



## A New Year Means New Blessings

2010...Welcome to a new year! At this time we often look back on the past and then forward to the future: What new blessings are ahead? What trials will we face?

I recently completed a decade of employment at Sterling College, and this new year has caused me to contemplate the past ten. Although I've had a few bumps along the way, I've been blessed through SC, and one of the greatest reasons for that is you, our alumni and friends! I have had the pleasure of meeting and visiting with alumni from Pennsylvania to Florida, along the West Coast and throughout mid-America. The welcoming smiles and friendly handshakes I have received and the pleasant conversations I have had with you have made my labors for Sterling a very enjoyable charge. If our paths have not yet crossed, I hope they do at some point in the future. I want to hear your stories, add your pictures to the alumni scrapbook, and share with you the latest about Sterling College.



David Earle  
Director of  
Alumni Relations

As the director of alumni relations, I also want to help you connect with each other. One way you can do this is through Facebook ([www.facebook.com](http://www.facebook.com)). An official Sterling College Alumni Facebook group site has been set up to enhance communication between and among the Office of Alumni Relations and SC alumni. If you are already a member of Facebook, look for the group site and join. If you are not a Facebook member, I encourage you to join; it is an easy and fun way to get—and stay—connected. Have a blessed 2010.

## Two Alumni Visit India for Mission Trip

"God wanted me to go exactly when I did," said Sasha Hildebrand '03 of her trip to India in September of '09. She wasn't so certain about God's leading last spring when her plans—to serve as a team leader on a Sterling College student trip to India—fell through. "Now, in fact, I can look back and see why He delayed my trip. I'm very thankful."

Hildebrand works as an admissions counselor for Sterling, and May was just too busy for her to go on the trip with the students. But Sasha felt led to pursue a mission trip to India. She contacted Global Infusion, the organization that planned the student mission, and asked if an individual trip was possible.

It was, and though Sasha felt nervous about going with people she didn't know, she was willing. Then God worked a miracle. "One of my supporters didn't want me to go alone and gave me money for a second plane ticket." Sasha asked Ben Dicke '02, a fellow theatre graduate and good friend, to go with her.

"When Sasha first mentioned the trip to me last spring," said Ben, "I was both excited and reluctant. My real fears were for the details that only God seems able to work out. Fortunately, He did not let me find a job in the fall, and I was forced to experience two of the most intense weeks of my life."

The intensity began as soon as they arrived in Chennai, India, on September 9. "We thought we would be working mostly with kids—but our hosts wanted us to speak and teach at conferences for Indian pastors!" said Sasha. "I have no problems acting or singing in front of people, but public speaking? That's different."

Sasha, Ben, and the two other women on their team spoke at three different conferences and held numerous evangelical meetings at remote churches and villages. "We found that God had given each of us a particular role to fill," said Sasha. Though they took turns giving testimonies and teaching, Sasha felt her special talent was with the children. And Ben's role? "We termed him our evangelistic speaker," said Sasha, laughing. "He's had people tell him that before, but he didn't really know it himself until he got up there to speak. He's really gifted."



Sasha Hildebrand '03 laughs with some of children she met while on her mission trip to India.

Their work stretched them, but they were also awed by what they saw. "To see the level of faith, even in such poverty, was unbelievable and very humbling for us," said Sasha. "It made me want to rely on God more in my daily life."

"The thing I could not believe about India is how God is raising up indigenous pastors whose ministries are exploding faster than they can keep up," Ben said.

Trips to children's homes, begun by local churches, also impacted them, as did visits to Sarah's Covenant Homes, created by a missionary for special-needs orphans who were barely surviving in state-run orphanages. "It was amazing to see these kids," said Sasha, "and hear stories about how they've improved as they've been touched, loved and cared for.

"This trip was life-changing. If I had gone in May, I would have been mostly concerned about the students and the dynamics of the team, but on this trip I was really able to listen to God and grow personally. Scripture has become new to me. I'm reading it more than I ever have in my life, and I feel God is challenging me to share the truth of the Gospel more—in my everyday life, not just on mission trips."

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## Upcoming Events:

January 5 - Interterm Classes Begin

January 26 - Start of Spring Semester

February 13 - Baseball Alumni Game

For more event information, visit the online calendar.

<http://www.sterling.edu/news-events>

For information regarding all Warrior Athletic events, please go to [www.sterling.edu/athletics](http://www.sterling.edu/athletics)

## Sterling College Announces New Board Members

The Sterling College Board of Trustees recently welcomed three new members: Dr. Chris Majors of Wichita, Jason West of Hutchinson, and John Wilkey of Sterling.

Dr. Chris Majors owns and practices at a multi-doctor dental practice. He also serves as clinical professor of dentistry for the advanced residency program at Wichita State University. He, wife Michelle, and their four children attend Eastminster Presbyterian Church, where Majors serves as a deacon and teaches discipleship classes. Dr. Steven Marsh, the pastor at Eastminster, has had many conversations with Majors about Christianity and higher education, and he encouraged Majors to become involved at Sterling College. This past summer the board position became available, and Majors felt God was opening a door for him to serve at the College.

“With its Christ-centered mission and commitment to serve the students, I believe God is going to continue His work on the Sterling campus,” said Majors.

Majors received his undergraduate degree from the University of Kansas and his doctorate in dental surgery from the University of Missouri, Kansas City School of Dentistry. He hopes this non-alumnus background will benefit the Board. “Being new to SC, I hope to bring new ideas and solutions to issues. If I can bring something to the table that will enable the College to continue impacting the lives of individuals from around the world, then I feel God will be honored by this endeavor.”

Jason West is the executive vice president and general counsel for Jacam Chemical Company, Inc. in Sterling. He is also the principal attorney at the Law Offices of Jason H. West. He, wife Christy, and their three daughters (soon to be four) live in Hutchinson.

West grew up in the town of Sterling, but left after high school because he wanted to get away. “I returned after a semester, though, because I realized the College and the town are good places to be,” he said. He earned a bachelor’s degree in biology from Sterling in 1998 and a law degree from Vermont Law School in 2002 before returning to live and work in the area. “It seems natural to continue this lifelong relationship with the College as a Board member.

“I’d like to see the College get to the point at which everyone is totally comfortable with its financial health,” West said when asked of his hopes for the College. “Sterling also needs to grow—in the number of students and in programs. From a small-college standpoint, if you’re not growing, you’re dying.

“I think Sterling can be a national leader among small, liberal arts colleges, and I’m excited to begin working with the College toward that goal.”

John Wilkey has a long and deep history with the College. His parents, two siblings, wife and her sister, son Justin, and a daughter-in-law have all attended Sterling. Wilkey himself graduated from the College in 1967 with an education degree with an emphasis in math. “We’re well connected with Sterling,” Wilkey said. “I benefited personally—through both the individual attention I received from my Sterling professors and through playing sports—and we’ve also benefited as a family.”

Following Wilkey’s graduation he and his wife taught in the Salina area for seven years. They then returned to the family farm in Sterling where they continue to farm with their son Tanner. The Wilkeys attend the Reformed Presbyterian Church in Sterling where he is currently a teacher and elder. “Phyllis and I have tried to support the students, staff and faculty of Sterling the best we can through the years,” said Wilkey. “My main goal as a board member is to simply continue that support.

“My hope is that Sterling will continue to be strong in the mission of offering a Christ-centered education while the College also seeks new ways to improve as an institution.”

With these new members, the Sterling College Board of Trustees now has 25 members.

## Sterling Students Served by Homeless



Soap, toothbrushes, washcloths—the Sterling College students purchasing these items were not restocking their dorm rooms. They were assembling homeless care kits. The Praxis (Greek for “practical application of learning”) small group had met all semester to study “The Hole in Our Gospel” by World Vision President Rick Stearns, and had decided to put their faith to action among some of America’s “least.” On November 15, ten students and one leader traveled to downtown Wichita with the general plan of giving the kits to homeless men and women. What actually occurred, though, was far greater than their expectations.

“We were there to serve them,” said Courtney Huber, a first-year student from McPherson, Kan. “But one homeless man I met was constantly putting my needs before his own. This man doesn’t receive consistent meals or even shelter, yet he was more concerned about me having a dry place to sit—it blew me away.”

Huber was not the only one to be surprised. As the students mingled with the more than 100 homeless people gathered for the Church on the Street service, they listened to story after story that transformed their attitudes. “I had forgotten that homeless people had lives before being homeless, that they had jobs and families—that they were people,” said Andrew Gross, a first-year student from Wichita. “But then I met Ed. He got drinks for us, talked to people at other tables, checked on people’s families. He took the time to be concerned for other people. His wife had died of cancer, and he wanted to carry on her ways of loving others.”

Wes Cates, a first-year student from Flagstaff, Ariz., connected with Manny from San Antonio. “He told me he’d been in prison when he was younger. He’d done a lot of bad things, but his mother confronted him about his sins on her deathbed. He told me that God has created each of us for a specific purpose with specific gifts. Manny is a special man.”



Left to right: John Wilkey, Dr. Chris Majors, and Jason West.

Salima Watson, a junior from Russell, Kan., was so impressed by the trip she convinced the Raya group at the College to return the following week. "I learned so much from this," Watson said. "You don't have to go overseas to serve—help is needed everywhere." Watson, too, found a friend among the homeless. "Leon is a sweet older guy. I talked to him both weeks I was there. He taught me to notice the people around me. I still think about him all the time and pray for him."

"I met a girl about my own age—pregnant and on drugs," said Melissa Yarrow '09, a resident director at the College and a leader of the Praxis group. "She has such a passion to do better, but she's pulled down by life's circumstances and bad habits. She had a huge impact on me."

The Sterling College students also met the Chicken Lady, a Wichita woman who fries chicken each Sunday and passes it out to homeless people. "The Chicken Lady and the organizers of Church on the Street are so faithful," said Yarrow. "They sacrifice their normal lives to help others. This experience was eye-opening for all of us. We talked all semester about the inequality that exists around the world—and to see it just an hour from where we live was amazing. This put faces to the problems we'd been talking about."

### Vice President for Academic Affairs and Dean of College Position Announced

Nominations and applications are being accepted by Sterling College for the position of Vice President for Academic Affairs (VPAA) and Dean of the College. The VPAA is the senior administrator of educational programs for the College, reporting directly to the president. He or she has responsibility for the supervision of the faculty, associate deans, the library, academic registration, academic support, and the chapel program. He or she also has significant leadership in regard to e.Sterling, the College's online degree-completion program. In addition, this person has responsibility for the operation and planning of all academic programs and facilities and the preparation and management of the academic budget. The VPAA is a member of the faculty. For more information about this position, visit [www.sterling.edu/vpaa/search](http://www.sterling.edu/vpaa/search)

### Alumni Baseball Game Set

An alumni baseball game will be held at the Sterling College baseball field, February 13, 2010 at 1:00.

Immediately following the game there will be an alumni reception on the 3rd floor of Cooper Hall. Help us spread the word by letting your college baseball buddies know about the event.

Contact Coach Jared Hamilton at 620-278-4227 or [jhamilton@sterling.edu](mailto:jhamilton@sterling.edu) to let him know if you plan on coming back for the event.



Be sure to check out and join the two Sterling College group pages on Facebook. If you haven't joined Facebook yet, join the thousands of SC alumni and friends who have found Facebook a great way to reconnect and stay in touch.



Join our Fan Site!



Join our Alumni Group!

### Keep Us Informed

Just as we share life at Sterling College with you, we want you to share your life with us as well. Please let us know your recent life events so we can rejoice with you, pray with you, and share your updates with other alumni who want to do the same. Here are some specific kinds of information that will help us stay up-to-date:

- New phone number, address, or e-mail
- Birth or marital/family changes
- Illness, injury or death
- Change in careers
- Accomplishments
- Prayer Requests

At your request, we will publish any updates in the Alumni News and Classnotes section of the *Sterling* magazine to keep your college friends updated as well. E-mail David Earle at [dearle@sterling.edu](mailto:dearle@sterling.edu) or call him at 620-278-4228 and share your latest news.

### Sterling Magazine Available on our Web site

The Spring/Summer *Sterling* Magazine is posted on our Web site for your viewing pleasure. Click here to read the latest edition of *Sterling*. If you did not receive a copy, please contact the Advancement office to confirm your current address.

### Join our Legacy Walk!



To purchase a personalized brick in the Sterling College Legacy Walk, please contact David Earle, Director of Alumni Relations, at [dearle@sterling.edu](mailto:dearle@sterling.edu) or call 620-278-4228.

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