**Herm Weaver: Travelin’ & Havin’ Fun**

By Sharon Knis

Assistant Professor of Psychology, Herm Weaver might have been caught once or twice in his childhood sneaking out to the family car to listen to a Cleveland baseball game on the forbidden radio.

Growing up in a conservative Mennonite home didn’t keep him from becoming a die-hard Cleveland sports fan – from the Indians to the Browns to the Cavaliers. He’s even planning on going up to Boston to watch a Cleveland Indians game in a couple days. He pointed out that it’s a welcome distraction from the “heady” world of academia.

He wasn’t planning on doing much school that wasn’t absolutely necessary. “If you would’ve told me that I’d be getting a Ph.D., I would’ve laughed out loud – real hard.” Even an old friend from his days in Hesston, John Sharp, said, “I would have never pictured him going to grad school – it wasn’t in him.”

He started some of his more formal learning at EMC, where he double-majored in Christian Ministries and Psychology. He found psychology as a sort of “accident,” as he explains it. Definitely wasn’t something he had previously considered.

In all the decisions Weaver faced in situations that arise, one of the first aspects he considers is its impact on his wife and children. A true “family man,” he does everything within his power to be with his family as much as he possibly can.

He hates missing his teenage daughters’ activities or events in their lives, and also loves to spend time with his youngest son, Dillon, age seven.

If there’s anywhere in the world he could be right now, he’d be in the Bahamas with his wife, Cindy, where they went for their twentieth wedding anniversary.

He has a few points of advice for others in the academic world. “Don’t forget to have fun,” he says. “Although many things we gain are achieved through our serious pursuit of them, a lot of things that we gain come from the random, hilarious, absolute fun times we have with each other. The relationships that we have now are what will matter later.”

As to the journey his life has become, he says he will “continue to learn about life and push out things that I have passion for.”

Weaver’s musical dissertation, called “Travelin’ Home and Back,” was released in 2000 and is available at the EMU bookstore.

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