

Spring 2009 Edition



CROWDER COLLEGE

a bi-annual publication for Crowder College friends & alumni



"To be ethical is to be responsible."
- James B. Tatum

"I did not come to be served, but to serve."
- Matthew 20:28

**Crowder
Alumni
Remember
Their Roots**

**Ag
Department
Celebrates
40th Year**

**Alternative
Energy
Program
Expands**

**State Legislators
Applaud Crowder**

“Crowder College provided my first experience of the world...It jump started my process of assessing what I value and what I choose to be and do in the world, both from personal and professional viewpoints.”

*— Margaret “Peggy” Millikin, Class of ‘82
Attorney with the firm of
Crowe & Dunlevy in Tulsa, OK*



Ms. Peggy Millikin, Crowder College class of 1982, reminisces about her time at Crowder, “On my first day of the 1980 fall semester at my new institution of higher learning, Crowder College, I met an older woman who appeared confused and in need of assistance. She asked me if I would help her find her photography class. In looking at her course schedule to determine the building and room number for her class, I read that she actually was enrolled in “Psychology 101”. This lovely woman laughed uproariously at her error and was a lively friend on campus to many students.”

Peggy Millikin goes on to say, “Now, 25 years later, I appreciate that learning is a life long process, and I understand better the courage and perseverance it takes for older students to return to school and continue their educational endeavors. In fact, I have enrolled in college courses as an older adult for my

own edification and, on several occasions, have been that older student asking a younger one for directions to a building or room, with the caveat that I have always know the subject matter of the class in which I was enrolled.”

Peggy graduated from Crowder College with an AS in Pre-Engineering. After Crowder, she transferred to the University of Tulsa where she earned her Bachelor of Science in Petroleum Engineering in 1984.

In preparation for her bachelors degree coursework, Peggy completed many science and mathematics classes at Crowder. When asked about her favorite instructor, Peggy could not narrow her selection to only one, “I have four favorites: Dr. Rhoades for Chemistry, Dr. Schade for Physics, Mr. McCullough for Calculus and Mr. Slater for Biology. These individuals were all memorable instructors with gifts for teaching and are my favorites of all my higher education teachers.”

For Peggy, Crowder brought the opportunity for lessons both in and out of the classroom, “First and foremost, the courses of study at Crowder well prepared me for TU. Beyond that, however, Crowder College provided my first experience of the world. I met there people who were engineers, artists, athletes, house wives, economists, old, young, black, white, bookworms, smokers (lots of them), waitresses,

Harley riders (not very many of them), rich, poor, middle class, ambitious, rebellious, serious, or slackers (pardon the non-parallel sentence structure—and thanks to Crowder College for teaching me what that is.) This was my first introduction to the world at large and to people from many walks of life. It jump started my process of accessing what I value and what I choose to be and do in the world, both from personal and professional viewpoints.”

After receiving her bachelors degree, Peggy pursued a degree in law. She earned her Juris Doctor degree from TU in 1989. “I recently returned to Oklahoma after working in several regions throughout the United States and traveling extensively, both nationally and abroad, where I have been afforded the opportunity to continue meeting interesting people from many walks of life.”

Peggy currently specializes in intellectual property law as an attorney with the firm of Crowe & Dunlevy in Tulsa, Oklahoma. According to the firm’s website, she has represented “large, international clients as well as small business owners and individual inventors in corporate and law firm settings and has gained experience and insights into the needs of clients with widely varying goals, backgrounds and financial means.”

Peggy has one daughter, Beth, who at 19 is a freshman at the University of Tulsa. Beth is thinking of studying law.

Margaret “Peggy” Millikin Class of 1982

Roughrider Pride Remains in the Heart of Louisiana Native

At 17 years of age, Louisiana native Perry Key traveled to Missouri to attend Crowder College on a basketball scholarship. He didn't know what to expect. "I was far away from home and in a place that was unfamiliar to me."

Being a part of the Rough Rider basketball team gave him a sense of belonging. "There were many players from all parts of the country who were making the same adjustment as I was. On Sundays I would often times cook meals for myself and others on the team. In my opinion, nowhere in the country is the food any better than in South Louisiana. I wanted to bring some Louisiana flavor to the Midwest."

During his time at Crowder, the class of 1980 member shared more than meals with his teammates, "We suffered through some tough losses as a basketball team."

Key went on to add, "I experienced personal setbacks. I injured my right knee both my freshman and sophomore years and could not contribute as much as I would have liked. That was a difficult period in my life, but I was able to grow from it and learn some valuable lessons and how to deal with major disappointment."

Throughout his time at Crowder, Perry learned lessons on and off of the court. "Crowder College built my college foundation for my junior and senior years of college as well as my working career. Since Crowder was a smaller environment, I received a great deal of individual attention from my teachers."

Perry, always liked math, but confessed that he never liked science. He counts Mr. McCullough, Dr. Schade and Dr. Rhoades among his top faculty picks. "Having those instructors gave me a greater appreciation as well as a better understanding of those subjects. I also got my first taste of computers from Dr. Schade when I took a programming class."

Perry also holds Mr. Walker in high regard, "My other favorite instructor was Mr. Walker, who taught history at the time. He brought historic events to life and had a great passion for history and for his students. That passion manifested itself in his teaching style and made it a pleasure to attend his class."

Perry, Vice President & Loan Review Department Head at the First National Bankers Bank in Baton Rouge, LA, credits his Crowder College experience for his career decisions. He says that his time at Crowder gave him confidence in his own abilities and helped to prepare him for success at Missouri State University (formerly Southwest Missouri State University). "The years at Crowder helped me decide on a possible career path. I received very good instruction in business and math courses, which

translated into my decision to pursue a career in banking."

After receiving his B.S. in Business and Industrial Communications from MSU, Key knew he would find a career in business, but first considered sales as an option. "When I looked back on my early college years at Crowder, it made me realize banking was a more viable field for me. It gave me a chance to use my math and communication skills in a productive way. Things I learned at Crowder I have been able to apply in my professional work."

The Crowder alum holds many memories of his time at Crowder, "Graduation was certainly a highlight. My parents had never been to Missouri and I was proud to have them there. Also, seeing my first significant snowfall was a special memory for me. Living in Louisiana until I graduated from high school did not give me an opportunity to see any wintry type weather."

Upon graduation from Missouri State, Key returned to Baton Rouge. He and his wife, Jerelyn Trahan Key have been married for 23 years. They have three children: Lindsay, 21, is a senior at Louisiana State University majoring in Mass Communications. She is scheduled to graduate in May 2009. After graduation, Lindsay will be a part of the Teach for America program and will relocate to Dallas, TX for a two-year teaching commitment.; Maia, 18, is a freshman at the University of Louisiana/Lafayette, majoring in nursing.; Christian, 14, is an eighth grader at Sacred Heart of Jesus Catholic School, Baton Rouge.

Key's Crowder College accomplishments surely serve as inspiration for his children, "I was awarded the James T. Payne Memorial Award, which goes to the athlete with the highest overall GPA during his/her years at Crowder. The award is one of my most cherished awards because I wanted to show that athletes can also be very good students. It was more important to be a good student than a good athlete and I wanted to excel at both."



LOUISIANA CHICKEN & SAUSAGE JAMBALAYA

INGREDIENTS

1 whole fryer
½ chopped onion
½ chopped bell pepper
1 cup of rice
1 lb of smoked sausage
2 tablespoons corn or canola oil
McCormick Season All
Lemon-n-Pepper seasoning
Garlic Powder
Onion Powder
1 package of **Oak Grove Jambalaya mix** (8 ounces)

PROCEDURE

Cut smoked sausage into small pieces & place in a small pot to boil for 20 to 25 minutes on a medium fire.

Trim fat & most skin off whole fryer & season with Season All, Lemon-n-Pepper, Garlic Powder, & Onion Powder.

Place corn/canola oil in deep pot (Dutch oven type) along with whole fryer, onion, and bell pepper. Cover and simmer for 45 to 60 minutes on a medium fire. Turn fryer over every 10 minutes or so to insure equal cooking on all sides.

Reduce fire to low & remove fryer.

Add smoked sausage in pot.

De-bone the chicken and add the meat back into the pot along with the sausage.

Add 3 ½ cups of water & bring to a boil.

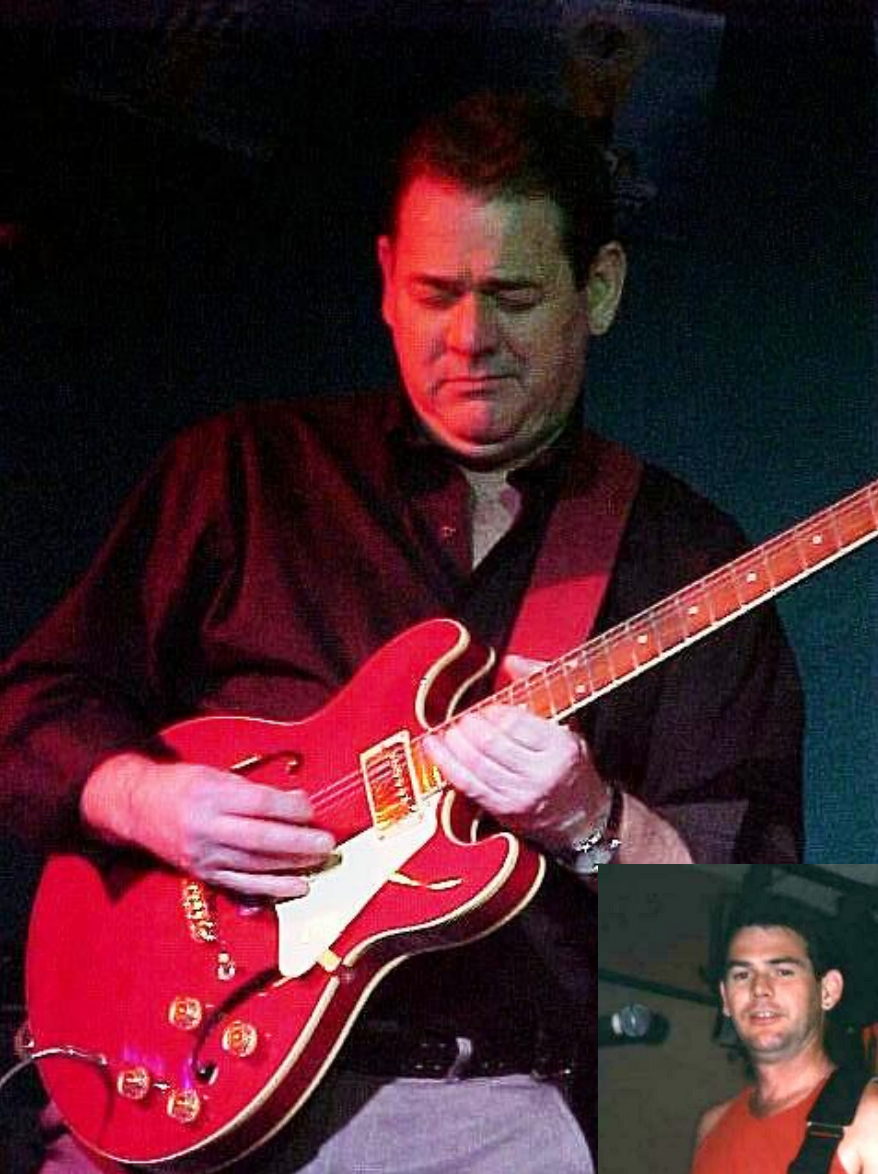
Once the water is boiling stir in rice & jambalaya mix***

Cover, reduce fire to low/medium and simmer for 25 minutes, stirring occasionally

If the **Oak Grove** mix is unavailable, simply substitute an additional cup & a half of rice

A great compliment to this meal is a tossed salad and white beans

BON APPETIT!!



LOU DAVIDSON, Class of '83... There's More Beneath the Surface.

UPCOMING PLAY DATES

BENEATH THE SURFACE::

April 4th:	8pm-10pm	Fort Scott Jubilee
April 10th:	9pm-1am	Quapaw Casino
April 17th:	8pm-12am	Turtle Head's Joplin
April 24th	9pm-1am	Horseshoe Saloon
& 25th:		Joplin
May 1st:	12am-1am	St. Avips Fundraiser at Downstream Casino

View other play dates via the
link on www.northradley.com



Far Left: Lou Davidson rocks the house,
January 2009

Left: Lou Davidson, circa 1982-1983,
about the time he was a student at
Crowder College.

"I'm a self-employed musician. I'm not particularly rich & famous, but I've made a solid career of it," Lou Davidson sums up his career. The Crowder alum may be a bit humble. Over the years he's shared the stage with a great many well-known artists, in various genres. "I played a season in Branson at the Ozark Country Jubilee, and I have appeared with the likes of Montgomery Gentry, Brooks & Dunn, Wayne Newton, Travis Tritt, and Charlie Daniels, and once had the privilege of shaking hands with the great Chuck Berry, often called the Father of Rock n' Roll. I compose for myself and produce for other acts, notably a faith and worship group named "Children Calling Home." Lou currently plays in "Beneath the Surface", a band with gigs scheduled locally.

Davidson earned his AA in Media Studies from Crowder College in May of 1983. After, he transferred to a four-year college, but dropped out to pursue music full-time. "There, I realized academics weren't really for me. Had I gone there first, I probably wouldn't have finished."

As a Crowder student, however, Davidson actively participated on campus. He played

with the jazz band. "The experience of playing with the jazz group was invaluable. Plus, the basic music study classes have always served me well."

Davidson takes pride in having completed his education at Crowder, "My mother had completed the nursing program at Crowder in '79, so she gave me something to shoot for. She worked at the Gravette, AR hospital for many years, until she retired."

Davidson also displayed his artistic nature while a student on campus by being involved as a photo-journalist with the college newspaper, *The Sentry*. Davidson recalls that the newspaper received first place from the American Scholastic Press Assn. in the spring of 1983. He adds, "Some of my photos were used in the Crowder catalog for the '83-84 school year, and I was rather proud to be included in both."

One Crowder instructor stands out above the rest for Davidson. "That would have to be Ross Watson, who taught photography courses. He was retired military, most of that time being spent in intelligence, processing /analyzing photos from aerial surveillance during the Cold War. He had some great stories! I worked for him for three semesters, doing darkroom work, etc...so, I had the chance to know him rather well."

Although Davidson has had more than his fifteen minutes of fame on stage, he also set a world record when he assembled with 1,682 other guitarists in a baseball field in Kansas City, Together, they set the record for the most guitarists playing a song simultaneously. The tune..."Smoke on the Water." (check it out:
<http://youtube.com/watch?v=B7j3rq5vKb8>)

Lou and his wife, Tonja, reside north of Pittsburg, KS, where they dabble in wine-making. She's the Accounts Receivable Officer at Southeast KS Education Service Center (AKA Greenbush) at Girard, KS.

FROM ROUGHRIDER TO RAM

MATT CADY, Class of 1992

Before computer labs and the Brown Housing Complex, Matt Cady walked the halls as a student at Crowder College. Although the campus has changed greatly since the Crowder alum played Roughrider baseball in the early 90's, much has remained constant.

Matt Cady, far from his St. Louis, MO home as a Crowder student, remembers the way that the faculty and staff at the college made him feel so welcome, "I recall the day-to-day contacts with faculty and staff being so pleasant, so real. From the housing personnel welcoming us on the first day and resolving any housing issues throughout the year, to the person handing out the mail and sharing in the excitement if you have letters from friends/family (This was all before the internet and cell phones.), to going to the administrative offices and staff being so helpful with questions, to being served lunch and being asked by name what we'd like, to the teachers showing a genuine interest in your education. These are all completely different touch points of Crowder College, and yet there was this very consistent theme."

During his stay at Crowder, Matt and his teammates lived in the family housing units 'about a mile away' from the campus. "I am not even sure if they're still standing, I know they were pretty old when we lived there. Living out there toughened me up though - no air conditioning or TV in my room. But, it was a great environment and another way for all of us on the baseball team to bond away from the field. The cafeteria food was actually pretty good, too. Of course, as an 18-19 year old, I think we were eating more for survival than pleasure and

we had some pretty hardy appetites."

As part of the Roughrider baseball team, Cady was greatly influenced by then coach, Gary Roark. "I came to Crowder a very laid back person -and by all accounts still am, however Coach Roark instilled a confidence, toughness and competitiveness that is with me to this day. To say he was most influential during my Crowder days in only a partial truth; outside of my parents, he's been the most influential person in my life. "

Coach Roark's attention to detail and preparation stands out to Matt. Coach Roark taught him that when you mentally prepare and focus on doing the little things and, most importantly, doing the little things right, you put yourself in a better position to succeed.. And, success breeds confidence.

Matt remembers one specific practice on a late Friday afternoon. "We were winding down practice and I'm sure between fatigue and having an eye towards Friday night, the pitchers weren't doing this one particular drill on the field to Coach Roark's liking. All I know is that I could see Coach clearly on his folding chair sitting in front of a dugout when this drill began, and by the time we were finished it was so dark that I could only see the silhouette of him and hear his voice echoing out into the field. We stayed and got it right, though. It's that kind of attention to detail that prepared you that much more for the game."

Matt earned his Associates of Arts degree from Crowder in 1992. After, he transferred to Southern Illinois University in Edwardsville



where he received his Bachelor of Science degree in Mass Communications.

Matt works for the St. Louis Rams as Assistant Director of Ticket Sales. "Upon graduating from SIUE in 1995, I caught on with the Rams as they were moving to St. Louis. Right place, right time, I suppose."

Matt and his wife, Kirsten, will be married 9 years this summer. They have two children: a son, Cameron (6) and daughter Emma (2).

A Note From Amy Bellairs, Class of 2004



Going back to school when I was 30 and with two children was the toughest thing I ever had to do, but it was worth it! I graduated from Crowder College with my AA in Elementary Education in 2004 and went on to MSSU where I earned my Bachelor's degree in Elementary Education with a Specialization in Special Education in May, 2007. I am now certified to teach grades 1-6 and Special Education grades K-12. I am currently working on my Master's degree online with Grand Canyon University. My family recently moved from our two bedroom mobile home to a three bedroom house in the city of Joplin. We are very excited to have a house with room for all of us! I have a son, Jordan, who is in 7th grade and a daughter, Sarah, who is currently in 5th grade. I am currently teaching 5th grade Special Education at Neosho Middle School in Neosho, MO. I have been employed by the Neosho RV school district for 2 years.

I appreciate so much all the support I received and the quality education I got at Crowder College. Compared to the other education programs, Crowder's program was more rigorous and I was all the better for it. I was better prepared than many of my peers in my further coursework. I had 60 hours of observation time going into my Junior Internship, while many of my peers only had 15 hours in the classroom. I feel that I got a high quality education at a caring institution that valued its students and I have been so blessed because of it. I will always be thankful for my educational experience at Crowder College.

Yours in Education,

Amy Bellairs



Kevin Wilson, Missouri State Representative District 130

During the fall 2008 semester, a group of approximately 40 newly elected Missouri lawmakers made their way to Crowder College as part of a 3 week educational tour.

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KEVIN WILSON
State Representative
District 130

December 8, 2008

Dr. Alan Marble
President, Crowder College
601 Laclede Avenue
Neosho, MO 64850

Dear Dr. Marble:

Words do not adequately express the pride that I felt last week when Crowder College hosted the Freshman Legislator Tour. Incoming Missouri legislators saw firsthand what makes Crowder the best community college in the state. In fact, at a reception that evening they could not stop talking about what a great college we have. You and your faculty, staff and especially the students overwhelmed them with your professionalism and your enthusiasm.

Alan, we here in the southwest corner of Missouri recognize the excellence of Crowder but to have this kind of impact on new legislators speaks volumes about the kind of educational institution that we have become. The tour highlighted so many of the outstanding programs that Crowder has become known for. But, we both know that programs are only as good as the people who develop and run them and then are only as great as the students who participate. Crowder showcased the immense talent that makes for Roughrider pride.

I cannot tell you how much I appreciate the opportunity and privilege to be the Representative of the best community college in Missouri. But, I think that I am going to have to stop saying that when I talk about Crowder. I don't think that it is an accurate descriptor. I think a better one would be the best college in the state - not just the best community college.

Alan, please pass on to everyone at Crowder College my sincerest appreciation and let them know how proud I am of them.

Sincerely yours,

Kevin Wilson
State Representative
District 130

COMMITTEES

Chairman: Special Committee on Health Insurance
Member: Appropriations • Education • Senior Citizen Advocacy • Insurance Policy • Policy Development
Joint Committee on Economic Development, Policy and Planning

Kelly (Coffee) Elwood Class of 1997

Kelly graduated Magna Cum Laude from Crowder with her AA in General Studies in 1997. Kelly and her husband, Jeff, have one daughter, Meghan. They live in Anderson, MO where Kelly teaches second grade.

Bryan C. Garner Class of 2001

"I am a computer programmer in the 20/20 Department at Jack Henry in Monett, MO. I enjoy my work because every day I learn something new in computer technology and the banking world. Going to work everyday is a pleasure. Crowder College gave me the foundation. Thanks, Crowder!"

YOUR FOUNDATION DONATION MATTERS.

"The Crowder Foundation Scholarship that I received gave me much more than financial assistance. The award helped to relieve some of my financial stress, allowing me to focus on my classes. It also brought a sense of accomplishment that has motivated me to continue to do my best at Crowder. I am proud and grateful to be a recipient of this award."

— Glendola
Flake



A Message From the President, Dr. Alan D. Marble



I am happy to report that this has been another terrific year for Crowder College and the students we serve. We continue to be dedicated to serving the great people of our area and appreciate your faithful support as we tackle the issues associated with rapid enrollment growth and expansion of services.

Enrollment this spring increased by 11.8% over last year and we are working feverishly to keep up with the growing demand for classes. Even with the opening of the new Arnold Farber Building last fall, we are starting to feel the squeeze for further classroom space. Although we are delighted with the Farber Building and the space it provides (with the addition of the Clark Commons, Lee Library, Wright Conference Center, and classrooms for our Communications Divisions), we continue to rely on McDonald Hall for the majority of classrooms needed for Science, Nursing, Business, and Social Science offerings, and we are simply out of space. Accordingly, we are in the process of designing a new facility that will be located just south of McDonald Hall to house Science and Nursing.

This new building will not only house Science and Nursing, but it will also serve as a tornado shelter for campus. We received a \$2.18 million grant from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to help with construction of this facility, but we will be required to come up with roughly \$2 million in additional funding to provide the functional lab space the building requires. We are currently looking for donors to sponsor portions of the building and if you would like further information regarding this project, please let us know.

We continue to experience very rapid growth at our satellite facilities in Cassville, Nevada, and Webb City. Fortunately, we still have adequate space in Nevada and Jerry Watley graciously constructed a new facility for our use in Cassville, but our dire need of an adequate building in Webb City still exists. As you may recall, we moved into an old National Guard Armory in Webb City a little over a decade ago and hoped to have space for 150 – 200 students. Little did we know that enrollment would grow to over 600 in such a short time, but that's exactly what happened! So, we are putting plans in place to locate space to build an adequate facility in Webb City sometime in the near future.

The need for buildings to serve our growing student body also includes plans for a new attendance center in McDonald County. Last year we purchased a beautiful 40 acre hill top on Highway 59 about two miles north of the state line, and we have just completed a design-phase competition among area architects to get a feel for what the new campus facility should look like. We are reviewing four proposals and hope to have one identified for development before long. This should be a very attractive and practical campus for students living in the southern portion of our service area.

We continue to develop high quality programs to serve the needs of our students and currently have new programs in Alternative Energy, Pharmacy Tech., Banking, Graphic Arts, and Addiction Counseling on the drawing board. As always, we remain focused on providing the very best general education courses possible through our Associate of Arts program, because preparing students for transfer to universities across the country is a fundamental element of our core mission.

As you can see, exciting things are going on at Crowder College and even though the country is struggling through some very difficult economic times "your community college" is not only surviving... it is thriving. Frankly, much of the credit for the remarkable accomplishments at Crowder goes to you--our faithful base of dedicated donors. Your generosity is making a difference in the lives of students everyday and we are eternally grateful for your support.

As I've said before, this is a wonderful place to live and raise a family, and we are completely committed to our mission of "building a civil, serving, literate, learning community of responsible citizens." We are deeply indebted to each of you for your generous and faithful support as we engage in the vital work of building a better future for future generations.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Alan D. Marble".

In Memory of Bob Sneller...

February 12, 1929 - February 1, 2009

In the summer of 1964, Bob Sneller joined Crowder College as it began its first year. As a coach, it is said that he regretted that he was unable to give Crowder College a national championship. However he was proud of every team he had and several came very close to gaining that reward.

In 1979, he retired from coaching, but kept score for games and continued teaching English and speech until his final retirement in 1989. As with many others in retirement, in 2002 he returned as an assistant coach, helping Coach Cletus Green, former competitor and good friend, with the Crowder women's program for five years.

Throughout his career, Bob was grateful to receive several honors and always recognized that the awards were largely due to the team members that surrounded him. The most humbling honor was the decision of the Crowder College Board and Foundation to name the gymnasium The Bob Sneller Gymnasium.

Original Roughrider Back in the Classroom

What has Larry Burge been doing since the 1960's? The answer: a lot! Burge, one of the original Roughriders of 1964 and a catcher for the first Crowder College baseball team, spent 35 years working in respiratory therapy.

As a student at Crowder, he was not exactly sure where he was headed or what he desired as a career.

"Therefore, I majored in coaching of sports and then found myself working in a progressive, hospital based job."

Although he liked his hospital job, he never loved it. In 1996 Burge voluntarily ended his hospital career to focus on writing. He is now a senior honor student of journalism at the University of Arkansas, following his passion.

"By being among today's college youth, they have updated my thinking about the world's future becoming a more unified populace, a planet with people becoming more aware of others' needs. Thus, leading to a planet where building a healthier planet with creative people



becomes more important than creating wealth, sincere integrity more significant than deceit. Creating a world on which we all can live together without fear of war or not having at least daily needs met for all."

"If there is one thing I can say about Coach Sneller with no doubt in my mind... it is that he lived and breathed Crowder Blue!"

— Dr. Alan Marble, Crowder College President

Bell Contribution to The Crowder Foundation Adds Up

Yvette Bell, Crowder College math and computer science instructor, naturally has a way with numbers. She, along with her husband, Donald, even found a way to double their annual contribution to the Crowder College Foundation!

Yvette, who has worked for Crowder College since 2003, is a strong supporter of the Crowder College Foundation. "I choose to contribute to the Foundation because it is a good way to give back to the school."

Obviously, the Bells value education. Yvette holds an AAS in Business, a BS in Computer Science/Math and a MS in Computer Science. Donald holds a BS in Management Information

Systems and is working on his MS at the University of Arkansas.

Prior to her Crowder College career, Yvette worked for over ten years as an application programmer for various companies. Donald has been with IBM for over 7 years, as a consultant.

The Crowder College Foundation is a not-for-profit, 501(c)3 set up to receive gifts for the college. The Foundation utilizes donations to benefit the college and it's students... for scholarships, classroom equipment or special projects that the college can't otherwise afford.

Yvette likes the fact that the donation goes toward things that department budgets cannot cover and

believes that her donation goes to a good cause.

Yvette and Donald have discovered a way to double their Foundation investment. "I am lucky to get a 100% match on all funds through my husband's employer," says Yvette.

Yvette found out about the matching grant while researching alternative ways to get funding for the department in which she works. "This grant also does a 3 for 1 match on computer equipment. I bet more than just IBM offers this. I encourage people to check with their spouse's company benefits. They might be surprised to find out they do matching funds, too."



REPORTING FROM NEOSHO

TODD HIGDON CLASS OF 1992

Newspaper reporters, by nature, tend to have a keen interest in people. So, it is no wonder that Todd Higdon's best Crowder memories involve those in which he came in contact., "[At Crowder] I met one of my best friends, Brad Harris."

Higdon, who still often sees and talks with his Crowder instructors, cites Russ Walker and Jack Divine as his two top professors. "Russ taught me in History 106 and 107, while Jack taught me in sociology and psychology. Seeing Russ teach history was much like how my dad would tell history - they made it come alive. I am a history buff by nature and many times, I would ask Russ about historical events. Jack was one that would always be there for advice, as well. His classes were very informative and if I had to change my major, it probably would be in one of his fields or even the history field."

Todd says that when high school students come to him for career advice, he always steers them toward Crowder College for their first two years. Todd, who transferred to MSSU after graduating from Crowder in 1992, elaborated, "Crowder College is a good starting off point in education. They have smaller class sizes, more one on one teacher and student interaction. When I transferred to MSSU fellow students were amazed that we had already taken our CORE classes and got them out of the way. I believe this sped up the process of me graduating from college."

Higdon currently serves as a staff writer/photographer/page designer for the Neosho Daily News, a position he has held since September 2003. "I had been away from journalism for nearly 10 years when then Neosho Daily News editor, Buzz Ball, called me and offered me the job. After only a few hours, I accepted and hence have been here ever since."

Over the years, Todd has covered numerous stories including city council meetings, school board events, sports, general features, murders, lost children,

area schools and other items.

One story he says he will always remember was the First Congregational Church shooting/murders back in August of 2007. "I was the first reporter on the scene. Within an hour after I got on scene and details were coming in, I received a phone call from CNN wanting photos that I had taken. They also did two to four interviews over the phone with me. Later that night I was on TV with CNN."

The second story he recalls was of the lost child, Rowan Ford, 9, of Stella. "That was a very, very emotional case."

Todd's third most memorable story occurred early in his career. He covered



Mark McGuire when he came back to Busch Stadium in St. Louis for Mark McGuire Day. "I was on the baseball field when he came out of the dugout, behind home plate when he threw the first pitch, and upstairs in the stadium when he gave a press conference."

In September of 2008, Todd met Tina Mullaney at a coffee shop in Joplin. "It was love at first sight," he recalls.

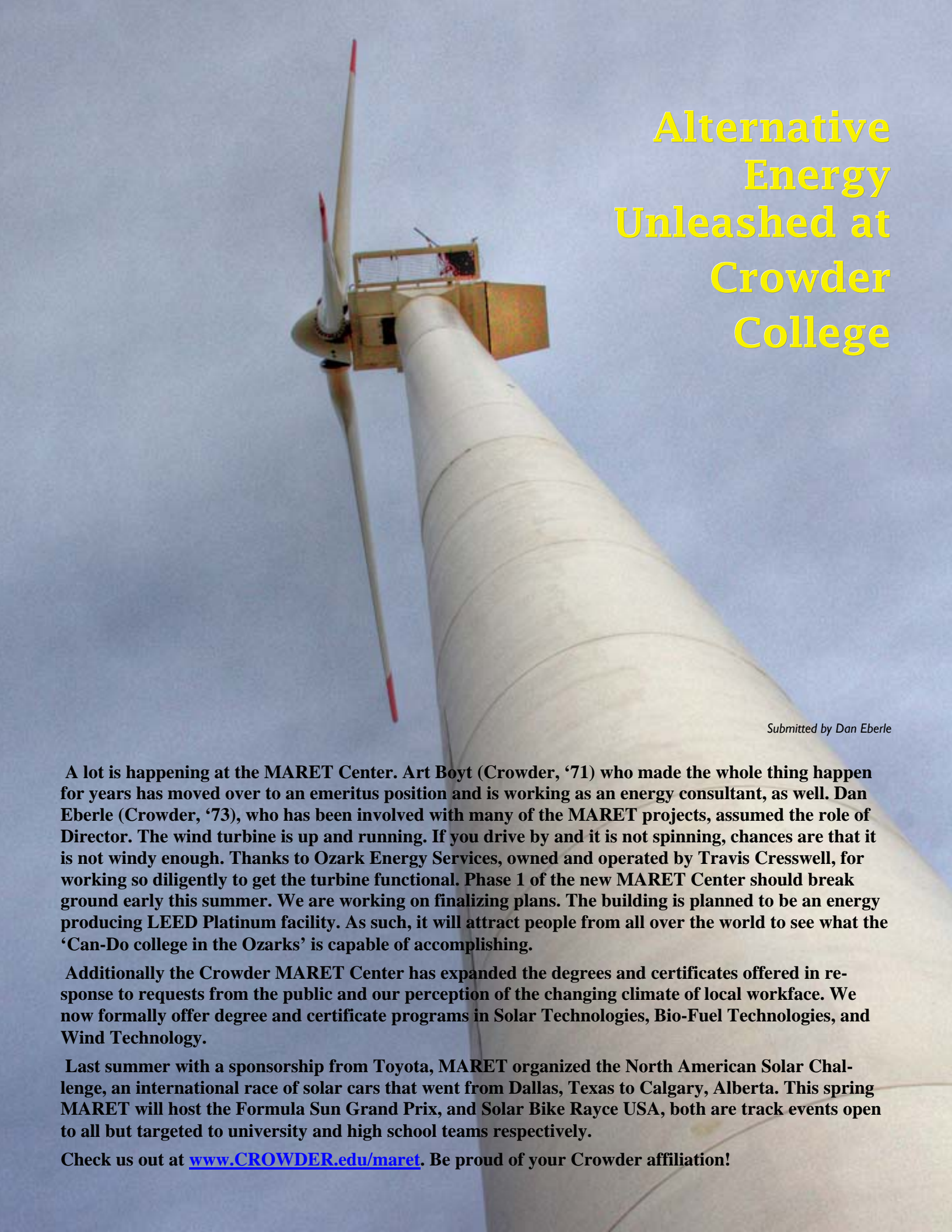
The couple is scheduled to marry on April 25, 2009 in a Star Wars themed wedding. They reside in Neosho. Todd's parents, Tom and Gail Higdon, still live in Newtonia where Todd was raised. Todd's brother and his brother's wife, Crystal, live in the Springfield area.



Matthew J. Nichols Class of 2001

Matthew J. Nichols graduated from Crowder College in May 2001 with an Associate's Degree in Pre-Engineering. After Crowder, he transferred to UMKC where he earned an advanced degree in Electrical Engineering in 2003. Matthew passed the Professional Engineering exam in October 2008. He works as a Project Coordinator for Benchmark Group Engineers & Architects, based in Rogers, AR.

Crowder College
Spring 2009 Enrollment:
3,312 Total Students!



Alternative Energy Unleashed at Crowder College

Submitted by Dan Eberle

A lot is happening at the MARET Center. Art Boyt (Crowder, '71) who made the whole thing happen for years has moved over to an emeritus position and is working as an energy consultant, as well. Dan Eberle (Crowder, '73), who has been involved with many of the MARET projects, assumed the role of Director. The wind turbine is up and running. If you drive by and it is not spinning, chances are that it is not windy enough. Thanks to Ozark Energy Services, owned and operated by Travis Cresswell, for working so diligently to get the turbine functional. Phase 1 of the new MARET Center should break ground early this summer. We are working on finalizing plans. The building is planned to be an energy producing LEED Platinum facility. As such, it will attract people from all over the world to see what the 'Can-Do college in the Ozarks' is capable of accomplishing.

Additionally the Crowder MARET Center has expanded the degrees and certificates offered in response to requests from the public and our perception of the changing climate of local workforce. We now formally offer degree and certificate programs in Solar Technologies, Bio-Fuel Technologies, and Wind Technology.

Last summer with a sponsorship from Toyota, MARET organized the North American Solar Challenge, an international race of solar cars that went from Dallas, Texas to Calgary, Alberta. This spring MARET will host the Formula Sun Grand Prix, and Solar Bike Rayce USA, both are track events open to all but targeted to university and high school teams respectively.

Check us out at www.CROWDER.edu/maret. Be proud of your Crowder affiliation!



40 Years of Agriculture at Crowder

The Agriculture Division at Crowder College is celebrating its 40th year educating students. Since its beginning there has been little change in staff, but tremendous growth in program opportunities.

Hugh Hardy started the program by offering an AAS in Agri-Business, a degree which offered components in farm and business management. Shortly after Hugh came on board, the addition of instructor Eldon Schnakenberg took place.

In 1986, Crowder Alum, Gene Hilgenberg stepped in for the retiring Hardy to make the 3rd instructor in the program since its birth. Hilgenberg is still on staff today, with his retirement announced to happen at the end of June. Upon retirement of Schnakenberg in '97, Tammy Holder, former Neosho resident, took the position.

Along with the lengthy terms of instructors, the school farm has seen little turnover. The school farm was first managed by Dennis Elbrader and became the domain of Jay Wilkins who took over in 1991.

The 400 acre farm, a hands-on laboratory, hosts a cow/calf operation, goat herd, flock of sheep and llamas (as protectors from coyotes). The farm originally started with registered Hereford

and Suffolk sheep. It was not established as a commercial, for-profit operation.

Today, the Agriculture program offers AA and AAS degree options. The newest program is an AAS in Veterinary Technology.

Crowder also participates in a program with Missouri State University called Pathways. Started in 2002, Pathways offers Crowder agriculture graduates the opportunity to complete their bachelors degrees in agriculture through MSU while remaining on the Crowder College campus in Neosho.

In 1999, through the generous donation of the Williams family, the Agriculture Division moved from the 3rd floor of McDonald Hall into the newly constructed John and Anna Williams Agriculture Building. The new facility not only houses classrooms, but also a greenhouse, meat lab and freezer along with a conference room and kitchen.

Throughout the years hundreds of Crowder agriculture students have experienced various aspects of the field through travel seminars to Denmark, Russia, Costa Rica, Arizona, Colorado, California, Texas, Louisiana and a 9 state, 10 day trip to Washington, DC last year.

The trips emphasize production,

manufacturing and horticulture.

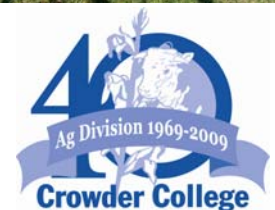
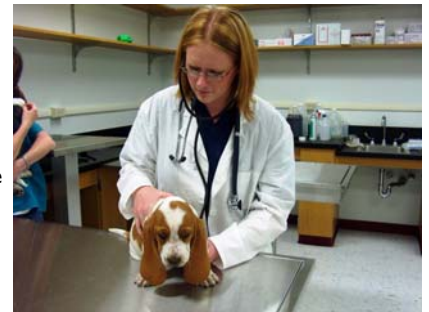
When asked which trip he enjoyed most, Gene replied "The California trip was the best! There are so many different types of agriculture experiences in California."

The trips also consist of university visits. This exposes the students to opportunities in areas that one might not consider typical to an agriculture career.

Crowder students have held numerous state and national officer posts for PAS (Post-Secondary Agricultural Student Organization). Teams have traveled to competitions within the state and country, always making Crowder proud of their efforts.

Agriculture at Crowder College continues to look at new educational opportunities with biofuels and other bi-products from crops. Another 40 years may delve into more environmental studies, but rest assured that Crowder's Agriculture Division is working on the future.

Submitted by Cindy Brown, Crowder College Public Relations



McBride...Finding her Niche

Jessica McBride learned more than algebra and biology at Crowder College. As a student at Crowder, she discovered her passion. "I really had no idea what I wanted to do when I came to Crowder. I had gone to MSU for a year, then I took a semester off. "

When Jessica enrolled at Crowder, she opted to take classes that interested her in hopes that she would find her path. "I took a couple of art classes, and I liked them so much that I finished my AA in Art."

Jessica also completed a couple of photography courses. Photography instructor, Dale Benfield proved a great influence on the Neosho resident. "I found I really enjoyed photography and I finally decided that I would love to take pictures for a living. Mr. Benfield advised me to major in business, which obviously would help me greatly in the future when I get my photography business up and running."

Jessica is now working toward that business degree, taking courses at Crowder through Missouri State University. She currently works in the Longwell Museum at Crowder, helping to coordinate events for the gallery.

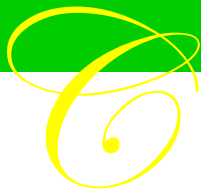
In addition to her gallery work, Jessica often offers her talents to other divisions of the Crowder campus. She utilized her photography talents to provide a cover photo for this *Alumni & Friends* newsletter.

She also provided the photo which appears on page two of the same publication.

Jessica freelances in photography, as well. Soon, you may see a collection of her work at Health-E-Fix Spa, LLC located on 103 S. Washington Street on the east side of the square in Neosho.

For more information about her photography services, contact Jessica at jazzmcb@gmail.com.

Photos by Jessica McBride appear to the right, including a self portrait.



Crowder College

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