

# BRENAU

SUMMER 2007

## *Window*



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### **Expanding the Global Portal**

LOUISE BAUCK'S YUCATAN DIARIES

CASABLANCA CONNECTION

AFGHAN HOME COOKIN'

LEGEND OF THE LOST ROCKS





*Myra and Ed Schrader in China.*

## Technology Unlocks the Global Portal

I just returned from China where next summer Brenau students will take advantage of new relationships with three Chinese universities for a unique learning experience there. Also, our admissions staff is currently evaluating several applications from promising Chinese women who will study on our Gainesville campus.

This sets us on course to fulfill the university's mission to prepare students in an extraordinary manner for life in a global society – learning language and culture from people living in that culture and speaking that language, interacting with students from all over the world.

Even before these initiatives began, I had been pondering ways to expose a broader array of Brenau students to that kind of global education. Could we create a learning environment in which Brenau students in Georgia interact and collaborate with students on another campus somewhere else in the world? Could we establish unique courses in which Brenau students study languages, culture, literature, art or business through an internet-based platform, and guided by a professor from a university in China or the Yucatan or Europe?

Technologically, there is no reason that we cannot create an e-learning environment essentially expanding the universe for all of our students without ever leaving home.

One of the four learning portals that underpin Brenau's new curriculum pledges that we will expose students to the world beyond our campuses and homes. Concomitantly, an aspect of Brenau's shared educational experience entwining our entire university is the discriminate selection, teaching and application of the pertinent information technology from the vast array available to higher education. Addressing these

necessities, Brenau must continue to creatively explore and re-emphasize the great possibilities of e-learning.

As an early adapter of online programs, Brenau in many respects has a head start on developing a robust e-learning environment. Harvard's Web site, for example, says that it does "not yet" offer any degrees that can be completed totally online. The Sloan Consortium's most recent study indicated that 56 percent of higher education institutions regard online education as a critical component of growth strategies. Half of those surveyed offer masters programs online. About 63 percent have undergraduate e-learning. That includes Harvard, which has an online masters requiring only one semester's residency, online course availability for all students, and even courses you can't take except online.

Brenau can continue to lead in the evolution of this innovative education delivery system or abdicate its responsibility through simple quiescent inaction and inattention to the global advances in e-learning. I have nothing but optimism for Brenau's future in e-learning and global education because of our groundbreaking history in the field and because of the palpable determination of our professors, alumni and trustees to reach boldly for leadership in higher education.

What wonderful and exciting possibilities: an opportunity to change thousands of lives through access to education around the world. Come aboard with us as partners in this dynamic change – and enjoy the trip.

Ed Schrader, Ph.D.  
eschrader@brenau.edu



## BRENAU REPORTS RECORD enrollment

It's not "official" yet, but the combined enrollments for Brenau's evening and weekend, online and women's college programs this spring exceeded the previous high-water mark of 2,503 students, a record set in 1996. But even the official numbers – those posted each October with the U.S. government's Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS) – light up the eyes of Brenau numbers czar Robert Cuttino, director of institutional research and effectiveness.

The 2006 "IPEDS cutoff" in October counted a student population of 2,407. The "unofficial" spring 2007 census counted 2,512 at the semester's peak enrollment. "If we continue at the current rate, next fall we may exceed the 1996 record," says Cuttino. As of June 1, the university had received applications from 3,139 prospective new freshmen and transfer students, an 11 percent increase over the number of applicants for the 2006 fall term.

What counts, however, are data the university supplies to IPEDS in late October – the official cut-off for all higher education institutions to post uniform information to the U.S. Department

of Education repository. Those official numbers come into play for many reasons. For example, higher education organizations and accrediting agencies base annual dues on enrollments. Government agencies, corporations and nonprofits often base levels of financial aid on numbers of students at an institution. Their uniformity and consistency, says Cuttino, eliminates the "fudge factor" for institutions that might otherwise engage in creating bookkeeping to show enrollments in any way that suits immediate purposes.

Brenau's growth, however, has been steady from IPEDS standards for four years, including the 11 percent increase represented by fall 2006 enrollments over the fall 2005 enrollment of 2,168 and the more than 16 percent overall growth since the decade low of 2,073 in 2003. The fall numbers also showed a 26.6 percent increase for the year in women's college enrollments.

"Although we have had some well-distributed growth across the board," Cuttino says, "when you look at the 846 enrollment for the women's college in October compared with the 607 in 2003, it explains a lot."

**2,512**  
Brenau's new 'high-water'  
enrollment mark

**26.6%**  
The single-year WC  
enrollment jump

**34.8%**  
Gainesville EWC  
2006 growth

**846**  
2006 WC  
enrollment

## NEW LEADERS in academic, administrative posts

When Brenau students return to campus in the fall, they will meet new deans of education and business, a new registrar and new senior vice president for student affairs and admissions.

**BECKY B. CLARK** replaces the retiring Bill Ware, who served Brenau for 28 years, as dean of the School of Education. The Louisiana native served in a similar role at Grand Canyon University in Phoenix. She's also expert in deploying technology systems for academic programs, student assessment and strategic planning.

**WILLIAM S. LIGHTFOOT**, assistant dean and management professor at International University of Monaco in Monte-Carlo, was named School of Business and Mass Communications dean, replacing William Haney, who returns to full-time teaching. North Carolina native Lightfoot previously worked in engineering and technology development and marketing.

**SCOTT A. BRIELL** in May became senior vice president for admissions and student development as part of a consolidation of all non-academic student-related activities. The Florida native with a master's from Penn State was vice president for enrollment management and marketing.

**BARBARA D. WILSON** became director of student records and registrar in May. The Florida State journalism graduate with a master's from the University of Louisville was a TV and newspaper reporter. She subsequently worked in administrative, communications and student relations posts at Gwinnett Technical College and Georgia Tech.



Becky Clark



Barbara Wilson

## GOODBYE, 'Mr. Pam'

After 28 years, Bill Ware retires as dean of Brenau's School of Education Aug. 14. Although in his emeritus status he will continue teaching some classes and work as an adviser to his successor, he says he looks forward to "more flexibility and less pressure from decision-making. There are things I want to do in the community, in my church and with my grandchildren." Plus, his wife "has no intention of retiring" from her position as director of the highly regarded Gainesville High School theater program, where, Ware says, "I am known as 'Mr. Pam Ware.'"

The Alabama native's education career spans 44 years. "Are we doing as good a job teaching kids as we used to do?" he asks reflectively. "We're doing a better job – and we're doing it with a whole lot more kids." Ware presided over Brenau's teacher education as it grew from a "very small program" to what it is now.

"Brenau is a major player in teacher education in this state – and throughout the South," he says. "Our teachers don't have trouble getting jobs; our problem is keeping people from hiring them before they finish their degrees. But that doesn't mean we can't grow and get even stronger. I'm confident we will."



## SENIOR'S 'HOT' PAINTINGS picked for permanent collection



In one transaction, budding painter Katherine Stadig, WC '07, made more money selling paintings than some of the masters with work hanging in Brenau University galleries made in a year – or a lifetime, for that matter. Stadig "sold" her futuristic series *Kinetic* to the university for \$2,000, the amount she received as this year's President's Award winner from President Ed Schrader in a student

competition. One of her influences for the chalk and pastel paintings was 19th and 20th Century French impressionist Edgar Degas, whose signature works include ballerinas in motion, but in cool hues of blue and gray. Stadig's dancers are depicted in hotter tones of red and orange because of another influence, the futurists' infatuation with machines and technology.

## BRENAU'S virtual classroom expands

Cathrine Bonds, credit manager at Plaid Enterprises in Norcross, Ga., spent 35 years building a career and getting two sons through universities before she set out to get her own diploma at the college her sister attended. But there was no way she could leave work and make scheduled classes on Brenau's Gainesville campus through the 24-7 "rush hour" Atlanta area traffic. Starting this fall Bonds and other Brenau accounting students will be able to complete all their undergraduate requirements via the internet when the bachelor of business administration in accounting becomes Brenau's 12<sup>th</sup> online degree program.

During the spring semester, 644 Brenau students – about 26 percent of the student body – took at least one online course. Currently 240 Brenau students are pursuing degrees online – 113 undergraduate and 127 graduate.





## BRENAU PROFESSOR CHOSEN for university’s first Fulbright lecturer



Christening the *Mama Mickie* in Congo last year; with Max Walker at a Peruvian school in 2004, below.

Mickie Yamamori Mathes, who appears in photos to be cross-channeling “Jackie O” and Rose Sayer, Charlie Allnut’s sidekick in 1951 movie *The African Queen*, gained the distinction of being the first professor in Brenau’s School of Education to have a Congo River ship named after her. Later this summer the chair of the undergraduate education department will embark for the State of Qatar where she will become the first Brenau professor to serve in a prestigious, coveted Fulbright lectureship.

The latter honor Mathes sought vigorously. The first, christening of the *Mama Mickie*, was a bit of a surprise.

“I always wanted a Fulbright,” says Mathes. The U.S. government’s flagship program in international educational exchange is named for the late U.S. Sen. J. William Fulbright of Arkansas. As a freshman senator in 1945, Fulbright authored the legislation creating a much-needed vehicle for promoting at the end of World War II “mutual understanding between the people of the United States and the people of other countries.”

Unfortunately for Mathes, a native of Japan, the program is only available for U.S. citizens. “When I found out that I was ‘naturalized’ [as a U.S. citizen] in November, I called my husband first and the Fulbright office next.” She was notified in March that she’d been accepted to lecture in the next academic year at the University of Qatar’s College of Education.

“This is really a perfect fit,” says Brenau Provost Helen Ray. In addition to already having a broad international outlook from her travels in more than 30 countries, Mathes has “served as department chair and knows what

it takes to run a quality program.” And, Ray added, “It’s quite an honor for Brenau.”

Oil-and natural gas-rich Qatar, unlike some of its Middle East neighbors, plows considerable portions of its wealth into becoming a role model for economic and social transformation in the region, including offering free education for all citizens. Sheikha Mozah Nasser Al-Missned, the second wife of the monarchy’s Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa Al Thani, herself a 1986 university graduate, not only has driven reforms there but also serves as UNESCO’s basic and higher education special envoy to other nations.

Mathes says in the past the Qatar higher education establishment has drawn from only a handful of U.S. universities, including Georgetown, Texas A&M and Virginia Commonwealth. The university wants to hold its programs up to the same



high standards the National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education applies to U.S. schools.

As a lecturer, Mathes says she will “teach teachers” in English, but she’s already learning Arabic to help her with the Muslim students.

And, there will be one other change in her routine: “Instead of Christmas this year, I’ll be having Ramadan.”

Now about that ship: It’s a boat, really, slightly larger than Charlie Allnut’s vessel in the movie. It could easily pass for a double-decker houseboat on Lake Lanier. Mathes’ husband, Ben,

heads Rivers of the World, a not-for-profit Christian organization that addresses a plethora of human needs in remote, undeveloped river basins around the world. In the Congo, it uses boats to transport medicines to treat for leprosy, tuberculosis and river blindness. When the new boat was launched, the local staff thought it would be cool to name it after the director’s wife; the term “Mama,” she says, is a term of respect for women in Congo. Although she and Ben were accompanied to the christening by machine gun-wielding bodyguards, “I was really flattered.”

Mathes and Ben live in Dawsonville, Ga. They have two sons – Benjamin, an actor who lives in California, and Adam, a U. S. Marine Corps officer who is on his third combat tour in Iraq.



## VIRGIN TERRITORY: Retired UPS exec looks ahead as newest trustee



At the home on Lake Lanier he shares with his wife, Sharon, Stu Virgin has a perfectly good boat dock. But he bought the vacant lot next door and installed what is now a perfectly empty dock just a few dozen yards away from the first. Why? The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers won’t issue many more permits for such waterfront facilities. By building now, Virgin dramatically increased the property’s resale value.

That’s the kind of ahead-of-the-curve thinking that got Stuart R. Virgin elected to a term on the Brenau University Board of Trustees starting in October. “I’m not really sure what a trustee is supposed to do,” he says, offering the comment in the same self-deprecating manner he uses to describe his golf handicap. You know he’s sandbagging you about the golf, and you know he probably already has the trustee thing figured out, too.

Virgin got his “first real job” with UPS while he was a part-time college student in southern California. In 1995, 31 years later, he retired as a division manager for “Big Brown” at the ripe old age of 51 – having helped the company in early stage implementation of its now ubiquitous, signature package tracking system.

He concedes when he and Sharon looked for places to retire, proximity to Brenau was not a factor. “Now that we’ve found out more about the university,” he says, “it’s really a pretty neat asset.” He says as a trustee he wants to get Brenau more engaged with other neighbors on the lake as well as with Gainesville business and civic leaders. “There are a lot of ways we can help them,” he says, “and certainly lots of ways they can help us.”

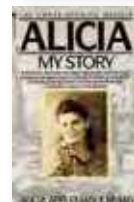
## Check-Out extraordinary lives at the Trustee Library



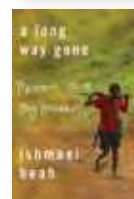
Novelist and historian Shelby Foote once remarked, “A university is just a group of buildings gathered around a library.” Indeed, the Trustee Library is at the heart of Brenau University functioning as a bastion of knowledge filled with books, art, journals, databases, technology, study centers and, of course, ever-helpful librarians. The library not only supports the academic life of our students, but also encourages them to live full and meaningful lives by introducing them to the many extraordinary lives lining the shelves. Below is a sampling of several of these non-fiction books in our collection about people who have made an indelible contribution to society and have, without doubt, lived extraordinarily.



***Infidel*, by Ayann Hirsir Ali** (Free Press) – Ali’s powerful memoir begins with her childhood in Somalia where she survived mutilation and an unwanted arranged marriage. As an adult, Ali sought asylum in the Netherlands where she became an outspoken advocate for human rights and eventually was elected to the Dutch parliament.



***Alicia: My Story*, by Alicia Appleman-Jurman** (Bantam) – As a Jewish teenager in Nazi occupied Poland, Alicia survived life in the Jewish ghetto, the murder of her entire family, imprisonment, typhoid fever, starvation and numerous brushes with death. After being liberated in 1945 the teenaged Alicia, sole survivor of her family, cared for orphans and assisted in smuggling Jews to Palestine.



***A Long Way Gone: Memoirs of a Boy Soldier*, by Ishmael Beah** (Farrar Straus and Giroux) – Beah’s best-selling memoir recounts his childhood in war ravaged Sierra Leone. Beah was recruited as a teenage boy to the national army, given an AK-47 and filled with propaganda and cocaine. Eventually Beah was rescued and rehabilitated. He began a new life in the United States where he works with several human rights advocacy groups.

***Einstein: His Life and Universe*, by Walter Issacson** (Simon & Schuster) – German-born Albert Einstein is heralded as one of the most groundbreaking theoretical physicists of our age. The winner of the Nobel Prize in physics and *Time* magazine’s person of the century in 1999, Einstein’s life had enduring impact on science and society. This new biography by Walter Issacson, author of the critically acclaimed biography *Benjamin Franklin: An American Life*, details Einstein’s scientific discoveries and vividly depicts his personal life.

***The Diary of Petr Ginz*, edited by Chava Pressburger** (Atlantic Monthly Press) – These diaries contain the thoughts, poems, and artwork of fourteen-year-old Petr Ginz a Jewish boy living in Prague during the Nazi regime. Ginz wrote almost daily until his deportation to the Nazi concentration camp Theresienstadt where he died at the age of 16. The diary also includes excerpts of Ginz’s periodical “Vedem,” which Ginz wrote while at Theresienstadt.

– Amanda Addison







GLORIA STARGEL

## A very unShackelton-like 'Antarctic Explorer'

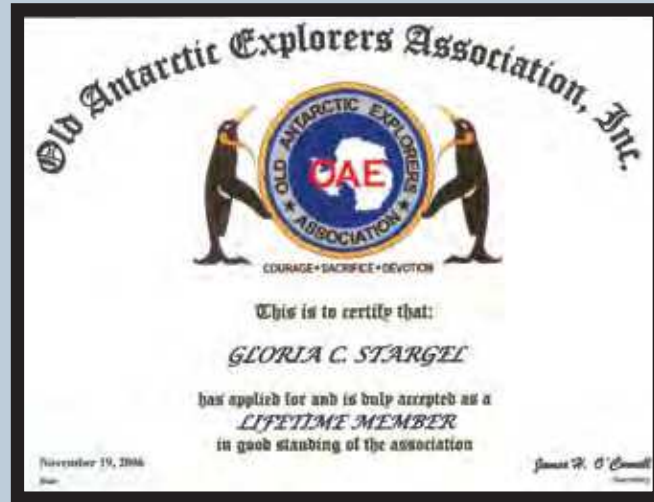


**AS A WRITER**, Gloria Cassity Stargel, WC '77, always looks “for a story that has a little twist to it,” she says, gesturing with her tiny hand like she’s jimmying a lock with an imaginary screwdriver. Those founding bits others ignore make her stories memorable and, in a word professional journalists need to learn, salable. Although the latter term may seem a bit out of place for a woman who specializes

in writing inspirational pieces for publications like *Guideposts* and *Decision*, the magazine of the Billy Graham Evangelical Association, Stargel has mastered the art of recycling articles from magazine to magazine to anthologies. She’s had pieces republished in 35 collections like the highly popular *Chicken Soup for the Soul* and *God’s Way* series. “I’m a better marketer than I am a writer,” she says. “It takes a lot of detective work to find out what publications are interested in and lots of patience. And, Lord knows, I’m as stubborn as a bulldog.”

What’s “the little twist” in Gloria Stargel’s personal story? There are a couple. First, like a preacher to the pulpit, Stargel says she “felt the call” to pursue religious journalism, returning to college after a 27-year absence. But a really big twist is that the petite inspirational story writer is a card-carrying member of the Old Antarctic Explorers Association, an international organization with about 1,300 members who have worked on the continent in some capacity. OAE takes its name from the esoteric term used by military and scientific types stationed there in the decade following World War II when South Pole exploration was a really big thing. The twist is Stargel never set foot on Antarctic ice, even on one of the eco-tours that for about \$5,000 will let you look for tap-dancing penguins from the movie *Happy Feet*.

However, as a writer she also follows Rule No. 1, “write about what you know.” Her first book was *The Healing*, an inspirational story re-published in 2000, about her husband Joe’s successfully overcoming what was thought to be incurable cancer. She also wrote about her brother Oscar Cassity, an Air Force transport pilot who specialized in taking off and landing under dangerously shaky circumstances. Her favorite part of Oscar’s story is about the general who held up in one



1956 McMurdo Sound – Capt. Cassity, injured during flight preparation/equipment loading, is rendered first aid by Flight Surgeon. Gen McCarty and Col. Crosswell look on.

hand a report from an aircraft manufacturer saying its plane was incapable of transporting heavy equipment to the South Pole; in the other he held a dispatch which said Capt. Cassity that very morning landed that very aircraft in Antarctica, successfully delivering a huge Caterpillar tractor.

“That bulldozer made everything else possible,” says Stargel. “With it they built the first airstrip. Then they brought in more equipment. Nothing was there before my brother hauled in that bulldozer. Because of that family connection, I feel like I’m as much a part of opening up Antarctica as anyone.”

So does the association. When Oscar died in May 2006, the OAE allowed Stargel to keep a membership because she had written so lucidly about those early days of Antarctic exploration. “I was quite touched and honored,” she says.

Stargel’s not making any plans to travel to the pole. But as she says it, you detect some clicking behind her eyes as the writer’s brain looks for another little twist.

## Annuity Contracts: having your cake and eating it, too.

There are two things people should know about charitable gift annuity (CGR) contracts: One, they *are* gifts. Two, they *are not* investments in the traditional sense.

Then again, when these gifts are backed by the full faith, assets and credit of Brenau University, donors can benefit from tax breaks and fixed income guarantees that they won’t find with other instruments for supporting their favorite charity. Principal amounts deposited in the annuities generate more earnings for the donor than certificates of deposit or interest on money market funds and portions of those earning are tax free. Plus donors can deduct a substantial portion of the amount they put into the annuity as a contribution and defray some taxes on other assets associated with the annuity, like capital gains taxes on stocks.

Charitable annuity contracts waned in popularity during the last few years with a depressed stock market, but have enjoyed resurgence recently as bank interest rates on money market funds and certificates of deposit languish below the five percent level.

“This is really an attractive option for older Americans,” says Jim Barco, Brenau’s vice president for institutional advancement. “Although this is not an investment, gift annuities do provide steady income for the rest of the donor’s life at a significantly higher rate of return than on CDs. Donors can deduct a portion of the gift when they make it and not pay taxes on a portion of their earnings. Finally, they can reduce potential tax burdens on their heirs when they die.”

Essentially the donor makes a gift to Brenau to create a CGA. As part of the contract for doing that, Brenau pays the donor at a fixed rate of return for the rest of the donor’s life. The university invests what’s left of the money into academic programs.

Based on the age of the investor and recommendations of the American Council on Gift Annuities, Brenau pays up to 9.8 percent for a two-life annuity and 11.3 percent return for a single-life annuity. A \$25,000 investment by a person who is

82 years old yields about \$2,125 annually at the 8.5 percent rate, of which \$578 isn’t taxable. In addition, about \$13,000 of the initial \$25,000 can be counted as a charitable deduction, yielding a \$2,600 tax savings if the person is in a 20 percent tax bracket.

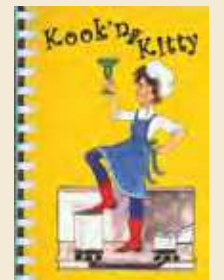
“But a major benefit is the pure satisfaction of supporting an important institution,” says Barco. “You can help Brenau while helping yourself. You can see your gift going to work making a difference in the lives of others, helping students prepare to live extraordinary lives. Every student who ever attended Brenau benefited in some way through charitable gifts.”

Gift annuities are simple contracts between Brenau and the donor. Brenau can issue them in all states, except New York and California. For more information, call the Brenau planned giving office at (770) 534-6160.

### Other Opportunities to Help Brenau

**FORE!** The Athletic Department will hold its first golf tournament Oct. 1 at Hampton Golf Village in Gainesville. Sponsorship packages are available for one or more foursomes; individual entry fees are \$150. Athletic Director Gordon Leslie says proceeds pay for improvements to athletic facilities, like a sound system in the gymnasium and “other things that aren’t in our budget.” For more information, contact Gary Bays at the Athletic Department, (770) 538-4443.

**KOOK’N WITH KITTY:** With Breast Cancer Awareness in October, there’s time to get copies of *Kook’n with Kitty*, a cookbook featuring recipes from Brenau alum, for \$20 each. Proceeds benefit the Kitty McKenna Brothers Scholarship fund. Brothers, a ’72 graduate, died from breast cancer in 2002. To order, contact Lee Chavanne in Alumni Relations, (770) 534-5307 or lchavanne@brenau.edu.







# Breakaway Season

By Gary Bays

With a competitive, successful recruiting cycle for new athletes and a string of experienced players returning to rosters, the Golden Eagle cross-country, soccer and volleyball teams plan to pick up the pace when fall sports seasons open in August and September.

And, as larger universities—particularly those in the South—feed their fall football habit, Brenau women look forward themselves to more options for “playing in the dirt” as the university adds football’s rough-and-tumble kissin’ cousin rugby to the lineup of club sports.

## PLOWING NEW TURF

During the Golden Tigers’ athletic awards banquet this spring, President Ed Schrader said that about 30 women petitioned him to start a rugby team as a club sport, a possible precursor to certification of the sport as a sanctioned intercollegiate varsity sport. After all the scholarship athletes from other sports were eliminated, there still were enough left to field a team. It will be part of a broader initiative to add even more field sports, like lacrosse and field hockey, to the Brenau athletic program, which Schrader says gains more respect and credibility each season.

“When our opponents see Brenau on their schedules, they can no longer chalk us up as automatic wins,” he says.

Case in point: The Golden Tigers soccer team compiled a school record of 10 wins, including a 5-5 record and fifth-place finish in the Southern States Athletic Conference. That means six colleges in the conference finished below Brenau in the standings.

## SOCCER: IT’S ABOUT “THE D”

In the off-season soccer Coach Mike Lochstampfor cracked into the coveted junior college ranks to increase depth on a roster that will have 12 returning players and to improve the team’s

overall defensive play. He signed 10 new players, including five JC transfers, three from Young Harris College, which won the Junior College National Championship last season. Returnees include sophomore forward Lily Futrell, an all conference player last season; Leanne Rowley, a sophomore and last year’s defensive MVP; senior goalkeeper Jenny England; and 2005 all-conference selection Teal Orr, who missed most of last season with a torn ACL.

“We are in position to be very competitive with the top teams in the conference,” says Lochstampfor.

## CROSS-COUNTRY: SISTERS AND SENIORS

Athletic Director Gordon Leslie says cross country coach Susan McIntyre completely transformed the Golden Tigers’ distance running program. She begins her second season with the team after a year of solid recruiting. Last year’s No. 1 runner Maxine Bone, a junior, gets the extra incentive of sibling rivalry this fall as her younger sister, Lauren, joins the team as a freshman. Two seniors, Rachel Nodine and Katrine Beck, also return. New recruits Monica Muchen from Wheeler High School in Marietta, Crystal Mosley, transferring from Southern Polytechnic State University, and Audra Cochran from Stockbridge will make an immediate impact.

## NET GAIN: EXPERIENCE

The Golden Tigers volleyball team should reap some of the benefits of a talented group of sophomores that gained valuable experience last year, while compiling the Tigers’ best season since 2002 with 11 wins. Seven players return. They are joined by five new recruits. Sophomore libero Maida Smajic was an all-conference selection a year ago.

“The returning players now have the experience of a collegiate season,” says head volleyball coach Loren Hauck.



Junior Lily Futrell adds roster depth

Rudi Kiefer

“They’re ready to show that they are going to be a contender in the conference. There are high expectations for the team.”

Gary Bays, head basketball coach for Brenau, serves as sports information director for the athletic department.

## RECRUITING ROUNDUP

Brenau University welcomes 35 new faces – recruited from high schools and junior colleges in Georgia and other states – as the newest members of the Golden Tigers’ six intercollegiate athletics programs, including basketball and swimming, which debuted only a year ago.

## BASKETBALL

Meg Henson	Gainesville High School and SCAD
Siera Dority Clay	Chalkville High School, Birmingham, Ala.
Amanda Parker	Shiloh High School, Snellville

## VOLLEYBALL

Courtney Frady	Gilmer County High School, Ellijay
Heather Dorough	Mill Creek High School, Hoschton
Meredith Hardin	Cass High School, Cartersville
Rachel Ecke	Gainesville State College
Samantha McFarlane	Brookwood High School, Snellville

## SOCCER

Kelly Young	Young Harris College
Mandy Ulseth	Young Harris College
Ashley Tittle	Young Harris College
Jessica Harrelson	Truett-McConnell College
Jennifer Rainey	Truett-McConnell College
Lauren Hagin	Hiram High School, Hiram
Lisa Lesnick	Socastee High School, Myrtle Beach, S.C.
Mackenzie Qua	Richmond Hill High School, Richmond Hill
Brittani Smith	East Coweta High School, Newnan
Danielle Teply	Apalachee High School, Winder

## CROSS COUNTRY

BriAnne Hammond	West Hall High School, Oakwood
Lauren Bone	Coral Springs, Fla
Audra Cochran	Eagles Landing High School, Stockbridge
Monica Muchen	Wheeler High School, Marietta
Crystal Mosley	Southern Polytechnic State University, Marietta
Joanna Booth	Douglas County High School, Douglasville
Allie Strickland	Gillsville High School

## SWIMMING

Katie Carpenter	Houston County High School, Warner Robins
Lindsay Dupree	Warner Robins High School
Melissa Bofto	Warner-Robins High School
Laurie Stephens	Atlanta
Sarah Fell	Brunswick High School

## SOFTBALL

Shana Brumbelow	Carrollton High School
Tori Fobb	Chipola Community College, Marianna, Fla
Martina Landrum	Chipola Community College, Marianna, Fla
Katie Hulsey	Georgia Perimeter College
Missy Herren	Georgia Perimeter College



Departure of three seniors, including Jacqueline Langford and Laura Baker, left, make room for Rachel Nodine and last year’s top runner, junior Maxine Bone.

Rudi Kiefer



Lochstampfor with prize JC catch Jennifer Rainey

David Morrison

For more schedules, full rosters, photographs or other information about soccer, cross-country, volleyball or any Brenau intercollegiate sport, click on <http://www.brenau.edu/athletics/default.cfm>.



# Shelter from the Storm

A unique program which brings once-repressed Afghan women to America for their educations, finds a welcome home for the students at Brenau University. These extraordinary young women will be called up later to help change the world – starting in their own war-torn country 7,300 miles away.

by David Morrison

When her hair started falling out, Shamim Siddiqi wondered whether coming to Georgia for her education was the right move. Some “defoliation” can be common among students in that stressful first year. But Siddiqi’s problem was more severe: she was literally starving.

A native of Afghanistan and a devout Muslim, the 22-year-old freshman and her Brenau classmate, Khadija Safi, who is 26, subscribe to *balal* requirements in the Qur’an, which forbids Muslims to consum pork, alcohol and other foods. There’s a strict Islamic code for preparing meat, poultry and other foods. *Halal*, which is similar to the Jewish faith’s *kosher* doctrine means “lawful” or “blessed.” Although Brenau’s home county is known as one of the poultry-producing capitals of the world, there are not many *balal* chickens in the region. “We could not eat beef or lamb because it was not blessed,” Siddiqi says. “I was eating only rice, and the rice here is so different.” The hair loss in her first few weeks on campus was attributable purely to lack of protein in her diet.



Eschewing head and face coverings, Shamim Siddiqi dresses here to please herself.

“I really worried about them,” says David Owens, Brenau’s food service manager. “We really did not know what we could feed them.” He and Lorene Pharr, director of international students and global studies, met with Safi and Siddiqi to determine their dietary needs. Since the Afghan students lived together in a university apartment and liked to cook, he worked through an international food vendor to stock their pantry and freezer with the right food.

The first Afghan women to attend Brenau came to the university through the Rhode Island-based Initiative to Educate Afghan Women. The brainchild of an American university president’s wife, the IEAW seeks to overcome the Taliban’s infamous repression of women by providing program participants four-year scholarships in American colleges and universities so they can return to Afghanistan to help rebuild a more open society. The program also ensures that the women go home each summer to stay in touch with friends and family. Rather than simply scatter them like disconnected seeds throughout U.S. institutions, IEAW also brings scholarship recipients together several times each year for bonding to help them build a strong, sorority-like support system to nurture them when they return permanently to their homeland.

Safi’s younger sister Zohra, 21, attends Middlebury

College in Vermont through the program. Last year, in addition to Siddiqi and Khadija Safi, there was only one other IEAW student in Georgia – Anahita Ahmad at Kennesaw State. When Siddiqi and Safi return to Brenau for the fall semester, they’ll have another Afghan woman with them at Brenau – Getty Shans from Kabul.

“This really is a two-way learning environment,” says Pharr. “It is so wonderful to have them on campus so our other students and faculty can be exposed to women who are literally from the other side of the world whose lives have been totally different from anything we’ve experienced.”

The two did not know each other in Kabul, where their families returned shortly after the overthrow of the Taliban. But their stories are remarkably similar. Both their families fled the terror of *mujabideen* and the constant fighting that has embroiled the country since 1979. Safi, the shyer of the two, smiles disarmingly as she talks about her experience. She was 10 when her family, which includes six daughters and two



Khadija Safi is the second in her family in IEAW program.

sons, fled to Pakistan. She was old enough to remember “bullets flying through the houses” in her Kabul neighborhood. “Many bombs. Many explosions.”

Siddiqi, second oldest in a family of five daughters and a son, is the more chatty and gregarious of the two. She was only an infant when her family left Afghanistan, but she was well aware of how Taliban loyalists treated women. They could not go to school; they were forced to wear



At their Brenau apartment Siddiqi and Safi practice home cookin,’ *balal* style.

burkas and cover their faces; and, during the Taliban’s seven-year reign, they were often punished by beatings or death for even the most minor infractions. “At home we would not cover our faces,” she says with a cheery smile. “My dad doesn’t like for us to cover our faces.”

At Brenau they study business, accounting and information technology and have part-time jobs on campus. They walk around campus, heads uncovered, wearing bright-colored blouses and smiling and waving to friends and acquaintances. “People are so free here. They wear anything they want,” says Siddiqi, who concedes she will adopt more modest apparel when she returns home. “In Afghanistan, we wear clothes that make other people happy, not ourselves.”

Just as they prepared to go home for summer vacation, sporadic violence erupted in Afghanistan. Says Safi, expressing sentiments of both, “I am so hoping Americans make the Taliban leave Afghanistan.”

## BRENAU INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS’ COUNTRIES OF ORIGIN

Brenau registered 47 international students from 23 different countries last spring. The number of students from each country on the map corresponds with the color codes and country names below.

- |                     |                |
|---------------------|----------------|
| ● Afghanistan       | ● Kenya        |
| ● Argentina         | ● Malaysia     |
| ● Brazil            | ● Philippines  |
| ● Cameroon          | ● China        |
| ● Canada            | ● Rwanda       |
| ● Colombia          | ● Saudi Arabia |
| ● Congo             | ● Scotland     |
| ● Ecuador           | ● Singapore    |
| ● El Salvador       | ● South Korea  |
| ● Equatorial Guinea | ● Taiwan       |
| ● Ethiopia          | ● Zimbabwe     |
| ● India             |                |





# Here's looking at you, Mohamed



**M**OHAMED GUERRAoui (MBA, EWC '01) can't understand the fuss over that movie: shot on a Hollywood sound studio with a protagonist who is proprietor of Rick's American Café, a heroine who's a Swede and a Nazi-collaborating policeman who is so much a Londoner that he can't even fake a French accent, the film has really little to do with Guerraoui's beloved home town, Casablanca.

Still, that eclectic mix in the 1942 movie may well be a metaphor for the Guerraoui animus. The 40-year-old bachelor is an international pharmaceutical industry consultant. Less than a year ago he also opened in Chicago an upscale Moroccan furniture gallery displaying everything from \$45 pottery to \$10,000 gem-inlaid urns. He lives in a landmark Lakeshore Drive high rise, but he furnished the two-bedroom condo with North Carolina-made American traditional mahogany and cherry appointments.

Guerraoui, the oldest of four siblings, grew up in a well-to-do household near the heart of Casablanca, the North African Atlantic seaport city of 3.6 million. For the young Guerraoui, the historic crossroads between five continents provided good schools and pals who helped him gain a head start on high school English by translating lyrics to songs by Dire Straits, Genesis, Lionel Richie and Stevie Wonder.

He completed undergraduate studies – with honors – in mechanical engineering at City College of New York. After rising quickly in General Electric's power plant manufacturing hierarchy, he moved to where the money is: pharmaceuticals. He took a job with an Irish drug company's Georgia-based manufacturing operation on the condition the company would pay for his MBA studies. His new boss in Gainesville at Elan Pharmaceutical Research Corp. suggested he consider studying at the local university, Brenau. "I kid you not," he says. "I tell people that buying my condo was the second-best decision I ever made – second to getting my MBA at Brenau. I wouldn't say that were it not for the program – all the experience and the knowledge I walked away with. It was like developing a whole new part of my brain."

Primarily populated by Sunni Muslims, Morocco in 1777 was the first country to recognize the new United States. The continuous bilateral friendship culminated in the agreement between the two nations that by 2015 will liberate from tariffs all goods and services, including those of Morocco's booming \$25 billion generic pharmaceuticals industry. With American consumers clamoring for cheaper medicines, Guerraoui hopes to turn their eyes east by helping Moroccan companies win federal regulatory approval and by helping companies finance U.S. market expansion.

"The Moroccan companies all have very modern facilities," he asserts. "They can make medicines just as good as any in the United States."

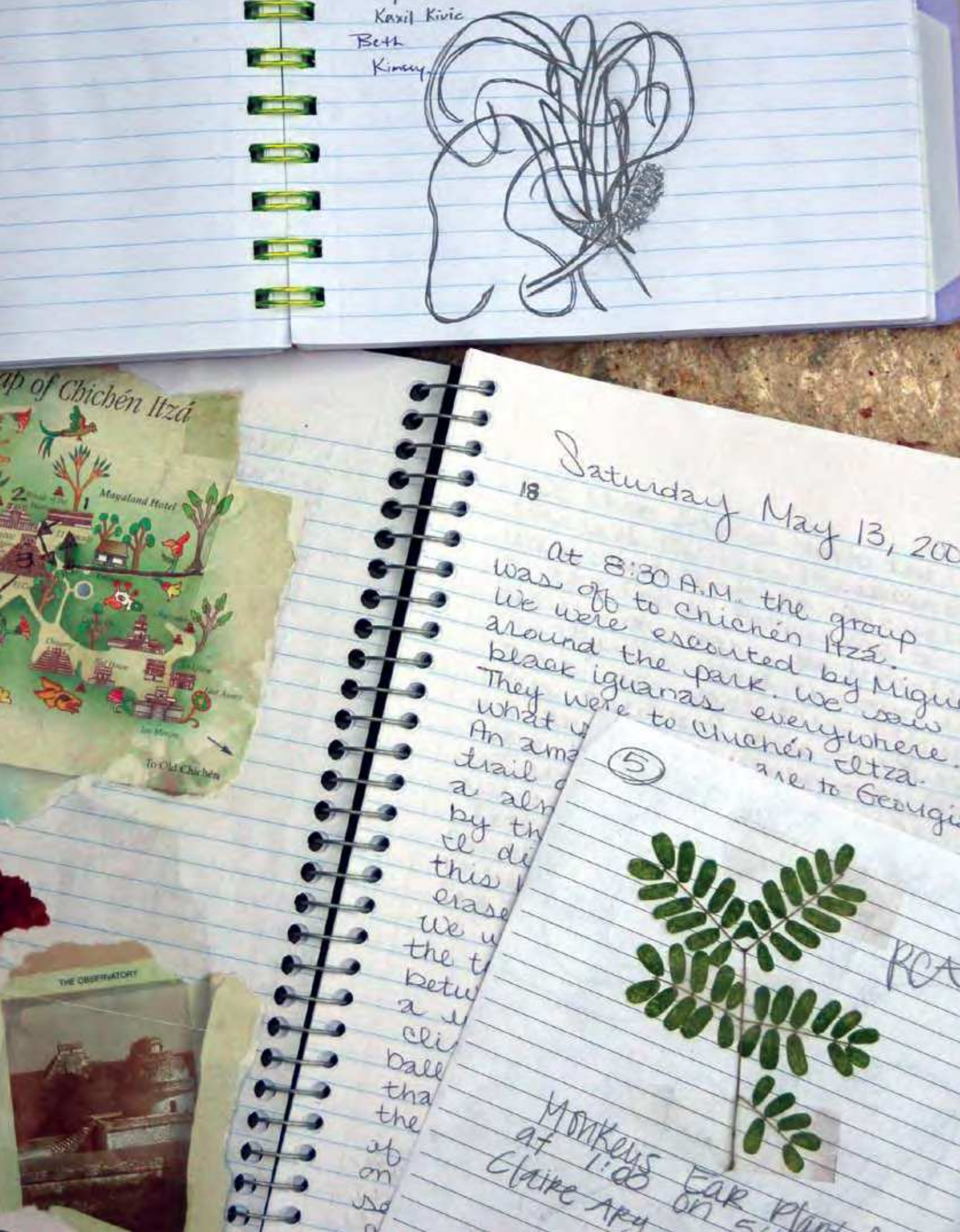
If the pharmaceutical initiative fails, don't worry. Guerraoui has a nice camel bone, wood and leather bench you can have for just \$2,200.

The Casablanca native tells acquaintances that buying a condo in the landmark Lakeshore Drive high-rise that once housed Oprah, Tom Cruise, Michael Jordan and Sammy Sosa was "the second-best decision I ever made. Second to getting my degree at Brenau."



Photograph by Dan Dry





# The Yucatan Diaries



uiz any of Louise Bauck's biology students on the flora and fauna of the Yucatan in Mexico and they will be just as apt to answer with some reference to mid-21<sup>st</sup> Century's United Federation of Planets as to the heyday of Mayan civilization in the first millennium. An avian veterinarian and associate professor in Brenau's School of Health and Science, Bauck is noted for spicing up biology classes with liberal references to the 1960s TV show *Star Trek* and, indeed, she offers prizes at Halloween for students who turn out costumed as alien beings with "best pseudopods, membranes and spicules."

Bauck's approach demonstrates that she sees life through her own unique set of lenses – both in her camera and in her evocative, descriptive writing style. For the past two years she's taken groups of Brenau students to Yucatan, Mexico, in a for-credit course in which they explore the remnants of ancient civilizations and see up close and personal the tropic region's varied animal and plant life – some, like bee-sized birds to robin-sized wasps, as foreign as if they were Gene Roddenberry creations in the cultish sci-fi TV show.

Bauck, who preserves the waning art of the travel journal, has posted her Yucatan writings on the Brenau Web site following her past two excursions. What follows are excerpts – punctuated by photographs that both she, her students, and Brenau President Ed Schrader took in the region.

## Merida: Day 3 in the hottest country ever.

Just kidding. However, it DID reach 45 Celsius today, certainly hot enough to encourage you to sprint from shade patch to shade patch. Luckily the students are handling it well. They actually wanted to sunbathe while we were on the gorgeous white-hot white sands of the Gulf of Mexico this morning.

We had just finished a boat trip through the mangrove swamps of Celestun, to view one of the largest flamingo colonies in the world, at least a thousand birds that locals said was a "small" flock. After admiring their fragile but awkward beauty, it was off into the swamp itself, through "rivers" that wind through the mangroves. We were looking for the dwarf kingfisher, the tri-colored egret and the magnificent frigatebird. A very surreal experience, as we felt totally alone in a vast wilderness of mangroves and birds.





We were lucky to spot one of the world's smallest birds, the white-breasted emerald hummingbird, approximately the size of a large bumblebee. Very cool!

At Chichen Itza, a Yucatan scaled lizard, a bold little creature, let us come close enough to see his rear half, which looked like it was covered with bright orange shingles. He paused to look over his shoulder at us as he slipped into a carved stone on the wall of the temple. A flash of his incandescent tail and he disappeared.

There was a gastronomic highlight as well. The coconut sherbet ("sorbete") that they serve here is like a coconut flavored gelato, and is to die for.

## Kivic: Day 6

We have no power and no AC, but we do have a satellite internet connection that works if the stars are all in alignment for a few moments each day. We have found sleeping in a hammock quite a challenge, comfortable but very different. I got up this morning and was sitting on a chair in my little cabana when I distinctly felt myself swaying. Just like when you have been on a boat for a long time I guess. The hammock does take some getting used to. I probably have tried about 132 different ways to position myself. None of them quite right.

One of the students did get "Montezuma's revenge" and was really quite ill. She was in her hammock for almost two days straight. I (of course) had the only other medical problem.

Something bit me. My ankle swelled like a balloon. It really hurt. Luckily, the local Maya are good at dealing with venomous "things" and made me a poultice from an unidentified leaf, and that really seemed to help.

I was able to go on a hike at 6:30 this morning to try and spot the beautiful mot mots emerging from their nesting tunnels in a nearby cliff.

Mot mots look like a cross between a parrot and a crow, with a long racquet-shaped tail and lovely electric-blue coloring. When they fly, they look like iridescent blue paper blowing

through the forest in an invisible breeze, dipping and weaving through the lower branches, silent but gaudy. They have a very comical croak, which sounds as if they are saying their name through the Darth Vader microphone. A great theme, as the mango hummingbird has wings that sound exactly like Luke's light saber. The wings make a loud whizzing noise which you can hear long before you spot them. We leave for Uxmal (an ancient and magnificent abandoned Maya city) on Sunday.

We are hoping to spot some more bats. We found quite a few inside the ruins at Chichen Itza. Vampires are very common here, and they are big problem if you keep cattle.

I have the students dragging their binoculars around everywhere we go, and we have several budding ornithologists in the group.

## Kivic: Day 8

Scary moment yesterday. An assassin bug tried to bite the director of the reserve, and then I found another one right outside the student cabanas. These are large hemipteran bugs, black and red, that carry a very serious trypanosome illness called Chaggas' Disease, an emerging disease here that is even spreading into the southern United States. It has been so dry here that we do not have to worry about mosquitoes much, so malaria and Dengue fever can be crossed off our list.

Needless to say, we are using enough DEET and other noxious chemicals to kill and repel a wide variety of winged devils whenever we travel in a group. Unfortunately it is way too hot to wear much protective clothing.

Yesterday my less-than-protective clothing caused me to meet a delightful bird on my early morning solo expedition into the forest. I was recording calls and songs of the tropical birds, trying to sort out the myriad honks, chatters, squeaks and whistles.

I suddenly found myself face to face with a cinnamon hummingbird. I was wearing a bright pink tank top, and the bird was convinced I was some sort of large pink portable flower as it buzzed hopefully all around me for several minutes.

Luckily, the recorder was on, and you can hear his humming wings quite clearly, as well as several little annoyed "TSK" sounds! The thrilling part was being able to spot a beautiful pair of rich red eyebrows, something not even shown in our textbook.

Later that morning I also came across an enormous blue-black wasp, bigger than the hummingbird.

It was so heavy it could hardly fly, and I was very nearly able to capture it. This giant wasp had lovely rust-colored wings and long feathery looking yellow antennae, most un-wasp like. It sounded much like a bumble bee (a relative, of course), had the typical narrow waist of a wasp, and was close to four inches long.

Last night we took the students on a night march through the forest.

We know there are jaguar, puma and tayra, a large mustelid that looks like a wolverine, but hunts in a pack. We had two guides with us, so there was no danger. And, it was a great chance to see the stars again without the light of a nearby city. Awesome.

We had literally gone only about a hundred yards from the cabanas when Miguel signaled us to stop.

Quite difficult for eight females to stand still and not talk or scrunch their boots for even five minutes! But we did it, and we were suddenly rewarded with a loud series of sounds coming from the forest RIGHT beside us. It sounded like a medicine ball being rolled over crumpled-up newspaper. Because of the dry season, there were lots of dried leaves on the forest floor, and these were eventually able to lead us to two creatures nosing around furtively. In the beams of our flashlights they looked exactly like GIANT RATS! It turned out that they are an indigenous type of armadillo, but I must say, their long, naked tails and hunched backs gave them an extremely rat-like appearance. No jaguars unfortunately.

## Uxmal, Day 10

An absolute deluge of rain FINALLY brought out the tree frogs. Within minutes of getting soaked I suddenly spotted a long, brown stick-like frog on the ground, heading for the trunk of a giant monkey's ear tree. Of course, I threw myself on it and got completely muddy, then triumphantly shouted for the students to come and see "the famous casque-headed tree frog!"

Long and angular, with a bizarre spade-shaped head and two twinkling golden eyes, it peered out at the students from between my fingers. It felt exactly like holding a handful of wiggling spaghetti!

The very long legs of this tree frog are extremely flexible, and there was simply no way of holding onto it for very long. Luckily it was quite cooperative for its photos. I had to hold a blanket over me and the precious camera while squatting at frog level. Most undignified!

The rain gradually tailed off in time for our arrival at desolate Uxmal, said to be the most beautiful (and one of the largest) ancient Maya sites in the Yucatan. Set amongst some small hills, giving lovely views wherever you hike, the "pyramid" at Uxmal is enormous and has rounded edges – very different. Uxmal is very isolated, so it is not overrun with tourists and vendors. Tons of great wildlife, including dozens of enormous spiny-tailed iguanas, a nesting Yucatan woodpecker, and the groove-billed ani. We saw many nesting cave swallows at Uxmal, where they literally fill the sky like a cloud of helpful swooping bees. The students' list of "crossed off" birds in their textbook is growing longer and longer!

Although the sun did not shine, we still managed to get sunburns there, and today is hot and sunny. Tomorrow to the reefs south of Cancun, after a swim in the fresh water "cenotes," limestone caves with very clear water.

Read more of Bauck's journals at <http://journals@artsweb.brenau.edu/yucatan>.



# Brenau's Pet Rocks

With focus on the 400<sup>th</sup> anniversary of America's first permanent English settlement, interest revived in Brenau's unique trove of hand-carved rocks that could hold key clues to solving one of the Americas' greatest mysteries – what happened to 'The Lost Colony' of Roanoke. For many, however, the Eleanor Dare Stones remain merely a map to one of the better-played historical hoaxes of all time. Even in infamy, the 2,000 pounds of rocks that have been in Brenau's possession for seven decades hold an even better story of the nation's curiosity about her past.



by David Morrison

What's the difference between kidney stones and "The Dare Stones?" Depending on whose they are, kidney stones could have more historical value.

Brenau's history Professor Jim Southerland, chuckles, but says it's not a totally fair statement. Over the past three decades Southerland by default became the university's scholarly voice on the significance of the unique trove of quartz, soapstone and other indigenous southeastern rocks. If nothing else, the stones are relics of one of the biggest hoaxes ever that, in the seven decades since their discovery, have attached a certain historical significance of their own. If they're what they purport to be, however, they would literally cause the chronicles of the American colonies to be rewritten. With authentication of the stones, Southerland elaborates, "The Lost Colony wouldn't be lost anymore because we would know what happened to it."

"The Lost Colony," of course, refers to the 117 men, women and children that Sir Walter Raleigh recruited in the late 1580s to establish a permanent settlement in the area now known as Virginia and North Carolina, the territory granted to him by the British queen, Elizabeth I. The complement included John White, whom Raleigh had appointed governor, White's pregnant daughter, Eleanor, and his son-in-law, Ananias Dare. A Raleigh-appointed sea captain, eager to get on with his primary business of piracy, put the colonists ashore, not on the Chesapeake Bay Coast that Raleigh had specified, but on the 18-square-mile Roanoke Island between North Carolina's Outer Banks barrier islands and the mainland. The next month Eleanor Dare gave birth to a daughter, Virginia, who was the first "English" child born in the New World. Because there was no time for planting crops, Gov. White returned to England for supplies, got his ship commandeered by the British government's preparations for the imminent Spanish Armada invasion

of England, and did not get back to the Americas for almost four years. He found no trace of those he'd left behind – setting off a conundrum that baffled historians, inspired legends, created a multi-million-dollar tourist industry, and – for a time – made, then sullied, the reputation of a tiny, private women's college in Gainesville, Ga., 560 miles away.



Virginia Dare  
From a woodcut in "North Carolina Illustrated" in *Harper's New Monthly Magazine*, 1857.

## Exaltation and Depression

In November 1937 as America clawed its way out of The Great Depression, a California man showed up at the history department of Emory University in Atlanta with a most peculiar object – a 21-pound chunk of rough veined quartz with some foreign-looking words chiseled into its surface. The man said he found the rock in a North Carolina swamp, about 80 miles from Roanoke Island, while he was driving through on vacation. The strange stone caught the attention of one of the professors, Dr. Haywood Pearce Jr., who also served as vice



Haywood Pearce, Jr. with Emory colleagues James G. Lester, left, and Ben W. Gibson put the stone under the microscope.

president of Brenau, where his father was president. The inscription on the stone read "Ananias Dare & Virginia went hence unto heaven 1591," and a message to notify John White of that news bore the initials of the author of the carved writing, EWD, presumably those of Eleanor Dare.

Although Emory's historians weren't interested, Pearce and his father certainly were. Perhaps they concluded that, if this chunk of rock indeed marked the graves of America's "first white child" and her father, it might well be the thing to put their college on the map. They wound up paying the California man \$1,000 for the treasure.

Anyone who has used tiller, plow or trowel in Appalachian dirt will swear the region grows rocks. But nothing plows better than cold cash. To make a long story short, over the next four years, similar rocks popped up all over the place, mostly found by four people. Pearce and his father over the years acquired close to 50 of the huge stones, all with similar inscriptions unearthed as far south as the banks of the Chattahoochee River near Atlanta. Although the Pearces' fervent explorations and money never turned up graves or any other evidence to authenticate the stones, a team of Smithsonian Institution-commissioned historians – headed by the venerable Samuel Eliot Morison of Harvard – traveled to Gainesville and, in a preliminary report, assigned some validity to what had then come to be known as "The Dare Stones."



The “original” Dare Stone – front and back view



## The *Post Mortem*

Everything was good. Pearce Jr. published articles and made speeches. Scores of newspaper and magazine articles trumpeted the Brenau artifacts. There was even talk that Hollywood mogul Cecil B. DeMille was interested in making a movie. Another Brenau professor penned a play about “The Lost Colony” that featured the Dare stones, Pearce Jr. as Sir Walter Raleigh and, as the baby Virginia Dare, Gainesville City Schools’ current Special Assistant to the Superintendent Shirley Whittaker.

“I’m sure the Dare stones were around someplace,” says Whittaker, who as a preschooler had been cast because she took dance and elocution lessons from the play’s author. “But I don’t remember them. I was too busy being impressed by the first real Indians I’d ever seen” – Cherokee tribesmen imported from North Carolina by the Pearces to lend the play more realism.

All that came to an end on April 26, 1941. *The Saturday Evening Post*, despite its Norman Rockwell covers, was one of the leading muckraking

and investigative reporting journals. That day it published an article that systematically razed Brenau’s house of historical stones. The writer, says Southerland, “all but accused Haywood Pearce Jr. of faking the stones himself.”

Although there was talk of libel action against *The Post* and its New York writer, World War II seemed to put an end to the saga. The Dare stones mysteriously disappeared from visibility on campus.

Periodically in the past decades interest in the stones comes back to life from time to time. You can see a slightly corpulent, more hirsute Southerland on grainy Internet broadcasts of a 1977 Leonard Nimoy *In Search of...* TV program in which the Brenau professor proclaims that all but that first stone probably are fakes. In another interview 10 years later he backed off, saying he was “perhaps a little generous” and there’s a “50-50 chance” the first stone is a fake, too. In 1991 historian Robert W. White published *A Witness for Eleanor Dare*, a book debunking all the debunking and

a subtitle proclaiming it to be “the final chapter in the 400-year-old mystery.”

Interest revived again this spring as Jamestown, Va., prepared to celebrate the 400<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the first English colony to gain purchase in the American soil. Fueled in part by something of an Internet scavenger hunt, one item for which was a rubbing from a Dare stone, dozens of people from around the country began contacting various Brenau officials.

One New Jersey teenager wrote naively that his family descended from the Dares. He wanted to visit Brenau en route to Disney World in Florida. A South Carolina museum asked to borrow a few of the rocks for a special exhibit about myths and legends. A more passionate true believer, Kyle R. Shultz, a 16-year-old Pennsylvanian who says he’s penning a novel about the Roanoke Colony, initially demanded to know why such important artifacts “are kept from the public.” He wrote that, “If my sources are correct, these stones are concealed in an 18th Century mausoleum on the campus.”

Technically, Brenau’s pet rocks

are underground. And they’re protected by “a Jedi.” They are in a basement boiler room, the only facility capable of housing 45 rocks that weigh from 20 to 40 pounds each. The “Jedi” caretaker is Jediah Carling, maintenance specialist. One stone is on view at the Northeast Georgia History Center adjacent to the campus. Two – including that first one – are in the special collections section of the Trustee Library. Southerland and

Debbie Thompson, campus traditions director, plan to dust the stones off and put them on exhibit by fall semester.

But brace yourselves: the story is about to take a new direction. Part of the Eleanor Dare legend is that she gave birth to another daughter, Agnes, fathered by an American Indian “king” from North Carolina or Georgia where the tribes believed spirits of the dead took up residence in sacred stones.

Kathy Amos, a professional storyteller who is the university’s tradition keeper, points out that Brenau’s resident ghost, named Agnes, didn’t show up on campus until after the Dare stones did.

But let the chills along your spine settle. We’ll save that shaggy rock story for another day.



Brenau’s pet rocks come in many sizes and shapes, but other than the Elizabethan inscriptions, ‘are about what you’d expect to find in Georgia and the Carolinas,’ says geologist Ed Schrader.

## IF YOUR CURIOSITY PORTAL IS STILL OPEN

Check out these Lost Colony/Dare stone resources:

Brenau’s top entertainment rival in the early Dare stone days was the outdoor pageant that has been a tourist attraction on North Carolina’s Outer Banks for decades. <http://www.thelostcolony.org/>

*A Witness for Eleanor Dare*, by Robert W. White. This 1991 tome that was to be the final word in proving the historic authenticity of Brenau’s “pet rocks” is out of print. But you can still find copies online.

[http://www.angelfire.com/ego/iammagi/DARE\\_INDEX.htm](http://www.angelfire.com/ego/iammagi/DARE_INDEX.htm). This “true believer” Web site provides a glimpse of the “secret mausoleum” where most stones remain stacked – plus a view of a younger, um, fuller, Dr. Jim Southerland in a link to the grainy 1977 *In Search Of...* TV clip.

The small North Carolina publisher Press 53 just released a new edition of Marjorie Hudson’s *Searching for Virginia Dare*. Hudson, who researched some of her book at Brenau, draws no final conclusions on the stones’ authenticity, but she doesn’t handle them with kid gloves, either. The book will be a Fall 2007 selection of the BookWomen Traveling Book Club.







Sharing Extraordinary Lives – Reunion weekend, May Day, Commencement

The ubiquitous picture-editing program PhotoShop “has made me look great,” the photographer jocularly assured his subjects, trying to put them at ease for the “formal” portraits for their milestone class reunion. “We don’t care about you!” says one of his subjects, a new inductee into Brenau’s “Golden Girls” coterie of those who graduated at least 50 years ago. “Use the lens that eliminates the wrinkles.” There were wrinkles aplenty, the kind stemming from smiles and

laughter, as more than 500 Brenau graduates, spouses and family members poured onto the Gainesville campus for the annual spring rites of May Day, reunion weekend and, ultimately, commencement. You can’t come home again until you leave. But 1947 alumnae Mary Phillips Hyde put it, “I haven’t been back on campus in years and years, but in my heart, I never really left.”



Silver Belles 25th reunion attendees, sitting, l-r, Jo Ann Ginn Gjertsen, Paige Hawkins Martin, Gay Hobgood Hammond; standing, Lee Anne Romberg White, B.J. Richardson Williams, Ava Arp, Lynn Fink, Laura Spencer Jester, Sue Ellen Marsh Lampros, Candy Corley Fleming



Newest members of the Golden Girls attending their 50-year reunion, seated l-r are Marilyn Burnett Garner, Kathryn Voight Reynolds, Mona Hoffman White, Nancy Rayburn Davis; standing, Madge Martin Harper, Joanna Baber Wilson, Page Lott Prewitt, Kathleen Martin Boatwright, Nancy Trainer, Sarah Allen Cooper, Marion Holley Milner, Carolyn Brandt Oates, Beverly Roberson Roberts



Class of '07 members Leah Clesson and Laura Jarrett



Left, Mary Phillips Hyde, class of '47 Above, 1985 grads Dana Fowler Miller and Allison Tarpley Burnette



AKA sisters donate and dedicate cancer garden fountain to honor survivor Melissa Currin Heard '92



35th anniversary celebrants Paula Nivens Hardy, Terry Terhune Glover, and Daisy Goodnight Waldrep



Judy Davis Fontenot, Julie O'Neill Chatneuff and Julie McEver Kirksey represent the class of '67



Above, the junior class skit. Right, Mallory Young, Danielle Thomas, Yasmine Lockett and Ivy Hines



Above, two-year-old Drew, son of Regina Russell Marshall, WC '98, abandons keeping up with mom for a quick nap on dad Demarcus's shoulder



Climbing the “crow’s nest,” clockwise from top, Tri Deltas Emily Slough, Lawrenceville, Sally Geer, Albany; Maggie Murphy, St. Simons; and Claire Ary, Albany



Graduation is “hugging time” for WC students and faculty. Above center, plaiting the Maypole ribbons.





# CLASS NOTES

## 1940s

**Dorothy Hosea Pearce, WC '41**, of Stanwood, Wash., enjoys painting. She was recently featured in an article in her local newspaper, *The Stanwood/Camano News*. She says that her days at Brenau gave her a wonderful foundation for an appreciation and love for the arts.

**Barbara Betts Kluberg, WC '42**, of Avon Park, Fla., and sister **Nancy Betts Nunnallee, WC '44**, recently had a visit from **Margaret Garner Reisler, WC '45**, of Melbourne, Fla. They had a good time talking about Brenau memories.

**Mildred Roads Griffith, A '45**, recently sold her home and moved to a retirement facility.



**Margaret Garner Reisler, WC '45**, of Melbourne, Fla., recently presented a solo performance to a packed house for the Brevard County Museum of Arts and Science. She still credits her voice instructors at Brenau for her success.

**Frances Sides Prunty, WC '46**, of Wilmington, N.C., and her husband Robert celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary on Sept. 3.

**Helen Finger Thrasher, WC '41**, of Decatur, Ga., lives in Claremont Oaks. All five of her children live within an hour of her.

## 1950s

**Maurine Wallace Abney, WC '58**, of Birmingham, Ala., has been an interior designer for forty years and still enjoys her business. She is very thankful for the interior design training she received from Brenau. She will have a room on the cover of an upcoming magazine and has been published many times.

**Carol Potts, WC '58**, of Huntsville, Ala., received a Golden Circle Pin from Tri Delta Fraternity.

## 1960s

**Emily Murphy Thompson, WC '66**, of McDonough, Ga., is retiring from 20 years of teaching fifth grade and 11 years as an ESOL teacher. Emily is the proud grandmother of four grandchildren. E-mail her at etthompson@charter.net.

**Neile Rives Weis, A '67**, of Sea Island, Ga., and husband Robert are enjoying retirement. She rides hunt seat on her Irish thoroughbred every day. They grow scuppernongs and make wine at their farm in Sparta, Ga., and visit three grandchildren in Toronto. Classmates may contact her at neile@cox.net.

## 1970s

**Liz Hammond Carter, A '77**, of Charlottesville, Va., stays busy after completing her house renovation with husband Andrew. They have three children: Hattie, 13, who spent the winter term at school in Switzerland, Keene Carter, 11, and Oleg Carter, 11.

**Robin Smith Dudley, WC '78**, of Thomson, Ga. was a 2008 Teacher of the Year Finalist.

**Elizabeth Dudley Holmes, WC '70**, of Columbus, Ga., was recently inducted into the Columbus State University College of Education Hall of Fame. She is director of CSU's Center for Quality Teaching Learning.

## 1980s

**Susannah Gordon White, WC '81**, of Jackson, Tenn., is a school teacher. Her husband, John, is a pastor of First Presbyterian, and they have four children. Gordon, 20, is a junior in college; Andrew, 18, is a high school senior; and Kathelene and Forrest, 12, are in sixth grade. Contact Susan at sgwhite@jmcass.org.

**Sherra Sowards Gillespie, WC '82**, of Knoxville, Tenn., has been named the vice president, good life and customer relations director for Citizens National Bank.

**Christine Alexander Fitzgerald, WC '84**, of High Point, N.C., has been elected Southwest Guilford Elementary Teacher of the Year. She teaches fourth grade.

**Tracy Armstrong Faucette, A '85**, of Rutherfordton, N.C., and husband Frank have two daughters, Tyndall, 9, and Jordan, 6. She is a limited partner with the financial firm Edward Jones. She may be reached at Tracy.Faucette@edwardjones.com

**Paula Speros Van Sickle, WC '85**, of Alpharetta, Ga., would like to hear from anyone who attended Brenau from 1981-1985. E-mail her at p.vansickle@comcast.net.

**Betsy Wirtz Sutherland, WC '87**, of Greensboro, N.C., was recently promoted to senior vice president of M/A/R/C Research. She has been with the firm for 18 years.

**Keena Redding Hunt, WC '89**, of Fayetteville, Ga., was a featured soloist in "An Evening of Magnificent Opera and Oratorio" presented by the Southern Crescent Chorale in March in Morrow, Ga.

## 1990s

**Philip E. Beigbeder, EWC '90**, of Fernandina Beach, Fla., graduated in March with a MAED in education

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## Barbara Mitchell Disque A VISIONARY TRADITIONALIST 1932 - 2007

"She was a person who was never timid about speaking her mind, but whose counsel stemmed from a firm grasp on issues that affected the university and the world."

– Dr. Ed Schrader, President of Brenau University

Those who knew Barbara Mitchell Disque regarded her as both a traditionalist and a risk-taking visionary. When she died at her home in Atlanta May 4, six months shy of her 75<sup>th</sup> birthday, she was preparing against advice of friends and family to make yet another of her near-legendary excursions abroad – to the tempestuous Middle East, to Israel, one of more than 50 countries that stamped her passport. At the same time, she drove her contemporaries from the women's college in the 1950s to prepare for next year's reunion weekend so the class of '53 would have a grand turnout for its 55<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

Ironically, she technically did not graduate that year, having elected to leave school early to marry and start a family. But that didn't bother Barbara. "She was the one who kept us all together," says Madeline Mabry Lippman (WC '53) of Bethany Beach, Del., Disque's roommate at the Delta Delta Delta house in the early 1950s. Disque would return to Brenau to collect a diploma more than 30 years later in 1986 – three years after she

was appointed to the university's board of trustees, which she served until her death, and three years after she helped establish a new bank in Atlanta, later acquired by Region's Bank, where she served as chairman until her 1996 retirement.

Disque was one of 16 women over four generations in her family to attend Brenau. She and other family members left a distinct imprimatur on many facets of Brenau life. One of the more visible is Lockett-Mitchell Parlour in Yonah Hall, where her father once courted her mother. She and her late husband, Ken, a CPA, also donated a lecture hall in Burd Center that bears their name, and they helped provide for the future of the university with establishment of charitable

remainder trusts and other direct financial contributions. Following that lead, on her death her family suggested in lieu of sending flowers friends contribute to her church or Brenau University.

She is survived by two daughters, Tricia Sanders Heindel (WC '78) of Atlanta and Lynda Sanders Edmunds of Brentwood, Tenn., and son, Jimmy Sanders, also from Atlanta.







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curriculum and instructional design. He was accepted to begin a Ph.D. program in that field in June.

Girls refined by ... early exposure to cake! The clan of happy Brenau offspring below is gaining valuable knowledge of birthday party etiquette, socially acceptable cake portions and girl power.



From left to right: Miss Margaret (**Sue Perry Mueller, WC '90**), Miss Barbara Helen, (**Ashley Copses-Moye, WC '92**), Miss Georgia (**Kendall Anderson Nelson, WC '90**), Miss Caroline (**Anna Crandall Plyler, WC '92**), Miss Kate (**Liz Wright Ward WC '92**), and Miss Mary Katherine – big sister to Margaret.

**Elizabeth Traba Fitzpatrick, A '90**, of Coral Gables, Fla., and her husband Jonathon have two children, Jack, 5, and Lucy, 2. Contact her at Lizjonathon@aol.com.

**Jodi Greco Morrill, WC '90**, of Austin, Texas, and her husband Mike have three children, Sarah, 18, Micheal, 10, and Hope, 7. Sarah is a freshman in college.

**Andrea Gammeter Mundt, A '90**, of Marietta, Ga., is a realtor with Century 21. She is married to Samuel and has three children: Christina, 3, Annaliese, 5, and Levi who was born on Dec. 27. She may be contacted at andreamundt@century21.com.

**Christy Horton Dodd, EWC '91 and '03**, of Hartwell, Ga., and husband Chuck announce the birth of their son, William Charles Dodd, on Jan. 6. They also have a son, Robert Miles, who is 3.

**Susan Smiley-Height, WC '91**, of Reddick, Fla., has been named assistant city editor/ community news at *The Star-Banner*, a *New York Times* affiliate daily newspaper in Ocala, Fla.

**Melony Avant Are, EWC '92**, of St. George, S.C., recently joined Liberty Business Associates LLC as a certified meeting planner.

**Ken Dietrich, EWC '92**, of Toccoa, Ga., is running his own computer consulting business. He is working towards his doctorate in biblical studies.

**Michelle Clem Harvin, WC '92**, of Marietta, Ga., and husband Trey announce the birth of Milly Gentry Harvin on April 22. She weighed 8 pounds, 1 ounce, and was 20 inches long. They are thrilled to have a Brenau legacy!

**Lesley Lowman, WC '95**, of Loganville, Ga., is working for the State of Georgia as a Nurse Surveyor.

**Mary Lina Hastings Pardue, WC '95**, of Gainesville, Ga., and husband Erik welcomed a baby girl, Anna McKinley Pardue, Dec. 26.

**Arlynn Bryson McDaniel, WC '95**, of Cape Coral, Fl. would like to announce the birth of her first child, Hannah Grace, born on Dec. 17. Arlynn is a licensed interior designer in the state of Florida and works for a custom home builder in Bonita Springs. E-mail her at arlynn@hchfl.com



**Tonya Evans Chatman, WC '99**, of Cartersville, Ga., announces the birth of her daughter Annie Katherine Chatman on Feb. 14. She weighed 7 pounds and 9 ounces.



**Robyn Lee Hawes, WC '99**, of North Augusta, S.C., married Timothy Jae Ferrell on April 14, at Rose Hill Estate in Aiken. They honeymooned in Punta Cana, Dominican Republic.

**Scott Parker, EWC '99**, of Bogart, Ga., recently joined Countrywide Home Loans as a home loan consultant.

**2000S**  
**Victoria Welsh Diamond, WC '00**, of Hillsboro, Ore., announces the birth of her son Samuel Jacob Diamond. on June 7, 2006.



**Suzanne Kirkman Krause, WC '00**, of Elberton, Ga., and husband Jeff proudly announce the arrival of twins on March 19. Harrison David Krause was 4 pounds, 11 ounces and 19 inches long, and Addison Marie Krause was 6 pounds, 12 ounces and 20 inches long.

**Morgan LaPier Prince, WC '00**, of Acworth, Ga., married Bryan Douglas Prince on Jan. 6, in Rome, Ga. Rachel Doud Sanders, WC '98, was a bridesmaid. The newlyweds honeymooned in Costa Rica. Morgan works as an occupational therapist for Cobb County Schools and Bryan is an engineer for Georgia Power.

**Jill Hastings Goforth, EWC '01**, of Gainesville, Ga., is the principal of New Holland Elementary School.

**Nikki Hull Smith, WC '01**, of St. Simons Island, Ga., married Conrad Smith on July 22, 2006, at lovely Lane Chapel on St. Simons Island. **Holly Broadwell Peck, WC '01**, and **Allyson Shivley Reynolds, WC '03**, were bridesmaids. Many Brenau Delta Delta Delta sisters attendaed.



Nikki is an interior designer with Pierce and Parker Interiors, and Conrad is an investment broker with Bull and Bear Investments.

**Alisa Stone, WC '01**, of Panama City Beach, Fla., is the broker and owner of Stone Real Estate Group, LLC and can be reached at www.TheBeachPeach.com. Alisa is known as "The Georgia Peach who sells the beach."

**Niki Randles Redstrom, WC '02**, of Sugar Hill, Ga., and husband Mark are proud to announce the birth of their daughter Sarah Ashley Redstrom. She was born Feb. 14. She weighed 7pounds. and 30 ounces.



**Pelin Odagacioglu Sakalsiz, WC '02**, of Ankara, Turkey, got married on Nov. 4, 2006. She teaches English at Bilkent University.

**Christa Roebuck Schillinger, WC '02**, of Temple, Ga., is a stay-at-home mom with son Zachary Schillinger, born April 21, 2005.

**Paula Sikes Lindner, WC '03**, of Atlanta is the assistant arts director at the Quinlan Arts Gallery.

**Christina Owens, WC '03**, of San Francisco, Calif., completed her MFA in performance with the American Conservatory Theatre in May.

**Amanda Patterson, WC '03**, of Athens, Ga., graduated from the University of Georgia School of Law in May.

**Annie Banford, WC '04**, of Winder, Ga., is a third-year student at Stetson Law School in Florida. She is currently student body president at the law school.

**Andrea Gervais, WC '04**, of Nashville, Tenn., is in her second semester at Vanderbilt School of Law and is going to be working internationally during the summer.

**Shavonda Lewis, WC '04**, of Flowery Branch, Ga., is working at Brenau University Office of Admissions as an admissions representative.

**Briana Dennis Long, WC '04**, and husband Jason Long announce the arrival of their son, Nathan Dow, on Dec. 7.

**Melanie McCorkle, WC '04**, of Fayetteville, Ark., graduated from the University of Arkansas, Little Rock, in May and will be returning to Georgia to take the bar in the fall.

**Rebecca Uggl Salmon Franco, WC '04**, of Buford, Ga., graduated from the University of Georgia School of Law in May and has been awarded a fellowship to work in the area of immigration law for the next two years.

**Cliff Smith, EWC '04**, of Gainesville, Ga., has been accepted into the University of Southern California where he will begin work on his MFA in acting this fall.

**Mary Ellen Smith, WC '04**, of Kalamazoo, Mich., is the properties artist for the Kalamazoo Civic Theatre. She is a company member of The New Vic Theatre, the only year-round professional theater house around Kalamazoo.

**Kristina Sutton, WC '04**, of Leesburg, Ga., recently booked a commercial for Chicago Town Pizza, which will air in both the United States and Britain.

**Camie Dart, WC '05**, of Long Island City, N.Y., started her law school career at Thomas Cooley Law School and has transferred to the New York School of Law in New York City where she enjoys learning and living in the big city.

**Abby Gilder, WC '05**, of Glenwood, Ga., is the new owner of Fancy Dancer, the dance studio in which she grew up dancing.

**Alicia Jones, WC '05**, of Flowery Branch, Ga., transferred jobs to work at DMC/ *Atlanta Journal Constitution* as an advertising coordinator/scriptwriter for AJC Jobs TV and Homefinder TV.

**Chandra Owenby Hopkins, WC '05**, and **Boone J. Hopkins, EWC '04**, completed their MFAs in theatre pedagogy with emphases in dramaturgy and directing/ acting, respectively in May and have already accepted teaching assistantships from the University of Kansas to begin pursuing Ph.D.s in theater this fall.

**Erin McKown, WC '05**, of Ringgold, Ga., who is the current Miss Northwest Georgia, was recently crowned Miss Georgia American Queen at the Academy of Medicine in Atlanta. She also won best interview.





# CLASS NOTES

**Mark Avery, OL '06**, of Port Saint Lucie, Fla., completed his degree after building his career as a golf professional for more than 20 years. He is a proud Brenau alum!

**Carla Fortner Brewer, WC '06**, of Grundy, Va., is in her second semester at Appalachian School of Law.

**Tiffany Currid, WC '06**, of Niceville, Fla., is an agent support specialist for the regional vice president of Midland National Life.

**Khristina Danchetz Followell, EWC '06**, of Dawsonville, Ga. is the vice president of operations at Dahlenega-Lumpkin County Chamber of Commerce.

**Laura Stewart Jenkins, WC '06**, of East Point, Ga., got married in May 2006 to Brad Jenkins. She is a registered nurse at Atlanta Medical Center.

**Brooke North, WC '06**, of Atlanta, is a substitute teacher. She is working on a teaching certification for middle school social studies.

**Patricia Phillips, EWC '06**, of Dawsonville, Ga., is a third grade teacher at New Holland Elementary. She can be reached at phillipspm@gmail.com.

**Sherry Highfield Smith, EWC '06**, of Braselton, Ga. is a loan officer at UIM. E-mail her at smerryann@aol.com.

**Derrick Ledbetter, EWC '07**, of Gainesville, Ga., has accepted a position in the Young Company of Cincinnati Shakespeare, where he will play multiple roles in their season for the coming year in the Ohio city.

**Jennifer Trippe, WC '07**, of Commerce, Ga., will be serving as lighting designer and master electrician for the second year in a row at Highlands Playhouse in Highlands, N.C.

## *in memory of*

**Lavinia Hilliard Floyd, WC '25** of Statesboro, Ga., died on Dec. 6, 2005.  
**Louise Haralson Holder WC '28** of Lagrange, Ga., died on March 18, 2005.  
**Rachel Peterson Roller, WC '30** of Coral Gables, Fla., died on Feb. 25.  
**Carolyn Moore Harris, WC '32** of Lewisburg, W.Va., died on March 1.  
**Allene Braselton Laird, WC '34** of Sun City, Ariz., died March 29.  
**Mary Louise Johns Olson, WC '34** of Columbia, S.C., died on Feb. 9.  
**Gertrude Ellison Carter, WC '35** of Camden, Ark., died on March 21.  
**Sara Bruce Strother, WC '38** of Catherine, Ala., died on Feb. 18.  
**Margery Phillips Dews, WC '40** of Atlanta, Ga., died on April 23.  
**Mary Elizabeth Harris Sutton, WC '40** of Monroe, La., died on Feb. 22.  
**Geraldine Graham Skardon, WC '41** of Waltersboro, S.C., died on Feb. 26.  
**Rosalyn Sheram Wood, WC '42** of Nashville, Tenn., died on May 9.  
**Sarah Brown, WC '43** of Cobbtown, Ga., died on Feb. 21.  
**Beverly Clark Hamrick, WC '43** of Shelby, N.C., died on Nov. 21.

**Mary Virginia Watson Smith, WC '43** of Merritt Island, Fla., died on April 16.  
**Anna Singer Stark, WC '43** of Lumpkin, Ga., died on July 7, 2006.  
**Goldie Moore Shaw, WC '44** of Gaston, N.C., died on April 13.  
**Jane Millard Baker, WC '47** of Phoenix, Ariz., died on Dec. 14, 2005.  
**Shirley McDonald Brandon, WC '47** of Springfield, Tenn., died on Feb. 26.  
**Helen Bagwell Roper, WC '47** of Gainesville, Ga., died on Nov. 10.  
**Barbara Mitchell Disque, WC '53** of Atlanta, Ga., died on May 4.  
**Nancy Remick Smith, WC '56** of Wake Forest, N.C., died on Feb. 27.  
**Ann Hagerty Morrison, WC '67** of Jefferson, La., died on March 14.  
**Carmen Stansberry Perlino, WC '68** of Decatur, Ga., died on Aug. 18, 2001.  
**Josephine McKenzie Harkey, WC '69** of Charlotte, N.C., died on March 3.  
**Wendelyn Jewel Washington, WC '83** of Smyrna, Ga., died on March 19.  
**Andera Marie Deltufo, WC '88** of Santa Barbara, Calif., died on May 1.  
**Thomas A. Lopez, EWC '95** of Venice, Fla., died on Oct. 12, 2002.

## ONE FOR THE BOOKS

# Leets make lifetime commitment to Brenau

DICK LEET pinpoints exactly when he acquired the rare volumes, some dating to the 17th Century, that he recently donated to the Trustee Library. He can't recall who drove him to the farm in rural Missouri. But there the U.S. Navy vet, having just returned to undergraduate studies after World War II service, spent his last 40 bucks at an estate sale buying a carload of books on every subject imaginable – from medical texts to novels to preachy religious



he met Phyllis Combs, a home economics major at Northwest Missouri State University, who 58 years ago this past Flag Day became his wife.

"I thought it was a little odd," says Phyllis, who recalls her first encounter with Leet and the eclectic collection of leather-bound titles stacked in his dining room. But she was also enamored of this chemistry major who "just liked books."

"I was just as excited as he was,"

she recalls. "Some of them were in my field and dated back to the early 1800s."

That passion for books and reading is one they shared in their six decades together, along with those of collecting paintings that cover the walls from floor to vaulted ceiling in their lake-side home in Gainesville and for getting involved with arts, education and community wherever they happened to be.

The Leets proved the point recently when they created an irrevocable trust designed to create a Brenau sciences professorship with a \$1 million endowment "when we both graduate," as Dick put it euphemistically. They topped the gift recently when Leet told fellow Brenau trustees that they would put up \$350,000 as a matching challenge fund to create a \$700,000 cash pool to pay expenses for the university's upcoming capital campaign. And, among other things, they've been parting with some of those precious books, donating them to the Trustee Library's rare book collection.

"They're stepping up in a big way in the early days making commitments to the success of the campaign and the future of the university," says Brenau President Ed Schrader. "If there needs to be a definition of 'leadership,' this is it."

Leet knows about raising money. After graduating from his Maryville, Mo., hometown university, Leet earned a Ph.D. from Ohio State. He subsequently chaired major capital campaigns for both universities. "When you are planning the kind of capital campaign Brenau is, you need to have some front-end money be-



cause there are always costs that are not in the budget and do not fit in the budget," he says. Ohio State fund-raisers, he recalls, "had to beg for money from the legislature. There was never enough."

Neither Dick nor Phyllis has any historic or family ties to Brenau. Both are Missouri natives who patiently instruct in the local pronunciation: it's *Miz-ur-uh*. After OSU, Leet joined the research team for Standard Oil of Indiana, now Amoco. He spent half a decade studying lubricants then was hand-picked for the executive track. Twenty-three jobs later in virtually every division, he retired in 1991 as vice chairman. The Leets bought their Lake Lanier house in the 1980s, planning when they retired to move close to their three grown children, Rick, Alan and Dana. While "visiting in our own home," Phyllis says, they read in the local paper that Brenau was raising money to preserve its art collection. The item caught them right at their sweet spot. Dick called to see if they could help, and he was soon recruited as a member of the board of trustees.

Leet concedes he'd be pleased if the trust funded a chemistry professorship. But that's not a requirement. "Who knows what changes will occur in science teaching," he says. "We want it to go to whatever science is befitting at the time."

– David Morrison

