

# Q&A with Dr. Dunn

What shaped you growing up and what philosophy or values have you tried to pass on to your children?

If I had to sum up a life philosophy or guiding principle for myself, I guess it would be “take what you do seriously, but don’t take yourself too seriously.” I feel this approach gives me a more balanced perspective in dealing with everything that comes my way in life, whether it’s something at work, personally, regarding the family or anything else. I have tried to pass this on to our four kids as well — who even now have about a crisis a week among them and call needing help, guidance, advice, money or whatever. There really is very little that we all encounter that we can’t figure out

*Pictured below with Drs. Randy and Ronda Dunn, from left to right, are their children: Lindsey, Erin, Gavin and Sara.*



We have access to each other’s calendars and that is a big help. Plus, every so often, we just have to take time to sit down and chart out the next few weeks about who is going where and doing

## **Important Notice**

**This sample interview transcript (excerpt from the January 2009 issue of Murray State University Magazine) is for illustrative purpose only. Though the sample has several columns, you shall have only ONE column for your own paper. Please do NOT have two or more columns in your own paper. In addition, you do not need to include your own picture.**

ness — those types of things.

There’s an old line about being on your deathbed ... at that point, you won’t be thinking about all the jobs you worked or the great possessions you had or that kind of thing. You’ll be thinking about all those interactions with people, and places that enrich a life and make it well-lived. That’s what I want for myself and my kids in the end.

**With the demands of your position and a blended family, how do you and your wife, Ronda, make it all work?**

... Sometimes it’s tough! It can be a challenge on occasion keeping schedules straight and getting everything covered that we need to do for the university, as well as for each other, and as parents. I will say that it wouldn’t work very well without Ronda keeping it all coordinated from a personal and family side — whether it’s paying the bills, getting to the cleaners or grocery store, or navigating the day-to-day stuff, as well as handling the Oakhurst events and representing MSU at a ton of activities and events.

**Oakhurst has a lot of history in it as the home of Murray State’s presidents. Is there a downside to living your life in a 90-year-old home on the corner of campus?**

Oakhurst is a beautiful home and a real treasure of Murray State and the city of Murray. It is a wonderful way, as Ronda and I entertain there, to show the hospitality of MSU to the many friends and guests of the campus who come to the house for various events, dinners and receptions. We try to use it as much as we can for the benefit of the university community, especially students, who generally get a bang out of seeing the house for the first time.

That being said, there are a few downsides ... but it is not a bad thing overall. For instance, I can’t run out in my PJs and get the morning paper too inconspicuously. During warm weather, we tend to hear more than we want of the various fraternity parties from the three houses across the street and park from us ... but it is a grand residence and Ronda and I feel honored to live in it ...

**To read the entire Q&A with President Dunn, go online at**

**[www.murraystate.edu/president/magazine](http://www.murraystate.edu/president/magazine)**