



# the following

A Newsletter for Alumni and Friends of Warren Ashby Residential College of UNCG

June 2008

## ***Unable are the Loved to die For Love is Immortality.***

Emily Dickenson continues to live in these words of hope. They sustain us in our day-to-day journey into healing. On December 1, 2007, the Arndt and Smith families, and the Ashby Residential College lost a dear daughter and friend, Emily Arndt, to cancer. Emily, daughter of Murray and Fran, was Assistant Professor of Ethics within the Religious Studies Department of Georgetown University, mother of two, Virginia, 6, and Langston, 8 months, and spouse of Michael Smith. This very close-knit, loving family had the help of many friends and colleagues during Emily's brief illness. Those of us who came to know and love her will be forever grateful for her presence in our lives. Ashby RC alumnae Cindy Clontz Van Laar had these memories to share:

*As an experienced baby-sitter and fan of young children, I was excited to see the presence of the faculty children in Mary Foust. I remember Murray and Fran taking turns bending over to pick her up and balance her small body against theirs, while she smiled and looked at the world from a higher perspective. Even when Emily was pensive or silent, her eyes pierced through you with their brilliance and clarity. They were like the blue grotto of Capri; translucent and deep.*

*As a frequent renter of the Bald Head sanctuary, I experienced moments of Emily's childhood frozen in time through the beautiful paintings Fran proudly displays on the walls of the condo. The joy of exploration, the sensation of hot sand between the toes and the surprise of a wave washing across the small legs is captured in Fran's art. The many ocean treasures, collected over the years and still displayed on the wicker bookshelf, give testimony to the many hours spent exploring the endless special places on the island as a family. Emily grew up surrounded by loving family, friends, and eventually a husband who recognized her inner and external beauty. I'm sure the world is a better place for her having been a part of it and for bringing two*

*children into our lives. They are the hope and love that live on in our hearts.*

Currently Michael, Virginia, and Langston reside in Cary, NC. The family will be forever touched by the many who have contributed to a scholarship fund in memory of Emily. In addition, retired English Department faculty member, H. Tom Kirby-Smith, has offered through his words a gift of consolation to the family in the form of a poem, *A Prayer: For Emily Arndt*. RC instructor, Susanne Martin, who is an artisan book-maker, will be making paper and hand-setting type of the poem as a keepsake. The poem is reprinted on page 2 of this newsletter. •

## **Emily Arndt Scholarship Announced**

This year a new scholarship was created in memory of Emily Arndt. It is awarded to an Upperclass Mentor who exemplifies the dearest quality of loving friendship that Emily gave and received up to the time of her passing. It is a \$500 award toward payment of tuition and fees per year until the money runs out.

2008 Emily Arndt Memorial Scholarship  
Alana "Ally" Blackmon

In 2001, the Alumni Committee had enough funds to establish the Alumni Book Scholarship, a \$50 gift certificate to the UNCG Bookstore. The Alumni Committee makes the award to a nominated student based on the student's involvement in WARC.

2008 Alumni Book Scholarships  
Elizabeth "Ruthie" Iglesias  
Stephanie Rinehart  
Megan Letchworth  
Heather Sit

Warren Ashby Residential College is pleased to be able to award these and other scholarships with funds from various sources, such as the Warren Ashby Scholarship, Murray Arndt Book Award, the Betty Carpenter Freshman Award, and the Spirit Award. •

## A PRAYER: FOR EMILY ARNDT

©2008 by Tom Kirby-Smith

Forgive us when we grieve, and not rejoice;  
Forgive us when we doubt and cannot praise;  
Sometimes it's hard to understand your ways  
And harder when we do not hear your voice.

Those who believe it say you sent your son  
To speak a language we could understand,  
To touch the people with a living hand,  
And with his human suffering make us one.

His was a human death: Pilate's decree;  
Mob violence; working of the Roman law;  
Soldiers that followed orders; some that saw,  
And mocked, a pretense of divinity.

This death is different: human care and skill  
Did all it could to comfort and assuage  
The pain it could not cure, and ease the passage  
Of a brave spirit no disease could kill.

We--thinking of her suffering--might well see  
A thing untimely, cruel, wanton, purely  
Evil itself, at best a proof that surely  
There can exist no living deity.

Nature, indifferent to our reproof,  
Keeps silent witness to our miseries;  
Blind atoms gather into congeries  
And then disperse, indifferent and aloof.

But we protest, and call this useless pain,  
And grieve because whatever lives must perish,  
And thus forget that too much that we cherish  
Comes from a source that claims it back again.

Therefore it's certain that we could do worse  
Than give thanks for the one we came to know--  
It seemed too briefly--make a gracious show  
Of gratitude to our starry universe

That brings not only bodies into being  
Assembled out of particles far-flung  
From dying stars, by processes unsung  
By psalmists, and by no providence all-seeing

But full of power to make a sentient creature  
That knows the world in which it comes to be,  
Bears witness to its own mortality,  
Transcending thus the claims of its own nature.

That spirit, like a mist upon a lake,  
Will seem to vanish with the rising sun,  
Gone with the stars that fade into the dawn,  
As with our dreams when we are full awake,

Yet it endures, not as a memory,  
But as a presence, known, intense, more real  
Than the transient flesh that made it possible  
And in its dying set the spirit free.  
But now perhaps these words presume too much;  
Silence may be the greatest eloquence,  
Waiting communion past what we can sense,  
As in a dark room we know a voice, a touch.

## (WA)RC Celebrates New Name We've Always Loved A Good Identity Crisis

The renaming ceremony for the Residential College took place Saturday, September 29, 2007, in the Parlor of Mary Foust Hall. Chancellor Patricia Sullivan opened the ceremony recognizing donors and friends of the college as well as extolling the many successful years of the program. Dr. Robert Calhoun then moderated a "Conversation About Warren Ashby and the College" with participants Dr. Robert Miller (former Dean of Arts & Sciences and co-founder of RC), Dr. Richard Whitlock (former director and faculty), Dr. Walter Beale (former Dean of Arts & Sciences), Ms. Alice Joyner Irby (WC '54 and President, Excellence Foundation), Dr. Elizabeth Bryan (RC '71, English professor at Brown University), Mary Katherine Amos (RC '89 and archivist, UNCG Music Library) and Dr. Charles Tisdale (RC English faculty). Several former students and friends of Warren Ashby also spoke up from the audience during the "conversation." Closing remarks were given by Upperclassperson Emily McKeever (RC '04) and are repeated here:

*Thank you all for your commitment to the Warren Ashby Residential College. Thank you for being here today. As a current member of RC, I have oftentimes found myself in total awe of the great history of the program: the innovation of Warren Ashby; the dedication of those who got the program onto its feet, as well as those who fight the constant battle of making ourselves known on campus; the students who come through. I am constantly amazed by everything around me. I'm convinced that I am living and working with people who will one day be famous, well-known, and well-loved members of whatever community they will eventually join.*

*I can't measure the gratitude that I have for all these people, those of you who I have met and the many who I have not. And it's hard to even say what I would thank you for. Thank you for a place that I could call home, seven hours away from home as a freshman. Thank you for a place I could safely learn how the real world works, oftentimes through crash courses in personal conduct. Thank you for bringing together a community of people that envision change and take great steps to accomplish that change. Thank you for a classroom where I could learn how to broaden my understanding of sisterly love.*

*Thank you for caring about the future, and therefore, myself and all who currently dwell here and all who have dwelt here and all who will dwell here. Thank you for the many hours of careful cultivation you have put forth. I assure you, they have not been hours wasted.*

*I think I speak for many of us when I say that the awe of our great history inspires us to craft an even greater history for Warren Ashby Residential College. This renaming is absolutely key to remembering that history and to remember Warren Ashby's great commitment to community, to the future, and to all of us here today. •*

# A Thank You from the Ashby Family

By Paul Ashby

Helen Ashby and the entire Ashby family would like to thank all the donors and friends of the Residential College who have made the renaming of this wonderful and vital program after Dr. Warren Ashby on September 29, 2007 a reality.

Warren Ashby was a modest man, and in that respect, naming a college after him would be something he would neither have sought out nor encouraged for himself. On the other hand, he clearly believed that an individual could only fully discover themselves in community, and consequently RC was, for him, an embodiment of that ideal. In this regard, since naming the college after him directly acknowledges and supports the university students, faculty, friends, and administrators who have made and are continuing to make the life of this community possible, he would have been delighted to share this honor, as his family is, on behalf of everyone who has been changed by the presence of this college in their life.

We hope, if you are ever in the Greensboro area, that you stop in and visit with and see the students, faculty, and staff of the Ashby Residential College. The program still sparkles with the energy and innovation, with wonderful students, faculty, staff, and university administrators, as it had from day one in 1970 when its first name was Experimental College. Warren Ashby Residential College, with your support and continued support, has been and will continue to be a jewel of the University of North Carolina at Greensboro. Your excellent experiment continues. Thank you!•

*Note: If anyone would like to communicate with Helen Ashby (Warren's "best friend"), she can be reached at [hbashby@igc.org](mailto:hbashby@igc.org).*

## Remember When?

...A roofless snow structure stood for about a week in the courtyard after the "blizzard" of 2000?

--Tom Dempster (1998)

...The girls that lived in the palace (the other side of the dungeon on the first floor – before it became Tim Flood's apartment) decorated the hallway with aluminum stars and made their own flags?

--Nikki Stegall Davis (1995)

...We had a water gun fight on the 3rd floor during zoo hour and the CAs made us blow-dry the carpet?

--Amanda Nicastro (2001)

...Brian Ewing (1997) threw a toga party/concert in the courtyard and drew a massive crowd...and eventually the police, who stayed and listened instead of pulling the plug?

--Tom Dempster (1998)

REOPENING

JUNE 4-6, 2010

BE AFRAID. BE VERY AFRAID.