

BRENAU

SPRING 2011

Window



Critical Thinking Tiger-style

Disputes Without Drama

Vampire Biology

PETS AND VETS

Usually in this column I try to deal somewhat dispassionately with aspects of Brenau’s vision or some issue affecting the academic world or society. Today, however, it is not business as usual; it’s personal. Pets of assorted species and description have always been part of my life, which would not have been as full and rich without the love and friendship we shared. (Aside: Thinking about pets past and present for me is like listening to the “Red Rubber Ball” by The Cyrkle. It’s just the happiest song and tune possible, a little better than “Walking on Sunshine” by Katrina and the Waves.) There have been times when no animal inhabited my home, but there has never been a time when many animals did not reside in my heart.

My children say that I emit cat and dog pheromones – especially cat. To channel Will Rogers, I rarely met a cat I couldn’t pet. That ability, however, is not chemical; it is experience. Cats always lived in or around my childhood home so I learned early how to express love and compassion, which usually works even with strange cats. With dogs I have the same feelings, but it takes me a little more effort to communicate than a few words and chin scratches.

Today’s story, however, deals with neither cat nor dog, although a dog is involved. In the past year my dog, Jackson, my family and I traversed a troublesome path (from UGA to Colorado State veterinary schools) during the diagnosis and treatment of Jackson’s bone cancer. In my book, however, the principal characters in the story are those unique, skillful, loving humans who are almost equal to pets as worthy and valuable creatures – veterinarians.

Not all vets possess the same level of intellectual or medical skills. Some relate better than others to both animal and owner. Sometimes, in spite of their best efforts, they cannot help your pet “get better.”

These medical professionals have the same level of expertise, the same specialty areas, as physicians for humans. Often without recognition and sometimes without even the smallest expression of gratitude, they dedicate their lives to treating and caring for a difficult and needy group of clients (owners) and voiceless patients.

They have one challenge doctors for humans rarely experience: patients who cannot tell you what is wrong, what hurts, what makes the pain better, and most important, when the doctor has tried enough, that it is time to let go.

Vets also must deal with owners. Do veterinary students



I call this photo of Jackson, Edward and Bogey ‘my three sons.’

understand that they are signing up to be animal doctors and human psychologists? I have nothing against human caregivers – my daughter is a physician and my son is a dentist. It just seems to me that a vet has all the responsibility of the human health care professional exacerbated by a patient who cannot speak at all and an owner who probably speaks too much.

It is difficult to surpass the empathy and compassion of this prolific group of general practice vets in our communities. But this past year I have seen the attending residents, senior research faculty and internationally known founders of specialty clinics – in the best animal research and teaching hospitals in the country – cry along with the grieving owner or try to explain that the dog would rather walk on three legs than die on four. The group includes fourth-year students who take on the cases of specific animals, spend countless hours with the animals and communicate daily with owners. My hat is off to them all. I admirably and deeply appreciate their support for Jackson, Sebastian, Little Bit, the unnamed cat I rescued after an automobile accident and many, many others.

Vets are good, good people. An especially rewarding part of my job is that some of our best and brightest graduates choose veterinary science as a career!

Here’s an idea: If you’ve never experienced the joy of loving and living with a pet, it’s not too late. Whether it is a dog, cat, turtle or fish, an animal friend will enrich your life. Maybe you had pets in the past, but have sworn off because one brought baggage of unacceptable mischief or high maintenance levels or simply passed on leaving a huge hole in your heart. When you think about those past pets, I’ll wager most of your memories are good ones.

For me, the love, loyalty, excitement and joy of living with a pet far outweigh the daily effort and sometimes bittersweet pain. Find an animal to love and care for, and just do it!

Just don’t bring it into the dorms!

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CONTENTS



4 Thought Processes
Brenau’s new critical thinking initiative pairs with a new minor, philosophy, as part of a grand strategy to solve a serious problem in today’s colleges and universities.



6 Balancing Act
Danita Emma taught students at Brenau while she was their undergraduate classmate. Now the classically trained dancer runs a highly acclaimed summer program at Syracuse University and encounters the “old school” through her work in Bulgaria.



8 New Generation
Brenau’s new intercollegiate swimming and tennis coaches look young enough to be on the teams themselves – and, indeed, can keep abreast of the younger athletes. Maybe that’s why they win.



10 Vampire Biology
The real danger of falling asleep in Louise Bauck’s morning biology class is not that you’ll fall prey to some evil blood-sucker, but that you might miss something special.



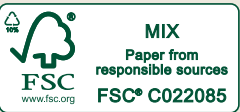
16 Blessed Are the Peacemakers
The nationally known Brenau mediation and conflict resolution work is not exactly like that you see on TV and in the movies, but it is helping rebuild the process of how to settle disputes.



31 One for the Books
If the mark of a great mind is openness to new things and curiosity about the world, then AlJean Thompson, WC’49, has one of the greatest.

ON THE COVER: Photo of H.J. as *The Thinker* by Tom Askew

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Brain empowerment: A topic of 'utmost importance'

In the land of academia where the native language sometimes abounds with unfathomable terms and not-easily-defined words, Brenau University recently passed a major checkpoint for having its credentials affirmed. A team representing the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools, or SACS, the university's primary accreditation agency, visited the campus and accepted Brenau's Quality Enhancement Plan. (See related article on page 22.) That action heralds the beginning of the endgame in the decennial review of Brenau's academic credentials and, if all goes well, the process could be concluded come December when the SACS Commission on Colleges is scheduled to vote on Brenau's status.

Although the accreditation and reaffirmation process primarily focuses on whether Brenau provides an acceptable academic environment for all levels of a doctoral degree-granting institution, a key element of the review is whether the university also has some ideas for making it better before the next review rolls around – the Quality Enhancement Plan. Institutions choose a broad theme for the QEP and prepare detailed, written programs for implementation. Brenau picked "improvement of critical thinking," delivered its plan, three years in the making, and took some steps to demonstrate that the process is underway.

REFOCUSED ENERGY

The QEP is more than mere button-pushing to satisfy what may seem to the uninitiated as an item on a bureaucratic checklist. "It's a way to focus resources, time and university energy on a specific topic that is of utmost importance for our students," says Heather Casey, the Brenau political science professor who took the helm of the QEP program at the beginning of the current academic year. "It is an opportunity to ensure that the university

puts forth its very best effort to prepare students for extraordinary lives."

But why does critical thinking merit special focus? Isn't that what universities are supposed to be about? Indeed it is, especially at Brenau University, which has embarked on an ambitious plan to reform liberal arts education by blending it with professional preparation. So, what's the problem? Two recent studies answer the question in startling detail. Oklahoma State University researchers reported their findings gleaned from interviews with human resources executives that the top three skills employers look for – and often find lacking – among prospective employees are communications, writing and critical thinking. More telling yet is a study published in January by the University of Chicago Press that tracked more than 2,300 undergraduates at 24 institutions through their four-year college experience. New York University sociologist Richard Arum, lead author of the study, said that many of the students graduated without knowing how to differentiate fact from opinion, make a clear written argument or objectively review conflicting reports of a situation or event. Forty-five percent of students made no significant improvement in their critical thinking, reasoning or writing skills during the first two years of college and, after four years, 36 percent showed no significant gains in these thinking skills.

ESSENTIAL SKILL

Clearly, universities simply must do a better job teaching critical thinking and creating environments for students to learn critical thinking, says Casey. "It's widely accepted that critical thinking skills are essential for success in the workplace, graduate school and your personal lives," she adds.

The critical thinking process, by definition, involves purposeful interpretation, analysis, evaluation, inference and explanation of information and experience. There's also the "self-regulatory" element: In addition to questioning assumptions, information, processes and conclusions from others, you learn to question your own as well.

Brenau's QEP team applied some heavy-duty critical thinking and planning to the development of the critical thinking program. That included testing the critical

thinking rubric that is now used in classes, meeting with faculty to design assignments to elicit critical thinking, bringing in outside experts to talk to faculty and students about critical thinking, and spending the fall term writing the actual plan. The team already has been rolling out the program with an array of information and resources available at www.brenau.edu/qep. Critical thinking skills are being implemented in the curriculum, starting with the course that's required for all beginning undergraduate students and progressing through all other courses.

Faculty will implement exercises designed to elicit critical thinking. Plus, with benchmarks already available, like scores on undergraduate and graduate admissions tests, Brenau will use further broad testing to determine student gains in proficiency. And, faculty members have that aforementioned rubric against which to assess individual student proficiency in critical thinking in all their courses.

"Good critical thinkers can solve problems, make persuasive arguments and analyze and synthesize information," says Casey. "Our graduates will make much better personal, professional and financial decisions with enhanced critical thinking skills."

Practical philosophy

Maybe it's time for Hamlet's buddy, Horatio, the classic inside-the-box thinker, to cast off from his obsessive practicality a bit and expand his universe. He might be able to do exactly that at Brenau starting in the fall term when the university instates a minor in philosophy that is designed for, of all things, the most practical of reasons.

Although you won't find many advertisements for "Corporate Philosopher" in the classified ads of newspapers, philosophy is what a post on the Website UrbanDictionary.com describes as "the mother of all sciences. ... Philosophy is a noble, no, possibly THE most noble, academic

discipline." A recent article in *The Times of London* called philosophy the ultimate "transferable work skill."

That flies in the face of the wags who offer many a discouraging word for those who study philosophy. They suggest that when you can't get a job teaching philosophy in college, what good will knowing Aristotelian logic, Socratic dialogues and cultural relativism do you when you're flipping burgers at McDonald's? Well, for openers, according to *The Times*, you may not have to flip burgers. In the United States, where the number of philosophy graduates increased five percent annually during the 1990s, few went on to become "philosophers." But they still enjoyed a 98.9 percent employability rate, which is impressive by any standard. Furthermore, the website payscale.com, which publishes the "Best Undergrad College Degrees by Salary," in 2008 ranked those who majored in philosophy at 16th among 50 different university majors in average mid-career salaries. Seven majors that outranked philosophy were various engineering degrees.

MEETING THE TEST

In continuing study following undergraduate days, students with philosophy majors perform extremely well on graduate school admissions tests. Although in one recent study they did not do as well as those with science and math backgrounds on the mathematics portion of the Graduate Record Examination, on the verbal portion they beat every other humanities discipline, including English majors. On the Law School Admissions Test, philosophy majors received higher scores than those in all other majors except economics and mathematics. And, on the Graduate Management Admissions Test, philosophy majors outperformed business majors by a 15-percent margin.

"Students of philosophy develop critical thinking skills," says Andrea Birch, a philosophy professor who is undergraduate dean and dean of the College of Fine Arts & Humanities. "They solve problems, write logical papers and develop persuasive arguments. A recent speaker on campus said that employers are looking for people with critical thinking skills, which should mean that students who minor in philosophy at Brenau could have an advantage in the workplace. A student in any major should consider getting a minor in philosophy."

Brenau's new minor is an 18-credit-hour program, 12 of which are required courses, available to on-campus students with some courses offered online.

"With Brenau's critical thinking focus," says philosophy and religion professor James F. Sennett, who will head the new program, "this will be a natural fit."

– David Morrison

Danita Emma choreographs a common approach to joining the disparate worlds of academics and professional ballet

Balancing Act

by David Morrison

A couple of the students in the overly warm dance studio at the Brenau East campus in Gainesville, Ga., do not quite know what to make of the tiny dark-haired woman almost 40 years their senior. Shorter than the tall, long-limbed athletically built dancers, she is suddenly in some of their faces. She pushes their arms, less than gently, into proper position. Pointed instruction, uttered in her classic New York accent, amplifies in the echo of the rehearsal hall, sounding less akin to patient Parisian ballet *enseignante* and more like French-speaking Parris Island drill instructor.

“... *piqué ballonné ... tombé ... cou de pied fondu...*”

After ticking off quickly six or eight steps in a mini-choreography for the exercise, she bounds to and from a CD player to stop and start the music, then counts cadence as the perspiring dancers, concealing heavy breathing with their trained, nearly invisible inhaling and exhaling through tightly fixed lips, go through the motions.

“... *piqué ... tombé... cou de pied ... rond de jambe.*”

Should the observer detect the slightest “bet-you-can’t-do-it” smirk forming on the corners of the mouths of any of the pupils, they quickly disappear as the smaller, older woman enters show-not-tell mode, sliding gracefully into position, arm floating in a *port de bras*, her face showing the passion and emotion of the dance as she arches her neck like a swan in her *port de corps*.

“My gift was being a teacher. I am a much better teacher than I ever would have been as a performer,” says **Danita Emma, WC ’01**, who was back at her alma mater during spring term to teach a master class to aspiring dancers. “But,” she adds, “you have to know the craft.”

THE RUSSIAN INFLUENCE

The Binghamton, N.Y., native recently celebrated her fifth anniversary as artistic director at Syracuse University’s Summer Dance Intensive, a highly acclaimed program

administered by the university’s extension program for accomplished dancers ages 12 to 18. She presides over an international faculty that is heavier on professional experience than on academic degrees. And it includes her mentor, the world-renowned Kirov-trained Madame Gabriela Darvash, who, according to Mikhail Baryshnikov in an article in *The New York Times*, is “one of the distinguished and fine ballet pedagogues in America.”

Momchil Mladenov, Emma’s assistant director at Syracuse in the Summer Dance Intensive and a principal dancer with the National Ballet in his native Bulgaria, paved the way for Emma to showcase her expertise in ballet pedagogy last summer in Sofia, the capital of the former Eastern Bloc nation. There ballet is so heavily informed by the Russian school of the art and still relatively isolated from modern influences, especially those from America. Forget lame cultural abnormalities like *Dancing with the Stars* and *So You Think You Can Dance* on TV. Most Bulgarian dancers have never seen the work of George Balanchine, the Russian immigrant co-founder of the New York City Ballet who is credited with, among other things, incorporating ballet in Broadway musicals and bringing Broadway-type features to more classical ballet performances.

Emma has a return engagement scheduled in Bulgaria this summer. Meanwhile, she takes her show on the road, flying between master class appearances at Brenau, the University of Georgia and other colleges, universities and teaching-oriented dance companies around the United States. One of her goals is to bring some of the Bulgarian dancers to study in the United States and find opportunities for American dancers and teachers to study in Bulgaria.

“Danita’s teaching is incredibly valuable to the students,” says Vincas Greene, Brenau’s dance department chair. “She brings a direct line from the Russian system that changed dance training along with an American sensibility that modernized and expanded the dance movements. She is dedicated to the purity of the technique as a base for all performance dance and teaches with passion. The students get history, excellent training, wonderful stories and a great example of a life dedicated to the art of dance.”

The master class was not Emma’s first teaching gig at Brenau. She personifies the term “nontraditional student,” especially in dance. After high school, she studied a year at The Boston Conservatory then bolted for a performing career. At age 20, while she was a regular with the globe-trotting, New York-based American Ballet Company, she tumbled down a flight of stairs and sustained enough nerve damage to change her career arc dramatically, pointing her to choreography and dance education. When she and her husband moved South in the 1990s, she taught at the At-

lanta Ballet and coached professional dancers. By her count, she coached dancers in five different casts for *The Nutcracker*.

THE DEFINITION OF ‘NONTRADITIONAL’

But Emma wanted a degree and, in her 40s, with classmates less than half her age, she enrolled in Brenau’s dance program. She quickly bonded with Associate Professor Carol Smiarowski, who headed the dance program from 1994 through 2005. First maternity leave and then a long, losing battle with brain cancer kept Smiarowski out of the classroom, and Emma took up the slack, starting when she technically still was a student.

“It was very strange,” she says. “Some of the kids I was teaching I was in biology with as a fellow student.”

As a choreographer she only works on modern stuff because, she says bluntly, “the classics have all been done.” Yet classical dance is her forte, particularly the Russian style that so influences her with its expressive and expansive upper body movements. The common denominator in both, however, is precision, which comes from practice. And that is what she hammers home to her students.

“You have to study and understand the classics to appreciate what comes after the classics,” she argues. That’s what gives the young Bulgarian dancers she has encountered a leg up on their American counterparts. “In America it is instant gratification. If you don’t get that hamburger in one minute, you get it for free. We’ve got to get over those instant meals and become gourmet cooks.”

Brenau, she says, gave her a degree, but it also gave her an entrée into the academic world, which in her view is vastly different from the professional world she inhabited. The challenge is melding the two, finding common ground and, all important to ballet, balance.

The university, with its bright, new dance facilities, dedicated faculty and from-the-top vision of the importance of the arts in education has the right ingredients for doing that, she says. “I always felt the dance department was encouraging,” she says. “The people get to know you and are supportive. It’s extended family.



Brenau dance majors like freshman Jennifer Kent, at left, learned from Emma’s decades of experience that grace begins with discipline.



A New Generation in Intercollegiate Sports Coaching Staff

Brenau's newest head coaches are young, energetic and eager to learn everything it takes to field successful teams. Blaire Bachman, who will turn 25 in May, was recognized as the youngest head swimming coach in the nation by collegeswimming.com. She's also one of the youngest coaches in any sport –

although not the youngest at Brenau. That honor belongs to tennis coach Andre Ferreira, who will turn 25 in June. Both had personal ties to the Golden Tigers' athletic program before arriving on campus. Bachman's cousin is assistant basketball coach Beth Henson and Ferreira's fiancée is former tennis standout Lindsay Woon. And, to cap it off, Ferreira's younger sister, Julia, swims on Bachman's team.

BY KAREN ROSEN

BRENAU'S NEW SWIMMING COACH can say she's done laps in the Fitness Center pool since before her athletes were born, even though it sounds all wet. After all, Blaire Bachman is only 24 years old. She was a wide-eyed 5-year-old when she joined Lanier Aquatics, a Gainesville-based club, and swam through high school on Brenau's campus. "When the girls get in, I'm like, 'Trust me, I know how it feels in this pool,'" she says.

Bachman, who took over the program last July, knows what it's like to work hard, to improve and to be part of a team – often before the sun rises. "I'm proud of my girls for getting up," she says. "They know they're not here to complain. They show up with a smile on their faces and bananas in their hands."

Working at the Brenau pool is also nothing new to Bachman. She got her first job, as a lifeguard aide, when she was 14. While Bachman was in college, she came home on weekends to be a volunteer assistant for Jim Young, her club coach who revived the Golden Tigers program that had been dormant for years. "He would pick my brain as far as how a swimmer feels in relation to practices and the scheduling because I swam in college as well," says Bachman, a sprinter and backstroker at the University of the Cumberland and Georgia College and State University.

Now the tables are turned. "He's kind of my Yoda," Bachman says. "If I ever need advice, then he's right down the road. It's kind of interesting having walked in here for years, talking about my swimming, and now I'm the one sitting in his chair."

Bachman also helped former Brenau coach Gabby Matthews, so she was acquainted with some of the current swimmers. Through Facebook, Bachman contacted Melissa Bofto, who had left the team, and persuaded her to return for her senior year. "She's really understanding," Bofto says. "She knew what coaching styles were working and were not working before, and she used that to her advantage." Bachman says that while she has to be authoritative to make sure she gains the athletes' respect, "where my age really helps is that I know what they would enjoy doing."

Led by Hannah Boudreaux, a recent transfer, the Golden Tigers went to the NAIA Championships and broke three school records from 1978. Brenau also was named a Team Scholar All-American team, with the third-highest grade point average in the

NAIA. "Within a matter of months, she has done wonders with that program," says Brenau athletic director Mike Lochstampfor. He hired Bachman after a national search. Although she had never been a head coach, Bachman had run a program. As president of the Swim Cats at GCSU, not only was she a swimmer, she was the coach, scheduling meets, handling the budget and working with the student government for funding.



Rudi Kiefer

"Here I don't have to swim in the meets," Bachman says, "but I still have that desire to get on that block and be like, 'Hey look, I can still swim.'" She did just that in an exhibition meet to raise funds for breast cancer research, tying freshman Lisa Portwood in a race. "She had to show us," Bofto says, "she knew what she was doing."

ANDRE FERREIRA HAS EXPERIENCED THE PERFECT MATCH at least three times in his tennis career, and that's not counting what has happened on the court. First, as a youngster growing up in Brazil, Ferreira knew he wanted to play collegiate tennis because of the opportunities it afforded. For a fee, an agency found him a scholarship at Berry College, where he spent four happy and pro-

ductive years. After graduation, he became a Berry assistant coach while he got his MBA.

Second, Ferreira met his fiancée, former Brenau player **Lindsay Woon, WC '07**, because they'd often see each other at tournaments. They began dating while they were in college and, five years later, became engaged in December in a true love match.

Third, when Brenau was looking to replace Gordon Leslie, who



Rudi Kiefer

retired after five years, Ferreira's name kept coming up even though he was only 24. He didn't have to be asked twice to leave his job as an assistant club pro in Macon to take over the Golden Tigers program.

"I always knew that my passion was with college tennis," Ferreira says. "This is kind of my playground out here. We go out and just have fun. There's just nothing better than that. It's a great career."

To ease the transition, Leslie stayed on during much of the fall season and they worked together. Although Leslie is now in South Carolina, they still speak once a week. If there's an odd number of players at practice, Ferreira has the option of asking Woon, who is finishing her master's degree in psychology at Jacksonville State University, to hit with them. "He doesn't straightaway do everything

his own way," says Lyn See Choo, the No. 1 singles player. "He's slowly changing. He does some of Coach Gordon's ideas and adds his ideas to our team." One innovation has been to start a team blog that is emailed once a week to supporters and recruits. Each blog includes a paragraph or two from one of the players.

Last season the Golden Tigers reached a No. 6 ranking, and every day Ferreira's reminded by big banners on the tennis courts that Brenau was 1999 NAIA national champion. "There's a little bit of pressure on him to keep the level of the program where it is and step into some big shoes," says athletic director Mike Lochstampfor.

All seven of the current Brenau players are international, and Ferreira, who speaks with a slight Southern twang, is trying to use his connections to recruit talent from Georgia or the Southeast. He'll also stay in touch with the same type of agencies he used as a player to keep the international pipeline flowing.

"His social skills are amazing," says Woon. "He gets along with anybody. You put him in a room, he'll know everybody before I do." Choo was surprised by Ferreira's positive attitude. "If we do badly, we expect him to be mad at us, but instead he's never mad. He always tells us how to improve everything instead of pointing out our mistakes." Ferreira says that when he was a junior player, he used to get angry at himself on the court, but stopped in college. "I just grew up, I guess."

BASKETBALL COACH BAYS RESIGNS

Brenau is conducting a nationwide search for a new head basketball coach following the resignation of Gary Bays, who guided the team from its inception five years ago. Bays compiled a record of 73-79 overall and 32-51 in SSAC play. The team qualified for the post-season conference tournament in each of the past three years.

"Gary did a tremendous job building the foundation for the program," said athletic director Mike Lochstampfor, "and I really think this program can be one of the most competitive ones in the conference and the NAIA level."



Tom Askew

Vampire Biology

A “New Moon” rose over Brenau last fall with a class students could really sink their teeth into: “Human and Vampire Biology.” Those acquainted with the Brenau faculty did not have to skulk about in the dead of night risking all kinds of peril in scary Transylvanian terrain or crack open some long-lost, cobweb-infested crypt to know who was behind such a thing. It had to be none other than biology professor Louise Bauck.

Although her primary research into flying things, nocturnal or otherwise, mostly concerns avian species, she has been known for enhancing the real-world classroom experience in basic biology by boldly going where no other professor has gone with other flights of fancy as she did in her *Star Trek*-themed class a few years back. And as a pioneer on implementing one of the first courses built on Brenau’s showcase multidiscipline curriculum, she zips through the “four portals of learning” with the speed and ease of a bat’s awakening after sunset. Her approach and enthusiasm is part of the reason the biology professor won the Ann Austin Johnston Outstanding Faculty Member award at last year’s commencement and, as a result, got tapped to deliver the address at the Women’s College spring honors convocation.

In other words, what this is all about is that Bauck was teaching traditional science with a few “you go, ghou!” twists.

The textbook and course materials are standard issue. But the lecture titles published in the syllabus in spiky, Gothic script definitely awaken the inner creature of the night in you: “Hemoglobin and Other Delightful Proteins,” “Cells Are Like Covens,”

“Are Vampires Alive?,” “Human Blood and Why We Love It,” “Vampires Behaving Badly,” “Until Her Heart Stops Beating,” “How to Listen for Your Prey” and even a segment on reproduction entitled “Bella & Edward.”

The latter, of course, refers to that marriage-made-somewhere-other-than-heaven between the primary characters in the enormously popular *Twilight* motion pictures and the Stephenie Meyer novels on which they were based. In the *Twilight* world, everybody knows that Edward Cullen is a vampire who, with heart throbbing on borrowed blood, falls in love with, marries and has a child with Bella Swan, a human teenager who later chooses to become a vampire.

Despite the temptation to trace the origins of vampires and assorted otherworldly beings, like werewolves and zombies, back at least to old Vlad the Impaler in the 15th century (which is, like, even before *Buffy the Vampire Slayer*), such yarns have been around in popular literature, art, music and story-telling pretty much since the invention of those things. But there definitely has been a resurgence of interest, particularly among young adults.

Re-‘vamped’ Learning

Never one to drive a stake through the heart of any kind of learning experience, Bauck admits she sought to capitalize on the pop culture phenomenon. “The goal was to study science while incorporating some hypotheses and theories concerning vampiric biochemistry and physiology,” she says. “I just ‘revamped’ the approach to spark interest, especially for students who are not majoring in the sciences.”

Term papers will focus on blood, particularly as it relates to diabetes, anemia and HIV/AIDS. Bauck, who is notably handy with Photoshop and other media-editing technology, incorporated into her PowerPoint presentations her own photographs, atmospheric theme music, YouTube clips and other *Twilight*-influenced tricks. It helped that the movie even incorporated biology class into its plotline. “Ironically,” says Bauck, “the first meeting of Bella and Edward takes place over the same kind of microscope we use in *our* lab.”

However, science – real science – was always the star of the show.

“There is an actual biochemical basis to legends of vampires, which have been associated with a genetic mutation thought to have originated in Eastern Europe in the late 1700s,” says Bauck. “This inherited disorder, porphyria, resulted in an abnormal heme molecule, with symptoms of pale skin, extreme sensitivity to sunlight and brain disorders, including odd behavior. Furthermore, individuals affected by porphyria often drank animal blood, as it was thought to alleviate the symptoms. Immortality also has a genuine basis in biology, as students learned.”

This information should be sanguine news for fans of the teen love triangle in the *Twilight* phenomenon. But Bauck also

threw a bone to her students in the so-called “Jacob camp” with a lecture about werewolves “hot” with fever. Jacob Black, a study in buff lycanthropy, is Bella’s other preternatural suitor in Meyer’s *Twilight: New Moon*.

Although Bauck jokes that for the course she has not yet “found an anatomy model that looks like Robert Pattinson,” the teen heartthrob actor who portrays Edward, she did grow up in the misty Vancouver, B.C., landscape just down the wooded road from where the last two blockbuster movies were filmed.

Students always respond enthusiastically to Bauck’s imaginative methods.

“I’ve never much cared for the sciences,” says Jarrad Howard, a junior who is a musical theater major. “But Dr. Bauck has brought a new flavor to human biology – she makes it interesting and downright fun. All of the lectures, while covering the information required, are punctuated with vampire and werewolf theories and speculations.” Howard explains that, like a *nosferatu*, he operates on a nocturnal schedule. “Dr. Bauck’s unique and quirky teaching style makes attending class delightful, which is saying a lot for a class starting at 9:45 a.m., a time when I normally have serious trouble staying awake. She’s a breath of fresh air.”

Sarah Magness, WC’07, was a resident of this galaxy when Bauck taught biology with a *Star Trek* motif.

“I wasn’t too thrilled about having to take biology, which was a requirement for my bachelor’s in fine arts,” says Magness. “After my first day, though, I went back to my room with my *Star Trek*-themed syllabus and called my mom to tell her about how excited I was about my biology class. She was shocked to hear my enthusiasm and asked me what about the class was so different. All I could say was: ‘This professor, Dr. Bauck, is like a Canadian Julia Child who is tying *Star Trek* to everything we’re learning.’”

Bauck nods and concedes that she is regarded as “the nutty professor.”

Adds Magness, “She radiates this enthusiasm that’s contagious to all of us. I loved how she connected every chapter to an episode of *Star Trek* because it made me think outside of the textbook. It showed ‘real’ situations – as real as *Star Trek* can be – in an interesting light. She had high expectations for us, which made me want to meet the standards she set. So I am very proud of the ‘A’ that I made in her class, because I had to work really hard to earn it.”

Whether she is employing goblins or androids as visual aids, Bauck always brings her students back to hard science and the larger questions encouraged by a liberal arts education.

“Vampires are just a jumping-off point for discussion and critical thinking about what it really means to be human,” she says. “However, you do not have to like vampires or *Twilight* to enjoy this course and to learn about biology – just have a willingness to go on a creative academic adventure.”

– Candice Dyer with David Morrison





photos by Rudi Kiefer and Barry Williams



Low and Slow

If you are talking about the way to cook meat on a grill, you are right on. If you're referring to the way Brenau entered the arena as a hot spot on the national championship barbecue cooking circuit, you don't have enough seasoning in your sauce. In other words, the Brenau Barbecue Championship skipped the part about being the slow-burning, best-kept-secret little event with great potential. Now in its third year, it has been anything but low key and slow to heat up as a popular, regional spring-time event that is already nationally recognized.

This year's Brenau Barbecue Championship festival will be May 19-21. The public portion opens May 20 with a Friday night preview party. On Saturday, the 21st, gates will open for an estimated 6,000 of our closest friends and neighbors. Although they're helping to raise money for local scholarships to Brenau, they're also coming to suck in the aromas of wood smoke and first-class outdoor grilling. They can meet and collect tips (and as

many secrets as they can elucidate) from 20 professional cook teams from seven southern states, certified barbecue judges (yes, they have to take a course) from

walking by."

Barco also argues that there is an "educational component" to the barbecue – and he is only half pulling your leg. It

The 3-year-old Brenau Barbecue Championship found the formula for success: If you cook it they will come.

nine states, including Kansas and Illinois, and more than 40 local "amateur" teams from the region that we call the "Backyard Braggarts."

Some of the amateurs are not really amateurs, says Jim Barco, Brenau's senior vice president who founded and oversees the annual event. They may represent well-established barbecue restaurants that simply have not cracked into the highly competitive circles of professional barbecue cooking competitions.

This isn't a "men only" sport. The current World's Champion and reigning Brenau Barbecue Champion is Melissa Cookston of Mississippi. She, her husband, Pete, and daughter, Lauren, recently won the Memphis Barbecue Network Championship and, as a result, these current world's champions were featured on the nationally televised TLC program "BBQ Pitmasters."

"We have obviously been at a lot of barbecue competitions over the years," Melissa says, "but the Brenau event is one of the better organized, best staffed and most enjoyable from the point of view of a professional cook team. There is little down time as we compete, but when there is, there always seem to be smiling faces

is art and culture. It's science – the "low and slow" school holds that temperatures of the smokers/grills, some of which cost more than \$80,000, rarely exceed 250 degrees, and the choice of woods (hickory, peach, oak, apple and cherry are the most popular) bring the real flavor to the meat. And it's business – many of the pro teams that travel around the country to participate in events like Brenau's, not to mention the "Memphis in May" championship, aren't looking for bragging rights; they're looking for a marketing advantage.

Brenau grad **Dana Fowler Miller, WC '85**, coordinates the assignment of certified judges, while her husband, Andy, coordinates the Backyard Braggarts. Dana, who works at the Greater Hall Chamber of Commerce in Gainesville, has been involved since the beginning. She was also one of the first Brenau family members to become a certified judge, after taking a class and attending numerous barbecue festivals throughout the Southeast. "The thing I like about this event most, in addition to helping local students attend Brenau, is the fact that it is an amazing community development event," she says. "People who have never been on the

campus now know Brenau in a whole different way, and that's a good thing."

Max Sumner, 13, the eldest son of Laura and Sean Sumner, a noted Gainesville physician, reads everything he can about barbecue and he will apprentice this year with one of the professional cook teams, Wild Turkeys, out of Jacksonville, Fla. "I may one day follow my father's lead into medicine," Max says, "but right now I also want to be a pit boss."

For more information on how to get involved, contact Barco at 770.534.6161 or e-mail jbarco@brenau.edu. The event website is www.brenau.edu/bbq.



Brenau's collection of "The Dare Stones," which purport to tell the story of what happened to "The Lost Colony" of Roanoke from the late 16th century, represent either one of the greatest historical finds of all time or one of the more inventive flimflams of The Great Depression. In the late 1930s, Brenau cornered the market on the stones with all the funny writing chiseled into them. Although there still are true believers out there who swear to the authenticity, most others, including Brenau

officialdom, regard them as relics of an era in which one could also buy a copy of "the Word of God autographed by the author." Until now there has been no scientific means to prove either case.

Recently, however, a team of curious north Georgia retirees, accompanied by archeological consultant Jannie Loubser of Alpharetta, Ga., took a look at the stones (pictured above) on display in Brenau's Trustee Library and concluded there might be a way to come closer to answering questions

Dare we? New methods could untangle Brenau's rocks riddle

Rudi Klefer



Sculptor sees things differently

Four giant metal sculptures now occupy strategic locations around the Brenau Gainesville campus, all courtesy of Andrew Crawford, the Atlanta artist who 10 years ago crafted *Violin*, the piece in front of the Burd Center for Performing Arts. The new additions all have interesting histories and have generated some spirited discussions. Crawford loaned three of the pieces to the university and sold the fourth to Brenau "at a very good price," he says, "because I really feel I am part of Brenau and I love being involved with it."

Brenau commissioned the Burd Center piece as Crawford struggled to find form in his artistic expression. Against the backdrop of the building's stain glass window, it is part of one of the iconic images of the campus and one of the most-photographed spots in Gainesville.

The university acquired *Pure Americana*, or the oil can with wings near Simmons Visual Arts Center. Born from a workbench oil can he thought looked like a bird, Crawford unveiled the piece several years ago at Mobile Museum of Art in Alabama. All his work, he

says, is not about imagery and symbolism as much as it is about "looking at stuff" from a variety of perspectives. Thus we have the *Battleship* standing on end that looks like a musical instrument, a broken ball peen hammer becomes a *Bull* and another becomes a cartoonish rocket in a piece called *Launch*.

Speaking of launches, Crawford says that first Brenau commission "really launched my career. That's why I like Brenau so much. That commission was very important to me."

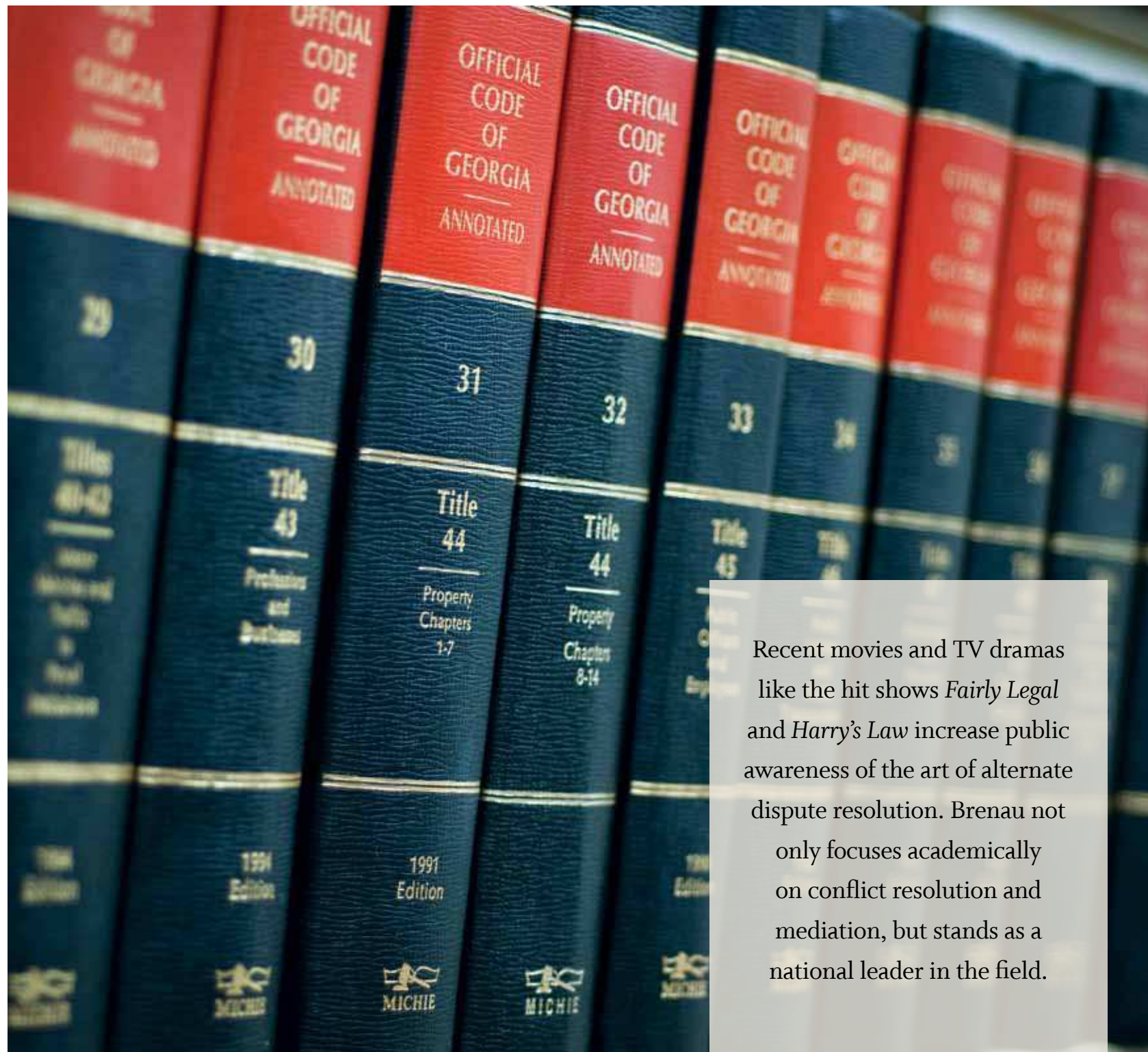
about their origins. Any stone carving, Loubser explains, leaves behind traces of tools used, and those microscopic bits of metal can be used to determine when the carving occurred. For example, a chisel made from metals available to English North Carolina coastal colonists or native Americans in 1591 would leave a different "elemental signature" from one purchased, say, in a 1937 north Georgia hardware store.

The difficulty is that over the years the Dare Stones' carvings have been enhanced with a chalk-like substance

and graphite to make them more photogenic, then scoured, cleaned and pressure washed, which renders such precise testing in those particular spots a little iffy. But Loubser's close examination, he says, turned up "a few incisions on the sides and within irregularities on the stone's yellow brown surfaces [that] appear to have escaped highlighting and cleaning." From those, he believes, some scientific testing by geologists and metallurgists might solve the Dare Stones' riddle or, he concedes, add another plot twist in the 400-year-old mystery.

Blessed are the Peacemakers

by Candice Dyer



Recent movies and TV dramas like the hit shows *Fairly Legal* and *Harry's Law* increase public awareness of the art of alternate dispute resolution. Brenau not only focuses academically on conflict resolution and mediation, but stands as a national leader in the field.

“There must be a full moon tonight,” says attorney **Anne Banford**, shaking her head at the paperwork on her desk at Coleman & Chambers in Gainesville, Ga. Encoded in all of the dry legalese are one family’s seething resentments and mistrust, along with its wary, halting efforts to come together when necessary. “Here is a dad who desperately wants to see his child,” Banford says, “The mother initially had agreed to grant him some visitation time over the weekend. Now, at the last minute, at 5 o’clock on a Friday, she’s changed her mind. Emotions run especially high any time a child is involved.”

As an attorney, **Banford, WC’04**, litigates, but, in cases like this, she mediates.

“I’m stepping in to offer conditions,” she says. “For example: The visit can take place at his mother’s house; he’ll return the child at a certain time on Sunday and not a minute later; and so on. I’m looking at both parties and saying, ‘How can we all work through this together and arrive at a solution that works for everyone?’”

That straightforward, open-handed approach sums up mediation, an increasingly popular and often court-mandated form of problem-solving in which a trained negotiator guides conflicting parties toward a mutually acceptable agreement. Faced with backlogged dockets and legal expenses skyrocketing along with stress levels, more people inside and outside the courtroom are discovering, happily, that they do not need a judge’s gavel to hammer out a compromise. Mediation works at every level, from family feuds, tenant-landlord complaints, roommate squabbles and personal injury claims to large-scale, high-level organizational conflicts such as union negotiations, professional athletes’ personal contracts, political peace treaties and corporate brinksmanship – wherever the art of the deal comes into play.

“MEDIATION IS MUCH FASTER, LESS EXPENSIVE, AND OFTEN FAIRER and more desirable in its outcomes than litigation,” says Dr. Ken Frank, head of the humanities department at Brenau and a member of the board of directors of the International Academy of Dispute Resolution. “It saves everyone two important resources – time and money.”

Long before movies and television dramas such as *Wedding*

Crashers, *Fairly Legal* and *Harry’s Law* introduced professional mediators into the pop-culture lexicon, Brenau was in the vanguard of alternative dispute resolution, or ADR. Frank developed the school’s conflict resolution and legal studies major 13 years ago, making Brenau the only institution in Georgia – and one of just a few in the country – to offer an undergraduate degree in the subject. As a result, the school consistently excels in the National Intercollegiate Mock Mediation Tournament held annually, winning top honors in 2001 and seldom ranking below the Top 10. A dozen Brenau students have been honored as “All-American Mediators.” The host of the first mediation tournament in the Southeast, Brenau welcomed six universities with 12 teams for the largest invitational undergraduate tournament in the country last year.

“BRENAU IS DOING EXCEPTIONALLY WELL IN TRAINING STUDENTS in these extra-litigation remedies, giving them a serious head start on law school or preparation for other careers that require sophisticated negotiating skills,” says former U.S. District Judge Sidney O. Smith Jr., a Brenau trustee and a pioneer in the field of alternate dispute resolution. After he left the bench, Smith was appointed to the first national commission – along with notables such as former U.S. Secretary of Health,



As quirky street lawyer Harriet Korn in the new David Kelley TV series, Oscar winner Kathy Bates puts a little drama into the mix in her role as a mediator in one episode, shown above. Brenau’s pioneering conflict resolution program emphasizes less theatrical methods.



Ken Frank and his mediation stars, from left, junior Christina Poole, senior Sonja Dorsey, junior Megan Blackwell and junior Jillian Ford.

Education and Welfare Joseph Califano; former attorneys general Benjamin Civiletti and William D. Ruckelshaus, who also served as the first head of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, and former Major League Baseball Commissioner Bowie Kuhn – to explore ADR as a means of streamlining court processes. “There is simply no way that the legal system can handle all disputes. At least 90 percent of them have to be settled another way or the entire system will collapse. There aren’t enough judges or jurors to weigh every complaint. So more and more mediators will be needed in the years to come. The growth of the practice is inevitable.”

U.S. News and World Report named mediation in its “Top 50 Careers” earlier this year, citing U.S. Department of

Labor statistics that project its ranks will expand by at least 1,400 jobs, or 22 percent, in coming years – a rate well above average for all occupations. Salaries vary widely, but median earnings for full-time mediators were estimated at \$63,250 in 2009, with the highest-paid 10 percent taking home more than \$109,950. During the recent housing crisis, several states employed mediators in foreclosure situations, often heading off formal proceedings to the benefit of homeowners, and similar opportunities are expected in hospitals and the insurance industry with health care reform.

“Most counties in Georgia now have a mediation requirement before a court case can go to a final hearing,” says Banford, a conflict resolution major who graduated from

Stetson University law school in 2007. “People often describe it in terms of ‘win-win,’ but that’s not always the case. Sometimes, both parties may have to leave feeling a little unhappy, but they reach a conclusion they both can live with. And chances are, they will do better than if they went before a judge. Judges are unpredictable, even if you think you know them – you never know what kind of mood a judge will be in. So mediation will save a client thousands of dollars or more in legal fees and also help them deal with a problem directly, maybe in a matter of just a few hours, and then move on, instead of having it languish for months or years in the overbooked court system.”

Adds Frank, “It’s human nature. Would you rather have a verdict imposed on you by someone external to the problem, or would you rather come up with a solution yourself, one that you’re genuinely invested in? And who better to render a decision on a sensitive, highly personal issue – a judge who is just hearing the outlines of it for a few hours, or the people who have to live with it every single day?”

MEDIATION WAS SANCTIONED AS A PROFESSION in ancient Greece and Rome, where practitioners were esteemed for their congenial wisdom, but it did not take hold in the American justice system until the idealistic era of Jimmy Carter’s administration. In a landmark speech at Harvard Law School, Professor Emeritus Frank E. A. Sander spoke eloquently of the “multi-door courthouse,” where all

citizens would enjoy a broader, more approachable array of choices in solving their legal problems. With that in mind, former U.S. Appeals Court Judge Griffin Bell as U.S. attorney general under President Carter in 1977 established pilot programs called “Neighborhood Justice Centers” to offer free mediation services in Los Angeles, Kansas City and Atlanta.

“It started as a grass-roots way to give poor people access to legal services and help relieve the overburdened court system,” Frank says. “Georgia was one of the first states to embrace that concept of the multi-door courthouse, and mediation since has evolved from unpaid volunteer work into a full-fledged profession with an hourly rate that is comparable



Don’t get mad. Get mediated.

Brenau’s chief conflict resolution expert lays out some good reasons to settle your disputes through mediation instead of filing lawsuits and initiating protracted legal battles:

Mediation is usually less expensive than traditional litigation

...

Lawsuits can last for years; mediation usually takes much less time

...

Those with disagreements control the process, starting with picking the mediator, framing the issues in dispute and agreeing with the outcome. In litigation, all control rests with the judge, whom you do not pick

...

Mediation values the relationship between the disputing parties. You don’t have to be adversarial. It’s just people with disagreements they can’t resolve on their own getting outside help

...

Mediation can lead to recognition of the validity of the positions of everyone involved

...

Mediation can empower those with disagreements to be able to settle future disputes

to traditional attorney work and climbing steadily.”

Today, in a similar spirit, the 9th Judicial Administrative District Office of Dispute Resolution, located just a couple of blocks from the Brenau campus, provides mediators for the Superior, State, Magistrate, Probate and Juvenile courts in 14 counties of north Georgia. It is overseen by Executive Director Valerie Lyle.

“The use of mediation and other ADR processes has been steadily increasing in Georgia for several years,” Lyle says. “Dr. Frank’s commitment, dedication and enthusiasm have been recognized not only in Georgia, but nationwide. His belief in ADR as a positive alternative to litigation is

evidenced in the number of his students who are entering the ADR field.”

MEDIATION IS MORE FLEXIBLE AND NEIGHBORLY than its ADR cousin, arbitration, in which both sides agree to follow and respect the legally binding decision of an arbitrator. In mediation, the parties are not required to reach a settlement, and they have the options of partial mediation and a rescission period – time to change their minds and go back to the drawing board, all under the cloak of confidentiality. Smith clarifies the difference in folksy terms: “In arbitration, someone makes a ruling, and what he or she says goes, but in mediation, you try to love ’em together. You try to get them to the point where they can shake hands.”

So mediators function not as sharks but as savvy crisis responders, with a mission of amicability that seems counter-intuitive to a system powered by discord. They defuse our workaday landmines – the vengeful ex, the neighbor with the problem dog – and strive to lower the collective blood pressure, to restore civility to civil actions. In the process they turn all of the lawyer jokes upside down.



“In traditional litigation, the goal is to discredit the other case, and by extension the other person,” says the soft-spoken Frank. “Whatever relationship that is there is not taken into account; it has no value, so it gets abused, if not destroyed. Mediation is preferable in situations involving ongoing, continuing relationships. In mediation, the relationship has great value, and it is used to reach a solution. If you have a child with the other person or live next door, you’re going to see that person again. So it’s in everybody’s interest to make peace.”

MEDIATION IS ABOUT FINDING COMMON GROUND, not waging a bloody turf war, so it requires diplomacy, equability and a cool brow – all strengths usually associated with women, Frank says.

“Any sociologist will tell you that women are better listeners than men,” he says. “The ability to listen is crucial, as are patience, perseverance, the ability to analyze and meet different needs at the same time, the ability to respond to expressions of emotion. Women better understand the emotional peace that comes with resolution.” (It follows, then, that Southern women – socially conditioned more rigorously than others for games of politesse – are the ninjas of mediation, but that is debatable.)

APPARENTLY MEDIATION IS READY FOR PRIME TIME – literally. Following the success of the 2005 movie, *Wedding Crashers*, loosely built around the “hobby” of two Washington D.C. divorce mediators, the No. 1 new cable TV drama this year is *Fairly Legal*, a USA Originals production starring former Dallas Cowboys cheerleader Sarah Shahi as fictional San Francisco mediator Kate Reed. Her adventures throw her in disputes over royalties between a rock star and former band mates, the host of a popular cooking show haggling over ingredients with a company mass producing his signature barbecue sauce recipe and other sagas that seem totally mediation worthy but which wind up encountering more plot twists and surprises that a collection of O. Henry short stories. And NBC rolled out the new David E. Kelly production, *Harry’s Law*, starring Academy Award winner Kathy Bates as fired big-time patent attorney Harriet Korn who sets up a neighborhood law practice in an upscale shoe store in a run-down Cincinnati neighborhood. Part of her work involves filling in for the absent Neighborhood Justice Center resolving a potentially bloody dispute between rival street gangs after a member on one gang trashed “the ride” of a member of the rival gang over some ex-girlfriend-related slight – a session that begins with Harry’s calling things to order by brandishing a .357 magnum at the thugs.

MEDIATION MAY BE FRAUGHT WITH HAIR-TRIGGER MOMENTS, but it is seldom as glamorous or thrill-packed as it is portrayed, practitioners say. It is, after all, about tamping down the drama.

“When *Wedding Crashers* came out, I spent a lot of time explaining that it wasn’t an accurate portrayal of the work,” says **Andi Gervais, WC’04**, with a laugh. “I haven’t watched *Fairly Legal*, but I assume it’s the same. Still, if these shows are stoking curiosity about what it means to be a mediator, people will ask questions and investigate. So I welcome the attention to the field, even if Hollywood gets some details wrong in the telling. The fact that mediation is popping up so much in pop culture

lately is a sure sign of its growing importance.”

Gervais majored in conflict resolution and then finished law school at Vanderbilt, building a resume of eclectic experiences along the way, including internships that took her to Sierra Leone to investigate war crimes for the United Nations, and to a mass grave in Bosnia for an international conference on genocide. Now she practices corporate finance law in Charlotte, N.C.

“No matter what kind of law you’re engaged in, you use the skills you learn in mediation and conflict resolution – the ability to look at an issue from different angles and think quickly and creatively about how to address it from each angle,” she says. “There is always someone on the other side of the table. It’s all about seeing what that party wants compared to what it needs and then getting everyone to the same page. That is a skill that you use in all aspects of your life, not just in your work – learning how to *accommodate* to achieve a goal.”

About 20 students currently are specializing in conflict resolution and legal studies at Brenau, but enrollment in that program is not a requirement to participate in tournaments.

“Many of our mediation students end up in law school, but not all of them,” Ken Frank says. “Also, we have students with different majors who compete, and they have different paths in mind. You can apply mediation skills in a variety of occupations, including the corporate world, social work and other human services and resources.”

Melissa Corral, WC’03, works as a provider relations and contracting representative for Northeast Georgia Health Partners, essentially serving as a go-between for providers and payers in the increasingly complex arena of health care.

“I feel truly lucky to have gotten this job right after I graduated because the director who hired noticed my background in conflict resolution and legal studies,” Corral says. “This job in health care is an unusual way to put that degree to work, but in fact, I use those skills every day. I listen to both sides, find a workable solution to satisfy everyone’s needs, and then set up processes so that problems with reimbursement don’t arise again. My responsibilities – contracting and coding – have increased, and I’m looking forward to all the networking opportunities that are opening up in my professional associations.”

Christina Poole, a junior from Covington, was named an “All-American Mediator” last fall. A political science major, she dreams of a career in statecraft on the world stage.

“I want to work in international relations as a political



Banford, left, gets credit for pressing as a student to start Brenau-hosted mediation tournament program and now returns as a judge to the intercollegiate competitions. Corral works in what is positioned to become the next great ADR arena: administration of health care reforms.



analyst,” she says. “I hope to investigate political changes and shifts in relations between the United States and other countries to predict the conflicts that potentially could arise. Should I predict an issue, I would work out a solution – or a multitude of them – and predict how each solution could impact future relations.”

Frank smiles. For him, mediation is more than just an exciting, new career path; it is a higher calling, a way to build community and add to the collective good. A Colorado native, he began exploring the specialty in the 1980s and taught at the University of Virginia before moving to Gainesville. He also works as trainer and consultant for organizations as diverse as the Atlanta History Center and the United Methodist Church.

“Mediation is growing precisely because people like Dr. Frank have been pushing it so passionately,” says Banford, another All-American who was inspired, during the debriefing on the plane ride back from the nationals in Chicago, to help Frank launch the Brenau tournaments as a sort of “warm-up.”

“Mediation is also very much a family affair for him,” she adds. Frank’s wife, Mary Lou, who holds a Ph.D. in counseling psychology and is the CEO of the Athens Community Career Academy, mediates for Georgia’s Board of Regents. Their daughters and son-in-law all help to coordinate and judge the tournaments at Brenau. “Blessed are the peacemakers,” Frank says. “And there are not enough of those out there. We need as many people as possible with the ability to resolve conflicts and restore peace – at all levels – in a society that is so beset with acrimony.”

The Golden ‘1’

ON ST. PATRICK’S DAY AFTERNOON IN THE LOBBY of the Burd Center for Performing Arts on the Gainesville campus, Brenau Provost Jim Southerland raised his glass in a toast appropriate for the occasion – not so much for the wearin’ of the green among the assembled faculty and staff but for the unfurling of the banner above their heads. The gold numeral “1” stood out against a black background under the university’s logo above the letters “S.A.C.S.” That morning marked the departure of the visiting team of higher education officials from several colleges and universities throughout the South who represented the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools. For three days the group combed through Brenau’s application for the 10-year reaffirmation of its accreditation. The group left with a



single recommendation: Brenau is growing academic programs so rapidly that it needs to adjust its policy to ensure timelier filing with the accreditation agency of documentation justifying substantive changes.

The committee’s recommendation by no means concludes the decennial review process. Several steps remain, including the SACS Commission on Colleges decision in June on the substantive change policy and the final review of the entire application before the commission considers its final action at its December meeting. However, Brenau President Ed Schrader expresses great pleasure at the passing of the St. Paddy’s Day milestone. “I have never seen fewer than 12 or 13 recommendations for improvements,” he says. “I thought Brenau would fare extremely well in this process, but I confess this was better than I expected. I won’t say it hasn’t happened before, but it is quite rare that an institution reaches this stage of the process with just one item on the check-list of things to fix.”

In addition to making only one recommendation for improvement, the visitors also had special praise for Brenau’s Quality Enhancement Plan, a five-year initiative to improve critical thinking skills among students. Schrader’s toast not only celebrated the milestone but also lauded the accomplishments of dozens of faculty and staff who for three years have been working on the application, including Southerland; Associate Vice President Heather Hartman, the chief SACS liaison; the SACS faculty coordinators Suzanne Erickson, associate dean of the College of Business & Mass Communications, and Lynn M. Jones, chair and professor in the interior design department; and those who spearheaded what is becoming a showcase QEP program – David Barnett, associate vice president for nonresidential programs and interim dean of the College of Education; Dean of Library Services Marlene Giguere; and Heather Casey, the political science professor who in the fall took the helm of the QEP initiative.

“These people and many others deserve all the credit,” says Schrader. “Had not these dedicated individuals made certain that we were prepared, things could have been much different.”

Made to order: Brenau lands provost with all the right stuff

On paper it seemed a daunting challenge: to find someone who has background and experience in single-gender education who can help preserve the integrity and improve the stature of a women’s college but who also has experience building coeducational adult learning undergraduate and graduate programs at multiple campus locations and online; someone steeped in liberal arts and professional preparation; someone experienced in the university classroom and in higher education administration; someone who is both chief advocate for and the respect-commanding and visionary leader of an eclectic faculty; one who “plays well with others” but is also not timid about standing ground when necessary; a person who honors tradition but embraces change.

But when Brenau began reviewing candidates for the university’s top academic post, one apparently came to the table with all the right stuff. On July 5 Nancy F. Krippel will join the Brenau administration as provost and vice president for academic affairs. She moves from Mary Baldwin College, where she is dean of adult and graduate studies and associate dean of the college. Krippel will replace Jim Southerland, a long-time Brenau faculty member who moved into the top academic role in January 2009 – temporarily delaying his move to semi-retirement to help steer the university through its decennial accreditation reaffirmation, which is now close to completion.

“Brenau University in its ethos and mission represents all the things that have appealed to me most in life and career,” Krippel says. “I feel that this is a good fit and that I will be able to do some good at the university.”

Selected after a national search and interviews by faculty, staff and administrators with finalists in March, Krippel earned her undergraduate degree in 1980 from single-gender Barat College in Lake Forest, Ill., and a Master of Arts and Ph.D. from Loyola University Chicago. She is a

professor of English, specializing in 18th century English novels. At Mary Baldwin this term she teaches a public communications/speech class. She describes her management style as “distinctly collaborative and transparent” and she reports that her principal at Oxford University, where she participated in a teaching exchange, referred to her as “incorrigibly cheerful.” Krippel and her husband, Frank,

have three grown children and six grandchildren.

Krippel has been at Mary Baldwin in Staunton, Va., since 2003. She is responsible for the leadership and management of adult degree programs, regional campuses and graduate programs. Previously she served as associate provost at Longwood University in Farmville, Va., and as



Krippel thought getting drafted from her faculty teaching duties for an administrative job at her alma mater would be a temporary thing. But it started her down the road to Brenau’s top academic post.

the top academic officer at her alma mater, Barat, where she also was on the faculty and director of the college’s study abroad program.

Krippel said she believes Brenau is on the right course in its Brenau 2025 strategic plan to double enrollment by 2025 primarily through graduate studies and programs aimed at nontraditional students – and through expansion of online academic programs. “Traditional colleges and universities strive to expand their horizons, and one way to do that is through online studies,” she says. “Brenau will not compete for students with [for-profit universities like] Strayer or Phoenix, but will surpass them in quality.

Brenau’s vision is professional preparation with the fundamentals of liberal arts at the core and, when you fold that philosophy and that 133-year tradition into online programs, there is no way for others to match it.”

Says Brenau President Ed Schrader, “Dr. Krippel is exactly the kind of inspiring and visionary leader essential to enable and support the ambitious pursuit of the university’s plan for academic excellence and international leadership during the next 20 years. She has significant experience in all academic areas and all academic platforms that are essential to Brenau’s future.”

“Dr. Krippel is exactly the kind of inspiring and visionary leader essential to enable and support the ambitious pursuit of the university’s plan for academic excellence and international leadership”

1970s – 1980s

India D. Lumsden, WC '76, and husband Thomas, who retired after 40 years of practicing medicine, celebrated their 63rd wedding anniversary Nov. 28. India got her nursing degree from Georgia Baptist Hospital School of Nursing in 1947 and did not join the Brenau family until she matriculated as a day student in the Women's College after her children were grown. She is now 85.

Middle School. She is married to Reginald Knight and they have three children.

Deborah R. Bailey, WC '83, has been named to the Georgia Board of Nursing by Gov. Nathan Deal. Bailey is the director of governmental relations for the Northeast Georgia Medical Center and Health System in Gainesville, Ga. She also serves on the Health Committee of the Georgia Chamber of Commerce, Georgia's Public Health Commission and Nursing



Alumnae of the **Brenau Academy classes of '74 and '76** in Atlanta, Ga., recently met for a luncheon at Marietta Diner. This group has met every few months for the past several years. Members enjoy their time together and welcome new class members to join in the fun. From left to right: (back) are **Sandy Wiggs, A '74**, **Marilyn Bagen Sager, A '74** (middle), **Nan Jolly Moore, A '74**, **Cherryl Norris McGinnis, A '74**, **Lisa Chisholm McKleskey, A '76**, **Cathy Morgan Chapman, A '74**, **Kay Edwards Schnack, A '74**, **Debbie Inglesby VanBrackle, A '74** and (front) Katelyn McGinnis (Cherryl Norris McGinnis' daughter).

Rev. Debra Knight, WC '80, the pastor of St. Luke African Methodist Episcopal Church in Barwick, Ga., delivered the celebratory message for the eighth annual Sarah E. Daniels Black History Program on March 21, 2010, at Williams Tabernacle Christian Methodist Episcopal Church in Moultrie, Ga. Knight is employed by Thomas County Board of Education and is the principal at Thomas County

Education Study Group. The author of several publications on psychiatric nursing and nursing practices is also an associate professor of nursing at Brenau.

Jerry Modena, EWC '86, who is serving in his third term as sheriff of Bibb County, Ga., was been named Public Servant of the Year for 2010 by *The Informer* newspaper. Modena retired from the Bibb County Sheriff's Office in



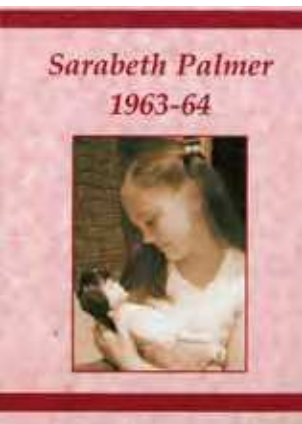
Louise Voelker, WC '77, has been named broker-in-charge of the Carolina One Real Estate office in Goose Creek, S.C., near Charleston. She and her husband, Ed, return to the Charleston area after living in Wilmington, N.C.



Janie Bryant, A '85, the Emmy-winning costume designer for the hit TV series *Mad Men*, offers readers fashion tips on how to find their own "leading lady style" in a new book, *The Fashion File*, published by Hachette late last year and available in bookstores everywhere and online.

1994 with the rank of major, after 30 years of service. He was then elected sheriff of Bibb County and took office in January 2001.

Valerie Hegwood, WC '89, a freelance writer living in Dalton, Ga., has added the online publication suite101.com to her portfolio. She has published more than 500 articles across



Tina Archer James, WC '87, of Evans, Ga., is proud to announce the publication of her first book, *Sarabeth Palmer 1963-64*. It is a Christian historical fiction novel for girls 8 to 13 years old. The story follows young Sarabeth through her 5th grade year of school and includes references to the assassination of President John F. Kennedy and the 1964 Winter Olympics featuring figure skater Peggy Fleming. Sarabeth's faith and trust in God grows as she sees her parents turn to God for help in difficult times. She learns what it means to be a true friend. Copies of the book can be ordered at tinajamesnet.ipage.com for \$10.

the Internet and has published many articles in regional print magazines.

1990s

Dawn Hudgens Richards, EWC '96, '97, '06, has been named 2011-12 Teacher of the Year in Hall County, Ga. She is a life science teacher at Chestatee Academy of Inquiry and Talent. She was one of 33 teachers nominated for a chance to compete in the Georgia Teacher of the Year competition in February. Richards began teaching at Chestatee 12 years ago and also spent three years at North Hall Middle School – she's exclusively taught seventh-graders. But that's OK, she



Cristin Elizabeth Kelly, WC '00, recently moved to Sydney, Australia. In October 2010 she married Neb Jovicic in a ceremony at McKell Park overlooking Sydney Harbor. She is currently employed by Energy Australia and volunteers for the Sydney Fringe Festival.

told *The Times* newspaper in Gainesville. "They're funny; they get your jokes. They make jokes and they're smart," she said. "They ask intelligent questions."

Michelle Whitmire, EWC '84, '04, a second-grade teacher in Holly Springs, Ga., has been selected as the Supervisory Teacher of the Year by the Georgia Association of Teacher Educators. The award recognizes classroom teachers who have been successful mentors to student teachers. Whitmire earned a master's degree in early childhood education and an education specialist in curriculum and educational leadership from Brenau. Her mother, Linda Lawson, was a longtime teacher at Holly Springs Elementary, and the two taught together there for 16 years. Now Michelle's daughter, Beth Cornelison, is a third-year teacher at Holly Springs Elementary.

Kim Vier, EWC '99, has been named principal at Pine Street School in Conyers, Ga., where she began her career. Vier has a master's degree in early childhood education from Brenau. She was Rockdale County's Teacher of the Year in 2002.

2000s

Melinda Wyatt Cooper, WC '00, of Smyrna, Ga., married Jeremy Ian Cooper on Oct. 10 at her family's home in Powder Springs, Ga. Melinda and Jeremy met in the 4th grade and reconnected through Facebook. Women's College attendants were **Crystal Ledford, WC '01**, **Anna Finkel, WC '01**, **Penny Garner Fauscett, WC '02**, **Suzanne Griswold, WC '97**, **Bonnie Bartlett Espy, WC '00** and **Jessica Clevenger, WC '01**.

Virginia M. Singer, WC '00, of Las Vegas, Nev., received a doctor of nursing from Chatham University in Pittsburgh, Pa., in December.

Mark Smith, EWC '05, began his career teaching students at Woodstock Middle School in Woodstock, Ga. Now, he is the principal there. Prior to assuming the role at the beginning of the 2010-11 academic year, Smith was a teacher-on-special-assignment for math at the school district's central office. He earned a master's from Brenau in middle grades math and language arts. He lives in Canton, Ga., with his wife, Katie, and their son, Noah, 2.



Cessna Veeris, WC '02, of Tilburg, The Netherlands, and husband Rollis Kleinmoedig announce the birth of a daughter, Chloe Teresa Cessna Kleinmoedig, on Dec. 15. The baby weighed 5 pounds, 6 ounces, and measured 18 inches.



Mary Elizabeth Williams, WC '06, of Sugar Hill, Ga., married Eric Gregory Warren of Gulfport, Miss., on June 19 at the Taylor-Grady House in Athens, Ga. Bridesmaids included her Alpha Chi Omega sisters **Jenna Knight, WC '06**, **Kate Levin, WC '04**, **Jenny Dunn, WC '08** and **Cynthia Roland, WC '07**.



Ashley Morgan Carter, EWC '09, who for more than three years was health careers coordinator at Foothills Area Health Education Center in Gainesville, Ga., was promoted to preceptor coordinator in November. The job entails providing community-based learning opportunities and clinical experiences for health professions students training within both the rural and urban underserved communities of northeast Georgia. She is also working on an M.B.A. in health care management at Brenau. And, on April 10, 2010, she married Dustin Carter in Cape San Blas, Fla.

Dana Theresa Johnson Faltot, WC '08, of Carrollton, Texas, recently ran in her first full marathon with husband, Rich. "It was an amazing cold and windy day, and one of the more challenging things I have done," she says. "I never imagined that I

would ever complete a marathon. I am currently training for my second marathon in Savannah, Ga.," later this year.

Derrick Smith, EWC '09, and **Yasmine Signe (Key'aira) Lockett, WC '08**, are both members of the 36-year-old Dallas Black

Dance Theatre company in Texas. The contemporary modern dance company consists of 12 professional, full-time dancers who perform a mixed repertoire of modern, jazz, ethnic and spiritual works by nationally and internationally known choreographers.

April Johnson, WC '09, is one of six to receive Gamma Sigma Alpha graduate school scholarships for the 2010-11 academic year. The Brenau biology major is currently pursuing a Master of Arts in Teaching, Science Education, at the University of Georgia.

Somoye Thompson, WC '10, took a job in December as patient access specialist at Gwinnett Medical Center in Lawrenceville, Ga. She is looking forward to graduate school since part of her benefits package in the new job includes grad school tuition reimbursement.

UnCLASSified

Gladys Wyant, executive director and development director for the Arts Council of Hall County in Gainesville, Ga., for the past 27 years, has been appointed to the Georgia Council for the Arts by Gov. Nathan Deal. Wyant graduated from Kennesaw State University, but she's taken a number of classes at Brenau. The Arts Council and university are so entwined that when a northwest Georgia newspaper published a press release that erroneously identified her as a Brenau alum, nobody blinked.

Atlanta Alumni

The Metro Atlanta Alumni Leadership Team, comprising Brenau EWC and Online graduates, includes Monique Jones (Education), Debra Frazier (HR/Business), Cina McDowell (Education), Michael McIntyre (Education) and Dr. Sam Sanders (Business). Graduates living in the Atlanta area interested in joining are encouraged to contact Wanda Saed at wsaed@brenau.edu or 770-446-2900. The group is trying to make contact with all alums in metro Atlanta.



The Winter Spring 2011 issue of *Georgia INDESIGN* magazine, a publication of the Georgia Chapter of the American Society of Interior Designers, might well be called "the Brenau edition." In addition to a nice advertisement promoting Brenau's interior design programs, Brenau ID alumni, faculty and staff were featured throughout the magazine – starting with the table of contents, which points out that **Ann Winiewski, EWC '98**, is president-elect of the organization. She is slated to take the helm officially in October. **Margaret Gilchrist Serrato, WC '77**, who is on faculty and the ID advisory board, had a featured article in the magazine about the use of open space in office design to increase productivity and encourage innovation. And, in a photo spread from the organization's 2010 winter carnival we find photos of Wisniewski as well as **Sandy McGowan**, the North Atlanta/Norcross campus ID coordinator, and **Teresa Sword**, a member of the ID advisory council. Pictured above are, from left, **Cynthia Bertoria, BFA/MID '10** and now working on an M.F.A. in interior design at Brenau, **Jerry Pode**, an adjunct faculty member, and student **Natalie Graves**, who is slated to receive a B.F.A./Master of Interior Design this year.

Brenau’s new alumni director brings wide range of higher education experience

Natalie Walker, a Smyrna, Ga., resident with 13 years’ experience with public, private and single-gender institutions, has been named Brenau University’s director of alumni relations. She will oversee programs related to about 18,000 graduates of various academic segments, including the Women’s College, Brenau Academy and coeducational undergraduate and graduate programs of various Brenau campuses and on-line. She replaces **Melissa Gardner Edge, WC ’02**, who left Brenau in January after six years, first as a development officer and then for almost five as head of Brenau’s alumni office. Edge currently is assistant to the campus pastor at Buckhead Church in Atlanta.



Walker graduated with a B.A. in psychology from Agnes Scott College in Decatur, Ga., which with Brenau is among the 53 remaining women’s colleges in the United States, four of them in Georgia. She began her career at the Georgia Tech Alumni Association in 1997 serving as an assistant in the alumni clubs program, assistant director of annual giving and event manager and from 2007 to 2010 was alumni relations director for Life University in Marietta, Ga. Most recently, however, she was a contract consultant for the Charleston, S.C. software company, Blackbaud, Inc., whose Raiser’s Edge product is Brenau’s strategic tool for managing contact information and data for all its alumni and development relationships.

“Natalie comes to us with a wonderful vision for the alumni relations office at Brenau and for enhancing the university’s relationships with graduates of all its educational platforms,” says Matt Thomas, vice president of external relations. “As an Agnes Scott graduate, Natalie also has a clear understanding of what it is to be an alumna of a women’s college and the special experience that a single-gender institution provides.”

Walker’s experience also includes extensive work with other large and small higher education institutions and with two high-visibility not-for-profit organizations in the Atlanta area. In 2000 she returned to her alma mater for a two-year stint as major gifts officer. She also spent a year at Emory University as development director for the Department of Human Genetics. Her experience includes fundraising roles for the Alliance Theatre Company in Atlanta, where she coordinated all aspects of a \$4 million individual giving campaign, and the Cobb County, Ga., Habitat for Humanity, where she developed a \$1 million comprehensive fundraising program. In addition she has performed volunteer service with the Atlanta-based Dad’s Garage Theatre improv company and the Georgia chapter of the Sierra Club.

“I’m very excited about coming to Brenau,” said Walker. “It’s a great liberal arts institution. I’m particularly a fan of women’s colleges because of my own experience with a woman’s college.”



Memorial Scholarship honors Lisha Carnes Page, WC ’81

A group comprising former colleagues, friends and family members established a scholarship fund to honor the late Brenau University alumna **Lisha Carnes Page, WC ’81**, who died at age 50 in June after a battle with cancer. Page grew up in Hall County, Ga., graduated from Johnson High School and, after getting a nursing degree at Brenau, worked in the emergency room at Northeast Georgia Medical Center in Gainesville, at Kaiser Permanente and for Visiting Nurse of Atlanta, a home health care and hospice service provider. At the time of her death, the Zeta Tau Alpha sorority member was employed as a county school nurse in the Gwinnett County Public School System. Her colleagues there, other nurses in the county, and Marty Page, her husband of 27 years, collaborated on the initiative to create the scholarship fund.

The scholarship is intended to benefit undergraduate nursing students who embody Lisha Page’s leadership skills and high level of involvement in community and campus activities. The need-based scholarship targets top nursing students with ties to public schools in Gwinnett and Hall counties.

“For Lisha nursing was not a profession, but a mission,” said Barbara Johnson, one of 14 Gwinnett school nurses with whom Lisha worked. “Lisha had a gift of service.”

Contributions to the Lisha Carnes Page Annual Scholarship Fund can be submitted through the GCPS Foundation Fund, Inc., 437 Old Peachtree Road, NW, Suwanee, Ga. 30024, www.gcps-foundation.org, telephone 678-301-7287, or through the Brenau University Alumni Scholarship Fund, 500 Washington St. SE, Gainesville, Ga. 30501, www.brenau.edu/gift, telephone 770-534-6160.



The Cincinnati Enquirer

Xi Wang, WC ’07, was profiled in a feature story in The Cincinnati Enquirer prior to her performance in the role of Liù in a concert presentation of Puccini’s Turandot at the University of Cincinnati’s College-Conservatory of Music where she is working on a master’s degree. The opera set in legendary Peking was a joint production of the Cincinnati conservatory and its Chinese partner. The male lead performer was Wang Feng, a guest artist from Central Opera, Beijing. After graduating from Brenau, Xi Wang studied and performed at the San Francisco Conservatory and was a semifinalist in the national auditions for the Metropolitan Opera in New York. She plans to return to San Francisco this summer as a member of the Merola Opera Program, a prestigious training ground for young artists. Its alumni include stars such as Deborah Voigt, Dolora Zajick and Thomas Hampson.

News about you!

We want to know about your success. Please send us high resolution photos and news about your career, family or other events for publication in the Class Notes section of Brenau Window. You may email your news to: Natalie Walker, Director of Alumni Relations at nwalker4@brenau.edu, call 770-534-6164 or go to <http://alum.brenau.edu/classnotes>. Also please update us on addresses, marital status, employment and other basic information.

IN MEMORY

Marjorie Tumlin Haggard, WC '38, A '34, Coral Gables, Fla., died Dec. 17, 2008

Clara Mathews, WC '39, Harlingen, Texas, died Nov. 26

Lucille Schoenberg Greenly, WC '40, Beaufort, S.C., died Dec. 7

Marie Cunningham Lanford, WC '41, Winston Salem, N.C., died Dec. 27

Elizabeth Boswell Rudolph, WC '43, Atlanta, Ga., died Feb. 19

Mary Mac Kear Ritch, A '47, Kinston, N.C., died Dec. 1

Helen Lynch Turner, WC '51, Elberton, Ga., died June 22.

Kazuko Uyehara Vance, WC '53, Washington, D.C., died June 9.

Patricia Bell Stone, WC '70, Houston, Texas, died July 18.

Mary Shepard Yearta, WC '70, Rock Hill, S.C., died June 8.

Gay E. Mortimer, WC '83, Blue Ridge, Ga., died Jan. 6

Roger Milliken, honorary doctorate (1985), Spartanburg, S.C., died Dec. 30

DONALD B. “D.B.” ATKINS, SR.

Lt. Col. Donald B. Atkins, Sr., the retired military officer who broke the sound barrier as an F-86 Sabre Jet pilot and served as a member of the U.S. occupation forces in Germany at the end of World War II before helping Brenau establish a beachhead with its Augusta campus in the 1990s, died Jan. 12 at age 84. He retired from the U.S. Army with more than 31 years of service, which included membership in “The Mach Buster’s Club,” created for those who piloted one of America’s first jet fighter planes faster than the speed of sound. He completed two tours of duty in Vietnam and served as provost marshal at military bases at home and abroad. After he retired from the Army, he served until 1991 as Brenau’s program director on its campus in Augusta, then located on post at Ft. Gordon. Atkins for 16 years, until 2005 also held elected office as Hephzibah, Ga., city commissioner.

ONE FOR THE BOOKS

HOMESPUN GENIUS

A weaver and collector of textiles, **AlJean Dorsey Thompson** was cut from a different, fine-spun cloth. She has trekked into remote villages from Tajikistan to Ecuador to seek out works of artistry threaded with history and meaning. “A gut feeling always guides me,” says **Thompson, WC’49**, who grew up in Gainesville, Ga. Like a Southern belle version of Marco Polo, she sips tea with tribal leaders, haggles gently with artisans and returns home to Georgia with storied, spice-scented treasures to study, muse upon and share.

“I think AlJean could literally smell fabric pieces from across the sea as they were uncured,” says Carey Pickard, former director of the Tubman African American Museum in Macon, Ga., where Thompson chaired the collection committee. “Truthfully, I can imagine that she may have even tasted a few because she uses all of her senses to better understand the world around us, noticing details the rest of us miss. If the mark of a great mind is to be open and curious about new things, then AlJean Thompson is a genius.”

In 2005, she donated 77 pieces to Brenau, exhibited as *Global Threads: The AlJean Thompson Textile Collection*, which includes such exotica as Uzbekhi earrings made from human hair; an Afghan wedding robe, circa 1900, embroidered with the Tree of Life; a bridal hat filigreed with Cyrillic writing and dangling Russian coins from the 1940s; and a Gypsy coverlet coruscated with makeshift sequins of mica and the iridescent wings of insects.

Once, in the Bouyie Minority Tribal area of southwest China, Thompson spied an alluring cuff piece. “When the weaver offered to sell it, I quickly said, ‘Yes!’ and several members of the weaver’s family gathered round,” she recalls. “As I started to hand her the money, a young man, presumably her son, reached out and took it, making me quite angry, but the interpreter said, ‘Always the man handles the money.’ He said that the sum I paid her – I think about \$50 – was more than the man would make in a year as a peasant farmer. I look at these pieces and see the long, painstaking hours of talent that women have invested. I see their sense of pride.”

Recently, Thompson’s appreciation for life’s big tapestry prompted her to make the first donation toward scholarships for Brenau’s first doctoral degree program. “I’m especially



Maryann Bates

excited about the doctoral program in nursing,” she says. “The graduate school will help students ask and answer questions while making all sorts of connections with the joy of serendipity. I strongly encourage them to take chances in life and to remember that we all owe a debt to this school – that someone came along before us and provided a marvelous opportunity that we, in turn, are responsible for passing along to the next generation.” So the shuttle will keep spinning its colorful skeins.

Thompson learned her way around a loom from her grandmother and then earned a bachelor’s degree in home economics at Brenau. She worked in that role at Georgia Power for several years and married William Thompson, an architect who transformed the skyline of Atlanta with his work on the iconic IBM building, UPS headquarters and other landmarks. The couple put down roots in Macon and brought up four children. She eventually resumed her weaving and pursued her free-range adventures in aesthetics, touring ox-cart destinations as a Tubman curator and a member of the Textile Museum of Washington.

“I figured London and Paris could wait,” she says. “As long as my knees were holding up, I wanted to explore the developing world, where these talents that are passed from one generation to the next at your grandmother’s knee are still preserved. Women working in the drabest circumstances are the ones producing pieces of the most startling beauty.”

It takes gloriously variegated forms in its warp and woof, she says, but one bemusing element seems universal: “All cultures seem to prize the color of hot pink.”

– Candice Dyer



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ZTA celebrates its 100th year at Brenau

The Zeta Tau Alpha chapter Omicron at Brenau University celebrates its 100 years as at the university's Women's College during Alumnae Reunion and weekend, April 15-17. The festivities begin Friday, April 15, with a reception at the Hilton Garden Inn at 7-9 p.m. On Saturday at 10:30 a.m. there will be a ribbon-cutting for the chapter archives exhibit on display at the Trustee Library. Following the "May Day" festivities, the chapter hosts an open house at 211 Prior St., the ZTA house, followed by a gala at the Quinlan Visual Arts Center in Gainesville starting at 6:30 p.m. Festivities conclude Sunday following the 10:30 senior initiation into the alumnae world at the ZTA house and the 11 a.m. brunch at Hopkins Dining Hall. Brenau ZTA president Deidre Stinnett says that throughout the weekend chapter members will collect donations to benefit the Zeta Tau Alpha Foundation, which sponsors scholarships, fraternity programming, and the breast cancer education and awareness "THINK PINK!" initiative. For additional information, e-mail omicron100@comcast.net or visit the Centennial Website at www.omicron100.com

2011 ALUMNAE REUNION AND

May Day Weekend



CROWNING QUEENS

April 15-16, 2011

Classes celebrating reunion years
will include the classes of the
1930s, 1940s, 1950s and 1960

BRENAU BARBECUE CHAMPIONSHIP

SATURDAY MAY 21, 2011

BRENAU UNIVERSITY, GAINESVILLE, GA
10 A.M. ~ 6 P.M. ~ \$5

FRIDAY NIGHT PREVIEW PARTY - MAY 20



The John Jarrard Foundation Stage presents music by
The Musselwhites, Kimberly Clark & Friends and special guests
Gates open at 6 p.m. ~ \$10

www.brenau.edu/bbq

