



Vol. XXXVII, No. 2
Summer 2017

C of E NEWS

C OF E CLOSING

Doctoral Thesis Explores Causes and Reactions

The late **Jack Mitchell, A59, FF**, returned after graduation to his alma mater to teach math. He began teaching in the fall of 1964. Subsequently, he became Dean of Men and then Dean of Students, a position that he held in 1974 when the college closed its doors forever. After the college's closing, he successfully pursued a Doctor of Education degree at the University of Kansas. His doctoral thesis, completed in 1977, dealt with C of E's demise. It was titled *The Closing of the College of Emporia, An Attitude Survey*. It was primarily designed to explore reactions to the college's closing by students, parents, faculty, administrators, trustees, alumni, creditors, ministers and Emporia residents. The thesis was recently made available to your alumni association. It can be accessed in its entirety through a new link in the association's website www.c-of-e.org.

In addition to the attitudes surveyed, the thesis contains significant information about some or all of the causes of the closing. The author, who was present for the closing and the years leading to it, provided these insights. The college's ending was still fresh in Mitchell's mind when the thesis was written.

The thesis explored the financial and enrollment situations of independent private colleges in the mid-1970's. Mitchell cited a 1976 study (Lupton) which found that 27.1% of all "independent institutions were unhealthy (where the institution's long-term survival is problematic unless some major external intervention occurs.)"

The same study continued, "This is a large percentage but in itself not surprising. Many institutions have operated on a razor-thin margin for years, with small annual operating deficits accumulating over a number of years. These institutions generally lack endowment or other resources derived from external sources to tide them over difficult years."

Another study (Jellema) cited the difficulties faced by "small institutions, which have a relatively high fixed cost per student." For these schools, when "income decreases, ... expenses decrease less rapidly." The conclusion was that such a pattern couldn't be continued indefinitely. Moreover, the number of classes offered declined as budgets shrunk while "institutions struggling to keep afloat (lost) much of their maneuverability and freedom to innovate."

Another large problem was the shrinking pool of high school graduates. Baby boomer births continued until 1960. However, the baby boom births peaked in 1949. These 1967 high school graduates were a peak, which was followed by a slow decline. Moreover, direct US military involvement in Vietnam ended in 1973. So the number of returning veterans taking advantage of the GI Bill also began to diminish. The draft and its accompanying deferments ended in 1973, which removed for some a reason to be enrolled in college.

The shrinking pool of applicants created another problem for private

cont. on pg. 3

President's Letter: By Jim Brooks, A72

Two score and 3 years ago, our beloved alma mater saw its last alumni leave its doors. We grow older, but are we getting tired of the memories that were cemented into us back in our C of E days?

My time with the College of Emporia began in 1969 during what I felt was a turbulent time in the country. Although many of our friends can recall the times of the Second World War, as for me, and the people I went to C of E with, we lived through the Viet Nam war days. Did national news and issues help mold the friendships we made? Did these events influence what went on in our daily lives even though we were buried deep in the heartland of the country?

I have a feeling that they did. We are never alone; we are always a part of a greater whole. The students we made friends with were from all over the country. The small "cow" college, as one of my professors there called it, drew people of very diverse backgrounds and interests. Yes, diversity was alive and well even back then. So, every one of us created a history for ourselves, and a great part of that history was the time we spent in Emporia. Ever wonder why we find it hard to let go of those memories? My first time going to Emporia from upstate New York (where I grew up) proved to be an experience that stays with me to this day. Imagine someone from the "EAST" that was going to Emporia Kansas and had never been west of Buffalo NY. I got on a plane in Syracuse, NY, transferred in Chicago to Kansas City, and then had to figure out how to get from there to Emporia. I found out quickly that Greyhound bus didn't go there!! After discovering that Trailways would take me to Emporia, it was a relief that the bus station was filled with many others heading that way. Like me, most on the bus had never been there. Picture a bunch of college age people

heading to a place never seen and conjuring up pictures in their minds of what a new life would bring them in the great Midwest. Visions of the Wild West took root when the bus dropped us all off on the Kansas Turnpike. Not too much there to see!! Thanks to the welcoming committee at C of E, we were met way out there, and taken into town.

So much for my experience getting there. The real ride was the years on campus and feeling like it was so easy to be involved. The Alumni I have talked to and the ones that I see who talk about the college in the newsletter, must have been involved with campus life as well. Perhaps that is why there seems to be a bond for all that went there. We don't want the college to fade away from our thoughts, as we don't want its reputation to evaporate from our society. Many still regret its closing, and wonder why it had to happen. The question comes up often as to what transpired back in the late 1960's and early 1970's that started to see the decline of C of E. This question was raised during the gathering for dinner at the last reunion in 2016. There is a small (or perhaps not so small) void in our hearts wondering what went wrong. Some of the answers may be given to you in Jack Mitchell's doctorate dissertation that will be made available on the College's website. The title "The Closing of the College of Emporia, An Attitude Survey" may give you some answers that you have sought after. So, as our numbers dwindle, we keep our heads high, enjoy the reunions, love to look at the memorabilia, relish the contributions we make through the scholarships, and will always remember, our once thriving little place in the Midwest, Emporia!!

C of E Fights!!

2018 Reunion

An October 2018 East Coast Reunion is now in the planning stages. Alumni from all over the country are urged to attend. Watch for forthcoming details.

Meanwhile, a reunion planning committee is being put together. Alumni are urged to join their friends and classmates to take advantage of opportunities for planning entertainment, organizing the golf tournament, promoting attendance at the event and working at the actual reunion. You need not live in the East. You can participate as a member of the planning committee electronically from anywhere. To volunteer, just e-mail **Mary Jayne (Barnes) Gamble, A70**, at

maryjaynegamble1970@gmail.com. She will give you a warm welcome and a wide choice of committees to serve on.

Keep Us Informed

Please send us news about yourself. We want to hear from you. E-mail John Acomb, newsletter editor, at jacomb2@mac.com or Les Palmer at lepalmer@aol.com. If you prefer, please write us at P. O. Box 405, Emporia, KS 66801-0405.



COVER: C of E Closing

independent colleges. The public colleges and universities responded with significantly stepped-up recruitment of prospective students. In most cases, the public institutions had more financial resources to put into recruiting, a broader array of course offerings and lower tuition. A government study at the time showed that private colleges received 63.7% of their funding from tuition, while public institutions depended on tuition for only 20.6% of revenue. Government supplied up to 70% of public institution funding.

C of E could have countered with the virtues of a religious affiliated campus, but the Presbyterian Church had cut its ties with the college. Loss of the church affiliation also removed an income stream from the college and took away the student recruiting partnership with the Presbyterian churches of Kansas. Mitchell stated, "The College of Emporia was closed with dignity and very little loss due to vandalism." It should be noted here that extensive vandalism done to Kenyon Hall reported in this newsletter in 2009 occurred many years after C of E sold the property. After closing, the college set out to repay all of its debt, which it eventually accomplished. Federal government representatives from the Department of Health, Education and Welfare (HEW) noted that the College of Emporia was the first to close without a major disturbance on campus.

The bulk of the thesis consists of surveys and their meaning. The relatively tranquil student response was borne out by the student survey. A significant majority of the students surveyed "felt they were treated fairly as individuals (74.4%), all students enrolled were treated fairly (61.5%), no difficulty had been experienced regarding the availability of transcripts (66.7%) and that they would recommend a private college to a friend or relative (76.9%)." 64.1% felt that the transfer to another college went smoothly and that their new institution kept all of its promises concerning honoring C of E credits and tuition rates no higher than those paid to C of E.

Students weren't entirely sanguine about their experience. Only 25.6% of respondents agreed with

the assertion that the closing "had no effect on my life goal." 59% of students "felt that the college ... was not candid in reporting its condition." Interestingly enough, in a study of a number of college closings (Shook) cited earlier in the thesis, the author states, "One problem common to many was the feeling of some high-ranking administrators that problems should be covered with a veil of secrecy instead of being openly discussed."

With nine different groups being surveyed, it's interesting to look at each group's answer to common questions. As mentioned above, 61.5% of students believed that all students enrolled were treated fairly. Parents (55.9%), administrators (83.3%), trustees (86.7%) and alumni (61.5%) shared the students' view. Faculty, however, had a different perspective. 59.4% of faculty surveyed did not feel that students were treated fairly.

In fact, the faculty survey was significantly more negative than any of the other eight groups surveyed. "The faculty felt they were penalized financially (78.1%), they were not treated fairly as individuals (62.5%) or as a total faculty (71.9%), the students enrolled were not treated fairly (59.4%) and the college was not candid in reporting its condition (87.5%)." It should be noted that relationships with the faculty were already strained. In 1970 faculty had presented a petition to the Board of Trustees asking that the College President be fired.

Faculty members asked about their post-C of E careers "indicated that 21 faculty members were still employed in the field of education (10 in colleges and 11 in public schools). Five faculty members retired when C of E closed, and six left the field of education for other employment." Also of interest, were the next career steps of the college's seven administrators. Three went to administrative positions in public or private school systems below the college level, and the other four left the education field.

The thesis contains much more information than what is summarized in this article. Alumni are urged to go to the website, link to the thesis and read it in its entirety.

(Editor's note: Information on studies by Lupton, Jellema & Shook that are mentioned in this article can be found in the thesis footnotes.)

Financial Success

Last summer's "Homecoming" Reunion in Emporia was a financial success. A profit of \$3,528.64 was realized. This money goes back into your alumni association's treasury. Additionally, \$2,310 in association dues was

collected in conjunction with the reunion registrations. Finally, \$3,064 was donated to the Scholarship Fund by reunion attendees.

A View From the Bleachers

Submitted by Greg, Larry and John Ek

Growing up in Emporia during the 60's was very special. As kids, we rode our bikes everywhere -- often time to meet friends to play football at C. of E. or play basketball in one of the gyms at KSTC. There was a lot to do with two colleges in town and Emporia High events to attend.

Our parents met in college at C. of E. Dad grew up on a farm outside of Dwight, Kansas and attended C. of E. from 1946-1950 where he received 12 athletic letters playing football, basketball, and track for the "Fighting Presbies". Mom was raised in a very strict Presbyterian family in Denver, Colorado who put her on a train to Emporia to join her sister Lora at C. of E. in 1948. Some would say they were an example that "opposites attract". We heard many stories about Dad's "pranks" during his time at C. of E. including getting kicked off campus for participating in a "fake" dorm fire that terrified the housemother!

At an early age, Dad would take us to almost every athletic event in town. During the 60's, C. of E. enjoyed great athletic teams -- not so for KSTC or Emporia High. In fact, Emporia High had the longest football non-winning streak in the nation of 37 games before beating Abilene in 1963. It was the Spartans only win of the season. Things changed in the 70's when John's undefeated football team won Emporia's only state championship in 1976.

KSTC had a difficult time in football. We enjoyed the games because Welch Stadium was a pretty cool place and we were good friends with the Caywood family while Keith was the head coach. Basketball was a different story as the Hornets had some really good teams especially those led by All-American Dale Cushinberry. But, C. of E. was good at everything.

Football success started with Coach Bill Schnebel, who was named Little All-American Coach of the Year at C. of E. in 1959 and 1962. Our family and the Schnebel family became good friends so it was fun to know the head coach of the Presbies. After school, we would often bike over to C. of E. to watch practice. Then we'd play our own pick-up games on another field. Home game days were special. In the morning, they would surround the field with the brown tarp so no one could see the field. We would show up early to watch warm-ups, see the freshmen with their funny little beanies, watch the game, and then eat glazed donuts in the basement

of Kenyon Hall. After homecoming wins, we would go over to watch the players "bury" the football in the cemetery...a great tradition. After the school closed, we always wondered what happened to all of those footballs! Of course, in the early 60's, C. of E. just pounded most of their opponents. To us, Bruce Upstill was college's version of Bart Starr. When C. of E. had the ball inside the 10-yard line about to score, they would nearly always hand the ball off to Jim Switzer, who just punished the linebackers on the other team before scoring. We would always pause our "goofing around" at games to watch that collision! Jim Switzer scored 28 times in 1964 leading the nation in touchdowns. And, we were there when Otto Ormosi kicked a 54-yard field goal soccer style.

We were always welcome on campus. Often times, we would go into the dorms and hang out with our favorite players like Johnny Howland or Marv Williamson. There were not many blacks in Emporia at that time so Marv was our version of Gale Sayers, catching nearly everything thrown at him. Dad's favorite was Eldon Moore, who was a distant relative of ours. Charlie Kayser was a tackle on those great teams and became Greg's 9th grade football coach leading the team to an undefeated season in 1969.

C. of E. basketball in the mid-60's was great, too. Gary Davison and Bill Linhart were deadly -- just think what they would have done with the 3-point shot. Our favorite player was Ray Simpson who controlled the inside. We would have enjoyed a game between C. of E. and KSTC, but they never played each other. Bill Linhart became John's high school basketball coach at Emporia High in the mid 70's.

Even though C. of E. closed its doors over 40 years ago, many great memories remain with many kids who grew up in Emporia in the 60's. However, our favorite memory of C. of E. occurred just about a year ago. A few weeks before her death, we asked mom if she could remember the "Alla Rah" chant. At age 85, she was pretty much an invalid at a nursing home with very little memory. However, that day she chanted it back to us perfectly. It still brings tears to our eyes when we think about it. We always knew a cat trap was bigger than a rat trap!

(Editor's note: Greg, Larry and John are the sons of **Don Ek, A50** and **Elaine (White) Ek, X53.**)



Calvin Williams, X66, and his wife **Natalie** celebrated their 50th Wedding Anniversary in Greensboro, NC, where they reside. Pictured above at the celebration are (l – r) **Susan “Bunny” (Wells) Sager, A66,** **Ray Sager, A65,** **Calvin & Natalie and Roger Sager, A71.**

The second book of a “Great Plains Trilogy,” titled Riding the Red Beast West by **Jack Rickard, A57,** has just been published. The first of the three books, Moonblindness and the Paleness of Dust, was published in 2015. Both books are available through Amazon and other booksellers. Jack describes the trilogy as “creative nonfiction.” It’s his history and his memory. This particular book should be of particular interest to our alumni. There is a whole chapter on C of E in the 1950’s as well as the story of Presby Pete. Jack is Presby Pete’s creator. We have also learned that the book contains many interesting photographs. There is also adventure, which includes the hunt for a monster snake, the murder of a US Marshal, a disastrous storm and more.

NaDeane (Tallent) Jensen, X60, lives in the state of Washington. She keeps in touch with the alumni association and, in her most recent note, pointed out, “A lot of my friends went to college. I went to C of E. There is a difference.”

Dr. Dale B. Taylor, X61, recently spoke on the important topic of “Overcoming Potentially Lethal Racial and Cultural Stereotypes” as a part of a worldwide on-line forum sponsored by Media Democracy in Action. A recording of his presentation and the subsequent questions and answers can be found at <http://theworldstage.tv/2017/05/04/live-schedule/>. His talk explores how stereotypes found in the media influence attitudes and events in the US today. He also suggests change in media practices that he believes will be beneficial to all citizens.

Marilyn “Midge” (Huebert) McDonnell, A64, moved to California in 1983 and went to work for her local newspaper in accounts payable, a job that she enjoyed. She retired in 2014. She remains active in Soroptimist and the Assistance League. She has a son and three grandchildren, all of whom are now grown.

Bob Christenson, X73, left C of E to complete his education elsewhere. Ultimately he acquired BA, MS and EdD degrees at various universities. He enjoyed a 45-year career teaching and coaching in both K-12 school districts and at the college level. He is now retired and living in Northern Georgia. He and his wife are frequent visitors to Emporia, her hometown.

Bill R. Scott, A73, retired after 32 years of service with the Naval Nuclear Laboratory (NNL) program, 5 years as a Naval submarine officer and 5 years with the Proctor & Gamble Corporation. His time in the Nuclear Navy took him all over the world, although much of his travel was under water. Later in his career he was a training manager in radiological controls, emergency planning, safety, environmental controls, hazardous materials and more.

Larry, A74, and **Nancy (Arsenault), X76, Van Cleave** both retired earlier this year. So they are leaving their home in Michigan and moving back to the Kansas City area to be closer to their daughter and other family members and friends. Larry writes that they “will miss living in Michigan, as this has been home since 1986.” They are, however, “looking forward to new adventures in Kansas City.”

Nellie E. (Griswold) Corson, A35, of Ithaca, NY died January 23, 2017 at age 102. At C of E she was inducted into the Athena Society and graduated magna cum laude. She met her future husband, the late **Dale Corson, A34**, at C of E. The early years of their marriage were marked by living in a variety of locations before arriving in Ithaca in 1946, where Dale went to work for Cornell University where he ultimately became University President. As the President's wife Nellie found passion and purpose as a friend to new faculty, spouses, retirees, staff, students and alumni. She and Dale enjoyed retirement together. Four children, six grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren survive her.

Elinor Mae "Stevie" (Stevens) Rowan, A45, of Woodinville, WA passed away on February 24, 2017 at age 93. She taught music and served as Supervisor of Elementary School Music in Concordia, KS before marrying and moving to Washington, where she continued to teach music both in schools and privately. She had many interests. She was an avid reader, gardener, calligrapher, animal lover, fisherman, volunteer and musician. Four children, three grandchildren and three great-grandchildren survive her.

Robert D. Anderson, A50, of Manhattan, KS passed away on January 30, 2017 at age 90. Bob was a US Navy veteran. After a stint teaching and serving as a principal in Council Grove, KS, Bob went to Manhattan in 1953 where he served until retirement as an elementary school principal at three different schools. During his career, he was recognized as a Kansas Master Teacher and as Manhattan Citizen of the Year. He held leadership positions in the National Association of Elementary School Principals, serving as state, regional and ultimately national president of this organization. His wife, two children, five grandchildren, nine stepchildren and 26 step grandchildren survive him.

Betty Jo (Carpenter) Dickson, X53, of Fort Belvoir, VA died October 31, 2015 at age 83. She was formerly married to **Wayne Testerman, A50**.

Charles F. "Charlie" Klamm, A53, of Cottonwood Falls, KS died January 25, 2017 at age 85. After graduation from C of E he served in the US Army as a Chaplain's Assistant. After discharge he married **Carol (Remy) Klamm, X58**. Charlie was employed as a photographer for the Kansas Highway

Commission and then as a forensic photographer for the Kansas Bureau of Investigation. For the past twelve years, he and Carol have owned and operated The Fiber Factory in Cottonwood Falls. His wide variety of contributions to his community include 20 years on the Flint Hills National Scenic Byway Committee, founder of the Flint Hills Folklife Festival, Cottonwood Falls Council and much more. His wife, four children, eight grandchildren and five great-grandchildren survive him.

Philip W. Rogers, X54, of Topeka, KS passed away April 9, 2017 at age 92. He received his Bachelor's Degree from Emporia State. He obtained his pilot's license while still in high school, and, while in college, earned his commercial pilot and flight instructor ratings. His career included both flight instruction and stints as a commercial, charter and corporate pilot. After being medically retired from flying, he worked for many years for the State of Kansas. Two children, three stepchildren, fourteen grandchildren and one great-grandchild survive him.

Edward "Ed" J. Dyche, A59, of Estes Park, CO, died on May 3, 2017 at age 79. Ed worked for the corporate offices of BMW of North America. He was passionate about automobiles, restoring many vehicles throughout his adult life. His wife, **Diane (Wolven) Dyche, X60**, two children, five grandchildren and six great-grandchildren survive him.

Robert D. LaPella, FF, of Johnson City, TN, died April 13, 2017 at age 87. He was Assistant Professor of Voice and Head of the Department of Music at C of E from 1959 to 1962. After C of E he went to East Tennessee State University where he retired after 35 years as Professor Emeritus, having served as Chairman of the Voice Department and Director of the Opera Workshop. His wife, three children, nine grandchildren and three great-grandchildren survive him.

Patricia "Pat" A. (Coldren) Schimke, X64, of Leavenworth, KS, passed away February 26, 2017 at age 74. Pat was a homemaker, room mother and longtime volunteer at Cushing Hospital where she served for a time as auxiliary president. Her husband, three children and eight grandchildren survive her.

Susanne "Sue" (Sperduto) Doe, X65 & N, of Racine, WI, passed away January 21, 2017 at age 72. After a year at C of E, Sue finished at Newman School of Nursing and then moved to Wisconsin.

Membership Information for the College of Emporia Alumni Association, Inc.

Please write legibly. Make checks payable to the C. of E. Alumni Association.

Last Name First Name Middle Initial Maiden Name *C. of E. Class

Spouse's Info Spouse's First Name Middle Initial Maiden Name *C. of E. Class

Street/Mailing Address City State ZIP + 4

Phone # E-mail

*C. of E. Class is the graduation year of the class with which students were associated, whether or not they graduated. Please use prefix "A" for alumnus, or "X" for former student or non graduate. "O" here means did not attend.

Membership dues (\$15 per year per member): Number of memberships: _____ For Years _____

Total for Membership \$ _____ Scholarship Fund (Voluntary) \$ _____ Total Enclosed \$ _____

Mail to:

C of E Alumni Association, P. O. Box 405, Emporia, KS 66801-0405

There she completed her Bachelor's Degree at Milwaukee Institute of Technology and earned a Master's of Education in Nursing from Milton College. She went on to teach nursing at several different institutions. Her husband, three children and six grandchildren survive her.

Lou (Moffett) Laughlin, of Castle Rock, CO, passed away January 20, 2017 at age 97. Lou, the widow of C of E President Dr. Joseph R. Laughlin, was an Iowa State University graduate and a Registered Dietitian. During Dr. Laughlin's tenure she was an active participant in college functions. Subsequently, Lou remained in touch with friends from C of E and the college alumni association. Two sons, three grandchildren and two great-grandchildren survive her.

Dorothy "Dottie" A. (Gibbens) Johannes, X66, of Olathe, KS, passed away January 2, 2017 at age 72. She spent her entire working career working for the Johnson County, KS, Parks and Recreation District. Her daughter, two grandchildren, a brother and her sister **Carol (Gibbens) Anderson, A57**, survive her.

Robert "Bob" Everoski, A68, of Halstead, KS died February 20, 2017 at age 70. Bob obtained his Master's degree from Emporia State and taught

math at Wichita State. He also worked for a time as a geologist for the oil industry. He was an astronomer and wrote a number of articles on the subject. A track athlete at C of E, Bob actively participated in track and field events for almost 56 years of his life. He founded the Halstead Open Master's Track and Field Event and served as President of the Halstead Recreation Commission. His former wife and two children survive him.

Dr. Barkev Kibarian, FF, of Potomac, MD, died September 4, 2016 at age 88. Dr. Kibarian served as President of the College of Emporia 1968 – 1970. He was the first Armenian-American to serve as a college president. Subsequently, he served as president of Husson College (now University) in Maine and Southeastern University in Washington, D.C. His wife, Mary Ann, three children and six grandchildren survive him.

Lloyd O. "Scotty" Hudson, X73, of Emporia passed away March 17, 2017 at age 73. Scotty was an Air Force veteran, who served in Vietnam before enrolling in C of E, where he played basketball. His 31-year career was with Panhandle Eastern Pipeline. His wife, his mother, two daughters and three grandchildren survive him.

OBITS CONT.



College of Emporia Alumni Association
P.O. Box 405
Emporia, KS 66801-0405

Nonprofit Org.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Emporia, Kansas
Permit #1

Return Service Requested

Reminders

The next C of E Alumni Association Board meeting will be held on Saturday, July 15 at 10:00 a.m. in the new C of E Room at the Sauder Alumni Center at 1500 Highland Street on the Emporia State campus. All alumni and their spouses are invited to attend the meeting and the potluck, which follows at noon. Please bring a dish to pass. There is certain to be plenty of good food and fellowship with former classmates.

Also, alumni are reminded that our extraordinary webmasters, **Megan (Isaac) Evans, A70**, and **Chuck Ireland, A67**, are retiring. If you are computer savvy and interested in making a significant contribution to your alumni association, please e-mail President **Jim Brooks, A72**, at jkbrooks2006@gmail.com.

Still Available

Some 2016 "Homecoming" Reunion Directories are still available for interested alumni. Those who were unable to attend this event or attendees who wish to obtain an extra copy of the directory may send a check made out to the C of E Scholarship Fund, using the membership renewal form found on page 7 of this newsletter, along with a note requesting a copy of the directory.

c-of-e.org

