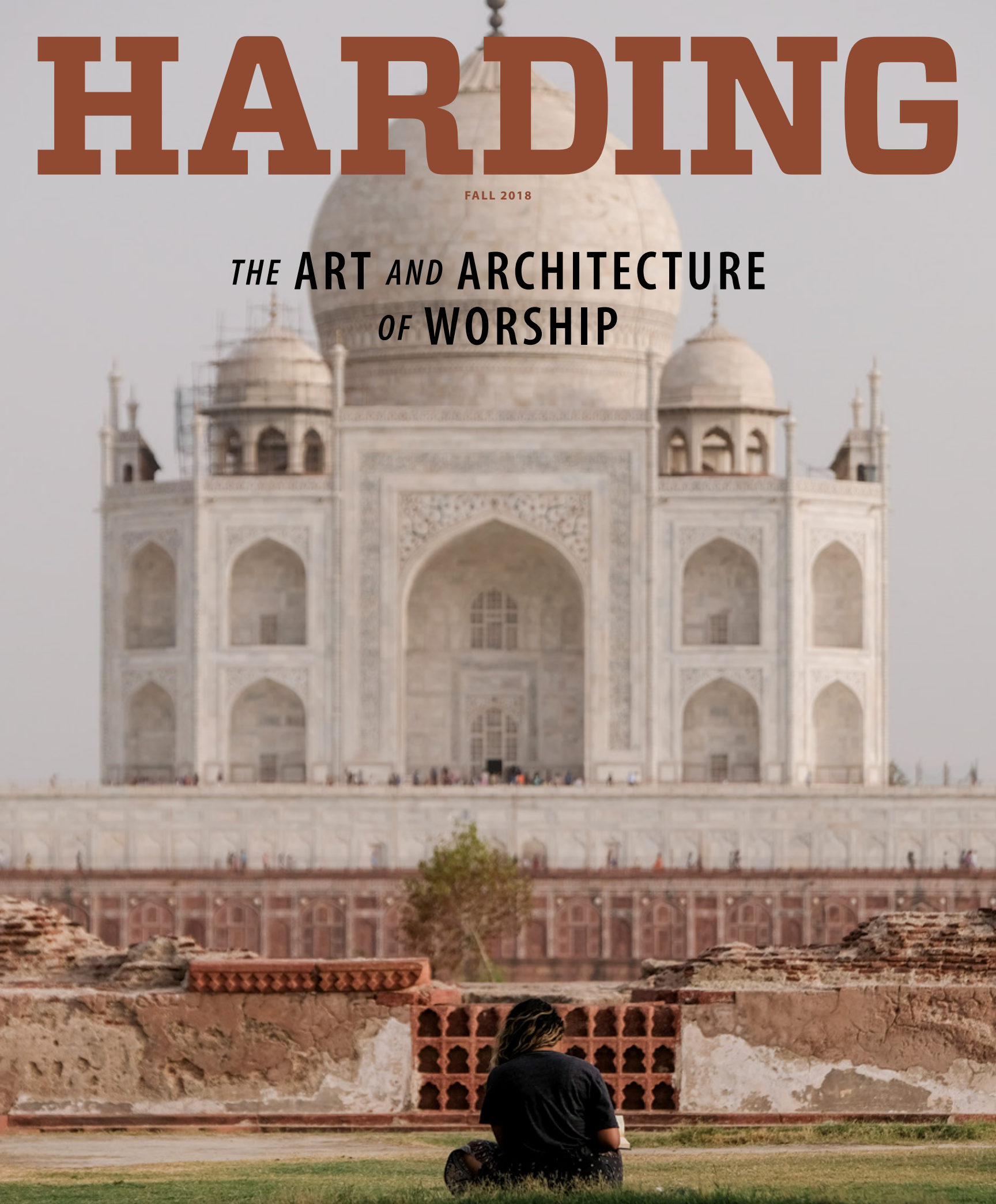


# HARDING

FALL 2018

## *THE ART AND ARCHITECTURE OF WORSHIP*





## Features

### 14 AROUND, THERE & BACK AGAIN

This past summer, 33 students circled the globe with International Programs to study the art and architecture of worship.

### 19 PLANTING NEIGHBORHOOD SEEDS

Travel with us to Pontiac, Michigan, to learn how Micah 6 is making a difference in their community.


### 24 THERE'S A NEW CHEF IN TOWN



Meet the University's new executive chef and find out his favorite recipe.

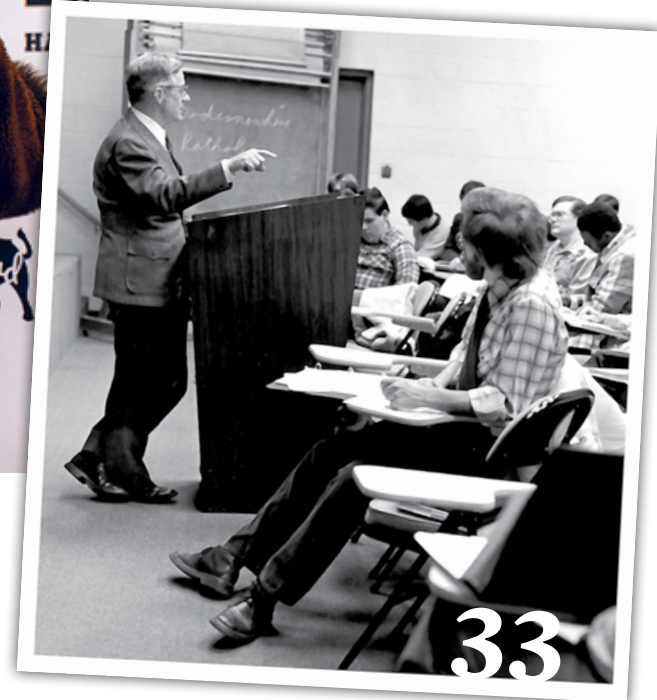
PHOTO BY JEFF MONTGOMERY



## Departments

-  **2 VIEWPOINT**  
"A Culture of Respect" theme for 2018-19
- 3 HU VIEW**  
Nine Instagram photos show the start of the fall semester.
- 4 ONE MOMENT**  
A candlelight vigil honors the life of 2016 alumnus Botham Jean.
-  **6 AROUND CAMPUS**  
Mere Christianity selected Harding Read and other happenings
-  **12 SPORTS**  
Introducing five freshman athletes

-  **26 CONNECTIONS**  
**27 | PROFILE**  
Dave Huey, '78  
**28 | PROFILE**  
Elizabeth Keese, '14  
**29 | ALUMNI AWARDS**  
**33 | TRIBUTE**  
Jack Lewis  
**35 | TRIBUTE**  
George Oliver
-  **36 END NOTE**  
Memories from abroad



**ON THE COVER**  
Studying the art and architecture of worship with International Programs, Davina Clardy journals about the Taj Mahal, a mausoleum on the south bank of the Yamuna River in the Indian city of Agra.

PHOTO BY NOAH DARNELL

# More and more

By BRUCE D. McLARTY, *president*

**T**HE THIRD VERSE of the alma mater proclaims, “Harding opens wide her portals, thus inviting all, who would tread the path of knowledge; heed then to her call.” We take this verse to heart.


Our theme for this year is “A culture of respect” taken from 1 Thessalonians 4:1: “Finally brothers, we instructed you how to live in order to please God as in fact you are living. Now we ask you and urge you in the Lord Jesus to do this more and more.” Going on to verse nine, we find, “Now about brotherly love we do not need to write to you for you yourselves have been taught by God to love each other.”

Respect is not the tenor of our times but something we want to strive to actively achieve at the University “more and more.” We want every student to know, as Student Association President Hallie Hite said at our opening session dinner, they have somebody in their corner. She told the faculty, “It matters for you to be here for us.”

We will strive to develop brotherly kindness more and more, just as you will read on page 19 alumni are putting into practice in Pontiac, Michigan, with the Micah 6 Project.

Many students coming to Harding ex-



perience a level of regard and rapport they have never felt before. With many of our students participating in international programs such as this summer’s global study of the art and architecture of worship (page 14), respect for other cultures around the globe is emphasized. May our community of mission, whether in Searcy or studying abroad, be known for its increasing culture of respect for others. 



## HARDING

FALL 2018 | VOLUME 26 | NUMBER 3

**EDITOR/DESIGNER**  
Tom Buterbaugh, '78

**COPY EDITOR/WRITER**  
Jantzen Haley, '17

**WRITERS**  
Dillon Holsonback, '17  
Jonathan B. Murphy  
Hannah Owens, '11

**SPORTS WRITER**  
Scott Goode, '97

**PHOTOGRAPHER**  
Jeff Montgomery, '91

**CONTRIBUTORS**  
Allen Black, '74  
Joanna Crisco, '97  
Noah Darnell, '10  
Savanna DiStefano, '18  
Allen Frazier, '83

**PRESIDENT**  
Bruce D. McLarty, '78

**VICE PRESIDENT FOR UNIVERSITY COMMUNICATIONS AND ENROLLMENT**  
Jana Rucker

*Harding* is published three times a year by the Office of University Communications and Marketing for alumni, faculty, staff, parents and friends of the University. Editorial offices are located on the second floor of the David B. Burks American Heritage Building at 915 E. Market Ave., Searcy, Arkansas; 501-279-4316; fax: 501-279-4154.

**POSTMASTER**  
Send address changes to  
Harding University  
915 E. Market Ave.  
Box 12234  
Searcy, AR 72149-5615.

**EMAIL**  
hardingmag@harding.edu

**WEBSITE**  
harding.edu/mag

© 2018 Harding University

PHOTO BY JEFF MONTGOMERY

# Home sweet Harding

SELECTIONS FROM THE START OF THE SEMESTER 



TOP ROW: @billymorgan88, @hu\_fye, @bruceclarty MIDDLE ROW: @cmarkerwin86, @environmentsofgrace, @samrupe BOTTOM ROW: @cocojaynexoxo, @hucsd, @edaughet



Students, faculty, staff and community neighbors gather on the C.L. Kay Plaza to honor the life of 2016 alumnus Botham Shem Jean. A candlelight vigil of praise and prayer was held Sept. 10 in memory of Jean whose tragic death in Dallas Sept. 6 shook the campus. For his obituary, see page 35.

PHOTO BY NOAH DARNELL



## 2018-19 Harding Read aids faith development

WHEN PRESIDENT BRUCE MCLARTY announced *Mere Christianity* as this year's Harding Read in chapel at the end of the 2018 spring semester, the audience at 9 a.m. gave an audible gasp of delight, and the 10 a.m. audience applauded his selection, making McLarty think, "We have arrived."

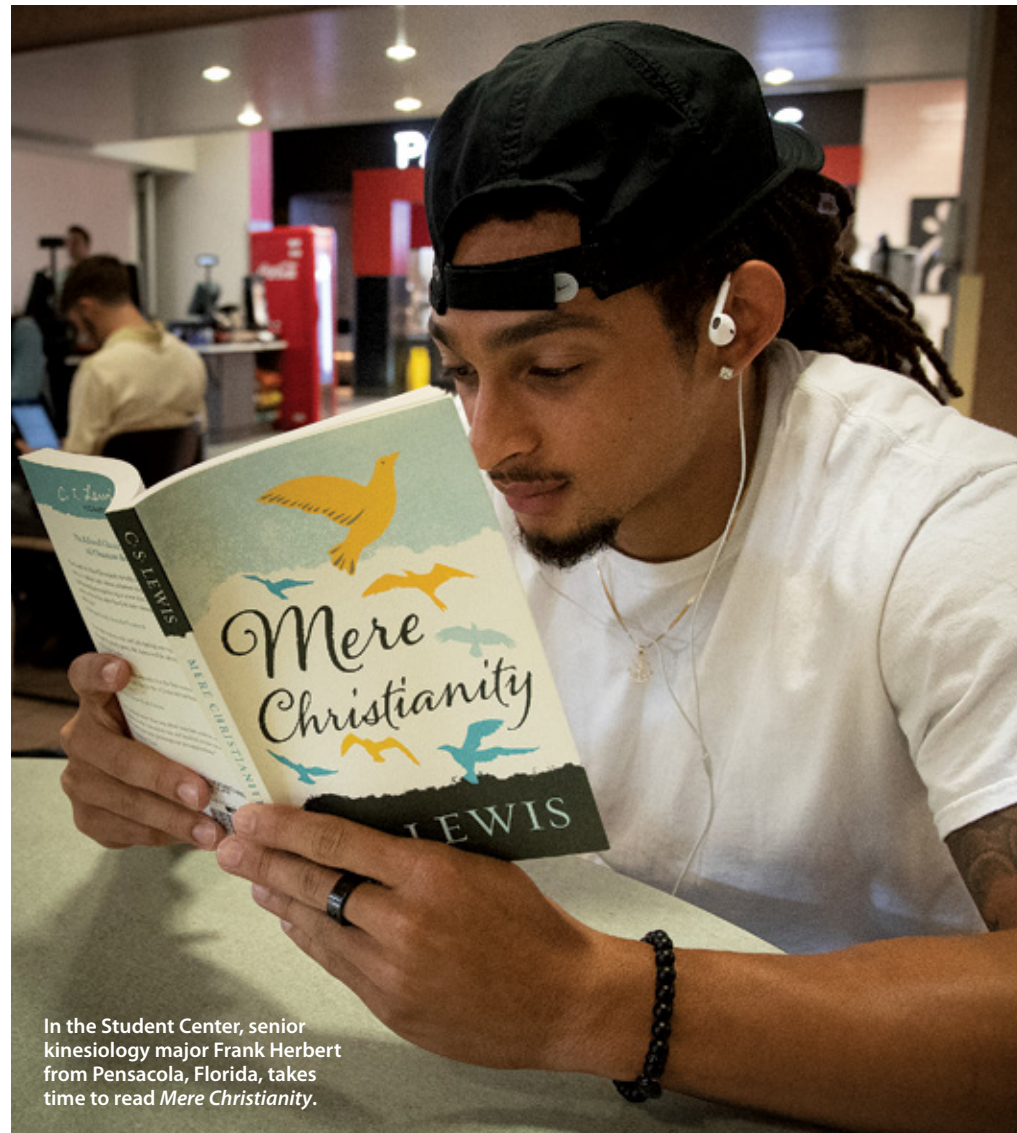
*Mere Christianity* by C.S. Lewis is the third official Harding Read, departing from the pattern of biographies set by the first two books — *Amazing Grace* by Eric Metaxas and *The Hiding Place* by Corrie ten Boom — but continuing the sentiment of drawing the campus and the community together.

"Like *Amazing Grace* and *The Hiding Place*, it's a book from a different era, so it puts us in a different time," McLarty said. "I think there is something very powerful and very educational about reading something not from your own moment in history."

The words that became the book in 1952 were first delivered as a series of radio addresses made on BBC between 1941 and 1944 during World War II. In the three pamphlets that originally comprised *Mere Christianity* — the Case for Christianity, Christian Behaviour and Beyond Personality — Lewis seeks to describe fundamental teachings of Christianity without controversy, simplifying the concepts using analogies and illustrations that could be understood by any listener or reader.

"*Mere Christianity* is a marvelous work in Lewis anticipated our time brilliantly. What he was experiencing in the early '40's in England is very much what we're facing right now — he was dealing with a world where believers had lost the language to explain what they believed and outsiders found the Christian faith incomprehensible," McLarty said. "Lewis gave us words to clearly express the depths of our faith. I thought for Harding University, where we're situated in helping people at that incredibly important transitional time in life — ages 18 to 22 — hammering out our own faith, Lewis helps with that."

The Harding Read program not only anchors students in time to a unifying campus experience but also serves as a way to include the community in the discussion. The campus conversation will be manifested through an on-



In the Student Center, senior kinesiology major Frank Herbert from Pensacola, Florida, takes time to read *Mere Christianity*.

going chapel series and showing the Anthony Hopkins movie *Shadowlands* in chapel, a documentary about C.S. Lewis' later life. Community activities surrounding the book are titled, "A year of C.S. Lewis" and include a public showing of the movie *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe* at the Rialto Theatre, donating the book *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe* to schools and libraries, and a C.S. Lewis Festival in November during which a Lewis biographer will be an ASI speaker along with his special guest, Lewis' stepson, who

wrote the foreword to the biography, and the department of music will host David Payne, who will portray Lewis in a performance titled, "An evening with C.S. Lewis."

Unlike *Amazing Grace* or *The Hiding Place*, *Mere Christianity* is a book already familiar to most students and faculty, and the momentum of the conversation has already surpassed the impact other books were able to make by the beginning of the year. Join in the conversation to grow your faith, learn about C.S. Lewis and be a part of the Harding community this year.

PHOTO BY JEFF MONTGOMERY

College Consensus ranked Harding No. 9 on the list of Best Christian Colleges and Universities in the nation.

## College Consensus ranks Harding among the best

THE UNIVERSITY HAS been recognized in two categories by College Consensus, a unique, comprehensive new college review aggregator, in its survey of top-ranked schools for 2018. The University ranked No. 6 on the list of Best Regional Universities in the South and No. 9 on the list of Best Christian Colleges and Universities in the nation.

To identify top colleges, College Consensus combines the latest results from the most respected college rankings lists, such as *U.S. News & World Report* and *Forbes*, and thousands of student reviews found on websites including Cappex and Niche. Harding's publisher rating of 60.5 was combined with a student rating of 76.3 for a consensus rating of 68.4.

"College Consensus' method brings together the colleges and universities that have the best schools ranking based on publisher and student ratings, all arranged regardless of size, location, form or classification," says Carrie Sealey-Morris, managing editor of College Consensus. "It's not mixing apples and oranges — it's crunching the numbers, pure and simple, to see which colleges the experts admire and which ones the students love."

Harding ranked No. 2 on College Consensus' 2017-18 list of Best Colleges and Universities in the state of Arkansas published last fall.

"Like Rotten Tomatoes or Metacritic does for movies, College Consensus gathers the publisher rankings and student reviews from around the web and distills the results into simple, easy to understand scores so students can quickly and easily compare schools," said College Consensus founder Jeremy Alder. "It is the ranking of all rankings, so to speak."

The full rankings are available online at collegeconsensus.com.

PHOTO BY JEFF MONTGOMERY



## Out with the old, bound to the new

BOUND HAS MANY DEFINITIONS, some of which include determined or resolved, a leaping movement upward, tied or fastened tightly, and destined, sure or certain. The commonality amongst these definitions is this: You belong at Harding. Bison Bound, formerly Stampede, was rebranded to send these very messages to incoming students.

In the fall of 2017, the Office of University Communications and Marketing collaborated with First Year Experience and the Center for Student Success to rebrand Stampede. While it was not initially in the plans to change the name, Bison Bound revealed itself to be the perfect fit.

Bison Bound is the University's required two-day summer orientation program for first-year students and their parents. Over the course of two days, students tour campus, enroll in fall classes and start developing friendships with other new students. First-year students are required to attend both days of the event, and they are invited to stay in the residence halls during their visit.

"When you think about Harding and new students, you always want to be fresh, pertinent and relevant," Kevin Kehl, dean for student success, said.

Bison Bound is meant to exemplify the excitement and forward motion associated with new students starting Harding.

"The name Stampede sounded chaotic,"

Amanda Hall, communication and events coordinator, said. "All of the connotations of a stampede are chaotic, and that is almost what stampede felt like. With the rebrand, we wanted something more clean and calm."

The new name goes hand in hand with the University's commitment to being a community of mission. The Center for Student Success wants to communicate togetherness — that new students are in this transition together and to help students feel that they are part of this community.

The schedule for the two days allows students to get acquainted with campus and the many offices and resources available to ensure the best possible Harding experience. This includes an academic fair where representatives from all departments on campus set up booths in the Ganus Activities Complex and allow students to explore and discuss the many programs and courses of study available.

Bison Bound provides a slightly different schedule for parents, allowing them to preview campus, interact with other parents, and attend information-packed sessions on topics including financial aid as well as adjusting to the "parent of a college student" life.

By the end of the two-day orientation, students have taken care of everything from schedules to parking permits, to IDs, financial aid and everything in between. The message is clear: You are Bison Bound for a great first year.



# Everyday STUDENT

SOPHOMORE MORGAN PROFFITT FINDS HERSELF SURROUNDED BY MENTORS AND PEERS WHO PUSH HER TO BE A BETTER VERSION OF HERSELF.



PHOTO BY JEFF MONTGOMERY

**BATTER UP** Morgan Proffitt, a sophomore elementary education and leadership and ministry major from Katy, Texas, connected with many universities in search of a place to further her education and soccer career. “I nearly decided on going to another university when that school fell through unexpectedly,” said Proffitt. “I was discouraged and remember falling to my knees one night asking the Lord to provide a way to the school he wanted me to attend. The next morning Greg Harris, head women’s soccer coach, called me to ask if I would join the team. I came on a visit and fell in love with the wonderful place I now get to call home.”

**HEART FOR MISSIONS** Proffitt’s missions experience has played a large role in shaping her future career path. “On a mission trip to Nicaragua four years ago, the Lord put a call on my heart to go long term into the mission field with a focus on sustainable educational initiatives,” said Proffitt. “The College of Bible and Ministry and the College of Education both offer degrees that would help me to be successful in this career path.” Global Outreach is another opportunity she has found to participate in missions and prepare for the future. “We stayed in the northern region of Ghana for three weeks and taught Bible, literature and science,” said Proffitt. “God was so faithful in helping me experience things he knew I needed.”

**INVOLVED** The community at Harding stood out to Proffitt during her freshman year. “I am constantly surrounded by mentors and peers who push me to be a better version of myself,” she said. “Those people were instrumental in providing a safe and welcoming environment to experience my first year of college.” Proffitt is a member of various organizations and teams on campus, including the soccer team, Student Association, Pi Theta Phi social club, Global Outreach and HUMANity.

**PREPARED** Her time at Harding is preparing her spiritually and academically for her future. “Being surrounded by classes and messages that consistently point toward Christ has made me examine my life and my priorities while also reminding me of the importance of developing character now to face a world outside campus later,” said Proffitt. “Academically, I have found great professors in both departments who are wise beyond the books they teach, with many preparing us not just for a career but for life.” After graduation, she plans on getting her master’s in international educational policy with the hopes of eventually working with faith-based nonprofits and organizations that are devoted to helping create sustainable, locally based education, with a specific focus on helping girls struggling to receive equal educational opportunities. — Dillon Holsonback

## SEEN on SOCIAL MEDIA



**Angela Sheffield** @angieshef  
Dear @HardingU freshmen moms,  
1) They’ll be OK — Harding will love them.  
2) Yes, they’ll eat too much junk, but oh well.  
3) You’ll be OK — you did your job well; it’s not ending, just changing.  
4) Write them snail mail letters — they’ll roll their eyes but love it.  
5) It’s OK to cry.  
AUGUST 17



**Terry Brown** Terryva72  
My daughter just started her freshman year. Harding cares about their kids. Loving Bison life!  
AUGUST 18



**Mary Beth Hampton Duff** My dad graduated in ’59. He loved Harding. Great school. He would be amazed at the changes. Beautiful then and now.  
AUGUST 19



**Christine H. Jewett Weber** Hoping that all make it the best experience for each one they come into contact with ... for



in this group there lies many lifelong friends and memories that last a lifetime.  
AUGUST 19



**Zach Roddenberry** @zachrodnenberry  
To those starting at @HardingU for the first time, cherish it, it will go by faster than you can ever imagine.  
AUGUST 20

## EVENTS

NOV. 6

### Arts & Life Series AN EVENING WITH C.S. LEWIS

Presented in conjunction with the Harding Read, David Payne is back for a third year to portray C.S. Lewis as intimate conversation with the late Christian author of *The Chronicles of Narnia* and *Mere Christianity* unfolds on Harding’s stage. [harding.edu/artsandlife](http://harding.edu/artsandlife)

NOV. 9

### Cab concert MADDIE AND TAE

Platinum-selling country music duo Maddie and Tae are bringing hits like “Girl in a Country Song” and “Friends Don’t” to the Benson stage. [hardingcab.com/tickets/](http://hardingcab.com/tickets/)

NOV. 13

### TEDx event

Similar to and under the guidance of the larger TED conference, TEDx is organized, planned and curated locally — in our case, by a team of faculty and staff led by Mike James. This year’s event, “Curious: Why and How?” will be held in the Administration Auditorium. Must apply and be selected to attend. [harding.edu/tedxhardingu](http://harding.edu/tedxhardingu)

NOV. 26

### Campus lighting ceremony

The front lawn will be abuzz with excitement as the Harding community counts down to the campus lighting with President Bruce McLarty. The illumination of approximately 1 million LED lights serve as a reminder that

the holiday season is near. [harding.edu/events/lights](http://harding.edu/events/lights)

DEC. 15

### Commencement

Relief and pride are evident in the smiles and occasional tears of more than 400 graduates along with their family and friends as they gather to celebrate at the University’s fall commencement ceremony. [harding.edu/graduation](http://harding.edu/graduation)

JAN. 14

### Spring classes begin

After a few weeks of rest, students return to campus for the start of a new semester.

For a complete list of events, visit [harding.edu/calendar](http://harding.edu/calendar).

## BY THE NUMBERS

### FALL FACTS

100

Percentage of first-time pass rates on nursing, family nurse practitioner, physician assistant, physical therapy and speech language pathology national licensure exams

85

Percentage of freshman to sophomore retention, up 2.5 percent from last year

3rd

Harding’s ranking by *The Wall Street Journal* and *Times Higher Education* in the category of top schools for engagement

50

Number of states represented; also number of countries and territories represented

44

Number of National Merit finalists

19

New faculty members for fall 2018

16

Percentage of increase in freshman students with an ACT score of 31 or above



## Online undergraduate Bible degree launched

THE COLLEGE OF BIBLE and Ministry Center for Distance Education is offering an online Bachelor of Arts in Bible and ministry which began this fall.

The program is designed for nontraditional students with some college credit who are adult learners age 24 and older. The degree functions as a two-plus-two program, meaning students may earn the equivalent of two years toward their liberal arts and some elective credits from Harding or another institution, and the remaining credits in Bible may be earned online through the College of Bible and Ministry. Students may finish in as little as two years.

“Harding has been teaching online Bible classes since 2005 in an effort to provide expanded learning opportunities to students around the world seeking advanced training in ministry and Bible,” said Dr. Tim Westbrook, associate professor and director of the

Center for Distance Education in Bible and Ministry. “It is our goal to provide training in Bible and ministry to all who wish to enhance their knowledge and skills for serving God and the church. This program represents the evolution of ministry education and our continued commitment to equip individuals to go into all the world.”

Structured with working professionals in mind, the online format allows for increased flexibility and maximum engagement with faculty and other participants. Students can log on to complete coursework when it is most convenient for them. While all courses are interactive, engaging learning environments, they also are taught asynchronously — meaning you do not have to be online at the same time as your professor.

To learn more about the degree, visit [harding.edu/cde](http://harding.edu/cde) or call 501-279-5290.

## Stepping into something new

FOUR APPOINTMENTS were announced for the fall semester in response to the University’s desire for continued growth and success.

Dr. Kathy Dillion, associate professor of English, has been appointed to serve as director for the new Center for Teaching and Learning.

The center has been established to help faculty members develop more effective teaching methods and continue the culture of education excellence at Harding. It will assist in adopting evidence-based, student-centered teaching strategies through professional development workshops, seminars, consultation services and support programs.

Dillion plans to address ways to renew and reinvigorate faculty in order to sharpen teaching skills while strengthening job satisfaction as an investment that ultimately benefits both teachers and students.

The Cannon-Clary College of Education has appointed Dr. Todd Patten chair of the department of mental health and wellness, a new department overseeing the professional counseling program and marriage and family therapy program. His appointment became effective Aug. 1, 2018.

As chair, Patten will provide leadership and guidance for Jenene Alexander, director of professional counseling, and Justin Moore, director of marriage and family therapy.

The Office of Student Life named Marcus Thomas assistant dean of students.

Thomas came to the University from the Lone Oak Church of Christ in Paducah, Kentucky, where

he served as a minister the past four years. Prior to that he worked for the University as assistant director of admissions in the Office of Undergraduate Admissions Services.

“Marcus has an incredible personality and willingness to serve others,” Zach Neal, assistant vice president of student life and dean of students, said. “He will provide exceptional support to the students and be a great team player in collaborating with other offices on campus.”

The Office of International Programs announced Jeremy Daggett as the new director of the Harding University in Latin America international studies program.

Since 2014, Daggett has served as a missionary in Arequipa, Peru, where he ministers to small faith communities and works in health and education development with Christian Urban Development Association.

As director of HULA, Daggett will oversee day-to-day operations of the program based in Viña del Mar, Chile. He will supervise faculty and students as classes are conducted and they explore the region. His wife, Katie, will work as adjunct faculty for the program.



Kathy Dillion



Todd Patten



Marcus Thomas



Jeremy Daggett

## ASI lineup announced

THE AMERICAN STUDIES Institute has revealed the speakers for the 2018-19 Distinguished Lecture Series.

Michael Cox, founding director of the O’Neil Center for Global Markets and Freedom at Southern Methodist University Cox School of Business and former Federal Reserve chief economist, kicked off the series Sept. 25.

The second presentation is part of the Campus Read of *Mere Christianity*. It will be held Monday, Nov. 5 and will feature noted C.S. Lewis scholar Devin Brown and a discussion with Douglas Gresham, stepson of C.S. Lewis who was featured in the C.S. Lewis biographical film *Shadowlands*. Brown, a Lilly Scholar and professor of English at Asbury University, has published 11 books and more than 50 articles, essays, scripts, poetry and more on the writings of Lewis and J.R.R. Tolkien.

Christine Darden, former NASA mathematician featured in the book *Hidden Figures* that was also a hit movie, will continue the series Thursday, Feb. 7, 2019. Darden has been recognized with two NASA medals and a Women in Science and Engineering Lifetime Achievement Award. This lecture also serves as our annual ASI Educator Appreciation Night.

The lecture series will conclude Thursday, March 28, 2019, with Tony Dungy, former head coach of the 2007 Super Bowl Champion Indianapolis Colts and current football analyst for NBC Sports. Dungy is a New York Times bestselling author, member of the Pro Football Hall of Fame and founder of the Dungy Family Foundation.

To learn more about the series, visit [harding.edu/asi](http://harding.edu/asi) or call 501-279-4497.



## MY VIEW DAN SUMMERS

### Planning for retirement

A recent *New York Times* article examined the pros and cons of collecting social security benefits following retirement. According to the article, “each year past your full retirement age that you can put off applying for Social Security, your monthly check will increase by 8 percent.” But the writer later cites, “The Social Security trustees’ latest report estimates that the program will pay out more in benefits than it takes in this year, for the first time since 1982, and that it will exhaust its reserves by 2034.” If retirees can’t rely 100 percent on social security benefits, how can one most responsibly plan for retirement? We sat down with Assistant Professor of Finance Dan Summers to learn more.

**MANY AMERICANS BELIEVE** they can rely on Social Security to provide for their retirement income needs. In reality, social security benefits replace less than half of most people’s pre-retirement income, and increases in benefits have not kept pace with inflation. Further, many experts agree that without meaningful reform, future payments will likely be reduced significantly — almost certainly for future retirees and possibly for those currently receiving benefits. Consequently, a wise person will devote considerable time and effort to planning their retirement. A few widely accepted tips for this include:

- Put as much as you can in your employer’s 401(k) or other qualified retirement plan, at least up to the maximum amount eligible for employer matching. Many employers will

- match your contributions, resulting in an immediate return on your investment of up to 50 percent or more, depending on your employer’s matching formula.
- As you receive salary increases, if you don’t need the extra money to live on, get used to putting that money into your retirement plan.
- How you invest in your retirement plan, called asset allocation, is the single most important factor in achieving adequate returns. Asset allocation refers to the proportion of your assets invested in stocks, bonds and cash, and seeks higher returns than fixed income securities alone can yield (U.S. Treasury bonds, for example), while managing the higher risk of stocks. Most employers have target dated funds in their retirement plans, where your asset allocation is based on the length of time you plan to work — your targeted year of retirement. These funds offer an easy way to achieve a reasonably balanced portfolio.
- If you’re managing your own retirement assets, using indexed stock and bond funds can be a low cost way to achieve your desired allocation and generate returns that are difficult for traditional mutual funds to beat. Most advisers recommend re-balancing (moving money between various stock and bond funds to maintain desired allocations) your portfolio at least annually.

Above all, we must avoid the fate of the rich fool in Luke 12, who stored up things for himself but was not rich toward God.

While these tips are widely applicable, one’s stage in life, major financial needs, income taxes and other factors dictate whether to seek expert advice in addition to thoughtful planning and prayer. With good stewardship, we can all glorify God by using our material wealth to provide for our families and further the work of his kingdom on this earth. 🙏



PHOTO BY JEFF MONTGOMERY

DILLION, PATTEN AND THOMAS PHOTOS BY JEFF MONTGOMERY; DAGGETT PHOTO SUBMITTED

## NEWSMAKERS

**CENTER FOR STUDENT SUCCESS**  
John Mark Warnick was named director of academic resource services in May.

**COLLEGE OF ALLIED HEALTH**  
Jennifer Fisher, assistant professor of communication sciences and disorders and coordinator of offsite clinical placements, was elected to the Speech-Language Pathology Advisory Council for the American Speech-Language Hearing Association.

**COLLEGE OF NURSING**  
Dr. Patricia Smith accepted the position as director of the Bachelor of Science in Nursing program in August.

**FACULTY/STAFF AWARDS**  
Faculty members Amy Adair, Ginger Blackstone, Kristi Bond, Rich Brown, Debbie Duke, Lana Gettman, Don Sanders, Patty Smith and Kevin Youngblood are the 2017-18 Teacher Achievement Award recipients. Staff members Lee Allen, Jeanne Castleberry, Tammy Hall, Alan Nesbitt, Mark Prior and Brenda Seawel are the 2017-18 Distinguished Service Award recipients.

**OFFICE OF INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMS**  
Robbie Shackelford, director of HUF, was honored by the city of Scandicci as “Pillar of the Community.” This honor was given specifically for the program where our HUF students go to the Italian school and interact with the Italian high school students.

**OFFICE OF UNDERGRADUATE ADMISSIONS**  
D’Andrea Fanning was hired as assistant director of undergraduate admissions for multicultural and transfer student programs.

### The NAME game

#### FIRST-YEAR STUDENTS TOP NAMES

First name male (three-way tie):

Caleb, Jackson, Noah | 8

First name female: Hannah | 20

Last name: Smith | 16

#### ALL STUDENTS

First name male: Caleb | 45

First name female: Hannah | 76

Last name: Smith | 73



## Showcasing talent on and off the field

By SCOTT GOODE, assistant athletic director for sports information

**E**VERY YEAR, THE ATHLETIC department brings more than 100 new student-athletes to the University. To help fans get to know some of these newcomers, this magazine introduces you to five who have unique interests and backgrounds.

### JENNA AKINS

Jenna Akins, a freshman triple jumper on the track and field team, plays an instrument invented in the 1800s. She learned to play the banjo in a very modern way — YouTube. “The store I bought it at offered four free lessons,” Akins says. “After that, I just got on YouTube to learn the songs I like.” Her favorite songs to play are “Country Road” and “Wagon Wheel.” Most of Akins’ early performances have been for her friends and family, but perhaps larger crowds are in the future. Akins also plays the ukulele

and says the two instruments strum differently.

### DONNELL BOWES

Donnell Bowes, a native of Greenford, England, is a central defender on the soccer team this fall, but the sport of his childhood was cricket.

Bowes’ parents are Jamaican, and he watched West Indies cricket as a child. His uncle is a cricket coach in England. “In our back garden, my dad would bowl against me or vice versa,” Bowes says. “I always liked to hit the ball as far as I could, but I was a fast bowler as well. That’s how my sporting career got started.”

Bowes continued to play cricket recreationally but began to get serious about football (soccer) around age 15. His school team won a national competition, and Bowes began to think about his future in the sport. Though he began his career as a forward or winger, Bowes moved to central defender as a teenager and patterns

his game after Manchester United and Ivory Coast defender Eric Bailly.

### SAM MATHEWS

Sam Mathews of League City, Texas, is a freshman quarterback for the Bisons, but his route to Harding included six years in Japan. Mathews was born at Camp Pendleton in California but was not there long before moving to Okinawa, Japan, where his father was in the Marine Corps. “We were always moving from place to place,” Mathews says. “We lived on a military base in Japan, and it was a great community to grow up in.” Mathew’s best memories of Japan are his family’s weekend trips to the beach. His family returned to the United States and spent two years at Camp Lejeune in North Carolina before settling in the Houston area. Mathews attended Clear Creek High School, where he rushed and threw for 33 touchdowns as a senior.

### SAVANA MELTON

With four games left in the 2014 North Little Rock (Arkansas) High School junior varsity football season, Coach Jeff Brown needed someone — anyone — to kick extra points. There was not an obvious choice among players on the team, and no one on the men’s soccer team wanted to give it a try. One of the guys on the team said, “Hey, Savana can kick, she’s played soccer forever.”

The recommendation led to a tryout in P.E. class. It went well. After one kicking session, Coach Brown told her: “I’m bringing you a jersey tomorrow.” The rest is history. Melton kicked for the rest of that season and three more for the Charging Wildcats. She now holds the state record with 68 consecutive made extra points as a junior and 237 career points, playing for North Little Rock’s state championship team in 2017.

Her success led to an interesting evening during her senior season when she was crowned homecoming queen dressed in her football gear before the Friday night game.

This season, Melton continues her soccer career as a Lady Bison. Playing forward, Melton looks to build on a high school soccer career where she led her team in scoring all four seasons and won four club soccer state championships with the Mighty Bluebirds.

### JOHN STOKES

“They stand out like trees,” says John Stokes, a freshman golfer from Dickson, Tennessee, of his ability to find four-leaf clovers. At 10 years old in 2010, Stokes and his brother were playing golf in the back yard. He reached over and pulled up a four-leaf clover, then found another and another. With the help of an attorney and a video camera, Stokes’ parents helped him certify his talent, and he received a plaque for “Finding the most four-leaf clovers in the shortest time.” He found three in 20 minutes. He later received a second plaque for breaking his own record. About 1 in every 10,000 clovers has four leaves, but for Stokes they might as well be four-feet tall. “I find them all the time,” he says.

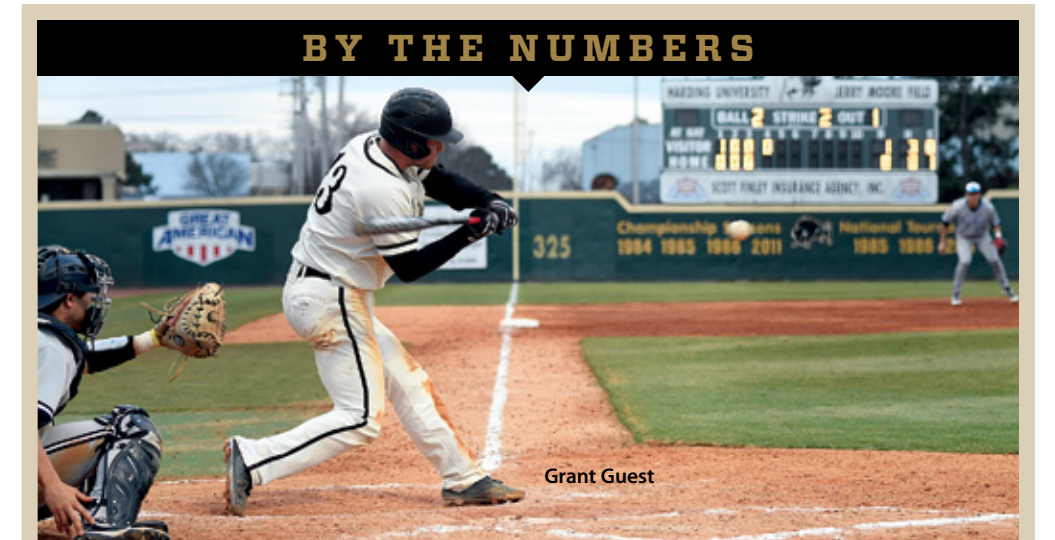
PHOTO BY JEFF MONTGOMERY

PHOTO BY JEFF MONTGOMERY



Savanna Melton, John Stokes, Sam Mathews, Jenna Akins and Donnell Bowes

For the latest sports information, visit [hardingsports.com](http://hardingsports.com).



### BY THE NUMBERS

Grant Guest

**8** Number of times in 194 at-bats senior Grant Guest struck out, making him the second toughest player to strike out in NCAA Division II.

**49** Number of Bison football games men’s Berryhill Award-winner Gavin De Los Santos played, including 39 career starts. A 2017 Associated Press first-team All-American offensive tackle, De Los Santos earned three Academic All-GAC honors and was a semifinalist for the National Football Foundation Campbell Trophy given to the top student-athlete in college football.

**10** Number of career event victories in track and field for women’s Berryhill Award-winner Madison Drennan. She is one of only seven Lady Bison runners to earn first-team all-conference honors four times in cross-country.

**72.70** Senior golfer Mason Banger’s school-record stroke average in 2017-18. He also set a school record by shooting par or better in 13 of his 33 rounds.

**985** Lady Bison golf’s team score in the Great American Conference Championship, their best score since winning the event in 2013 with a 933 and their third-best score ever at the GAC Championship.

**1.31** Number of stolen bases per game for the Lady Bison softball team in their fourth consecutive season leading the GAC in stolen bases.

**23** Number of singles wins by freshman Morgan Salvan, the most by a Bison men’s tennis player since Harding moved to the NCAA in the 1996-97 season. Salvan was 15-3 in dual matches.

**11** Number of consecutive dual matches won by junior tennis player Arisa Takanashi to start her Harding career. Takanashi had an 18-6 singles record and combined with Laura Golubic to form the 10th-ranked doubles team in the NCAA Division II Central Region.

**4** Number of CoSIDA Academic All-America awards won by senior track and field athlete Lucas Goodspeed, joining Jonathan Dandy, who won four in 1997 and 1998.

**3** Number of records broken by sisters Raianne and Cara Mason in 2018. Raianne set new Harding records in the 100-meter hurdles (14.90) and 400-meter hurdles (1:02.78), and Cara in the hammer throw (140 feet, 5 inches).



Phileas Fogg fictionally went around the world in 80 days. Nellie Bly made it a reality in 72, a decade prior to airplane travel. But in summer 2018, 33 students circled the globe with International Programs to study the art and architecture of worship. In 47 days they circumnavigated the globe.

# AROUND, THERE & BACK AGAIN

*Text and photography by NOAH DARNELL*



Students survey Bakong, the first temple mountain of sandstone constructed by rulers of the Khmer empire at Angkor, Cambodia.

# W

hat does it mean for art to be “religious”? Where might one find a transcendent space? How can design reflect the numinous or suggest the presence of the divine? On these topics academic works have been written by some of the most brilliant scholars in at least a dozen fields. By going out into the world and experiencing these places, the students of Art Design International 2018, which included art and design and engineering majors, hoped to find what it meant to encounter transcendent art and architecture. Subtitled “Architecture of Worship,” students earned course credit as they studied subject matter related to their majors. Beyond this, it became apparent that studying the world in this way meant considering the individuals who practice it, because it is impossible to separate a faith from its people.



Tanner Holloway heads to explore El Castillo, the most famous landmark at Chichen Itza, an ancient Mayan city in the Yucatan Peninsula of Mexico.



Gael Langdon pauses to take in the sights of St. Peter's Basilica in Rome.

The Rotunda at the Church of the Holy Sepulchre in Jerusalem includes the chapel called the Aedicule.



Itsukushima, a Shinto shrine known for its “floating” torii gate, sits on Miyajima Island, one of the most scenic spots in Japan.

**P**rofessor Daniel Adams, who crafted the concept for this journey, made every effort to provide a progression from familiar to unfamiliar, temporally close to ancient, and even ease of travel (London, with English speaking) to progressively more difficult (Europe, Middle East, Indian Subcontinent, etc). However, a trip like this is designed to be facilitated learning. Students are led to the place, and their own exploration of that space is what makes the trip truly come to life. Before the voyage, some of the students said that they decided to go on a trip like this because it may be their only chance to travel with so many sites and cities in one go. Some even thought that it may be their only opportunity to travel — ever. Now that they have followed Phileas Fogg and Nellie Bly around the world, they have taken little parts of the world with them. And there may even be something years from now that they call upon in a distant memory in a distant place that truly changes the world. 🌍



Daniel Adams displays his sketch of Notre Dame du Haut, a Roman Catholic chapel in Ronchamp, France. Built in 1955, it is one of the finest examples of the architecture of Franco-Swiss architect Le Corbusier.



# PLANTING NEIGHBORHOOD SEEDS

By HANNAH OWENS and SAVANNA DISTEFANO  
Photography by JEFF MONTGOMERY

**C**oleman Yoakum ('09) and Dylan Pyeatt ('09) had a general idea of what they were walking toward when they left campus on foot and headed to Woodruff Avenue in Searcy. After a year of participating in a local jail ministry, they'd heard many inmates with whom they'd talked call Woodruff Avenue home. "What could we do?" they asked themselves.

On a fall day during their sophomore year in 2006, Coleman and Dylan made their way to the neighborhood with a soccer ball. They were both open to the possibility that their idea might not work. As the distance closed between them and a vacant lot behind a school across the street, they noticed the eyes of nearby kids following their footsteps — perhaps with the hope of new friends in their hearts and a fun game in their immediate futures.

"We started kicking the ball around, and as kids were watching, we would just holler at them, 'Hey! Come play!'" Coleman says.

"Sometimes they did; sometimes they would run and ask their mom and then come out. By dinner time, we probably had 10-15 kids who were out there kicking the ball around with us."

After that first day as they were walking back to campus, they said to each other, "Well that was cool! Let's try that again." So they came back the next week and did it again.

**S**occer became a weekly occurrence, and babysitting nights were added as a regular neighborhood activity so parents could go grocery shopping, go on a date or just have a moment of silence. Two University students hanging out in a new neighborhood became 15, and as the group was nearing graduation, no one wanted their time together to end.

"So we said, 'Let's just go and do this. We're really good at this, so let's go and do this somewhere on purpose,'" Coleman says.

The group tasked Coleman with finding a new community to move into. In 2011, Coleman was watching the news when he realized, "No one was saying anything good about Detroit, so let's move there." He sold everything he owned to move to Detroit, and after residing there for a year, he began searching for a house in a north-



Pontiac residents “Cool Breeze” and Jackie examine a passage out of 2 Corinthians as Bethany and Coleman Yoakum lead a group of neighbors in their weekly home Bible study. The Thursday night service is one of three opportunities each week for neighbors to fellowship with one another and dive deeper into the Word of God with the Micah 6 team.

west suburb of Detroit, Michigan, called Pontiac. When he first stepped foot on the porch of a house in the middle of a road busy with foot traffic, he knew it was the one.

“While we were looking at the house, a guy named Warren Rogers walked into the house behind us and said, ‘Hey, your real estate agent isn’t going to tell you this, but somebody got raped on this porch two weeks ago, and that’s the kind of place that you’re thinking about buying,’” Coleman says. “And I was like, ‘OK, that’s what I need.’”

In November 2012, Micah 6 Community became an officially registered 501(c)(3) organization. Their goals? To live in the neighborhood, get to know neighbors, and experience firsthand what the needs of the community were.

## LOCAL LIFE

Cheryl Vanleek was raised in Pontiac during the city’s prime, when the automotive industry had become the focus of Detroit and General Motors was the heart of Pontiac’s economic success. She attended Pontiac Central High School, which once produced two Olympic champions and several NFL players but became a symbol of the city’s decline upon closing in 2009.

“[Pontiac Central High School] had the highest grade point average in the state ... and I think it had mostly to do with those motor companies here,” she says. “Only one parent had to work, and the other parent was usually in the PTA involved [with] the kids. Then when the shops left, everything declined, from the kids to the families, alcoholism and then drugs came through, so it went really downhill fast after that.”

After her high school graduation from Pontiac Central, Cheryl soon found herself involved in the life of drugs and alcoholism by which she was surrounded. After serving a prison sentence in 2015, a friend suggested she fulfill her service hour requirements with Micah 6.

Upon learning about Micah 6, Cheryl thought Coleman and the team were making a lost effort. Cheryl helped in the renovation of a building Micah 6 owned, assisted in the food pantry, and later, after encouragement from Coleman and Dylan, launched Alcoholics Anonymous meetings for the community.

“To me, AA was inspired by God,” Cheryl says. “He inspired those people, or people like us, to learn how to do good instead of bad.”

Cheryl has been clean for three years and now attends weekly Bible studies with her grandchildren, who also play in the park with Micah 6 members. Cheryl said the community gardens help teach children skills while keeping them away from gangs.

“Everything was going bad for a long time here, and people themselves are just now realizing that there’s other stuff out there and not just people who are addicts or alcoholics,” Cheryl says. “I hope and dream to see people doing good again.”

## GROWING IN THE COMMUNITY

Newberry Street in Pontiac is a small stretch of houses that sits at the end of four perpendicular roads. Micah 6 owns two houses in the middle of that street, and surrounding the houses and the few blocks the community touches are squares of lively, healthy vegetation. The four neighborhood gardens are evidence of patience, hard work and intentional care.

While the team was still familiarizing themselves with the community in 2011, they observed eating habits and learned that access



Micah 6 Community owns two houses on Newberry Street in the middle of a Pontiac neighborhood. The houses are used for Bible studies, hangout spaces and staff housing.

to nutritional foods was limited. Most people who live in the neighborhood don’t have a car, and grocery stores are not close. A bag of apples and a gallon of milk is much more difficult to transport on a walk home than a bag of chips.

“They’ve just been in this vicious cycle of eating food from the gas station or the liquor store — just wherever they could walk to,” says Bethany Blackburn Yoakum (’10). “And unfortunately, your body becomes addicted to preservatives and bad food.”

Giving neighbors convenient access to healthy food options became a goal for the organization. Because the population of Pontiac had significantly decreased, vacant lots were sprinkled throughout much of the city, creating a suitable space for something the Micah 6 team hoped would fulfill the need for fresh, healthy foods.

Coleman went to talk to someone representing the county and expressed interest in purchasing a vacant lot. After explaining how it would be used, he was told that the county didn’t usually sell them. Coleman asked for an estimate and planned to fundraise whatever it would take to purchase a lot to create a community garden.

“So they said, ‘How about eight or 10 dollars?’ Coleman says. “And I replied, ‘\$10?!’ They said, ‘Yeah, is that too high?’ I said, ‘No, I think I brought \$80, so I’ll just buy eight lots.’”

Micah 6 now operates four community gardens for the neighborhood. During the summer, the gardens are thick and yield is plentiful, but the harsh winters of Michigan make providing access to healthy foods year round difficult. In 2016, Micah 6 acquired a new property and turned it into Sprout Fresh Food Store for the community. Bethany, who has a professional background in the food industry, manages the store.

“We’ve been open almost a year and a half, and it has taken time to build up a good and steady customer base,” she says. “We definitely live in a world where it’s easy to just skip eating fruits and veggies all to-



Summer 2018 intern Paige Hunn fills a bucket with freshly picked green beans to sell in Micah 6’s produce store, Sprout Fresh Food Store. Food sold in the store is grown in community gardens, and the store aims to meet the needs of neighbors’ convenient access to healthy foods.

gether, or we don’t think about it as much. I like the store for a community space — I like to talk to people. I like for them to come in and show interest in maybe changing their lifestyle, and not even in a drastic way.”

The food Sprout sells comes from community gardens in the area and wholesalers who provide products that don’t grow in Michigan to sustain the store throughout the year.

Christian Frink, a former student of Rochester College, directs Micah 6’s community garden initiatives and has seen the difference they have made in people’s health and also their neighborhood. The spaces aren’t just providing healthy food options, but they’re also giving neighbors an opportunity to work together on a project with shared interest.

“The kids and the adults can see the garden and the beautification happening, and it’s really encouraging,” he says. “It’s allowing a lot of the people to start taking ownership of the neighborhood in a real way and feel like this is home.”

One day, after a neighborhood event, Christian and Dylan decided to leave out a picnic table they normally bring near the garden because they didn’t feel like removing it. Soon after, people began to gather there. Now, if you walk by the garden on Newberry Street, in the corner of the garden, two picnic tables welcome passersby — a standing invitation for anyone and everyone to sit and enjoy the beauty of a garden and friendly conversation.

## PROPPING UP PONTIAC

Andy Meisner, Oakland County treasurer, says Pontiac has not experienced success in recent years in the same way as the city of Detroit, which is undergoing a resurgence. He said Micah 6 has produced a positive impact on the city of Pontiac.

“Pontiac has not had the benefit of some of the investment and huge PR buzz that the city of Detroit has had,” Meisner says. “I see Micah 6 as a real beacon, as an organization that’s come in to say this place is important and its people are important, and I think even some of us locals need that reminder and recognition that such

“I’m here for **PEOPLE**, and **CHRISTIANS** are in the **PEOPLE** business.”

talented, thoughtful, hard-working young people as Coleman and Bethany and the whole crew would devote themselves to improving this place is monumental in its importance.”

While Pontiac is the county seat, the median income for a Pontiac resident was less than half that of the county as of 2016. More than one third of the people in the city live below the poverty line, and nearly 25 percent of people do not live in the same house as the prior year, according to the U.S. Census. With most of the Pontiac population renting homes, Coleman said housing turnover was a prominent characteristic of the community where Micah 6 was formed.

Trevor Daniel, a previous Pontiac resident, owns rental properties in Pontiac. He says the lack of ownership in the Pontiac neighborhood of Micah 6 discourages renters to engage in the community.

“It’s very difficult to feel any responsibility to either your neighbors or the neighborhood you live in,” Trevor says. “With Coleman and Bethany and the rest of the team, as far as I can tell, they made it a very active mission to get to know the neighbors — but more importantly to get the neighbors to know each other.”

According to Meisner, property values in Pontiac were up 10 percent last year. He believes Micah 6 deserves some credit for the higher demand and positive change in the area.

“Micah 6 has been a consistent, productive and reliable partner in the repurposing of tax foreclosed properties and in broader community development efforts that have been very uplifting to not just a couple of neighborhoods in Pontiac, but to everybody here that hears about what’s going on,” Meisner says. “Micah 6 has come in and partnered and collaborated and worked with anybody to get as much done as possible in a smart way that is completely devoid of ego — that is done in the truest spirit of service to others and with absolute humility and no self-promotion.”

## NEEDS OF THE HEART

On a Thursday night, neighbors began gathering together for the evening church service under a pavilion near a garden in the backyard of one of the Micah 6 houses. There were a few new faces around the circle, and Coleman assured the visitors that he would have the group introduce themselves once the service started. But there was no need. Neighbors were excitedly greeting new and familiar faces and welcoming everyone to the circle before anyone even sat down.

Once the introductions started, each person was instructed to say their name, hometown and one thing they knowingly misused. One person said he used toilet paper rolls to prop items up. Another person said she used a toothbrush to clean. A few said they misused drugs or alcohol — openly sharing their struggles and burdens with one another. Coleman shared the passage they would be studying that evening out of 2 Corinthians.

Setting the context for the passage, he says to the group, “In 1 Corinthians, you learn that the Corinthian church is pretty gnarly. Sometimes, I’m like, ‘Our church is weird,’” Coleman jokes. “But it’s not as weird as the church in Corinth.” Laughter soon followed, and the Bible study continued.

The heart of the Micah 6 ministry is creating a community of acceptance and loving people through addictions and hardships as well as victories and successes. While Pontiac is home to dozens of churches, Coleman said the Micah 6 team noticed some neighbors’ needs were unmet.

“All of our neighbors are struggling with addiction and all of our neighbors have been disowned by their families, so they can’t go to churches in my community because so many of them are family oriented,” Coleman said. “They’d been asked not to come back if they’ve shown up drunk or high or something like that, and so there’s not a church where our neighbors can really go.”

Dylan leads the church at Micah 6, which started as gatherings in the team’s living room in spring 2014 and carried into organized Sunday and Saturday services in the Sprout building. However, weekly Bible studies are still held at the Micah 6 house, which Dylan says gives the team opportunity to practice hospitality and share their home with others.

“People can struggle, they can relapse, they can go through good times and bad times and know that we’re always going to forgive them, love them and be here for them,” Dylan says. “They’ll always have a place in a community, which is really powerful because these are all people who have fallen through the cracks. They burned all their bridges, and they don’t have any family or church or community connections anymore — but now they do.”

Church is tailored to the specific community in which Micah 6 works. Members come dressed in casual attire. “Christian speak,” as Dylan says, is used minimally, and messages are designed to be applicable to everyday life. Services consist of a short message and different activities. Mostly, it is conversation and fellowship, fitting into a roughly 45-minute span before some members need to step out for a smoke break. There also is an adult-only Saturday service for sex offenders who are legally not able to attend a traditional church.

“Leading church has really taught me, I think, just the idea that we are all broken and we all struggle, and we are all human, and we all have the same desires and dreams and fears and struggles,” Dylan says. “I think when you realize that I don’t have a 10-step program to make you all better, or I don’t have an easy answer, but we’re willing to kind of dwell in the complicated mess that is life — sometimes that’s hard and sometimes it’s painful — but that’s OK. That’s where Jesus meets us in our brokenness.”

While the children’s Bible study consists of memorizing a Bible verse and playing games near a garden, the adults and teens dig a little deeper into study of Scriptures and their application to the daily struggles and experiences of life. But for every gathering, a common meal is shared.

“The meal is where church really happens because that’s where we’re sharing together and fellowshiping together. That’s where we really become a family,” Dylan says. “Church is my favorite thing just because we come here and we’re really just honest and, you know, we’ll sing a few songs, and I’ll share the story of the Bible, but really it’s just mainly what’s going on in your life.”



Dylan Pyeatt and his wife, Carrie, play soccer at Micah 6’s Saturday barbecue with children who live in the neighborhood. Dylan and Coleman Yoakum first began playing soccer with neighborhood children during their time as students at Harding, and 12 years later, soccer is still an activity that turns strangers into neighbors and acquaintances into friends.

## AN EXPANDING FUTURE

Webster Elementary School has been vacant since 2006. The basement is flooded with water rising up the stairs to the first level. Glass is broken on the school doors, and the stale smell of age and abandonment fills the hallways. As Coleman walks through the classrooms, around writing desks and discarded computer monitors, he explains plans of renovation for the 60,000-square-foot building — to revitalize the skeleton that lay at the heart of the community.

Built in 1929, Webster is a well-known landmark of the neighborhood and located across the street from the two Micah 6 homes. The team purchased the property in 2016, mainly eyeing the four-acre playground as a perfect spot for community gatherings. Currently, the grounds host two greenhouses, dozens of soccer games and countless conversations between neighbors.

Ultimately, the Micah 6 team plans to raise funding to restore the Webster building and convert it into a community center. The 26 classrooms, gym and cafeteria will be converted into offices, dance studios, centers for learning and other community resources.

“There’s so many people who are just waiting for Webster to open and are really excited,” Cheryl says. “And when you’re able to go talk to people about stuff like that, you can see the sparkle in their eyes about it, and it’s really, really cool.”

As the community grows and more connections among neighbors are formed, Dylan hopes their church can grow along with it.

“My dream ultimately is to work myself out of the job where we’ve just raised up our youth and our local leaders, and they end up replacing us and are even better at it than we are,” he says. “I

hope that is going to keep being the case where we keep seeing God empower people here. I always want to welcome more and more people in. If we grow, great, and if we stay here and Jesus is making disciples, then that’s awesome.”

For Coleman, what it comes down to is people and providing unconditional love.

“I didn’t come here for vegetables — I came here to feed people, and vegetables just happen to be the avenue,” Coleman says. “I’m here for people, and Christians are in the people business. Unconditional love is kind of what we tried first, and we’ve seen it work. We believe in it, and we think that it is what’s going to carry the day.”

“Jesus wants us to love people unconditionally and love them a little bit harder when we’re really over it. That is something that we get reminded of a lot. Our neighbors and the ones that we really help, they also won’t let us forget that.”

## BACK TO THE BEGINNING

When the Micah 6 team first arrived in a new neighborhood in Michigan, they wondered how to meet and connect with a different group of people. But they already knew one strategy that had worked before — in Searcy. So, they found a soccer ball and headed to a vacant lot.

Six years later on a Saturday night, neighbors from the Pontiac community gathered in an open field for a monthly neighborhood barbecue. They conversed with each other about their days over a meal. As the sun was disappearing behind rows of houses lining the field, neighborhood children scuffled their feet against the grass and stopped to catch their breath. The soccer ball slid across the field, spinning from one small foot to another — the start of a thread that planted neighborhood seeds and pulled people in a community closer together. 📍

# There's a new chef in town

Interview by JANTZEN HALEY  
Photograph by JEFF MONTGOMERY



## ANTHONY J. TALLY

was hired as the University's new executive chef in spring 2018. Tally is responsible for directing the University's dining program and for creating and executing the menu for events. He most recently served as executive chef at Verizon Arena in North Little Rock, Arkansas, where he worked for the last 10 years. Tally's culinary career spans 27 years in the Little Rock area where he has served as a chef for several renowned restaurants such as Terry's Finer Foods, Café 42, Ashley's at the Capitol Hotel and Brave New Restaurant. He is a two-time runner-up for Arkansas Times Reader's Choice Award for Best Chef and has been featured numerous times on cooking segments on local television programs. Here's what Tally had to say about his biggest influencers, his plans for Harding dining and a peek at his favorite recipe.

### What impact did your childhood and your family have on your passion for cooking?

Growing up, my grandmother cooked for a disabled veteran's home and I helped create menus and cook alongside her. In doing this, I realized that what I was doing was actually helping people and that I truly love helping people.

### How did you learn to cook?

As a child, I learned a lot of my cooking skills from my mother and my grandmother. As an adult, Peter Brave\* taught me a lot about the wonderful world of fine dining and helped me to grow all of the skills I was taught at a younger age.

*\*Note: Peter Brave, a native of Little Rock, Arkansas, has been a chef for more than 40 years. His resume includes time as a chef at the Capitol Hotel, and he has been owner and operator of Brave New Restaurant, a TripAdvisor certificate of excellence recipient, for almost 30 years.*

### How did you get your start in the food industry?

When I was younger, I was given the opportunity to work in a restaurant washing dishes. While I was there, Peter Brave would often take me to the side and give me cooking lessons. From these lessons, a true love of cooking began to grow, and I never turned back!

### What does your menu-making process look like? What factors come into play?

There are a lot of processes that I take into consideration for creating new menus. When it comes to a meal in the dining hall, I look up recipes that fit the needs of our student body or items that would go great for a themed meal. When it comes to catering, a lot of factors can vary such as how many people will be served as well as the taste preferences of our customers. I use all of these factors to come up with a great menu that showcases our quality products.

### How do food trends (i.e., farm to table) affect the menu you create?

Any time I can purchase ingredients from local businesses, I'll do it. I love cooking with fresh produce and ingredients, plus I enjoy being able to help out a local business to keep the community growing.

### Do you put as much time and effort into preparing meals for yourself as you do for others?

No – When I cook, I like to be able to put a lot of time and effort into preparing and executing the meals. When I am at home, I tend to lay back and enjoy time with my family outside of the kitchen.

### What would we find in your kitchen at home?

When looking inside the kitchen at my house, my wife and I have lots of healthy options to choose from, such as fresh vegetables and turkey burgers.

### What is your signature dish?

My signature dish is a tender roasted pork loin, chipotle mashed sweet potatoes, and roasted zucchini squash with red peppers.

### If you could have dinner with one famous chef, past or present, who would it be and what would be on the menu?

If I could choose anyone, it would have to be Anthony Bourdain, and the menu would be porterhouse steak.

### Would you allow Gordon Ramsey into your kitchen?

Of course!

### What's your favorite recipe?

Pecan pie! My grandmother used to make this recipe (see left) for pecan pie during all of our holidays growing up. After she passed, I took over the family tradition of baking the pecan pie for each of our family gatherings. Every time I make this recipe, I am reminded of the love of cooking she shared with me and how she made such a huge impact on my life. 🍪



**Ingredients**  
1 cup corn syrup  
3 eggs  
1 cup of sugar  
2 tablespoons melted butter  
1 teaspoon pure vanilla extract  
1.5 cups fresh pecans  
pie crust

**Directions**  
Preheat oven to 350°F.  
Mix corn syrup, eggs, sugar, butter and vanilla using a spoon. Stir in pecans. Pour filling into pie crust.  
Bake on center rack of oven for 60 to 70 minutes. Cool for 2 hours on wire rack before serving.



# 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](mailto:alumninews@harding.edu) or write Harding University, Office of Alumni Relations, Box 10768, Searcy, AR 72149-5615.

## 1953

Hubert and **Dorothy Todd McCray** celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary with a reception hosted by their three sons, Todd, Michael and Nathan. (2910 Toccoa St., Beaumont, TX 77703)

## 1959

**Gordon "Vic" Cotton** was recognized by the Mississippi Historical Society with the Award of Merit for a series of articles, "Warren County Before Statehood," which he authored in commemoration of Mississippi's 200th birthday. He also was honored by Gulf Coast Survey and Department of Anthropology at the University of Alabama for his support of students in their archaeological studies. He serves as the director/curator emeritus of the Old Courthouse Museum in Vicksburg, Mississippi. At his retirement, he was honored for his work in historic research, writing and preservation by Mississippi's Lt. Gov. Amy Tuck and members of the state senate. During his career, he has authored more than 12 volumes of local history and written historical articles for more than 30 years for the Sunday edition of The Vicksburg Post. (677 Campbell Swamp Road, Vicksburg, MS 39180)

## 1970

**Richard Hilton**, OCH Regional Medical Center administrator and CEO, retired after 35 years of service to OCH and a total of 44 years in the field of health care. He is a Fellow of the American College of Health Care Executives and has been a member of the Hospital Financial Management Association and the American Hospital Association since 1983. He is on the board of directors of the Greater Starkville Partnership Development and is a member of the Starkville Rotary Club. He and his wife, LaRue, are the founders of Family Life Missions Inc., a benevolent ministry operating children's homes in Catacamas, Honduras, where he served as president/CEO and board chairman from 1992-2005. They have seven children and 14 grandchildren. (103 Apache Drive, Starkville, MS 39759)

## 1972

**Mark Sperry** has published a new book titled *Reflections on God: Meditations from Psalms*. The book is a collection of 75 original poems written in the style of David's psalms and is available on Amazon.com. He and his wife, Nadara, are retired and members at Westside Church of Christ. (126 Spicer Lane, Texarkana, TX 75503)

## 1973

**Holly Catterton Allen** is editor of the book *InterGenerate: Transforming Churches through InterGenerational Ministry*. The book is a compilation of the best presentations of the InterGenerate Conference held in June 2018 on the Lipscomb University campus. She is professor of Christian ministries and family studies at Lipscomb. Her husband, **C. Leonard Allen** is dean of the College of Bible and Ministry at Lipscomb. He recently published a book titled *Poured Out: The Spirit of God Empowering the Mission of God*. (5636 Myrtlewood Drive, Nashville, TN 37211)

## 1976

**Carolyn "CJ" Driver Abbey** retired from Wellington Exempted Village School District after 19 years. She served as a language arts teacher and as a guidance counselor in both the middle and high schools. She and her husband, Frank, live near their two sons, Franklin and Tyler. (49495 Jones Road, Wellington, OH 44090)

## 1982

**Bryan Beeson** is the facilities administrator for Benton County, Arkansas. He has more than 30 years in construction management experience with Walmart. (P.O. Box 493, Centerton, AR 72719)

**Randall Crow** has been named CEO and president of QualChoice in Little Rock, Arkansas. He holds an MBA from the University of Arkansas and has more than 30 years experience in managed care and hospital fields. He also serves as vice president and corporate treasurer of QualChoice Health Plan Services Inc. He serves on the board of SoundPath Health, ClearRiver Health, HeartlandPlains Health, HarvestPlains Health of Iowa, RiverLink Health, RiverLink Health of Kentucky, Stableview Health and QualChoice Advantage. He is married to **Rene Holloway** ('83). (16 Lester Lane, Vilonia, AR 72173)

## 1983

**Daniel Gillett** has been elected chairman of the board by Select Sands Corp. board of directors. He has more than 30 years experience as a director, investment banker, consultant and senior executive, including serving as chief executive officer and chief financial officer. He received his MBA from Harvard Business School. (1312 Brians Meadow Cove, Austin, TX 78746)

## 1984

**John Brown** preaches at Olive Hill Church of

Christ. He also teaches U.S. history at Greenup County (Kentucky) High School and serves as an adjunct history professor at Ashland Community and Technical College and Kentucky Christian University. He received an Ed.S. from University of the Cumberland this year. He and his wife, Dana, have six children. (282 Dixie Ridge, Flatwoods, KY 41139)

## 1987

**Angela Sinapiades Colliver** was the recipient of the March 2018 Cause for Applause Award from the Linton-Stockton School Corp. for those who go above and beyond their normal duties. She started her career at LSSC in August 1989 and is the elementary school counselor. She received her master's in counseling from Indiana University. She and her husband, Mike, have two children, Taylor and Thessaly. (3901 S. Bushmill Drive, Bloomington, IN 47403)

**Mark Holderbaum** is the new activities director at Carthage (Missouri) High School. He has 27 years of experience as a teacher, coach, administrator and activities director.

**Paul Woolard** joined Eco-Energy in Franklin, Tennessee. Before that, he had a long career across multiple companies in Decatur, Illinois. He is married to **Heidi Meadows** ('89). (6100 Tower Circle, Suite 500, Franklin, TN 37067)

## 1988

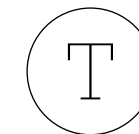
**Ray Duwe** was completely disabled in an automobile accident in December 2000. His father, **Bill Duwe** ('62), has written a book about him titled *We Still Have Him to Love*. It touches on the accident and Ray's life since, including support from his Harding friends. The book contains caregiving tips, supplier and other practical information, and lessons learned that may be helpful to others in a similar situation. The book can be found on Amazon.com. Ray has three children. (1107 S. Yellowwood Place, Broken Arrow, OK 74012)

## 1990

**Brett Biggs** was added to Pepperdine University Board of Regents in July. He is executive vice president and chief financial officer for Walmart Inc. He is responsible for Walmart Enterprise Solutions, which includes all finance functions as well as Global Business Services. He serves on the board of directors for MANA, a nonprofit group focused on acute malnutrition in African children, and the Walton Arts Center Board. He is on the board of trustees of the National Urban League and is Walmart's corporate representative on the McCombs School

## Leaving a blueprint on the community

PROFILE | DAVE HUEY



**HE WORD ARCHITECT** often conjures up images of blueprints, rulers and mechanical pencils, but for Dave Huey ('78), award-winning architect and president of Dewberry Architects Inc., it's about being connected to the community.

Huey had long set his sights on a career as an architect.

"My older brother, Wayne ('68), was an architect, and ever since I was a kid I worked on models and drew house plans," Huey said. "Then, when I went to art school at Harding, I took art history classes that, for me, were



really all about architecture. All of that continued to pique my interest to go on to architecture school."

After graduating with a degree in art, Huey went to Oklahoma State University where he received both a bachelor's and master's degree in architecture.

Huey has been practicing architecture for 36 years. He joined Dewberry Architects in 1986 working in the firm's Tulsa, Oklahoma, office where he recently served as senior principal and director. Earlier this year, Huey was named president of the company, overseeing more than 135 design professionals in locations across the country.

Huey is responsible for offices from California to Florida and everywhere in between, so he covers a lot of ground in any given week. With daughters Hayden, Callie ('13) and Piper ('17) grown and married, his wife, Patti, is often able to travel with Huey as he visits the company's offices.

"It's rewarding to get to see what our staff is working on, to meet with their clients, be there for ribbon cuttings, and see projects successfully completed."

In addition to his role as president, Huey also is the director of health care architecture for the company.

"Being involved in health care projects is one of the things that's been most satisfying for me," Huey said. "We spend a lot of time talking with patients making sure that the projects we pursue, design and construct are ones that will make a positive impact on the lives of the people that use them. It's rare that I go into a hospital where I don't sit down and talk with patients, whether it's at lunch in their dining facilities or in waiting rooms. I find out what it is they're dealing with so I can better understand what their facility needs are."

Huey is widely known for his expertise in the planning and designing of more than 5 million square feet of oncology facilities across the country, resulting in a national portfolio of award-winning projects.

"I get thoroughly excited to work on oncology projects," Huey said. "It is especially gratifying to be able to make a difference, particularly in the life of a very sick patient. While we see a lot of things we wish we didn't have to see, we're able to improve the quality of life for the people that use our facilities."

As an architect, Huey understands the fundamentals of design, but perhaps more important is his connection to people in the community.

"An important part of my job is being involved in a number of non-profit organizations so I can better understand what the community is all about and what the people in it need," Huey said. "Most people, when they think of architects, think of somebody designing and drawing plans, but that has very little to do with what I do day in and day out. It's not just about bricks and mortar; it's a lot more than that."

— Jonathan B. Murphy

SUBMITTED PHOTO

## 1993

**Frank Merritt** has published *The 17 Hour Fast* with health and fitness writer Phil White. Inspired by his best friend's battle with cancer, he developed

a Business Advisory Council at the University of Texas. Within Walmart, he serves on the Walmart Foundation Board and as an executive sponsor for the Hispanic-Latino Resource Group. He and his wife, **Kara Dunaway** ('91), have two daughters. (44 Buckingham Drive, Rogers, AR 72758)

**Christopher Willis** has been appointed to the position of juvenile court judge with the Forsyth County, Georgia, Juvenile Court. He earned his juris doctorate from St. Mary's University School of Law. For the past 23 years, he has been in private practice focusing on criminal and civil litigation. (Turner and Willis, P.O. Box 1401, Gainesville, GA 30503)

a fasting protocol designed to offer maximum health benefits with a minimum amount of time dedicated to a fast. He has published post-graduate research at Pepperdine University and received his medical degree at the University of Alabama at Birmingham. He practices emergency medicine in Panama City, Florida, and is also co-founder of the research company VitalityPro. He and his wife, Regina Owens, have two sons, Samuel and Levi. (13708 Front Beach Road, Panama City Beach, FL 32413)

## 1994

**Lance Boyd** has been named chief executive officer of Merit Health Natchez. He previously was chief operations officer for Tennova Healthcare Turkey Creek Medical Center in Knoxville, Tennessee. He completed his master's in health care management

from Champlain College in Burlington, Vermont. He and his wife, **Toria Boyd**, have three children. (7205 Canmore Lane, Knoxville, TN 37919)

**Keith Morrow** is vice president of clinic operations at Bothwell Regional Health Center in Brookhaven, Mississippi. He has a master's degree in exercise science from Arkansas State University in Jonesboro and a master's degree in health care administration from Colorado State University-Global in Denver. (1134 Aquila Circle N., Olive Branch, MS 38654)

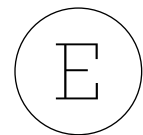
## 1997

**Christopher** and **Carrie Decker Burress** announce the adoption of two daughters, Kylie Marie and Claire Elizabeth, on May 24, 2018. The couple have four other children, Taylor, Logan, Brady and Ellie. (141 Horizon Lane, Alma, AR 72921)



## Baking where you are planted

PROFILE | ELIZABETH KEESE



**LIZABETH KEESE ('14)** DEVELOPED A LOVE for baking at an early age, but she never dreamed of the doors she would walk through as a result. The beginning dates back to a batch of cookies in kindergarten, but Keese's baking career really took flight in a kitchen in Germany.

While attending nursing school at Harding, Keese spent a three-month break visiting her sister overseas. During that time, Keese began baking and decorating cookies in her sister's kitchen, and the dream grew from there. When she returned home, her mom, Pamela Adams Keese ('82), encouraged her to keep baking, which quickly led to the formation of her shop, the Plum Peacock.

"It was all kind of my mom's doing," Keese admitted. "To be honest, she was my champion and just really encouraged me to pursue [baking] because she could see how passionate I was about it. You know, moms are always like that. They always cheer you on in anything you do."



Keese's creativity opened the door to her next big break. News of Ree Drummond's product line at Walmart had sent Pioneer Woman fans into a tizzy. For Keese, that meant creating cookies to reflect the items coming to the store's aisles. Thinking nothing of it, Keese packaged up several cookies and sent them off to Drummond's home in Oklahoma with a note complimenting and congratulating Drummond on her new line.

"Never thought in a million years would she respond," Keese said. "And then she ended up responding and writing a blog post about those cookies. Shortly after that, she opened her mercantile in Pawhuska. And so that's how I got the job as a lead baker there."

About a year into her job at the mercantile, Keese's mom, her champion, died. In a quest to honor her legacy, Keese found her way to foster care. With that change came a move to Oklahoma City and a new job, and Keese felt her mom's presence and support throughout it all.

"When you have someone that's so encouraging and such a good role model, you just can't help but be inspired by them and try to do better," Keese said.

Keese's new title, executive pastry chef for Swadley's Catering Co. (the largest caterer in Oklahoma), comes with new opportunities to expand her creative palette.

"Basically, I'm in charge of all the desserts that we cater," Keese said. "It's different than when you have a bakery, like at the mercantile or when I had my own bakery, where I make a bunch of stuff and sell it. With catering, people can pretty much order whatever they want, and we'll make it for them. I really love it because I'm always needing to make new things and try out new recipes. I love the creative side of [baking] where I can develop my own recipes and try new recipes out on people. That's where my passion is."

The first creative project she remembers were red, orange and yellow leaf-shaped cookies she made with her mom in kindergarten for superstar week at school. She loves having that same opportunity now to work in the kitchen with her foster kids.

"My mom was always in the kitchen, and I always loved that time with her," Keese said. "So I bake with my foster kids — we make cookies, and they love to help me out with everything."

Though foster care is something she always knew she wanted to do, Keese did not expect to start it at this point in life. Keese said that after her mom's death, the opportunity for foster care fell into her lap and has turned into a beautiful blessing.

"Looking for ways to help and serve has really helped me with where I'm at now," Keese said. "My mission in life is just to bloom where you're planted, see what you can do where you're at in order to better the people around you — better yourself, really ... I think sometimes [God] uses the worst situations to show you his blessings." — Jantzen Haley

**Blane Covert** has been selected to serve as the head of school at The Anthony School in Little Rock, Arkansas. He most recently served as dean of students and English teacher at Episcopal Collegiate School in Little Rock. He holds an M.S.E. from Harding, an Ed.S. in educational administration from University of Arkansas at Little Rock, and an Ed.D. in educational leadership from Oral Roberts University. (9 Glasgow Court, Little Rock, AR 72211)



### 1998

**Christopher Bearden** is senior vice president of Texas Bank and Trust Co. He has a Master of Arts in political science from the University of Arkansas and an executive MBA in banking and finance from Sam Houston State University. (319 Land Grant Drive, Richmond, TX 77406)

**Clint Jones** was named director of the Arkansas Leadership Academy in July. He spent the last four years as superintendent of Huntsville School District. He has a doctorate in school leadership from Arkansas Tech University, an educational specialist degree in educational leadership from Harding, and a master's degree in administration and supervision from the University of Houston-Victoria. He has taught in the educational leadership programs at Harding and Arkansas Tech, teaching courses on school facilities, finance and leadership. He and his wife, **Lorie Baker** ('97), have two children, Hannah and Luke. (635 Madison 7145, Hindsville, AR 72738)

**Kim Hardy Leverett** received her Ph.D. in psychology from Pacifica Graduate Institute in California with an emphasis in psychotherapy. She has an M.S.N. from Emory University. She and her husband, David, have two sons, Lucas and Joel. (1800 Julian Drive, Watkinsville, GA 30677)

**Kim Campbell Shumpert** was named executive director of Chattanooga Women's Leadership Institute May 1, 2018. Prior to joining CWLI, she managed the development team at Bethel Bible Village. She earned a master's in public administration in 2016 from Arkansas State University. She and her husband, **Brad** ('01), have two daughters. (33 Ridgerock Drive, Signal Mountain, TN 37377)

**Karen Reynolds Weaver** is the activity director at Eagle Mountain Assisted Living in Batesville, Arkansas. She is married to Peyton Weaver. (350 Mount Hermon Road, Charlotte, AR 72522)

### 2001

**Jason Robitaille** is the fire chief at Heber Springs,

KEESE PHOTO BY CHERYL WEAVER, COVERT PHOTO SUBMITTED

## ALUMNI AWARDS 2018

### Outstanding Young Alumni

**JAY** ('04) and **ERIN KEMP** ('03) BROGDON possess what one might call gumption. Jay currently serves as the managing director in the investment banking division of Stephens Inc., serving clients on more than \$15 billion of successful transactions. Erin is a partner



at Wright Lindsey Jennings law firm and recently managed her father Dan Kemp's successful statewide campaign for Chief Justice of the Arkansas Supreme Court.

They both hold a deep passion for their jobs and for ministry, and their

success reflects the importance and value of combining the two concepts.

"For several years now, we have encouraged one another to allow our work to be part of our worship," the Brogdons said. "This approach helps remove the typical burdens of a job. It's sort of a Matthew 11:28-30 concept. The Message version says, 'Walk with me and work with me ... Learn the unforced rhythms of grace ... Keep company with me and you'll learn to live freely and lightly!'"

Jay and Erin are both heavily involved in the community. Jay is a deacon at Sylvan Hills Church of Christ and a board member for Spark of Life, a nonprofit focused on grief recovery. Jay also continues to use the athletic skills he portrayed on the basketball court as a Bison to coach both basketball and baseball for numerous youth teams. Erin recently served as executive director of City Connections. She has been recognized as a "Rising Star" by *Mid-South Super Lawyers* since 2013 and was recognized as one of 28 "Women to Watch" by Little Rock's *Soiree Magazine* in 2017. She is a member of Central Arkansas Christian School's board, Harding's College of Business Administration advisory board, and the national advisory board for IF:Gathering, a women's discipleship movement.

Jay, Erin and their three sons live in North Little Rock, Arkansas.

SUBMITTED PHOTOS



# Poised for SERVICE

By JANTZEN HALEY

With a community that spans a history of nearly 100 years and includes more than 64,000 members, the number of accomplishments, awards, recognitions and honors are countless and cover a myriad of fields. Recognizing those who are going the extra mile and exemplifying Christian service is a timeless tradition and one that continues as part of the University's community of mission. This year's alumni award recipients continue the trend for excellence.

### Distinguished Alumnus



**ELIJAH ANTHONY** ('68) has been preaching since the age of 16. He conducts gospel meetings, family seminars, and workshops on religious and educational topics, designing much of his teaching to assist young people in navigating the race relations maze.

"I have always had a love for learning, teaching and counseling," Anthony said. "I am able to serve others by teaching that contributes to salvation and lifelong learning, therefore fulfilling the mission of the church to make disciples and my calling to preach the word."

Anthony is currently pulpit minister for Roosevelt City Church of Christ in Birmingham, Alabama. He previously served in minister positions in New York and Pennsylvania. In addition to his ministerial duties, he has taught and counseled at the high school and post-secondary levels for the past 45 years.

Anthony is one of the first two African-Americans to graduate from Harding. He has been recognized by Outstanding Young Men of America several times during his career, as well as by the Alabama Community College System Chancellor's Award of Excellence as Administrator of the Year for outstanding contributions in the development of a new student orientation program in 2011.

In 2016, Anthony was a panelist for the American Studies Institute Distinguished Lecture Series presentation, "Exploring Race Relations: An Honest Conversation."

He and his wife, Violet Tyree, have two sons and seven grandchildren and live in Pleasant Grove, Alabama.





## Connections

### College of Allied Health

**DAVE ADAMS** ('93), DPT, has been practicing physical therapy in the Mississippi Delta since August 1997. He is co-owner of Hands On Rehab Services in McGehee, Arkansas. He has provided physical therapy in multiple service settings over the years — inpatient, outpatient, home health, pediatric, geriatric and burn center. Adams was the area manager for Therex/Kindred Healthcare and was responsible for director duties, as well.

"I was always attracted to the medical fields," Adams said. "My Aunt Lorna arranged a job shadowing opportunity at a local physical therapy clinic. I fell in love with it that very day."

He has been a volunteer for Partners in Progress, Nicaragua Missions and Delta Center Stage, has been a football coach at the local YMCA, and currently serves as a deacon at South Main Church of Christ. He was honored as Outstanding Rehab Director in 2014 during his time as area manager at Kindred Healthcare. He has also worked as a staff therapist for Delta Regional Medical Center and Bolivar Health and Rehab Center before opening his own business two years ago.

"I have the opportunity to serve God with every patient encounter I have during the day," Adams said. "When people come to see me (or I, them), they are usually in pain or are facing some large health obstacles. They are fighting for hope, for relief of pain, to regain freedom and function. I have the honor of being the hands and feet of Jesus bringing healing and hope to those who really need it."

Adams and his wife, Shannon Black ('94), have three children and live in Greenville, Mississippi.

### College of Arts & Humanities

Born with a passion for music, **RANDY GILL** ('76) knew what he wanted to study when he came to Harding, but he did not expect the path his career would take upon graduation. His more than 40 years in the field of music involves organizing, teaching, leading, writing and producing music for churches around the world.

"I believe music is transformative, and worship music in particular has a unique power to change people's lives," Gill said. "For 40 years I have had the pleasure of working with gifted and committed musicians and ministers, and I have had the incredible honor of having my songs sung by people all over the globe. I am amazed every day at what God has been able to do with my life, and I am grateful for the way Harding has helped shape that life."

During his time at Harding, Gill developed

relationships with his professors in and out of the classroom. Cliff Ganus is one such faculty member, and the two are still friends.

"Randy Gill transferred to Harding with a charismatic personality, uncommon musical talent, performance ability, commitment to growth and energy," Ganus said. "Just the type of student that makes professors look good! His career has taken different paths, all chosen by and centered in his musical skills and his devotion to God."

Gill is worship minister at Otter Creek Church of Christ in Nashville, Tennessee. He is a founding member of ZOE group and has been involved in producing, arranging and writing music for their 21 CDs. Several of those songs, including "Shout Hallelujah," "Magnificat," "Deep Calls to Deep" and "At the Name of Jesus," have found life in churches around the world. Gill also has served as music faculty at Pepperdine University, Oklahoma Christian University and Rochester College.

He and his wife, Lajuana Case ('75), have one son and live in Nashville, Tennessee.

### College of Bible & Ministry

Ministry has defined the life of **DOYLE KEE** ('62), and his 60 years of experience are a testament to his service. He and his wife retired to Searcy in 2017 after a full career serving in French world missions.

While in school, Kee preached for a church in West Point, Arkansas, and worked in campaigns in the northeast U.S., even spending a year preaching for a church in Sitka, Alaska. His first full-time preaching ministry was in Clarendon, Arkansas. From 1963-69, Kee preached for a church in Syracuse, New York, where he had the opportunity to work with French-speaking campaigns in Montreal and Paris.

In 1970, Kee and his family moved to Geneva, Switzerland, to begin a church plant. While there, Kee initiated several new ministries, including publications, evangelistic and medical campaigns, and follow-up work and church planting across Europe, Asia and Africa.

His mark on French world missions is extensive and includes editing, translating and publishing more than 36 books, countless newsletters and webpages in French as biblical resources. He helped establish the Center of Biblical Formation in two locations, World Bible School offices in 15 French-African countries, the Hilton Terry Bible School, and a camp and retreat center for children and French-European churches.

"I get to serve God and others as a teacher

through the spoken and printed word of God," Kee said. "Seeing God at work, first in Geneva and then throughout the French-speaking world has been so rewarding."

He and his wife, Barbara Ethridge ('58), have four children (one deceased) and 11 grandchildren and live in Searcy.

### College of Business Administration

**LINDY LUNCEFORD INGRAM** ('84) is the co-owner of Lone Star Behavioral Health, a psychiatric hospital and the Houston area's largest behavioral health partial hospitalization and outpatient program.

Ingram earned her B.B.A. in business systems analysis as well as her MBA at the University. Upon graduation, Ingram started her career and her family. She moved to Texas and pursued a career in accounting, working as the controller for a banking technology company before she and her husband, Nathan ('84), opened Lone Star Behavioral Health.

Lone Star specializes in treating mental health issues, alcohol abuse and drug abuse. The program utilizes equine-assisted psychotherapy in its programs, so Ingram says she got her start in the industry as a certified horse professional. She currently serves as the chief operating officer and chief financial officer for Lone Star Behavioral Health and the Ingram's other companies.

In addition to her administrative duties, Ingram is a certified medical compliance officer and a certified instructor in nonviolent physical crisis intervention. She donates her time as a member on several community and charitable organizations.

Ingram and her husband live in Magnolia, Texas.

### College of Education

**MICHAEL** ('99) and **ABIGAIL DRAYTON** ('00) **STONE** have dedicated themselves to careers in education since the completion of their degrees at Harding. Michael has served as a teacher, assistant principal and principal at the elementary school level. He also has served as director of federal programs and an adjunct professor at the college level. He is currently executive director of student and equity services for the North Little Rock School District.

"The work I do is rewarding yet difficult at most times," Michael said. "I often work in difficult situations where parents, staff and students are upset, angry or mad. I get to show God through how I handle each case or situation with kindness, understanding, fairness, consistency and love."

Michael has been PTA teacher of the year, PTA



SUBMITTED PHOTOS

## Connections



### Outstanding Alumni

#### TOP ROW

Dave Adams

Randy Gill

Doyle Kee

Lindy Lunceford Ingram

#### BOTTOM ROW

Michael and Abigail Drayton Stone

Rhonda Finnie

Fred Massey

administrator of the year, and on the superintendent honor roll. He has served as a church leader at West Pleasure Church of Christ. He initiated and ran an elementary basketball league with the North Little Rock School District, initiated and supports the elementary flag football and volleyball leagues, and serves as a member of a juvenile crime prevention coalition in Pulaski County.

Abigail holds a master's degree in elementary administration and currently serves as an assistant principal for pre-kindergarten through fifth grade. Her previous roles include special education resource teacher, first-grade teacher, fourth-grade teacher, literacy instructional facilitator for kindergarten through second grade and third through fifth grade, and principal.

"My professors and classes prepared me to bloom wherever I was planted," Abigail said. "I felt that I was ready to work with high risk students; therefore, I gladly accepted my first job as a special education teacher. I see my job as a mission field."

Abigail has been nominated for the district teacher of the year award three times and has been PTA administrator of the year and on the superintendent's honor roll. She is involved with the Unity Health Auxiliary, Ronald McDonald House, Jacob's House and Arkansas Christian Ensemble singing group. She has also been a preschool Sunday school teacher, ladies' Bible class teacher and Ladies' Day speaker.

Michael and Abigail have three children and live in Sherwood, Arkansas.

### College of Nursing

**RHONDA FINNIE** ('02) was led to the field of nursing after spending time at Arkansas Chil-

dren's Hospital upon the diagnosis of a malignant brain tumor in her 2-year-old son. With full support from her family, Finnie enrolled in Harding's nursing program. She is now a nurse practitioner with Baptist Health Neurosurgery Arkansas and the Baptist Health neurology/stroke program.

"Nursing is a calling, I believe," Finnie said. "The ability to use your knowledge, skills and education to help people is a blessing. The fact that I get to do that with great clinicians who have great faith and belief in their own calling is an encouragement to me. We are here to care for others in the most vulnerable times. I have been inspired by patients and families who are facing death bravely and confidently in their faith in God."

Finnie felt that encouragement during her time at Harding, too, where many faculty members impacted Finnie in her faith and taught her the importance of taking care of herself as well as others. One such faculty member is Jackie Harris, assistant professor of nursing.

"Leadership has always been one of Rhonda's defining characteristics, and that has been consistent throughout her professional life," Harris said. "Her intellectual curiosity and positivism in combination with her compassion and Christ-like servant attitude has contributed to her ongoing success and achievements in nursing."

Finnie was a nominee and finalist for Nurse of the Year in 2018 presented by Arkansas Business. She also was a nominee for Compassionate Nurse in 2018 presented by Publishing Concepts Inc. She is the first chair of the Advanced Provider Committee at Baptist Health and also works with the Stroke Process Improvement Committee.

She and her husband, Chris, have two daughters and live in Judsonia, Arkansas.

### College of Sciences

**FRED MASSEY** ('59) has used his gifts as an oncologist with a specialty in women's health to aid in his calling to ministry. While much of his career was spent serving in the U.S. Air Force and operating a private practice, his experience also includes many medical mission trips to Nigeria, Kenya, Ghana, Tanzania, Guatemala and Mexico.

"I wanted to do mission work, and I thought I could best do that as a doctor," Massey said. "I found that the gynecologic oncology training was excellent preparation for medical mission work."

Massey served as a general medical officer for the U.S. Air Force from 1961-81, serving at Holloman Air Force Base in Alamogordo, New Mexico, and Wilford Hall Air Force Base in San Antonio, Texas. He was promoted to chief of gynecologic oncology at Wilford Hall. From 1981-2010, Massey had his own private practice in San Antonio, Texas.

"In the office of my private practice, I kept a stack of pamphlets on 'how can I be saved?'" Massey said. "Over the years, hundreds were taken. I also was able to serve others doing surgery in third-world countries where people had no access to medical care."

Massey has received numerous awards for his service, including the Meritorious Service Award from the U.S. Air Force, Award of Honor from Nigerian Christian Hospital in 2016, and the Henry Farrar Award from the International Christian Hospital Foundation in 2017. He served as president for the Felix Rutledge Society and is a member of the Society of Gynecologic Oncology.

Massey and his wife, Peggy Ann Robertson ('59), live in Helotes, Texas. They have five children — Karen Stork ('80), Christopher (deceased), Terry ('84), Jon ('84, deceased), and Patrick ('91).



Arkansas. He has 16 years of fire experience and has previously served as chief of the Calaveras (California) Consolidated Fire Protection District. He has an associate degree in fire technology and another in paramedics/EMS. He is married to **Leah Eddy** ('04).

2002

**Elizabeth Solano** was recently named to Arkansas Business' 2018 Women to Watch. She serves as regional director for external affairs for MISO Energy. (3052 Windwood Drive, Little Rock, AR 72206)

2004

**Timothy** ('02) and **Cassie Gilliam Anderson** announce the birth of a son, Bridger Gatlin, March 21, 2018. They also have a daughter, Landry. (10919 Schiebel Drive, Holts Summit, MO 65043)

Graham and **Carrie Springer Cook** announce the birth of a daughter, Cora Graham, Nov. 3, 2017. Graham owns Partners Realty as well as Escapology, a live escape game in Montgomery, Alabama, and Carrie is a homemaker. They have another daughter, Florence Emma. (460 Pine Forest Drive, Wetumpka, AL 36093)

**Bobby** ('05) and **Candice Bush Garner** announce the birth of twins, Alexandra and Maxwell, Dec. 1, 2017. They have two other children, Georgia Quinn and Jude. (9255 County Road 637, Dexter, MO 63841)

2005

**Jason Ayers** is lead video editor at Your Creative People. He founded his own video production company and worked as a videographer, writer and producer with Sliced Tomato Productions and FOX Carolina. (200 Bannerbrook Drive, Simpsonville, SC 29680)

**Justin** (HST '14) and **Mary Ellen Legg White** announce the birth of a son, Nolan Gabriel, July 7, 2018. Justin works as an inventory auditor, and Mary Ellen is a speech-language pathologist. They have another son, Jameson. (1384 Whiting St., Memphis, TN 38117)

2006

**Timothy Shipp** has been awarded a Certificate of Added Qualifications from the National Commission on Certification of Physician Assistants. He works at CHI St. Vincent in Little Rock, Arkansas, and is an officer in the Air National Guard. His wife is **Melissa Plunk** ('10). (406 River Oaks Blvd., Searcy, AR 72143)

2007

**Mark** and Vanessa **Legg** announce the birth of a

daughter, Windley Reagan, June 22, 2018. Mark is a facility designer for Publix. (5277 White Egret Lane, Lakeland, FL 33811)

2008

**Jay M. Green** is director of health care services at Butterfield Trail Village. He has been certified by the state of Arkansas as a licensed nursing home administrator since 2009. He earned an MBA with a concentration in health care management in 2017. (338 Hidden Creek Place, West Fork, AR 72774)

**Nate** ('10) and **Katie Ulliman Ramirez** announce the birth of a son, Arthur Allen, Nov. 4, 2017. (503 Key Largo Drive, Searcy, AR 72143)



Even back in 1968, the cover of the Lectureship brochure announced the theme for the Bible lectures which were held Monday-Thursday of Thanksgiving week with a barbecue dinner for all on Thanksgiving Day. This year's Lectureship had the theme "Written in Stone: The Enduring Value of the Ten Commandments" and occurred Sept.30-Oct 3.

Lance and **Michelle Parrish Tate** announce the birth of a daughter, Bennett Hazel, March 16, 2018. (P.O. Box 187, Chouteau, OK 74337)

2009

**William E. Brown** became the minister at Aberdeen Church of Christ in June. He graduated from Southeastern Institute of Biblical Studies and is a candidate for a master's degree from Troy University in Huntsville, Alabama. He also has ministered in Tennessee, Indiana, Oklahoma and Florida. He and his wife, Carrie, have a son, Caleb. (1651 Glen Laurel Drive, Middleburg, FL 32068)

2010

**Riley** ('16) and **Robin Gould Pate** announce the birth of a son, Silas Allen, Sept. 7, 2017. (934 Skyline Drive, Searcy, AR 72143)

2011

**Amber Belcock** is a staff nurse and a relief charge nurse in the intensive care unit at Mercy Hospital Fort Smith. She was named one of the Great 100 Nurses of Arkansas for 2018. (6408 Parkfront Drive, Fort Smith, AR 72916)

2013

**Jessica Head** is director of operations and program development for Venture Center in Little Rock, Arkansas. She also works as a marketing strategy consultant for JH Digital Marketing in Dallas.

**Leslie Killebrew** was promoted to senior designer at CallisonRTKL. (9739 Champa Drive, Dallas, TX 75218)

**Cary** ('15) and **Krista Smith McClurg** announce the birth of a son, Kason James, March 28, 2018. (2202 S.W. 19th St., Bentonville, AR 72712)

2014

**Mary Catherine Pickens** married **Clark Wayne Smith** ('11) on June 16, 2018. Mary Catherine graduated with a bachelor's degree in nursing from the University of Arkansas at Little Rock and is a registered nurse at Arkansas Children's Hospital. Clark has a master's degree in teaching from Southern Arkansas University and is a teacher and basketball coach at Jacksonville High School. (9732 Wild Mountain Drive, Sherwood, AR 72120)

**Derek Mountford** is a trial attorney at Holland and Knight where he focuses his practice on commercial and consumer financial services litigation. He received a juris doctorate from University of Florida. He is married to **Brianna Bach**. (450 Pelican Pointe Road, Ponte Vedra, FL 32081)



Legacy of a legend

By ALLEN BLACK, dean and professor of New Testament, Harding School of Theology

**D**R. JACK P. LEWIS ACHIEVED LEGENDARY status among faculty, staff and students at Harding School of Theology. His legacy at HST includes his status as a scholar for the church, his reputation as a demanding professor, and his unique combination of a humble lifestyle and giving spirit.

Dr. Lewis' training and work as a scholar are awe inspiring. Born in 1919, he learned hard work and perseverance growing up on a family farm during the Great Depression. At the age of 25 he attended Harvard Divinity School, from which he received a Ph.D. in history and philosophy of religion in 1953. In 1962 he received a Ph.D. in Hebrew Bible from Hebrew Union College in Cincinnati. Having a Ph.D. in each Testament and both from prestigious institutions was part of his legendary status.



As a scholar, Dr. Lewis published more than 25 books (a three-volume set on the minor prophets is yet to come) and hundreds of articles. All of his scholarship was done for the church as a part of what he called the Ministry of Study. He wrote articles and books that impacted the broad world of biblical scholarship, but much of what he wrote was directed at providing guidance for churches of Christ. He would even take the time to write lengthy letters to respond to biblical theological questions from those whom he had never met.

As a professor Dr. Lewis placed high demands on himself (writing transcripts for his classes) and on his students. Accepting a teaching position at Harding in 1954, he moved to Memphis, Tennessee, four

years later to become a charter faculty member of Harding's Graduate School of Religion (now HST). Following his lectures was like the proverbial "drinking from a fire hose." If you dropped your pen during his class, you missed a paragraph of notes. It is quite arguable that he was HST's most influential professor, setting a rigorous tone for all who have taught there throughout the years. As John Wilson of Pepperdine University wrote in tribute to Dr. Lewis, "His expectations were high because he believed that the stakes were high. The ministry of the Word is a serious business, he seemed to be saying, and there is no room in it for the shirker."

As a disciple of Christ, Dr. Lewis lived a life of fundamental integrity. Among his extraordinary qualities was what Randy Harris, speaking at his funeral, described as a unique combination of frugality and generosity. He lived a very modest lifestyle: dwelling in the same small house throughout his 60 years in Memphis, driving what most would consider to be old clunkers and never wearing anything that could be considered stylish. His humble lifestyle was obvious to all who knew him. Fewer knew (because he did not blow trumpets) that he gave remarkably generously to HST (especially its library) and to the church. He pinched pennies to turn around and give them away.

Dr. Lewis set the tone for HST. For all who knew him, and many who only heard, he is a legend. I have emphasized his phenomenal scholarship, his demanding teaching style and his frugal yet generous lifestyle. Much more could be said about other matters like his years of service as an elder and Bible school teacher, his labors to help missions and missionaries, and his work in the Holy Land including leading more than 30 tours. Thanks be to God that he gave us Jack P. Lewis for 99 years. 🙏

*Jack P. Lewis, 99, died July 24, 2018. He was preceded in death by his first wife, Lynell Carpenter, and his second wife, Annie May Alston ('39). He is survived by two sons, John ('69) and Jerry ('75); and two grandchildren.*

2018

**Mesa Allison** became LeTourneau University's head men's and women's cross-country coach in April. He also serves as assistant track and field coach. He is married to **Z'Ann Hardin** ('17). (3401 U.S. Highway 359, #321, Longview, TX75605)

**Alexandra Longley** is an interior designer for Polk Stanley Wilcox Architects in Little Rock, Arkansas. She worked as an intern for their interiors department in fall 2017.

**Sydney Layrock** married Riley Jenkins on May 19, 2018. She is Greene County Tech Junior High girls basketball coach. (86 Lawrence Road, #134, Black Rock, AR 72415)

Passages

**Joe Delton Betts** ('52), 95, of Abilene, Texas, died March 31, 2018. He served in the U.S. Navy during World War II, spending his time in the Pacific Theater. He and his wife spent 50 years as missionaries in post-war Japan. He taught at Ibaraki Christian College where he became chairman of the board, preached for surrounding churches, directed the Old Peoples home, and helped run Hitachi Christian Camp. He was instrumental in establishing several congregations in the area. He preached his last sermon only 27 days before his death. He was preceded in death by a son, Robert; and his wife, **Ruth Majors** ('52). He is survived by three children; Donna Hanson, **Becky Tribble** ('77) and **Thomas** ('81); five grandchildren; and eight great-grandchildren.

**Wilma Ruth Majors Betts** ('52), 86, of Abilene, Texas, died March 20, 2018. She always wanted to be a missionary and in 1956, she and her husband settled in Ibaraki, Japan. While her husband taught and preached, she learned to navigate the language and culture. She grew as much of the family's food as possible and canned everything she could. She also prepared her own textbook on teaching western-style home economics to Asian students for Ibaraki Christian College. She orchestrated quilt giveaways to the less fortunate, clothes-mending parties for children in the children's home, and was recognized by the governor of Ibaraki for her community good works. She was preceded in death by a son, Robert. She was survived by her husband, **Joe** ('52), who died 11 days after her death. She is survived by three children, Donna Hanson, **Becky Tribble** ('77)

PHOTO BY JEFF MONTGOMERY



and **Thomas** ('81); five grandchildren; and eight great-grandchildren.

**Betty Jo Harmon Todd** ('56), 84, of Harrison, Arkansas, died July 5, 2018. She was a homemaker, artist, crafter and seamstress as she made clothes for her children. She was a Bible class teacher and member of Bergman Church of Christ. She is survived by her husband of 64 years, **Stephen** ('53); four children, **Mark** ('79), Michael, **Jolene Nutt** ('83), and **Sandra Johnson** ('85); nine grandchildren; and one great-granddaughter.

**Margaret Ann Hardy-Haugland** ('58), 81, of Marietta, Oklahoma, died Jan. 6, 2018. While attending Harding, she spent her summers working at Blue Haven Christian Camp in Las Vegas, New Mexico. After graduation, she returned to New Mexico where she met her husband. She taught school in Houston, Dallas and Indianapolis. After retirement, she and her husband traveled full time in their RV as part of Sojourners. She is survived by her husband of 59 years, Gary; three children, Mark Haugland, Kerri Savage and **Kay Shumate** ('85); and five grandchildren.

**Homer Daulton Picklesimer Jr.** ('58), 85, of Volga, Kentucky, died April 3, 2018. He was a minister for 65 years, serving the longest at Stambaugh (Kentucky) Church of Christ. He also was an educator with the Johnson County Public Schools for 33 years. He is survived by his wife of 51 years, Linda; four children, George, **Jonathan** ('93), **Jeanette Maxey** ('94) and **Laura Kretzer** ('98); two siblings, Everett and Betty Gorey; and eight grandchildren.

**James David Hobby** ('62), 78, of Arlington, Texas, died March 9, 2018, following an almost 40-year battle with tongue cancer. He graduated from then Harding Graduate School of Religion in Memphis, Tennessee, with M.R.E. and M.Th. degrees. He served more than 20 years as a campus minister beginning at Southeastern State College in Durant, Oklahoma, where he began the campus ministry work and later at University of Texas at Arlington. He then taught science in the Birdville Independent School District for almost 15 years. He is survived by his wife of 55 years, **Karen Hershey** ('64); two children, Kim Wagner and **Jim** ('92); two siblings, **Anita Mitchell** ('66) and **Kenneth** ('69); and six grandchildren.

**Suzanne Stanford Gunter** ('63), 77, of Johnson City, Tennessee, died May 30, 2018. She received a master's degree from the University of Tennessee. She taught home economics at Freed-Hardeman one year and was chairman of the department. She licensed day cares for Knox County, Tennessee, from 1965-66. She taught at University School for five years in Johnson City. She was a member of the Central Church of Christ. She is survived by her husband, Charles; two children, David and

Ramonda Scott; a sister, **Nina Hausmann** ('67); and three grandchildren.

**Era Glenave Eubanks Curtis** ('67), 87, of Searcy died June 30, 2018. She taught home economics at Harding Academy from 1971-93. She was preceded in death by her husband, **Dean** ('51). She is survived by four children, **Donna Root** ('74), **Kathy Haugh** ('77), **Randy** ('81) and **Carol Jones** ('95); a brother, **Jerry Eubanks** ('59); 14 grandchildren; and 37 great-grandchildren.

**Joyce Anita Reaves Richey** ('70), 75, of Batesville, Arkansas, died Oct. 5, 2017. She taught in Marion, Arkansas, for six years and then spent the remainder of her 55 years as an educator in Batesville as a teacher, principal and LEP/migrant coordinator. She is survived by her husband, John Richey Jr.; one daughter, **Rachel Lewis** ('97); and two grandchildren.

**John Patrick "Pat" Hogan** (HST '72), 68, of Sikeston, Missouri, died May 4, 2018. He served as minister at Green Forest Church of Christ in Poplar Bluff, Missouri, and Kemp Church of Christ in Arcola, Illinois. He had been associate minister at Shady Acres Church of Christ in Sikeston since 1985. He is survived by his wife of 41 years, **Teresa Tatum** ('76); two children, Ryan and Emily Redding; and three brothers, Lee, Len and Tom.

**Kathy Lynne Barton Long** ('72), 68, of Ooltewah, Tennessee, died May 7, 2018. She received two master's degrees in history and geography from Florida State University. She taught at Central High School and Vashti Industrial School for Girls in Thomasville, Georgia, and retired from Chattanooga State Community College after 27 years. She was a member of East Brainerd Church of Christ. She is survived by her daughter, Kelli McCormick.

**Paul Samuel Fredin** ('73), 70, of Edmond, Oklahoma, died March 13, 2018. Paul served in the U.S. Air Force from 1966-68. Due to military service connected disabilities, he retired from heavy equipment sales management in 1999. He enjoyed hunting, fishing and astronomy. He attended Quail Springs Church of Christ. He is survived by his wife of 47 years, **Donna Allen** ('67); two children, Jennifer Theisen and Matt; and six grandchildren.

**Greg Marr** ('76), 67, of Tallahassee, Florida, died July 25, 2018, from injuries sustained in a fall along the Appalachian Trail. He graduated from the University of Miami School of Law. He worked as a surveyor for the U.S. Forest Service, as an auditor for the state Department of Health and Rehabilitative Services, and as an inspector general for the Department of State. A former Republican Party state committeeman for Wakulla County, he also was a member of the Boy Scout's Order of the Arrow. He served as a former deputy bureau chief for the Florida Department of Revenue, an inspector with the Florida Department of

Law Enforcement, and a prosecutor with the Department of Financial Services. He is survived by his wife, Denise; a son, Greg Marr Jr.; two siblings, Jeff and Donah Hamlin; and two grandchildren.

**Phillip Hayes Jameson** ('77), 63, of Richmond, Virginia, died April 27, 2018. He received his master's degree in speech and theatre at West Texas State University in 1984. When his wife was commissioned as an officer in the U.S. Air Force Nurse Corps, he became a military spouse calling many places home throughout her 26 years of service. He studied art in Florence, Italy, in recent years. He is survived by his wife of 40 years, Lt. Col. **Paula Myers** ('75); his mother, Mary Evelyn Henry Jameson; and two siblings, Ruth Ellen Dixon and Mark Henry Jameson.

**Karen Gail McFann Rickman** ('78), 62, of Bono, Arkansas, died April 12, 2018. She received her master's degree in school counseling from Arkansas State University in 1980. She taught school and was an elementary school counselor from 1985-2018 and also was a member of Valley View Church of Christ. She is survived by her husband of 33 years, David; three children, Daniel, Kari and Katelin; one brother, Keith McFann; and one granddaughter.

**Robert Wood "Woody" Turnbow Jr.**, ('78), 61, of Mobile, Alabama, died April 7, 2018. He is survived by his wife of 20 years, Tammy Nettles; two daughters, Michele Phillips and Alaina; his parents, **Robert** ('53) and **Peggy** ('53); two siblings, Donald and Tracey Love; and two grandchildren.

**Deborah Kay Black** ('79), 61, of Milan, Missouri, died May 29, 2018. She was a homemaker and of the Christian faith. She is survived by two daughters, Stephanie Woolfolk and Stacy Kay Cumings; one sister, Lynn Jackson; and six grandchildren.

**Charles "Chuck" Leslie Weeks Jr.** ('82), 59, of Little Rock, Arkansas, died Aug. 7, 2018. He worked as a construction contractor and was a member of Pleasant Valley Church of Christ. He is survived by his wife of 34 years, **Lesla Davis** ('83); four children, **Leslie Rowland** ('10), **Davis** ('13), **Payton** ('14), and Patrick; his parents, **Charlie** ('57) and **Bea**; and three grandchildren.

**Jeffrey Allen Treusdell** ('84), 58, of Nacogdoches, Texas, died April 11, 2018, from cancer. During his trips to MD Anderson, he used every opportunity to share Christ with patients, nurses and doctors alike. He was a member of North Street Church of Christ, and his business was Lasergraphics Color Printing and Copies. He is survived by his parents, Herbert and Rose Ann Treusdell; his wife, Judy; two daughters, Kelsey Pelham and Laney; two brothers, **Brian** ('84) and **Todd**; and one granddaughter.

**Larry Allen Daughety Jr.** ('87), 55, of Searcy died March 27, 2018. He spent many years of his career

teaching Bible and music at Goodpasture Christian School, Midland Christian School, Ezell-Harding Christian School, Ouachita Christian School, Central Arkansas Christian and Alabama Christian Academy. He pursued a Master of Arts in music at Texas Tech University in Lubbock. For

the last 10 years, he worked for Arkansas Wholesale Lumber of Little Rock, where he was assistant manager. He is survived by his wife of 34 years, **Julie Clark** ('85); five children, **Benjamin** ('06), **Michael** ('09), **Maria Lange** ('12), Brian and **Rebecca** ('12); his mother, **Mary Lou Daughety** ('78);

and four siblings, **John Mark** ('88), **Edward** ('93), **Debra Nesbitt** ('97) and **David** ('99).

**Michael Kelly** ('87), 53, of Searcy died Aug. 5, 2018. He taught English at Arkansas State University Beebe for more than 20 years. He loved Texas Rangers baseball, backpacking the Ouachita Trail and the challenges of major home projects. He is survived by his parents, **Robert** ('63) and Jean Kelly; and one brother, **Steve** ('85).

**Sarah-Jane Shields Bedwell** ('05), 36, of Nashville, Tennessee, died June 21, 2018. She completed her dietetic internship with an emphasis on medical nutrition therapy at Vanderbilt University Medical Center. She served as a consultant for the food and beverage industry. She also served as a media spokesperson for the Tennessee Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics and was the recipient of the 2013 Media Excellence Award. She authored the book *Schedule Me Skinny: Plan to Lose Weight and Keep it off in Just 30 Minutes a Week*. She taught Sunday school and was active in the Friendspeak program at Hillsboro Church of Christ. She is survived by her husband, **Joe** ('04); her parents, **Doug Shields Jr.**, ('75) and Rebecca B. Shields; her grandparents, Dr. Doug and Cora Beal Shields Sr.; and two siblings, **Laura** ('04) and Bradley.

**Katherine Anne Villines Thomas** ('09), 37, of Benton, Arkansas, died April 14, 2018. She is survived by her husband, Jared; one son, Luke; her mother, Dana Villines; and one sister, Amanda Cowger.

**Botham Shem Jean**, ('16), 26, of Dallas was tragically killed Sept. 6, 2018. He came to Harding from St. Lucia and participated in student government, was a member of Sub T-16 social club, sang in Good News Singers, and was involved in numerous service and outreach events in the community. He was a risk assurance experienced associate with PricewaterhouseCoopers. He was a member of the church of Christ and was most known for his charismatic and powerful worship leading. He is survived by his parents, Bertrum and Allison Jean; three siblings, Brandt, Allisa Findley and Valdez Franklin; and his grandparents, Gloria Charles, Errol Gill, and Eulalie and Evans Jean.

**Joyce Marie Curry Gilpin**, 78, of Searcy died May 13, 2018. She worked at Harding University for more than 27 years in the dining rooms of Pattie Cobb, Charles White and Harding Place. She was a member of Cloverdale Church of Christ. She is survived by her husband of 57 years, **Joseph Manly** ('88); four children, **James** ('88), **Milton** ('85), Janice Ibarra and **Michael** ('96); five siblings, Ralph, Wayne, Sybil Walker, Eunice Robertson and Gladys Williams; and nine grandchildren.



## Leader, friend, encourager

PASSAGES | GEORGE OLIVER | 1935-2018

By ALLEN FRAZIER, dean and professor, Carter College of Business Administration

*"So encourage each other and build each other up, just as you are already doing."* 1 THESSALONIANS 5:11

**G**EOGE OLIVER WAS AN ENCOURAGER. He was my first boss when I was hired at Harding in 2001. I quickly learned that he was very different from any other leader I had experienced in my previous career in financial services. It was obvious I wasn't a perfect teacher as I began my teaching career, but in looking at my first performance reviews, he was always encouraging and uplifting to me as he helped mentor, shape and develop me as an educator. He wasn't just a boss after all, he also was a supportive friend.

Oliver encouraged and mentored countless young, Christian professionals as they spent time in his classroom. It was not unusual for the students to see him role play various leadership styles using hats. Let me explain. I invited George to speak at a leadership seminar, and he started his presentation wearing a Goofy hat, then put on a military hat, then a coach's cap, etc. With each hat came a change in demeanor, voice, volume and character. He taught in a memorable way as he mentored and developed each student.

My predecessor and now vice president for Advancement, Bryan Burks, said, "I placed tremendous value on his wisdom and experience. When I was appointed dean of the College of Business in 2002, he was the first person I asked to serve on the newly formed executive committee. He had a wonderful reputation among the students and was well respected by faculty not only in our program but

across our campus. His involvement and leadership with Accreditation Council for Business Schools and Programs was crucial to our ongoing accreditation. At every regional and national accreditation meeting I attended for 15 years, I always heard appreciation of Oliver for how he led the organization as president and his involvement in accreditation visits of other schools. He was a wonderful ambassador of Harding University across the nation. Through all his many good works, he let his light shine for all to see for the glory of God."



We will miss George Oliver — leader, friend and encourager. 🙏

**George Huston Oliver** ('57), 83, of Searcy died June 15, 2018. After graduation from Harding, he served in the U.S. Army. Upon honorable discharge, he worked for 25 years in Michigan, first with Pontiac Motors and then with the U.S. Army Tank-automotive and Armaments Command. He directed the Metropolitan Detroit Youth Chorus. At age 50, he completed his master's and began teaching at Harding as a professor in the School of Business serving as both chairman of the department of management and dean of the School of Business. In addition, he was vice president/president-elect, president and immediate past-president of ACBSP and chaired the National Strategic Planning Committee. He retired after 30 years in May 2015. He was preceded in death by his wife of 60 years, **Joy Vinson** ('60) and a grandson, **Blake Hunter** ('15). He is survived by three children, **Debbie Starks** ('93), **Mike** ('82) and **Dedra Hunter** ('86); a brother, **Bill** ('60); nine grandchildren; and 11 great-grandchildren.

PHOTOS BY JEFF MONTGOMERY



# Finding beauty abroad

Compiled by HANNAH OWENS

**L**IKE OTHERS WHO HAVE TRAVELED ABROAD, I often find it challenging to choose a single memory or event from my time in Europe that is my favorite. However, I can say with confidence that the Lord used the three months I spent in Florence, Italy, to grow and challenge me in ways I never thought were possible. My experiences abroad helped me grow individually in my relationships and as a young man. Although I learned many things through my travels, I would like to share just a few of them that I believe played a crucial role in shaping and changing my perspectives.

The first would be to not let fear ever stop you from doing anything. This will most likely cause regret. I found courage to do this through Joshua 1:9. "Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid, do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go."

God also used my time at HUF to show me that he loves us, and he shows this to us through his creation. I was blessed to see some of the most beautiful locations in all of creation while abroad. However, God's most beautiful creations are the individuals we meet every day. People are good, and we shouldn't let the evil in a small few change our feelings for mankind.

While at HUF, I became familiar with a phrase, and it is one that I will hang on to for the rest of my life. "Aggressively seek beauty every day." Everyone that goes to HUF will hear this a million times. But it has truly changed my life. Thank you Robbie Shackelford for instilling this desire in all of us. I have learned to strive to find the beauty of the Lord in almost every moment. Every second that you live, the Lord and creator of everything you see, feel, touch, smell or taste loves you. That's amazingly beautiful in itself.

We hear a lot of bad things on the news in our everyday lives. However, my time at HUF taught me that beauty surpasses all corruption, and God's beauty will continue to shine through his people and creation. Our God has made a truly beautiful world for us to spend our lives. I will always be thankful for my time at HUF and how the Lord used it to change me.

**IAN MOHORN**

Marketing major from Springdale, Arkansas

Attended HUF spring 2018

**ONE OF MY FAVORITE MEMORIES** from HUG was when we were in Philippi at St. Lydia's Basilica! The church was beautiful and was right next to the same river [where] Paul met Lydia. The acoustics were great, so we spent our free time singing in the church. It was so neat to spend time praising God in a place we read about in the Bible.

**SHANNON BEATY**

Exercise science major from Smyrna, Tennessee

Attended HUG spring 2018

**ON OUR FIRST SUNDAY IN INDIA** while studying abroad in Australasia, our program director Pam had us load onto a van to head to church in Delhi. Once we got off the bus, we followed a series of streets that finally led to a little house where church service was held. In the front of the congregation, a dozen orphan children were shouting worship songs to Jesus in English with huge smiles on their faces. Tears immediately started streaming down my face as I was in awe of such a humbling sight. I was uncontrollably crying tears of joy. These children knew very little English, but yet they were able to worship in both English and their native language of Hindi with the most joy I had seen. They had very little and didn't have families of their own but were given a new life and family in Jesus Christ through people who loved them and God very much.

**HALEY MILLS**

Nursing major from Rochester, Minnesota

Attended HUA fall 2017

For more study abroad memories, visit [magazine.harding.edu](http://magazine.harding.edu).



ILLUSTRATION BY JENNIFER ALLEN

# SAVE *the* DATE

NOVEMBER 27, 2018



Join the global giving movement the Tuesday following Thanksgiving and help raise \$200,000 in 24 hours for Harding University.

This is a great opportunity to make a year-end gift.

Your gift makes an eternal difference for the next generation of students who join the Harding community.

[hugathertogive.com](http://hugathertogive.com)

(active for only 24 hours starting at 12 a.m., Tuesday, Nov. 27)

# HARDING

UNIVERSITY

Office of University  
Communications and Marketing Box 12234  
915 E. Market Ave.  
Searcy, AR 72149-5615

*Electronic Service Requested*

Nonprofit Org.  
U.S. Postage  
**PAID**  
Little Rock, AR  
Permit #420

## Final Frame

PHOTO BY JEFF MONTGOMERY



Finis Caldwell, a member of the first graduating class of the Graduate School of Religion (now Harding School of Theology) in Memphis, Tennessee, joins in the 60th anniversary celebration by blowing out the candles on the cake during the reception held in L.M. Graves Memorial Library. Addressing guests in the chapel preceding the reception, Dr. Evertt Huffard, former vice president and dean, gave the history of the school and quoted founding dean Dr. W.B. West Jr. who said the school was "founded to provide maximum service to the church and humanity."