



# Just Imagine . . . A Word from Our Campaign Co-chairmen



*It is a joy and a privilege for me to recommend the Baptist College of Florida. I am grateful to God to have a school that I can commend with no reservations whatsoever. I am grateful that the school is qualified to prepare people to pastor any of the churches around America, even to succeed this pastor. I am grateful for the leadership of the school, for their commitment to conservative, Biblical and trustworthy ministry.*

*I pray that God will speak to many of your students and that they will find themselves being educated at the Baptist College of Florida.*

*Blessings!*  
Johnny Hunt  
Johnny Hunt, Pastor  
First Baptist Church  
Woodstock, Georgia



*Baptist College of Florida is a sparkling diamond in Southern Baptist life. Graduates come from the Graceville campus with a solid, Christ-centered education anchored to biblical revelation. The staff is committed without compromise to the Unchanging Word.*

*This school is producing graduates who make great servant leaders in our churches. I endorse the school without reservation. It is worthy of your investment. Please join me on the financial support team of this great Christian college.*

*Ted H. Traylor*  
Ted H. Traylor, Pastor  
Olive Baptist Church  
Pensacola, Florida

The Baptist College of Florida is pleased that two of the leading pastors in the Southern Baptist Convention have agreed to serve as Co-chairmen of BCF's Just Imagine campaign. Both men and their churches have given great support to the college. We are grateful that they have taken this position of leadership in our quest to prepare men and women for ministry in the 21st century.

We invite you to join these and other Christian leaders who believe that the work and ministry of the Baptist College of Florida is worthy of their financial and prayer support.

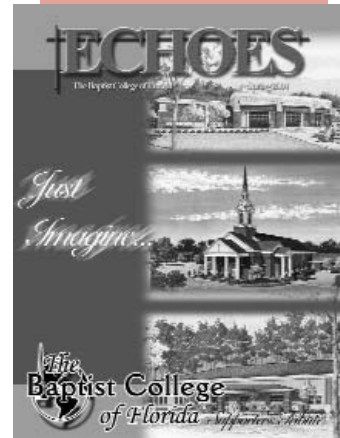
## ECHOES

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*Cover Photo: Artist's rendering of the three facilities needed at BCF to continue training the growing number that God has called to ministry.*

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**Statement of Mission**  
The purpose of The Baptist College of Florida shall be to promote, provide for, operate and control a program of education and training for ministers and other religious workers. The college shall operate as a coeducational, post-secondary institution awarding associate and baccalaureate degrees in the fields of theology, Christian education, church music, Christian counseling, leadership and education.

## From The President

### Be True to Your School



Dear Friends,

*As your president I must begin this letter by making a confession. I grew up in the 50s and 60s as most of you know. Coming out of that turbulent time creates all kinds of issues. Well, here it is: I am a Beach Boys fan. Now that I have said it I feel much better. Not only am I a Beach Boys fan, but one of my favorite songs from them is "Be True to Your School." It goes on about how your school is the greatest ever and is deserving of your loyalty and support.*

*The Beach Boys are absolutely right. The Baptist College of Florida is the greatest school I know. We have the best alumni, the best faculty, the best staff, the best students, the best trustees, and the best and most supportive friends that any school could ever desire. Just Imagine what our school can be with our vigorous support in the future.*

*I need your help to carry this great school into the future stronger than ever. We have begun "Just Imagine" which is our first comprehensive capital campaign since I became president fourteen years ago. Our school is growing, but our facilities are aging and beginning to deteriorate. According to figures just released we have the second lowest student tuition of any school in Southern Baptist life, and I want to continue that. However, providing that kind of value for students means that we do not have the funding needed to build new facilities and refurbish existing ones.*

*I have never devoted this entire Echoes letter to a fundraising appeal, but I have never needed your help as much as I do now! You should have already received information on our "Just Imagine" campaign. If you have, please respond by giving generously for the worthy goals that we have prayerfully set for our future. If you have not received any information, please contact me personally so that I might tell you about this exciting opportunity.*

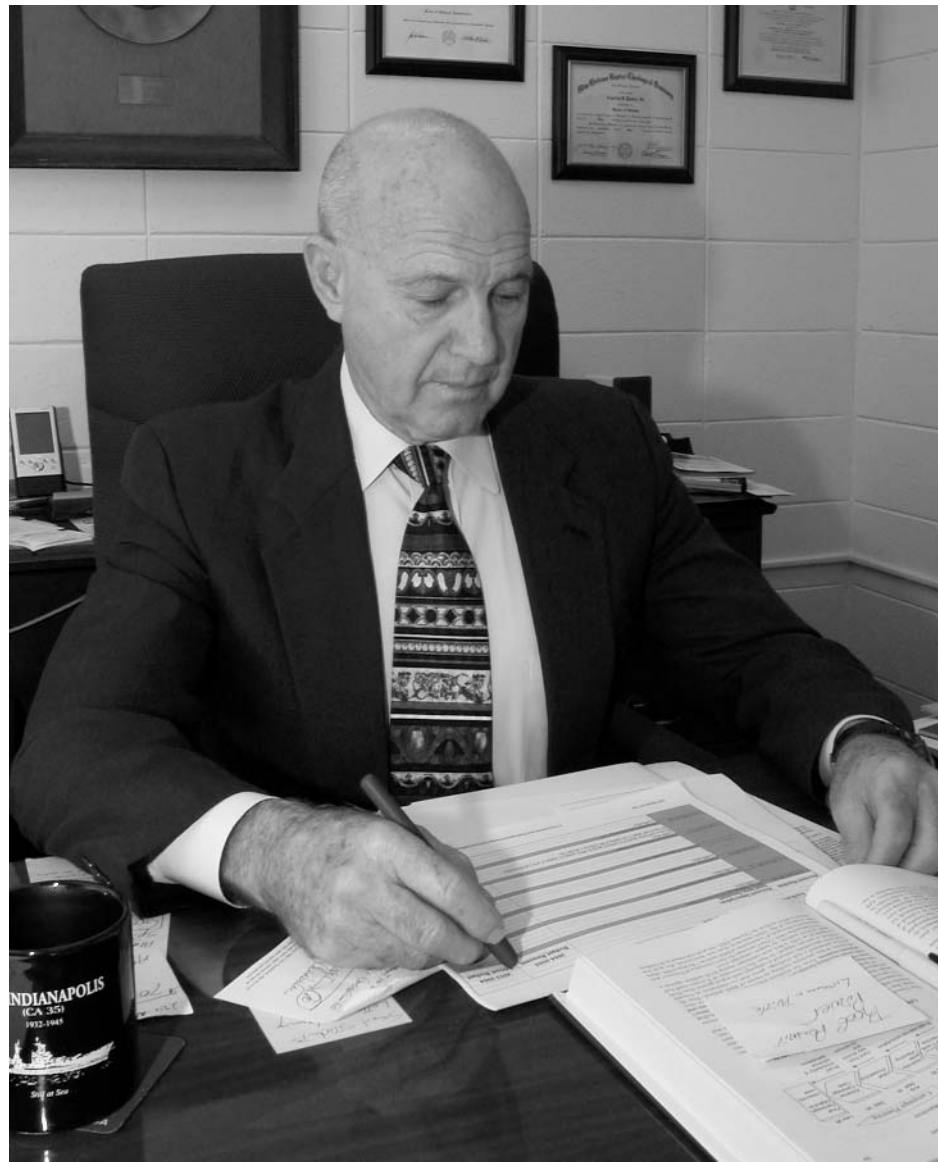
*Ruth Ann and I have pledged our prayer and financial support to this campaign. Please join us as we see our school become all that our Lord wants it to be. This really is the time to be "True to Your School."*

God Bless You,

Thomas A. Kinchen, President



# The view from the *Inside*



A long-time friend of the college, BCF's new vice president for institutional advancement chats with the editor of *Echoes* about his new found responsibilities as a member of the college's administration and what it's like to now be on the inside at BCF.



The Institutional Advancement office staff discusses the upcoming "Just Imagine" campaign at a staff meeting.

**Q** Mr. Parker, as the newest member of the administrative staff, what is your most significant impression of your new work?

**A** The first weeks have been both exciting and challenging. Perhaps the most significant impression is the quality of the students and their commitment to doing the will of God in their lives. Equally, impressive is the unparalleled dedication of the faculty and staff. This institution is unlike any with which I have been associated.

**Q** For a number of years you have been a friend to the college. What have you seen as a

member of the administrative team that you did not see before you moved to Graceville?

**A** As an interested outsider I had heard how BCF could stretch a dollar and make it go further than almost anyone could imagine. Now that I am on campus I see this taking place. We have operated with very limited funds and yet we continue to turn out well prepared and deeply dedicated students who are making a difference in the world.

**Q** Your work as Vice President for Institutional Advancement includes many responsibilities. How are you spending the majority of

your time in these first months?

**A** That is an interesting question. I really did not know what all I would be overseeing but each part of my work is both challenging and rewarding. The first priority of my office is to give leadership to our capital funds program, JUST IMAGINE. This requires a great amount of time but it is of highest priority to the trustees, our president and the faculty and staff. We must raise the money needed to provide desperately needed facilities here on campus.

**Q** And what facilities are you speaking of?

*just imagine... the possibilities.*



Parker, left, and BCF's new Director of Alumni Affairs & Church Relations Tommy Smith look over plans to reach out to college alumni.

ect. JUST IMAGINE is the campaign slogan and what we want to do. We want our friends to invest in the lives and ministry of students and to imagine with us what a difference this will make.

**Q** When does JUST IMAGINE begin?

**A** Now! As we speak our friends are beginning to receive information about the much needed improvements and they are being asked to join with us in investing in the lives of the folks whom our Lord has called. We are not asking for gifts, rather investments. Often a gift is used and there is little return. We believe whatever we do with our campus and for our students is an eternal investment.

**Q** How might one join in this investment?

**A** Any money sent for this project will be used exclusively for the renovation of Lee Chapel and the much needed buildings. One could send their investment to the college in care of Dr. Kinchen's office or they may mail the check to the office of Institutional Advancement.

**Q** Thank you for the interview. Is there anything else you might want to share?

**A** It is such a joy to serve the Lord at BCF. I believe we are going to get the new work accomplished and we will continue to prepare the finest students in the world to help Change the World with the Unchanging Gospel of Jesus Christ.

**A** We simply must update the R. G. Lee Chapel. We want this to be the center focus of the campus and to become a learning center and laboratory for preaching, music and visual arts. The renovation will provide state of the art media production facilities and additional seating to relieve overcrowding. The expanded and renovated facility will provide a beautiful symbol of what our school is about.

**Q** Are there other needs?

**A** Yes, two buildings for use by our students are desperately needed. One building will serve as an auditorium and the other will provide a wellness center.

**Q** How will the college pay for the renovation of Lee Chapel and the renovation of these buildings?

**A** A large part of my new work will be to join with our President and travel across our state and the adjacent states inviting friends to join us in giving to this proj-



# New *Alumni* Director Announced

Tommy Smith has been named the new director of alumni affairs and church relations for BCF. Smith is a native of Jacksonville, Florida but moved to BCF in 1999 to earn a degree in theology.

A 1988 graduate of Ed White Senior High School, Smith attended Jacksonville Apprenticeship Training Trust where he became a licensed plumber in 1995.

While working in the field he began to teach Sunday School for the college and career group at Hillcrest Baptist Church in 1996. Through this experience and discipleship from a lay member of the church, Smith began to feel a call to ministry.

He first visited BCF in 1998 on the recommendation of a friend and the rest is history. "I just knew this is where God was calling me," explains Smith.

The new director has maintained a full schedule since coming to BCF. He continued in ministry serving as youth minister for churches in Dothan, Alabama and joining the BCF staff full-

time in 2002 as director of student activities.

He was later appointed the assistant to the vice president for Institutional Advancement before taking the new director of alumni affairs and church relations position in March of this year.

"As a student I have really enjoyed the closeness with the professors and the their talents to communicate to us as students what will help us to be effective in ministry as well as the lifetime friendships that have been built with my fellow students," explained Smith.

He says he is excited to have the opportunity to continue working at BCF, "My challenge now is in seeing what the Lord wants to do with this office and His people." "I know that we can build upon the relationships that are already in place so that we can

face the future together."

Charles Parker, vice president for institutional advancement, echoes this sentiment, "We are extremely fortunate to have one of our own alumni available who loves the school and is totally committed to developing a program to re-connect our alumni to the college."

Smith says he is up for the task, "I really believe we can make a difference in the life of our alumni if we put them back at the top of our priority list." "Where would be without the treasured assets of students and alumni who make us who we are?"

Smith will receive a Bachelor of Arts degree in Theology from BCF in the May 2004 ceremony. He plans to continue his education in pursuit of a MBA at Troy State University in Dothan.

**"I just knew this is where God was calling me."**

**--Tommy Smith**

*just imagine... the possibilities.*





# Stay in Touch

## with fellow alumni



### 1970's

**Mike Tompkins (72)** is now serving as director of missions at Comanche-Cotton Baptist Association. They may be reached by mail at 2612 "E" Avenue, Lawton, OK 73505 or by e-mail to mtompkins@sirinet.net.

### 1980's

**Jeffery (Danny) Adams (85)** is now serving as pastor of Maranatha Baptist Church in Mt. Olive, MS. He and wife Cynthia may be reached by mail at 433 SCR 57-A, Mt. Olive, MS 39119, or by phone at 601.733.0658.

**Collie Foster (86)**, wife Lynn and their two children Erica

and Amy have relocated to Fort Leavenworth, KS. Collis continues to serve as chaplain in the U.S. Army. They may be reached by mail at 10 Hancock Avenue, Fort Leavenworth, KS 66027, by phone at 913.682.1144 or by e-mail to collief@hotmail.com.

**Marcy Shaw** may be reached by e-mail at paulshaw486@aol.com.

### 1990's

**Billy (92) and Shanna (94) Ramsdell** have relocated to Colorado Springs, CO. Billy is working with Focus on the Family and Shanna is serving on the nursery staff

at New Life Church. They and four children Elizabeth, Hosanna, Benjamin and Victoria may be reached at their new address of 2084 Coldstone Way, Colorado Springs, CO 80921, by phone at 719.210.8285 or by e-mail to bramsdell@cfait.com.

**Jack (93) and Terri (93) Smith** are now serving as student pastor at The Rock in Winter Haven, FL. They may be reached at their new address 1216 Fairlane Court, Winter Haven, FL 33881.

**Jeff Mcleod (96)** is now serving as co-pastor with **Ed Taylor (96)** at First

Baptist Church of Martinsburg, WV. They may be reached at the church by mail at 315 West King Street, Martinsburg, WV 25401, by phone at 304.263.5722, or by e-mail to firstfamily@adelphia.net. You may also visit the church's website at www.firstfamily.ws.

**George Noland (96)** and wife Allyson have been appointed as missionaries to Valencia, Venezuela and are currently in language school in San Jose, Costa Rica. They may be reached by mail at Instituto de Lengua Espanola, Scooter & Allyson Noland, Apartado 100-2350,

San Jose, Costa Rica, or by e-mail to nolands@racsa.co.cr.

**Jesse Smallwood (96)** and wife Paulette have relocated to Punta Gorda, FL. They may be reached by e-mail to jsem@jessesmallwood.com.

**Nathan Sims (97)** has been called as senior pastor of Riverview Baptist Church in Buras, Louisiana. He may be reached by mail at 132 W Bray Drive, Buras, LA 70041 or by phone at 504.657.7414.

**Robby Harris (98)** is currently serving as bi-vocational pastor at Forest Heights Baptist

Church in Ft. Walton Beach, FL. He may be reached by mail at 301 Angela Lane, Mary Esther, FL 32659, by phone at 850.664.5517 or by e-mail to revharris@cox.net.

**Bobby O'Bannon (98)** is currently serving as youth pastor at Creola Assembly of God Church in Creola, Alabama. He may be reached at his new address of 281 Orange Ave. E, Satsuma, AL 36572, by phone at 251.675.1649 or by e-mail to RevBoboBannon@aol.com.

**Rodney Peavy (98)** and wife Beverly and their two sons ages 4 and 5 have relocated to Georgia where Rodney serves as pastor of Elza Baptist Church in Reidsville. They may be reached by mail at 988 Hwy. 147, Reidsville, GA 30453, or by e-mail to rodneypeavy@hotmail.com or beverly\_p@hotmail.com.

**Rachel Tracy (98)** is employed by the

International Mission Board. She may be reached by mail at PO Box 353, Chaing Mai, Thailand, or by e-mail to rtracy@wconline.com.

### 2000's

**Tiana Gann (00)** is currently serving as minister to children and preschool at Santuck Baptist Church. She may be reached by mail at 7250 Central Plank Road, Wetumpka, Alabama 36092, by phone at 334.567.2364, or by e-mail to tgann@santuckbaptist.org.

**Rick Henderson (00)** has been called as student pastor at New Zion Baptist Church in Covinton, Louisiana. He and his family may be reached by mail C/O New Zion Baptist Church, 17387 New Zion Church Road, Covinton, LA 70435.

**Mike Mason (00)** is currently serving as minister of youth and education at Shindler Drive Baptist Church. He and wife Missy have two children,

Micah and Merci. They may be reached by mail at 7945 Westport Bay Drive North, Jacksonville, FL 32244, home phone 904.563.5194 and cell phone 904.779.7086.

**Trey Wells (00)** has recently accepted the position of interim youth pastor at Northwest Baptist Church in Gainesville, FL. Tray and wife Misty may be reached by mail at 4230 SW 20th Lane, Apt. A, Gainesville, FL 32607, by phone at 352.375.2146, or by e-mail to plantertrey@yahoo.com.

**Micah Fries (01)** and wife Tracy and daughter Sarah Grace may be reached at their new address of PO Box 52, DeKalb, MO 64440, or by phone at 816.685.3300.

**Andy Hughes (01)** is serving as assistant pastor of Grace Christian Baptist Church in Florence, AL. He and wife Charity and children Dakota, Sierra, Nevada, and Montanna may be

reached by mail at 8825 California Branch Road, Westpoint, TN 38486, by phone at 931.724.5704, or by e-mail to brohughes@myway.com.

**Carlis Lott (01)** has been called as pastor of St. Johns Baptist Church in Palatka, FL. He may be reached by e-mail at St. Johns Baptist Church, 938 West River Road, Palatka, FL 32177, by phone at 386.328.2104, or by e-mail to cpt\_lott@hotmail.com.

**George Hufschmidt (02)** is serving as minister of music ministries at First Baptist Church of Westwego. He may be reached by mail at 668 ½ Ave. B, Westwego, LA 70094, by phone at 504.220.3023, or by e-mail to joeyofjungle@yahoo.com.

### New Births

**Ricardo Ruano (88)** and wife Aleida proudly announce the birth of their daughter, Anna-Marie on Jan. 10, 2004. She weighed 8 pounds,

4 ounces and was 20 inches long. Ricarda serves as a chaplain for Vitas Healthcare Hospice and Aleida is employed as a third grade teacher at Hibiscus Elementary School in Miami. They may be reached by mail at 20310 NE 14 Avenue, Miami, FL 33179 or by e-mail to Rick@rickruando.com.

**David Watson (97)** and wife Stacey are proud to announce the birth of son Eric Thomas on Oct. 2, 2003. He was born 7 lbs, 9 oz and 20 ½ inches long. They may be reached by phone at 701.298.3387, or by e-mail to DavidIW@juno.com.

**Scott Young (01)** and wife Tammy announce the birth of baby girl Rochelle on Dec. 4, 2003. She weighed 7 lbs., 7 oz.

### Correction

**Jennifer Otts (96)** and husband James are the proud parents of a new baby.

# Supporter's Tribute

An annual report of gifts to The Baptist College of Florida is published each year. All gifts received during the preceding calendar year are included. The purpose is to express appreciation to those who have shared on behalf of students, faculty, staff and trustees. Extreme care is exercised to insure accuracy. Your assistance in this regard is encouraged and you may call (800) 328-2660, ext. 416 for questions, or to provide additional information. Gifts to BCF are an investment in the preparation of men and women for Christian service. Supporters are recognized in categories on the following pages.



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*just imagine... the possibilities.*



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 JIM & MARGARET SIMS' 50TH  
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Heritage Society members are those who have bequest to The Baptist College of Florida or have included the college in their will or estate plan. Members are listed on a plaque located adjacent to the "Tree of Life" in the Graceville Building. To become a member, the college should receive written notification by letter or a copy of a part of the trust agreement, will, or codicil that lists the college as a beneficiary.

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