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Behind the scenes

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CLASS NOTES WINTER 01, cont.

was the subject of a feature in the *Florida Times-Union* newspaper. ■ **BIRTH:** **Chip and Virginia Casey '85 Brookhart**, a son, Stewart Arthur, January 6, 2000, Atlanta, Ga.

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Next reunion in 2005

Holly Holcombe-Gorrell of Taylors, S.C., is a branch manager with U.S. Engineering Technical Services. ■ **Dave Hudgens**, a pathologist with Intermountain Pathology Associates, has become medical director of the lab at Johnston Memorial Hospital in Abingdon, Va. ■ **Kent Igleheart** has been named to *Georgia Trend* magazine's "40 Under 40" list

of rising Georgia entrepreneurs. The Roswell resident, who drives an electric vehicle, started his own company in 1996 to create and manage alternative fuel vehicle projects and has expanded to water protection and other quality-of-life issues. He chairs the Fuel Fleet Task Force for the Metro Atlanta Chamber of Commerce as well as the board of advisors of Clean Cities, Inc. ■ **David and Vicki Aronson Smith** live in Aiken, S.C. She teaches at Aiken Preparatory School and he is director of Community Care & Counseling of Aiken, which he founded. He is completing his certification as a traumatic stress specialist. ■ **Libby Smith** is

chaplain with Children's Healthcare of Atlanta (Ga.) at Scottish Rite Hospital. ■ **BIRTHS:** Kevin and **Sherri Cothran Bishop**, a son, Zachary, February 4, 2000, Irmo, S.C. ■ **Robin Kowalski** and her husband, Tom Britt, twins, Noah and Jordan, May 15, Waynesville, N.C. ■ **Roger and Elaine Roark '92 Thomas**, a daughter, Sara Katherine, December 21, 1999, McConells, S.C. Elaine works part time as a pharmacist, and Roger is pastor of Lowrys Baptist Church in Chester, S.C.

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This year is reunion!

Carol Posey Adams is the chorus and computer teacher at Powdersville (S.C.) Middle School. ■ **LeeAnne Hallman Apple** has become behavior consultant for the Sumner

County School System in Gallatin, Tenn. She is co-author of a behavior manual for the school system. ■ *Georgia Trend* magazine has named **Lee Hughes** to its "40 Under 40" list of rising Georgia entrepreneurs. He is regional public affairs manager at Fort James Corporation. ■ **Ian** and **Christie Knott** live in Pittsburgh, Pa., where he is marketing director for Giant Eagle, Inc. ■ **Michelle Meekins** (M.A.) of the School District of Greenville County has been appointed to the Community Advisory Board of New Commerce Bank of Mauldin, S.C. ■ **Lisa Wheeler**, a music instructor with the American Independent Music Association, teaches military band at Benedictine High School in Richmond, Va., and serves in the 80th Division Army Band in the U.S. Army Reserve. ■

Behind the scenes Tim Moss helped keep 'Bagger Vance' on course

By the time the cast and crew were ready to wrap filming for Robert Redford's movie "The Legend of Bagger Vance," Tim Moss '71 was comfortable playing golf with stars Matt Damon and Will Smith, shooting pool with Charlize Theron, and calling Redford "Bob."

But even though Moss, a teaching pro from Hilton Head Island, S.C., served as the technical advisor for the movie, he could never get used to informing the Academy Award-winning Redford there was something wrong with the way he was preparing to film a scene.

"I grew up idolizing this guy, going to all his movies, and now I'm supposed to tap him on the shoulder and tell him I disagree with something in the script," Moss says. "That always made me a little nervous."

Take, for instance, the movie's final, climactic scene. The script called for the film's three golfing protagonists — the legendary Bobby Jones and Walter Hagen, and the fictitious Rannalph Junnah (Damon) — to arrive on the 18th green to face putts that would decide the outcome of the match. Jones and Hagen were to putt first, even though their approach shots had finished inside of Junnah's.

Any golfer knows that the person farthest from the hole putts first. For Junnah to putt last, Moss pointed out that Jones and Hagen needed to arrive at the green differently and have lengthier putts. Anything else, he argued, and the movie would lose credibility with its golfing audience. The scriptwriters weren't too happy with his suggestion, but Redford was persuaded and the scene was rewritten.

"Early in the production, one of the assistant directors told me if I saw something technically wrong I had better speak up," Moss said. "Because that's what they were paying me to do."

"The Legend of Bagger Vance" approaches the game of golf in the same sort of mystical way that another Redford movie, "The Natural," did baseball. Based on Steven Pressfield's novel about a mythical match between Junnah, Jones and Hagen, the film is set in Depression-era Savannah, Ga., complete with period costumes and hickory-shafted clubs. Will Smith plays Junnah's mysterious caddie, Bagger Vance.

In addition to his duties as technical advisor, Moss was also responsible for teaching Damon, who had never played golf, how to swing a club with enough grace

to suggest that his character could compete with Jones and Hagen, two of the greatest golfers in history. And he had exactly four weeks to do it.

Prior to shooting, Moss and Damon worked five hours a day, six days a week at Belfair Golf Club, where Moss is head teaching professional. Moss says that Damon was a wonderful pupil who practiced until his hands bled. It was also a relatively normal four weeks — with the exception of the female members who crowded the club's grill room when Damon and Moss broke for lunch and the spate of teen-age girls who developed a renewed interest in taking lessons with Moss.

All in all, watching a movie evolve from concept to finished product was one of the best experiences of Moss' life — although he actually considered not doing it.

He agreed to meet with the producers about the job, but as the meeting went on he didn't hear much to change his initial inclination. Then, during a break, he was standing in the hallway when he heard a familiar voice behind him say, "Hey, are you the golf guy?"

"I turned around and it was Redford," Moss says. "I almost fell backwards into the elevator. I didn't even know he was

MARRIAGE: Kelley Ellison and **Stewart Pitts**, August 26, Greenville. He is an account representative at NetSetGo, Inc., and she is in corporate marketing and design at Stevens Aviation.

■ **BIRTHS:** **Chuck** and **Flora Hall Davis**, a daughter, Marthanne Campbell, August 20, Farmville, N.C. Chuck is director of development for Brody School of Medicine at East Carolina University. ■ **Jeff** and **Janet Ledbetter Fossell**, a daughter, Caroline Leigh, July 30, West Des Moines, Iowa. ■ **James R., Jr.** and **Beth Kennedy Lisk**, a son, Joshua Renwick, August 19, Suwanee, Ga. ■ **Clark** and **Emily Burry Phillips**, a daughter, Rachel Grace, May 17, Hartsville, S.C. ■ **Corynne Elizabeth Romine** and **Michelle Marcaro**, a son, David, December 14, 1999, Chicago, Ill. ■ **Eric** and **Heidi Vinje**, a

daughter, Hailey Nicole, October 15, 1999, Bozeman, Mont. Eric owns Sparkyboy Enterprises.

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Next reunion in 2002

Laura Roberts Adair is a children's librarian with the Richland County Public Library in Columbia, S.C. ■ **Dottie Pepper** earned her 17th career title November 19 when she won the Ladies Professional Golf Association's Arch Wireless Championship in Daytona Beach, Fla. ■ **Michael** and **Andrea Dandridge Ulmer** have moved to Abbeville, S.C., where she manages the State Farm Insurance Agency. He is a project engineer with Davis & Floyd, Inc. ■ **MARRIAGES:** **Mary Elizabeth Calvert** and **Robert Peter DiFrancesco**, June 10, Cumming, Ga. ■ **Jill Rankin** and **Thom Koenigs**, March 25,

2000, Columbia, S.C. ■

BIRTHS: **Gary** and **Beth Harrell Abel**, a daughter, Kathryn Anne, August 22, Pearisburg, Va. ■ **Thomas '88** and **Karen Patterson Boyd**, a son, William Barksdale, October 16, Columbus, Ga. ■ **Carl** and **Anne Gue Jones**, a son, Turner Nathaniel, September 6, Orangeburg, S.C. ■ **Martin** and **Susan Conway Maag**, a daughter, Sophia Elizabeth, July 28, Norman, Okla. ■ **Craig** and **Catherine Varn Stamey**, a son, Tate Ransom, August 2, Charleston, S.C. ■ **Jackson** and **Melissa Hedden Roper**, a daughter, Georgia, April 5, 2000, Charlotte, N.C. Jackson is sales and marketing manager for Controls Southeast, Inc., in Charlotte. ■ **Mike** and **Amy Reading Shaffer**, a daughter, Melody Jo, August 6, Greensboro, N.C.

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Next reunion in 2003

Kelley Batson Addison of Chapel Hill, N.C., teaches private piano lessons and sings with various choral and vocal groups. ■ **Patrick** and **Terri Fry '90 Burnette** live in Charleston, S.C. Patrick is a systems analyst in the Army National Guard and also works in the Adjutant General's office in Columbia, S.C. ■ After working in Scotland and teaching English in Japan, **Norman Lambert** now operates his own business in Charleston, S.C., designing and making novelty clocks. ■ **David** and **Sally McLean** live in Greensboro, N.C., where he is an attorney with Booth Harrington Johns & Toman and she is a social worker for Guilford County Schools. ■ **MARRIAGES:** **Daniel Beatty**

there. It only took a few minutes of talking to him to decide that it was something I definitely wanted to do."

While it might have been difficult to predict that Moss would play an integral part in the production of a Hollywood movie, it was much easier to predict that his future would involve golf. He grew up in Forest City, N.C., and walked on to the Furman golf team in 1967 as a freshman. After Furman, he went to Harbour Town Golf Links in Hilton Head as an assistant professional and has been in the area ever since. He was the Carolinas Section Teacher of the Year and a nominee for PGA of America Teacher of the Year in 1997.

Since "Bagger Vance" opened last fall, Moss has become something of a celebrity. He has been featured in major national golf magazines, and he and Damon appeared together twice on The Golf Channel's "Golf Academy — Live." He might be even more famous, but some of his best work ended up on the cutting-room floor.

"I had done the voiceover for an old newsreel and then I was one of the golfers who walks behind Jack Lemmon in the opening sequence, but they both got chopped from the film," Moss says.

He may have lost his chance for a future acting career, but that's OK. It looks like this golf instruction thing could work out for a while longer.

— Vince Moore



Will Smith (left) and a throng of "Bagger Vance" extras check out Matt Damon's short game, developed under the patient tutelage of Tim Moss (in sunglasses).