

Fire Damages Barry Hall; Accidental Electrical Overload Was Cause



Offices on the lower level of Barry Hall, including the Business Office and Student Financial Assistance, suffered heavy damage in the accidental fire.

AN EARLY MORNING fire caused significant damage to the lower level of Barry Hall on January 24 and resulted in the temporary relocation of its administrative offices across campus.

Memphis firefighters and CBU's Department of Campus Safety responded quickly and in force and extinguished a fire that appeared to be the result of an accidental electrical failure or power overload. The Business Office and Office of Student Financial Assistance suffered heavy damage, but no vital records were lost. Other offices on the lower level—including the Registrar, Human Resources, and Academic Services—suffered water and smoke damage.

Student support offices were quickly relocated to temporary space in Buckman Hall and Plough Library, and services were only briefly interrupted during the morning hours following the fire.

Although the upper floors of the building were not damaged by the fire, offices and services on those lev-

els were also relocated due to the permeation of smoke and residue. The first floor houses the offices of the President (which actually did suffer some slight fire damage), Advancement, Administration and Finance, Communications and Marketing, and St. Joseph Chapel. The second floor houses offices for the School of Arts faculty and the Career Center.

Barry Hall, built in 1949, was the third building constructed on the Parkway campus. It was formerly known simply as the "Administration Building" and was officially named in honor of philanthropist Edward F. Barry in 1985.

Belfor, a company that specializes in disaster relief and rehabilitation projects, was hired to manage the cleanup and repair of the building. Most offices on the upper floors were able to return by late February. Offices and services on the lower level were still dislocated at press time in mid-March as reconstruction continued. ■

Trustees Endorse Strategic Plan for University

THE CHRISTIAN BROTHERS University Board of Trustees endorsed and approved the university Strategic Plan at its February meeting. That endorsement is a timely tie-in to the review and updating of the university's master plan of facilities and grounds that is also part of the overall strategic planning process.

"We are glad to have the trustees' full support of this important strategic planning initiative," said Dr. Tony Aretz, academic vice president. "The master planning process, when finished, will launch our fund raising efforts for campus upgrades and new facilities, including a new student life center and remodeled residence halls."

"The intention of this Strategic Plan is to provide a roadmap for actions," trustee and former interim president H. Lance Forsdick said in the Fall 2005 *Bell Tower*. "This is not a book to be completed and filed."

"We are also focusing on several new initiatives to help attract new students, including the new online Master of Science in Engineering Management program and a possible East Memphis location that would provide facilities for the Evening Program and graduate classes," Aretz said.

The Strategic Plan opens with a vision statement: *"Christian Brothers University seeks to be the finest Catholic university in the South whose graduates will be distinguished by professional excellence, leadership and ethical character."*

It also includes a revised mission statement for the university: *"Christian Brothers University is a private, Catholic, comprehensive university committed to preparing students of all faiths and backgrounds to excel in their professional and public lives by providing challenging educational opportunities in the arts, business, engineering, the sciences, and teacher education."*

Other core statements and values in the document include a statement of Catholic identity: *"We are a Catholic university in the Lasallian tradition giving individual attention so each student matures intellectually, morally, and spiritually. We provide an inter-faith educational experience grounded in the highest ideals of private and public virtue that form a foundation for ethical living. Recognizing our common humanity, we encourage students of all faiths to practice and grow in their faith tradition by providing both Catholic and ecumenical religion courses and campus ministry programs."*

Our desire is to inspire each person in the Christian Brothers University community to a life of service to God, their communities, and the world."

The plan also sets forth the core values of the university as: *Faith, Service, and Community*. The university's Lasallian educational principles are declared to be: *Respect for each individual as a unique person; an excellent education; a spirit of community; a Christian perspective; a life of service; and a quest for justice and peace.*

The Plan also refines a set of strategic goals and critical goal strategies that the board deems achievable by 2012. These goals are:

- The University will be recognized as one of the top five Catholic and faith-based institutions in the South in the areas of liberal arts, business, engineering, education, and the sciences.
- The University will have the reputation for providing challenging and supportive education programs focused on student success. Accordingly, we will become a leader in the south in student retention, graduation, and employment (including graduate and professional schools) upon graduation.
- The University's campus at Parkway and Central will be recognized as a gracious and welcoming metropolitan campus environment that enhances the aesthetics of the local community.
- Traditional student enrollment will grow to 1,300 day students. In addition, our non-traditional evening program will enroll students taking 13,500 credit hours and our graduate programs will enroll students taking 8,200 credit hours.
- We will develop and deliver online programs and hybrid courses (i.e., combined classroom/online format) to grow our non-traditional undergraduate and graduate programs by \$2.1 million. Our first program in this effort, the new online MSEM program, will enroll 50 students from outside the local area.
- The University will be financially stronger. In order to achieve the goals articulated in this plan, we will increase our net cash flow available for debt service and capital improvements to \$3 million, double our endowment to \$50 million and raise necessary capital investment funds.

An abbreviated, public version of the Strategic Plan has been made available on the CBU web site at www.cbu.edu/About/strategic_plan.html. ■

Christian Brothers University seeks to be the finest Catholic university in the South whose graduates will be distinguished by professional excellence, leadership and ethical character. — Vision statement from the CBU Strategic Plan

CBU Takes the Lead on Local Tax Assistance Program



Above: Volunteers at CBU's Tax Assistance program at Memphis Catholic High School included Ross Harris ('93), Michael Mathis, Don LaCroix, Kim Bailey ('95), Lana Yoshii ('87), and Rhett Butler (current CBU student). Above right: Kim Bailey calculates a few deductions.

AFTER SIX YEARS of heading up a Tax Assistance Program site in Memphis, Franklin "Pepper" Allen approached Christian Brothers University to take over the program that provides free tax assistance to the working poor under the VITA umbrella. "Many of the key volunteers were affiliated with the University so it made good sense to turn the program over to the ones who knew the operation" said Allen, a managing director at Morgan Keegan & Co., Inc.

Ross Harris ('93) executive vice president of AIMS Logistics, was a volunteer from inception and agreed to take the lead in terms of operations; Shawna Engel ('93) director of annual giving at CBU, consented to handle volunteer support and public relations. Pepper Allen and his wife, Marilyn, were instrumental in making sure that this transition year went well. The program remained at Memphis Catholic High School, and 120 returns were filed for the two Saturdays (one was cancelled due to inclement weather). Filers had an average annual income of \$15,567, and their average return was \$1,962.

"The effort is completely driven by the time and talent of the volunteers," Harris said. "The vast majority of the volunteers come from the CBU alumni community and the Memphis Catholic community

at-large. I have to say that our tax experts are amazing. They donate critical time right at the beginning of tax season, their busiest time of the year, to help the less fortunate."

New volunteers are always welcome—especially those who have experience. Current volunteers cover a wide variety of professions and undergraduate majors; many have been involved with the program from the beginning (which tells you that the group likes to have fun too).

Sponsors for this year included AIMS Logistics, CBU, Memphis Catholic High School, Morgan Keegan & Co., Gibson's Donuts, and Ernst & Young. To volunteer for next year's Tax Assistance Program and/or to become a sponsor, email alumni@cbu.edu or call Shawna Engel at 901-321-3254.

In addition to Harris, Engel, and the Allens, this year's volunteers included Jane Antrobus, Kimberly Bailey ('95), Burton Bridges ('09), Rhett Butler, Marla Erickson, Rick Erickson ('90), Dwain Harris, Mary Agnes Harris, Ross Harris ('93), Shonna Harris ('98), Don LaCroix, Chris Lynn ('99), Bill Mathis, Michael Mathis, Shawn Rhoades, Kim Schwartz ('93), John Threadgill ('88), Tom Whitman, John Wrigley ('91), and Lana Yoshii ('87). ■

National Alumni Board Welcomes Seven New Members

THE NATIONAL ALUMNI BOARD of Christian Brothers University welcomes seven new members to its board of directors. These new members join current members Maureen Collins ('01), Tom Fehrmann ('77), Barry Gee ('94), president Jeff Old ('94), Nikki Strong ('95), Julie Terry ('84), and Clay Tidwell ('00).

Monroe Ballard Jr. (Information Technology Management, '99) is a self-employed multi-media engineer. His business, Optimum Studios, has designed some of the most popular internet sites in the Memphis area. Ballard is a member of the Black Business Directory and is youth director and assistant chairman of the board at Friendship Church of the Nazarene. He and his wife, Janice, live in Bartlett.

Mark E. Baricos (Accounting, '02) is a certified public accountant currently with Thompson Dunavant as a senior tax associate. A native New Orleanian, Baricos decided to stay in Memphis and now lives in Midtown. He had a "fantastic experience while attending CBU, and [is] now very excited about having the chance to give something back."

Carmen Coleman (Human Development '01, MSEL, '05) is a fourth-grade math teacher at Snowden School where she also coaches cheerleading and assists with track programs. She is on several committees of the Memphis Education Association and remains involved with the Memphis Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority. Active at Mt. Vernon Baptist Church, Coleman is secretary of the facilities and properties committee and member of the hospitality ministry. She lives in Whitehaven with her four-

year-old foster poodle, Rocko.

David K. Hanson (English, '93) is owner and president of Star Control Services, a company he started with his father. David is a past-president of CBU's Tau Kappa Epsilon, Pi Epsilon chapter and remains active with the alumni chapter. He and his wife, Christina, live in Midtown Memphis.

Samantha Siebert Hood (English for Corporate Communications, '01) is a communications specialist in public relations at International Paper. She and her husband, Jason, live in Midtown Memphis and are expecting the birth of their first daughter in May.

Dr. Bobby Myers (Biology, '98) is a chiropractor at James Chiropractic and serves as the team chiropractor for the Memphis RiverKings. He is a member of the 2006 Class of Leadership Memphis and remains active with members of his fraternity, Omega Psi Phi. He lives in East Memphis.

Cynthia Y. Thompson (MBA, '00) is the human resources administrator at Northrop Grumman. A past member of the CBU Board of Trustees, Thompson is also currently the president of the local chapter of the Society for Human Resource Management, the author of the monthly "Working Woman" column for Memphis Woman magazine, and a part-time CBU faculty member. She and her husband, Charles, have three children and one grandchild. They live in East Memphis and attend Christ United Methodist Church.

CBU has almost 10,000 alumni worldwide with more than 4,000 in the greater Memphis area. ■



Mark Baricos ('02)



Samantha Siebert Hood ('01)

Commencement Ceremony Moves to Convention Center

THE 2006 COMMENCEMENT exercises are scheduled for 6:00 p.m. on May 12 in the East Hall of Cook Convention Center in downtown Memphis.

After a dozen years of holding graduation at the Mid-South Coliseum, the university decided to move the ceremony for several reasons. The uncertain future of the Coliseum was a primary consideration for the organizers of the event.

"We were also looking for a venue in which we could project a more dignified and properly academic image for the ceremony," said Sarah McDaniel, director of student activities and chair of the CBU Commencement Committee. "Perhaps moving the

ceremony out of a sports arena will help remind everyone that, while it's a reason to celebrate, it is also a very serious and meaningful occasion."

She said the committee was also pleased with its freedom to customize the convention center hall for the exercises.

Each graduate will be issued ten tickets for family members, along with two parking passes.

The Senior Picnic, sponsored by the Alumni Association, will take place in Boshwit Courtyard on May 10 following a 5:00 p.m. graduation rehearsal. The Baccalaureate service will be held on May 11 at 7:00 p.m. in the CBU Theatre.

Student Organization Raises \$65,000 for St. Jude

CBU STUDENTS RAISED more than \$65,000 for St. Jude Children's Research Hospital through their 2005-06 "Up 'til Dawn" campaign, more than doubling last year's total.

Up 'til Dawn (UTD) is a student-led, student-run fundraising organization that is hosted by more than 150 colleges and universities nationwide. CBU's chapter was first organized in Fall 2003.

More than 200 participants at CBU were broken into teams of six and participated in a variety of fundraising activities between August and February. Some of those activities included letter-writing campaigns, bake sales, car washes, and "canning" at local intersections, malls, and football games.

As a part of Homecoming festivities, Up 'til Dawn hosted its second Homecoming 5K to benefit the hospital, enlisting more than 175 runners in a race around

midtown. "It was a fantastic way to bring the CBU faculty, staff, students, alumni, and surrounding community together to kick-off the Homecoming day, said Megan Rice ('07), UTD's external assistant director. "We hope for even more runners next year."

The students also sponsor a finale event, a 12-hour celebration for the teams reaching and exceeding their fundraising goals. The participants literally stay "up 'til dawn" in honor of the patients treated at St. Jude.

St. Jude Children's Research Hospital is a research, treatment, and education center where its physicians and scientists have succeed in rewriting the medical textbooks that categorized many diseases as "incurable." Danny Thomas founded St. Jude in 1962. His vision has turned into the single largest center in the United States for the treatment of pediatric cancer and other childhood catastrophic diseases. ■

Are You Up to the Challenge?

CHARLES A FRUEAUFF FOUNDATION ENDOWED ENGINEERING SCHOLARSHIP

THE SCHOOL OF ENGINEERING has some exciting news and an opportunity for you to help our engineering students.

For many years, the Charles A. Frueauff Foundation, a private family foundation in Little Rock, has provided annual scholarships for engineering students at CBU. This year, seven students received scholarships totaling \$40,000.

Additionally, the Frueauff Foundation will now contribute up to \$5,000 to start an endowed engineering scholarship. The foundation is challenging our engineering alums and friends to match their gift, dollar for dollar, by contributing to this new endowed scholarship. By joining with the Frueauff Foundation, your gift will help CBU provide scholarships to worthy engineering students for years to come.

GREGORY RAYMOND GADOMSKI TRIANGLE SCHOLARSHIP

RICHARD T. GADOMSKI, a Class of '62 engineering alumnus, has issued a challenge of a different sort.

Gadomski recently established the Gregory Raymond Gadomski Triangle Scholarship. The scholarship award remembers his late son, Greg Gadomski, who earned an undergraduate degree in 1986 and a master's degree in 1995 from CBU. Greg was also a member of the Pi-Epsilon chapter of Tau Kappa Epsilon.

The scholarship will be given to one or more incoming CBU students who have demonstrated outstanding academic and leadership achievements. Gadomski will match all gifts dollar-for-dollar made to the Triangle Scholarship by TKE active and alumni members by December 31, 2006—up to \$1 million.

To contribute to either challenge, checks should be made payable to Christian Brothers University and designated for the Charles A. Frueauff Endowed Scholarship or the Gregory Raymond Gadomski Triangle Scholarship. Donors may also make a gift at CBU's secure online form at <https://secure.cbu.edu/alumni/gift>. For more information, contact the CBU Advancement Office at (901) 321-3270. ■