

Baseball Team Wins MIAA

Team sets school record for wins

Last year the baseball team set a school record for wins in a season with 24, only to finish a game behind Albion for the MIAA title. This year, they came back with a vengeance. Using the same formula that worked last season, the Bulldogs ran through every opponent in the MIAA, taking every weekend series to position themselves for a league title. The dream became a reality on May 10, as the Bulldogs swept aside Tri-State University to capture the MIAA Championship. This is the baseball team's first title since 1993, and AC's first title since the football team won in 1997. At 26-14, the Bulldogs broke the school record they set last year for victories in a season. Adrian was scheduled to represent the MIAA in the NCAA Regional Tournament in late May – results should be available on the Athletics page at www.adrian.edu.

-Ed Patino '04



New AC President to Take Office

Dr. Jeffrey Docking starts July 1



Dr. Jeffrey R. Docking will become Adrian College's 17th president on July 1. He is currently vice president and special assistant to the president at Washington & Jefferson College in Washington, Pa.

Dr. Docking was approved at the February meeting of the Adrian College Board of Trustees. He was recommended to the board by the presidential search committee, which began working with a professional search firm last August to find the right person for the job.

"The committee was pleased with the excellent pool of candidates that it was able to attract, and is delighted that its top candidate accepted the position," said David Hickman, committee chair. "We are certain that his background, vision and energy are what Adrian College needs to become an even stronger liberal arts college in the future."

Dr. Docking has made several trips to Adrian in the past months, to start getting a feel for the College.

"I am grateful to Adrian College for giving me this opportunity, and am honored and humbled to serve this venerable institution," Dr. Docking said. "These are exciting times at Adrian, and the future is bright. I remain convinced that small, selective liberal arts colleges like Adrian offer the best education available to today's high school graduates. I look forward with great anticipation to beginning the work required to help Adrian reach the next level of academic excellence."

Dr. Docking earned a doctorate in social ethics from Boston University, a master of divinity degree from Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary, and a bachelor's degree from Michigan State University. He and his wife Beth grew up in Michigan. They have four children, ages 17, 16, 14 and 9.

Look for more on Docking in the next issue of Contact.

Pre-Seminary Makes a Comeback

AC aims to strengthen a long tradition

A 136-year-old tradition at Adrian College is making a comeback. The College is beginning new initiatives to strengthen its Pre-Seminary program.

Adrian was founded in 1859 by noted theologian and philosopher Asa Mahan. The "Theological Association of Adrian College" began in 1869 as a forum for those exploring a call to ministry. The College even developed its own school of theology during the late 19th century. As a Methodist Protestant college, Adrian shared this vision for theological preparation with its sister/brother school, Western Maryland. Adrian eventually kept its theological offerings within an undergraduate program, while Western Maryland helped to create what is now Wesley Theological Seminary in Washington, D.C.

Following World War I the Adrian College theological association adopted the name "Major Cole Association," after a popular Christian speaker of the time. By the 1970s the Major Cole Association had become a relatively small group of loosely-connected students known as the "Pre-Seminar-ians."

For the past 20 years Pre-Seminary preparation at Adrian College has consisted primarily of occasional meetings with seminary recruiters. Now the College has launched an organized program, guided by AC Chaplain **Chris Momany '84** and Melissa Stewart of the philosophy/religion department.

Pre-Seminary students of the College have organized, elected officers, and drafted a constitution. Momany and Stewart serve to connect the student movement with studies in religion and philosophy. The Pre-Seminary organization at Adrian College has identified three main purposes: to meet regularly for mutual support and discussion regarding issues of call, to provide a place for engaging visiting seminary representatives and others with wisdom regarding specific church vocations, and to attend events, retreats, and workshops that wrestle with God's call to ministry.



Adrian College Pre-Seminary Group on the steps of Downs Hall, 1937



Same steps, new group: the Adrian College Pre-Seminary Group, 2005

Student Center gets new name

Ridge now called Caine Student Center

The trustees announced this spring that Ridge Student Center will now be called the Stanley P. Caine Student Center, in honor of retiring College President Stanley P. Caine and his dedication to students.

The announcement was made at a celebration dinner held for Dr. Caine in April. Gary Valade, chairman of the Adrian College Board of Trustees, announced during the dinner that a representative of the Ridge family has been contacted about the name change, and was very supportive.

The original gymnasium, for which construction began in 1929, was finally completed in the 1950s thanks to the generosity of Indiana industrialist and College trustee **Everett '23** and **Julia Craig Ridge '22**. The center court area of the building will now be formally named after the family, and their important role in the building's history will be duly indicated.



*Congratulations to this year's graduates, and welcome to the long tradition of Adrian College alumni. You are an important part of who we are. Above, **Amber McCollough '05** hugs College Chaplain **Chris Momany '84** after the spring commencement ceremony.*