



Cumberland University

The Phoenix Rising

Alumni & Friends Quarterly Newsletter

FALL 2006 Volume I / No. I

New CU Math, Science Academy Enters National Spotlight

A bold, new math, science and technology program set to launch this fall at Cumberland University has taken center stage in recent months, attracting the attention of the national media and other universities from as far away as Colorado.

Known as the "Cumberland Academy," the program is a highly selective, year-round course of study which draws upon each of the three disciplines to build a bachelor's of science in integrated sciences degree, according to CU President Dr. Harvill C. Eaton.

"What we're doing is developing an undergraduate curriculum that will enable students to move into the marketplace with a rock-solid education in areas that are relevant today," Eaton said during a recent interview with the *Nashville Business Journal's* Erin Lawley, whose article on the Cumberland Academy was ultimately picked up by mega-news website MSNBC.com.

Newly recruited CU professor of physics Dr. David C. Latimer, a Vanderbilt Rhodes Scholar, will help guide the program's development. Eaton referred to Latimer as "an invigorating addition to Cumberland



Dr. David C. Latimer

University's math and science departments."

"David brings an extraordinary level of energy and enthusiasm to the classroom," Eaton commented. "... at just 30 years old, he's certain to remain on the cutting edge of his field for decades to come, and his ability to connect with students is, in a word, astounding."

Most recently a physics research associate at Vanderbilt University, Latimer will partner with Cumberland's math and science faculty to shape the groundbreaking program which is envisioned to become a discipline-specific residential honors program on the CU campus.

Since joining the CU faculty on June 1, Latimer has been working to recruit students and pondering course work and potential guest speakers. He said he was "thrilled" by the

opportunity to help establish the dynamic new program – one that will ensure CU students are well-equipped to make an immediate impact on the worlds of science and technology upon graduation.

"Interdisciplinary research is driving both academia and technology, and scientists need to be well-versed in mathematics and all *continued on back*

CU to Launch Professional Development Center in Mount Juliet

In a move aimed at better serving the greater Wilson County community and all of Middle Tennessee, Cumberland University plans to launch a new instructional center in Mt. Juliet this fall, according to CU President Dr. Harvill C. Eaton.

Joined by business and community leaders in West Wilson County, University administrators first began discussing plans for the professional development center in 2005 and, Eaton explained, those plans will soon become a reality – helping reduce travel times for students who regularly commute to the University's Lebanon campus from the west while providing Mt. Juliet residents with a resource heretofore unavailable in their burgeoning city.

Eaton said the professional development center would represent the first-ever collegiate facility inside the City of Mt. Juliet, offering residents of the rapidly growing community an opportunity to seek a baccalaureate degree or to further their education.

"Mt. Juliet has experienced unprecedented growth in recent years, attracting thousands of new families as well as new businesses to Wilson County," Eaton commented. "Our expansion into Mt. Juliet is intended to provide those residents – our neighbors – with the opportunity to work toward a four-year degree in their own backyard. Cumberland University is proud to call Wilson County home, and we're overjoyed with the thought of bringing our 165-year-long commitment to quality academic programs to the county's youngest municipality."

Local officials were equally excited with the University's plans.

"I am so enthused that Cumberland has furthered its plans to open an instructional center in Mt. Juliet this fall. We began discussing the possibility of a location in Mt. Juliet about a year ago," Linda Elam, mayor of Mt. Juliet, said. "It is thrilling to see how far those plans have developed in such a short period of time.

"Mt. Juliet is thrilled to have higher education classes offered in its midst for the first time, particularly from such a premier liberal arts college as Cumberland University," she added.

The professional development center will offer a host of Cumberland University's widely respected programs, including the University's flagship nursing courses. The facility will also house CU's new Business Development Professional Center, which will allow students to participate in any of the courses offered through the Labry School of Business and Economics.



2006 Phoenix Ball - J.D. and Ann Floyd and Jane Floyd Baxter are presented a portrait of their parents Mr. and Mrs. Dallas Floyd, who funded the construction of the Dallas Floyd Gymnasium. **Inset:** CU students Jeremy Hardy and Emily Keene-Reyes perform "A Whole New World."

Photos courtesy of The Lebanon Democrat and photographer Dallas Whitfield



A Letter From The President

Dr. Harvill C. Eaton

Dear friends,

It is with tremendous pride that I introduce you to the inaugural issue of *The Phoenix Rising* – the new quarterly newsletter for alumni, students and friends of Cumberland University. Over the past few months, the dedicated staff and faculty at CU have worked diligently in order to bring you a newsletter filled with the latest news from One Cumberland Square.

As you browse through this issue, you'll soon realize there is much to take pride in at Cumberland. From our nationally recognized math and science academy to the new business development center in Mt. Juliet, Cumberland University is on the move, and we hope you will join us as we bring our vision for the new Cumberland to life.

We must not forget our rich heritage, but we must also continue to look toward the future. We owe it to our students, to our alumni, to our faculty and to our community. Therefore, the title of this publication, *The Phoenix Rising*, could not be more fitting. We would like to express our gratitude to Dr. G. Frank Burns for allowing us to use the title of his book on the history of this great institution for the newsletter. It is a title steeped in tradition – with the great Cumberland phoenix rising from the ashes following the Civil War – and it is forward-looking, as we must be if we are to remain at the forefront of higher education.

Again, welcome to *The Phoenix Rising*! We hope you enjoy reading about the great things taking place at your university, and we look forward to seeing you at Homecoming 2006!

Sincerely,

Harvill C. Eaton, Ph.D.
President

CU Athlete Seeks To Revitalize Campus Radio

A pitcher for the Cumberland University Bulldogs, sophomore English major Jeremiah McElwain – like any dedicated athlete – looks forward to returning to the playing field once he recovers from an injury to his throwing arm.

In the meantime, however, McElwain has discovered another passion on campus. Tucked away in a small room on the first floor of Memorial Hall, McElwain broadcasts music and news via Cumberland's little-known radio station, WFMQ-FM 91.5, the Voice of the Phoenix.

McElwain, who transferred to CU from Binghamton University in his native New York, has taken it upon himself to see Cumberland reclaim its spot on the FM dial. It's an opportunity, he said, for students to dabble in broadcasting and communications.

"I switched my major to English down here because we don't have a communications degree. I decided that, if I could get involved in radio, maybe I could take it into a broadcasting career or a sports journalism career," McElwain recalled. "So, I'd like to do some work with Cumberland's sports information department as well. I'll do whatever I can with the radio station and see where it leads when I graduate."

While still in New York, McElwain had attempted to join the radio team at Binghamton. The program proved to be immensely popular, though, and his career in college radio was put on the backburner.

Much to his surprise, things were different at Cumberland. "Most college radio stations are



basically impossible to get into, and with this one, we're struggling to find students who will be involved," McElwain said.

In fact, the lack of student participation is one of two major hurdles currently facing campus radio. The other obstacle, according to McElwain, is a lack of modern equipment and a relatively small musical library.

Still, since joining the WFMQ staff in the fall of 2005, McElwain said he has seen "definite" progress.

"Basically, we had been completely silent since a little after the first of the year," he said. "We are actually up, playing music now. We're not up to our full power. Our transmitter is having issues that are in the process of being worked out, but we're definitely taking great steps ... We're only a 500-watt station, but we are licensed to be a 10,000-watt station. So, there's definitely room for improvement and upgrades."

McElwain hopes to tackle those issues with the aid of radio stations across Tennessee. He is planning to send a formal letter to more than 200 stations in hopes of acquiring new equipment, music and promotional items.

"That's one of the ways we can build interest in campus radio among students," he grinned. "I've never known a college student to turn down free stuff."

For more information about WFMQ-FM, contact McElwain at wfmq@cumberland.edu.



2006 Cumberland University Football Schedule

Date	Opponent
Sept. 2	Southern Virginia University
Sept. 9	Austin Peay State Univ.
Sept. 16	OPEN
Sept. 23	University of Virginia-Wise*
Sept. 30	Lambuth University*
Oct. 7	West Virginia Tech*
Oct. 14	Pikeville College*
Oct. 21	Campbellsville University*
Oct. 26	Shorter College*
Nov. 4	Bethel College*
Nov. 11	Belhaven College*

Home games in bold
* denotes Mid-South Conference games



Greetings Alumni

I hope this newsletter finds you well and prospering. As you know, our University is setting new initiatives each day under the leadership of Dr. Harvill Eaton.

As Alumni, we all have a common bond to the time we spent at Cumberland and ownership in the future success of our University. With the addition of several new members to the administration, I feel that the path to success has never been clearer.

The Alumni Association is experiencing a sense of rebirth with our new friends and partners that have been added to our campus in the development and alumni departments. Together,



John C. Pope

with help from everyone, we can begin new traditions and continue existing ones. One perfect example is "Team Phoenix." Eddie Pawlawski, Vice President for Enrollment Management, has asked the Alumni as a whole to join forces in the recruitment effort across the country.

Alumni in all corners of the country will soon be contacted for support of this important partnership. Who better to explain the many benefits of a Cumberland education to prospective students than a successful graduate?

This fall will also provide an opportunity for all Alumni to find their way back to campus. Homecoming is scheduled for Oct. 6 and 7. Your Alumni Association is already planning a golf tournament and Alumni Banquet at the President's home for Friday and, of course, the football game on Saturday. More plans will be coming your way in regards to these and other events.

We look forward to seeing you soon, and as always, feel free to contact me at (615) 351-2294 or the Alumni office at (615) 444-2562.

John C. Pope, '96
President, Cumberland University
Alumni Association



Team Phoenix: A CU Alumni Partnership

Calling All Cumberland University Alumni!



Eddie Pawlawski

Cumberland University recently announced plans for a new and innovative partnership between the University's Office of Admissions and the University's Alumni. Vice President for Enrollment Management Eddie Pawlawski introduced the program to the CU Alumni Board in late July 2006.

"The partnership will be called Team Phoenix," Pawlawski said. "It is an opportunity for CU Alumni to partner with the CU Admissions Office to become vocal and visible student recruiters. We anticipate that this will be a very exciting and enjoyable program that will allow alumni to participate in local and regional college fairs, meet and greet potential students and proudly share information about CU."

Team Phoenix participants will be part of a talented and trained volunteer group that will visit targeted college fairs and represent the University, Pawlawski added. Some of the visits will be with a CU Admissions Representative while others will be made by the alumnus individually. Each alumnus will be provided a training packet, information to share at the college fair, picture boards, CU logo merchandise and an assignment of the college fair(s) in which they will participate based on

their availability.

CU recruits in a number of selected cities across the Southeast. Team Phoenix is designed so that alums who live in or around these cities can participate in a college fair close to home and close to an area in which they have "made a name for themselves," Pawlawski explained.

Alums that live in these cities or surrounding areas are welcome to participate in college fairs that are targeted by the Office of Admissions as being key fairs with high potential for new students. Some of the key cities include Memphis, Nashville, Knoxville, Chattanooga, Jackson, Birmingham, Huntsville, Atlanta, Charlotte, Asheville, Winston-Salem, Greensboro, Cincinnati, Columbus and Louisville. Future cities under consideration include Chicago, Indianapolis, St. Louis and Minneapolis.

To join Team Phoenix, please contact either Eddie Pawlawski at epawlawski@cumberland.edu or CU Director of Alumni Affairs Lisa McMillin at lmcmillin@cumberland.edu.

Who better to tell the story of Cumberland University than an alumnus? Join us as we build Team Phoenix!

Unique Pre-K Partnership Returns to CU This Fall

A new class of "little bulldogs" will take the first steps of their educational careers this fall as a distinctive partnership between the Lebanon Special School District (LSSD) and Cumberland University enters its second year.

In 2005, the LSSD received four grants from the State of Tennessee to help fund the establishment of a new pre-Kindergarten program. Through a unique collaboration with the University, one of the city school district's pre-K classrooms was opened at One Cumberland Square.

LSSD Instructional Coordinator Penny Thompson said the partnership helped serve some of the city's youngest residents as well as the CU School of Education.

"This collaboration serves both the students of the district and the departments of the University," Thompson explained. "CU education students can observe in the classroom ... (and) do student teaching experiences. The CU nursing department aids the pre-K program by providing health services needed for all the pre-K students."

Thompson noted the pre-K program makes use of CU facilities for "Family Night" meetings. The

young students and their families also visit the Doris & Harry Vise University Library for "story time," and, as one might expect, a playground has been added just outside the pre-K facility off Spring Street.

Dr. Charles Collier, dean of the CU School of Education, said his department both worked with and learned from the pre-K facility. At its inception, the partnership between the LSSD and

Cumberland University was the only collaboration of its kind in the area.

Collier said the program works to expose young students to a variety of new subjects, including music, botany, theatre, technology and athletics.

"These young bulldogs will profit from seeing strong, smart, caring men and women willing

to share their information and talents," Collier said. "With all the creativity at Cumberland, the possibilities for growth for all are endless."

For more information on the pre-K partnership, please contact Dr. Collier at (615) 444-2562, ext. 1110 or ccollier@cumberland.edu. You may also contact Dr. Anne Whitefield at (615) 444-2562, ext. 1139 or awhitefield@cumberland.edu.



University Singers to Represent CU in Italy

The University Singers, one of three choirs on the Cumberland University campus, has the distinction of being the only international choir invited to participate in an all-Italian choral festival this fall.

A group consisting of 26 students and four chaperones will depart on Thursday, Oct. 5th, for the beautiful Marche region of Italy. While there, they will reside in the town of Ripatrasone, also known as "the Belvedere of the Piceno region," overlooking the Adriatic Sea.

Dr. Brian Kilian, director of the University's choral program, said he hopes to see Cumberland build an international reputation for choral excellence and, he added, "we are well on our way to achieving this goal."

In addition to performing, the University Singers will tour Venice, Rome, Ascoli Piceno and a number of smaller cities during their visit to Italy, Kilian said.

News Briefs

Kilian, University Singers to Perform in Dickson

Dr. Brian Kilian, associate professor of music at CU, will conduct a performance by the University Singers during a special concert at the Renaissance Center in Dickson slated for Friday, Sept. 29 at 7 p.m. The Cumberland University group will accompany internationally known lyric soprano Dolores Ferraro and baritone Keith Moore for the vocal concert, *The Dawn of America*, which features highlights from award-winning American composer Romeo Cascarino's opera "William Penn." Concert tickets are \$15 for adults, \$12 for seniors and \$10 for children under 13 and may be purchased online at www.rcenter.org.

CU Names Harville Director of Public Relations

Former Lebanon Democrat staff writer and Cumberland University alumnus Brian Harville joined the CU staff as Director of Public Relations in June 2006. A Smith County native, Harville graduated from the University with honors in 2000, earning a Bachelor's degree in English. The following year, he joined *The Lebanon Democrat* editorial department as a general assignment reporter. In 2005, he received the American Planning Association's Journalism Award – the first national journalism award in the newspaper's 118-year history. As director of the University's public relations department, Harville will direct all internal and external communications and coordinate local, state and national media efforts. He will also serve as content manager for the Cumberland University website.

School of Education Offers New MA

In January 2006, Cumberland University's School of Education launched a new Master's of Arts in Educational Leadership program – a 36-hour program which provides the coursework component for an endorsement in administration and supervision, according to Dr. Charles Collier, Dean of the School of Education. The program is open to anyone who holds a bachelor's degree and an interest in working in the field of educational administration. Collier added that a teaching license is not required to complete the degree but is required to advance the administration endorsement. Half of the program's courses are available online, with the other half on-campus, including the orientation and final exam.

Rudy School of Nursing Grads Excel

During the spring of 2006, 71 students from the Jeanette Rudy School of Nursing received their Bachelor of Science in nursing degree. Ten men and 61 women left CU to join the nursing workforce in Middle Tennessee and three other states. Their presence as registered nurses (RNs) will help to alleviate the looming nursing shortage in our state and across the nation. After two years of declining scores on the National Council Licensing Exam for Registered Nurses (NCLEX-RN), often referred to as the "state board exam," Dr. Leanne Busby, Dean of the School of Nursing, said the pass rate for the Class of 2006 is currently at 89.8%. Two graduates have not tested at this point, but Busby anticipates the pass rate will be above the 85% pass rate required by the Tennessee Board of Nursing. The School of Nursing continues to grow with 75 students expected for the Class of 2007 and 58 students anticipated for the Class of 2008. In addition, numbers continue to increase in the sophomore and freshman classes. Both the junior and senior classes have 11 male students, evidence of the increasing number of men joining the nursing workforce.



Dr. Jeanette Rudy

Real Estate Program Approved for Labry

Recognizing the importance of Middle Tennessee's booming real estate market, Cumberland University's Labry School of Business and Economics recently began offering a pair of new academic programs intended to serve both established Realtors and those seeking a career in the field.

Earlier this summer, the Tennessee Real Estate Commission approved the University's plans to offer the 60-hour Real Estate Fundamentals course – a prerequisite for anyone who plans to become a licensed Realtor in the state of Tennessee. The state panel also endorsed CU's plans to offer home-study courses for Realtors in need of continuing education.

According to Dr. Paul C. Stumb, Dean of the Labry School of Business and Economics, the state commission requires that all real estate brokers and affiliate brokers receive a minimum of 16 hours of continuing education credit every two years. From day one, Cumberland University will offer more than a half-dozen continuing education classes: Fair Housing, Risk Management, Buyer Representation, Real Estate Finance, Environmental Issues, Red Flags: Property Inspection Guide and Real Estate & Taxes: What Every Agent Should Know.

"Currently, most people go to Nashville or Gallatin for the courses, and some travel from as far east as places like Cookeville and Livingston," Stumb remarked.

The 60-hour Real Estate Fundamentals course is offered for \$350, and both weekday and weekend classes are offered to accommodate students' needs, Stumb concluded.

For more information on the new Real Estate education program, please contact Sommer Rose at (615) 547-1259 or via e-mail at srose@cumberland.edu.

Your Annual Fund At Work

Annual support is vital to the future of Cumberland University. By uniting alumni, faculty, staff, friends and parents in making an immediate difference, the Annual Fund is the foundation for all CU fundraising efforts.

Investments made to the Annual Fund provide 86% of CU students with financial aid and scholarships. This generosity enables a significant number of first-generation college students to pursue a higher education, many of which may not have had the chance otherwise. But these gifts provide more than much-needed scholarships for our talented students.

Annual Fund dollars enable Cumberland to attract and retain outstanding faculty dedicated to leading the pursuit of excellence in educational and personal development. These donations also provide support for student activities, new technologies and many other areas that enhance our students' college experience.

Alumni play a special role in the Annual Fund. When Cumberland graduates give back to their alma mater, it shows how proud they are of their university and this loyalty translates into even better opportunities for CU. Cumberland's alumni giving percentage is a factor in determining our ranking in national publications. This helps us recruit quality students and plays an important role in securing grant money from various corporations and foundations. As you can see, EVERY gift is important, regardless of its size.

Perhaps the most exciting portion of this year's Annual Fund is the formation of an Annual Fund Committee. Driven by volunteers, this committee will help us reach our goal by sharing Cumberland's vision for the future with our community. Check our website soon to find out who will be this year's Annual Fund Chair.

If you would like to discuss how you can contribute to the Annual Fund with your time, talents or gifts, please contact Amber Sanders, Coordinator of Annual Giving, at asanders@cumberland.edu or call (615) 547-1241.

continued from front facets of the sciences. An individual may certainly contribute to the knowledge base by focusing all research within a particular sub-field of science; however, many great advances are made when research makes interconnections among seemingly disparate bodies of knowledge," Latimer remarked.

Eaton agreed, adding the Cumberland Academy will better prepare students for contemporary careers in fields such as biology, chemistry and medicine.

CU plans to admit roughly 12 students into the program each year. Ultimately, the students will live together – with free room and board – in an information-immersed community of young scholars. Eaton said the program will also see students working alongside experts and conducting research at important facilities such as Pittsburgh's Supercomputing Center.

As word of the new program sped around the globe via the internet, so too did interest from other academic institutions. In early July, a representative from the University of Denver's Honors Program penned a letter to Latimer inquiring about the Cumberland Academy.

The goal for the Cumberland Academy is to launch a new program annually for the next five to six years. Eaton noted the University is working toward an English and communications academy intended to expose students to literature, grammar and journalism.

The Phoenix Rising is currently seeking information on alumni for a 'Class Notes' section slated to appear in future issues. Keep your fellow alumni up to date on the events that make up your life – weddings, births, career advancements, etc. – by contacting Lisa McMillin, Director of Alumni Affairs, at (615) 444-2562, ext. 1253 or lmcmillin@cumberland.edu.

The Phoenix Rising welcomes comments and suggestions from Cumberland University friends and alumni. To share your thoughts and opinions, please contact CU Director of Public Relations Brian Harville at (615) 337-4508 or bharville@cumberland.edu.



Homecoming 2006 Register Now

Golf Tournament

Friday, Oct. 6, 11:00 a.m.

Alumni & Community Dinner at The President's Home

Friday, Oct. 6, 6:00 - 8:30 p.m.

Tailgate Party

Saturday, Oct. 7, 11:00 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.

Cumberland Bulldogs vs. W. Virginia Tech Golden Bears Football Game

Saturday, Oct. 7, 1:30 p.m.

Yes, I'm Coming!

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Email: _____

Phone: (_____) _____

Class Year: _____

I/we wish to make reservations for the following event(s):

Golf Tournament \$125 per person. Qty: _____

Alumni Dinner \$25 per person. Qty: _____

For more information contact Lisa McMillin at (615) 547-1253 or email lmcmillin@cumberland.edu or mail to One Cumberland Square, Lebanon, TN 37087