

For Immediate Release

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### **AnnaGee Harris Named FWBBC Drama Director**

NASHVILLE, TN—AnnaGee Harris, a 2006 Free Will Baptist Bible College graduate, has been named drama director at the college, according to President Matt Pinson. After graduating *magna cum laude* with a B.S. degree at FWBBC, Miss Harris completed the M.A.T. degree (2008) with an emphasis in Theater at Trevecca Nazarene University. She succeeds Mr. David Payne who resigned after six years as drama director to pursue theater through his own companies, Rising Image Productions and David Payne Drama.

Miss Harris said, “I’m excited about the opportunity to bring more types of theater to campus and provide students with options to participate in comedy, mystery, and musical productions, as well as traditional drama. FWBBC is a good fit for me—I grew up in a Free Will Baptist church, my mother (Dr. Suzann Harris) taught 12 years at FWBBC, and my grandfather (Rev. Vernon Barker) has been a Free Will Baptist minister 47 years. Thanks to my FWBBC education and the excellent training I received from David Payne, I understand what the college is looking for theatrically.”

Mr. David Payne joined the FWBBC team in 2003 with the long-term goal of finding someone who could succeed him and develop the college’s Drama Department. After Miss Harris auditioned as a student for various roles, he began mentoring her, eventually inviting her to become his assistant at FWBBC, then asking her to serve as drama co-director in 2008.

“AnnaGee is ready to serve as drama director,” Payne said. “I suggested to President Pinson that I resign now and offer the position to her. I know of no one better prepared and better suited for the task. She is very competent on stage and off stage. Of course, there’s a sense of sadness also, since we’ve worked together five years. But the time is right for me to step aside and for her to take the lead.”

Miss Harris plans to take more graduate theater hours. If time permits, she will continue her work with David Payne Drama where she plays the role of a servant girl in a major production.

President Pinson said, "We are delighted that Miss Harris has agreed to become drama director. She is well known and respected by our college family, and we look forward to great things from her. At the same time, however, we regret Mr. Payne's departure. We thank God for his professional leadership in the Drama Department and for his mentoring of AnnaGee, and we are happy to report that he has agreed to continue as a consultant with us for one more year."