

HARDING

WINTER 2017



#HONORGOD



Harding University was founded in 1924 upon spiritual convictions. We are, at our core, a Christian university. The character, example and concerns of Jesus Christ are the standards that shape us and chart the course for our future.

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Chapel continues to be an integral part of our identity and holds a key place in University life each weekday.

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As the 25th volume of this magazine rolls out, Jennifer Hannigan traces its beginnings and shares how it came to be what it is today.

PHOTO BY JEFF MONTGOMERY



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President Bruce McLarty joins with the Bison football team in prayer after the 63-17 win over Southeastern Oklahoma State University on Oct. 15, 2016, the team's seventh-straight victory during an undefeated regular season.

PHOTO BY JEFF MONTGOMERY

Blessed

By BRUCE D. McLARTY, *president*

“MEN, WE ARE A BLESSED brotherhood,” head football coach Ronnie Huckleba told the Bisons on Nov. 12, 2016, after they completed an undefeated regular season, the first in Harding’s history.

I couldn’t be more proud of this team and coaching staff after making it all the way to the NCAA Division II quarterfinals before losing a game. One of the reasons is this statement from coach Huckleba in Arkansas Online on Dec. 2, 2016, “We don’t believe that God cares about the outcome of a football game. But he does care about people, and we’ve been very blessed with all the things that have happened this year.”

One of the greatest blessings began even before the season started when sophomore Braden Hood was baptized in the swimming pool on campus. This was just the start of several athletes from softball, tennis and cross-country putting on Christ this fall, the most wonderful blessing there is.

In a stellar fall athletic season, volleyball and football both took Great American Conference championships and men’s and women’s soccer won GAC tournament titles. The story of this record-breaking football season is shared by Scott Goode beginning on page 12.

It is just one of the many stories being told in this magazine now in its 25th year of publication after replacing the tabloid many of you knew as the Harding Bulletin. Editor Tom Buterbaugh and photographer Jeff Montgomery have been with the magazine since its inception, and beginning on page 28, Jennifer Hannigan goes back in time to trace the story of how it all began and evolved to where it is today.

Our seven international programs continue to provide life changing experiences for many, and I am always thankful when I



get to witness this firsthand. The beauty of New Zealand almost overwhelmed Ann’s and my senses when we had the opportunity to visit the Harding University Australasia program this fall. Hannah Owens takes us on a journey with our oldest international studies program begun in 1980 in Florence, Italy, as she relays the story of two students following in their mother’s footsteps 26 years later. See page 20.

The inside story on how the blessing of chapel comes together each weekday is told through examples of the various presentations throughout the fall semester. You can learn about the variety of programs students experience beginning on page 16.

From chapel to academic programs to athletics, we at Harding are a blessed community of mission. In this issue, we celebrate these blessings as we seek to pass them along to others.

HARDING

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EDITOR/DESIGNER
Tom Buterbaugh, '78

COPY EDITOR/WRITER
Jennifer Hannigan, '08

WRITERS
Shelby Dias, '15
Hannah Owens, '11

SPORTS WRITER
Scott Goode, '97

PHOTOGRAPHER
Jeff Montgomery, '91

CONTRIBUTORS
Joanna Crisco, '97
Savanna DiStefano, student writer
Lauren Hargett, student writer
Grant Schol, '15

PRESIDENT
Bruce D. McLarty, '78

VICE PRESIDENT FOR UNIVERSITY COMMUNICATIONS AND MARKETING
Jana Rucker

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hunet.harding.edu/wordpress/
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EMAIL
hardingmag@harding.edu

WEBSITE
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PHOTO BY JEFF MONTGOMERY



What is an important lesson you’ve learned since graduating from Harding?

Making plans and being intentional is wise and responsible, but bake into any plan that you need to have wiggle room and flexibility. You never know what God has planned for your life that is so much bigger, better and more fulfilling — even if it is trying and stressful at times.

JAMES BRUNTON, '11
Rogers, Arkansas

Reach out to fellow graduates, and don’t be afraid to ask for help to get your foot in the door. Work hard!

VIRGINIA “VIVI” VITALONE, '14
Rome, Italy

If you are able to truly give God control, he can take care of your basic needs and worries with such a flourish that it makes you wonder why they were ever a problem in the first place. God’s got style.

LAUREN MCLAUGHLIN, '08
Little Rock, Arkansas

Make every moment count while you’re at HU, enjoy as many activities as you can, and fellowship with as many people as classes will allow. It’s a rare opportunity to be surrounded and encouraged by such a great cloud of witnesses!

CANDI SKIPWORTH, '90
Weston, Florida

I’m sure that many important lessons have been learned, but I suppose most recently an important lesson that I’ve been reminded of is that the friendships I made at Harding are for a lifetime! Some of my biggest prayer warriors are a group of girls I met my freshman year, and some 30 years later I am still honored to pray for them.

JENNIFER CROW TEAGUE, '88
Little Rock, Arkansas

I’ve learned to appreciate our shared legacy and Christian tradition. I also appreciate Harding more now than when I was a student more than 20 years ago.

ERIC ROGERS, '95
Coraopolis, Pennsylvania



means lots of grace. The world needs more forgiveness — more grace and more forgiveness for others and ourselves.

KIM HACKETT, '04
Sherwood, Arkansas

I have learned that it is not as important what you study or where you study as it is with whom you study and under whom you study.

TIM HACKER, '74
Bartlett, Tennessee

The most important lesson I’ve learned since graduating is that we are meant to fail. I know for sure I have learned more about myself through my failures than I have my successes. I think that is because after failure, there is self-reflection and then hopefully change and growth. My parents used to tell me that a person

who fails 100 times and gets better each time is better off than someone who has one success and stays the same. I didn’t understand that until a couple of years ago. But with the failure, take the lesson learned, and do better next time. Obviously, that’s an oversimplification but is applicable across the board.

CHRIS HAMILTON, '09
Kensington, Maryland

Since graduating from Harding, I’ve learned that I can run into a Harding graduate practically anywhere! Despite being a smaller university, we have alumni all over the state, country and world.

ALEX SMITH CLARK, '08
Fayetteville, Arkansas

NEXT ISSUE’S QUESTION:
What is your favorite memory from Spring Sing?

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

To nursing graduates, the first thing that comes to mind is that nursing and the world in general requires becoming adaptable to circumstances ... you are trained in your profession that there are certain answers and perfect ways to handle things, which is true to an extent. Then when you actually step out into the career, there must be tiers of adapting to not only perform responsibilities safely but also work efficiently with others as well for productivity.

STEPHANIE CARGER WHITE, '90
Franklin, Tennessee

Something that comes to mind is the importance of establishing relationships beyond just friends and family — relationships like neighbors you can trust to pick up your mail when you’re out of town, the owner of your local restaurant/bakery who surprises your kids with an extra cookie free of charge, or an honest and fair mechanic.

STEWART DEERE, '05
Little Rock, Arkansas

I’ve learned, or it’s been reinforced, that the world needs more grace. The world is less black and white and more gray, and the gray part

ILLUSTRATION BY ISTOCK

Dr. Jeff Hopper, dean of international programs, plays Christmas carols in the lobby of the Burks American Heritage Building during the annual open house Dec. 1, 2016.

PHOTO BY JEFF MONTGOMERY





A night of interdepartmental collaboration

ON OCT. 3, 2016, STUDENTS representing six academic departments in health sciences and related disciplines packed into the Burks American Heritage Building for A Night at the Round Tables. This interdepartmental collaboration event challenged students from a variety of fields to work through a case study as a team, simulating a real-world situation of health care professionals' collective expertise.

The event first began in spring 2013 after a group of faculty members expressed a desire for their students to interact more. Melanie Lowry, assistant professor of communication sciences and disorders and one of the emcees for the event, said it's important for students to learn that they are just one piece of the puzzle.

"We want our students to know that every case is not going to centrally involve their own disciplines," she said. "So, learning to watch the process and learning that everything isn't about them all the time is a great lesson."

"In practice, we were all accustomed to being part of a health care team and wanted to translate that experience to the educational process," said Mary Madill, assistant professor in the physician assistant program. "We all think with a shared language, but each person brings a unique perspective to the diagnostic and the educational process."

Five faculty members from various depart-

ments and 50 students took part in the first event. For the sixth event in fall 2016, approximately 20 faculty members and 350 students participated from nursing, pharmacy, physician assistant, physical therapy, professional counseling and speech therapy. Faculty members from dietetics, social work and education also have contributed to various cases.

"Together as a faculty group, we work out the basics of the case and the framework," Madill said. "From there, each faculty member fills in the components that are specific to their skill set."

Participants were broken into small groups of seven to 10 students — one student from each field — and worked through modules set up in Canvas, the University's portal for on-line learning. This semester's case featured a 15-year-old boy who had been recently placed in foster care after suspicion of abuse. As the night progressed, components of the case were unlocked and revealed new information to students, who gained more and more knowledge about the subject of the featured case.

"I learned that this kid has a fluency disorder I can address as a speech-language pathologist," said Kaleb McLarty, second-year speech-language pathology graduate student. "This was not in the initial report that we received, but then the interview and following tests proved

that he does have a severe fluency disorder, and I am learning skills to help this need."

Participants watched a video of a simulated interview with the patient, who was portrayed by freshman theatre student Drew Holley. Joni Day, instructor in the communication sciences and disorders program, coached Holley on how to portray a speaker who is dysfluent. The actual patient also was present at the event and answered questions from students.

"Having someone in person to play the role of the patient really adds a whole new level of reality to the situation for students," Lowry said. "It is a concrete way to remind us all that the individuals we serve are more than just a diagnosis. Each of them is a person; someone's son, daughter, mother or sister."

Jeff Herchenroeder, a third-year pharmacy student, said he enjoyed learning from other participants in his group.

"I learned that the patient was willing to open up about some things, but there were other things that he did not really want to talk about," Herchenroeder said. "This is when the counselor of the group suggested that weekly meetings might be beneficial for him. It would allow him to get comfortable and show him that he has someone he can talk to if he ever needs it."

Two students made a presentation at the event that outlined the responsibility of a mandated reporter.

"It is my job to report situations that could save a child from abuse or neglect," McLarty said. "This is something I knew in the back of my head, but this event really helped me understand when I should report, how I should report, and who I am supposed to report to. I feel much more prepared to take on this sensitive and delicate task."

As students worked through the case using the skills they've been learning in the classroom, they experienced hands-on application of their knowledge and real-world perspective on collaborating with other health care professionals.

"My favorite aspect of the event was interacting with other students," Herchenroeder said. "It is interesting to see how others think and what they initially focus on. I think that the event is beneficial to everyone, and they do truly try to involve every program."



Learning together, students from six academic areas work alongside each other on a case study.

PHOTO BY HANNAH OWENS



Recovering from an automobile accident, Aris Ortiz blows leaves while aiding in a fundraiser to help his medical expenses.

Serving together for Ortiz

ALEX RUIZ-HAMILTON ('15) was raking leaves in a family's yard while talking with her boyfriend, senior mathematics major Aris Ortiz, on her cell phone. Jokingly, she commented on the sound similarity between "leaves" and "Aris" when an idea stemmed from those two words: Leaves for Aris.

On Sept. 2, 2016, Ortiz was involved in an automobile accident near his home in Ola, Arkansas, and sustained injuries to both legs and his left arm, which was removed below the elbow. After the accident, Ruiz-Hamilton wanted to help the family any way she could, and she discovered that venue while raking leaves for a church member.

Ruiz-Hamilton, connecting with University staff, campus organizations and local churches, organized Leaves for Aris, where students volunteered to tend to Searcy residents' yards in return for donations for Ortiz's medical expenses.

"At first I was worried that we weren't going to have enough houses, but that was actually the opposite problem," Ruiz-Hamilton said. "We were overwhelmed with houses."

The fundraiser was kept secret from Ortiz, who had been healing at home, until just before the first group of volunteers gathered to serve.

"When [Ruiz-Hamilton] finished explaining everything she had done, was planning on doing, and what this was all about, I was just blown away by what she had pulled together," Ortiz said. "I could definitely feel that she really cared for me and that she was looking out for me, and that was something that felt really close to me."

For two weekends, Ruiz-Hamilton used rakes, leaf bags and a leaf blower from The Original Rock House and loaded it into a staff member's truck she borrowed. Students raised approximately \$1,400 after cleaning nine yards.

"I'm super blessed by this opportunity to serve," Ruiz-Hamilton said. "I'm glad that not only are we serving the community and the people that are so close to Harding and this area but also we are doing all of this to serve somebody whom I truly and deeply care about. It has definitely been fulfilling for both the houses we come to serve and for him."

Ortiz also helped rake yards with the volunteers when he was able. He used a portable leaf blower while in his wheelchair, and he said it was rewarding to spend time with friends and meet new people while serving at the same time.

"It almost brought me back to the somewhat normalcy that I had before the accident happened when I was seeing Harding people and getting to interact with them," Ortiz said. "That in itself was a really great experience for me."

In conjunction with the Thundering Herd Marching Band and men's social club Kings Men, Leaves for Aris T-shirts were sold in the Hammon Student Center and raised approximately \$800 for Ortiz's medical fund. Ortiz said it is encouraging to visually see the support others have for him when friends, family and members of the Harding community wear the shirts.

"I am still getting letters from Harding even to this day, and I have received hundreds and hundreds, might be in the thousands now, of the letters," he said. "I can definitely feel the community stepping up and coming out to do these things. Harding has been such a blessing in my recovery."

ORTIZ PHOTO BY JEFF MONTGOMERY, BOARD PHOTOS SUBMITTED

Students collaborate on health care issues.



Pacemaking *Petit Jean*

FOR THE FIRST TIME in University history, Harding's 2016 *Petit Jean* yearbook received a Pacemaker Award at the 2016 Associated Collegiate Press and College Media Association convention Oct. 20-23, 2016. The Pacemaker is regarded as the most prestigious award in college publications and is presented annually in four categories — yearbook, newspaper, online and magazine.

"I was overwhelmed with a mixture of both excitement and shock when they announced our name," said Shelby Daniel ('15), former editor-in-chief. "It was my plan to create a completely unique and unexpected book, and our entire staff worked relentlessly to write, edit and design with this goal in mind. Winning a Pacemaker was the final confirmation that we were successful."

The 2015 *Petit Jean*, with the theme "Connected," was judged against 42 entries from which 14 finalists and then eight winners were selected. As a Pacemaker winner, the *Petit Jean* is among the top one percent of yearbooks in the country. The 2016 edition "Multitudes" received fifth-place for best in show at the ACP conference indicating its potential as a contender for next year's Pacemaker. Junior Kaleb Turner, current editor-in-chief, said the recent successes have energized the staff working on the 2017 edition.

"The fact that we have this staff and this publication winning awards at a national level is incredible," Turner said. "It has given our current staff a greater sense of what it's all about — preserving a chapter of our University history and continuing a legacy of quality yearbooks."

The legacy of the *Petit Jean* extends back to Harding's founding



with the first edition in 1924. Building its prestige as a college yearbook, the *Petit Jean* earned 10 All-American ratings within an 11-year time span in order to join the ACP

Hall of Fame in 1988. Several recent editions of the *Petit Jean* have been recognized as Pacemaker finalists, including the 2014, 2010, 2006 and 2004 editions.



Errica Rivera Rodney Waller

Board of trustees selects two

THE UNIVERSITY'S BOARD of trustees added two new members during its semiannual meeting in Searcy on Oct. 28, 2016 — Errica Rivera ('91) and Rodney Waller ('71).

Rivera, of Austin, Texas, is associate advocacy and culture director for State Auto Insurance Companies where she has worked for eight years. Prior to her current role, Rivera was employed by Reach Media Inc., parent company of the syndicated "Tom Joyner Morning Show."

A resident of Arlington, Texas, Waller retired from Range Resources Corp. in 2016 after a career in the oil and natural gas industry. Waller co-founded Snyder Oil Corp., growing it and others to national prominence while serving in senior management roles throughout his career.

The new appointees will attend their first meeting when the board meets again in May. The additions bring the number to 28 men and women serving as Harding's governing body.



Everyday STUDENT

SENIOR ABBY SMITH HAS A LOVE FOR JESUS AND A PASSION FOR MISSIONS



FAITH BASED After being born in Kenya, senior Abby Smith lived in Jinja, Uganda, for seven years with her parents who were part of a mission team. When she was 7, Smith's family moved to England for a year and a half before moving to Springfield, Missouri, where Smith has lived the last 13 years.

NEW COMMUNITY During her time in Springfield, Smith attended Camp Tahkodah in the summers. She said meeting Harding students who worked as camp counselors was a driving force behind her choice to attend the University. "All the counselors were Harding students. I thought they were the coolest thing ever, and I wanted to be like them. I thought they were fun, and I saw that they loved Jesus. What really made me want to come here was how amazing Harding's community is, the connections and friendships I already had here, and the opportunities provided for study abroad and missions — I wanted to be a part of that. I saw the beauty of community. I wanted to grow in that."

EXPANDING ROOTS Smith returned to Uganda with two other students as part of the Kibo Fellowship internship in 2015. The group stayed in Jinja for five weeks and learned firsthand the work of Kibo. Upon their return, the students became advocates for the program and its partnership with Kibo Midnight Oil Coffeehouse in Searcy. "That was incredible to be a part of last year because now more people know about Kibo Midnight Oil — which is so much more than just a coffeehouse. It's actually really helping develop sustainable communities in East Africa, so that's an incredible thing."

SERVING At the start of the 2015 fall semester, Smith served as a devotional director for Impact, a first-year student orientation program. She served as a co-director for Impact 2016. Currently, Smith is the spiritual life committee leader and senior female representative for the Student Association. She is a general studies major with a focus in public relations and Bible. She plans to pursue a master's in divinity or theology.

TRUE IDENTITY "What I've learned the last couple years is that, when I worship the Lord, I am the most me — I'm the most comfortable, the most confident, the most secure, the most restful, the most alive. I'm really passionate about leading people to a place of worship because worship is so much more than just singing to God. It also affirms our identity, confirms who God is, and connects us to heaven. Whenever we grow in our deep knowledge of what worship is and grow in our love for worship, it changes everything."

— Savanna DiStefano

PHOTO BY JEFF MONTGOMERY

CAMPUS SOCIAL



Brett Biggs @Mbbiggs Thank you @HardingU and @ASLHarding for a great week. It's always fun being on campus with students and friends. Keep up the great work!

SEPTEMBER 10



Tyler Slawter @Slawter_House Constantly in a state of encouragement by my peers here @HardingU. Happy #NDE16

SEPTEMBER 12



Daphne Fritz Stewart We had a 10-year reunion this weekend with our Harding bunch. These are the friends who will last a lifetime, and our experiences at Harding have molded us into who we are today. One of my best decisions in life was attending Harding.

SEPTEMBER 19



Renae Wilcox Lovely people. Lovely campus. So happy my daughter chose to make this place her home for the next few years.

OCTOBER 4



John Doherty First college visit for my son: great environment, felt like home, beautiful campus, everyone was friendly, and Jesus is present. It was one of the best experiences my son and I have ever had together. We plan to come back November 12th to visit again.

OCTOBER 31



Perry Patton @patton_perry In a world full of hate, few things are more encouraging than singing "God Is Love" with thousands of other believers ... @HardingU is special.

NOVEMBER 1



EVENTS

MARCH 23

Chris Brubeck & Triple Play

Part of the University's Arts & Life Concert Series, Chris Brubeck, Joel Brown and Peter Madcat Ruth bring a vast and vivid repertoire encompassing Delta blues, Tin Pan alley standards, New Orleans grooves, jazz gems and incisive originals.

MARCH 23-24, 30-31

One Act Festival

The department of theatre's One Act Festival provides students the opportunity to use the skills that they have learned in the multiple facets of theatre and pull that knowledge together into one unified production. This project gives them a global view of how the variety of areas, such as acting, costume, lights, promotion and management, play a part together to make a show.

APRIL 13-15

Spring Sing

Featuring numbers from modern Broadway shows, Spring Sing 2017 celebrates the anticipation felt before the curtain rises on a production. More than 21 social clubs will be participating in "Curtain Up!" with shows about southern elves, Scotland, Little Red Riding Hood, cows and chickens, delivery people, women of World War II, the stock market crash, and Noah's ark. www.harding.edu/springsing

MAY 6

Spring commencement

From the College of Allied Health to the College of Sciences, spring commencement honors students from all nine colleges as they reach this milestone in

their educations. The three ceremonies, which are held in Benson Auditorium, are an exciting time to celebrate and recognize the hours of study and sacrifice put in by our students. www.harding.edu/graduation

JUNE 10-15, JUNE 17-22, JUNE 24-29

Uplift

A summer camp for students entering the seventh grade through graduating seniors, Uplift provides spiritual growth for participants as well as friendships that will last long after the session is over. Campers should come ready to worship and fellowship, spending an incredible week at Harding. www.upliftonline.com

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

BY THE NUMBERS

HARDING MAGAZINE

25

Number of years of this magazine

81

Number of issues completed, including this one

67

Volumes of the Harding Bulletin, predecessor to the magazine

60,328

Number mailed last issue with almost 1,100 mailed overseas

2003

Year the magazine went full color

15

Total number of magazine staff over the years

1,213

Miles traveled to Tuba City, Arizona — the farthest by staff for a story





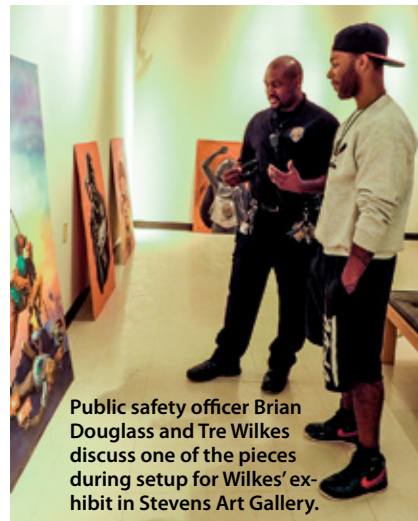
Alumni gallery exhibit sparks discussion

THE STEVENS ART GALLERY SHOWCASED "Through Colored Lines," an exhibit by Tramaine "Tre" Wilkes ('13), from Oct. 20-Nov. 4, 2016, as part of the annual alumni art show during Homecoming. The display featured artwork Wilkes created in response to recent shootings, demonstrations and racial tensions. The exhibit was brought to campus to give voice to the black experience in America and students at Harding.

The gallery featured both Wilkes' work and that of Eric Kee ('02), a Navajo artist and minister to the Navajo people in Tuba City, Arizona. Kee's work included carved wood sculpture, Native American flutes, jewelry, paintings and ink drawings based on his cultural heritage.

"This collection of paintings is meant to start dialogue among all communities," an introduction from Wilkes at the exhibit stated. "I want the viewer to ask 'Why?' If there is no question, then there is no reason for exploration or discussion."

Drawing inspiration from Renaissance and Mannerist artists, Wilkes' work takes a classical approach to modern subjects. Several of his pieces stemmed from community collaboration as Wilkes travels and paints in public. Touching on topics such as tensions between the black com-



Public safety officer Brian Douglass and Tre Wilkes discuss one of the pieces during setup for Wilkes' exhibit in Stevens Art Gallery.

munity and law enforcement, black-on-black crime, and the role of family in society, "Through Colored Lines" sparked conversation across campus as students, faculty, staff and University guests visited the gallery.

According to Jewels Edmerson, the University's Black Student Association president, the exhibit was a positive continuation of a campus dialogue about race that began with ASI's race relations panel in February 2016. Edmerson said the organization toured the exhibit together.

"Words cannot describe the intense emotion felt," Edmerson said. "Most of our group stayed more than an hour. I believe it was very beneficial and therapeutic for black students to see their University acknowledge these events and allow artwork that could be controversial."

John Keller, professor of art and gallery curator, said that being an alumnus made Wilkes' work particularly impactful to some.

"One student said that she never felt like she belonged at Harding until this show," Keller said. "Generally the response was positive, with several saying that it helped them to understand how the black community felt about these issues."

Compassion Clinic serves community with low-cost counseling

THE PROFESSIONAL COUNSELING PROGRAM celebrated the grand opening of a new clinic in January. The Compassion Clinic is an outreach program providing low-cost individual counseling, child play therapy, group counseling and couples counseling to residents of Searcy, White County and surrounding areas.

Compassion Clinic's services are provided by University students participating in the master's in professional counseling program under the supervision of licensed counselors. The clinic began treating patients in August 2016. According to Jenene Alexander, director of the counseling program, the clinic's primary focus is work with children, veterans and their families, and current armed services members, but it is equipped to work with a variety of needs in the local community.

"It's definitely a mission, and you have to have a heart for it," Alexander said. "I have a heart for children in this community, and I have worked with veterans for several years. It's really a great thing to have this clinic here at Harding."

The concept for the clinic began after the program conducted a self-study and hosted a site visit as part of the accreditation process through the Council for Accreditation of Counseling and Related Educational Programs. The program was awarded CACREP accreditation — the gold standard for national counseling accreditation. Accreditors suggested community outreach efforts be expanded.

"In that process, they asked why we were not doing more of an outreach for a couple of populations in the Searcy area," Alexander said. "One of those groups was children, and the other was military."

The Compassion Clinic aims to reach those groups in the community while also giving graduate students an opportunity to complete clinical hours on campus under the direct supervision of their professors. Dr. Gene Wright, associate professor of education and director of clinical experiences, said having the clinic offers two things of significant benefit.

"We get to provide our students with excel-

lent real-world training and meet the needs of these community members," Wright said. "Being able to say that we are a CACREP accredited program with a functional clinic serving our community is a win-win for everybody."

Wright said he is excited about the excellent training for students and the opportunity to serve the local and surrounding communities through the Compassion Clinic.

"I can't think of a more Christ-like calling than to reach out and work with people who are hurting and suffering — especially those that some in society may have said, 'I don't want anything to do with you,'" Wright said. "I think that is what makes professional counseling, as a job and as a discipline, so special. We always work with people from where they are and build on their strengths."

The Compassion Clinic operates Tuesdays from 2-8 p.m. Cost per session for most services is \$10. For more information, contact Angela English, coordinator of clinic services and scheduling, at 501-279-5926 or aenglish@harding.edu.

PHOTO BY BENERLY AUSTIN



MY VIEW HEATH CARPENTER

Generation why?

In April 2016, Pew Research Center published an article based on a U.S. Census Bureau population estimate that reported millennials, born 1982-2000, had surpassed baby boomers, born 1946-64, as the country's largest living generation. Generations are studied and defined so others know how to interact with, work alongside and market to them. But do these conversations and studies educate us, or do they divide us? Harding magazine talked to Dr. Heath Carpenter, assistant professor of English, to gain his perspective.

WAR. INEQUALITY. SOCIAL REFORM. Political unease. Geopolitical tensions. Progress. Technological innovation.

What are the unintended consequences? How will this change us? What is worth keeping? What deserves changing? Who am I? Who are we?

Which generation hasn't wrestled with the above? From the Classical Age to the Enlightenment, from the Industrial Age to the Information Age, from modernist boomers to post-modern millennials, each failed spectacularly. Each rose to various

challenges heroically. Each taught the next generation wisely. Each prompted the next to grow, protest and discover bravely.

From my educator's seat, I'm bored by generational stereotypes. I discourage the silos in which we comfortably retreat, generationally segregated, talking at and not to each other. To my boomer and Gen X friends, such silos can mythologize the past, met by millennials who see the past's rampant injustices and wars and who are tired of being harangued by finger-wagging stereotypes. To my millennial friends, there is much to learn from the past, and we'll all need knowledge, discretion, discernment and understanding to meet today's realities.

The great themes of the human situation rarely change in the turnover from one generation to the next. Yet there are always growing pains in the interregnum as each generation seeks to check the flaws of the past, benefit from its gains, and progress through the unique challenges of the present.

Principles, worldview value assumptions and ideologies are worth debating. Yet, if we do so from the foundation of shared interest and common goals, we come closer to shedding the closed-mindedness of dogmatic certainty and emotionalism. Instead, with humility and eagerness to participate in our common cause, we can grow together. Such discussion should not be feared but celebrated. 🗣️



PHOTO BY JEFF MONTGOMERY

NEWSMAKERS

COLLEGE OF ARTS AND HUMANITIES

Dr. Steven Breezeel, associate professor, became chair of the department of history and political science in January. He fills the role previously held by Dr. Kevin Klein, professor, who had served as chair since 2003 and is returning to the classroom.

Dr. Steven Frye, professor, became chair of the department of theatre in January. He fills the role previously held by Robin Miller, professor, who is returning to teaching.

Dr. Dutch Hoggatt, professor of communication, received third place in the faculty news competition for the 2016 Broadcast Education Association Super-Regional Conference in October 2016. He researched, wrote, shot, edited and produced his video entry, "Elvis and Harding."

Robin Miller, professor of theatre, was awarded The Spirit of Arkansas Communication and Theatre Arts Association award for outstanding service to the teaching profession at the ACTAA convention September 2016. ACTAA is the organization for all drama, speech and communication educators in Arkansas.

Broadcast journalism major Grace Nickols and electronic media production majors Jacob McCall and Matthew Rice each received grand prize honors at the South Central Broadcasting Society convention in Fort Worth, Texas, in October 2016. Their work was ranked against submissions from nearly 30 other universities.

COLLEGE OF BIBLE AND MINISTRY

Nathan Guy, assistant professor, successfully defended his dissertation to complete his doctorate in theology and religious studies with an emphasis in Christian philosophical theology and the philosophy of religion from the University of Cambridge (U.K.) in October 2016. The title of his dissertation is "The Theological Basis of John Locke's Political Thought."

COLLEGE OF EDUCATION

Dr. Todd Patten, associate professor, won the 2016 Rosenthal Award for Outstanding Service to the Counseling Profession in Arkansas.

COLLEGE OF NURSING

DeeAnn Martin, assistant professor, was recognized for 33 years' service to University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences' Medical Center and Arkansas Children's Hospital in October 2016.

COLLEGE OF PHARMACY

Dr. Sarah Griffin, assistant professor in the department of pharmacy practice, was appointed assistant dean for academic affairs effective Dec. 1, 2016.

Rodney Richmond, associate professor in the department of pharmacy practice, became chairman of the board for the Commission for Certification in Geriatric Pharmacy in November 2016. In October 2016, it was announced that the geriatric board certification credential from the CCGP was transitioning to the Board of Pharmacy Specialties — a result of four years' effort by Richmond and other board members.

COLLEGE OF SCIENCES

Dr. James Huff, assistant professor of engineering, received the Helen Plants Award for the Best Nontraditional Session for the International 2015 Frontiers in Education Conference. The award was given for his session, "Qualitative Research on Psychological Experience — A Starting Point for Using Interpretive Phenomenological Analysis" and was presented Oct. 14, 2016.

Dr. Frank McCown, associate professor of science, co-authored *Web Programming*, an online book to be used teaching web development technologies at universities across the U.S.

Dr. Ed Wilson, professor of chemistry, was named the 101st president of the Arkansas Academy of Science in April 2016.



Saving the best for last

By SCOTT GOODE, assistant athletic director for sports information

THE 2016 FOOTBALL SEASON began with the announcement that it would be the last for head coach Ronnie Huckleba. After 40 seasons coaching football, including 31 at Harding and 10 as the Bisons' head coach, Huckleba would step down at the end of the season and his second-in-command, defensive coordinator Paul Simmons, would take over the program.

But for a season that began with an announcement about a "last," the 2016 Bisons will forever be remembered for their "firsts."

"I had really high expectations about how this season would turn out," Huckleba says. "But even at that, the end result exceeded my expectations. The season was just a wonderful, blessed ending to my coaching career, and I could not have asked for it to have been better."

This team was Bison football's first to complete an undefeated regular season. This team was Harding's first to claim an outright conference championship. This team was the University's first to earn the right to host an NCAA Division II playoff game, first to win an NCAA playoff game, first to win an NCAA playoff road game, and first to end the season ranked in the American Football Coaches Association Top 10.

Prior to the 2016 season, Harding's best start to a football season came in 2002 when the Bisons opened 6-0. To equal that achievement, the team had to get through two of its traditionally toughest rivals.

Coming off a 47-7 blowout of University of Arkansas-Monticello to move to 4-0, Harding hosted Ouachita Baptist University, who had defeated the Bisons three-straight times in

Searcy. Harding trailed 20-17 midway through the fourth quarter when senior quarterback Park Parish broke away on a 75-yard run that set up his game-winning 2-yard touchdown run.

The following week, Harding traveled to Arkadelphia, Arkansas, to take on Henderson State University, the defending Great American Conference champion. The Reddies had won five of the last six games against the Bisons, and Harding had only one road win in Arkadelphia since 2002. This time, the game was over by halftime. The Bisons scored four second-



Sophomore offensive lineman Bryce Bray blocks as junior running back Zach Shelley runs for a touchdown during the Bisons' 38-7 victory in the season opener at home against Oklahoma Baptist University.

quarter touchdowns, including two in the half's final 14 seconds, and won 35-3.

"When we walked off the field at halftime of the Henderson State game, we had a renewed expectation for how the season was going to turn out," Huckleba says. "At that point, everyone looked at each other and said, 'OK, this is going to be really special.'"

On Oct. 15, 2016, the Bisons entered their seventh game of the season with a chance to break the previous record. After falling behind Southeastern Oklahoma State University 17-14 after the first quarter, the Bisons scored five touchdowns in the second quarter and blew out the Savage Storm 63-17.

Two weeks later, Harding clinched a tie for

the GAC Championship with a 42-27 victory over Southwestern Oklahoma State University in front of a Homecoming crowd of more than 5,000 fans. The Bisons were on the road in Alva, Oklahoma, the next Saturday taking on Northwestern Oklahoma State University for a chance to clinch the outright championship.

In a drizzling rain, Harding shut down Northwestern's offense and defeated the Rangers 24-7 to claim the championship.

Harding had three previous conference titles, but all three were shared. The Bisons finished with a 5-1 record in the Arkansas Intercollegiate Conference three times, sharing the conference championship with Southern State College (Southern Arkansas University) in 1972 and University of Central Arkansas in 1976 and 1989.

In 57 seasons of intercollegiate football since Harding reinstated the program in 1959, the Bisons had never had an undefeated regular season.

In its regular-season finale against Arkansas Tech University, Harding left no doubt that it was the top team in the GAC, defeating the Wonder Boys 42-7 and moving to 11-0.

With the regular-season championship and the undefeated regular season under its belt, Harding awaited its postseason fate. The Bisons also advanced to the NCAA Division II playoffs in 2012 and 2014 but had to play both games on the road. This season, the NCAA selection committee pegged Harding as the No. 3 seed in NCAA Super Region 3, giving the Bisons their first home playoff game since 1992, when they hosted Central State (Ohio) in the NAIA playoffs.

Harding hosted University of Central Missouri, the No. 6 seed and a member of the Mid-America Intercollegiate Athletics Association,



Head coach Ronnie Huckleba celebrates with the team after winning his final regular-season home game 42-7 over Arkansas Tech University on Nov. 12, 2016. The victory gave the Bisons an 11-0 record and their first undefeated regular season.

PHOTO BY JEFF MONTGOMERY

PHOTO BY JEFF MONTGOMERY



and defeated the Mules 48-31. It was Harding's first NCAA Division II playoff victory and the first win in the postseason since the Bisons defeated Langston University 30-27 in the Cowboy Bowl in Lawton, Oklahoma, on Dec. 6, 1972.

The victory over Central Missouri left Harding as one of 16 teams remaining in Division II playoffs. The Bisons next traveled to Sioux Falls, South Dakota, to take on the University of Sioux Falls, an undefeated team and the champion of

team, was really important for our program and for our conference," Huckeba says. "Then we went on the road and beat the Northern Sun champion the way that we did. That is something that nobody associated with that game will ever forget."

Harding's season came to an end the following week in a 35-0 loss to Division II's top-ranked team, Northwest Missouri State University in Maryville, Missouri.

"When our guys come back, they always talk about **relationships**."

the Northern Sun Intercollegiate Conference.

With 10:10 left in the game, Harding trailed Sioux Falls 24-14. The Bisons scored on their next drive but still trailed 24-21 with only 4:17 remaining. Harding forced Sioux Falls to punt and took over at the Bison 13-yard line with no timeouts left. The team drove 57 yards, and with 6 seconds left in the game, junior kicker Tristan Parsley booted a game-tying 47-yard field goal, 11 yards farther than his previous career high.

In overtime, linebacker Benjamin Shields intercepted a pass on Sioux Falls' second play. The Bisons took over, and Parsley nailed a 35-yard field goal to win the game 27-24 and send the team to the national quarterfinals.

"The win over Central Missouri, an MIAA

Harding spent much of the 2016 season ranked in the top 10 in Division II and landed at No. 6, the highest the Bisons have ever been ranked in the national poll.

"**WE HAD SO MANY OUTSTANDING** things happen this season, but every week it just felt like we were playing another game," Huckeba says. "It distracted me from thinking about the end. I just thought about this week, this team, and whom we were going to play. It was a wonderful way to go through the season."

Harding's success in the victory column was also apparent in the Division II statistical rankings. Using its flexbone offense, a triple-option based attack that dates back to the 1960s and is very heavy on running the football, the Bisons

led Division II with 362.8 rushing yards per game and scored 61 rushing touchdowns, the third-highest recorded total in Division II history.

The team's unique offense style drew much of the attention, but Harding's defense, with Simmons as the coordinator, was among the nation's best.

As the regular season came to a close, Harding led Division II in rushing defense, scoring defense and total defense.

With the team's success, individual honors rolled in. Huckeba became the University's first football coach to be selected as the American Football Coaches Association Regional Coach of the Year.

Huckeba said that he was very humbled by winning the honor.

His team had 18 members named to the All-Great American Conference team. Parish was the GAC's Offensive Player of the Year, and senior defensive lineman Trevon Biglow was the Defensive Player of the Year.

Eight players received All-Super Region 3 honors, and Biglow, who led the GAC in sacks, tackles for loss and forced fumbles, became only the fourth Bison to earn AFCA All-America.

Huckeba ended his head coaching career at

Harding with a 69-40 overall record, and his .633 winning percentage is the best by a Harding football coach. He guided the Bisons to four postseasons in his last five years.

"We made such wonderful memories this year, but the brotherhood of Bison football is special," Huckeba says. "And it's special whether you go 13-1 or 5-6. When our guys come back, they always talk about relationships. It is not all about how many wins you put up, although that makes it very, very special. Our success this season really blessed our old Bisons."

Huckeba will continue his relationship with Harding in his new role in the advancement office.

"I am really excited about that," Huckeba says. "A big part of that is developing relationships and building on relationships that have already been developed."

As the new year begins, Simmons will officially become the 13th head coach in Harding football history and the sixth since 1959.

Simmons finished his 11th season as an assistant coach at Harding. He coached the defensive line in his first 10 seasons, added the title of assistant head coach in 2008, and has been defensive coordinator since 2010.

"I am so pleased that Coach Simmons will lead the program," Huckeba says. "He has been my right-hand man since I became head coach and has been a major reason for our success."

In 2010, Harding's defense led the nation and set a school record with 43 sacks. In the last six seasons, the Bisons have led the conference in total defense five times and scoring and rushing defense four times.

"Coach Simmons has the needed experience to lead our program," athletic director Greg Harnden says. "He is a great recruiter, fundraiser and a great example for our young men. Harding is extremely fortunate to have Coach Simmons on our staff and ready to take the reins of the football program."

Simmons was a three-time All-America honoree at Harding as a linebacker and defensive end. He compiled 415 career tackles and 18 sacks and was inducted into the Harding Athletics Hall of Fame in 1999.

"Harding football has been an unbelievable blessing in my life," Simmons says. "A great deal of who I am as a Christian man, father and husband, I learned during my time playing football here at Harding. I am extremely grateful for and humbled by this opportunity."

2017 will be another season of firsts.



Defensive coordinator Paul Simmons instructs Harding's No. 1-ranked defense during the game at Henderson State University on Oct. 8, 2016. The defense forced six Henderson State turnovers that led to four touchdowns as the Bisons defeated the Reddies 35-3.

PHOTO BY JEFF MONTGOMERY

PHOTO BY JEFF MONTGOMERY



BY THE NUMBERS

3 Number of men's cross-country runners who earned All-Great American Conference honors. Junior Lawson Belcher and sophomore Camden Barrett made first team, and senior Daniel Evans was selected second team.

18:28.9 Junior Madison Drennan's time at the GAC Cross-Country Championship, the top time by a Lady Bison and Drennan's first occasion to lead the team at a cross-country meet.

14 Number of victories by the men's soccer team, matching its total from the three previous seasons combined and setting a school record. The Bisons finished 14-6 and won the GAC Tournament championship.

2 Number of consecutive GAC Tournament championships by the women's soccer team. The Lady Bisons won the title with a 6-5 penalty kick victory over Southwestern Oklahoma after the game ended in a 2-2 tie. With the victory in the conference tournament, the team advanced to the NCAA Division II National Tournament for the third-time overall and for the second-straight season.

164 Number of blocks by sophomore Zoe Hardin, a middle blocker on the volleyball team. The total topped the GAC and ranked third in NCAA Division II. Hardin earned GAC Player of the Year and GAC Defensive Player of the Year and was named D2 Conference Commissioner's Association Second-Team All-Region.



In the men's soccer home opener Sept. 7, 2016, senior forward Barry Foster scores 72 seconds into the second half giving the Bisons a 1-0 victory over Union University. Foster was one of four named to the 2016 Division II Conference Commissioner's Association All-Central Region Second Team.

During the first chapel of the fall on Aug. 22, 2016, President Bruce McLarty gives Chancellor Emeritus Clifton L. Ganus Jr. the floor as he recalls his time as a Harding student living in Godden Hall.



*Looking at how chapel
shapes a semester
at Harding by giving us*

OUR DAILY BREAD

By SHELBY DIAS and JENNIFER HANNIGAN

Photography by JEFF MONTGOMERY

For 30 minutes every weekday, the University does something it has honored since its beginning: gather together for chapel. In the 1924 Harding College catalog, the purpose of chapel was described as “one of the chief characteristics of the school’s work” and that the “devotional service talks [were] intended to prepare the student for dealing sanely with the problems of life, to develop proper ideals of true manhood and womanhood, and to impart a desire for accomplishing greater things.”

Each semester provides 75 opportunities for students to come together and continue that tradition more than 90 years in the making. The fall 2016 semester brought many examples of devotionals and presentations that held true to that declaration. These are just a few of the semester’s presentations and how they came to be.

SETTING THE TONE

The first day of chapel sets the stage for the rest of the year, and the beginning of the 2016-17 school year was no exception. President Bruce McLarty took a moment to catch up with the student body and also introduce two pillars of Harding, former Presidents David B. Burks and Clifton L. Ganus Jr. This particular day marked Burks’ 50th first chapel.

“They are an endearing part of campus,” McLarty says. “Their presence also roots us historically as these are two people who came in ’61 and ’39, and that gives you a sense of continuity.”

McLarty then took the rest of the time to discuss what chapel means within the Harding community, something he continually emphasizes.

“There is no consensus of what expectations for chapel are when people come in,” McLarty says. “So on the first day I want students to know that chapel is a myriad of things, and that we’re making these three bold declarations that these are the primary pieces of chapel, and I think it gives everybody a folder to put chapel experiences in. It keeps us from being defined in a way that we don’t want to define ourselves.”

“By gathering together, we are confessing for one more day that we are a **Christian university** and affirming that **spiritual vision.**”

In his remarks, McLarty defined chapel as worship, community building, and affirmation of the identity of Harding. With songs supporting each concept, he presented the ways that chapel fills those various roles. Chapel as worship provides a time of reorientation for those involved. It is also a place where the University gets to celebrate the good things together as well as mourn together. It also serves as a connection point for many alumni after they’ve left.

“Many people say that, after they’re gone, the thing they miss most about Harding is chapel. And students sometimes don’t believe me when I say that, but they’ll often find themselves saying the same thing once they graduate.”

It is in that worship and community building that chapel serves its purpose of affirming the University’s identity.

“Being in chapel, students are part of something bigger than themselves,” McLarty says. “By gathering together, we are confessing for one more day that we are a Christian university and affirming that spiritual vision.”

CONNECTING THROUGH SONG

Early in the fall semester students, faculty and staff focused four days of chapel on the hymn “Be With Me Lord.” Written by T.O. Chisholm and L.O. Sanderson, the song has an interesting Harding connection — Sanderson also wrote the music to the University’s alma mater. His son, Leon, introduced the hymn during a Tuesday chapel, and students spent the remainder of the week digging deeper into the words of each verse.

McLarty selected both the hymn and speakers for the chapel series by looking to members of the Harding community with connections to the song, powerful stories of faith, or an aptitude for illuminating the 1934 lyrics.

“I chose ‘Be With Me Lord’ after looking for an old song that is apparently slipping away but one where the words are rich so that, if students today were introduced, they would gravitate to it,” McLarty says.

Chair of the Department of Chemistry Dennis Matlock spoke of “if storms of trial burst above my head” and his experience as a war veteran who came to faith later in

life. Associate Professor of English Michael Claxton detailed the “constant sense of thy abiding presence.” Professor of Bible Ross Cochran shared his experience of loss and grief “when loneliness o’er-takes me.”

According to Claxton, the series offers an introduction to students who have never heard the hymn and deeper reflection on the words some may have sung for years.

“The message is to slow down and pay attention to the words of this song. In the same way in which you can spend an entire Bible class on a passage, there are certain songs that reward that type of deep thought in each verse.”

The hymn series is part of a larger effort by the chapel committee to ensure songs in worship are continually varied, featuring a mix of hymns and contemporary songs throughout the semester.

“You’re always a few generations away from completely losing songs,” Claxton says. “They go out of fashion, and nobody sings them anymore. Now there are probably some songs that should go out of fashion, but then there are others that connect us to our heritage. Not only do they articulate truth about scriptural things, but they connect us — to sing songs that your parents and grandparents have loved just gives you more in common with them.”

UNITY ABOVE DIVISION

A cornerstone of Harding’s identity as a Christian university, chapel serves as a daily confession of the University’s continued mission. This practice is especially beneficial when current events, such as the presidential election in November 2016, saturate discussions and divert attention.

“We didn’t want politics to eclipse the spiritual fellowship and unity of chapel,” McLarty says. “The most nonpartisan thing in the world is to have a prayer chapel.”

Chapel on Nov. 8, 2016, featured prayer at length about the world, the nation, the Searcy community, faculty, staff and students. With the thought that the entire world is represented some way in the Harding community, prayers were focused on peace, unity, discretion and wisdom for all levels of

government throughout the world.

“Prayer is us showing that we know who is ultimately in control,” says Zach Neal, assistant vice president for student life. “It reminds us as a Harding family that we are all here for each other with a focus on Christ. We have an avenue through Christ in prayer, and we want to encourage each other with that while also modeling the proper response to any situation — a conversation with God.”

Other prayers began with a broad focus and then narrowed to a more personal level. Senior Spanish major Daniel Evans offered a prayer for faculty and staff, while Assistant Professor of Finance Josiah Smelser offered a prayer on behalf of students. Election Day chapel and the days that followed fulfilled the significant role of affirming the importance of faith and mission above current events.

“The following day was mission chapel, and I spoke a little about the election at the beginning of chapel,” McLarty says. “What better way to move on after an election than to talk about the work still left to be done and say ‘Let’s get to work.’”

A MILITARY MISSION FIELD

In recognition of Veterans Day, Dr. Shawn Fisher, assistant professor of history and faculty liaison for ROTC and veterans’ affairs, invited Capt. Ryan Scott (’98) to speak in chapel. Scott, an alumnus and West Point instructor, is a strong supporter of the University’s veterans group and was a virtual member while earning his MBA through Harding’s online program.

Scott delivered what he called his “missionary report,” commenting on the state of faith in the military, the ways he has shared his faith during his time with the Army, and how others can help those enlisted.

“He’s always seen himself as primarily a missionary,” Fisher says. “We could have brought in people who would have had their military experience to relate, but most of the audience have not served. Another way to connect with them that’s not just citizen to veteran is from one brother to his brothers and sisters in Christ. Ryan speaks to that idea of a community of mission very well.”

Fisher and Scott had discussed the Uni-



Capt. Ryan Scott encourages chapel attendees to pray for and support service men and women while speaking on how he views the state of faith in the military Nov. 11, 2016.

versity’s ROTC program in the past, and both wanted to help students transition from college to military more easily and prepare them for the 1.5 million people to whom they can minister in the U.S. military. University ROTC members — junior social work major Christopher Allison, senior history major Andrew Davis, junior Bible and preaching major Josh Joiner, sophomore marketing major Perry Patton, freshman history major Jameson Perry, and sophomore social science major Timothy Wright — were able to lead prayers, sing and read Scripture as a part of the devotional.

“It’s an encouragement to our ROTC members to let them stand up and be recognized and be leaders,” Fisher says.

Scott shared a story about how during basic training he was willing, cheerful and hardworking but didn’t preach using his words. He let Christ be Christ within him, and that was noticed by his peers. He stated that the military is a fertile mission field that is open to faith and worth prayers and efforts.

“I gave him just a general charge on what to speak on, and when it was over I thought, ‘I wish I had written that talk for him.’ It was absolutely perfect,” McLarty says. “It was greatly respectful of and grateful for military service, but the core of his message was not

military service — it was the mission of God.

“Speaking to me between chapels, Ryan said that he loves the military academy and working with students who have such a sense of purpose and mission, but upon looking out at University chapel, he saw a sea of people with an unlimited mission.”

A SEND-OFF FROM SENIORS

The end of the semester brings with it a number of goodbyes, whether it’s students leaving for Christmas break or seniors graduating. To commemorate the seniors’ time at Harding, a handful are invited to leave a final thought with the student body. Journalism major Anna Winchester and accounting and finance major Austin Yates were two of four chosen to speak, and each told how college changed them.

“Both of them talked about tremendous transformation, how different life was coming into college and what they learned about themselves, and then they leave as different people,” McLarty says.

Winchester wanted to remind her peers to cherish their time at Harding. She recounted growing up in a secular home and her first semester of college spent at a state school. Upon arriving at Harding, she expe-

rienced “culture shock in the best way.” But over time, the excitement wore off, and the weight of classes and projects took its place. It wasn’t until her final semester that her outlook changed.

“I had a friend, Blake Hunter, who passed away, and I thought about that and how when that happened I realized the fragility of being here,” Winchester says. “My little brother is 18, has autism, and isn’t high functioning academically enough to come to Harding. When I complained to him about doing homework, he said, ‘I wish I could go to college.’ Here I am complaining about a wonderful place that I have the privilege of attending and people would love to be in a place like this.”

Winchester felt that this idea — to cherish what is in front of you — made the best use of her time on Benson stage.

“I thought that, even though it might not make a difference, maybe this group would want to know that you need to cherish where you’ve been and the time you have here.”

Yates wanted to balance his college memories with the deeper impressions his time at Harding made.

“You want to share some funny times you’ve had here, but you also want to share some core truths that go far beyond your activities,” Yates says. “I don’t think the activities matter as much in the long term, especially when you think about the other things you learn at Harding, the life truths that God will reveal to you.”

Yates recounted his first years at the University, realizing that while he excelled in high school, college provided a greater challenge. While he arrived with a large ego, he found himself slipping into insecurity, and that opened a door for him to build a foundation on Christ rather than himself.

“I think college communicates self-importance because we’re at a time in life where we’re told to pour into ourselves. But for the life of a Christian, that only makes sense if we’re looking toward the future of pouring out. This is such a short time period, and we need to turn our hearts outward so that, by the time we leave, we’re ready to go out into the world.”



FLORENCE LEGACY

By HANNAH OWENS

Photography by GRANT SCHOL

AUG. 28, 1990

I can't believe this day is finally here! We are leaving Harding at 10 a.m. for the airport in Little Rock. We should get to Amsterdam at 9:10 a.m. — 2:10 a.m. our time. I really don't know if I am ready for this or not. I am so thankful to have this opportunity to spend the next three months in Italy. This is truly a dream come true. Here we go ...

Kim Beach Swenson, '92

The skyline of Florence features the Gothic style Il Duomo di Firenze, begun in 1296 and completed in 1436.

“Aggressively seek **beauty** in every day.”

A 16TH-CENTURY VILLA SITS among the rolling hills of Tuscany in Scandicci, Italy. From the view on the second-floor terrace, the city of Scandicci is visible from afar glowing in a soft haze at the feet of mountains. The terrace looks over the property the University has owned since 1980 as the home for students spending a semester abroad at Harding University in Florence. Approximately 3,000 students have spent a spring, summer or fall semester at HUF throughout the program’s 36 years. Each semester, calendars are full of activities for students in Florence and scheduled group trips throughout the Italian countryside. Though the program in 2017 might look different than it did in 1980, senior Kailey and sophomore Collin Swenson found many of their experiences were the same as the ones their mom had 26 years ago. Kim, assistant professor of nursing, attended HUF during her junior year in 1990.

“The opportunity to see and do so many things just was an opportunity I couldn’t pass up,” she says.

And it was an opportunity Kailey and Collin couldn’t pass up either.



SEPT. 1, 1990

WE FINALLY ARRIVED in Florence today about 10:10 a.m. It was raining and very cold. We walked down the road to the bus stop while our luggage was being taken to the villa. We took a bus to Scandicci, and a group of eight of us decided to make the walk up the hill to see how long it was. Well, it was long and uphill but so amazingly beautiful! I cannot believe this is my home

for the next three months. When we arrived at the villa, they had breakfast prepared for us. We took some time to look around the villa and get our things settled. Robbie [Shackelford] told us all about the program and established the rules and expectations. At 9 p.m. we had hot tea and cookies. I can get used to this. We all hung around just getting to know each other and had some good laughs, and now we are heading to bed for the night. It was indeed a good day. I can’t wait to see what tomorrow brings.

Kim

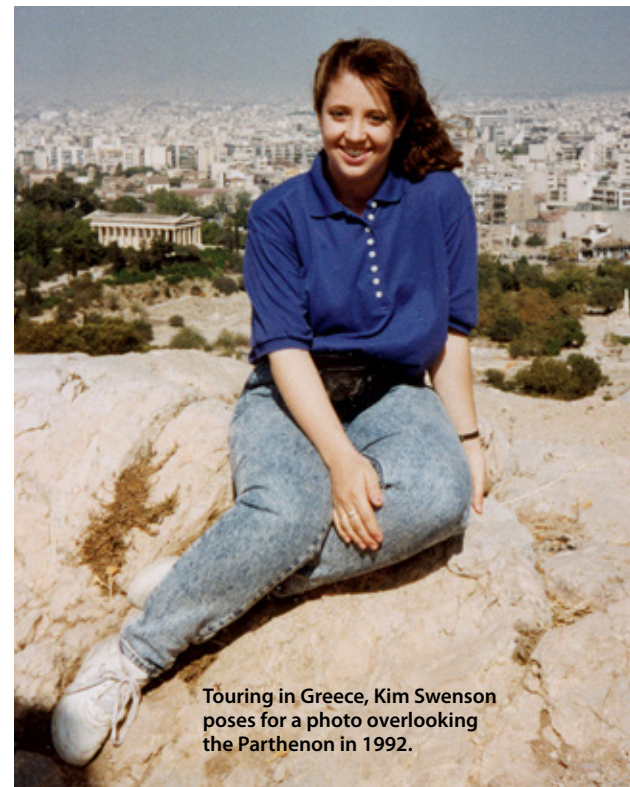


SEPT. 17, 2016

TODAY WAS OUR FIRST full day in Italy! I was afraid I would be jet-lagged, but I woke up bright and early, excited to tour the town! They had yummy chocolate-filled pastries set out for us at breakfast. I hope it’s like this every day! Afterward, we had orientation where Robbie spoke to us about rules and some Italian culture aspects. There were four things he wrote up on the board that I know will stay with me through the rest of this semester: 1) Wake up with a song in your heart. 2) Aggressively seek beauty in every day. 3) Communicate with our Creator. And 4) John 3:16 and 1 John 3:16.



The entrance to the villa in Scandicci is the first glimpse for students into life at HUF.



Touring in Greece, Kim Swenson poses for a photo overlooking the Parthenon in 1992.

KIM SWENSON SUBMITTED PHOTO



Collin and Kailey Swenson follow in their mother's footsteps, studying at the HUF program in Italy during the fall 2016 semester.



Kailey Swenson takes in frescoes in the Duomo of San Gimignano.

I can already tell that this trip is going to make a tremendous impact on my life. I can't wait for the rest of this trip. Lunch was pretty amazing — I am never going to get tired of this food. After lunch we hung around a bit and played some cards before we went down the infamous hill into town. It took about 20 minutes, so it wasn't as bad as I expected. It was rewarded with our very first gelato stop. I got Stracciatella, and it was delicious! We walked around a bit more to where we took our group picture — it was so cool because the guy who took it was the same guy who took my mom's picture when she was here in fall of 1990!

We then went over to Mario's to try some Spuma (it tasted like fruity ginger ale) before getting a ride back up the hill — thank goodness. We had another delicious meal and then we played some get-to-know-you games. I really like our group. I think we're all going to get really close this trip. I'm really excited for what the rest of this adventure has to offer. We ended the night with Mona [Shackelford]'s s'mores dip. I think it was a pretty great way to end the night. Now, to bed for another great day tomorrow. Buona Notte.

Kailey



THE SWENSONS LIVED IN PENNSYLVANIA before moving to Searcy in August 2016, and Collin and Kailey left for Italy five weeks later. Kailey said traveling to Italy had always been a dream.

"I just always have been fascinated by traveling, the whole culture of Italy, and obviously the food," Kailey says. "I would have loved to be a part of any of the international programs, but I kind of pinpoint Italy as one of those places you just have to see. All the places in Italy and all the trips we have gone on here have been so fascinating and beautiful."

Collin was originally signed up to go to Harding University in Greece, but after hearing stories from others who had studied in Florence, he changed his mind.

"I had no idea what I was getting into at first," Collin says. "I just heard everyone talk about how beautiful Italy is. Of course I've always wanted to come to Italy, and I love Italian food, but I am loving everything that has happened here, and I wouldn't change anything about it."

Kim says her study abroad experience didn't influence Kailey's and Collin's decisions to study there, but they were both familiar with the time she spent in Italy.

"They had heard about it," Kim says. "They had seen my pictures and heard my stories, but it was completely their decision. It gave me comfort that Kailey and Collin were over there together."

"It definitely does help having Kailey and my girlfriend

"Italy will always be a **second home** to me, and I can't wait to go back."



As an integral part of the HUF experience, Collin Swenson makes a presentation outside the Colosseum in Rome, Italy. Built of concrete and sand, it is the largest amphitheatre ever built.

here and having people close to me to experience it with me," Collin says. "It was very overwhelming, but once you get used to it, this is like a home away from home."



EACH STUDY ABROAD PROGRAM ALLOWS students to immerse themselves into the traditional culture of the country in which they are living, and HUF includes a number of activities to teach students about Italian living. A staple activity for the fall semester is the olive and grape harvests. Students have the opportunity to participate in a grape harvest at an area vineyard, and they also help harvest olives from the many trees that surround the villa.

"I don't remember a lot about it, but I do remember one of the guys fell off the ladder and ripped his pants," Kim laughs. "I saw some of Kailey's pictures from their olive harvest, and they look similar to mine."

"You definitely don't think about what it takes to get the olive oil that you use," Collin says. "I'm really happy about the fact that we get to take home the olive oil we worked for."

STUDENTS PARTICIPATE IN CLASSES throughout the semester, but instead of learning about history and art only from a textbook in the classroom, they get to stand in the presence of architecture and artistic masterpieces that had a significant impact on the world.

"For someone who had never really studied or experienced anything like that, it provided some insight that was necessary for me to understand what it was," Kim says.

"Being able to see things that you have only ever seen in history books is just mind-blowing and beautiful," Kailey says.

Students carry around a small Moleskine journal in which they take notes at on-site classes throughout the semester.

"I'm really excited that I get to go home and have this Moleskine, and I get to look back at it later," Collin says. "I get to show my friends and my family everything that I've learned, and if I do come back to Italy, I can use it."



WHILE KIM WAS OVERSEAS, she remembers waiting in a long line for a turn to use the one villa phone to talk to her parents. "They would call at 4 in the morning in Italy because that time was good for them back home," she says. "But I was so happy to talk to them, it didn't really matter."

During Kailey and Collin's time at HUF, Kim has been able to keep up with them regularly and get real-time updates on their activities through social media.

“I think everyone should get to experience this **crazy adventure** — it has definitely changed my life.”



The beautiful Tuscan countryside is part of the allure of the Florence, Italy, program.

“I think about now when I went a couple of days and didn’t hear from the kids, I thought, ‘What are they doing? I haven’t heard from them! Are they safe?’ And I think my parents didn’t hear from me for weeks at a time. It is a lot different.”



REFLECTING BACK ON THEIR EXPERIENCES, Kim, Kailey and Collin all marvel at the many things they were able to do, and they all experienced feelings toward the end of the semester that made them ready to be home.

Looking at it from one angle, it feels like we have not been here long at all,” Collin says. “Looking at it from another angle, thinking back to the first day to the party we had to get to know each other, and wow, that feels like forever ago. We have been here so long, so I kind of miss home a little bit.”

“That certainly was the longest I had ever been away from my family,” Kim says.

From horseback riding through the Tuscan countryside and learning to cook an authentic Italian meal to free traveling through more than 15 different countries, they all feel their study abroad experience changed them and connected them in a special way.

“It was definitely cool to read some of the stuff in my mom’s journal that she did — all the relationships that she’s made and all the places that she went,” Kailey says. “So it’s also pretty cool that I get to see it from her eyes because I had already talked to her, read some things in her journals, and seen her pictures. Now I got to relive that through my own eyes.”

“I have not been back since studying abroad, but said I would love to go back,” Kim says. “It is a goal of ours as a family to go, especially now that they have been there, too.”



NOV. 21, 1990

TODAY IS GOING TO BE an awesome day! This has been such an amazing experience, but I am so ready to see my family. We are sitting here in the hotel in Amsterdam, and I am trying to fit everything into my bags to fly home.

Pretty sure I’m going to have to throw some things away. Not realizing I couldn’t re-enter the airport, I went in to the waiting area for my plane and didn’t get to say goodbye to anyone. I was so sad not to be able to see the friends I had grown so close to over the semester just one last time. We waited anxiously to board, and the plane ended up taking off 20 minutes late. I watched “Presumed Innocent” with Harrison Ford. Not a bad way to kill some time, I suppose. When the pilot announced we were flying over Boston, you would have thought we hadn’t been home in 10 years. We were so excited to be back in America and to see our friends and family. We made our way to the front of the plane and were among the first ones to get off the plane. It is so good to be home. This was the perfect end to a near perfect semester, and my life has been changed forever. Italy will always be a second home to me, and I can’t wait to go back. Ciao!

Kim

DEC. 8, 2016

HERE IT IS — the day that we all knew was coming from the beginning but the day we never thought would come so soon. Despite all of the last minute packing and cleaning up, we still got our chances to say goodbye to people as they left through the villa doors for the last time. We all got the chance to eat lunch together around the table when it finally started hitting us that this group would never all be together again. The end of the day came pretty quickly, and I wasn’t ready to say goodbye yet. The villa became my second home so very quickly, and I know its contributing factor was the amazing staff. I am so incredibly grateful for this experience in Florence, and I wouldn’t have changed any minute of it. I think everyone should get to experience this crazy adventure — it has definitely changed my life. I won’t be able to not travel again. I want to see the rest of the states and even return again to Europe. I want to continue to aggressively seek beauty as Robbie taught us on the first day. My time to leave the villa came so quickly, so I turned the light off to my room and said my good-byes, trying not to cry. I can’t wait to see what my final two weeks in Europe have to offer! Buona Notte.

Kailey



25 years IN THE MAKING

By JENNIFER HANNIGAN

During the past 25 years, *Harding* has unveiled numerous buildings, launched new programs, inaugurated its fifth president, and seen graduates set out to change the world, and *Harding* magazine has been there to share those stories. While a common fixture in your mailbox and coffee table now, the magazine as it stands today was a great, unknown adventure at the time.

FROM BULLETIN TO MAGAZINE

Prior to the creation of *Harding*, the main channel of alumni news was the *Harding Bulletin*. Produced five times a year, the Bulletin shared campus happenings in a newspaper style.

“The goal for the Bulletin at that time was to put out a periodic, informational piece to alumni, donors and friends of the school,” says former Director of Public Relations David Crouch. “That was the goal. It was more of a newspaper format, newspaper mentality.”

While effective, the Bulletin needed an upgrade, and the idea of creating a magazine came about.

“The idea for the magazine actually came into my mind when I started in the office in 1987,” Crouch says. “I took some hard looks at it, but we just couldn’t afford it. Two and a half years later after I had done some research into how we could do this financially, I made the proposal to Dr. [David B.] Burks. To his credit, he was all for making the change even though it was going to cost more money. Once we made that decision then the real process of putting everything into a manageable format and working situation fell into place — but not without a lot of hard work.”

The transition from tabloid to magazine was more than just cosmetic. The staff, which at the time was comprised of Crouch, Tom Buterbaugh, Jeff Montgomery, Scott Morris and Phillip Tucker, brainstormed everything from layout to content — even what to call the publication.

“We all met together,” says Buterbaugh, *Harding* editor and designer. “We sat and talked about production, how we were going

to make it happen, and what we were going to include in it. We decided at that first meeting that we would call it *Harding*, and that it would stand on its own. Also on the table was whether or not to move from designing by hand to designing on computer.”

At the time, design capabilities were changing. The Bulletin had been designed in a typeset and paste-up style, but designing on computers was becoming more common.

“Desktop publishing was still fairly new at the time,” says Tucker, who was production director and writer at the time and now serves as associate editor for *Vanderbilt Magazine*. “Tom, a talented and seasoned designer using traditional paste-up methods, was ready to embrace the new technology when I arrived and had set about teaching himself how to use it. We had made the same transition from traditional to electronic publishing while I was at my former job, so I was already well versed in most aspects of the process and was able to help Tom with some of the software — though to be honest, he figured out most of it on his own.”

While the change in format was exciting, the execution also created some new hurdles.

“I remember it being scary, especially photographing the covers,” says Montgomery, magazine photographer. “We were going from newsprint and little pictures to a big, color magazine cover. A magazine cover versus the photo above the fold in a news bulletin — they’re different leagues.”

With a name and a template, the magazine was beginning to

take shape. Next came content. While the bulk of what made up the publication would stay the same as the Bulletin, a magazine format allowed for more stories to be told.

“Harding has a unique story to tell,” says Crouch. “I personally wanted to feature what our alumni are accomplishing, what our students are accomplishing, what our faculty are accomplishing, and what programs are offered as only a magazine can do.”

THE FIRST ISSUE

With those elements finalized, it came time to create the first issue.

“It was a huge learning curve,” says Crouch. “We came up with the stories we wanted but then to translate that into the format that we had and even what we wanted on the first cover, I think we were pretty down to the wire on that. It might have been one of the last things we did.”

The photo shoot for the cover made a lasting impression on Montgomery, who was still relatively new to the office.

“The thing that pops into my mind is that I still very much remember the cover shoot,” Montgomery says. “I remember, looking back, being totally out of my league doing that. But Mr. Crouch made believers out of us. He believed it was going to be great, and he believed we could do it. And he told us that all of the time.”

“In some respects, I felt a huge ownership in it,” Crouch says. “It was everybody’s project, but it was my project. I felt a keen interest that we would get it right from the get go. We wouldn’t work our way into something that looks nice. We start out very good and work our way up to a very excellent publication, which is where we are today.”

The cover photo, which featured leads from the Homecoming musical “Fiddler on the Roof,” was taken on film and, with the exception of the back cover photo, was the only color photograph used on the magazine, as it would be several more years before color made it inside the publication.

The first deadline came and went, and the magazine needed to go to press in order to be sent out to alumni. There was still one piece missing, but the magazine could not be held up any longer.

“We had a picture of the Homecoming queen being congratulated by another girl, and we combed through everyone in the student center, and no one could tell us who she was,” Buterbaugh says. “So finally we decided to make up a name: Rosemary White. I’ll never forget it. We said as soon as the magazine comes out, we’ll have people running up to the office to correct us. Nobody ever said anything. Not the Homecoming queen, not anybody.”

To this day the identity of the girl in the picture remains unknown. As timing would have it, the first magazine was printed right before Christmas break. The hours of work provided the staff with a very fitting Christmas present.

“I remember when Mr. Crouch and I press checked the cover,” Buterbaugh says. “When the magazines arrived right before Christmas, Jeff had already left to go home to Memphis, and my wife, Beth, and I were going through on our way. We stopped and met Jeff and his wife, Julie, had lunch with them, and gave them a copy because we were so excited about having it.”

“I do remember that,” Montgomery says. “It was super exciting. I still get excited when I get the latest issue, but that one was big time.”

The excitement of the staff was almost equaled by the response from alumni, who were surprised to see the new look of their alma mater’s publication.

“When the new *Harding* magazine hit the mail stream, it was an immediate hit,” Tucker says. “We heard from some older alumni who missed the Bulletin, but by far the remaining feedback was positive and even celebratory. After a few issues, we hired a firm to do a scientifically conducted reader survey for us, and the results were nothing short of phenomenal. It was great validation of all the hard work we’d put into the project.”

“My favorite reaction I received was from Shirley Birdsall (’54) Alexander who was the librarian when I was in school here,” Buterbaugh says. “She wrote me a note and said that, when she opened her mailbox and saw the magazine, she thought, ‘Could this really be my Harding?’ She was just so pleased with it.”

STORIES BEHIND THE STORIES

Every issue thereafter would come with its own sets of challenges and triumphs. For Montgomery, the pressure of knowing what he was about to photograph had to work for the magazine caused some nerves. For the dedication of the Jim Bill McInteer Center for Bible and World Missions, the staff wanted the unveiling of the name to be the cover shot.

“Getting the exposure right for the slide film was a guessing game. The light meter on the camera would get you close, but you would always shoot one lighter, one what the meter said, and one darker,” Montgomery says. “They pulled the ropes to remove the cover, but they had taped it, too, and one piece just would not let go. An office student worker was on the balcony with the choir and popped the last piece of tape. I caught the cover falling and that was the right exposure. It was really luck to some extent that it was the right one and that made it.”

The feature stories of the magazine required more time with the subjects than Bulletin stories needed in the past; this led to many trips to see stories unfold firsthand.

“I can’t remember prior to us taking on the magazine ever sending writers and photographers for a story,” Crouch says. “It was probably a long distance phone call and requesting pictures but never an onsite photographer. Those were fun things that we tried, and they worked. And we got to do more of that.”

From New York to Arizona, Colorado to Illinois, the magazine staff has been across the country to find and tell the stories of Harding.

“Stories that I enjoyed working on were, more often than not, stories that got some time,” Montgomery says. “To go and not have to make it happen on a day. We had days to work and find. Those are the stories that I like and still remember the most.”

Through all of the stories told, the magazine has remained a trusted publication, not just by readership but by the administration.

“It’s never been an administrative publication,” says Crouch. “The staff has sole responsibility. The administration has confidence in the office and the individual people that it’s going to be a good publication.”

“I think people would be surprised by how little influence there is,” Buterbaugh says. “We were always trusted. We’ve always had a staff throughout who always had Harding’s best interest at heart.”

Making it in the Big Apple

↳ WINTER 1998

WHILE I HAD the privilege of connecting with many interesting alumni during my time at *Harding* magazine, the most fun story was profiling India Medders Galyean’s (’90) New York City



“show biz” experiences.

Visiting New York City was new for me. But talking to India, originally from Resaca, Georgia, was as comfortable as being back on the Harding campus. She welcomed us to her Upper West Side walk up she shared with her husband, Hugh, and chatted away about her experiences on stage — and the secret of her success. “My biggest commodity is that I’m so Southern,” she said. “They think my Southern stories are really funny. You may think, ‘Yeah, that’s my grandmother, too,’ but they just eat it up.”

One part of the story that has stayed with me was her words of advice for living in an unfamiliar place — just be yourself. “I wouldn’t tell everyone to sell their things and come on up, because it is so difficult,” she said. “But everything has turned out well so far, and I thank God for bringing me here.”

JAMIE MCGARVEY

COPY EDITOR/WRITER • 1997-99

Home again, home again, market is done

↳ SPRING 2003

LOOKING BACK, it was a pretty self-serving opportunity. I don’t even remember now if Dr. Terri Rine suggested I participate or if I nudged the invite myself. Either way, I was along for the ride with her group of 12 fashion merchandising students to AmericasMart in Atlanta, where they would help

produce a culminating Friday night fashion show.

In addition to highlighting a group of talented, creative students that often go overlooked, my attempt in writing was to convey the same sense of urgency that was felt in this fast-paced, show-must-go-on environment.

This writing assignment also reaffirmed broader truths about the University. Our professors know how much learning takes place beyond the confines of the classroom, and they facilitate this as often as possible. Rine sought these opportunities out for her students on a regular basis. Additionally, professors are their students’ biggest cheerleaders. Rine had full



confidence in her students and their attention to detail. She was committed to providing real-life examples to show students what they were capable of. I also saw how our students can compete head-to-head against students from much larger schools and programs. The women on this trip to Atlanta showed true grace and grit in contrast to their peers from another big-name Southern university.

I know some of the students from this trip pursued various jobs in the fashion industry. I would love to know what they are all doing now and if they viewed this experience as pivotal in their career choice.

APRIL FATULA

WRITER • 2000-09

Transforming the 50th World Mission Workshop

↳ WINTER 2011

ONE OF MY FAVORITE assignments was when I traded in my dress shoes for hiking boots to explore Harding University Tahkodah during the 50th anniversary

STAFF FAVORITES



of the World Mission Workshop — now the Global Missions Experience. The gathering was significant, not just because it was a celebration of five decades but also because it marked the beginning of utilizing the global village at HUT for hands-on training. That day, I saw young people laying aside their own comforts, cooking food over open fires, sleeping on the cold ground inside small tents, and drinking water from a five-gallon jug instead of the tap. They were doing all of these things for the sake of learning how to become effective missionaries. They weren’t just learning about how to bring the word of God to the people of the world but also how to bring them tools for living.

HEATHER WILLIAMS

WRITER • 2009-11

Around the family table

↳ FALL 2013

THE INAUGURATION of Dr. Bruce McLarty as the University’s fifth president was a busy and memorable time for the entire campus. Amid all the excitement, I was able to visit the president’s home on the edge of campus and have a meal with the McLarty family. In doing so, I was able to see the first family as they are, laughing about family vacations and enjoying



being with each other. Whether through his social media presence or his daily chats with students on campus, McLarty has made himself very approachable to everyone, and this story shows that was true

being with each other.

Whether through his social media presence or his daily chats with students on campus,

from the very beginning of his presidency. It also meant a lot to me because I felt extremely connected to the University’s history in that moment. To cover a key point in Harding’s timeline and to be a reference for another generation that wants to know what that moment was like will always stand out for me.

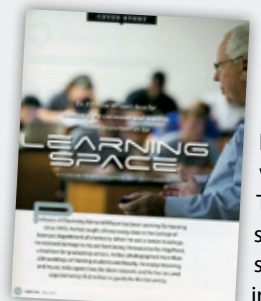
JENNIFER HANNIGAN

COPY EDITOR/WRITER • 2008-PRESENT

Learning space

↳ FALL 2015

ARTISTS. Pharmacists. Athletic trainers. Actors. I’ve had the privilege of meeting and writing about many incredible people, each one teaching me something about life or the world. For the fall 2015 issue, I went to lunch with Dr. Ed Wilson, professor of chemistry, where we sat and talked for several hours about his years of teaching, work with NASA, and passion for students and outer space, and



it was my favorite interview and story I’ve ever written. There’s something so comforting about sitting across the table from someone, sharing a meal and telling stories. It was like time stopped, and we were the only two people in the restaurant — two friends talking. Not only is Wilson a brilliant scientist, but he’s also a humble man and a favorite teacher for many students spanning his 46 years in the classroom at Harding. This feature was my favorite because I really got to capture Wilson’s personality through sharing several of his funny stories from the interview. I really hope readers felt like they, too, were sitting across the table from a friend.

HANNAH OWENS

WRITER • 2011-PRESENT



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.

1957

Richard J. Richardson, former provost and vice chancellor of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, had a distinguished lecture series established in his honor. The inaugural Richardson Lecture was given by Dr. Aziz Sancar, 2015 Nobel Prize recipient in chemistry. (220 Carolina Meadows Villa, Chapel Hill, NC 27517)

1981

Scott Conner has been appointed to the crisis negotiation section of the Bernalillo County Sheriff's Department SWAT Team. He also is a crisis intervention team deputy sheriff. Aside from law enforcement, he provides counseling, consultation and training as a military and family life counselor at Kirtland Air Force Base and recently returned from an overseas assignment serving U.S. Air Force personnel and their families. He and his wife, Karen, have two children, **Chanelle** ('11) and **Nicholas**. (7100 Eagle Mesa Road N.E., Albuquerque, NM 87113)

1985

Dawn McKamey Gentry earned a Master of Divinity from Emmanuel Christian Seminary as well as receiving the Excellence in Christian Education

Award in May 2016. She is an adjunct professor at Milligan College and Nebraska Christian College. She and her husband, **James**, have two children. (509 W. Poplar, Johnson City, TN 37604)

1986

Rebecca Shannon Dorris received the Show Hope 11:1 Award. Based on Hebrews 11, the award is in recognition of faithful obedience to reflect God's love to orphaned and vulnerable children. For 14 years, Rebecca and her husband, Charles, have been involved in orphan care in China, gathering and sending needed medical supplies to five care centers. They have three daughters. (6101 Johnson Chapel Road, Brentwood, TN 37027)

1990

Aven Dunlap Humphreys received her master's in education with an emphasis on higher education student services from Abilene Christian University. (54 Mallory Drive, Jackson, TN 38305)

1994

Poppy O'Guin Steele started Sign Club Co., a nonprofit to help deaf children who have been abused. Her book, *Deaf in a City of Music*, brings awareness to the abuse of deaf children. She and

her husband, **Chris**, have two children, Portia and Ruth. (1108 Belvedere Drive, Gallatin, TN 37066)

1997

Amanda Bawcom married Todd Bergeson on July 30, 2016. Amanda is a pediatric nurse practitioner in genetics at Children's Hospital Colorado. Todd works in engineering and manufacturing. (956 Sapphire Way, Superior, CO 80027)

Darren Beachy recently obtained provisional associate certified chaplain from the Association of Professional Chaplains. He is the staff chaplain at Aurora Medical Center in Sheboygan, Wisconsin. (816 S. Madison St., Chilton, WI 53014)

1998

Brent Coffey has been awarded *Federal Computer Week* magazine's 2016 Rising Star Award for his outsized impact to the field of biomedical informatics. (518 Jacala Terrace, Rockville, MD 20850)

Kathryn George Hamilton was recently named as one of "50 Under 40" best-in-class young commercial real estate executives by *Real Estate Forum* magazine. She is vice president of communication for NAIOP, the commercial real estate development association. Leading the association's rebranding is among her biggest achievements. (4708 Lewis Woods Court, Chantilly, VA 20151)

1999

Laura Hamilton was named Teacher of the Year for Stehlik Intermediate School in Houston. She was then named Teacher of the Year for Aldine Independent School District as well as for Region 4, the greater Houston area. She teaches sixth-grade language arts. (124 North St., Houston, Texas 77009)

2000

Tiffany Self married Michael Vicars on May 29, 2016. Tiffany is a consultant pharmacist with PCA Pharmacy. Michael is an intravenous pharmacy technician at University of Louisville Hospital. (10316 Long Barn Court, Louisville, KY 40291)

2003

Mark Adams earned his Doctor of Ministry degree from Lipscomb University in May 2016. His dissertation was titled, "Short-Term Missions and Missional Formation at the Kings Crossing Church of Christ." Mark is the minister at Kings Crossing Church of Christ. His wife, **Carolina Bañuelos**, works remotely as a marketing strate-

gist for Broadman & Holman Publishers. (5901 Yorktown Blvd., Corpus Christi, TX 78414)

Jonathan and Brandie Wilson Reynolds announce the birth of a son, Wright Wynn, July 28, 2016. They have three other sons, Wallace, Warren and Wilson. Jonathan is treasurer for El Dorado & Wesson Railway, and Brandie is a homemaker. (1620 O'Rear Road, El Dorado, AR 71730)

2004

Timothy ('02) and **Cassie Gilliam Anderson** announce the birth of a daughter, Landry Rae, Dec. 6, 2015. Timothy earned a bachelor's degree in nursing science from Central Methodist University in May 2016. He is a registered nurse for SSM Health Saint Mary's in Jefferson City, Missouri. (10919 Schiebel Drive, Holts Summit, MO 65043)

Robert ('05) and **Lauren Younger Conn IV** announce the birth of a daughter, Cora Snow, June 22, 2016. They also have a son, Robert Quinn. Robert is a Latin and history teacher at Northwest Arkansas Classical Academy, and Lauren is a senior tax manager and attorney at Wal-Mart Stores Inc. (3504 S.W. Eighth St., Bentonville, AR 72712)

Jon ('03) and **Hailee Augsburg Irleand** announce the birth of a daughter, Gemma Dillon, May 24, 2016. Jon is head men's soccer coach at Harding, and Hailee is a pediatric nurse practitioner at PrimeCare. They have two other children, Finn and Pippa. (Harding University, Box 10051, Searcy, AR 72149)

2005

Justin (HST '14) and **Mary Ellen Legg White** announce the birth of a son, Jameson Charles, Aug. 11, 2016. Justin is a quality technician at Electrolux, and Mary Ellen is a speech-language pathologist. (1384 Whiting St., Memphis, TN 38117)

Phillip ('06) and **Amy Eichman White** are working with Healing Hands International to dig a well in Ethiopia in honor of their adopted son, Akiya Daniel, who died Aug. 5, 2016, from cholera. Phil is a manufacturing manager, and Amy is a homemaker. They have another son, Isaac. (481 Whispering Oak Circle, Chapin, SC 29036)

2007

Chad and **Betsy Glover Dawson** announce the birth of a son, Caden James, April 15, 2016. They have another son, Kyler. Chad is a chiropractor at Natural State Health Center, and Betsy is a homemaker. (208 McDaniel St., Lowell, AR 72745)

Constant learner

PROFILE | CRISTINA SERBAN



ALL STUDENTS HAVE STORIES about what led them to Harding, whether they followed family members or alumni recommendations or blazed a new trail on their own. For Cristina Serban ('92), it was Dr. Kenneth Davis — "Uncle Bud" — who set the Romanian native on a path to Searcy, Arkansas, and a career in the U.S.

Davis retired from Harding in 1988 and spent the following years conducting mission trips to Romania with his wife. Serban was working as a computer analyst programmer when she met the Davises through their mission efforts in Bucharest, Romania, in 1991. At the time, Serban was looking for a way to discover new trends in her field.



"I wanted to know what was new in computer science and maybe take several courses," Serban said. "When I asked Kenneth and Betty if Harding had a computer science program and they said yes, little did I know I was embarking into a five-year graduate study adventure starting at Harding and then going on to Missouri University of Science and Technology for my Ph.D."

In fall 1991, the Davises helped Serban and two other Romanian women attend Harding, connecting them to housing in Searcy. Serban said she began with the idea of taking a couple classes but ended up finishing a master's degree in one year.



"I hadn't planned out the whole school thing. But once I started learning at Harding, it was always on my mind: 'What is beyond this?' That is why I decided I wanted to go on for my Ph.D."

It was at Missouri S&T that Serban discovered a passion for computer security, which became the subject of her Ph.D. research and the focus of her 20 years' work with AT&T. In her current role at the AT&T Security Research Center, Serban looks for emerging threats and possible defenses in

areas such as the cloud, mobility and the internet of things (IoT). She said it's a field where she is constantly learning.

"Your education doesn't stop when you are done with school. You need to keep up and you need to keep learning. You have new problems and new questions that come up every day. If you only rely on what you learned in school 20 years ago, then you are not going to be a success. School gave me the right foundation to understand how to reason and what to ask."

Serban's key to success, the willingness to learn, is what has drawn her to her field from the beginning.

"The most attractive part to me is not just security — it's everything about computers and technology. The thing about security is that you have to keep up with all the new things because that is where all the new threats and risks are. That is what is appealing to me. It keeps me curious."  

— *Shelby Dias*



In 1942, students could learn a fourth R in addition to reading, writing and arithmetic — riding. The Equestrian Club gave students the opportunity to ride horses in their free time. However, being a member was more than just horsing around. Those wishing to place membership first had to pass a practical examination. In addition to being tested on their ability to curry, saddle and bridle a horse, students had to know the colors and breeds of horses, the five gaits, and 20 points of a horse including the sides and which side to mount from. In addition to riding — which members were required to do at least 10 times a quarter — the Equestrian Club learned the care and keeping of horses.

PHOTO COURTESY OF 1942 PETT JEAN

PHOTO BY NICK ROMANENKO/MISSOURI S&T



2008

Todd and Rachel Candy Sparks announce the birth of a daughter, Marjorie Neal, Feb. 24, 2016. Rachel is a teacher with Germantown Municipal School District. (143 Alexander St., Memphis, TN 38111)

2009

James (12) and Taylor Lake Kee announce the birth of a daughter, Elizabeth Louise, Nov. 1, 2016. James is an orthopaedic research fellow at University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences, and Taylor is a speech-language pathologist. (5619 P St., Little Rock, AR 72207)

Katrina Miller married James Casterline on June 25, 2016. Katrina is a registered nurse with Genesis Healthcare System. (69124 Mount Hermon Road, Cambridge, OH 43725)

2011

David (12) and Britni Camarata Schilling announce the birth of a son, Liam, June 21, 2015. (5206 Pelahatchia Way, Knoxville, TN 37912)

2015

Chloé Savage married Luke Hoffmann (14) April 16, 2016. Chloe is assistant for alumni relations at Lipscomb University, and Luke is a technical consultant and developer for InfoWorks in Nashville, Tennessee. (7013 Sonya Drive, Nashville, TN, 37209)

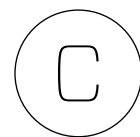
Passages

Don Carlos Bentley (41), 98, of Cypress, Texas, died Sept. 17, 2016. Don served as a minister in Marshall and Spring, Texas, and at the Highway 249 Church of Christ in Houston where he also served as an elder. He preached his last sermon at age 93. He was an accountant at Rice University for more than 10 years and then at W.S. Farish & Co. for 30 years. He was preceded in death by his wife of 70 years, Melba Rogers. He is survived by three children, Don, Alan and Judith Williams; a sister, Ke- arby Eudaley (46); and numerous grandchildren, great-grandchildren and great-great-grandchildren.

Donice Hawes Kelly Pruitt (44), 94, of Lubbock, Texas, died July 7, 2016. She earned her Ph.D. in home economics, sociology and higher education from The Ohio State University. She served as chair of the home economics and family studies department at Abilene Christian University, serving on faculty for 23 years until her retirement in 1987. She also had an interest in history and genealogy. She received numerous recognitions and professional achievements for her expertise in home economics and family disciplines. She was preceded in death by her first husband, Alvin Kel-

Coaching for life

PROFILE | ERIC COHU



OACH ERIC COHU (96) HAS PROVEN to be more than his title suggests. Though he is a coach — a championship winning coach — he also is an educator, mentor, leader and friend to many on and off the football field.

Cohu graduated from the University with a degree in human resource management but soon found himself in a coaching position at a small, Christian grade school in Jackson, Tennessee, in 1999. He went on to coach for two other Christian schools in Lynchburg, Virginia, and Huntsville, Alabama, bringing his overall coaching record to 155-26 with eight regional championships and four state championships, three as head coach.



While working as a part-time adjunct professor teaching sport ethics at Liberty University, CoHu started working full time as the offensive coordinator for the Israeli National Football Team. He lived and coached in Israel from May through September 2016.

"I really enjoyed working in Israel this past summer," CoHu said. "Developing relationships with the players, fellow coaches and Israelis was extremely rewarding. Those lasting friendships initiated through the game of football are significant. Their love for the game as their motive for playing is very refreshing to me."

Cohu's wife, Carolyn Escue, graduated from the University in 1995. The Cohus have two children: Cassie is a junior in high school, and freshman Baylor plays football for the University.

When CoHu returned to the states in September, he began working as the national director of

the Friends of the Israel Football League, promoting the IFL around the U.S. This includes securing sponsorships, getting used football equipment donated to the league, and touring across the South to speak about his experiences working in Israel.

"I really enjoy investing in people," CoHu said. "Working with high school and college students for most of my career, I've been able to see them grow and develop character. I think it's very important that we use our gifts to advance the kingdom of God and not simply personal agendas. If I can use my vocation as a way to pass on faith and help build godly character, then that certainly excites me." — Lauren Hargett

ly, and her second husband, Walter Pruitt. She is survived by four stepchildren, Kathy Feuerhelm, Mike Kelly, Celeste Thompson and Allen Pruitt; 15 grandchildren; and 10 great-grandchildren.

Keith Dwight Swim Sr. (44), 93, of Corning, Arkansas, died Sept. 2, 2015. He was the owner-operator of Clay Ark Enterprises, served as superintendent of schools in Bernie, Missouri, and Big Spring, Texas, for 22 years, worked in the federal programs division at Texas Tech University for three years, and farmed. He was a member of the Church of Christ in Corning. He is survived by his wife of 70 years, Yonna Jean Woods (44); two children, Sharon Lane and Keith Jr.; six granddaughters; and 17 great-grandchildren.

Vera Mae Kiihnl Pipkin (48), 95, of Little Rock, Arkansas, died Sept. 5, 2016. She was a school teacher for many years. Her husband of 62 years, Henry (55), was a preacher, and they served churches in Minnesota, Wisconsin, Iowa and Arkansas. They also spent three years in the mission field in Tehran, Iran. She is survived by her children, James (90), Esther (90) and Jason (01); two siblings, Edith Chaffin (48) and Dewitt Kiihnl (54); and two granddaughters.

Richard Elwood Smith (50), 88, of Cecil, Arkansas, died June 19, 2016. He earned his master's degree from University of Texas in 1966. He lived in Arkansas, Texas, Massachusetts, Connecticut, Germany and France. He was ordained to the

ministry in 1946 and loved teaching the Bible. He enjoyed teaching elementary school and taught in the U.S., France and Germany. While in Germany, he learned the language and used it to teach Dale Carnegie courses there and also taught this course in the U.S. He retired as dean of instruction at Mountain View Community College in Dallas in 1995. He is survived by his wife, Nell (49); four children, Susan Kurth, Shannon, Robert and Reed; a sister, Georgia Murray; and a granddaughter.

Percy Andrew Francis (53), 88, of Belton, Texas, died Aug. 20, 2016. An Army veteran, he served two and a half years as part of the occupation army in Japan and also served three years in the Army Reserves. He was one of the founders of Lubbock Christian College in 1957, serving as financial and business officer for more than 13 years. He then moved to Temple College where he served as vice president of business services for 20 years. He is survived by his wife, Anne Carter (50); a son, John; two siblings, Leonard and Norma Stafford (60); three grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren.

R. Vernon Boyd (55), 84, of Southfield, Michigan, died Oct. 3, 2016. He ministered in the Chicago area for 12 years before moving to the Detroit area in September 1971. He served as minister of the Strathmoor congregation until 1984 when the church merged with the Southfield congregation to become Oakland Church of Christ. He retired from Oakland on Dec. 31, 2001, continuing to serve as elder until 2013. He is survived by his wife of 62 years, Alice Walker; six children, Christopher, Elizabeth Lynn, Timothy (80), Thomas, Mary Dunn and Julia McLean; 16 grandchildren; and 18 great-grandchildren.

Benny Ann Ponder Gilfilen (57), 81, of Marietta, Georgia, died Aug. 15, 2016. She and her late husband, Walt (57), met and married at Harding in 1956. Benny Ann sold Avon, and she worked as a substitute teacher and in retail sales. She was active in her local church where she taught Bible classes and helped with service activities. She is survived by three children, David, Timothy and Janice Lynn Della Rocco; a brother, Van Ponder; seven grandchildren; and six great-grandchildren.

Phyllis J. Robertson Ritchie (57), 81, of Searcy, died Oct. 10, 2016. She was a member of West Side Church of Christ. She was preceded in death by a daughter, Elizabeth Roach (80). She is survived by her husband, Andy T. (56); three children, Tom (80), Alice Ramsey (81) and Bob (85); four siblings, Peggy Massey (59), Lois Schwartz (60), Barbara Branscome (67) and Marvin Robertson (69); 11 grandchildren; and six great-grandchildren.

Milton Harvey Peebles Jr. (58), 80, of Texarkana, Texas, died April 19, 2015. He was retired from Henderson State University as an educator and

also was a minister. He was a member of Westside Church of Christ. He is survived by two children, Milton H. III (83) and Sammie Kay Johns (91); three brothers, Larry (60), David (66) and Samuel (70); and three grandsons.

Richard B. Berry (59), 83, of Russellville, Arkansas, died Aug. 24, 2016. He was a member of the American Legion and Disabled American Veterans and was a Methodist. He was a lawyer with his own firm and served as Beebe city attorney and Beebe city judge. He is survived by his wife, Elaine Underhill.

Jewell Lovena Woodward Ferren (59), 85, of North Little Rock, Arkansas, died July 1, 2016. She was an elementary school teacher, teaching in Plainview, Kensett, Trumann and Bradford, Arkansas. She was a member of Levy Church of Christ. She is survived by her sons, Cliff (77) and Louis (83); and eight grandchildren.

Mary Louise Thomas Morris (66), 72, of Searcy, died Aug. 22, 2016. She was a substitute teacher and Girl Scout leader. She is survived by two daughters, Rebecca Ingle (94) and Kristi Thurman; two sisters, Pat Rollins and Barbara Martin (63); and three grandchildren.

John Clayton Jr. (70), 68, of Midlothian, Virginia, died Aug. 5, 2016. He was a CPA and retired from American Portfolios Financial Services as managing director in 2015. He was a member of the Virginia Society of CPAs and of AICPA. He is survived by his wife, Regina; two sons, John and Jason; two stepchildren, Adrienne Boissy and Alan Boissy; three grandchildren; and two step-grandchildren.

Jerry Wayne Flowers (70), 68, of Franklin, Tennessee, died Nov. 7, 2016. He retired from Gaylord Entertainment and had 30 years of service in Nashville's music industry. He is survived by his wife, Sharon; two children, Tyler and Megan Tull (00); his father, Pernell; and two sisters, Donna Barnett (74) and Teresa Burnette.

Janice Marie McIntosh Houtz (70), 69, of Kenai, Alaska, died Aug. 31, 2016. She moved to Alaska in 1972 where she lived in Fairbanks two years working for KIAK. She then worked for KSRM from 1974-76 in Kenai. After leaving KSRM, she taught English at Kenai Peninsula College 52 semesters. She taught Sunday school and sang on the worship team at Kenai Fellowship, a church of Christ. She is survived by her husband, Allen; a son, Micah; four brothers, Larry, Gordon, Don and Bill McIntosh; and three grandchildren.

Linda Kathryn Campbell Garvey (77), 61, of Searcy, died Oct. 24, 2016. After receiving her master's in English from the University of Mississippi at Oxford, she taught at various institutions, including Pace University. She was a National Merit Scholar and sang in The Collegiate Chorale



of New York City. She was a longtime creative coordinator and developer at The Walt Disney Co. and other entertainment brands in New York City. She was preceded in death by her husband, Dennis; and her mother, Kathryn (54). She is survived by her father, Eddie (53); and three siblings, David (75), Daniel (83) and Julie Young (88).

Elizabeth Jolene "Jo" Spurlock Ward (80), 79, of Winnsboro, Texas, died with her husband, Gene, Oct. 1, 2016, from injuries sustained in a traffic accident. Jo was a homemaker, providing a loving home across the globe during Gene's service in the Air Force. She was a member of Winnsboro Church of Christ. She is survived by four children, Kim Black (80), Kay (81), Karen (86) and David (90); and seven grandchildren.

Vernon Dale Beach (81), 56, died May 29, 2016. He proudly served his country for 25 years in the U.S. Navy as a commander. Burial was at Arlington National Cemetery on Nov. 3, 2016, with full honors. He is survived by his wife, Gail; four children, Chris (11), Phillip (12), Sam and Sara Simon; parents, Venton (86) and LaVerne Crowson Beach (55); four siblings, Diane Wood (77), Alan (78), Kenneth (80) and Jon (88); and a grandson.

Robert Mark Story (87), 52, of Searcy, died Nov. 10, 2016. He was chief financial officer for the Arkansas Department of Human Services and was working on his doctoral degree at University of Arkansas at Little Rock at the time of his passing. He was a member of the President's Council and was a Titans men's social club sponsor at Harding. He coached softball for the Searcy Youth Softball League in which his daughters played. He was a member of College Church of Christ. He is survived by his wife, Rayanne; three daughters, Sarah, Rachel and Emily; and his parents, Ken and Patsy Story.

Kelly Wayne Dixon (93), 45, of Greenville, Texas, died Aug. 5, 2016. He worked for many years for Omnisys in Greenville as a business systems analyst. He is survived by his son, Blake; his father, Floyd and stepmother, Lee Dixon-Helm; and his mother, Onnie Dixon.

Thomas B. Austin (13), 32, of Searcy, died April 1, 2016. He is survived by his wife, Jennyfer Deister (09); and his parents, Thomas and Kathryn Potter Austin (77).

Otha Eugene "Gene" Ward, 84, of Winnsboro, Texas, died with his wife, Jo, Oct. 1, 2016, from injuries sustained in a traffic accident. Gene served in the U.S. Air Force for 23 years as a communications expert. At the end of his service, he joined Harding University as computer technician and served for 21 years. He was a member of Winnsboro Church of Christ. He is survived by four children, Kim Black (80), Kay (81), Karen (86) and David (90); and seven grandchildren.

SUBMITTED PHOTO



The last meal in Pattie Cobb

Compiled by JENNIFER HANNIGAN

WITH PRAYERS EVERY 30 MINUTES, singing in lines that stretched to the Lily Pool, steak night with cartoons, and all of the green beans you could eat, dining in Pattie Cobb Cafeteria provided generations of alumni with

fond memories. The facility fed students from 1934-88, and on Jan. 31, 1988, served its last meal.

When John Phillips ('89) posted his certificate commemorating his participation in the final meal in Pattie Cobb on the Harding Alumni Facebook group, it stirred up thoughts of food and friendship for many others. We've gathered just a few of the nearly 70 years' worth of memories made and meals eaten.

Not many things tasted normal in Pattie Cobb. I did not like green beans when I arrived at Harding as a freshman. But since they didn't taste normal in P.C., I could eat them just fine.

JOHN PHILLIPS, '89

I met my husband in line there in 1950. We have been married for 62 years. Precious memories.

BONNIE FIKE, '54

I remember that my parents took our entire family to that last meal ... my parents, James and Jimmie Lee Mills; [my husband] Cleve and me; along with our sons, Jimmy and Keith. I don't remember what was served, but it is likely green beans and hot rolls were on the menu because they were just part of Pattie Cobb. That last night the cafeteria was packed ... the food was good ... and there were some tears. It had so much more atmosphere (in my opinion) than Heritage Cafeteria ... a cozy feeling where you got to know people.

DEANNA MILLS BROOKS, '66

I liked the company and the camaraderie. The food, not so much. Nothing was crisp or crunchy; everything was soggy. The only thing hard and crispy was the cake, and it was supposed to be soft. I did like the chocolate milk machines. I liked that, no matter what, you could always find someone to sit with. A table for four might have 12 people around it, and there was always room to pull up one more chair. Green beans at every meal. Every. Single. Meal. Rumor has it that Harding owned a green bean farm. Another rumor is that they added green beans to the hash browns at breakfast.

DAVID NULL, '87

I miss those great Sunday evening suppers of pre-mixed peanut butter and jelly or honey sandwiches, a bag of chips, and a candy bar or cookies.

JOHN CURTIS, '70

Best food was served there; home cooking at its finest! Loved the family feel of it!

CANDI SKIPWORTH, '90

My favorite: all of that great fresh pecan pie! If you saw them picking up pecans in front of the athletic center in the evening, there were the best pecan pies the next day!

DAVID FRANKLIN BAILEY, '90

We were there from 1960-64. A riddle we recited in the cafeteria: "I am sufficiently suffon-sified so that additional would be obnoxious to my superfluous taste." Response: "Pardon me, madam, but your vocabulary is too copious for my intermediary comprehension. Would you care to explicate that please?" We have repeated this many times over the years.

JUDY STRACKE MILLER, '65

I worked there during some of the 70s, but if you ate there from the late 70s to the mid 80s, you probably remember my mom, Della Ely, as a worker and hostess. She loved working there. The students gave her a "Best Smile" award that she had on her wall at home for years. She really loved all of her "kids!" When she moved with the other employees to Heritage, it just wasn't the same.

WADE ELY, '75



ILLUSTRATION BY JENNIFER ALLEN



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PHOTO BY JEFF MONTGOMERY

Working on her laptop with a cup of coffee nearby, junior Morgan Weiland studies on a bench near the entrance to Pattie Cobb residence hall. To learn more about the days when the hall also served as a cafeteria, turn to page 36.

