

News Briefs

Cheatham to Pen Gospel Music Entry
Dr. Russ Cheatham, professor of criminal justice and public administration, has been commissioned by the *Encyclopedia of Popular Music of the World* to write a 3,000-word article on gospel music as part of a multi-volume enterprise. Upon publication, the *Encyclopedia* is to serve as a comprehensive reference work on the history, practice and current status of popular music worldwide. Dr. Cheatham's article will appear in Volume Three of the five-volume series.

CU Faculty, Staff Members Join Tennessee Writer's Alliance Board

The following members of the Cumberland University community were recently appointed to the Board of Directors for the Tennessee Writer's Alliance: Dr. Annette Allison, a professor in the CU School of Education; Sheridan Henson, Secretary for the School of Music & the Arts; and Debbie Whitaker, MAE Coordinator. The Tennessee Writer's Alliance strives to support the work of Tennessee writers and to enhance the role of literary arts in state culture. For more information, please visit www.tn-writers.org.

CU, Brentwood Family YMCA Contribute to Virginia Tech YMCA

Earlier this summer, Cumberland University and the Brentwood Family YMCA united in recognition of the National Day of Prayer and offered support to those impacted by the events of April 16, 2007 on the Virginia Tech campus. CU made a \$1,000 challenge gift to the Virginia Tech YMCA, which was matched by the Brentwood Family YMCA. "We wanted to let them know that they're in our prayers," CU Vice President for Advancement Dr. Garvin S. Maffett said. "We're blessed with the ability to lend a hand to the Virginia Tech community during their time of need, and there could be no better time to show our support than the National Day of Prayer."

Bryan Recognized for Doctoral Study of Rattlesnake Population

CU Professor of Biology Danny Bryan was recently featured on the June 2007 cover of *District Digest*, a monthly magazine published by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' Nashville District.

District Digest Editor Dave Treadway penned an in-depth article on Bryan's study of the timber rattlesnake population around Center Hill Lake.

Bryan has spent the past three years capturing timber rattlesnakes in the area, implanting them with radio transmitters and releasing them. He hopes to gain insight into the snakes' movements and repopulation patterns before they are negatively impacted by encroaching development.

According to Bryan, the timber rattlesnake is listed as endangered in seven states and as threatened in five others. It is currently protected from harvest in Tennessee and is listed as "in need of management."

Ultimately, Bryan's study could help secure the elusive species a spot on Tennessee's threatened and endangered species list. Bryan plans to finish the doctoral study this fall and has been asked by TWRA officials at Catoosa Wildlife Management Area to conduct a similar study of the timber rattlesnake in their area.



Professor Danny Bryan

Class Notes

Michael Thompson (1995) has been named assistant provost and the director of institutional research and planning at Illinois Wesleyan University. Thompson succeeds Mona Gardner, the Adlai H. Rust Professor of Insurance and Finance, who recently retired from Illinois Wesleyan. In his role at the university, Thompson will report data to the federal and state governments, provide information to college guidebooks and conduct special data-collection and analysis projects for administrators and university committees. He will also work closely with the university Provost Beth Cunningham, the provost's staff and the faculty on assessment initiatives. Thompson earned his bachelor's degree in social science from Cumberland University. He earned his master's degree in sociology and his doctorate in higher and adult education from The University of Memphis.

Clayton B. Crouse (2006), Air National Guard Airman 1st Class, recently graduated from basic military training at Lackland Air Force Base in San Antonio, Texas.

Renée Albert (2002) received her Doctorate of Education from Regent University's School of Education in May. Albert graduated from Tennessee's Cleveland High School in 1995 before completing her undergraduate studies at Lee University. She earned her master's of education from Cumberland University.

Dave Puckett (2007), one of the first graduates of Cumberland's MAE in Educational Leadership program, has been named the new Director of Special Education for the Mayfield, Ky. School System. A Kentucky native who previously taught in Memphis and Louisville, Puckett assumed the role of Director of Special Education on July 1.

CU Benefactor, Veteran Civic Leader Remembered

David K. "Pat" Wilson, a former chairman of the Cumberland University Board of Trust and a longtime community leader, passed away on Sunday, May 20, 2007 at the age of 87.

Founder of the Cherokee Equity Corporation and a past chairman of First American Trust Corporation, Wilson served as chairman of the Cumberland University Board of Trust from May 1965 until May 1977. At the time of his passing, he was a member emeritus of the CU Board.

A 1941 graduate of Vanderbilt University, Wilson was known across the state as a true friend to higher education. He was first elected to Vanderbilt's Board of Trust in 1963 and served as its chairman from 1981 until 1991.

Wilson's widely respected generosity also extended to Cumberland University. In October 2006, in conjunction with the Anne Potter Wilson Foundation, Wilson made a \$250,000 gift to CU in support of the Campaign for Cumberland and the Labry School of Business & Economics.

A past recipient of Cumberland University's Trustees Award of the Phoenix, Wilson's support for CU also included funding for scholarships intended for outstanding young men and women in the medical and legal fields, the Boy Scouts of America and the fine arts.

"Pat Wilson truly loved helping young people chart a course for success," Cumberland University President Dr. Harvill C. Eaton remarked. "His lifelong commitment to higher education in the state of Tennessee is a true testament to his character. Through business, civic and education-related roles, he left an indelible mark on Nashville, Lebanon and the surrounding communities."

Upon graduating from Vanderbilt in 1942, Wilson attended Harvard Business School before enlisting in the United States Navy during World War II. He served in the Pacific theater in a Naval Construction Battalion. One week prior to enlisting, he married first wife Anne Potter, daughter of Justin and Valere Potter.

Roy Noble Lee Sr. (1939) has been honored by Mississippi College's School of Law, which recently named a set of new "moot court" suites in his honor.

The moot court allows students to take on roles in simulating actual court situations such as posing as a defense attorney or prosecutor and argue cases. Mississippi College officials told *The Scott County Times* that the facilities for the moot court program were sorely needed in order to better serve students.

"There is no name in this state more closely tied or associated with the law community and justice and judging than the name of Lee," Jim Rosenblatt, dean of the Mississippi College School of Law, told the Jackson, Miss.-based newspaper.

Hayes Dent, a Mississippi College graduate and a former clerk for Lee, donated funds for the construction of the new suites. He asked that the new offices be named for Lee.

Lee is a 1938 cum laude graduate of Mississippi College and earned his law degree, also with honors, from Cumberland University.

IN MEMORIAM

Charles Augustus Beever (1929) passed away in April 2000. A graduate of the Cumberland School of Law, Mr. Beever was employed at the Pearsall National Bank (Pearsall, Texas), which was organized by his grandfather, Charles H. Beever, and Mr. George F. Hindes. He later served as a Frio County Deputy under Sheriff John Sutton. Wed to Florence Brown on Nov. 2, 1932, Mr. Beever also served on a committee which oversaw the building of the Methodist Church now in use in Pearsall and was one of the initial organizers of the Frio Hospital.

Always involved in farming and ranching, Mr. Beever also had a passion for hunting and fishing.

When Justin Potter died in 1961, half of his estate was used to establish the Justin and Valere Potter Foundation, which benefitted numerous charities and organizations, including both Cumberland and Vanderbilt University. CU's Justin Potter residence hall was named for Wilson's late father-in-law.

Wilson, among the founders of Vanderbilt University's Owen School of Management, was the namesake for Vanderbilt's Wilson Hall.

Upon making the generous donation to CU in the fall of 2006, Wilson said it was his hope the contribution would inspire others to contribute to Cumberland University in order to help achieve the vision set forth in the Campaign for Cumberland.

"Mr. Wilson's generosity and his commitment to higher education were truly an inspiration. He touched the lives of countless students during his lifetime, helping establish the foundation for an untold number of success stories," Eaton said.

Wilson is survived by his wife, Paula R. Wilson; and three sons, Justin Wilson, William Wilson and Blair Wilson, all of Nashville.



David K. "Pat" Wilson

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INSIDE:

Dye issues challenge to bolster alumni giving



Cumberland University

The Phoenix Rising

Alumni & Friends Quarterly Newsletter

SUMMER 2007 Volume I / No. 4

Alumni & Friends Tour of Italy: An 'Unforgettable' Journey

As one might imagine, Cumberland University's inaugural 10-day Alumni & Friends' Tour of Italy provided countless memories, breathtaking sights, lessons in ancient history and plenty of fine cuisine.

Thanks to the Bert Coble Singers, who graciously took on CU alumni and friends as travel mates, the journey also exposed travelers to world-class choral performances in some of Italy's most famous locales.

Ultimately, Italy also served as the backdrop for a powerfully emotional, surprise announcement regarding the future of the Cumberland University School of Music and the Arts.

After trekking from the picturesque canals of Venice in Northern Italy all the way to Rome and Vatican City in the south, the group of almost 50 travelers joined for a laughter-filled, seven-course traditional Italian meal in a quaint restaurant.

Dr. Bert Coble, a renowned choral director who spent numerous years as a faculty member in the CU School of Music and the Arts, took the opportunity to express his gratitude to all those who had made the trip.

"I have traveled all over the world with our choir, and I must say I've never been more impressed with this bunch," Coble said. "You all have rekindled old friendships, built new ones and just amazed me with your sense of family and your care for one another."

Coble's address was followed by a brief statement from Cumberland University President Dr. Harvill C. Eaton, who expressed his gratitude to Dr. Coble and his wife, Sue, for collaborating with the University on the Alumni & Friends Tour. The same sense of family of which Coble spoke, Eaton said, exists at CU thanks to the former music professor and those like him.

However, it was a surprise announcement by CU Vice President for Advancement Dr. Garvin S. Maffett that fully spoke to Bert and Sue Coble's long-standing relationship with the University and its students.

"I hadn't planned to make a formal speech tonight," Maffett said as he moved toward the center of the crowded restaurant, "but there could not be a more appropriate time for this very special announcement."

As the sound of cheers erupted throughout the restaurant, Maffett announced a new addition to the



Board Elects New Officers

A trio of new officers were recently elected to the positions of Chairman, Vice-Chairman and Secretary of the Board of Trust at Cumberland University.

Lebanon native Dr. Edward Thackston, who received his undergraduate and doctoral degrees in civil engineering from Vanderbilt University, was elected Chairman of the Board. Thackston taught a host of engineering classes at Vanderbilt between 1965 and 2000 and, from 1980 through 1999, he served as Chairman of the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering at Vanderbilt.

W.P. Bone, a long-time businessman with deep roots in Wilson County, was elected Vice Chairman of the Board. Bone also recently served as Chairman of the Board's Development Committee. Joe Adams, also of Lebanon, was elected Secretary of the Board. Adams' election marked the beginning of his inaugural two-year term as a Board officer.

Moments after the May 17 Board election, CU President Dr. Harvill C. Eaton expressed his gratitude to immediate past-Chairman Dr. Joe F. Bryant for his service to the University. (continued on page two)



Dr. Edward L. Thackston, newly elected Chairman of the Board of Trust, poses alongside the CU law degree of his great-grandfather, Samuel Sydney Gause.



A Message From The President

Dr. Harvill C. Eaton

Dear friends,
Ever upward!

May 5th, 2007 marked Commencement Day at Cumberland University. With few grumbles, we moved the ceremony and 3,000 people inside as a long, springtime drought chose to end on graduation day. But, believe me, there was no rain on Cumberland's parade of graduates. With the brightest of smiles, they pitched their hats in honor of their days at Cumberland and began their lives as graduates.

Their graduation day also became the day on which two businessmen were presented with honorary degrees. Lifelong Lebanon resident and founder of Cracker Barrel Old Country Store Dan Evins and former CU student Harry Vickers, owner of Birmingham Hide and Tallow Company, became alumni. The lives and triumphs of these men sent a clear message to our graduates -- that their start at Cumberland can take them to the top.

Cumberland graduates are indeed moving ever upward and so is their alma mater. Enrollment continues to climb as we march steadily toward our goal of 1,500 full-time undergraduates and recognition as one of the best small liberal arts colleges. This fall, we expect the best and largest class of students to enter the gates as the institution begins its 166th year with a mission as fresh and relevant as it was long ago when it aimed to prepare graduates to shape the rapidly growing American Southwest. Even though today's mission remains the same in many ways, it is in one way very different. Today's students are tasked with shaping the world rather than a region. Their opportunity is global, and guess what? They will rise to the challenge because they are from Cumberland University.

Sincerely,

Harvill C. Eaton, Ph.D.
President

Board Elects New Officers (continued from page one) "Dr. Joe Bryant deserves to be commended for his service to this institution," Eaton remarked. "During his tenure as Chairman of the Cumberland University Board of Trust, we saw enrollment numbers climb, financial improvements and our first national athletic championship. His contributions to this University will long be remembered. We are thankful for his leadership and his firm commitment to Cumberland University."

Prior to the Board of Trust's biennial election, the Board received several quarterly reports which were well-received and indicated continued growth for the University, Eaton added.

"The Board approved a budget for \$14.7 million dollars for the 2007-2008 fiscal year. That's the largest budget we've ever had," Eaton said. "Our projections indicate we will see our student population push toward 1,000 in the fall. That growth will continue to solidify Cumberland University's place as a true contributor to the economies of both the City of Lebanon and Wilson County."

Eaton noted the Board of Trust was also informed of continued academic improvements at One Cumberland Square.

"In addition to the quantity of students, I was happy to report on the quality of our students," he continued. "Cumberland University holds a steadfast commitment to academic excellence, and our students are a reflection of that."

The Board's newly elected leadership, Eaton concluded, represent a group of "visionaries" who are equally committed to Cumberland's continued growth and development.

Dye issues challenge to bolster alumni giving

Lebanon businessman seeks to raise awareness about corporate gift-matching programs

A longtime friend of Cumberland University who made headlines last year with a \$25,000 contribution to the Campaign for Cumberland, Mr. Everett G. Dye has again offered his support to the campaign.

In addition to supporting the University's vision, Dye's next gift is intended to bolster alumni contributions to the campaign and to raise awareness regarding corporate gift-matching programs.

"Up to a total of \$25,000, for each alumnus who makes a first-time gift of \$50, I will match it," Dye explained. "For those alumni who have given before, I will match the first \$50 of any contribution of \$100 or more."

Dye's fall 2006 gift was in support of plans for the Cumberland Cafe. His matching gift initiative will be earmarked to help fund the construction of a new nursing and science building on the Cumberland University campus. Dye has several family members with careers in both healthcare and education.

The gifts, Dye noted, will be matched by his former employer, General Electric Capital. Dye spent nearly four decades in management with the company's Nashville office.

"It is my hope that General Electric Capital's matching program will highlight the fact that many corporations often match employee contributions," Dye explained. "Some people may not be aware that their company matches charitable donations, and it is my sincere hope that General Electric's generous matching program will motivate Cumberland University friends and alumni to look into their own respective companies' programs. Cumberland is a vital part of not only this community but all of Tennessee."

Cumberland University President Dr. Harvill C. Eaton described Dye as "a very important member of the Cumberland family," noting Dye's contributions

represent a strong faith in the institution's future. "I am so happy that someone such as Mr. Everett Dye recognizes our passion for quality academic programs and is willing to invest in the future of Cumberland University," Eaton said. "His contributions, paired with those of General Electric Capital, signify how many, many people can double their gifts through corporate matching donation programs."

Dr. Edward Thackston, Chairman of the Cumberland University Board of Trust, echoed Eaton's comments and spoke to the importance of support for the Campaign for Cumberland across the Cumberland University family.

"This is extraordinary support from someone who had no prior connection to Cumberland University," Thackston said, noting Dye is not a CU alumnus. "Mr. Dye's generosity shows that people in Wilson County and beyond see the potential for greatness at Cumberland. His initiative is a true challenge to those who do have a connection to the University -- whether as an alumnus or as the descendent of an alumnus. It is truly special that we're able to reach new friends like Mr. Dye, and we are

Mr. Everett G. Dye presents Cumberland University President Dr. Harvill Eaton with a written challenge meant to bolster alumni giving and to raise awareness about corporate gift-matching programs.



indeed very grateful to have his support." Last year, Dye kicked off the United Way of Wilson County's annual fund-raising campaign with a similar challenge, making a \$3,000 gift and challenging other community leaders to follow suit. In much the same way, Dye said his matching gift initiative is intended to challenge friends and alumni of Cumberland University to show their support for the 166-year-old institution.

"We have a tremendous asset in Cumberland, and I think it is imperative that we support the students as well as the vision for the University," he said. "Through our combined efforts and love for Cumberland, we can take CU to great heights."

For additional information on Dye's initiative, please contact Jonathon Hawkins, Director of Campaign Planning and Operations, at 615.547.1239 or JHawkins@cumberland.edu.

Martin Treks to Big Apple for Neutrogena Challenge

Like many of her classmates, Cumberland University senior Courtney Martin is no stranger to stress.

In addition to her course load and work schedule, the McMinnville native serves as president of the CU African-American Student Association, a member of the Athletic Training Student Association, a student ambassador, a Rotaract member and manager of the Lady Dawgs volleyball team.

Now, the athletic training student can add 'realistic contestant' to the list.

During a spring break visit to Panama City, Fla., Martin auditioned for the Neutrogena One Less Stress Challenge, playfully describing her daily efforts to balance academics, work and fun.

Martin was ultimately selected as one of 24 finalists and was whisked away on an all-expense-paid trip to New York City -- where the real fun began.

Upon arriving in the Big Apple, Martin was introduced to two fellow contestants, Illinois' Amanda Brockman and Crystal Jay of Florida. The three were immediately taken to their New York City apartment. A short while later, they were introduced to the host of the One Less Stress Challenge, Hayden Panettiere from the NBC hit drama, "Heroes."

Martin and her competitors then met with New York Times best-selling author and time management expert Julie Morgenstern, who offered a few tips on stress-free time management.

Panettiere and Morgenstern then turned the trio loose on the big city with a lengthy to-do list. The young women were given two hours to try to earn as many points as possible by tackling such tasks as applying for a part-time job and introducing themselves to five strangers.

"It was all very fast-paced. We had a camera crew following us around New York City as we tried to complete certain challenges," Martin later told

her hometown newspaper, *The Southern Standard*. "It was like reality TV."

The object of the reality-style game was to prioritize the tasks in order to earn the highest possible point total.

Footage of Martin's tasks included in "Webisode #2" of the Neutrogena One Less Stress Challenge included a spirit-filled cheer on a crowded New York City street.

As usual, Martin gave it her all. "If you're not going to put 100 percent into it, why do it?" she smiled.

In what proved to be a very close competition, Martin finished second to Brockman, but she still walked away with a \$200 gift certificate to the city's Apple Store and a once-in-a-lifetime experience.

Morgenstern's advice on time and stress management was an added bonus. The time management guru offered several helpful hints to Martin and her competitors prior to the webisode's close.

Martin noted the advice came at the perfect time.

"Going into my senior year, I feel like there's so much stuff to do," she said.

Morgenstern's strategies for time management, Martin added, will help her keep her cool while dealing with the day-to-day rigors of college life.

One Less Stress: Webisode #2, featuring Martin, can be viewed on Neutrogena's reality Web site at www.onelessstress.com.



Stress-free in NYC - CU senior Courtney Martin (right) visits Times Square with fellow Neutrogena One Less Stress contestants Amanda Brockman and Crystal Jay. Below, Martin enjoys a visit to Central Park.



Bulldog Football

'Dawgs to Open Season Sept. 6 at TTU



Cumberland University football will kick off the 2007 season with a visit to Tennessee Technological University in Cookeville on Sept. 6 at 7 p.m.

The Thursday evening contest will mark the first time the Bulldogs and the Golden Eagles have met on the gridiron since 1947.

In addition to its historic significance, the game will see CU President Dr. Harvill Eaton and Head Football Coach Dewayne Alexander return to their alma mater, Cumberland University Athletic Director Pat Lawson noted. Eaton earned his bachelor's and master's degrees from TTU. The same is true for Alexander, who also once served as a member of the TTU coaching staff.

The game is likely to attract significant media attention, Lawson added, as it will mark Cookeville native Watson Brown's first game since accepting the head coaching post at TTU. Previously, Brown has served as head coach at the University of Alabama-Birmingham, Austin Peay State University and Vanderbilt University.

"We'd like to encourage our alumni, students and Bulldog fans to make plans to attend the big game," Lawson said. "We'd love to have a sea of maroon and white in those stands."

Advance tickets are \$10 and may be purchased by calling 615.547.1348. All proceeds from advance ticket sales benefit CU football.

Plans Announced for Homecoming 2007

With two days' worth of fun, friends and festivities, Homecoming 2007 at Cumberland University promises to be an event like no other.

Already, plans are in place for this year's event, with a host of activities and social gatherings scheduled for Friday, Oct. 12 and Saturday, Oct. 13.

The 2007 Homecoming celebration will kick off on Friday with a special golf outing and shopping excursion from 11 a.m. until 4 p.m. Avid golfers will have the opportunity to enjoy a round of golf at Five Oaks Golf & Country Club, while those more fond of shopping will gather for a trip to Mt. Juliet's enormous new outdoor plaza, Providence Marketplace. Cumberland University will provide shuttle service for both excursions.

To register for the golf outing, contact Stephanie Walker at 615.547.1387 or swalker@cumberland.edu. To sign up for the shopping trip to Mt. Juliet, contact Breanne Kintz at 615.547.1269 or bkintz@cumberland.edu.

Friday will wind down with a relaxed, family friendly reception for alumni and friends at the Catron Alumni House from 6:30 until 8:30 p.m. Featuring heavy hors d'oeuvres and beverages, the Alumni & Friends Reception is free of charge and offers the perfect opportunity to meet and greet old friends. To make reservations for this special reception, contact the Office of Alumni Relations at 615.547.1235.

Saturday, Oct. 13 will see literally thousands of visitors descend on One Cumberland Square, as Homecoming Day coincides with Fall Preview Day -- an open house for prospective students and their families.

Tailgating for the Bulldogs' football game versus the University of the Cumberland's Patriots will

begin at 11 a.m. at Lindsey Donnell Stadium and will offer everything from delicious food to inflatables (for the young and young at heart). The first 300 children through the gate will receive a free gift!

Kick-off for the 'Clash of the Cumberland's' is scheduled for 1:30 p.m. Be sure to show your CU pride by sporting school colors (body paint is optional) and cheering on the 'Dawgs!

The weekend's festivities will conclude Saturday night with the return of the Mad Hatter Ball, sponsored by Mr. David Marks.

This year's Mad Hatter Ball will offer up plenty of great food, good times, casino-style games and some wonderful prizes (not to mention all of those extraordinary hats). The Mad Hatter Ball is open to CU alumni and friends age 21 and older, and all proceeds generated via the event will benefit academic scholarships at CU. For ticket information, contact Joyce Alcorn at 615.547.1235 or jalcorn@cumberland.edu.

Be sure to visit the CU website for details and online registration at www.cumberland.edu/homecoming2007.

