Andy Cuff

Fall 2014 Alumni Stories and Profiles

Dr. Bart Kendrick ‘82

After graduating from Spring Hill College in 1982, Dr. James “Bart” Kendrick attended the Baylor College of Medicine for medical school, internship, and residency. Kendrick reconnected with the Spring Hill College community in 2006 when his longtime friend Dan Creagan, S.J., retired from St. Ignatius Loyola Parish in Spring, Texas, and returned to Spring Hill College to spend his final years painting. Kendrick visited Dan regularly, and after his passing is 2009, he partnered with Patrice and Bro Baur to spearhead the establishment of the Creagan Memorial Plaza in Dan’s honor. The plaza was dedicated in September 2011.

Kendrick is currently an Assistant Professor of Orthopaedic Surgery at the University of Texas Health Science Center Houston. His area of specialty includes trauma and joint replacement surgery. He is currently active on the National Alumni Board of Spring Hill College and recently organized the Miller-LeJeune Scholarship Reunion in the spring of 2014 at the college. He has one son, Bret, who is a freshman at Baylor University in Waco, Texas.

Frank Craft ‘70

Establishing Gifts for a Brighter Future

When Frank Craft entered Spring Hill as a freshman in 1966, he had no idea he would still have a strong connection almost 50 years later. After four years of learning life lessons and developing lasting friendships, he graduated in 1970 with a B.S. in Political Science. Craft went on to become a Corporate and Commercial Lender for over 40 years; he credits Spring Hill for his successful career, saying “Spring Hill took me to another level with the classes and challenging curriculum. It set me on the right path.” Craft has been donating to Spring Hill since the year after graduating. He notes his father advising him to take care of the place that did so much for him. That lesson seemed to stick; Craft has now established a charitable remainder trust with one half going to Spring Hill College. He states that philanthropy is a serious responsibility and people need to give back to anything or anybody who has freely given to others. Additionally, Craft is pleased to be a continual part of the Spring Hill community. “I feel like I’m a part of the process,” he says. “I want others to experience what I experienced during my time at Spring Hill.” Craft generous donation will prove to do just that as he hopes one day it will help a worthy candidate attend Spring Hill.

J.B. Egan ‘61

J.B. Egan, a 1961 graduate of Spring Hill, has proven to be a continual success story, friend and supporter of the college. Egan, who served on the Spring Hill Alumni Association Board for three years, notes his time at Spring Hill as one of his fondest memories. Egan regularly talks to about a dozen classmates from the class of 1961, and always makes sure to discuss Spring Hill with the young people he regularly mentors.

Egan cites alter serving for Fr. Art Colkin as one of the most impactful experiences during his time at Spring Hill. Egan served 5:30 a.m. mass under Fr. Colkin for three and a half years, and the two formed a strong bond. Egan recounts fond memories of driving Fr. Colkin, or “Big Art” as the students knew him, to St. Monica’s Church downtown during March while the pastor there was on vacation. These were the only times Egan would have access to a car, and it came with one exception. Egan accompanied Big Art to drive-in movie theaters for Randolph Scott western movies and a half gallon of ice cream, his favorite combination.

Egan also proved to be a loyal employee. After graduating from Spring Hill with a B.S. in Accounting, Egan served two years in the U.S. Army. After a few years at a CPA firm, he accepted a Controller position with the Sexton family in Vero Beach, Fla., where he still works to this day. Egan performs the accounting functions for the real estate holding company.

In 1978 Egan became the alter server coordinator for his parish in order to continue his passion for alter serving. He has since completed his 36th year as the coordinator and has trained 718 young men and women in that time. Egan regularly discusses his fond memories of Spring Hill to the young people he works with.

Egan and his wife of over 50 years, Karen, reside in Vero Beach, Fla., in their first home together built in 1965. Together they have four children. Crediting his family life and education from Spring Hill College for his success, J.B. Egan is a proven role model for students, alumni, friends and family of Spring Hill.

Pinkley’s

From Rural Locations to a College Education

When Dr. Leonard (Len) Pinkley Jr. ’67 entered Spring Hill College his freshmen year in 1962, he never thought he would still have such a strong connection more than 50 years later.

Len chose Spring Hill for the well-known pre-medicine program and Jesuit education. Even though he came in with high expectations, what he received from Spring Hill was far greater than he ever imagined.

He states that “Spring Hill imprinted my mind and heart many wonderful times. It afforded me many friendships and opportunities that have carried me forward throughout the years.”

Len also met his future wife at Spring Hill, Jean McDonald Pinkley ’67. Jean transferred into Spring Hill her junior year, and quickly became part of the Spring Hill family. She worked a part-time job for the Dean of Students in the student center, and made many friends by having her office in the middle of all the college’s activity.

Len graduated from Spring Hill in 1966 with his B.S. in Biology, and went on to become an obstetrician-gynecologist. Jean graduated the following year with a degree in English. The couple has lived in Amory, Miss. for the past 37 years and has dedicated many aspects of their lives to the small town. The downtown area of Amory is part of the Mississippi Main Street Program, a program that assists in rebuilding struggling downtown areas and businesses. Jean was the first Amory Main Street Manager, and both Jean and Len have served on the board every year since it was founded.

The couple also has a strong connection to the Catholic Church. Since moving to Amory, they immediately found comfort in St. Helen Church. They have served on the Parish Council several times and have been fully involved in the parish life as the church and the congregation have grown substantially over the years. Through the Loyola University Extension program, Len was able to earn a Master’s Degree in Pastoral Ministry.

While the Pinkley’s have kept busy through the years, they never lost their tie to Spring Hill. The couple has been continually giving back to the college since they left. With their love of Spring Hill and Catholic education, the Pinkley’s established a scholarship, Dr. Len Pinkley ’66 and Mrs. Jean McDonald Pinkley ’67 Funded Scholarship, which assists students from the rural South that chose to attend Spring Hill College.

Grady Blanks, a current junior from Alexander City, Ala., is one of the recipients of the Pinkley’s scholarship. Blanks is a Secondary Education and Mathematics major and one day hopes to teach high school math and pursue his masters. Blanks cite the Pinkley’s scholarship as one of the main financial reasons he chose Spring Hill. “I would like to thank the Pinkly’s for their support,” Blanks says “I do not know if Spring Hill would be an option for me without their help.”

While they have repeatedly proven to be a generous and successful couple, the Pinkley’s remain humble when reminiscing about Spring Hill. “Seeing old friends and witnessing the transformation of the campus show that the Spirit is actively breathing on this little school,” says Leu “we honestly do not remember when we started giving, we felt if we could support Spring Hill we certainly should, as we are grateful for all she has meant to us.”