

Shelby French

Best All Around

By Sharon Frain
Assistant Editor

Within the past ten years, the St. Andrews equestrians have won five regional championships, two IHSA Reserve National Championships, and two ANRC reserve National Championships. The riders have surmounted the obstacles often seen in a newly started program. What keeps them going? What type of coach does it take to have a student, Karen Leabo to be exact, win Overall Individual Championship two years in a row? The answer to these questions is Shelby French.

Shelby French is rated as a Number One Rider by the National Riding Commission (NRC), is a national judge with the NRC, and is an American Horse Shows Association Recorded Steward. Aside from riding, she recently found time to play the main part in the musical *Mame* and sit on the *Encore!* Theater and State 4-H advisory boards. Many wonder how she can be involved in all these events

and be as successful as she is. French feels the need to help the quality of life in the community. She is involved with teaching riding lessons, helping out with Girl Scouts, community theatre, 4-H, and many other out-of-class activities. French adds to this belief by saying, "It is important for the faculty to participate in helping to make living in a small college town a positive experience. The school needs something special to offer, such as the unique personal faculty found here at St. Andrews."

French's success can be accredited to her philosophy that, "people are their own worst enemies for the fear of failure can override your actual capabilities." The fear of failure, both emotional and physical, is something she has to deal with everyday while instructing. Her belief that everyone has more ability than they credit his or herself adds a great

deal to her special instructional skill. French continues, "You just need to find out how people can express themselves best, be it riding or not." Riding helps one improve in other areas of life, helps bring out a feeling of control and strength that many people would never feel otherwise.

"I am a big believer in trying to help self-esteem. It is very important to separate self-worth from whether you pass or fail. Self-worth and performance aren't tied hand-in-hand, if you fail it does not mean that you are a bad person. Maybe you just need to redirect what you do," confidently observed French. The preceding beliefs are what have given Shelby French the "golden touch" in seemingly everything she does.

Shelby French has helped the equestrians surmount obstacles related to riding or not. Her involvement acts as a guiding force of support which all of her students benefit from.



Shelby French with Stella. (Photo by Sharon Frain)

Alumnus Puts his Teachings into Action

By Tabbie Nance
Contributing

Be rich in good works: be generous and ready to share with others. 1 Timothy 6:18

M. Gray Clark '69 is best described by that scripture. He preaches the scriptures from the pulpit, and perhaps more importantly, he lives his faith - letting his actions set an example.

Hundreds of people and the environment have benefited from those actions. Throughout his life, Gray has been involved in numerous community projects - most recently establishing an enormously successful recycling center and being instrumental in the establishment and growth of the Greensboro Habitat for Humanity.

Gray isn't the kind to administer projects from behind a desk. The soft-spoken man can be found in the thick of things - bagging aluminum cans, building the roof of a home for a needy family or serving meals to the homeless.

"If you take the Christian faith and keep it inside of you, its like making a relic out of it," the pastor of Fellowship Presbyterian Church in Greensboro said. "The Christian faith has got to be applied." And that "application" has been a life-long commitment for Gray - and something for which he gives credit to St. Andrews.

"When I was at St. Andrews I was involved with soccer and social life more than anything else, but I believe

St. Andrews gave me a seed that grew," Gray said. "I will always remember Dr. (William) Alexander and Dick Prust. They challenged me to think more than anyone else. I don't think I made very good grades but I was challenged. The gift they really gave me was teaching me there was not just one way of thought, but there were many ways and I needed to explore those. And that boils down to respecting individual's rights and views and respecting Earth. In a sense we all have the same kinship."

"The general slant of St. Andrews was to apply your Christian faith to the world you live in," Gray remembered. "St. Andrews offered individualized learning - you could go off in your own direction, use your own talents - and there was an opportunity for personal creativity and growth."

While at St. Andrews Gray's involvement with a tutorial program for low income elementary and high school students proved to be a "real eye opener" and stemmed what would be a life of community involvement. After receiving a major in religion and minor in economics, Gray spent a year at Union Seminary. Gray rebelled against Union's rigid education style and transferred to Eden Seminary in St. Louis, Mo. "I was used to St. Andrews' open education style. Eden was more like St. Andrews - the emphasis was on the individual intellectually, personally, and spiritually."

Gray's three years at Eden were

busy ones - both on and off campus. He founded and edited *Ivory Ghettos*, a faculty/staff journal; drove a truck to finance his education and became active in the Teamsters Union and the labor movement; served on the St. Louis Human Relations Commission to investigate police brutality; worked as a Community Action Liaison to connect low-income families with resources in the Presbyterian Church; and served as a drug abuse and teen pregnancy counselor in suburban St. Louis. He was also politically active - serving as a delegate to the state Democratic convention, being active in the McGovern campaign and heading up two precincts in St. Louis. His involvement in the Peace Movement led to several trips to Washington, D.C., to lobby for an end to the Vietnam War and to begin filing as a conscientious objector to the war.

His political and community involvement did not end when he began his ministry. Gray's first appointment was to a rural church north of Hillsborough. He served Little River Presbyterian Church three years during which time he was a delegate to the state Democratic convention, active in James B. Hunt's gubernatorial campaign and chaired the county public health committee.

Gray completed his doctorate of ministry while serving as associate minister at First Presbyterian Church in Asheboro. His dissertation focused on the contemporary issues of the Bible - primarily how to get people of the church more actively involved in issues that

International Programs Expanded with Addition of Equador

By Dr. Lee Dubs
Contributing

Beginning next year St. Andrews will have the opportunity to spend a term abroad in Equador. Similar to current programs in China and at Brunnenburg, the new program will send a group of students and a professor to spend a full term in overseas study. A major difference, however, is that this will be an annual student-professor exchange program, bringing Ecuadorians to our campus, too.

Last August, Professors Lee Dubs and Tom Williams spent a week in Cuenca, Ecuador, site of the University of Cuenca. There they met with university officials and worked out an exchange agreement between the two schools. Dr. Williams is chair of the International Programs Committee, while Dr. Dubs is director of the new Ecuador Exchange Program. The faculty and administration at St. Andrews and at the University of Cuenca endorsed the agreement.

According to Dr. Dubs, "We will begin with small groups the first year, probably adding more students later. This fall, six students and a professor from U. Cuenca will be at St. Andrews. Each student will live in a residence hall with an American student, while the professor will live off campus and teach courses at the college."

During Spring Term (which is autumn in Ecuador), six St. Andrews students, led by Dr. Dubs, will live with the families of the students who attended St. Andrews during Fall

Term. Classes in Spanish and Andean culture will be taught at the university for them. The St. Andrews professor each year will also offer courses in Cuenca.

Drs. Dubs and Williams report that Cuenca is Ecuador's third largest city, seated in a beautiful valley in the Andes Mountains a few degrees south of the equator, at an altitude of about 8,000 feet above sea level. The constancy of climate earns the city the nickname "Eternal Spring." Both professors report that they fell in love with the area and the people, and both feel that it is ideally suited to a program for St. Andrews students.

In addition to the rich historic and cultural attractions of the Cuenca area, students will have opportunities for excursions to other parts of the Andes, to the Pacific coast, and to the jungle. Returning with many souvenirs last August, the two St. Andrews professors reported that the currency exchange is "very favorable" to the dollar. Dr. Dubs stated that the most expensive air fare between two cities in Ecuador was about \$15.00 and "a lot cheaper by bus, if you have the time." Unlike many parts of the world, the dollar in Ecuador "goes a very long way, indeed," reports Dr. Dubs.

In March, Drs. Dubs and Williams will present a program about the exchange program with U. Cuenca. Applications will be available at that time. The St. Andrews group will be selected this Spring Term in order to be part of the total exchange that begins in the fall. Watch for posters or see Dr. Dubs for more information.



The central plaza of the University of Cuenca. (Photo provided by Tom Williams)

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