

HARDING

FALL 2017

HARDING
MAGAZINE'S
25th
YEAR

**LABS AND LIFE
IN FLORENCE**





19

Features

14

CALLED ACCORDING TO HIS PURPOSE

Hayley and Harrison Waldron's lives took an unexpected turn Aug. 14, 2015. Hayley reveals that, while the path is different than planned, blessings have followed.

19

INTO ALL THE WORLD

The hearts of four missionaries are revealed in letters written to the places they serve.

22

RESEARCH AND RIGATONI

The first Summer Undergraduate Research in Florence program allowed nine students to practice biomedical research while experiencing Italian culture.

SUBMITTED PHOTO



12



6

Departments



2 VIEWPOINT

Dr. McLarty experiences Cuba firsthand with the Good News Singers.

3 YOUR WORDS

Readers tell how Christians can let their lights shine in this world.

4 ONE MOMENT

The Good News Singers perform in Cuba.



6 AROUND CAMPUS

Biblical archaeology museum opens, campus read is *The Hiding Place*, and other happenings around the University.



12 SPORTS

Softball makes Super Regional.



26 CONNECTIONS

27 | PROFILE

Tim Stanley, 1994

28 | ALUMNI AWARDS

32 | PROFILE

Sarah Harris, 2016



36 END NOTE

Students share their gratitude for life-changing support.

ON THE COVER

Rachel Murray fills test tubes with patient samples at Dr. Arianna Casini's lab station. Doctors at the Meyer Research Laboratory in Florence, Italy, are specialized in a specific type of testing, and many have been published in academic and medical journals for their groundbreaking methods.

PHOTO BY GRANT SCHOL

LEFT PHOTO BY JEFF MONTGOMERY, RIGHT PHOTO BY DALE MANOR

Good News in Cuba

By BRUCE D. McLARTY, *president*

FOR ALL OF MY 60 YEARS, Cuba has meant Communism, Fidel Castro, missiles, Olympic opponents and cigars. Though Cuba is only 103 miles from Florida, the island nation has always seemed to me to be the most foreign of foreign countries.

The political distance between Cuba and the U.S. is why I was completely surprised when two of my colleagues, Ken Graves and Chuck Hicks, came to my office last spring to invite me to visit Cuba with Harding's Good News Singers, an a cappella worship ensemble consisting of 10 students. They had been invited to sing for a nationwide Christian youth meeting where more than 250 teenagers would be present. Furthermore, their Cuban host had indicated that it would add significance and esteem to this event if "el presidente de Harding" could accompany the students. So my wife, Ann, and I made plans to join them in Cuba with Jeff Montgomery, University photographer, accompanying us. We all were granted religious visas to enter.

We flew to Havana on Aug. 3 and soon were being driven to Matanzas where the youth gathering would begin that evening. As we arrived, I heard sounds I hope to never forget. The clear, passionate, beautiful voices of young, Cuban Christians filled the air. I recognized almost all of the tunes, but the words, of course, were in Spanish. They were singing the same hymns and worship songs we sing in chapel each weekday. Because of that special connection, I think it was in that moment that Cuba became far less foreign to me. For the next three days, I felt strangely at home among my newly discovered friends. The Good News Singers were treated like both friends and celebrities. Whenever they sang, the Cuban teenagers' phones popped up recording the concerts.

Though our governments and economies could not be more different, we were soul-



mates and kindred spirits as we worshiped and studied our Bibles together. I spoke through a translator, and we did our best to sing the Spanish song lyrics. Without a doubt, there is much that I misunderstood during my brief stay in Cuba. However, I am convinced that smiles, handshakes, hugs and simple expressions of gratitude translate with amazing accuracy across cultures.

Since returning, numerous groups have heard me reflect on the question that has haunted me most: What did I know about Cubans before I went to Cuba? I knew something of their history, revolution, leaders, economy, and the complicated relationship between our two governments. Yet I was stunned to discover just how complete my ignorance was of the 11 million people who live on the small island that lies so close to the southern tip of our country. It was encouraging to spend several days touring and getting acquainted with these Cuban neighbors who possess an inspiring and joyous faith. 🇺🇸



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PHOTO BY JEFF MONTGOMERY

What's the best way for Christians to be a light to the world?

A Jesus and Paul both call us to be different in different ways. Paul calls us to renew our minds, and Jesus calls us in many of his parables to give away the extravagant love and grace of God. We have to be different to be a light. We have to interact with people in a different way but still keep in mind our calling throughout the centuries to be a people of God ever living in his presence.

LAURA SHIELDS, '08
Oxford, Mississippi

Over the years as my family lived and worked in Asia, Africa and Europe, I learned that people of all cultures and races respect how Jesus lived his life and value his treatment of others. Prayerfully striving to consistently live as Christ in every situation can be used by God to be a bright light to those needing the savior.

ROXI PARTAIN CREWS, '77
Huntington, Texas

We are living as light when people can clearly see the lordship of Jesus Christ in the ordinary details of our lives. Either he is lord of it all or he is lord of none of it. We must not hide him in the church building.

ZACH DASHER, '00
Calhoun, Louisiana

By shining in the darkness with lives of love and voices that speak up courageously and daily for Jesus. 1 Thessalonians 2:8

JIMMY ALLEN, '82
Springdale, Arkansas

I think that the best way for Christians to be a light to the world is to constantly show the love



of Christ to others and to be sure that everyone knows they are loved and appreciated.

SHELBI BRIDGES, SENIOR
West Plains, Missouri

The best way for a Christian to be a light to the world is to put Jesus' love for everyone into action.

ALEXIS JEWELL, '17
Swartz Creek, Michigan

It is when the true light (Jesus) lives in us that we can be the light to a world looking for hope by helping someone with a hospital bill, by

providing food for one who is hungry, by giving a hug and listening ear to one who has lost a loved one, by pausing to pray with one who is hurting, by ... Well, perhaps it's by serving in the name of Jesus with a joyful spirit.

KENNETH MILLS, '67
Searcy, Arkansas

The best way for Christians to be a light to the world is for them to be Jesus with skin on to friends and strangers alike.

TAMMIE SKELTON HACKER, '73
Bartlett, Tennessee

Show up with love. That is the second greatest commandment: to love our neighbor as ourselves (Matthew 22:36-40). Even when our neighbor has a different belief system, lifestyle, skin color, etc. Jesus loved those who were considered unlovable by the Pharisees. Practicing legalist religion does nothing to draw others to Christ. We have to show up with love, and be the hands and feet of Jesus.

AVEN HUMPHREYS, '90
Jackson, Tennessee

Through a combination of words and actions. Anyone can talk of having great plans and noble intentions, but not everybody has the courage to follow through and act on those plans. One of the biggest things nonbelievers struggle with is that they can not see God physically, so as Christians we need to show them God's reflection not just by spreading the word but by following through on the actions we preach about. As the saying goes, "Actions speak louder than words."

EDDIE MUSANI, SENIOR
Searcy, Arkansas

XXV ENCUENTRO NACIONAL
Iglesia de Cristo

LOS JOVENES
su familia en Versalles



Singing for an overflow crowd, Good News Singers perform in Matanzas, Cuba, for a youth gathering as many in the crowd record on their cellphones. To learn more about this event, see Viewpoint on page 2.

PHOTO BY JEFF MONTGOMERY



Museum showcases biblical artifacts

THE LINDA BYRD SMITH MUSEUM of Biblical Archaeology celebrated its grand opening April 15. The museum, located on the first floor of the McInteer Center for Bible and World Missions, features more than 100 artifacts.

“We live in a time when people assume the Bible is fairy tales, but the truth is, the Bible is grounded in history, historical events and cultural context,” said Dr. Monte Cox, dean of the College of Bible and Ministry. “We don’t believe what we believe because archaeology has proven it, but there are so many times when skeptics question some biblical fact and then archaeology affirms it.”

Dr. Dale Manor, museum coordinator, is the field director for the Tel Beth-Shemesh dig site in Israel. For more than 20 years, he has collected artifacts and replica objects from Israel.

“I look for artifacts that enrich the understanding of the larger cultural setting,” Manor said. “Clearly the Bible is a narrative focusing on a particular point, but it unfolds within the lives and culture of people, and in my opinion, the more we know about that culture and those lives, the more we recognize that we are more alike than we are different from the standpoint of our passions, frustrations, and trying to figure out what life is all about.”

The museum has 12 sections that showcase items such as storage jars, perfume bottles,

coins, weapons, wine skins and other artifacts from daily life in the ancient world. Other displays include excavation tools, explanations of ceramic typology and carbon dating, and a timeline from 2000 B.C. to 700 A.D.

Linda Byrd Smith (’67) donated the initial funds to begin the museum. She teaches Bible classes for Arkansas jails and prisons, her home church, and other religious organizations. Smith also has produced videos for the Center for Christian Broadcasting about women in the Bible. Several weekends a year, she helps lead women’s retreats and conferences.

“As I taught classes about Bible history, it was clear that an understanding of the culture of the time helped us to understand God’s message,” Smith said. “I’ve always been fascinated with history of our country and the world but even more fascinated with ‘his-story’ — God’s story — and how it gives meaning to our stories.”

After seeing the number of artifacts and replicas Manor kept in his office, Smith offered a donation for a campus display. She said she mentioned the idea to Cox, President Bruce McLarty and architect Mike Steelman, and she started asking other professors if they would contribute their archaeological findings.

“Dr. Manor was so willing to help organize the effort, and now I’m excited it’s happened,” Smith said. “As he talks about his work in Beth-

Shemesh — his research in archaeology — the Bible comes alive.”

Megan Valentine (’11), a curator and registrar at the Alexandria Museum of Art, is the curatorial consultant for the archeological museum. She has provided design and content advice as well as assistance for building plans.

Junior Evan Pratt, a member of the University’s Society of Near Eastern Archaeology, is interested in ancient culture and said the archaeology museum helps students gain a better understanding of the context behind biblical accounts.

“The museum is definitely an educational opportunity in that students can go and see how the artifacts that were used by people from that time period could have affected their lives and way of thinking,” Pratt said. “If we see what their world consisted of and the objects they interacted with, we get a better understanding of how the biblical story is true in normal life and normal people and how the objects we interact with, the artifacts we have around us, change our perspective on the world, ourselves and everything else.”

The museum is a hands-on resource for not only students in biblical studies but also local church and school groups interested in archaeology. Manor said that after the current exhibit has been on display for one year, he hopes to debut new artifacts annually at Lectureship.

The Smith Museum of Biblical Archaeology helps connect Scripture to today.

The Hiding Place second campus read

DURING ONE of the last chapel assemblies in April, President Bruce McLarty announced the second Harding Read selection: *The Hiding Place* by Corrie ten Boom. A biographical account of a Christian, Dutch watchmaker and her family during World War II, *The Hiding Place* details ten Boom’s efforts to help Jews, her subsequent stay in a concentration camp, and her consistent courage made possible by faith.

The purpose of the Harding Read is to connect the entire University community through a shared experience and to engage each other in and out of the classroom. Last year’s read featured several facets including an author visit as part of the American Studies Institute Distinguished Lecture Series. Coordinating with the Harding Read again this year, ASI will bring Holocaust survivor Eva Kor to speak Nov. 7.

“Having the Harding Read author or a speaker closely tied to the book that we read brings a deeper connection to the story and our personal story,” said Kim Kirkman, director of ASI. “If we can connect with a book or author, we can share in his or her experiences and find related events to our own. The Harding Read does this for each of us — connects each of us to something bigger than ourselves, to other people and to the community.”

Besides hearing an ASI speaker connected to *The Hiding Place*, students experience the story through class discussions in various disciplines and a showing of the 1975 film in chapel. According to McLarty, it was the success of last year’s book that led him to select *The Hiding Place*.

“I loved *Amazing Grace* so much,” McLarty said. “I thought that I would like to do a biography again, and I decided that I’d like it to be the biography of a woman. Those were my two guiding thoughts as I read through several books.”

McLarty read books suggested by deans and faculty including one that featured a brief biography on Corrie ten Boom. He had not read *The Hiding Place* but had seen the movie on Harding’s campus while on a first date with his wife, Ann, in 1977.

“I went back and reconnected with the book, and I’ve realized that people who have been touched by that book have felt a lasting impact,” McLarty said. “It’s been really interesting to me since announcing it to find out how many people age 45 or older have been exposed to the book or movie and moved deeply by it. For most of our students, the book is totally off their



Relaxing on a bench, Savanna DiStefano reads *The Hiding Place*.

radar, so it’s an opportunity to introduce this story to another generation.”

Kirkman said words from the book have stayed with her since she first read it years ago. She said she hopes those reading ten Boom’s story for the first time and attending Kor’s lecture will gain a deeper understanding of what both women experienced during a time that seems far away.

“These stories of Corrie and Eva are heavy and take a deeper meaning in our lives as we are older and stronger,” Kirkman said. “*The Hiding Place* is a beautiful story of kindness, forgiveness and love through extremely harsh circumstances, which I can use in my life when dealing with my own circumstances.”

McLarty said the book is a good fit not only because it is mostly unknown to current students, but also because it tells a story of great faith built in a sheltered place — like Harding is sometimes said to be.

“The first 50 pages or so of *The Hiding Place* tell a really sweet story,” McLarty said. “It’s a gracious, gentle, kind and sweet story. As you read the book, you realize that the faith that was built in that kind, sweet, gentle phase was a faith of steel that could bear up under the weight of the horrors of the Holocaust and not lose its way. It made me think of the ‘Harding bubble.’ The bubble gets a bad name because everyone says being here is not like being in the real world, but I think the things we do here are designed to build a faith that can stand up like steel in whatever we face along the way.”

Best in value

IN APRIL, Harding was selected from nearly 8,000 schools nationwide as a recipient of a Best Value School award by University Research and Review, a company dedicated to improving the process of how a student selects a postsecondary school.

The review committee for the award was made up of former university presidents, CEOs, provosts and professors. Schools earn the award through nomination and a committee evaluation process that analyzes accreditation, variety and quality of school programs, cost, and student satisfaction with the institution.

“Harding has been able to maintain a much lower out-of-pocket expense with academics that are second to none,” said Glenn Dillard, assistant vice president for enrollment management. “Thousands of financial donors help to keep Harding affordable, while our faculty, who could earn more because of their specialized training and expertise, are here because they want to be — they love to teach.”

“Value can be defined as ‘high quality at a fair price,’ and that well-defines a Harding education.”

Of the colleges and universities eligible for the award, less than 100 are nominated quarterly, and very few are selected. Awarded schools maintain the Best Value School designation for 12 months before they are required to requalify.

The Linda Byrd Smith Museum of Biblical Archaeology is laid out in 12 sections, including a timeline to show not only the biblical chronology but also the terms that often appear in books on biblical history and anthropology.



PHOTOS ON BOTH PAGES BY JEFF MONTGOMERY



Graduation firsts

WHEN NEARLY 900 graduates celebrated the completion of their studies May 6, the ROTC program and the family nurse practitioner program reached milestones of their own. At graduation, three students became the first ROTC class to be commissioned as officers, and eight students were the first to complete their Master of Science in Nursing degrees as family nurse practitioners.

According to Shawn Fisher, assistant professor of history and ROTC liaison, the University's ROTC is one of the fastest growing programs in the state and expects to commission five officers in May 2018 and nine more the following year. He said he expects the see the program double in size in the next few years.

"We are excited to have our first class commissioned," Fisher said. "There are a large number of current officers serving in the

military now who graduated from Harding, as I am finding out. They overwhelmingly have responded with encouragement that we are now commissioning officers here on campus. Potential students are making Harding their choice because of the opportunity to train and serve in ROTC. We expect to see the program grow from 25 cadets to about 50 in the next couple years."

Fisher said that students looking to make a difference can find a good fit with ROTC at the University.

"If you talk to cadets who have graduated from the program, they will tell about desiring an opportunity to serve and make a difference in the world," Fisher said. "That life of service fits very well with our community of mission at Harding."

Making a difference also was a reason for the founding of a master's degree program for family nurse practitioners in the Carr College of Nursing in 2015. The graduate



Samuel Bearden, Andrew Davis and Christian Nill are sworn in by Lt. Col. Michael Fellure.

distance learning program included 30 students this spring, and Dean Susan Kehl said the enrollment goal for fall is 20 new students.

"In rural areas of the country there is a shortage of physicians," Kehl said. "Family nurse practitioners are advanced practice registered nurses, and they are prepared to work with all ages in primary care clinics. Family nurse practitioners can work in clinics and other health care settings throughout the country."

The college celebrated the first graduates from the program with a ceremony allowing the students to thank family and friends for their support. Kehl said she and the faculty are thankful to have the first

class complete the program.

"The first time you teach a newly created course, there are organizational issues to be worked out, but our students told us they felt like we responded swiftly and made adjustments," Kehl said. "We are a small program, so we try to listen carefully. We value our student input. Our accreditation requires that we are in a state of continuous quality improvement. We cannot maintain that unless students have a voice."

Looking ahead, Kehl said the College of Nursing plans to grow the existing program and pursue new degree options in an effort to continue training nurses who are knowledgeable and eager to serve.

Medical humanities interdisciplinary degree begun

FACULTY MEMBERS in the College of Sciences and the College of Arts and Humanities have created a new major bringing the two colleges together. Medical humanities, which is offered as both a major and minor, launched this semester and features classes from eight different academic departments across campus.

The aim of the new major is to connect students with the personal side of medicine, providing a more expansive view of career opportunities by combining what students love in humanities with how they want to serve in health sciences.

Dr. Debbie Duke, assistant dean of pre-professional health sciences, said Harding's move into areas of health care pairs perfectly with the introduction of this major and its goal to bring a humanities perspective into the health sciences.

"With new programs, Harding has really begun moving in the area of health care," Duke said. "This is a perfect fit, to me, to be doing something like this — to involve several disciplines, not just our sciences, and to show the profound role that our humanities play."

Students looking to pursue careers in public health, public policy, law and medical missions can benefit from the diverse course offerings of the major, and students can utilize the minor to specialize their major coursework — for example, health journalism or bioethics.

The inception of the major began in January 2017 when Duke and Dr. Kathy Dillion, associate professor of English, decided to try to make their dream a reality. They began working with Judy Hall, administrator of the pre-professional health science program, and Dr. J.R. Duke, associate professor of history. Later, a standing committee of six faculty members — three from the College of Sciences and three from the College of Arts and Humanities — was established to oversee the major and minor.

After speaking with the provost, college deans, and faculty members who would be teaching the courses, the addition of the medical humanities major was approved by the Academic Affairs Committee and a unanimous vote at April's faculty meeting. According to Dillion,

Harding's Christian mission makes the major a perfect fit to expand students' worldview, especially relating to health care, poverty and missions around the globe.

"If our mission is spiritual in nature, then it seems like this major is tailor-made for Harding," Dillion said. "You've got to care about the story and the spiritual well-being of a person in order to be able to care for them in all other areas."

Dillion said whether or not students in the program go forth as doctors, professors or researchers, the coursework teaches a different perspective to offer a broader view of life and how medicine and humanities work hand in hand. Duke echoed Dillion's wishes for students after graduation and said she hopes medical humanities students gain a greater worldview.

"I hope they'll be better prepared to deal with humanity as doctors, physician assistants, physical therapists — whatever they go into," Duke said. "I think they'll leave with a greater preparation to work with people, to understand people and to tell their stories."

MY VIEW DON KEE

Planning ahead

Hebrews 13:14 says, "For this world is not our permanent home; we are looking forward to a home yet to come." It can be really easy to focus on this world when it is truly a stepping stone to our home in heaven. Planning for the end of life may seem like a daunting task unnecessary in our younger days. We talked with Don Kee, senior planned gifts officer in the Office of Charitable Giving, about his perspective on estate planning.


IN MY 41 YEARS of working with individuals and families, I have come to some understanding of what has motivated me to put things in order.

I have, of course, experienced life events including death in the family, friends with incapacity, and so many reminders of how fragile this life is. As time has gone by, I see more clearly and feel some urgency to put things in order. Even a younger person is motivated by life's events — one just has to listen to life.

My parents planned for their eventual deaths and possible incapacity, which blessed my siblings and me. They planned for the transfer of title for real property and personal items by trust, a simple concept and tool many people use now. My parents provided for clear beneficiary designations on their accounts — such as checking accounts, certificates of deposit,

insurance and retirement plans.

Sadly, during my years of working with people with estate considerations, I have seen people who made no plans. This motivates me to do something! No plans usually result in expensive probate proceedings, lawyer's fees and protracted time to complete. For me, no plan would be a grave disservice to my children and the charities I care for.

I work with individuals and families who desire to support Harding and other good works in their estate plans. I am continuously impressed with their intentional and thorough approach to putting their things in order. They have been an encouragement for me to do so. I believe they are motivated by their maturity in knowing their blessings and obligations regarding their stewardship over things and matters entrusted to them while on this earth. 

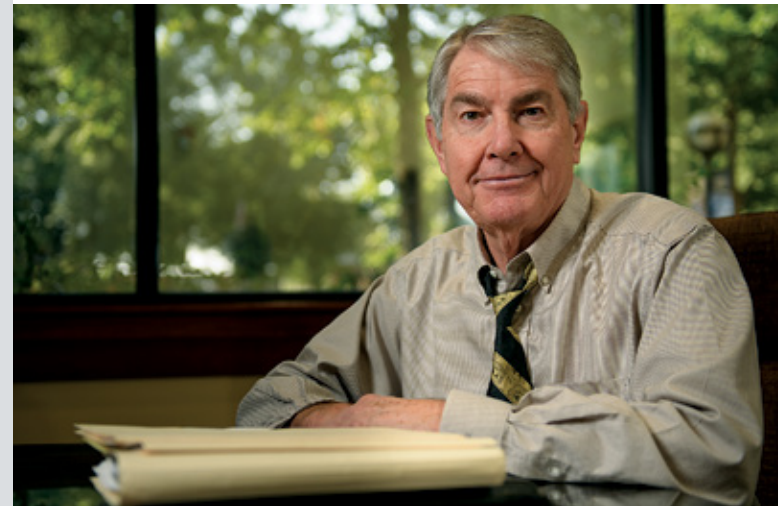


PHOTO BY JEFF MONTGOMERY

PHOTO BY JEFF MONTGOMERY



NEWSMAKERS

ATHLETICS

Scott Goode, assistant athletic director for sports information, won best Season Preview/Recap of the Year in the 2017 CoSIDA Fred Stabley Sr. Writing Contest for his fall 2016 *Harding* magazine article "Saving the Best for Last." He also was awarded runner-up for General Feature of the Year for his spring 2016 *Harding* magazine article "Bison Role Models."

BRACKETT LIBRARY

Hannah Wood, archives and special collections librarian, received her digital archives specialist certification through the Society of American Archivists in April.

COLLEGE OF ARTS AND HUMANITIES

HU16 won the National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences Mid-America Regional Student Television Award for its live coverage of the 2016 election. The award was presented in St. Louis in September.

COLLEGE OF BIBLE AND MINISTRY AND COLLEGE OF SCIENCES

Dr. Andrew Baker, assistant professor of Bible and director of the Mitchell Center for Leadership and Ministry, and his wife, Dr. Amy Baker, instructor of communication sciences and disorders, were recognized by Arkansas Department of Human Services as Foster Family of the Year in May.

COLLEGE OF BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

Team Vitele — consisting of business students Manuel Barrantes, Kyle Hoyer and Brandon Beghtol and engineering students Adam Baker, Tyler Arrington and Terah Smith — won the Innovation Award and a \$5,000 cash prize at the Donald W. Reynolds Governor's Cup on March 30.

COLLEGE OF EDUCATION

Allison Parker became director of the Betty Ann Watson Education Resource Center in May.

COLLEGE OF PHARMACY

Henry North, assistant professor, was named Lion of the Year by Searcy Lions Club in June.

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY

Wayne Westerholm, deputy director of parking and transportation, received his Automotive Fleet Manager Certification from the National Association of Fleet Administrators in May.

OFFICE OF CHURCH RELATIONS

Alex Jamerison was appointed director of diversity for church relations in August. This new position will connect and network with minority churches and racially diverse Christians with the goal of making Harding a more inclusive community.

OFFICE OF THE SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT

Dr. Jim Carr announced in June he would be scaling back his University responsibilities in preparation for his retirement. The offices of undergraduate admissions and financial aid began reporting to Jana Rucker, vice president of University communications and enrollment, in August.

OFFICE OF UNIVERSITY ADVANCEMENT

Andi Haney became Generation HU director in July.

STUDENT HEALTH SERVICES

Rhonda Davis became director of student health services in July replacing Lynn McCarty, who retired in June.



Embracing the Mission shared with churches

THIS SUMMER, the University mailed out President Bruce McLarty's book *Embracing the Mission* to all churches of Christ in the United States in an effort to clearly state what the University stands for and how it will face the future. Because serving the church is central to the mission, University leadership wanted churches to know in these uncertain times that Harding is committed to providing a high-quality education that is Christian at its very core.

"We appreciated Harding making its mission known to the brotherhood and to the churches and reaffirming what Harding is about and what it's been about since its inception," said Barry Buford, elder of University Church of Christ in Montgomery, Alabama. "We're very thankful that Harding made this available to the churches. This is material we would want to share with our congregation."

Showing its support, the board of trustees committed to personally pay for the entire cost of the project, which allowed for books to be mailed to more than 13,000 congregations.

"One of the things we were very impressed with was the role of faculty, staff and administration in the life of every student in every classroom," Buford said. "Because of this book, parents and students from our church can know exactly what Harding represents."

The book comes from McLarty's doctoral dissertation, inspired when he noticed the trend of faith-based colleges and universities to drift away from their founding principles. *Embracing the Mission* is an effort to clearly define Harding's vision and is taught to new faculty members to help them understand the University's history.

The book is available on Kindle for 99 cents and from the Harding Bookstore on campus and online (hubookstore.harding.edu) for \$9.99, with \$5 of the purchase price going to On a Wing and a Prayer, which aids students who need financial support while attending the University. Free copies are available upon request by emailing president@harding.edu.

Counseling programs become three in one

BEGINNING THIS YEAR, the College of Bible and Ministry's marriage and family therapy program and Harding School of Theology's counseling program will join the professional counseling clinical and school program as they all work under the direction of Cannon-Clary College of Education. According to Dr. Donny Lee, College of Education dean, the reorganization is intended to share resources to strengthen all three programs.

"There's been a charge to find ways for each of these programs to be stronger and to serve a broader community," Lee said. "Dividing our resources can make that harder to do. This decision has stemmed from the desire to combine resources and put these programs under one umbrella to have focused governance, goals and direction for each program."

The College of Education's professional counseling clinical and school program began in 2002 and now offers both a Master of Science/Educational Specialist degree in clinical mental health counseling and a Master of Science in professional school counseling. It added a second program site in Rogers, Arkansas, in 2007 and gained accreditation under the Council for Accreditation of Counseling and Related Educational Programs in 2015. Dr. Jenene Alexander serves as program director.

At Harding School of Theology, the Master of Arts in Counseling degree program was created by Dr. Bill Flatt, former dean, and has been directed by Dr. Ed Gray since 1994. This program will be absorbed into the professional counseling clinical and school program, functioning as a Memphis location of the program and operating with the same accreditation.

The marriage and family therapy program was championed by Dr. Carl Mitchell, former dean of the College of Bible and Ministry, and has been led by Dr. Lew Moore since its inception in 1993. The change in organization does not change the program itself, which will continue to operate as designed, side-by-side with professional counseling clinical and school.

"There are still going to be two programs, but they are just going to be operating under the same umbrella," Lee said. "They offer similar opportunities in terms of professional practice but different routes on how to get there. Both programs have a Christian emphasis in their approach, worldview and philosophy."

Lee said he will continue to pursue various program accreditations to strengthen the clinical presence of both programs in the communities they serve, and his goal is to one day create a mental health and wellness division in the College of Education.

"One of the pieces of vision we have is to create an institute of mental health and wellness which would serve the professional, church and local communities in services and professional development," Lee said. "It wouldn't be curricular, but rather faculty and students would be contributing to the profession and conducting outreach. Putting all these programs together really strengthened opportunity for that. We really want to move beyond the walls of Harding and beyond our programs to get into the community."

Both Lee and Provost Marty Spears said the transition and reorganization is a worthwhile effort that will take time to complete.

"These transitions are complex and involve accreditation and professional licenses, and I am pleased everyone is stepping up and providing strong collaboration and vision that reflects Harding's mission," Spears said. "I believe mental health and wellness are essential components of a healthy individual, church, school, community and family, and these changes will help us serve everyone in a more powerful way."

Bewley on board

TIM BEWLEY ('03) of Nashville, Tennessee, was added to the board of trustees May 4.

Bewley is senior vice president of Pinnacle Financial Partners. He previously served as first vice president at SunTrust Bank and chief deposit officer and vice president of Avenue Bank as well as in positions for Regions Bank in Middle Tennessee and Dallas.

He was named to Nashville's Top 30 under 30 in 2009, was one of *Nashville Business Journal's* Top 40 under 40 in 2010, and a Power Leader in Finance in 2016. He and his wife, Holly McCulley ('03), were named Harding's Outstanding Young Alumni in 2013.

SEEN on SOCIAL MEDIA



Bruce McLarty @bruceclarty
A great time with @HardingU Good News Singers in Cuba! So far, they sang and I spoke to 275 Cuban Christian teens!
AUGUST 4



David Slater I'm saddened to hear of the passing of Harding University's Rosemary Wilson. She has been a true friend for a long time, starting back in college. She was the heart and soul of the admissions office. It was my privilege to be with her very often during my time performing in the music group that represented that office. We always knew we could go to Rose's office for some wisdom and spiritual guidance. I loved her and her sweet husband, George, very much. Blessings to her family.
AUGUST 17



Kevin Brooks @KBnTejas
Just got back home from taking our oldest @_sam298 to @HardingU. So proud of the choice she is making. And who she is. #prouddad
AUGUST 18



Angela Sheffield @angieshef
Dear @HardingU freshman mommas: They are happy & having fun. YOU will be fine. Sad but also excited for them. Love, @HardingU senior mom
AUGUST 19



Wanda Jean Spears I really enjoy the live streaming of events on campus. Thank you, everyone who makes this service possible to those of us off campus.
AUGUST 21



Kellie Routen Praying for the students, faculty and staff for a wonderful year! God bless you!
AUGUST 27



EVENTS

NOV. 7

ASI speaker Eva Kor

A Holocaust survivor, Eva Kor speaks to the power of forgiveness after her traumatic childhood in an Auschwitz concentration camp. Open seating; no ticket necessary.
harding.edu/asi



NOV. 27

Campus lighting ceremony

The University prepares for the Christmas season when President Bruce McLarty counts down to the campus lighting. More than 100,000 lights illuminate the campus and make Harding one of many stops on Searcy's Tour of Lights.
harding.edu/events/lights

DEC. 2

CAB concert Judah & the Lion

Having released the deluxe edition of the band's second studio album, "Folk Hop

"n Roll" earlier this year, Judah & the Lion bring their mix of folk, hip hop, pop and rock to Benson stage.
hardingcab.com/tickets/

DEC. 16

Commencement

A tradition marked with pomp and circumstance, the University's fall commencement ceremonies celebrate more than 400 graduates as they receive their diplomas and transition into their next chapter.
harding.edu/graduation

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

BY THE NUMBERS

COMMUNICATION DEPARTMENT'S ATHLETICS COVERAGE

135

Number of athletic games produced live during 2016-17

367

Total hours of live sports coverage in 2016-17

7

Number of games produced for the NCAA Division II Central Region Basketball Tournament

10

Number of episodes of "Chasing the Herd" sports show aired in fall 2016



3

Number of students who traveled to Columbus, Ohio, to work the Elite Eight and Final Four tournaments

30

Number of hours of live track and field coverage for the GAC championship



Softball's superlative season

By SCOTT GOODE, assistant athletic director for sports information

IN ONLY ITS FOURTH year since reinstating the women's softball program, Harding turned in a season to remember. The Lady Bisons, under head coach Phil Berry, went 58-9 and won the Great American Conference regular season and tournament championships and the Central Region 1 tournament championship, falling just one win short of advancing to the NCAA Division II Women's College World Series. Harding was ranked as high as No. 2 nationally and finished the season ranked ninth. Key dates during the campaign tell the story.

Opening Day • Feb. 4

Harding opened its season at home for the first time and swept Missouri S&T of the Great Lakes Valley Conference, 7-6 and 11-4. The Lady Bisons scored four runs in the second inning of the opener and held on for the victory. A five-run third inning in game two, highlighted by Lexi Ruff's three-run home run gave the team a comfortable victory.

Conference Opener • Feb. 24

Harding lost its GAC opener 5-4 in eight innings at Southwestern Oklahoma. Coming

off a 7-4 loss to Nebraska-Kearney the previous weekend, it was the team's lone losing streak of the season — two games. The Lady Bisons responded with a 6-4 win in game two against Southwestern. Courtney Derrick's sacrifice fly in the eighth drove in the winning run and ignited a record-setting streak of victories.

Perfect Game • March 13

In the second game of a doubleheader sweep of Ouachita Baptist, freshman pitcher Autumn Humes struck out eight and did not allow a base runner over five innings for the first perfect game in Lady Bison softball history. Harding won 11-0 after scoring seven runs in the top of the fifth, three coming on a Humes home run.

Sixth-Straight Shutout • March 16

Senior pitcher Hannah Johnson and Humes both pitched shutouts against Oklahoma Baptist, with Harding winning the games 8-0 and 3-0. Harding also had shutout Oklahoma Baptist in two games the previous day and held Ouachita Baptist scoreless in two games March 13 to run its school-record shutout streak to six games.

GAC-Record 20-Game Winning Streak • March 25

Following the loss to Southwestern Oklahoma on Feb. 24, the team reeled off its 20th consecutive victory 6-2 over Southern Nazarene. With the win, Harding became the first GAC team ever to win 20 straight games. Peyton Mills hit a three-run home run in the fifth inning to seal the victory.

Streak Grows to 27 • April 4

The Lady Bisons went on the road to Russellville, Arkansas, and defeated Arkansas Tech 4-3 in nine innings and 1-0 to extend its school-record winning streak to 27 games. Madi Trump scored Brookelynn Moon from third base with a single up the middle in the second inning for the only scoring in game two. Humes allowed only one hit and struck out 10 in the victory that gave the Lady Bisons a 35-3 overall record and a 25-1 record in conference games. The streak came to an end in the team's next game, a 1-0

loss at East Central in Ada, Oklahoma.

School Record 38th Win • April 8

A resounding 10-0 victory over East Central gave Harding its 38th win of the season, topping the previous record of 37 in 2016. Trump hit a three-run home run in the second, and Humes allowed four hits and no runs with nine strikeouts in the circle.

Sweep of Southern Arkansas • April 14-15

Hosting the defending GAC champion Southern Arkansas for a four-game home series, the Lady Bisons made a statement with four straight victories over the Lady Riders. The team held one of the top offenses in Division II to only two runs as overflow crowds of more than 400 people watched the doubleheaders both days. Lindsey Duncan scored the game-winning run in the bottom of the seventh inning of Saturday's second game to give Harding a 1-0 victory and set off a jubilant celebration from the crowd.

First GAC Championship • April 23

A doubleheader sweep of traditional GAC power Arkansas-Monticello clinched Harding's first regular season softball championship. The Lady Bisons won the opener 7-5 with Kimmy Hendricks-Campbell driving in the game-winning run with a single in the top of the seventh. Derrick had a two-run double and Humes pitched a shutout in a 3-0 victory in game two.

Senior Day • April 29

Harding honored seniors Amanda Berdon, Courtney Derrick, Kimmy Hendricks-Campbell, Hannah Johnson, Mackenzie Jones and Brookelynn Moon with wins of 4-2 and 8-0 over Northwestern Oklahoma on Senior Day. Johnson was the winning pitcher in game one, and Derrick and Alexis Lawellin both had two hits. Humes had three hits in the opener and pitched a five-hit shutout in game two.

GAC Tournament Championship • May 6

Harding won its fourth consecutive game in the GAC Tournament and its second straight

5 Number of years in a row the baseball team has qualified for the Great American Conference Tournament. Ben Brauss, Luke Van Dover and Chris Taylor led the team with five home runs each.

45 Number of career rushing touchdowns for men's Berryhill Award-winner Park Parish, shattering the previous record of 34 held by Alan "Snake" Dixon, who played from 1970-73.

1,268 Number of career points for women's Berryhill Award-winner Andi Haney. She also had 530 rebounds, 494 assists and 267 steals.

29 Golfer Mason Banger's score on the back nine en route to individual medalist at the 2017 Natural State Classic.

2 Number of times Delaney Bowles has earned the Women's Golf Coaches Association

All-America Scholar honor. A child life major, Bowles was second on the team with an 86.21 stroke average. Chris Taylor led the team with five home runs each.

7 Ranking of the men's tennis team in the NCAA Division II Central Region, its highest regional ranking since finishing No. 7 in 2008.

22 Number of matches won by the doubles tennis team of Laura Golubic and Piper Huey, the most ever in a single season by a Lady Bison doubles team.

4 Number of All-America honors Josh Syrotchen earned in the discus, placing second at the NCAA Division II meet with a throw of 190 feet, 4 inches.

128', 2" Distance of Vanessa Shields hammer throw, which set a Harding record at the GAC meet.

over Southern Arkansas, 9-2, to collect its first conference tournament championship in Bentonville, Arkansas. The game was tied 2-2 until Harding exploded with seven runs in the top of the seventh. The Lady Bisons sent 12 batters to the plate in the inning.

NCAA Central Region 1 Championship • May 14

Harding was 54-6 after winning the GAC Tournament and was selected by the NCAA to host one of two Central Region tournaments. The Lady Bisons opened the tournament with an 8-0 victory over Missouri Western and followed that with a 7-2 win over Southern Arkansas, its seventh win over the Lady Riders during the season. After a 3-2 loss to Winona State, Harding responded with a 4-3 win over Winona State to earn the right to host the Central Super Regional tournament. With the score tied at 3-3, Alexis Lawellin raced home

on a wild pitch to score the game-winning run just ahead of the tag by Winona State pitcher Jordyn Kleman. Lawellin had two of Harding's nine hits and scored twice.

NCAA Super Regional • May 18-21

Through rain and several delays, Harding and Minnesota State played a memorable three-game series with Minnesota State winning the third game 7-6 to end Harding's season. Minnesota State won the opener 1-0 before Harding took game two 3-2. A three-day attendance of 1,374 witnessed the games. Minnesota State concluded their season as national champions.

With 58 wins, its first GAC regular season championship, its first GAC Tournament championship, and a berth in the Super Regional, it took only four years for the newest GAC softball team to become the best GAC softball team in conference history. 🏆



The celebration begins after sophomore Alexis Lawellin (44) scores in the bottom of the seventh inning to give the Lady Bisons a 4-3 victory over Winona State and the NCAA Division II Central Region 1 tournament championship May 14.

PHOTO BY JEFF MONTGOMERY

CALLED ACCORDING TO HIS PURPOSE

In the midst of struggles, Harrison and Hayley Waldron choose joy.

By HAYLEY WALDRON

LOOKING BACK, YOU MIGHT THINK OUR STORY STARTED AUG. 14, 2015 — the day of the accident. But to really explain how the Lord prepared me for the life I live now, I have to go backward some: back to my childhood and the loving, supportive atmosphere my parents created for me; back to arriving at Harding and the blessing of interacting with peers and professors who were molding me and making me better; and back to when I met Harrison.

Harrison and I both signed up to go to Harding University in Greece during spring 2013. I remember seeing him in the cafeteria, and I didn't know who he was. I saw him and thought, "He's the most handsome man I've ever seen! I'm going to marry him!" As I got to know him, I found this really interesting person with a lot of cool perspectives. He grew up in Georgia for a good part of his life and also in Mexico and Honduras as a missionary kid, so he's fluent in Spanish. He didn't live the most normal American life, and I thought he was the best thing ever — and I still do. It was one of those things where I was going to marry him unless something really bad happens. I was always really confident about that.

I went through a bumpy time, both in my faith and in my relationship with Harrison, after one of my really good friends from Harding died in a car accident. It was a time when I felt so confused about why God lets bad things happen to people and why he didn't intervene. I was mad for a long time. It made me realize that I'm not immune to suffering. I struggled to hold on to God and say, "OK, this is terrible, but I still love you and praise you and glorify you." It was difficult. Harrison was really amazing through that time. That was another thing that really solidified our relationship I think. He was there. He was loving me unconditionally when he didn't have to.

When we got back from HUG, we were like, "Let's get married!" So we did! May 31, 2014, was the best day. I remember so vividly saying my vows to him and thinking, "Finally, I get to make this man my husband, and we get to be a team in life forever." We finished our last year at Harding, and it was a wonderful environment to build a marriage in. We graduated in May 2015 and decided we would move back to Nashville, Tennessee, where I'm from. Harrison graduated with a degree in oral communications with speech and drama licensure, and he had been accepted into Lipscomb University's Master of Fine Arts for film and creative media. He's super talented. I graduated with a degree in psychology, and I also had been accepted to Lipscomb in a master's program for counseling, so we felt all set to do life. We were going to be professionals and have three kids and a golden retriever. Because of his missions background, we were really excited about the idea of foreign missions and thought we had our lives paved out. We wanted to live for the Lord, and our purposes were good.

SUBMITTED PHOTO



Hayley and Harrison Waldron enjoy relaxing with their dog, Duke. The couple live in Nashville, Tennessee, where Hayley serves as Harrison's primary caregiver.

His mother's perspective

HARRISON'S FATHER, PHIL, AND I live and work in Honduras as missionaries. On the day of the accident, I had driven eight hours from Honduras to Guatemala where I was going to speak at a women's conference. I did not have phone service. Once I arrived and connected to the internet, I had several messages from my husband and Hayley's mom. I called Phil, who was in Honduras and had received the news of the accident from our youngest daughter, Laura, who was in Texas. Phil very calmly told me that Harrison had been in an accident on an ATV and was being life flighted to the hospital. I have never received news so painful and frightening. I recall screaming out, "No!" I knew I couldn't make the flight to Erie, Pennsylvania, on my own, so I traveled back to Honduras to leave with Phil. We were in constant communication with Hayley and her parents, and by the time we left for the airport we knew that Harrison had undergone brain surgery and that the next 48 hours were critical. I remember begging God to allow me to see my son alive one more time if he was going to take him. We finally arrived in Erie at approximately 4 a.m. on Sunday. God had granted my request to see my son alive, but seeing him in that state was harder than I ever imagined.

This journey has been, and some days continues to be, the greatest faith challenge of our lifetime. Phil and I naturally wondered if one day we might have to bury one of our children, but in our wildest imagination we never thought of having to go through something like this. One of our counselors calls it "ambiguous grief." That explains the struggle. We are so thankful to God for his miraculous provision for Harrison (that includes giving him Hayley and her family) and for sustaining him. We are so thankful he is alive. But we struggle every day with missing who he was and longing to hear him talk and being hugged by him. He always made us laugh, and we miss that so much. We continue to hobble along, glorifying God in the valley, focusing on doing his work in Honduras, and trusting him for more miracles.

— Donna Waldron, Harrison's mother

BUT THAT IS NOT WHAT HAPPENED.

Aug. 14, 2015. This was a bad day. This was the day Harrison got hurt.

We were in New York state for our friends' wedding. I was a bridesmaid; he was a groomsman. We were at our friend's farm for the rehearsal dinner. Someone asked Harrison to get on the ATV. At first he said no, but then later he agreed.

I was back with my friends getting my bridesmaid's gift and having a nice time when somebody said the guys had to tell me something outside. I didn't have enough time to process what they would need to tell me, but when I saw the looks on their faces, I knew something was really bad. They said Harrison has been in an accident on the ATV. I didn't think; I just ran. I remember thinking, "I'm going to die," because the adrenaline had taken over, and I was running so fast I couldn't breathe.

The ATV had fallen into a 10-foot ravine, and when I got to Harrison, he was laying at the bottom and unconscious. I don't know what I did. I just remember saying, "I don't know what to do. What do I do? What do I do?"

I called my mom and sister-in-law. Those were hard conversations. I saw a life flight helicopter coming over the trees, and I remember thinking, "I really hope that's not for Harrison." It landed in the field across

the street. I didn't know what was happening. I couldn't breathe; I couldn't function. I thought I was going to die.

They got him into the helicopter and took him off to a trauma hospital in Erie, Pennsylvania. I followed along in the car. When we got to the hospital, the doctor told me it was really bad. He wanted to perform a surgery where he would remove part of Harrison's skull to let his brain swell. The doctor wasn't hopeful. He really thought Harrison was going to die. I didn't have much hope either. I prayed. I'm not sure what I prayed, just that the Lord would come be with me and help Harrison. Help us. I'm so grateful to have good friends who stayed by my side all night.

HE MADE IT THROUGH SURGERY, and for the first time I had hope. He was alive. All of the scans of his body came back perfect. The accident had shaken his brain and injured the brain stem. I remember when I finally got to go in and see him, the nurse said for me to be very gentle and not overstimulate him. Three hours ago I was messing around and joking with him and now I had to be careful not to overstimulate him. I wanted to go back to fix all of this, to say "Don't get on the ATV," to save all of this suffering. But I couldn't.

All I could do was be the best wife I could be for Harrison. I did what I thought he



Friends from the Waldrons' HUG group gather in Harrison's Atlanta hospital room to pray over him Sept. 14, 2015.

PHOTO BY ASHEL PANKSONS

would do if it were the other way around. I stayed and hovered over him. I read him miracles from the Bible and asked him not to give up. The prognosis wasn't good. A couple of days after the accident, he could flex his toes and squeeze our hands, but we didn't know if he was in there or if it was reflexive.

For three months, we waited. I wondered if he would remember me, if he still knew anything at all, or if he was even in there. It was a nightmare. I'd wake up and go sit in a hospital. We went to several places trying to get him well enough for rehab. It was a long, awful three months of uncertainty. It felt like evil had won.

There were a lot of days where it would have been so much easier to not get out of bed and crawl in a hole, but I got up. I was not letting this beat us. I was not going to lose my faith to my fear. I prayed, Lord, please if you'll just let Harrison wake up, I know we can do this together. We are such a great team. Please don't let me do this alone.

On Nov. 20, we were sitting in the Shepard Center in Atlanta, and they brought him an iPad to try to type on with a stylus wrapped around his finger. They asked him to write his name. And I don't know if I didn't understand what was happening, but then from the corner I hear "H-A-R-R ..." and I couldn't believe it. He could communicate. The next thing he typed was "I love you." He loves me! He didn't forget who I am. It was one of the best days of my whole life because I had lost something so dear to me, and I didn't know if it was gone forever, and it came back. He came back. And I was so happy.

AFTER THAT WE LEARNED that he could hear the entire time he was comatose/vegetative — since the day after the accident. He just couldn't communicate to us that he was there. It was amazing to hear him recount some of the things that people had said to me beside his bed. There was one day where I was suspecting that maybe he was there. I was crying and overwhelmed next to him. My mother-in-law came in, and she said, "Oh, are Harrison's eyes watering? It looks like a tear." I was like, no way. And we thought maybe he was crying because I was crying.

Here's what Harrison remembers from that time: "My most awful memories I have are some of my earliest ones. I remember

Her mother's perspective

HAYLEY AND HARRISON SEEMED TO CONNECT both on a spiritual and intellectual level very early on in their relationship. Their commitment to each other and God has been unwavering throughout their entire relationship, and their marriage and faith has been strengthened through their suffering. It is a beautiful thing to see how much they love each other and to witness their commitment to serving God while finding joy even in their current circumstances.

After the accident, we received so many visits both in Erie, Pennsylvania, and in Atlanta from strangers and friends alike. Messages flooded in from around the world to let us know that Harrison was being prayed for constantly. Christians from all over the country sent cards and items they thought might be helpful. When Hayley and the rest of the family needed a place to stay in Atlanta, close friends of the Waldron family took all of us into their home. Churches from around the Atlanta area provided food multiple times per week for several months. Friends from our home congregation, Tusculum Church of Christ, and other close friends pitched in with their individual skills to help renovate our house before Harrison came home from the hospital. As we transitioned home, our church family and friends met all kinds of daily needs while we found our new normal. When we sought new therapies in Jackson, Tennessee, Campbell Street Church of Christ provided us a place to live, meals and most especially friendships that will forever be special to us.

Our day-to-day home life consists of not only meeting Harrison's daily needs but also providing him with as much therapy as possible, which we carry out ourselves at home. We aid Harrison in swallowing therapy, bicycling with his arms and legs, standing, and sitting as well as head and trunk exercises. All of these are in addition to intermittent out-of-home therapies such as hyperbaric oxygen therapy, autologous stem cell transfers and ongoing speech therapy.

We are so thankful for all of the prayers and support from various entities and people around the world during the past two years. We pray that Harrison and Hayley can continue to share their faith as they persevere on their journey of hope and healing.

— Lisa Smith, Hayley's mother

hearing that I would probably never wake up and could even die as the doctor spoke to my crying wife. It was horrible hearing Hayley cry especially because I couldn't comfort her and tell her I was fully aware and trying to communicate my awareness."

Let me share some statistics: 90 percent of people in an accident like this die on the spot or close after. Of the 10 percent who live, only four percent wake up. And nearly all of those who wake up have really terrible, cognitive deficits. You don't often see somebody whose body doesn't work well but whose mind is so sharp. That's why Harrison is so special. I truly believe that God did this miracle, and I believe he has so many plans for Harrison because of the way he saved his mind.

Harrison had to go through a lot of therapy after he emerged. We knew he was in there, but his body wasn't working for him. This was going to be a marathon; it was going to be for the long haul. After he emerged, we did two more months at the Shepard

Center. After a couple months of therapy, we got to go home. It was such a good day. Harrison said he was tired of living in a hospital, and it had been five months. We had to redo some of the house to accommodate him, so it had just gotten finished when we got there.

We were living back with my parents — I was 23 at this time — and we hadn't been out of the house that long. It was easy to fall into old habits and old roles. So I had to draw some boundaries. We had to rearrange our family system, and that's been difficult. I feel like a child and very dependent, and I need help, but I'm not helpless. We are so grateful because when I said we were coming home, my parents didn't even think twice before agreeing. For all of their sacrifices and love from both families, we're so blessed to have families who are so supportive and loving.

We wanted to hide away until we were normal, but it doesn't work like that. We decided we were going to make the best of it because that's what we Waldrons do. That's

Harry and me. We choose joy, and we choose to do the hard stuff.

During and after the accident, we were incredibly blessed by the church around us. I have never experienced the church in this way until this happened. [Vice President for Alumni and Parent Relations] Liz Howell sent out this message to somebody up near Erie, Pennsylvania, where Harrison was in the hospital first, and all of these Harding alumni came out to help us. Down in Atlanta, it was the same story. We did some treatments in Jackson, Tennessee, and people would come and bring us meals and pray over us. The church there rented us a hospital bed and built this ramp on the house where we lived. They took care of us. In all of this, I realized that God will see you through, and he will often use his people to pick you up and help you. I love the church in a much different way now because of that.

The treatments in Jackson were to improve the communication between Harrison's brain and his body. The doctors take out fat from his belly, get stem cells out of it, and inject those into his cerebrospinal fluid, and the stem cells go into his brain and help form little connections. This is a difficult process, and that's why it has been such a long, hard recovery.

But Harrison is the most determined person I have ever met. When he would build something for me, like a coffee table or bench, he would not rest until he was finished. He would not come in to eat or drink. He wouldn't move from that spot until he was finished and happy with it. That has served him so well in this process because he has to keep working and pushing through. He is able to see past our suffering and past what's happening on the earth and able to see it for its eternal quality. I can't help but think that God made Harrison and me for each other and for this purpose — that he saw that this was going to happen and said, "Let me prepare this woman for him."

Harrison doesn't give up, and he is making really good progress. He is standing in his stander and is able to roll and push himself up on his stomach. He has a bike that his wheelchair hooks onto. It has electrodes that stimulate his muscles to help him pedal with both his legs and arms, and as time goes on he can start to overpower it and pedal on his own.

His mind is super sharp. He's bilingual, so he can still type in Spanish. He has spoken a few things, but nothing consistently. He's swallowing, but it's not efficient enough. There are a lot of obstacles when you get a brain injury, but he is not letting those get in his way.

THERE'S A LOT OF UNCERTAINTY as we are two years out now. Sometimes I look 10 years into the future and wonder where we will be, but there's no guarantee. There's no knowing, which can be a really scary place, but I've gotten used to it. The bottom line is we're going to surrender to this new life and this new plan God has laid before us. This is not what we wanted at all, but sometimes God lets us have these opportunities to glorify him. People always told us that God was going to have a special purpose for us. I was not thinking that this would be what it was. But we know God's got us, and he has great plans for us.

I have a quote from Harrison that I love. This is what Harrison wants people to know. "God is good and has done great things for us during this long, difficult journey." God's faithfulness to us during this has helped us be more faithful to him. We know he's got this taken care of. He's cared for our every need before we even knew we had them. He's given us grace and love and incredible support.

Someone asked me once how my purpose has changed. I said my purpose hasn't changed; it's become more clear to me. Because Harrison got hurt and because we hurt so much, my purpose is coming to greater fruition. When God presents you with a different opportunity or a different path than you wanted, if you take the path, you will be blessed beyond measure, more blessed than you could ever imagine.

I'm so happy to be living it for the Lord — even when it hurts. God has done great things in my life, and I know if he loves me and he loves Harrison, which I believe he does tremendously, we're going to be OK. He's going to give us meaning in our brokenness. And one day when we're all completely whole in heaven, it's going to be amazing. I believe we're going to see some fruit from this trial, which is what our lives are all about. It's about getting people to heaven and living this wonderful life for eternity. It's what I signed up for when I gave my life to Christ. 🙏

A friend's perspective

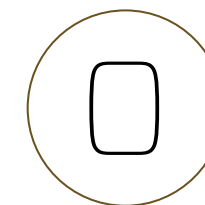
HAYLEY AND HARRISON WERE NEW into their relationship when we spent the semester in Greece. So, we had been able to see their relationship change and evolve during that time, which is a very different situation than on campus in Searcy. This experience adds both positives and negatives and is a situation that adds other stressors to relationships. We saw them work through this time and finish the semester closer than when it began and more rooted together. Once back to campus, I remember noticing the joy and energy they had in their relationship. They were soon engaged and married while still students at Harding, so we were able to witness this time in their relationship as well. It also seemed like they had settled beautifully into their busy married life and were managing classes, internships, social lives, and all the other things that are part of a student's senior year experience.

After the accident, I saw the fierce love that Hayley had for Harrison I recognized early on. She demonstrated such strength in caring for him. She continued to draw on family and friends who encouraged her and who she could safely reach out to and trust for guidance and support when needed. All of these things were parts of their early relationship that we had seen glimpses of but were now being seen in such a difficult experience. The level of maturity seen in both Harrison and Hayley this past two years has been from the Lord. They have navigated so many things that many of us who have been married much longer than them have never had to face. Their dedication to and love for one another has been so clearly evident: Hayley's fierce love and support as not only wife but also caregiver and Harrison's strength and fight to not give up, and taking any chance he has to affirm his love for his beautiful wife that has never wavered. That is beautiful. That is Godly, Christ-centered love.

— Amy Baker, spring 2013 Harding University in Greece visiting professor and instructor of communication sciences and disorders



Compiled by HANNAH OWENS



beying Jesus' command in Mark 16:15, missionaries immerse themselves among people who may speak, believe and live differently. They dedicate their lives to the people whom they wish to reach. They make a home in a place with which they are not familiar. They surround themselves with strangers for a time while they plant their seeds. They connect, and they "speak the gospel to all creation."



Dear Nepal,

You have welcomed me and surprised me. You are a land of extremes. I remember coming here almost two years ago and taking that first ride from Kathmandu to Pokhara where I now live. I remember taking awe-struck photos and videos out of the windows of the bus, marveling at the amount of people who crowded the tightly packed shops, the dusty road, and even the tops of buses. And then, as the city fell away, I was amazed (and terrified) to see the towering hills around which the bus skirted — nothing but a few feet of pavement between my window and the steep drop ending in the rushing river below. And when we came to Pokhara and the early morning sun greeted my jet-lag weary eyes, I stood in awe at the great Himalayas spread out before me — snow-capped testaments to God’s limitless power.

And Nepal, I see your burdens. I see that in this powerful land it seems there is not enough — not enough jobs, not enough opportunity, not enough space to grow. I see discouragement and weariness born of natural disaster and government corruption. And I see the burden of gods who cannot save, who only add their extra burden of unattainable perfection, endless striving, their weighty burden of false hope. “The images carried about are burdensome, a burden for the weary. They stoop and bow down together; unable to rescue the burden” (Isaiah 46:1b-2a).

So my prayer for you, Nepal, is that you will look at your land with new eyes. Look at your people — strong, beautiful people — who have withstood so much, and see that there is one “who made you, who formed you in the womb, and who will help you” (Isaiah 44:2). I pray that you look at the mountains and you see irrefutable evidence of God’s power. He is a God so powerful that he could never be replicated by human hands. By his power alone, the mountains were formed. What kind of God could have made something so immense — so unshakeable?

And yet by his power, even the highest peak could be leveled, so that the world would know his might (Isaiah 45:2-3). And by his power, even the darkest heart could be redeemed, so that the world would know his love.

Take heart, Nepal! Put down the burdens of idols that you have to carry, parading them through the streets. Be lifted up into the arms of the one who carries you, who longs to parade you blazing with righteousness into his kingdom.

“Listen to me ... you whom I have upheld since you were conceived, and have carried since your birth. Even to your old age and gray hairs I am he, I am he who will sustain you. I have made you and I will carry you; I will sustain you and I will rescue you” (Isaiah 46:3-4). Nepal, I pray you will be sustained by the Lord today.

CINA CATTEAU ('15)

Dear Mozambique,

Thank you for welcoming us and our teammates in 2003 in all our youth and inexperience.

We have grown up here — not in the childhood sense, but in the sense of becoming an adult. It has been here in Mozambique among your Makua-Metto people that we have had our idealism and our immaturities seasoned by both the sufferings and joys of real, adult life and the challenges and thrills of ministry.

It has been amazing to watch churches “grow up” here as well and witness God’s spirit transform a handful of small churches into a network that now includes more than 2,000 Christians. We came here with the call to serve, but we have so often found ourselves on the receiving end — we are humbled and grateful for so many gifts you have given us. We have learned two of your languages, been shaped by your culture, raised our daughters on your soil, and been tutored deeply in African hospitality as you shared your food in times of plenty and in times of want.

It is here in your land that we learned about joy — even in the midst of awful pain because of Christ’s resurrection we are never without hope, because the kingdom of God is never in trouble! Some days discipling new believers and encouraging new churches was messy and disappointing, but other days were thrilling as young leaders began to catch the vision of imitating the servant leadership of Jesus.

You have taught us about the temporary nature of what the world hypes in the news. We have watched women who can’t read meet Jesus in the Sermon on the Mount with his scandalous ideas about loving our enemies and argue passionately amongst themselves about exactly what that should look like in their village. Even though the world would see these women as nobodies who live in the middle of nowhere, their transformation puts them in the very center of the gospel Jesus preached.

You have also taught us about faith as we have watched Makua-Metto believers experience pressure or persecution from their neighbors or families as they’ve stepped away from destructive worship and old patterns. It has been beautiful to watch God form his church as a new family for each other, rejoicing, mourning and learning together.

Sometimes Mozambique seems forgotten by the rest of the world — a Portuguese-speaking corner of Africa that often gets passed over for development. But God does not forget you, and God never ceases to delight in his Mozambican children. Neither will we forget you; our family will be moving back to the U.S. at the end of next year, but Mozambique will always be home. May the peace of Christ reach every heart in every corner of Mozambique.

ALAN ('00) AND RACHEL ('00) LADYE HOWELL



SUBMITTED PHOTOS



“God desires a relationship with you because you are covered in his fingerprints.”

Dear people working in the dump outside of Tegucigalpa,

I first met you more than nine years ago when I was a university student. My husband, Matt ('09), and I took a mission trip, and a janitor we worked with gave us a little money and told us to do something special with it. My parents, who were missionaries at the time, my husband and I packed a few hundred sandwiches and bananas and went to deliver them to you the first time. There was nothing calm about our first visit with you, and we left heartbroken that we lived in a world that allowed for people to scavenge through the same trash as cows, buzzards and dogs.

What you don’t know, precious people, is how much you have changed my life and the course of the entire ministry we have set out to do here in Honduras. You are the reason that week after week we load up our truck and spend time with you in the muck and mire that is your day to day. We want you to know that whatever life circumstances you have faced, you are worth of being treated with love and respect.

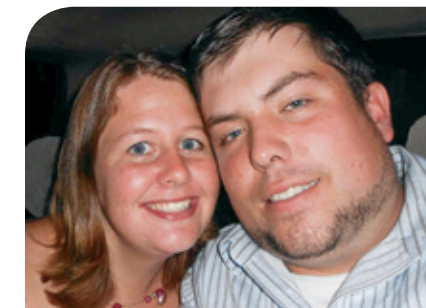
As you know, a giant statue of Jesus stands over Tegucigalpa with his arms open to the people, but from your angle, his back is turned to you. My prayer is that you know that our God does not have his back against you, but he is kneeling down with open arms and ready to embrace you. You are loved and you are wanted.

I hope you know that when God created you, he made you in his image. You are made to reflect God; he has breathed the breath of life into you just as he breathed the breath of life into Adam at the beginning of time. God desires a relationship with you because you are covered in his fingerprints.

Finally, dear friends, I want you to know that God has used you in a great way to show me that light still exists in a very dark place. I have seen you worship and praise God in the midst of literal ashes and teach me a much deeper faith and reliance on God than I have never known.

People of the dump, we love you, and you are very special to us.

NICOLE TINDALL FITZGERALD ('08)



SUBMITTED PHOTOS



Dear New Jersey,

Over the past 14 years, we have hiked your trails, swam your shore and eaten of your produce. God has blessed you with millions of different people that come from areas around the world. He has given you knowledge, entertainment, culture and life in abundance. We have seen God’s face in your faces. We have experienced God’s joy when hearing the accents and opinions from our friends we have made along the way. Excitement shines in your eyes as you understand God in ways you have never known him before. We serve alongside one another and come together through storms and struggles. You have taught us about hospitality, generosity, loss and pain.

We are so grateful for how God has revealed his heart for you — to us — even before we knew who you were or walked down your streets. Our prayer is that God uses our family to spread his peace in a place that is often hectic and to spread his light to lead you into new paths and his love as we share together in studying his Word.

Our hope and prayer for New Jersey is that it will continue to have communities of people that shine God’s great love around them. Communities of faith choose to live counter-culture to the rapid pace and drive for money and pursue true treasures in heaven. We pray we will continue to be a part of helping you understand the heights and depths of God’s amazing love.

In Christ,

CARL ('02), ALICIA ('04), ZOE AND ELLE WILLIAMSON



Jade Toth and Shelby Roberts observe Dr. Elisa de Vitis as she prepares samples for testing. The SURF students assisted in testing patient samples for a wide variety of autoimmune disorders such as celiac disease.

For nine science majors, summer 2017 turned out to be an unlikely combination of

RESEARCH AND RIGATONI

By KALEB TURNER

Photography by GRANT SCHOL

A

As part of the Summer Undergraduate Research in Florence program led by Dr. Dennis Matlock, associate professor of biochemistry and department chair, nine students spent four weeks at the Harding University in Florence campus and in laboratories at Meyer Children's Hospital practicing

hands-on biomedical research and experiencing Italian culture.

Matlock said after a discussion with Dr. Jeff Hopper, dean of international programs, the idea for a biochemistry-based summer program seemed a natural fit for science students who felt they could not study abroad because of class requirements.

"Sometimes our students feel, because of the prerequisite nature of some of their courses, that doing something like this in the summer gives them the opportunity to still be a part of an international program," Matlock says. "I was happy to see our students be able to be a part of something where their studies met a want to see the world."

Lance Benson, a senior biochemistry and molecular biology major, said the decision to attend SURF came from the desire to experience a foreign culture and to study clinical applications of his major outside the classroom.

"Being able to go abroad for studying had been a dream of mine; however, I had not thought it possible due to the number of specialized classes my major required," Benson says. "SURF provided the opportunity of a lifetime to experience the Italian culture while pursuing applicable studies in the major I enjoy and hope to pursue a career."

For four weeks, students stayed in the villa at HUF and became an integral part of the



Lance Benson and Dr. Giancarlo Perferi work together in the laboratory. Each student was given the opportunity to rotate daily and work with different doctors or to focus on a specific type of testing depending on personal interests.

Harding and local community. From interacting with summer HUF students to visiting with locals and working alongside them in the lab, science students found Florence to be a place easy to call home during the summer.

In the lab, the students worked alongside Dr. Chiara Azzari and her colleagues at Meyer Children's Hospital. Students completed biochemistry research with practicing clinical professionals in a real-world setting — much different from how most students complete their biochemistry lab in the Pryor-England Center for Science and Engineering on the Searcy campus.

“The people at the laboratory were intentional about making the point that, behind every tube or sample, there is a patient. Often times that was a sick child because of the hospital where we were,” Matlock says. “They could see the relevance. It was right in front of them. They could see something they were doing right there, within a matter of hours, making an impact on the patients in the hospital.”

Junior prepharmacy student Rachel Murray saw just how impactful her work in the lab was to the Florentine families who had children at the hospital.

“Since we worked at a children's hospital, we helped out a lot with newborn screening,” Murray says. “This taught me the importance of newborn screening as it really is the first snapshot into the status of a person's biochemistry. It showed me how important it is to detect disorders early in life so that patients can be treated as soon as possible to allow them a healthy life.”

For Matlock, the students' Christ-mindedness made the experience an even richer opportunity to study biochemistry but to also see how their research can further the kingdom.

“It didn't take them any time at all to adjust to the service approach in what they were doing — knowing there was a patient behind each tube,” Matlock says. “They understood immediately what they were stepping into, and I think having that Christ-like focus helped them tremendously in terms of integrating into the environment and understanding the significance.”

Matlock also emphasized the level of expertise, knowledge and experience

the laboratory staff provided to the students during their weeks of study.

“I know this is easy to say, but if you look at the staff, they're literally world-class,” Matlock says. “Dr. Azarri lectures in multiple countries. She's simply interested, like I and all my colleagues are, in training the next generation and providing those opportunities to grow and learn.”

Life of the SURF student was not all study and research despite their excitement to be a part of such an incredible experience. Staying at the villa, students had the opportunity to make friends with HUF students and to be a part of many trips they took outside of Florence.

The group began their summer journey in Rome where they stayed for four days with the HUF students. Matlock said even in Rome, their exposure to medicine and research was evident in the art and history of the ancient city.

“I'll say that it was great being a part of HUF group and schedule,” Matlock says. “We got to do a lot of the same things they did — like being in Rome for four days. To be in Rome and to be in the Sistine Chapel, it's unmatched. We saw the statue of David where the tour guide was sure to point out to us how anatomically correct David is, like blood vessels on his arms and legs.”

Outside of their trip to Rome, the students spent leisure time at the villa and understanding the local people and culture. Murray said the SURF program taught her more than just biochemistry knowledge.

“It didn't take them any time at all to adjust to the **service approach** in what they were doing.”

“This was my first time ever to go abroad which was a pretty scary thought at first, but it taught me a lot about independence and self-confidence,” Murray says. “I had a rough year with some tough classes before I left, and it left me feeling not confident in what I wanted to do, but this trip really showed me that I need to believe in my ability and intelligence.”

Matlock said students were quick to want to learn more about Italian culture of the area and broaden their worldview. Between experiences of working in the lab and living in Florence, students were not ready to leave their summer home.

“It was just a packed program, and every day provided a fantastic opportunity for the students to learn, whether that was in the lab or around Florence,” Matlock says. “I think it's easy to say that most didn't want to leave right away. The students were thankful to be at the villa and be a part of that community there.”

Benson, who had only ever traveled to Canada, said this experience of Italian culture through the lens of Christ's servants in medicine made a profound impact on his faith.

“[SURF] helped to improve my confidence in dealing with unfamiliar situations even if I do not fully understand the language of those with whom I am communicating,” Benson says. “The Italian Christians encouraged me to become more bold in my faith and in evangelism; I am simply one person trying his best to serve God, just the same as our brethren across the world.”

At the end of their four weeks in Florence, Matlock said he left humbled by the experience to be there alongside the students and impressed by their ability to adapt, adjust and understand the significance of what they were doing as future medical professionals.

“It made me feel really good about the experience they're getting here at Harding and how prepared they are to be able to integrate so seamlessly into that real-world environment so quickly and effectively,” Matlock says. “Before you knew it, students were standing there with lab members performing analysis and doing the work. It made me proud to see how well prepared they were for that kind of work. It was truly, truly humbling.”

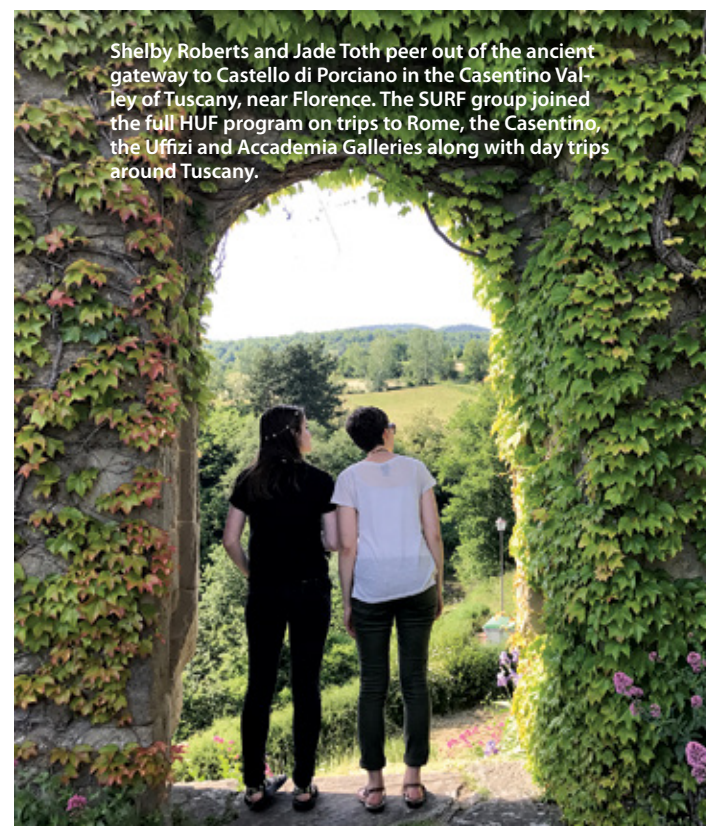
Murray echoed Matlock's sentiments and said the entire experience — from the laboratory staff and the medical experience to the travel and culture — was one that left her feeling confident in her major and future career.

“Actually being able to understand and work with the doctors at the hospital showed me that I am on the right path for my future with medicine and helping people,” Murray says. “It also helped me realize that there are so many different paths that I am able to take with my major and showed me which kinds of pharmacy I would or wouldn't see myself studying in the future.”

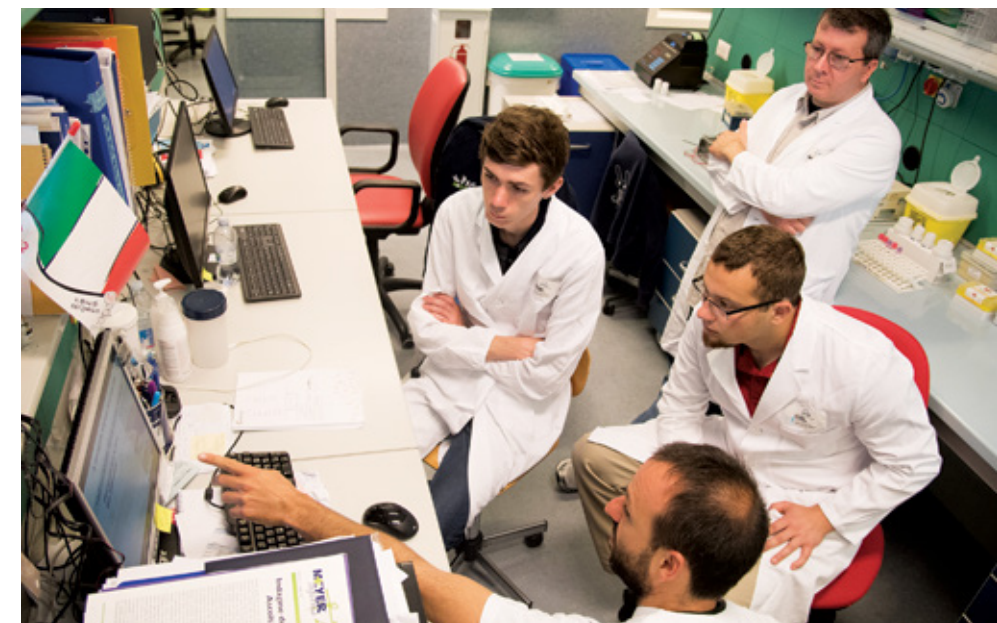
For Matlock, the simplest way to describe summer 2017 is thankful.

“I think if I had to pick one word to summarize this entire experience, it would simply be ‘thankful.’ I definitely felt 100 percent of the Harding community behind us — from the international programs office to the administration. I was happy to take care of the science classes, but I realized there was a whole lot more than just the classes. I was so thankful for the support felt from all those other areas to provide the infrastructure. It would not have been possible if I didn't have their support.”

The program proved to be a perfect mix of arts, culture and sciences, and Matlock is scheduled to make his way back to Florence in summer 2018 with a new group of SURF students for another summer of research and rigatoni. 🍝



Shelby Roberts and Jade Toth peer out of the ancient gateway to Castello di Porciano in the Casentino Valley of Tuscany, near Florence. The SURF group joined the full HUF program on trips to Rome, the Casentino, the Uffizi and Accademia Galleries along with day trips around Tuscany.



Landon Burcham, Lance Benson and Dr. Dennis Matlock observe Dr. Francesco Nieddu at his lab station in the Meyer Children's Hospital Research Laboratory as he explains the science behind the tests they were performing.



Connections



Send us your news! Let us know about your wedding, birth, job change, promotion, award, retirement, etc. Email your items to alumninews@harding.edu or write Harding University, Office of Alumni Relations, Box 10768, Searcy, AR 72149-5615.

1959

Douglas Cloud was awarded third place from the Emerging Screenwriters Contest for a script he co-wrote, "No Mercy Rule." (6325 Williams Grove Drive, Brentwood, TN 37027)

1968

Charles Hearne was inducted into the Texas Association of Basketball Coaches Hall of Fame. In his 30 years of coaching, his overall record was 995-333. He coached 39 varsity teams with 28 of them qualifying for the playoffs. Four teams made it to the state tournament with one team winning the state championship. (P.O. Box 206, Grafard, TX 76449)

1970

Art Ford retired as president of Great Lakes Bible College in Waterloo, Ontario. He served the sister schools of Great Lakes Christian College and Great Lakes Bible College in various roles for 30 years in addition to spending 10 years as a missionary to Papua, New Guinea, and five years in full-time church ministry in Canada. (712 Melrose St., Kingston, ON K7M 9B4 Canada)

Richard Hilton has been appointed by the Mississippi Hospital Association to serve on the board of governors as the Prairie Council Representative. The appointment represents the second time he has been named to the board. He is the OCH Regional Medical Center CEO and administrator. He currently serves on several MHA committees including retirement oversight, political action and Medicaid advisory. He also has been involved in the Prairie Hospital Council and MHA Quarter Century Executive Forum and serves as treasurer for North Mississippi Trauma System board and on Vizient Gulf States Region board. (103 Apache Drive, Starkville, MS 39759)

1980

Kristy Rollmann Shelton retired from coaching after 34 years. She also completed her third Christian fiction novel, *Restitution*. She and her husband, **Cliff** ('79), have taught at Greater Atlanta Christian Schools for 35 years. (3860 Genoa Court, Duluth, GA 30096)

1985

Ed Madden was selected 2017 Distinguished Alumnus from Alpha Chi National College Honor Society. He also received the University of South Carolina's 2017 Martin Luther King Social Justice Award for faculty. He is a professor in the

department of English language and literature at the University of South Carolina and director of women's and gender studies. He also serves as the poet laureate for the city of Columbia. (1906 Melissa Lane, Columbia, SC 29210)

1988



Jon Partlow recently became preaching minister for the Sunshine Church of Christ in Portsmouth, Ohio. He earned his doctorate from Harding School of Theology in 2007. He and his wife, Cile, have two children. (347 Bel-Air Drive, Lucasville, OH 45648)

1992

Jennifer McMullen released a new CD titled "God From A to Z." The album serves as a companion to Robin House's children's book *God From A to Z*, which teaches attributes of God based on Scripture. The CD features 26 hymns and praise songs she arranged and performed a cappella. (5108 Dixie Garden Drive, Shreveport, LA 71105)

Barry Baggett was honored for 25 years of service as senior marketing manager for America's Car Mart. He and his wife, Patricia, have a daughter, Gwyneth Rose. (5209 S. Bent Tree Drive, Rogers, AR 72758)

1995

Steve Black released *What Kind of Watchman Are You?*, a book about sexual assault and how churches and parents can see the warning signs of the abuser and others who help aid abusers. He and his wife, **Jan McGaughey**, have two children. (2701 Triangle Leaf Drive, Fort Worth, TX 76244)

"God From A to Z" is Jennifer McMullen's first full-length album release as well as her first a cappella music project.



1997

Ray and **Wendy Frye McElroy** announce the birth of daughter, Riley Grace, Feb. 27, 2017. Ray is a water systems technician, and Wendy is an elementary school librarian. (3930 Blue Coral Drive, North Las Vegas, NV 89032)

1998

Yessica Sanchez Jones has been named director of the Arkansas Department of Information Services after serving as interim director. Before joining DIS, she was an assistant professor in the department of management information at Harding. She also has served as a solutions developer for Little Rock-based Acxiom, database developer for Pennzoil, and Gov. Asa Hutchinson's outreach liaison to the Hispanic community. (2400 Christine Drive, Searcy, AR 72143)

Luke Savage has been chosen Medical Properties Trust's director of European Operations and Acquisitions in Luxembourg City, Luxembourg. He has been with the company for 10 years. A CPA, he previously worked with both KPMG and Ernst & Young. He and his wife, **Gina Brown** ('99), have three children.

Braden and **Tiffany Stewart** announce the birth of a daughter, Poppy Robena-Lee, April 19, 2017. They also have a son, Austin. (3508 Paulownia Circle, Murfreesboro, TN 37129)

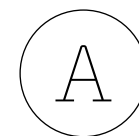
1999

Neil Chilson, an attorney adviser at the Federal Trade Commission, has been appointed to serve as the agency's chief technologist on an acting basis. He advises the commission and its acting chairman on technology-related matters such as usage, law enforcement actions and policy recommendations. Previously, he was an attorney at Wilkinson Barker Knauer and a law clerk at Stein, McEwen and Bui and Public Knowledge. He holds a master's degree in computer science from University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign and a law degree from George Washington University. (119 W. Washington St., #3, Champaign, IL 61820)

2001

Robert C. O'Lynn II was appointed director of the graduate Bible program at Kentucky Christian University. He has been a member of the faculty since 2009. He also is an adjunct assistant professor of preaching at Fuller Theological Seminary. He and his wife, **Rachel Parsons** ('03), have two children. (1672 Beech St., Ashland, KY 41102)

World War II experiences



REPORTER FOR TULSA WORLD since 2002, Tim Stanley ('94) has written stories on a variety of subjects, but one project has become particularly engrossing — recounting stories of Oklahoma veterans from the "Greatest Generation." Stanley began writing a column

in 2015 to mark the 70th anniversary of the end of World War II capturing and preserving as many of the stories of the surviving veterans in the Tulsa area he could.

The assignment was a weekly column for a year expected to feature approximately 50 veterans. It was a big undertaking considering that in the beginning, Stanley had no way of knowing how many



World War II veterans were still in the community to be interviewed. However, from the day his first column ran, the recommendations for interviews poured in, and Stanley has completed more than 80 profiles and received more than 300 recommendations for interviews in the Tulsa area.

"I didn't have any close relatives in the war, but it's always been interesting to me," Stanley said. "It's so fascinating to sit down with someone from that generation

where some of them can recall exact details. For many of these people, even though the events they are describing were 70 years ago, so many of the details are still fresh in their minds. It's really powerful to help bring that sort of thing out."

The positive response to the column was overwhelming. Other staff members helped Stanley field calls and emails with interview suggestions. According to Stanley, his wife, Tamara Nickels ('98), and daughters Aubrey and Melody were his greatest supporters throughout the project.

He said it has been eye-opening for him. With the opportunity to meet some of the nation's oldest veterans, he found many still active and involved with their families, churches or retirement homes.

"It's really blown some of my stereotypes for that age bracket. So many of them are still out there living, enjoying life and contributing

PROFILE | TIM STANLEY

to others' lives. I tell so many people — if you don't have any 90-year-old friends, get out there and make some. Having a friend from that generation will enrich your life immeasurably."

The column won first place in public service reporting and best overall writing at the 2016 Associated Press/Oklahoma News Executives competition and was converted into a book, *Serving our Country: Oklahoma World War II Veterans Remember*, in November 2016.

"The column ran every Monday, and our readers began to associate the Monday paper with that story. We had so many people contact us saying that they looked forward to the Monday paper for that reason. That made us feel good, and it helped us know that it was a project that was worthwhile and something that people were interested in."

Stanley attributed some of the interest to the subject matter, but he said it's really the people of his column that make for great stories.

"There's a lot of interest in their generation. It still blows my mind just how many young Americans willingly put their lives on hold — and this coming on the heels of having survived the Depression — to go and fight that war.

"They talk about how united and supportive the country was at that time. It was a unique time in that people put aside their differences and united behind one cause. To hear them describe that is a moving thing, and a lot of them express concern about how divided the country seems these days."

Stanley said he plans to continue the column throughout 2017 and then reevaluate. Although he won't be able to interview every veteran recommended to him since he began, Stanley said he hopes the completed series will showcase many perspectives from the war.

"One thing I hope to do with each of these individual stories is to capture as many different experiences as possible. We've done a variety of different arenas — female veterans, radio operators, guys on submarines and tanks, and some who were musicians. We've really tried to cast a wide net in the hope that we capture all of these different experiences so that when you look at them together it gives you a better idea of what the war was all about and what the total experience was.

"Not everyone was a combat soldier, not everyone came home with a chest full of medals, but everyone contributed in some way. I think it's important to tell these men and women as often as we can how much we appreciate them."

— Shelby Dias

2002

Kevin and **Christy Cheatham Weatherill** announce the birth of twins, Grant Thomas and Harper Joyce, Feb. 17, 2017. Kevin is in school administration, and Christy is a teacher. (4804 Finch St., Metairie, LA 70001)

2005

Nathan and **Laura Ashley Looney** announce the adoption of a son, Bennett C.J., June 22, 2017. He was born June 11, 2017. Nathan is assistant sports information director for Harding, and Laura is administrative assistant in the University's music department. (5 Foxboro Drive, Searcy, AR 72143)

Blake and **Jessica Osborne Silvers** announce the

birth of a daughter, Addie Grace, Nov. 2, 2016. The couple has two other daughters, Mallory and Molly. (4 Round Rock Circle N.E., Rome, GA 30161)

2006

Steven ('08) and **Laura Cyganik Harbron** announce the birth of a son, Carter David, Oct. 21, 2016. Steven is a senior database marketing



EXCELLENCE IN ACTION

By JENNIFER HANNIGAN

As a community of mission, the University strives to equip its graduates to not only excel in their jobs but also shine the light of Christ to those with whom they come in contact. While many of the more than 50,000 Harding alumni are deserving of recognition, the following have been selected for awards based on their work and example, earning the respect of those around them while serving God, family and community.



DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI

Billy Joe ('61) and Barbara Godsey ('63) Thrasher



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Dr. **BILLY JOE** ('61) and **BARBARA GODSEY** ('63) **THRASHER** have dedicated themselves to teaching for a combined 80 years. Billy Joe has served as classroom teacher, coach and athletic director from grade school to junior college level. He also has been in administrative roles as an assistant principal, principal, superintendent and president in both private and public education, his last being president of Columbia (Tennessee) Christian Academy.

"Seeing young people grow in their spiritual, mental, social and physical development produces a wonderful sense of satisfaction and fulfillment," Billy Joe said.

He was honored as Arkansas Outstanding Educator in 1969 by the State Jaycees, is included in Who's Who among American Educators, and is a member of Phi Delta Kappa honor society. He served on the Arkansas Advisory Council for Secondary Education, the Arkansas Council on Economic Education, and the Tulsa Private

SUBMITTED PHOTO

School Advisory Council. He was a charter member of the board of directors for Maury Alliance Chamber of Commerce. He is a Rotary Club Paul Harris Fellow, on the Vision 20/20 and Maury Technical School boards, and was chairman of the 2003 Heart Walk. He served on the Board of Directors for the National Christian School Association and was selected as the 2006 Administrator of the Year. He is a volunteer on the Tuesday Crew at Columbia Academy and also volunteers with the Maury County Boys and Girls Club, serving as chairman of the board in 2013.

"Being able to use what talents God has given us to leave the world a better place than we found it is the greatest work one could possibly do!" he says. "Helen Walton said it best: 'It's not what you gather in life but what you scatter in life that tells the kind of life you've lived and the kind of person you are.' As Nehemiah 13:31 says, 'Lord, remember me for good.'"

Barbara holds a master's degree from Arkansas State University in early childhood education and retired in 2006 after teaching elementary school 38 years. The couple has participated in mission trips to Central America and Europe. They are members of West Seventh Church of Christ in Columbia, Tennessee, where Billy Joe is a deacon.

"I remember Billy Joe when he first came here and played football," says Chancellor Emeritus Clifton Ganus Jr. "He was a good player and good leader — a fine young man all the way around. He well represents Harding. He has worked in Christian schools and done an outstanding job. He is an excellent representative of Harding, and we're very proud of him."

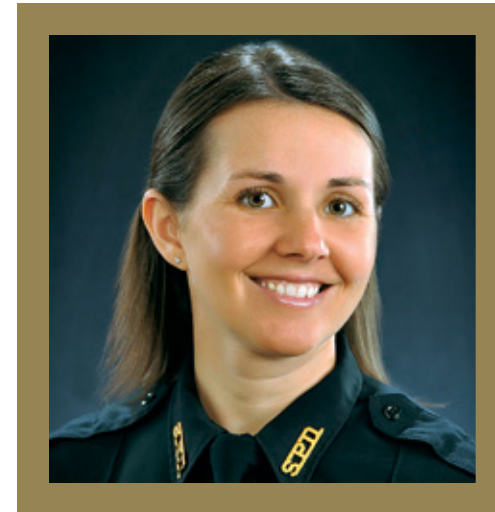
The Thrashers have two children — Tim and Christy — and two granddaughters.

EDITOR'S NOTE: At press time, the magazine learned of the death of Dr. Thrasher on Sept. 29.



OUTSTANDING YOUNG ALUMNA

Terri Lee ('04)



TERRI LEE ('04) has taken her degree in interactive media and used it to connect the Searcy Police Department to the community as public information officer. As spokesperson, Lee is the liaison between the department and media and speaks to community groups like schools and civic organizations about crime prevention, community policing and other law enforcement topics. She says that God led her to this role.

"It definitely wasn't part of my plan," says Lee. "I would never have guessed I would be in law enforcement. I have found myself thinking often that I have been put in this position at this time in my life for a reason. When I look back on the journey so far, it is ever apparent how God has guided my steps."

Prior to this position, Lee was assistant to the sports information director at the University and media relations coordinator, patrol officer and detective for the SPD. She has been honored as SPD Officer of the Year in 2014, SAC Award of Excellence by the Social Security Administration's Officer of Inspector General in 2013, International Ambassador for the Law Enforcement Torch Run for Special Olympics, and speaker at the International Homicide Investigators Association Symposium 2017.

"I admire Terri for her willingness to step out on faith, leave her comfort zone and take on situations head on when others would back down," says Scott Goode, assistant athletic director for sports information. "She did this for several years in the sports information office at Harding and has continued to display an uncommon inner strength as a member of the Searcy Police Department."

Lee actively raises money and awareness for Special Olympics through the Law Enforcement Torch Run and teaches Bible classes at Highway Church of Christ.

"A common law enforcement motto is 'to serve and protect,'" Lee says. "I hope it can be said of me that I put my all into upholding that, not just for this city and its people, but also for the hearts and souls of everyone I come into contact with."



COLLEGE OF ALLIED HEALTH

By helping her sister practice her pronunciation, JERYN KUEHN LAENGRICH ('89) was exposed to speech therapy at an early age. She declared communication sciences and disorders as her major freshman year and has devoted more than 25 years to the field.

"Being exposed to speech therapy through my sister gave me a basic understanding of it," Laengrich says. "What I learned is there was more to being a speech pathologist than just doing therapy, and I craved the knowledge to learn more about how we age and how the brain works, which led me to caregiving professionally as a clinician."

Laengrich is chief service officer and senior vice president of Cariloop, a platform helping working caregivers plan and manage the care of their loved ones. She has been awarded the Ray of Hope Award for Appreciation of Unwavering Commitment to the Parkinson's disease community from the Parkinson's Benefactors Organization.

"Jeryn stood out as a student who was always keen to soak up information regarding any communication disorder," says Dr. Beckie Weaver, dean of the College of Allied Health. "Her interest in assisting current students advance their understanding has been unwavering."

Laengrich is an advisory board member for the master's program in communication sciences and disorders at Harding and former board member for the North Texas chapter of the American Parkinson's Disease Association.

"Jesus regularly walked alongside and felt the pain of people who were outsiders and felt marginalized," Laengrich says. "Caregiving is hard, and family caregivers often feel like outcasts because of the private nature of their responsibilities. My position allows me to provide the support they need so that they don't feel marginalized."

Laengrich and her husband, Jay, have two children, Evan and Kate.

COLLEGE OF ARTS & HUMANITIES

MARK MOORE ('90) has dedicated himself to serving Africa. He is CEO of Mana Nutrition in Fitzgerald, Georgia, one of the leading global suppliers of peanut-based therapeutic food (RUTF) to UNICEF and USAID. Mana has produced enough to treat nearly 3 million malnourished children with RUTF.

"While we are not faith based or branded as Christian, we are faith laced," Moore says. "Faith is the behind-the-scenes driver for our actions."

Moore spent nearly 10 years as a missionary in eastern Uganda. After returning to the United

ALUMNI AWARDS 2017

OUTSTANDING ALUMNI

RIGHT: Jeryn Kuehn Laengrich ('89)

MIDDLE: Mark Moore ('90)

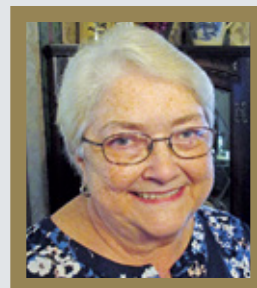
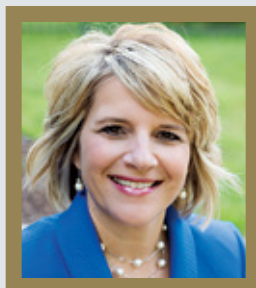
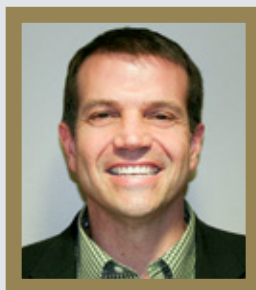
Elaine Huffard Denman ('75)

David Waldron ('76)

BOTTOM: Angie Whitlock Raney ('89)

Lynn Bradley McCarty ('77)

Tim Duke ('72)



States, he has served as legislative fellow and Africa specialist in the U.S. Senate for Sen. Mary Landrieu, as an Africa analyst for the Science Applications International Corporation, and as policy director for the Congressional Coalition on Adoption Institute. Prior to co-founding MANA, Moore co-founded Kibo Group, a development organization that houses numerous Africa projects and runs Midnight Oil Coffeehouse in Searcy.

"As Mark's professor, I learned very quickly to stay out of his way and just say 'yes,'" says Dr. Jack Shock, professor of communication. "I'll always believe the reason for Mark's success is because he is more interested in taking care of others than he is in prestige and acclaim."

He was a White House Fellow finalist and an Unreasonable Institute Fellow in Boulder, Colorado, in 2013. Moore is co-founder of Calorie Cloud, an effort to harvest excess calories in the U.S. and send them to malnourished children who need

them. He is author of *Nourish: A God Who Loves to Feed Us*, a book about global hunger and faith.

He and his wife, Marnie Rozell ('91), have four children and live in Charlotte, North Carolina.

COLLEGE OF BIBLE & MINISTRY

Dr. ELAINE HUFFARD DENMAN ('75) grew up in a missionary home and saw many who were hurting and struggling and through that developed her gift of counseling. After marrying a preacher, she found herself being drawn to helping families. Today she is on staff at Northside Church of Christ in Wichita, Kansas, as a pastoral counselor and leader of Celebrate Recovery.

"I get to have a front seat to watch how God works in the lives of people who have lost their way, lost hope and doubt their faith to trust in God to save them," Denman says. "There's no better seat anywhere!"

In addition to past positions in counseling, she

has served as an adjunct instructor for Harding, Lipscomb University and Johnson Bible College teaching classes on women's ministry, Christian values in pharmacy and interpersonal relationships. She has hosted seminars and retreats across the U.S. and overseas for more than 30 years. In 2006, she was awarded outstanding graduate in the School of Divinity at Regent University.

"Elaine arrived at Harding in the early '70s with a desire to prepare herself for ministry, choosing to major in Bible at a time when women normally did not choose this course of study," says Dr. Anessa Westbrook, assistant professor of Bible. "God has used her in many areas of service in the U.S. and Jordan, particularly in the areas of missions, counseling and Celebrate Recovery ministry. What has endeared her to many, though, is the way she incorporates depth into her speaking, guiding women into a deeper relationship with and understanding of God in their lives."

She and her husband, Darrell, have a son, Jonathan ('01).

COLLEGE OF BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

Upon arriving at Harding, DAVID WALDRON ('76) already knew what he wanted to do when he graduated. For him, the plan was always to follow in his father's and uncle's footsteps and take on the family business. And he did just that. Waldron is owner of Waldron Enterprises LLC, a construction company in Middle Tennessee, with his brothers, Charles and Greg.

"My dad was such an amazing role model for my brothers and me," Waldron says. "Because of the family work ethic he instilled in me, I knew I would return home after graduation to work with him."

Following his own desire to take on the family business, Waldron was inspired to create a resource at the University emphasizing family business and entrepreneurship. From that idea came the Waldron Center for Entrepreneurship and Family Business to help students as well as business development startup and family-owned businesses.

"David's an outstanding entrepreneur and family-business person," says Chancellor David B. Burks. "He also represents the values that Harding cherishes in that he is a humble servant of God committed to his family and the advancement of the Lord's church and his kingdom. He epitomizes what the University and the College of Business are all about in terms of our purpose and reason for existence."

Waldron is an elder at LaVergne Church of Christ and serves on the Rutherford County

Industrial Development Board, Harding board of trustees, and the University's board for the American Studies Institute.

He and his wife, Betsy Walkup ('83), have two children, Will ('14) and Katie, a University senior.

COLLEGE OF EDUCATION

Inspired by her high school business teacher, ANGIE WHITLOCK RANEY ('89) pursued a degree in business education and spent 20 years as a business education teacher. She now serves as superintendent for Spring Hill School District.

"My job is rewarding because I get to work with people daily to help influence the future of students," Raney says. "With all of the pressure put on our youth, it is my goal to lead our staff in a way that we love kids first and teach them second."

Raney is a National Board Certified Teacher, received the Career and Technical Education Pioneer Award, and was a Winthrop Rockefeller Grant Recipient for National Board Candidate Certification Support.

"Angie elevates the teaching profession by her example," says Dr. Clara Carroll, associate dean of the Cannon-Clary College of Education. "She has a positive impact on her students and integrates her faith seamlessly throughout her professional, community and personal roles."

Raney also serves as the children's Bible hour coordinator and teacher, Heartfelt ministry team leader, vacation Bible school volunteer, and event leader and judge for Leadership Training for Christ.

"Our students come to school dependent on us to make the best choices for their educational future on a daily basis," Raney says. "I work to serve God through the prayerful choices that I make as an academic leader and the influence that I have on those around me when making these decisions."

Raney and her husband, Paul ('92), have two sons, Reed ('16) and Kyle, a University sophomore.

COLLEGE OF NURSING

A member of the College of Nursing's first graduating class, LYNN BRADLEY MCCARTY ('77) traveled the world as a nurse with her husband in the Air Force before returning to Harding's campus as health services director. She has worked in emergency rooms, pediatric wards and operating rooms in places like Colorado Springs, Colorado; La Plata, Maryland; and RAF Feltwell, England. McCarty retired in June 2017.

"Student Health Services was the perfect place to share the influence that Christ has on our lives," McCarty says. "We always tried to help students see that they were important in God's



eyes and also in ours."

McCarty received a Distinguished Service Award from the University and became instrumental in supporting the development of emergency procedures and making plans for disease and injury awareness on campus. She also has volunteered with the White County Emergency Planning Committee and has committed herself to helping students not only with day-to-day physical concerns but also with providing comfort and advice for students in allied health disciplines and students with spiritual or emotional concerns.

"I was blessed to work with Lynn as my director in Student Health Services for 10 years," says Harding first lady Ann McLarty. "She made every nurse working in the clinic feel that we were working with her and not for her and referred to us daily as family. She worked tirelessly to keep our clinic and Harding connected to the community concerning health issues on the horizon."

McCarty and her husband, Dennis ('76), have five children: Rena Howard ('93), Christa Wolfe ('98), Carla Stevens ('00), Dennis ('06) and Lolli Mitchell ('10). They also have 13 grandchildren.

COLLEGE OF SCIENCES

Founder of Searcy Dental Associates, Dr. TIM DUKE ('72) has been active within the field of dentistry. He retired in 2008 after 30 years of practicing in Searcy. In addition to his practice, Duke has been called on to be a consultant in various sleep studies: one at the Arkansas Center for Sleep Medicine and one at Respironics Inc. in Pittsburgh.

"I've been blessed in my profession to be of service and able to give back," Duke says. "I am able to help those in need — whether in the office setting or outside of those walls. I've cultivated so many close friendships with a great number of patients."

He is a member of the American Dental Association and Arkansas Dental Association. He also has spoken at the University of Mississippi College of Dentistry and Harding College of Nursing to upcoming health care professionals as well as other professional and civic meetings.

"I have always seen Tim as very generous, dedicated and loyal to God, family, friends, patients and Harding," says J.R. Howard, colonel with the Arkansas State Police and member of the University President's Council. "He has utilized the Christian education acquired at Harding to help thousands of people, and he epitomizes the qualities most desired in Harding graduates."

Duke and his wife, Barbara Beene ('78), have two children, Layne Neese ('01) and Jacob ('03).

SUBMITTED PHOTOS EXCEPT WALDRON PHOTO BY JEFF MONTGOMERY



manager at Charter Communications, and Laura is a homemaker. They have two other children, Claire and Cooper. (34 Highfield Drive, Monroe, CT 06468)

Travis Lauterbach was named head men's and women's golf coach at Lyon College in July 2017. He previously served as an assistant coach at Old Dominion University and head coach at Faulkner University. He is married to **Lara Anderson** ('07).

2008

Jared ('94) and **Natalie Oliver Dockery** announce the birth of a daughter, Elizabeth May, April 21, 2017. Jared is a professor of history at Harding, and Natalie is CIO and manager of Good Measure Market. (410 N. Oak St., Searcy, AR 72143)

2011

Brian and **Kacey Persaile Eastman** announce the birth of a daughter, Lorelei Jean, July 20, 2016. Brian is a senior accountant and CPA at Imagenet Consulting, and Kacey is a staff assistant in the department of pediatrics at the University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center. (1300 Salem Ave., Edmond, OK 73003)

Tim ('12) and **Jeanne Jones Landuyt** announce the birth of a daughter, Millie Jean, July 30, 2017. Tim is a business operations analyst for U.S. Bank, and Jeanne is a preschool teacher. (12393 Maverick Drive, Apt D., Maryland Heights, MO 63043)

Caleb and **Ashley Ward Mitchen** announce the birth of a son, Luke Kenneth, Dec. 13, 2016. Caleb

and Ashley both work as financial analysts at Walmart Stores Inc. (4007 S.W. Grace Farms Ave., Bentonville, AR 72712)

Colby and **Cassandra Searcy Roberts** announce the birth of a daughter, Chandler Grace Dawn, April 28, 2017. Colby works as a modular development manager for Walmart, and Cassandra is a ruby Plexus ambassador. They also have a son, Connor. (200 Dawn Drive, Centerton, AR 72719)

Lauren Schlabauch was named marketing director for North Texas Performing Arts. (3700 Legacy Drive, #9202, Frisco, TX 75034)

2012

Robert Samuel ('11) and **Hannah Payne Goodrum**

announce the birth of a daughter, Sophie Iris, Oct. 12, 2016. Samuel is a retail sales manager at Baker Shooting Range, and Hannah is a homemaker active in community theatre. (3925 Pointe Ave., Zachary, LA 70791)

Elinor Renner was named special assistant to the secretary in the Department of the Interior in July. She previously worked as the assistant director for the Young Leaders Program at the Heritage Foundation. (1513 Meadow Chase Drive, Herndon, VA 20170)

2014

Jeannine "Bobbi" Smith received her National Board Teacher Certification in adolescent science. She teaches physical science at Trumann High School. (2803 Village Meadow Cove, Jonesboro, AR 72401)

2016

Jace Davis joined McClelland Consulting Engineers Inc. as a project designer with a focus on water/wastewater design and mechanical applications. (317 N. Spruce St., Little Rock, AR 72205)

Hannah Buchberger married Fernando Lopez on Oct. 1, 2016. Hannah is a photographer at Lifetouch National School Studios, and Fernando works in human resources at Walmart. (3101 S. 28th Place, #7, Rogers, AR 72758)

2017

Arielle Butler is the graduate assistant for men's and women's tennis at Covenant College in Georgia.

Alex Williams ('16) married **Emma McKean** on June 17, 2017. (9144 Sandy Drive, Olive Branch, MS 38654)

Passages

Wayne Hemingway Jr. ('41), 97, of Spring, Texas, died May 21, 2017. A gifted educator, he taught Bible, math and science, conducted the a cappella chorus and served as principal/administrator at Athens (Alabama) Bible School; Crowley's Ridge Academy in Paragould, Arkansas; Madison Academy in Huntsville, Alabama; and Northland Christian School in Houston. He taught middle-school science 20 years in the public schools in South Orange, New Jersey. He retired in 2015 after teaching in the Lone Star College System in Tomball, Texas. He loved directing singing. He was preceded in death by his wife of 69 years, **Annie Chambers** ('42); He is survived by three children, **Beth** ('67), Pat and **Lois Ferrell** ('72); a sister, **Lois Lemmons**, ('47); five grandchildren; and 12 great-grandchildren.



As a gift to the University, the junior class of 1967 donated a sundial that was placed near the Lily Pool in front of the Administration Building. The plaque on the concrete base contains verses of the hymn "The Lord of All Being," and the face of the sundial reads "Grow old along with me; the best is yet to be." In the 50 years since the sundial was placed, the University has seen a lot of good come through, showing that the junior class was right in declaring the best was ahead, and hopefully, there is more to come.

Era Madge "Padgie" Ellis McFatter ('44), 93, of DeQuincy, Louisiana, died May 4, 2017. While at Harding, she worked in the print shop operating a Linotype machine and job press. In 1951 she received her M.Ed. in human development from University of Maryland. Before marrying, she worked in the Little Rock post office, taught school in Arkansas and Louisiana as well as Pepperdine College, was a home demonstration agent, and a family life specialist. After marriage, she remained active with Baton Rouge Music Club Chorus as librarian, served as president of the local and state chapters of the Louisiana Cow Belles, and taught Bible classes at Goodwood Boulevard Church of Christ. She was preceded in death by her husband, Herman. She is survived by her children, **Mary Lynn Zimpfer** ('82) and William Edward II; and five grandchildren.

Margaret Chaffin Mooneyham ('50), 88, of Jonesboro, Arkansas, died July 26, 2015. She worked

at Stein Mart, and was a member of Southwest Church of Christ. At the time of her death, she was survived by her husband of 64 years, **James** ('50). She also is survived by four children, Van, Jonathan, **Teresa McCown** ('74) and **Dana Gibson** ('78); a brother, **Jack Chaffin** ('50); nine grandchildren; and four great-grandchildren.

James Mooneyham ('50), 87, of Jonesboro, Arkansas, died May 28, 2016. He was a teacher as well as working at Singer Manufacturing of Trumann, Arkansas; Penworthy Paper in Memphis, Tennessee; and The Thermos Company in Batesville, Mississippi. He was a member of Southwest Church of Christ. He was preceded in death by his wife, **Margaret Chaffin** ('50). He is survived by four children, Van, Jonathan, **Teresa McCown** ('74) and **Dana Gibson** ('78), nine grandchildren; and four great-grandchildren.

Richard Ellwood Smith ('50), 88, of Cecil, Arkan-

From Benson to Broadway

PROFILE | SARAH HARRIS

THE MENTION OF BROADWAY brings to mind a glowing stage, elaborate costumes and a moving story. But before any of those things can happen, there has to be a plan in place so that the show runs smoothly. That's where Sarah Harris ('16) and the stage management team come into place.

Harris got an early start in stage management in high school, and after realizing her initial idea of studying nursing wasn't what she wanted, she joined the department of theatre to study stage management.

"Every time I read a book about stage management or heard somebody describe what a stage manager should be, I thought, 'That's me,'" Harris said. "You need to know a little bit about everything: lighting, sound, scenic elements, props, costumes, wigs, hair, makeup, acting, and most importantly how to collaborate with diverse personalities so that you can manage all the elements on stage and help guide the show to success."

While working on University productions from the Homecoming musical to Spring Sing, Harris also secured internships with the Berkshire Theatre Troop in Massachusetts and La Jolla Playhouse in California.

"[La Jolla] is where I worked on the premiere of 'Come From Away.' I had researched the internship before applying but didn't know I'd be so lucky as to work with Broadway veterans. This provided me an opportunity to work with and learn from top industry professionals."

When the internship concluded, the production stage manager asked Harris to keep in touch. The connection resulted in an invitation to work on the Broadway version of "The Crucible." Through the connections she made in the stage management team, Harris began working on readings, workshops, showcases, Off-Broadway productions and other live events.

"I heard 'Come From Away' was coming to Broadway. I emailed the producer's assistant and told her how I really wanted to work on the show because I loved the company, the story, the writers — and I was already familiar with the show."

Harris was told there was no room for her on staff, but she knew

that a time would come when the stage managers would need a production assistant.

"I decided to leave my schedule open and wait. At 4:30 p.m. the day before the first rehearsal, the production stage manager called me and asked if I was available. So I came the next day to begin rehearsals, and we opened 'Come From Away' on Broadway five weeks later."

The musical is set in the week following the Sept. 11 attacks and tells the true story of what happened when 38 planes were ordered to land unexpectedly in Gander, Newfoundland. Its director, Christopher Ashley, won the 2017 Tony Award for Best Direction of a Musical.

"I love getting to work on a show with an original story that involves joy and light. If anyone were to ask

which production on Broadway has that kind of story, I would say 'Come From Away.' I don't think that I'll ever work on another show that has that level of powerful, true storytelling."

Harris also has shared her insights with young theatre professionals. "It's not easy to be a successful freelance stage manager in New York City. Figuring out how to live in the city, make connections, and do your best work each day requires patience, perseverance and determination. If I can give young artists a little advice early on, they can hopefully find their way and prepare for the reality of this competitive business."

Harris also looks forward to working on a few more Broadway productions and continuing the level of excellence Broadway audiences have come to expect from the productions.

"Working in New York with artists who are at the top of their game is a rush. We're all working together to create live theatre. How cool is that?"

— Jennifer Hannigan



SUBMITTED PHOTO

PHOTO COURTESY OF 1968 PETIT JEAN



Connections

sas, died June 19, 2016. He was a member of Ozark Church of Christ. He is survived by his wife, **Wynelle Watson** ('49); four children, Susan Kurth, Shannon, Robert and Reid; a sister, Georgia Murray; and a grandchild.

Rosemary Moore Wilson ('52), 87, of Broken Arrow, Oklahoma, died Aug. 16, 2017. She retired from Harding after serving as assistant admissions director. She was preceded in death by her husband, **George** ('50). She is survived by two children, **Larry** ('73) and **Lisa Herndon** ('78); four grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren.



Charles Franklin "Bud" Myer Jr., ('53), 84, of Pensacola, Florida, died Dec. 22, 2016. He continued his education at Harding School of Theology, Johns Hopkins University and Yale University and earned his Ph.D. from University of Pennsylvania. He served as academic dean and taught biblical languages at Northeastern Christian College in Villanova, Pennsylvania. He also taught in Vienna, Austria; Kiev, Ukraine; Budapest, Hungary; Prague, Czech Republic; and other European and Baltic countries. While living in the Philadelphia area, he served as chairman of the Main Line Chamber of Commerce where he accomplished national accreditation for the chamber. He also served on the boards of Philadelphia Chamber of Commerce, American Red Cross and two Christian camps. He made more than 40 mission trips to Trinidad, Grenada, Honduras, Mexico, Austria and Lithuania — his most visited country where he co-founded Camp Ruta. After moving to Pensacola, Florida, he served as an elder at Gateway Church of Christ and filled the pulpit for Warrenton Church of Christ until the end of August 2016. He was preceded in death by two sons, Lewis and **Steven Douglas** ('84). He is survived by his wife of 62 years, Eva Walker; his children, **Charles Franklin III** ('79), Melinda Gardner and foster son Quang Nguyen; and seven grandchildren.

Bob Gilliam ('54), 85, of Little Rock, Arkansas, died Aug. 3, 2017. He earned a master's degree in teaching from Harding in 1957. He served as a minister for churches of Christ in Arkansas, Ohio and Puerto Rico. He earned his doctorate and returned to Harding as professor and chair of the psychology department from 1960-69. He joined Pepperdine University in 1970 as chair of the social science division, retiring in 1993. He received an Outstanding Teaching Award at both Harding and Pepperdine universities and co-founded the Pepperdine University Faculty/Staff Scholarship Fund. He was a member of Pleasant



Valley Church of Christ. He was preceded in death by a son, Roy. He is survived by his wife of 63 years, **Dorothy Callahan** ('57); two children, **David** ('80) and Priscilla MacRae; seven grandchildren; and six great-grandchildren.

Elizabeth Hickey Chambers-Paplinski ('55), 83, of Walla Walla, Washington, died Aug. 19, 2016. She traveled all over the world as a military wife and mother and served for more than 20 years for the U.S. Forest Service in Bend, Oregon. She was preceded in death by her first husband, James. She is survived by her second husband, Kenneth Paplinski; a daughter, Patricia Ill; two siblings, Mae Herndon and Robert-Kenady Herndon; five grandchildren; and 10 great-grandchildren.

Lehman Hall ('55), 84, of Murfreesboro, Tennessee, died May 11, 2017. He loved sports, excelling in basketball and baseball. He spent many years teaching and coaching at Clapsop Community College in Astoria, Oregon; Columbia Christian College in Portland, Oregon, and Madison Academy in Huntsville, Alabama. He also was a principal and athletic director. He remained active after retirement by substitute teaching, selling real estate, delivering meals on wheels, and packing boxes for disaster relief. He was a member of North Boulevard Church of Christ. He is survived by his wife of 52 years, Robyn; two daughters, **Gayla** ('91) and **Tara Bunner** ('94); two brothers, **Leonard** ('54) and **Richard** ('68); and two grandchildren.

Bonnie McAdams Orr ('55), 83, of Judsonia, Arkansas, died May 8, 2017. Bonnie was the first in her family to earn bachelor's and master's degrees. She spent 30 years teaching first grade in Crawfordsville, Bald Knob, and Judsonia, Arkansas. She was a member of Judsonia Methodist Church and

president of Delta Kappa Gamma. She is survived by two daughters, Sandra Cassinmus and Fonda McCarty; four siblings, Savetta Stader, Bobby McAdams, Olga Nell Daugherty and Marolyn McCorkle; and a grandchild.

Elizabeth Ann Belue Norwood ('58), 81, of Searcy, died May 25, 2017. She was a teacher at Springdale, Arkansas, and Harding Academy for 34 years and a member of College Church of Christ. She is survived by her husband of 59 years, **Harold** ('59); two daughters, **Nan Calhoun** ('84) and **Karen Corker** ('90); a brother, **Bill Belue** ('62); and four grandchildren.



Charles Thomas Bryant Sr. ('59), 85, of Louisville, Tennessee, died April 19, 2017. He served four years in the U.S. Air Force before receiving his degree in chemistry and working for the U.S. Geological Survey until his retirement in 1985. He is survived by a son, **Charles Jr.** ('81); a daughter, **Angela Langley** ('84); three siblings, Wes, **John** ('62) and Sherry Montgomery; and three grandchildren.

Lynn Perry Sanderson ('60), 78, of Canton, Oklahoma, died May 5, 2016. He operated the family farm and worked as a quality foreman at United States Gypsum where he retired after 35 years. He was a member of the church of Christ. He is survived by his wife of 53 years, Norma Jean; four children, Gary, Dale, Linda Fields and Susan Pannell; a sister, **Norma Thornton** ('50); and seven grandchildren.

Jonathan Bernie Shrable ('60), 80, of Fordland, Missouri, died March 11, 2017. He retired as a

social service case worker with the Missouri division of family services. He also was a dairy and beef farmer as well as teaching school. He was a member of Fordland Church of Christ. He is survived by his wife, Celia; four children, Eric, **Janice Ellingson** ('84), Jeff, and **Jeannie Bright** ('91); two brothers, John and Dean; seven grandchildren; and six great-grandchildren.

Paul Clayton Summitt ('61), 82 of Paragould, Arkansas, died June 19, 2017. He attended Harding from 1952-55 and was accepted into the Naval Aviation Pilot Training Program in Pensacola, Florida, during 1955-56. He completed his tour of duty with the Navy and returned to Harding to complete his degree. He then went to Duke University Law School, where he graduated in 1964. He began his career as a civil servant in the U.S. Department of Justice. He later moved to Capitol Hill and authored key criminal code legislation under U.S. Sens. John McClellan, Edward Kennedy and Strom Thurman. He remained in the Naval Reserve and retired with the rank of captain. He was a member of Antioch Church of Christ in Cardwell, Missouri. He is survived by his wife, Irene Allen; three daughters, Julia Miller, **Kathryn Tran** ('81) and Ruth Anne Rosati; a brother, **James Knox** ('60); eight grandchildren; and four great-grandchildren.

William H. Smith Jr. ('62), 84, of West Monroe, Louisiana, died Feb. 17, 2016. He was an elder and pastor at White's Ferry Road Church of Christ for 53 years. He is survived by his wife of 61 years, Margaret; four daughters, Dawn Foor, Starla Bunn, Pamela Spencer and Kimberly Stephens; 14 grandchildren; and 24 great-grandchildren.

Joseph Loil "J.L." Pate ('63), 79, of Searcy died May 17, 2017. While at Harding, he was a member of the 1959 football team. He was awarded the first GenCorp Technology Award for his development of Prefix Vinyl Protective Coating. He retired from Omnova Solutions after a 35-year career as a chemist and product development engineer. During that time, he was awarded six U.S. patents. He also served for 23 years in the U.S. Army Reserves, retiring with the rank of major. In retirement, he was active in the His House ministry at College Church of Christ. He was preceded in death by a son, Brent. He is survived by his wife of 52 years, **Mona Judy Epperson** ('64); a daughter, **Angela Dawkins** ('89); and four grandchildren.

Delmar O'Dell ('66), 72, of Harrodsburg, Kentucky, died with his wife, **Vivian Handley** ('67), and granddaughter Karen on May 11, 2017, from injuries sustained in a traffic accident in Bardstown, Kentucky. He was a social worker for Bluegrass Regional Mental Health and a member of Ebenezer Church of Christ. He is survived by three children, **Hettie Harless** ('96), Jere and **Joel** ('01); a sister, Nelda Hendricks; and 10 grandchildren.

Vivian "Delores" Handley O'Dell ('67), 71, of Harrodsburg, Kentucky, died with her husband, **Delmar** ('66), and granddaughter Karen on May 11, 2017, from injuries sustained in a traffic accident in Bardstown, Kentucky. She was a teacher for Christian schools in her area and a member of Ebenezer Church of Christ. She is survived by three children, **Hettie Harless** ('96), Jere and **Joel** ('01); and 10 grandchildren.

Harvey Dale Allison ('68), 77, of Albuquerque, New Mexico, died June 20, 2016. He served in the Air Force from 1960-65 before coming to Harding to finish his education. He retired as principal of Torreon Day School in Cuba, New Mexico. During his life, he visited all 50 states, six continents, and 23 major league ballparks. He is survived by his wife, **Jane Eubanks** ('64); three children, Suzie, Sara and James; three siblings, **Ann Nelson** ('63), **Joan Van Rheenan** ('66) and **Fielden Allison** ('70); and seven grandchildren.

Carolyn Elaine Ledbetter Pinkston ('69), 69, of Shelbyville, Tennessee, died May 20, 2017. She worked as an accountant for Stanley Tools for five years and then at National Pen before retiring after 15 years. She was a member of the church of Christ. She is survived by her husband of 29 years, Marvin; five children, John "Bo" Bowen, David Bowen, Dawn Jones, Wade Pinkston and Renee Cummings; four siblings, Marilyn Anderton, Becky Nichols, John David Ledbetter and Camille Bell; and 15 grandchildren.

Jerry Thomas ('69), 72, of Fort Worth, Texas, died May 7, 2017. He was a longtime educator in the Fort Worth, Texas, area as well as minister for Lone Camp Church of Christ. He is survived by his wife, Sharon; and three sons, Barry, **Mark** ('91) and **Matt** ('05).

Kay Carol Craig Crouch ('70), 69, of Plano, Texas, died July 3, 2017, from complications related to brain cancer. She loved to travel with her family and entertain. She is survived by her husband of 45 years, Bob; two daughters, Amy Wiebe and Jennie Brady; and seven grandchildren.

Mickey Lane Pounders ('76), 63, of Baton Rouge, Louisiana, died July 1, 2017. He taught middle school math for Bald Knob Schools in Arkansas as well as serving as principal for McRae Elementary in Searcy. After moving to Baton Rouge in 1992, he worked for the Louisiana State Board of Education, the board of elementary and secondary education, and most recently was an assessment consultant for Houghton Mifflin Harcourt publishing company. He also served as an elder for South Baton Rouge Church of Christ and was a board member for Camp Smiling Acres. He is survived by his wife, **Tawna Jenkins** ('81); two sons, **John** ('09) and **James** ('16); his father, Gorman;

Connections



and two brothers, Jeffrey and Neal.

Keri Marlene Thompson Tullos ('81), 58, of Searcy died June 17, 2017. She was a medical technologist in the hematology laboratory at St. Vincent Infirmary and a member of College Church of Christ. She is survived by her husband, **Dan** ('73); a son, Ian; and a sister, **Alesa Garner** ('78).

Jeri A. Massia Shay ('82), 58, of Russellville, Arkansas, died July 21, 2017. She was a homemaker. She is survived by her husband, **Larry** ('84); a daughter, Desiree; and a sister, Denise Bratcher.

Pam Adams Keese ('82), 56, of Searcy died April 18, 2017. She was employed as a physical education teacher at Harding Academy. She is survived by five children, **Caleb** ('08), **Sarah** ('08), **Rebekah Smith** ('11), **Elizabeth** ('14) and **Seth** ('17); four siblings, **Kim Kinsler** ('82), **Charlie Carroll** ('79), Tricia Bynum and Susan Carroll; and two grandchildren.

David Lynn Wright ('83), 57, of Hendersonville, Tennessee, died Aug. 23, 2017. He was the senior policy adviser at the Tennessee Higher Education Commission and was a nationally recognized expert on state higher education policy and known for his accomplishments in institutional research. He was a talented pianist and vocalist who enjoyed performing and song writing. He was preceded in death by his wife of 26 years, **Melanie Kay Park** ('83); and a sister, **Barbara Moore** ('78). He is survived by two children, Aaron and Abbey; his mother, **Ann Wright** ('54); and two sisters, **Donna Baines** ('74) and **Susan Dillard** ('86).

April Edelhuber Middlebrooks ('02), 36, of Searcy died July 4, 2017, from injuries sustained in an automobile accident. She owned The Baked Cakery and was employed by Sonic of Searcy. She is survived by three children, Kelsie, Konner and Dylan; her parents, **Stephen** ('82) and Lisa Kenney Edelhuber; two siblings, **Afton Worley** ('06) and **Jonathan** ('07); and two grandmothers, Mary Edelhuber and Carolyn Kenney.

L.V. Pfeifer, 87, of Searcy, died Aug. 19, 2017. He earned his M.A. and M.Th. from Golden Gate Theological Seminary. He and his late wife, Maxine, spent nearly three years as missionaries in Italy where they aided in beginning churches in Florence and Bologna. He then preached from 1956-68 for churches in California



before teaching at Preston Road School of Biblical Studies in Dallas from 1968-73. He taught Bible at Harding where he also was director of the school of biblical studies and professor emeritus. He is survived by two children, **Derek** ('78) and Sherry Lowe; a sister, Boots Nichols, four grandchildren; and seven great-grandchildren.

PASSAGES | BOB GILLIAM

'54

Dr. Bob Gilliam received one of Harding's first four Distinguished Teacher awards in 1967. In 1999 he said, "[The award] is based on evaluations by my students and my colleagues. Other than my family, those are the most important constituencies in my life. It was quite an honor." He encouraged many of his students into the teaching profession if he saw evidence of that "hunger for knowledge" and a special "empathy for fellow humans."

COMMUNICATIONS AND MARKETING FILE PHOTOS

COMMUNICATIONS AND MARKETING FILE PHOTO



Saying thanks

A few of the many scholarship recipients express their gratitude for life-changing kindness and support



AS A RECIPIENT of the Coons Farrar Scholarship, I feel very blessed by the individuals who value the education and spiritual support we students receive in all of Harding's programs. This scholarship is not just helping me progress through the next few semesters of nursing school at Harding, but it is helping me build a future in which I can serve God and others with a quality Christian education. For this, there are not enough words to say how grateful I am.

KARA BRANDT
Junior nursing major
Woodstock, Georgia

SOMETIMES people wonder why they are placed somewhere in life. This was a question that ran through my mind after I began my freshman year at Harding. Throughout life, I have never truly had that loving family who was supportive of my dreams to pursue something bigger than myself. Coming here has given me a new hope — to reach for the heights of my potential. Being surrounded by constant encouragement, persistent drive and enlightened optimism has shown me that the impossible can be

possible. This opportunity would not be achievable without the selfless donors who are making my dreams into a reality.

CHRISTINA CURTIS
Senior accounting major
Greenbrier, Arkansas

I KNEW Harding was the place God wanted me to study the moment I stepped on campus during my junior year in high school. I had been on other college campuses, but I was unsure of God's plan for my life until I visited Harding. Every time I came back to campus, I felt a certainty about where I should be to get the education I needed to follow my calling. Thank you so much for all you do to make an education at Harding possible for me.

CAITLIN PEPPE
Sophomore elementary education major
Germantown, Tennessee

THERE IS A HOUSE on Maple Street in Searcy that provides shelter, mentorship and wholesome entertainment to local kids in the community after school. I have been fortunate enough to volunteer there weekly for the last semester and a half, and I know that I have already made a positive impact in these kids' lives in that short amount of time. Spending time with kids at Maple House has made

me a better person because they are reminders that the world does not revolve around me (and I thank God for that). I want to offer my sincerest thanks to the donors who enable me to attend a school like Harding so that I can volunteer and grow at a place like Maple House. Their contributions are not in vain nor do they go unappreciated.

COLLIN PHILLIPS
Senior cognitive neuroscience major
League City, Texas

I HAVE BEEN blessed to attend Harding for the last two years. I have built friendships I cherish and have had the opportunity to learn from incredible professors who are passionate about their fields. I am so grateful for the faith-based community here, and I know I wouldn't be able to experience it without the help from generous donors. Because of their donations, I am able to learn in a competitive academic environment, while also being surrounded by fellow believers who daily



say thanks day

challenge me in my faith.

CAROLINE RITCHIE
Junior biochemistry and molecular biology major
Nashville, Tennessee

HARDING HAS provided me with lifelong friends and has shaped me into the person I've always wanted to become. All of my professors have been more than helpful, and they genuinely want me to succeed. Some of them even pray before class starts, and that is something that would not be found at another school. God is seen everywhere on campus. Without our donors providing scholarships, there is no way that I would be able to experience the memories and Christian love that Harding offers!

KAYLEY ROSS
Junior marketing major
Mount Dora, Florida

WITHOUT THE HELP of the donors to Harding University, I don't know where I would be today. I never thought that I would have been able to pursue my post-high school education simply because I didn't

have the funds to fuel my future. However, with the help of donors, I've been able to receive an incredible education thus far, and I have gained the most Christ-like friends I've ever known through Knights social club. With the help of the generous people who selflessly donate to this wonderful school, young people like myself and others can pursue their dreams of getting a quality, Christian education.

JARRED SHORTER
Sophomore marketing major
Puyallup, Washington

EVERY TIME I get an email about a scholarship, I feel a pang of guilt because I don't know what I could ever have done to receive such a gift. It's a lesson in grace as well as a challenge to continue working hard. If I could thank the donors for anything specific, it would have to be the opportunity to travel abroad. Because of their generosity and thoughtfulness, I was able to go to London in fall 2015. I discovered what it felt like to be at home and fully myself in a place completely new. I often forget that experience was a gift. Thanks to the donors for extending a grace to me that is constantly opening my eyes.

SUZANNAH THOMPSON
Senior communication sciences and disorders major
Lynn Haven, Florida

A seed today, a legacy tomorrow

ILLUSTRATION BY LAWSON BELCHER

You can change a student's life, leave an abiding legacy, and shape Harding for those to come. Establish a scholarship through your estate, and your generosity will follow far into the future.

Final Frame

PHOTO BY JEFF MONTGOMERY



During the 2016-17 school year, Dr. Monte Cox, dean of the College of Bible and Ministry, gives one of his 13 chapel presentations that were made into a video series to be sold along with his book, *Significant Others: Understanding Our Non-Christian Neighbors*. Read more about the recently released book at harding.edu/mag.