



"I do not agree with what you have to say, but I'll defend to the death your right to say it." - Voltaire

## Letter From Corinne Nicholson

Dear St. Andrews students,

Some of you may have noticed that I have not been dashing around the halls of the LA building during the first week of classes. I am not teaching any classes this spring because I have been fortunate enough to be granted a sabbatical for this semester. My focus this semester will not be on student learning on a day-to-day basis, but rather my intention is to look strategically at the curriculum in the Business and Economics Program and how student learning outcomes can be improved.

The college has a long established sabbatical-leave program that encourages faculty



Corinne Nicholson. Picture courtesy of Rooney Coffman.

members who are eligible to apply for either a full year or a half year leave. This program has not been used the last couple of years, so you may not be familiar with it. The program is one example of the college's emphasis on the effectiveness of the teaching program to insure student learning and the scholarly competence of the faculty. My proposed plan for

this spring semester includes reading articles and books pertaining to Strategic Management and Entrepreneurship and interviewing practitioners to continue my own professional growth and development. Additionally, I will complete an evaluation of the mission, educational philosophy, and core strategies of the Department of Business and Economics and develop a plan for using assessment data for continuous improvement. This application of strategic management and business process reengineering is a natural extension of my education and training and an opportunity to stretch myself in a new direction.

I will maintain some limited contact with the St. Andrews community during the spring semester, but I will purposely disconnect myself from daily activities in order to have the time to devote to research and study. My colleagues across the campus have stepped in to assume my responsibilities for the semester. Tom Dickey has been appointed to serve as chair of the department for the semester. My classes are being taught by others, and business interns are being supervised by Doug Glass. All of my advisees have been temporarily assigned to one of the other faculty members in the Department, and I am working on a limited

basis with some ongoing and my proposed plan committee tasks. Renee Jones is helping to impact on students and the college in the future. I will miss seeing students, staff members, and faculty colleagues on a regular basis, but these few months will be gone quickly. And, one last thing, I absolutely plan

to be present at the commencement exercises in May. I am extremely proud of this senior class, and I look forward to seeing you walk across the stage and receive those diplomas that you have worked so hard to earn. Best wishes for a wonderful spring semester! Sincerely,  
Corinne Nicholson

## St. Andrews Choir Invited to Perform in Carnegie Hall

For even those completely unattached to the performing arts, there exists knowledge of the distinction of playing at Carnegie Hall in New York City.

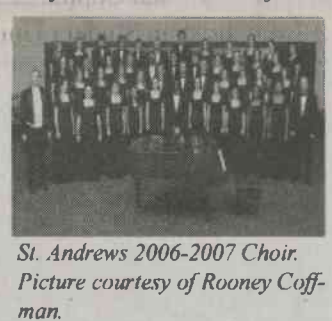
"Carnegie Hall is a venue that performers all over the world aspire to appear in," said William McConnell, assistant professor and chair of the music department at St. Andrews. "Its acoustics are considered the finest of any hall in the world. The greatest performers of all time have performed in concerts and recitals on that stage. To perform there is to perform alongside the spirits of the world's greatest musicians."

On Feb. 24, 2008, McConnell will be the maestro conducting a North American festival chorus that will include members of outstanding choirs from throughout the continent. One of those choirs invited to participate is the St. Andrews Presbyterian College Choir. Charles Vardell would be proud.

"This excellent chorus received this invitation because of the quality and high level of musicianship demonstrated by the singers and the exceptional recommendation given by Maestro McConnell's choral colleagues," said Dr. David Thye, Conductor-in-Residence for MidAmerica Productions, the coordinator of the event at Carnegie Hall. "It is an elite professional honor to be invited to perform in Carnegie Hall. These wonderful musicians not only represent the quality of musicianship and standard of performance within the institution, but they also become ambassadors for the entire commu-

nity." The festival chorus will present Franz Josef Haydn's *Mass in Time of War*. Each year, a small group of conductors are invited to make guest appearances at Carnegie Hall. Other conductors and members of the MidAmerican artistic staff make recommendations. "Every conductor's dream is to stand in front of an orchestra on the Carnegie Hall stage," said McConnell. "This is the kind of opportunity for which we spend years training and preparing."

At St. Andrews, McConnell conducts the Concert Choir and Chamber Choir, and teaches courses in music theory, music history, and music education. He also holds the position of Artistic Director of Charlotte-based Carolina Voices and conductor of its MainStage Choir. In this position, he programs and prepares Carolina Voices' annual holiday spectacular, *The Singing Christmas Tree*. With a continuous 52-year history, Carolina Voices' Singing Christmas Tree has the distinction of being the longest running production of its kind in the United States.



St. Andrews 2006-2007 Choir. Picture courtesy of Rooney Coffman.

Many students in the St. Andrews Choir will need financial assistance to become part of this special choir. "This Carnegie Hall concert is an event of extreme pride for everyone involved and deserving of the community's recognition and support," said Thye. "I encourage all business owners, civic leaders, and the general public to be generous in their financial support for this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity."

## St. Andrews Hosts Martin Luther King Jr. Service

Kelli Hunter

"Cowardice asks the question, 'Is it safe?' Expediency asks the question, 'Is it politic?' And Vanity comes along and asks the question, 'Is it popular?'" stated Dr. Martin Luther Jr. in his address at an SCLC Ministers Leadership Training Program.



Samuel Hemingway III addressing the audience. Picture courtesy of Communications.

On Monday, January 15, 2007 these questions were answered at the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Celebration hosted by St. Andrews Presbyterian College. The Laurinburg community and other surrounding communities gathered together in the Avinger Auditorium to celebrate the life and achievements of Dr. Martin Lu-

ther King Jr. Avinger was filled with over 500 people and it was a night of joys, tears and prayer. Junior and BSU president, Samuel Hemingway III became the commemoration with an opening prayer and greeting.

"We share one goal: to move Dr. King's dream to a reality" - Rona Leach

"We share one goal: to move Dr. King's dream to reality," said Rona Leach, assistant professor of education at St. Andrews when giving the formal welcome address.

The NC A&T State University fellowship gospel choir performed over five energy packed, exciting selections, including a recreation of the "Amazing Grace". Sommore Terry then followed with a solo performance. Ms. Terry is a native to Laurinburg, NC and is currently enrolled in the 4th grade.

Following was Mr. Kenny Capel, from Southern Pines, NC presented Dr. King's speech,

"But, if not", This speech was so strong that if you closed your eyes you'd swear Dr. King himself was there reciting it.

"When I share one of Dr. King's speeches, I hope it helps you to look further at this great man."  
-Kenny Capel

"When I share one of Dr. King's speeches, I hope it helps you to look further at this great man," said Capel. "He took a course in his life like those of Socrates, Gandhi, and Jesus Christ (as a man of peace). What I want to share with you is why he did what he did."

St. Andrews choir led by Dr. William McConnell, concluded the event when they led the entire room in, "Lift Every voice and Sing" and a final blessing.

After the service, the NC A&T Gospel Chior and members from the St. Andrews community joined together in the Crossroads Cafeteria where Sodhexo prepared a formal meal.

years training and preparing."

At St. Andrews, McConnell conducts the Concert Choir and Chamber Choir, and teaches courses in music theory, music history, and music education. He also holds the position of Artistic Director of Charlotte-based Carolina Voices and conductor of its MainStage Choir. In this position, he programs and prepares Carolina Voices' annual holiday spectacular, *The Singing Christmas Tree*. With a continuous 52-year history, Carolina Voices' Singing Christmas Tree has the distinction of being the longest running production of its kind in the United States.

Many students in the St. Andrews Choir will need financial assistance to become part of this special choir.

"This Carnegie Hall concert is an event of extreme pride for everyone involved and deserving of the community's recognition and support," said Thye. "I encourage all business owners, civic leaders, and the general public to be generous in their financial support for this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity."

"I look forward to community support and participation in this exciting project," said McConnell. "In fact, members of our local community and alumni group may also audition to join our choir in this performance."

\*\*\*\*\*For more information on the St. Andrews choir contact William McConnell at [McConnellwt@sapc.edu](mailto:McConnellwt@sapc.edu) or ext 5262\*\*\*\*\*