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.
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
Difference-Making 101

McCall Garner
Recruiter

With her heart for traveling and for Richmont’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 Richmont family. McCall commented, “I absolutely love working for Richmont. 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
Assistant 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 Richmont. Bethany became part of the Richmont 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 Richmont 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 Presbyterian Church in 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.

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:

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
Socratiff Carruth
Danielle Evans
Casey Gann
Bevin Gracy
Lauren Litton
Alyssa May
Travis Sanders

Harrison Griffith DeKay Scholarship
Katie Herndon
Katie Lockerbie
Lorien Magnus
Shirley Miller
Amanda Newman
Christie Price
Katherine Setterberg
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), Socratiff 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)
CHRISTIAN COUNSELING
INTEGRATION OF PSYCHOLOGY AND SPIRITUALITY

WILLIAM F. DOVERSPIKE, Ph.D.

When I was invited to speak at the 2010 Richmont 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 Richmont 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 passu 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.
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.

Do You Feel Trapped in Your Own Thoughts and Rituals?

RICHMONT ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

The Richmont Alumni Association helps graduates stay connected to the Richmont family. Its aim is to help each alumnus foster a network of both professional and spiritual support. The alumni association also connects alumni to Richmont, helping to promote our mission, programs and services. To join the Richmont 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 Richmont alumni with up to date email addresses. The Alumni Update features CE opportunities, updates from our alumni, and other important Richmont 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 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 integrative 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 Richmont/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 Richmont 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 Richmont 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 Richmont. 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 Richmont 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 one time or recurring secure gift online to the Richmont Annual Fund. If you wish to mail the gift, please send your check to Richmont Annual Fund, 1815 McCallie Avenue, Chattanooga, TN 37404.

Harriett Caldwell Scholarship Fund

Each of our lives tells an enduring story. We all leave a legacy behind. Harriett 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.”

Harriett was soaked in God’s grace and showered 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 Richmont Graduate University. Tina serves on Richmont’s board and suggested the scholarship to memorialize 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. Richmont’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 Richmont. 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.

IN HONOR

Ken Calwell
Dr. Mike Reid
Starr Hoover
Dione Mashburn
Brittnee Millholland
Carmesha 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 Richmont.

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.
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.

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 Richmont 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.

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.

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 Richmont 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 Richmont 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 Richmont 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 Richmont 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 Richmont 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.
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.”

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.”

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.

ENDNOTES
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 in 1979, I 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.
We appreciate the generosity of these individuals who contributed to Richmont from July 1, 2009 through June 30, 2010.

Adams, Emily H.  
Alexander, Kimberly  
Allen Morris Foundation  
Allen, Kendra  
Anonymous  
Arp, Rob  
Atwater, Dr. Michael J.  
The L.B. & Helen Austin Trust  
Aycock, David  
Baker, Gordon Norris  
Balch, Elizabeth S.  
Bandy, Steve  
Barber, Scott  
Battle, Richard  
Beasley, Elizabeth Heath  
Bell, Holly Renee  
Bell, Jim & Ida  
Bell, Laura Lee  
Bogg, Jonathan Eric  
Bridgman, Brenda  
Bradshaw, Dr. Steve  
Brannen, Vida S.  
Brannom, Constance  
Brightwell, Megan  
Brock, Charlie & Lisa  
Brockhorst, Marilyn B., LPC  
Brown, Lindsay E.  
Buch, Joseph Oliver  
Burrell, Dr. Arvel  
Busbey, Frank J.  
The Caldwell Foundation  
Calahan, Linda V.  
Caledon, Janice Lynn  
Campbell, Sherry A.  
Capp, Catherine  
Carlin, Barbara  
Carlton, Mrs. J.B.  
Carpenter, Mark  
Carter, Marcus  
Cathy, Mr. & Mrs. Don  
Cathy, Truett  
Celzo, Annalie  
Chalk, Elizabeth Clair  
Check, Gracie  
Childers, Robert & Teresa  
Clark, George M.  
Cochran, Christopher  
Coddington, Dr. & Mrs. Robert  
Coddington, Nan  
Cole, Tamatha N.  
Colmore, Jo C. & Susan  
Conroy, Mr. & Mrs. Pat  
Cooley, Delores W.  
Cooper, Jennifer  
Costello, David  
Cotton, Don  
Crais, Aubrie J.  
Cramer, Shannon Colleen  
Cress, Teresa Diane  
Cross, Alison  
Cross, Susan  
Cunningham, Judy  
Curnin, Dr. & Mrs. Sam  
Davidson, Chet & Liz  
Davis, Paul  
Davis, Peggy  
Day, John & Margaret  
Decosimo, Mr. & Mrs. Joseph F.  
Decosimo, Mr. John Thomas  
Decosimo, Tom  
Delaplane, Gary W.  
Dial, Elizabeth  
Dickson, Sherry  
Dolph, Dr. Chuck  
Douglas, Helen, LPC  
Dowling, Röd  
Drake, Philip Y.  
Duncan, Aja Maruen  
Ecker, Jeff  
Edwards, Mr. & Mrs. Bobby  
Eldridge, Jim & Catherine  
Emerson, Debbie  
Evans, Margaret (Peggy)  
Evans, Mary S.  
Fambrough, Andrea Joan  
Faulkner, Thomas & Sarah  
Ferguson, Mary Wright  
Filley, Carole  
Finley, Margaret  
First Presbyterian Church  
Fittinger, Dr. James  
Fletcher, Nancy T.  
Forgette, Justin W.  
Fortenberry, Julie Rene  
Franklin, Robert  
Franklin, Ted & Marge  
Frederick, Dana Carol  
Frederick, Gabriel David  
Frincke, Emilee B.  
Fuller, Charles E.  
Fultz, Patricia M.  
Caldron, Monique  
Garland, Peter J. & Anne  
Garman, Jil  
Gaultney, Cynthia Jones  
George, Vickie  
Getz, Barbara T.  
Gladson, Dr. Jerry  
Glass, G. Matthew III  
Glover, Alaine, LPC  
Grafton, Mary  
Greene, Nevalene  
Grove, Diane  
Grove, Shari  
Guess, Carol C.  
Hahn, Laura Anne  
Hall, Andrew J.  
Hall, Brandy Nobles  
Hall, Stephen David Jr.  
Hamilton, Dean Stockhouse  
Hansche, Dr. Evalin Rhodes  
Harbold, Emily  
Harris, Jon E.  
Harrison, Mrs. Sue R.  
Hayes, Dr. C.W.  
Henegar, Percy  
Henegar, Mr. & Mrs. Henry  
Henson, Mr. & Mrs. Reid M.  
Hosler, Lauren Elizabeth  
Higgins, Nancy  
Hixson, Beverly Christian Crusade  
Hogg, Brian  
Horton, Sharon  
House, Dennis M.  
Howard, Walter Williams  
Hufnaker, Mr. Hugh D., Jr.  
Hufnaker, Robert & Lenora  
Huffman, Robert & Nancy  
Humbert, Mrs. Cynthia  
Hurst, Peggy  
Johnson, Imani Nia  
Johnson, Whitney Brook, LPC  
Johnston, Teresa  
Jones, Katherine A.  
Jones III, Mrs. Robert C.  
Jordan, April M.  
Keappler, Judy  
Kelley, Mary Ryan  
Kelley, Susan B.  
Kennedy, Sonya  
Kingsfield, Tiffany Dixon  
Kressenberg, Regena  
Lang, Elizabeth Kathryn  
Lawson-Moore, Meredith  
Lay, Robin Elizabeth  
Lee, Eleanor  
Lee, Jermoe  
Leman, Bill  
Lenning, Kevin  
Leonard, Bill  
LePage, Ann & Tom  
Lewis, Dave & Kelly  
Linder, Mr. & Mrs. Tom  
Lockett, William (Bill)  
Lookout Mountain Presbyterian Church  
Lupton, Beth  
Lupton, Mr. & Mrs. John Thomas  
Lyle, My F., Estate of  
Macellini, Dr. James  
Macellini, Hugh O.  
Madden, J.K.  
Magnussen, Mrs. Judy Kay  
Mann, J. Fund  
Martin Family Foundation  
McCallie, Dr. David P.  
McCarthy, John & Margaret  
McCrary, Lorraine  
McGee, Mr. & Mrs. George  
McGee, William  
McGregor, Mr. & Mrs. F. Wade  
McGregor, Mrs. Celia  
McLemore, Miss Pauline B., LPC  
McNabb, Mr. & Mrs. W. Lanny  
Mercado, Mrs. Joy W.  
Merriam, Beverly  
Midkiff, Deborah  
Miller, Sandra  
Mills, Sharon  
Miner, Gene & Rhonda  
Miner, Rhonda Dawes  
Mitchell, Billy  
Mitchell, Erin Denise  
Mitchell, Teddi A.  
Mook, Dalton  
Meen, Dr. Gary  
Moore, Edward Lee  
Moore, Elizabeth Davis  
Moore, Owendolyn Williams  
Morris, Donna Austin  
Muller, Dr. & Mrs. John  
Nebeker, Denise Brown  
North Shore Fellowship  
Northside Presbyterian Church  
OA Unity Group  
O’Connor, Mrs. Mary E.  
Osvald, Christine  
Osvald, Richard D.  
Owens, Larry  
Payne, Diane Capers  
Pearce-Rubber, Suzanne  
Pearson, Lindsay McCall  
Peek, Mandy J.  
Petersen, Donna  
Petersen, Susan Carol  
Petit, Mr. & Mrs. Peter  
Pitcairn, Maria  
Poindexter Sunday School  
Poindexter, Dr. & Mrs. John  
Poindexter Charitable Fund  
Poole, Lisa  
Powell, Frank P.  
Powell, Mr. & Mrs. Frank P.  
Powell, Mr. & Mrs. H.D.  
Price, Rachel  
Probasco, Mr. Scott L.  
Qualey, Judith  
Ramlogan, Mitra  
Rawlings, Mildred  
Rehm, Mark  
Reilly, Nanci C.  
Reynolds, Jennifer Peck  
Richardson, Ingrid A.  
Richardson, Jr., Joel W.  
Richey, Sandra Christine  
Riley, Ann  
Rinehart, Hannah Gray  
Ringsmuth, Jessica Mary  
Robinson, Cindy  
Robinson, David Lee  
Robinson, Joan  
Roddy, Tom  
Rodgers, Robert  
Rollin, Karen E.  
Ruiz, Jessica Colon  
Runyon, Heather Michelle  
Rupp, Danielle Michelle  
Rupp, Charlotte Howard  
Rupp, Kathryn  
Russell, Barbara T.  
Russell, Dr. Cheryl J.  
Sader, Hannah  
Salsman, Stephanie  
Smawie, Dr. & Mrs. Stephen  
Scivicque, Lily-Ruth Aoun  
Seese, Marshall & Carole  
Sexton, Andrea Trotter  
Shelling, Grete  
Siebert, Jack N.  
Signal Mountain Presbyterian  
Simpson, Dr. David B., PhD  
Sisemore, Dr. Timothy  
Skog, Sandy  
Smith, Brian  
Smith, Brittney  
Smith, Paula Jones  
Smith, Randy Q.  
Smith-Vanz, Kristen Sheridan  
Spencer, Mrs. Donna J.  
Starbucks Coffee  
Starnes, Audrey Marie  
Stein, John T.  
Stephens, Mrs. Estes  
Stephens, Gerry  
Stephens, Mr. & Mrs. Gerry  
Steward, Mrs. Peter  
Stone, Dr. Gaye  
Stone, Mrs. Judith F.  
Stout, Beth & Charlie  
Strong, Ewing & Kim  
Strong, M. & Mrs. Thornton  
Sullivan, Bridgette Marie  
SunTrust Atlanta Foundation  
Sexton, Sarah, LPC, LMFT  
Taylor, April Lynn  
Taylor, Tiffany C.  
Terrell, Drs. Jeffrey & DeAnne  
The Macellini Foundation  
Thomas, Wayne  
Thomley, Julie  
Tiggleman, Casey  
Toms, Megan  
Torell, Craig Stephen  
Union Chapel of Waldens Ridge  
Upton, Miss Tami  
Varafo Foundation  
Vescovo, Kim  
Wallace, Bonnie  
Ward, Jordi  
Ward, Laura  
Warner, Porter III  
Waters, Chris  
Weaver, Dr. Margaret O.  
Webb, David  
Weeber, Carter Foosh  
Wells, Judy  
Wheeler, Valerie J.  
Wheelus, Chris  
White, Janna  
Wildor, Bill & Betty  
Willard, Kelli Danielle  
Williams, Dr. & Mrs. Henry  
Williams, Meredith Lee  
Williams, Mrs. Donna  
Williams, Wayne  
Willingham, Jr., Dr. & Mrs. Winborn  
Wilson, Katrina  
Wilson, Michael Todd  
Wise, Health  
Woodward, Mary Ann  
Wright, Arthurine  
Wright, Shirley  
Yates, JoAnn Cline  
Young, Courtney R.  
Zeiser, Charles