

Angela's a good APPLE

Order of Golden Fleece honors Brice for participation in learning program

Angela Brice, a Kings Mountain resident, has been honored by the Order of the Golden Fleece for her work with APPLES (Assisting People in Planning Learning Experiences in Service), a service learning program, and other accomplishments. She is currently serving as president of the service learning program and through her leadership has opened up chapters of the program abroad, including two in Mexico, Guatemala, Nicaragua, El Salvador and Namibia, in Southern Africa. She researched their locations, developed their structures, and crafted a reflection



BRICE

seminar for returning participants.

"APPLES, is a service learning organization, which combines academic courses with community service," Brice said. She was interested in the program and its far-reaching service opportunities, partly because of her international background (coming from Haiti), her desire to extend a helping hand and her hunger to learn about others across the globe.

Through this program, she said, "Students can go abroad and study abroad. They will do service in the community (there) and when they return, they can volunteer at other community service sites (here)."

"Going abroad gives them a cultural immersion so when they come back they can have a better understanding of the immigrant

population," Brice said.

She is a rising senior at UNC-Chapel Hill, majoring in Public Policy Analysis and minoring in Spanish. She plans to graduate in May 2007 and to continue her education at a grad school in Michigan where she will obtain her PhD in Public Health.

This summer, Brice is interning at Mont Children's Health Center in Michigan for 2 months where she is doing different projects that help with health disparities in the area.

In regards to her award, she would like to thank the city of Kings Mountain and her old high school, KMHS. "I'm really grateful to the investment the town has made in my life and give much honor to the school system," she said.

The Order of the Golden Fleece is the oldest

University honor society of its kind in the nation and is said to be the most prestigious honorary society at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. It was founded on April 11, 1904 when two first-year law students, Roach Stewart and Robert Herring, convened a meeting of student leaders to propose the Order to "subordinate local interests to the welfare of the University and join together in closer harmony the different branches of University life." The goal was to bring students together who had distinguished themselves through "outstanding personal integrity, a superlative record of achievement and service, and loyalty to the University" so that they could, individually and collectively, continue to work in positive ways to better the University community.

Heather Wilson earns scholarship

Heather Marie Wilson, daughter of Bill and Wanda Wilson, recently received a \$15,000 scholarship from the Dover Foundation, Inc. Along with the Dover Scholarship, Heather received the Gardner-Webb University Presidential Scholarship, Fellowship of Christian Athletes Scholarship, and the Kings Mountain Student Scholarship Fund, which was presented to her in loving memory of Joe Dixon Rhea Sr. At the Kings Mountain High School Senior Awards night she was also presented a plaque for having perfect attendance throughout her entire 13-year academic career.



Heather was very active in the Beta Club, Ambassador's Club, Fellowship of Christian Athletes, Model United Nations, Future Teachers of America, Interact Club, Renaissance Club, Science Club, and was also a member of the National Honor Society.

At First Baptist Church in Kings Mountain, she is a member of the youth group, which recently returned from a mission trip to Honduras. They did various mission projects such as Vacation Bible School, some building construction, evangelism, and other services. Wilson's first trip to Honduras was in the summer of 2004.

She has been accepted to Gardner-Webb, where she will major in History. She plans to teach high school History, while working toward her Master's degree.

KMHS students Furman Scholars

Lauren P. Suber, Courtney F. Tate and Jessica L. Yarbro, all of Kings Mountain, have been named Furman Scholars by Furman University in Greenville, SC.

The students, who have demonstrated outstanding academic achievement and shown interest in attending a liberal arts college, were nominated by their high

school college counselors. All have a minimum 3.75 grade point average, rank in the top five percent of their classes and have strong test scores.

Furman Scholars who are accepted for admission to the university are guaranteed of receiving a tuition scholarship of \$3,500.

NEW LIFE

From 1A

and carpet were also donated, along with kitchen and playground equipment, lights and other material.

The sanctuary features a 16-foot tall etching of Jesus and a waterfall which cascades into the baptismal pool. There are huge screens on each side of the front of the sanctuary and a custom-made computer flashes key points of the sermon on them to make it easier for worshippers to follow along. Eng even has his own monitor located at about the middle of the sanctuary and near the ceiling so he can keep his eye on the key sermon points.

While Eng and members of the church and others have volunteered over 45,000 hours to build the facility, he gives all of the credit to God. He says the church could not have afforded to build a new facility if it had gone the traditional method of hiring contractors and architects, and borrowing money.

"It's a miracle," he says. "God's just really blessed us. He built it."

Eng says people will get a peaceful feeling when they walk into the sanctuary and see the 16-foot Jesus on the wall behind the pulpit.

"The focus is on Jesus," he says. "No matter who is standing in the pulpit they won't be bigger than Jesus. If we keep Jesus big and Robert Eng little we'll do good."

Other unique features of the sanctuary are two altars and the communion table. The altars are made entirely out of stone, and behind the communion table is a huge banner listing all of the Biblical names of Jesus.

Eng is not a mason but formed the stone altars him-

self. Stone was picked up around the church property and at other places in the area.

"I have never seen a stone altar in a church," he said. "These are the same kind of altars that Abraham had. Just like when he was going to sacrifice Isaac, we have to lay down our lives for others."

Eng said all of the electrical, heating/air work and plumbing were done by members of the church.

Over 30 tons of stone are laid on the seven-acre site, which includes the church, huge parking lot, fenced playground and even a creek and camp area at the back of the property. The entire facility covering seven acres has been appraised at \$1.7 million.

"God's done everything with excellence," Eng says. "God was the architect. I drew plans on napkins at places like Taco Bell. The Holy Spirit would tell me what He wanted and I'd write it down."

As Eng gave a tour of the facility Monday morning, church members from early teen to adults came in to work. He said he and many members of the church have been putting in 16- to 18-hour days, seven days a week for the past two years.

"Humanly, it's not possible to work that much," he said. "But we've got servants of God here. It's been full-time but we've done it and have still done our outreach programs. Members have donated over 6,000 hours in the past year alone. We'll have a group come in early in the morning. In the afternoon another group will come in. At night we'll have about 50 people in here working, and some of them will stay as late as 2 a.m."

Seventeen people in the

church have donated over 1,000 hours each.

Eng is proud of the children's church, which is one wide-open room with a rest room and children's pastor's office to the side. All rest rooms in the church are equipped with baby-changing tables - all donated, of course.

The children's room is named "King's Town," and as they go from shop to shop, to the police department, fire department, etc., puppets tell them stories. All of their activities - as well as those in other parts of the building and in the parking lot - are monitored by video cameras.

The church eventually plans to add a petting zoo behind the playground, where children can play with sheep and ride ponies.

"We want to make church fun for the children because they are our future," Eng says.

The next major building project will be turning the old church building into a teen center that will include a huge game room, computer room and tutors to teach Spanish. The teens go to Nicaragua each year on a mission trip.

"Almost all of the kids in our church can speak Spanish," Eng said. "We want this teen center to be their hangout, rather than the streets."

While working on their new church, Eng said members have also helped build four other churches. They also have given building material to other churches.

"It's hard to start a church today," he says. "It used to

be that the communities built the churches. Labor and materials were donated. Now they hire somebody to do it. There's ownership in this church. That's how they did it in Biblical days up through the forties and fifties. There were no contractors and architects. A lot of time the people who build the church have no ties to the church. Everybody has ties here. It makes you feel better about your roots.

"We don't have a million dollar note," he added. "We couldn't afford it. This has taught us a greater dependence on God. He's the architect and contractor. All you have to do is ask Him and He'll tell you how to do it. We had to take care of the physical part before we can take care of the spiritual part. It's just like Jesus did with the fish and the bread. You take care of the physical first."

Eng, who holds degrees from numerous colleges and universities, says he learned much more about God during this building process.

"It's taught me a greater faith," he says. "God hasn't changed. We will have about \$200,000 of actual money in this facility and God has already showed me a way to pay for it. God works it all out. Just don't get ahead of Him. A lot of churches spend \$150,000 in grading and plans before they turn the first pile of dirt. God has done this with excellence. God's wanting to show out in Kings Mountain. He's wanting to do some great things. Every day is a miracle."

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