-dualistic in this regard. "Life at its best," he believed, "is a creative synthesis of opposites in fruitful harmony."¹

When we celebrate the life and work of King, it is important that we always remember it was his keen spiritual insight and attunement with the heart of God that made it possible for him to know what many Christians and other well-meaning individuals had somehow avoided knowing—that racism is an offense to the heart of God and contradicts the essence of the Gospel. *"There is no longer Jew or Greek... slave or free... male and female; for all of you are one in Christ"* (Galatians 3:28, NRSV). The soul force to which he often referred was the "force" of God-directed action motivated by love and emerging from the soul of a person who was in touch with the Spirit of God witnessing with his or her spirit about things that are true. "To our bitterest opponents we say: We shall meet your physical force with soul force. Do to us what you will, and we shall continue to love you... One day we shall win freedom, but not only for ourselves. We shall so appeal to your heart and conscience that we shall win you in the process, and our victory will be a double victory."

It was strength of soul that made it possible for King to live within the paradoxes inherent in adopting and maintaining a nonviolent approach to confronting evil.

The full text of this article appears in the Fall 2010 issue of *Conversations*, "Contemplation and Action."

Check out our re-designed website www.conversations-journal.com to subscribe or give a gift subscription today! We also have forums for discussion, free content, and article excerpts. Members of the Richmond alumni association receive a complimentary subscription with their annual membership.

ENDNOTES

¹ Martin Luther King, Jr., *Strength to Love*. Philadelphia: Fortress Press, 1963, 13.

JOIN THE DAILY CONVERSATION



Conversations Journal will launch its blog, The Daily Conversation, on Nov. 1, featuring your favorite Conversations authors. Each day will be devoted to a part of the person—thought, emotion, behavior, relationship and intention—and will feature thoughtful conversation on issue themes, current events and spiritual formation topics. We look forward to engaging you with timely, topical concerns through The Daily Conversation.

PLEASE ADD US TO YOUR BOOKMARKS AND PLAN TO VISIT OFTEN.
WWW.CONVERSATIONSJOURNAL.COM/BLOG

Class Notes

Class of 1979

Colleen Remein, M.Ed.

- Campus attended** Atlanta
- Where do you live?** Raleigh, NC
- Employed by** Currently setting up private practice.
- Title/Position** Program Coordinator
- Accomplishments** M.Ed., clinical member of AAMFT (currently inactive), North Carolina LPC.
- Transitions** After graduation from PSI in 1979, I worked at Taylor University (Upland Indiana) for one year, lived and worked in Toledo Ohio (my home town), and then moved to Long Island and worked at a church sponsored Christian counseling center in Sayville, NY. I met my husband Duane at this church and we married in 1984. His work moved us to Phoenix, Arizona, where our children were born: Abby in 1988 and Jonathan in 1990. After Johnny was born, Duane's work again moved us to Raleigh (July, 1990) where I was a full-time mom and church/school volunteer while the children were growing up. I've done part-time substitute teaching and recently completed LPC licensure in North Carolina.

Class of 1980

Robert (Bob) B. Williams, MD, FACS

- Campus attended** Atlanta
- Where do you live?** Roanoke, VA
- Employed by** Salem Surgical
- Title/Position** Surgeon (Primarily Breast Cancer)
- Who do you help?** I primarily work with women with breast cancer.
- Accomplishments** Fellow/Diplomat, American College of Surgeons
- Transitions** After graduation from PSI, I moved to Wilson, NC, and worked as a marriage and family counselor for about two years before moving to Raleigh where I took pre-requisites for med school. I thought I'd end up being a psychiatrist or family doc. I went to med school at Wake Forest and then decided surgery was a better fit (I like to fix things). I then completed six years of surgery training at the University of South Carolina. Once I finished, I moved to Roanoke, VA, where my practice has evolved from broad based general surgery to primarily breast cancer surgery. I have been married to Kim for twenty-three years. Our son Matt is at the Naval Academy. Our son David entered into the Naval Academy this summer. Our daughter Kathryn entered into 9th grade this fall.

Class of 2003

Regena Kressenberg, M.A.

- Campus attended** Chattanooga, TN
- Where do you live?** Chattanooga, TN
- Employed by** Fountain of Life Counselor/Executive Director
- Title/Position** School Counselor
- Who do you help?** I help first the church universal by helping Christians bring to bear the scriptures on life's problems. The other group I have been helping are ex-offenders through a sister organization Transformation Project. We offer Biblical study groups inside the jail and then outside on addictions and various other topics.
- Accomplishments** I started the non-profit Fountain of Life Counseling Center in 2003.
- Transitions** I have been married to Kent for twenty years.

Class of 2005

Walter Howard, M.A. (Child/Adolescent)

- Campus attended** Atlanta
- Where do you live?** Travelers Rest, SC
- Employed by** Private Practice
- Title/Position** Look Up Lodge Christian Camp, Staff Director
- Who do you help?** I primarily work with our college summer staffers and youth ministers during our yearly summer camps for children and teens.
- Accomplishments** I am trained as a Birkman Method consultant and was recently appointed as board member for Habitat for Humanity-Greenville.
- Transitions** I have no plans to leave the Greenville area. I love the downtown area, pace of life, beautiful Blue Ridge Mountain foothills, and the thriving cycling community.

Class of 2009

Hannah Rinehart, MA, LAPC

- Campus attended** Atlanta
- Where do you live?** Duluth, GA
- Employed by** Lighthouse Christian Counseling
- Title/Position** Counselor
- Who do you help?** Adolescents and adults struggling with anxiety, trauma, depression, cutting or addiction and couples with relationship and communication issues.
- Accomplishments** LAPC, speaking at Perimeter Church on depression, anxiety and self-care, speaking at the Christian Association of Youth Mentoring Convention during a breakout session on at-risk youth, speaking at the National Care-Net Convention during a breakout session on childhood sexual abuse and trauma.

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We appreciate the generosity of these individuals who contributed to Richmond from July 1, 2009 through June 30, 2010.



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A higher purpose.

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