

Changing of the Guard

Tyndale College gets new interim leader



Interim president: Jerry Bringard stands in front of the entrance to Tyndale College in Farmington Hills.

BY MARY RODRIGUE
STAFF WRITER

The new acting president of William Tyndale College can trace his family's involvement with the school back to its beginnings as Detroit Bible College in the 1940s.

Jerry Bringard's father, Elmer, a physician, taught medical missionary classes at the school and later served on the small Christian liberal arts college's board of directors from 1959 to 1970.

Jerry, an attorney who retired three years ago as vice president/general counsel of Ford Motor Credit, has served on the Tyndale Board of Trustees since 1977.

Outgoing president James McHann left the Farmington Hills college in May to oversee a technical learning center in Madison Heights.

"The board was looking for an

acting president quickly," said Bringard. Being the only retired trustee living full-time in the metro Detroit area (he lives with his family on Grosse Isle) he was tapped.

Shared mission

"Because of the capital campaign, they preferred a board member to take over," he explained. "Our goal is to make sure everyone is working toward a shared mission. We hope to eventually have a world class mind lab and science center."

For the past couple months, Bringard has commuted to the campus on Twelve Mile west of Drake roads, often with brown bag lunch in hand. He likes staff to call him "Jerry" and keeps his door open at noon, encouraging any and all to join him for lunch.

"It's a great job, a fun job, but normally the college presidency is held by someone who is an educator and one of these days I

do want to retire," he says when asked if he'd consider the post full-time.

An executive search committee is forming to search for a permanent replacement for McHann. Bringard expects to captain the ship at least through the coming school year.

"It usually takes eight months to a year to find someone," he noted.

Bringard and his wife, Mary, have two daughters, Melissa, 24, is a graduate of Hillsdale College and teaches third grade on Grosse Isle. She was an All-America swimmer at Hillsdale. Daughter Gillian, 17, will be a junior at Grosse Isle High School in the fall, where she is ranked the number one singles tennis player. The family enjoys traveling across the US and Canada.

"When Tyndale College began, it prepared pastors and missionaries," Bringard recalled. "I've

"I'm here to help them reach their full potential. My plan is to get everyone comfortable. I have an open door policy."

Jerry Bringard
—acting Tyndale President

watched the college grow and broaden to the Christian liberal arts college it is today.

"It has been a privilege to be on the board as we plan for the future, and a great experience to be a part of something where the association goes back to the beginning."

"My goal is to keep it on course. We have outstanding people who work here. We need to keep moving toward that shared vision."

The ideal candidate for president, according to Bringard, should be "someone who is a visionary and a leader to carry the plan to fruition. That person should be a manager and a fundraiser, too. If you can find it in one person, you're fortunate."

Tyndale currently has about 650 students majoring in an array of degree programs.

College spokeswoman Ann Corwell notes that as acting president, Bringard is making an effort to get to know administrators and faculty at the school on a first name basis.

"I'm here to help them do their job and reach their full potential," he said. "I wander around and meet new people. Whenever there's a change in leadership, it brings concerns. My plan is to get everyone comfortable. I have an open door policy."

When students return from the summer break, Bringard plans a series of lunches with students to get to know them.

"I want to find out what's on their minds. To me that's the only way to operate, open communication."

ENGAGEMENTS



CRAWFORD-HILDEBRANDT
Mr. and Mrs. Regina Crawford of Walled Lake and Mr. and

Mrs. Richard Marshall of West Bloomfield announce the engagement of their daughter Jessica Leigh to David John Hildebrandt, son of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Hildebrandt of Farmington Hills.

The bride-to-be is attending Wagner College in Staten Island, N.Y. and plans to graduate in December with a degree in business administration/marketing and political science.

Her fiancé is a graduate of Lawrence Technological University and is working as a civil engineer in Washington.

A September 2002 wedding is planned.

TORRES-LANG

Mr. and Mrs. Abel Torres of Bay City announce the engagement of their daughter, Christina Lynne, to James Curt Lang.

He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Carl Lang Sr. of Farmington Hills.

A fall 2001 wedding is planned at St. Joseph's Church in Bay City.



NEW ARRIVALS



JULIA GRACE REGAN

Bill and Melissa Regan of Farmington Hills announce the birth of their daughter Julia Grace Regan on June 6, 2001, at St. Joseph Mercy Hospital in Ann Arbor.

She was welcomed by her 3 1/2 year-old sister, Brennan Adare; grandparents, John and Margaret Regan of Scranton, Pa.; Charles Bile of Saginaw; and her godparents, J. Clifford Regan and Sheila Furton.

AMELIA MARIE WASSMANN

Shannon and Michael Wassmann of White Lake announce the birth of their daughter Amelia Marie on April 30. She weighed 6 pounds, 11 ounces and was 20 inches long.

She was welcomed by her sister, Katie; grandparents, Pat and Ron Bebes of Farmington Hills, Patsy and Jim Waters of St. Helen and Corlies and Mic Wassmann of Mikado. Great-grandparents are Robie and John Smith of St. Helen and



Gustave Wassmann of Oscoda.

Grant will allow study of causes of epileptic seizures

The Epilepsy Foundation of Michigan has been awarded an epilepsy research grant taking advantage of the Human Genome Project to determine which genes cause epilepsy and seizures.

"Our goal is to identify common patterns or 'fingerprints' of

genes that are abnormally expressed in epileptic brain tissue taken during epilepsy surgery," said Dr. Jeffrey Loeb, director of the Comprehensive Epilepsy program at Wayne State University/Detroit Medical Center.

Most children and adults with

epilepsy have small regions of the brain that are abnormally electrically excited that initiate a "shock wave" through their brain which produces seizures. Exactly what causes this small region of the brain to produce seizures is still a mystery. Recently, research has been done to identify these abnormal brain regions and remove the epileptic tissue. In many cases, this method can cure seizures.

The Human Genome Project is an international research effort aimed at identifying genes and determining their precise location on each of the human chromosomes. Once the project is completed, the location of genes on the human chromosomes and their chemical makeup will be known. The next step is to determine which ones play a role causing epilepsy and seizures.

Epilepsy affects 2.3 million Americans of all ages, including more than 98,000 in Michigan. There are more than twice as many individuals affected by epilepsy in the United States as the number of individuals with cerebral palsy (500,000), muscular dystrophy (250,000), multiple sclerosis (350,000) and cystic fibrosis (30,000) combined.

Established in 1948, the Epilepsy Foundation of Michigan provides seizure management, employment guidance, advocacy, epilepsy awareness, information and referral, and support services to individuals with epilepsy, their families, and the general public.

Ducky derby from page C5

including the possibility someone could win \$1 million (bought with a special insurance policy by the committee). Channel 7 sportscaster Don Shane and his wife Mona are honorary chairpeople.

The park estimated we had between 750 and 900 people last year," said Simko. "This year, we hope to double attendance."

The women have been working eight months to make sure it's a success. Julie Phillips attended a conference last January on how to put on a successful event. Overall, they have about 100 volunteers.

"We learn, we add, we grow," said Simko, whose kids enjoy getting in on the action. Alyssa, 11, did face painting last year and will make a big display board for this year's derby. Ian, 11, will work a game booth. Carly, 6, is excited for the ducky

derby. Phillips' son Adam, 6, and daughter Rachel, 4, have rubber ducks in the bathtub, on their T-shirts, necklaces and pins.

"They're walking advertisements for the derby," she said. "Adam talks about it at school, at camp, in the car."

Andrea Chanes was brought in the final week last year by her friend of 20 years, Randi Simko. She put registration numbers on the rubber ducks "until my fingers were sore."

"This year we're having a tagging party," she said. The women hope to have all 10,000 rubber ducks tagged by Aug. 17.

Supporters can buy the ducks at all Hillers Markets. Adopt a duck online at www.detroitducky.com. Call (248) 693-5030 for more information.

This Bible study experience is for the whole family.

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