

Transitions

Reflections Through the Door

by Bob Graham

"Es tan corto el amor, y tan largo el olvido" said Nobel prize winner Pablo Neruda. (Love is so short, and forgetting is so long). How true this is as I find myself staring at my computer contemplating this vast electronic blizzard, pondering my parting words to the Montreat College community. Well, fourteen years of love for Montreat College has flown by and the memories will not soon be forgotten.

How do I sum up my time at Montreat? Well, the song "Get it Out of the Way" by David Willcox offers that our lives might be easier if we started with the ending and got it out of the way. This seems perfectly logical in a nonsensical way to me so therefore, I too, will start at the ending.

A new adventure: I wonder if the grass is greener outside the gate? It is February 2, 2004 and I find myself outside the gate, I mean REALLY outside the gate for the first time in 14 years. These two weeks prior to

leaving Montreat have been very hard for me. I have come to realize that I am leaving a place that holds a vast trove of memories, friends I have known for years, some for but a few short months, and students that have become more than temporary residents of Montreat but have become my best friends and reintroduced me to what friendship and fun are all about!

2003...Homecoming, graduation, phonathon, 2002...Homecoming, graduation phonathon... 2001, 2000, 1999, 1998, 1997... good times, hard times, three college presidents, two U.S. Presidents, 9/11, Iraq, Afghanistan, Mr. Rogers and Captain Kangaroo died, meetings, Web pages, archiving, IntheOaks, meetings, dinners, dances...1996... I answered the call of my alma mater to be alumni director...seven and a half years have passed. I have sold the landscaping company I started after graduating from Montreat College. Choices...I must choose between growing up and carry-

Graham Dines at McDonald's with Students



Bob Graham (right), Alumni Director for seven years, dines with students Batchimeg Sambalaibat, Becca Snyder, Rob McDonald, Lucas Fisher, Jenn Ramsey, Jenn Davis and April Heyward.

The group went out on the town to the McDonald's in Biltmore Forest, looking for high class and low budget entertainment. Graham supplied the table cloth and candles for the event. Dinner was followed by dessert at the Melting Pot.

ing a "will work for food" sign. Student loans. Oh no! I don't have a job!!!

1993...I have graduated from college and I am now FREE! Exams, papers, cafeteria food, homework, Huddle House, dances...1992...exams, Bean Streets, Brew and View 1991... exams, papers...1990...exams, papers...1989...exams, papers... standing in line at registration behind a beautiful woman (she is now married to some other guy). August 1989...I am greeted at the gate by strange people with balloons and ushered through the Montreat gates. A new adventure: I wonder if the grass is greener inside the gate?

One thing I remember being taught as a student at Montreat is that history is cyclical; "What goes around, comes around." I entered that gate uncertain of

what the future held and now I find myself exiting with the same anxiety. I have a lifetime of memories inside that gate. I will miss you all terribly! But I am following where God leads and that is where I know I must be.

Staff and faculty friends, I thank you for educating me in so many ways. Your friendship, encouragement and our many years of smiles and laughter together I cherish. Alumni friends, I thank you for the opportunity to serve you and to be a part of your history at Montreat College.

Students of Montreat College, I owe you a great debt of gratitude for making my life richer and for sharing your lives with me. As you go out into the world, some of you this year and others in coming years, remember your alma mater. Like me, I think you will find that you have rich

memories here that you will cherish for a lifetime. I am glad that I have had the opportunity to add you to my list!

Alexander Solzhenitsyn wisely said, "Do not pursue what is illusory - property and position: all that is gained at the expense of your nerves decade after decade and can be confiscated in one fell night. Live with a steady superiority over life - don't be afraid of misfortune, and do not yearn after happiness; it is after all, all the same: the bitter doesn't last forever, and the sweet never fills the cup to overflowing." My friends, it is wise to reflect on what is behind the door of our past; this is where we have learned. But now as we move into the future let us seek what God has in store for us and no matter what we do, let us live life big!

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MONTREAT
COLLEGE
STUDENTS**



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Present coupon before ordering. Limit one coupon per customer per visit.
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Search Yields Struble

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ered for the position of president. Wynne began selecting committee members in July 2003, and the committee first convened in August. They met throughout the fall semester and rendered a decision six months later.

Wynne was very pleased with the work of the search committee. "Dr. Dan Struble is a visionary with a solid background in leadership, fundraising, and higher education," says Wynne. "We are thankful to God for

bringing a man of Dr. Struble's experience, vision, and knowledge to Montreat College."

The Struble family was introduced to the Montreat community in chapel on Thursday, February 5. Interim President, Dr. Don King, anxiously awaits July 1 when Struble takes on full presidential duties.

"Dan and Karen are both young and energetic, and they are already talking about fellowship and getting to know the students on campus," says Wynne. Senior and student

representative to the Presidential Search Committee Becca Snyder adds, "Mrs. Struble is already talking about having students over to visit at the presidential home."

Dr. Karen Brown Struble earned her Ph.D. in Psychology and her M.A. in Theology from Fuller Theological Seminary. The Struble family includes twelve-year-old Amanda and nine-year-old Benjamin. They belong to Christ Our Anchor Presbyterian Church (PCUSA) in Annapolis.