THE FEAR OF GOD IS THE BEGINNING...

by Dr. Alan Price, Provost

IN HIS BOOK, “THINKING AND ACTING LIKE A CHRISTIAN”, BRUCE LOCKERBIE RECOUNTS THE FASCINATING STORY OF A CONFUSED LONG DISTANCE RUNNER.

The fear of God is the beginning of wisdom, then the thoughtful Christian must ask the question: “How is it possible to present and pursue education apart from a consideration of the mind of God?” The answer to that question is simple. One cannot engage in a truly Christian education without placing God at the center of the conversation. Yet that is exactly what we have done, and with tragic consequences.

I certainly do not believe that a truly Christian education occurs by simply interjecting God into the conversation. After all, the Scripture doesn’t say “knowing about God is the beginning of wisdom” it says, “the fear of God is the beginning of wisdom.” In other words, we must not simply acknowledge God’s existence, we must acknowledge His right to shape and direct the conversation, and the conclusion. There are not many educational institutions where that is any longer true. What is perhaps most sad is the fact that Evangelical Christians do not take advantage of schools where the Scriptures impact the educational process of all students who attend an American college or university. Only about 1% attend an institution affiliated with the Council of Christian Colleges and Universities.

This brings me to the central point of this brief article: the Master’s College exists to provide an educational experience that is thoroughly shaped by the fact that “the fear of God is the beginning of wisdom.” Indeed, through our 73 year history, The Master’s College has never wavered from that crucial position. We have for all of that time remained committed to the core truths that God is, that He has spoken with clarity and authority and that He is to be taken seriously in every area of human endeavor.

The fear that the Bible is not a book of science is not to say that a true understanding of the Creation can ever be achieved without fully understanding what God has to say in the Scriptures.

The Master’s College’s continued commitment to the authority and sufficiency of the Scriptures can largely be attributed to the strength of conviction that has characterized its leadership. Like Dr. John Duknek before him, Dr. John MacArthur remains fully committed to the idea of an education which begins with a proper understanding of what it means to “fear God.” What is even more remarkable is the fact that at The Master’s College, the concept of fearing God is not just a theological concept but it actually provides the basis for shaping a community of faith and learning. Dr. MacArthur’s leadership in developing our understanding in this regard has been crucial.

It is perhaps a sign of the times that people believe that a commitment to the authority and sufficiency of Scripture and a commitment to academic rigor are somehow incompatible. That is simply not the case for the believer who fully understands what it means when Jesus calls His disciples to “love God with all your mind…” It has always been our passionate commitment to fully develop in our students the life of the mind. It is the case that such a commitment characterizes the entire faculty and staff and is dearly exemplified by our President. Throughout this issue of The Current, you will see examples of how our understanding of an education centered in the idea of “the fear of God” impacts and shapes the lives of students. Our philosophy and practice, must not, remain theoretical. It must result in a way of life that demonstrates the vitality of our claims. In educational language, we must see outcomes consist with our inputs. This year, TMC graduates received Teacher of the Year honors, won or placed near the top in a variety of significant national and regional music competitions, were accepted at a variety of medical and veterinary schools and made significant contributions in the marketplace. This summer, 15% of our students ministered in seventeen countries, literally opening the globe. Our athletic teams completed our most successful year with men’s baseball reaching the final eight at the NCAA National Championship, and our women’s baseball team finished third at the NAIA World Series.

Perhaps the single most remarkable illustration of the impact of an education centered in the fear of God is the story of Natalie Dyck. Natalie came to TMC as most of our students do from a home where our Lord and the Scriptures were taken seriously. In other words, Natalie’s education in “the fear of God” began long before she chose TMC as the place to pursue her college education. When Natalie made her decision to attend TMC, we committed to her parents that we would build on the foundation they had worked so hard to develop in Natalia.

Following Natalie’s death, in a tragic accident in the African nation of Tanzania, we got a very powerful glimpse at the heart of a young woman who had committed herself to the hand of God. Through her private journal and pages of notes taken at Chapel, we see the portrait of a young woman in passionate pursuit of God mind and purposes.

One of the most remarkable aspects of this story is the fact that, in many ways, Natalie Dyck was an unusually ordinary young woman, representative of hundreds of other students at TMC. Yet, just like those students, she was profoundly different from most other college students in America today in that the focus of her life was not the pursuit of pleasure, but the pursuit of God.

As I wrote this article, I sat on a bench with our administrative leadership team. In one of our meetings, we took the time to share a little of the events and people who helped shape our lives and direct us to our common calling at The Master’s College. During the course of our conversation, one of our VPs, with tears in his eyes, remarked about the opportunity there is in serving God at TMC. “Every day”, he said, “was a joy. Every day.” I would hardly echo his words. When the “fear of God” prevails there is no remorse, there is “…instruction for wisdom” (Proverbs 1:7). There is the understanding for how to make life work (Proverbs 1:9), show in the foundation for a life that honors God (Ecc 12:13). At The Master’s College, we are committed to our curriculum and content, in the classroom and in the dorm room, that begins with a thorough understanding of what it means to “fear God” and keep His commandments (Ecc 12:25). That commitment begins with our President, Dr. John MacArthur and flows through every member of our faculty and staff into the lives of our students. With our Lord’s blessing, we believe the results will continue to demonstrate the powerful impact of God’s Word on the life of a person committed to the person and purposes of God.
THE EARLY YEARS

The Master's College has a long and rich history, dating back to 1927, when it was founded as Los Angeles Baptist Theological Seminary. From the beginning, the school provided biblical, Christ-centered teaching, consistent with the doctrines of the historic Christian faith. And the original doctrinal position has never changed. During the 1940s, a young pastor by the name of Rev. Carl Sweazy became increasingly interested and then intimately involved in the ministry of Los Angeles Baptist Theological Seminary. First serving on the advisory council, then as a board member during which time he was granted an honorary doctor's degree for his contributions to the seminary, he became president in December of 1955. Dr. Sweazy's greatest contribution was in preparing the groundwork for the modern era which began with the arrival of Dr. John R. Dunkin as president. Dr. Sweazy's tireless commitment was demonstrated in the innumerable hours spent traveling to recruit students and raise funds for the seminary.

In 1946, the seminary became a graduate-level school, and a separate undergraduate college with a liberal arts program was initiated. The most significant expansion progress was implemented under the administration of Dr. John R. Dunkin, who became president in 1959. A year later, the school (then known as Los Angeles Baptist College and Seminary) moved its campus to a former horse ranch in Santa Clarita, which is our current location.

At that time, existing buildings were converted and renovated and new ones built. Additional academic programs were introduced, and the groundwork was established for accreditation by the Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC). In 1974, the seminary moved to Tacoma, Washington. In 1975, the college received WASC accreditation. After twenty-five years of faithful service, Dr. Dunkin retired to become Chancellor. The board of directors appointed him President Emeritus in 1989.

Dr. John Stead, a long time friend of Dr. John MacArthur, went to the chairman of the board encouraging him to explore the possibility of introducing Dr. MacArthur's name to the search committee for LABC. On January 31, 1985, the search committee met with Dr. MacArthur for an extended, encouraging time of discussion. As a result of their meeting, the committee voted to invite Dr. MacArthur to become president.

In May 1985, Dr. MacArthur accepted the invitation from the board of directors and became the next president of the college. At that time, the institution's name was changed to The Master's College. At his inauguration, John MacArthur said: "It is with a sense of fear mixed with tremendous anticipation that we move ahead to see what God will do in the days, weeks, months and years that will make up the future life of The Master's College until Jesus Christ comes again. And until He comes, it's our goal that we should be able to perfect the saints for the work of the ministry, for the building up of the body of Christ. That noble task must, to be accomplished, be energized by the Spirit of God, and to that end we pray."


GROWTH IN ACADEMICS AND ENROLLMENT

Under Dr. MacArthur's leadership, the college has grown into one of the strongest evangelical Christian colleges in the nation with a number of distinctions.

- About 70 percent of the faculty hold the highest degrees in their fields. Experts in their disciplines with impressive backgrounds, they give generously of their time to disciple and mentor students.
- All faculty members believe and teach a literal creationist view; faculty of the Science Department are leaders in creation science research.
- Graduates have achieved an excellent rate of acceptance at medical and dental schools.
- Graduates in teacher education are in great demand; for years 100 percent of our graduates have been placed in teaching positions at graduation.
- Business graduates consistently achieve an average score in the top 10 percent of the nation on the major field exam in business of the Educational Testing Services.
- Home Economics, a unique major, develops godly women and also trains them for professional careers in business and industry.
- The Biblical Counseling program, both graduate and undergraduate, is one of only a few in the nation to be based exclusively on the application of Scripture.
- The Master's College music majors, class of 1998, ranked in the 99th percentile in a national music exam given at seventy colleges around the nation.
- The Biblical Studies Department offers the most comprehensive undergraduate program in the nation with a total of nine tracks.
- The Master's College is the only evangelical college in the U.S. to maintain a campus and full-time faculty in Israel (Israel Bible Extension), allowing students to spend a semester in the Holy Land.
- The Master's College is listed in the College Guide of US News & World Report as a top tier, regional liberal arts college.

ENROLLMENT

TMC grew from 305 students in the fall 1984 to 1135 in fall 1999. This includes Center for Professional Studies, a degree completion program for adult education and Summer Institute Master of Arts in Biblical Counseling Program.
ACADEMICS

Our academic programs have greatly expanded from 9 undergraduate academic majors departments offering 17 emphases to 13 undergraduate academic major departments offering 58 emphases. TMC also offers a one year (The Master's Institute) Bible certificate program, a Master of Arts degree program in Biblical Counseling, a non-traditional format MABC program offered during summer, two (B.A.) degree completion programs offered through the college's Center for Professional Studies, and an extension campus in Israel (IBEX) which offers one-semester and short term study opportunities for The Master's College and other students.

We have more than doubled our faculty since 1984. The Master's College currently has forty-seven full-time teaching faculty and seven administrative support faculty. The percentage of faculty doctoral degrees has risen significantly as well.

FACILITIES

The college has added to the campus size. Several new dorms have been built: Sweaney, Dixon, Waldock and twenty-one new classrooms have been added. Video, computer network and internet access are available in all classrooms; nine classrooms are equipped with video/data projectors and instructor computer stations. In 1996, TMC purchased the property adjacent to the campus which gave the college the opportunity to retrofit the existing buildings into a state-of-the-art teaching/learning complex to house the departments of Music, Business, Education, English, History, and Biblical Studies.

The library expanded the facility to accommodate a 130,000-volume college library with on-line public access catalog, 200 node campus-wide computer network, three computer computer labs, and an internet site with dedicated web site development department.

At The Master's College, we're grateful for the blessings God has provided and for all that has been achieved. Yet there is much more to be accomplished. Our vision is to enter the 21st century positioned on the forefront of Christian colleges, able to provide a distinctive educational experience characterized by academic programs of exceptional quality, a dynamic and biblically sound community of faith dedicated to authentic spiritual development and an orientation to service resulting in lives of enduring impact for the kingdom of God.

The Board of Directors heaved a collective sigh of relief when in the spring of 1984, Dr. John MacArthur accepted the call to become president of The Master's College. Prior to his acceptance, jubilation had temporarily subsided when it was realized that he might turn down the call, due to his many other responsibilities, but upon acceptance, excitement prevails within the institution that has, in many ways, lay ahead. With a solid doctrinal position, committed faculty, a beautiful campus, and 240 excited students, the college was one of "the best kept secrets" in the region, if not the country. Soon it was no longer a secret. One board member said, "Hang on for a fast ride!"

Now, fifteen years later, it is exhilarating to look back and see the marks of Dr. MacArthur's leadership at The Master's College and Seminary. Increased enrollment and dollar figures could be cited. Widened exposure through Grace Community Church, Grace to You radio and Dr. MacArthur's many publications are certainly factors. But his major impact flows from his commitment to the clear teaching of God's Word. That God has done something special for the school is more obvious with each passing year.

Integrity modeled in his personal life and ministry spills over into classrooms and dorms creating an atmosphere of service and spiritual growth accompanied by a desire for excellence in everything from academics to athletics. New faculty and staff, board members and donors are attracted by the same commitment to God's Word. Students and parents sacrifice to come for the same reasons. The Master's Seminary, training effective students and expositors of the Word, is a further extension of Dr. MacArthur's ministry. God has used him to bring the college and seminary to new levels of effectiveness in every area.

For me, as a fellow pastor, each board meeting has meant enriched understanding of theological trends and encouragement in my calling, as Dr. MacArthur shares with us his insights on these issues. He has a unique understanding of the church worldwide and applies biblical insights to inform board decision making. While there have been tough decisions to make and difficult challenges to overcome, his leadership has been forceful and full of faith. It has been an exciting "ride" with the best yet to come. I look forward to the next fifteen years.

Darrell Birdseye is pastor of Whitney Road Church in Bakersfield, California. He has served on the Board of Directors for TMC since 1979, and is a graduate from IABC.

An Interview with
Dr. John MacArthur

"IT IS WITH A SENSE OF FEAR MIXED WITH TREMENDOUS ANTICIPATION THAT WE MOVE AHEAD TO SEE WHAT GOD WILL DO IN THE DAYS, WEEKS, MONTHS AND YEARS "THAT WILL MAKE UP THE FUTURE LIFE OF THE MASTER'S COLLEGE UNTIL JESUS CHRIST COMES AGAIN. AND UNTIL HE COMES, IT'S OUR GOAL THAT WE SHOULD BE ABLE TO PERFECT THE SAINTS FOR THE WORK OF THE MINISTRY, FOR THE BUILDING UP OF THE BODY OF CHRIST. THAT NOBLE TASK MUST, TO BE ACCOMPLISHED, BE ENERGIZED BY THE SPIRIT OF GOD, AND TO THAT END WE PRAY."

Dr. John MacArthur, at his inauguration, May 1985

I'm looking back over the last fifteen years of John MacArthur's presidency, the editorial staff asked John to share his heart about his passion, his vision and future of The Master's College. At the interview reveal, he exemplified a pastor's heart, in many ways, the real key to the success of his presidency. He has a deep love for the students, faculty and staff, much like that of a shepherd and his sheep. His passion for the college has not diminished, quite the contrary, it continues to grow as he savors the fruits of his labor.

Why did you take on the obligation of presidency?

Since seminary I have had a passion to provide young people the highest quality of Christian education. I went to a couple of Christian colleges, neither of which hit the mark. One was very legalistic and the other was very libertine—no real biblical structure. So I could always see the value of Christian education because I believe a person is never truly educated unless they see things biblically. My own experience in Christian colleges that fell short of what I thought was the standard planned that passion in my heart that there needed to be a Christian college that was real biblical. It had to contain all the educational features such as music, science, athletics, english, to make it a full, edifying institution without sacrificing the heart and soul, which is the Word of God—the glory of God in the honor of Christ. Even as far back as 1969, when I came to Grace Community Church, that was in the back of my mind. One of the first things I did when I came to Grace Church and continue to do is train young men for ministry. We worked with students as our church was always populated by students from UCLA, USC, CSUN, and local junior colleges. When John Stead and others approached me to consider being president, it came at the same time that I was being asked if I was interested in becoming president of a very well-known Christian educational institution in America. Although I was the choice for this other institution, I didn't feel like I could do that because I'd have to leave my church—and the church is my heart. God has called me to be a preacher. But I could see that the Lord was driving me in the direction of The Master's College. I knew the history of the school, Dr. Dunlop, and its background. My sister had attended and I had taught there. It just seemed like the Lord dropped that opportunity in my life at just the time continued next page
There is a logical connection between the church and the seminary, training men to become pastors, but what is the connection with the college?

The connection is the Word of God and spiritual ministry. Whether you're in a church or a college, you're educating. In a church, you are educating the congregation by teaching the Word of God, discipling them, training them for life. In a college setting, you educate them in all the sciences, the arts and humanities, etc., but the spiritual responsibilities are identical. You bring the Word of God to bear on their lives—you train in the knowledge of the Truth and in ministry. I think the link is clearly the common commitment to the authority of the Word of God and to the work of the Word in the hearts of the people—whether students or the congregation, it sweeps across the spectrum of life. Another aspect is that our church had refined ministry, discipling, training, so that we knew how to reproduce that in a college setting. I didn't want to follow common student life models which merely deal with discipline. We took a much more proactive approach in designing a discipling model similar to that in the life of the church. We didn't want to create an artificial structure, rules and laws—we wanted to teach young people to live in this community the way they will live all their lives in the church. Life in the church and life at The Master's College need to be synonymous—biblically. That is the link—not an organizational or legal link, as they are two different entities, but a tremendous partnership in the Truth. The same commitment to Scripture, to biblical Christianity, to the exaltation of God, to honoring Christ, to holding up the Word, to discipling, to training—all of those features that Christians are taught in the Scripture. This is just another venue in which we can bring spiritual Truth to bear on the lives of people—that really is the link. It is also true, however, that schools that have been, in history, linked to strong churches, have stayed strong, and when they disconnect, tragic things happen. I am currently reading a book that describes American education history. They are schools started by churches which over a period of time lost the connection and in the process they lost the theology, their spiritual life, the gospel, and became increasingly secularized. That, tragically, has been chronicled over and over again. It is critical that TMC continue to be linked with that fellowship in the Word of God. That means that the leadership of the church, namely me, the pastor, elders in the church who serve in administrative positions here, elders from like-minded churches who serve on the Board and also in administrative and faculty positions, must have a doctrinal commonality. There needs to be real unity of faith because these people are the people who shape the institution.

Would you tell us your original passion and vision for the college, and has that changed?

Originally, I think I was naive. I didn't know that it would be as extensive as it has been in terms of time. I've always been a person who could be excited about multiple tasks. I have never been put off by added tasks and so I thought that this would be a great challenge. I underestimated how long it would take to build a staff and faculty to meet my expectations and I also underestimated the financial constraints. I didn't realize the complexity of staffing an institution, and continuing to see the elevation of faculty and staff to match the growth and development of the college, made this whole process almost intractable. Today, we feel we have developed the kind of leadership and faculty that has brought us to a level that even U.S. News and World Report has ranked us at a tier one school, the highest ranking given. That has been a much longer process than I assumed it would be—not only due to the lack of financial resources, but due to the challenge of finding the right people. So what I thought was a five-year plan turned into a fifteen-year plan.

My passion hasn't changed. In fact, I now see probably a greater vision for what we're able to do than I did at the beginning. My experience would only let me see so far. I saw what I had when I attended a Christian college and I didn't want that. I wanted something beyond that and when I got beyond that, I wasn't satisfied. I wanted something more and more and I'm beginning to see that what I had always wanted is what we are becoming now. I didn't know that at the beginning. If I had "built out" at five or ten years, I would never have seen what I see now. It isn't that we are everything we should be, but I think we now understand what we need to be. Even our accreditation team knows we understand that, whereas at the time of the beginning, they were thinking of something less. My vision has expanded and I've become more excited about my opportunity to be here and while, on the one hand, I could step out because we've climbed a certain mountain, on the other hand, I'd rather stay around and enjoy the fruit of our labor. I also realize that what we have built now takes on a greater value and, therefore, there is an element of guardianship. I have gone from being the builder to the guardian of the building.

What is your vision for the future of TMC?

We want to continue the strong emphasis on the Word of God and how it applies to every discipline. We want our young people to think biblically and to view the world the way it really is—the way the Bible says it is. We want to continue to increase our educational quality, to build our library, and we desperately need to have a chapel—a place to preach the Word of God which is central to our campus. The facility ought to look like it was built for preaching the Word of God as opposed to "borrowing" the gym which is obviously a facility intended for athletic purposes. The priority is the place where the Word of God is proclaimed. And the head of this institution ought to be a man who is primarily a preacher, a faithful preacher of the Word of God.

We need to upgrade our infrastructure, including enriching our faculty, pay our faculty staff more and reward them as they should be rewarded for their faithful service. We need to continue to appeal to a more dedicated Christian student. And finally, we need to keep that wonderful partnership we have with the seminary. The seminary is just another step where we can train men to go out and do the cycle with lay people just as we have done in the church.

I think this school has become more than we ever dreamed it could be and yet we are challenged by how much more we can do to enhance the student's experience, provide better facilities, and more assistance for faculty and staff as we move ahead.

Any comments you wish to make?

One more thought—we want to prepare these young people to be "world Christians", not caught up in American nationalism, or materialism, but to see the world as last sheep without a shepherd. We have accomplished by getting students out on mission exams in the summer, and by sending them to Israel for a semester (IBEX program). It has proven to be very effective. We want to continue that strategy of reaching the world. I have a vision for making TMC the kind of institution that has international impact. I'd like to see the world coming here to be educated and then going back to their own countries.
What is at least as definitive as that, is that we continue to get quality faculty and quality students, which means that they recognize the character of this institution because they've seen the product. They have met the young people who have graduated, and they see the quality of their lives—that's what's exciting to me because that's where the work of God really shows up. The work of God shows up in the lives of the people and now our graduates have become our greatest selling point.

It's a privilege for me to have been here these last fifteen years. I had no idea what the Lord had in mind at the beginning. It was a tremendous burden. The financial issue was terribly heavy for a long time—just barely making it from paycheck to paycheck and realizing you had all these people dependent on you. The Lord sustained us through it all and now we've reached the point where we have that kind of viability and I'm just glad the Lord gave us perseverance to get to this place where we could see the fruits of our labor. I think the best is yet ahead of us and I am very excited about that.

It was in December 1984 that I first met John MacArthur. The occasion occurred three months after Dr. Dunkin's announced retirement as the president of the Los Angeles Baptist College. Our search committee was interviewing John as a possible candidate for presidency. I shall never forget the experience. Our committee consisted of eleven members, five of which were pastors of Baptist churches. As I remember, the interview lasted over four hours as John was grilled on such subjects as theology, leadership, student life, sports, and a myriad of other issues.

Needless to say, the committee was visibly impressed and very grateful when he eagerly accepted the challenge and we have never looked back.

In the fifteen years of John's presidency we've seen the college grow from 278 to over 1000 students. In 1986 the seminary was added which now enrolls over 300 men and is recognized as one of the finest in the world. The college property has more than doubled in acreage while adding four dormitories, several classroom buildings and a recent purchase of a church complex called North campus.

The key to any successful college is its faculty, and because of John's influence, our faculty are not only godly men and women but also professionals in their area of discipline, without a doubt one of the finest college faculties in the country. We've also been blessed with a faithful and loyal staff, which has grown to over 125, a capable group of men and women who love the college and the students. Several have been at the college for many years and are responsible for making it all happen on a day to day basis. John's greatest impact has been his spiritual leadership. His commitment to the Word of God has created an atmosphere of excellence that permeates the life of the campus in every aspect. Students who come to the college soon learn that The Master's experience is more than getting an education. Students, past and present, have expressed to me its life changing impact. Parents, whom I meet in my travels, often with tears in their eyes, tell me about their sons and daughters coming home with a renewed commitment to our Lord.

I would be remiss in my comments if I didn't mention the faithful support of John's wife, Patricia. Her husband is pulled in every direction, his time rarely his own. Always so understanding and encouraging, Patricia is surely Proverbs 31 in life and practice. How could I forget the elders at Grace Community Church who so willingly gave up part of John that day in February 1985 when the college board called him as our new president. What a great ride and what a tremendous blessing!

Is The Master's College special?! Absolutely! My 26 years of involvement have been wonderful and I wouldn't trade it for anything. Has the Lord placed John MacArthur in a strategic role as president of the college and seminary the last 15 years? Absolutely! As chairman of the board my enthusiasm for the future, with John's continued influence, couldn't be greater.

Jim Richard is chairman of the board for The Master's College and Seminary and has served on the board since 1981. Jim works for Stewardship Services Foundation as director.
In a letter dated July 10, 2000, Ralph Wolff, the Executive Director of the Western Association of Schools and Colleges, affirmed the full accreditation status of The Master's College and Seminary until 2008, the maximum time allowed under WASC guidelines. The affirmation concluded an intense, nearly two years' process during which the college engaged in a thorough self-study of its programs, personnel and facilities. That self-study led to a four day visit in February, 2000 by a ten-member evaluation team, who scrutinized every aspect of The Master's College and Seminary, from its Student Life programs to its financial practices. During their time on our campus, the team read numerous reports, and conducted exhaustive interviews with dozens of college personnel.

Following that visit, the evaluation team authored a report which outlined their findings and conclusions which then formed the basis for the decision by the full commission of WASC. The final step in the process was a visit by Dr. MacArthur with the full commission which took place in Oakland on June 22, 2000. The process, while long and arduous has proven to be of enormous benefit to both the college and seminary. In responding to the nine standards that WASC utilizes in its evaluation of colleges, the faculty and staff and administrative team have been forced to collect and carefully evaluate extensive data relating to the quality and effectiveness of the various aspects of our programs. What we discovered about the college during this self-study was encouraging, but at the same time we were able to identify some areas that will require special attention as we move into the future.

Many people do not fully understand the nature of the accreditation process. Some see it as intrusive, believing that regional accrediting associations seek to force institutions, especially faith-based institutions, to adopt policies at variance with their core values and beliefs. That is certainly not the case. In fact, the accreditation process has two primary purposes. In its first purpose relates to institutional integrity. The commission wants to determine the extent to which any college or university actually delivers its stated mission. In other words, does the institution in its various programs actually accomplish the purpose it has communicated to its various constituents.

Secondly, the commission is concerned about quality control. There are certain things that should be true of any institution of higher education irrespective of the distinct nature of its individual mission. It should, for example, utilize appropriate financial practices in the development and oversight of its budget. It should utilize an effective decision making process. Its facilities should be adequate to support its program. The faculty and staff should possess the appropriate credentials for the job they do. This peer review process is necessary to assure that a college or university is all that it proclaims itself to be.

It is for those two primary reasons that we believe the accreditation process to be of great value. The investment of time and resources is enormous, but the ultimate benefit to the college is well worth the investment. While it has required a rigorous effort on the part of many key people, we are pleased with the outcome. We are equally pleased that during their evaluation, the team that came to our campus saw with great clarity the essential nature of our mission. Ralph Wolff, the Executive Director of WASC, noted in his letter to Dr. MacArthur that the team in its report acknowledged the “almost seamless connection between classroom and co-curricular activities, which permits the mission and purpose of the institution to permeate all levels of the campus to a high degree.” This fact produces what the visiting team termed as “an unusually strong transformative learning environment on campus.”

The central mission of The Master's College and Seminary has never been chiefly about the acquisition of information, or simple preparation for a career or graduate school. The acquisition of information is important, as is adequate preparation for vocational. Our mission, however, focuses on preparing our students for life and ministry in strategic fields of endeavor. As we say in our mission statement, we seek “To empower students for a life of:

- enduring commitment to Christ
- biblical fidelity
- moral integrity
- intellectual growth
- lasting contribution to the kingdom of God.”

We believe that we fulfill that mission. It’s always nice, however, to have others provide confirmation of that fact. Please continue to pray for both the college and the seminary as we enter a new year. We are projecting the third straight year of record enrollment at the college, which is great news. There are challenges to be met as we grow (the need for more dorms is one), but we are committed to thinking biblically and wisely as we consider how to move ahead in this new century.

In the fall of 1984, Dr. John R. Dunkin, after twenty-five years as president of Los Angeles Baptist College, announced that he would retire. The first class that opened the new campus in 1960 consisted of fifty students. Twenty-five years later the student body had grown to 350 students. The challenge for the college was to find the man who could take it to greater heights without sacrificing the heritage of the past years. That heritage consisted of an uncompromising commitment to an inerrant Scripture, the Lord Jesus Christ, and the center of redemptive history and to the Christian liberal arts.

Dr. Dunkin believed that a bold step was needed. The major practical challenge was to find a man who was deeply committed to the heritage of the college and yet bring the dynamic vision and leadership that would be needed to greatly expand its ministry and impact. That man was Dr. MacArthur. What would possess someone who was already eminently successful, with a dynamic church ministry along with an international radio ministry to take on the added responsibility of a college? It was the vision—the vision of seeing godly men and women committed to Jesus Christ becoming effective communicators of the Gospel vocationally and committed to the ministry of the local church. This vision was based on a foundation of excellence.

Fifteen years have passed since Dr. MacArthur was inaugurated as president. From his inauguration on, Dr. MacArthur saw that the heart of the college academically would be the Department of Biblical Studies. To this day, unlike most Christian liberal arts colleges, it remains the largest major. With his commitment to the pulpit ministry, there had to be additional training for these men called to pastor. In 1986, a seminary was founded to fill this need. The growth of The Master's College and Seminary is a tribute to Dr. MacArthur's vision and God's faithfulness. This fall the combined enrollment of all programs exceeds 1500 students; faculty has more than tripled in size. Academic programs offered by the college have greatly expanded including a Master's degree in Biblical Counseling. The seminary now offers the terminal Th.D. degree. There is a magnificent new seminary facility along with a capital campaign at the college which includes three dormitories with another to be completed this academic year, the north campus, center of the academic program, and complete retrofitting of most facilities on campus.

Dr. MacArthur's lasting legacy goes far beyond buildings and budgets. It is in the lives of the thousands of graduates over the past fifteen years—men and women committed to Christ's Lordship in their lives, to the inerrancy and sufficiency of Scripture, to godly Christian families, to the support of the local church and worldwide missions and to a commitment: excellence in their chosen vocations. This is the vision of The Master's College and that vision is driven by the leadership and commitment of Dr. John MacArthur.
Our first news was sketchy. A brief e-mail on June 1 from the Executive Assistant at The Master’s College read:

I just spoke to...Natalie Dyck’s mother. She called to tell us that Natalie was killed this morning in Tanzania. She was in a bus which was involved in a tragic accident, killing many people. She had just returned from Israel to join a mission team from Grace Ministries in Tanzania. She has already been identified by some friends with Grace and will be cremated and the ashes shipped back to the U.S. Please pray for the family at this very difficult time.

Then Susan Blanchard, a classmate of Natalie’s forwarded a message sent June 1 from Natalie’s uncle, Steve Vinton, with Grace Ministries in Tanzania:

I am so very sorry to tell you that Natalie was killed in a bus accident this morning. We had gone to town to meet her and bring her to our little village when we received news of the accident. Ten people were killed (the count reached at least 14) and 38 are in the hospital in serious condition.

Our hearts just ache now. My wife Susan (Natalie’s aunt) left right away for Mbeya where the accident happened, and I have returned here to Mumba to be with our young boys. We appreciate your prayers especially for Natalie’s mom and dad.

We at the college pieced together the story. After graduation, Natalie had gone on the IBEX Alumni Hike in Israel. One evening, she and her friends talked a lot about heaven and the joys of being there. She left Israel for Africa with a layer of one day in Switzerland. She sat by the lake with her Bible open, singing songs, with a prayer that she would have a chance to share the gospel. (Her prayer was answered.) The following day she flew to Tanzania. She spent one night in Dar es Salaam and another in Mbeya before taking the bus to go to the village where her aunt and uncle lived and worked. She planned to spend the summer teaching English to children in the village. Then the bus accident...

The college community was stunned. Natalie graduated cum laude on May 6th. She wanted to be a teacher, perhaps on the mission field. She excelled in all of her methods classes. She was returning to The Master’s College in September to student teach. Her cheerful smile and sense of humor brightened our lives. She had time for others and invested her life in them. Most of all, her love for God was evident in all she did. We prayed for the family in their loss.

Lot's of rumors circulated—the bus was in poor condition, the road was hazardous, the bus was on a steep hill. But her Aunt Susan, who came to the memorial service, said it was a good bus, it was a good road, there was a slight incline, but certainly no hill. The bus, for some unknown reason, ran off the road. Natalie died instantly from a head injury. Her youth pastor said, “It wasn’t an accident, it was a God event.”

Natalie had been sitting on the bus next to an African woman, a Christian. Her father, an unbeliever sat across the aisle, He survived the crash. Her daughter did not. The bodies of Natalie and her seatmate were brought to the same location. The family treated both bodies in the same manner, preparing Natalie’s body as if she were a member of their family. Hindus brought clothes and flowers from their own homes to use in the preparations.

The African woman’s home village, a stronghold of the occult for many centuries, was resistant to any Christian message. The village leaders asked the Grace Ministries missionaries to have a Christian memorial service for this woman.

The children in the village where Natalie’s aunt and uncle were excited about a teacher coming to teach them English. Aunt Susan and Uncle Steve invited the gospel message had not been well received by the villagers. But people poured in to give condolences and talk about the “young woman from America who was coming to teach our children.” Many of them came to her Christian memorial service.

The radio, television, and newspapers in Tanzania carried the story of the 22-year-old American girl who volunteered to come and help people in a little village in Tanzania. The governor and a delegation came to the home of Natalie’s aunt and uncle to express their sympathies and to share in their grief. Doors for sharing the gospel are opening because of her death.

Natalie’s life prepared her for death. She kept a journal that included her notes from chapels at The Master’s College. She spoke of “getting out of my comfort zone and sharing my faith.” She wrote of marriage: “I think I’d make a good wife and mother, but if God calls me to be single, I want only to please Him.” Her Bible is well marked with favorite verses and her responses to them. The e-mail she sent home the last night of her life states her thankfulness for a safe trip and the eagerness with which she awaited a summer of service to God. This written record, meant only for her own eyes, shows a woman in love with and committed to obeying God.

Natalie lived 22 years. She brought great joy to those who knew her. She wanted only to serve her Savior. But her aunt and uncle say, “She was in Tanzania less than 48 hours, but in that time she impacted the whole country.”

For the memorial service brochure, her parents selected a photograph of her in her graduation gown, taken three weeks before her death. Under the picture were parts of the following quote, taken from paperwork turned in to the Education Department in anticipation of student teaching:

The greatest joy in my life is to serve my Savior. Everything that I do, say, and think each day needs to be a reflection of the God that I serve. This must be evident in the way that I respond to those around me, in how I handle situations, and my being able to encourage my brothers and sisters in Christ. I try to be an encouragement to those around me continually, seeking others before myself. I am reminded daily to keep my eyes on things above, remembering that I am doing everything as unto Him. This has become such an encouragement to me, for I realize that as I strive to serve Christ, everything else will be taken care of. A quote that I have applied personally to my life is, “My greatest joy in life, is to bring a smile to my Savior’s face.”

Natalie’s body is gone. But she lives on with the Christ she loves. Her life is over, but her legacy is far greater than she could have imagined. And it has only begun.

By Joann Adams, Ed.D., Professor of Education, The Master’s College

Natalie’s parents and two sisters are Christians. Her father said at the service, “Natalie’s choice to go to Africa was a good one. We don’t regret it. Even with what has happened we know it was right for her to go.”
Commentary by Bert Sahlberg,
Sports Editor for Lewiston Tribune (Lewiston, ID)

No one really knows when the change came about in the sports scene. But while there's always been a separation of church and state, there's been even a wider gap between religion and sports, especially with the media. When athletes begin giving quotes giving thanks or praise to God, the media would roll their eyes, as if to say here we go again.

Their report on the game would talk about the player and even quote him about his performance. The quotes on God, however, never made the paper or ended up being edited out of radio and TV broadcasts.

Sports was supposed to be a fun place where fans could escape everyday realities and be entertained. For most, religion isn't a subject where you kick back, sip a beer, crack some punches and discuss the athletic world, however, has taken a turn for the worse in the past decade, especially in pro sports. Salaries are way out of hand, athletes now are thought of as either spoiled brats or above reproach (and lately the law). The fans have largely been priced out of seats by owners who only care about the bottom line, rather than the excitement that fans regularly show baseball brawls or ugly moments in sports, you don't see clips of athletes praising God. They're on the cutting room floor.

The Master's College baseball coach Monte Brooks is used to that. Being from a Christian liberal arts school near Los Angeles, Brooks has seen the media take bits and pieces of his comments for stories, leaving out anything remotely religious. "...for some people in the world, they don't want to listen to that," Brooks said. "It's disappointing sometimes, but I understand that perspective so it doesn't bother me." He says the media has been good to him in the Los Angeles area. Three newspapers, including the two largest in Los Angeles, follow the club, but they also don't quote him—or his players—word-for-word.

Still, it doesn't deter him. "It would be dishonesty by not quoting us on those type of things or the media wouldn't be recording us, the real person," he said. "Maybe they think the public doesn't want to hear that. That may be the case. But if you want to talk to The Master's College, and the Christian athletes who play at The Master's College, I think that says it all. Do we own the story? I think that's who they are.

"I comment on our relationship with Jesus Christ as our Lord and Savior because that's who we are. We are a Christian college; our institution is all about all of what they say because that's who they are.

"I comment on our relationship with Jesus Christ as our Lord and Savior because that's who we are. We are at The Master's College are people who profess that Jesus Christ is our Lord. That's what the Bible says. It's not true, but it is the one whole truth that's the revelation of God's Word and we profess that Christ died for the cross for our sins and rose again and conquered death. Those who put their trust and faith in Christ are true believers. Our duty is to be obedient to God's Word. That's Christianity. And Christianity should be a lifestyle."

That lifestyle includes when the players are on the baseball field. "It's a characteristic of a daily lifestyle, not just something on Sunday," Brooks said. "It's a hard thing to please and honor God in all endeavors. And our desire as a Christian institution is to honor the Lord with our God-given abilities that He's blessed these kids with. God created these guys and gave them abilities to play baseball. And baseball is a sport where these guys have an opportunity to display their talents and a platform to share Jesus Christ with the world—what God has done for them, what God has in their life, what God has done for all mankind, an admission of sin, and a need of Savior to go to heaven."

Brooks says his players try to emulate Christ on and off the field like it says in the Bible. "Now does that stop the minute you step on the athletic field?" he asked. "It shouldn't. In fact, it should be more so because you are on display. And why would you want to stain Christ or Christianity by your actions? Because we are sinful people, we fail. Our desire is to respect the game and not make a mistake in everything we do. Our desire is to overcome failures and accept challenges. You are going to pass through trials, but who is your character going to be like when you go through those trials? And baseball teaches a little about life, because there are so many things in the game of baseball that you have to overcome. The Bible teaches you to become humble people when you are successful. "Brooks said he knows mistakes will be made on the field, but the key is how his players respond. "Do we react out of anger, out of control, out of impatience, which is all totally against the Scripture?" he said.

When we had discussions, we went straight to the Scripture, straight to the truth because it exposes God's Word and it allows me to guide, equip and disciple the young men just as I have been disci- cipated and mentored by strong Christian pastors or Christian ath- letes in or my coaches or friends. Those are the true sources of moti- vation. I know it can be very diffi- cult in tough situations where the umpire makes a call that you dis- agree with or you strike out with the bases loaded or you give up the game-winning hit. True character comes in those failures and pursue righteous living, pursue righteous attitudes. Hopefully when that situa- tion arises again, we accept the challenge and can say we were a good representation right there?"

Brooks believes God does care about the outcome of games as well. "God's in control of all things. We don't know who God wants to win or lose. I just know whatever God does, He allows to happen whatever He wants. It's His desire, His purpose. He blesses those who seek to do His will but I don't think you can necessarily say God blessed us with a win. He wanted us to win. He allows it to happen and it's a neat experience because He rewarded you with your accomplishments and your efforts. "But you can learn from losing and you can learn from winning. The big thing we want is to give God glory no matter what. You won with humility, you lost with dignity, and you respect your opponents. Christ says love your enemy. We are to love our opponents with an excelling love. I will say this, He (God) lets those win who He wants to win."

And with bottom line for so many teams being about wins and losses, Brooks also sees posi- tives in that. "It's a great motivator," he said. "We, as an institution, believe win- ning is good because winning gives us better opportunities to share Jesus Christ because it exposes us more. Our desire as an institution is to be the best we possibly can be and if you do that, that is all you can ask of a person. Sure we want strong, talented Christian athletes. The best we can possibly get. There's nothing wrong with that. That's our desire. Winning is not our No. 1 priority. It is a category." Brooks said his biggest challenge at The Master's College in the area of high school recruiting. Most high school play- ers want to play at levels higher than the NAIA, and to add to that, anyone attending The Master's College must be of strong Christian faith. "So our recruiting pool is smaller, much more." he said. "We try to find the best possible Christian athletes that we can. So I don't think you can say that God brings us the kids. We try to do what we can. We talk with church pastors across the country and anybody and everybody that we know who can help us look for that individual."

"The best recruiters are usually your players and former players. Not many Christian athletes want to go to small schools. But it's also kind of unique from the get-go. They know the standard in what you desire before they come to The Master's College."

And they're starting to make them- selves heard in the sports world.

In only three years since he became head coach, Monte Brooks has made an indelible mark of historical proportions on the sport of baseball at The Master's College. In 1998, he coached the team to a school record of 34 wins and into the NAIA play- offs for the first time in five years. He was named NAIA For West Region Independents Coach of the Year. In 1999, they took 37 wins, taking them into the NAIA Top 25. In 2000, they had their greatest season yet finishing third in the NAIA World Series.

Monte Brooks played collegiate ball at San Jose City College and San Jose State University, where he graduated with a degree in history in 1990. Drafted by San Diego, Brooks spent four years in the Padres organization and was part of two minor league championship teams. He also spent a year overseas playing for Turin in Italy. He came to The Master's College in 1995 and was the hitting instructor and worked with the infielders prior to his promotion to the head coach- ing post.
Teacher Ed alumni gets award!

Samantha Carson, a graduate from The Master's College, was named the Teacher of the Year by the Saugus Union School District. In February of this year, she was also presented with the Bravo Award from the Music Center/Performing Arts Center of Los Angeles County. The award included $2,000 for the teacher who most successfully integrates arts into the core curriculum and $5,000 for the school. A team of 10 judges in that contest, including professional artists, visited Carson's class, studied her lesson plan and observed her relationships with students. "Everything I do is centered around the students," Carson said. "My love of art and my love of students gives me a goal to get them to learn."

Musical Notes:

Dr. Stephen Opfer reports that he participated in the biannual conference of College 3and Directors National Association in March. He took two students with him, Mary Jacobson (blues) and Gregory Smith (percussionist), who were honored by being selected as the association members of the eight-piece Western/Northern Regional Inter-Collegiate College Band, conducted by maezoso Eugene Conopson from North Texas State University. Band membership included outstanding university students from the western United States. Both students performed exceptionally well with Gregory Smith being selected as the percussion section leader of the honor band.

Desiree Haaster, a senior voice major, took part in the Artist of the Future vocal competition. Over 400 singers began the competition and were cut to 30 for the second round. Congratulations, we are very proud of her.

Daniel Cardwell, senior voice student, has been accepted in the graduate schools of both UCLA and the University of Illinois at Champaign/Urbana. He has chosen to attend the University of Illinois as a voice student with an emphasis in opera.

Octavian Jimiru, a freshman music major from Romania, recently entered and won the Eric Green Guitar Festival at USC ($400 first place prize). He was notified of the competition on Friday evening and it was held on Saturday morning. Christopher Parkerking, a music education major, participated in this competition. When approached by professors from USC and JCLA about entering his program, he told them he was very happy at The Master's College.

Dr. Carolyn Simonis has been invited to participate in conference at America's Shrine to Music Museum, sponsored by the University of South Dakota, and partnered by the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, D.C. as well as others. The theme is The Pre-Classical Piano: Expressive Claviers and Their Repertoire in the Eighteenth Century. She read her paper on May 7 entitled, Bowing Strings Keyboard Instruments. Dr. Simonis is also on the Board of Directors of the American Musical Instrument Society. TMC is greatly honored to have Dr. Simonis representing us in such a highly esteemed musical organization.

Science News:

Elizabeth Longborh, who recently graduated, will enter medical school this fall at East Tennessee State University.

Jaime Engstrom who finished her degree requirement this past December will attend the University of Washington's School of Veterinary Medicine this fall.

Seth Landry, a freshman biology major, will spend this summer as the only candidate chosen from forty other undergraduates to participate in the University of Texas at Houston Summer Research Program in the Medical School.

Athletics:

TMC Honors Athletes-of-the-Year and Student Scholars

Following another successful athletic year, The Master's College named its female and male athletes of the year. Today the women's award was shared by senior volleyball player Kim Gibson and freshman basketball standout Lesley DuBois while the men's award went to basketball player Joey Penberthy.

Penberthy, an NAIA First-Team All-American selection from Fresno, CA, led the Mustangs to their seventh consecutive national tournament appearance by averaging 20.92ppg. He finished his brilliant four-year career as the sixth-leading scorer in school history with 1,876 points and his 81.2% mark from the free-throw line is No. 2 all-time.

Gibson, middle blocker from Mission Viejo, CA, concluded her four-year stint in the blue and gold as one of the program's all-time greats. Named to the NAIA All-Region II team, Gibson paced the Lady Mustangs with 366 kills, 123 block assists, and 46 solo blocks. She completed her career No. 2 on the college's all-time kills on defensive saves lists.

DuBois, a center from Santa Rosa, CA, became the first freshman in school history to win the award after enjoying a prolific rookie season. An NAIA Honorable Mention All-American choice, she averaged team-highs of 18.1ppg and 9.3rpg, shot 77.8% from the line and recorded 11 double-doubles.

Athletic Director Bill Oates also announced the following recipients of the President's Award, honoring student-athletes for commitment to the game, to the community and to the university. The recipients are: Sean Parsons, Dominic Avila, Kurt Fillmore, Ange Beaumond, Rachel Lindahl, Scholar-Athlete Award recipients are: Joe Chaly (4.00 GPA), Andria Miller (4.00 GPA), Margaret Longborh (4.00 GPA), Margaret Longborh (4.00 GPA).

TMC Joins the GSAC

The Master's College will officially join the Golden State Athletic Conference beginning with the 2001-02 academic year. GSAC, one of the most unique and successful conferences in the country, is affiliated with the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics. We join with other members such as Azusa Pacific University, Biola University, California Baptist University, Concordia University, Fresno Pacific University, Point Loma Nazarene University, Vanguard University, Westminster College, Christian Heritage College, and Hope International University.

Lady Mustangs Play in Israel!

The women's basketball team, including coach Ken Sugarman, visited the Land of Israel this summer to study and play! Dr. William Varner, Professor in the Biblical Studies Department and Director of the college's IBEX program, led the Lady Mustangs on their trip.

On the second night in Jerusalem, while still recovering from jet lag, the team played the De LaSalle Club in the shadows of a 450 year old wall—and came away with a decisive 75-35 victory. After the game, the entire entourage was treated to some classic Arab hospitality and were showered with many gifts from the team. The next day, the largest Arab language newspaper in Jerusalem ran an article on the game with a picture of both teams! The next game was with an Israeli club in Ramat Gan. It was a different experience altogether! During the initial warm-up, the opposing players appeared to all be about fifteen years old! Then, a few minutes before the game, the "Israel Army" arrived. Actually, it was five of their girls who are in the army and got a leave in time to get to the game. Obviously, these gals were in very good shape. A really tough game then ensued and the Israeli team came out on top, 78-74. After the game, Dr. Varner was interviewed by the "Ha'aretz", Israel's leading daily newspaper. A brief article appeared in the Hebrew edition of the paper.

The last game was in Ramat Gan with a "Cabinet" club of teenagers who were well-drilled and disciplined. They actually are the "National" Cabinet team that tours Europe in International competition. Our girls came out on top in this game 57-38.

After each of these games, it was exciting to see the players mixing and conversing with both Israelis and Palestinians. It was a real learning experience for them and a chance to be living witnesses before a people with whom they were totally unfamiliar. While the basketball was great, the cross-cultural experience was even greater!

Only five percent of the team's time was devoted to basketball; the other ninety-five percent was devoted to seeing and studying the land of the Bible. They visited over a hundred sites, from Dan in the North to Eilat in the South. In addition to the biblical and historical locations, they swam and splashed in the Mediterranean, the Red Sea and the Dead Sea. One of the most exciting times was staying right on the shore of the beautiful Sea of Galilee, exploring the sites associated with Jesus' Galilean ministry and having devotions on the beach—and swimming there also.

Whether they were exploring four thousand year old told, walking the narrow lanes of Jerusalem's Old City, or shopping for souvenirs—they girls entered fully into the experience. They are some different food, saw many new and "strange" people, rode a camel caravan, ate in a Palestinian home, and learned a new way of reading their Bible which will affect them for the rest of their lives.
Andrew '73 & Melody Bittner are currently living in Canyonville, OR, where Andrew accepted a position at principal of Canyonville Christian Academy. Their oldest daughter, Julie, is presently on a two year mission trip on the Doulos with Operation Mobilization and their other daughter, Abigail, is anticipating her junior year of high school.

Cliff & Maureen '83 Oyvonyg Leaflock are now located in Stratham, CA and are delighted over the recent arrival of their third daughter, Audrey. Now they have Teri (8), Grace (5) and Austin (6 mos.). Maureen serves on the School Site Council and is the bookkeeper for their church, as well as, their family's orange ranch.

Daniel & Sharon '90 (Mason) Porter reside in Simi Valley, CA, and are the proud parents of three children: Caleb and Nathan are big brothers to their new addition, Belhany Arlene, who was born in June '99.

Glen & Nancie Schaumloeffel '80 are located in Traverse City, MI where Glen serves as Associate Pastor of Education & Equipping at Bay Calvary Church. He and Nancie have three children; Jonathan (4), Janie (2), and Jacob (6 mos.).

Allan & Lisa (Dickson) Bowden '91 are now living in Birmingham, AL where they are both teaching Jr. High students in a wonderful Christian school. They share that, "God has been so faithful to us, and we are so thankful for the awesome memories we have of our years at TMC!"

Patrick & Janette '91 (Robert) Folks and her husband Patrick announce the birth of Jared Daniel Folks, born at their home in Bremerton, WA, on March 20, 1999. He joins brothers Titus Nathaniel (6), and Caleb Timothy (5). Janette is a homemaker and a part-time Pediatric Home Health RN for Otten Health Services. Patrick is a Reserve Recruiter for the Navy.

Roger & Anne (Zinglerman) Allstott '92 are now residing in Houston, TX. Anne works for Foley's Dept. Stores (a division of May Co.). In May of 1998 God gave them the blessing of their son, Geoffrey Edward.

John & Becky (Hines) Barnfather '83 are located in Mission Hills, CA and have a seven-month-old son, Adam John (AJ). Becky is a full time mom and John is now Vice President of Electronic Services at Cal Tech Credit Union in La Canada.

Michelle (Miller) Eastman '93 is now located in Irvine, CA and announces the arrival of Micah Steven born on February 12, 2000.

Mark & Janelle (Jones) McCauchren '93 have settled in Riverside, CA where Mark sells cars for Enterprise Rent A Car. Their second child, Leah, was born October 3, 1999 and their son Andy is three. Janelle stays home with the kids and is involved at their church and crisis pregnancy center.

Kirk & Corri Welch '94 are located in Lake Forest, CA and have a 15-month old son named Jonah and a second child due in August! They live in Orange County and would love to hear from fellow alumni!

David Dick '95 is currently residing in New Holland, PA. David is a Shop Foreman for a tour bus company, and has been married for 4 years. They have a 2 month old girl named Taylor. They are planning a trip West and hoping to hook up with some old TMC friends!

Scott & Denise Gravatt '95 are living in Boca Raton, FL. They have 2 children, Ryan (2) and AJ (3). On top of their ministry to their kids they have recently planted a church in South Florida.

Daniel & Rebecca '95 (Nichols) Hastings were married in Rancho Mirage, CA, on March 25, 2000. Rebecca is currently working at Southwest Community Church as manager of the printing and communications department and Daniel is working for Custom Designs in Wood in Palm Desert, California, where they will be residing.

Ed & Cindy Krebs '95 are living in Newhall, CA. They met in the Professional Studies Program in 1997, were married, and in 1998 they had two twin boys! Ed recently was promoted to Deputy Probation Officer II.

Phillip & Cheryl Marshall '90 reside in Escondido, CA where Phillip completed his Masters of Divinity at Westminster Theological Seminary. Their son, John-Phillip was born July 30, 1999. Cheryl is teaching piano and they currently attend Grace Bible Church.

Matt & Jenny (Shiflet) Rablaff '95 are now living in Fresno, CA raising the joy of their lives, Kaley (3) and Josiah Jackson (1).

Dave '95 & Wendy Weber will be going to Spokane, WA for his first year of general internship and then on to Hartford, CT for four years of radiology residency. Dave says, "God has richly blessed us during this time, and so we trust that as we make the move up to Spokane and then to Hartford next year that He will continue to be faithful and watch over us as He has so graciously done these past four years."

Danny '95 and Vicki '94 (Litch) Woods are now located in Nashville, TN. They welcomed their newest addition Tegan Raynn on March 18th, and will join Carver (2) his big brother. "We rejoice in the Lord for His continued blessing on our family."

Mark & Tina Gist '96 live in Poway, CA. Mark is currently working as a Deputy City Attorney in Escondido, CA and Tina is still teaching kindergarten in Poway. They continue to minister and worship at Emmanuel Faith Community Church in Escondido.

Shawna Tope '96 is now residing in Concord, CA. She moved back to the Bay Area at the end of August 1999 to return to school for her teaching credential. She says, "Everything is going great! God is so good!"

Javier Campos '97 has just finished his second year of medical school at Texas A&M and is now starting his clinical years at Scott and White.

Jeff & Judy (Payne) Grotts '97 are residing in Little Rock, AR. They have a little girl named Riley and are doing well in Arkansas.

Brant Darby '97 is now entering his fourth year in Dental School at the University of Nebraska and has decided to apply for a residency in pediatrics. He is currently attending the Berean Church in Lincoln, NE and is excited about all the many opportunities for ministry.

Andy & Leah Jones '97 are now living in Atlanta, GA and have an 18-month-old girl named Emma. Andy is employed at Symyx PCA.

Gilbert & Erka (Wien) Altamirano '88 were married in October 1999 and are now living in Newhall, CA. They are loving their new life together.

Brad & Sandhya (Saman) Ayres '98 are currently living in Tucson, CA. Sandhya just finished her second year of teaching at a private Christian school and Brad is working with software in Los Angeles.

Dustin & Tami Majtan '98 are now living in Reno, NV. They have been married for almost a year and are doing really well. Dustin works at the National Bowling Stadium doing mechanic work and absolutely loves it. Tami is a dental assistant for the college pastor of their church.

Jennifer Wesphal '98 is located in Chicago, IL and working as a flight attendant for Southwest Airlines and enjoying extensive travel. She would love hearing from her TMC friends.

Lynn Dickson '99 is residing in Stevenson Ranch, CA and is currently teaching at Sunshine Academy in Valencia.

Danny Drew '99 has been recently accepted to the Columbus University School of Medicine in Israel! What a tremendous missions opportunity — learning to be a physician in the Land of the Great Physician!

Nicoie Sjostrand '99 is now located in Visalia, CA. Her plans include serving in Pune, India with Chris and Leena Williams from June — October 2000.

David & Wendy (Whisenant) Rudd '97 live in Maine. David is with the U.S. Coast Guard.

Windyrudd@hotmail.com
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<tr>
<td>5 M Soccer, Point Loma Nazarene University</td>
<td>7 M Soccer, Westminster College</td>
<td>4 ASB Fall Thing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5 W Volleyball, Westmont College</td>
<td>7 W Soccer, Division I Team</td>
<td>4 M Soccer Region Semi-finals</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6 W Soccer, Cal State University Northridge</td>
<td>10 W Soccer, Chapman University</td>
<td>4 Cross Country Conf. Championships</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8 Last day to add class</td>
<td>12 M Soccer, Christian Heritage College</td>
<td>6 M Basketball, Fresno Pacific</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8-9 W Volleyball, Fresno Pacific University Tournament</td>
<td>12 W Volleyball, USIU</td>
<td>6 W Basketball, Fresno Pacific</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9 M Soccer, Fresno Pacific University</td>
<td>13 W Soccer, UC Santa Cruz</td>
<td>7 Day of Prayer (No classes)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9 W Soccer, Hope International University</td>
<td>14 Cross Country, Triton CC Invitational</td>
<td>7 W Volleyball, Azusa Pacific University</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9 Cross Country, Whittier Invitational</td>
<td>17 W Soccer, Vanguard University</td>
<td>8 Kim Opfer and April Leslie Recital</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11 W Soccer, BIOLA</td>
<td>17 W Volleyball, BIOLA</td>
<td>9-11 College View Weekend</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12 W Volleyball, Claremont-Mudd-Scripps</td>
<td>19 W Volleyball, Lubbock Christian University</td>
<td>10 SP2001 Registration Ends</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13 M Soccer, Hope International University</td>
<td>19-21 College View Weekend</td>
<td>10-11 M Basketball Master's Fall Classic</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14 W Soccer, Concordia University</td>
<td>20 CPS Chapel</td>
<td>11 M Soccer Region Final</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15 M Soccer, Azusa Pacific University</td>
<td>20-21 W Volleyball, Lubbock Christian Invitational</td>
<td>11 W Basketball, BIOLA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16 Cross Country, Westmont</td>
<td>21 W Volleyball, BIOLA</td>
<td>15 M Basketball, Hope International University</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17 CPS Convocation</td>
<td>21 ASB Disney Day</td>
<td>16-21 M Soccer NAA Nationals</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18-22 GOTCHA</td>
<td>21 M Soccer, USIU</td>
<td>17 W Volleyball Far West Regional-Final Tour</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19 W Volleyball, Hope International University</td>
<td>21 W Soccer, Claremont College</td>
<td>17 W Basketball, Azusa Pacific University</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21 W Volleyball, Cal Baptist University</td>
<td>21 Cross Country, Vanguard Invitational</td>
<td>18 Sharon Moorhead's Senior Flute Recital</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22 Ken Mays’ Piano Recital</td>
<td>23-27 SP2001 Registration for seniors begins</td>
<td>18 Cross Country NAA Nationals</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22 W Soccer, Westmont College</td>
<td>25 M Soccer, Chapman University</td>
<td>18 M Basketball, BIOLA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23 M Soccer, BIOLA</td>
<td>26 W Soccer, Cal Baptist University</td>
<td>18 W Basketball, Christian Heritage College</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23 W Soccer, College of Notre Dame</td>
<td>26 W Volleyball, Vanguard University</td>
<td>21 ASB Worship Night</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23 Cross Country, Riverside Invitational</td>
<td>27 ASP Mustang Madness</td>
<td>21 W Basketball, Fresno Pacific University</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26 W Soccer, Azusa Pacific University</td>
<td>27-28 Fall Theater Arts Production</td>
<td>21 M Basketball, Cal Baptist University</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>27 W Soccer, Point Loma Nazarene University</td>
<td>28 W Soccer, USIU</td>
<td>23-26 Thanksgiving Break (No classes)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>27 W Volleyball, Concordia University</td>
<td>28 W Volleyball, Cal Baptist University</td>
<td>25 W Basketball, Cal Baptist University</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>28 ASP Worship Night</td>
<td>30-11/10 SP2001 Registration for all students</td>
<td>25 M Basketball, Christian Heritage College</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>29 W Volleyball, Westmont College</td>
<td></td>
<td>26-12/2 Christmas Concerts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30 M Soccer, Cal State University Bakersfield</td>
<td></td>
<td>29 W Volleyball, NAIA National Tournament</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>31 Cross Country, BIOLA Invitational</td>
<td></td>
<td>29 W Basketball, BIOLA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>30 M Basketball, San Jose Christian College</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

For more information on athletic events, contact Athletic Dept. at x222
A Review of the 1999-2000 Athletic Year

Athletic success at The Master's College in the final year of the 90's and the initial year of the new decade was a study in contrasts. The fall season was characterized by unfa- miliar territory, rebounding, and a near miss while the winter-spring produced valor, a new beginning and a pair of spectacular national families.

The 1999 soccer campaign was one that ninth-year head coach, Jim Richardson, would rather forget. The Mustangs suffered through a 7-12 season, only their second losing year in the last decade, and missed the post-season for the first time since 1986. The team's problems stemmed from an inability to score, as the Mustangs tallied a school-low 28 goals, and too much pressure or a superb, yet, overtaxed defense. Freshman midfielder Ricardo Bradbury (Jamaica) paced the Mustangs with nine goals and 22 points while sophomore for- ward Anthionn Bruegeman (AZ) had six goals and 21 points.

The Lady Mustang soccer team continued to show remarkable improvement but fell short of a playoff berth in a season marred by streaky play. The ladies put together a pair of game-winning streaks during the fall but it was a midseason seven-game losing streak and a season-ending four-game skid that cost Coach Dudley Hochman and his Mustangs a shot at the post-season as they finished 8-12. Freshman forward, Sira Roiot (WA) enjoyed a pro- lific season, scoring a school record 18 goals, while sophomore forward, Jasmin Grapentine, chipped in with 10 tallies.

Crucial late-season losses cost the Lady Mustang volleyball team in its quest for a second consecutive NAIA Region II playoff appearance. Despite the disappointment, third-year head coach Karen Peterson could look back with pride on a team that had posted a 20-13 record, the first twenty-win season since 1996. The Lady Mustangs came together early in the year, put together a five-game winning streak, never lost more than two matches in a row, and were in the playoff hunt until the final week. Senior middle blocker, Kim Gibson (CA), who concluded her career as one of the program's all-time greats, capped a brilliant senior campaign by being named to the NAIA Women's Volleyball All-Region II Team.

The senior's basketball team continued to make the NAIA National Tournament in its own personal tradition as they rolled to their seventh consecutive appearance on the strength of a marvelous 28-6 season. Head coach Bill Oates, who has carved up a 181- 59 record in his seven years at the college, guided the Mustangs to a sixteen-game winning streak, a pair of national tournament wins, a finish in the Elite Eight, and a No. 9 national ranking. Fueling the team's effort at both ends of the court were a pair of NAIA All-Americans: Joey Penberthy and Joelin Julmist. Penberthy, a first-team NAIA All-American guard from Fresno, California, averaged a team-high 20.2 ppg and completed his exceptional career as the No.6 scorer in school history. Meanwhile, Julmist, a power forward from Freeport, Bahamas, became the only Mustang in his- tory to capture a statistical title, leading the country in rebounding at 14.2 per game while claiming All-American honors for the third successive season, this time as a third-team choice.

Although the Lady Mustang basketball team did not duplicate their national tournament entry of the previous year, they played valiantly throughout an injury plagued season and recorded a 16-15 record. The ladies started the season like a ball of fire, winning their first six games before settling into a pattern where they never won or lost more than three in a row the rest of the way. One constant for fourth year head coach Ken Sugarmann's ladies was the play of center of Leslie DuBois (CA), who enjoyed the most prolific freshman season in school history, averaging over 18 points and nine rebounds per game while gaining NAIA All-American Honorable Mention accolades.

The game of golf made its intercollegiate debut at the college this spring in Coach Jim Lundstrom fielded a six-man squad that was very competitive in both invita- tional and dual matches. The team, fin- ished fifth in the NAIA Region II Championship in mid-April with freshman Joe Chally (IL) and sophomores John Anderson (CA) and Glenn Lord (CA), setting the pace.

Saving the best for last may have been the mantra of the Mustang baseball team as it capped the greatest season in school history by finishing third in the NAIA World Series in early June. The Mustangs split four games in their first ever appearance in the 10-team, double elimination tourna- ment and concluded their fourth campaign under Head Coach Monte Brooks with a 37-13 record. In an era of the aluminum bat, the Mustangs succeeded with superb pitching, riding the strong right arms of junior Josh Higgins (CA), and senior Mike Ploharz (CA), and clutch hitting from catch Mike Wertz (CA), centerfielder Kurt Fillmore (ID) and rightfielder Andy Salazar (CA). Ploharz went 11-2 and was a second team NAIA All-American while Higgins set a single season record with 15 wins and was an NAIA Honorable Mention All- American. Wertz, another honorable men- tion choice and an NAIA All-American Scholar-Athlete, paced the team in four offensive categories. Fillmore, who led the team in six offensive areas, concluded a stellar four-year career as the program's all-time leader in runs scored, doubles, stolen bases, and walks. Salazar led the squad in hitting and capped an outstanding World Series by being named to the all-series team along with Fillmore and Higgins.