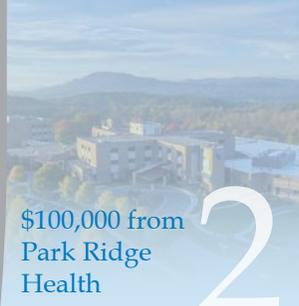


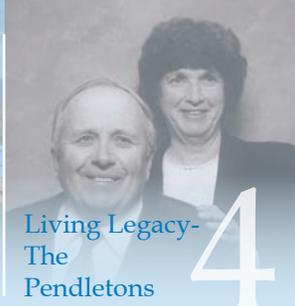
Issue 1  
2015

# FLETCHER Spirit



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## *A Celebration Of Giving*

### *This is Where We Find the Treasure!*

"Give, and it shall be given unto you; good measure, pressed down, and shaken together, and running over." Luke 6:38 Sharing, sacrificing, pledging, producing, and providing are all words that come to mind when we think of giving. What do we give to each other? Money? This can be a great blessing. Time? Someone once said that the best gift you could ever give someone is your time, because you're giving them something that you'll never get back. So many wise words about giving. So many ways to give. This issue of the Fletcher

Spirit highlights several inspiring stories that have been happening today and throughout the years at Fletcher Academy. We are celebrating the joy of giving. Winston Churchill said, "We make a living by what we get, but we make a life by what we give." We hope that these pages will challenge each of us and instill in us the importance of giving. "So lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust corrupt, and where thieves do not break through and steal." Matthew 6:20 Find the true treasure.





# FLETCHER Spirit

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www.fletcheracademy.com

## Park Ridge Health Gives \$100,000

Eden Garmon & Julio Hernandez

Senior at Fletcher Academy      Senior at Fletcher Academy

Deuteronomy 16:17 "Every man shall give as he is able, according to the blessing of the LORD your God which he has given you."

Since 1986 Park Ridge Health has been a prominent Adventist institution in the Fletcher community, providing healthcare and jobs to many over the years. Nestled in the mountains of North Carolina, the hospital has strong ties to the two neighboring Adventist schools: Fletcher Academy and Captain Gilmer Christian School. In past years Park Ridge has done a number of things to give back and support both schools. The most recent project to support our education system is the matching program. Park Ridge pledged to match funds up to \$100,000 from all donations given to the two schools from alumni weekend to December 15<sup>th</sup> of last year. The matched money will be divided into two categories. The first half will be given to the two schools to use for whatever projects they deem necessary. The other half will be used as a tuition subsidy for staff of the Corporation who wish to send their children to Southern Adventist University, the University for the Southern Union. Most staff of Adventist institutions receive conference benefits such as subsidies. Since Fletcher Academy is a self-supporting school, staff do not receive

such assistances. Now, being able to provide some type of subsidy, college can become much more affordable for employee families.

Close ties like these are the ones that help Adventist communities grow. As Mr. Jimm Bunch, President/CEO of Park Ridge said, "For Adventist communities to work well you need strong schools, strong churches, and if there is a hospital, you need a strong hospital too. If the hospital is able to exceed its budget in the future, the matching program can continue."

Having several Adventist institutions in one place is very helpful. Each can help support the others in their ministry. "We view that we are all in this together," said Mr. Bunch. All the institutions here share a common mission and according to Mr. Bunch, "We want to touch people's lives for Jesus." Through programs like this, people and communities are impacted in a positive way and are able to see Christ and the spirit of giving that is evident in Park Ridge Hospital.



## Generous Supporter - Cecil T. Cantrell

**Bryant  
Familia**  
Senior at  
Fletcher Academy

Fletcher Academy has many financial donors, both large and small, that continue to help us as we grow. Their many donations have aided with student scholarships, building projects (like the new addition to the men's dormitory), and numerous others. It is only through the financial generosity of our supporters and the watch care of God that Fletcher Academy is thriving today.

Mr. Cecil T. Cantrell is one such donor. He has blessed Fletcher Academy with numerous donations spanning many years. What makes Mr. Cantrell different from many of our other donors is that he is not an alumnus of Fletcher Academy, nor is he a member of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. However, when he heard of our school's mission and purpose he generously decided to donate and has been doing so ever since. Mr. Cantrell is described as, "a highly successful, self-made business man who not only founded and operated a number of successful businesses, but was also instrumental in assisting quite a few other individuals develop successful businesses as well." His generous support of Fletcher Academy has not gone unnoticed.

Mr. Cantrell first came in contact with Fletcher Academy through one of the businesses he helped fund and operate. Through this business, a truck stop near Naples, NC, he was put into contact with many staff members and began to do business with Fletcher Academy itself. Robert Hansen, present trustee of the Cantrell Trust Fund and graduate of Fletcher Academy, had known and worked with Mr. Cantrell in the past would often speak favorably of the Academy. As a result of this and other relationships, Mr. Cantrell began to donate to many worthy causes on campus. He has supported our efforts to strengthen the academics, work ethic, and character of our students.

Last year Mr. Cantrell's generous contribution were able to help with the renovation of the Home Economics Department here at the Academy, secured new lab equipment for our science department, purchased safer equipment for our mechanics shop, and helped enhance our businesses where our students are employed. This year, his donations are covering physics equipment for the physics lab, models for the Anatomy and Physiology class, and reference books for classrooms.

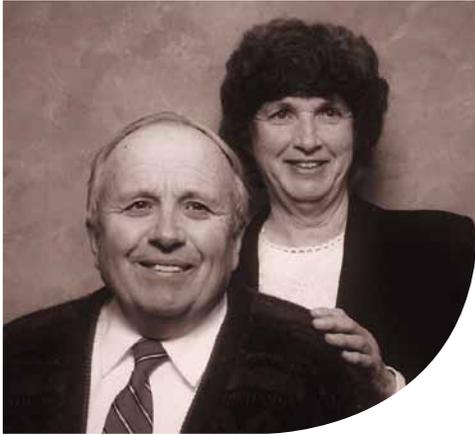
Many people here at Fletcher have never even heard of Mr. Cantrell or what he has done for this school. Hopefully, with all that he has given to us, we in turn may give recognition and appreciation to such an inspiring individual. His great contributions have greatly aided

our school in improving our work/study program, and have also helped increase the traits of responsibility and good work ethic around campus. Because of Mr. Cantrell, Fletcher Academy is better able to fulfill our vision of "Educating for Eternity" and for this, all we can say is, "Thank you, sir."



# Leaving a Living Legacy

*A Tribute to Inspire and Challenge - Howard and Gwen Pendleton*



The dictionary would define Legacy as a gift handed down from one person to another. Something that is left behind like money, jewels or a large mansion. At Fletcher, a legacy can mean much more than just material goods. Legacy for us means sharing what you have learned, bequeathing values over valuables. Offering yourself and making it meaningful. Making a difference for eternity. Howard and Gwen Pendleton left a living legacy. Many of you remember them. There have been many who have given much to Fletcher and here is a story of a couple that inspired and challenged us.

Howard and Gwen met at an Adventist Academy in South Lancaster, Massachusetts in 1943. They were married in 1947 after Howard served honorably in the US Army. Returning to a small apartment after a short honeymoon they had just enough money for a bag of groceries and a new broom. Howard immediately found work as a carpenter and within a year or so, purchased tools and a truck and went into business for himself. The early years were full of hard work and as time passed Howard and Gwen were blessed with 6 children. The Pendletons were committed to raise their family in the Lord, believing that the best environment for raising children would include; strong family, a good church and Christian education. Family worships were a daily occurrence and always included stories, prayer and

singing, with each child having their own Bible and song book. In 1963 Howard made a trip to Fletcher, NC. He had heard about a small school in the country with high standards and was determined to do what he felt was best for his family. On Sabbath he received a warm welcome at the Fletcher Church and even got invited home for lunch. At the Academy, Howard felt impressed with the sincere, dedicated staff that he met and in short decided that Fletcher was the place to raise his family. On the return trip to South Lancaster his mind was set. He would set aside his business interests, pull-up stakes and move his family south.

Being self-employed and relocating with a large family would not be easy. Grit would be required, failure was not an option. Howard started small with his construction company, but later added real estate and property management to support his family. He was committed to availing Christian education to each of his children. Faithful participation and involvement with various church ministries was also an important family activity. Howard's love for young people presented teaching opportunities each Sabbath. Always willing, he was involved with prayer meetings, pathfinders, and for many years served as Church Elder and School Board Member. Gwen was ever at this side and together they worked as a team. She managed the financial aspects of the companies by keeping the books and paying the bills. She was a homemaker whose energy never seemed to falter. She would be up at the crack of dawn to get the day going. She was an amazing organizer within the household and somehow managed to balance all the various home, church and community related activities. Her love for others was often demonstrated with shared pies, loaves of bread, meals, or flowers.

Howard had a strong work ethic, deep convictions and he sincerely believed the self-supporting mission of Fletcher. In the 80's when the Fletcher Hospital was sold, Howard, along with Jerry Nash and other

supporters had a vision and the courage to develop Fletcher Park Inn. Believing that students could be trained to meet the needs of retirees and recognizing the necessity to provide work opportunities for students, the project soon began. Choosing to work along with the kids over retirement, Howard volunteered his construction experience to train unskilled students how to build. What exists on campus today is a testament to thousands of hours of Fletcher Academy student labor. In addition to Fletcher Park Inn, Howard and his sons were involved with planning and building the Lelia Patterson Center. This facility that has proved such a blessing to campus life also required financial support and sacrifices that came in many ways during the period of construction.

Over the years, Howard and Gwen remained generous and unflagging supporters of Fletcher Academy. They never regretted the cost of Christian education and considered it their best investment. They were proud that all six of their children graduated from Fletcher Academy, followed by 9 grandchildren and 2 great-grandchildren, currently in attendance. Howard and Gwen left a large legacy within their family who continue to love and support Fletcher. Simply put, Fletcher would not be where it is today had not God led this family here in 1964. There is no doubt that God, knowing the needs of Fletcher, has placed upon the hearts of people a desire to support its ongoing mission. The story of Fletcher includes countless families and individuals who have answered a call to serve God. Many, including the Pendletons, discover that blessing and happiness attend those who are willing to serve a cause which is larger than themselves.

Howard has been gone now for 14 years. On December 20, 2014, surrounded by her children, Gwen, his beloved wife quietly passed away. Some may say this chapter has ended, but I would say that the story continues. Fletcher today still attracts people for many of the same reasons it did 50, 60 and even 100 years ago. The work that has been started must be finished. A foundation laid

must be built upon. High standards must be held up. Values instilled will be passed on and a good example set, will be followed. Howard and Gwen gave their whole lives to build others up and serve the Fletcher community. They remained faithful to God and through lives well lived, left a living legacy.

## Gifts to Fletcher Academy in 2014

By Jon Smith

Fletcher Academy was once again blessed in 2014 through the generosity of many different donors. In 2014 Fletcher Academy received \$556,242 in gifts from 702 different donors. These gifts have been crucial to the continued growth and improvement of Fletcher Academy. As Fletcher Academy's enrollment has grown so has the demand on Fletcher Academy's resources and facilities.

A special word of thanks to all the donors who are helping Fletcher Academy, Inc. continue its mission to educate for eternity. Because of your sacrifice Fletcher Academy and Captain Gilmer Christian School are able to provide the highest quality of Christian education in an environment that speaks of excellence. Through God's blessing and your generosity the future for Fletcher Academy, Inc. and its young people remains bright!

Figure 1 Gift Sources

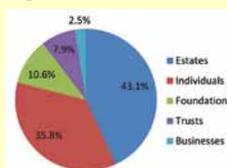
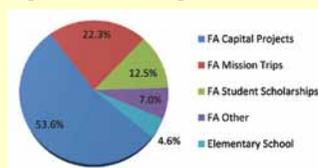


Figure 2 Gift Designations



## Meet the New CEO - Already Giving and Sharing

Janet Hughes Junior at Fletcher Academy



A big warm welcome goes out to Gary Carlson, our new President and CEO of Fletcher Academy Inc. Mr. Carlson heard of the job opening at Fletcher Academy Inc. and immediately expressed his interest. Carlson says he enjoys being at Fletcher immensely and sees "God's miracles working through the school." Having a background in self-supporting education, an undergraduate degree in education, and 27-years of experience in the business world, he feels God has prepared him for working at Fletcher. Working both in and out of the office, Carlson is focused on achieving the goals set for Fletcher.

During his time here at Fletcher he would like to make sure the school stays focused on its core values such as spirituality, academics, keeping sight of who we are and what we stand for, and working to enhance the Advancement/Development function of FAI.

Here at Fletcher Academy, Mr. Carlson is well-liked by the students, parents and staff. He loves interacting and talking with the students and handing out the delicious cookies his wife bakes once a month. Mr. Carlson says his relationship with the students is a growing and blossoming one. Although he has a busy schedule, Carlson still tries to support the students by attending various events and chapels.

Mr. Carlson works hard and sacrifices a lot as the CEO. He greatly appreciates the donations and contributions to the school and feels as though they are "necessary for our [the corporation] survival and are direct blessings from God." Mr. Gary Carlson desires to give back and use his experience in a meaningful way. He wants to motivate young people and his coworkers. He feels that is his mission from God. Mr. Carlson's giving spirit is very appreciated here on campus and his work does not go unnoticed. So here's a special thanks to our CEO, Gary Carlson.

## Prayer Warriors- A Gift of Time

Hannah Wambolt Senior at Fletcher Academy & Elijah Gallant Junior at Fletcher Academy



When you think of giving, what's the first thing that comes to mind? Usually presents and cards are the first things we think of, but what if there's an even better gift? A gift that doesn't come in a box or in an envelope; a gift not tied with a bow or sealed with a stamp. This is the gift of time – time taken to pray for one another.

Over the years, Fletcher Academy has been the recipient of much prayer. Mr. Ric Boehmer is one such faithful prayer warrior. He joined a prayer warriors group in 1999. Now Boehmer comes to Fletcher Academy's campus once a week to pray that anyone who walks the grounds may receive the Spirit of God.

Even though being a prayer warrior may seem like a hard thing to commit to, Ric Boehmer has no problem spending his time dedicating himself to pray for Fletcher. Boehmer is just one of the many people that dedicate their time to pray over Fletcher Academy. On behalf of the staff, students, and parents, thank you to all who support Fletcher through their endless prayers. God is truly blessing.

# Reflections of Alumni Weekend 2014

On an early October weekend friends and fellow classmates once again returned to the Fletcher campus to reflect on memories from school years past, and to recall how they were taught in their Adventist Christian education to think their own thoughts and not to just be reflectors of other men's thoughts.

"Reflections" was the weekend theme as mirrors and candles were seen on tables and stage throughout the LPC. Andy Carlson continued this theme for the Friday night vespers as he remembered his days from Fletcher Academy. His class gave their teachers a hard time and now he is a teacher! He knows that teaching others about the Savior is most rewarding.

The next morning was truly a blessing. Over 70 people gathered for the annual prayer breakfast. After a delicious breakfast the alumni, staff, pastors, board members, and students got into small groups to uplift Fletcher Academy. Our prayer was for our school and that it will continue to hold Jesus high and reflect His love to others.

The rest of the Sabbath day was inspiring as well. Over 800 people were at the church service to hear the wonderful music performed by the students and to hear the message from the honor class member, Richard Clyde Garey '64. The afternoon found people sharing, visiting the dorm for the Dorm Reunion, and remembering the past up in the Heritage Room.

The Saturday night games were exciting and the Sunday morning breakfast was a delight with generous donations being received for the school (to know the

complete list read the next article). In reflection of the weekend, people were blessed. See you next fall Alumni!



## 2014 Fletcher Academy Alumnus of the Year

By Jon Smith

Each year the Alumni Officers choose an alumnus or alumna whose life reflects the core values of Fletcher Academy. The fourth annual Alumnus of the Year award was presented to Dr. Milton Conley during the 2014 Alumni Weekend church service.

Dr. Conley graduated from Fletcher Academy in 1976. He received his medical degree from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. He also received specialty training in vascular surgery from Baylor College of Medicine in Houston, Texas and endovascular surgery at University of California, Los Angeles. Though he is referred to as a "vascular surgeon with world class credentials" he encourages patients to improve their health through lifestyle changes. "Quit smoking, exercise, eat healthfully, and put me out of business," is a phrase that he uses on a daily basis.

Dr. Conley has pursued his medical training with focused intensity. Yet he has been quick to share his gratitude with those who have influenced his life in a positive way. For his 50th birthday celebration, his wife Stephanie organized a dinner party in Asheville, at The Grove Park Inn. On that day, Dr. Conley took the opportunity to honor his parents, elementary and Fletcher Academy teachers, university professors, and other mentors to whom he felt indebted for the guidance they had provided in his life. In his carefully prepared remarks at that gathering, he thanked each person present. He shared the specific ways each one had positively contributed to building his character, his spiritual development, and education, in preparation for a life of service to our Creator.

He is particularly appreciative of the Christian education at Fletcher Academy with its emphasis on "educating for eternity," developing the spiritual, mental, physical, and social aspects of each student.

Nowhere has this gratitude been more evident than in his passionate support of Fletcher Academy and current Fletcher Academy students. His practice of "paying it forward" makes it possible for this school to continue mentoring future leaders for God's work in the community, the church, the nation, and the world.

Fletcher Academy is honored to have alumni like Dr. Milton Conley whose life of service and generosity is impacting His world for time and eternity.



# The Spirit of Alumni Giving

**Hannah Gallant**  
Junior at  
Fletcher Academy

**Will Hawkins**  
Senior at  
Fletcher Academy

"We must become the change we want to see in the world." – Mahatma Gandhi

Fletcher Academy may not be the world, but to the students who go here it means a lot. We have just passed the holidays, which are characterized by giving. Many times acts of support and generosity go completely unnoticed and are not given the appreciation they deserve. One of the amazing ways in which Fletcher Academy is blessed by giving is through the Fletcher alumni donations. Without their help and support, we would not be the school we are.

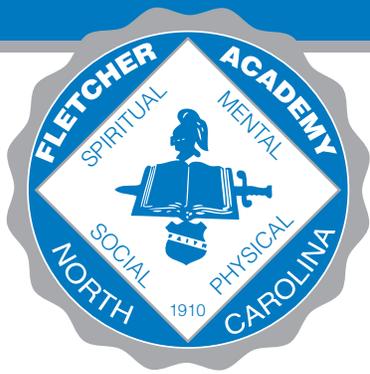
In order to truly understand the magnitude of what the alumni do for Fletcher, one must look a little behind the scenes. Every year Fletcher has an alumni weekend, upon which the alumni meet together and decide what specific projects they want to fund at Fletcher. This past alumni weekend, some of the considered projects were replacing library furniture, adding new science equipment, making more campus signage, and buying more reference books. In the past, alumni have been the financial supports behind remodeling bathrooms, fixing the boys dorm, etc.

It is because of the alumni's willing support that Fletcher is what it is. Every year during alumni weekend, students are chosen to receive alumni sponsored scholarships. These scholarships are awarded to students who have good work ethics, exceptional citizenship and leadership qualities, financial needs, and high academic achievement. Over 29 students received scholarships this year, and over \$15,000 are awarded in alumni scholarships per year. The alumni also make personal donations. One alumnus gives \$10,000 per year while others give upwards of \$500. The generosity and dedication of Fletcher's alumni is truly astounding.

Overall the alumni's spirit of giving has more than blessed Fletcher Academy, and it continues to help us grow and become a better school. Without their support, Fletcher would not be in the place it is today, and as representatives of the student body, we would like to say a huge thank you to all the alumni supporters who donate both their time and money.

**"When was the last time you visited Fletcher Valley Market? We have brought in many new items; we are working on making your FVM a one-stop shopping store. Come by and check us out and take advantage of our many weekly sale items.**





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**Alumni Homecoming Weekend 2015**

**"The Potter's Hand"**

**October 2,3,4**

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**Annual Golf Tournament**

**Friday Evening Reception and Refreshments**

**Inspiring Vespers Program**

**Traditional Prayer Breakfast**

**Alumni of the Year Award 2015**

**Mission Features from Fletcher Academy Students**

**Delightful Performing Arts by Fletcher Academy**

**Uplifting Church Service**

**Fletcher School of Nursing Meeting**

**Candlelight Vespers at the Chapel**

**Alumni Verses Students Saturday Night Games**

**Sunday Morning Brunch and Business Meeting**

## HONOR CLASSES

1955, 1965, 1975, 1990, 2005

For more information please call 828-209-6800

or visit [www.fletcheracademy.com](http://www.fletcheracademy.com)

"Yet, O Lord, you are our Father. We are the clay, you are the potter; we are all the work of your hand."

**Isaiah**  
**64:8 (niv)**