Graduation
New VPs
Alumni Dinners
Graduation Day

May 8 was an exciting day as we witnessed the graduation of over 130 students from Emmanuel College. On that beautiful Saturday morning the weather was perfect, and the air was filled with joy. Proud parents, spouses, grandparents, and friends filled the John W. Swails Center to wish these young people well as they began a new chapter in their lives. After all, walking across the stage was the culmination of many hours of study, many prayers, many dreams, and thousands of dollars invested in their future.

For those of us who work here at the college, graduation day represents a sending off of young people in whom we have invested academic knowledge, biblical values, a Christian worldview, and, hopefully, tools that will assist them in the years to come. It is a day of both relief and pride rolled into one. It also underscores the real purpose for our existence—students who are prepared to be Christlike disciples who integrate faith, living, and learning for effective careers, scholarship, and service (words lifted from our Mission Statement).

Yet for the graduates themselves, it is a launching point into a world of uncertainties. Our nation’s economic recovery appears slow; jobs are harder to find; many businesses are cutting back; banks are tightening lending, and homes are more difficult to afford. A sense of despair has enshrouded many people. Graduation day marks a fresh point of faith, promise, and hope. I believe that these men and women will face the future with confidence and courage. They will enter a broken world and help to restore the moral standard. Many of them are true servants who want to serve humankind in order to bring about healing. Our graduates give me hope in the future.

Please pray for them and remember these words of Jesus: “These things I have spoken unto you, that in me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world” (John 16:33, emphasis added).

Sincerely,

Michael S. Stewart, President

[EDITOR’S NOTE: Information about the life and passing of one of Emmanuel’s most beloved and remembered faculty members, Rev. John Washington Swails, Jr., will be in the upcoming edition.]
MISSION STATEMENT
Emmanuel College is a Christ-centered, liberal arts institution which strives to prepare students to become Christlike disciples who integrate faith, learning, and living for effective careers, scholarship, and service.

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ATTENTION ALUMNI...
Emmanuel wants to know what you’ve been doing. Mail your AlumNote with picture to: AlumNotes, Emmanuel College Alumni Relations, P.O. Box 129, Franklin Springs, GA 30639, or send your AlumNote with picture online via the alumni website: www.ec.edu/alumni, or through email: alumni@ec.edu. Pictures must be 300 dpi and saved as a JPEG format. Pictures that are mailed will not be returned. Because of strict deadlines, your AlumNote may not be printed until a later issue.

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On Saturday May 8, the 2010 commencement ceremony took place in the John W. Swails Center on the campus of Emmanuel College.

Several new scholarships were announced during the ceremony. The Bruce A. Knighton Memorial Scholarship, in memory of Bruce Knighton, will be given to a student who exemplifies the great qualities and character of Bruce Knighton: commitment to family, church, and community. The Dr. Frank Mann Science Scholarship will be awarded to a rising junior who is deemed most likely to have a science or science-related career. And the Dorothy D. Powell Business Scholarship is set in place to assist Emmanuel business students with their education in hopes that these students will give back and bless future business students through their giving to Emmanuel College.

Dr. Ruth B. O’Dell, superintendent of the Franklin County School System was the 2010 commencement speaker. Following her speech, awards were presented to faculty, staff, and students who stood out among their peers.

The degrees were awarded next, over 130 of them, and a new graduating class was inducted into the Emmanuel College National Alumni Association.
Spotlight

Turning Point

– Tam Tilley

Sometimes life does not turn out quite the way we expected. Have you ever found yourself asking, “Why am I here?” While today an award-winning musician and church worship leader, Regi Stone (’85) once asked himself the same question. According to family lore, when Regi was five years old, his aunt opened a John W. Schaum songbook and showed him how to play. By the time his parents returned later that afternoon, he could play the entire song. His parents nurtured this love of music with piano lessons from his mother, Miss Watson of Atlanta, and Dr. Dorothy Shuford of Valdosta. By the time he was in high school, four-hour practice sessions were commonplace. There were always competitions for which to prepare, music to memorize, and performances and other small goals to accomplish, each building toward his ultimate goal of acceptance at Julliard and a future as a classical pianist.

One such performance was for a local Rotary club, where a member who heard him play offered to pay for his first year of college. Regi attended Valdosta State for a year and was soon accepted to Julliard. Thirteen years of hard work had paid off in the attainment of his dream. However, something was not quite right. Regi began to ask himself if piano practice and performances were all life had to offer. A trip to Florida State University to visit a cousin offered a taste of life outside the practice room and gave him time to reflect on his decision to move to New York. After speaking with some high school friends, he began to consider an alternative to a life of tickling the ivories. “Some friends were headed to this little school in Georgia,” he says, “and I thought, ‘Why not?’”

Upon arrival at Emmanuel College and without four-hour practice sessions, Regi felt restless. If he was not going to be a classical pianist, what was he supposed to do with his life? Since he had grown up playing the piano for his church, he joined [the Emmanuel] Singers. The Lord had given him a talent, and he had diligently honed his craft, but God seemed to be steering him away from a life surrounded by classical music toward something else. Yet, 13 years of study—was it all to be thrown away?

Shortly after he arrived at Emmanuel College, Mt. Paran Church of God in Atlanta needed a musical director. Regi took the job and stepped into God’s purpose for his life. Today he is a worship leader, publisher, and songwriter. Regi continues to play the piano, write music, and collect Dove Awards. He currently serves as the worship leader of Christ Church in Nashville, Tennessee. Christ Church has long been recognized as a flagship of church worship in Nashville, offering a bridge to worship between leading musicians in the country music arena and church worship leaders around the U.S. As a singer/songwriter, Regi has created a music service that
provides 160 songs per year to churches around the globe. For a mere $33 per month, his company provides vocal arrangements, an entire collection of sheet music, PowerPoint presentations, and accompanying drama skits. Currently, his music service has several thousand church subscribers.

Regi says, “I believe God created me to encourage and inspire people to experience worship.” To that end, he formed a nonprofit foundation to facilitate his call, and the first issue of Experience Worship magazine is now available and shares stories from around the world of how other believers experience worship. To learn more, visit www.experienceworship.com.

Psalm 100:2 says, “Worship the Lord with gladness. Come before Him, singing with joy.” (NLT) Emmanuel Singers is just the place for those who love worshiping the Lord through music. It’s where Regi Stone connected his love of music with his life at Emmanuel and where so many others who have been touched through the worship of song, music, instruments, and more have found a place to express this form of worship at Emmanuel College.

“Worship,” Regi says, “is not about an activity we do; it’s an attitude we choose to live by. Because I was created to worship, I find I’m at home when I spend dedicated time learning to live out a life of daily worship.”

Those who are currently a part of Emmanuel Singers are also learning to live out a life of daily worship. Singers performs locally and abroad – around the United States and in other countries. Many who come to Emmanuel have seen Singers perform at their home church or at a youth event and have been so touched, they want to be a part of it all too.

This dynamic is unparalleled. Singers is unique to Emmanuel in that it is a family, a place for those who have a desire to worship through song to come together and make an impact not only in the community, but around the world.

Regi Stone is one of many to walk the campus of Emmanuel College as a Singer. Others have come before him, and others will come behind him, but all will feel the power of the Lord work through them and through their God-given talent as they reach out and change the lives of others with the gift of worship through music.

Experience the power of Emmanuel Singers online by watching this video by Trevor Lanier (’10):
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iKrbaoCl8xw

“Worship is not about an activity we do; it’s an attitude we choose to live by.”
A wonderful adventure was beginning as a lively group of Emmanuel alumni boarded the tour bus in Burlington, N.C. Leading us was the tour “Queen” (aka Linda). She had every detail carefully planned to maximize our time and assure that this adventure to the Amish Country and Hershey, Pa., would be enjoyed by all.

There was plenty of action in the bus as the group made this road trip together. There was time for reminiscing about our EC experiences, as well as engaging conversations about our lives today. We enjoyed reading, singing, and playing challenging rounds of Rook while occasionally catching a glimpse of the varied landscape along the way. Intertwined with all of this, we feasted on yummy cookies and fudge that Linda had prepared.

The Marriott in Lancaster, Pa., was our host hotel, from which we launched our daily tours. As our motor coach drove slowly among the horse-drawn buggies of the Amish community, we reveled in the relaxing and refreshing quaintness of it all. As the trip drew closer to the end, we all realized we had eaten too much at the Marriott breakfasts and enjoyed one too many Amish dinners. However, we all anticipated one more indulgence—the Millennium Theatre’s production of Joseph. This was the grand finale… absolutely phenomenal!
New Vice Presidents at Emmanuel College

by Paula Dixon
Photos by Paula Dixon

Dr. John Henzel leaves his position as dean of EC’s School of Business to serve as vice president for Academic Affairs. “Dr. Henzel is an able leader and well prepared to take on the functions of this role,” Dr. Stewart says.

“His experience as dean of the School of Business, chair of the SACS Reaffirmation Committee, chair of the Strategic Planning Committee, and many other endeavors have laid the groundwork for this transition,” he adds.

Well respected by colleagues and students, Dr. Henzel joined the EC faculty in 1998. He earned his Ph.D. from the University of Georgia Terry College of Business.

Ms. Wendy D. Vinson becomes EC’s new vice president for Enrollment and Marketing. She is a former member of EC’s Board of Trustees and will oversee admissions, financial aid, and marketing. “Ms. Vinson brings a wealth of corporate and ministry experience in the areas of marketing and sales,” Dr. Stewart says. “As an alumnus of Emmanuel, she also possesses a deep love for the college and a commitment to our mission.”

Vinson has worked more than 22 years in the cable industry in affiliate relations, national and local ad sales, marketing and promotions. She was inducted into the Virginia Cable Hall of Fame and has served in leadership positions with Women in Cable Telecommunications focused on mentoring. Vinson leaves her position as vice president of Affiliate Sales & Relations at Inspiration Ministries, the parent company to INSP—The Inspiration Networks, Halogen, LFC—La Familia Cosmovision, and INI—Inspiration Network International. She holds a master of arts degree in communication/television and journalism from Regent University in Virginia.

EC Tennis Player Earns Highest Conference Honor

by Paula Dixon

This year’s Southern States Athletic Conference (SSAC) Male Honor Athlete of the Year goes to Emmanuel College’s Trevor M. Lanier. He accepted the award at the conference banquet in Montgomery, Ala., in May just after completing his Bachelor of Science in Multimedia Communication with a 3.9 GPA and graduating with honors.

He is the son of Steve and Debbie Lanier and is from Hull, Ga. A graduate of Madison County High School, Lanier excelled in tennis all four years at EC and has been an active member of the campus community, including Singers, campus publications, service learning, mentoring, missions, recruiting, and worship services.

This esteemed conference award is based on a student athlete’s grade point average, community service, team excellence, and character. Lanier was proudly nominated by his coach, Dr. Mark Goodwin.

“Trevor served as team captain all four years and is recognized and respected as a leader on campus,” Dr. Goodwin says. “He is a prime example of what a student athlete can be.”

Lanier works full-time as a graphic designer and recruiter in EC’s Admissions Office.
ALUMNI DINNERS

1. Myrtle Beach, S.C. • January 23, 2010 • Magnolias at 26th
2. Greenville/Spartanburg, S.C. • January 26, 2010 • Christian Heritage Church
3. Jacksonville, Fla. • April 12, 2010 • Holiday Inn at I-95
4. Lakeland, Fla. • April 16, 2010 • The Club at Eaglebrooke
5. Columbia, S.C. • January 25, 2010 • Life Springs Worship Center
6. Charleston, S.C. • February 27, 2010 • Ashley House (1859)
7. Daytona Beach, Fla. • April 13, 2010 • Olive Garden
8. Tallahassee, Fla. • April 17, 2010 • Christian Heritage Church
1970s

MICHAEL KEITH GREER ('72)
My life has been truly blessed. We have four beautiful children and eight wonderful grandchildren. I am retired but staying busy; I love living on the beach even though I try to stay out of the sun. After 28 years of business, it was time to close our music stores. Since then, I've traveled all over the world and have enjoyed my life. I sure miss all of you and would love to hear from you. My address is 401 La Valencia Circle, Panama City Beach, FL 32413. Ellen Dunning, my former wife and a 1972 graduate of EC, is presently living in North Carolina. We talk each day and always talk of our wonderful friends at EC. She is a patient rights advocate and medical credentialist at Martin General Hospital in Williamston, N.C. She would love to hear from all of you as well. Her address is 1886 Roberson Chapel Road, Williamston, NC 27892. “God bless you” is our prayer, and remember that we love you all.

PETE ('79) & LYDIA ('81) GASTER
Kaitlyn “Katie” Gaster, daughter of Pete and Lydia Gaster and granddaughter of Sylvia H. Sexton, Wilmington, N.C., was the 2009 national winner of Teen Talent in Audible Drama in Greensboro, N.C. Katie is a rising senior at Laney High School and is a member of the color guard in the high school band.

2000s

REBECCA (MILLS) SCHWEITZER ('03) Matthew and Rebecca (Mills) Schweitzer would like to announce the birth of their first son, Owen David, on April 14, 2010. Rebecca is a 2003 graduate of Emmanuel College and a 2006 graduate of Regent University. Matthew graduated from Lehigh University in 2005 and serves as the youth director of Wayne United Methodist Church in Wayne, Pa. Rebecca works for a private counseling agency by providing therapy to young children. Matthew will begin his career as an educator in the fall. Matthew and Rebecca were married in April 2008 and live in eastern Pennsylvania. Rebecca is the daughter of Ronald and Pamela (Paynter) Mills, both graduates of Emmanuel College.

WOODWIN MICHAEL WEEKS ('05)
We are proud to announce the May 30, 2010, graduation of Woodwin (Woody) M. Weeks from medical school at Nova Southeastern University. Woody and his wife, Rachel ('04), moved to Ft. Lauderdale, Fla., in summer 2005. He received the Excellence in Geriatrics Award upon graduation and has additionally completed a pre-doctoral fellowship in osteopathic manipulative medicine. The Weeks family will live in Orlando, Fla., for the three-year duration of his residency at Florida Hospital East Orlando. In the last five years they have grown to a family of four with the birth of their sons, Michael and Luke. Rachel is a stay-at-home mom while obtaining her BFA in photography through the Academy of Art University in San Francisco. In addition, Woody and Rachel celebrated their six-year anniversary on May 22 with a trip to New York City. They look forward to returning to Moultrie, Ga., for Woody to practice family medicine as the first doctor on either side of his family!

CHRISTIE (PEER) SHANAfelt ('03)
I spent some time as a teacher at a small Christian high school and served as a unit secretary for the hospital in Fitzgerald, Ga., before beginning osteopathic medical school at Texas College of Osteopathic Medicine in Forth Worth in fall 2005. While in medical school, I completed a one-year fellowship in manipulative medicine. I also met and married Bryan Shanafelt, and we currently reside in Lewisville, Texas. I graduated on May 15, 2010, as a doctor of osteopathic medicine (D.O.). I will be completing a three-year residency program in family medicine at the Medical Center of Southeast Oklahoma in Durant, OK.

We reserve the right to edit AlumNotes for content and space.
Homecoming is just a few months away!

Make your plans now to join us this October.

$40 per person
$75 per couple
$100 per family

$15 Golden Grads (single)
$25 Golden Grads (couple)

Don’t forget to book your room at any of the following hotels before September 3, 2010, to get the special Emmanuel College Homecoming rate.

**Ramada Limited** – Royston, 706-246-0256, $59.99 (approx. 3 miles)

**Holiday Inn Express** – Lavonia, 706-356-2100, $82.00 (approx. 12 miles)

**Holiday Inn Express** – Commerce, 706-336-8666, $75.00 (approx. 23 miles)

**Comfort Suites** – Commerce, 706-336-0000, $99.00 Queen (two beds); $89.00 King (approx. 23 miles)

Details about Homecoming weekend coming soon!