



FOCUS | Summer 2009

As time passes our memory becomes selective. We forget the hours spent in class, the late nights of study. But we do remember the life-changing experiences and the friends we made—even if we don't always remember their names correctly.

Intercultural learning

Thank you so much for your informative ten-page article on “Hands-on, Life-changing Learning” in Tanzania (summer 2009). It was particularly interesting to me since some of the places the team visited were very familiar—the Usa River ADRA office is one mile away from our farm/home and the University of Arusha is about six miles. I must admit that even though I was born and raised in Tanzania, and visited Serengeti several times, I was not aware that Serengeti meant “endless plain” or “where the land runs on forever.” Thanks, Herb, for this information.

I was intrigued by the comments of some of the team participants on the cultural aspects which I take for granted, such as two men holding hands and a husband having more than one wife (by the way, currently this practice is restricted to those who belong to the Muslim faith). I guess we all have something new to learn from time to time.

Mishael Muze (BA '64)

A “funeral” in context

Could I add a little context to the “good prominent funeral” joke?

Floyd O. Rittenhouse (FOR) was not joking! A few hours earlier he had been fired. He was not happy!

It was customary for FOR to have a reporting session for the Student Senate after EMC College Board meetings. This one was different. Only Student Senate members. No faculty allowed. After reporting that he would no longer be in charge, he told us that the college would probably lose its accreditation and that our degrees would probably be worthless. He strongly implied that to save our futures, we as student leaders needed to demonstrate (it was the 60s) in support of his reinstatement as president!

This was not his finest hour. Sometimes big organizational changes, even good and important ones, require leaders with large egos. Those egos sometimes collide. The stress of all of the politics and manipulation that went into moving the Seminary,

specifically FOR's campus expansion plans that the board didn't have in the budget and his tendency to sign contracts before informing them, put FOR at odds with the college board and its chairman. I don't think any of us who were there took the “good prominent funeral” statement as a good example of the famed FOR wit.

Now, at his regular early-in-each-term chapel (all students required to attend), one of the famed FOR jokes was repeated in his singsong upper New England accent. “Those who can, do. Those who can't, teach. Those that can't teach, teach teachers.” Now that was funny, coming from the esteemed professor of education!

Wesley A Flory (BA '63, MA '64)

“Scribbleshanty” it is

On page 37 of the summer 2009 Focus I read the following: “Rittenhouse's nickname was ‘Scribbleshack’.” I would like to take issue with that. He was called “Scribbleshanty.” How do I know? My mother told me!

On July 16, 1927 Grace Hall married Durward Wildman (the senior Durward Wildman) who, incidentally, attended EMC about 1923 or 1924. My mother's best friend, Letah Scott, was her maid of honor. A young man by the name of Floyd Rittenhouse was “sweet” on Letah, so he came to the wedding. It was from that connection that I learned about Floyd Rittenhouse's nickname.

My husband and I were students at EMC during the years of change from EMC to AU and had the privilege of knowing President Rittenhouse. We heard references to his nickname of “Scribbleshanty”, but never heard of him being called “Scribbleshack.”

Another item which may interest you is that Letah Scott ended up marrying Edward Banks who was a professor for many years in the Seminary.

Janet Schlunt (BS '62)

I had the privilege of being a student during Rittenhouse's presidency and was even his secretary



Thanks for writing

Letters to FOCUS are always welcome. To ensure a range of viewpoints, we encourage letters of fewer than 300 words. Letters may be edited for content, style and space.

By mail: Editor, Focus
Andrews University
Berrien Springs MI 49104

By e-mail: focus@andrews.edu