

Monarch Messenger



Fayetteville, NC

Vol. XXXVIII, No. 6

January 29, 2001

Dowd Will Be Missed

By Jennifer Colletti
College News Co-Editor

Most everyone on campus has at least heard the name Kim Dowd mentioned at one time or another.

For those of you who have remained clueless, Kim Dowd was the Vice President of Student Life and Dean of Students. Her office was located in the Berns Student Center.

During her five and a half year career at Methodist, Dowd has established many strong relationships with students. She has also helped to expand Methodist's student retention rate on campus and in general.

By teaching an IDS class every semester, she has done her share of freshman advising. This fall she made major contributions to the new program MC Late Night Express, which has been a big success.

Considering all these accomplishments combined with the energy, enthusiasm and inviting personality with which Dowd embraces her work, Methodist College was very sorry to see her leave. Jan. 12 was her last day



Photo by Bill Billings
Dowd at her farewell reception.

on the job before George Blanc assumed her position.

Dowd plans to move to Columbia, South Carolina, where her husband has accepted a position at Columbia College. She is anxious to get settled there and start her new life, especially since she is pregnant with an expected due date of Jan. 20. She is excitedly looking forward to motherhood.

What Dowd says she will miss the most about Methodist College are the people, the staff, faculty and students who form a "community in which people truly care about each other."

That same community will miss her greatly and wants to wish her the best of luck!



Update!

Gibson Jay Dowd was welcomed into this world on Jan. 15 by his loving parents. The baby boy was 9 lbs. 5 oz.

Liauna Jordan, student life office manager, had her baby girl Jasmine Arianna on Jan. 14. She joins older brother Alex.

Educators Get Involved

By Amanda Garcia
College News Co-editor

There are many opportunities for students to get involved. Sporting events - both participants and fans, clubs - ranging from SAC to debate are two different ways to develop the college experience.

Clubs and organizations are not only ways to get involved with the school, but they also lend themselves to be venues of voicing opinions and learning new ideas.

There are few better ways to voice your opinions than through the college campus newspaper, which just so happens to be the one you are reading.

The *Monarch Messenger*, headed by Editor-in-chief Carrie Adcox, has made the decision that it is important for the professors and staff to get involved as well. Student involvement is important, but much too often the administrators of education are left out of the picture.

Here at Methodist College, there are many fine professors and staff members. Each one brings his or her background, experiences, cul-

ture, and philosophies to the college. It is past time for those same people to share their worth to the campus as a whole, and not just the classroom that they teach in or that office that they work in.

There are several subjects to study here at Methodist. Science, English, math, history, and government are just a few of the basics. The more specifics are social work, psychology, music, criminal justice, sociology, foreign languages, and the list goes on and on. The point is that with all those courses of study, it is nearly impossible to study under every professor.

This does not infer that we do not have anything to learn from those teachers that you do not have during your time here at Methodist. In fact, the exact opposite is true.

What is equally important is the fact that during class you have to learn about subject things. Wars, equations, parts of speech, and the like take up all the time. But what about those things about life in general that are so often left out in order to cover testable material? You may not be able

to give a test on advice on life, but it may turn out to be the thing that matters when all is said and done.

Being located near a military base, and having such a large percentage of military students on campus, you pick-up a few military phrases here and there. One that you might be familiar with is, "Lead by example." In the military, it is expected that leaders will set the example and the subordinates will follow that example.

That same phrase could be useful out here in the civilian world as well. Perhaps if those involved in educating would take initiative and get involved, it is possible that the ones being educated will follow suit.

What does all of this amount to? An opportunity for professors and staff members to become involved. How? By contacting the Student Media office and offering to write an article, long or short, opinionated or factual, on a topic relevant to student life. With all the knowledge and experience that is available here on campus, surely someone has 15 minutes to sit down and write something.

New Dean of Students Shows Promise

By Carrie Adcox
Editor-in-Chief

A screen saver says a lot about a person. In George Blanc's colorful office, amid papers and pictures, a little green alien paints and decorates the screen on top of the document in process. Little motorcycles leave tire prints in perfect lines across a Microsoft Word document. In his suit and tie, sitting behind his stately desk, his dark eyes glimmer with a hint of humanity.

George Blanc recently accepted the position as dean of students, which had been vacated by Kim Dowd. While Methodist College works to find a replacement, the position as the director of international programs is still being run by Blanc who hopes the position will be filled in a few weeks.

For two and half years, Blanc has intently worked as the director of international programs. Methodist College recruited Blanc from Campbell University, where he had worked for four years.

Although Blanc has only held one position in the college before his promotion, he remains undaunted, convinced that he is joining one of the most successful teams on Methodist College.

Exclaiming that this moment is the peak of his professional career, Blanc expresses that this is a "tremendous opportunity." Those dark eyes got lighter and the corners of his mouth moved slightly upward. Blanc's shoulders moved slightly inward as he relaxed with excited anticipation.

He explained his theory on how to change the programs fostered by

student life; to learn what we do for student's now and expand. Part of his theory also comes from the idea that all students should feel comfortable walking into his office. He has a standing invitation, allowing all students complete access to the dean of students. The continual knocking on the closed door of his office, was reassurance that his words were more than a theory. It had been practiced.

With his hands moving quickly, Blanc stressed the two reasons for his confidence: Six years of working in a college environment and over 100 months of leadership positions within the U.S. Army.

His new position within the college differs only slightly from his director's position with the international program. As director of international programs, his primary responsibility was the quality of life for the international students. Blanc is taking the same oath for all the students of the college.

His museum oriented office at-

tests to his devotion to the seventy international students placed in his care.

Dust-free shelves and wooden cabinets house foreign relics representing the many countries of the international students. Cream walls are covered with pictures of the international students Blanc has previously worked with. He regards each picture as an extension of his family.

Students can look forward to Blanc becoming "totally and completely involved in your lives."

The little green aliens on the computer screen had reeked havoc with the document. Pictures of his wife Carol and their two daughters stared from a shelf above the computer. George Blanc's shoulders fell back into their proper spot as his back straightened.

Some men dream of doing great things for those around them. Some men do the things they dream. George Blanc is on his way to doing the things he has dreamed.



George Blanc.

Photo contributed by the CRIMP office.

Adding New Life to Campus Ministry

By Andy Duer
Staff Writer

If you have been to the ministry office this year, you may have met the first campus ministry intern here at Methodist College.

Joel McMakin, who has plans of becoming an ordained United Methodist pastor, says that he is excited about occupying this new position.

Originally from Lyman, SC, in Spartanburg county, McMakin went to Erskine College where he majored in Biology and minored in Secondary Education. He is now attending his second of three years at Duke Divinity School.

In his spare time, he loves playing sports and being in the outdoors. Eventually McMakin would like to serve a church or work with children at a children's home or camp.

So far McMakin says he has enjoyed his experiences at Methodist College and the hospitality he has



McMakin sings with students during the Bahamas mission trip.

Photo contributed by Campus Ministries.

encountered.

"The students have been warm and friendly to me and have made me feel welcome," McMakin says of the small campus community. He expanded to say that being here feels much like his days at Erskine College because it is a small school with friendly people.

"I'm excited about the plans we

have for this new semester, and I hope to continue getting to know the students and faculty."

With all this ambition, the semester promises to be a full and exciting one.

By Takechia Jackson
Staff Writer

What do you do when you owe the college a substantial amount of money, and you don't know how you are going to come up with it?

Students at colleges and universities everywhere deal with this problem. However, not all colleges and universities have a Jesse LeNeave.

LeNeave is a Financial Planning Counselor at Methodist College. He has been a counselor at the college for five years. Prior to working at Methodist College he worked in a juvenile detention center for two years. LeNeave graduated from Fayetteville State University with a degree in Criminal Justice.

When he came to Methodist, his position was created so students who owed the college excessive money would not have to drop out of school because of their outstanding balance.

LeNeave's wife, Andrea, also works at Methodist. She works in the Office of Admissions.

"It's nice to work with my wife. We come to work together and go home together, that's real nice," LeNeave states.

When asked what he enjoys most about working at Methodist College, he paused briefly then replied, "I enjoy working with the stu-

dents. I never want a student to come into my office and me not have an option for them. There's always a way."

LeNeave works everyday to help students clear balances they may have in the business office. He works with the financial aid department to make sure that students get the money that they need to continue their education.

"I work with a wonderful group of people who really make my job a little easier," LeNeave comments.

When asked the one thing that Methodist could improve, LeNeave responded, "Communicating better with the students, so that they won't have the problem of waiting in long lines every semester."

LeNeave believes that one of the biggest challenges that the college faces is not having good communication with the students after their first year. He feels if the students would keep a clear communication with the financial aid and business office, there would not be a hassle every semester clearing the business office.

LeNeave strives to help the students in any way possible - whether it be through loans, grants, or scholarships - so money will never postpone their education.

So what does a guy like LeNeave do when he is away from



LeNeave.

Methodist College? He lives a pretty simple life with his family. He enjoys doing yard work and washing his car. When he's not raking the yard or washing the car, LeNeave enjoys watching *Seinfeld*. He also enjoys political shows.

LeNeave is one of the many Methodist College staff who helps students every day get out of financial binds by offering reasonable solutions. Although he just feels that he has "lust for his job," to the students the help LeNeave provides is much more.

There are many colleges and universities that face the problem of students unable to pay their tuition, but not every one is fortunate enough to have someone like Jesse LeNeave.

Quiz Bowl Tournament Held at MC

By Amanda Garcia
College News Co-editor

You are a college student. You have completed the necessary requirements to be enrolled. You probably consider yourself a well-educated person.

But do you know what the only common U.S. coin featuring a president in which his portrait does not face left? Just give it a guess.

The answer is the penny. And that was just one example of the types of questions that ten high school teams from Cumberland County answered during a quiz bowl match.

On Jan. 13, ten teams - each composed of four students - were here at Methodist College in the science auditorium for a dress rehearsal of county quiz bowl which was held the following Saturday.

Among the subjects the teams were questioned about were current events, religion/philosophy/mythology, social sciences, science and math, language and literature, sports, and arts.

Ready for another example question? What postimpressionist French artist is famous for his paintings of life in Tahiti, where he spent

the last years of his life? Give up? Paul Gauguin. Did you get that one right?

Quiz bowl is like *Jeopardy*. There are three rounds and the seven aforementioned subjects. The first round is worth ten points, the second is worth twenty points, and the third is worth thirty points. During the first round, one student is singled out from the team and must attempt to answer a question, without the help of teammates. During the second and third rounds, the questions are directed toward the whole team and they may confer with each other.

If an answer is incorrect the opposing team may attempt to answer, but with only half credit given. At the end of the three rounds, the team with highest points wins and the other team is eliminated from the competition.

At the dress rehearsal held here at Methodist, the final match came down to Terry Sanford High School and Massey Hill Classical. Terry Sanford took the title.

The following week, the competition was held in the Pate Room in the library headquarters. The final match was between Terry Sanford and Westover High School. Again

Terry Sanford won, making it the third year in a row they have walked away with the title.

Several Methodist College faculty, staff, and students coordinated the tournament that was held here at Methodist. The moderator was Michael Molter. Dr. Carl Dyke, Dr. John Fields, and Dr. Nicole Taylor filled the judging positions. Arleen Fields served as the reference authority while Sal Mercogliano was the timekeeper. Cliff Wells was responsible for the sound system setup. David Barber, Todd Lyden, John Meeske, Cindy Mitman, Pragnesh Patel, and Dr. John Sill helped write those difficult questions.

Ready for your final question? It's a toughy! In July 2000, this type of supersonic aircraft experienced its first fatal crash. Too hard? Well, it was the Concorde.

That was three questions, how did you do? Ten points? Twenty? Anybody get all three correct? If you did, you should look into joining the quiz bowl! As for everybody else, the next time that you start to think that you are pretty smart, remember how well you did on these high school quiz bowl questions.

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