

# ENCIRCLE

SPRING 2012

**Addressing food access  
challenges at home  
& abroad**

**Gaining experience  
in serving the  
community**

**Also:**

- We have an app for that
- Student-athletes transforming lives
- Tough questions, expert answers

**Finding Meaning  
and LEADING  
Through Tragedy**

**From Black Hawk Down  
to Congresswoman Giffords**

# Meet Mellynn Baker

*Star Student.  
Scholarship Recipient.*



She is one of the 90% of Centenary students who receive scholarship support. As a senior political science major and native of Alexandria, Louisiana, Mellynn Baker '12 has had a great Centenary experience and is looking forward to calling herself an alumna.

Mellynn is smart. She knows that without scholarship support, she and many of her fellow students might not have been able to share in the Centenary experience. That's why she is excited about the **Million Dollar Scholarship Challenge**, a new program that matches every donation through the end of June dollar-for-dollar up to \$500,000.

**Step up to the challenge:  
[centenary.edu/encircle](http://centenary.edu/encircle)**



***"The return on your investment will be the difference that every Centenary graduate makes in the world... which is priceless!"***



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# ENCIRCLE

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SPRING 2012

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Dr. John Holcomb '81 stands on Life  
Flight Helipad at University of Texas  
Memorial Hermann Hospital in  
Houston, Texas.

## 21st Century Global Challenges

In 2011, the Centenary faculty developed and approved an inquiry and action framework organized around three complex, global challenges of the 21st century. Commitment to meaningful engagement of these challenges through coursework, service opportunities, and intercultural experiences will position Centenary graduates to engage these challenges and lead in a changing world.



*"We believe integrative learning and applying that learning are necessities for our students."*

– Centenary Faculty

*"Our students will put their learning into action, not after they graduate, but from the moment they arrive on campus as first-year students. In that way, they will learn to effectively and creatively engage the world's challenges in order to help solve problems for the common good."*

– Mike Hemphill,  
Centenary Provost and Dean of the College

## WELCOME FROM THE PRESIDENT

As Louisiana's only Tier One National Liberal Arts College, Centenary has a special responsibility to encircle the world with wise, caring, moral leaders developed to engage the challenges of the 21st century.

*Encircle* tells the story of Centenary-educated doctors, lawyers, teachers, preachers, moms, dads, civic leaders, and citizens meeting the world's greatest needs. They do so with a knack for developing transformational personal relationships that change lives and change communities for the better. This knack was honed for these leaders by professors who invest personally to help each student find a pathway for linking a life purpose and personal passion with a soul-satisfying profession.

To prepare emerging leaders, Centenary faculty members are ensuring that each student engages and learns to respond to three global challenges of the 21st century:

- **LIVING A MEANINGFUL LIFE** – the challenge of growing into one's full potential with intentionality and an explicit

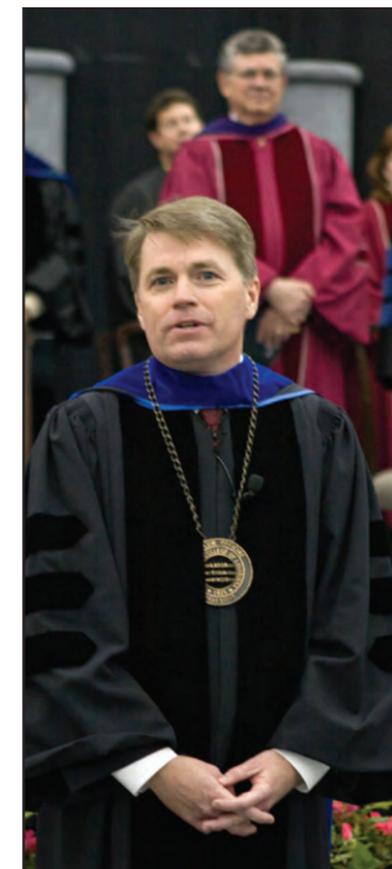
commitment to a set of values, beliefs and ideals that enables one to help others live up to their full potential as well.

- **EXPANDING CIRCLES OF RELATIONSHIP** – the challenge of living peacefully across the globe and promoting respectful engagement in an interconnected world.

- **LIVING A SUSTAINABLE LIFE** – the challenge of living with compassion and justice in a world of finite resources – being good stewards of those resources and relationships on this planet we call home.

The Centenary faculty is integrating living, learning, and leading into a meaningful, coherent, common Centenary educational experience – innovating beyond the traditional classroom learning experience.

In this edition of *Encircle*, engage a world facing complex challenges and learn how Centenary leaders are responding; engage a world in which the aftermath of senseless violence and fierce combat is met with innovative care and life-saving compassion; engage a world in which Centenary students and alumni build community to overcome both local and global food sustainability issues; and discover



*Dr. Rowe speaks at his inauguration while Dr. William G. Anderson '88, '09 LL.D. looks on.*

how Centenary's future leaders learn into action-based responses through our new Living Learning Communities.

Join Centenary on this trek to develop leaders for a changing world.

Take care,

B. David Rowe  
*President*

LEARN MORE AT [centenary.edu/challenges](http://centenary.edu/challenges)

## FROM THE EDITORS

# WELCOME TO ENCIRCLE!

Graduates of Centenary College are making significant, positive impacts in their communities and around the world. Across multiple sectors and multiple continents, College alumni are pioneering and implementing life-saving practices in the health care field, helping to create innovative tools in technology, and doing their part, personally and professionally, to ease the burden of those less fortunate.

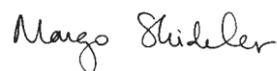
Through tailored academics and integrated living-learning experiences, Centenary is working today to prepare current students for similar success. By introducing students to these real-life learning opportunities, we're developing their potential to become the next generation of global leaders.

This is Centenary's most important story: the impact – both locally and globally – of the Centenary experience.

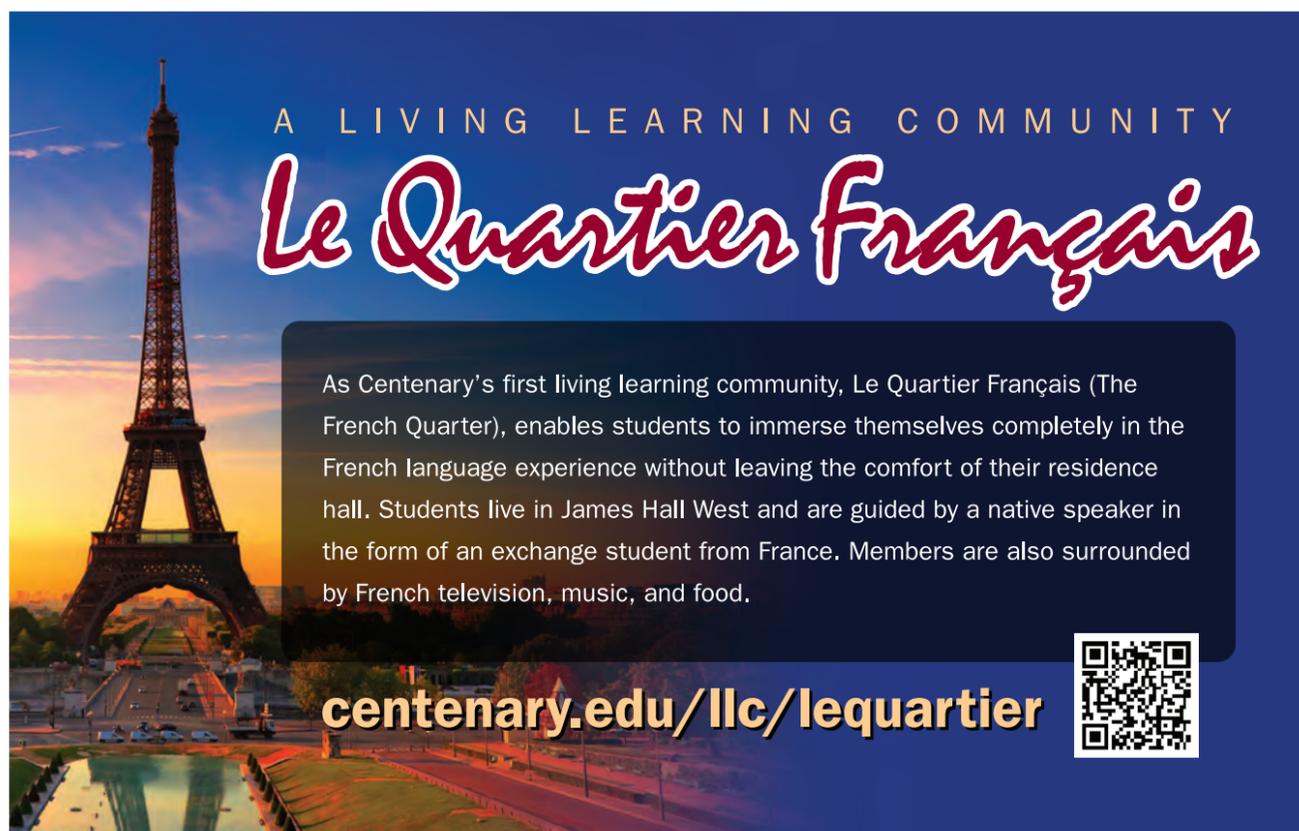
Taking a fresh, creative approach to this magazine provides the surest way to capture that story. If you've received our magazine in the past, you'll notice new content, refreshed features & layout, and even the innovative name, *Encircle*. We hope you like it. ■



Matt Bailey



Margo Shideler '03



A LIVING LEARNING COMMUNITY

## Le Quartier Français

As Centenary's first living learning community, Le Quartier Français (The French Quarter), enables students to immerse themselves completely in the French language experience without leaving the comfort of their residence hall. Students live in James Hall West and are guided by a native speaker in the form of an exchange student from France. Members are also surrounded by French television, music, and food.

[centenary.edu/lc/lequartier](http://centenary.edu/lc/lequartier)



## MEANINGFUL LIFE

Our **challenge** is to identify and live intentionally our deeply held values, ideals and beliefs while respecting the values and beliefs of others.

By approaching the world with an open mind, we search for meaning and purpose. We must explore our passions, question assumptions, and strive toward our potential so as to help others live their potential as well.





### A LIVING LEARNING COMMUNITY

Within blocks of Centenary, people suffer from easily preventable diseases. Why does this happen? What can be done about it?

**More importantly, what are we going to do about it?**

Santé will partner with the community to improve the health of some of the least advantaged people and graduate students who are committed to improving global health and will prepare for careers of service, nationally or internationally.



**Centenary**  
COLLEGE OF LOUISIANA

[centenary.edu/lc/sante](http://centenary.edu/lc/sante)

## Living, Learning & Leading in Global Health

By Matt Bailey and Patty Roberts '82

**Gross health inequalities** exist among populations across the world. The World Health Organization (WHO) reports that the world produces 17 percent more calories per person today than it did 30 years ago, more than enough to provide sufficient nutrition for the entire global population – even with a 70 percent population increase. Yet, up to a billion people in the world still go hungry every day.

*“a state of complete physical, mental, and social well-being and not merely the absence of disease or infirmity.”*

WHO defines health as “a state of complete physical, mental, and social well-being and not merely the absence of disease or infirmity.” WHO believes that a high standard of health is a fundamental right of all humans regardless of race, nationality, religion, or economic or social status.

Achieving world health is a complex goal requiring individuals with multiple talents working together to produce innovative solutions. Obstacles include poverty, conflict, and climate change. Santé, a new Living Learning Community at Centenary, models this paradigm.

Students participating in Santé will partner with local and international groups to improve the health of the least advantaged now while preparing for careers of service. Each student will achieve minimal competency in four areas and choose one in which to specialize through his/her living-learning experience: 1) medical; 2) social scientific; 3) cultural; and 4) ethical. Further, the Santé faculty will work with students to develop essential character traits like wisdom and justice while building vital skills such as communication, organizing, and relationship-building.

Locally, Santé will collaborate with the Martin Luther King, Jr., Health Center, Louisiana's oldest free clinic and pharmacy. International opportunities will include partnering with Le Quartier Français to gain real-world, hands-on experience during a module in Les Cayes, Haiti. ■

## Discovering Meaning, On Purpose

By Valerie Robideaux '03

“What am I going to do with my life?”

Historically, this may be one of the most common questions for a college student. Asked with a sense of urgency and a genuine search for *the* answer, students have embarked on their college careers to find that one profession for the rest of their lives. What differentiates the students asking this question over time, however, is the culture and events of the period in which they live. These experiences render it necessary for higher education institutions to help students find the all important answers in new and tailored ways.

Since 2004, the millennial generation – the generation of social networking,

iPods and iPhones – has been entering the 21st century working landscape. Labeled as unsatisfied, entitled, and narcissistic job-hoppers, the millennial generation could be the convenient scapegoat for a complex and changing job market. For all the negative stereotypes about this generation, many positive attributes exist as well. The hyper-connection spurred by growing up with the Internet has fostered among millennials an enhanced awareness of the world around them, helping them develop a greater appreciation and tolerance of intercultural differences and diversity.

The dilemma is not as simple as a problem-child generation of newcomers. The job market has changed, and today's world is friendlier to someone with creativity and curiosity who can chart his or her own course. This reality necessitates an alternative model of career advising that emphasizes an awareness of self, world, and possibility. Luckily, this alternative model also complements the “entitled” and yet

globally conscious millennial student who plops down in a professor or staff member's office and sighs, “What am I going to do with my life?”

Living intentionally and meaningfully is a life-long pursuit that requires reflection, discernment, and action in each season of a person's life – from first-year college student, to first-time employee, to new parent, to grandparent, to retirement – from baby boomers to gen-xers to millennials. Living meaningfully requires self-awareness, global consciousness, and a desire to make a difference.

As Centenary values the education of the whole student, we seek to provide each student with the tools to discern how he or she can live a meaningful life in a finite, complex, and expanding world. Where do academic interest and training meet passion? Where does passion meet a need? How might individual strengths, skill sets, and knowledge translate into a profession that is meaningful life-work?

These are the questions Centenary students are asking and have been asking in corners across the campus for years. Centenary is now bringing this conversation to the surface as one of its core values and passions.

“So... what I am going to do with my life?” The Office of Professional Discernment works to get to know who students are, what they are interested in, what they are passionate about, and how they can make a difference. ■

*Valerie Robideaux '03 is the director of the newly established Office of Professional Discernment. This office intentionally engages students in the exploration of meaningful life-work by guiding them in the integration of their strengths, passions, values, academic interests and career goals. Learn more at [centenary.edu/discernment](http://centenary.edu/discernment).*



  
Congratulations to

**William Joyce**

Co-Director and  
Centenary Artist-in-Residence



**Brandon Oldenburg**

Co-Director

on winning an Academy Award  
for best animated short film

*The Fantastic Flying Books of  
Mr. Morris Lessmore*



Thank you for inspiring us  
to share our stories.

# Finding Meaning and LEADING Through Tragedy

By Margo Shideler '03

Right: Congresswoman Gabrielle Giffords begins her transit by ambulance to Memorial Hermann Hospital in Houston, Texas. 2011 Getty Images



*Congresswoman Gabrielle Giffords dead.* NPR, CNN, and all three major networks reported the same story on January 8, 2011. That morning a deeply disturbed, lone gunman attacked a peaceful group of citizens who had gathered to meet their congressional representative. The horrific assault left six dead and 12 wounded, including Congresswoman Giffords, who was shot at close range in the head.

The gunshot wound easily could have been fatal for the congresswoman were it not for the employment of key medical interventions on the scene and later at the hospital. No one knows better than the doctors in charge of her care, including Centenary alumnus Dr. John Holcomb '81, how important the lifesaving techniques, often developed in combat zones, have become to trauma medical care.

Today, Holcomb serves as professor and chief of acute care surgery and director of the Center for Translational Injury Research at The University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston (UTHealth). He also is a trauma surgeon at Memorial Hermann-Texas Medical Center. His current post follows on a nearly 30-year career in the United States Army, during which he held senior positions including commander of the U.S.

Army Institute of Surgical Research and trauma consultant for the Army Surgeon General. Holcomb has received numerous accolades from the military and civilian community for his work in trauma and combat care.

## A Centenary Gent Becomes a Soldier

In 1980, a young John Holcomb sat on a couch at the Theta Chi fraternity house, acceptance letter to medical school in hand and unanticipated challenge before him. "It absolutely never occurred to me how I was going to pay for medical school. For some reason, it was not an option to go into debt; it never occurred to me that I could borrow money," explained Holcomb. Confronted by that challenge and with a father who had served in the Army, Holcomb applied for and received a full scholarship from the Army's Health Professional Scholarship Program. "I went into debt for time," he says.

The decision to trade his medical school expenses for service in the military would set the course of his career. He began his debt repayment at Fort Bragg, North Carolina, where he worked closely with the military's elite special operations teams. Holcomb accompanied those highly trained soldiers to some of the world's most dangerous combat zones, including a deployment to Somalia in 1993 that would serve as the catalyst to Holcomb's research revolutionizing combat care.



Dr. John Holcomb '81 speaks at a press conference on Giffords' care. 2011 Getty Images



Dr. Holcomb (right) and a colleague at the 46th Combat Support Hospital in Somalia.

## Finding Meaning through Tragedy

Holcomb motions to a framed photo on his bookshelf and, with complete composure, offers, “That was the front door of our hospital. If you saw the movie *Black Hawk Down*, we took care of the casualties up in that hospital.” *Black Hawk Down* was the title of a novel and subsequent film detailing the Battle of Mogadishu, at the time one of the longest and bloodiest battles for U.S. troops since Vietnam; 18 servicemen were killed in the fighting, and more than 80 were injured.

In a pivotal and tragic event, one of the young soldiers Dr. Holcomb treated in Somalia succumbed to injuries due to massive blood loss. “He bled to death in my hands,” Holcomb says, adding soberly, “It was horrible.” After the experience, Holcomb turned his intense focus to finding ways to

more effectively stop bleeding on the battlefield. After Somalia, Holcomb says he went back to the States to “think and research for a year-and-a-half to two years.”

The result of that reflective period? Holcomb and several colleagues succeeded in developing a revolutionary bandage specifically designed to slow or entirely stop blood flow from wounds: the hemostatic dressing. For the first time in thousands of years, soldiers began carrying something other than gauze to treat bleeding on the battlefield. As Holcomb succinctly puts it, “We’ve had gauze for 5,000 years – the Sumerians had gauze dressings.” At a 2007 meeting of the American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons and the Orthopaedic Trauma Association, Holcomb presented findings showing how well hemostatic dressings were working: in 95 percent of cases where HemCon was used to treat combat injuries, the hemostatic dressing either improved hemostasis or completely stopped bleeding. In fact, the dressing worked 100 percent of the time when gauze failed. Today, hemostatic dressings are carried by all soldiers in the battlefield.

Beyond launching hemostatic dressings, Holcomb’s research has enhanced the way tourniquets and intravenous methods are employed in trauma situations. Holcomb’s work has undoubtedly made a meaningful impact in the lives of countless soldier and civilian patients, as well as in the medical research community. “What research sometimes does is allow people to step back and think, ‘maybe there’s something better,’” Holcomb says. “It allows people to free their brain.”

## From the Military to Main Street

What many don’t know is that trauma is the leading cause of death for Americans between the ages of 1 and 45 in the U.S.

## BY THE NUMBERS...

**1.7** million people sustain a traumatic brain injury (TBI) annually

**#1** cause of death among people ages 1-45 in the United States is trauma

**100K** people die from injuries every year... one person every three minutes

More than 150,000 Americans die annually from trauma-related events.

Because trauma so critically affects young people, it also accounts for the highest number of life years lost. For example, if a 25-year-old dies in an accident, he or she will have lost more than 50 years of life. The societal impact of these



Dr. Holcomb (center) performs an operation.

statistics makes it even more important to specialists like Holcomb to ensure the hard-earned, life-saving lessons learned in warzones are passed on to the civilian world. Holcomb explains, “What is true about every war, every war has always improved the care of civilian trauma cases.”

“What is true about every war, every war has always improved the care of civilian trauma cases.”

In the case of Congresswoman Giffords, lessons learned in military medicine undoubtedly helped save her life – the use of triage, paramedics, ambulances all originated on the battlefield. Two of the military’s top trauma specialists oversaw her care: Dr. Peter Rhee in Tucson and Dr. Holcomb in Houston. But Holcomb sees a positive in the tragedy surrounding Giffords: it is bringing more attention to the importance of and need for exceptional trauma care.

He has certainly taken up this mantle in recent years. Since Holcomb joined the UTHealth and Memorial Hermann-Texas Medical Center – one of the university’s primary teaching hospitals – in 2008, the trauma center’s death rate has decreased by 30 percent. The hospital’s air ambulance service, Life Flight, now transports blood to be used as emergency transfusions are needed.

Holcomb is also hard at work building a bridge between military and civilian medical communities. Over six years ago, Holcomb and a colleague pioneered a program – the Senior Visiting Surgeon Program – to bring senior civilian surgeons and their expertise to the Landstuhl Regional Medical Center. Located in Germany, the center is the largest American hospital for U.S. soldiers outside of the United States. What has been interesting for Holcomb is seeing not only the ways skilled surgeons are sharing lessons with military doctors but also that “there were a lot of lessons military surgeons were teaching very experienced civilian surgeons.”

In addition, Holcomb is working to make certain that innovative research being conducted in laboratories is making it to clinical settings. As the director of the Center for Translational Injury Research, he drives innovative research projects focused on trauma care and ensures the life-changing results of the research make it out of the lab and to the patient’s bedside.

So what according to one of the world’s leading trauma surgeons is next? Dried blood. “With a few exceptions, blood products we use haven’t changed much since the 1940s. Over the next 10 years, we’re going to see dried blood products that can be stored at room temperature, at the point of care,” Holcomb explains. “In 10 years, we’ll have a little vial of dried plasma. Just add water and inject it.” We’re confident, if he has anything to say about it, this innovation will make it to the bedside sooner rather than later.

## The Centenary Experience of a Trauma Surgeon

Thumbing through his senior yearbook, Holcomb recalls fondly his time spent in the Theta Chi house, eating burgers at Murrell’s, and playing pool at Pizza King on quarter beer night.

One of his favorite memories occurred in Mickle Hall, where he spent many late nights studying. Then-Biology Professor Brad McPherson called Holcomb into his office to show him a novel piece of equipment: the computer. The professor and student discussed how the device might be used, and Professor McPherson prophetically concluded, “I don’t know, but I think it’s going to be big.”

When asked what advice he might offer a student looking to fully leverage the Centenary experience, Holcomb again calls on a Professor McPherson memory, “What he taught, which I think was important, is not rote memorization, but to learn how to learn.” Holcomb suggests capitalizing on the small class sizes and the benefits they afford. “The most important thing is learning how to learn, and having routine, significant interaction with professors.” ■

“The most important thing is learning how to learn...”



A group of Centenary Theta Chi’s, including Holcomb (fourth from left), during the 1980-81 school year.



# Touching Lives, BEATING THE ODDS

By Dena Pruett

More than 10,000 patients in the U.S. are diagnosed with life-threatening diseases such as leukemia or lymphoma every year.



Of these patients, 70 percent in need of a transplant do not have a matching donor in their family. If the patient is from a diverse racial and ethnic background, the percentage of potential adult donors is 10 or below compared to 74 percent for Caucasian patients.

To offset these grim odds, the National Marrow Donor Program (NMDP) and the Be the Match Foundation operate the world's largest and most diverse registry of potential marrow donors and donated cord blood units. Since 1987, the NMDP has facilitated more than 43,000 marrow, peripheral blood stem cells, and cord blood transplants for patients through unrelated donors.

In February 2012, the Shreveport-Bossier LifeShare Blood Center, an affiliate of NMDP, and the Centenary College men's basketball team joined forces to boost the chances that a local 9-year-old boy would find a potentially life-saving bone marrow match.

Two years ago, Sir Terrence Mack was diagnosed with Natural Killer T-cell Lymphoma when his mother took him to the doctor for what she believed to be a simple cold. This type of lymphoma is not only rare but almost unheard of for someone of African-American descent. He received chemotherapy and radiation treatments, but the key to his treatment was to find a matching bone marrow donor.

Following his diagnosis, Sir Terrence was invited to serve as honorary team captain at several Centenary basketball games. Once an avid basketball player, the illness sapped his energy to play. The men's basketball team wanted to do more for the young boy, so they organized a bone marrow drive during their home game on February 11.

"Sir Terrence deserves a chance to continue to fight his lymphoma," said Adam Walsh, head men's basketball coach. "We hope that our efforts to raise awareness and encourage bone marrow donor registrations help find him a match."

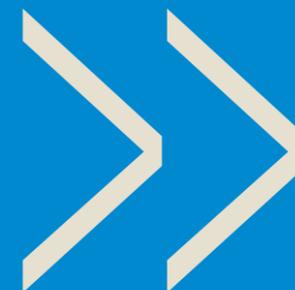
Since the donor drive, a bone marrow match has been found, and Sir Terrence's treatment will continue. Sir Terrence's mother, Wadell Hayes, is hopeful.

"It means a lot to me. He just wants to have a normal life again – to go back to school and do things with his brothers."

For information on how to become a donor, visit [marrow.org/join](http://marrow.org/join). ■

## EXPANDING CIRCLES

Our **challenge** is to expand our circle to promote respectful engagement with a broader world. In the 21st century, not everyone shares the same values or experiences, and conflict exists. Through exploration and discussion of our differences, we must work to create the common ground necessary to build peaceful, just, and mutually beneficial relationships.



# GLOBAL CHALLENGES, LOCAL NEEDS

By Matt Bailey and Dena Pruett

Centenary is expanding its circle of influence and compassion into the Highland neighborhood and surrounding community through service and leadership. Highland is one of Shreveport's most diverse neighborhoods, with a mix of socioeconomic and racial diversity. The area shares many of the same challenges found elsewhere in America and across the globe.



Students play with local children on the 2012 MLK Day of Service.

Poverty, education, health care, and the environment continue to be issues of concern in the area Centenary calls home. In the 2011 Community Counts study issued by the Community Foundation of North Louisiana, Shreveport was ranked within a group of eight peer communities in the South on a range of civic indicators. It ranked seventh for poverty, eighth for K-12 education, and sixth for both health care and air and water quality.

Centenary has worked to address the greatest need of its surrounding area throughout its history. Founded in 1825 by the governor at the time as the College of Louisiana, it was designed to educate leaders in the liberal arts to become problem-solvers. This tradition of actively engaging challenges continues with Centenary students, faculty, and staff leading the way.

**"The BIG Event gives us an opportunity to give back to the community that has become our home."**

Payton Bannon '13

## Serving in a BIG Way

The BIG Event is a student-led day of service during which members of the Centenary community work to beautify the surrounding neighborhoods and give back to Shreveport.

Centenary students, faculty, staff, and alumni have come together every spring for the past five years. Volunteers have the opportunity to choose from various helpful activities, including exterior home improvement, basic landscaping, and inside services. Members of the Shreveport-Bossier community, including local high schools students, also pitch in to volunteer both in teams and as individuals. The results are transformative for the neighborhood as well as the lives touched in the process.

"The BIG Event is important to me and other students because

it gives us an opportunity to give back to the community that has fostered Centenary's development and become our home," said junior Payton Bannon, who coordinated media for the 2012 BIG Event. "It is a great way for us to unite as a campus for the single purpose of helping out our neighbors."

At Centenary, the BIG Event has had over 200 volunteers participate every year since its inaugural run in 2008. A national cause, the BIG Event is considered the largest, one-day, student-run service project in the U.S. Its ongoing success has been instrumental in garnering local and national recognition for the College. Centenary has been named to the President's Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll for each of the six years since the recognition program began. The Honor Roll recognizes



A Centenary student sands a bookcase at the Highland Center in Shreveport.

continued →

## TRANSFORMATIONAL EXPERIENCES: DREAM WEEK & DIVERSITY EDUCATION

By Chris Lavan '06

At Centenary College, we seek to transform lives for the transformation of the world, an aim embraced and advanced by our President, Dr. David Rowe. One vehicle for this transformation started a little over four years ago when a group of concerned faculty and staff members gathered to increase awareness about diversity among members of the College community. The group sought to support those members of the Centenary community whose voices might unintentionally be lost in the hustle and bustle of campus life.

Under the leadership of then-chair Dr. Kelly Weeks, Diversity Committee members decided that the best way to teach students about diversity and the civil rights movement was to combine service to the community with opportunities to listen to perspectives from proponents



Phoebe Ferguson (left) and Keith Plessy (center) pose with Dr. Kelly Weeks and Centenary students.

of diversity and transformation. Hence, Dream Week, a week set aside to remember the life and legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., was born.

Since its inception, Dream Week has grown into an event that students as well as community members look forward to each year. Performances and featured speakers open the window to the civil rights movement and the legacy of Dr. King in a way that no textbook can:

- ▶ visiting speakers such as this year's guests, Keith Plessy and Phoebe Ferguson, descendants of the key individuals involved in the 1896 Plessy v. Ferguson civil rights case;
- ▶ musical performances like 2011's "The Hallelujah Train" led by Pastor Brady Blade, Sr., his son, Centenary alumnus Brady Blade, Jr., and the Zion Baptist Church Choir; and,
- ▶ community service through our MLK Service Day which organizes current Centenary students, faculty, staff and alumni together with community members to make a positive change in local elementary schools and non-profit organizations in the Highland area.

These opportunities are important, as diversity at Centenary is a continuing and evolving conversation. Our focus is to continually move forward together, as a campus community, to celebrate our differences. ■

Chris Lavan '06 serves as the College's Director of Global Engagement.





Centenary students and an alumna assist a Highland neighbor with yardwork at the BIG Event 2012.

institutions that reflect the values of exemplary community service and achieve meaningful outcomes in their community.

“Centenary students are passionate about service and giving back to the community,” said Chris Lavan, director of global engagement. “Our presence on this list is a testament to their willingness to live, lead, and learn through action. As our service opportunities continue to expand on a local and global scale, Centenary’s name will become synonymous with students who give above and beyond themselves for the good of others.”

#### Intentional Experiences

Students’ voluntary participation in large-scale service projects such as the BIG Event and MLK Service Day often helps fulfill the community component of Centenary’s Trek Program. Trek contributes to a meaningful and impactful Centenary experience by developing each student’s potential to engage the world’s

challenges. Culture and career experiences are the two other components of the program which promote career and graduate school preparation, intercultural engagement, and civic involvement.

The Office of Global Engagement spearheads many of these opportunities in collaboration with professors and student groups. Centenary faculty and staff members lead students in integrated learning opportunities by guiding them through intentional reflection on cultures different from their own, service to their communities, and diverse perspectives that enhance their view of the complex and ever-changing world. Through these intentional experiences, students develop their potential as compassionate global leaders by actively addressing the needs of their community. ■

Learn more at [centenary.edu/trek](http://centenary.edu/trek) and [centenary.edu/globalengagement](http://centenary.edu/globalengagement)

“Centenary students are passionate about service and giving back...”

Chris Lavan '06

## WE HAVE AN APP FOR THAT

By Dena Pruett

Smartphones are changing the way we communicate. Of the world’s 4 billion mobile phones in use, 1.08 billion are smartphones. People across the globe connect through text messaging, social networking sites, and blogs – wherever and whenever.

The popular appeal of smartphones has led to the rise of the app – application software designed to perform specific tasks. Many apps are enabling users to become confident global citizens with a simple click of a button. Lost in a new city? Need a translator while visiting Spain? There is an app for that. Apps that are created purely for entertainment purposes have value as well as they push the technology forward, paving the way for more intuitive capabilities.

Several Centenary faculty members, alumni, and students have been at the forefront of this cutting-edge technology.

A group of students, alumni, and faculty developed Pherophone, an Android application that lets users leave time-sensitive messages at specific GPS coordinates for others to find. Working on the project were Jacob Jennings '12, Kathryn Hardey '12, and Dr. Mark Goadrich. From that beginning, the members of the group have contributed their talents to Twin Engines Lab and Moonbot Studios.

The Fantastic Flying Books of Mr. Morris Lessmore app from Moonbot Studios is an interactive, narrative experience about people who devote their lives to books and books who return the favor. The app has won numerous

awards, and Centenary students Nolan Baker '10 from Moonbot Studios and Jacob Jennings from Twin Engines Lab assisted in the programming and development. In February 2012, *The Fantastic Flying Books of Mr. Morris Lessmore* won an Oscar at the Academy Awards for Best Animated Short Film.

The Numberlys is the second story app from Moonbot Studios and presents a

### BY THE NUMBERS...

**43** percent of U.S. adults have apps on their phones and 2/3 use them regularly

**82** percent of adults are active cell phone users

**300K** mobile apps have been developed in just three years

**11 BILLION** is the number of times the most popular apps have been downloaded



fanciful depiction of the origins of the alphabet. Nolan Baker and junior math major Jackson Blankstein '13, who is interning at Moonbot, assisted in the production of the app. Baker and Blankstein both worked on programming with Baker also taking part in the designing.

“I came to Centenary having always had an interest in programming but never actually pursuing it. With Dr. Goadrich’s help, I have achieved more than I ever thought possible,” said Blankstein. “The Numberlys is the first app that I have ever worked on, and it was surreal when the app was sent off to Apple.”

Seniors Jacob Jennings and Kathryn Hardey are interns at Twin Engines Lab. Twin Engines Lab has developed various apps, including American Songwriter, Cisco Avantgarde, ZeneScene, CRM, and the social polling app Copinionation. Nolan Baker also spent time at Twin Engines Lab assisting with ZeneScene and Copinionation. ■

# Encircling the World

By Patty Roberts '82



Centenary College Choir visited Brazil in 2011.

## The world is more connected now than it has ever been.

But for the majority of the global population, experiencing a different culture – in person rather than online or through television – remains difficult if not impossible because of obstacles like time and money. Many people living today will never have the opportunity to live as part of a culture different from their own. They will likely never influence others or be influenced in their own lives by the power of such an experience.

Despite greater global connectedness facilitated by technological advances, intercultural differences and the conflicts and misunderstandings those differences foster persist. Engaging the challenge of this expanding world requires addressing the question of how to live peaceably and well with others across cultures, countries, and beliefs – a question best addressed by those with direct international and intercultural experiences. Generations of Centenary students have the Choir to thank for their first look at a larger world.

The Centenary Choir has remained a vibrant, active organization for more than 70 years due in large part to its enduring traditions, many of them established by the Choir's founder, A. C. "Cheesy" Voran. Practices such as wearing CHOR shirts (there is no "I" in CHOR) identify affiliation to those outside the group and connect members coming from diverse backgrounds and academic majors. The power of tradition to unite across generations was movingly demonstrated during the 70th anniversary celebration at Rhapsody in View last November when alumni members joined the Choir on stage to perform.

# World

## The Encircle Tradition

At the end of each concert, the Choir forms a circle around the audience and sings:

*"The Lord bless you and keep you;  
The Lord make His face to shine upon you,  
And be gracious to you;  
The Lord lift up His countenance upon you,  
And give you peace."*

These words are the Priestly Blessing found in scripture. In Numbers 6:24-26, the Lord instructed Moses to have Aaron and his sons use this prayer to bless the children of Israel. Because the Hebrew word for "keep" ("shamar") is literally translated as "to guard" and a related word, "shamiry," means "thorn," the "keep you" in the English translation can be read as "guard you with a hedge of protection." Encircling the audience movingly expresses this expanded translation.

The tradition of encircling an audience and singing the Priestly Blessing dates to the choir's first Russian tour in 1979. Dr. Will Andress invented the "tradition" as a way of circumventing the Russian prohibition of sacred music in the Choir's performances. Hosts were told that the Choir customarily encircled concert hosts and thanked them with this song, which also happens to be the traditional benediction for the United Methodist Youth Fellowship.



**Left:**  
The Choir performs at Carnegie Hall in New York City in February 2012.

**Middle:**  
Members of the Choir stand with the sole surviving tree from the World Trade Center complex.

**Bottom:**  
Choir members visited the 9/11 Memorial while in New York in 2012.

Another tradition, the mandate for Centenary College Choir members to serve as musical ambassadors promoting the school, is well known, but Choir members are also urged "to travel and learn about the world in which we live." The Choir's most recent international trip took members and guests to Brazil and Argentina. Between performances, the group found opportunities to explore their surroundings. An encounter during their visit to the Christ the Redeemer statue atop Corcovado mountain overlooking Rio de Janeiro provided an inspirational moment.

"As we were viewing the statue, we had an impulse to surround the base of the statue and sing 'The Lord Bless You and Keep You,' like we do at the end of our concerts," explained Choir member Sarah Merino. "Only a few people stood nearby as we started; but, as we sang, the crowd grew, and the music united us. It was a moving demonstration of music as the universal language."

The Christ the Redeemer statue, with its outstretched arms, serves as a symbol of peace. The Choir explored this subject musically at Carnegie Hall on February 20 when choirs from around the country joined for the premiere performance of composer and alumnus James Eakin's '00 *Flowers Over the Graves of War*, a work composed to be a call for peace in a time of war. The Choir has visited New York a number of times since its initial trip to the Big Apple in 1961 to sing at Radio City Music Hall. ■

Learn more at [centenary.edu/choir](http://centenary.edu/choir)



## The Global Brain of Social Media

By JR Ramsey '10

One hundred billion.

This is the number of neurons in the human brain. One hundred billion individual cells interconnected via a web of connectors constantly interacting and sending impulses to each other. If one hundred billion cells can communicate collectively, how difficult can it be for a mere seven billion individuals on the planet to influence each other individually or en masse? With technology rapidly advancing and the advent of social media, society is shifting toward a semblance of interconnected neurons within a global collective brain.

Throughout modern history, social movements have attempted to shift governmental policies and right social injustices. Social media has bred a new kind of social movement. Within the past four years, people have utilized

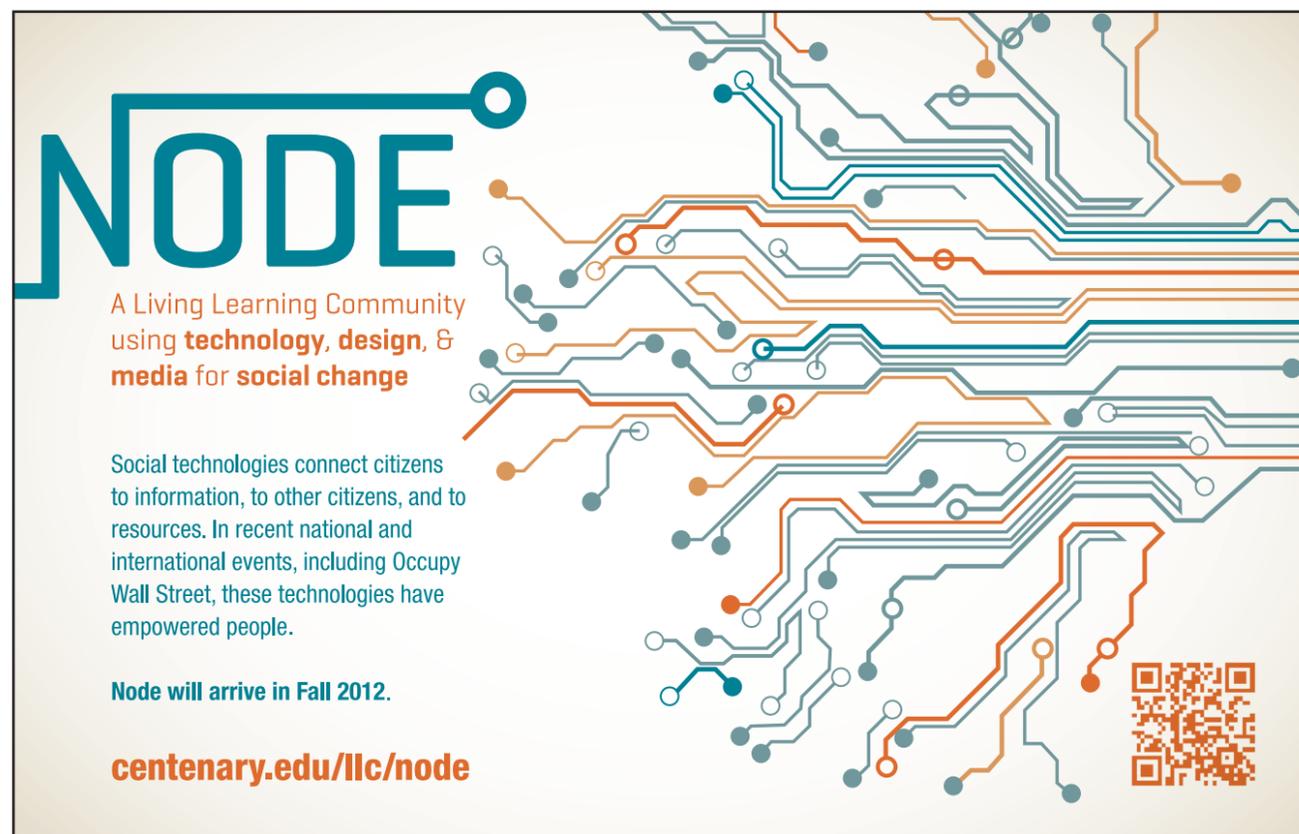
social media for everything from inciting popular uprisings against authoritarian regimes to raising \$55 million in less than one month for a presidential campaign.

On September 17, 2011, almost 200 people camped out in Zucotti Park in New York City. Due to thousands of tweets and Facebook posts crying out for change, the Occupy Movement now encompasses hundreds of movements in areas all over the globe. Across the Arab world, the Arab Spring uprisings gained momentum quickly via social media despite Internet censorship and other attempts at repression.

These protests are a different species of activism, not in implementation or intention, but in speed of formation and reach. Thanks to Twitter, Facebook, and the many other forms of social media, individuals can spark debate and activism around the globe with the touch of a button.

Historically, the "global brain" suffered from having few neurons (newspapers, radio, and television) sending signals to the masses, and social movements were sluggish. Now, with the strong web of connectors created by social media, each neuron (individual) has the ability to influence everyone within the collective – firing off signals at rapid speeds. The new global human neural network creates waves of action communicating problems of the whole and stimulating social change. ■

Connect with Centenary at  
[centenary.edu/connect](http://centenary.edu/connect)



**NODE**

A Living Learning Community using **technology, design, & media** for **social change**

Social technologies connect citizens to information, to other citizens, and to resources. In recent national and international events, including Occupy Wall Street, these technologies have empowered people.

Node will arrive in Fall 2012.

[centenary.edu/lc/node](http://centenary.edu/lc/node)

## SUSTAINABLE WORLD

Our **challenge** is to develop sustainable lifestyles and appreciate the natural environment in ways that do not compromise the capacity of future generations to satisfy their needs. We must learn how to lead a sustainable life, work to devise solutions to problems that use our planet's resources wisely, and create sustainable, just, and compassionate systems.



# An Oasis in the Food Desert

By Angie White '93

The American way of life is being compromised by the high and growing incidence of chronic, degenerative diseases like diabetes, hypertension, and high cholesterol.

These diseases take the highest toll on Americans living in poverty, who may not have the financial or educational means to address them, and are becoming an increasing menace among American youth populations. If this trend continues, the health care crisis we think we are facing now will grow to epic proportions and become unsustainable.

Sustainability can have many different meanings, depending on the context. We hear it most often these days in discussions about the environment. In this case, the Environmental Protection Agency's definition is an appropriate example:

*Sustainability is based on a simple principle: Everything that we need for our survival and well-being depends, either directly or indirectly, on our natural environment.*



A group of children stands in front of the Valencia Youth Garden in Shreveport, LA.

*Sustainability creates and maintains the conditions under which humans and nature can exist in productive harmony, that permit fulfilling the social, economic, and other requirements of present and future generations.*

There is a relatively new term being used in food and health care circles that many claim to be one of the factors behind our health care and chronic disease crisis. The term is "food desert," and according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, these are "areas that lack access to affordable fruits, vegetables, whole grains, low-fat milk, and other foods that make up the full range of a healthy diet." Studies suggest that individuals who live in food deserts are at a higher risk for health problems because of a lack of access to those food items that are required for a healthy diet.

In Caddo Parish, Centenary's home, there is a food desert within a couple of miles of campus in the Stoner Hill neighborhood. But in this neighborhood, something special is happening. In 2009, the LSU AgCenter and the City of Shreveport came together to create a community garden next to the city-run Valencia Community Center. Their initial hope was that the seniors from the Stoner Hill neighborhood that frequented the Community Center would be reminded of their younger days when home gardens were not unusual, and they would pass on their knowledge and love of gardening to the youth at the Center. But in fact, it was the youth that turned this project into the huge success it has become.

As of summer 2011, the Valencia Youth Garden and Urban Farm boasts a garden with 26 beds, a quarter-acre urban farm, blackberries, and an orchard with young fig, pear, and persimmon trees. The garden area serves as a teaching aid for the FIT for Kids youth program, while the Urban Farm provides education to young teenagers in the areas of nutrition, horticulture, and entrepreneurship. The Valencia Urban Youth Farmers have developed a neighborhood farmer's

market selling produce to the surrounding community and Wine Country Bistro, a local fine-dining restaurant that is committed to supporting local farms.

To see these children in their garden, beaming with pride to show visitors their vegetables, eager to learn how to cook them (and sometimes not able to wait and eating them raw), is like watching a miracle. Go see them; you'll get it. THIS is the kind of effort that will deliver a sustainable American culture.

To learn more about the Valencia Youth Garden and Urban Farm, visit [louisiana-communitygardens.wordpress.com](http://louisiana-communitygardens.wordpress.com) where you can see some pretty fantastic videos made by the youth gardeners, or you can find them on Facebook. ■

*Angie White '93 is a vice president at the North Louisiana Economic Partnership and the outgoing chair of the North Louisiana chapter of Slow Food USA.*

## BY THE NUMBERS...

**3.2%** of all U.S. households live between half to one mile from a supermarket and do not have access to a vehicle

**10%** of the U.S. population lives in a food desert (about 23 million people)

**22%** of households in low income urban areas living half to one mile from a supermarket have no access to a vehicle

**4.4%** of households in rural areas live more than one mile from the supermarket AND do not have access to a vehicle

## STUDENT PERSPECTIVE

# Centenary Renewal

[centenary.edu/renewal](http://centenary.edu/renewal)

By Drew Burnham '12

## It is an exciting time to be a Centenary student!

During the past year, Centenary has been undergoing a transformation in several ways. In academics, Centenary has seen widespread success with the various Living Learning Communities. In athletics, the Ladies and Gents have had numerous winning streaks, broken records, and placed our programs on the right track for long-term success. The infrastructure of the College has also seen numerous projects aimed at fixing issues that have developed over our long history and providing upgrades that will greatly improve our quality of life here in the residence halls, the classrooms, and elsewhere on campus.

There have been several renovations to air conditioning and heating, water supply, and lighting systems to make them more dependable and energy efficient. The lighting around campus has greatly improved,

making our campus feel even more secure. Emergency exits and fire code issues have been addressed, sidewalks fixed and put in, and residence halls refitted for the Living Learning Communities. These improvements and many more may not be noticed by students every day, but are crucial for the happiness, comfort, and safety of those on campus.

Improvements which are more readily noticed and appreciated by us students have also been going on. A new pavilion and scoreboard have been added on Jones-Rice multi-purpose field near the volleyball court. These additions will instantly introduce a better intramural experience as well as provide a platform for carnivals, barbeques, and other events. In addition to the widespread painting and new flooring, renovations to restrooms, suites, classrooms, and labs have all met with students' approval and appreciation.

One of the most exciting modernizations in the Centenary Renewal has been the installation and activation of the key card entry program. This improvement allows students to more easily and safely access their dorms and not risk losing expensive keys. Many of the improvements have been behind-the-scenes for most students. While they may not notice them outright, these renovations ensure for years to come the ability of students to learn in a well-equipped classroom,

to live in a comfortable dorm, and to feel safe and secure everywhere on campus.

These projects, coupled with the readily visible additions to the campus, have made the Centenary Renewal a success. ■



C



D



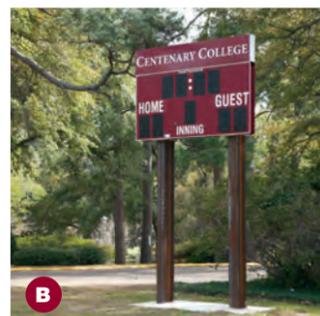
E



F



A



B

**A:** A newly constructed pavilion graces Jones-Rice field.

**B:** A scoreboard has been erected on Jones-Rice field.

**C:** A state-of-the-art lab in the newly renovated Mickle Hall.

**D:** New lighting helps illuminate campus at night.

**E:** New seating enhances Marjorie Lyons Playhouse

**F:** The College installed new boilers and chillers in late 2011.

## BY THE NUMBERS...

**5.5** million dollars invested for an immediate transformational impact on campus

**12** campus buildings now heated & cooled by new, efficient boilers & chillers

**58** exterior campus light fixtures with energy efficient bulbs installed

**30** plus projects completed or planned to foster an even more inviting place to live, learn, and lead

# GREENHOUSE

a sustainability  
living learning  
community

**GreenHouse** is open to students who are interested in environmental issues and sustainability. GreenHouse students live and study together through team-taught learning labs, service learning and internship opportunities, and special events.



GreenHouse is open to students of any major who are in good academic standing.

Learn more about GreenHouse:  
[centenary.edu/llc/greenhouse](http://centenary.edu/llc/greenhouse)

# A Community of Practice

By Dena Pruett



QR CODE

**“The community garden is standing on land that no one thought was useful ..... We make something positive and productive out of what people have just thrown away. This is a way of life for me.”**

**GreenHouse is Centenary's second Living Learning Community.**

When it opened in fall 2011, there was far more student demand to participate than there was space available. Dr. Jeanne Hamming, associate professor of English and live-in faculty leader of the program saw this as students' desire to make a difference.

“When I talk to students about this initiative, what I keep hearing is that they want to be part of a real community, and they want to do something,” said Dr. Hamming.

Students in GreenHouse develop and lead their own sustainability-related projects. The goal is to create a community of practice, an environment in which individuals with like interests come together to share experiences, learn from each other, and develop personally and intellectually in the process. Through a shared passion for sustainability, Centenary students are challenging and teaching each other just as they learn from and are challenged by their professors.

“The community garden is standing on land that no one thought was useful, and our compost bins are made from scraps that we collected,” explained Bonnie Bernard '13. “We make something positive and productive out of what people have just thrown away. This is a way of life for me.”

Chemistry major and GreenHouse resident Bernard is passionate about sustainability. Last spring, before the sustainability-focused living-learning community began, Bernard and a group of fellow students broke ground on Centenary's community garden along with Professors Troy Messina, David Stafford, and Jeanne Hamming.

Talk of a community garden had existed for years before Bernard decided to work with Dr. Messina and build the garden to fulfill her Trek community credit. Though the garden was not initially affiliated with GreenHouse, the students have adopted the garden as part of a larger composting project.

Due to their efforts, Centenary now has two compost tumblers and a traditional three-bin system to collect waste. The tumblers and bin break down green material such as vegetable waste and brown material like paper and leaves to create compost. The waste will be collected from the Dining Hall, composted, and fed to the garden for nourishment.

GreenHouse uses the fruits and vegetables from the garden to make soups and salads for community meals. Due to the

short shelf life of the fresh produce, students move the food from soil to sink to stovetop within 24 hours. ■

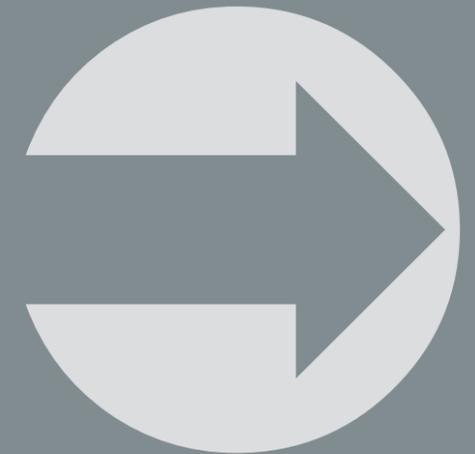


*Bonnie Bernard '13 opens a compost bin at the campus community garden.*

## ENGAGE

In the following pages, we invite you to engage with the Centenary community. Explore how Centenary alumni are making their way in the world and staying connected – often over multiple generations – to the College. Gain insight on today's most pressing issues from our expert faculty. See how Centenary athletes are not only succeeding in their sports, but leading in the community as well. Learn about upcoming events and the time-honored traditions being celebrated at Centenary.

*Read on and engage with us!*



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# 5 ALUMNI | 5 QUESTIONS

We asked 5 alumni 5 questions about their Centenary experience.



**Joe Ben LaGrone '61**  
Major: History  
Work: President, The Socogee Corporation  
City: Oak Ridge, TN



**Rebecca Soskin Hicks '02**  
Major: Biology  
Work: Pediatrician  
City: San Jose, CA



**Jeff Everson '01**  
Major: Business Admin., Economics  
Work: Project Manager, City Councilman  
City: Shreveport, LA



**Glenn Hilburn '51**  
Major: Divisional Major in Natural Sciences  
Work: Retired Professor & Chair, Dept. of Religion, Baylor Univ.  
City: Woodway, TX



**Tamika Sims '98**  
Major: Liberal Arts  
Work: Gymnastics Coach, The Wendy Hilliard Foundation; front desk, dentist office  
City: New York City, NY

<b>1. Describe Centenary in five words or less.</b>	Enlightening, challenging, demanding, broadening, rewarding.	Comfortable, exciting, original, pleasant, lively.	Small size creates large impact.	Catalytic womb birthing student-leaders.	The best college experience.
<b>2. What is something you would like people outside of the Centenary community to know about the College?</b>	The quality of professors, student accessibility to them, depth and breadth of programs, and its demonstrated record of educating future leaders and other successful individuals.	It is easier to get involved at a small college like Centenary. My successes in leadership activities gave me the confidence to pursue leadership roles on a bigger scale in medical school and in residency training at Stanford.	How active and motivated the student body is. Students at Centenary give a lot of their time and energy outside of the classroom to ensure the campus community has opportunities and enjoys a tremendous range of amenities.	That it is the oldest liberal arts college west of the Mississippi River (founded in 1825).	Being required to live on campus helps to create strong bonds, not just with a small circle of friends but the entire community becomes your circle, from the students to the cafeteria workers to the professors to the library staff.
<b>3. What advice would you give a student starting Centenary in the fall?</b>	Find a mentor who's well grounded; set your priorities; learn your professors as well as subject matter, have some fun but not at the expense of sacrificing a quality education.	Join a lot of extracurricular activities and get involved! A wide variety of experiences in college will help you stay well rounded no matter what your focus of study is.	Be open minded. With a small student body, you may find yourself getting to know and love people you may not have interacted with during your high school years. The same is true for subject matter.	Establish good time management and study habits.	Never be afraid to ask questions or give your honest opinion. Study hard but have lots of fun in the process.
<b>4. What was your favorite hang-out spot during your College years?</b>	Murrell's on Kings Highway (down the street from Centenary) which was the home of tasty, greasy burgers and fries and a gathering place for stimulating discussions.	I spent most of my down time at the library and the fitness center. I still miss the fitness center...it was such a nice, open space to exercise in!	My favorite spot on campus was at the swings on the porch outside of Bynum Commons. We would sit on that deck to study, chat, pass time, people watch, and just enjoy the beautiful campus.	Haynes Gymnasium where I was head athletic trainer and equipment manager.	My favorite was the porch of James Hall. You could see everyone coming and going. And my residents always knew where to find me. (I was a Resident Assistant).
<b>5. Tell us about a favorite Centenary memory</b>	Dr. Earle Labor's course in American Intellectual History. It gave me a totally different and permanent set of lenses for viewing people, politics, economics, religion, social issues, the arts, and literature.	Studying with a classmate in microbiology lab, I couldn't get my slide into focus. He leaned over to help me. I knew he was someone special. He's now my wonderful husband!	Despite loving Microeconomics, I was often late for the 8am class. Dr. Hoas once called me, in front of the whole class, to ensure I would be joining them. I wasn't late again and still use my notes to this day.	My selection for membership in Omicron Delta Kappa, National Leadership Honor Society, 1951.	One of my favorite memories is sitting in the SUB watching Herbert Lang win the NCAA Slam Dunk competition, especially with him giving us a shout out when he won.

# A YEAR OF Impact

By Adam Walsh

**Our student-athletes' involvement** in community outreach is one of the most beneficial parts of being a Centenary College athlete. They learn what it means to be a servant-leader and how giving back can influence continuous giving for a lifetime of fulfillment.

Being an athletic department at a college undergoing remarkable transformation, we prepared for the 2011-2012 school year with equal amounts of excitement, expectation, and a little bit of nervousness. As we have competed on the fields and courts, we have seen some great success stories we are all very proud of, both on and off the field.

Our fall sports, Soccer, Volleyball, and Cross Country, all had strong starts, which set the tone for the rest of our department. Multiple records were set as we won more contests than we have in years. The close proximity of our conference made it fun for our fans, other athletes, and students to travel and support our teams on the road. Playing to the shouts of our supporters is invaluable for our morale.

Basketball and Swimming, our winter sports, have followed the lead of our

fall sports. Both of our swimming programs have been nationally ranked, and our basketball teams are looking to set win totals that have not been seen for a long stretch of time. The expectations that our early successes have created for our spring sports will be put to the test as all of our teams face tough schedules to close out the year. Our athletes are definitely up to the task!

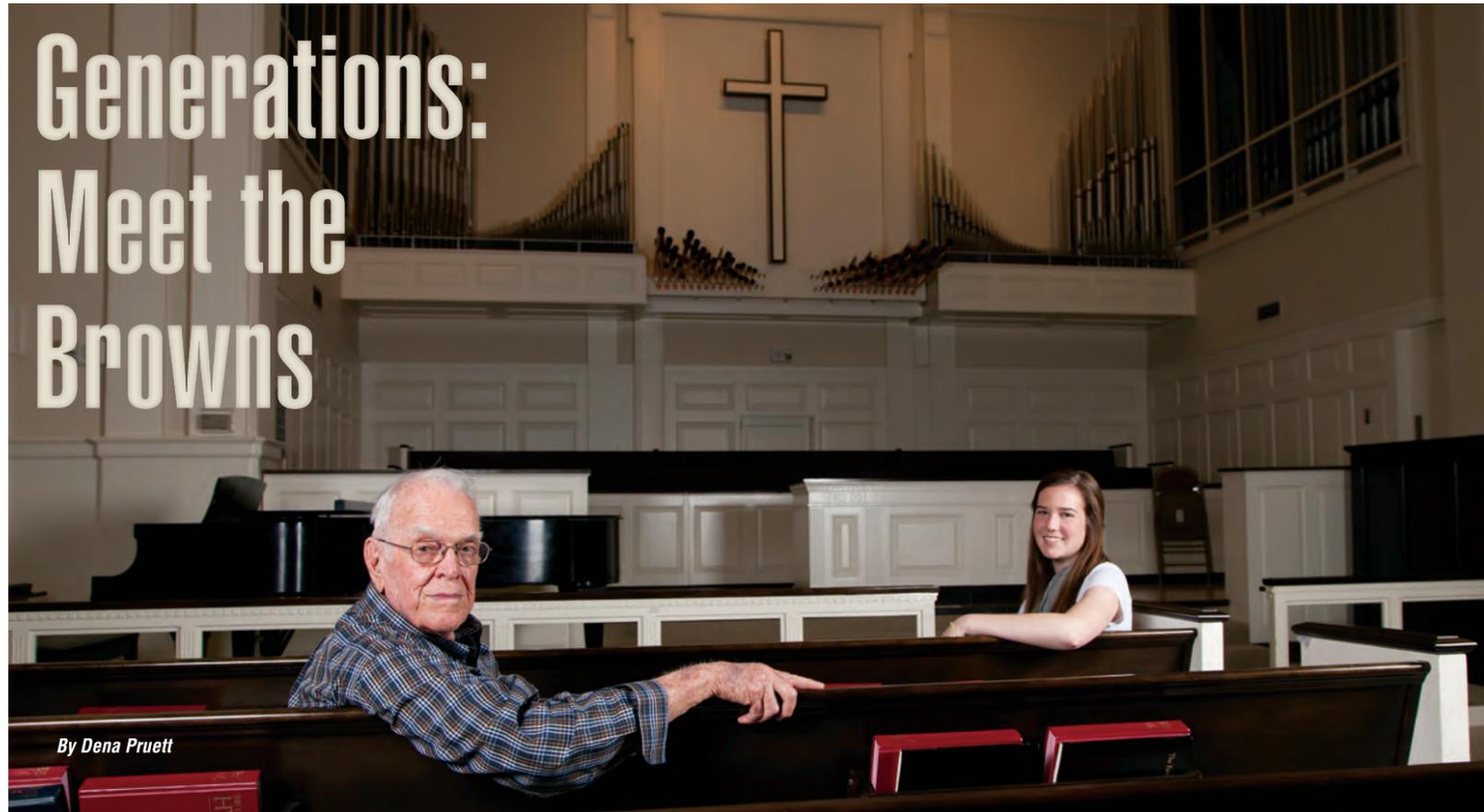
Our student-athletes are increasingly involved in and with non-athletic campus activities and outreach programs. In the last calendar year, our coaches and athletes have hosted events that engage and/or support various causes: St. Jude Children's Research Hospital; the March of Dimes; Community Renewal International; Susan G. Komen for the Cure; multiple "Think Pink" games that support breast cancer awareness; a testing drive for potential bone marrow donors; participation in Centenary's annual MLK Service Day and the BIG Event; canned food drives for the Food Bank of Northwest Louisiana; and upcoming involvement with the Special Olympics, which is a national Division III initiative. As a result, our student-athletes continue to have a strong impact in many campus organizations.

As Andrew Jackson once said, "One man with courage makes a majority," and we believe that our athletes are learning that a service-oriented majority can mean something special to our world. ■



Adam Walsh is the head men's basketball coach and assistant athletic director for compliance at Centenary College.

# Generations: Meet the Browns



By Dena Pruett

Sitting in Brown Chapel, Charles Ellis Brown '48 and Alissa Kay Brown '15 represent the oldest and youngest Brown family members of the Centenary community.

**Legacy enrollment has declined across the country.** For example, in 1980, 24 percent of Yale's freshman class had a parent who attended, but only 14 percent of the class of 2014 was legacy students. This number continues to wane as first-generation college students begin to make up larger and larger quantities of freshmen – roughly 30 percent.

With a record 19.7 million students enrolling in Fall 2011, college enrollment is at an all-time high. Due in part to the influx of students, admittance has become tougher for everyone and acceptance rates are far lower than a generation ago. Yet with over 6,900 higher education institutions available in the United States alone, options on what and where to study are limitless. Up to 20 percent of college students now choose to study out-of-state. Yet at Centenary, a tradition and legacy lives on.

The Brown family has shared the Centenary experience for seven generations stretching over 180 years of the College's history. The thirty-third Brown to attend Centenary is first-year student Alissa Kay Brown '15.

"Several of my family members have stayed active in the Centenary community after graduating, so their time spent here obviously had a positive impact," said Alissa. "For me, Centenary is a place to learn and grow as a person while in a small-school environment. I love the friendliness among students, faculty, and staff."

The Brown family's association with Centenary College began in 1831 with Robert Perry, whose factory provided many of the bricks for a building at the old Centenary campus in Jackson, LA. By the time Centenary moved to Shreveport, five members of the family had already graduated, including the first to graduate with the Brown family name, Thomas Walthall Brown in 1850.

The College opened in Shreveport in the fall of 1908, and by January, Paul Marvin Brown, Jr. '17, had moved into Jackson Hall.

After serving in World War I, he would go on to become a banker and president of a successful oil business. Brown returned to Centenary in 1933 when he was asked to save the College from financial collapse. Leading Centenary through the Great Depression and another World War, he would serve on the Board of Trustees from 1933-1981 and as vice chairman for 25 years. Brown's tenure on the Board coincided with construction of many of the buildings that make up the campus today, including Brown Memorial Chapel.

Paul Brown, Jr.'s son, Charles Ellis Brown '48, remembers clearly what it was like to have his father as chairman of the Board while he attended college.

"I was doing fairly well in the geology classes, but I never made an 'A' for Dr. Hickox," Brown remembers. "So, I asked him one day, 'Don't I deserve an 'A' in this class?'"

"Probably do," answered Hickox. "But I won't give it to you because I won't be accused of showing partiality because your father is chairman of the Board."

Charles Ellis Brown himself joined Centenary's Board of Trustees in 1965 and served as vice chairman from 1995-2005. In all, seven members of the family have served on the Board.

"Centenary has been a part of our family before me and probably will be long after I am gone," said Charles Ellis. "Those of us who have attended Centenary think it is a pretty good place to get an education – and a spouse. My sister met her husband here. My cousin Jimmy met

her husband here. My son met his wife here. I met my wife here. In fact, I remember I first laid eyes on Alice in the SUB. She was playing bridge with her friends."

With a majority of the Browns having maroon and white in their blood, others might assume that they are given no other option when it comes to choosing an undergraduate institution. However, members of the family are quick to dispel that idea.

"I met my wife here. In fact, I remember I first laid eyes on Alice in the SUB. She was playing bridge with her friends."

Charles Ellis Brown '48

"Centenary represents a liberal arts college with a rich history," said Chris Brown '01 and current Centenary Archivist. "I do not know if people will ever believe it, but I did not feel pressured to choose Centenary. I chose Centenary primarily because of its student-operated, free-form radio station, KSCL. I was free to choose any college, and I am happy that I chose Centenary."

In July 1980, Paul M. Brown, Jr., closed his memoirs in *The Paul Brown Era at Centenary* with these words to his grandchildren:

"I have had a full life and I hope a fruitful one. My generation is over. I must not intrude on coming generations. The future is yours. Make the most of it. And may God bless you." ■

## The Brown Family Legacy

Antecedents, Brothers, and Descendants of Paul M. Brown, Jr.

JACKSON, LOUISIANA		
CLASS OF	NAME	RELATIONSHIP
	Robert Perry*	Maternal Great-Grandfather-Board of Trustees (1831-1850), Treasurer (1845-1850) Made bricks for building at Old Centenary.
1850	Thomas Walthall Brown	Grandfather-Board of Trustees-Member
1853	Sanford Perry	Maternal Grandfather
1855	George H. Wiley	Great Uncle (by marriage) Married to Sanford Perry's sister, Mary. Taught Latin and Greek for 41 years.
1856	James M. Fly	Maternal Great Uncle
1890	Paul Marvin Brown	Father-Board of Trustees-Member

SHREVEPORT, LOUISIANA		
1917	Paul Marvin Brown, Jr.	Board of Trustees (1933-1981) Chairman (1940-1965)
1917	Ellis Horne Brown	Brother
1926	Sanford Perry Brown	Brother-Board of Trustees-Member (1949-1970)
1943	Jimmye Brown (Blackmon)	Niece
1945	Eleanor Brown (Greve)	Daughter
1947	Bertrand J. Greve	Son-in-law
1948	James H. Blackmon	Niece's husband
1948	Alice Curtis (Brown)	Daughter-in-law
1948	Charles Ellis Brown	Son-Board of Trustees (1965-present)- Vice Chairman (1995-2005)
1950	Bruce O. Brown*	Nephew
1951	Sara Clair Cavett (Johnson)	Niece
1970, 1987	J. David Dent	Granddaughter's husband
1972, 1998	Camille Greve (Dent)	Granddaughter
1974	Mark A. Greve	Grandson
1975	Willie Cavett Brown*	Wife-Honorary Alumna
1978	Minette Greve (Poole)*	Granddaughter
1979	C. Ellis Brown, Jr.	Grandson-Board of Trustees-Member (2005-present)
1983	Bobra Lohnes (Brown)	Grandson's wife
1984	Pauline Greve (Hibbs)	Granddaughter
1984	William Timothy Hibbs	Granddaughter's husband
1997	Jennifer Dent (Hill)	Great Granddaughter
1999	Stephen B. Hill	Great Granddaughter's husband
2001	Christopher Ellis Brown	Great Grandson-Centenary Archivist (2003-2007, 2009-present)
2003	Katherine Poole (Urbis)	Great Granddaughter
2004	Karen A. Dent (Degenhart)	Great Granddaughter
2005	Jonathan D. Dent	Great Grandson
2006	Alan Michael Brown	Great Grandson
	Alissa Kay Brown	Great Granddaughter

\* Did not graduate.

# Ask the Experts

The faculty and staff at Centenary possess a wealth of knowledge on myriad subjects ranging from theatre to sciences, and foreign language to philosophy. In this section, we feature expert commentary on some of the year's most complex and pressing issues.

## Q: Recently, there have been some reports of earthquakes in America. Are these events associated with hydraulic fracturing as used in oil and gas exploration?

**A:** There is a substantial record of earthquakes that have been triggered by human activities. It is tempting to try to connect the recent earthquakes in unusual places like Arkansas and Ohio with hydraulic fracturing activities, but that isn't the case. Rather it is the disposal of fluid wastes that is often connected to these earthquakes. When fluid wastes are injected into the ground, they can push apart the opposite sides of an existing fracture allowing the two sides to slip and cause an earthquake. Such deep disposal

has been connected to earthquakes in Ohio, several places in Arkansas, and possibly around the Rocky Mountain Arsenal near Denver. In all cases, the fractures are already present; increasing the pressure of the fluids just makes it easier for slip to happen.

In hydraulic fracturing, the point is to make new fractures in unbroken rock. Those fractures are local and don't extend as great a distance as fractures that do slip. If there were extensive fracturing

of the reservoir rock beforehand, it is likely that most of the desirable product would have escaped. So hydraulic fracturing is unlikely to trigger earthquakes. If numerous large faults were present in the shales, you probably wouldn't want to drill there anyhow. ■

*Dr. David Bieler is the Chair of the Geology Department at Centenary College.*



## Q: I'm thinking of buying my child an iPad as a birthday gift, but have heard mixed messages on whether electronics are good for children. Should I buy it?

**A:** The mixed messages may be because the answer to your question depends in part on the age of your child. The American Academy of Pediatrics recommends that children under the age of two get no screen time at all. Several studies suggest that young children learn very little from screen time when compared to face-to-face interaction. While zero screen time may be unrealistic for all families in all circumstances, I would not recommend a personal iPad for a very young child.

Other research with school-age children suggests that the simplest toys (good old

fashioned blocks and blanket forts, for example) may do more to spur cognitive development than technological toys. We don't know exactly why that is. My own guess is that it's related to the fact that "old-fashioned" toys, unlike most contemporary electronic toys, do not tell you how to play with them. That is, one's possibilities are much more limited with technology.

One possible danger of an iPad for an older child is that, because it is so portable, she can use it completely unsupervised. There are a variety of dangers that exist in the virtual world. While it is far more likely that your child will be bullied (or bully someone else) electronically or use poor

judgment in posting to a Facebook page, some children are tricked by pedophiles. Supervision of a child's technology use is important until they're old enough to leave home.

The bottom line is that your child will grow up in a world surrounded by technology; she'll learn how to use it very well regardless of when she starts. When she's young, she'll learn much more from interacting with humans, entertaining herself, and using her imagination; as she gets older, you'll need to supervise technology use closely. ■

*Dr. Amy Hammond is an assistant professor of Psychology at Centenary College.*

## Q: With the 2012 Presidential election coming up in November, how do you think voter turn-out will compare to the record numbers in 2008, especially among young voters?

**A:** Young and minority voters will still strongly support President Obama, but mobilizing these voters will be more difficult this time around. The 2012 election will not have the same historic nature of the 2008 election that involved the first non-white presidential candidate for a major party. Obama's appeal has also taken a bit of a hit after four years in which the economy has only slowly moved towards recovery and economic policies have become the primary focus of the campaign. He was in a much better position to use his charisma to rally voters in 2008 with the unpopularity of the

Republican Party following the Bush administration. There have been similar spikes in turnout in previous elections, but the effect has proven to be fleeting. For example, Bill Clinton was able to rally young voters to a turnout rate of 42.8 percent in 1992, but his reelection bid in 1996 saw only 32.4 percent of 18-24 year olds come out to vote.

Still, while turnout may not be as high as it was in 2008, there are reasons to think that we won't see a drastic drop. In addition to the 2008 election, there was also a large, less publicized spike in turnout among young voters in 2004.

In 2000 only 32.3 percent of 18-24 year olds voted, compared to 41.9 percent in 2004 and 44.3 percent 2008.

The big question is whether these past two elections were aberrations due to the anti-Bush sentiment among young voters, or if they are a sign that younger voters are becoming more engaged. ■

*Dr. Christopher M. Parker is an assistant professor of Political Science at Centenary College.*



## Q: Is America nearing the end of the "great recession?" If so, what are the signs of recovery?



**A:** The good news is that officially, according to the National Bureau of Economic Research, a private research firm that dates recession, we have been out of the "great recession" since July 2009 – over two years. The bad news is, as everyone knows, the recovery has been lackluster to say the least. This recent recession was the most severe downturn since the Great Depression, and usually the deeper the recession, the faster and stronger the recovery. Not so in this case.

One of the most popular indicators of the health of the economy is the unemployment rate, a lagging indicator, which does not peak until after the end of the recession. For this most recent recession,

the unemployment rate peaked at 10 percent in October 2009, four months after the official end of the recession. In the intervening two and a half years, the unemployment rate has slowly fallen to 8.3 percent and seems to be picking up momentum. On a positive note, the recent decline in the unemployment rate can be attributed to a rise in the number of private sector jobs as opposed to discouraged workers dropping out of the labor force. The other commonly used barometer of economic recovery is the growth rate of GDP. The annual growth rate of GDP for 2010 was 3 percent but for 2011 it was an anemic 1.7 percent - neither resembling the usual rebound following recessions. In the two years after the 1981-1982 recession, the economy grew at 4.5 percent and 7.2 percent.

On an optimistic note, we have managed

to avoid the dreaded double-dip recession so many feared. What 2012 holds for the American economy will depend, in part, upon what happens in Europe, our largest trading partner, as well as how we handle the government deficit/debt issues in the U.S. I'll end with a quote, used by economists everywhere in response to the question of what will happen to the economy: "It will change." ■

*Dr. Elizabeth Rankin is a professor of Economics in Centenary's Frost School of Business.*

**Do you have a question for our experts?** Send it to [encircle@centenary.edu](mailto:encircle@centenary.edu) – we may feature it in the next edition of the magazine.

# UPCOMING

- |               |  |                |   |
|---------------|--|----------------|---|
| April 13 – 14 | <b>First Choice Springboard</b> for incoming students<br>admission@centenary.edu or 318.869.5131                         | June 3 – 6     | <b>Louisiana United Methodist Annual Conference</b>   |
| April 26      | <b>Alumni Lunch and Learn</b><br>ssolomon@centenary.edu or 318.869.5115  | June 10 – 11   | <b>Summer Springboard</b><br>admission@centenary.edu or 1.800.234.4448                                |
| April 27 – 28 | <b>College Kickstart</b> for high school juniors<br>gbrewer@centenary.edu or 318.869.5748                                | June 24 – 25   | <b>Summer Springboard</b><br>admission@centenary.edu or 1.800.234.4448                                |
| May 1         | <b>Deadline for submitting deposit</b> and admission agreement for Fall 2012 – admission@centenary.edu or 1.800.234.4448 | June 30        | <b>Last day to give for 2011-12 fiscal year!</b><br>centenary.edu/give 318.869.5216 or 1.800.259.6447 |
| May 5         | <b>Baccalaureate &amp; Commencement Ceremonies</b><br>jclement@centenary.edu or 318.869.5104                             | July 22 – 23   | <b>Summer Springboard</b><br>admission@centenary.edu or 1.800.234.4488                                |
| May 19        | <b>Shreveport-Bossier Alumni Chapter Crawfish Boil</b><br>ssolomon@centenary.edu or 318.869.5115                         | August 16      | <b>Summer Springboard – Final Session</b><br>admission@centenary.edu or 1.800.234.4488                |
| June 2        | <b>DC Area Alumni Chapter Crawfish Boil</b><br>ssolomon@centenary.edu or 318.869.5115                                    | August 17 – 19 | <b>New Student Orientation</b><br>admission@centenary.edu or 1.800.234.4488                           |

## Looking for Class Notes?

I'm excited to tell you about a new service coming in June 2012 – the Centenary alumni newsletter. Our goal is to create a unique outlet where you can get news on where your classmates are and what they are up to, and what's going on at the College that may be interesting to you.

The newsletter will include alumni profiles and everyone's favorite – class notes! You can expect to receive it twice annually, in coordination with *Encircle's* publication schedule. *Encircle* will be published the first and third quarter of the year, while the alumni newsletter will appear in your mailbox the second and fourth quarters.

In addition, the Office of Alumni and Family Relations is utilizing a number of social media tools to keep our alumni informed about and engaged with the Centenary community.

We have an alumni Facebook page, an account on Twitter, and a group on LinkedIn. Also, if you want instant access to current class notes, you can see them all on our alumni website!

We look forward to sharing more alumni news with you in June!

*Saige W. Solomon*

Saige Wilhite Solomon '05  
Director of Alumni and Family Relations



### CONNECT WITH US:

- On the Internet: [centenary.edu/alumni](http://centenary.edu/alumni)
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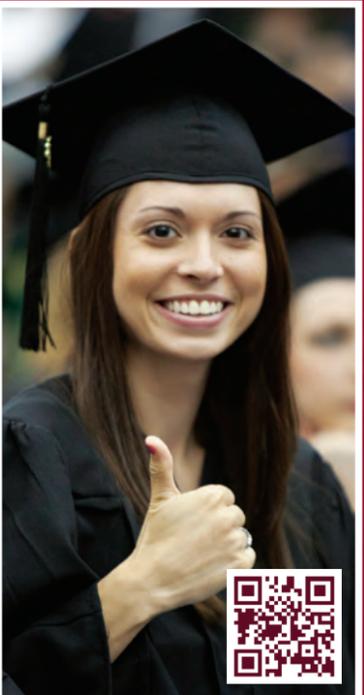
*Pictured above: Jan Witt '81 and Mark Evans '82 during Fall Homecoming 2011.*

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# Centenary Traditions

By David Henington '82

In February, the Centenary family celebrated Founder's Day, our 187th since the College's establishment in Jackson, Louisiana. Founder's Day Convocations always cause me to reflect on significant traditions at Centenary. Processing into Brown Chapel in my academic regalia with the Trustees, faculty, staff, and soon-to-be graduates is probably what gets me started. While this tradition continues at Centenary, it has been dropped by many other academic institutions. Traditions can be campus-wide, like processing, or specific to an organization or affinity. The Centenary College Choir observes many traditions anchored in its seventy-year history. Traditions thrive in Greek Life and within student organizations that foster leadership and service to the community locally, nationally, and internationally. Athletic programs have existed at various levels, but all have ascribed to the tradition of the student athlete: academics first.

At the College's core is its connection to the United Methodist Church and its tradition of advocating the importance of education in matters both secular and sacred. Centenary is an extension of this tradition. Committed faculty members nurture students and teach them to look at issues and problems from all directions, challenging them to defend their findings – a method consistent with Wesley's views on education.

Strong traditions unite Centenary students, alumni, and friends of the College across generations. Records documenting these traditions are found in the Centenary College Archives. As you will see in the message here from Archivist Chris Brown, it is now easier to access many of those records. ■



## FROM THE ARCHIVES Digitizing Centenary Publications

By Chris Brown '01

The Centenary Archives and Special Collections is pleased to announce that over 200 publications from the College Archives are now available for viewing online, including Centenary's collection of Yoncopin yearbooks (1922-2011), college catalogs (1856-2010), alumni magazines (1969-1988), student literary magazines (Insights 1962-1967), and three books related to Centenary's history – *The Dean Smith Years: Centenary College, the Four Square Bible Class* by Bentley Sloane (1978); *The Paul Brown Era at Centenary: Years of Growth* by Paul Brown, Walter Lowrey, and Donald Webb (1981); and *Centenary College of Louisiana, 1825-2000: The Biography of an American Academy* by Lee Morgan (2008).

These publications are made available through a project partnering the Archives, the Office of Alumni and Family Relations, and the LYRASIS Mass Digitization Collaborative – a Sloan Foundation grant-subsidized program that has made digitization easy and affordable for libraries and cultural institutions across the country.

Through the Collaborative's partnership with the Internet Archive, all items were scanned from cover-to-cover and in full color. You can choose from a variety of formats: page through a book choosing the "read online" option, download the PDF, or search the full text version.

To view the collections, visit [archive.org/details/centenarycollegeoflouisiana](http://archive.org/details/centenarycollegeoflouisiana). If you have any questions about this project and the works that have been digitized, please contact the College archivist Chris Brown at 318.869.5462 or [archives@centenary.edu](mailto:archives@centenary.edu). ■

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For more information, please contact Lauren Michel:  
318.869.5143 • [lmichel@centenary.edu](mailto:lmichel@centenary.edu)  
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