Assessing the Quality of a Master’s College Education

We are often asked the question, "what’s so good about The Master’s College?" Our most frequent response relates to our commitment to provide a distinctively Christian, quality education for the students. The natural follow-up question is, "how can you know that it’s either a distinctively Christian or a quality education?" That’s a complex question to answer since there are so many aspects to what it means to be "distinctively Christian," and dimensions to determining the quality of an educational program.

The purpose of this article is to present a sampling of some of the institutional assessment data that we have collected this past year to help us develop a clearer picture of how well the college is providing a distinctively Christian, quality educational experience to our students.

Indicators of Academic Quality

One of the most direct methods for assessing the quality of the college’s academic program relates to the ability of our graduating seniors to obtain employment that relates to their major field of study here at TMC. The following is a sampling of how 1998 graduating seniors have fared to date in their job hunting activities:

- In the Teacher Education department, twenty students completed the requirements for a California teaching credential (16 elementary and 4 secondary) this spring semester. Eighteen of these students have already been hired for full time teaching positions. Of the two remaining graduates, one is under consideration for a teaching position and the other is getting married and moving to New York state.

- Of the 26 graduates from the Business Administration department this past spring, nineteen of them are already placed in positions in their field, three will be going on to graduate school and only four are still in the process of finding permanent employment.

- All but one of the science and mathematics graduates are placed in positions in the field or have been accepted to graduate school for the coming fall semester. Both of the two science students who applied to dental school have been admitted to The Ohio State University Dental School.

- We had fifteen students graduate from our History and Political Studies programs this past May. Eleven of them will be going on to graduate school, three into law school, six into teacher credential programs, and two into seminar programs.

Another measure of academic quality is the performance level of the senior students on nationally administered examinations in their major field of study. Our Business Administration major was the first department at the college to require their graduating seniors to take a national examination in their major as a part of their graduation requirements.

Over the past four years, the college's Business Administration graduates scored in the 90th, 91st, 97th and 84th percentile on the Educational Testing Service major field examination in Business.

Another important factor to consider when assessing academic quality is the opinion of the students toward their educational experience. The college has had the students participate in several national surveys to gain insight into how our students rate their experience at TMC compared to how students at Protestant and private colleges in general rate their college experiences. One such student opinion poll is the College Student...
editor's notes:

THE FEAR OF GOD IS THE BEGINNING OF WISDOM

Graduation is always a unique blend of sadness and celebration. This year was no exception as students who had completed years of intense study walked across the platform of Grace Community Church to receive their diploma to the enthusiastic applause of family, faculty and friends. Following the formal ceremony, as everyone spilled from the auditorium into the courtyard, the joyous celebration continued and all around were expressions of jubilation and pride.

There were also moments of poignancy as friends embraced for a final time. Lives that had intertwined powerfully for a time were in many cases headed for different parts of the world. The observation that "parting is such sweet sorrow" could have easily been the description of our graduation. Four years is a long time, and given the particularly fertile soil at TMC, relationships can grow quite deep during that time. This is true not only for students, but for faculty and staff as well. The investment made in the lives of our students by faculty and staff is intense and intentional. The impact of that investment is often quite significant.

In a few months a new group of students will begin the critical journey from adolescence and adulthood that has come to characterize the college experience in our culture. The kind of person who will emerge at the other end of that journey will to a significant degree, be shaped by the people with whom they will live, study, work, play, and pray. If you are a parent that is in fact of which you must be acutely aware.

For the four years that comprise the typical college experience key individuals are going to help write some of the most significant chapters in the life history of the young person in whom you as parents and friends have invested so heavily for seventeen or eighteen years. It was perhaps at a similar transitional point in family history that the author of Proverbs was moved to write a series of letters to his son. In that correspondence the author frequently describes young people as naïve. What I think he meant by the use of that term was his awareness that most young people, his son among them, are in a position to make crucial life decisions, yet lack a fully developed capacity for doing so. The grid necessary for effective decision making is still under construction. As a consequence, their level of vulnerability is still quite high. Someone, the author recognizes, other than dad and mom are going to have an enormous influence on helping them complete the construction of that grid.

He, therefore, encourages his son to remember the teaching of his parents, he implores him to listen intently to the cry of wisdom and to ignore the seductive whisper of the world. He reminds his son that wise decisions are more likely to be made when one is immersed in a community where reverential awe of a holy, awesome God leads to lives of faith and obedience. TMC is just such a community. We are impelled by God's grace to pursue His mission for us, with passion, and a continuously increasing level of excellence. Mediocritiy and apathy are not part of our cultural mindset. Our desire is to equip young people with the skills, knowledge, wisdom and character that will enable them to make a profound, lasting, and positive impact on their world. For that to happen we believe young people must be systematically exposed to an environment that:

• is authentic in its Christian faith and practice
• provides for academic excellence
• adheres to the authority and sufficiency of Scripture
• encourages adoration of our Lord Jesus Christ
• provides a positive, thoroughly biblical climate, where accountability to the Lord, His Word and His Church are practiced
• encourages the acquisition of wisdom through personal discipline and life long learning
• creates an awareness of the world and its need for the gospel

When a young person attends TMC he or she will be exposed to those distinctive not only in the classroom, but through intense interaction with people whose lives of excellence reflect those distinctive. The results speak for themselves. And as long as our Lord tarries His coming we are fully committed to continue pursue of our mission with the same level of passion and excellence that has characterized TMC since its inception seventy years ago.

Continue to pray for us. Great challenges and opportunities lie ahead. Our desire is to pursue those opportunities and meet those challenges with a wisdom that honors our Lord and accomplishes His purposes.
A third sampling of CSS data, shown in Figure 3, indicates the percent of graduating seniors who felt significantly stronger in various areas of student involvement in academic advising. A well-documented effect of college experiences is that it significantly strengthens individuals' religious faith and practice. This has been shown to be true even for students attending religiously affiliated colleges. In light of this widely accepted principle, it is extremely encouraging to find that the overwhelming majority of students attending religiously affiliated colleges felt that their time at TMC had served to greatly strengthen their religious beliefs and convictions.

This past fall semester TMC participated along with a number of colleges in the Coalition of Christian Colleges and Universities (CCCU) in administering the USA Group Noel-Levitte Student Satisfaction Inventory (SSI) to its students. This national survey uses a one to seven scale to poll student satisfaction with many aspects of their campus experience. The results of this survey were startling for TMC. Our students' satisfaction ratings for their experience at TMC were significantly higher than the private college and the public college national averages on 78 of the 79 SSI items. Figure 4 presents a summary of the SSI data for the eleven major categories into which the 78 items can be grouped. The SSI data from the eleven major categories shows that TMC students are more satisfied than the national averages on the majority of the items.
Protestant and private colleges. The data would also indicate these differences in time use tend to increase for TMC students from their freshman to senior year.

Figure 8: Important Life Goals

Any committed believer knows that the Christian life is characterized by holding strongly to some values and priorities while placing other goals in a position of secondary importance. Figure 8 presents a graph showing the percent of students who felt various “life objectives” were important or very important. This CSS data provides an indication of the influence of The Master’s College experience on graduating senior student values and life.

Conclusion

Much more data has been collected about TMC student performance and attitudes than is possible to share in this article. Overall, the students find TMC to be a very supportive learning environment with a very strong sense of community on campus and with many student leadership opportunities. The students are very satisfied with the programs offered and the facilities that are available. For the most part, they even like the food! When graduating seniors were asked if they would re-enroll at TMC if they had made the decision to make over again, 90.1% of the students responded “definitely” or “probably.” This compared with national average response rates of 78% from students at Protestant and private colleges.

The first portion of the College’s mission statement reads as follows:

The Master’s College, a Christian liberal arts college, exists to advance the Kingdom of the Lord Jesus Christ by equipping men and women for excellence in service to Him in strategic fields of ministry and vocation . . .

While these words are not recited on a daily basis, they are discussed frequently around The Master’s College campus, especially in the context of any policy making or strategic planning activities. The administration, faculty and staff of the college view the mission of “equipping men and women as a stewardship given to us by God to serve the churches within His body. The purpose of collecting the types of assessment data that have been cited in this article is to help the institution systematically evaluate (through a variety of approaches) the extent to which the various goals embodied in the mission statement are being accomplished. The data gives us insight into which programs and policies seem to be effective, as well as which should be modified and/or discontinued. Without question, there are areas of the college’s program which still need to be revised, expanded and better supported. However, the data gives us encouragement that TMC is making a difference in the lives of young people as we attempt to prepare them to serve Christ in strategic fields of ministry and vocation.”

Dr. Hughes received his B.A. in Math, with a minor in Chemistry, his teaching credential, and Ph.D. in Instructional Psychology from Brigham Young University.

SANTA CLARITA INTERNATIONAL FAMILY FILM FESTIVAL

This February saw the 4th anniversary of The Santa Clarita International Family Film Festival (SCIFF), a premier festival created in 1993. This year’s success was a benchmark for the annual event. The festival is unique in the fact that it is the only one that celebrates family films and is the only festival of its kind in the world. Professor John Seat from The Master’s College: Department of Communication was asked by the executive director, Chris Shoomaker, of SCIFF if he would direct this year’s festival. Although he has directed films, he had never directed an event like this, but was honored to accept their invitation. Part of the curriculum of the Department of Communication is teaching film, and attending the film festival provided a major element of instruction. As a very prestigious and well-known festival in the entertainment industry, SCIFF provides The Master’s College students a unique and exciting opportunity to gain first hand knowledge of various aspects of film making.

The festival took place over a week where independent films were shown at local theatres, being attended by local movie buffs as well as distributors. The week saw the screening of over 300 films, 33 of which were world premiers of independent and studio productions. Between four and five thousand people were able to attend the festival, and 400 people came the night of the final awards ceremony alone. During that ceremony, much like the Academy Awards, the best films in each category received gold statuettes. Connie Stevens and Lindsay Wagner both made personal appearances, and both of their films were nominated. The Santa Clarita International Family Film Festival demands high standards for its movies. Excessive violence, foul language, sex/nudity, and profane or crude themes were all prohibited for films entering the festival. Professor Seat comments that this is "an ideal festival for The Master’s College to be involved with as it comes so close to our own principles." Professor Seat confirms that he would not want his students to be involved with any other or film festival.

During the festival, approximately 36 students from TMC were involved in various jobs and positions. Students of all majors performed many creative and technical tasks to get the festival underway, such as guest relations, film scheduling, and script writing for the awards ceremony. One of the key aspects of the festival was the opportunity for students to make connections with people in the industry. Students commented that they learned more through this hands-on experience than they possibly could have learned through lectures and textbooks alone. Thrilled at this opportunity, the students look forward to participating next year.

As a gesture of appreciation to the college, Mitch Matovich, the SCIFF chairman of the board donated some much needed computer software which will be implemented into our classrooms.

As a result of the festival, Professor Seat will be more involved in the coming years. He has been elected to the Board of Directors for the 1999 festival, a group made up of some prominent figures in the film industry. The Master’s College will be eager, as well, to participate in the festival due to take place February 19-26, 1999.

Exciting Internship Opportunities for Communication Majors

The Communication Department has an excellent internship program for the students who desire to gain information, education and connections. The Master’s College intends to prepare its students for their field, and to give them as many life experiences as possible. Currently, four Master’s students are involved in internships with local companies.

Byron Patterson was accepted for a special internship with CNN Showbiz. Part of Patterson’s responsibilities include assisting with daily live shows and field production. Recently he had the opportunity to assist with the production of a segment at the House of Blues for Larry King Live. His piece aired the last week of March.

Jeff Cole interned for "JAG," a program on CBS, doing so as a production assistant in an occasional extra.

John Ambro is currently working for KHLA 99.5 FM. His duties include technical directing and board operation. Upon graduation, he hopes to work with a Christian radio station or be involved with some type of radio ministry.

Chips Russ is the assistant to the copy editor for the Daily Signal.

Carl Barnes is currently working for KAHP, working in the radio postproduction department. His duties include assisting with all aspects of postproduction. Carl plans to become a full time editor or work in some facet with video production.

Wake Robinson ('97) is now working as an assistant camera operator with various film productions.

Christie Williams ('97) is working for Sound Design, which specializes in postproduction sound effects for feature films.

All of the students in the internship program have been offered jobs by their respective companies.
Bob and Juanita Kimber ’83 of Holland, MI celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary in 1999. Bob retired from active pastoral ministry in 1996. They are active at Ventura Baptist Church near Holland where they have been charter members since 1955. They have five children and eleven grandchildren.

Andy and Sandi Brennan ’66 are raising cattle on a farm in Houlton, ME. They have 4 grown children. Sandi is a Registered Psychiatric Nurse at a home health agency. They attend a little country Independent Baptist Church where Sandi is the organist.

Jeff and Carol Tompkins (mid ’60s) live in Houston, TX. Jeff is a lawyer and Carol works at Bethel Independent Presbyterian Church as the Women’s Ministries secretary. They have three boys.

Rev. Bill Smallman ’67 has worked for Baptist Mid-Missions since 1980 and is currently their Vice-President overseeing candidate recruiting and orientation, communications, and video production. Bill and his wife Doris have two grown children and two grandchildren. They live in Medina, OH. Bill also teaches occasional modular classes for Baptist Bible College and various seminars.

Doug Perkins ’76 is a sales representative for a Greenhouse Import Business and lives in Grants Pass, OR. He and his wife June (Mordhorst ’78) have five children ages 2-17.

Ellen (Niemi) De La Rosa ’81 is a homemaker in Greeley, CO where she is busy raising four children: Rodney, Bryce, Heath and Derick.

Irene (Partain) Rothfuss ’82 is busy running a Family Home Day Care business. She is an Awana leader and involved in doing pre-marital counseling at Bible Baptist Church in Oak View, CA. She has three children: Danielle 10, Kart 8, and Sean 4.

April (Martin ’83) Worthen lives in Burlington, WA with her husband Gary and two boys Mikey,10 and Nathan. 4. April is a licensed financial analyst and Gary works in construction.

Lynn Cripe ’88 has completed her Ph.D. and is working for the US Agency for International Development in Washington, D.C. She resides in Alexandria, VA.

Dave Darrow ’86 works for the Idaho Department of Labor as a Job Service Consultant. He lives in

Mary Beth (Provost ’92) Stonehouse and her husband Gordon now live on a beautiful peninsula in the Lake Minnetonka area of Minnesota. She is the better of the two.

Gordon is the senior pastor of Calvary Memorial Church where Mary Beth enjoys helping in several church ministries. Mary Beth’s father, Dr. Robert Provost, was the Executive Vice President for TMC and is now the President of Slavic Gospel Mission. Brother Robb Provost ’87 continues his mission work in Albania, and brother Todd ’89 is the Youth Pastor at Grace Church of Dupage in Aurora, Illinois.

Rick ’92 and Jennifer (Camp) Saaka have recently moved to Reno, NV. Rick is the new Advertising Systems Coordinator for the Reno Gazette-Journal. Jenni is the Executive Director of "Hannah's Prayer", an international Christian infertility, pregnancy loss and early infant death support organization.

Janell (Jones) McCaughan ’83 and her husband have settled in Riverside, CA where Mark is a former student: Kang Yan who is now studying at Princeton University. Julie is going back to school to obtain a Music Therapy certification. She lives in Pittsburgh, PA.

Dr. and Mrs. (Jennifer Brown) Brian Drake ’88 are living in Akron, OH with their four children. Brian is completing an Obstetrics and Gynecology Residency at Akron General Hospital.

Kevin and Nancy Holler ’88 live in Redding, CA with their two children Katrina 3, and Brianna 2 months. Kevin is teaching sixth grade at Grace Baptist School.

Katherine is Executive Administrative Assistant for VP of Operations and VP of Marketing for a telecommunications company.

Mike Smith ’83 was named Western Baseball League Pitcher of the Year in 1997 for the Mission Viejo Vigilantes and is a former St. Louis Cardinal farmhand. He is finishing his second season as a college baseball pitching coach. He and his wife Ellen have a baby girl, Ashley, and live in Lake Habela, CA.

Jacob Merrill ’97 has been accepted at University of North Texas where he will pursue his studies in Jazz and saxophone performance.

Post Falls, ID with his wife Laurie and their three children Bethany 13, Talienna 4, and Manessa 1.

Julie Dolan ’88 was teaching in China. She is pictured with a

Have you been promoted, received an award, changed jobs, moved or married in the last year? The events of your life are interesting to other alumni. You can help by sending three or four photos along with a short description of what you’re up to. Send your submission to the BMCA office, TMC, 21726 Via Lago, Santa Clarita, CA 91351 or e-mail messages to alumni@masters.edu. I will post additional alumni information on the Masters’ website, www.masters.edu.

Name:
Address:
City:
State:
Zip:
What year did you begin?
TMU/LABC:
Yr. Grad:
News Item:

The Integrity of a Christian College Education

Mark Tatlock, VP for Student Affairs

In his famous treatise, The Idea of a University, John Henry Newman states to open the mind, to correct it, to refine it, to enable it to know and to digest, master, and use in knowledge, to give it power over its own faculties, application, flexibility, method, critical exactness, sagacity, resource, address, eloquent expression, is an object . . . as intelligible as the cultivation of moral virtue.

Newman’s point is that true education must be structured so as to address the totality of man, thus echoing our Lord’s command to "Love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul, and all your mind" (Matthew 22:37).

This tri-fold statement implies in salvation every aspect of a man is reconciled to God. Therefore, it is essential that the heart, the soul, and the mind must each be engaged in a process that leads to maturation. If this is the case then educational institutions which claim to be Christian lack integrity when they fail to design their curriculum so as to facilitate the maturation of the total individual toward Godward living. In fact, the distinct nature of Christian higher education emerges from its recognition that learning is no mere intellectual exercise but as John Milton in, On Education, suggests, "The end then of learning is . . . to know God aright, and out of that knowledge to love Him, to imitate Him, to be like Him." Leland Ryken sheds further light on this idea in his book, Windows of the Pursuit of The New Testament. He writes, "The goal of education . . . focuses on a person’s relationship to God. Properly conducted, a person’s education makes him or her a better Christian . . . becoming like God can mean coming to share God’s love of truth and beauty as well as His love of one another."

In a very real sense, then, we should come to an understanding of Christian higher education as a Spiritual discipline. An institution claiming to offer higher education that is truly Christian in nature must be more than just a place to earn a degree. It must be a place that assists students in developing the necessary tools that will allow them to discover God in all areas, professional and personal.

As Jim Wilhoit correctly observes, "In the Bible, Christian maturity is associated with four basic concepts: spiritual autonomy, spiritual wholeness, spiritual stability, and wise use of knowledge." Our goal in Christian higher education must then be to develop curriculum that addresses each of these areas.

Arthur Holmes, writing under the title, The Idea of a Christian College: Marks of an Educated Person, helps us to identify the critical components of Christian Higher Education in the following manner:

- Spiritual Virtue: an unsaved commitment to God and His purposes...a world in confusion, a self-righteous, and a self-giving devotion...
- Moral Virtue: qualities of character like love and fairness, the courage of convictions, a thorough-going integrity, and a commitment to justice and love in every area of life.
- Intellectual Virtue: breadth of understanding, analytical and critical skills, not just verbal skills and powers of communication but grace and eloquence therein as well, a sense of history, an imagination that frees us to work at both old and New problems in fresh ways, a wisdom that gets down to basic principles.
- Responsible Action Virtue: conscientiousness, helpfulness, a servant not a servile manner, decisiveness, self-discipline, persistence, the ability to correct one’s course and start again, the courage of being human, and community to be an effective agent of needful and helpful change.

The current distinction between character and leadership we own an understanding of culture make it the all that our colleges to engage in education of the whole person. The problems we see are not all of us can be directly attributed to the failure of higher education to understand this important fact. This failure often part of much secular and even Christian education does, however, provide a wonderful opportunity for schools such as The Master’s College, but only if we are willing to undertake the challenge in a thoughtful and biblical manner.

In his insight work, Needed: A Theology of Christian Leadership for Christian Colleges and Universities, Daniel P. Warner, writes, "What has brought us to this leadership vacuum in North America?" He answers, "Among the many constructive reasons for this would be the failure of a past generation of leaders to mentor equally competent successors, the failure with specialists rather than leaders who can see and act on the broader picture, contemporary skepticism towards authority of any kind, the rise of a generation with different situational values, critical rather than analytical thinking and reporting in the media, the difficulty and complexity of exercising leadership in a shared power world and the loss of a universal vision.

Page has accurately described the value system of those who are in positions of authority today. Is it any wonder then, that employers today are looking for college graduates who in their lives and careers demonstrate character? The vacuum left by a generation of ethical relativists must be filled. As a result, students from Christian colleges, who possess integrity, will find the marketplace much less competitive.

If Christian higher education is to pursue its mission with integrity then it must develop programs both in the individual and in the curriculum that will be able to develop and assess the competencies of students in the areas of virtue and character, what Page suggests to be absolutely fundamental for true leadership. So how is TMC responding to this significant challenge? Candidly, we believe we are doing a very creditable job. As indicated in the recent inventories completed by our students, we have been encouraged at their ability to discern the integrity of our institution in offering them programs and services which meet these goals. Many of our students rated their experience as members of this dynamic community extremely high. Indicators such as the community reputation of the college, personal contact by both faculty and staff, individual attention given by the institution demonstrate students’ interest in personal character development.

High marks awarded to co-curricular components support the idea that these environments and programs are deemed important components of their education. Students indicated, for example, that the residential experience was critical to their educational goals. They ranked living in the residence halls, the concern of the residence staff, the new student orientation program, and disciplinary practices extremely high. In fact, it is important to note that each of these items represent the intention of the college to use these opportunities to shape the character of students. The positive response to these items communicates to the administration that students value those co-curricular venues which are based on sound biblical principles and call them to demonstrate integrity in their own Christian walk.

Church ministry, student service, missions and outreach are also important vehicles for educating students’ hearts. With such a dramatic interest in participating in these opportunities, students are experiencing the education of the complete person. Learning to love God with heart, mind, and soul is clearly understood as central to the educational mission of The Master’s College.

We have given tremendous energy and thought into the kinds of character competencies we want to see in our students. Our programs are thus designed to help develop those qualities in our students. The following is a list of the competencies that we have identified so far:

- Church relations is a committed member of a church and maintains a good testimony
- Knows how to submit to church authorities
- Understands the vision of the church and supports an approved ministry in the church

Interpersonal Relationships
- Applies biblical principles to relationships
- Manages well interpersonal conflicts
- Maintains good family relationships
- Looks for relationships with others who are like self
- Has experience in community-based living
- Maintains a good attitude when criticized
- Knows how to relate to intimate terms
- Knows how to listen to others and respond appropriately

Biblical Knowledge
- Is convinced that the Bible is the Word of God
- Applies biblical message to own daily life
- Knows the biblical basis of mission
- Has the habit of memorizing
- Understands the Bible contains personal and human problems
- Knows inductive Bible study methods
- Knows how to teach the Bible using various methods

Leadership
- Is sensitive to the voice of God
- Knows how to work with a team
- Knows how to delegate responsibility
- Encourages, motivates and translates vision
- Has experience as leader
- Knows own limitations
- Serves with intention to benefit others
- Shows flexibility

Discipleship
- Has been discipled
- Lives a life worthy of imitation
- Has a life worthy of being imitated
- Transmits life as well as knowledge
- Shows love for disciple
- Knows methods for discipleship
- Chooses disciples who in turn disciple others
- Is a mentor

Evangelism
- Preaches a strong spiritual life
- Knows the meaning
- Demonstrates a passion for souls
- Knows how to communicate effectively
- Knows how to explain the ransom
- Knows how to respond to problems and objections
- Practices personal evangelism

(integrity continued on page 7)
Educating the whole student. This work has led to the following mission statement: for our department:

It is the intent of the Student Affairs department at The Master's College to facilitate programs and relationships which foster spiritual formation in the lives of each student. Recognizing its historical role within the university, Student Affairs must support the institution's design to wholeheartedly educate the student. The Student Affairs department practices an educational philosophy which recognizes the biblical values of unity, fellowship, exhortation, restoration, and sanctification. Utilizing venues considered informal or non-formal, its staff attempts to complement those ideas fostered within a Christian academic setting. The design of its programs must be intentional, enabling students to master the competencies of Christian character. Recognizing that wisdom is the practical application of knowledge, Student Affairs must facilitate the application of biblical truth to the context of daily living, confronting the dichotomy between sacred and secular. Therefore, Student Affairs plays a necessary and complementary role within the collegiate community. Student Affairs must participate in a manner appropriate to the goals of other college departments. By working together, an example of a collegiate community will provide the needed model for today's student.

The Student Affairs department has selected as its motto this year, "Educating Hearts." This statement is based on Matthew 22:37, which is a response by Christ to the question, "What is the greatest commandment?" Christ's response is, "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind" provides Christian Higher Education with a succinct and effective mission statement. Recognizing the primary responsibility of the faculty to foster intellectual rigor with an understanding of academics as a spiritual discipline, the student life department sees its primary responsibility to complement the efforts of the faculty to foster correct heart attitudes and resulting character. When both aspects exist, an effective partnership is in place to contribute to the development of the complete student. When either aspect is overemphasized morally weak intellects or cognitively weak activities are created. Either result severely compromises the character of the Church. As The Master's College continues to mature in its understanding of the historic and biblical community of Christian higher education, it remains uniquely postured for Kingdom impact.

Together

The word was made for Donald Saunders and Buddy Stride.

Together they grew up in Lincoln, Nebraska, high school classmates bound by a conservative Baptist faith and a determination to spread God's Word. Together they went to seminary (The Master's Seminary) in California, then last summer headed to Philadelphia to find a congregation to lead, together. At Bethany Baptist Church in Fox Chase, Stride became pastor and Saunders assistant pastor. Together they lived in a small stone house on Dallas Road in Willow Grove. Stride's wife, and their four children took the upstairs; Saunders and his wife, the basement. Together they dreamed of someday training Baptist ministers in France, a place both loved.

Together they died last Friday night, when the car in which they were riding collided with another vehicle. Two homes were struck.

And together they were laid yesterday in identical bronze coffins topped by identical bouquets and set end to end in front of the pulpits of their church.

Buddy, 26, blonde, with one blue eye and one brown eye, was on the left. To the right was Don, 18 days older, an almost brotherly match despite his dark hair. Between them, symbolizing their friendship, were orange carnations made to resemble a basketball. It had been their game.

They were eulogized by friends, and by their wives:Lois Stride, 28 (graduate from The Master's College) and Diere Saunders, 25 as two of character, integrity and faith, whose shared passion was to touch people with God's message.

"They were very different in some respects. Each had his own personality. But they were like two sides of a coin. You don't think of one without the other," said Cary Green, 28, of Los Angeles, a friend of both.

Buddy was methodical. Don was perpetual motion. Don loved spicy food, especially Chinese. Buddy loved bland, and wouldn't set foot in a Chinese restaurant. Buddy was very much a student, apolitcal over any grade lower than an A. Don didn't take his classes seriously until his later college years.

Don was more interested in sports and probably more gifted athletically. But he got Buddy hooked on basketball—so much so that on Valentine's Day, six days before they died, Buddy's family gave him a basketball.

"Religion attracted them to each other and kept them together in the beginning. It spurred each other on in their studies and helped each other to grow," said Lois Stride.

"I don't know if anyone could be more close friends than they," said Dixie Saunders. "They had a relationship unlike any I've seen. They knew they were different and had differences of opinion, but they took the time to sit down and work on them."

After the funeral, the two men were finally separated forever. Buddy Stride was buried in nearby Lawnview Cemetery in Rockledge; Don Saunders will be buried in Nebraska.

Buddy's wife said she knew he wanted to stay where he had been so happy. "I wanted him here with people he shepherded," she said. "It might seem weird want them to lay side by side. But their souls are in heaven. Their bodies are immaterial." Both women said they felt it was best they two died together.

We are grateful He took them together and they translated to glory," said Lois Stride. "As much as we'd like to have them back, it was utterly fitting and proper and very good of God to take them together."

Buddy Stride graduated from The Master's College in 1993 "sum cum laude." He went on to The Master's Seminary until Spring 1997.

Excerpts from Philadelphia Daily News by Larry McCurry, written on February 27, 1998.
**August**

- 3-6: Men's Basketball Camps
- 3-6: Baseball Camp
- 3-7: Resident Director Training
- 10-14: Men's Soccer Camp
- 10-14: Resident Assistant Training
- 16-21: WOW Staff Training & Retreat
- 18-19: Faculty retreat
- 22-28: WOW Begins (orientation for new students)

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
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<tr>
<td>13-14</td>
<td>Tip Off Tournament @ Masters</td>
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<tr>
<td>23-28</td>
<td>NAIA National Tournament</td>
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**December**

- 1-5: Christmas Concert
- 11: Last day of class
- 19-Jan. 10: Christmas break

All extensions can be reached by calling 305-259-3540.

**September**

- 23: Day of Prayer

**October**

- 7-11: Missions Conference
- 22-25: College View Weekend
- 30-31: Opera Scenes

**November**

- 1: Opera Scenes

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**News Release:**

**Dr. and Mrs. Richard Harris Join the Staff of the Association of Christian Schools International. Euro-Asia**

In October of this year, Richard Harris, TMC professor of Education and Chairman, Department of Education, and his wife June will move to a new assignment in Budapest, Hungary. After nine years as Chairman of the Department of Education at Master’s College in Santa Chria, California, Richard will become Associate Director for International Education with the Association of Christian Schools, International in the region of Euro-Asia. He will be responsible for providing professional development and other ACS services to international Christian schools and schools for missionary kids (MIKs) in Europe and Central Asia.

Dr. Harris has a professional background in both public and Christian school teaching and administration. He has included schools for missionary kids in several regions of the world. As a regular participant at recent conferences for teacher and administrator schools for missionary kids, Dr. Harris has an understanding of the needs specific to oversees teachers and the professional development concerns of the Christian educators serving in those schools.

As a time when Dr. and Mrs. Harris cold have settled into a comfortable lifestyle as retiree’s, they have make themselves available for continued service in Christian education ministry. The Harris’s have a deep commitment to serving Christ in obedience to His command to “go and make disciples - teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you."

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**Olympics, Presidential elections and beyond...**

Much of what you saw when watching the Olympics was Diane’s handwriting. Diane is a student at the Master’s College, works for Logic Computer Systems, which specializes in taking raw data from elections, polls, athletic events and uses the data to compute scores or time. The data is transferred into the graphics that we all see on TV during the Olympics or national elections. She worked at the Olympic games in Atlanta, during the presidential elections and again at the Winter Olympics in Nagano, Japan. She helped set up the equipment for the games and was able to come in on the ground floor in writing the program they used. Diane is already scheduled to work at the next Olympic games in Sydney, Australia in the year 2000. She will graduate from Master’s with a double major in Math and Music.

Diane was offered a full-time job but turned it down to come back to school.

"I don’t want programming to be my career goal," she says. "I want programming to finance what I want to do with music. I want to make orchestrated accompaniment for solo pianists."

Diane would like to pursue a profession that combines her computer skills and her love for music. She would eventually like to be able to put the entire hymnal on CD-ROM so that churches without a lot of musical talent can have access to hymn accompaniment tracks. Both her dad and brother are pastors, and coming from a small church herself, Diane has a real passion to aid the church in the area of music. She would like to spend her life using the skills the Lord has given her for His glory and to benefit His church.
Science Update

The fifth annual George Franklin Howe Creation Science Symposium, sponsored by the Department of Biological and Physical Science, was held Saturday, February 21 in Room G312 in Room G312. The symposium featured several keynote speakers on the theme of "Why a Christian Should Not Believe in Evolution," to approximately five hundred individuals. The symposium was attended by many others, due to poor weather conditions that day. The symposium was coordinated by Dr. Martha McManus, director of the department.

Templeton awardee Professor Brian Mooney's grant for a course proposal submitted in 1997-98 Templeton Science-Religion Course Program will support the offering of a course at TMC. The John Templeton Foundation supports courses that deal with the dialogue of religion and science. Mooney's course will examine the relationship between science and religion. It will look at current issues in what constitutes justification of scientific and religious beliefs. The emphasis will be on higher learning skills to have students think more critically on issues common to both disciplines.

New Faculty

Dr. Ron Anderson will be joining our Biological Sciences department this fall. Dr. Anderson has a Ph.D. from Baylor College of Medicine in Biochemistry, and is currently teaching at both the graduate and undergraduate level at Lamar University.

Dr. Steven Boyd will be joining our Biblical Studies department this fall. He is currently teaching at Malvern Prep, and has a Ph.D. from Hebrew Union College in Old Testament Studies and Hebrew.

Dr. Michael Burton has a Ph.D. in Mathematics from Bowling Green State University, and is currently teaching at Louisiana College. He will be joining the Mathematics department.

Dr. Shirley Carpenter is currently the superintendent at the Pleasant Valley School District in Camarillo, CA. She has an Ed.D. from the University of La Verne and will be joining the college faculty in the fall to become the chairperson of our Teacher Education department.

Dr. Robert Trujillo will be joining the Biblical Counseling department this fall. He has a Ph.D. in Community Psychology from the University of Michigan, and is firmly committed to our stand on Biblical Counseling.

Dr. Diana Watkins will be joining the faculty this fall as the Director of Institutional Research and Technology. Diana has an Ed.D from Nova Southeastern University in Computer and Information Technology and is currently the Assistant Director for Family Practice Residency at the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences.

Education Department Graduate Statistics

In addition to regular elementary and secondary classes, we have graduates teaching in missionary children's schools, in continuation schools, inlock-down juvenile facility, in special education and in bilingual classrooms. We also have graduates teaching overseas in countries including Papua New Guinea, Taiwan, Hong Kong, Kenya, and Thailand. We continue to have a positive reputation and impact in the community. Of the 28 schools in the four elementary districts and the Hunt High School District, there are graduates of The Master's College's Teacher Preparation Program in all but three.

Musical Notes

Matt Kinsdster, a former student of The Master's College, was invited to be the guest of The Danish Royal Opera of Copenhagen.

Dr. Larry Munsford, music faculty, won first place (a monetary award) in the Culver Chamber Music Series annual competition. The piece selected was his Fantasia on Christmas Carol for strings and piano, premiered at The Master's College Christmas concert in December 1997. In addition to the award, the piece will be performed in the fall 1998 concert series given by the Society, which is based in Culver City, CA.

The Master's Chorale and Majestry will be touring the Midwest and Southwest United States in the spring of 1999. If you are interested in our group writing a letter to your church or school please call us at 1-800-560-6248 ext. 329.

Dramatic El Niño Rescue

An elderly Placerita Canyon resident was saved from drowning in a dramatic rescue Monday morning, February 23rd. Shortly after 9:00 A.M. by Dr. Tim Turner, biblical counselor and professor from The Master's College.

The drama unfolded as Dr. Turner was in his classroom on North Campus talking with students who arrived early about how quickly the water was rising in Placerita Canyon from the storm. He had just

instructed students not to attempt to cross the wash at Quigley Canyon behind Grace Chapel. Taking the students outside to cross the wash, Dr. Turner saw the truck in the water. The truck had stalled and the force of the raging current swept the back of the truck downstream.

Filling the truck cabs with water. Several other canyon residents standing by shouted that the driver was still inside. Dr. Turner saw the driver struggling inside the truck to get out. Without thinking about his own safety, Dr. Turner jumped the fence between the church and Quigley Canyon road, waded into the rapidly-moving water and pulled the driver to safety, before the truck sank further beneath the waves. A female TMC student from New Zealand, Bronwyn Nicholson, and two other students followed Dr. Turner into the water to assist with the rescue.

Joe Snaide, the 83-year old driver of the truck and longtime resident of the canyon, was very appreciative of Dr. Turner's efforts to save him. When asked why he attempted to cross the wash, Joe said he saw the water markers (buoys) and thought he could cross. Joe added that he had never seen water rise that high in the 25 years he has lived in the canyon. When praised by others for his heroism, Dr. Turner said, "I just lifted the driver out of the truck, it was really God who saved his life!"

On May 11, 1998, Dr. Turner went to be with the Lord. He is survived by his wife, Mary Lou, three daughters, Abigail, Hannah, and Rachel, and two sons, Matt. He was loved by all and we mourn our loss.
In Memorium

Jane Dunkin, '79, went to be with the Lord on January 4, 1998. She was a homemaker and teacher and wife of Dr. John R. Dunkin, president emeritus of The Master’s College and former president of Los Angeles Baptist College.

Mrs. Dunkin is survived by her husband; five daughters, one son, twenty-four grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren. A memorial service was held on January 8 at Santa Clarita Baptist Church of Canyon Country. Memorial gifts will be applied toward the medical expense of a liver transplant for John R. Dunkin II.