Cindy Coker

Raising the Bar
Affecting Law in South Carolina
The new academic year is off to a roaring start with new and returning students flooding the campus. All residence halls and rental properties are filled. In fact, we have students in community housing in order to accommodate the large numbers. Excitement fills the air because of the increased student body—an increase in almost every category. Emmanuel is growing in every aspect, and we praise the Lord for His blessings and favor.

Honoring Our Past … Building Our Future

The theme for this year at Emmanuel is “Honoring Our Past … Building Our Future.” As we move forward, it is important to reflect on and honor the rich heritage of Emmanuel College. From our beginnings in 1919, men and women have made sacrifices to keep the vision of Emmanuel College alive. We honor those, the heroes of days gone by, and commit ourselves to live by the values that they deeply instilled into the fabric of the college. Values such as faith, responsibility, respect, integrity, and community have guided us for these many years, and they must continue to light the way to the future.

Calling out to us is the future. Building on the solid foundation of the past, Emmanuel’s future is bright. New academic programs, new buildings, and new student opportunities are unfolding before us. Yet, all these things are mere means to the true ends—students fully yielded to Jesus Christ as they make a positive mark on the world. Yes, we are building our future through the lives of hundreds of young men and women who will face a complex world and change it. We are building our future one student at a time.

Jeremiah 29:11 (NIV) “For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the Lord, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.”

Sincerely,

Michael S. Stewart, President
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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Quad Fall 2010, Vol. 65, Issue 1 (USPS 175-200) is published four times a year by the Emmanuel College Alumni and Development Office, 181 Spring Street, Franklin Springs, GA 30639. Periodicals postage paid at Franklin Springs, GA 30639. To submit address changes, send an e-mail to alumni@ec.edu or call 800-860-8600, opt. 4.

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.

Email: alumni@ec.edu
Mail: AlumNotes
Emmanuel College
Alumni Relations
P.O. Box 129
Franklin Springs, GA 30639

Cover photo taken by: Trevor Lanier
Begin your homecoming weekend by participating in the 63rd annual Feast of Ingathering. Held in the John W. Swails Center, this service has become a time-honored tradition. IPHC Women’s Ministries leaders from several conferences, spanning at least four states, will join together in presenting Emmanuel College with a monetary blessing from their respective conferences. These ladies work hard every year to collect money to help support the mission of Emmanuel College. They also lay the foundation for future Emmanuel alumni in the form of scholarships to various deserving students. Join the worship experience with the Emmanuel community and special guests and receive a spiritual blessing of your own as you begin Homecoming 2010.

SCM REUNION DURING HOMECOMING WEEKEND

All SCM graduates of Emmanuel College are invited to attend the School of Christian Ministries Reunion Breakfast. The breakfast will begin Saturday, October 2, 2010, at 9:00 a.m. The location of this event will be announced when homecoming attendees check in at the registration table in the John W. Swails Center.

This Saturday morning SCM breakfast will feature worship, reminiscing, special guests, awards, and an iPad giveaway. The cost for this event is included in the homecoming registration fee, or if there are those who would like to participate in the breakfast only, a $15 charge will be collected upon arrival Saturday morning.

Come be a part of the first ever SCM Reunion Breakfast. Meet with old friends and make some new ones. See the impact your Christian Ministries Department has made on the world.

For more information on this event, contact Sven Legg-Grady at slegg-grady@ec.edu or Dean Tracy Reynolds at treynolds@ec.edu.
This summer a group from Emmanuel went to serve in Bolivia. Being a landlocked country cut off from the trade and commerce other neighboring countries enjoy, Bolivia is the poorest country in South America. Rolando Urquizo, a student majoring in education, was able to return to his home country and serve as an interpreter for the group. “I could not resist [the opportunity] to go to my home country and hometown with people who care for others,” says Rolando. The group was able to serve at a homeless ministry for the elderly called Vida Feliz, meaning “happy life.” Rolando shared that in Bolivia, “Most older people do not have a retirement [fund], and most are illiterate.” Vida Feliz feeds and supports the elderly, working to assist them in fitting back into society. The trip was a wonderful experience for all involved. Rolando had particularly special insight into the value of the trip: “I have lived and faced poverty myself. For me, going on a mission trip to any country refreshes my mind of how much I should be thankful for every single day.”

Candace Dorsey served in Africa this summer with fellow students from the college. Early on, she recognized that God was very real to the people of Africa. “Most people would say that God is what they need; however, that is a drastic misconception… these people have God; the problem is with consistency. If we had pastors, teachers, doctors, and leaders who would actually have a deep passion to pursue and stick with the people who are hurting tremendously, then I believe countries in Africa would be able to live life more abundantly.” It took a little time for Candace to adapt to life away from the comforts and culture of home. With new insight gained from her experience, Candace recognized God’s providence even more completely than before the trip. “I grew to see that when you don’t have anything, God is still always there.”

Dr. Tony Moon was able to serve as co-leader for the Israel trip. The group explored many of the exciting places where our Christian heritage first began. A biblical and theological scholar for almost 40 years, Dr. Moon acknowledged, “A visit to the Holy Land always helps me fill in some gaps in my understanding.” Israel is a nation where only a little over 2 percent of the population is Christian, mostly Palestinian. Perhaps the greatest lesson learned from the trip was that relations between Muslims and Jews continue to be a daily struggle, and unfortunately the Israeli Christians often receive persecution from both sides. “I saw firsthand… the precarious position many Palestinian Christians are in with respect to persecution by both Muslims and Jews, and apathy and unconcern by the evangelical Protestant community in the West.” More than anything, Dr. Moon states, “I now know much better than ever exactly how to pray that prayer we are exhorted to voice in Psalm 122:6, ‘Pray for the peace of Jerusalem.’”

“I grew to see that when you don’t have anything, God is still always there.”

—by Ryan Swails
Emmanuel College alumna Cindy Coker credits her stay in Franklin Springs with guiding a shy young girl along the road to maturity.

The West Columbia, South Carolina, resident received an associate’s degree in religion from Emmanuel College, a B.A. in history from Francis Marion, and her J.D. (Juris Doctor) from the University of South Carolina School of Law.

Coker said her Emmanuel College experience helped her become the person she is. “I came into my own at EC. People who know me accuse me of lying when I talk about being a shy child,” said Coker. “At EC I found me—I was no longer my parents’ daughter or the oldest of three; I started really becoming the person I am today. I have friends I made there that I still keep in touch with. We pick up where we left off like we’d seen each other last week rather than months or years ago. Those two years were important in my spiritual and emotional maturing.”

After college, Coker began teaching middle school before attending law school. After graduating, she returned to the classroom to teach a paralegal program at Florence-Darlington Technical College.

In 1992, Coker joined the South Carolina Bar staff as Law Related Education director. “There were several programs already in place. We expanded our high school mock trial competition to include middle school and increased the teacher training by adding topics such as conflict resolution and character education,” said Coker. “In 2001, I added Public Services director duties to the job, including educational clinics for the public, a law school for non-lawyers.”
In 2004, Coker left for a corporate position, but returned to the Bar in 2009, resuming her previous post.

Currently, Coker said she is modifying the law school for non-lawyers to create an elder university with topics of particular interest to senior citizens and their caregivers. “I also worked with our Access to Justice Commission’s executive director to create a modified law school for non-lawyers for ASL (American Sign Language) interpreters to help them understand the court system better,” said Coker.

Coker said she believes the media have affected society’s perception of what law should be. “I think media have given people some unrealistic expectations about the law,” said Coker. “Cases don’t get solved as fast as they do on TV; everything doesn’t revolve around DNA, and lawyers don’t handle one case at a time.”

Coker said she balances work with her faith by remembering that she is not always in control. “I’m a Type A personality, and every time I start acting like I’m in charge, I get reminded that I’m not,” said Coker. “It’s not hard to keep the balance when God reminds you that He is in charge. It also helps to take some time to spend quietly, and when I don’t keep that quiet time, I get out of balance much faster.”

Coker had been married for eight years when her husband passed away in 2003. “We didn’t have any children, but I am unquestionably the world’s greatest aunt. I’m close to my parents, sisters and their families and remain close to my in-laws,” said Coker. “I won’t say I won’t get married again, because every time I make a major pronouncement about what I will or won’t do, God just laughs and says, ‘Oh, yeah? Watch this.’ However, there is something to be said for controlling your own remote.”

Coker said the secret to a fulfilling life is learning what is important. “I’ve managed to run with scissors often in my life, and the Lord’s managed to keep me from falling. I’ve learned that life is too short to waste it on the unimportant—jobs come and go. Friends and family—that’s where the important things are,” said Coker. “I talk to my parents a couple of times a day, my friends and sisters almost as regularly. What matters isn’t what you make, what’s in the bank, but it’s the time you take to nurture the relationships in your life that counts.”

“At EC I found me—I was no longer my parents’ daughter or the oldest of three; I started really becoming the person I am today. I have friends I made there that I still keep in touch with.”
On the evening of June 12, 2010, Rev. John W. Swails Jr. passed away at the age of 94. His death was a great loss to both Emmanuel College and the International Pentecostal Holiness Church (IPHC); the extent and depth of his career as a Bible scholar and as a minister of the gospel have served as foundation pillars for both institutions.
John W. Swails Jr. was born in Andrews, S.C., on November 26, 1915. He graduated from Holmes Bible College in Greenville in 1941, from Newberry College in 1944, and the Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary in 1946. In that same year, Rev. Swails married Glenda Mae Baldwin from Lake City, S.C. He then went on to earn an M.A. from the University of Oklahoma (OU) in 1951 and completed 26 hours of post-graduate study at the University of Georgia.

While studying at OU, Rev. Swails taught at Southwestern College in Oklahoma City. Then in 1951, instead of taking one of several offers to pastor churches in Oklahoma, Rev. Swails accepted a teaching position at Emmanuel College and moved his family to Franklin Springs. At Emmanuel, his wide knowledge base enabled him to teach a variety of different classes, ranging from social sciences to Bible and courses in the School of Christian Ministries.

Rev. Swails served faithfully at the college until he retired from academia in 1982. During his tenure at EC, he also served as pastor for several churches in the surrounding area, including Elberton PHC, Royston PHC, and finally, Franklin Springs PHC. Rev. John and Glenda Swails were pillars in the community and raised three fine sons in Franklin Springs: John W. Swails III, Joseph B. Swails, and James R. Swails.

Rev. Swails is known for being a great scholar and for his tremendous capacity for warmth towards his family, friends, peers, and students. He had a love for people that had to be experienced to be understood; therefore, the accounts of those with whom he worked and those he taught yield some of the greatest insights into what Rev. Swails accomplished at Emmanuel College.

James Talmage studied at Emmanuel College and selected his courses so that he could study under Rev. Swails as much as possible. During that time, Talmage took 22 courses, from history to theology, under Rev. Swails. “I was introduced to Rev. Swails when he was pastor of the church in Franklin Springs,” says Talmage. “He was a man that, I soon realized, had an amazing memory. Many people have said photographic, and I would agree. Many times he would quote the text word for word from memory. Later on we found out he had memorized many books of the New Testament.”

Over the course of 30 years, Rev. Swails and Talmage developed a strong friendship that extended far beyond the classroom experience. In addition to being a mentor, Rev. Swails heard the vows for Talmage and his wife Deloris when they decided to get married. “I had a wonderful relationship with him, and I have a deep respect for him,” says Talmage. “I cherish the memory of this man. Of all my mentors—my esteem, as a real mentor to me—he is number one.”

“I loved Rev. Swails,” says Rev. Barbara Tengan, pastor of Wailuku Door of Faith Church. “I looked forward to each class with him because each one was fascinating. It created an insatiable desire in me for the Word of God and has kept me going all of these years. We love him, and we are going to miss him.”

“My life and ministry were profoundly impacted by Rev. Swails,” says Dr. Michael Stewart. “His classes and sermons were a rich source of academics but also deeply spiritual and renewing. His amazing ability to teach and preach with incredible wisdom and anointing was unmatched. I still refer back to the notes from many of those classes. Emmanuel College, Franklin Springs, the IPHC, the church world in general, and least of all me—we owe John W. Swails a debt of gratitude for a life well lived and a legacy that will endure.”

Rev. Swails was a true heart, and the true hearts in this world do much more than simply impart knowledge. They share a small piece of themselves that anchors within us the wisdom they share. These, then, are the great teachers, for the sacrifice of themselves ensures the continuation of that wisdom in our own lives. Rev. Swails’ ministry is the people he touched who have gone on to minister to others. He truly loved people, and that investment of biblical and personal fire is seen best in the flames that burn brightly in the hearts of those who knew him, flames that will burn ever on in memory of John W. Swails.

For me, I saw Christ living through my grandfather in a way that did much more than words can explain. There was a synergy at work there that is difficult to describe. I understood God from watching Papa. So much so that now I find as I reference Scripture in any fashion, I instinctively think of my grandfather.

The goal of our Lord and Savior is that God’s Word and will would enter a person and guide his purpose from the inside. In observing my grandfather’s life, I saw the purpose and the will of God strongly at work in a man who carried it with such a grace and ease that it seemed effortless. It was in him when he preached, and it was in him when he was sitting up late at night telling stories with his family.

There was no disconnection between the faith and the man. He was his beliefs.
1950s

VERNON AND VINSON SYNAN ('55)
In the company of many family members and friends, the Synan twins, Vernon and Vinson, celebrated their golden wedding anniversaries with a renewal of vows conducted by Rev. Bert Synan. Vernon and Phyllis live in Franklin Springs, and Vinson and Carol live in Chesapeake, Va. Since they have children and siblings scattered over much of the country, the Synans felt these relatives could not make it to two celebrations in the same month, so the new Community Building of Franklin Springs was chosen as the site for the celebration on July 3, 2010. Many alumni in attendance felt this was another great homecoming, a time to renew acquaintances and share photos of years gone by.

1960s

BARBARA ('62) AND JUNE ('65) TENGAN
During July, friends of Barbara and June Tengan gathered in Atlanta, Ga., for dinner, a time of sharing, fun, and reminiscing about their Emmanuel College days and long friendships together. Barbara and June had been attending a meeting in Minneapolis, Minn., before making a stop in Georgia for a brief visit. Everyone loved the laughter and games and, of course, too much food. Emmanuel is still very strong in the hearts of these alumni, and as for many other graduates, the group picked up right where they left off. The group included Barbara and June Tengan, Bett and Sherm Smith, Carl Turner, Bane and Barbara James, Don and Kay Oliver, David and Claudia Hopkins, Jack and Lois Puckett, and (not pictured) Don and Sue Brady.

1970s

CHRISTY BEATTY SORROW ('79)
Christy Beatty Sorrow retired from the U.S. Air Force Chaplain Corps in August 2008. Since that time she has been teaching history, computer keyboarding, health and scriptural life management at Rainbow Hills Baptist School in San Antonio, Texas. Her husband, Rick, works for Allentek on contract with Methodist Hospital, San Antonio. They have three children: Kyle (17), Callie (16), and Russell (13), who attend the same school where Christy teaches. Kyle and Callie are actively involved in athletics (cross-country, basketball and volleyball), and Russell is an avid reader and promising author. All three are already prayerfully considering their college options and rank Emmanuel in their top two choices, trusting God for His direction.

1990s

LEANN (STITT) SMITH ('96)
On September 17, 2008, I married Jeremiah “Jay” Smith in Negril, Jamaica. We were blessed with the birth of our daughter, Temperence Raeann Smith, on October 6, 2009. I’ve worked for Sunshine Tours, Inc., in Dublin, Va., for seven years, and my husband works for Carilion New River Medical Center in Christiansburg, Va. I’d love to hear from my EC family. I can be emailed at leannstitt22@yahoo.com.
2000s

AMBERLY
(LAWSON) BAILEY
(‘08)
My husband, Parker Bailey, and I are happy to announce our marriage! On April 3, 2010, we exchanged vows in Barnwell Chapel at Berry College in Rome, Ga., surrounded by family and friends. The Rev. Joel Thomas of Northpoint Ministries performed the ceremony. The bride was escorted by her brother, Andrew Lawson. The reception was held at Ford Dining Hall, also on the Berry College campus. I proudly graduated from Emmanuel College in 2008 with a B.S. in E.C.E., and this fall I will begin my third year as a first grade teacher in Hall County School Systems. Parker graduated from Georgia Tech in 2002 and currently works as a pharmaceutical representative. We reside in Flowery Branch, Ga.

TABITHA (DYE) BROWN (‘08)
My husband (Derrick Brown, ’10) and I met at Emmanuel in August 2004. We had an Old Testament class together, became good friends, and have been together ever since! We became engaged May 8, 2009, and were married June 18, 2010. I work with special education in Hart County, and Derrick is finishing his degree. He hopes to find a position where he can continue to mentor and work with kids and then pursue his master’s. I recently earned a master’s degree in education from Kaplan University and plan to pursue my specialist’s degree soon. I have one daughter, Asharia, who is now 7.

UNWRAPPING HIS PRESENCE by Emmanuel College alumnus and current Campus Pastor and Spiritual Life Director CHRIS MAXWELL (‘82) with stories by Mary DeMent and artwork by Emmanuel College alumnus BRENT CHITWOOD (‘77)

This year, why not go through the ups and downs of the holiday season with Jesus right by your side? Find faith in the buzz of overcrowded malls or as you visit a friend in the hospital. Hear Him in the rhythm of the holiday music dancing through the air—the music of people chattering, telephones ringing, children playing, sirens blaring, horns honking…the music of the life you live. Return home to the warmth and festivities, and allow the savory twists of poetry in this book to unwrap the presence of the One who gave His life for you so that you could spend eternity with Him. The One who is called Emmanuel (God with us).

Make Unwrapping His Presence an addition to your own library or enhance someone else’s by giving this book as a Christmas gift. ($16.99, hardcover)

For more information on Unwrapping His Presence, visit Chris Maxwell’s website: www.chrismaxwellweb.com.

WE REMEMBER

REV. JOHN W. SWAILS JR.
November 26, 1915 – June 12, 2010

Rev. Swails was a beloved member of the Emmanuel faculty for over 30 years. He was a constant topic of conversation between former students reminiscing about his class and recalling his famous catch phrases. Rev. Swails loved his family and enjoyed telling stories to a roomful of people, fishing in any weather, and watching a good Georgia football game. He will be sorely missed in the Franklin Springs community, but he is undoubtedly in the presence of our Lord, where we will see him again. Rev. Swails was preceded in death by his wife of almost 60 years, Glenda (Baldwin) Swails. He is survived by his wife, Sylvia (Williams) Swails; sons, Johnny, Joe, and Jim, and their wives; and many grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Mr. Stansell was a member of the U.S. Navy for over 40 years. He loved gospel music, golfing (with two witnessed holes in one), and a good Mariners game. He is survived by his wife, Doris; daughters, Debbie, Terri, Kellie, Jackie, Becky, and Cathy; son, Danny; and a host of other family members, including 22 grandchildren and 5 great-grandchildren. A full military service was held on Monday, September 14, 2009, in Kent, Washington.

MR. JACK D. STANSELL (‘49)
November 14, 1931 – September 7, 2009

Mr. Stansell was a member of the U.S. Navy for over 40 years. He loved gospel music, golfing (with two witnessed holes in one), and a good Mariners game. He is survived by his wife, Doris; daughters, Debbie, Terri, Kellie, Jackie, Becky, and Cathy; son, Danny; and a host of other family members, including 22 grandchildren and 5 great-grandchildren. A full military service was held on Monday, September 14, 2009, in Kent, Washington.
Homecoming is just a few weeks away!

This year’s Homecoming will honor the following classes:

Cost of registration includes all meals.
$40 per person
$75 per couple
$100 per family

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

NOTE: This is a tentative schedule. Events, locations, and times are all subject to change. Updated information will be available at registration.

Questions? Call 800-860-8600 OR e-mail sharland@ec.edu.

Ramada Limited – Royston
706-246-0256 (approx. 3 miles)

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

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

Comfort Suites – Commerce
706-336-0000 (approx. 23 miles)

*Shuttles will run from Holiday Inn Express in Lavonia and Commerce to Emmanuel College

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 1, 2010
• Registration & Reunion Headquarters – 8:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. – John W. Swails Center, West Lobby
• The 63rd Annual Feast of Ingathering – 10:00 a.m. – John W. Swails Center
• Women’s Ministries Luncheon – 11:30 a.m. – John W. Swails Center
• Golf Luncheon and Tournament – 12:00 noon – Luncheon – 1:00 p.m. – Tournament – Highland Walk Golf Course
• Retiree Council Meeting – 1:00 p.m. – Marshburn Room in the John W. Swails Center
• Alumni Reception with the President – 7:00 p.m. – John W. Swails Center

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 2, 2010
• Registration & Reunion Headquarters – 8:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. – John W. Swails Center, West Lobby
• 2nd Annual Springs’ Sprint – 8:00 a.m. – registration – 8:30 a.m. – fun run start time – 9:00 a.m. – 5K start time – Start/Finish at Taylor/Aaron Parking Lot
• Golden Grads Reunion – 9:00 a.m. – Location – TBA
• SCM Reunion – 9:00 a.m. – Location – TBA
• Library Open House – 9:30 a.m. to 10:45 a.m. – Shaw-Leslie Library
• Alumni Reunion Brunch – 10:45 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. – John W. Swails Center
• Groundbreaking of New Residence Hall – 1:00 p.m. – Turner Street, across from Wellons Hall
• Free Time – 1:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. – Locations Vary
• ESPN College Football – 1:30 p.m to 4:30 p.m. – Lion’s Den, TV Lounge
• National Alumni Board Meeting – 2:30 p.m. – Marshburn Room in the John W. Swails Center
• Dinner – 5:00 p.m. – Location – TBA