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Fortson To Resign In Spring: Assoc. Professor "Ready for Change" After Twelve Years

by Jeff Sheets

This spring, the Outdoor Education Department will be losing a familiar face. Ben Fortson, Associate Professor of Outdoor Education, is set to resign in June after a twelve year tenure to pursue other interests and spend more time with his family.

"I'm not leaving because there is a problem," asserts the Fortson. "The real issue is not that something is wrong. I feel I have been blessed working here; I'm just ready for change."

However, "change" isn't the only factor behind this professor's decision.

Thirteen months ago, Fortson and his wife Nancy became parents for the first time and have not taken the responsibilities lightly. "I'd also like to have a break from teaching because of the time it involves... I just want to go home and be dad."

"(Nancy and I) really wanted to be committed as parents. We feel the need

to step away and do something slower. I'm not saying those who teach can't be effective parents."

Even with such noble reasons, leaving Montreat has not been an easy decision for this seasoned professor. "It is hard to leave. Both of us feel such a bond of unity here. The students and faculty are like brothers and sisters."

Most students aren't looking forward to his departure, such a Outdoor Education major Chris Day. The Atlanta junior reflected, "The best times I've had with Ben occurred in out of class discussions and one-on-one sharing...I hate to see him go." Day further commented, "I don't think a lot of people will realize what they are losing when Ben leaves. He is definitely a model of servant leadership."

When Converse College transfer Annette Rohmer heard the news, she re-

marked, "When I think of Ben, I think of compassion. When I think of compassion, I think of Christ" She added, "He'll impact your life and you will never forget it."

Senior Andy Merl acknowledged, "He puts a lot of stock in his students."

As far as life after Montreat, Fortson is still unsure, but excited. "As far as the future is concerned, we are trying to see what is out there. We are looking at several options."

Currently a search team made up of faculty and students is looking for a replacement.

\$15K -- and still no new weights

by Amy Buckner

When students arrived back on campus after the holidays they were surprised and disappointed to discover the old weight room and the old weights still intact.

According to Vice President of Academic Affairs and head of the subcommittee Don King, a gift of \$15,000 was anonymously given to buy new fitness equipment.

The equipment could be purchased at this juncture because the funds for the construction of the building are not available.

Last September, a committee verbalized a plan to reconstruct the weight room in McAlister Gym and add new weights to it. In order to meet the growing needs of the student body, aerobic equipment was to be added as well. The hope of the committee was that the new equipment and the weight room would be completed before the students returned from the Christmas holidays.

Baseball coach Darin Chaplain piped, "The weight room is simply not large enough for our team. Because we have so many players, I have to divide them into two groups.

This creates a conflict with other athletic teams because we take up twice

the amount of time in the weight room. Our capabilities are very limited." The absence of sufficient equipment has angered many students, especially athletes.

Many have complained that the weight room is too small and the weights far too outdated.

Junior softball player Becca Wineka mouthed, "The weight room sucks."

Sophomore forward for the basketball team Jason Sherrill remarked, "The weight room serves its purpose for the athletic teams but the equipment is extremely outdated.

There is no aerobic equipment for non-athletes who just want to work out."

Although expectations for the new weight room have been dashed temporarily, students and coaches alike are anticipating the new facilities. The completion of the weight room will depend entirely on the availability of donations. Presently, financial resources are being sought for construction of the new facility.

King added, "We are actively seeking a donor for the purpose of building a new weight room."

Soccer Coach John Garvilla declared, "Obviously a new weight room would help all of us, the student body as well as the community."

Montreat Makes Record

According to the November/December 1995 issue of *The News*, a publication by the Coalition for Christian Colleges & Universities, Christian colleges have enjoyed healthy Fall enrollments this year.

First-time freshmen enrollments were up an average of 9 percent at sixty-four Coalition schools reporting to the survey. Montreat College is a part of this Coalition.

Among institutions reporting the highest percentage increase for total students served, Montreat reported the highest percentage: 48.1 percent.

The Coalition sponsors many off-campus study programs for interested students, as well as other activities and scholarships.

The Coalition has established a World Wide Web site at <http://www.gospelcom.net>.

For more information about the Coalition opportunities, send e-mail to: coalition@cccu.org or speak with your advisor.