A Helping Hand
The value of mentoring
ALUMNI WEEKEND APRIL 27-29, 2007

Join your classmates, friends, and faculty members to relive golden memories and celebrate your unforgettable years at Transylvania during Alumni Weekend.

For more information, contact Natasa Pajic ’96, director of alumni programs, at (800) 487-2679 or npajic@transy.edu.

Highlights will include:

FRIDAY
- T-Day Golf Outing
- Alumni Day at the Races
- Pioneer Hall of Fame Dinner
  Inducting Walter Thomas Browning ’66, Edward Franklin Camp Jr. ’30 (posthumously), Lawrence R. Kopczyk ’80, Connie D. Oliver ’82, Mary Jean Rogers ’84, Marion Vernon Tucker ’37, Kelly Galloway Willoughby ’85, and David L. Yewell ’64.
- TGIF Kick-Off Party

SATURDAY
- Alumni Celebration Luncheon
  Keynote speech by Brenda S. Bell ’67, senior basic education specialist, Education Development Center, Inc., and presentation of the Morrison Medallion, Transylvania Medal, Irvin E. Lunger Award, Outstanding Young Alumni Award, and Distinguished Service and Distinguished Achievement awards.
- All Alumni Reunion Reception and Class Celebrations
- Student T-Day Coronation Ball

SUNDAY
- Robert Barr Society Breakfast
- Alumni Chapel Service

Check the Transy Web site, www.transy.edu (For Alumni, News & Events, Reunions/Alumni Weekend), for reunion class pages and a detailed schedule. Watch your mail for an invitation and registration form, or register on-line. Make your hotel reservations early because several other events are scheduled in Lexington that weekend.
Features

12 A HELPING HAND
Students, faculty, and staff make connections through valuable mentoring relationships

16 RESEARCH IN THE DIGITAL AGE
In the brave new on-line world, determining credibility of information is a challenge

18 CAMPAIGN UPDATE
Transylvania’s 225th Anniversary Campaign makes great progress, but needs remain

20 SHOOT THE MOON
NASA physicist Les Johnson ’84 believes humans are destined to colonize the solar system

Around Campus

2 New day dawns for Career Development Center
3 Professor James Miller celebrates 40th anniversary
5 Alltech president launches science lecture series
7 Professor Ken Slepyan’s book examines the role of Soviet partisans during World War II
8 Kathleen Jagger named associate dean of the college

Alumni News and Notes

22 Class Notes
24 Alumnus Profile: John G. Dorsey ’73
27 Marriages, Births, Obituaries
28 Alumnae Profile: Mandy McMillian ’97

On the cover
Chemistry professor Eva Csuhai has been a mentor to Laura Edgington ’06, who is about to begin her graduate studies at Stanford University. For more on mentoring, see story on page 12. Photo by Joseph Rey Au
Around Campus

A new day dawns for Career Development Center

Funding for the project was included in Transylvania’s 225th Anniversary Campaign.

Assistant Director Michael Cronk pointed out the importance of the impression the center makes on its visitors. “With employers coming here from off campus, we wanted to have a very professional appearance, as well as for the students,” he said.

Among the highlights of the center’s new home are a more sequestered conference area and improved computer work stations for students to use while preparing resumes and researching companies, organizations, and graduate programs.

“We do a lot of workshops around the conference table, and students come in and use our resources and the table,” Rayer said. “The nearby bookshelves are convenient. The space is more private visually than our former setup.”

Private offices for Rayer and Cronk are also an improvement over the previous space. “We want to have confidentiality for our student conferences, not only for their job aspirations, but for opportunities like the Transylvania Scholarship,” Rayer said.

The center also includes two smaller offices. One is used for assessments like the Myer-Briggs Type Indicator, for mock interviews relating to jobs or scholarships, and for visits by employers. New technology includes a digital camcorder for interviews, an excellent tool for helping students perfect their presentations.

“Many of us have distracting hand gestures and other body language that hurts your interview impression,” Rayer said. “You might be messing with your hair or wringing your hands. When you see this on a recording, you can correct it.”

Rayer hopes to have a graduate intern within the next year or so for the other office. That person would complete a practicum as they critique resumes and help in other areas of career development.

The center is a full-service office that works with students from their first year through graduation and beyond, offering workshops on resumes, interviewing, job search strategies, dining etiquette, networking, and creating a life development plan. Resources include catalogs and directories for graduate and professional schools. The office coordinates internships, shadowships, and an annual career fair.

“As our faculty prepares our students academically, we strive to prepare them professionally for the world of work or to continue their studies,” Rayer said.
Miller celebrates 40th anniversary at Transylvania

James Miller, professor of mathematics and computer science, has seen thousands of satisfied students come through Transylvania since he began teaching at the University in the fall of 1966. “Students want to come to Transy, and they enjoy it once they get here,” Miller said.

That's a sentiment that applies equally as well to Miller as he observes the 40th anniversary of his association with Transylvania. “When I was first hired to teach physics at Transy, I thought I might stay for a year,” he said. “As it turned out, I liked Transylvania too much to leave.”

Miller ushered in the computer science program at Transy and has been integral to its development. In the fall of 1966, he began offering one course in computer programming. At that time colleges were not offering a computer science major, and there was no computer on Transy's campus. By 1968, a computer had been purchased and soon all of the administrative offices were on the machine and students were able to use it.

In 1969, the computer science major was implemented and the program continued to grow, with Transy recognized in 1978 by the National Science Foundation as an exemplary institution in academic computing.

The program experienced another boost in the 1990s as a result of a partnership with IBM, which sent about 25 employees a year for seven years to complete computer science degrees at Transy. “That’s one of the nice things about a small school—we can act quickly,” Miller said. “IBM had a need, and Transy reacted to that need immediately.”

Another computer-related honor came in 2000 when Yahoo included Transylvania in its Top 100 Most Wired Colleges list.

Miller has kept track of graduates since the beginning of the program, and says his personal satisfaction over the years has come from students who have graduated and gone on to do well.

John Snell, who was among the first computer science graduates in 1970, said Miller has had a profound effect on his life. “Dr. Miller feels his responsibility toward Transy students doesn’t end once we have obtained our degrees,” Snell said. “After I graduated, he and I kept in touch. In the summer of 1982 a call from him resulted in me being hired as Transy’s Computing Center director, a position I held for 18 years.”

“If we graduate students in our program and they don’t have something good waiting for them at the end, we’ve failed them,” Miller said. “We graduated students early in computer science. Now we have graduates working out in the field as contacts. We have a network to help us place new graduates in jobs.”

Snell, now a professional photographer, also credits advice and encouragement that he received from Miller for giving him the confidence to pursue a career in the arts.

As for what’s in store for the program, Miller feels the future is now. “We just need people with imagination to envision problems for this fantastic tool that we have. That’s what we try to teach our students.”

Miller’s involvement on campus doesn’t end with the classroom. He directed Transy’s self studies for reaffirmation of accreditation in 1982 and 1992, and was chair of the assessment section of the 2002 self-study.

In the early 1980s, he became faculty adviser of Omicron Delta Kappa leadership honorary, and he has devoted much of his time to extracurricular enrichment activities, like the academic computing problem solving competitions for high school students, which required extensive travel.

He has worked with Transy’s academic camps, which give students the opportunity to stay on campus for a week and prepare for further study. These include the science and technology camp that ran from 1988 until 1995, and the academic camp for Appalachian students, which allows about 30 students each year to spend a week on campus, free of charge.

“Transy’s most unique quality is its history,” Miller said. “It’s been around for a long time. As long as we look to the past to prepare for the future, we’ll continue to be unique.”

Miller said the biggest change he’s seen during his tenure at Transylvania has been further expansion of opportunity.

“In the early 70s, we had to really struggle for equipment,” he said. “In the early 80s there was an increase in the endowment and more money became available for development. We can look forward now and develop programs, faculty can do summer research. We can look ahead now in a way we couldn’t before.”

Miller believes that Transylvania has been able to keep close to the forefront of technology and academics because of the high caliber of the students and faculty working together to create a campus community. “Good students make a good program,” he said, “and the faculty and alumni care about students.”

Miller is humble as he reflects on his years of service to Transylvania, but is quick to share his pride in how the college has evolved over time.

“The good thing about a small place like Transy is that one person can make a difference. You can get lost in a big school and feel isolated, but in a small place, if you want to, you can make a difference.”
Transylvania is turning to open source computer software for several of its needs, with an eye toward saving money while reaping potential benefits in flexibility, security, and stability.

Open source software, as opposed to name brand programs such as the familiar family of Microsoft products, is designed and written by volunteer programmers in many parts of the world. Its source code is easily available, and users may download, use, and modify the software free of charge. There are no annual licensing fees based on the number of users, which are normally charged by commercial software companies.

Lynn Aulick, director of academic computing, said the move to open source software is not a wholesale abandonment of name brand programs, but a very selective use of, and experimentation with, open source products to determine where they can serve Transylvania’s needs better than off-the-shelf programs.

“I believe we can strike a balance between open source and turn-key operations,” Aulick said. “I wouldn’t recommend, for example, replacing our Microsoft desktop operating system, but changing to open source for functions such as e-mail, user registration, and course management applications may be a smart move. That would allow us to direct those funds we’re not spending on commercial software to expanding our technology services.”

Jason Herndon ‘90, with NetGain Technologies Inc., and Jason Whitaker ’97, IT specialist with IBM Global Services, are assisting Aulick, on both a paid and volunteer basis, with the implementation of open source software.

Whitaker cites the ability to modify open source programs for special user needs as one of their primary advantages over commercial versions. He mentioned a change he made to NetReg, which secures access to Transy’s residence halls and wireless network, as an example.

“When students have been gone from campus for the holidays, we want them to have to register their computers again when they return so that we can look for security problems,” Whitaker said. “Lynn uses a function I wrote that quickly clears out all the registrations, so when students register again, it’s like starting out fresh.”

Security of the campus network against viruses or worms is a constant concern, and Aulick says NetReg is a key weapon in this battle. NetReg runs another open source program, Nessus, that supports this effort.

“Nessus checks each machine for security holes, to see if all the Windows operating system patches are up-to-date,” Aulick said. “When we turned it on for the first time last fall, we found about 20 student computers that were more than a year behind on their patches.”

Using open source to run functions that are “under the covers,” as Whitaker puts it, lessens the need for user training. “I am a proponent of open source, first of all, for things dealing with server infrastructure,” he said. “You won’t find a Microsoft Money type of program in open source.”

Besides the flexibility advantages of open source software, the cost savings can be a factor. Licensing fees for name brand software can add up quickly. For example, Aulick said the University is charged approximately $10,000 a year for Blackboard, which professors use for chat rooms with students and to post items such as tests, lectures, and additional course materials.

Microsoft Office costs about $13,000 annually and the Novell e-mail server $9,000.

As a possible substitute for Blackboard, Transylvania is experimenting this academic year with an open source replacement called Moodle.

“Four faculty members are running Moodle and Blackboard in parallel, to see if all the functions they like in Blackboard can also be found in Moodle,” Aulick said. “If they find these functions, we could then use Moodle as our course management system.”

The argument for using open source over commercial software is not an open-and-shut case, Aulick acknowledges. Commercial software is familiar to users, and there are possible consulting fees with open source programs to teach users how to use them. But the cost savings of open source, its potential greater stability, along with the ability to tweak it for Transy’s own purposes, make it very appealing.

Aulick is taking a systematic, step-by-step approach to introducing open source on the Transy campus.

“We see this as an ongoing project,” he said. “We are carving out things we know will work in a ‘stand alone’ situation in open source, without going to the Linux operating system, which would be needed for a widespread open source usage. As we develop open source and explore it more, then we’ll have more confidence to expand it. Open source is here to stay.”
Alltech president launches science lecture series

Alltech President Pearse Lyons discussed America’s quest for renewable fuel in the context of scientific research, agribusiness, macroeconomics, and politics during his February 6 presentation in Haggin Auditorium. It was the first in the four-part Alltech Lecture Series at Transylvania.

In a wide-ranging discussion of the relationships between corn production, livestock and poultry producers, and energy needs, Lyons made the case for increased emphasis on research into cellulose as the primary source for the five-fold increase in alternative fuels by 2017 that President Bush has proposed to Congress.

Lyons, a member of Transylvania’s Board of Trustees, presented his ideas in the framework of a competition for the use of corn between food and fuel producers. He said that cellulose can hold the key to America’s search for clean burning fuel and energy independence, provided scientists discover the key to converting it economically to ethanol.

“We can get three times the volume of ethanol per acre from cellulose as compared with corn,” Lyons said. “It’s the technology of cellulose breakdown that we need our scientists to focus on.”

In a Haggin Auditorium presentation, Lyons addressed the public: “The technology of cellulose is so promising that we need to learn more about it.”

At the beginning of this era, Lyons said, men were expected to show little outward interest in their attire and grooming.

“Men, Dress, and Consumer Culture in Britain, 1860-1914” is a book by George Elliott and published by Ohio University Press.

Shannon book reassesses Victorian men’s fashion sense

Visiting English professor Brent Shannon explores how a newly flowering consumer culture during the Victorian era drove the evolution of men’s approach to dress and grooming from an attitude of studied indifference to one of active participation in his recently published book The Cut of His Coat: Men, Dress, and Consumer Culture in Britain, 1860-1914 (Ohio University Press).

At the beginning of this era, Shannon said, men were expected to show little outward interest in their attire and grooming.

“I wanted to show how these big forces, like mass production, consumer culture, capitalism, and especially the department stores, shaped the way average middleclass men defined and practiced their own masculinity,” Shannon said.

Driving this change in attitude was an explosion in consumer culture that brought about the emergence of the big city department store. Luring men to its seductive aisles filled with the latest fashions was advertising geared specifically to men that used masculine language, sports figures, and military imagery to appeal to their manliness.

Shannon traces those themes and analyzes their appearance in the novels of George Elliott, Anthony Trollope, H. G. Wells, and others, as well as in etiquette manuals, advertising, and fashion trade publications.


“I wanted to show how these big forces, like mass production, consumer culture, capitalism, and especially the department stores, shaped the way average middleclass men defined and practiced their own masculinity,” Shannon said.

“New kinds of costume and behavior were becoming acceptable for them.”

In an epilogue, Shannon relates what was happening in Victorian London to a current trend. “Today’s metrosexuality invites heterosexual males to indulge in activities such as going to salons and spas, having manicures, and using facial creams,” he said. “They are being encouraged to have greater concern over their hair, skin, and body shape.”
Parents, grandparents continue tradition of Transy library support

Embracing Transylvania’s long-held tradition of helping provide students with the latest and best library resources, parents and grandparents of current students and alumni are nearly 80 percent of the way toward the goal of raising $93,000 to purchase books, journals, and software for the J. Douglas Gay Jr./Frances Carrick Thomas Library. Gifts have been received from 800 parents and grandparents, and dozens more have made pledges.

“With an additional 350 gifts, we’re virtually assured of reaching the goal,” said Lori Burlingham, assistant director of development.

Parents Council members, parent and grandparent volunteers, and students secured most of the gifts and pledges during the annual phonathon in October and November. Students made additional calls later in the fall and again in February.

The Parents Fund paid for every new book that was purchased for the campus library in 2006, according to Burlingham. The library also houses periodicals, electronic databases, and other resources that are essential for research and course work in all academic disciplines.

Chris Johnson, co-president of the Parents Council and father of senior Jonathan Johnson, pointed out that the library is equally accessible to all students. “It’s not like a club or organization where you might have to meet certain requirements to participate. All students can use the huge volume of information that’s available, either by going to the library or connecting electronically in their dorm rooms or computer labs on campus.”

To make a pledge or request additional information about the Parents Fund, contact the development office at (800) 487-2679 or visit www.transy.edu and click on Giving to Transy, then on Family and Friends.

Sony executive Steve Banfield ’90 keynotes Science Day

Steve Banfield ’90, whose career has taken him from IBM, NCR, Microsoft, RealNetworks, and now to Sony, returned to Transylvania in November for Science Day to talk with high school students about the value of a science degree from a liberal arts institution.

“I tried to articulate how the liberal arts education at Transy, combined with a computer science major like mine, can create graduates with a unique blend of highly marketable skills,” Banfield said. “People who can excel at the intersection of art and science, in areas like the growing game development field and digital special effects for film and television, are much in demand. As video game sales exceed movie industry box office revenues, it’s become an area constantly in need of talented people.”

Banfield, who completed an MBA degree at Harvard University, is senior vice president and general manager, Sony Connect, Inc., Los Angeles, which provides digital music, video, and e-book downloads for Sony devices and produces award-winning PC media creation applications with titles such as Sound Forge, Vegas, and ACID Pro.

He worked in computer programming at IBM’s Lexington facility while still a Transy student, then held positions at NCR in Atlanta and at Microsoft, where he was program manager for multimedia systems for Windows 95. After earning his MBA, he joined RealNetworks, where he helped grow the company’s user base from 30 million to 285 million, before joining Sony.

Transy’s annual Science Day attracts high school students from central Kentucky to take part in presentations, including laboratory experiments and demonstrations, and explore career opportunities based on biology, chemistry, computer science, mathematics, and physics.
Slepyan book examines guerrilla warfare in the Soviet Union

History professor Kenneth Slepyan was fortunate to be in the Soviet Union during the 1991-92 academic year, doing research for his dissertation at the University of Michigan on the partisan movement in that country during World War II. While there, he took advantage of a relatively brief period when that country opened many formerly closed archives to historians.

“I arrived not long after the August 1991 coup, which started the events that put Boris Yeltsin in power, and he seized control of the main communist party archives,” Slepyan said. “They opened up the archives that fall, and I was one of the first historians to be able to look at them without any kind of restrictions.”

By the mid-1990s, Slepyan said, the lid had gone back on most of the archives he had seen. “It’s not completely closed off now, but it’s a lot harder to get access than it was for me. If I went back now, I wouldn’t get that kind of access. I was very lucky.”

That was also a fortunate turn of events for readers of Slepyan’s recently published book, Stalin’s Guerrillas: Soviet Partisans in World War II (University Press of Kansas). The book looks at the experiences of the partisans to explore how the war affected the Soviet state, and Stalinism in particular.

When the German Wehrmacht rolled into the Soviet Union in June 1941, it got more than it bargained for. In spite of the Red Army’s initial retreat, Soviet citizens in the form of partisan units fought fiercely against the occupiers, engaging in raids, sabotage, and intelligence gathering, largely without oversight from Stalin or the Soviet state.

This people’s army consisted of irregulars fighting behind enemy lines and included not only civilians—many of them women—but also stranded Red Army soldiers, national minorities, and former collaborators.

While others have documented the military contributions of the partisan movement, Slepyan is the first to analyze it as a social phenomenon. He looks especially at how Soviet citizens rethought their relationship to the communist state, in light of the self-reliance and initiative they practiced in fighting a guerrilla war, and how those thoughts may have either consolidated or undermined communist control during the war and afterwards.

“There has been an assumption on the part of most scholars that victory in the war helped legitimize the communist party in the minds of the citizens because it proved capable of defeating Nazi Germany,” Slepyan said. “Others have argued that the war created more freedom because the partisans underwent a kind of spontaneous de-

Slepyan’s conclusion is that some of both occurred, but that there was certainly no liberal movement toward a democratic state.

“The war confirmed the Stalinist ideas that Soviet citizens lived in a world of external and internal enemies, in the form of the invading Germans on the one hand, and through spies who might have betrayed the existence of the partisans to the occupiers on the other hand,” Slepyan said. “So in that sense, the basic values of the Soviet Union are accepted by the partisans.

“Where the war worked to undermine that notion is in the partisans’ desire for personal autonomy and their ability to separate themselves from Soviet institutions. They called on these institutions to help them during the war, but they didn’t want them to interfere any longer in their daily lives.”

David M. Glantz, author of Colossus Reborn: The Red Army at War, 1941-1943, said of Slepyan’s book, “By far the most accurate, comprehensive, and perceptive political and social history of the Soviet Partisan Movement during the Second World War. Clear, cogent, and articulate, it will undoubtedly become the standard work in its field.”

The book was recently designated by both the History Book Club and the Military Book Club as an alternate selection, and is carried in the Transy bookstore.

The Transylvania Theater presents Earthrock of Argos

The Transylvania Theater Program presented the premiere production of The Earthrock of Argos in late February and early March in the Lucille C. Little Theater. The play, based on The Oresteia by Aeschylus, was rewritten by drama professor Tim Souls. Addressing themes of social responsibility, identity, and the humane treatment of others, it tells the story of the brutal murder of Agamemnon by his wife Clytemnestra, and the effort by their children Orestes and Electra to avenge his slaughter. In this scene, first-year student Elizabeth Guy portrays Iphiginia, daughter of King Agamemnon and Queen Clytemnestra, who is sacrificed to ensure Argos’ victory in the Trojan War.
Kathleen Jagger named associate dean of the college

Biology professor Kathleen Jagger began work in her new additional role as associate dean of the college in January. The position, new not only to Jagger but also to the University, was born out of the need to provide support for the Office of the Dean of the College.

“I will provide backup for Dean Pollard so that he has more flexibility,” Jagger said. “If his day is consumed by managerial details, he doesn’t have as much time as he needs to pursue the broader initiatives that are important to Transylvania’s future.”

Jagger earned her B.A. in zoology from DePauw University, her Ph.D. in microbiology from the University of Cincinnati College of Medicine, and her master of public health degree from the Harvard School of Public Health. She brings significant advising and leadership experience to her new role, including positions as coordinator of the health services advising program and chair of the science division, both while teaching at DePauw.

Jagger taught one course with a lab during winter term and split her time between her office in Brown Science Center and her new office in Old Morrison. “I’m still in the classroom, though very connected to the issues of the dean’s office,” she said.

The 11-month position will give Jagger more time during the summer to work on administrative duties, which include a wide range of tasks from working with the registrar’s office to striving for a more diverse faculty.

This winter term, she began immediately to handle the student side of academic affairs, primarily advising and retention. “I’ll also be putting into place a plan to more aggressively recruit students to apply for postgraduate scholarships like the Rhodes, Marshall, and Fulbright,” she said, noting that Transy had three Fulbright applications this year.

Jagger’s broader goal and main focus is to help enhance the intellectual climate of the University. As liaison between the faculty and the dean’s office, she will work on new faculty initiatives, program development, and the University 1111 academic career skills course, while continuing her work with the new faculty mentoring program.

“We’re forging new paths,” she said. “Great ideas have emerged from the faculty and the dean is supportive, but he’s only one person. Now we can turn more attention to the new ideas that arise.”

William F. Pollard, vice president and dean of the college, said he is looking forward to working with Jagger in this capacity. “This is an exciting time,” he said. “Kathleen brings an understanding of the Transy community and a fresh outlook to this new position.”

Artistic couples exhibit in Morlan Gallery

Five married couples from Kentucky with dual art careers exhibited work in To Have & To Hold, a group invitational show that ran in Morlan Gallery from January 12-February 23. The exhibition, drawing its name from traditional marriage vows, showcased the work of Lida Gordon and Peter Bodnar III, Diane Kahlo and Steve Armstrong, Kate Sprengnether and Transylvania art professor Kurt Gohde, Elizabeth and Gary Mesa-Gaido, and Sarah and Brian Turner.

The idea for the show arose from questions posed by Morlan Gallery director Andrea Fisher. “I was interested in the day-to-day lives of married artists,” she said. “How do they navigate the division of labor in their home lives and their professional lives? How do these couples deal with the jealousy and competitive feelings that would most certainly arise in their professional lives?”

Interviews with the couples conducted by art professor Nancy Wolsk were included in a gallery “artzine” that examined how these artists satisfy their professional and domestic responsibilities. The publication also included photographs of the artists and a Valentine’s Day gift from the gallery—original temporary tattoos designed by four of the couples.

To Have & To Hold posters, designed by Sarah and Brian Turner’s Cricket Press, were also available for purchase.
Men’s soccer wins HCAC

The men’s soccer team won the Heartland Collegiate Athletic Conference regular season and tournament championships on its way to a third straight appearance in the NCAA Division III national tournament.

Under head coach Brandon Bowman, the Pioneers finished with a 7-1 HCAC regular season record and were 14-3-1 overall. Transy defeated Defiance College and Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology to win the conference tournament for the fourth straight year and five of the last six.

Transy faced Ohio Northern University in the first round of the NCAA tournament, a team the Pioneers had taken to overtime in a 1-1 tie to begin the season. Playing at host Ohio Wesleyan University, Transy and Ohio Northern played a scoreless first half before the Bears broke through in the second half for a 2-0 win.

The only regular season losses came in a 1-0 game with HCAC foe Anderson University and a 2-1 overtime contest against Muskingum College.

This season’s success added to a legacy that has established the Pioneers as a perennial soccer power. Since joining the HCAC six years ago, Transy has been virtually unstoppable, losing but one conference tournament game and just two regular season contests.

“The key to our success over the past few seasons has been peaking at the right time,” Bowman said. “We feel unlucky not to have advanced beyond the first round in the NCAA the past couple of years. Our goal next year will be to win some tournament games.”

Individual honors came when six Pioneers were named to the All-HCAC first team, led by a pair of seniors, forward Matt Burton and goalkeeper Marc Frank. Joining them were juniors Matt Karaffa (midfielder), Ryan Dale (defender), and Matt Vogel (defender), and sophomore defender Ryan Wood. Frank was an HCAC Player of the Week, as was junior midfielder Andrew Zemanski.

Women’s golf is fourth in HCAC

Rhea Badgett earned All-Heartland Collegiate Athletic Conference honors for the third straight year as she led the women’s golf team to a fourth place finish in the league championship, played at the Stonehenge Golf Club in Warsaw, Ind.

Badgett, a junior, finished seventh in individual scoring on rounds of 95-86 for a 181 total. Senior Laura Pyles tied for 11th at 188 on rounds of 92-96. Other Transy scores included a 194 for sophomore Brittany Daulton, 215 for senior Carrie Keller, and 218 by junior Kim West.

Under head coach Mark Turner ’77, the Pioneers posted back-to-back top-five finishes at the Centre Invitational and the Transy Fall Invitational during the regular season. Badgett led Transy at the Centre meet with an 87, while Badgett and Pyles each posted 91s to pace the team at its home tournament.

Cross country teams compete

The women’s cross country team came in seventh in the Heartland Collegiate Athletic Conference championships while the men’s team was ninth. Both teams are coached by Toby Carrigan.

Sophomore Mallory Harlow paced the women’s team with a time of 28-minutes, 33.16 seconds over the 5,000-meter course. For the men, Tyler Sanslow led the way with a 30:51.98 time for the 8,000-meter course.

During the regular season, the women’s team took second in the Northern Kentucky Invitational, hosted by Northern Kentucky University. Sophomore Becky Hallman led the Pioneers with a 22:20.76 clocking, good for ninth place overall. Sanslow again paced the men’s team with a time of 30:59.10, good for 19th place.
The women’s soccer team capped off a brilliant season by winning the Heartland Collegiate Athletic Conference tournament and playing in the NCAA Division III national championship, both for the first time in the program’s history.

The Pioneers finished the season with a sparkling 16-2 record, including a perfect 8-0 in the HCAC to claim the regular season title. They won 11 straight matches to begin the season, and closed the year with a five-game win streak before losing in the NCAA meet. It was the best season since the 1999 team won 23 straight games, only to lose in the championship game of the NAIA tournament.

Transy’s only regular-season defeat came in a 1-0 contest with Elmhurst College. The Pioneers downed Manchester College 2-1 and the College of Mount St. Joseph 3-1 to capture the Heartland tourney crown, then lost to Denison College 2-0 in the NCAAs.

Third-year head coach Michael Fulton, now 38-14-5 at Transy, was named Coach of the Year in the HCAC.

“Winning the conference and qualifying for the NCAA tournament has established a precedent for our program,” Fulton said. “I’m thrilled at the progress we’ve made in such a short time. We have a great bunch of student-athletes who are willing to work hard, and an experienced staff.”

Fulton was philosophical about the disappointing loss to Denison in the NCAA’s first round. “It was a good learning experience for us,” he said. “Being able to compare ourselves with the top teams and the experience that comes with the loss will help make us better.”

Five Pioneers were named to the All-HCAC first team, led by senior defender Elizabeth Poindexter. Also honored were junior goalkeeper Ally Tucker, sophomore forward Brittany Farris, and first-year midfielders Katie Kelly and Kate McKelway. Kelly was also an HCAC Player of the Week, as was junior forward Brittany MacGregor.
Women’s tennis gets HCAC wins

Heartland Collegiate Athletic Conference wins over Bluffton University and the College of Mount St. Joseph, plus a victory over Thomas More College, highlighted the women’s tennis team season.

Under head coach Chuck Brown, the Pioneers finished the regular season with a 3-6 record, including 2-6 in the HCAC. They took on top-seeded Manchester College in the first round of the conference tournament, played at the West Indy Racquet Club in Indianapolis, and lost 5-0.

Under a new format, the winner of the single-elimination tournament receives the league’s automatic bid to the NCAA championship. Manchester went on to defeat Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology 5-2 in the finals to claim the NCAA bid.

Volleyball ties win record with 12

A strong finish helped the volleyball team tie the program’s record for wins in a season while playing perhaps its toughest schedule ever.

Under head coach Cindy Jacobelli, the Pioneers were 12-16 for a 43 percent winning percentage, best in the young program’s history. Twenty-three of those matches were on the road, including three invitational tournaments. Transy was 1-7 in Heartland Collegiate Athletic Conference play.

Transy saved its best for last as it won five of its final seven matches. Three of those were decisive wins in the Sewanee Invitational, against host Sewanee–University of the South (3-0), Huntingdon College (3-1), and LaGrange College (3-0) to capture the tourney title.

“I was very proud of the way we finished the year,” Jacobelli said. “The schedule this year was a lot tougher, and we lost to some top-notch opponents, but we came back and really ended well.”

Three seniors completed their Transy careers with all-time school records. Outside hitter Stephanie Journeay finished with 1,003 kills, defensive specialist Ashley Koch had 1,463 digs, and setter Allyson Fisher totaled 2,600 assists.

Field hockey builds win streak

The field hockey team defeated a traditional powerhouse and built a three-game win streak toward season’s end to highlight another year of rebuilding a once dominant program.

The Pioneers got off to a great start with a 2-0 win over Earlham College in the season opener, but didn’t win again until a late season trip to Virginia. There, they defeated Mary Baldwin College and Sweet Briar College by identical 2-0 scores over two days. They came back home to edge NAIA power Lindenwood University and finish the year with a 4-13 record.

“We really started to come together as a team the last half of the season,” head coach Jill Meiring said. “We ended on a strong note, and I think we can achieve more next year.”

Junior forward Brittany Amos and sophomore forward Maria Taustine led the Pioneers with five goals apiece for the year. Sophomore Megan Blandford started all 17 games in goal, saving more than 75 percent of the shots against her.

Senior outside hitter Stephanie Journeay ended her Transy career with 1,003 kills.

Sophomore forward Maria Taustine was the Pioneers’ co-leader for the season with five goals.
A helping hand
Whether walking with a student down a pathway of study or lending support during the first years of a new career, a mentor serves as a counselor, an ally, and a trusted friend. The close-knit Transylvania community provides fertile ground for the growth of such relationships. It is not uncommon for students, faculty, and staff to develop connections that continue well beyond the four years of a Transylvania education. What begins in the classroom often develops into a partnership that thrives in the larger world.

The following stories illustrate some of the ways in which these mentoring relationships can have a profound effect on both parties.

Laura Edgington and Eva Csuhai

During her four years at Transylvania, Laura Edgington ’06 went from a quiet, somewhat shy first-year student looking for encouragement to a confident young scholar now about to begin her graduate studies in the Ph.D. program in cancer biology at Stanford University. Her goal is a career as a research scientist.

Although other professors and friends were very supportive, Edgington credits chemistry professor Eva Csuhai with being a mentor who helped her develop as a student and a person by becoming not only her academic adviser, but also a friend and confidant.

Their relationship began in a chemistry class, when Edgington readily admits to being somewhat intimidated by Csuhai at first.

“When I had Dr. Csuhai for general chemistry my first year, she was all business in class,” Edgington said. “But as I got to know her, I found she had a wonderful sense of humor and was very warm and compassionate. She’s very honest and will always tell you exactly what she thinks.”

Csuhai would eventually help Edgington build her confidence, select her major, identify summer research programs, and apply to graduate school. They still keep in touch as Edgington, currently working on a research project in the Department of Gastroenterology at Cincinnati Children’s Hospital, prepares to begin graduate school at Stanford this fall.

Edgington came to Transylvania as a William T. Young scholar, so she knew she was intelligent enough to do well in her studies. But shouldering the expectations of being the first in her immediate family to attend college, along with her growing up on a farm near a small town in northern Kentucky, left her in need of someone to both challenge and encourage her.

“All of the chemistry professors who watched me grow and mature during my time at Transy got on me later about how I was such a quiet, meek student and not so confident when I first came in,” Edgington said.

After getting to know her outside of class, Csuhai sensed that Edgington could benefit from some encouraging words. “She seemed like the kind of person who would find it easy to let others take charge and do the talking,” Csuhai said. “It was a rapid transition for Laura to go from her farm life, where she worked with animals a lot, to a very demanding academic life at Transylvania. She needed someone to tell her that this is possible, that you can do it.”

As Edgington progressed in her science courses, she found many opportunities during labs to talk informally with Csuhai.

“We had a lot of times where we were standing around waiting for a reaction to occur, and we would talk and get to know each other,” said Edgington. “I think that’s how she first took an interest in me.”

Edgington initially was going to major only in biology, but Csuhai influenced her decision to add a second major in chemistry. “She helped me get excited about chemistry,” Edgington said. “She challenged me as much or more than any of the professors I had, which is something I needed and thrived on.” As it turned out, with her interest in biomedicine, the double major is giving Edgington the perfect preparation for her graduate studies and career in research.

Csuhai also pushed Edgington to consider the value of summer research programs if she was serious about graduate school. She eventually completed programs at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill (where she was also accepted for graduate studies, along with Harvard University) and at Stanford.

“Dr. Csuhai worked with me at every step along the way in finding those summer programs and choosing graduate schools to apply to,” Edgington said.

Mentoring by example, and having the chance to share some personal information with her students, is an advantage that Csuhai feels is especially evident at a small college like Transylvania. She wanted to reassure Edgington that women can make it in a field where men still significantly outnumber them. “I want my students to see how a female professional handles the role of a chemist,” she said. “They can see that I have a family, I have kids to worry about, I have my personal issues, but here I am doing my job.”

Looking back on her Transy years, Edgington realizes the important role that Csuhai played, not just in the particulars of major selection, applications, and letters of recommendation, but also in the larger sense of helping her envision what her life could be.

“Dr. Csuhai identified my talent in science and encouraged me to pursue it. She recognized that I had what it took to be a good researcher. She also knows what it’s like to be a woman in science, and offered me a lot of insight. She gave me the confidence in myself so that I knew I
Now in her fifth year of teaching in the Fayette County, Ky., school system, Sara Wells Francis ’00 aims to give her students the power to learn through experience and introspection, a calling she answered as a result of her relationship with music professor Ben Hawkins. “It was through his subtle coaching and support that I realized I had a mission to enrich young lives through music education,” she said.

The two first met when Francis auditioned for a music scholarship as a senior in high school. During her four years as a student at Transy, Francis and Hawkins worked together closely, and after her graduation, they continued to keep in touch.

“At first his guidance was primarily on a musical and academic basis, but as time progressed, I found myself stopping by his office just to have a conversation,” Francis said. “When my father became gravely ill during my sophomore year, I sat in the chair by Dr. Hawkins’ desk and cried. When I became engaged to my husband, John, at the end of my senior year, I sat in the same chair and beamed.”

Francis said that Hawkins was quick to recognize who she was and what she was looking for in a college education. “He just seemed to understand me,” she said. “I now recognize that sort of quick insightfulness as a hallmark of a great educator.”

While Francis was completing her master of music at Northwestern University, the relationship grew into a two-way exchange. “Fields change over time,” Hawkins said. “Chatting with Sara when she was in graduate school plugged me into classroom techniques that I wasn’t aware of. She’s very creative, and that stimulates my thinking.”

Hawkins benefited from a similar relationship earlier in his life and sees mentoring as a way of carrying on that tradition. His college band director, James Sudduth, for whom Hawkins named his oldest son, served as his mentor, and Sudduth’s portrait hangs on the wall of Hawkins’ office as a reminder of the relationship they shared. “Without him,” Hawkins said, “I certainly don’t think I’d be doing what I’m doing.”

Hawks is quick to point out that while he may detect hints of their work together in Francis’ teaching, she is an individual. “There’s so much of what she brings to her teaching that doesn’t have anything to do with what I taught her,” he said. “We have much in common, but her approach is different from my own.”

Hawkins is reluctant to take credit for Francis’ success as a musician and teacher. “I certainly don’t fool myself into thinking she wouldn’t have been just as successful whether she’d met me or not,” he said. But Francis cites Hawkins as a major influence in her life and work. “He knows my history, and I always feel I can count on him for sound, sincere advice,” she said. “When I have a victory or a quandary, whether it is professional or personal, I know that he is never more than a phone call or an e-mail away. Essentially, he is still my mentor, but I consider him to be a lifelong friend.”

Recently, Francis embarked on her own journey as a mentor—she now has her first student teacher. “The responsibility of helping someone find their way as an educator is somewhat overwhelming,” she said, “but also very exciting.”
Tim Meko ’06, a graduate student at the Ohio University School of Visual Communications, credits a relationship that began at Transylvania for providing the springboard he needed to embark on his graduate studies. Since his graduation, Meko has kept in touch with his mentor, Barbara Grinnell, graphic designer in Transy’s publications office.

It is a friendship that continues to flourish as Meko pursues a master’s degree in newsroom graphic management, and he and Grinnell provide feedback for one another’s work. Recently, Meko called Grinnell to ask for help with a class project for which he needed to work for a client. The client turned out to be Transy when Grinnell gave Meko the opportunity to design a poster for a campus film series.

“Barbara is my go-to person to ask advice about design,” Meko said. “I send her all of my work before it’s due so that she can critique it.”

The dialogue between Meko and Grinnell began in May of Meko’s junior year when Transy purchased one of his photographs, a panoramic print of Times Square that caught the eye of the publications office. The next year, both Meko and the publications staff saw an opportunity for a mutually beneficial relationship. Meko began in a work-study position with publications, working closely with Grinnell. “It was his photography that initially grabbed my attention,” she said. “I had no idea of his interest in design.”

It turned out that Meko had a background in computer science and graphics, knowledge that led to an atypical work-study experience. “Usually, with my work-study students, I turn them on to the bare essentials of layout,” Grinnell said. “Tim was able to work with me on my designs and complete projects on his own.”

As the two became more comfortable with one another, their relationship grew. “We would have mini brainstorming sessions where we would sit and work out an idea,” Meko said, “and we also talked about things that weren’t necessarily related to school or work.”

Grinnell found her work-study student to be proactive and motivated. “Working with Tim was like working with a colleague,” she said. “He had a mature outlook and was willing to be an equal.” They worked together for one academic year that culminated with Meko participating in a series of shadowships that Grinnell helped coordinate.

At Transy, the advice that Meko received from Grinnell ranged from technical details to broader concepts. She encouraged Meko to work on his typography skills, for example, and suggested he edit his photographs before turning them in for an assignment.

“She told me that instead of handing over every single frame I shot, which could get up to 300 images sometimes, that I should narrow them down to my favorite 10-15 images. This way, a client would only see the best shots of the event instead of all of the ‘almost there’ images.”

She also talked to him about the concept of learning itself. “Barbara taught me that learning about everything you can really gives you a leg up in the real world,” Meko said. “She encouraged me to take advantage of all the opportunities that Transy offered—lectures and presentations—because the more you know, the more marketable you are.”

Grinnell found that she learned from Meko, too. He passed on knowledge about using Photoshop software, for example. “Working with him reawakened my interest in photography,” she said.

Looking back, Meko said his work with Grinnell taught him to think in different ways. “It taught me how to think as a part of the real world,” he said. “My work ethic grew, as did my experience, and I became better at communicating my ideas.”

Thinking differently was something Grinnell gained from the relationship as well. “Since Tim didn’t know a lot of the design rules, he ended up breaking them in very creative ways. Seeing that helped me loosen the restrictions I had set for myself.”

Ultimately, what Meko found in his relationship with Grinnell was a sense of place in the Transy community. “She was someone I could always bounce ideas off of, and talk to about anything from politics to television,” he said. “I don’t think anybody else on campus knew as much about me and my life as Barbara did.”

That friendship continues to grow as Meko works toward a career in design. “The kind of work we do now is very different,” Grinnell said, “but we continue to provide feedback for one another.”
Research in the digital age
In the brave new on-line world, determining credibility of information is a challenge

BY LORI-LYN HURLEY

Sarah Billiter, a junior majoring in economics and political science, uses online resources roughly 80 percent of the time when researching to write a paper, while Elizabeth Combs, a junior psychology major, uses the Internet 100 percent of the time. “I’ve not used a book for research since coming to Transy,” Combs said.

The fact that students are conducting research on-line doesn’t necessarily mean they are using unsubstantiated sources, but with the Internet wide open to anyone who feels like posting, how do students and professors evaluate the information they find?

The answer to that question involves at least one familiar standby—guidance from the college library—along with evaluation of a source’s credibility by looking at its affiliation with known and trusted organizations as well as its overall reputation within the academic community.

“For validation purposes, I always begin with searches on the databases provided by the University, usually Jstore or Ebsco Host,” Billiter said. “When I get stuck, I reach out to Google. If I find a Web site that seems to be supported by a university, government agency, or trusted news network, I usually trust the information.”

Martha Gehringer, director of the Writing Center and instructor in writing, rhetoric, and communication, said that her task when reading students’ papers that have been written with the aid of on-line research is to decide what’s of value. “I ask myself, ‘What did this student employ in writing this paper that I should take seriously?’” she said.

It’s an issue that chemistry professor Gerald Seebach addresses with his students, as well. “Much of the research our students take part in is based in a search engine sponsored by the American Chemical Society, which is designed for the science field,” he said. “In our area, we have to be certain that facts have been checked. We tell our students, ‘Yes, you can get some basic information from a general Internet search, but if you’re going to trust it, it has to come from the ACS database.’”

Transylvania’s library holdings include over 15,000 journal titles available on-line and more than 60 on-line databases that cover multiple disciplines.

“Our on-line search records are through the roof,” Library Director Susan Brown said. “Over the past several years, we’ve seen exponential increases—20 percent, 30 percent year to year—in how many searches are being done on our databases.”

“It’s so convenient to log on to a database,” Billiter said. “The greatest drawback to referencing books is that you have to find out the location, find the book, then search the book for relevant information. If you’re working on a project for a long period of time, books are more difficult to carry around and keep up with than documents saved on your hard drive.”

While Billiter references books and periodicals less frequently than on-line sources, she said she feels it’s important to give attention to other sources. Not everything she needs is available on-line.

“One on a database like Academic Search Premier,” Brown said, “about 60 percent of the entries are full text. Students are likely to find a record that we don’t have full text for, but that we do have paper for. In that case, they’ll go to the paper.”

“I’ve rarely had trouble finding what I need through the databases in the library,” Combs said. She pointed out that she steers clear of other sorts of Internet searches. “It’s just too hard to know if an on-line source is legitimate.”

Brown said that while it may be more difficult to determine the relevance of Web sources, that doesn’t mean they’re bad sources. “There’s a lot of good information on the Internet,” she said, “but you do need to work harder at the evaluation part. When you’re looking at articles and books that have gone through a publication process, there is at least an initial level of control there. Anyone can put anything out on the Internet, so you do need to ask when looking—who’s published this?”

The possible pitfalls

Often found at the top of Google search results is the collaborative, on-line encyclopedia Wikipedia. The encyclopedia is edited by anonymous contributors, which puts it in stark contrast to the standards of expertise and credentials embraced by academia.

Barbar Fister, in an article titled “Wikipedia and the Challenge of Read/Write Culture” that appeared in Vol. 27, No. 3 of Library Issues, cited a study conducted by the prestigious science journal Nature that concluded Wikipedia’s
Gehringer said that, in a way, Wikipedia is a good thing because it’s so democratic. She pointed out that using encyclopedia as a source for writing isn’t ideal, whether the book is on-line or on the shelf. “You don’t want your college students to use encyclopedia material; you want them to go past that. You want them to have the encyclopedia as a base, then go beyond it, not rely on it,” she said.

“I do think students are tempted to misuse on-line materials more than they would be if they were handling actual paperwork,” she said.

Gehringer believes there’s an obligation on the part of professors to teach students how to tell what they’re looking at, and to teach them what they have a right to and what they don’t have a right to.

“I think you can teach students how to tell the difference between something that is shallow or not very credible material,” she said. “At first, I wondered how we would ever know what they were finding, but now I see there are ways of sorting this material.

“We who are reading these papers have figured out how to differentiate, so that the ‘.com’ stands out like neon, and we tell students, ‘Unless that’s a primary source, unless that’s something you’re looking at to analyze or comment on, be aware that I’m going to see that ‘.com’ and know this isn’t scholarly material.’”

**Something gained, something lost**

If the idea of on-line research conjures images of isolated students in front of their computer screens, it’s important to note that Transylvania has not seen a decrease in the number of students who use the library.

“The library is a lot more than a container for information; it’s a place where ideas can be discussed,” Brown said. “There’s an intellectual conversation being recorded in the publications, and that same conversation can be echoed by the students sitting at a library table.”

Transy’s library circulation records haven’t waned, either, but total circulation numbers reflect reserves. There has been a move from holding reserves behind the desk to placing them on Blackboard, a computer program used by professors as a chat room with students and a place to post tests, lectures, and additional course materials. When professors use Blackboard for reserves, the basic content is the same—articles, books, book chapters—but the information is easily accessed on-line.

There are obvious advantages to this migration toward digital information. “We’ve added about 20,000 books to the catalog,” said Brown. “I wouldn’t have room to add 20,000 books physically, but I can add them virtually and allow students to have access to things they would not otherwise have.”

And, at least for the length of a course, an on-line source is more stable than paper. “If we hand an article across the desk, copies are made, pages get out of order, or it goes missing,” Brown said. “If it’s on-line, it’s not going to get lost.”

Billiter said, “Another advantage to on-line research is that you can have a few resources up at a time and can easily compare information by flipping from one document to another.”

Not all of the changes that have come about as a result of Internet usage are positive, however. Gehringer said she can see how the sources she had to work with as a student were limited compared with what students have now, but much of what she remembers as vital to her as a learner and a reader had to do with the act of physically finding and sitting down with materials.

“There was so much joy in that way of acquiring information,” she said, “and I wonder what it feels like to be only accessing information on-line. Sometimes when I’m researching on-line, I wonder what it would be like to never touched books.”

With the lines blurred between self-proclaimed experts and somehow ordained experts, writing born of the Internet can sometimes assert a validity that isn’t based on actual valid information. “As a teacher of writing, I’ve observed a difference in how students write since the Internet,” Gehringer said. “There’s a difference in the level of formality, a certain authority that is really not in the writing but that is presumed.”

She added, however, that many of her initial fears about the switch to on-line research were unfounded. “It’s a different world,” she said, “but a better one.”

While some believe we may be moving in the direction of a bookless world, Brown said she thinks paper will be around for a while, in one form or another. “A book often makes a linear argument,” she said, “and it’s formatted as a book because you are meant to read it from beginning to end. In that case, I think the paper book is still the best way to read the document.”

Brown said the Internet is great for “now” information and recent news, as opposed to the information in books, which is about two-to-five years out. “Sometimes the appropriateness of the format depends on the time issue,” she said.

Today’s students have immediate access to much more information than has been available in the past. As technology progresses, it’s anyone’s guess what the world of research will be like in 10 or 20 years. As we look forward, however, it’s important not to forget what was valuable about the past.

“Think about all those wonderful reference books in the library,” Gehringer said. “You cannot duplicate that turning of the pages. There’s something lost to the human spirit in all that. I love books, the feel of them, the smell of them, and I wonder what it’s like if you don’t even know the Oxford English Dictionary is all those volumes. Something’s lost, and we have to figure out how to get it somewhere else.”
Transylvania’s five-year, $32 million 225th Anniversary Campaign has reached the midway point, with strong support resulting in $25 million raised thus far. Donations for the endowed scholarships portion of the campaign have exceeded the goal, while completion of funding for the renovation of science laboratories and construction of a residence hall remain as the campaign’s biggest challenges.

“Participation in the campaign from all of our constituents has been very gratifying,” President Charles L. Shearer said. “We are well on our way to meeting the overall goal. However, it is crucial that we focus our energies on the lab renovations and new housing for our students during the second half of the campaign.”

**Endowment funding**

The campaign set a goal of $9 million for endowment growth, with $6 million for endowed scholarships and $3 million for endowed academic chairs.

Approximately $10 million has been donated for endowed scholarships, including a $1 million challenge grant from the William R. Kenan Charitable Trust to support merit scholarships. Transylvania will need to raise an additional $1 million to claim the grant.

The 225th Anniversary Campaign has already funded this dramatic new biology lab in Brown Science Center, shown in use by biology professor Belinda Sly’s molecular genetics class. Inset, senior Ben Johnson works with the new Beckman Coulter CEQ 8000 genetic analysis system, a sophisticated gene sequencer machine normally found only at large universities.
“The outpouring of gifts for our endowed scholarships is very gratifying,” said Richard Valentine, vice president for alumni and development. “People are investing in our students, and that’s exciting to see. However, just because we have surpassed our goal in this area doesn’t mean we’re going to stop. Scholarships are critical to attracting the most qualified students to Transylvania.”

One of the three $1 million endowed chairs envisioned in the campaign goals has been funded as the University met a $500,000 challenge grant from the W. Paul and Lucille Caudill Little Foundation to establish the Lucille C. Little Endowed Chair in Theater. (More information on implementation of this chair will follow in a future Transylvania magazine.)

Brown Science Center

Funding thus far for renovation of Brown Science Center has covered an extensive refurbishing of the 37-year-old building’s heating, ventilating, and air-conditioning system, plus renovation of two physics labs and creation of a new biology lab in a former greenhouse space.

Already, the new lab spaces are fulfilling their potential to facilitate teaching and inspire students. The inviting new environments reflect changing trends in how science is taught and the way in which researchers work.

“Science has gotten so complicated and it’s so collaborative now,” biology professor James Wagner said. “We are making our lab spaces much more flexible with such things as tables on casters that can be rearranged in a matter of minutes to accommodate either lectures or projects where students work closely together.”

The upgraded spaces also feature new windows to let in natural light and new furnishings and flooring that are lighter in color to brighten the overall atmosphere. “When you go into these spaces now, it’s an uplifting feeling,” Wagner said.

The biology lab created from a greenhouse space features a new Beckman Coulter CEQ 8000 genetic analysis system, a sophisticated gene sequencer machine typically found only at large research universities. “This device is what you see on the CSI shows, where DNA analysis is used to help solve crimes,” Wagner said. “It’s what modern biology is dealing with, and our students will have an enormous advantage by getting hands-on experience with the machine.”

Renovated physics labs are allowing for a much better integration of lecture and lab work, according to physics professor Jamie Day.

“Because of the flexibility of this space, we can be working at the board on formulas and equations for, say, Newton’s laws, and then almost instantaneously the students can turn and do a lab project to illustrate those laws, while the concepts are still fresh in their minds.”

Renovation of the remaining chemistry and biology labs will take place in the near future, as funding from the campaign makes that possible. In the meantime, the changes so far have been stunning, said Wagner. “Students are very excited about having classes in these new spaces. It’s been great.”

Timely completion of the Brown Science Center project is critical to ensure that Transylvania continues its tradition of excellence in the sciences and students leave Transy well prepared to take on the challenges of top graduate and professional schools as they pursue science careers in healthcare, research, teaching, and industry.

“We need to raise at least another $3 million to finish the work in the science center,” said Shearer. “The sciences are at the heart of Transylvania’s academic programs and have established our outstanding reputation in this area. It’s very important that we remain competitive in attracting the best students by having modern facilities and the most up-to-date equipment.”

Residence hall

Another key component of the campaign is the addition of a residence hall that will offer suite-style amenities while allowing for the decompression of space in existing traditional residence halls.

The 60-bed facility for upper-class students will feature units that include a living room, bathroom, and bedroom, with two residents in each unit. The estimated cost is $4.3 million for what is planned to be the first in a two-building complex. Groundbreaking for the project is planned for this summer. To create space for the residence hall in the back circle area of campus, three of the six tennis courts have been moved to a site near the corner of Fourth and Bourbon streets.

“Today’s students are looking for more individualized living spaces,” said Shearer.

Construction for phase I of a new residence hall facility that will feature suite-style amenities will begin this summer.

“This new residence hall will add to our ability to offer that, while letting us free up space in Forrer and Clay/Davis halls for new study areas.”

Overall, Shearer feels Transylvania is making excellent progress in the 225th Anniversary Campaign.

“We have great momentum, and I’m confident we’ll meet our remaining goals,” he said. “There are still many opportunities for support that will make a dramatic difference to our students and faculty, in particular the science center work and our new residence hall. This campaign is going to have a lasting effect on the quality of living and learning at Transylvania.”
Les Johnson '84 doesn’t blink an eye when asked about the future of space exploration. For the National Aeronautics and Space Administration physicist, it’s not about wondering “if” humans will spread through the solar system, but only a question of when and how. And he’s working hard to help answer those questions.

“I am very much a futurist, and I believe that space exploration is a part of what humans need to be doing,” Johnson said. “It’s where we’re going to go as a species. We’re going to spread out and colonize the solar system one day. That’s far in advance from now, but we’re going to do that. The part of my job that I really get excited about is helping to make that happen.”

Johnson is well positioned to play an important role in NASA’s space initiatives. He manages the Science Programs and Projects Office at the Marshall Space Flight Center in Huntsville, Ala., overseeing a staff of 42 and an annual budget of $120 million. Over the course of 17 years with NASA, he has also worked on new concepts for in-space propulsion, including the use of tethers and solar sails.

Among the projects his office oversees is the Chandra X-ray telescope, an in-space observatory developed at Marshall that is a first cousin to the Hubble telescope project.

“The Chandra observatory is as big and complicated as Hubble, but it hasn’t gotten as much media attention because it looks at the universe in X-ray light and doesn’t produce the visible light photographs that Hubble did,” Johnson said. “But it certainly gets the attention of scientists.”

NASA’s announcement in December of plans to partner with other space agencies around the world, and perhaps with space businesses, to establish a self-sustaining settlement of astronauts at the south pole of the moon sometime around 2020 is the kind of news that excites Johnson. The proposal is seen as the first step in an ambitious plan to resume manned exploration of the solar system, including sending astronauts to Mars. No manned spacecraft has left earth orbit since 1972, when the last of the 17 Apollo missions went to the moon and back.

“A few years ago, President Bush, in the wake of the Columbia tragedy, announced that we were going to finish the space station, move beyond the space

shoot the moon

NASA physicist Les Johnson ’84 believes humans are destined to colonize the solar system
Johnson has been working toward those goals since his high school days in Ashland, Ky., when physics, chemistry, and mathematics were his favorite subjects. Before that, he shows up in a family photo as a five-year-old in pajamas, playing with space toys under the Christmas tree. At age 12, a devoted Star Trek and science fiction fan, he decided that physics would be his calling.

“I knew at a very early age that to do anything involving space exploration, you had to be a scientist, and a scientist in my mind meant physicist,” Johnson said.

Johnson credits his parents for helping him decide on Transylvania for his science studies. “I had really good parental influence that I should get a well rounded education, and not go off and just immerse myself totally in one subject,” he said. “That’s why I chose a liberal arts college.”

Transylvania gave Johnson the opportunity to take a variety of courses while pursuing a double major in physics and chemistry. “I don’t recall a course I didn’t like,” he said. “In particular, I remember Ideas and Cultures: East and West, a wonderful class where we learned about different religions and cultures around the world. I enjoyed a political science course with Don Dugi and an economics course from President Shearer.”

Transy also offered Johnson leadership opportunities that he credits with helping him advance in his profession. He was a member of Omicron Delta Kappa national leadership honorary, Science Honorary, Order of Omega national Greek honor society, and Student Government Association. He served as president of both his fraternity, Delta Sigma Phi, and the Interfraternity Council.

“Fraternity life is the training ground for how to get along in the business world,” Johnson said. “It’s where I learned about small group politics, how to get organized, and how to get decisions made. I view my fraternity experience at Transylvania as being a very positive learning experience, as well as a lot of fun.”

Johnson earned his master’s in physics from Vanderbilt University and briefly considered the Ph.D. program before deciding to begin his career as a research physicist at General Research Corporation in Huntsville. He worked on the Reagan administration’s Strategic Defense Initiative, a proposed space-based military defense system, all the while keeping an eye out for the opportunity to work at NASA.

Arrival at NASA

In 1990, he joined the Marshall Space Flight Center, where he has worked in a variety of positions. Marshall is NASA’s field center for propulsion, with about 90 percent of the work dedicated to engineering rocket propulsion and 10 percent to space science projects. Johnson began in the space science area, moved to propulsion, and is now back working in space science initiatives.

While working in propulsion, Johnson became intrigued with the potential of tethers to provide an alternative force to traditional rocket power. He became principal investigator for Pro-SEDS (Propulsive Small Expendable Deployer System) and eventually manager for the In-Space Propulsion Technology Project. Just recently, he was invited to be a co-investigator on a Japanese tether propulsion experiment that will use a new method of collecting electrical current from the ionosphere.

“We are trying on these projects, I got a reputation as being somebody who looked at things a little differently,” Johnson said.

Johnson’s creativity has earned him several honors, including the NASA Exceptional Achievement Medal in both 1999 and 2000 and the Professional of the Year award from the Huntsville Association of Technical Societies in 1998.

He also holds three patents, the most recent for a tether design that will maximize current collection performance while increasing its lifetime in the harsh space environment of low earth orbit. Previous patents are for a laser-triggered fiber optic neutron sensor and a combination solar sail and electrodynamic tether propulsion system.

Consultant to the stars

An interesting aside to his work came in the mid-1990s when he was asked to be a consultant to the producers of the feature film *Lost in Space*. Johnson lost one of his arguments about the physics involved in an explosion scene at the end of movie—the value of cinematic awe won out over hard science, Johnson said—but was pleased that the filmmakers followed his advice about space terminology and, especially, about his rationale for space exploration.

The British producer told Johnson that her country was puzzled by America’s emphasis on space exploration, saying many in England just didn’t see the point.

“I had a philosophical discussion with her and told her my view that this earth is a wonderful place to live and that to preserve it, we need to explore the solar system for resources so that we don’t have to use up all of earth’s resources and eventually foul our own nest,” Johnson said.

“In the movie, when they give the rationale for why Jupiter II is going to Alpha Centauri, they give my speech. That was the most gratifying part of the whole experience.”

Another diversion for Johnson is attending science fiction conventions, where he has met authors he admires, including Arthur C. Clark and Stephen Baxter, who mirror his optimistic outlook on life.

“I enjoy these gatherings where you have people who like to talk about a positive view of humanity’s future,” he said. “That really appeals to me. It’s the optimism we all need to have. At NASA, we’re trying to do really neat things in the future, and that’s something I like about my job.”

Johnson has never lost the enthusiasm for his work that began when he was a boy playing with space toys. He was reminded of that lifelong interest in space when his sister recently sent him that family photo of him as a five-year-old on Christmas morning, on which she wrote, “Some things never change.” And she was right, said Johnson. “In some ways, I’m still that kid under the Christmas tree.”

Johnson lives in Huntsville with his wife, Carol, their son, Carl, 14, and daughter, Leslie, ll.
Arthur Digby and Joy Leathers Digby ’46 are enjoying life at Town Village Arlington, a retirement community in Arlington, Tex. After 25 years as senior minister of First Christian Church in Arlington, Art served interim ministries in Nashville, Richardson, Tex., Wichita Falls, Tex., Lexington, and Louisville. Joy retired after 27 years as an elementary school teacher and was recognized as Teacher of the Year for her school and all of the Arlington elementary schools.

Tommie Hartman Houston, Eminence, Ky., enjoys spending time with her great-grandson, John Thomas Houston III, whose father, John T. Houston Jr. ’96, and grandparents John T. Houston ’71 and Cheryl Fisher Houston ’71 are all alums.

Wallace C. Rose, Lexington, and his wife, Ethel (Susie) Rose, celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary on August 27, 2006.

Annie Swords Alexander and David L. Alexander, Lexington, shared dinner in Lexington in October with Patsy Lewis Samples and her husband, Charles, Peggy Humbert Knowlton, and Joan Lewis Millard.

Robert K. Hatchett, Evansville, Ind., is retired but still traveling around the world, planting bulbs in his garden, and publishing another genealogy hardback book.

Stanley B. McWhorter, Dayton, Ohio, is continuing his research, studies, and writing in British-American folklore with an emphasis on authentic ballads. He teaches computer programming courses at the University of Dayton while continuing university studies and working on an autobiography and historical novel.

Lee H. Rose and Eleanor Lollis Rose ’61, Charlotte, N.C., began their third trip into Appalachian middle schools in October. Lee has spoken to over 4,000 students in a 27-county area urging them to stay in school.

C. Eugene Scruggs, Lakeland, Fla., has published a historical/biographical novel set during the Civil War titled Tramping with the Legion: A Carolina Rebel’s Story, which traces the engagements of Company K, Holcombe
Legion, South Carolina Volunteers. You can read more about this book at www.Trafford.com/06-1990.

George S. Tapp, Morehead, Ky., and his wife, Betty Ann, celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary in December 2006. Both are retired from Morehead State University.

Nancy Sue Thompson, Orlando, plans on moving to Waterman Village, a retirement community north of Orlando, in Mt. Dora, Fla., this spring.


Charles H. Barrett and his wife, Linda, live in Madison, Wis. Chuck works at American Girl, Inc., a 21-year-old company that markets a high-end line of dolls, and Linda trains their Border Terrier for competition in Wisconsin and Illinois.

E. Kathryn Shay, Columbia, Md., and her sister sold one of the family businesses this year, the Lewis Marr Corporation, which was started by their father in 1948. Kathy and her husband, Ed, vacationed in Myrtle Beach and Ocean City last year and spent lots of time at their cabin in Berkeley Springs, W.Va. Their vacation included a Phi Mu reunion with Sue Ann Breeze, Judy Westbrook, and Pam Richmond in Beaufort, N.C.

Richard E. H. Howells moved to the Charleston, S.C., area after living in Dayton, Ohio, for 36 years. He retired, bought a boat, and is enjoying beautiful skies and warm temperatures.

Glen S. Bagby, Lexington, was one of 12 members of Woodward, Hobson & Fulton LLP to be included in the 2007 edition of The Best Lawyers in America.

Mary H. Atwood, North East, Md., represented the Transylvania admissions office at a regional college fair held at Bohemia Manor High School in Chesapeake City, Md.

Elizabeth Hagerty Dyckes and her husband, Joel, have made Sarasota, Fla., their permanent home. She is enjoying retirement after 30 years of teaching first and second grades in Ohio.

William C. Prewitt, Charleston, S.C., was listed in the November 3, 2006, issue of Medical Economics magazine as one of the “150 Best Financial Advisors for Doctors.” Bill’s firm, Charleston Financial Advisors, LLC, was featured in a “Money Makeover” in the January 2007 issue of Money Magazine.

Lynne Swetnam Boone, Louisville, traveled the “family circuit” over the summer and visited Chicago in early fall. After returning, she developed educational presentations about the various women of the Clark (George Rogers, etc.) family using props and costumes.

Dale Ann Cole, Edgewater, Md., enjoys spending time with five grandchildren—three boys and two girls, ages 1-7. She is planning to retire from the federal government in June 2007 and is looking for the perfect retirement career.

Kenneth W. Kuehne, Millersville, Md., retired as a captain from the U.S. Navy after serving for 33 years. He now teaches fourth grade in an inner city Baltimore school.

Earle H. O’Donnell, Rockville, Md., has joined the global law firm of White & Case in its Washington, D.C., office.

Marsha Hart Jones, Dover, Ky., has enjoyed owning an antique shop in Old Washington, the historic district of Maysville, for almost eight years. Her Web site is www.keepsake-treasures.biz. Her husband, George, is chief finance officer at Maysville Community and Technical College and they have two sons, Mark, 26, and Ben, 23.

Margaret Hopkins-Oehler, Brighton, Mich., had dinner several months ago with her former roommate, Penni Lowery, whom she had not seen for over 30 years. Peg would love to hear from her classmates. Her e-mail address is phopkins@phiconsulting.com.

**WITHERS VOLUNTEERS IN MACEDONIA**

Anne Withers ’04 began a two-year Peace Corps assignment in Macedonia in December, working with the Economic Development Office of the Municipality of Novo Selo, a village near the border with Greece and Bulgaria.

Withers is helping the municipality develop the tourism potential of the region, which features two impressive waterfalls. She is assisting with grant applications and English translation while also looking at new projects for the community. Reducing a high unemployment rate is a major priority.

“Local governments such as Novo Selo’s only recently gained administrative powers from the central government with the dissolution of Yugoslavia,” said Withers. “Essentially, they are trying to figure out the process of governing. Many of their developmental strategies have the goal of eventual membership in the European Union by Macedonia.”

Peace Corps volunteers have been in Macedonia since 1996, assisting the citizens as the nation transitions to a market-based economy. There are currently 86 volunteers in the country.

In addition to her official duties, Withers is enjoying the opportunity to experience a culture new to her in many ways.

“I’ve seen Roman ruins, petted ostriches, learned a new language, tasted Macedonian delights like ajvar, musaka, sarma, and stuffed peppers, drunk rakia with the mayor of Sveti Nikole (where she completed pre-service training), and survived a frigid bathroom.” she said.

“Every time I think two years is a really long time, I realize I wouldn’t change anything about the last four months of my life.”

Withers, a double major in political science and studio art at Transy, completed a master’s degree in public policy at George Washington University in May 2006. Her long-range goal is to return to Washington, D.C., and work for the federal government.

In the meantime, her work in Macedonia dovetails nicely with one of her core values.

“My philosophy in life has always been to help people, whether it’s my next-door neighbor or someone an ocean away,” she said.
Separating an egg yolk from its white is the kind of everyday, low grade separation process most of us are acquainted with, but the complex and precise demands of chemical analysis, separation, and measurement at the molecular level is the world in which chemistry professor John G. Dorsey '73 has achieved international distinction.

Dorsey, the Katherine Blood Hoffman Professor of Chemistry at Florida State University, saw his career-long research efforts as an analytical chemist recognized in 2006 with the prestigious Award in Chromatography from the American Chemical Society. This honor is akin to a lifetime achievement award and certifies his position as a highly distinguished academician in the forefront of separations research.

"The award is generally regarded as the highest in my area, and I was just blown away when I got it," Dorsey said. "The president of the ACS called me one day totally out of the blue. I was virtually speechless."

Although the details of Dorsey’s area of scholarly research and expertise are best understood by his fellow scientists, the application of its techniques is often part of the daily news, our visit to the doctor, or the world of entertainment.

“You may read in the news about finding pesticides in food or benzene in soft drinks,” Dorsey said. “If you want to measure the concentration of those chemicals, or if you want to know the concentration of a pharmaceutical product in your bloodstream or your glucose level, how do you do that? That’s what an analytical chemist does. Our specialty is measurement science.”

And though analytical techniques have been greatly refined over the years, those kinds of detection and measurement exercises can still be daunting tasks for scientists.

“If I want to know if a particular pesticide is present in a fish, I’ve got literally thousands of other chemical compounds in there and I want to measure just one of them that’s going to be in a very, very low concentration,” Dorsey said.

Ink is a particularly good example, Dorsey said, of something containing secrets lurking in its chemical makeup that most of us are totally unaware of, but which are unlocked with the keys of chemical analysis.

“Ink manufacturers deliberately put marker compounds in there so that we can take an ink sample and tell you when it was made,” Dorsey said. “Chromatography (the most commonly used procedure for chemical detection and measurement) and analytical chemistry are also used very heavily in forensic science. You hear the terminology on a lot of the CSI shows.”

After graduating from Transylvania, Dorsey worked in industry for two years before beginning his graduate work at the University of Cincinnati. There, he benefited from the good advice of a professor he still keeps in contact with.

“I went to graduate school with the intent of getting a master’s degree and going back into industry,” Dorsey said. “A very wise faculty member told me to check the Ph.D. box on the application form. He said, ‘Along the way, if you want a master’s, you can do that, but I’m going to bet you that in two years you’ll look around at the other students and realize you’re just as smart as they are and that a Ph.D. would be a lot better.’ And that’s exactly what happened.”

After completing his Ph.D. in 1979, Dorsey interviewed for both industry and academic openings before discovering an excellent opportunity on the faculty of the University of Florida.

“That was one of the plum jobs out there that year for my area of chemistry,” Dorsey said. “The timing was perfect. There was a window when my specialty was in very high demand, and there were only a few candidates.”

Dorsey was lured back to Cincinnati for five years when he was offered the position vacated by the professor who mentored him during his Ph.D. studies. In 1994, Florida State came calling with an offer to chair its chemistry department consisting of 40 faculty members.

“Being the chair was interesting, and I’m glad I did it, but I’m glad it’s over,” Dorsey said. “To do that, you give up a lot of what you went into academics for. I was teaching less and had less time for research.”

Now that he is a full-time teacher and researcher again, Dorsey can focus more on one of his most fulfilling roles, that of mentoring Ph.D. students. He’s seen 52 so far go out into the world of industry, academia, and government work, with great success. “They’re like my children,” he said.

Dorsey also has his name on a chemical equation—the Foley-Dorsey Equation—that is recognized as the standard for calculating the resolving power of a separation step. It’s found in textbooks and computer software and is used by chromatographers around the world. He formulated it early in his career in collaboration with one of his Ph.D. students.

Even though he has accepted, and thrived in, the world of large research university with all its demands for acquiring grant money and conducting research, Dorsey still values the smaller scale and personal nature of the education he received at Transylvania.

“I very much like the small college atmosphere,” he said. “The personal interaction with the faculty made a big difference to me. I have very fond memories of Transylvania.”

—WILLIAM A. BOWDEN
Anne S. Pike has moved to the North Georgia mountains, and is living in the beautiful Big Canoe community, enjoying the deer, wildlife, and native plants.

Sheila Green Carson, Louisville, is listed in the 2005 and 2006 Who’s Who Among America’s Teachers and is vice president of the Louisville Urban League Guild. She enjoys spending time with her granddaughter, La’Kori Amaya Carson.

Mary LaMaster Roberts, New Castle, Ky., a Title I reading teacher for the Henry County public school system, was quoted in the December 11 Newsweek, page 14, on reading education. She was featured in an article in The Courier-Journal (Louisville) a few weeks earlier.

Rena Gardner Wiseman, Lexington, was one of 34 members of Stoll Keenon Ogden PLLC to be selected for recognition in the 2007 edition of The Best Lawyers in America.

Irene “Renie” Bray Fuller, Leola, Pa., and her husband, Michael, celebrated 20 years (1986-2006) serving the Lancaster County, Pa., community as chiropractors. They have three sons, Ben, 19, Joe, 17, and Jake, 12.

Charles W. Ellis, Lynchburg, Va., underwent a kidney and liver transplant in June 2006 at the University of Virginia after having been on disability for two years. He hopes to return to work soon.

Sarah Wells “Sally” Meitzler, Brimfield, Mass., is looking forward to her 30th Transylvania reunion in April. Her daughter, Liz, will graduate from Transy in May.

The Transylvania Alumni Louisville Chapter hosted an alumni day at the races at Churchill Downs in November and sponsored the Transylvania Alumni Louisville Classic race, won by Time’s Mistress, trained by D. Wayne Lucas. Shown after the race with the well known trainer are, from left, Matt Gillies, Leigh Burberry-Gillies ’96, Diana Brown ’95, Greg Schultz, Mary Beth Dennis ’03, Sara Veeneman ’02, Jane Brooks ’90, Lucas, Emily Veeneman ’96, and Brian Buchanan.

Nancy Rose Osborne, Frankfort, Ky., was promoted to committee staff administrator of the Capital Projects and Board Oversight Committee of the Legislative Research Commission in September. Nancy has worked in all three branches of state government and two branches of federal government in her career. The majority of her public service (23 years) has been with the Legislative Research Commission.


C. David Morrison, Bridgeport, W.Va., represented Transylvania at the inauguration of Pamela Balch as president of West Virginia Wesleyan College on October 20, 2006.

Thomas L. “Timm” Steinemann, Shaker Heights, Ohio, was presented the Secretariat Award in November by the American Academy of Ophthalmology for significant contributions to the academy and the ophthalmology profession.

Elizabeth A. “Lib” Wilson, Nicholasville, Ky., was promoted to regional sales coordinator with Ahlac in May 2006.

John E. Oberst, Monmouth, Ore., was elected mayor of Monmouth in the fall 2006 elections.

Karen Miller Blumenschein, Lexington, was honored with the National Community Pharmacists Association Foundation’s 2006 Faculty Liaison Recognition Award in October in Las Vegas. Karen is an associate professor in the department of pharmacy practice and science at the University of Kentucky College of Pharmacy.

Kevin L. Reid, Rochester, Minn., represented Transylvania at the inauguration of David Robert Anderson as president of St. Olaf College in Northfield, Minn., on October 6, 2006.

P. Gene Vance, Lexington, represented Transylvania at the inauguration of Kenneth P. Ruscio as president of Washington and Lee University on October 21, 2006.

Billy Van Pelt, Lexington, has been promoted to director of the purchase of development rights program for the Lexington-Fayette Urban County Government. He ran the Columbus, Ohio, Marathon on October 15, 2006, finishing in 4 hours and 13 minutes.

Jennifer L. Alvey lives in Franklin, Tenn., with her husband, Moises Soto Jr. and son Nicholas, 3. She is a legal publisher at M. Lee Smith Publishers and heads up the product groups for in-house counsel, workers’ comp, and Canada. She is pleased to be back in the South after a 15-year stint in the Washington, D.C., area.

Judith Collins McCormick, Lexington, is assistant professor of English at Campbellsville University.

David C. Hoffman transferred from Cambridge, Mass., to Palo Alto, Calif., in January 2006 and is starting his third year of practice with Finnegan, Henderson, Farabow, Garrett & Dunner. Anyone visiting the Bay Area is invited to e-mail him at dave@asncomputers.com.

Christopher J. Mullins, Louisville, was surprised to discover that a clip from the Jeopardy! episode on which he appeared was included in the recent movie The Fog.

John T. Alexander and Holly Creamer Alexander live in Glasgow, Ky., with their sons, Tipton, 10, Sims, 7, and Depp,

Holly Creamer
Alums stretch bluegrass music boundaries

What do you get when you cross the instruments and tight arrangements of a traditional bluegrass band with a musical sensibility that draws from artists like the Beatles, Bob Dylan, and Townes Van Zant, plus an eclectic mix of other genres such as rockabilly and swing?

Joel Serdenis and Travis Young, both from the class of 1995, decided to find out. The result is the Blind Corn Liquor Pickers, a non-traditional bluegrass band featuring original songs composed by Serdenis and Young that have an infectious, almost rock-like drive and energy.

Whatever the exact sound of the band is—and reviewers have bent their vocabularies out of shape trying to define this musical fusion—the Blind Corn Liquor Pickers are serving it up with gusto in live performances and on their first two CDs.

Mare Wakefield of Performing Songwriter called the group’s sound “...rowdy, party-time bluegrass-rock...” while Tony Kiss, entertainment editor of the Asheville Citizen-Times, labeled it “...fast-picking, get-out-of-their-way, now-you-over-bluegrass” and Joe Ross of Bluegrass Now referred to their “...raw energy and brash attitude.” The terms slamgrass, punkabilly, and bluegrass postmodernism have also been applied.

Serdenis and Young, neither of whom grew up with an awareness of traditional bluegrass, provide most of the songwriting and arranging for the band while also playing (mandolin and banjo, respectively) and singing.

It was a fascination with the sound produced by the standard bluegrass instruments—fiddle, banjo, mandolin, guitar, and upright bass—that originally drew the two of them, along with the other band members, to the genre.

“We all loved the tones those instruments produce together,” said Serdenis. “But we didn’t want to pigeonhole ourselves by copying the feeling or the lyrics of Bill Monroe or other great bluegrass acts from the past.”

The result is songs that reference a rock musician, an imaginary flood of bourbon whiskey, and the city life that makes the singer a “Bluegrass wannabe.” Even songs that reference old standbys like trains and farm life have a layer of imagery that takes them beyond the bluegrass standards.

For their second album, 2005’s Anywhere Else?, the group was fortunate to have the services of eight-time Grammy-winning producer and engineer Bil VornDick, who has guided and influenced such notables as Allison Krauss, Doc Watson, Bela Fleck, and Rhonda Vincent, among others. The CD represents a distinct evolution from their first self-titled album.

“Anywhere Else? is all original songs except for the Talking Heads cover,” said Young. “It shows us going away from being a bluegrass cover band to being a fully formed original songwriting team.”

For 2007, the band will play about 50 gigs, including festivals, clubs, and private performances. They have appeared in 11 states, from Wisconsin to Georgia, and been featured on international radio programs.

And even though a full-time career in music is always a possibility, day jobs are still in order for Young, a Japanese interpreter with a Frankfort firm that supplies Toyota Motor Manufacturing USA in Georgetown, and Serdenis, a computer science major, who works at Lexmark.

2. John is an attorney with Alexander Law Office and Holly teaches preschool at the Montessori Academy of Glasgow. They would love to hear from their friends at halexan@glasgow-ky.com.

Ann Hickerson Jay was re-elected to a second term as city commissioner for the city of Barbourmeade in Jefferson County, Ky. She lives in Barbourmeade with her husband, Christopher L. Jay ’88, and their three sons.

Rebecca L. Groh, Lexington, is the director of development at Lexington Theological Seminary.

Robert R. Tatum, Louisville, is assistant professor of medicine for the division of Gastroenterology and Hepatology at the University of Louisville.


Jason D. Morgan, La Grange, Ky., joined The Bank–Oldham County as vice president for commercial loans.

William T. “Bill” Kissick, Richmond, Ky., and his wife, Marian, celebrated their second wedding anniversary in November 2006. Their son, Billy, is almost one year old and already looking forward to Transy.

Gwendolyn Green Carter, Ocean Springs, Miss., began work on her doctorate in education in January and will be taking classes in higher education leadership at Nova Southeastern University.

Keri Shepherd Gregory lives in Scott County, Ky., with her husband, Doug, and their sons, Taylor, 6, and Tyler, 1. She would love to
Deborah J. Stigall, Lexington, is executive director of the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet Office of Special Programs for the Kentucky state government. Prior to this appointment, she served as an adjunct assistant professor in organizational communication at the University of Wisconsin in Milwaukee.

Stacy N. Taylor, Cambridge, Mass., has been promoted to director of development at Physicians for Human Rights, a Boston-based human rights organization.

Rebecca Yowler Butler, Rockford, Ill., received her master of divinity degree from Lexington Theological Seminary. She was ordained in January 2007 as a minister in the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) and will begin serving as director of Christian education for Court Street United Methodist Church in Rockford. Kevin D. Butler ’96 is the executive vice president of Alexander Group, a computer, information, and telephone group in Louisville.

Jason A. Cormier, Elizabethtown, Ky., was recognized as the American Red Cross Hardin-LaRue Service Center’s Outstanding Health & Safety Volunteer for 2006.

Jaime Groom Davis, Macon, Ga., is a pediatrician and assistant professor of pediatrics at the Medical Center of Central Georgia. E-mail her at jaimegdavis@cox.net.

Stephen C. Monge, New York, is the men’s tennis coach at Queens College. He spent the last two years as assistant tennis coach at Bucknell University and, in the summer, serves as an assistant program director for Camp Micah in Bridgeton, Me. His e-mail address is stephen.monge@qc.cuny.edu.

Georgeann Stamper Brown, Cincinnati, was awarded her Ph.D. in clinical-community psychology at the University of South Carolina in August 2006 and will complete her doctoral internship at the Cincinnati VA hospital this spring.

David L. Greenburg and his wife, Rebecca Ward, live in Silver Spring, Md. David is a general internal medicine fellow at Walter Reed Army Medical Center as well as an assistant professor of medicine at the Uniformed Services University in Bethesda.

Tresine Tatum Logsdon, Lexington, teaches biology at Henry Clay High School in Lexington.

W. Scott McConnell and Alexandra Silver McConnell ’00 live in Lexington. Scott is a specialty sales associate for Sanofi-Aventis Pharmaceuticals.

Stacy N. Sargent, Boiling Springs, N.C., is a chaplain intern at Carolinas Medical Center in Charlotte. In May, she will graduate from Gardner-Webb University’s School of Divinity with a master of divinity degree in pastoral care and counseling before pursuing chaplain residency.

Kristina Feiblunger Mudd, Murfreesboro, Tenn., is working with the Tennessee Titans of the National Football League in Nashville as the merchandising manager at LP Field.

Tara Nicholas Reck, Louisville, is chaplain for a new palliative care team at the University of Louisville Hospital.

Erin Smallwood Wathen, Glendale, Ariz., is pastor of Foothills Christian Church in Phoenix.

Jay D. Beckner, Louisville, hopes to compete in the 2010 Winter Olympics as a member of the United States skeleton team. You can read about his efforts at http://beckner2010.blogspot.com. In skeleton, the oldest competitive sledding sport, competitors aim to drive a one-person sled in a prone, head-first position down an ice track in the fastest time. At most, only three men and two women will make the U.S. team, and there are only about 150 full-fledged skeleton athletes in the country.

Nicholas M. Holland and Sarah Stewart Holland ’03 have been married for almost four years. Nicholas graduated from Duke Law School in 2004 and Sarah is set to graduate from American University in May. They live happily in Washington, D.C., with their dog Maggie.

Amanda Pennington Marion, Lexington, received her master’s degree in education from the University of Kentucky in May 2006 and is certified to teach secondary biology.

Catherine C. Prewitt has moved to Denver, with the Hyatt Hotel Corporation.

Lydia C. Reynolds, Frankfort, Ky., is the general accountant in the finance department of Actaris US Gas, Inc., in Owenton. She would love to hear from Transy friends at lydiac.reynolds@gmail.com.

Daniel J. Shepherd, Montclair, N.J., was awarded a master’s degree in philosophy from Fordham University in August 2006.

Stephanie A. Burdick-Shepherd was awarded a master of education degree in philosophy for children from Montclair State University, also in August.

J. Curtis McCubbin, Louisville, graduated from the University of Kentucky Law School in May and has passed the Kentucky Bar Exam. He is senior compliance analyst with J.B. Hilliard, W.L. Lyons, Inc.

Amy E. Musterman, Lexington, received her master’s degree in general psychology and her specialist degree in school psychology from Eastern Kentucky University. She is currently a school psychologist for Fayette County schools.

Catherine E. Vannatter, Lexington, received her master’s degree in anthropology and is working toward a second degree (an MAT) and teaching English at Frankfort High School.

Greta D. Hicks completed coursework for the master of arts in musicology degree from the University of Kentucky in December 2005 and expects her degree upon completion of her thesis. Greta finished her Kentucky Teacher Internship Program in the Floyd County Schools in December 2006 and teaches choir, band, music appreciation, and dance at Prestonsburg High School.

Jonathan D. Clark, Bardstown, Ky., represented the Transylvania admissions office at a college fair in Birmingham, Ala., in September.

W. Scott McConnell and Alexandra Silver McConnell ’00 live in Lexington. Scott is a specialty sales associate for Sanofi-Aventis Pharmaceuticals.

Stacy N. Sargent, Boiling Springs, N.C., is a chaplain intern at Carolinas Medical Center in Charlotte. In May, she will graduate from Gardner-Webb University’s School of Divinity with a master of divinity degree in pastoral care and counseling before pursuing chaplain residency.

Kristina Feiblunger Mudd, Murfreesboro, Tenn., is working with the Tennessee Titans of the National Football League in Nashville as the merchandising manager at LP Field.

Tara Nicholas Reck, Louisville, is chaplain for a new palliative care team at the University of Louisville Hospital.

Erin Smallwood Wathen, Glendale, Ariz., is pastor of Foothills Christian Church in Phoenix.

Jay D. Beckner, Louisville, hopes to compete in the 2010 Winter Olympics as a member of the United States skeleton team. You can read about his efforts at http://beckner2010.blogspot.com. In skeleton, the oldest competitive sledding sport, competitors aim to drive a one-person sled in a prone, head-first position down an ice track in the fastest time. At most, only three men and two women will make the U.S. team, and there are only about 150 full-fledged skeleton athletes in the country.

Nicholas M. Holland and Sarah Stewart Holland ’03 have been married for almost four years. Nicholas graduated from Duke Law School in 2004 and Sarah is set to graduate from American University in May. They live happily in Washington, D.C., with their dog Maggie.

Amanda Pennington Marion, Lexington, received her master’s degree in education from the University of Kentucky in May 2006 and is certified to teach secondary biology.

Catherine C. Prewitt has moved to Denver, with the Hyatt Hotel Corporation.

Lydia C. Reynolds, Frankfort, Ky., is the general accountant in the finance department of Actaris US Gas, Inc., in Owenton. She would love to hear from Transy friends at lydiac.reynolds@gmail.com.

Daniel J. Shepherd, Montclair, N.J., was awarded a master’s degree in philosophy from Fordham University in August 2006.

Stephanie A. Burdick-Shepherd was awarded a master of education degree in philosophy for children from Montclair State University, also in August.

J. Curtis McCubbin, Louisville, graduated from the University of Kentucky Law School in May and has passed the Kentucky Bar Exam. He is senior compliance analyst with J.B. Hilliard, W.L. Lyons, Inc.

Amy E. Musterman, Lexington, received her master’s degree in general psychology and her specialist degree in school psychology from Eastern Kentucky University. She is currently a school psychologist for Fayette County schools.

Catherine E. Vannatter, Lexington, received her master’s degree in anthropology and is working toward a second degree (an MAT) and teaching English at Frankfort High School.

Greta D. Hicks completed coursework for the master of arts in musicology degree from the University of Kentucky in December 2005 and expects her degree upon completion of her thesis. Greta finished her Kentucky Teacher Internship Program in the Floyd County Schools in December 2006 and teaches choir, band, music appreciation, and dance at Prestonsburg High School.

Jonathan D. Clark, Bardstown, Ky., represented the Transylvania admissions office at a college fair in Birmingham, Ala., in September.

MARRIAGES

Terri Linn Furrie ’79 and Michael Russell Krause, September 9, 2006

Amber Nacole Smith ’93 and Marc Miller, November 18, 2006
By the time she was four years old, Mandy McMillian ‘97 knew she wanted to act, but she kept the dream to herself. “It’s kind of like saying you want to be a princess; many people don’t take you seriously when you say you want to be an actress,” she said. “But by the time I was in the sixth grade, I knew it firmly and never really let it go.”

McMillian’s determination led the Independence, Ky., native to Los Angeles, where she has lived since graduating from Transylvania, carving out a career as a working actress. Her work has progressed from appearances, and then starring roles, in commercials to parts in popular television series and movies, but her favorite acting job so far was the TYLENOL Cold commercial that enabled her to join the Screen Actor’s Guild, a necessity for working actors in L.A. “I couldn’t be a serious actor without it. I screamed and cried and jumped up and down with my roommate while my agent was on the phone, just shaking with excitement,” she said.

After getting her start in commercials for companies such as Office Depot and Buick, as well as TYLENOL Cold, McMillian began getting roles in television series and a TV movie. She has appeared on the NBC series Medical Investigation and Las Vegas, the NBC soap Passions, the CBS series The Unit, and the CW network’s Gilmore Girls. She also played a supporting role in the Hallmark Hall of Fame Movie of the Week Our House with Doris Roberts.

McMillian’s decision to move to L.A. was a natural one. Her friend Stacie Walker ‘97 was planning to attend graduate school in California, and the two traveled together. “We moved out without knowing a soul. We just packed up whatever would fit in our cars and drove cross-country. We found an apartment at the end of the first day we looked and started from scratch. We had one folding chair, a microwave, a phone, and a TV that sat on the floor. We had nothing, but we were very happy.”

When it came to life in L.A., McMillian wasn’t sure what to expect. “I came here thinking, ‘Okay, I can act, where do I go?’ It literally took me years to figure it out and I’m still working on it,” she said. “It’s a very complicated business. There are acting classes galore, but there’s really not a place to learn ‘the business of the business.’ I’m getting the hang of it and playing the game better now.”

Although she did some acting prior to college, McMillian credits her Transy drama major for providing the background she needed to pursue her goals. The intimate nature of the drama program allowed her to be involved in almost every theatrical production that took place while she was a student.

“I have friends who went to larger schools with giant theater departments, but they got lost in the shuffle,” she said. “I had lots of acting under my belt by the time I graduated, and Dr. (Tim) Soulis emphasized the educational aspect of the program. Realizing that you can always learn from a situation is helpful in any aspect of life.”

McMillian’s recollections of performing in Carrick Theater (she graduated before the Lucille C. Little Theater was built) are emotional. Her last performance at Transy was in a starring role as Golde in Fiddler on the Roof in Haggin Auditorium, and one of McMillian’s fondest memories. “Connecting to a sold-out audience in that gigantic auditorium was amazing,” she said. “That connection is everything. It’s why actors do what we do. I get misty just thinking about it.”

These days, McMillian’s main career goal is simple—she wants to continue to work. “Specifically, I’d love to get on a sitcom,” she said. “Ideally that would be my regular gig, with the occasional movie during hiatus, but when it comes down to it, I want to be a paid, working actor. That’s it.”

In addition to sitcoms, McMillian would love to do a horror flick. “I had the privilege of working on a short film with a talented up-and-comer in the horror world, Paul Solet. I had an absolute blast on that shoot and loved all the fake gore. So now I’m itching to be a zombie or get eaten by a zombie or something fabulously disgusting like that.”

McMillian cautioned, however, that a career in acting isn’t easy. “This is a tough business and so many people get discouraged and give up,” she said. “My advice to an aspiring actor would be, if there’s something else that will make you just as happy, do that. If not, pursue this career with everything you’ve got and stay positive. There will always be roles you’re too fat for, too thin for, too ugly for, too pretty for. You can’t let that stuff get to you. Your confidence has to come from you—not cockiness, confidence.”

McMillian has no plans to leave L.A. “The fact is, the business is here,” she said. “This is where the jobs are. I’d love for this to take me around the world, though. And, someday I want to perform on Broadway. I don’t know how it will happen yet, but it will happen.”

—LORI-LYN HURLEY
WEDDINGS

Mary Janette Vaughn ‘99 and Garet Wayne Horn Jr., June 23, 2006

Patrick R. “Russ” Kelley ’00 and Elizabeth Dozier, August 26, 2006

Tonya Erin Jernigan ’02 and Matthew Atwood Stinnett ’02, October 28, 2006

Cameron Robert Culbertson ’03 and Serena Merry Britt ’04, August 12, 2006

Kelly Lee MacDonald ’03 and Daniel Michael Cheney ’03, July 15, 2006

Michael Paul Wilson ’03 and Melissa Nicole Holding, June 19, 2006

Allison Hunter Ray ’05 and Gary Bailey, May 20, 2006

Lee H. Davis ’73 and Dolly V. Davis, twins, Evaline Marion Davis and Wade Fielding Davis, April 18, 2006

Tracy R. McCubbin ’85 and Don Tillman, a son, Bodie Gray Tillman, September 24, 2006

Robin J. Bowen ’90 and Daniel Bucca, a son, Joseph Lorenzo Bucca, November 9, 2006

Lonnie R. Laney ’90 and Anita Laney, a

Mary Kathryn Pendley ’98 and John Robert Kasiborski were married on August 5, 2006. Transy alums in attendance were, from left: Molly Franklin Lipham ’98, Carolyn Morris Pugh ’96, Mary Kay Pendley Kasiborski ’98, Jen Davis Keefe ’98, Ann Jonczy Pendley ’01; back row: Sabrina Kimbrough Rumford ’95, Rachelle Williams ’98, Alison Moore ’98, McRae Stephenson Pennington ’97, Laura Roberts Jones ’00, Whitney Cassity-Caywood ’97, and Lisa Reynolds Edge ’97.

Leslie Ann Ghiaudry ’01 and Jeffrey Walter Stone ’00 were married on September 9, 2006. Transylvania soccer players and coaches in attendance were, front row, from left: Benji Blevins ’99, John O’Hara ’90, Jim Halfhill ’01, Lyndi Campbell Lowman ’02, E. B. Lowman ’02, Danielle Engelkamp ’03, Tracy Kamberer ’01, Jackie Glass ’01; second row: Mike Donnelly ’89, Todd Bretz ’88, Jeff Averitt ’90, Blanton Coates ’00, Jeff Stone ’00, Leslie Ghiaudry Stone ’01, Kristen Byrd ’02, Meghan Kane ’01, Jean Anne Jensen ’02, Sarah Focke ’00, Sarah Kelley ’00; back row: Kevin Calhoun ’88, Todd Wetzel ’00, Parviz Zartoshty ’85, Kris Zander ’94, Kevin Garrison ’01, Mike Bernardi ’02, Stephen Miller ’01, Daryoush Zartoshty ’01, Matt Frank ’02, Ryan Trimble ’98, Josh Bentley ’99, Ty Smith ’02, Amanda Pemberton Christensen ’01.

Stephanie Ann Eads ’01 and Michael Booth were married May 2, 2006.

John Mark Sallee ’05 and Katherine McCandless Jacobs ’06 were married August 19, 2006.

Chad Allen Sterrett ’04 and Alicia Ann Still ’05 were married May 20, 2006.

Leslie Ann Ghabaudy ’01 and Jeffrey Walter Stone ’00 were married on September 9, 2006. Transy alums in attendance were, front row, from left: Benji Blevins ’99, John O’Hara ’90, Jim Halfhill ’01, Lyndi Campbell Lowman ’02, E. B. Lowman ’02, Danielle Engelkamp ’03, Tracy Kamberer ’01, Jackie Glass ’01; second row: Mike Donnelly ’89, Todd Bretz ’88, Jeff Averitt ’90, Blanton Coates ’00, Jeff Stone ’00, Leslie Ghiaudry Stone ’01, Kristen Byrd ’02, Meghan Kane ’01, Jean Anne Jensen ’02, Sarah Focke ’00, Sarah Kelley ’00; back row: Kevin Calhoun ’88, Todd Wetzel ’00, Parviz Zartoshty ’85, Kris Zander ’94, Kevin Garrison ’01, Mike Bernardi ’02, Stephen Miller ’01, Daryoush Zartoshty ’01, Matt Frank ’02, Ryan Trimble ’98, Josh Bentley ’99, Ty Smith ’02, Amanda Pemberton Christensen ’01.

Tera Brianna Griffith ’03 and Jonathan Aaron Baldwin were married July 9, 2005. Transy alums in attendance were, from left: Amy Musterman ’03, Erica McGlone ’05, Andrea Perry ’01, Tera Griffith Baldwin ’03, Erin Moran Sutton ’01, Kristal Swim ’03, Erica Martin Snowden ’03, and Lindsay McWilliams Workman ’02. Transy friends in attendance, but not pictured, were David Verville ’02 and Wayne Maeser ’03.

Mary Kathryn Pendley ’98 and John Robert Kasiborski were married on August 5, 2006. Transy alums in attendance were, front row, from left: Molly Franklin Lipham ’98, Carolyn Morris Pugh ’96, Mary Kay Pendley Kasiborski ’98, Jen Davis Keefe ’98, Ann Jonczy Pendley ’01; back row: Sabrina Kimbrough Rumford ’95, Rachelle Williams ’98, Alison Moore ’98, McRae Stephenson Pennington ’97, Laura Roberts Jones ’00, Whitney Cassity-Caywood ’97, and Lisa Reynolds Edge ’97.

BIRTHS

Lee H. Davis ’73 and Dolly V. Davis, twins, Evaline Marion Davis and Wade Fielding Davis, April 18, 2006

Tracy R. McCubbin ’85 and Don Tillman, a son, Bodie Gray Tillman, September 24, 2006

Robin J. Bowen ’90 and Daniel Bucca, a son, Joseph Lorenzo Bucca, November 9, 2006

Lonnie R. Laney ’90 and Anita Laney, a
Become part of the community—
Transy’s alumni on-line community

Transylvania is offering a new tool that can help you stay connected personally and professionally with fellow alumni. The alumni on-line community is a secure, password-protected site that allows you to post news and photos, search the alumni directory, and update your directory profile. You can view a calendar of alumni events, as well as register for events, see a list of others who are planning to attend, and view photos from past events. The site also offers a free lifetime e-mail address.

Since it was launched in September 2006, more than 1,000 alumni have registered, including at least one person in every class from 1952-2006.

“The site administrators tell us that about 10 percent of alumni typically register in the first year, and we surpassed that in the first three months,” said Natasa Pajic ’96, director of alumni programs. “That indicates that Transy alumni are far more connected than alumni of many other colleges. Our alumni have been looking forward to this for several years.”

As of late January, alumni had conducted over 5,000 searches for classmates and people living in their area or in the same profession. Nearly 50 class notes had been posted, and they had been viewed over 2,000 times. More than 200 “personal pals” groups were set up, and 650 pals had connected with each other.

Mary Ellen Foley ’79 used the on-line community to let fellow alumni know about the unexpected death of her mother, Margaret Sweeney “Boots” Foley ’43, in November. “She was very active as a Transy alum and a big supporter of Pioneer basketball right up until her death,” said Foley. “Her obituary in the newspaper unfortunately didn’t include the award she won for service to Transy, but she was Transy through and through, so the on-line community gave me a way to tell fellow Transylvanians she was gone. I was pleased to have the chance to do that.”

Foley, who lives in England, said she is looking forward to being able to keep up with classmates in the U.S. via the on-line community.

Greg Darnell ’02, Chicago, said the site will become more useful as more alumni register. “Many of us use electronic communication during our daily lives, so this site can aid in extending our abilities to contact one another.”

To register, go to www.transy.edu, click on For Alumni, Alumni On-line Community, and First-time Users. Enter your last name and the school ID number, which is available by e-mailing alumni@transy.edu or calling (800) 487-2679. Once your profile is completed, you can post it for other registered users to view, or hide any or all of the information.

OBITUARIES

Only alumni survivors are listed.

Lasca Lemon Bradley ’28, Frankfort, Ky., died October 15, 2006. She was the oldest living graduate of Hamilton College/Transylvania University, where she was a member of Chi Delta Phi honorary English fraternity and Eta Upsilon Gamma social sorority. She served as assistant publisher and editor of the Journal Enterprise in Providence, Ky., and wrote the award-winning column “My Word.” In 1962 she was named Providence’s Outstanding Citizen in Community Service for her efforts in establishing the Providence library. In Providence, she was a member of the Professional Women’s Club, Mother’s Club, Twentieth Century Club, and Book Club. At the time of her death, she was a member of First United Methodist Church in Frankfort.

R. Smiser West ’35, Midway, Ky., died December 20, 2006. He retired from
dentistry in 1959, and was a World War II U. S. Air Force veteran.

in Broadway Christian Church, her church home for 76 years. She was a strong supporter of Transylvania Pioneer basketball and a long time member of the Transylvania Women’s Club. She received a Certificate of Appreciation in 1998 and Distinguished Service Award at alumni weekend in 2003. She served on the board of directors of the Christian Church Homes of Kentucky’s Danville campus for children, and was instrumental in organizing Henry Clay High School reunion activities.

Robert W. Heiss ’49, Bethesda, Md., died April 24, 2006. He was a member of Phi Kappa Tau fraternity.

Robert E. Saunders ’51, Lexington, died February 24, 2006. He served in the U.S. Army Signal Corps in the South Pacific during World War II, and retired from the U.S. Army Reserves after 25 years as a major. He worked for South Central Bell for 35 years, was a member of Walnut Hill Church, and served as a deacon at Second Presbyterian Church. He was also active in the Muscular Dystrophy Association and Meals on Wheels.

Fred C. McCoun ’54, Mesa, Ariz., died October 31, 2006.

Joe E. Maffett ’56, Dayton, Ohio, husband of Clara Davis Maffett ’56, died October 21, 2006. He earned his master of science degree from Xavier University in Cincinnati. He served in the U.S. Army and had a career as a police officer with the city of Fairborn, retiring in 1991 after 25 years of service. He was a longtime member of Bethlehem Lutheran Church in Fairborn.

Virginia Meyer Vaughn ’56, Mt. Pleasant, Texas, died October 22, 2006. She was a member of Delta Zeta sorority. She earned a master of science degree in math from Texas Women’s University and was a math teacher in the Denton Independent School District.

Earl C. Jacoby ’58, Huntsville, Ala., died October 10, 2006. He earned his master of administrative sciences degree from the University of Alabama in Huntsville. He worked in finance at the University of Alabama in Huntsville and then for John Cockerham, Computer Systems Technology and Science Applications International Corp. He was a Sunday school teacher and deacon at his church, an officer in the Kiwanis Club, and fraternity chapter adviser for Phi Kappa Tau. In 1992, he was inducted into the UAH Hall of Honor.

Mary Margaret Hutchings ’59, Dearborn, Mich., sister of Keith T. Hutchings ’42, died October 10, 2006. At Transylvania, she was a member of Delta Delta Delta sorority and sang in the choir. She received her master’s degree from the University of Kentucky, and taught at Trenton High School in Trenton, Mich., for 25 years. She was a member of the First United Methodist Church in Birmingham, Mich., and a member of the Eastern Star. In 1997 she established the Hutchings-Tandy Memorial Scholarship fund at Transylvania in memory of her parents and grandparents.

Betty Auter Gray ’61, Louisville, died September 2, 2006. She earned her master’s degree in special education from the University of Louisville and was a retired teacher for the Jefferson County Public Schools.

W. Winfield McChord Jr. ’62, Lexington, died December 8, 2006. At Transylvania, he was a member of Phi Kappa Tau, and was Mr. Pioneer in 1962. In 2002, Transy honored him with the Distinguished Achievement Award. He earned his master’s degree at Gallaudet University in Washington, D.C., and pursued doctoral studies at the University of Cincinnati and the University of Virginia. He served as a classroom teacher and later as principal at the Virginia School for the Deaf and the Blind in Staunton, then returned to Kentucky in 1969 as principal of the Kentucky School for the Deaf. In 1971, he became KSD’s superintendent, and went on to serve for 21 years as headmaster of the American School for the Deaf in West Hartford, Conn. He was the first masters skills certificate interpreter for the deaf in America in 1973; president of the Conference of Educational Administrators Serving the Deaf from 1988-90; visiting professor at Hauzhong Normal University in Wuhan, Mainland China in 1990; and president of the National Association of Private Special Education Centers from 2000-03. He interpreted for U.S. Vice President Al Gore and U.S. Presidents John F. Kennedy and Bill Clinton, and was generally recognized as a leader of deaf education in the United States.

B. Michael Padon ’67, Louisville, died November 20, 2006. After completing graduate work at the University of Kentucky, he served in the U.S. Army National Guard 100th Division at Fort Knox, and was appointed as Kentucky’s deputy commissioner for economic development for Governors Julian Carroll and John Y. Brown. He received the honorary title of Kentucky Colonel, and was a member of the Lions Club and Crescent Hill Baptist Church.

Robert C. Swope ’75, Lexington, died September 23, 2006. At Swope Company, he was operations manager and then president from 1998-2002.

Nathaniel R. Irvin ’76, Charleston, S.C., died August 23, 2006. He was a member of Pi Kappa Alpha fraternity, and a member of St. Michael’s Episcopal Church.

Elizabeth Firestone Houghton ’78, Washington, D.C., died November 25, 2006. She was a member of Chi Omega sorority. She was founder and president of Events USA, an events company specializing in large scale, major corporate, retail, and land development promotions in the Washington Metro area. She was also the owner and designer of Miracle of Lights, the largest drive-thru holiday light show of its kind in the country, and Mountain Lake Lodge Resort in Harpers Ferry, W. Va. She was a past member of the board of directors and senior advisory council of the Georgetown Business and Professional Association. She was also a board member of the Georgetown Waterfront Arts Commission, the Hospice of D.C., and Fashion Group International, and past chairman of the Gift of Light, providing Georgetown with lighted holiday decorations.

Isaac “Ike” Ruchman, Lexington, died January 12, 2007. A retired virologist who worked on the polio vaccine, Ruchman taught at the University of Kentucky and Transylvania. He had a wide range of interests and supported many programs at Transylvania. He provided study abroad scholarships from 1992-2003, and in 1987 he funded academic achievement awards in English, foreign language, history, mathematics, music, physics, political science, and biology to recognize outstanding students. He was also instrumental in renovating the Transylvania music program’s harpsichord. He was a former president of the Ohio branch of the American Society of Microbiologists, a fellow of the American Academy of Sciences, a diplomat of the American Board of Microbiology, and a member of the American Association of Immunologists and the American Society of Tropical Medicine.
"I couldn’t believe it was true when they first told me all the advantages of gift annuities."

LESTER MCALLISTER ’41
Claremont, California

“The U.S. government wanted to encourage philanthropy, so they made very generous concessions for gift annuities,” said Lester McAllister ’41. “One of the things that appealed to me is that in the first year, approximately half of your gift is treated as a charitable contribution and is tax free. That’s such an advantage.”

McAllister, an ordained Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) minister and professor emeritus of modern church history at Christian Theological Seminary in Indianapolis, set up his first gift annuity 20 years ago. Today, at age 88, he has a number of gift annuities with Transylvania and other institutions that have been important to him.

“Gift annuities are a very attractive way for people like me who are single or have small families to prearrange their estates,” said McAllister. “I’ve tried to set things up so that it will be a smooth transition at my death, and my estate will be distributed to the institutions that I’ve loved and cherished through all these years.”

The annuity return is guaranteed for life, so McAllister can count on the quarterly payments to supplement his pension, Social Security, and other income.

In addition to his gift annuities, McAllister said he “wouldn’t miss” giving to the Transylvania Annual Fund. “You need to pay for the current support of students and for operating funds, then whatever you give in addition to that is extra.”

Planning your estate?

By transferring a minimum of $5,000 to Transylvania, you can receive a one-time income tax deduction for a portion of the gift, plus quarterly payments at a guaranteed rate for your lifetime. When you pass away, the remaining principal goes to Transylvania, so you’ll continue supporting bright, deserving students.

For more information, contact the development office at (800) 487-2679 or visit www.transy.edu and click on Giving to Transy.
Alpha Omicron Pi sorority held its annual Dance of the Decades in January in the Campus Center gym. This year’s 1950s-themed dance benefited cancer research and the Adrienne Dantin Memorial Scholarship fund. First-year students who danced the night away included, top left, Kathryn Welch and Renato Petocchi; bottom left, Cameron Perry, Janelle Johnson, and Ashley Lewars; and, right, Pam Adkins and Kris Olson. Photos by Joseph Rey Au