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Letter to the editor

Debbie Spear

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Letter to the editor

I read with great interest and pleasure the story “Crescent Revival” in the summer issue of the magazine about the Northwest Crescent Learning Center, where I’ve been an ESL volunteer for about two years. Although I go there every week and have figured out some of the other activities that occur there, it was amazing to learn how much happens there and how the place got started.

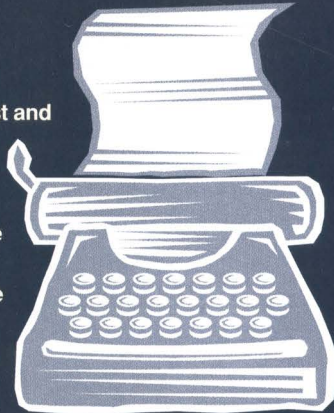
There is another aspect of the center to which I can testify, and that is the life-changing opportunities it offers to its volunteers. I began as a regular ESL teacher with a fairly large beginners class and now teach a pronunciation class, both with mostly Spanish-speaking students. I have been involved in lots of volunteer work in my life, but nothing that has been as much pure fun as this. Working with determined adults who are not only avid learners but also generous and open-hearted with their frequently stymied, completely non-professional teacher is a great joy. I often think that if everybody had a chance to work with students like these, no one would want to do anything else in life but teach.

This work has given me a chance to meet people I would never meet otherwise, to think about my own language and my own community in completely different ways, and maybe, most importantly, to laugh a lot, something I am often much too busy and serious to do. It has given me the necessary impetus to learn Spanish (I speak French, which either is making this easier or harder). And my daughter, a college junior who fills in at the center during the summers, is thinking that she will work with ESL when she finishes school.

Being part of the larger community in the way that we have been able to at the Northwest Crescent has been an unexpected gift to both of us.

— Debbie Spear
Greenville

Letters are published when space permits and are subject to editing for length or clarity. Write the editor c/o Marketing and Public Relations, Furman University, Greenville, S.C. 29613, or fax to (864) 294-3023. E-mail: jim.stewart@furman.edu.



system. ■ **Christopher** and Katherine **Stewart**, a son, David, May 7, Lexington, Ky.

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Next reunion in 2004

Camille Bennett is pursuing an acting career in Los Angeles, Calif. ■ **Nikki Lacount Brandt** of Taylors, S.C., has become a staff accountant with Scan Source. ■ **Miyako Keon Chambliss** has earned a master’s degree in health administration from the University of South Carolina and received a fellowship for a one-year position with the Western New York Veterans Hospital in Buffalo. ■ In July, **Alison Cunnold** accepted a job teaching fifth grade in the Fulton County (Ga.) school system. ■ **Chris Ford**, a graduate of the University of South Carolina School of Law, was scheduled to enter the U.S. Army as a J.A.G. officer when he passed the Bar. ■ **Brian Gill** lives in Lubbock, Texas, and is a medical student. ■ **Matthew** and **Amanda Thrasher** ’00 **Hobbs** are stationed at Fort Knox, Ky., where he is executive officer of an AIT company, training new recruits in the U.S. Army. ■ **B.J. Huston** is doing information security work for the U.S. Navy in London, England. ■ **Rebecca Muncrief** works as assistant manager in the Treasury Group of TD Securities (USA) Inc. in Houston, Texas. ■ **Leslie Coates Rogers** lives in Watkinsville, Ga., and teaches Latin and advanced literature at Oconee County High School. ■ **Cameron Runyan** of Columbia, S.C., served as finance director for the Phil Leventis for Lieutenant Governor campaign. ■ **Joanna Ponder Skinner** has completed her M.B.A. degree and is writing her thesis to complete her degree in arts administration at the University of Ohio. ■ **Chrystal Smith** of Shaker Heights, Ohio, is a student at Case Western Reserve University School of Law. ■ **Kristin Stultz** of Duluth, Ga., is public relations coordinator for the DeMoss Group, a firm

that specializes in the media needs of Christian ministries. ■ **Suzanna Wellman** is an internal auditor for the CSX Corporation in Jacksonville, Fla. ■

MARRIAGES: **Christine Dawkins** and Joseph Brewster, May. They live in the Washington, D.C., area, and Christine is a social worker with the DC Child and Family Welfare Services. ■ **Edwin Alonzo Farnell** and Allison Joan Smith, July 13. Both are fourth-year students at the Medical University of South Carolina in Charleston. ■ **Rebekah Katherin Gentry** and Jonathan Martin Gregory, August 3. They live in Lansing, Mich., where he attends the Thomas Cooley Law School. ■ **Clevonne Michelle Houser** and **LeRoy Gaillard** ’00, August 10. After completing her law degree in May, Clevonne accepted a position as an associate in the law firm of Thompson Hine. LeRoy is working toward a Master of Public Administration degree at Cleveland State University. They live in Shaker Heights, Ohio. ■ **Mary Wannamaker Huff** and Andrew Henderson, June 15. They live in Mercersburg, Pa., where she is organist and choral director at Mercersburg Academy. He is assistant organist at The Church of St. Ignatius Loyola in New York. ■ **Stephanie McClelland** and Win Walstad, November 17, 2001. He is a portfolio manager and she is a medical assistant in Santa Barbara, Calif. ■ **Mark Allan Rowe** and Olivia Joy Taylor, May 4. Both earned degrees from Mississippi College School of Law in May and now live in Greenville, where Mark is assistant legal counsel for Ryobi Technologies. ■ **BIRTH:** Jeff and **Heather Pearch Phillips**, a daughter, Riley Eileen, March 18, Charlotte, N.C.

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Next reunion in 2005

Christine Aeschliman is currently working as a proof-reader for Deloitte & Touche