

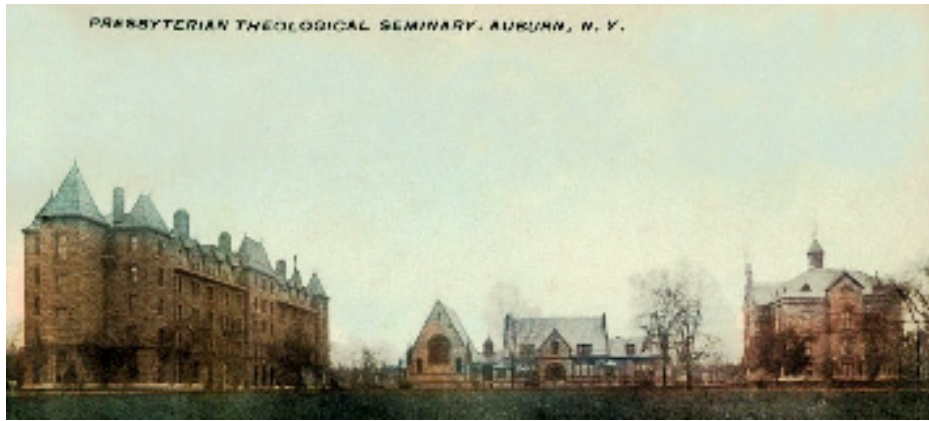
ARPTalk(5)

September 10, 2008
ATTACHED ARTICLES

(2)

Is This a Metaphor for Erskine's Future?

by Dr. Mary Anne Fleagle



FYI: This photograph shows Auburn Theological Seminary, Auburn, NY, in 1911. Since then the dormitory building in the left of the photograph has been demolished. All that is left on the site now is the chapel—it's *a ghost town campus*. Auburn Theological Seminary is infamous as the location where liberal leaders in the old PCUSA met after the 1923 General Assembly of the PCUSA to write the Auburn Affirmation which declared war on the Bible. The 1923 General Assembly affirmed the inerrancy of the Scriptures. The Auburn Affirmation declared: "The doctrine of inerrancy, intended to enhance the authority of the Scriptures, in fact impairs their supreme authority for faith and life, and weakens the testimony of the church to the power of God unto salvation through Jesus Christ. We hold that the General Assembly of 1923, in asserting that "the Holy Spirit did so inspire, guide and move the writers of Holy Scripture as to keep them from error," spoke without warrant of the Scriptures or of the Confession of Faith." At this point the following words from Isaiah 40:8 seem appropriate: "The grass withers, the flower fades, but the word of our God will stand forever."

My parents grew up in Auburn, New York, and each summer during my childhood, we would make the trip from Miami to New York to see the many aunts and uncles, cousins, grandparents and friends. I grew to love my family history, and can still remember many anecdotes and events as if they occurred yesterday.

Most of the family lived within walking distance of each other, and my cousins and I walked all over town exploring the backyards and gardens of our relatives. I still know the addresses of these “ancestral mansions” and so, when I brought my husband up to Auburn a few years back, we made the grand tour of the old home town.

He was especially interested in Seminary Street, where my uncle Frank Caruana lived. Usually, streets are named for a reason, and this was no exception. But what had become of the “Seminary”?

Ed’s question led me to do a little bit of exploration and research. The Willard Chapel, the only remaining building from the seminary, still has a few books, and I was able to find a history of the seminary which used to exist there. Through the generosity of my cousin Thomas Colvin (who chairs the Chapel Preservation Committee), I was allowed to keep a copy of this book. Now for the story.

In the early years of our Republic, western New York State was being populated by a mix of Scots-Irish, Dutch and English settlers. Many of you who know your ARP history recall that there were a good number of ARP churches in the early 1800s in the states of Pennsylvania and New York. Being on the frontier of our growing nation, the Presbyterian and Reformed ministers of the area saw the need for a seminary that would provide instruction and support for the Christian ministry. According to the *History of the Auburn Theological Seminary*, by Seminary Librarian John Quincy Adams (1918), a meeting of the western New York Presbyterian Synod was held on August 5, 1818, to make plans to open a seminary in Auburn. “Besides these regular members of Synod, there were a number of corresponding members present who exercised considerable influence over the final decision. Among them were President Henry Davis, D. D., of Hamilton College, the Rev. C. TenEyck, a representative from the Classis of Montgomery, and the Rev. William Johnson from the Associate Reformed Church.”

However, the memory of the Auburn seminary has grown dim. The Willard Memorial Chapel Building, center of the photo, is all that is left of the Auburn Theological Seminary in the city of Auburn. The Louis B. Tiffany windows in the Chapel, valued at many millions of dollars, are called “The Tiffany Treasure of the Finger Lakes.” The windows are beautiful, but the Chapel has not been used for the proclamation of the Gospel for many years. The Seminary moved to New York City and took its library with it. Now it is a part of Union Theological Seminary. The dormitories, which are visible on the left of the photograph, were purchased by the City of Auburn, and were used as low income housing. Veterans returning from WW2,

including a few of my aunts and uncles, lived there until the building was demolished.

Why did the seminary move? Why did such a grand plan falter and collapse after over a hundred years of witness and work? What happened to the Associate Reformed congregations in New York? It seems a good answer may be found on the webpage of the Seminary's current version. Maybe it is just me, but it looks like the webpage author almost took delight in including a quote from John Williamson Nevin, then a student at Princeton Seminary, who in 1825 observed that Auburn's theology was "a little swerved" from the straight line of Calvinist doctrine. The Seminary webpage also celebrates its current "struggle against fundamentalism."

The smoking gun in this "struggle against fundamentalism" was The Auburn Affirmation. Named for the seminary whence it originated, the Affirmation sacrificed doctrinal purity for unity among the body known then as the Presbyterian Church in the United States of America (the "Northern" Presbyterians). "Liberty of thought and teaching of its ministers" (Title 1, par. I) took precedence over the great truths of the Christian faith as taught in the Scriptures and outlined in the Westminster Confession of Faith. The authors of the Affirmation held that there is "no assertion in Scripture that its authors were kept from error" (Title 2, par. I). The controversy leading to the Affirmation was the charge to the General Assembly in 1923 that "doctrines contrary to the standards of the Presbyterian Church have been preached in the pulpit of the First Presbyterian Church of New York City" (Title 2, par. III). Why are we not surprised!

Memories are good, but this particular exploration of times past did not turn out to be particularly pleasant for me. The pleasant splendor of the Chapel was tainted by the realization that without the witness to Jesus Christ, it was just another pretty building. My heart was heavy, knowing that the compromises of The Auburn Affirmation are presently before our very own Erskine Theological Seminary. I leave you with the hope and fervent prayer that we can take a lesson from the Auburn Seminary experience, and not allow our light to grow dim, fade and wink out.

Editor's Comments: We in the ARPC have something remarkably like *The Auburn Affirmation* in our history, at least with regard to biblical authority. It's the *Covenant of Integrity*. This document, following on the heels of the 1979 General Synod which adopted Dr. Grady Oates' motion on biblical authority which affirmed that the Bible "is the word of God and without error in all that it teaches," was a response and rejoinder to the action of General Synod. The signers of the *Covenant of Integrity* sought to say that the adopted motion of the 1979 General Synod did not mean "inerrancy." The list of signatures

to the *Covenant of Integrity* reads like a Who's Who of the moderate-to-liberal wing of the ARPC in 1980, and includes names such as Michael E. Woodard, Lonnie L. Richardson, and Kenneth F. Morris. Also among those signing the *Covenant of Integrity* was Randall T. Ruble, now President of Erskine. Now, by action of the 2008 General Synod, the bar is raised and our General Synod has embraced an unambiguous statement on biblical inerrancy. What we do not know, and now need to know, is this: Do the senior administrators at the college and seminary affirm this statement? Do they believe the affirmation of the 2008 General Synod to be a true and accurate representation of what the Bible says? And, if they affirm this statement (and I hope they do), what is their plan to apply this statement to the mission of the college and seminary? Will you tell us plainly? *ARPTalk* will provide unlimited and unedited space.

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AN OPEN LETTER TO THE SEMINARY COMMITTEE

I have been thinking about the next meeting of the Seminary Committee. I thought I would jot down some thoughts and questions that may help in that discussion.

- 1. What is the end game? Is the purpose of this exercise the framing of a statement on inerrancy that so broadens the term inerrancy as to make it unrecognizable? Such folly will greatly distance the ARPC from NAPARC, if not jeopardize our membership in NAPARC. Such an attempt will also intellectually demean Professors Burnett and Bush, for they are being forcefully pushed where they are clearly not in accord. It will create a virtual fire-storm throughout General Synod and further distance ETS from the heart of the ARPC, making ETS essentially a theological ODDITY in the ARPC.**
- 2. HOW were Dr. Burnett and Dr. Bush hired by ETS? What was the justification for their positions? Was the process outlined by ATS and the Southern Association followed? Who were the members of the Search Committees? In what publications were the job descriptions advertised? I don't remember seeing them in the *Associate Reformed Presbyterian*. What was the search process? It is reported that a large gift was given to subsidize the hiring of Dr. Burnett. It is reported that normal procedures were ignored. Is this true? Are professorships at ETS up for sale?**
- 3. Why are Burnett and Bush NOT members of the Evangelical Theological Society? The only qualifications for membership are affirmation of the Trinity and inerrancy. Surely they believe in the Trinity. The only other requirement is the very issue that is now in contention! Were their membership applications rejected? It is reported that Dr. Burnett cannot affirm the position statement adopted by the 2008 General Synod. Does he realize that the statement is little more than a summary copy (a plagiarism, if you will) of the *Chicago Statement on Biblical Inerrancy*?**

- 4. What was the tenure process that was used for Professor Burnett? As I understand it, the tenure process works in this manner: A professor must teach full-time at Erskine for seven years (or a combination of service at Erskine and other institutions totaling at least seven years). The Dean (Dr. Bell) has to approve the faculty member's application and initiate the process; the Executive Vice-President (Rev. Gaston) then approves and recommends action to the Tenure Committee; the Tenure Committee looks at the application, examines, approves and recommends to the President; the President (Dr. Ruble) then has to approve and grant tenure. The President has the power to veto. Does this mean all three of the senior administrators at ETS approve what Burnett believes about Scripture? What documents were examined by the Tenure Committee? Were issues regarding Dr. Burnett's doctrinal conformity discussed when the Tenure Committee met? What were the issues that were raised? Given that Dr. Burnett has taught at ETS for only six years, what was the math used to get seven years out of six?**
- 5. Did the Academic Dean of the Seminary, the Executive Vice-President of the Seminary and the President of the College ponder how this would be received by the General Synod? Is ETS's main concern the General Synod or "the greater church?" How is "the greater church" defined: the PC(USA), the PCA or the Southern Baptist Convention? The administrators are bold to say that ETS is the seminary of the ARPC. Are they listening to the General Synod? What did the 2008 General Synod say? At the 2007 General Synod Dr. Ruble, as he spoke and answered questions regarding the direction of Erskine, begged that the problems at the College and Seminary were not his making. That can't be said now. Both Dr. Ruble and Reverend Gaston are aware of the direction of the General Synod. What future do they envision for the institution that takes it in a direction contrary to the direction of the General Synod? Are they on board with the direction of the ARPC or opposed to it? Is this the proper and wise use of the stewardship that has been entrusted to them?**
- 6. It is reported by Reverend Wright that Dr. Burnett stated in class that inerrancy is an over-emphasis on the Bible, if not worship of the Bible. Could he explain what he means by that? Sources report that Dr. Burnett held up a Bible and asked his students if they worshiped the Bible? Is that wise in an**

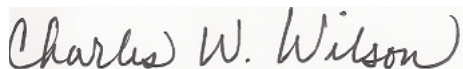
institution that is tasked in the training of ministers who will teach the Bible? It is well known that such a technique is used by those who attack the authority of the Bible.

- 7. Is it not a concern of the Committee and the Administration that many of our brightest and best graduates of Erskine College are opting to attend other seminaries, asserting theological inexactness and laxity at ETS for their leaving?**

- 8. In the bank branch where my wife works the employees are tasked with caring for money. An audit of the money is never internal. The auditors are external. The branch staff gets out of the way of the auditors. ETS is tasked with caring for biblical truth, and that is far more valuable and important than money. Sources report that the Seminary Committee meeting was influenced by Reverend Gaston (Executive Vice-President of the Seminary), Dr. Bell (Academic Dean of the Seminary), and Dr. Fairbairn (Associate Dean of Theology). Their presence and participation **POISONS** the process and opens the process to charges of disingenuousness and manipulation. Is this the execution of the old techniques of spin and control? It looks like an internal audit with a PREDICTABLE outcome.**

These are *some* of the questions that many of us are thinking and asking. How are these questions to be dealt with? Will the reputation of ETS be restored among ARPs or will it continue to be caricatured as “Erskine smurskine, who cares” (not my words or sentiment)? There’s an old proverb that says **“If you have gone down the wrong road a long way, turn around and go back!”**

These are my thoughts,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Charles W. Wilson". The signature is written in black ink on a light-colored background.

Chuck

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(4)

Kudos to Erskine College for Academic Recognition

from Erskine NetNews

8.20.08

Erskine ranked in top 100 colleges by Forbes.com

In an effort to provide an alternative to U.S. News & World Report's annual "Best Colleges" edition, Forbes.com has come up with its own set of rankings of higher education institutions across the country.

Released last week, the rankings list Erskine College 95th among 569 undergraduate institutions.

Forbes.com, in conjunction with Dr. Richard Vedder, an economist at Ohio University, and the Center for College Affordability and Productivity (CCAP), inaugurated the new rankings. In the report, CCAP ranks the institutions based on the quality of the education they provide and how much their students achieve.

"Erskine's ranking confirms what we have argued for years -- that we are the best buy among the best colleges in South Carolina and the nation," said Dr. Donald V. Weatherman, executive vice president and dean at Erskine. "This is probably why so many of our graduates end up in the best graduate programs in the nation as well."

Among colleges and universities in the state of South Carolina, only Wofford College was ranked ahead of Erskine and only those two schools were among the top 100 institutions.

Other South Carolina colleges and universities to make the list of 569 schools behind Erskine were Claflin, Furman, The Citadel, Presbyterian, University of South Carolina, Clemson and South Carolina State.

Forbes.com is straightforward about the intention of its first foray into college rankings.

"Competition is good," Forbes.com said of its new rankings. "Choosing a four-year undergraduate college is one of the biggest decisions a typical American family can make. And for too many years, information about the quality of American higher education has been monopolized by one publication, U.S. News & World Report.

We offer an alternative."

CCAP's methodology focuses on evaluating institutions from a student's point of view by asking questions such as:

- How good will my professors be?**
- Will the school help me achieve notable career success?**
- If I have to borrow to pay for college, how deeply will I go into debt?**
- What are the chances I will graduate in four years?**
- Are students and faculty recognized nationally, or even globally?**

To answer those questions, CCAP staff (mostly college students themselves) gathered data from a variety of sources. They based 25 percent of the rankings on 7 million student evaluations of courses and instructors, as recorded on the Web site RateMyProfessors.com

Another 25 percent depended on how many of the school's alumni, adjusted for enrollment, are listed among notable people in Who's Who in America.

The other half of the ranking was based equally on three factors: the average amount of student debt at graduation held by those who borrowed; the percentage of graduates receiving their degrees in four years; and the number of students or faculty, adjusted for enrollment, who have won nationally competitive awards such as Rhodes Scholarships or Nobel Prizes.

"The Forbes methodology is important because of the colleges and universities it did not include among the top 500 institutions," Weatherman said. "Dr. Richard Vedder is a well-known analyst of higher education and he adds even more credibility to the rankings."

The data showed that students "strongly prefer" smaller schools to big ones, as the median undergraduate enrollment in the top 50-ranked schools is about 2,300, and only one of the top 50 (the University of Virginia) has more than 10,000 undergraduate students.

"Small liberal arts schools shine in our rankings," Forbes.com said, "probably due to both the quality of their faculty and the personal attention they can provide."

8.27.08

**Erskine again ranked second among
baccalaureate colleges in the South by U.S.
News & World Report**

Erskine College has been ranked as the second-best baccalaureate institution in the South in the U.S. News & World Report's "America's Best Colleges" edition for the second consecutive year.

The ranking follows on the heels of Erskine being ranked the 95th-best institution of higher learning in the nation by Forbes.com

Highlights of the college rankings will be published in the Sept. 1 issue of U.S. News & World Report, which was available for newsstand purchase on Monday, Aug. 25. The 2009 America's Best Colleges will be available as of Tuesday, Aug. 26.

The Best Baccalaureate Colleges are institutions that focus on undergraduate education and offer a range of degree programs -- in the liberal arts, which account for fewer than half of their bachelor's degrees, and in professional fields such as business, education and athletic training.

"Erskine's standing in both U.S. News and the new Forbes college rankings shows that we are a remarkably fine educational institution regardless of the methodology used," said Dr. Donald V. Weatherman, executive vice president and dean at Erskine. "I appreciate the Forbes system because it is based on hard data whereas U.S. News bases 25 percent of its ranking on the opinion of peer institutions. I always have a preference for facts over opinion. Fortunately, Erskine's fine quality is revealed either way."

Forty-eight schools are listed in the South's best baccalaureate colleges and Erskine trails only Ouachita Baptist University (Ark.).

Erskine is ranked ahead of all South Carolina schools -- Claflin is ranked 13th, Coker is ranked 16th, University of South Carolina-Aiken is 23rd, Newberry is ranked 31st, Anderson University is 33rd, Lander University is 35th, and University of South Carolina-Upstate is also 35th.

Among the statistics that helped Erskine achieve the #2 ranking were: overall score (96); peer assessment score (3.0); average freshman retention rate (76 percent); average graduation rate (67 percent); percentage of classes under 20 (77 percent, 2007); percentage of classes of 50 or more (0 percent, 2007); student/faculty ratio (12:1, 2007); percentage of faculty who are full time (82 percent, 2007); SAT/ACT 25th-75th percentile (983-1205, 2007); freshmen in top 25 percent of high school class (57 percent, 2007); acceptance rate (66 percent, 2007); and average alumni giving rate (29 percent, 2007).

There are 286 baccalaureate colleges ranked among the four regions -- North, South, Midwest and West.

The U.S. News rankings are based on several key measures of quality, including

peer assessment (25 percent), graduation and retention rates (25 percent), faculty resources (20 percent), student selectivity (15 percent), financial resources (10 percent) and alumni giving (5 percent).

Editor's Comments: Congratulations are due the Erskine College faculty for their enviable academic accomplishments. No one I know has ever doubted or criticized the Erskine College academic community for their standards. The criticism has been in the realm of the spiritual/biblical. The Erskine claim is uniting the intellectual and spiritual. The following article by college student Josh Grimm addresses this.

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Old Challenges, New Opportunities for Erskine

By Joshua Grimm
Erskine College, Class of 2009

Note, JG: The following article is a revised version of an article that appeared in the January 2008 issue of *The Erskine Mirror*. It is reprinted with permission of the author.

The family atmosphere marking Erskine represents one of our greatest strengths; but we must pay careful attention to it or it may become one of our biggest weaknesses. Families may either lovingly deal with problems, or they can gloss over their problems and suppress them. Out of love for the family that makes up the Erskine community we need to honestly assess and confront the challenges facing us. I challenge us all to a conversation about what it means for us to be a community of administrators, scholars, and students.

Old Challenges

The conversation must begin with an open discussion concerning our educational philosophy and its ambiguous past. There exists within Erskine's "institutional DNA" a certain ambiguity about what our educational philosophy really is. Until the 1960s, Erskine was largely a socially conservative church-related liberal arts college in the ARP tradition of pietistic Christianity. With the 1960s and new presidential Administrations came a turn toward more liberal social policies on campus and an approach toward education that viewed faith and reason as inhabiting different "stories" of the world. The ARP Church began to respond to that trend with its 1977 ARP Philosophy of Christian Education, but Erskine's Board of Trustees and its Administration neither had the vision nor the will to fully adopt that philosophy at Erskine. Thus began the entrenching of the dichotomy between "Christian commitment and excellence in learning."

During the 1980s Erskine increased its academic standards and moving into the 1990s Erskine paid increased attention to the Sciences, an investment culminating in the building of the Daniel Moultrie Science Center. During the period of re-focusing on academic standards in the 1980s Erskine's Christian commitment (in an apparent reaction by moderate to liberal Administrations to the pietism of Erskine's past) began to be de-emphasized. That changed in the 1990s, with the Strobel Administration. As Dr. Bright Lowry's "Report for the Purpose Committee"

for Erskine's 2001 Self-Study notes, coming off of Erskine's decline in enrollment in the early 1990s the College brought in the consulting firm Noel-Levitz to evaluate the institution and its retention levels.

In response to these self-studies, then, from 1997 to 2001 Erskine began to emphasize more its status as the only Carnegie BA-I school in the South to also be a member of the Council for Christian Colleges and Universities. This coincides with the beginning of the Carson Administration in 1998, with Dr. Carson's notable statement that a vision for Erskine as a Christian liberal arts college is

...not new - The Philosophy of Christian Higher Education and the Definition of an Evangelical were adopted 21 years ago by the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church and the Board of Trustees of Erskine college and several years ago in its Mission. I do not intend to add anything new - not one new straw - on the backs of faculty or staff or students; but I do intend to be consistent in making this vision a reality. Erskine College will be by God's grace what it has been called to be- a Christian Liberal Arts College open to all students. (John Carson, Why A Christian Liberal Arts Education?, Erskine College, 1998; Accessed online at: <http://www.erskine.edu/news/carson/comments.html>)

Not until the Carson Administration do we see a movement to move Erskine beyond the polarities of its "institutional DNA": vanilla ARP southern cultural pietism, on the one hand, and a kind of vanilla compartmentalist liberalism, on the other. Indeed, by the 2001 self-study, the Strategic Planning Committee's Erskine College Strategic Plan 2001 made its goal "That the College be recognized as one of the finest Christian liberal arts colleges in the nation, advancing its academic reputation, with six hundred students by 2005" (cited in Dr. David Grier, "Section III: Institutional Effectiveness," 4 [2001]).

However, the Carson Administration proved unable to bring about the consensus agreement to its Christian liberal arts vision needed to break the polarities of Erskine's "institutional DNA." The challenge that Erskine faced in 2001 may be best illustrated by the following focus group study results noted by Dr. Lowry's report about the views of Erskine staff: "...those who agreed or agreed strongly dipped to fifty-three percent for, 'unites faith and reason' and fifty-five percent for, 'makes students aware of their obligations to GOD' (Lowry, II-6).

Debates over Erskine's new mission statement, and the wide range of disagreement and confusion among faculty and students (not to mention the virtual silence of administrators!), shows that the polarities of Erskine's institutional DNA remain potent.

And the potency of those polarities powerfully affects the entire range of institutional, campus, communal, and spiritual life of Erskine College by frequently limiting what we can accomplish in those areas to the minimal. Those polarities lead to a fragmented and insufficiently vigorous vision for education and for community. But Erskine need not stay here.

New Opportunities

Our vision for what Erskine could be ought not to match the smallness of our campus. Instead, let us move forward by means of a vision of a renewed Erskine, an Erskine beyond the polarities of the past. It is a grand and glorious vision of an Erskine with robust academics seen as the quest of faith seeking understanding through the liberal arts, faculty passionate about educating both the hearts and the minds of their students, and community life led proactively led in its spiritual, intellectual, and recreational aspects by administrators and students.

As we finish this year and look to the future, I ask you to dream big dreams with me. I ask you to be content no longer with mediocrity, with spiritual or intellectual shallowness, or with hypocrisy in Erskine as an institution and a community, in your friends, and in your own heart and mind. I ask you to consider that change and renewal are possible as we act on the basis of a Christian liberal arts vision.

I ask you to reconsider all that you have ever thought was impossible, in your own life and in the life of this community we call Erskine. I ask you to consider that in doing so, the stakes are high as the clouds. The stakes are whether Erskine will be, by the grace of God, an institution and a community that strives to glorify God in all that it does by producing well-rounded, Gospel-centered people lit on fire to serve and bring renewal to a fallen, confused, and hurting world in whatever they do. Will you and I be those kinds of students? Will Erskine College be that kind of institution and that kind of community?

The challenges of Erskine past remain to be tackled. But the time is now to meet those challenges head on, with all the energy, thought, and passion motivated by a breathtaking vision of the Christian liberal arts. The stakes are no more and no less than the state of our souls.

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Erskine College Now Has Buildings Named After a Convicted Felon

FYI: The Daniel-Moultrie Science Center and the Moultrie-Moss Facility building now bear the family name of a convicted felon. Robert Moultrie is a former Erskine College Board member, a large contributor and the recipient of a Doctor of Laws degree in 2004. The article from *The Clarion-Ledger*, Jackson, Mississippi, is copied below.

Another Guilty Plea in Beef Case

A Georgia businessman pleaded guilty Monday to conspiracy to corruptly influence a public official in connection with Mississippi's costly and failed beef plant venture — a decision that could spill over into a U.S. Senate race.

Robert Moultrie, chairman and chief executive of The Facility Group of Smyrna, Ga., admitted he gave \$45,000 in contributions to the re-election campaign of then-Gov. Ronnie Musgrove, who is now running for the Senate.

Moultrie, 67, is the latest to plead guilty in the scandal that already has resulted in convictions for three other people, including former beef plant owner Richard Hall Jr. U.S. District Judge Mike Mills is set to sentence Moultrie in 45 to 60 days.

As part of the plea agreement U.S. attorneys, Mills and Moultrie agreed to a 34-month sentencing cap. The charge carries a maximum 10 years in prison, \$250,000 fine or both and three years of supervised release.

Prosecutors also agreed to dismiss the other charges from the initial 16-count indictment against Moultrie, who was set to go on trial Aug. 25 with two other executives.

Moultrie has agreed to cooperate with authorities. He first gave Musgrove \$20,000 through a PAC Moultrie formed in July 2003. In September 2003, "Musgrove contacted Moultrie for another campaign contribution of \$25,000," according to court documents.

The contributions were made with the intent to influence or reward Musgrove for the "performance of his official acts in connection with the management of the design and construction of the Mississippi Beef Processors project."

Nothing in the plea agreement suggests Musgrove knew the money was obtained illegally but simply that he accepted the contributions from The Facility Group.

Musgrove is not accused of any wrongdoing, but Moultrie's plea comes less than three months before voters are set to decide whether Musgrove, a Democrat, or

Republican Roger Wicker will fill the Senate seat vacated by Trent Lott. The election is Nov. 4.

“There is nothing in the plea agreement that indicates any quid pro quo,” Musgrove campaign spokesman Adam Bozzi said Monday. “And whatever Robert Moultrie’s intentions were to influence future acts were misdirected. The Land, Water and Timber Resource Board was responsible for all contracts, and they approved contracting with The Facility Group.”

In March 2003, the state and bank officials chose Facility Construction Managements to manage the project in Oakland. The plant opened on Aug. 23, 2004, and closed three months later, costing Mississippi taxpayers more than \$55 million.

In addition to Hall, Sean Carothers, whose company built the plant in Yalobusha County, pleaded guilty. Hall received eight years, and Carothers’ 21 months was reduced to a year and a day.

Another person charged, James Draper, 59, a refrigeration salesman from Mount Juliet, Tenn., was convicted July 23 of money laundering and interstate transportation of money obtained by fraud. He faces 30 years in prison and a \$750,000 fine.

Charles Morehead, 57, of Lilburn and Nixon Cawood, 58, of Woodstock, both charged in the same indictment with Moultrie, are set to be tried Aug. 25.

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Bush's DUI Trial Continued

Because a witness was ill and unable to be present, Dr. Michael Bush's DUI trial has been continued until October.

Dr. Michael Bush is the recently appointed Vice-President of Development at ETS. Professor Bush, a minister in the PC(USA), was teaching courses in preaching until his appointment to an administrative position.

According to the arrest report of the Abbeville Sheriff's Office, Bush was arrested early Sunday morning (4/26/08) at 1:37 AM and released on Sunday afternoon at 1:15 PM. It is also reported that he refused a field sobriety test. He was released without bail on his own recognizance.

This is an unfortunate matter for Dr. Bush, his family, and the ETS community. One wonders why Bush was not placed on administrative leave, with full pay, until the matter has been resolved.

***ARPTalk* will report on the outcome of the trial proceedings when they occur.**

This article and the above article regarding Mr. Robert Moultrie have SHOCK VALUE because no one at Erskine has been willing to deal with them openly. Do not the administrators realize that these issues also concern the ARPC?

These incidences are NOT reported on by *ARPTalk* in order to embarrass Mr. Moultrie and Dr. Bush. Their embarrassment is of their own making. Nor is the point of this article to imply that Mr. Moultrie and Dr. Bush are "bad" people. It is proverbial that "good" people often make "bad" decisions.

These incidences are reported on by *ARPTalk* because no one is willing to report on them at Erskine. These incidences are embarrassing and that is why they NEED to be acknowledged. If we are not willing to report on the embarrassing and painful, we call into question our transparency and integrity. Integrity is built by owning the "bad."

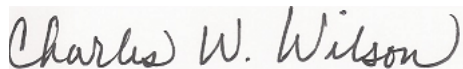
These issues are not of recent making. Why has the Erskine Administration not openly acknowledged and owned these issues that are publicly broadcast elsewhere? Many of us have been waiting to see what would be done.

This is not to say that *ARPTalk* is calling for the effacing of the name Moultrie from Erskine buildings. Robert Moultrie's indiscretion in Mississippi does not lessen his generosity and other contributions in Due West. The fact remains the buildings would not have been built without Moultrie's money.

Nor is this to say that *ARPTalk* is calling for punitive actions to be taken against Dr. Bush. One can only grieve for Dr. Bush and his family. Obviously, there are many questions to be asked, but jumping to a call for a resignation at this time, over this one failure, is, in the opinion of Chuck Wilson, wrong! As this issue of *ARPTalk* has demonstrated, there are far more pressing issues with Dr. Bush and his employment (e.g., What was the vetting process whereby he was hired as a ETS Vice-President and where was that position advertised?).

If the Erskine Administration, on both the College and Seminary sides, is to regain the trust, permission, and confidence of the ARP rank and file, then the exercise of the stewardship that has been entrusted to them needs to be seriously re-evaluated!

These are my thoughts,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Charles W. Wilson".

Chuck