

MIDWAY

Fall 2007

College Magazine



Great Minds
www.midway.edu



President's Perspective

As President of Midway College, I have the privilege to work with one of the strongest Board of Trustees in higher education. Our Trustees bring diverse experiences as chief executives, entrepreneurs, educators and philanthropists to the Board! All of these perspectives are needed. Educating 1,700 students on a limited budget and endowment requires making sound business decisions, but those decisions must be made with an unwavering focus on the mission. Ultimately, we measure success by educating and developing the character of our students.

In reading this issue of Midway College Magazine, you will explore the College's recent history and the key decisions that have resulted in the Midway College of 2007. You will hear about these decisions from the presidents who made them, and you will also have the opportunity to meet our Board of Trustees Chair, James J. O'Brien, Chairman and CEO of Ashland Inc. By 2002, when I assumed the role as president, the past decisions that are highlighted in this magazine had positioned Midway College with unlimited potential to serve expanding populations of students while maintaining the historic quality and focus of our women's college. But this potential would only be realized with continued critique of our operation and a focus on efficiency. Mr. O'Brien, and his experience at Ashland Inc., has been an invaluable resource from which to draw on to make these critical decisions.

I am proud to say that we are living up to that potential, but we must continue to evaluate and be willing to make bold decisions in order to position Midway College for greater accomplishments in the future. These decisions are being formulated and implemented with the unparalleled counsel of our Board of Trustees, the service of our caring faculty, the support of our alumni and friends, the willingness of our staff, all for the benefit of a unique student who needs Midway's personalized approach. These are the stories of some of Midway's Great Minds, and through their experiences, you will see the human element behind the evolution of Midway College.



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Contact us at 1-800-273-0839, visit us on the web at www.midway.edu, or send an email to mcalumni@midway.edu. We look forward to hearing from you!!

On the Cover: James J. O'Brien, Chair and CEO of Ashland Inc., and Chair of the Board of Trustees of Midway College.

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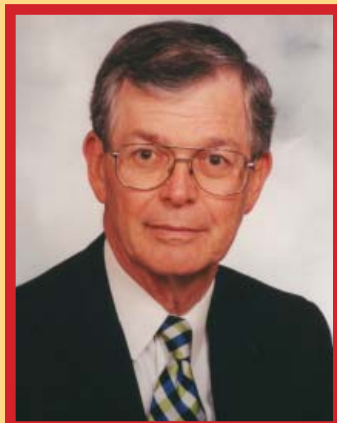
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Midway College is an Equal Opportunity Institution

Midway's Presidents Reflect on Growth and Change



Dr. Nelson M. Hoffman, Jr.
President 1978-1985



Dr. Robert R. Botkin
President 1985-1998



Dr. Allyson Hughes Handley
President 1998-2002



Dr. William B. Drake, Jr.
President 2002 - present

This year Midway College celebrates its 160th anniversary. In that time the school has evolved from the Kentucky Female Orphan School to a high school, a junior college, and finally into the four-year institution it is today. In recent decades it has transformed to meet the needs of not only female students, but also of adult learners across the state.

A different leader has been present at each incarnation of the school, bringing his or her unique skill set to bear upon the molding and future of the college. On this anniversary, we pause for a few reflections from these leaders, so that we might see how far we've come and catch a glimpse of the road ahead.

Dr. Nelson M. Hoffman, Jr. *President 1978-1985*

Dr. Hoffman came to Midway College with an 18-year background in higher education. When he arrived, Midway College was operating as a junior college, but still struggling to define itself as more than a high school.

"When I went to the college in 1978 we were just getting over the idea that it was an orphan school or a girls' school or Pinkerton High School To get over the idea of a high school and make it into a two-year college was our first job. Then we realized that we couldn't stay that way, but it was such a huge task," says Dr. Hoffman, who knew it would take more staff and a new library to create a four-year institution.

"We didn't have much money. [Midway] depended, to a great extent, on the oil fields in Texas. At the time I was there we had 24 oil wells in and around Victoria, Texas, known as the Belle Wisdom property," he says. Over the next seven years, Dr. Hoffman oversaw the creation of Midway's quadrangle,

the development of a Kentucky Woman of the Year program and the purchase of Midway's first computer. He would also prepare the Trustees for the eventual move to a four-year institution.

Dr. Robert R. Botkin *President 1985-1998*

On July 1, 1985, Dr. Botkin began his 13 years of service to Midway College. In that time he figures that he "saw more dramatic and substantive change than any of the presidents."

When he arrived enrollment was at 300 and the Board of Trustees was still considering the move to a four-year institution. "My background was just exactly what they needed at that time, because my expertise was not fundraising . . . my expertise was in academics," says Dr. Botkin.

Moving from a two-year to a four-year school meant growing the staff and programs the school offered as well as receiving the proper accreditation. By 1989, the College attained that

goal, but enrollment was still low. Then an opportunity to provide an associate degree in nursing at the Ephraim-McDowell medical center in Danville came.

“One thing about all small private colleges, they have to have an entrepreneurial spirit. They have to know how to take advantage of opportunities. And we were able to respond very quickly and do that,” he says of the program that eventually became the embryo for the School for Career Development.

“Then the next significant thing that happened, kind of building on that Danville program idea, was we established the School for Career Development during my administration. We had one degree, Organizational Management, and that was co-ed. Then we got the idea that we could offer it not only on-site, but off-site and we started doing it in cooperation with community colleges scattered around the state.”

Dr. Botkin retired from the school on June 30, 1998 leaving as part of his legacy the Little Memorial Library, a renovated Buster Hall, the acquisition of Pinkerton-Rouse Place and a sense that the school had embarked on its next step.

Dr. Allyson Hughes Handley *President 1998-2002*

The first female president of Midway College, Dr. Handley arrived in 1998 to an institution in the midst of change. The newly-developed School for Career Development, still needed time and nurturing to impact enrollment, which was in decline, and a classroom building desperately needed repair.

She began with the building, raising funds around the compelling idea of creating a pipeline of young women interested in science. The eventual result would be the Anne Hart Raymond Center.

“We were also rapidly expanding partnerships with community colleges and . . . several new institutions where there was a need to serve adult learners in their communities,” she remembers. However, as the School for Development continued to grow so did the need to streamline administrative operations at the school. “When I arrived the women’s college and the School for Career Development were two completely distinct and separate entities . . . From the standpoint of the financial base of the school it really wasn’t feasible to have totally separate infrastructure in terms of people and positions.”

So Dr. Handley, the faculty, staff and administrators took on an intensive strategic planning process to determine what the future of the college would look like. “From that we emerged as an institution that made the decision to continue as a women’s college, to continue offering programs to adult students, to rapidly expand the additional, potential campuses and articulation agreements with two-year institutions as a way of greatly expanding the adult programs; but there also

was a process of focusing on what we came to call the pillar programs at Midway.”

The changes and streamlining which took place under Dr. Handley were necessary though not always easy. “When an institution or an organization is going through change you need to create a climate that helps people move forward . . . What a leader can do and what a president can do is to create the climate, and over time, if there are changes in climate that ultimately results in a change of culture,” she says.

Dr. William B. Drake, Jr. *President 2002 - present*

With a strategic plan in place and a newly established college direction, Dr. Drake took the helm of Midway College in 2002. Since then he has doubled the size of the campus to 200 acres and increased enrollment to 1700 students, by retaining the women’s college while focusing tremendous effort into the realm of service to underserved adults.

The challenges that face his administration include the continued growth of the enrollment of the school and bringing the physical campus up to speed for the 21st century.

“Among the treasures that we’ve been given are the historic buildings of the college. We need to preserve our history and our heritage, but also update the technology so that we can more efficiently provide the programs that we offer today,” says President Drake of efforts to move buildings off old boiler systems, install central air and provide elevator service.

He adds, “What we’re working to do in the most important area, which is student learning and development, is to incorporate the important traits of critical thinking and communication skills throughout our curriculum. Data has indicated that those two traits are highly valued in our culture, and whether a student is in biology, business or equine science we want them to be able to think critically about the world in which they live.”

Dr. Drake is also leading Midway into one of education’s newest frontiers with Midway’s growing online course offerings. “I would say that the future of this college, in addition to maintaining and strengthening our women’s college and degree completion programs, is tied to a set of minds working around very creative online programs, because those are critical to what we do,” he says.

For 160 years, Midway College, in all its manifestations, has been able to adapt to the needs of its students, and with innovative leaders like these, it will continue to do so, well into the future.

Dr. Irene E. Roeckel: “Learning is Lifelong”



Dee Plunkett met Dr. Irene E. Roeckel in 1969 when he and his wife came to study at the University of Kentucky. Plunkett had been looking for a place on a farm where they could live and where he could maybe do some odd jobs. That led him to Pleasant Green Farm and its owner Dr. Roeckel.

It didn't take them long to find out that she had a good soul about her. "Before long, we were just part of the family. We became an extension of her life," he says now.

Plunkett and his wife lived on the farm for nearly three years. They moved on, finally settling in Tennessee, but they never forgot Dr. Roeckel. Plunkett visited frequently. When his daughter, named for Dr. Roeckel, married several years ago, Dr. Roeckel attended as a member of the family.

Years later, at her memorial service in the winter of 2007, Plunkett discovered that his ties to Dr. Roeckel were not all that unusual. Though she was not known as sentimental, Plunkett met person after person at her service who had been touched by her loyalty and compassion.

"People just fell in love with her, and it wasn't because she was friendly and bubbly. There was just something about her that attracted people to her," says Plunkett. "Her level of integrity was astounding . . . You knew where she stood and the rock she stood on was the one she defended . . . I think that gave people a certain amount of comfort."

Irene Roeckel was certainly strong. Born in 1924 in Heidelberg, Germany, she grew up between the two World Wars. In 1948, she graduated summa cum laude from the University of Heidelberg Medical School, where she worked as a research associate until 1949 when she became a surgeon for the U.S. Army. She came to the United States in 1952 for a residency in New York City. Eventually, her career led her to the post of Assistant Professor of Pathology at Georgetown University in Washington, D.C.

She was working there in 1964 when she was persuaded to join the faculty of the new University of Kentucky Medical School, drawn to Kentucky by the new facility and by the opportunity to indulge her true passion - horses.

An accomplished rider, Dr. Roeckel approached horses with the same dedication as she did her research. "I think it gave

her some balance from the intense time that she put in on her job and the papers she wrote . . . Even then she wasn't a pleasure rider. She was training dressage. The showing part of it was important," says Plunkett.

Dr. Roeckel and her husband, Hugh, bought Pleasant Green Farm on the outskirts of Fayette County. Shortly after moving there, Hugh died and she continued to oversee the farm.

"When she came [to Kentucky] in the 60s - foreign born, highly educated, and a pathologist - the world that she came into in Lexington was a very different world than it is today. She was not going to bow down to any strong guy who would tell her what to do. There weren't many women who owned a horse farm, and managed everything there in the 60s," says Plunkett.

While she bred thoroughbreds and prepared them for sales at the farm, Dr. Roeckel continued to make advances in surgery at the university. Increasingly, those new surgical techniques required blood transfusions and she discovered there were no reliable systems in place for the storage or delivery of blood. In 1973, she became the founding director of the Central Kentucky Blood Bank. She was the medical director of the blood bank through 1989, in which time it grew from occupying a small refrigerator to an entire building.

In retirement, Dr. Roeckel turned her focus to her beloved farm. "Probably there was nothing that meant more to her than that farm, especially as she grew older," says Plunkett. "That was kind of her legacy. Her biggest fear was that the farm was going to become a subdivision."

This concern coupled with her enthusiasm for Midway College's equine program and a commitment to lifelong learning led her to Midway College, where she had been active since the late 90s and a member of the Board of Trustees since 2002. By gifting her farm to Midway College she ensured its use to train and prepare thoroughbreds while serving Midway students.

Dr. Roeckel passed away in January 2007. She was buried next to her husband on Pleasant Green Farm. Like Dee Plunkett before them, Midway students will forever benefit from her quiet generosity and passion for learning.

Alivia Sturgill '07 – Gaining Wisdom From Giving Back

Just a week after graduating from Midway College with a degree in Teacher Education, Alivia Sturgill '07 was selected to meet with President Bush in the Oval Office as part of a nationwide recognition week for the AmeriCorps national service program.

Alivia, who worked this summer with the West Virginia AmeriCorps education-oriented program, Energy Express, has been familiar with AmeriCorps for over 13 years.

“I started out as an Energy Express student,” she remembers. The following year she returned as a volunteer and now her mother is the director of the AmeriCorps program in her town.

“This is the first year I’ve been able to serve and give something back,” Alivia says of her summer 2007 class.

President Clinton and Congress created AmeriCorps in 1993 as a way for Americans to give back to their communities and earn money for college in return. Members in Energy Express have served more than 34,000 low-income and rural children across West Virginia since 1996.

Beginning in June, Alivia spent eight weeks at Kermit Elementary School in Kermit, West Virginia, teaching students in a program that focused on reading and nutrition. Students began each day with a family-style meal where they talked and bonded about their day and learned basic nutrition. After eating, they spent time reading, doing art projects and journaling. “It was a great experience for me as a teacher,” Alivia says.

Alivia’s journey to become a teacher began in 2004, after completing two years of general education classes at Southern Community College in Williamson, West Virginia. It was there she learned that Midway College would be conducting degree completion classes in Teacher Education.

In wasn’t long before the 24-year-old single mother met John Robinette, Midway’s regional director in Eastern Kentucky, and enrolled in Midway.

“Midway College made it so convenient for me to earn my Teacher Education degree. I completed my bachelor’s by going to school every weekend very close to home. The Midway teachers were amazing. It was true hands-on learning. They helped me complete my dream of earning a bachelor’s degree and in doing so, I fell in love with teaching,” she says.

This summer was a big one for Alivia. But aside from offering her a brush with fame, the AmeriCorps program also offered her an important insight to the students in her current and future classes.

“You get so wrapped up in what has to be covered in the school year that it takes you away from [the students’]

personalities, from the actual student,” she says. “[Energy Express] reminds you to go back and see what’s going on in their home life, and connect with them. That will teach them as much as teaching multiplication tables.”

Editor’s Note: In August, Alivia began teaching sixth grade reading and language arts at Logan Middle School in Logan, West Virginia.



President George W. Bush and Alivia Sturgill '07 in the Oval Office

Alivia’s Whirlwind Trip to Washington D.C.

Wednesday, May 16, 2007
AmeriCorps calls Alivia to ask if she’s interested in a trip to Washington, D.C.

receives word that she will be going and barely makes her flight.

Friday, May 18, 2007
Alivia leaves her hotel for the White House.

They visit for five minutes.

Thursday, May 17, 2007
With two hours notice, Alivia

In D.C., AmeriCorps Director Kristin McSwain informs her that she will be meeting the President of the United States.

She meets President Bush in the Oval Office.

In the Indian Treaty Room, McSwain swears Alivia into the program.

She is home by evening.

midway repackages its appeal

It's not always easy to get into the mind of an 18-year-old girl. It's even harder to produce something that she will want to read and absorb. That was the challenge facing Midway Director of Marketing Cindy Cheatham when she began redesigning the admissions marketing materials used to recruit women to the Day College.

"In the past, [our materials] pretty much said, 'We have these programs, we have the small setting, you'll get the one-on-one attention,' but we weren't communicating it in a way that really connected with the girls who were coming to the college. It wasn't a poor piece of material. It just wasn't as effective as it had the potential to be," says Cheatham.

She knew it was time for a change - a fresh look that would grab prospective students' attention and get them onto campus. The question was how to get the materials to reflect Midway. Most college marketing materials target a broad audience, but Midway's audience is unique.

Then, one morning, watching the Today show, she saw a segment on teen magazines that recycle their articles in fresh ways.

"All of the sudden I thought, 'We're a women's college, we can get away with having a teen magazine,'" she says.

Cheatham went out and bought copies of magazines and started looking at ways to fit Midway's essential information into the format of the magazines. She developed an "Ask Ashleigh" page, where typical student questions about homesickness, study habits and roommates are addressed and answered by Midway students. She created a version of the "Most Embarrassing Moments" page common in girls' magazines, but the material in this magazine was about going to class and on-campus social activities. She even managed to work in Midway's athletic programs by having an athlete from each sport demonstrate an exercise to help students "Avoid the Freshman 15."

"I tried to incorporate a lot of the things in our older recruiting materials and freshen up the language, and use it in a way that was a little bit more creative and something that they would actually read," says Cheatham.

She also reworked the color scheme. Instead of the traditional blue and gold palette, Cheatham chose bright pinks, blues and lime greens. She filled the pages with pictures, text boxes and images that keep the eye moving, making the whole page come alive. "Not everything is in pink, but we're trying to brighten the color up and make it a little bit more fun, and play up the fact that we're a women's college," she says.

The pink, which according to Cheatham was the most controversial part of the new design, is meant to be confident. She says she wanted something that was proud of the women it represents. "The reason our students are succeeding is because it's a women's college, and it is designed to make women successful," she says.

The new materials take class descriptions and requirements out of the view book, assigning instead a separate insert for each program or opportunity. The inserts show what degrees are available and give students ideas about where that field of study might take them in the future.

"I think [the new material] subtly says, 'We know who you are. We understand what you're going through. We understand what it takes for you to succeed in the classroom, to succeed in life, to develop your friendships, to become more responsible, to step away from mom and dad, and to make this step in your life an important one and prepare you to be the adult that you're going to be,'" says Cheatham.

Of course, Midway College is more than young women. So, Cheatham has also redesigned the materials for the School for Career Development (SCD) to meet the needs of that audience, while maintaining continuity with the Day School pieces.

To create that continuity, Cheatham trimmed down the SCD view book and utilized the insert idea to make the different programs easier to find, with complete degree requirements. She downplayed the pink, but kept the lively blues, yellows and greens.

"By having continuity in the look, that also says, 'Midway College serves our students. Period,'" she says.

At the 2007 commencement, Cheatham's creativity and innovation were recognized when she received the Trustees' Award for her work. And so far, students are getting the message. The materials are drawing potential students to tables at college fairs and have spawned a series of posters, tee shirts, bags and pens.



Cindy Cheatham with the new Women's College materials

JAMES J. O'BRIEN

In 2002, when Jim O'Brien became Chairman and CEO of Ashland Inc., he faced a troubled oil industry and a company that needed to refocus and streamline its efforts to meet a changing market. He began a restructuring effort that transformed Ashland from an oil business to one that focused on water-purification chemicals, highway construction and Valvoline motor oil. By 2004, he had stabilized performance and grown the company.

As Chairman of the Midway College Board of Trustees, O'Brien has applied some of those same innovative ideas to help Midway succeed in making its vision a reality. He spoke with us about his involvement in Midway College and how change is accomplished at a Fortune 500 company or a small Kentucky college.

Why were you interested in being on the Midway College Board of Trustees?

Ever since I've been associated with Ashland, which is now over 31 years, the primary focus of the company has been education. Ashland believes education is important not only for the company but for the entire country, and we've been fortunate to have been able to have an impact on its direction.

I found Midway to be very quaint and unique, and I believed it should be preserved and made into a thriving institution. The mission was very sound, the campus was beautiful, and the people who worked there were very dedicated and very forthright people. I decided I wanted to be involved.

What do you hope to bring to the Board of Trustees through your leadership?

When I was elected to the board in 1996, what I hoped to bring to the college was more strategic thinking – the importance of finance, how to create and organize organizations, how to keep the college on a sound financial footing. In my mind, they had everything else figured out.

When you became CEO of Ashland Inc., you had to be both visionary and innovative to restructure the company. What attributes does it take to reorganize and re-energize something so large?

You first need to look at a situation unemotionally and to understand analytically what makes the company or institution run. One needs to find the heart of it and say "what makes this place successful?" Everything in life is that way. There is always something an individual does well or an institution does well, but it isn't always easy to find. As a company or an institution grows and becomes more complex, it becomes somewhat overburdened by all the activities that occur on a daily basis. You then lose sight of what it is you really do.



James J. O'Brien joined the Midway College Board of Trustees in November 1996. He was elected Chairman of the Board beginning fiscal year 2000.

Once you understand the heart, you build everything else from there. You have to remove from the organization those activities that don't reinforce the central idea, and then you have to replace it with focus and what is important.

FINDING THE HEART OF CHANGE

The first step is to get the organization's willingness to embrace and execute the plan, but first you must get the people's attention through a process called "change management." People must first be made aware change is necessary; then you build the desire for change within them.

You can have the best idea, the best plan and lots of money, but if you don't get the change management piece right and get the people to rally around it, it's not going to happen.

"One needs to find the heart of it and say, 'What makes this place successful?'"

How have those same attributes found their way into your work as Chairman of the Board at Midway?

When you look at Midway, it's under a very similar situation as the one I found at Ashland.

Midway is in a transitional period. The primary idea is to serve women students who want an equine-type emphasis of study, and we have obviously reinforced that with our actions and strategy of buying the farm next to the campus. That purchase and that reinforcement will be a very important part of the institution going forward. Now, at the same time, we need larger capacity, and we need to utilize the faculty and the basic physical plant more effectively than we do today. Therefore, we supplement and overlay on top of this the continuing education piece (of non-traditional students).

There is a huge market of non-traditional students who are desirous to continue their education and to obtain a degree. Midway has made it very seamless for them to do that.

I believe an institution that has a place, a heart and a soul, allows a student to have a much stronger affinity for the

institution and makes them proud to say "I have a Midway degree," which is much more powerful than saying they have a degree from an institution that is viewed as a storefront operation. Storefront operations don't really have a soul. They really don't have a place. Even though students may not partake of a place and actually embrace that soul on a day-to-day basis, I think it's embodied throughout the faculty and throughout the institution.

What do you hope for the future of the college?

My hope for the future of Midway College is that we continue to expand the number of students served every year, and that we continue to reinforce the basic concepts so we can reach capacity at the women's college. For Midway to be vibrant and important in the future, it has to have that student body on campus. We have to have a vibrant community.

Every year is a different year, and every year presents its own unique set of challenges. We all need to rise to the occasion to address those challenges, to understand where the trends of the future are taking us, and to be in the forefront of providing solutions to those trends.



In his role as the Chairman of the Board of Trustees, James J. O'Brien speaks at College events such as opening convocation and the spring commencement (above).

A Future Great Mind

- Bowling Scholar Chelsea Garrison '10

When asked to dream big and make a list of what she would like to accomplish in life, Bowling Scholar Chelsea Garrison '10 names the following: Graduate at the top of her class at Midway and go to medical school; be a reconstructive surgeon and help those who need it most; travel and swim in the Great Barrier Reef; live somewhere warm; play the piano and ride her horse.

Originally from Mt. Washington, Kentucky, Garrison came to Midway for the equine program. At the end of her first semester, however, she changed her major to biology, deciding to pursue her dream of becoming a doctor.

"I always wanted to go to college, but medical school kind of scared me for a long time," she says, adding that she found courage in the example of her mother, a non-traditional student who graduated from community college in the spring of 2007. "My mom was able to do nursing school while taking care of all of us. I should be able to do medical school with no problem, because I don't have as many responsibilities, just my horse," says Garrison.

Inspired by her newfound direction, Garrison has already made a name for herself on Midway's campus. She is a member of Gamma Beta Phi and Beta Beta Beta honor societies and is the historian for the Leaders in Equine Assisted Programs or LEAP club. She received straight A's in the spring semester, rides on the Hunt Seat team and is a very active President's Ambassador for the college.

Always humble, Garrison attributes her school involvement and grades to being named a Bowling Scholar, a full-tuition scholarship that requires exceptional academic credentials.

"It's great. It's freed up so much of my time. I'm not stressed out over finances. It just means a lot that someone would pick me for something like that. It's made life so much easier," she says.

The only drawback of receiving the scholarship has been

learning how to deal with her friends' good-natured teasing about "being a genius."

But this genius keeps things pretty simple. When asked what makes a great mind she says, "Persistence, just keep on trying for whatever you want. Having the motivation to get out there and do things. Being open to new experiences, not just floating along through life."



This past summer Chelsea had the opportunity for new experiences and to cross a couple things off her list. She attended the Global Young Leaders Summit in Australia with students from all over the world.

Involved in the leadership summits since high school, she has attended the National Young Leaders Conference and the 2004 Presidential Young Leaders Conference, where she witnessed the presidential inauguration.

"[The summits] take me way out of my comfort zone, because I tend to keep to myself a lot; but there I don't know anybody, so I have to be more outgoing," she says.

Chelsea also spent some time this summer determining what she needed to do to get into medical school. She has begun volunteering at a nursing home and has underlined and starred all the classes she will take at Midway.



For all her planning for the future, however, Chelsea knows how to stay grounded in the present. Every day she takes time to ride her horse, Roscoe.

"It's just a break. When I'm on my horse, all I can concentrate on is what we're doing. I can't be jumping over a fence, thinking how much homework do I have left for today. So it's a good stress relief," she says.

Chelsea Garrison will continue to add to her to-do list for the future, but for the time being her mind is focused on the obstacles and experiences of today, making the most of her time at Midway.

Photos: *Top* Chelsea and her horse Roscoe.
Bottom Trustee Ann Bowling and Chelsea.

Real Men Teach

-Brian Hodge '08

Brian Hodge's favorite teacher is his fifth grade teacher and basketball coach, Danny Ellison at Clays Mill Elementary. "We just connected, bonded from day one. That was the only male teacher I ever had," says Hodge, who will graduate from Midway's Teacher Education program in May 2008.



Brian Hodge

voice being heard on the executive committee. And while he says his role could stop there, he chose to take it even further.

"One thing I'm really trying to do is to make myself visible and try to let people know that we need more male teachers. My position is not clearly a black or white position, it's an ethnic/minority position and if you look into the school system minority also [means] male teachers," says Hodge.

For Hodge, the key to bringing in more male teachers and more minority teachers is in early recruiting. For that reason, he began visiting elementary and middle schools to talk about teaching as a profession.

Once he graduates Hodge also hopes to teach fifth grade, but in the meantime he is using his new position as Ethnic/Minority representative for the Kentucky Education Association Student Program (KEA-SP) to spread the word that more male teachers are needed.

Since September 1, 2007, Hodge has served as the Ethnic/Minority representative, making sure ethnic minorities are represented in the by-laws and rules, and making sure that there is a strong

"The previous people who were in my position always went to events where the people were already in education [...] My theory is, why should I go someplace where I know that everyone who is there is already in the education department," he says.

So, when he talks with younger students, Hodge focuses on two things: He dispels the myth that teaching is not a job and does not pay well, and he explains the joy a teacher feels when he or she teaches someone something new. He also warns them that teaching is not for everyone.

In fact, for a long time, Hodge, whose mother was a teacher, did not believe teaching was for him. Nevertheless, despite long hours overseeing circulation for the Lexington Herald-Leader, Hodge always found time for young people. He volunteered at his children's elementary school and was active in the past with Black Achievers. Even Fayette County Public Schools Superintendent Stu Silberman noticed Hodge's apparent affinity for teaching and children.

"People that were around me saw a passion that I did not see in myself and brought it to my attention," Hodge says.

One of those people, his wife, Mary, completed her teacher education degree at Midway in 2006 and now teaches first grade at Booker T. Washington Elementary School in Lexington. For several years, Hodge has volunteered there in the afternoons, helping with everything from afternoon dismissal to calming a crying child.

Eventually, Hodge says, everything came together and he realized teaching was his calling. Specifically, teaching in inner city elementary schools, where he believes a teacher has a chance to affect a child before the child gives up on education and the future.

"I would like to focus on inner city elementary [schools], because there is a difference between inner city schools and your schools on the outskirts. In the inner city, you are more than just a teacher. You are a role model," he says. "A true role to me in the inner city is being a well-rounded person. Taking on many roles,"

In his last year in the Teacher Education program, with a full time job, a family and the opportunity to impact children across the state through KEA-SP, Hodge has taken on many roles and is already a model for the future.

Editor's Note: In October 2007, Hodge was named to a position on the National Education Association (NEA) Committee on Employee Advocacy.

Biology at Midway – A Natural Fit

“Biology is exciting every day, because you learn something every day. There’s always that discovery, always just being a part of this world, of how things work and where they work and why they work, and it makes life exciting,” says Beverly Juett, Assistant Professor of Biology for Midway College. Juett, along with Dr. Sherie Kendall, Dr. John Delfino and Dr. Elizabeth Vaughn, is helping to bring a sense of wonder to the study of Biology at Midway College.

Midway College seems uniquely created for studying biology. Perched on a hill in the middle of Central Kentucky with a goldmine of tree varieties and a branch of the Elkhorn Creek, the small campus is a living, breathing lab. In fact, teaching outside has become a cornerstone of the program.

“As an outdoor lab, I don’t see that it gets any better than what we have right here,” says Dr. Delfino, who takes his General Biology class outside to tag trees with name and species, and whose zoology students study crayfish in the stream.

The stream is an integral part of the outdoor lab. About eight years ago, Juett received a grant from the Environmental Protection Agency to educate the Elkhorn Creek community on streamside buffers. In response to Juett’s work, Midway College decided to allow its own buffer to grow, and now Juett’s students document the plants that are growing and aid in research of the area. A butterfly garden was recently added that students maintain.

“Students really [take an interest] in the buffer and the stream, because we’re right there looking at it. We’re not just looking at pictures,” says Juett.



Cassie Williams, Alisha Walker, and Tracy Gribbins work together on the tree identification project for Dr. Delfino’s General Biology class.

“For our environmental science class, we had a lot of our labs right down at the stream . . . We could just walk out the door and down to the creek,” says



The Biology Faculty at Midway College:
Sherie Kendall, Beverly Juett, Elizabeth Vaughn, and John Delfino.

Dr. Vaughn, adding that in her undergraduate days, students would have to travel to find samples like the ones here at Midway.

Midway students have a living flashcard that keeps the study of the natural world in front of them at all times. The result of that constant study has been student inquiry and research that is opening doors to graduate programs.

“We have a really good track record as far as students getting accepted to professional or graduate school,” says Juett, citing an 85 percent acceptance rate.

Students are also encouraged to present their research every December at an on-campus presentation forum. And off campus, Midway students attend the Association of Southeastern Biologists meetings, where they compete with major research schools from throughout the southeastern United States. Midway is developing a name for itself with innovative, creative projects.

“They come out and they feel empowered, and that’s what it’s all about,” says Dr. Delfino.

“To develop a student’s mind and to get them to be more professional, it [takes more than] classroom work or work with equipment. It takes work with people, people who’ve already gone through what they’re going through, people who know about the field and can guide them. And they certainly have a lot of that with us,” says Juett.

Midway's biology faculty members are diverse in personality and academic backgrounds, and Juett believes that allows individual students to see a little of themselves in each one of the faculty.

"We model self advocacy, tolerance, academic inquiry and ethics," adds Dr. Kendall.

They also model camaraderie. The four biology instructors joke and laugh with each other, making them approachable for students and underscoring the need for communication and collaboration in science.

That is one of the reasons that they support a Beta Beta Beta honor society for their students. "Tri Beta", as they call it, inducted 24 new members last year.

According to Juett, Tri Beta has been the single best thing that the Biology department has done since the program's beginning. "It gave [students] a good sense of community. It gave them something to own."

The study of biology at Midway is not something relegated to a classroom or to instructors' own research. It is something students can own and explore in and out of class. And Midway's biology faculty offers students much more than guidance, education and experience. They offer students a sense of wonder about the world around them and a community of learners in which to turn that wonder into the discoveries of the future.

Biology 101: *Streamside Buffers*

A streamside buffer is a zone next to the stream where you have no mowing and grasses and plants grow naturally.

"It acts like a sponge. Where water runs off into the creek from areas surrounding the creek, it will take off impurities and trash and chemicals like fertilizers and pesticides," says Assistant Professor of Biology, Beverly Juett.

Buffers combat soil erosion, because roots are embedded down into the soil to keep the soil from going out into the stream.

They also provide habitats for insects that fish eat, and if trees are allowed to grow, the stream water stays cool.

And, buffers, full of plants and flowers, are aesthetically pleasing. Midway College's buffer grows wild iris and is home to a butterfly garden.

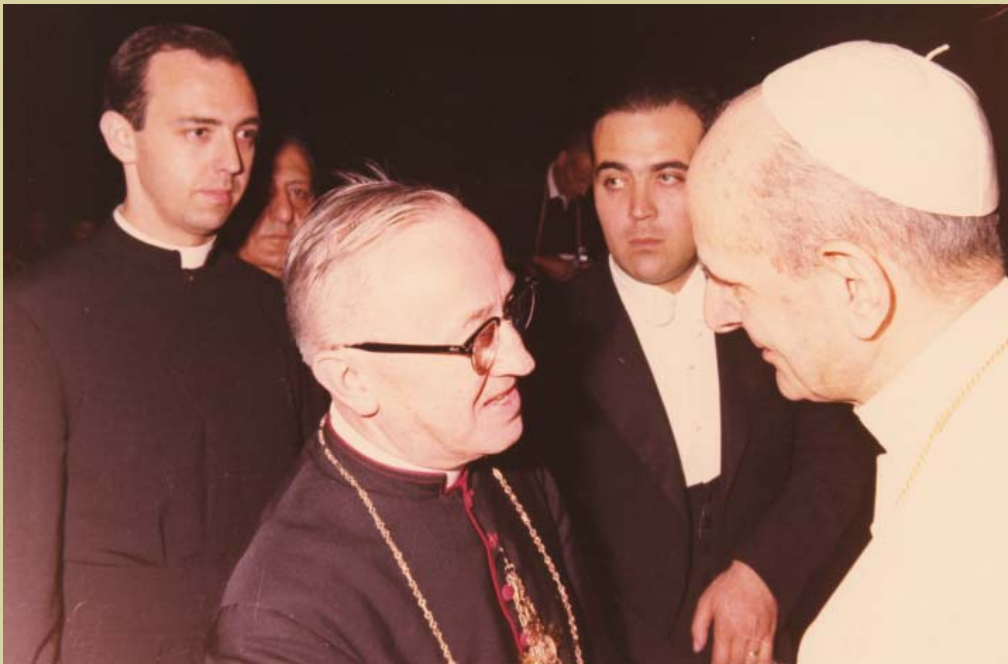


Dr. William G. Brown-

“You always take who you are with you. And I think that’s it,” says Dr. William Brown, Midway College Dean of the School of Career Development.

Originally from Lexington, Dr. Brown knew from an early age he wanted to enter the priesthood. After high school, he

went to live at the Abbey of Gethsemani in Bardstown, Kentucky, where he studied with renowned Catholic author Thomas Merton. In 1963, he was ordained and in 1965 he was sent to Rome for his doctoral studies. There, he worked at the Second Vatican Council and at the Vatican.



William Brown (far left) at the Vatican in 1968 with Pope Paul VI (far right)

He returned to the U.S. and

became dean and then president of the Seminary of Saint Pius for 13 years. He took a sabbatical for 15 months in Jerusalem, where he studied Hebrew and Biblical Archeology. Following his return, he became pastor in Ashland, Kentucky for three years and then served for seven years in the Diocese of Lexington, where, in 1996, he met and married his wife, leaving the priesthood. That’s when he came to Midway College, originally as a financial aid administrator, before being named Dean of the School for Career Development.

He has been with Midway College for 11 years, lending students, faculty and staff a unique perspective on life and learning.

“I am today the summation of all my life. [...] It’s all been one product that has grown into who I am today. And everyday I am constantly being formed and changed,” he says.

Dr. Brown has often welcomed change by opening himself to foreign places and cultures. In Jerusalem, Brown took

intensive Hebrew lessons six hours a day. Able to immerse himself in Israeli culture, he witnessed first hand the conflicts and issues with which its people are living.

“Living in Jerusalem, I had both Muslim friends [...] and Jewish friends, and was visiting in the homes of both of them. So, it gave me an opportunity

to see the pain and the suffering that both sides are enduring. There’s not a person in Israel who hasn’t seen the death of a friend, brother or sister, father or mother, on both sides. You see the suffering and you see the hurt and you just wonder when it will stop.”

“It’s helped me understand human strife a little bit better and realize that the only way to get out of it is to get above it. It’s helped me to understand people who are different from myself [...] and to put myself a little bit more in the shoes of a person who thinks totally different than I do,” he says.

Dr. Brown says differences like those of the Israelis and Palestinians can be found everywhere in the world, even in the United States. He believes seeing those differences only from

Growing into a Great Mind

the outside causes one to miss seeing the beauty of the people involved.

“You need to get inside of where they’re coming from and then it helps you understand better why they feel the way they feel or why they think the way they think, or why they make judgments the way they do,” he says.

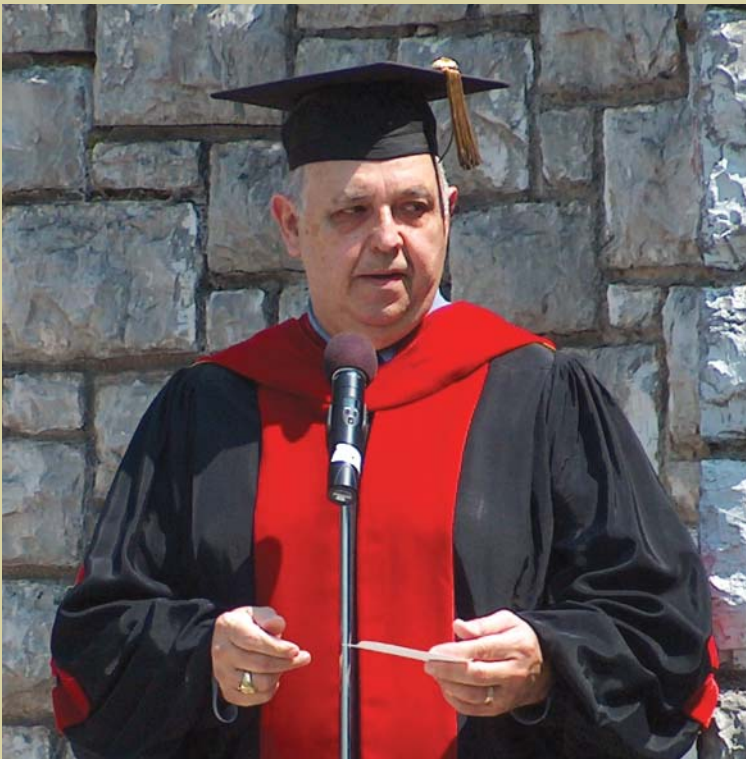
In his World Religion class at Midway, Dr. Brown tries to show students that in every single religion the core is the same. At the heart of each religion is a personal relationship between people and God.

Helping students see to the heart of things is the same, he says, whether they are studying the priesthood or organizational administration and leadership. “They’re not really different, because it’s all about formation and helping the person grow

into an awareness. A person’s not going to be a good priest unless they are really, truly in contact with their human-ness and able to understand others; and I don’t think a person is going to be a good biologist unless they are able to do that. My whole approach when I teach is to try to help the people not to get external knowledge, but to try to get something that penetrates into their own lives, so that they can see and then relate that to other people,” he says.

To truly see others, however, he believes we must first see ourselves. As our experiences total up inside of us, we have the opportunity to change and grow.

Reflecting on his own life, Dr. Brown says, “Yes there are big changes between living life as a priest and life as a layman, but I didn’t jump from one to another, I grew from one to another and took myself with me.”



As Vice President and Dean of the School for Career Development, Brown announces each graduate’s name at the annual spring commencement activities.



As a doctoral candidate in Rome, Brown spent a lot of time in and around the Vatican. In this photo from 1965, he is pictured at the far left (with books). Pope Paul VI, seated on left, is also pictured.

SAVE THE DATE: *Reunion is June 6, 7, & 8, 2008!*

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