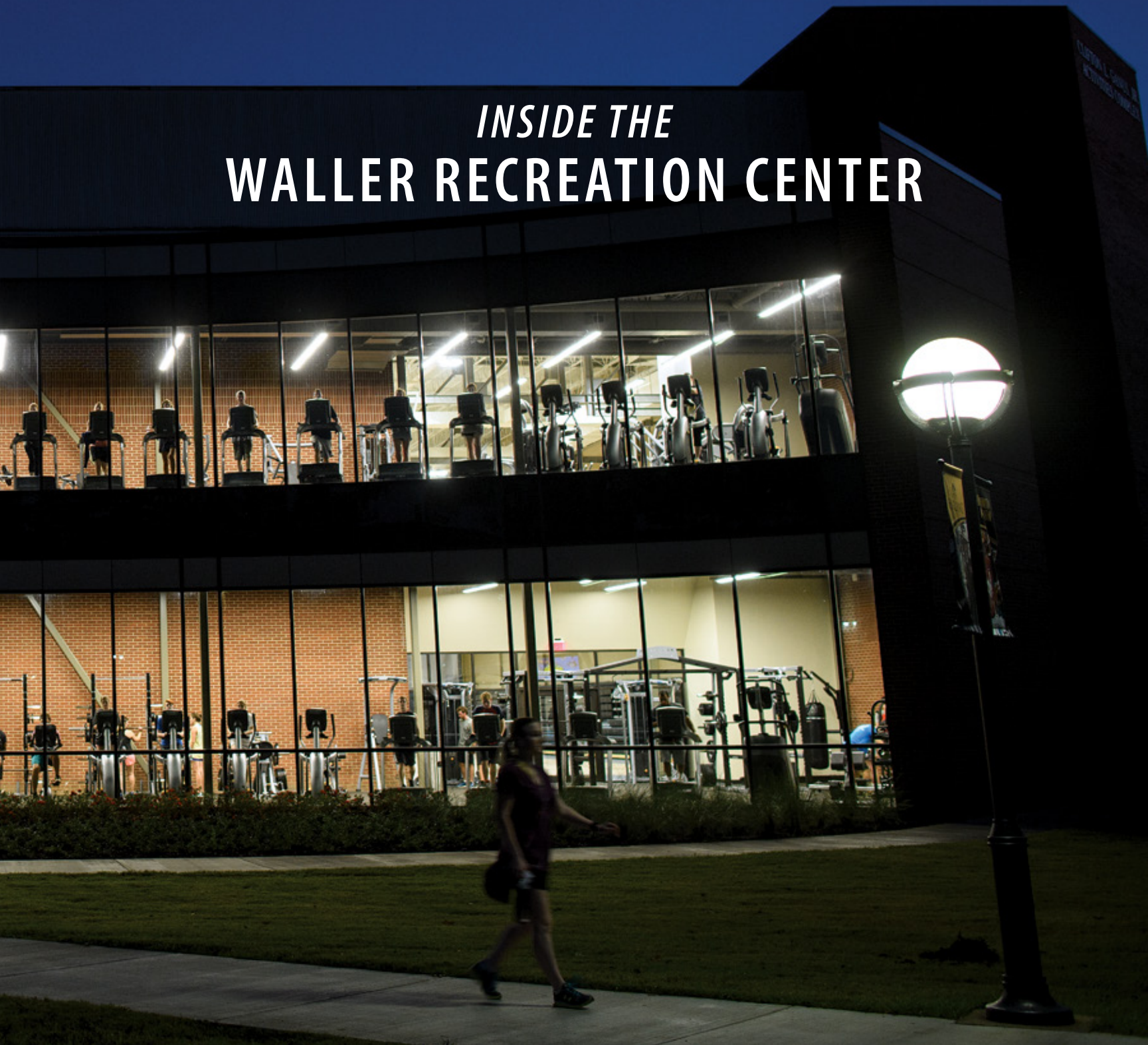


HARDING

FALL 2016

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WORKING BEHIND THE SCENES

Five of the many staff members who play integral roles at the University relay their stories.

PHOTO BY MARTIN C. PARKER



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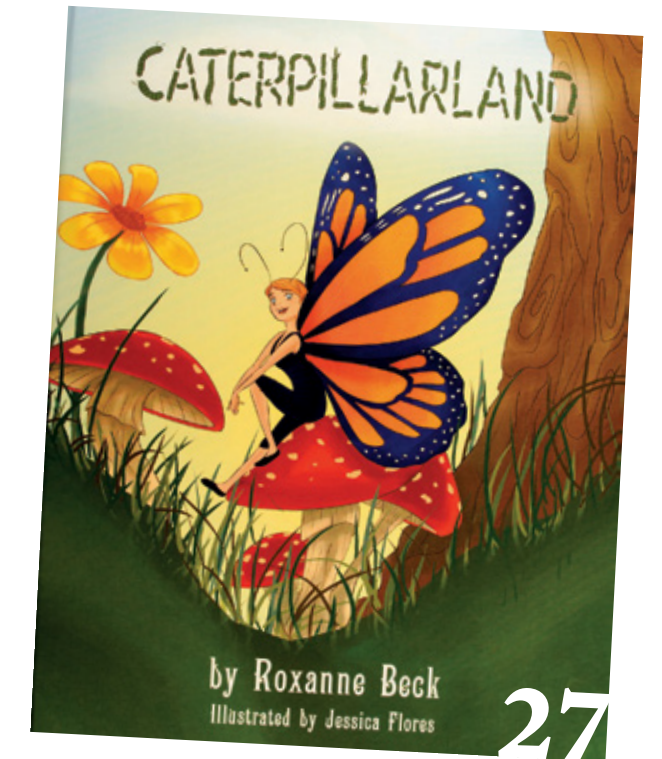
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As night falls Sept. 19, the new addition to the Ganus Activities Complex named for Suzanne and Rodney Waller is a hub of activity for recreation and healthy lifestyles.

PHOTO BY JEFF MONTGOMERY

PHOTO BY JEFF MONTGOMERY, BOOK COVER SUBMITTED

Outstanding service

By BRUCE D. McLARTY, *president*

HARDING RELIES HEAVILY on the behind-the-scenes work of its staff. Through their dedication, drive and vision, they allow the University to continue its pursuit of excellence. Five of these exceptional staff members are featured in this issue, beginning on page 20.

While he is not mentioned in this feature, if you have been receiving this magazine very long you may notice a name missing from the masthead on the right. Director of Public Relations David Crouch retired in June after serving this University wholeheartedly for 46 years.

In response to my asking him how I could be a better president in my second year, Crouch wrote me a letter from which I shared an excerpt with the staff at our pre-session conference Aug. 9. To me, it speaks volumes about the heart of this humble servant.

His first suggestion was “Spend more time recognizing and giving attention to the staff segment of Harding employees. These 400-500 individuals in many respects hold the keys to the University’s success. They don’t teach a single class, but they do all those behind the scenes functions that keep this place running ... These are the people who in many cases are the public’s first contact with Harding, and in some cases are the only contacts off-campus people have with Harding.”

Another dealt with prayer, wisely advising me to pray long and often for the University.


Senior public relations major Erin Hanson wrote a story about his retirement published in The Bison newspaper March 24. In it Crouch said, “I have worked for three Harding presidents, and that is time I will cherish — memories I will cherish — of working with three outstanding men of character. In my position I have worked with people all across the campus. Unlike some positions that deal with just a certain group of people, my work has covered the whole span of campus.”

Tom Buterbaugh, his assistant director for



the past 25 years, said in the article, “[Crouch] is a true servant leader. He’s the best boss you could ask for — he puts everyone above himself, and he truly cares about Harding. He never cares about recognition for himself — he only cares about advancing Harding and advancing the people in [the public relations] office.”

A new name on the masthead is Jana Rucker. As the University’s newest vice president, she is now heading our communications and marketing efforts in an expanded version of the role so ably filled by Crouch. The division has been renamed Office of University Communications and Marketing to reflect the increased focus on elevating the Harding brand. You can read more about her appointment on page 8.

Chancellor Emeritus Clifton Ganus often says that part of what makes Harding great is the people who come and stay. Staff members dedicating their lives to serving Harding as David Crouch did are and will continue to be a key piece in this community of mission. 

Bruce D. McLarty

HARDING

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PHOTO BY JEFF MONTGOMERY

Why did you choose to come to Harding?

With the help and blessing of President George Benson, I, from Hong Kong, was given a foreign scholarship to attend Harding College in 1964. I could not have found a better way to learn about America. I only wish I took more time to enjoy my education at Harding and [was] not in a hurry to rush through a degree program.

NELSON FONG, '67
Underwood, Iowa

I am a very nontraditional student. I am in my 40s and have a husband who is permanently disabled. My children are all young adults. I work at the Crossing at Riverside nursing home in Searcy. I really like the job that the social workers do. A couple of years ago, I looked into going back to school. My choices were Arkansas State University and Harding. I chose Harding because it is Christian based, has an outstanding social work program, and is only a 5-minute drive from where I live. I have learned a lot about myself at Harding. I’ve learned I enjoy giving speeches in class, and I enjoy being around young adults. The students at Harding have made me feel welcome and are some of the most mannerly young adults you’ll ever meet.

BRENDA BENNETT, SOPHOMORE
Searcy, Arkansas

I chose Harding for the opportunities and relationships. I was able to be involved in a number of activities during my time at Harding and that allowed me to develop into the person I am today. I also made some lasting relationships with both my peers and the faculty, many of whom I still talk to today.

NATHAN RAMIREZ, '09
Searcy, Arkansas

My last week of senior year [in high school], I remember crying like a baby because it was my last time to be with 25 of my best friends. I was the one leaving. I was the one going to the small, Christian school in the middle of



something to the Lord’s kingdom in a way that would outlast myself.

DAVID COLE, '69
Searcy, Arkansas

I chose to come to Harding because the Lord drew my heart to it. Prior to looking at Harding, I wasn’t interested in going away to college; I was going to attend school from home. Once Harding entered the picture, there was no going back!

ANNE MARIE REYNOLDS, SOPHOMORE
Millington, Tennessee

I landed at the Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music after high

school and studied piano there from 1968-70. The spring of 1970 was stormy for our country with coast-to-coast anti-war protests, sons and daughters rebelling against their parents, and racial tensions that brought waves of violence. Jim Rhodes, the governor of Ohio, summoned the National Guard to quell student demonstrations at nearby Kent State University. The “May 4 Massacre” followed. Thirteen students were shot with four fatalities. The entire Ohio university system closed for the remainder of the school year. Can you imagine taking piano lessons by correspondence? Reflecting on the summer of 1970, I realized that there were much more important things in life than playing the piano. An elder from my home congregation pointed me to Harding College. A quiet, Christian atmosphere appealed to me. It still does.

JEFF HOPPER, '74
Searcy, Arkansas

nowhere Arkansas. Everyone kept asking me, “Why don’t you just go to the state school down the street?” They told me to just go to the community college with everyone else. My personal favorite question was, “What’s so special about Harding anyway?” That’s exactly it. Harding is so special. I came to Harding because everything about it is special. I didn’t come to Harding because my grandfather told me to or because everybody in my family goes to Harding. I didn’t come to Harding because I have some prepaid tuition hours, although that helps. I didn’t come to Harding because it is a Christian-based university. I don’t know that I can tell you one concrete reason why. All I can say is that it would have been a lot easier to have gone to the community college or the state school, but I picked Harding because Harding and the community and the people and the atmosphere — you don’t get that anywhere else. Harding is special.

RACHEL SAWYER, SOPHOMORE
Sardis, Mississippi

When I came to Harding College as a student, I knew nothing about the school — I just followed a friend. I returned as faculty because I wanted to have at least a fraction of the Christian impact on students that Dr. Don England [distinguished professor of chemistry] had on me when I was here. I wanted to contribute

NEXT ISSUE’S QUESTION:
What is an important lesson you’ve learned since graduating from Harding?

Email your answer to this question to hardingmag@harding.edu or write us at *Harding Magazine*, 915 E. Market Ave., Box 12234, Searcy, AR 72149-5615. Your response could appear on this page in our winter issue.



AIMS/GENC

Sept. 1 read choose a book
 Sept. 30 read choose 4 activities
 choose a grade
 match standards to
 that fits you

10:00 Biol
 11:00 Math
 1:00 Math
 2:00 Biol



Various colorful notices and posters pinned to a bulletin board.

Putting into practice his advice to teach your class to be a family, Dr. Allen Henderson's Math 242 class surprises Tylar Trimble on Aug. 26 by wearing "Trimble Strong" T-shirts to class, showing their support for Trimble's father, Allan, who has ALS. The class gathers with President Bruce McLarty to pray for him and the family. More information about Trimble's father may be found on his webpage, trimblestrong.org.

PHOTO BY JEFF MONTGOMERY



Around Campus



Interior design major Rachel Bean reads *Amazing Grace* while relaxing in an Eno hammock on the front lawn.

Campus reads *Amazing Grace*

WITH THE RETURN OF STUDENTS in August, campus officially began a yearlong program called Harding Read. The American Studies Institute, Brackett Library and First Year Experience contributed ideas resulting in the creation of the program, which encourages the Harding community to read a book together and engage both in and out of the classroom.

President Bruce McLarty selected *Amazing Grace: William Wilberforce and the Heroic Campaign to End Slavery* by Eric Metaxas as the book to read for the 2016-17 school year. McLarty said there is something special about a biography that he hoped Harding Read would give students an opportunity to experience.

"There is something about a biography that stays with you in a way that most other stories don't," McLarty said. "There is a writer by the name of John Piper who says, 'Everyone should have a best friend who lived in another century.' I like that."

McLarty said *Amazing Grace* is a fitting tool to give campus readers a larger perspective of

the world by learning about a friend in another century. *Amazing Grace* is the biography of famed abolitionist William Wilberforce and his battle to put an end to slavery.

Although Harding Read is not a requirement for students, the goal is for as many as possible to join in the project designed to bring campus together. It's an opportunity for students, faculty and staff from entry-level to executive to find common ground.

"Harding Read is a way that there can be a discussion that runs across every college and across all interests on campus," McLarty said. "It's something that unifies us in the course of a year."

First-year students learned about the program at Summer Stampede and were presented with their copy of *Amazing Grace*. While the fall semester has carried the Harding Read theme into chapel presentations and classroom discussions, the spring semester will bring the author to campus as an American Studies Institute distinguished speaker Jan. 12, 2017.

"ASI has brought many outstanding distinguished lecturers to campus. Some have not been well known to the Harding community, and attendance may have been affected," said Kim Kirkman, associate director of ASI. "Metaxas will be a campus household name by Jan. 12, and I believe that we will have outstanding attendance and participation that will reach outside of campus and spill into our local community."

Although it is a priority to engage campus through Harding Read, McLarty said the program has potential to be much larger than that. Efforts will be made to include interested parents and alumni, giving the extended Harding community an opportunity to find common ground through Harding Read.

"I can only imagine the size of the community that will be involved," Kirkman said. "As we read, the characters become part of our own story, as if we have personally known them. The life story of William Wilberforce will be a part of our community and connect us all in this common experience."

PHOTO BY JEFF MONTGOMERY

Harding Read is creating discussion across campus.



SEEN on SOCIAL MEDIA



Jalen West @jalenwest6
I can already tell it's going to be a good year. #BacktoHarding
AUGUST 17



Kristy Bentley DeHerrera We just left our son and are heading home. We have no doubt he's in GREAT hands!
AUGUST 19



Edwina Sharbine Will starts on Monday, and he is so excited! After dropping him off, we had a feeling he was at the right place. It's a great school!
AUGUST 20



Michael Hawley What a special time. The adventure of life and learning is about to begin, and the possibilities are endless — all nurtured by this beautiful, wonderful place we call Harding. Enjoy, you will have the time of your life, and it will always be a part of who you are.
AUGUST 20



Tyler Newsom @IAmTylerNewsom
I didn't expect to pray and talk about Scripture in a programming class, but it is a welcome change. It's great to be at @HardingU!
AUGUST 22



Eyesack @IAmLaughterYo
I love being a student @HardingU where teachers start classes with prayers and it isn't weird to say "GOD is good!"
AUGUST 23



EVENTS

OCT. 27-29

Homecoming

Between reunions, celebrations and the musical, Homecoming weekend is full of excitement. Purchase tickets for this year's musical, "Crazy for You," at www.hardingtickets.com. Attend alumni chapel and class and club reunions to see former classmates and favorite professors. Enjoy the Family Picnic before cheering on the Bisons against Southwestern Oklahoma State University. Thursday's Heritage Circle Banquet honors the classes of '46, '51, '56, '61 and '66, and Friday's Black and Gold Banquet recognizes distinguished alumni. www.harding.edu/homecoming

NOV. 11-12

Women for Harding Fall Craft Fair

Located at the White County Fairgrounds, the fall craft fair will host more than 40 craft and food vendors. The proceeds from the fair benefit the Women for Harding need-based scholarship fund. www.harding.edu/women

NOV. 28

Campus Lighting Ceremony

Get in the Christmas spirit as President Bruce McLarty leads the University and

guests in a countdown to the campus lighting. More than 100,000 LED lights will illuminate the campus and will remain on for your enjoyment until Jan. 8, 2017. www.harding.edu/events/lights

DEC. 17

Commencement

The University will gain more than 350 new alumni during December's commencement ceremony held in Benson Auditorium. Commemorate these graduates' hard work and celebrate their next chapter. www.harding.edu/graduation

For a complete list of events, visit www.harding.edu/calendar.

BY THE NUMBERS

FALL FACTS

4,420

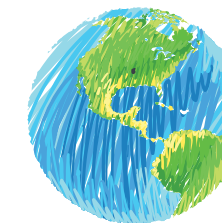
Fall 2016 undergraduate enrollment

2.8

Percent increase for first time in college freshmen

50

Number of states represented



54

Number of countries and territories represented

40

Number of National Merit finalists

22

Number of new faculty members for fall 2016

24th

Harding's ranking by *U.S. News and World Report* in the category of best universities in the South released in September



Rucker fills new cabinet position

IN AUGUST, Florida marketing executive Jana Rucker became the vice president for University communications and marketing, a newly created position on the president's cabinet. Rucker joins 13 other members of the cabinet, an advising body made up of vice presidents and the athletic director, to offer insights to President Bruce McLarty throughout the school year.

Historically, the University has had a director of public relations. McLarty said Rucker's new role as vice president reflects the growing importance and complexity of communications, including marketing and branding for the University.

"When I became president, one of the moves I made was to make the public relations director report straight to the president because communication is just that vital," McLarty said. "In the course of interviewing for a replacement for David Crouch [former director of public relations], it became obvious to me that this person needs to be at the cabinet table to really do his or her job and to have unfettered access to all information needed."



Rucker was formerly the senior director of global brand and marketing for Satcom Direct, a global connectivity provider with international headquarters in Melbourne, Florida. Satcom Direct provides world-

wide communications services and technology to business and general aviation, military, government, emergency response and media organizations.

Rucker held various senior leadership roles in marketing in the insurance industry with companies such as Willis North America and Crump Group Inc. Prior to those positions, she spent several years in marketing leadership at Sprint and AT&T.

She is a 1988 graduate of Oklahoma Christian University with a degree in marketing. Rucker also attended the executive leadership school at the University of Virginia Darden School of Business.

"Jana Rucker brings to this position wonderful skill sets in communication that have been developed at some of the most cutting-edge technology companies in the world," said McLarty. "She has extensive experience in internal and external communications, marketing, branding and social media. She's had her hand in all the things that are very important to us in communications right now."



David and Betsy Waldron listen as senior accounting and finance major Austin Yates gives remarks on behalf of students at Waldron Center dedication ceremonies Sept. 9.

Entrepreneurship center open for business

THE PAUL R. CARTER COLLEGE of Business Administration dedicated the Waldron Center for Entrepreneurship and Family Business on Sept. 9. The center was primarily funded by David ('76) and Betsy Walkup Waldron ('83) of Smyrna, Tennessee.

David's parents, Vester and Charlene, built a number of small businesses — from motels and grocery stores to restaurants and a brick manufacturing plant. Finding a good fit in real estate development and home building, Vester built a strong family business that his three sons were excited to continue.

During his time at Harding, David knew he would one day return to his father's business. His experience at the University and homegrown career ambitions prompted a vision to create a resource at Harding dedicated to family business and entrepreneurship.

"I was blessed to receive a great business foundation at Harding, but hardly any of it was relevant to the specific issues that confront family business," David said. "My vision to establish a center emphasizing family business and entrepreneurship started after I graduated, and through the years the idea has continued to grow. Because of God's blessings in my life it is now becoming a reality."

Under the direction of Dr. Ken Olree, the Waldron Center will focus on entrepreneurial academics and competitions as well as development of new businesses. Located

in the Mabee Business Building, the newly renovated space features a conference room and areas for collaboration and informal meetings. Design elements such as glass dry erase boards, modern furnishings and bright colored walls evoke innovation and creativity.

According to Dr. Allen Frazier, dean of the college, the opening of the Waldron Center reflects a growing focus on developing education and training opportunities for potential entrepreneurs and those continuing family businesses.

"The College of Business Administration has a long tradition of emphasizing free enterprise," Frazier said. "We believe the Waldron Center will be a fresh, engaging way to continue teaching the importance of entrepreneurship and small business in a global economy."

The University currently offers a minor in entrepreneurship, but Frazier said the center will enable development of more classes. It will also facilitate student participation in competitions like the Donald W. Reynolds Governor's Cup and connect community business owners to empower campus innovators.

"Many of our students express an interest in starting their own business or returning to their family business," Frazier said. "The Waldron Center will help foster that entrepreneurial spirit while providing students with necessary tools and connections to already successful entrepreneurs."

RUCKER PHOTO SUBMITTED, WALDRON PHOTO BY JEFF MONTGOMERY

MY VIEW BRIAN COX

Evaluating concussions

In 2015, Will Smith played the lead role in the December box office hit "Concussion." The movie tells the true story of Dr. Bennet Omalu, who studies and uncovers information about the effects of repeated concussions on professional football players. It was a movie that sparked conversation across the nation about the dangers and risks of multiple concussions due to a physical contact sport and brought to light an issue of which many weren't aware. Dr. Brian Cox, director of the athletic training program, brought a program to campus in 2011 to test University athletes for concussions. We sat down with him to get his take on concussion risks and evaluation.

WHEN I CAME to Harding in 2011, many high schools and universities were just beginning to implement specialized concussion testing. The athletic training staff at Harding was already gathering baseline data from a memory and balance perspective. The staff was very receptive to the idea of implementing the ImPACT program to our pre-participation evaluations. ImPACT (Immediate Post-Concussion Assessment and Cognitive Testing) is the most widely used and most scientifically validated computerized concussion management tool available. This neurocognitive assessment allows us to

record baseline scores on visual memory, verbal memory, visual motor speed and reaction time. These scores can be compared to the athlete's post-injury scores if a concussion is suspected or diagnosed. Although ImPACT does not diagnose a concussion or determine if a concussion has resolved, it does assist the medical staff in gaining an insight into the athlete's symptoms so proper measures can be taken in both caring for the athlete and the athlete's return to play. It is estimated that between 1.6 and 3.8 million concussions occur annually in the U.S. as a result of competitive sports. What was once referred to as "getting dinged" or "having your bell rung" is now recognized as a mild traumatic brain injury (mTBI). Much is being done within athletics to reduce the risk of this injury. However, it is important to understand that even with certain modifications, concussions will never be eliminated from sports or life. Certainly some sports and activities present higher risks than others, but coaching proper techniques and following rules may help to limit the number of injuries. 📺



PHOTO BY JEFF MONTGOMERY



NEWSMAKERS

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

In May, Don Shores and Russ Burcham were reinstated to full status. Suzanne Waller resigned after 13 years of service.

BRACKETT LIBRARY

Jean Waldrop, director, was elected to the board of directors for Amigos Library Services.

COLLEGE OF ARTS AND HUMANITIES

Ginger Blackstone, assistant professor of broadcast journalism, defended her dissertation at the University of Florida in July to complete her doctorate in communication. The title of her dissertation is "The Worst of Times: The Prevalence of Power and Fear in the Television News."

Heath Carpenter, instructor of English, defended his dissertation at Arkansas State University in April to complete his Ph.D. in heritage studies. The title of his dissertation is "T Bone Burnett, the American South, and the Ethic of a Contemporary Cultural Renaissance."

The Arkansas Broadcasters Association awarded Harding's KVHU radio station for outstanding station promotion in a medium market in July. KVHU was recognized for its student-led production and broadcasting of 13 radio commercials promoting the University's "A Community of Mission" theme.

Shawn Fisher, professor of history, was named to a nine-member World War I centennial commemoration committee created by Arkansas Gov. Asa Hutchinson in March.

COLLEGE OF BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

David Kee, assistant professor of management, defended his dissertation at Grenoble Ecole de Management in France in June to earn a Doctor in Business Administration. His dissertation is titled "Ascetic Entrepreneurship: An Elite Prosopography."

Dr. Reet Cronk, professor of business, presented her paper "Games That Work: Increasing Student Engagement and Learning in the Classroom Through Gamification and Games" at EDMedia, a world conference in Vancouver, Canada, on educational media and technology held by the Association for the Advancement of Computing in Education in June.

COLLEGE OF EDUCATION

Dr. Allen Henderson was named the director of the Finley STEM Center for Math and Science in April, replacing Dr. Tony Finley who retired in May.

Dr. Clara Carroll, professor and associate dean, and a team of Arkansas educators were named one of 12 finalist teams in the Agents for Learning Challenge facilitated by Learning Forward and the National Commission on Teaching and America's Future. Her team presented its submission to a panel of judges in Chicago July 21-22.

Dr. Donny Lee, professor and dean, was named president-elect of the Arkansas Association of Colleges of Teacher Education in May. Lee was also appointed to the professional licensure standards board of the Arkansas Department of Education in June.

COLLEGE OF NURSING

Patty Smith, assistant professor, defended her dissertation at the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences in April to earn her Ph.D. in nursing. The title of her dissertation is "Organizational Experiences With Rapid Response Teams."

OFFICE OF THE PROVOST

In the previous issue, it was reported that Dr. Julie Hixson-Wallace, vice provost for accreditation, was a teacher and administrator at Southern School of Pharmacy from 2001 to 2006. Hixson-Wallace actually began teaching at Mercer University Southern School of Pharmacy in 1994.




UNEXPECTED DECISION Senior Garrett Bender wasn't planning on attending Harding when he made a trip on a whim to campus during Bison Days. He had already made up his mind where he wanted to go to college, but that changed the moment he stepped on campus. "I remember getting to Harding's campus and falling in love with the school. On the last day of Bison Days, I went to Midnight Oil and overheard a conversation between two people, and they were talking about life and how God has impacted them. I remember thinking, 'I want this.' So I changed my mind, and I never regretted that decision."

PLUGGED IN "I have been a part of social clubs for the past three years, and it has been a wonderful experience. Apart from getting close to people and building relationships, clubs have taught me how to deal with group dynamics, which is a useful trait in any career setting, especially in ministry. I was also part of the Student Association last year, and that taught me the importance of listening to others and helped me define what a leader looks like."

EXTRACURRICULAR Bender believes that being involved in activities and immersing yourself into social groups is an important part of college life. "I think that getting involved in different areas on campus can help you make friends, expel the loneliness that you may face, and help you develop into the person who you want to become. I believe that no matter how extroverted or introverted you may be, whether or not you are in a social club or Student Association, your involvement with your friends, your church, or any other group on Harding's campus can benefit you as a person and will definitely benefit the people who you come in contact with."

POSTGRAD As a Bible and ministry major, Bender said he has learned a great deal about a variety of people and how to reach and interact with them. "Harding has helped me prepare for life after college because my job after Harding is people based. I love Harding because all sorts of people go to school here. Learning how to deal with different people is one of the greatest lessons that Harding has taught me because it is something that a minister in a church will have to do all the time."

THE LORD'S PLAN Though he's not exactly sure where life after graduation will take him, Bender is confident in his education at Harding and in God's promise to show him the way. "I am getting my degree in Bible and ministry, and I plan to interject God's truth and love wherever I go both in college and after. My working plan is to either teach kids how to speak English in China or Japan or to go straight into youth ministry. But for now, I will just lean on the Lord and trust that he has plans stored up for me."  — Hannah Owens

Everyday STUDENT

SENIOR GARRETT BENDER BELIEVES IN BEING INVOLVED DURING COLLEGE



PHOTO BY JEFF MONTGOMERY

Residential development added to Legacy Park

IN AUGUST, CONSTRUCTION began on Legacy Park Phase IV, a residential development on the west side of campus. The project includes a total of 19 home sites available for purchase by faculty, staff, alumni and friends of Harding who wish to live close to campus.

"There is an appeal to buying a home on the Harding campus," Chancellor David B. Burks said. "They are within a short walk of the center of campus and all kinds of campus activities. It is ideally suited for people who want to be a part of the University community."

The lots available are for homes ranging in size from 1,200 to 3,500 square feet, and all houses, regardless of size, will have access to a garage. Significant green space maintained by the University will be available to all residents, including a walking path.

In order to coordinate with the design of previous phases of Legacy Park, home buyers may select their choice of designs from those approved by the architectural review committee, of which Burks is chairman.

According to Burks, interest in the project has exceeded what he expected at this point in the process. The initial faculty and staff interest meetings were attended by nearly 70 families and resulted in several lots sold during the summer. Upon completion of Phase IV, 24 lots will become available as part of Phase V, the final stage of residential projects in Legacy Park. Burks said he expects these final stages may take five or more years to complete, but he looks forward to the end result.

"Time isn't really the ultimate concern," Burks said. "This is all about having places near the campus for people who will contribute to University life. In a way, it is similar to Harding Drive, which was a successful addition to the east side of campus 50 or 60 years ago. These homes are a similar concept, just on the opposite end. I think it will be a nice addition to the campus by forming a bookend on the west side of campus."

For additional information regarding Legacy Phases IV and V, contact Burks by calling 501-279-4848 or emailing burks@harding.edu.



Accreditation reaffirmed for interior design program

THE DEPARTMENT OF ART and design's interior design program received notice of a six-year reaccreditation from the Council for Interior Design Accreditation in April. The CIDA board made their decision following an evaluation visit to campus in fall 2015.

The last accreditation of the program took place in 2009. According to Amy Cox, assistant professor of art and director of the program, the reaccreditation is important to maintain the reputation of the program and to make sure students receive the best possible opportunities.

"The CIDA accreditation is extremely important to both the program and the students individually," Cox said. "As an accredited school, we are seen by the profession as having met the same rigorous standards as other well-known universities. This is good for recruiting and also for students as they look for

jobs and internships."

Senior Colleen Christian said the CIDA accreditation strengthens the degree she will receive, and it will give employers confidence in her abilities. After witnessing the extensive effort of her teachers in pursuing the reaccreditation, Christian said the recognition is a reflection of their year-round efforts to better the program and its students.

"They remind us that they truly want the best for their students and have done all they can to enrich the interior design program," Christian said.

2016 alumna Ashley Howell agreed that the success of the reaccreditation is largely due to above and beyond efforts by faculty.

"Each and every class offered me a different perspective about design and gave me a skill I didn't have before," Howell said. "Both of the

two main professors were more than just teachers. They provided a program to further my knowledge in design, grow as a creative thinker, and emerge as a leader."

According to Cox, work has already begun to identify and address any weak areas and meet the newest program standards.

"For me personally, I have made it my goal to provide students with every opportunity to be successful when they graduate," Cox said. "They should be able to get any job they want — in any state or country they would like to work — with the education that we provide. It is all about their success and opportunities. It is worth every hour we spend maintaining our accreditation. We love our students and want to be the best possible interior design program so that they can achieve the goals they have for their career."

ILLUSTRATION BY TONY SEASE



All-American soccer sisters

By SCOTT GOODE, assistant athletic director for sports information

THEY CALL them sister-sister goals. That's when either Melita Sutherland or her younger sister, Bethany, passes the ball to the other who in turn scores a goal. For the pair, it is one of the best parts of playing soccer for the Lady Bisons.

Last season, during the team's run to the Great American Conference championship, the Sutherlands, separated in age by only 18 months, pulled off the sister-sister trick three times, twice with Bethany scoring on passes from Melita and once with Melita scoring on a feed

from Bethany. Harding won all three games. "They both have a next-level soccer sense. I don't think they are always looking to connect with each other, but it often turns out that way because they seem to always be on the same page," head coach Greg Harris says.

"We know how each other plays, so we really play well together," Melita says. Scoring goals came naturally for Bethany, a midfielder, during her freshman season. Her 23 goals in 21 games set a new Lady Bison single-season record. Nine of her goals were game winners — also a school record. Bethany led the

GAC and ranked in the top five in Division II in both statistical categories.

During her junior season at Harding, Melita, a defender, scored twice and had four assists.

The Orange, California, natives' first season together at Harding was historic. The Lady Bisons went 15-4-2 overall, recording a perfect 10-0-0 record at home. The team earned the GAC regular season and tournament championships and qualified for the NCAA Tournament for the first time since 2004.

But Lady Bison soccer, which began in 1998, had never had a player named All-American.

That changed Dec. 9, 2015, when both Melita and Bethany received All-American honors from the Division II Conference Commissioners Association. Bethany was a first-team honoree, and Melita was listed on the third team.

"I WAS REALLY SHOCKED when I heard about the All-America award," Melita says. "I depend so much on the other girls on the team. They saved me so many times. It's weird to get the recognition. I'd rather it just be for the team."

Putting it simply, Bethany says, "I was just doing my job!"

Clark and Dawn Sutherland, parents of Melita and Bethany, both attended Harding as did the couple's two older sons. But neither Melita nor Bethany were sure that Harding was where they would play collegiate soccer.

"I wanted to go to Pepperdine [University] when I was growing up," says Melita. "But it was way too expensive." Nearby Biola University was also an option. It was another family connection that sold her on Harding.

The Sutherlands' cousin Jenna Taylor played soccer for the University from 2010-13 and was working a summer camp at Harding when she invited Melita to attend.

"When I came to the camp, I knew this was where God wanted me to be," Melita says. "It was the best I had ever played."

Bethany joining her sister two years later was not a foregone conclusion.

"I had my heart set against Harding," Bethany says. "I was not going to come here."

But Harding's summer camp changed her mind, too. She also says it was the best she had ever played. After that experience, she says her thoughts became, "If Harding wants me, I'll go."

So Bethany left Southern California and joined her sister just in time to rewrite the school's soccer record book.

In 2016, the Sutherlands have one final season together, and they have one thing on their minds.

"We are very competitive," they say. "We want to win."

Call it their sister-sister goal.



Melita and Bethany Sutherland

PHOTO BY JEFF MONTGOMERY

PHOTO BY JEFF MONTGOMERY

BY THE NUMBERS

231 Number of 3-pointers made by Berryhill Award winner and Bison basketball career leader Jacob Gibson. He also holds school records for single-game 3-pointers (9) and single-season 3-pointers (92, 2015-16). He earned honorable mention All-America and second-team All-Region and was named Great American Conference Player of the Year as a senior.

4 Number of years Berryhill Award winner Kelsey Taylor earned first-team All-Great American Conference in cross-country. She was all-region as a senior and in 2012 earned GAC Freshman of the Year. She also excelled on the track, where she was All-American as part of Harding's nationally ranked indoor distance medley relay team in 2015.

313 Victories for head baseball coach Patrick McGaha, the most by a Bison baseball coach in program history. He passed Harding Athletics Hall of Famer Dick Johnson, who had 290 career victories.

4 Top-10 finishes in 10 events by sophomore golfer Mason Banger during the 2015-16 season. Banger became the second Bison golfer to qualify for the NCAA Central/Midwest Region Tournament.

3 Number of members of the five-player women's golf team to earn the Women's Golf Coaches Association All-American Scholar honor. Delaney Bowles, Kaleigh Ramey and CharlesAnn Freeman each have cumulative GPAs topping 3.50.

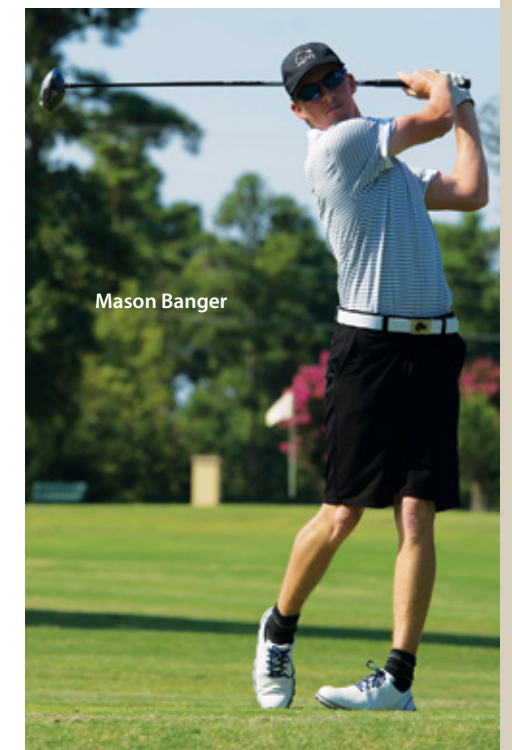
138 Number of stolen bases by the softball team, a school record and the fourth-most by any Division II team this season. Lady Bison opponents had 33 stolen bases.

41st Final national ranking for the men's tennis team. It was the first time the Bisons finished a season nationally ranked since 2002 when the team was ranked 40th.

8 Regional ranking of women's tennis' top doubles team of Piper Huey and Laura Golubic in the final Intercollegiate Tennis Association Central Region Rankings.

198', 8" Distance of school-record discus throw by junior Josh Syrotchen, who placed second at the NCAA Division II Outdoor Track and Field Championship to earn his third All-America honor.

167 Points earned by the women's track and field team in winning the inaugural Great American Conference outdoor championship.



Mason Banger

For sufferers and comforters

By PHILIP THOMPSON, professor of Bible

I've been around suffering and death more often than I would wish. As a civilian police chaplain for 13 years, I was called to the scene of 50 or more traffic fatalities and

suicides. I bore the heavy burden of making death notifications, informing families that their son or daughter, husband or wife, had died suddenly and violently. Early one Thanksgiving morning, I had to knock on Connie's door, conveying the terrible news that her police officer husband, Mike, had just been shot and killed. Not only was Mike Connie's husband, but he was also my best friend in the department.

Through 40 years of preaching ministry, I've made innumerable hospital calls and have conducted more than 100 funerals. A 6-inch thick binder on my library shelf is stuffed with outlines and manuscripts of my funeral sermons. Each sermon stimulates a memory of pain experienced, grief shared, stories told, and a life both mourned and celebrated. The binder contains funeral sermons for babies not yet born; infants who died at birth; a 12-year-old who succumbed to leukemia; young children and teenagers who died in car accidents; a college student who committed suicide; a woman who was murdered by her husband; middle-aged men and women who died of heart attacks, cancer or ALS; as well as for aged saints who lived into their late 90s. Death indeed is no respecter of

persons. What a great honor for a preacher to be asked to help grieving family members navigate their unique journey from defeat to victory, from brokenness to wholeness.

EVEN AS I'VE WALKED alongside others in their grief, I've also personally experienced the sting of death at the passing of my loved ones. Granny Miller was the last of my grandparents to die in 1986. Cancer took my mother's life in 1983 when she was only 62. My dad lived to the good old age of 91, but the last several years of his life were marked with physical suffering and mental decline. When he died in 2008, Dad was only a shadow of the youthful, strong, independent naval aviator he had been during World War II. Growing up, I enjoyed wonderful relationships with four uncles and six aunts, but they're all gone except for two. I'm blessed that I've not lost a spouse, child, grandchild or sibling. The depth of such losses I can't imagine! My wife, however, was afflicted with Parkinson's disease when she was only 42 years old. This relentless, progressive disease has enacted a heavy physical and emotional toll on her for 20 years. She once remarked her body had become her enemy

rather than her friend. Healthy people are barely aware of their flawlessly functioning bodies. Sufferers of acute and chronic diseases can't get their minds off their bodies that ache, throb, twitch, freeze up, and generally refuse to cooperate in ways we take for granted when we're healthy.

More and more, I've begun to face my own mortality. Around the time I turned 50, I perceived that the end of my life was closer than the beginning. That thought is even more sobering a decade later, especially when younger teaching colleagues remind me, "You're old enough to be my father." I tell myself that getting older shouldn't bother me, but sometimes it does. So I feel guilty reading Paul's triumphal words, "My desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better" (Philippians 1:23). Right now at least, my desire is to live as long as I'm able. The lyrics of a popular country song reflect my present feelings: "Everybody wants to go to heaven, but nobody wants to go now." Those feelings could change, I realize, if diminishing faculties or unrelenting suffering beset me. After all, more than one aged saint has confided in me at the hospital bedside, "Brother Phil, I'm ready to go. I just wish the good Lord would call me home today."

I make no claim to be a trained scholar in the study of death and dying, and fortunately, I'm not an "expert" by means of personal experience. Indeed, the enormity of losses

Christian friends of mine have endured makes me shudder. However, dealing with the reality of death in my own life and in the lives of others to whom I've ministered, has led me to this firm belief: Life is a gift, and death — for the Christian — is a conquered enemy. I seek to live fully and fruitfully as many days as God grants me, but when the time of my departure arrives, I hope to close my eyes in the confidence that I will awaken to the light of the glory of God.

I've also come to understand that every journey through "the valley of the shadow of death" is unique. No doubt our grief stories contain common themes, but they are never identical because suffering is individual and particular. There is no single, right way to grieve, but there are healthy ways. There is no single, right way to offer compassion, but there are helpful ways.

The Laments — by far the most common type in the book of Psalms — picture healthy ways to grieve. Cries to God that arise from the depths of sickness and sorrow, catastrophe and loss, they not only teach us how to suffer faithfully, but also how to be a faithful presence to others. Consider Psalm 22. Lament begins with invocation, "My God, my God," followed by the lament itself, in which the psalmist honestly describes the sufferings that have compelled him to cry out to God: "Why have you forsaken me? Why are you so far from saving me, from the words of my groaning? O my God, I cry by day, but you do not answer, and by night, but I find no rest ... I am poured out like water, and all my bones are out of joint ... a company of evildoers encircles me; they have pierced my hands and feet, I can count all my bones — they stare and gloat over me." Then the sufferer begs help from God: "But you, O Lord, do not be far off! O you my help, come quickly to my aid." Following the prayer, the psalmist expresses hope that God will hear his plea, often vowing to praise God for his answer: "I will tell of your name to my brothers; in the midst of the congregation I will praise you ... For he has not despised or abhorred the affliction of the afflicted, and he has not hidden his face from him, but has heard, when he cried to him."

While the Laments reflect a general and recognizable form, each cry to God is personal and specific. There is less concern for grieving according to specified steps than there

is for grieving honestly and openly to God in the midst of a supportive community. We're reminded that suffering is both universal and particular and that it is inadvisable to impose a rigid grief pattern on people's suffering.

The book of Job pictures healthy and unhealthy ways to show compassion. Job's identity as a beloved child of God was shattered by the accumulation of immense and unexpected losses. Initially, Job's companions sat silently beside him, patiently bearing his "mute suffering" in which groans and sighs replace words. Their supportive silence allowed Job to move from "mute suffering" to "expressive suffering." But as Job expressed his anger and self-defense before God, the friends found voices of their own, voices that hurt rather than helped. They made matters worse, as Allen Verhey (*Reading the Bible in the Strange World of Medicine*, 2003) points out:

The problem is not that they speak, but what they say. And the problem with what they say is not that they have no answers for Job, but that they think they have them all. They claim to know too much and to know it too clearly. They would be defense attorneys to God, but they end up prosecuting Job.

From the story of Job, sufferers learn that they may cry out to — and even against — God in anguish and despair. Such "expressive suffering" often paves the way for the voice of God to break through our grief and be heard. Would-be comforters learn not to pretend that faith supplies easy answers. Assuredly, the doctrine of the resurrection furnishes ultimate confidence and hope to believers. We grieve, but not "as others do who have no hope" (1 Thessalonians 4:13). We experience joy in the midst of sorrow, peace in the midst of turmoil. We shed real tears, but our grief is tempered by our faith in Jesus and our hope in the resurrection. Nevertheless, mystery that defies simple explanation accompanies individual cases of suffering and death.

FROM THE WAY JESUS DEALT with his own grief and the grief of others, we observe the following. First, Jesus talked. With plain and pointed words, he told his disciples that he was going to die. It's painful to think about death, much less to talk about it, but we must

Second, Jesus wept. At the tomb of Laza-

rus, "he was deeply moved in his spirit and greatly troubled" and "wept" (John 11:34-35). Anticipating his own suffering and death, Jesus "offered up prayers and supplications with loud cries and tears to him who was able to save him from death and he was heard because of his reverence. Though he was a son, he learned obedience through what he suffered" (Hebrews 5:7-8). We must be willing to "weep with those who weep" (Romans 12:15), which is a sign of love and care rather than a show of weakness.

Third, Jesus lamented. On the cross, the words of the ancient sufferer became his own words: "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" (Matthew 27:46). We must learn to speak, and to be comfortable with, the language of lament.

Fourth, Jesus surrendered. In Gethsemane he prayed, "Abba, Father, all things are possible for you. Remove this cup from me. Yet not what I will, but what you will" (Mark 14:36). When do we fight the disease at all cost, utilizing every possible technological means, hoping God will intervene at the last minute? When do we discontinue burdensome treatments that offer no hope of a cure, allowing the disease to run its natural course, trusting God to take us home in his time? When faced with such gut-wrenching decisions regarding my loved ones or me, I pray God will give me wisdom to discern, "not my will but yours" and will grant me the courage to say, "For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain" (Philippians 1:21).

When my time comes, I want to die like my friend and sister-in-Christ Pam. Providentially, I was at Pam's bedside when she slipped through the shadowy veil between life and death. Loving family and closest friends surrounded her. She was in and out of consciousness, and her breathing was agonizingly slow and labored, signs her end was near. We consoled one another and talked with her, but groans and sighs were all she spoke. We prayed and sang her favorite hymns. In the middle of "Amazing Grace," Pam suddenly awakened, and her eyes opened wide. Gazing upward with arms outstretched, she unmistakably said, "Lord Jesus, I see angels ... I see angels coming to take me home." I didn't see angels that day, but I believe Pam did. And I, too, hope to see them when God calls me home. 🙏

GAC GOES WORLD CLASS

By LAUREN HARGETT
Photography by JEFF MONTGOMERY

The extensively renovated Ganus Activities Complex opened Sunday, Aug. 21, just in time for the start of fall classes the next day. The upgraded facility is the keystone of the University's new initiative to provide recreation opportunities to students, embodying its core objectives of personal growth and substantive learning.

The complex includes the Jim Citty Football and Athletic Training Center, kinesiology and exercise and sports sciences classrooms, and the new Suzanne and Rodney Waller Recreation Center, which was made possible through a significant gift from the Waller family. According to Dr. Stephen Burks, chairman of the department of kinesiology, transforming an athletic building into a recreation facility brought its share of challenges – but the end result was well worth the effort.

“We’ve done a lot for the flexibility and versatility of the building in the things we added,” Burks said.

Assistant Professor of Kinesiology Tom Ritchie who serves as recreation director was heavily involved in the development of the new and improved recreation center, which includes a two-story weight room with state of the art Matrix plate-loaded weight machines and Troy-brand Olympic free weights – each piece emblazoned with the Bison logo. There is also an array of cardio equipment including elliptical, treadmill and stair machines with built-in TVs and virtual trainers. Other features include refurbished racquetball courts, a suspended



Levi Bogus and Jordan Shearin play pickup basketball on the new playing floor in the Ganus Activities Complex.



Wright Herndon and Savannah Howard enjoy a game of pool in one of the new rooms provided in the Waller Recreation Center.



With longer hours and state-of-the-art equipment, the Suzanne and Rodney Waller Recreation Center is a welcome addition to campus this fall.



Partitioning curtains provide separate spaces for intramural volleyball and pickup basketball games to go on at the same time in the Ganus Activities Complex.

GAC GOES WORLD CLASS



Tiffany Bishop does shoulder raises as Cory Dreger performs presses using customized Troy dumbbells.



Ben Jiles, Tony Todd and Allison Harmsworth get their mileage indoors on the new Matrix treadmills.

track, new restrooms and locker rooms, an indoor cycling room, a billiards room, pingpong tables, new floors and basketball goals, as well as new partitioning curtains to separate multiple basketball and volleyball courts. Classes have been added to provide more group exercise options for the campus community including indoor cycling, Zumba and yoga.

Braden Henderson, a 2014 graduate with a bachelor's degree in sports and recreation management, was hired in the newly created role of recreation center manager for the facility. "I love watching people's reactions the first time they come in and see it," Henderson said. "It's just such an upgrade, and our students really deserve something like this so they don't have to go to another place to work out."

Senior Brooke Kehl, a leadership and ministry major, recently began the HU Walking Club for female students.

"The GAC renovations have created a more inviting fitness center for everyone at Harding to engage in an active lifestyle," she said. "The natural light and amazing views from the big windows make the GAC a warm and welcoming place to gather with friends and get moving."

That's just the reaction Burks was hoping for. 🏋️



Military presses are part of Collin Phillip's lifting workout as he utilizes free weights in the Ganus Activities Complex.

WORKING *behind the* SCENES

By SHELBY DIAS and JENNIFER HANNIGAN

Photography by JEFF MONTGOMERY



Across campus, there are numerous jobs to be done, and many of those who do them go unseen. The only evidence they were ever there is the product of their work. Whether it is preparing meals for students, maintaining the grounds or arranging student housing, these jobs are a vital part of keeping the University running. *Harding* magazine sought out five behind-the-scenes staff members to better know them and recognize the jobs they do and the difference they make.



The holiday handyman

If you ask **BOB BARNETT**, working in physical resources means wearing a lot of different hats. Depending on the day or season, Barnett takes on jobs as plumber, decorator, electrician, artist or animal control — just to name a few.

Barnett, a right-away maintenance technician, describes his year-round responsibilities as a first responder to odd calls regarding campus problems. When phone calls come in about raccoons in the American Studies Building or water dripping from ceiling tiles in the Pryor-England Science Building, Barnett is often the first one to assess the situation.

“I get all the weird stuff,” Barnett says. “Someone needs to see what they are talking about and determine what the problem actually is. I can do a little bit of everything. If I can do something about it right away, I do. If not, I know whether to call a plumber, carpenter, electrician or whomever.”

Because of his background as a graphic artist and designer, Barnett is occasionally called upon for special projects such as glass etchings in the Swaid Center for Health Sciences or displaying banners and signage in the Rhodes-Reaves Field House. However, Barnett says the best part of his job comes every fall when he executes a majority of the annual Christmas display in the Heritage lobby and on the front lawn.

“It’s one of the things here that I’m the proudest of,” Barnett says. “We try to make it bigger and better every year, both inside the Heritage and out on the lawn.”

Part of the reason Barnett says he loves the Christmas lights display is because it is what brought him to work at Harding in the first place.

“I came here quite by accident to do Christmas lights for

six to eight weeks,” Barnett says. “It didn’t take long being around here to see there was something very, very different about this place and what goes on here. It didn’t take much longer to decide that I wanted to be a part of it. That was eight Christmases ago. I wouldn’t leave for anything now. If they tried to run me off, I’d keep coming back because this has become my home and my mission.”

Starting after Homecoming, Barnett and other members of physical resources begin hanging more than 2,000 strings of lights in campus trees. As the semester closes in on Thanksgiving break, the pace quickens to finish decorating lamp posts and the Heritage lobby. Barnett says it is necessary to call in faculty, staff, and even local garden club volunteers to get the job done.

“They pull out greenery to put on the sidewalk lamp posts,” Barnett says. “They’ll put new bows on and fluff them and get them ready to hang. As fast as they get the stuff ready, we’re getting it out the other door to hang it. It’s a great time but a lot of work.”

The light display was in its third year when Barnett began working at Harding. He says that his contributions every year — such as perfecting the method of lighting a large tree and its surrounding bushes in the center of the lawn — are all in efforts to improve the final product. He says it’s something he enjoys being known for.

“I’m known all over town as the guy that does the Christmas lights,” Barnett says. “People come from all over to see it. We have people who don’t come to Spring Sing and don’t come to Homecoming, but they come to Christmas at Harding. It’s gratifying to us that it is so widely enjoyed.”

A well-seasoned chef

A native of Belgrade, Serbia, executive chef **SEBASTIAN JAKUPOVIC** brings an innovative style that showcases the international nature of Harding in the cuisine he creates. Initially interested in architecture, Jakupovic now builds flavors and menus for campus dining and catering.

"I like to fuse the cuisines," Jakupovic says. "I like to invent things. Culinary is all about invention. Doing something for catering, reinventing the menu for the cafeteria, this is something that I enjoy doing. When you have open hands, then your creativity gets a chance."

Although he was a neurosurgeon, Jakupovic's father was the one who inspired him to start cooking.

"He said every man needs to know how to cook," he says. "I was a bit of a comedian, so I thought I'd just go for it and surprised [my parents] with dinner when they got home."

Jakupovic moved from Belgrade to Germany and, after five years there, decided to move to the United States. The long process required some waiting and a little luck.

"[My wife and I] tried to find the best way to come to the United States. There were only a few ways to get here: one was if I were a preacher, which I'm not; another was if I were an actor, which I'm not; third was if I had about \$10-15 million, which I don't; and the fourth was to play the visa lottery."

After submitting the paperwork, Jakupovic forgot all about it. More than a year and a half went by before the couple got a response. When they got the call that they were approved, Jakupovic didn't believe it.

"I decided I'd call the United States consulate in Frankfurt, Germany, and see if it was true. And it was. It took another year or so to get all of the paperwork done."

Jakupovic had met an American staying at the hotel in Germany where he worked. Since he was one of the few who knew English, he gave the man advice on where to visit around town. A businessman from Arkansas, the man suggested Jakupovic move his family there, and that's what he and his wife did, moving from Germany directly to Searcy.

He started as a cook at Harding in 2000. In 2001, he was promoted to production manager for Aramark at University of Central Arkansas and then promoted to food service director at Falcon Jet in Little Rock. He returned to Harding in 2013 as executive chef.

One of the largest hurdles Jakupovic faces is creating a menu that pleases students while also keeping the food offerings diverse enough so that they don't tire of them. He emphasizes to students that the best way to influence change in the cafeteria is to voice their opinions.

"Each year, we have several meetings with the Student Association committee, and I always encourage them if they see me or any of our managers to pull us aside and tell us what they like and don't like. Our students are fortunate

because they have the opportunity to try anything offered in the cafeteria. So I would tell them not to disregard something just because they don't know what it is. Get a little sample of it and try. You may be surprised."

On the other side of his job, Jakupovic is also responsible for catering events. Whether weddings, special University events, or even the 2013 inauguration, he creates and executes the menu.

"What I like so much about catering is that my hands are much more open than with anything else."

For President Bruce McLarty's inauguration, the menu focused on the worldwide reach of the University and the numerous countries that make up Harding.

"We did foods from around the world," Jakupovic says. "We always have students from all over, so the menu that was designed for Dr. McLarty's inauguration was pretty much from every corner of the world. We wanted to show that Harding is an international college. That was the goal, and I think we succeeded with the menu."

With each meal, there is a new problem to face, but for Jakupovic, that is just a part of the job.

"I'm not an inside-the-box guy, so when I get to experiment and be creative, that's part of the fun. It can be tough at times, but I like challenges."



Technology on campus is always changing. No one knows this better than **LORA FLEENER**, manager of student support and communication, who has spent the last 35 years as a University employee. Fleener has worked in several offices on campus but is still known by some as the "telephone lady," a title referring to her work with Harding telephone services beginning in 1989.

When Fleener was a student at Harding, students shared a phone in the hall or had to contact the local phone company to get a phone line installed in their room. By the late 80s, most students had individual phone lines in the dorm.

"Schools all over the U.S. were getting their own phone systems," Fleener says. "So we upgraded our phone switch to accommodate the changing expectations."

With a larger switchboard, campus employees no longer had to share extensions, and all dorm rooms could be wired for student use. To pay for the upgraded switchboard, Harding telephone services offered students long-distance calling at a much-reduced rate compared to outside companies.

"It was a great deal for them, and it was a great deal for us because it helped pay for the enhanced phone system supporting the University," Fleener says. "As cell phones became more popular, the use of dorm phones started to fade away. By then the switch had been paid for a long time, and technologies were changing. We eventually pulled the phones from the dorm, and no one even noticed they were gone."

Although the dorm room phone is no longer a necessity, and Fleener hasn't worked in phone services since 1998, she is still the voicemail administrator and pays all the phone bills for the University.

Besides those duties, Fleener works with a different sort of technology these days; she oversees the DormNet student help desk. She manages 15 student workers who assist their peers with things like maintenance and troubleshooting on personal computers, tablets or phones. At the beginning of each school year, Fleener and her team help incoming freshmen connect to Harding's network or set up printers in dorm rooms. The rest of the year they man the help desk in the Administration Building.

According to Fleener, her student workers are what she loves most about her job. She relies on a detailed hiring process to select the best candidates, and she doesn't lean on technological skills as the most important job requirement.

"I look more for customer service qualities, and I can train them in other things if they have an aptitude for learning," Fleener says. "You have to have a special kind of student to work with customers and with other students."

Good customer service skills come in handy when trying to help students with malfunctioning computers who are facing assignment deadlines. Fleener described computer troubles as an immediate need for anyone, and she said

From dial tones to DormNet

DormNet provides an essential service for students by meeting that need. Helping students in this way is another reason Fleener loves her job.

"This was not my career goal, but I've worked here for 35 years," Fleener says. "I graduated and started working at Harding, and now I'm still here. I've often said that God moves in mysterious ways, and I'm very thankful for that because I feel like this is where I've needed to be. I feel like I can serve in my small way while doing a job I love and hopefully helping kids along the way."

The Benson's bright spot



When the spotlight hits performers on the Benson stage, all eyes focus on them, and that undivided attention is thanks to **STEVE MARTIN**, director of Benson Auditorium technical services. His work lighting the Benson has illuminated nearly all of the auditorium's events for more than 25 years.

Martin first got involved with show productions as a student, working the sound for many events and becoming the first student to create the sound for Spring Sing. He was hired after he graduated.

"When I first started out, I was in charge of chapel and any shows that came through," Martin says. "Now, the bulk of my job is lighting and staging nontheatrical events, like ASI speakers and graduation. I do lighting design for Spring Sing, the Homecoming musical and some concerts."

During the planning process, Martin helps translate what groups want their event to look like into what is feasible.

"I have a program where I can draw things in 3D, and you can view the stage design from different angles," Martin says. "That gives them the chance to see what it will look like. Everything in the program is to scale, so I know exactly how all of the elements will play out on stage. It's much better than before when I had to draw it all out on paper and hope it worked as planned."

One of the biggest logistical challenges was the inauguration in 2013.

"When Dr. [Bruce] McLarty was inaugurated, I made lots of drawings. It was a pretty big deal. I planned where the chorus would be, and it was huge. Physical resources did a good job of getting that set up because it was not expected to work."

Even though the job involves lighting, most of Martin's work happens after dark. To do what he needs to, he must have a cleared stage, and the Benson can be a crowded place.

"People don't get that because they think not much happens in [the Benson], but there are two chapels, so from the time we get here at 8 a.m. to 11 a.m. basically, we can't do anything in there. Then there's custodial, set building and rehearsals, which will go until 10 or 11 p.m. A lot of what I do goes on in the middle of the stage, so you can't do anything else. At times I come in at 3 a.m. to start my day so I can work on the lights when no one is here."

Martin devotes much of his time to lighting the University's two biggest productions: the Homecoming musical and Spring Sing. Collaborating with set designers and directors, he again creates 3D renderings of how the stage will look in order to see where the lights need to be and when. While the musical and Spring Sing may seem similar, they each require a different execution.

"With the musical, you're trying to tell a story straight through. You want the audience to feel the emotion or laugh at the joke or look over here or look over there simply by changing the lighting. Spring Sing is more like a concert; it's more like an awards show."

Through lighting and planning, Martin is able to bridge the artistic side of production to the technical side.

"The artistic people give me ideas and say, let's make that work. I couldn't create what they do, but I can do the technical parts. I've got to make sure that the light fixture is plugged into the right dimmer which is plugged into the correct channel. There are a lot of numbers that lead up to that, and a lot rides on that going well. Otherwise, you could burn the building down."

When each performance is completed, Martin takes pride in knowing he's played a part in entertaining the audience.

"I'm happy to have been able to aid in their enjoyment and to have been part of something for others."

A defining piece of the Harding experience comes from life in the dorm, and for many, those memories have their start with **KATHY ALLEN** and her work as director of housing. Whether students have a roommate already selected or opt to have housing choose one for them, the office plays a large role in placing each student in their University home. It's a job in which Allen takes pride.

"It is, in my opinion, the best job on campus," she says. "There are not many offices that I think would be as fun as this one. We get so much student contact, and you get to know them a little better and build a trust with them."

Having worked with men's housing for nearly 10 years before becoming director, Allen continually found herself in the role of mom for students leaving home for the first time. Students could be found eating dinner around her kitchen table or watching Kentucky basketball in her living room.

"God tends to put people in my path who need a mom or

need help," Allen says. "I think that's true of the whole Harding community. It gives students a nicer experience rather than a cold, institutional feel. It's a God thing."

While many universities have moved to an automated housing assignment system where students go online to select their dorm room, the University housing office still uses a hands-on approach because the housing component is a vital part of the student's experience.

Home sweet Harding

"It gives students a person to connect with," Allen says. "They have a name and a face that, when they have a problem, they know they can go talk to that person. I get emails and phone calls all the time from students with questions or problems. It's a constant stream of communication. They feel like their needs are being met, and we know when they're not. [Assistant Director of Residence Life Loretta Gregersen] and I have the tendency to do a little more because we want that student to start out as a freshman and be happy and stay all four years."

That hands-on touch is evident in the midst of the selection process for students who choose to go potluck and let the housing office choose their roommate. During the summer, it's not unusual for the office floor to be covered with stacks of forms grouping similar personalities together.

"We ask for certain personality components on their housing forms for a reason," Allen says. "We know that they're outgoing or if they're reserved. This is how that student tells us who they are. Until this year, the most common responses were outgoing, studious and athletic. This year we're seeing a lot more artistic and musical students. The population does morph from year to year."

Allen's job also requires a great deal of problem solving because sometimes the pairings do not always work out. When that happens, she is quick to find a solution.

"We let them know we can help them if they have a problem. I had a girl call me the other day and say that she saw where her potential roommate's political views are completely opposite of hers, so I did my best to place them somewhere else. You don't want to create a hostile environment to start with. And I think our track record has been pretty good."

Over the years, Allen has built relationships with students and found herself blessed by them in the work she gets to do.

"Whoever sits here, I think they really need to have a heart for it. I love what I do. I think I'm a good listener. I want them to feel comfortable with me. I put myself out there. You have a lot of interesting experiences when you do that." 📞





Connections



1939

Paul Edward Miller celebrated his 100th birthday July 4. (709 Poff St., Mountain View, AR 72560)

1944

Eddie and Reba Faye Nadeau ('47) **Shewmaker** celebrated their 70th wedding anniversary in July. (7303 Walden Road, Paragould, AR 72450)

1950

Clarence and Valle Horton ('52) **Richmond** celebrated their 65th wedding anniversary June 22.



After leaving Harding, Clarence went to the Northeast as a counselor for Camp Hunt, a children's outreach to underprivileged youth in New York City, and became involved with

Manhattan Church of Christ as one of their trustees. Clarence worked for 40 years in the aerospace industry in New Jersey, Oklahoma, California, New York and Florida. He was with American Airlines for 32 years with duties in avionics engineering, new aircraft model management, specification assurance during design and testing, establishing a centralized flight training center and simulator support for pilots, and managing a sub-contract for NASA. After retirement, he took a position with Bendix Avionics Division. He was a private pilot with a commercial license and a deacon and elder at Brookside Church of Christ in Tulsa, Oklahoma. He has been active in annual restoration forums among believers with the Stone-Campbell heritage. Valle is a homemaker and frequently volunteered for many charitable and educational projects in the community. They are members of Downtown Church of Christ in Searcy and have four children, six grandchildren and nine great-grandchildren. (131 Longleaf Drive, Searcy, AR 72143)

1966

Benny Gooden retired in June after serving as superintendent of Fort Smith (Arkansas) School District since 1986 and had a total of 50 years in education. He was the 2012-13 president of the American Association of School Administrators. Gooden and his wife, **Martha Pitner** ('67), have three children and seven grandchildren. (1304 N. 50th St., Fort Smith, AR 72904)

1969

David Gibson is an elder at the church of Christ in Commerce, Texas, after having served as pulpit

minister for 30 years before retiring in 2010. His book, *Rightside-Up Living in an Upside-Down World* was recently released by 21st Century Christian. He is also author of *First-Century Truth for a Twenty-First Century World*. He and his wife, **Sara Keese**, have four children and eight grandchildren. (1910 Jefferson St., Commerce, TX 75428)

Dick and Diane Shenfeld celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary Aug. 20 with a trip to Yellowstone. Dick earned eight varsity letters while running cross-country and track at Harding. Following graduation, he taught health and U.S. history for six years in middle school and then for 35 years at Homestead High School in Fort Wayne, Indiana. He was the head track and cross-country coach and had seven individual state champions, two national champions, and one national record holder in track. He was inducted into the Indiana Track and Cross-Country Hall of Fame in 2008 and since retiring in 2010 has been a track official. Diane worked in Harding's business office for three years and then for Southwest Allen County Schools for 23 years in elementary education. She also retired in 2010. They have one daughter, Jala. (14721 Lightning Ridge Run, Fort Wayne, IN 46814)

1976

Don Whittemore retired at the end of 2015-16 school year with 36 years of service to public education. He taught physical education at Warren Middle School and prior to that taught social studies. He was the head coach of the Warren Junior Jack football team and also coached a number of other sports. His wife, Cecilia, is math coach for Warren Public Schools. They have five sons. (755 Highway 8 N., Warren, AR 71671)

1977

John Cooley accepted the position as head coach of the St. Benedict at Auburndale football team. He also joined the teaching staff in the social studies and physical education departments. Since 2015, he has worked in the Marion, Arkansas, School District. He also has worked in the DeSoto County, Mississippi, and the Memphis City, Tennessee, school systems. During his tenure at Memphis Ridgeway High School (1981-2007), he won six district/region championships and advanced to the state playoffs 18 out of 22 years. His team won the state championship in 2002, and he was named Coach of the Year in 2002 and Region Coach of the Year nine times. (3479 Thistle Cove, Memphis, TN 38135)

Bill Searcy became a fellow in the American Association of Pastoral Counselors on June 25. He serves as an elder with Westside Church of Christ in Rocky

Mount, North Carolina, and has counseling offices in Rocky Mount and Raleigh, North Carolina. (212 Old Colony Way, Rocky Mount, NC 27804)

1981

Duane Stuart is minister for Warsaw (Indiana) Church of Christ after serving the Annapolis church in Arnold, Missouri. He is married to **Sharon Holderby** ('73). (1912 East Main St., Warsaw, IN 46580; stuart_home@comcast.net)

Dave Verret, former associate minister at Boulevard Church of Christ in Lake Charles, Louisiana, and former minister at Pearl Harbor Church of Christ in Honolulu, retired from the U.S. Air Force in 1996 and also retired from Oahu Transit Services in 2015. His wife is Tuyet. (32089 N. Larkspur Drive, San Tan Valley, AZ 85143)

1983

Meg Finch-Jones is a consultant (attending) surgeon specializing in liver and pancreas surgery and clinical director of general surgery at University Hospitals Bristol, United Kingdom. She and her husband, Anthony, have two daughters, Bernice and Natalie.

1984

Mariann Cox Snyder has been promoted to global communications lead for compliance at Astra-Zeneca. She has been with the company since 1988. She and her husband, Tim, serve in the food pantry ministry at Cedars Church of Christ in Wilmington, Delaware.

1988

Lynette Shields married Armando Gonzalez on June 24 at the York College Prayer Chapel. Lynette is a K-12 art teacher in the Meade Public School System, and Armando is the minister at Meade Church of Christ. (P.O. Box 1318, Meade, KS 67864; jesusnarmando@hotmail.com)

1993

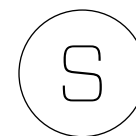
David Jacobs has been named governor of the American Advertising Federation in District 7. David is chief public relations officer and lead digital strategist at The Tombras Group. His wife, **Mikki Hagood**, is a nurse practitioner. They have two children, Abigail and Nicholas. (2049 Eliza Glynne Lane, Knoxville, TN 37931)

1994

Poppy O'Guin Steele started Sign Club Co., a

Dreamer

PROFILE | ROXANNE BECK



SINCE GRADUATING FROM THE UNIVERSITY, Ann Ulrey ('76) has become a professional singer who has released two albums, a voice actress, a screenwriter, and most recently, a published children's book author all under her professional name, Roxanne Beck. She was born in Searcy and stayed until she was 21 years old.

"When I was a freshman, I did move across the street from my parents' house and into the dorm," she said. "I had such a strong network of friends at Harding when I graduated that it was a little traumatic moving away. There was definitely a little separation anxiety."



Beck studied English at the University, and she embraced her creativity in music and performing arts in addition to writing. She now feels that having a mother who was an English teacher and other strong English teachers at Harding helped point her in the right direction, but she wasn't yet confident in her storytelling abilities.

"I've been a singer since I was a little kid, but I majored in English because I loved reading and literature," she said. "At the time, I didn't see myself as a writer. I was kind of intimidated by it really. I had read so much by authors whom I admired from C.S. Lewis to Faulkner, and I didn't think I had that kind of talent."

Following her graduation, Beck moved to Nashville, Tennessee, to become a professional singer, a longtime dream of hers. She recorded several demos and performed live for many years. Ready for a change, Beck moved to New York in 1987 where she studied acting and singing and did animated voice over work for shows like Pokémon and other Japanese anime. She lived there until 2003 when she moved to Los Angeles.


"Originally, my plan was to do more animation voice overs and really focus on getting into some of the bigger films and TV shows to expand my work as a voice actor," she said. "I got some nice jobs and some really nice callbacks, but I wasn't really landing the jobs that I wanted. So I got this idea for a screenplay."

Beck started writing a screenplay just for fun when she was living in New York. Though she had never studied screenplay writing before, she thought it was something she could successfully produce based on the story she had created so far.

"I thought if I'm not booking the roles I want, maybe I'll just try and write a role for myself," she said. "I came up with this idea about a world of caterpillars that can't change into butterflies because they've been brainwashed into thinking that they're worms."

She submitted a portion of the script, called "Caterpillarland," to a film company run by an Oscar-winning producer who was looking for scripts with positive messages. A few months later, the company contacted Beck asking to see the full screenplay and ended up optioning it. Though funding couldn't be secured in time, Beck wasn't sure she wanted to give up on seeing her script thrive.

Her work on "Caterpillarland" gave her the appropriate experience for UCLA's graduate screenwriting program, and she spent three years there learning about and writing screenplays. After graduating in 2013, Beck looked at "Caterpillarland" again and decided to turn it into a children's book, which was published in 2015.

"I didn't see myself as a storyteller until I was living in New York," she said. "I started to feel like I had more to say. I really do think that dreams are given to us for a reason. The more you do something, the better you get at it. Believe in yourself, and don't let anybody tell you that you can't do something or that it's too late to do it. It's important to allow yourself to have dreams and aspirations and be true to them."  — Hannah Owens

nonprofit to help deaf children who have been abused. Her book, *Death in a City of Music*, brings awareness to the abuse of deaf children. She and her husband, **Chris**, have two children, Portia and Ruth. (1108 Belvedere Drive, Gallatin, TN 37066)

1998

Ryan Scott is an instructor with the Department of Military Instruction at the U.S. Military Academy at West Point teaching second-year cadets. He is an active duty Army officer with the rank of captain. His wife, **Brook Prater** ('97), is a homemaker. (3158 C Heath Loop, West Point, NY 10996)

2000

Ryan ('98) and **Marlea Plante Hedden** announce the birth of a son, Edward Bond, May 5. Ryan works as a route manager for Ecolab Inc., and Marlea home-schools their two older children, Kate and Everett. (1056 Willowood Avenue, Goose Creek, SC 29445)

2001

David Arencibia has been named principal of Colleyville (Texas) Middle School. He received his doctorate in education from Walden University in 2013. He and his wife, **Lacey Wheeler**, have two daughters, Gracey and Ally. (109 W. Oak Valley Drive, Colleyville, TX 76034; dr.arencibia@gmail.com)

Michael ('04) and **Sarah Pace Chaffin** announce the birth of a son, Maddux Glen, July 5. They also have a daughter, Avery. Michael is promotions director at 103.7 The Buzz, and Sarah is digital executive producer for KATV Channel 7 News in Little Rock, Arkansas. (123 Breckenridge Lane, Maumelle, AR 72113)

2002

J. Nathan Holmes II received his Master of Theological Studies from Regent University in Virginia Beach, Virginia, in May. (612 Cherry Hill Drive, North Little Rock, AR 72116)

2003

Christopher and **Dawn Moses Addington** announce the birth of a son, Luke David, Aug. 2, 2015. (23218 Cardigan Chase, San Antonio, TX 78260)

Joseph and Elizabeth Smith **Bresnahan** announce the birth of a daughter, Grace Olivia, June 30. They also have a son, Robert Clower. Joseph is director of operations at Image One, and Elizabeth is an account specialist at Youth Home Inc. (14511 Ridgewood Drive, Little Rock, AR 72211)



Making a DIFFERENCE

Alumni Awards 2016

By JENNIFER HANNIGAN

EACH year with the convergence of families, friends and students, Homecoming serves as a reminder of how many alumni have been shaped and changed by their time at the University. What Homecoming doesn't reflect, however, is the number of lives our alumni have influenced for good. The exact number may not be known, but the impact is clear. The University chooses standouts from more than 50,000 deserving alumni to honor for their achievements each year. The following have been selected based on their work and example, earning the respect of those around them while serving God, family and community and will be recognized during the Black and Gold Banquet Homecoming weekend.



DISTINGUISHED ALUMNUS
Dr. Milton R. Sewell ('64)

DEDICATED TO CHRISTIAN EDUCATION, Freed-Hardeman Chancellor Milton R. Sewell ('64) has been a leader within Christian institutions for many years. He was a public school teacher for nearly 10 years before becoming vice president for institutional advancement and planning for then Freed-Hardeman College. He then became president of Mars Hill Bible School in Florence, Alabama, before taking on the office of president at Freed-Hardeman University. As president of Freed-Hardeman from 1990-2008, Sewell increased overall enrollment, grew the budget and endowment, and oversaw the construction of nine campus buildings.

"In Christian education, one is challenged not only to prepare students in wisdom, stature, and knowing how to interact and be successful with people but also in developing a love and trust in God," Sewell says. "To help young people to acquire the knowledge, skills and attitudes of a Christian is a most noble cause."

Sewell has been named Citizen of the Year by Henderson-Chester County, Tennessee; Alumnus of the Year by Mars Hill Bible School, University of North Alabama and Freed-Hardeman College; and Christian Educator of the Year by Freed-Hardeman. He is a member of the Christian Chronicle board of directors, Tennessee Independent College and Universities Association, and Tennessee Foundation of Independent Colleges among others.

"Dr. Milton Sewell is a man dedicated to Christian service and has been a leader in secondary and post-secondary Christian education for decades," says Senior Vice President Jim Carr. "I know him to be a tireless worker, whose love for students comes through in his day to day dealings with them. He is certainly among the most admired Christian educators of his generation."

Married to Laurel Shannon, the couple has three children — Scott, Shannon and Holly — and six grandchildren.

OUTSTANDING YOUNG ALUMNI

Matt ('01) and Rachael Harless Milligan ('02)

MATT ('01) AND RACHAEL HARLESS MILLIGAN ('02) STARTED out as house parents for Tennessee Children's Home. While their career paths have diverged since that first job, the couple still seeks to care for and mentor others. An attorney for McLendon and Milligan in Williamson County, Tennessee, Matt helps individuals work through difficult times in their lives.

"I have the privilege to interact with people during a moment of crisis in their lives and lead them, hopefully, to a better place in all facets, including their walk with God," Matt says. "Additionally, I truly enjoy working with young people who have made a terrible mistake and helping them understand how they made that mistake and how to preserve their future during their youth."

Matt also is an elected county commissioner for Williamson County and ambassador for Williamson County Public Schools.

Rachael is managing director for Ayers Institute for Teacher Learning and Innovation and instructor in the College of Education, both at Lipscomb University. Previously a teacher and assistant principal, she chose to be a teacher to make an impact in the lives of her students.

"In my current role, I get to work with teachers and leaders all over the state," Rachael says. "I get to walk alongside educators who are at many different places in their respective journeys but all are there to love students. It is exciting and humbling to think that the work I get to do in my current role could have an impact in hundreds of classrooms across the state."

"Matt and Rachael have loved and served Harding for as long as I have known them," says Dr. Jim Miller, chair of the department of communication. "They continue to support and promote the University as successful professionals in Nashville. I am proud to call them my friends. They are very deserving of this honor."

The Milligans have three children: Louisa, Harding and Neely.

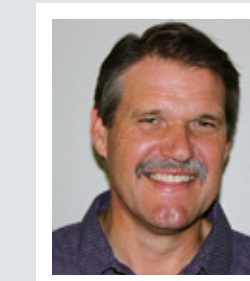
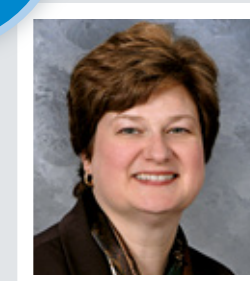
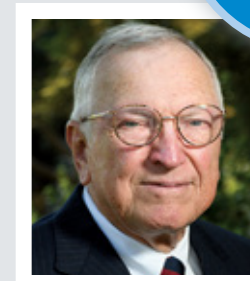
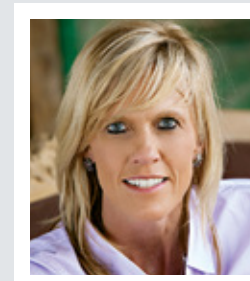
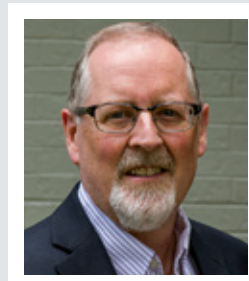
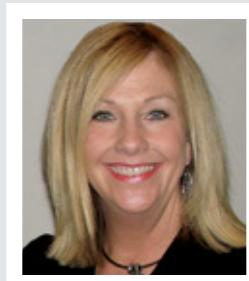
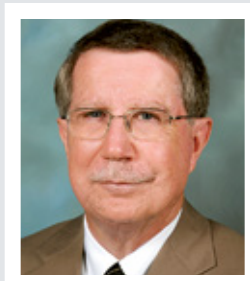


SUBMITTED PHOTOS



OUTSTANDING ALUMNI

- David H. Savage ('73)
- Dian Pritchett Eddleman ('81)
- Stanley E. Granberg ('78)
- Nancee Roberson-Caldwell ('93)
- Aubrey Edward Higginbotham Jr. ('60)
- Sheila Cox Sullivan ('82)
- Nathan Ingram ('84)



College of Allied Health

In 2015 after 35 years of service, **DAVID H. SAVAGE** ('73) retired from his position as assistant division director of Children's Rehabilitation Service (CRS) within the Alabama Department of Rehabilitation Services. He was the first agency staff speech-language pathologist in the CRS statewide outpatient medical clinics program. As assistant division director, Savage was responsible for state speech pathology and audiology and cleft palate clinic programs as well as training and preparing nearly 400 staff members.

"In my career as a speech-language pathologist, I have had the privilege to reach out to children and youth with special health care needs and their families to make their lives better," Savage says. "I have been able to provide professional, quality services that let children and families know that someone cares about them and truly wants to help, despite the circumstances of their birth, accident or disease."

As the result of his hard work, Savage has been awarded the certificate of clinical competence in speech-language pathology from the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association and the distinguished service award for service as a member of the Alabama Board of Examiners for Speech Pathology and Audiology among others.

"Because of his years of service and dedication to Children's Rehabilitation Services of Alabama, David is an excellent representative of our college," says Dean of the College of Allied Health Beckie Weaver. "He has been a true professional in his dealings with the public. He always allows his faith to shine in his practice."

Savage and his wife, Lucinda Hecker ('74), have three sons — David, James and Jesse — and eight grandchildren.

College of Arts & Humanities

Discovering her love for music through the University's A Cappella Chorus, **DIAN PRITCHETT EDDLEMAN** ('81) chose to share her passion through music education. As director of choral activities for University School of Jackson (Tennessee), Eddleman encourages her students to tap into their creative side.

"What we're doing in music education is tapping into a subject that touches the soul as well as the mind," Eddleman says. "We are helping children open gifts that were given to them at birth and making these gifts more delightful."

Having previously taught music education for Jackson Christian School and the Jackson-Madison County School System, Eddleman has also garnered honors such as the Tennessee Governor's School for the Arts Outstanding Teacher and being named to Who's Who Among America's Teachers, National Honor Roll's Outstanding American Teachers, and Who's Who Among Professional Women.

"Dian was a delightful student with a lot of talent, a lot of personality, and a little bit of sass," says Dr. Cliff Ganus III, chair of the department of music. "She has served the choral and music education communities of Tennessee well throughout her career."

Eddleman and her husband, Phillip, have two children, Jeremiah and Jessica.

College of Bible & Ministry

For **STANLEY E. GRANBERG** ('78), his work as executive director of Kairos Church Planting in Portland, Oregon, grew out of a "desire to see God's lost people have the opportunity to respond to Jesus as Lord."

"I saw the great need for a new generation of 21st century churches to be birthed and the

opportunity to help ministers who are capable of the apostolic work of planting new churches," Granberg says.

Kairos Church Planting began in 2005 as a way to recruit, equip and support church planters by "starting new churches in new places for new people," with 12 churches currently planted. Prior to starting Kairos, Granberg was a youth minister, missionary and professor. He was given the Missiology Award from Fuller Theological Seminary and named Teacher of the Year for Cascade College in Portland.

"I have had many outstanding students across the years, and Stan is one of them," says Dr. Paul Pollard, former professor of Bible and Greek. "He has always had a kind and gentle spirit and his success in mobilizing others for ministry speaks for itself."

Granberg and his wife, Gena Catterton ('79), have four children, Erik ('02), Katie Reese ('04), Joshua ('08) and Laura King ('10).

College of Business Administration

With more than 20 years of experience, **NANCEE ROBERSON-CALDWELL** ('93) serves as chief operating officer, chief sales officer and senior vice president of American Fidelity worksite and brokerage divisions. Her achievements have led her to be recognized as American Fidelity Manager of the Year four times.

"I get to mentor hundreds of people and help them achieve their goals," Roberson-Caldwell says. "Every day I get to find solutions for employers to educate employees on their benefits and find solutions for employers to make their benefits easier to administer and understand. I get to develop new products as well as develop future strategy for a \$9 billion company that does business in 49 states."

In addition to her work with American Fidelity, Roberson-Caldwell is a member of the Oklahoma Christian business department board and is president of AIM Foundation.

"I was fortunate to have Nancee in a few business courses during her undergraduate studies," says Dr. George Oliver, former professor of business. "As one of the starters on the Lady Bisons basketball team, she demonstrated exceptional leadership skills. Nancee constantly represents Harding wherever she travels."

She and her husband, Chris, live in Edmond, Oklahoma, and have four children, Caleb, Peyton, Caden and Cali.

College of Education

Tracing back his tenure at Harding nearly 60 years when he began as manager for Camp Tahkodah, Dr. **AUBREY EDWARD (ED) HIGGINBOTHAM JR.** ('60) spent most of his time as associate professor of education out of his desire to help and influence young people. Now serving as University liaison to Christian schools, Higginbotham is able to influence another generation by providing them with high caliber educators.

"I have the opportunity to help Christian schools fill some of their teacher vacancies with outstanding Harding graduates," Higginbotham says. "I love Harding. I wanted to give back some of what I received. That is what makes my career so rewarding. I get to work and live in a place that I love."

Higginbotham was awarded the University Distinguished Service Award and twice received the Distinguished Teacher Award. He also was recognized as Christian Educator of the Year by the National Christian School Association.

"I've known Ed ever since he was a student here at Harding, which was a long time ago," says

Chancellor Emeritus Clifton L. Ganus Jr. "He's very deserving of this award and any award pertaining to Harding because of his Christian character, his dedication to the Lord's work, and his helpfulness in everything that is needed. He's a very outstanding man."

He and his wife, Loleta Meredith ('63), have two children, John ('86) and Amy Adair ('87).

College of Nursing

As associate director for Associate Health Professions Education and Evaluation-VISN 16 Geriatric Research Education and Clinical Center in the Department of Veterans Affairs in Little Rock, Arkansas, **SHEILA COX SULLIVAN** ('82) researches and develops health care team education programs to promote better understanding of the unique needs of aging veterans.

"I became a researcher because there is so much we can do more effectively in health care, but we still don't fully understand the magnificence of God's creation of the human body," Sullivan says.

Her work has garnered her several awards, including Federal Employee of the Year for Arkansas; the Secretary's Award for Excellence; and Special Contribution Award from the Office of Nursing Services, Department of Veterans Affairs in Washington, D.C.

"Not only does Sheila offer Christian service at the Downtown Church of Christ in Searcy and on various medical mission trips, but she is also a mentor for Harding nurses," says Dean of the Carr College of Nursing Susan Kehl. "She is active in clinical research so the students benefit from her expertise."

She and her husband, William ('82), have three children, Curtis ('07), Bryan and Caitlin ('13).

College of Sciences

Since 1993, **NATHAN INGRAM** ('84) has worked in the behavioral health field as counselor, administrator and owner of several companies, providing counselor training education, outpatient treatment of mental health and substance abuse, residential treatment of eating disorders, and inpatient treatment for mental health issues. Currently, Ingram owns and operates Lone Star Behavioral Health, a psychiatric hospital system near Houston, along with his wife, Lindy Lunceford ('84).

"This is a field in which there is truly no difference between God's work and man's work," Ingram says. "Every day is an opportunity for God to send someone who needs this group, and every day brings an equal opportunity for God to send someone whom I can minister to. The entire project is one of interdependence among people while remaining totally dependent upon God for daily guidance."

In addition to his counseling work, Ingram wrote and published *Christ at the Coffee Shop*, a short-story compilation illuminating the presence of God in everyday life. His family also owns Tranquility Ranch, a horse breeding farm and wetlands mitigation land bank, that also has served as a safe place for people seeking spiritual recovery.

"Nathan is a true renaissance man," says Vice President for Advancement Bryan Burks. "He spoke about his book, *Christ at the Coffee Shop*, at the Faith and Business Symposium a few years ago, and he and Lindy have since been popular speakers at our annual College of Business Leadership Seminar. His love for God is evident through his love for people and working with them where they are."

The Ingrams have three children, Logan ('09), Caleb ('10) and Carter McIntosh. 📧



Connecting and affecting change

THROUGHOUT HIGH SCHOOL AND COLLEGE, Austin Augsburger ('12) knew he would one day start his own business. He launched his online store, ShopAffect, December 2015, nearly a year after the initial idea for the business and several months after quitting his job to focus on making his dream happen.

According to Augsburger, he developed a desire to start a business while in high school, but his time at Harding further shaped his purpose. "My time at Harding helped me realize that I wanted to create something bigger than myself," Augsburger said. "I wanted to create a business that could bring people together and empower anyone to change a life."

After graduation, Augsburger went to work at a public accounting firm but said he didn't lose sight of his goal.

"I found myself dwelling on problems I wanted to change," Augsburger said. "I spent time wondering about the life of an individual born into an environment filled with hardship, a person who is just like you or me but has some real, critical problems. I knew that I alone couldn't solve global problems, but maybe I could create a platform that enables anyone to change a life. ShopAffect was born with that idea in mind."

ShopAffect is an online marketplace for products with a purpose. The store partners with companies and organizations whose product sales directly impact social change such as Good Spread, WaterDrop, Soapbox and others. Each product has an impact on one of five global problems identified by ShopAffect: hunger, water and sanitation, health care, education, and employment.

Additionally, ShopAffect donates 10 percent of the sale price of every product in the marketplace to one of the five causes.


Nearing one year since the launch, Augsburger said ShopAffect has met goals regarding establishment of the marketplace and refinement of product selection, and he is excited to explore new areas where ShopAffect can help create change as the company grows. He said the experience of developing the business and successfully working through the first year has taught him a lot about himself.

"I learned the importance of examining myself," Augsburger said. "I also learned that no matter how much I want to feed the hungry or provide clean drinking water and sanitation to the world, individually I am not the solution. However, by creating a platform to connect like-minded individuals and providing opportunities to create tangible change, I am the solution. You are the solution. Together we are the solution."

Part of ShopAffect's mission to connect similarly focused individuals takes shape in GoAffect, a resource to coordinate and initiate change locally whose focus has been to create programs and resources available to everyone. One such program sends free cards of encouragement by a request in the ShopAffect marketplace.

"My favorite portion of the store is the greeting cards," Augsburger said. "The card designs were created by Harding graduates who wanted to use their skills to give back. Sending a card might just result in a smile, but it can also be a powerful tool of encouragement."

After completing its move to Nashville, Tennessee, this summer and establishing new headquarters, Augsburger said ShopAffect will have an increased focus on hosting events and sharing ideas to empower people to use GoAffect to impact local communities.

"My primary goal for ShopAffect and GoAffect is to build a platform that can be used by any person or group of people to help coordinate events or find opportunities to give back," Augsburger said. "We seek to become a resource for a community of like-minded individuals who are committed to helping others. As a community, we can be powerful initiators. We can drive the changes we want to see in the world and better the lives of people in need.  — *Shelby Dias*



PROFILE | AUSTIN AUGSBURGER

Aaron ('04) and **Christina Holloway McCullough** announce the birth of a son, Beckett Aaron, March 21. They also have a daughter, Harper. Aaron is an associate attorney with Foster, Foster & Smith Law Firm, and Christy is a diagnostic medical sonographer with WellStar West Georgia Medical Center. (306 Hunterian Place, Newnan, GA 30265)

Jonathan and **Brandie Wilson Reynolds** announce the birth of a son, Wright Wynn, July 28. They have three other sons, Wallace, Warren and Wilson. Jonathan is treasurer for El Dorado & Wesson Railway, and Brandie is a homemaker. (1620 O'Rear Road, El Dorado, AR 71730)

Natalie Smeltzer married Zeke Fortenberry Feb. 27. She is an associate of Weil, Gotshal & Manges in Dallas and found her passion for pro bono

service while working with African development nonprofits. She is a committed participant in the Dallas Volunteer Attorney Program.

Robert "Trey" Thompson III was awarded Secondary Teacher of the Year for La Porte (Texas) Independent School District for 2015-16. His wife is **Christi Davis** ('97). (8710 Hunters Field Lane, La Porte, TX 77571)

2004

John David ('03) and **Jessica Campbell Hawkins** announce the birth of a daughter, Kate Micah, April 18. They have another daughter, Emma Noelle. John is a minister for ClearView Church in Shreveport, Louisiana, and Jessica is assistant professor of communication design at Centenary College. (643 Linden St., Shreveport, LA 71104)

2005

Kristopher Kyle has completed his Ph.D. in applied linguistics from Georgia State University and is an assistant professor at University of Hawaii in their second language studies program. His wife is **Jessica Thompson**.

Emma Parks Vieth graduated summa cum laude from Touro University with a master's in health science. (1229 Washington Drive, Stafford, VA 22554)

Gretchen Renae Winter graduated from Baylor College of Medicine in Houston in 2012 and completed a combined residency in internal medicine and pediatrics at Indiana University. She is now in a fellowship in pulmonary and critical care medicine at The Cleveland Clinic. (2204 Barrington

Road, University Heights, OH 44118)

2006

Jonathan and **Lauren Crews Haak** announce the birth of a daughter, Juliet Catherine, Feb. 18. They also have a son, Anderson Kent. The couple is stationed at Geilenkirchen NATO Air Base, Germany, where Jonathan is an officer in the U.S. Air Force. (PSC 7 Box 882, APO AE 09104)

Harold and **Mary Elizabeth Cunningham Steiner III** announce the birth of twin daughters, Kathryn Ruth and Clara Louise, March 3. (211 Savannah Noel St., Apt 2A, O'Fallon, IL 62269)

Matt and **Lana Gilbert Summitt** announce the birth of a son, Sutton Matthew, Oct. 5, 2015. They also have a daughter, Shelby. Matt is a CPA at JPMS Cox. (415 Miramar Cove, Little Rock, AR 72223)

2007

Seth and **Ivy Crosby Dietch** announce the birth of twin sons, Henry Cantrell and Finn Lewis, March 1. They have another son, Jude. (4808 Berckman Road, North Charleston, SC 29405)

Jason and **Rachel Javellana Eades** announce the birth of a daughter, Sky Deanne, Feb. 14. They also have three sons, Elias, Judah and Jeriah. Jason works for Optum as a tobacco cessation counselor and is the Spanish-speaking minister for the Del City (Oklahoma) Church of Christ. Rachel is a homemaker. (109 Earl Ave., Yukon, OK 73099)

Joshua Freeman is the preaching minister at Lakewood Church of Christ in Baytown, Texas. He is author of the recently released book, *The Pursuit*, an exploration of the God who passionately pursues humanity. His wife is **Katie Bradshaw**. (11819 Obsidian Lane, Dayton, TX 77535)

Cody and **Jessica Jones Hall** announce the birth of a son, Hayden Lewis, Jan. 24. (1609 Stonehenge Place, Little Rock, AR 72212)

2008

Isaac ('09) and **Angela Scott Bailey** announce the birth of a daughter, Harper Minnie, Sept. 14, 2015. Isaac is a software developer, and Angela is a therapist. (602 Samuel Loyce Drive, Searcy, AR 72143)

Corey and **Anna Parks Bean** announce the birth of a daughter, Emma Marie, May 28. Corey is manager for PricewaterhouseCoopers, and Anna was promoted to senior graphic designer for CBRE in Washington, D.C. (6252 Rose Hill Drive, Apt. 1B, Alexandria, VA 22310)

David and **Jessie Fox Herren** have two sons, Andrew David and Thomas Joseph. (3 Duval Court N.W., Rome, GA 30165)

Kelli Estepp Bjork is a realtor with Accelerate Realty Group in Franklin, Tennessee. Her husband, Garrett, is in architectural design and real estate development. (3907 E. Ridge Drive, Nashville, TN 37211)

2009

Megan Bush Baber graduated from medical school and began her pediatric residency at University of Arkansas Medical School/Arkansas Children's Hospital in Little Rock, Arkansas. Her husband, **Randall** ('10), works as a software engineer for Public Consulting Group. (1200 Brookwood Drive, #125, Little Rock, AR 72202)

Joel Blake is an associate attorney with Stibbs & Co., P.C. Prior to joining the firm, Joel practiced litigation and transactional law at Jim L. Culpeper & Associates, P.C., in Houston. He and his wife, **Kendra Stegall** ('05), have a son, Davis Austin. (106 Sage Blue Court, Spring, TX 77382)

Justin and **Mary Ashley Callaway Littell** announce the birth of a daughter, Finley Kate, May 2. Mary Ashley is a teacher in the Huntsville City, Alabama, School System. (1817 Whisperwood Way, Huntsville, AL 35806)

David and **Alicia Quattlebaum Glenn** announce the birth of a son, Jett Allen, April 22. David is a registered nurse in the emergency room at Memphis VA Hospital, and Alicia is a third-grade teacher at Hutchison School in Memphis, Tennessee. (398 N. Ericson Road, Cordova, TN 38018)

Daniel ('08) and **Erica Seawel Wade** announce the birth of a daughter, Sutton Joy, March 1. They also have a son, Truitt. Daniel is a consumer marketing coordinator at Arkansas Blue Cross Blue Shield, and Erica is a homemaker. (4 Coventry Lane, Little Rock, AR 72212)

2010

Andrew and **Kellie DeAtley Dell** announce the birth of a son, Jackson Wenston, April 4. Andrew is a certified registered nurse anesthetist, and Kellie is an elementary teacher. (205 Chimney Rock Drive, #441, Tyler, Texas 75703)

Craig and **Tiffany Parrish Rainbolt** announce the birth of a son, Josiah Wesley, May 16. Craig is a clinical project manager with inVentiv Health, and Tiffany is an attorney with Maynard Cooper & Gale Law Firm. (515 Creekview Circle, Vestavia Hills, AL 35226)

2011

Kellee Azar joined KATU news in Vancouver, Washington, in December 2015 after moving from Washington, D.C., as a reporter for Fox 5 News. She is an Emmy Award-winning journalist with



a regional Edward R. Murrow Award. (2420 S.E. 133rd Court, Vancouver, WA 98683)

Daniel Kirwa shaved more than two minutes off his time at the RussVegas Half Marathon on April 25 to win the event for the second year in a row. Kirwa finished in 1:07:42 in a field of 1,700 runners. (P.O. Box 472, Eldoret, Kenya)

Kimberly Ledford married **Zachary Watson** ('00) June 18. Zac is chair of the English department and director of the art program at Rochester College in Rochester Hills, Michigan. Kim is the kennel manager at Animal Learning Systems in Grosse Pointe Farms, Michigan. (1697 Riverside Drive, #16, Rochester Hills, MI 48309)

2012

Gina Cielo Ruiz is the director of communications for St. Petersburg (Florida) Free Clinic. She is married to **Henrique Ruiz**. (1120 N. Shore Drive N.E., #205, St. Petersburg, FL 33701)

Andy and **Clara White Sills** announce the birth of a son, Palmer Corbin, April 18. Andy is an insurance agent with Shelter Insurance in Searcy, and Cara is a speech therapist. (513 Wycliffe Drive, Searcy, AR 72143)

2013

Benjamin Beggs married **Caroline Alice Vick** on April 9. Ben is vice president of Flynco Construction, and Caroline is employed at Little Rock Urology. (25 Kanis Creek Place, Little Rock, AR 72223)

2014

Laura Rebekah Hale married Aaron Cox on July 18, 2015. As members of the Velvet Ridge Church of God, they work with the youth and are involved in missions in Honduras. Laura is a homemaker, and Aaron is in production at XPO Logistics. (421 Meadowlake Circle, #6, Searcy, AR 72143)

Will Richter ('15) married **Janae Callicoat** on May 30, 2015. Will is a client support specialist with IPREO in Nashville, Tennessee, and Janae is attending graduate school at Tennessee State University in speech pathology. She also is a professional photographer. (241 Bonna Crost Drive, Hermitage, TN 37076)

2015

Dillon King ('14) married **Danielle Griffith** on Aug. 7, 2015. Dillon is a case manager for the disabled, and Danielle works in special education. (8455 Will Clayton Parkway, #524, Humble, TX 77338)

Jordan Watson married **Katrina Kahler** on May 22, 2015. Jordan works for Gresham Smith & Part-

SUBMITTED PHOTO



ners, and Katie is teaching high school Spanish. (611 Virginia Belle Drive, Smyrna, TN 37167)

2016

Robin Casey Phelps married Walter Lafayette Barnes IV on March 12. (5350 Pershing Ave., Unit 1A, St. Louis, MO 63112)

Passages

Martha Josephine Williams Adair ('40), 97, of Searcy, died March 23. She spent most of her adult life in Grove, Oklahoma, where she and her late husband, Cullen, owned the Ford dealership. She was a member of Grove Church of Christ and, after moving to Arkansas to be closer to her family, College Church of Christ. She loved gardening, quilting and travel, but her greatest love was children, and she taught the cradle roll class at church until late in her life. She is survived by two children, **Ann Hobby** ('69) and **Charles** ('71); 10 grandchildren; 20 great-grandchildren; and one great-great-grandchild.

Harold Edward Holland ('45), 90, of Nashville, Tennessee, died May 5, 2015. He earned his doctorate in library science from Columbia University. He and his late wife, **Gerry Young** ('47), served as missionaries in Japan from 1950-54. He served part time as a minister and was a song leader, deacon and elder. He also worked in private industry and education before becoming a professor of library science at University of Missouri-Columbia from 1968-80. He later worked at Pepperdine University where he retired in 1993 from his position as director of libraries. He is survived by his children, Robert, Kenneth, **Luanne** ('82) and John; six grandchildren; and one great-grandchild.

Bessie Mae Ledbetter Pryor ('46), 92, of Searcy, died April 8. She married the late **Joseph E. Pryor** ('37), in August 1946. After their marriage, she



taught home economics at Harding for two years. She also worked as J.D. Bales' secretary and for an attorney until the couple adopted their three children. She sponsored Regina social club for 39 years and opened her home to TNT men's club, the *Petit Jean* staff, Alpha Chi, and Friendship Home Extension and Greenskeepers Garden Club friends. She served as past president of the Searcy Council of Garden Clubs, Home Extension Club, Garden Club and Associated Women for Harding and was northeast district director of Arkansas Federation of Garden Clubs. She was a Brownie Scout leader for 10 years. At College Church of Christ, she taught the 2-year-olds for many years. In 2006 she received the National

Council of AWH Worthy Woman Award and the Lifetime Achievement Award in 2008. She was a certified judge and teacher of flower arranging and directed and catered countless numbers of weddings in the area. She was preceded in death by her husband and a son, **Jody** ('92). She is survived by two daughters, **Beverly Jo** ('76) and **Susan Hodges** ('82); and a granddaughter.

Etta Maye White Coil ('52), 86, of Florence, Alabama, died March 16. She and her husband of 42 years, **Charles R. Coil Sr.** ('52), met at Harding. She briefly taught at Mars Hill Bible School and completed her teaching career at Wilson Elementary School from 1970-90. She was first lady of Heritage University (originally known as International Bible College) from 1971-90 when her husband retired as president. She is survived by four children, **Charles** ('77), **Charlotte Martin** ('79), Christopher and **Carole Medley** ('85); six grandchildren; and seven great-grandchildren.

William Fay "Bill" Rushton Jr. ('53), 89, of Searcy, died May 9. He was an Army veteran, church



camp director, Boy Scout leader, Harding professor of biology from 1960-95, three-time distinguished teacher at Harding, and church deacon. He was preceded in death by his first wife, Joyce Baker. He is survived by his wife, Fay Cleveland; three children, **Teresa Purcell** ('72), **Mary K. Gerken** ('78) and **Benjamin** ('86); two grandchildren; six step-grandchildren; and 12 step great-grandchildren.

James Conway Sexson ('59), 83, of Fairfield Bay, Arkansas, died Nov. 24, 2015. He was a member of Eglantine Church of Christ and a song leader. He is survived by his wife of 58 years, Doris; two daughters, Kimberly and Peggy; four grandchildren; and one great-granddaughter.

PASSAGES | BESSIE MAE LEDBETTER PRYOR

Few people in the world achieve a notoriety that allows them to be recognized by their first name. But to just say "Bessie Mae" is to bring to mind a memory of a genteel lady with Southern charm. Even without adding her last name, the image of generous hospitality, tireless parenting and Christian service are woven into those two words ... "Bessie Mae." — Dr. Mike Justus, '74



Jeutonne Patten Brewer ('60), 76, of Jamestown, North Carolina, died April 5. She received her master's and doctorate from University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. She and her late husband, Chris, lived in Germany where she taught at the School for American Children prior to moving to Jamestown in 1967 where she taught at University of North Carolina-Greensboro for 30 years serving as assistant dean of arts and sciences and as an associate professor of English linguistics. She also was a published author. She is survived by her sister, Clarice Whitmarsh.

Ben Morse Camp ('61), 77, of Bella Vista, Arkansas, died Feb. 24. He was a teacher and coach for Monett, Missouri, schools and a business owner. He moved to Bella Vista 20 years ago and attended Bella Vista Church of Christ. He is survived by his wife, Wanda; three children, Jeffrey Mathis, Stephanie Camp and Lisa Nash; five grandchildren; and 12 great-grandchildren.

Mary Jane Christmas Underwood ('61), 77, of Searcy, died June 27. She served as a missionary in New England, taught school two years, and was a homemaker. In the 1990s, she made several short-term mission trips to Hungary. She worked with World Bible School and Meals on Wheels and was a member of Cloverdale Church of Christ. She is survived by her husband of 54 years, **Eugene** ('61); four children, **Lawrence Jr.** ('89), **Sheila Vamplin** ('88), **Lisa Fuller** ('91) and **Alan** ('94); two siblings, **Dorothy Escue** ('64) and Charles; and nine grandchildren.

Yoshio Inomata ('61), 81, of Orleans, Massachusetts, died Dec. 15, 2015, after a 16-year battle with prostate cancer. He was COO of Shawnee Press from 1963-85, represented Summy Birchard Music in Tokyo from 1985-88, and spent 14 years in New York City finishing his music publishing journey as a senior vice president of the Harry Fox Agency/National Music Publishers Association. He is survived by his wife of 53 years, **Suzanne Lois Speer**

('64), two sons, Kenji and Tomio; and five grandchildren. (16 Uncle Bens Way, Orleans, MA 02653)

Dennis Orie Peugh ('64), 74, of Central Point, Oregon, died Feb. 28, 2015. He was an accountant for more than 40 years with Molatore, Peugh, Scroggin & Peterson CPAs, working his way up to senior managing partner. He was a member of the church of Christ and enjoyed camping, hunting, fishing and traveling. He is survived by his wife of 52 years, **Anne DeHoff** ('66); five children, Sharon Simmons, Glen, Carl, Andrea Crisp and Jeanese Poole; a sister, **Donna** ('61); and 13 grandchildren.

Max E. Hager ('65), 73, of Mentone, California, died May 3. For many years he lived in New York City and was designer and maker of costumes for Broadway shows. Later, he was head of wardrobe for the Siegfried and Roy Show in Las Vegas. He is survived by his sister, **Silvia Waites** ('62).

Bonnie Mignon Pitt Bailey ('70), 68, of Abilene, Texas, died May 30. For more than 30 years, she was an administrative assistant at Abilene Christian University. She is survived by her husband, **Fred** ('70); three children, Amber Perez, Alex and Stan; a brother, **Paul Pitt** ('67); six grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren.

Charles Morris Cooper ('70), 67, of Oxford, Mississippi, died April 17. He was a member of Oxford Church of Christ where he served as elder and deacon. He was the first ecologist hired by the United States Department of Agriculture where he pioneered the water quality research program for the U.S. government. During his 30-year tenure, he served as research leader of water quality and ecological processes unit and authored/co-authored more than 300 journal articles, book chapters and abstracts. He received seven USDA leadership awards. He is survived by his wife, **Judy Coffman** ('68); two children, Charles and Kimberly Wilson; two sisters, Paula Olbricht and Lisa Adams; and three grandchildren.

Bernie Carroll Harkness ('70), 70, of Yuma, Arizona, died Jan. 25. He earned his doctorate in



ministry from The Graduate Theological Foundation and worked as the chaplain for Yuma Regional Medical Center from 1993-2005. He also served as a minister at several churches and was an honorary lifetime member of the Certified Chaplains' Association. He is survived by his wife, Betsy; five daughters, Roseann Overton, Rebecca Rose, Carol Jean Blanton, Melissa Hopkins and Tabitha Fannin; a sister, Janice Moore; 19 grandchildren; and 11 great-grandchildren.

Janet Leigh Parrish ('71), 67, of Eads, Tennessee, died Feb. 24. She was a real estate agent for more

than 20 years. She is survived by her husband of 44 years, **Garry** ('69).

Garry Lee Pack ('72), 67, of Houston, died May 28. He received a Master of Science in chemistry from Louisiana State University and spent his career as a chemical engineer in the petrochemical industry. He was a marathon runner and a member of the church of Christ. He was preceded in death by his wife, **Kathy Jean Clay** ('72). He is survived by his children, Laura Williams and Christina Cole; and four grandchildren.

Nancy Carol Johnson Ratliff ('74), 67, of Imperial, Missouri, died May 4 after a seven-year battle with ALS (Lou Gehrig's Disease). She is survived by her husband, **Greg** ('73); her parents, **Richard "Dick"** ('60) and **Joyce Johnson**; and a brother, Bill.

Mary Ruth Shock ('74), 64, of Searcy, died June



14. She was director of the social work program at Harding where she was named distinguished teacher in 1984. She also was named Social Worker of the Year for the state of Arkansas in 1988. She was member of the church of Christ. She is survived by two brothers, **Jay** ('73) and **Jack** ('80).

Debbie Bachman Jenks ('75), 63, died May 2, from multiple myeloma. She served as a missionary with her husband in Brazil from 1981-89. They ministered at churches in Oklahoma and Texas. She is survived by her husband of 40 years, **Duane** ('76); two sons, Tracy and Marcos; her mother, Mary Bachman; and three siblings, Don and David Bachman and Anita Lackey.

Anthony Keith "Tony" Sneed ('78), 62, of Memphis, Tennessee, died July 14. He graduated from The Memphis Police Academy where he served for the Memphis Police Department. After an injury ended his policing career, he began working in security and founded his own business, A.S.K. Barnes Security & Investigations. He was a musician most known for his roles as bassist and vocalist for The River Bluff Clan, a three-time winner of the Grammy's Premier Player Award for Band of the Year. He is survived by his wife, Karen; a son, **Blaze** ('14); two stepchildren, Allison Carson and Andrew Yarbrough; and three siblings, Dennis Lee, Sandra Jubinville and Tammy Moore.

Nita Allen Cochran ('79), 59, of Searcy, died May 31. She directed Court Appointed Special Advocates of White County for five years and with her husband, Ross, directed Camp Tahkodah from 2004-11. She was a member of Downtown Church of Christ. She is survived by her husband, **Ross** ('79); children, **Chris** ('09), **Allen** ('12) and Hannah; and three siblings, **Jan Smith** ('82) and Marshall and Stan Allen.



Vernon Dale Beach ('81), 56, died May 29. He proudly served his country for 25 years in the U.S. Navy as a commander. He is survived by his wife, Gail; three children, **Chris** ('11), **Phillip** ('12) and Sara Simon; parents, **Venton** ('86) and **LaVerne Crowson** ('55) **Beach**; four siblings, **Diane Wood** ('77), **Alan** ('78), **Kenneth** ('80) and **Jon** ('88); and a grandson.

Randall Lee Burrus ('84), 56, of Beebe, Arkansas, died March 26. He worked in the fashion industry and owned an event planning business in Atlanta, San Francisco and New York City. He is survived by his parents John and **Eva Healy** ('91); and three brothers, **Steven** ('83), **David** ('88) and **Darren** ('95).

Timothy Donald Smith ('93), 47, of Searcy, died March 24. He is survived by his mother, Ann Cowan, and two sisters, **Cynthia Purkey** ('89) and **Andrea Smith** ('97).

Thomas Bartholomew Austin ('13), 32, died April 1 from complications of lupus. He is survived by his wife, **Jennyfer Deister** ('09); his father, Thomas Austin; his mother, Kathy Buhl; and two sisters, Tanya Regna and Katrina Cook.

J. Lee Roberts, 90, of Lubbock, Texas, died May 6. He was a former missionary to Belgium, art teacher at Harding, and chair of the art department at Lubbock Christian University from 1970-84, where he retired in 1994. He was preceded in death by his wife, **Margaret Clampitt** ('48).

Nancy Ann Gurley Pool, 78, of Higginson, Arkansas, died July 1. She worked in the custodial department from 1987-96. She and her husband housed foreign exchange students for Harding. She is survived by her husband of 61 years, Charles; four children, Chuck, Frances Cherry, Stephanie Davis and Melanie; three siblings, Charles Gurley, Lavonia Miller and Sherry Harden; six grandchildren; and nine great-grandchildren.

Chris McKinney, 54, of Searcy, died May 9 from cancer. He worked as a master printer at Harding Press for more than 30 years. He is survived by two sons, Joshua and Matthew; his mother, Joanne Wilkinson McKinney; three siblings, **Linda Baker** ('79), **Patty McKinney** ('81) and **Mike** ('86); and a grandson.

Karen Elizabeth Mayes, 50, of Searcy, died May 27 of complications following heart surgery. She earned her Bachelor of Arts degree from Arkansas Tech University and has held jobs in administration and communications, most recently with almost nine years at Harding. She was a professional clown, member of Cloverdale Church of Christ, and served with the Chickasha, Oklahoma, Festival of Light. She is survived by her husband of 29 years, David; two sons, **Jared** ('14) and Justin; her mother, Vera Martin; two brothers, Neal and Larry Martin; and a granddaughter.

COMMUNICATIONS AND MARKETING FILE PHOTOS

HARKNESS PHOTO SUBMITTED. SHOCK COMMUNICATIONS AND MARKETING FILE PHOTO



Dear new Harding provost

By LARRY LONG, distinguished professor emeritus

I HAVE BEEN ASKED TO WRITE YOU about “fun facts” I have learned as provost. I’m happy to do that, and I’ll try to pass along some relevant and hopefully beneficial observations. Most importantly, like all Harding employees, your job is to support the University’s mission. After all, in President Bruce McLarty’s words, we are “A Community of Mission.” I not only support that notion, but I also believe it. Having the opportunity to work at an intentionally Christian university where my goal has been to demonstrate the integration of faith, learning and living has been a great blessing in my life. As provost, you are charged to lead the academic programs of the University, which fundamentally means you manage and initiate programs that fit within the mission. You must be vigilant that what you do and how you do it always enhances that community of mission and serves students by providing them with “a quality education that leads to an understanding and philosophy of life consistent with Christian ideals” found in our mission statement. Your task is noble; pursue it with enthusiasm and joy.

Working in a community of mission blesses you with the opportunity to serve with many Christian faculty, staff and students. Treasure that opportunity. I cannot imagine a better place to spend my career doing tasks I enjoy than one where I am surrounded by men and women of faith who support my professional actions and, more importantly, challenge me to grow spiritually. Working, praying, mourning, rejoicing and worshipping with colleagues who each day provide examples that guide you toward being a better person is an amazing blessing. I have learned to love and trust, rely on and value co-workers who are my brothers and sisters. From board members to chancellors and presidents to freshmen, innumerable people have touched my life, challenged me to be more like Jesus, and modeled those behaviors for me to follow. Mentors abound. Find and follow them.

While far and away most of your experiences are positive, some will not be. At all. Prepare a thick skin and learn to walk away from some encounters, trying to forget them, although many times it is very hard to do so. Surprisingly, not everyone will agree with all of your decisions. I’ve been called “unchristian” and “a wonderful Christian man” at the beginning and end of the same phone conversation with an upset parent. To make a point, I asked what was different about the “unchristian” fellow who had listened to the parent’s rather loud opening comments and the “wonderful Christian man” who was now talking. We agreed the only difference was that the parent had stopped yelling long enough to learn a bit more about the situation and, knowing more, understood why I had taken the position I had about the student’s request and that I had offered a workable solution, supported by University policy. Even my use of this example demonstrates these encounters are hard to forget. Simply know they are coming and move on as soon and as completely as you can. Your goal is to help students; sometimes that entails saying no — and meaning it — regardless of the fallout.

Similarly, even our good faculty members

will cause you some dismay, often in an attempt to “help” students. I know faculty have students’ best interests at heart, and I know faculty share the responsibility to set University policies. However, I have a saying: “When faculty make policy, bad things happen.” What that means is when faculty, often with the best of intentions, ignore University policy and make statements or decisions based on what they think best serves a student in the moment, they can create really difficult situations for you as the chief academic administrator. With good intentions and open hearts, they steer students in the wrong direction. Your job is to uphold the correct policy from the catalog and to do your best at damage control. Often, the hole is deep and you have a small shovel, but it is your job.

To be clear, joyful moments far outweigh challenging ones. For one difficult encounter, there are many, many uplifting and rewarding ones. Standing onstage at graduation, looking at the faces of the graduates, recognizing many whom you’ve helped, many who have blessed you, seeing so many friends among the faculty, observing and feeling the joy exuding from parents and families of the graduates — in that moment you will know that your job is the best in the world. What a blessing: God has gifted you with the opportunity to serve among Christian brothers and sisters in a kingdom ministry that, student by student, is transforming the world.

And, once a month, they pay you. ☺

Dr. Larry Long retired in August after serving as the top academic officer at the University since 2004. He joined the faculty in 1976 and was named a distinguished teacher three times and distinguished professor emeritus upon his retirement. His successor is Dr. Marty Spears.

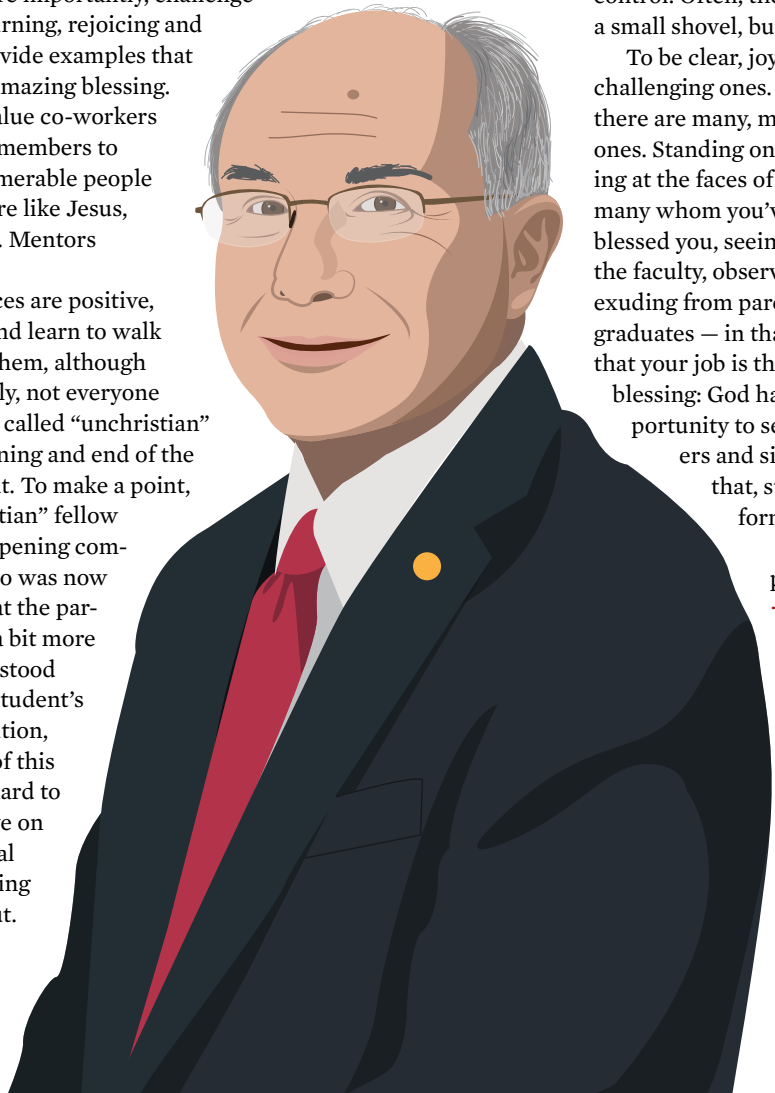


ILLUSTRATION BY JENNIFER ALLEN



IT'S EASIER THAN YOU MIGHT THINK.

The purpose of Harding’s endowment is to financially sustain the mission and work of the University. You can make a significant contribution to endow our future, and it’s easier than you might think.

Here are a number of charitable gift and estate planning strategies that can benefit you and build our endowment.

- CHARITABLE BEQUEST
- CHARITABLE LIFE ESTATE
- BENEFICIARY DESIGNATIONS
- CHARITABLE LIFE INCOME PLANS

To learn more about how you can make a gift to endow our future, please use the contact information below.

CENTER FOR CHARITABLE ESTATE PLANNING

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