



# *the following*

Newsletter for Alumni of the Warren Ashby Residential College of UNCG

*Issue # 44*  
*October 2013*

## Upcoming Alumni Events

**Faculty-Student Lunches**  
Last Friday of the Month  
Oct 25, Nov 22, Jan 31, Feb 28, Mar 28, Apr 25  
Noon @ the Caf (aka Spartan Restaurant). ARC will pick up the bill for alumni!

**Haunted House**  
Saturday, October 26, 7-11pm  
Once a year, the current students endeavor to make themselves and the dorm not quite so scary so that normal folks dare to visit and give money to charity.

**Pizza & Pumpkins**  
October 29, 5:30 – 7:30pm  
Come critique the creativity of cutlery-clad collegiate carvers.

**Thanksgiving Dinner**  
November 23, 6-8pm  
United Campus Ministries Building, Sterling St.

**Goody Bag Assembly**  
Nov 17, 7pm  
Help assemble assorted treats for exam-stressed students.

**Winter Holiday Program**  
December 1, 7pm  
Arndt Parlor

**Holiday Social**  
December 3, 6-7:30pm  
@Jeanne's house  
Alumni and faculty invited.

**Bowl-a-Rama**  
February 16, 3-5 pm  
Alumni vs. students. AMF All Star Lanes on Holden Rd.

## What, So What, What Now?

### **The 2013 ARC Commencement Address – May 2013**

By John R. Sopper, Associate Dean, Undergraduate Studies

Thank you, Ben, for that generous introduction. And greetings to the distinguished Ashby Alums, faculty, dedicated staff and friends of this very special community; it is an honor and privilege to be here with you today. And especially, greetings and congratulations to our Ashby College graduates.

Each of you Ashby graduates has, in your own way, done something unique and very special that only a precious few graduates of UNCG can claim—you are a part of the Ashby College family, living examples of the Ashby College experience, and products of an Ashby College education – truly things to be proud of and to take pride in. In our day, these are uncommon accomplishments, and I salute you for them.

As Ben said, I am John Sopper. Some of you may know me from my previous incarnations as a lecturer in the Religious Studies Department. Some may know me as the former director of Grogan College. "Hey! You! That Grogan guy!" as a student shouted at me from across the campus recently. Others may know me for better or worse in other capacities and contexts. I've been at UNCG for close to 25 years and most recently I have been serving as the Associate Dean in Undergraduate Studies.

When I look around at all of the distinguished faculty and leaders of Ashby who have done so much for this community and for such a long time, who have nurtured, protected, and shepherded this very special part of UNCG, often at great personal cost, and when I think of the distinguished speakers who have stood where I am standing today, addressing Ashby students such as yourselves, **ESPECIALLY** Warren Ashby himself, believe me when I say I never expected to find myself standing here, **AND**, I am delighted to do so.

Taking notice of where I am and what I am doing in addressing you, and reflecting a moment on what it means to me, let me draw my first lesson—my first wee bit of commencement speaker advice to you, the graduates gathered here: Expect the unexpected. Life is a winding road. Strive to be honored, thankful, and delighted in the surprises.

Of course, I probably don't need to remind you of this bit of advice, since you are after all, people who ended up in Ashby College, and as a general rule there is precious little that is predictable about people who end up in Ashby College.

The title of my address is **WHAT, SO WHAT, NOW WHAT?**

Truth be told, I stole the idea for my title from its use in certain experiential theories of learning explained to me recently by Jessica McCall, a faculty member in Communication Studies. For Jessica and other advocates of experiential learning, *What—So what—Now what* is both a theory of how the human mind works, of how we learn, and a technique for teaching. I think it is a fitting way to think about what happens in Ashby College. Let's start with the **WHAT**.

As a teaching technique, the approach begins by asking students to notice what is happening around them and to them. It says "Stop. Focus. Pay attention. Look around. Identify what just happened to you. What did you just experience?" Observe it. Name it. Notice it. Record it in your attention.

Valle Crucis Retreat  
April 11-13, 2013  
Rock out on the porch with  
ARCers young and old. Cost is  
\$124 for two nights and six  
meals, with discounts for half  
stays and children. Contact  
Jeanne Aaroe for more info.

### How to Donate to ARC

#### Online

1. Go to  
<http://advancement.uncg.edu/giving>
2. Choose "Give Online."
3. Under "Gift Designation,"  
choose "Warren Ashby  
Residential College."

#### Endowments

Contact Dr. Lollie White  
llwhite@uncg.edu  
336.256.1272

#### Enrichment Fund

Make check payable to  
"Ashby Residential College"  
and send to the ARC office  
care of the Office Manager.

#### Alumni Dues

Make check for \$10 payable  
to "Ashby Residential  
College" and send to the ARC  
office, ATTN: Friends of ARC.

#### What We Do With Funds

Print and mail hard copy  
newsletters; plan reunions  
and other alumni events; and  
support current ARC students  
with book scholarships, goody  
bags during exams,  
refreshments during Move-in  
Days, and other events such  
as Pizza & Pumpkins and  
alumni-student bowling.

You can do this most anywhere and anytime, with just about anything that is happening. You can do it in lectures, when reading books, listening to music, or even as you walk across campus, ride the bus, or enjoy a meal.

So, let's try following this approach right now. Think. *Ashby! What on earth was that? What just happened?* Recall it, recollect it, remember it. Put it back in front of your mind's eye.

If I do this, knowing a little about Ashby, the following comes to mind:

- Application, essay, letters of recommendation, portfolio
- SOAR
- Advise and dine
- Jeanne Aaroe
- Choosing classes
- Move in
- Roommate
- Your first friends
- The Parlor
- The picnic table
- The oak tree
- CORE!!!!
- Valle Crucis
- Pumpkin carving—with real knives!
- Haunted House
- Committees
- Anxiety
- Home sickness
- Other kinds of sickness
- Fights
- Love you/hate you/love you again
- Advice Night
- Choose classes again—how to fit it all in
- Papers
- Write at home
- Late papers
- Compare and contrast
- Add and subtract
- Analyze, critique, form an argument, evidence
- Presentations
- Speaking Center
- Exams

A lot has happened. Recall it. Listen for it: Jeanne's voice, Chrissy's voice, Will's voice. More recently, Diane's voice and Ben's voice. The tone, tenor, and lilt of all the voices, sounds, sights, smells, happenings, feelings thoughts—a riot of Ashby living and learning. You will never pass this way again, And you *have* passed this way. So, pay attention. Collect your experiences. Identify and notice what happened to you. Next:

#### SO WHAT?

The next step – in learning, in growing in intelligence, wisdom, skill, and capacity – is to ask yourself, "So what?" Get into the habit of asking that little "so what" question, for that is what employers look for: people to hire for whom it has become a habit, second nature, to engage in close observation and careful

## Thank you, Recent Donors!



### Warren Ashby Endowment

*Mrs. Gaye Barbour Clifton*

*Katherine H. Grenier*

*Kenneth M. Johnson*

*Valerie Marino*

*Todd & Kimberly (Clemons) Nichols*

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*Christina Helen Taylor*

*Ellen Deitz Tucker*

### ARC Enrichment Fund

*Abbitha Berry*

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### Friends of ARC

*Paige Meszaros*

*Kayla Newman*

*Bruce Vail*

*Kathy Walters*

### Emily Arndt Smith Fund

*Drs. Murray & Fran Arndt*

*Ted & Eileen Nirenberg*

### ARC Wish List

- Art
- Books
- Croquet set
- Game system/DVD player
- Coffee maker with three-prong plug
- Cookware
- Dinnerware
- Mugs, glasses

*If you didn't get this newsletter by email, please contact Jeanne Aaroe at [jaaaroe@uncg.edu](mailto:jaaaroe@uncg.edu) to ensure we have your current email address!*

### ARC Contacts

Office  
124 Mary Foust Hall  
PO Box 26170  
Greensboro, NC 27402-6170

Tel 336.334.5915  
Fax 336.334.5298  
Web [www.uncg.edu/res](http://www.uncg.edu/res)

Director /Senior Fellow  
Ben Ramsey  
[bhramsey@uncg.edu](mailto:bhramsey@uncg.edu)

Assistant Director  
Jeanne Aaroe  
[jaaaroe@uncg.edu](mailto:jaaaroe@uncg.edu)

reflection that strives to draw lessons from experience, who ask "What does it amount to for me? For others? What is the sense, the meaning? What did I learn? What are the lessons?"

This is something I encourage you to do today with respect to your experience as a part of Ashby. To my mind, it is a very good way to honor and to gain (dare I say *learn*) from your Ashby experience and from all that these people, these fellow Fousters all around us, have meant and to honor this place and the community it has sheltered for over 40 years. It is also a great way to take this place and these people forward with you as you move on into the rest of your college career and the rest of your life.

Make a habit of drawing lessons. That is what you are here to do. Learn. Grow. Deepen. Become more. And above all, keep doing it. Keep reflecting and drawing lessons throughout your lives. That is what we, your teachers and mentors, want you to do – HOPE we TAUGHT you to do.

Unfortunately, too many go through college and never draw the lessons. They know a lot of stuff happened. They know, for they will tell you that they met a lot of interesting people. It is so very diverse at UNCG, they will say. They took a lot of courses, met all the requirements, and did a lot of stuff. It was all, you know, very interesting. And of course they learned a lot. Or did they really? WHAT?

Until we ask and answer the question – *WHAT did it mean? WHAT did I learn from my experiences?* – then what we experience remains just one thing after another after another. A blur of stuff, but not yet a foundation for anything substantial or lasting, or *thoughtful*.

And let's be honest. The Ashby experience is, well, different. For better or worse, and no doubt it is both better and worse for different students at different times and in different ways, no other program and no other set of experiences and no other group of teachers and students at UNCG are quite like Ashby. That is the WHAT and it is admittedly unique and special. And now, what is the SO WHAT in all of that difference and uniqueness?

Here I cannot help you beyond posing the question and sharing a few of my own answers. Yours might be different, but if I am right, and Ashby is a COMMUNITY, as I think it is, then our answers may not be identical but they are likely to play well together.

So, what lessons do I draw when I reflect on my 25 years of knowing about, teaching in, arguing with and being simultaneously delighted and exasperated by Warren Ashby Residential College, formerly RCO, THE Residential College, as in THE one and only? Allow me to share some of my lessons. You can think of yours as we go:

1. Learning – deep learning, the good stuff, the stuff that lasts and stands the test of time – is something people do. It's not ultimately in the books or the lectures or the exams. It is in the people.
2. And because learning is in the people and by the people and through the people who do it, because it's so much about people, learning, especially deep learning, the good stuff, is about relationships.
3. And because learning, when it is deep and good and meaningful, is about people and relationships, it is a bit messy and unpredictable.
4. And because learning, deep learning, the good stuff, is messy and unpredictable, it takes commitment and patience and timing. Commitment to each other and to what we do together in this place we call Warren Ashby College. And patience and timing to wait for the ripe moment – the teachable and learnable moment – when understanding might break through. It cannot easily be rushed like so much else in our instant world is rushed. So, learning of the sort we aspire to in Ashby involves work, preparation, and the will to keep going until the time is right and the thoughts are ripe. It requires these things from us individually, and above all from us as a community of learners.
5. And because the best kind of learning that Ashby strives to provide is messy, unpredictable, and requires patience to hang in there with each other and to wait and to notice the right moment when people and circumstances align for a lesson to be fully grasped, and because this takes fortitude and commitment to persevere through the disagreements and the misunderstandings and the conflicts they engender, because all of these lessons about learning arise for me when I reflect on Ashby, what I also take away is the lesson that there is great value in things—people, experiences, colleges, ideas, and thoughts that are handmade and handcrafted, and also shared in community and conversation with others.

## What Are They Teaching Our Kids NOW?

- Ancient Rome & Greece
- American Civil Rights Movement
- The Art & History of the Book
- The Atlantic World
- Creativity and the Arts
- History of North Carolina
- Religion, Ritual & the Arts
- Classic Rhetoric and Civic Engagement
- College Writing I
- Contemporary Topics in Math
- Envisioning Your Old Age
- The International System
- Intro to Biology
- Intro to Communication Studies
- Intro to Psychology
- Intro to Religious Studies
- The Performing Body
- Seminar on the Future of Learning

### NOW WHAT?

The last step in the little learning strategy I've been unfolding here with you, the last part of my title, is the NOW WHAT.

The NOW WHAT has to do with action and the future. Once you gather up your experiences and reflect on them to draw out some lessons, you next need to decide what difference those lessons make in your life going forward. You have come to understand the *so what* of your experiences, the meaning they have for you, and the lessons they teach, and now to complete the circle, you need to do something with your so whats. You need to use them to build and act into your future.

In wrapping up, then, please consider taking the following lesson from my reflection on Ashby as you move forward with the rest of your college career and your lives. Here are some Ashby lessons you might do in the future.

In our age of the virtual, the readymade, the prefab, the drive-thru, the downloadable, and the plug-and-play:

- Strive to be handmade and handcrafted, cut from the cloth of your own deep reflections on your own carefully observed and lovingly collected experiences that are openly debated and discussed in community with others.
- Seek out the handmade and handcrafted in your midst.
- Encourage and support the handmade and handcrafted in others.
- Speak up for the handmade and handcrafted.
- Pay for the handmade and handcrafted. (It costs more.)
- Vote for the handmade and handcrafted. (It isn't always popular.)

If you do these things, I think you will be well on the way to being the thoughtful, informed, curious, and discerning thinkers and doers your Ashby teachers hope for you to become: People of substance. Don't forget Ashby College. Take it with you and take along this little practice of habitually asking yourself "What? So what? Now what?"

Thank you very much, congratulations, best wishes, and stay in touch. •

### Letter from the "Director"

By Ben Ramsey, Senior Fellow of Ashby Residential College

As we begin the 2013-2014 academic year, we do so with a mixture of happiness and anticipation, concern, and a measure of sadness. The happiness and anticipation are the upshot of having in Mary Foust this year an interesting and diverse, very quickly engaged, and highly motivated group of new and returning students. Reports from faculty so far are that our students are performing very well, come equipped with solid backgrounds and skills, and, as usual with ARC students, are challenging the faculty both at the level of the kinds of pedagogies that they employ and the rigorosity of the content of their courses.



The Mary Foust community is in full swing, with committees emphasizing student engagement not only within the program and in the University but also with the communities of Greensboro and the Triad.

The concern this year, as it has been in recent years, is about the declining level of support given to the UNC campuses, and in turn to programs such as Ashby Residential College by the North Carolina state legislature. Agencies and institutions always complain when cuts are made to their programs. As a result, it is hard sometimes to take seriously their complaints.

This year's cuts, however, coming as they do on top of multiple years of cuts and with a promise of another budget cut next year, have put UNCG in a position where vital staff and faculty positions are

## Alumni Contacts

Alumni Committee Chairs  
Kayla Newman  
newmankaylac@gmail.com

Kathy Walters  
kathy\_walters@yahoo.com

Newsletter Editor  
Marge McKelvy  
919.368.7254  
residentialcollege@  
hotmail.com

Former ARC Directors  
and Book & Film Gurus  
Fran & Murray Arndt  
fmarndt@gmail.com

## Newsletter Contributions

Send suggestions, photos,  
written contributions,  
memories, corrections, and  
updates about your life to the  
ARC Alumni Newsletter  
Editor at residentialcollege@  
hotmail.com. Pretty please?

## Social Media

Facebook Group  
Warren Ashby Residential  
College Reunion 2015

Facebook Page  
The Warren Ashby Residential  
College at Mary Foust Hall

LinkedIn Group  
Ashby Residential College of  
UNCG

having to be dissolved. As concerns Ashby, I am sad to have to report that, as of the end of October, we no longer will have our administrative assistant's position, which is currently being held by Diane Barber.

I hope that all of you will join the important dialogue and debate about the future of public higher education in North Carolina and will write to your legislators to share your thoughts and concerns. I am not going to say that we at UNCG and ARC cannot sustain further cuts. We will if we have to. But we will do so somewhat compromised in our ability to deliver the highest quality undergraduate education towards which we always strive.

I said that in addition to happiness, anticipation, and concern, we at ARC also begin the year with a bit of sadness. After nearly 30 years at UNCG, Jeanne Aaroe has decided to step down as Ashby's Assistant Director at the end of this academic year. I have asked Jeanne to write a brief column in the newsletter explaining some of the reasons behind her decision. Concomitant to her deciding to retire, I have proposed to the Office of Undergraduate Studies a restructuring of ARC staff positions.

Let me close this letter by asking for your support in two ways. First, a fund has been established through the development office for ARC students to have international experiences during their time in the program. I would like to invite you to contribute to this fund. Second, I will be calling an alumni meeting to be held this Spring semester, most likely during the annual spring Valle Crucis retreat, April 11-13. At this meeting I want to discuss with all who can attend both the new structure of our staff and a redesign of Core with which we will be experimenting next semester. We also will have a party for Jeanne and a celebration of her tenure at Ashby! I hope that many of you will be able to join us. •

## **Letter from Assistant Director**

By Jeanne Aaroe, Assistant Director

I want to let you know that after this academic year comes to a close, and after almost 30 years at UNCG, I will be retiring from the University and from Ashby Residential College. This decision has been, on the one hand, a very uplifting one for me, but it also signifies a deeply felt transition because, like you, I have found a home here in Mary Foust.

I began a commitment to this University in 1985, but the most meaningful period of my working life has, without a doubt, been here among you. The next chapter of my life will begin on August 1, 2014. My new narrative will include more painting, reading, gardening, sewing, yoga, long walks, traveling, and simply being.

This anticipated chapter does not exclude ARC by any means. I will continue to advocate from the sidelines. As you well know, no one really ever leaves Ashby Residential College! As I have doggedly repeated to any administrator who would listen, ARC is more than the 120 students who make their home in Mary Foust each academic year. It also consists of more than four decades of fiercely loyal alumni, faculty, and friends.

My advice to you and my hope for the future success of this flagship community is that the ARC alumni continue to advocate with a firm and proactive message of commitment and care. Make your voices heard. Let's stand together to ensure that Ashby College remains a special home-away-from-home for many years to come.

Please accept my deepest thanks for your support, friendship, and trust. •

## **Fran's Film Club**

By Fran Arndt, Former ARC Director

Current films of interest, at least for us, are scarce at the moment, so I feel I can take a bit of Murray's thunder and mention a couple of books I have found good. One is just for fun and was a mistake when I checked it out. I foolishly did not realize that McCrumb's *Saint Dale* was about a pilgrimage to Dale Earnhardt's racing tracks. No stock car fan myself, I fell in love with the pilgrims and actually learned a lot about racing.



#### UNCG Gear

UNCG gear may be obtained from Addams University Bookstore at [www.bkstr.com](http://www.bkstr.com) and the University bookstore at <http://uncg.bncollege.com>.

#### UNCG License Plate



If you are interested in getting a UNCG license plate, please visit [www.uncglicenseplate.info](http://www.uncglicenseplate.info)

A more serious novel is Kingsolver's latest, *Flight Behavior*. Set in the Tennessee mountains, not so far from here, it is a fine character study, and then comes the last chapter. You really should read it as this is the earth you are inheriting.

Now for movies, as I am supposed to recommend. Most we cared about came out around Christmas to qualify for awards. We loved *Lincoln*, *The Life of Pi*, and *Les Miserables*. If you have not seen one of these, get it on Netflix. It won't be the same as in a theatre, but still you must see it.

Lately the pickings have been few and far apart. We liked *Unfinished Song*, though I found it too sad. And, a surprise, we really enjoyed *Way, Way Back*, which is anything but depressing.

I know that you are enjoying *Superman*, *The Wolverine*, and other super hero movies, but we have just grown too old for them. My James Bond will always be Sean Connery. And I have a difficult time imagining Hugh Jackman going from Jean Valjean to an X-Men character. Still, I can understand the attraction. When Connery and I were both young, I was a Bond fan, much to my mother's dismay. So enjoy what you like, but do take a little time to see what we liked also. •

### Murray's Book Club

By Murray Arndt, Former ARC Director

Faithful to my determination to do a little justice to the golden oldies I have either missed or skimmed, I worked through three Victorian novels with a mixed response.

Six months ago or so, moved by my memories of her *Jane Eyre* as one of the best books I've read, I turned to Charlotte Bronte's much less attended *Shirley*. It's a novel mixing a love story, a friendship, and a sort of Luddite revolution against the intrusion of modern machinery into the main industry (textiles) of a village. I found the description and dramatization of the latter sometimes tedious and, I thought, sentimentalized. The love story, such as it is, lacks passion and seems to be another argument against growing materialism rather than a real love story. On the other hand, the story of the friendship between Caroline and Shirley seems real, conflicted, and in the end, positive in its representation of human love. By itself that story, which apparently is considerably autobiographical, makes the novel a worthwhile read.

I went from Charlotte, whom I have always liked, to Thomas Hardy, about whom I have had little enthusiasm. I must confess my first attraction to Hardy's *The Woodlanders* was that it was free on my Kindle! I have always found Hardy too dark and pessimistic for my taste in literature and philosophy, but I was thoroughly surprised as I entered the Woodlands. It is a pretty simple story, about unsophisticated people in a "backwoods" place, but the development in that context of an ironic and almost beautiful love story was a delightful surprise for me. The novel is one of those I picked up without enthusiasm and left just plain happy.

At last to Victor Hugo's *Les Miserables*. Fran has already mentioned how much we liked the film; I think it is as good as movies get and we have watched it multiple times together seeing more and more in it. So much did I like it that I thought I was somehow required to read Hugo's novel – though, when I saw that it was 1,400 pages, my eagerness waned. I am only now on about page 1,200, but I am going to finish it.

One of Hugo's contemporaries said it was the "worst novel ever written." Another had the opinion that Hugo could be a great writer "if only he could afford twelve editors." It is quite amazing that such criticism could be mounted against a novel that incorporates into a wonderful story absolutely unforgettable characters like Valjean, Cosette, Javert, Marius, and a dozen others, but Hugo does bring it upon himself.

All this perfectly novel stuff is sort of buried in everything else that Hugo knows, most of which has no relevance to the story. Clearly some of the things he thinks about are seriously insightful into the history of war and the psychology of human motivation, but they should have been somewhere else. Maybe eleven editors would have done it. But it was free. •



**Spanning the globe to bring you the constant variety of news...the thrill of victory...and the agony of the feet...the human drama that is life after Ashby Residential College. THIS IS**

## **ARC's Wide World of Alumni**

### Missing Alumni

The list below shows just a few of the alumni for whom the ARC office has no contact information. Please let us know if you do. Check our master list of missing ARCers here:

<http://ashby.uncg.edu/res/missing.php>

Patricia Whatley (1970)  
Rebecca Norton (1970)  
Dale Carvin (1971)  
Susan Garrell (1971)  
Janet Wade Ward (1972)  
Linda Webster (1972)  
Acquanetta Patterson Vallier (1973)  
Lydia Tyner (1973)  
Suzetta Bragg Wolfe (1974)  
Debra Turner (1975)  
Karen Fagg Alexander (1975)  
Carl Damron (1976)  
Charles Newman (1977)  
Tennise Lee (1978)  
Elizabeth Zarella Flanagan (1979)  
Mary McAden (1980)  
Ann B. Pashal (1981)  
Tammy Williams (1982)  
John Weeks (1983)  
Edward Taylor (1984)  
Henry Michael Sligh (1985)  
Andy Willett (1986)  
Jocelyn Sylva (1987)  
Byron David Poole (1988)  
Stephanie Eason (1989)  
Julianne Joyce (1990)  
Denise Midkiff (1991)  
Kristen Robertson (1992)  
Lisa Sussman (1993)  
Jaime Simeonidis (1994)  
Kimberly Cox (1995)  
Karen Brogdon (1996)  
James Morgan Myers (1997)  
Sarah Webb (1998)  
Micah Moore (1999)  
Jessica Cooper (2000)  
Katie Smith (2001)  
Sloane Silver (2002)  
Robert Williams (2004)

**Louis Abramovitz (1976)** was a featured presenter at the annual Special Libraries Association (SLA) conference. The topic was "Librarian as Entrepreneur," how librarians can assume marketing roles and thereby contribute to their organizations' bottom lines.

**Jennie Armstrong-Bettinia (1998)** got married in 2006 and welcomed daughter Francesca on May 13, 2013.

A new charter school, Longleaf School of the Arts, has opened in Raleigh. It employs three RC alums: **Dr. Jennifer Broome (1997)**, Head of School; **Dr. Paige Meszaros (1997)**, Social Studies Instructor; and **Ms. Connie (formerly Lugo) Babb (1998)**, Office Manager. Longleaf is a public high school that integrates fine arts into all classes.

**Scott Carper (1983)** still resides in the Atlanta area but moved farther north to live his (semi-permanent) bachelor lifestyle on Lake Lanier. He works for McKesson, implementing and supporting oncology practices with their technology and software needs. He continues to keep up with many ARC alumni via Facebook, is still a regular for the Valle Crucis spring trip, and looks forward to the 2015 reunion. Alumni may email him at [scott@scottcarper.com](mailto:scott@scottcarper.com).

**Chris Deluliis (1974)** has returned to live in North Carolina after a 27 year hiatus. In 2005, Chris and his wife Cindy bought a house in Beaufort, where they met and married, with the long-term goal of returning. In September, Chris began working as a Facilitator at Carteret General Hospital.

**Michael Driver (1987)** has a bad feeling about this. [yourhome@triad.rr.com](mailto:yourhome@triad.rr.com)

After 15+ years, **Matt Franklund (1996)** and wife left Greensboro for Austin, TX. He left behind publishing books for full-time software development.

**Michael Gesser (1980)** lives in Wilmington and is the Chief Financial Officer of Osmotica Pharmaceuticals. He says he feels fortunate to have had Dr. Ashby as a professor and is looking forward to this edition of *The Following*.

**Karen Gilbert (1995)** has moved from St. Louis to Palm Beach, FL, where her husband Greg works at Bethesda-by-the-Sea Episcopal Church. Karen enjoys life as a stay-at-home-mom to her very busy toddler, Clementine. Going to the beach every week can get tedious, but they try and make the best of it.

**Ryan Hays (2001)** left the University of Illinois at Chicago for an enrollment management position at Northwestern University and is excited to be working at such an internationally ranked institution. He looks forward to using his 75% tuition benefit to finally get a master's degree in a year or so. Ryan wonders how many of the Garden Committee plants are still growing. (Jeanne says the lilies and roses are still blooming!)

**Holly Horton Bellebuono (1988)** directs an herbal medicine apothecary and an herbal school, formulates original, award-winning remedies, and lectures nationally about natural health, herbal medicine, and women's empowerment. She has authored two books and is under contract for a third. She lives on Martha's Vineyard with her husband (a timber framer) and two children, 13 and 11. They have a huge garden, a blacksmith forge, chickens, and a freezer full of venison. [holly@vineyardherbs.com](mailto:holly@vineyardherbs.com)

**Allen Ireland (1986)** teaches English at Southwestern Community College in Sylva, NC.

Yo!

Send us an update about what you've been up to lately! Not everyone is on Facebook!



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Please join ARC alumni, faculty, and current students at the next Valle Crucis retreat April 11-13, 2013. Cost is \$124 for two nights and six meals, with discounts for half stays and children. Contact Jeanne Aaroe for more info.

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Watch out! **David Jarrell (1986)** is visiting the U.S. this month on vacation from Thailand.

**Dana Kepple Pietromonaco (1990)** is a nonprofit fundraiser and on-the-go mom to Rose, born in November 2007. She is happily married to super-smart computer and music nerd, Paul. Dana homeschools and co-ops in Seattle. She invites you to join her on a field trip if you're in town. [drumkep@cs.com](mailto:drumkep@cs.com)

**Shawn Moore (1988)** graduated from App State in May 2013 with a master's degree in Educational Media with a concentration on instructional technology.

As of July, **Kayla Newman (2006)** is a Licensed Clinical Social Worker.

**Anne Overcash (1989)** still resides in peaceful (for 40 weeks of the year) Ocean Isle Beach, NC, and loves her little abode on a small tidal inlet (code for "swamp"), where she is at home with the smell of brackish water and the coastal sounds of a sea buoy and the Atlantic. When not lounging in her hammock, she trots the globe as a consultant/trainer for Special Education folk and parents of these extraordinary people, and loves it. [oibannie@yahoo.com](mailto:oibannie@yahoo.com)

**Jeff Richey (1990)** is Associate Professor of Religion and Asian Studies and Coordinator of the Asian Studies Program at Berea College in Kentucky. He recently published *Confucius in East Asia: Confucianism's History in China, Korea, Japan, and Viet Nam* (Ann Arbor, MI: Association for Asian Studies, 2013) and is now working on an edited volume devoted to tracing Taoist influences on Japanese religious culture. He will teach in Japan in 2014. Jeff still writes songs and plays multiple stringed instruments. He is also husband to **Kelly Smith (1991)** and father to two lively boys, Nathan (born 2001) and Colin (born 2006).

**Dan White (2005)** entered his final year at Starfleet Academy in San Francisco. He is in final selection for Nova Squadron this fall and hopes for placement aboard the Excelsior upon graduation in May.

**Jenny Wilson Hutcherson (1998)** and husband Jason recently celebrated their fifth anniversary. He's a metal sculpture and elementary art teacher. Jenny is earning a master's degree in English one course at a time at Wake Forest University while working there full-time as the Coordinator of Admissions and Financial Aid at the School of Law. Jenny and Jason were expecting their first child, a girl, this October.

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