A perfect conference record, conference tournament champions, and a sixteen game winning streak are just a few of the amazing accomplishments from the 2013 William Carey Women’s Soccer team. A memorable season for the William Carey Women’s Soccer was originally scheduled to take past two years. Last year, the event as partners to host the festival the of Southern Mississippi have worked Carey University and the University DramaFest, Nov. 22 and 23. William department played host to the 2013 conference schedule in the country, which was hosted at William Carey. "To be honest there was not a defining moment where I knew this team was going to be as good as they were," stated ninth-year head coach Danny Owens. "After the rough start, the coaching staff tried to figure out what was going wrong and which system we needed to play and where to put players. We changed everything and the girls trusted what the coaching staff was doing." The rough start Owens referred to goes back to Sept. 1 when the fourteenth-ranked, 2-0 Crusaders dropped four consecutive decisions to the number 6- (Embry Riddle), 10- (Northwood), 1- (Lindsey Wilson), and 2- (Vanguard) ranked teams in the nation.

When asked how the tough early schedule helped the Crusaders in the long run, Owens replied, "We lost three of the four games by one goal, and the goals came late in the game. We were very close in every loss against the best teams in the country, so when we started conference play, I do not think the girls feared anybody."

Following the four-game losing streak, the Crusaders rebounded by shutting out 11th ranked UT-Brownsville, a win that Owens believes leap-frogged the Crusaders into an improbable winning streak. "The game that jump-started the winning streak was against the team that knocked us out of the National Tournament last year. It was a very convincing win, and I think the girls knew from that point on they had a strong team," said Owens.

The win against Brownsville, although convincing, may not have been the only factor that led the Crusaders to such a dominant run. On Sept. 10, just four days before the marquee victory, William Carey lost a beloved member of its family, but the team, at every game from that point forward, felt his presence. George R. Dixon, Jr., or “Cat Daddy” as he was so lovingly called, was always known for being particularly enthusiastic at all Carey sporting events, and women’s soccer was no exception.

“He was our biggest fan on and off the field,” stated senior Macie Forman. "I remember when I was trying to recover from two torn ACLs, and he never gave up on me; he always believed that he would be able to see me play again.”

Shockwaves went across campus when the news broke that George had collapsed and been rushed to the hospital. Forman vividly recalls the moments following his collapse as the team was practicing just yards from where the scene took place.

See DramaFest, page 2
Theatre students worked as backstage crew, concession stand servers, light and the sound board operators, and spot light operators.

"DramaFest is also a great opportunity for WCU and USM to recruit students for our schools," said Jeanna Graves, DramaFest volunteer and administrative assistant for the Theatre and Communication Department. Several area high schools, such as Oak Grove and Purvis, competed and were able to have a glimpse at theatre at a college level. "We get to see the students' talent, and they get a condensed collegiate experience," said Graves.

Theatre majors get excited as they share their love for the theatre with future actors and actresses.
As Christmas nears, Carey’s campus comes alive as staff and students together celebrate the holiday. Below are photos from various festive events on campus such as Vespers, the Old-Fashioned Christmas Festival, and even some events at the Tradition campus.

The festivities commenced as staff and students gathered in the glow of candlelight to sing traditional Christmas carols following the annual Vespers service.

(Top) The jazz band prepares before playing untraditional renditions of popular Christmas tunes. (Bottom) Dr. King, Dr. Hummel, and Mrs. King dress up and pose for pictures with students.

Following Vespers, various student organizations on campus each hosted a table with an activity, such as holiday-themed games and face-painting.

To the left are several students of William Carey’s business students who organized a can drive for Extra Table, a local organization that fights to end hunger in Mississippi.

The Tradition Campus joined in the holiday spirit as they hosted a shoebox packing party for Operation Christmas Child (top) and played games and painted faces at the "Tradition"-al Christmas festival (bottom).
“We were watching ambulances and fire trucks rush into the gym; one of our girls came over and told us it was Cat Daddy. We all immediately said a prayer for him,” said Forman.

The thought of losing one of Carey’s most beloved family members struck deep into the hearts of all the faculty, staff, and students on campus. George was one of the most well respected members of William Carey’s maintenance staff, and he had a reputation for being the personal groundskeeper for Carey athletics. In the aftermath of the tragedy, the soccer team was able to lift up an entire University and honor a legacy in a way that Cat Daddy himself would have deemed most fitting.

“The first home game of the year was while Cat Daddy was still in the hospital,” recalled Forman. “That was the first time we wore our shirts and really decided to dedicate the season to him.”

The shirts, which became a fixture during warm-ups throughout the 2013 season, served as a reminder for the players that the season was no longer about them, and, from that point forward, they were playing their season with someone else in mind.

“Not being at his funeral was heartbreaking for us and especially those who knew him well. The funeral ended before we got off the bus, and everybody was posting on Facebook about it,” stated Forman. “The last game he saw us play, we got knocked out by UT Brownsville 3-0. A win for Cat Daddy – against the last team we were playing in the tournament, so it was just the perfect time to honor him.”

Hours after the heartache of Cat Daddy’s funeral, the Crusaders were back in the win column, decisively defeating UT Brownsville 5-0. The Women’s Soccer program proved itself to be one of the country’s most dominant programs and an annual contender for the national title.

“Looking back, the Lady Crusaders may have fallen short of the ultimate goal, but they achieved so much more in the way that they lifted up a university during a time when it needed lifting up the most. Furthermore, the Crusaders again have proven themselves to be one of the country’s most dominant programs and an annual contender for the national title.”

Owens stated, “To win the conference tournament the way they did and get back to the sweet-sixteen was a lot of fun. The game was lost; the girls were very upset. But looking back at the season, I think they understand what an amazing season they had, and they will walk around with their heads high and proud.”

Number 9 Crusaders Roll Past St. Catharine

The Crusaders end with an 84-70 victory over St. Catharine College.
2013 was a banner year for William Carey University that provided many inspiring individual and team efforts. In honor of our athletes and coaches incredible accomplishments The Cobbler looks back at some of the most memorable victories from 2013.

Jan. 5, 2013- #10 Men's Basketball defeated 3rd ranked Lee University 82-79.

The Lady Crusaders took the first of what would be three meetings against their conference rival, this time knocking off the nation’s top team.

March 2, 2013- #12 Men's Basketball competes in conference championship.

The 12th ranked Crusaders traveled into Montgomery for the SSAC tournament and clinched a berth in the NAIA National Tournament before falling to #19 Faulkner in the final.

March 9, 2013- Baseball wins series against 3rd ranked Lee University.

With SSAC standings on the line one of the nation’s top teams traveled to Milton Wheeler Field and was handed back to back losses on the hands of masterful starting pitching from the Crusaders.

March 14, 2013- Men's Basketball returns to the NAIA National Tournament.

The #12 Men’s Basketball team returned to Kansas City for the second time since 1997 but fell to the defending National Champions in the first round of the tournament.

March 16, 2013- Baseball wins key series against #9 Faulkner.

Coming off the series win against Lee the Carey baseball team continued to roll taking two of three from the eventual National Champions and securing a share of first place in the SSAC.

March 17, 2013- Softball coach Wendy Houge picked up the 300th win of her career as the Lady Crusaders rolled through Embry Riddle.

May 27, 2013- Track and Field

The Lady Crusaders knocked off the nation’s top team in the National semi-final to set up yet another match-up with 2nd ranked AUM for the National Championship.

May 18, 2013- Women’s Tennis plays in National Championship match.

Searching for the University’s second ever National Title the women’s tennis team fell short to AUM on the sports grandest stage.

May 27, 2013- Track and Field collects accolades in first ever season.

2013 was the first year in the history of William Carey Track and Field. Joash Osoro finished 4th in the country in the 5,000M while the women’s 4X100 team finished 9th at the National Finals.


The William Carey women’s golf team picked up their first ever tournament win by clinching the SSAC Showcase in Hattiesburg.

Nov. 16, 2013- Women’s Soccer wins SSAC Championship.

Women’s soccer finished their improbable SSAC dominance by securing their first conference championship since joining the SSAC.
Lately, William Carey University’s losses have been great—in the past year alone, we have lost several people of extreme importance to the university family, and many people have had personal losses as well. However, as time marches on as per usual, we find ourselves now having celebrated Thanksgiving recently and preparing to celebrate Christmas soon. While our tables may be a little less full on these holidays, we must all be thankful for having had the privilege to participate in the lives of people that have come and gone. And as for those still with us these holidays, cherish each moment with each individual, and most importantly, celebrate. On Thanksgiving and Christmas, by all means, celebrate a gathered family packed more full of stuffing than any turkey, but don’t limit it to the holidays. Every day is a good day to be alive and glad – glad for the days you’ve spent with people whose days are spent and glad for the days you have yet to spend.

The remainder of this section will be devoted to some of those members of the university’s family who have passed on in this last year—a few people for whom William Carey University will always be thankful and whom we will remember with great fondness.

Write Johnny at cobbler@wmcarey.edu.

Johnny Walters
Views Editor

Dr. Donald Cabana
Dr. Cabana was the founder and first Chair of the Criminal Justice Program at William Carey University.

Donna Duck Wheeler
Jan. 16, 1942 – Nov. 13, 2013
Wife of Dr. Milton Wheeler and mother to myriad William Carey students, Mrs. Donna served the school in various ways for 41 years and will be remembered with smiles and laughter.

Dr. Eddie Miley Lewis
July 31, 1933 – Nov. 6, 2013
Dr. Lewis was a professor at the University of Southern Mississippi for 31 years before joining William Carey University, where she graciously served for the last 10 years.

Dr. William Clawson
Dr. Clawson was Professor Emeritus of Religion at William Carey University. After his missionary work, Dr. Clawson spent 1966-1988 teaching at William Carey. There is a “Legacy of Learning” stone placed outside of Lawrence Hall in honor of this beloved teacher.

George "Cat-Daddy" Dixon
George was something special to all of us. He held no important degrees, offices, or honors, but he held William Carey University in his heart, and we will hold him in ours for the rest of our days.

Mary Elaine Byrd
Ms. Byrd loved traveling with her family, arts and crafts, and, especially, anything musical. She served as pianist at Petal Presbyterian Church, as well as at Carey as a piano professor.
By Pearl Ugwu-Dike
Life Editor

Every year during the Winter Tri-semester, William Carey University's Hattiesburg Campus is abuzz as students head to the voting booths to cast their ballots for the Who’s Who campus-wide elections. Excitement and anticipation can be clearly felt by both nominees and electorates, as the nomination and voting process commence. Students nominate a male and female Class Favorite, as well as a Class Beauty and a Class Beau from each of the respective undergraduate classifications. This year’s winners were of the Who’s Who elections were:

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Life
DECEMBER 19, 2013
Merry Christmas! It’s hard to believe it’s that time again already! No, I don’t mean the holidays… I mean mid-season finales! The Walking Dead’s aired Dec. 1. Mid-season finales—often followed by mid-season replacement programming—are ways for networks to hedge their bets against falling ratings. Now while I don’t think Dead’s ratings are in danger (after all, we survived Andrea in Season 3 and—SPOILER ALERT IF YOU’RE NOT CAUGHT UP!—The Governor), series less fortunate than Dead are rarely given the opportunity to develop an audience if they don’t immediately perform in the ratings. This hasn’t always been the case. Let me explain.

Going back to the late 60s and early 70s, the standard order for a new series was typically 26 episodes—a full season. When the industry began to face serious competition from cable in the mid-70s, that order was cut in half to 13 episodes. If the series performed well, an additional 13 episodes would be ordered, but this necessitated a break at mid-season to allow the remaining episodes to be shot. When cable outlets (remember these are all owned by networks) began producing original programming, the competition became more intense, increasing the pressure on new programming to perform well in the ratings right out of the gate. Feeling this increased pressure, programmers were reluctant to produce even 13 episodes of a series that might fail and cut the standard order to six episodes. This is still the case today. Furthermore, we see summer weddings, bar mitzvahs, and small clubs until being discovered. The first album generally took at least a year to be released with a follow-up not expected for sometimes two or three years later. No such luxury now. Whether it’s the latest boy group (I refuse to call anything that doesn’t play its own instruments a band) or Internet prodigy, it’s test tube music—concocted according to a formula to cash in on the latest trend. (Be honest, now—you can’t really believe New Kids on the Block or The Spice Girls had any kind of lasting influence on music, can you? Uh-huh, that’s what I thought.) I’ll get off my soapbox now. Until next time…

Dr. Marilyn Ellzey is an assistant professor of mass communication and advisor for The Cobbler.

"It's a Wonderful Life"

BY JEANNA GRAVES
SPECIAL TO THE COBBLER

William Carey University Theatre presented the Christmas classic "It's a Wonderful Life" The Radio Play Dec. 12 through 14 at 7 p.m. in the Joe & Virginia Tatum Theatre on the Hattiesburg campus.

Written by Joe Landry, "It's a Wonderful Life" The Radio Play, celebrated the season with one of America’s favorite Christmas stories presented with live foley sound effects. Foleys is the reproduction of everyday sound effects added to enhance the quality of audio for film, television, and radio.

The play was performed as a 1940s live radio broadcast in front of a studio audience. The actors and the sound designer, Joey Roderick of Blue Ridge, Georgia, produced the sound effects. The radio station WMBR invited a group of actors to perform "It's a Wonderful Life" as part of their programming. All of the actors got sick before the performance so the radio station employees stood in for the actors. The booth technician (Roderick) played the lead role of George, the typical American dreamer. The producer (Kever Maffitt of Olive Branch) portrayed George’s guardian angel Clarence. The two sound technicians (Nicoli Hutchinson of Carriere and Miles Boone of Hattiesburg), the announcer (Jason Piglia of Picayune), the stage manager (Jawoine Hawkins of Grand Prairie, Texas), the station manager (Billy Burkes of Meridian), maid (Alisha Fishel of Olive Branch), secretary (Haley Genberg of Warren, Penn.), studio ushers (Alyssa Keyes of Picayune), the stage manager (Rebekah Romack of McComb) performed the other multiple roles in this Christmas classic tale.

Tim Matheny, chair of the Theatre and communication department, directed. The scenic designer was Dewey Douglas of the theatre faculty. The lighting designer and stage manager was Chris Permenter of Oak Grove. The costume designer was Ben Watts of Vancleave and makeup and hair designer was Ashlyn Romack of McComb. Joey Roderick of Blue Ridge, Georgia, was sound designer, Billy Burkes of Meridian, Miss., was properties designer and Katie Hardeman of Southhaven was rehearsal assistant.