

# Madison Survey

and  
**ALUMNI NEWS**



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## **Alumni weekend this year to stress the Madison impact**

The 2009 Madison Homecoming will be held June 26-28 in the Madison Academy Chapel rather than meeting with the Madison Campus Church.

The main speaker will be Bill Wilson featuring the place of Madison in Adventist history. Highlighted will be the impact of Madison on individual students, the Southern Union, Loma Linda and the General Conference.

Brian Traxler of the E.A. Sutherland Education Association (EASEA) will show pictures of Madison College recently discovered in the Lida Scott archives at the Layman Foundation. They cover the campus, academics, industries, agriculture and the units, among other phases of Madison College.

Some of his pictures will highlight the campus during the 1950s, the era of which students attending then are especially invited.

A light meal will be provided for the Friday evening meeting and a lunch following the Sabbath services. There will be a short business meeting following Sabbath Vespers and, if there

is sufficient interest, a pancake breakfast on Sunday morning. We invite those at Madison during the 1950s until it closed, especially the honor class of 1959. A registration fee of \$15 will be charged to cover the costs of the meals.

## **Annual dues are due**

Envelope enclosed

An eight-month look at finances shows alumni have donated \$5,582.45 to the association. Expenses have totaled \$10,689.45. Of this, about \$4,000 went for items not expected in the next fiscal year such as painting and repairing the Heritage House, equipment and supplies.

Alumni have donated \$425 so far to match an anonymous \$5,000 gift to honor Bob Sutherland. This money will help meet association expenses.

It costs an estimated \$12,000 a year to pay all the bills, chiefly the Survey and alumni weekend.

## **To share personal remembrances of Bob**

Write Stella Sutherland at:  
1561 Campbell RD  
Goodlettsville, TN 37072

## **Madison College in Cyberspace**

By Henry Scoggins

A major topic of discussion at the February 1 meeting of the Alumni Association officers was the development of an Internet web site for the college. It is believed that a College web site would be a valuable tool to share information about the Alumni Association activities as well as historical information about Madison College. Several of you have pledged money to support this endeavor and based upon those pledges it was voted to proceed with the development of the web site. Those of you who have made pledges will shortly receive a message giving information as to where you may mail your pledge. These monies will be maintained in a separate fund solely for the development and maintenance of the site. The Alumni Association does not have sufficient funds to underwrite this cost. Therefore its expansion will depend upon future contributions.

A number of alumni have connected through the social networking web site Facebook. We are creating an organizational Facebook page for Madison College Alumni and you will shortly receive an invitation to join this group. Those of you who are not presently on Facebook are urged to accept the invitation to join. You will find it to be quite easy to create your page, and you may add photos and/or videos that all of the members may view and comment on. This is a separate activity from the Madison College Alumni web site. Everyone will enjoy the ease of connecting with old friends.

(We also hope to place the Survey on the Internet in the future, so send us your e-mail address if you would like to read it in this way.)

## **Floyd Bralliar and Eleanor Roosevelt**

Madison public relations at its best  
Part I

By Albert Dittes

Hyde Park, N.Y. — I visited here during my 2008 summer vacation knowing that Dr. Floyd Bralliar (BRALL-yer), a distinguished professor of science at Madison College for many years, had exchanged letters with Eleanor Roosevelt. In addition to touring Val-Kill Cottage, Mrs. Roosevelt's home, I wanted to see if any of her letters from Dr. Bralliar would be on file here.

I found that they were. The guides said that Mrs. Roosevelt answered every letter written to her, and that included those of Dr. Bralliar. Her correspondence is so voluminous that she has a floor dedicated to her and her output in the Roosevelt Presidential Library on the grounds of the home of Franklin D. Roosevelt.

Dr. Bralliar used his gift of public relations to get the name of Madison College known among national figures such as Eleanor Roosevelt and Cordell Hull.

The first letter on file in the library about Madison is one she wrote to Bernard Baruch, an adviser to the presidents.

“When you told me the other day about giving help to some of the South Carolina colleges, I meant to speak to you about this institution,” she wrote to Mr. Baruch on March 15, 1939, referring to Madison College. “I enclose a letter from the man in charge,” (referring to Dr. Bralliar).

“This man came to see me in Nashville and I was much impressed with what he told me. I haven’t seen this college but I thought if you were interested you might like to have some one near there find out about it. I also do not know whether you are helping institutions outside of South Carolina. In going through Tennessee, I felt that anything which would help rural conditions was certainly worthwhile.”

Dr. Bralliar’s first friend in high places was Secretary of State Cordell Hull. I surmise that Secretary Hull read Dr. Bralliar’s garden columns in the Nashville Tennessean, probably during his years as a Congressman and United States Senator from Tennessee. When Eleanor Roosevelt announced she would visit Nashville, Secretary Hull recommended that she talk with Dr. Bralliar, which she did.

A famous Reader’s Digest article about Madison College in 1938 had resulted in a flood of student applications and a need for a new building on campus. Dr. Bralliar was leading a fund raising effort, and that included letters to Mrs. Roosevelt. Her second letter to him, written April 3, 1939, addressed this issue.

“My dear Mr. Bralliar,” she wrote, “I have tried to find someone who could give you a big contribution and I have been unsuccessful. As yet I have no radio contract. If I get one I will keep your

college in mind for a subscription. I was glad to have your letter and to hear of the progress you are making.”

(Due to space limitations, this article will conclude next issue.)

## Obituaries

**Christine Perkins**, 72, died Dec. 21, 2007, near Booneville, Ark.

Chris and her sister Joan attended Madison College from 1954 to 1958, graduating from the school of nursing. She earned her Bachelors degree in nursing from Southern Adventist University and her Master’s degree from Emory University in Atlanta. She served as director of the school of nursing at Southern Adventist University for several years and later as director of the school of nursing at Kettering College, in Ohio.

Survivors are her two sisters, Joan Roach of Booneville, Ark., and Patsy Franklin; and three brothers, Leslie, Preston and Waymon Perkins.

**Peggy Jeanette Bee**, 66, died Dec. 10, 2008, at Madison, Tenn., after several bouts with cancer.

She was born Aug. 23, 1942, in Ethridge, Tenn., and graduated from public schools in Giles County, Tenn. She worked at Chestnut Hill School near Portland, Tenn., while one of her eight sisters attended. She went to Wildwood in Georgia and took their nurse tech course. She met her husband Don at Harbert Hills Academy while attending the graduation of a sister. They married in August, 1965, and moved to Madison.

Peggy worked in the hospital mail room there for 16 years.

Survivors are her husband Don Bee of Madison, Tenn.; two sons, Donny and Ronnie, and three grandchildren.

**Herbert Tate**, 75, died Jan. 18, 2009, in Hendersonville, N.C.

He was born Jan. 21, 1933, in Richmond, Va., to Walter and Essie Tate and grew up there. He graduated from Fletcher Academy and served in the U.S. Army in Germany before studying accounting and business administration at Madison from 1955 to 1960. He also married Margaret Hodges there, a nursing student he had originally met at Fletcher. She graduated from the Madison nursing and anesthesia courses.

He served as assistant administrator and accountant in community hospitals at Banner Elk, N.C., for 11 years and Tappahannock, Va., for 23 years and then retired to Hendersonville, N.C.

Survivors are his wife, Margaret Tate; daughter, Cynthia Allen; and two grandchildren, Brandon Tate and Mary Allen, all of Hendersonville, N.C. A son, Clifton Tate, died in 1978.

**Peter William Donesky**, 88, died in Candler, N.C., on Oct. 24, 2008.

He was born in California to the late William and Dora Donesky and grew up in Canada. He enrolled at Madison College when he was 24 years old and married Kathryn Case there in 1947. After graduating from SMC (now Southern Adventist University) in 1952

with a theology degree, he worked as a literature evangelist for several years.

In the 1960s, Peter, his wife and three children moved to Candler, N.C. Here he and Kathy, a registered nurse, opened and operated a successful daycare center called the Little Red Playschool until Kathryn's death in 1980.

In 1984, he married Bettie Bicknell, who survives him. Also surviving are his three children, Robert of Brazil; Peter of Nashville, Tenn. and Gracelyn of Jacksonville, Fla.; two grandchildren, Kimmie Jenkins of Florida and James Donets of Tennessee; three brothers and seven sisters.

**Lillian Vesta Brown-Johnson** of Hendersonville, N.C., formerly of Murfreesboro and Smyrna, Tenn., died Nov. 11, 2008.

Born in Davidson County, Tenn., to Thomas H. and Vesta Wallace Brown, she was wife of the late Buford B. Johnson who died in 1990.

She attended Rutherford County, Tenn., public schools and then went to Madison College, Southern Junior College, Collegedale, Tenn., and the University of Georgia Extension in Atlanta.

She worked as an accountant and business manager in North Carolina, Mississippi, Alabama and Georgia as well as in Tennessee until 1972.

She was a member of several historical societies and became interested in genealogical research after

retiring. She wrote and published a history of Cane Ridge, a community in Davidson, County, Tenn., where her husband's family settled in 1800. She also wrote genealogical histories of her husband's and her own family.

A lifelong Seventh-day Adventist, she wrote History of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Rutherford County, Tennessee, 1893-2000, a book available through the Elam Road SDA Church in Murfreesboro, Tenn.

**William (Bill) Campbell**, 78, died July 31, 2008, in Hendersonville, Tenn., after a lengthy illness.

He was born May 1, 1930, in Marshall, Texas, and hitchhiked to Madison College in the late 1940s to attend academy and college and decided on a career in X-ray.

He married Darlene Riffel in November, 1953, and worked in Fort Worth, Texas, until moving back to take charge of the X-ray school at Madison in 1964. He later worked at the Veterans Administration Hospital in Nashville until retiring in 1996.

Survivors are his wife Darlene Campbell of Hendersonville, Tenn.; a sister, Marilyn Gunderson, of Whites Creek, Tenn.; a daughter, Pam of Hendersonville, Tenn.; two sons, Gary Campbell of Franklin, Ky., and Ronnie Campbell of Orlinda, Tenn. and two grandchildren.

## Other deaths

Returns from the last Survey indicated the following have also recently passed away.

Larry Kelley  
Leona Logan  
Helen Rademan  
Carol Schaber  
Art Vanderboss  
Alice Wilson

## New Addresses Wanted

George C. Barnett  
Marietta, GA

Fred and Bessie Callahan  
Chattanooga, TN

Dolly Mackel  
Apopka, FL

Geraldine Ralls  
Newport Beach, CA

We want to expand our mailing list for the Alumni News/Survey. If you know someone who graduated from or attended Madison and not receiving the Survey, send us their address.

## From Our Readers

Vanessa Ford, a Standish daughter who grew up in Madison, writes:

"As I sit down to begin this holiday message, a bit over two years now, being separated from dear Elden, I realize that

this has been a time of drastic change for me, with a few health problems, but one thing is certain—the “blessed Hope” of the resurrection morning shines brighter than ever, and Jesus is nearer and dearer to me than ever before.

“I have not corresponded very often with many in my address book. I do want to be sure that each one has my NEW address.

Vanessa Ford  
R & T Home Care  
11574 Poplar ST  
Loma Linda, CA 92354

“Bob, our oldest, lives in nearby Redlands with his wife Karen. Kathy, next in line, lives in Bend, Ore., and is now retired from nursing. Pat, next in line, lives near me here in Loma Linda with her husband Bob. My sister Juanita lives nearby with her husband, Ralph McGann.”

\* \* \* \* \*

Lois Northcutt writes:

“Jack and I stay very busy in our retirement (?) We are members of the Forest Lake Church of over 3,000 members. Three TV programs are prepared each week for Hope TV and also a radio program. We are preparing for Net 2008 with Mark Finley in the fall. We have a minimum of five services each Sabbath and two prayer meetings. Jack conducts one. I am assistant to Senior Pastor Derek Morris and the church administrator.

“Our work is on a volunteer basis. Jack also runs one of the TV cameras.

“Praise God for His blessings.”

--Jack and Lois Northcutt

Anesthesia and Medical Records '57

Pat Lowe writes:

“I am sorry to hear that Bob is no longer with us. We have the blessed hope! When Jesus comes we shall see him. The Lord is coming soon, very soon.

“I am of the class of 1946.

“Edwin O. Lowe studied at Madison College for a year or more. He went into the service in 1942. After World War II, he went to Loma Linda University medical school and graduated in 1952. He worked for 20 years and then had a stroke in 1984. He died in 1995.”

--Patricia Liu Lowe  
Camarillo, California

\* \* \* \* \*

“It was a privilege to take Mr. Rimmers place in the old chapel one Sabbath at the organ with Doris Ackerman singing the solo.

“Thank you all for carrying on the work that was started many years ago.”

--Clyde Holland

\* \* \* \* \*

“I am enclosing a write-up of a get together that our Nursing Class of 1951 recently had. I am sure that Bob Sutherland will be missed by many. He and Stella certainly worked on keeping the alumni together. We do appreciate the work that you are doing in getting out the Survey. I know that it requires a lot of effort on your part.

"Madison College and Sanitarium gave us a good foundation for functioning in this 'ole world and we have many good memories, among the ones that were not so good. I had several classes under Frances Dittes. She was quite a lady."

--Doris Lee, Avon Park, Florida

### 1951 Nursing Class Reunion

"There are a few of us still around to have a small reunion. September 13 found us gathered at the home of Betty and Peter Donesky of Pisgah, N.C. Betty used to be Betty Bicknell

"Those attending were Bernhard Jensen and wife Ann of Bryson City, N.C.; Joe and Gilda Bondranko of Knoxville, Tenn., (one of three married couples that graduated); Doris (Iles) Lee and husband Roland from Avon Park, Fla.; and Roland Parker and wife K.B. of Hendersonville, N.C.

"We enjoyed a very pleasant time reminiscing of those "good old days." Our numbers are diminishing, and some would like to have been there but due to circumstances were unable to be. Some members we have lost track of. All in all it was a delightful afternoon visiting on the porch at Betty and Pete's home.

"Six weeks later we were saddened to learn of Peter William Donesky's death. He had not been in good health for a couple of years."

--Doris Lee

\* \* \* \*

"My name was Loretta Jean Courter, and I went to Madison Academy in

1960-61. My sister, Lucy Courter, went to college there at the same time.

"I was homesick when I went to Madison, for going so far away from home in Florida. I remember the banquets we had. They were really nice. I really liked the Zeiglers. He was biology teacher and had a son named Buddy. I remember breaking my ankle and had to have a cast. I got carried up the stairs a lot by the guys! Well that's enough. Bye for now."

--Loretta Jean Bode

### Alumni Board Members

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Change service requested

Andrews University  
James White Library  
Berrien Springs, MI 49104-1400



**O Madison**  
(To the tune of "America the Beautiful")  
Written by Edna A. Pepper in 1958  
Submitted by Clyde Holland '59

O Madison! We hail thee here  
For ideals that shall stand  
We hail the school of friendships dear  
Beside the Cumberland  
By heaven blessed, lift up the torch  
Be true and shed the light  
Until the right conquers the world  
And daylight ends the night.

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