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THE INTERNAL NEWS PROVIDER FOR FACULTY, STAFF AND ADMINISTRATION

October 25, 1995 - Dr. Conaway's discusses Passion for Excellence - Proclamation - Enrollment Figures - Updates

## PASSION FOR EXCELLENCE

...it is a wretched taste to be gratified with mediocrity when the excellent lies before us.

-Isaac D'Israeli, 1834

The way of the righteous is more excellent than his neighbor; but the way of the wicked seduceth them.

-Proverbs 12:26

The crush of everyday living often clouds the awareness of choosing a life-style of mediocrity instead of excellence. Many times Christians intend to display an attitude of love which encourages fellow Christians and yet what is observed by others is often an attitude of doubt or thinly disguised contempt for the situation or person. This attitude of doubt and contempt drags down everyone involved. As Christians, we need to ever be aware of the worldly seduction which robs us of our energy to communicate Christian love to those around us.

The gifts and talents entrusted to each Christian can be effectively utilized by our Lord when a Passion for Excellence is present in the hearts and minds of the Christian Community. The gift from God provided for the total needs of His followers.

Almost twelve years elapsed between the "invention" of the 3M Post-It Note Pads and their commercial debut. The developer, Art Fry, saw the need when the little bits of paper used to mark hymns in his church choir book kept falling out. Everyone including

friends, seemed to think a piece of paper with a sticky strip was a silly idea. Office supply distributors were not interested and market surveys were negative but when secretaries saw the Post-It Notes, they realized the excellence of the idea and marketing of the product soared to a \$200 million success.

Isaiah 40:31 compares the Christian Life style with the flight of the eagle.

"But they that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength; They shall mount up with wings as eagles; They shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint."

Soaring like an eagle never just happens. It is the result of a strong intentional effort toward excellence which requires thinking clearly, courageously and confidently. No one ever "griped" his/her way out of mediocrity rather a true passion for excellence in mind, body and spirit can result in a Christian life-style which honors God.

The little caterpillar is often considered to be ugly. It spends much of its life groveling and squirming in the dirt of God's earth. At a point in time, the little caterpillar makes its way to a branch, secretes a translucent fluid into that branch and then attaches the posterior anatomy to that fluid. Time passes and nothing seems to be happening. During this quiet time the wonderful act of metamorphosis is taking place.

One day the cocoon starts to jerk and move and bit by bit a beautiful butterfly emerges. The creation is no longer the old worm that crawled in the dirt but it is a beautiful, beautiful butterfly with a new kind of power-flight power. Instead of swallowing dust, the butterfly flies from flower to flower, enjoying the sweet nectar in God's creation.

We each need to allow God to perform the miracle of metamorphosis in our lives which will continually move us from mediocrity to EXCELLENCE.

Dr. Mary Ann Conaway  
 Dean of Students

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**PROCLAMATION**

*Whereas Missouri Baptist College is an Educational Institution that has trained young minds since 1964; and*

*Whereas, the College has produced professionals who contribute to the community's well being; and*

*Whereas, the College is celebrating the arrival of its new President Dr. R. Alton Lacey:*

*Now, therefore, I, Buzz Westfall, County Executive, St. Louis County, Missouri, do hereby proclaim Friday, October 27, 1995, as*

*Dr. R. Alton Lacey Day*

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**FALL ENROLLMENT FIGURES**

Enrollment figures reported to the Missouri Baptist Convention as of October 23 are as follows:

Headcount	2,176
FTE(15)	1,278.1
Total Credit Hours	19,171.5

Of this number 928 students are on the main campus.

The second eight weeks evening program starts this Thursday evening.

As of this date the records office has received applications for about 180 graduates for April, 1995-96.

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*I'm a great believer in luck and I find the harder I work the more I have of it.*

*-S. Leacock*

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**FACULTY/STAFF UPDATES**

Dr. McClain published an article in Pursuits: Teacher Edition (July/August/September 1995) entitled "Total Commitment: Studies in Colossians."

The latest book by Dr. Bagley, *Poetics of Reality* was published by American Heritage in June.

Dr. Robert Miller and Ms. Pat Bagwill recently spent a week in England doing preparatory work for a new international studies program during May Term.

*Let's us know what happening in your area!*

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