

# HARDING

SPRING 2018

STORIES FROM THE  
HEART OF THE  
FIRST LADY





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PHOTO BY ABBY TRAN

# Memorable moments

By BRUCE D. McLARTY, *president*

**S**INGING “THE LORD BLESS YOU and Keep You” is one of the special Harding traditions I cherish. We sing it to the graduating seniors as they stand at the front of the Benson on their last day of chapel, and the faculty sing it to these same students eight days later at commencement. Three ceremonies May 5 concluded the spring semester. All of these occasions created memorable moments.

One of the highlights of the spring had to be hearing former first lady of the United States Laura Bush, pictured on the cover, address the crowd at the last American Studies Institute presentation of the school year in April.

One of the most beloved and admired American first ladies, she has launched groundbreaking education and health care programs in the U.S. and abroad. As chair of the Women’s Initiative at the George W. Bush Institute, Mrs. Bush continues her work on global health care innovations, empowering women in emerging democracies, education reform, and supporting the men and women who have served in America’s military.

Mrs. Bush became the fourth member of the Bush family to address our campus and spoke the day before former first lady Barbara Bush died. In Laura Bush’s ASI address, she described her mother-in-law, “Bar,” as her role model.

Another memorable moment involves the heartwarming story of how Bison athletes worked together to create Alissa Carter’s Make-A-Wish dream of a fairy treehouse (page 12). All Harding athletes are involved in service activities including Bison Buddies and Bisons for Christ. For so many young students, athletes are



influential role models, and Bison athletes make a positive difference in the lives of many young students in White County.

A snow day Jan. 16 made for yet another memory and some very happy students. In the story “How Harding Works” on page 23, you will learn how the decision is made to cancel school as well as several other behind-the-scenes looks at some of the inner workings of Harding.

The *Petit Jean* continues to be a source of tremendous pride and joy at Harding. The 2018 yearbook with the theme Synthesis was presented in chapel April 24 and distributed at a festive event on the front lawn. I love the way that signing yearbooks has become popular again and is one more indication that our time at Harding University is full of memorable moments. 📖



## HARDING

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

**COPY EDITOR/WRITER**  
Jennifer Hannigan, '08

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

**SPORTS WRITER**  
Scott Goode, '97

**PHOTOGRAPHERS**  
Jeff Montgomery, '91  
Abby Tran, '17

**CONTRIBUTORS**  
Joanna Crisco, '97  
Steven Frye  
Megan Ledbetter, student writer  
Kaleb Turner, student writer

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

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

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

**EMAIL**  
hardingmag@harding.edu

**WEBSITE**  
harding.edu/mag

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## #HUspringsing18

SELECTIONS FROM SPRING SING WEEKEND MARCH 29-31 📷

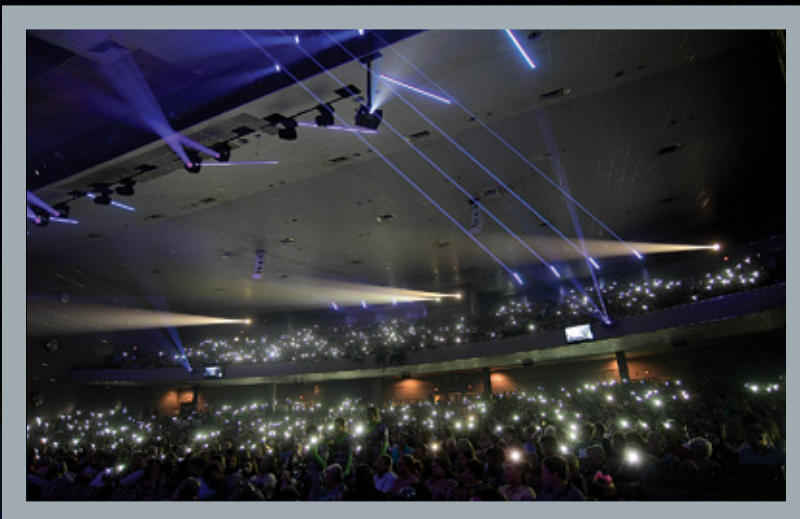
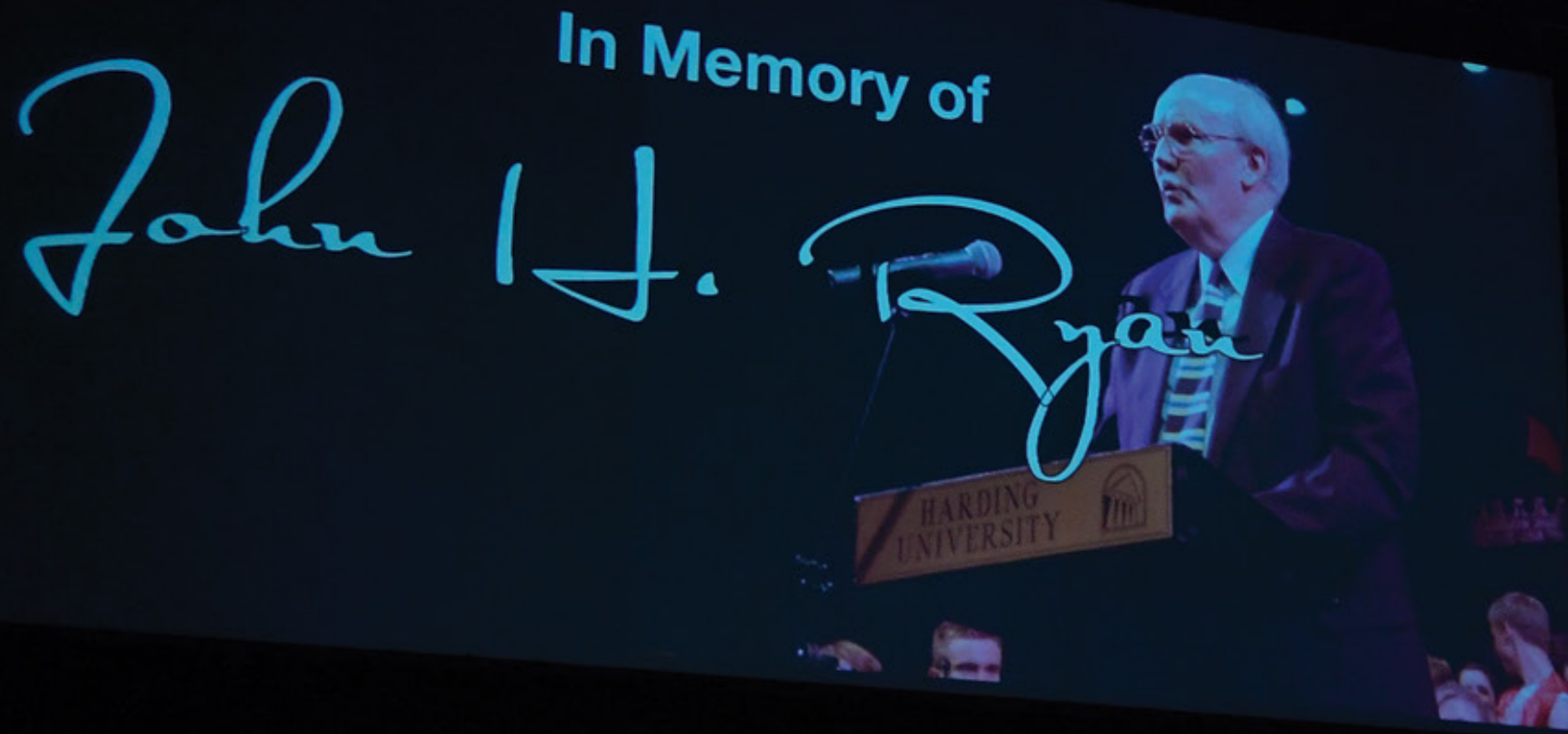


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PHOTO BY JEFF MONTGOMERY

Spring Sing hosts and hostesses Brooks Bennett, Caroline Ritchie, Maxwell Ross and Ava Carmene Galyean continue the tradition of singing "United We Stand" near the close of the final show March 31. The song took on additional meaning this year as the production was dedicated to Dr. John H. Ryan, the first producer of Spring Sing at the University, who died March 12. In the inset, the audience uses the flashlight function on their mobile phones during the singing of the song to honor him. For Dr. Steven Frye's tribute, see page 35.

PHOTOS BY JEFF MONTGOMERY





# Around Campus



Legacy Park Phase V offers home sites next to campus.

## Legacy Park Residential begins next phase

WHEN FIRST PLANNED in 2007, Legacy Park was designed to be part apartments for students and part residential neighborhood for faculty, staff, alumni and friends. The first three phases included 28 apartment buildings, student health services and the campus Starbucks. Phase IV, the first part of Legacy Park Residential, which began in 2016, created 20 single-family home sites with 15 homes completed or under construction. Legacy Park Phase V offers an additional 20 home sites for houses ranging from cottages to larger homes.

The proximity to the University provides easy access to campus restaurants, amenities, and events such as concerts, athletic events and guest speakers.

Administrative assistant for the Waldron Center Patti Summers and her husband, Dan, assistant professor in the College of Business Administration, live in a home built in Phase IV,

and the couple has quickly felt integrated into the Legacy Park community.

"We have had a sweet welcome visit from so many neighbors since we moved in," Summers said. "Being able to walk down the street to Starbucks and walk through the First Ladies Garden is a super way to start a Saturday morning."

Legacy Park was named in honor of those who have been a part of the University's heritage, and Summers hopes her home can speak to that for future generations.

"As a former history teacher, I think one way to understand the history of a community is in its houses," Summers said. "In the future, others will live in this house as part of the Harding community, and I hope those future generations will reap the full benefits of the community being established here."

Visit [harding.edu/legacypark](http://harding.edu/legacypark) to find out more information.



Colorful homes line the street as Legacy Park Phase IV nears completion.

## Pharmacy receives continued accreditation

THE COLLEGE OF PHARMACY has been awarded continued accreditation by the Accreditation Council for Pharmacy Education, recognized by the U.S. Department of Education as the national agency for the accreditation of professional degree programs in pharmacy. The continued accreditation is extended through June 2020.

The ACPE Board of Directors made its decision to continue accreditation status following a meeting Jan. 17-20, 2018. The conclusion was based on a self-study, an on-site evaluation, and ongoing annual review of NAPLEX pass rates as well as other program materials.

"Continued ACPE accreditation validates the hard work of all our faculty and staff who are dedicated to providing a quality Christian pharmacy education," said Dr. Jeff Mercer, dean of the college.

The College of Pharmacy, which began offering a four-year program of study leading to the Doctor of Pharmacy degree in 2008, is celebrating its 10th year.



PHOTO BY JEFF MONTGOMERY

## Weaver chosen first international programs distinguished fellow

THE OFFICE OF INTERNATIONAL programs announced its first distinguished faculty fellow this spring: Dr. Beckie Weaver, dean of the College of Allied Health. The designation allows Weaver to guest lecture at the international location of her choice and provides a \$5,000 contribution for her college.

Weaver was selected by staff members within the international programs office based on her international experience, support of international programs, student evaluations and commitment to learning.

"For nearly 10 years, Dr. Weaver conducted evening orientations for international program students to prepare them to study abroad," said Dr. Jeff Hopper, dean of international programs. "She did this without compensation or load credit; rather, she did it for the love of the students and programs. Additionally, she started her own graduate program in Zambia through our office to give her graduate students a service and mission experience. As an administrator, Dr. Weaver has been generous with her faculty and staff, always freeing them to be able to serve in our programs, usually at a cost to her own work. When Dr. Weaver has taught at HUF or elsewhere, she has done a remarkable job."

Thanks to gifts from generous donors, in addition to the fellow position, the funds provide students program-specific scholarships to study abroad. As many as 30 students can become financially eligible to attend a program they would not have been able to afford otherwise.

"I want to use this opportunity to highlight what a fabulous opportunity international programs are to particularly the undergraduate students in my college," Weaver said. "Many in my area feel that, because of their course loads, they cannot study abroad. But they absolutely can, and we can help them. A student's life is so expanded, and there are so many benefits that come from an overseas experience that can open up their world."



HOWELL PHOTO SUBMITTED; WEAVER AND MEEKER PHOTOS BY JEFF MONTGOMERY

## Nursing launches accelerated B.S.N.

CARR COLLEGE OF NURSING will offer an accelerated Bachelor of Science in Nursing beginning in fall 2018. The program was developed to help meet the high demand for registered nurses across the U.S. and is designed for individuals seeking a B.S.N. who have already earned a bachelor's degree in a non-nursing major.

The Carr College of Nursing was recently named the top RN program in Arkansas based on students' performance on the NCLEX-RN exam, which is used by all state boards of nursing across the United States to help assess a student's competency and is required for licensure. The school's five-year pass rate is in excess of 97 percent and 100 percent for the past two years.

"We designed this track for those who may be working in other professions and feel called to nursing," said Dr. Susan Kehl, dean of the college. "We believe the program is exceptional because of our diverse clinical experiences and strong, proven curriculum. Our commitment to academic excellence combined with a mission-driven approach to care enables nursing students to put their faith in action."

The full-time program allows students to complete a B.S.N. in as little as 18 months. Upon completion of the program, graduates will be qualified to sit for the national licensure exam to become a registered nurse.

A forecast by the Bureau of Health Professionals states there will be a shortage of 800,000 nurses by 2020. In response, the Institute of Medicine recommends the proportion of working RNs with bachelor's degrees increase to 80 percent in order to meet the needs of an aging population and the evolving health care system across the U.S.

The accelerated option provides both a path for students eager to launch their careers as quickly as possible and helps fill the significant need for registered nurses.

"Given the current and future nursing shortage, we believe that offering the second degree B.S.N. option at Harding will allow us to serve more students and ultimately benefit the public," Kehl said.

## Meeker named chair of communication sciences and disorders

THE COLLEGE OF ALLIED HEALTH has appointed Dr. Melanie Meeker chair of the department of communication sciences and disorders effective July 1, 2018.

Meeker, assistant professor of communication sciences and disorders, has been with the University since 2008. She has been a part of both the graduate program in speech-language pathology and undergraduate majors in CSD. Meeker has served as a member of the Interprofessional Steering Committee for Harding's Center for Health Sciences. She was awarded a Teacher Achievement Award by the University in 2016 and is an officer in the Arkansas Speech-Language-Hearing Association.

"Dr. Meeker is well respected by her peers and students," said Dr. Rebecca Weaver, dean of the college. "Since the beginning of the speech-language pathology graduate program in 2008, she has been an integral faculty member particularly in the area of interprofessional education. Dr. Meeker is devoted to providing meaningful academic experiences in a Christian environment."

Meeker received her B.A. in communication disorders from Harding; M.S. in speech-language pathology from the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences; and Ph.D. from the University of Central Arkansas, University of Arkansas Little Rock, and University of Arkansas Medical Consortium. Meeker's expertise is in adult neurogenic communication disorders, dysphagia, interprofessional education and practice.



Meeker succeeds Dr. Dan C. Tullis, who joined the faculty in 1979 and retires in July. He is a past recipient of the Distinguished Teacher Award. Under his guidance, the communication sciences and disorders program has grown from a major offered under the oversight of the department of communication to a separate department with two undergraduate majors as well as a graduate program.

Meeker's expertise is in adult neurogenic communication disorders, dysphagia, interprofessional education and practice.

Her appointment brings the number to 27 men and women serving as Harding's governing body.



## Howell new board member

ARKANSAS businesswoman Stephanie Howell was added to the board of trustees March 18, 2018.

Howell is the manager of Carter Family and Associates in Bentonville, Arkansas, where she oversees daily operations as well as provides financial services support. She also serves as president of the Tri S Foundation, whose mission is to provide funding to Christian-based organizations. Howell is an owner of Environmental Testing Group Inc., a certified environmental laboratory, which she co-founded with her late husband, Malcolm.

"Stephanie brings to the board the important perspectives of a highly engaged alumna, a mother of current students, the daughter of a longtime board member, and a professional with experience in family business and in working with nonprofits," said President Bruce McLarty. "The board will be strengthened in a number of ways by the addition of Stephanie Howell."

Howell graduated in 1987 with a bachelor's degree in accounting. She has two daughters enrolled at Harding: Katherine, a senior psychology and Spanish major, and Emma, a freshman math major.



# BY THE NUMBERS

## MILESTONES

### 126

Number of faculty and staff members who were recognized for 10, 15, 20, 25, 30, 35, 40, 45 and 50 years of service at the Faculty/Staff Banquet on April 20

### 2008

Year the College of Pharmacy began

### 25

Number of consecutive years the University has hosted the Arkansas Special Olympics

### 3500 B.C.



Year the small juglet, located in the Linda Byrd Smith Museum of Biblical Archeology, was created by hand, making it the oldest artifact in the museum

### 42

Number of years the Carr College of Nursing has gone on mission trips

### 1993

Year the first Honors Symposium was held



## HEARD in CHAPEL

JAN. 8, 2018

"It is important for us to come together regularly to remember that the Lord is God, to remember why we are here, and that there is a why that goes with the what of our education at Harding University."

**President Bruce McLarty**

FEB. 9, 2018

"The most important thing about love is listening, and God doesn't just listen to respond; he listens to understand. We can know God is listening by the story of Jesus Christ."

**Isaac Davis, Bible and preaching major from Garland, Texas**

FEB. 23, 2018

"One of the most masterful things God created is you."

**Dr. Andrew Baker, director of the Mitchell Center for Leadership and Ministry**

MARCH 13, 2018

"Fifty-three percent of those who are age 16-19 said

that they would rather not have their sense of smell than give up their technology. ... Out of all the senses, sense of smell is the most neglected in forms of worship in the Christian faith. Who can stand to be the weight of the fragrance of Christ? As brothers and sisters of Christ, we do."

**Dr. Ben Mitchell, bioethics expert**

MARCH 19, 2018

"We never know when we are going to break through a quest or a desire."

**Earl Young, Olympic gold medalist**

MARCH 27, 2018

"With God in your life, anything is possible. The only disabilities that any of us have in our lives is a negative attitude."

**H.K. Derryberry, motivational speaker who was born blind with cerebral palsy and has other medical issues due to a car accident**

## EVENTS

JUNE 9-14, 16-21 AND 23-28

### Uplift

From seventh-graders to graduating seniors, Uplift campers come together for a week of devotion, celebration and spiritual growth on Harding's campus. In addition to classes and speakers, campers also enjoy activities and entertainment. [upliftonline.com](http://upliftonline.com)

JUNE 14-15, JULY 12-13 AND AUG. 15-16

### Bison Bound

Formerly called Stampede, Bison Bound is the University's required summer orientation program. Students will tour campus, enroll in fall classes, and begin developing friendships with fellow incoming students. [harding.edu/bisonbound](http://harding.edu/bisonbound)

**BUSINESS EXPERIENCE: JUNE 15-29 HONORS SYMPOSIUM A: JUNE 22-JULY 6, B: JUNE 29-JULY 13, C: JULY 6-20, AND D: JULY 13-27**

### Summer Academic Institute

This summer's newest Summer Academic Institute offering is Business

Experience, which engages students in hands-on practical projects and encourages them by learning from successful business leaders. Along with Honors Symposium, the academic programs provide high school juniors an opportunity to embark on a life-changing journey where students from across the nation come together for the purpose of growing spiritually and academically. [harding.edu/honors](http://harding.edu/honors)

JUNE 19-21

### Abundant Living Seniors Ministry Conference

As the fastest growing demographic in our churches, people who are 65 and older have the potential to be the best church resource because of their wisdom and life experience. At this conference held in the Liberty Room on campus, church leaders and ministers can learn ways to mobilize this amazing group of Christians for greater service in the kingdom. [abundantlivingseniors.com](http://abundantlivingseniors.com)

SEPT. 30-OCT. 3

### Lectureship

#### WRITTEN IN STONE: THE ENDURING VALUE OF THE TEN COMMANDMENTS

This year's Lectureship will provide an in-depth study of the Ten Commandments. Attendees can look forward to participating in uplifting worship services led by Keith Lancaster and learning more about the significance of absolute truth, the role of God's moral laws in providing stability to life, and the relationship of the law of Moses to the new covenant of Christ. [harding.edu/lectureship](http://harding.edu/lectureship)

OCT. 9-12

### Abundant Living senior retreat

Join seniors from across the country and enjoy devotional periods, inspirational presentations, mission outreach reports, fellowship and fun in Branson, Missouri. [abundantlivingseniors.com](http://abundantlivingseniors.com)

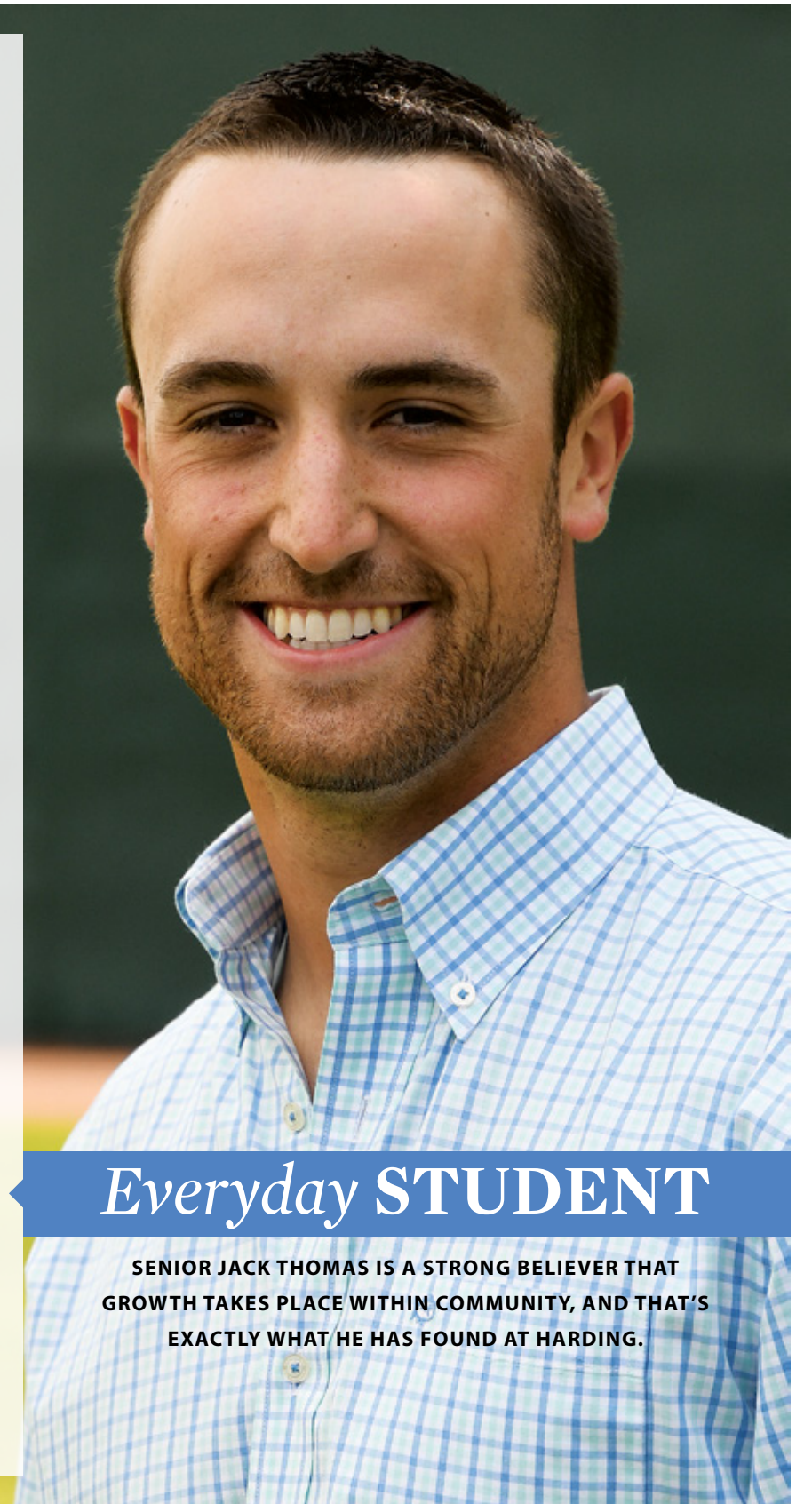
For a complete list of events, visit [harding.edu/calendar](http://harding.edu/calendar).

**BATTER UP** Jack Thomas, a senior from Little Rock, Arkansas, was recruited in high school to play baseball at the University. "Andy Schatzley, the hitting coach and recruiting coordinator for Harding, hosted my family during my junior year of high school. I quickly fell in love with the campus and what the baseball program was all about." A marketing and leadership and ministry double major, Thomas has always been fascinated with business and what elevates elite companies over their competitors. "Marketing plays an intricate role in consumer behavior and integrates itself into every facet of business operations. As far as leadership and ministry, I was drawn to the curriculum as well as the opportunity to obtain a second degree."

**INVOLVED** As a member of the baseball team, Thomas was elected president of the Student Athlete Advisory Committee. In this position, he serves as a liaison between athletes and athletic administration, leading monthly meetings with student athletes and administrators. He organized and executed a campaign to expand the Bison Buddies program, which started with a single school and now sends more than 100 student athletes each week to six different schools across White County to promote the value of education. In addition to his athletic participation, Thomas is a member of Honors College, Omicron Delta Kappa, Alpha Chi, Delta Mu Delta and the American Studies Institute of Distinguished Students. Additionally, he participated in Bison Athletes in Training program, studying in Europe during summer 2017.

**FINDING COMMUNITY** Thomas emphasized the relationships and memories made with his teammates and friends will stay with him forever. "Spiritually, Harding has surrounded me with a community that will continue to sharpen me through each phase of life. I am continually amazed at the quality of people who walk across this campus. Above all else, in my time at Harding I've developed a deeper understanding of Jesus Christ and the community of believers. And for that, I am very thankful."

**THE NEXT STEPS** Upon graduation, Thomas is heading to Washington to serve in the United States House of Representatives as a summer intern in Congressman French Hill's office. In this position, he will conduct legislative research, speak with constituents, and complete other directed projects. Thomas will utilize his final year of baseball eligibility while earning his Master of Business Administration from the University's Graduate School of Business. — Dillon Holsonback



## Everyday STUDENT

SENIOR JACK THOMAS IS A STRONG BELIEVER THAT GROWTH TAKES PLACE WITHIN COMMUNITY, AND THAT'S EXACTLY WHAT HE HAS FOUND AT HARDING.

PHOTO BY JEFF MONTGOMERY

PHOTO BY JEFF MONTGOMERY



## Health sciences magazine begun

FOLLOWING MORE than a year of planning and production, the University launched a health sciences magazine in February. Titled *Outcomes*, the publication highlights the activities and accomplishments of Harding's health sciences programs, students and graduates and will be produced annually.

With the first graduate programs in the health sciences now surpassing the 10-year mark, Director of Publications Tom Buterbaugh conceived the idea for a magazine geared specifically to health sciences programs and their interests. The project was then proposed by Dean of Pharmacy Jeff Mercer and supported by Dean of Allied Health Beckie Weaver and Dean of Nursing Susan Kehl, who make up the editorial board. Publications Writer Jennifer Hannigan is editing the publication with Carol Jones from the College of Pharmacy serving as managing editor. Jeff Montgomery is photographer, and Buterbaugh serves as designer. Numerous



individuals from all five colleges and departments wrote stories thus proving the magazine's tag line "An interprofessional approach to health care."

The magazine serves two purposes: First, it creates a distinct connection

with health sciences program alumni and reinforces their value to the University by giving them a voice and content relevant to their Harding experience and their professions. Second, the publication promotes the value of the University's health sciences programs and people within the medical community both locally and globally.

Print copies of *Outcomes* were sent to health sciences alumni, clinical sites, preceptors, partner programs, sister schools and medical professionals across the country. The magazine's website is [harding.edu/outcomes](http://harding.edu/outcomes) and provides the opportunity to opt in to receive a print or electronic version of the next issue.



Rachel Gibson works on illustrations for *The Worst First Day*.

## Student illustrates *The Worst First Day*

WHEN GRAPHIC DESIGN major Rachel Gibson of Longview, Texas, came across a photo of Elizabeth Eckford, one of the Little Rock Nine, she was moved.

"A lot of people see these moments and these still photos and don't realize that was an everyday thing," Gibson said. "Elizabeth went to school for an entire year in an environment where no one cared how she was doing or what happened to her."

Since she first came across the photo in 2016, Gibson has spent significant time drawing the photo. When she attended the American Studies Institute's Distinguished Lecture Series presentation of Ruby Bridges in spring 2017 and heard that Eckford was in the audience, she knew she wanted to give the drawing to her somehow.

"I talked to the person who was with her and said that I had an illustration of Elizabeth Eckford if she wanted it," Gibson said. "He told me to email it to him, so I donated the photo to the Little Rock Central High School library."

Gibson's drawing of Eckford was used as the cover of the Little Rock high school's Memory Project, which is a collection of stories about people who lived through the conflict during the Civil Rights movement. Soon after, Dr. Eurydice Stanley reached out to Gibson to see if she would create some illustrations for a book she, her 14-year-old daughter and Eckford were writing to tell the story of Eckford's experiences at Little Rock Central High School.

"They saw the initial drawing that was the cover of the Memory Project, and they wanted

that same style," Gibson said. "Originally when I was drawing it, stylistically I wasn't doing it to impress anyone. It was very messy and imperfect. It was high contrast and black and white. But she really liked it because it was messy and wasn't pretty. She liked how that could add to the storytelling of Elizabeth going to school."

Gibson created 10 illustrations for the book based on an outline of images the writers wanted to add to the story. She created all of the illustrations first with pen and ink, and then she transferred the tangible drawings into digital files in Photoshop to make any changes or adjustments.

"I did a lot of research just to get in the moment," Gibson said. "I found a clip of a newscaster following Elizabeth as she walked into school, and I heard the crowd that followed her. It was a terrifying, eerie sound. She was just this quiet, small girl going to school. She looks very brave in this photo, but she was confused and terrified out of her mind, and you just hear this sound of anger and hate behind her."

She completed the final illustrations for the book in December 2017. Copies of the book signed by the author are available for purchase at Pyramid Art, Books and Custom Framing in Little Rock, Arkansas.

"I was really encouraged and honored to work with the incredible women who wrote and produced this book," Gibson said. "I am just so floored that I got to use something I'm really passionate about to tell an incredible story like Elizabeth's and be included in the message she's trying to spread."

PHOTO BY ELIJAH SHEFFIELD

## MY VIEW SAM JEFFREY

### The reality of gun violence

On Feb. 14, a student of Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Florida, walked inside the school with a .223-caliber AR-15 rifle and killed 17 people. The tragedy sparked national demonstrations from high school students who called for stricter gun laws.

In a February staff editorial in the University newspaper, *The Bison*, the staff wrote, "This is *The Bison's* fourth article regarding a mass shooting this school year. As students, we have lived most of our lives in a country accustomed to mass shootings. We have become desensitized to hearing the death tolls of our peers ... " We talked with Sam Jeffrey, assistant professor of behavioral science who spent 10 years with the CIA, to learn more about his perspective on gun violence.

FEAR ARISES from a lack of understanding, and there is no topic that generates more fear than the issue of gun violence in our schools. This lack of understanding comes from the inability to find trustworthy information and the overwhelming emotions of every gun control conversation. It is peculiar to me that I get asked about gun violence perhaps more than any other topic. I certainly understand why. It is a near constant in the media that would have you believe that every one of the approximately 100,000 schools in the U.S. is a powder keg. It's peculiar because according to the only reliable source of statistics, the FBI, the number of mass shootings in the U.S. have leveled

off to around 20 incidents annually with a high of 26 in 2010, and the majority of these do not take place in schools. This is not to say that we don't have a problem with gun violence in schools — we clearly do. It is simply to say that ignorance of a problem leads to counterproductive emotion.

As Christians, we know that Christ is the only 100 percent solution, but this should not stop us from being good stewards of our safety. We should seek reforms that are proven to have an effect: trained and equipped school resource officers, training teachers to spot the clear profile of an active shooter and reach out to them, and offering basic medical training to anyone willing to take it. And we need to train our children how to think and act in an active shooter situation.

None of this should be. In a good world, children would never have to think about such things but we live in a world in desperate need of a savior. We are called to be shrewd as serpents. Serpents deal with the reality in front of them. It's time we get past the emotions and do just that. 📞



PHOTO BY JEFF MONTGOMERY



## NEWSMAKERS

### ATHLETICS

Head cross-country and track coach **Steve Guymon** was inducted into the Oklahoma Christian University Athletic Hall of Fame on Jan. 30, 2018.

**Billy Morgan**, the voice of the Bisons, was awarded the 2017 Sully Award at the Little Rock Touchdown Club annual awards banquet Jan. 11, 2018. The award is presented each year to Arkansas' top broadcast play call for both high school and college football games.

### CENTER FOR STUDENT SUCCESS

**Stephanie O'Brian** was appointed director of Upward Bound in February following the retirement of **Katrina Smeltzer**.

**Scott Palmer** was named academic coordinator for Upward Bound in March replacing **Lynn Smeltzer** who retired at the end of February.

**Jessica McCumpsey** was named assistant director of new student programs in April.

### COLLEGE OF ARTS AND HUMANITIES

Arkansas Gov. Asa Hutchinson appointed **Lori Klein** to serve on the Women's Suffrage Centennial Commission Committee on Dec. 20, 2017. In January, Senate President Pro Tempore Jonathan Dismang appointed Klein to the five-member Arkansas Ethics Commission.

**Susan Shirel** successfully defended her dissertation at Ball State University to earn a D.M.A. with an emphasis in music education and vocal performance. The title of her dissertation is "Using Learning-Theory-Based Teaching Strategies for Teaching Singing: An Explanatory Sequential Study of Collegiate Teachers of Singing."

### COLLEGE OF BIBLE AND MINISTRY

Dr. **Nathan Guy** was awarded the Coventry Prize in recognition for his doctoral dissertation titled "The Theological Basis of John Locke's Political Thought." The award recognizes the student achieving the highest mark or recommendation in divinity at St. Edmund's College, Cambridge, England.

### COLLEGE OF BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

**Mark Farley**, assistant professor, successfully defended his dissertation titled "Optimal Bank Offices and Bank Office Entry in Rural U.S. Markets," on April 4, 2018, at Louisiana Tech University.

### COLLEGE OF EDUCATION

Dr. **Todd Patten**, associate professor and licensed professional counselor, has been appointed chair of mental health and wellness.

Dr. **Leeann Howard**, assistant professor of education, has been appointed director of field experiences. She replaces Dr. **Amy Adair** who returned to full-time teaching.

Dr. **Kimberly Flowers**, associate professor of education, has been named director of educational leadership following the resignation of Dr. **Lynette Busceme**.

**Pat Bashaw**, assistant professor of education, was appointed director of the Master of Arts in Teaching program. He replaces Dr. **Susan Grogan** who will continue teaching full time while devoting more attention to literacy and dyslexia studies.

### COLLEGE OF SCIENCES

The family and consumer sciences department awarded two students, **Elizabeth VanCuren** and **Savanna Phares**, the opportunity to attend the Food and Nutrition Conference and Expo in Chicago during October 2017. It is the world's largest conference of food and nutrition professionals and experts.

### OFFICE OF THE SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT

Dr. **Jim Carr** has been named to the editorial board of the *Journal of Institutional Real Estate* — Americas edition.



## Granting a wish

By SCOTT GOODE, assistant athletic director for sports information

**S**HE THOUGHT she'd won a coloring contest. On Feb. 27, 11-year-old Alissa Carter, a Searcy resident who has tuberous sclerosis complex, a rare genetic condition, headed to Rhodes-Reaves Field House to collect her prize — a chance to meet Harding's athletic teams and receive a gift from each. Alissa received a gift, but it was much bigger than she expected. Thanks to the work of Harding's Student Athlete Advisory Committee that raised more than \$8,000 and the Make-A-Wish Foundation, Alissa found out she was receiving a fairy treehouse built in her backyard by Natural State Treehouses of Fayetteville, Arkansas.

She was ecstatic. Her family was thrilled. It was a joyous experience for Bison athletic teams, which congratulated her on the court after the reveal. The big day for Alissa was almost three years in the making and was quite an undertaking for Harding's SAAC. The SAAC has at least two representatives from each of its athletics teams. Its purpose includes organizing community service efforts. In July 2015, two members of Harding's SAAC — Jack Thomas of the baseball team and A'ndi Haney of the women's basketball team — attended the Great American Conference's SAAC retreat at Arkansas Tech University in Russellville. At the retreat, officials from the

GAC encouraged student athletes to take ownership in raising money for Make-A-Wish. At the time, each institution was responsible for raising \$1,000 each year to send to the GAC. The conference office would then send the money to the NCAA. Six months later in January 2016, Thomas and Haney led a Harding SAAC meeting and introduced the possibility of granting a wish for someone in the White County area. The difficult part of this proposal was that the Harding SAAC would have to increase significantly its fundraising activity. To grant a wish to a local child, athletes would need to raise \$8,000. The idea was well-received by the SAAC members, and the decision was made to go after their goal

in the 2016-17 school year. "We thought, 'This will go over great with the Harding community,'" Haney said. "Harding is a community of mission and service. It was something that we knew we had to strive to do." Thomas was equally optimistic about the increased fundraising effort. "I knew that if we could divide it up over a couple of school years that we could do it," Thomas said. **AS THE SCHOOL YEAR BEGAN**, the SAAC organized many fundraisers over three years to raise money for the project. The men's and women's basketball teams raised money in a contest at Midnight Madness — the women won and enjoyed smashing the faces of the men's team with pies. Men's tennis player and now student assistant Neto Cacace led Week of Restaurants fundraisers over three years where local restaurants donated between 10-20 percent of the proceeds to the Make-A-Wish cause. "Mi Pueblito was amazing with its support of our efforts," Cacace said. "The restaurant helped us all three years. Other restaurants that worked with us were Rock House, Zaxby's, Pasta Grill, Fuji's, El Almacen and Burrito Day." The final fundraiser came with announcements about Make-A-Wish at selected athletic events, and donations were collected. "SAAC members helped pass collection buckets at basketball games, but they were really helpful in getting the word out on social media that we would be raising money at different events," Cacace said. "Each day we raised money we had a different Harding team responsible for publicizing it on social media." Through those efforts the SAAC met its goal of \$8,000. In fall 2017, Harding's SAAC was granted approval to grant a wish on campus. Representatives from Make-A-Wish visited campus and informed the SAAC that it was at the top of the list waiting for a match. In January, Make-A-Wish matched Harding's SAAC with Alissa.



Alissa Carter and her family pose in front of the athletes attending the reveal at Rhodes-Reaves Field House.

PHOTO BY JEFF MONTGOMERY

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

### BY THE NUMBERS



Olivia Ness

**40.6** Percentage senior guard Zac Ward shot from 3-point range in his career, the 10th-best marksmanship in men's basketball history.

**1,571** Career points scored by senior Sydney Layrock, fifth-most ever by a Lady Bison. Layrock joined Kristen Celsor Johnson as the only two players with more than 1,500 points, 700 rebounds and 100 3-pointers.

**8:01.34** Time freshman Nehemia Too ran the indoor 3,000 meters to place second at the national championship in Pittsburg, Kansas, becoming Harding's first to earn All-American honors in the event.

**2** Number of Lady Bison indoor hurdles records broken by sophomore Olivia Ness. She ran the 55-meter hurdles in 8.73 seconds and the 60-meter hurdles in 9.33 seconds.

"We would have been happy with whoever we were matched, but it was extra special to be matched with Alissa since she is from Searcy," Thomas said.

Assistant athletic director and SAAC adviser Brenda Seawel worked with Make-A-Wish during the next few weeks to plan the logistics of the reveal.

"Once we learned we were matched to grant a wish, everyone pitched in to put together an amazing event for Alissa and her family," Seawel said. "The local Make-A-Wish liaisons met with our SAAC, and everyone quickly volunteered to help in various ways. There was a lot of coordination to set a date that would allow the majority of athletes, cheerleaders, band members and fans to be involved. It was a rewarding experience for everyone involved."

On Feb. 27, Alissa found out that indeed she had won the coloring contest and so much more.

She met Harding's athletic teams, and each team presented her with a gift. After competing in a relay race with the volleyball team, Alissa found out she would receive one more gift.

In March, Natural State Treehouses began work on the treehouse and finished the project within a few weeks. Several Harding athletes visited the Carter family to see the treehouse firsthand and witness the culmination of a three-year dream.

"The Harding SAAC has made great progress in the past few years," Seawel said. "We currently have a very good group in place, and I hope we will keep that momentum going. Because of their leadership, our community is learning more about our student athletes' involvement in positive activities outside of their athletic endeavors. I'm proud of this group's commitment to enhance the student athlete experience while at Harding." 📱

PHOTO BY JEFF MONTGOMERY



# FOSTERING FAMILY

*How God knit two couples together with one group of siblings*

By JENNIFER HANNIGAN  
*Photography submitted*

“It’s been a total God thing,” Monique Richardson Scrip (’09) says. When she and her husband, Matt, adopted three brothers out of foster care, they knew their family would grow, but they didn’t expect to bring another family into theirs — the family who had adopted the boys’ two sisters, alumni Matt (’08) and Kelly Allen White (’07). The journey they have shared together has redefined what family looks like for them.

FOR MATT AND KELLY, the motivation to become foster care parents came from different directions. The first was through a video shown in their church from The Call, a Little Rock, Arkansas, organization that encourages churches to get involved in the foster care system. Kelly went on to find a book on foster care with a Christian focus only to discover the author also lived in Little Rock and was one of the founders of The Call. Kelly and Matt went to an informational meeting, planning on signing up for respite care to aid foster families, and left having signed up to be full-time foster parents. Nine months later, after filling out their paperwork and getting it approved, they got their first little boy March 12, 2012, who stayed with them for nearly eight months before returning to his birth mother.

“What started out as something I’d be doing on the side turned into something we both became incredibly involved with,” Kelly says.

“Matt got really passionate about foster care, too, and has been on the board for The Call in Pulaski County for a couple of years. Fostering and adoption are huge parts of our lives.”

In January 2013, the couple got a call about a baby girl in the neonatal intensive care unit.

“I got the phone call about Eliana when I was in the airport,” Kelly says. “Usually in foster care, you get a phone call about a child and then they drive right over, but with her, we had a little time between the phone call and her arrival.”

Eliana’s sister, Kate Marie, and her three brothers, Bryson, Devin and Adrian, had been placed into foster care after Eliana’s birth. While the siblings were together for a time, eventually Devin went to live with another family, and in August 2013 Kelly and Matt appealed to the case worker to have Kate Marie, who was 2 at the time, come live with them. While bringing in a toddler was a transition for the Whites, it also was a



Matt and Monique Scrip (right) celebrate the adoption of their sons, Devin, Bryson and Adrian, along with Kelly and Matt White (left), their son Ephraim, and daughters Kate Marie and Eliana (front) — who also are the boys’ sisters — at the Pulaski County (Arkansas) Courthouse.

“There’s this **love** and this **excitement** that they have for each other you can see every time they get together.”

major transition for Kate Marie.

“I think it was really hard for her, and I didn’t understand at the time the impact of being separated from her brothers at that point because that was the only thing that had been stable for her,” Kelly says. “She had been with a lovely foster family previously and now was living with us who she didn’t know and an unfamiliar baby sister.”

Despite living with different foster families, Kate Marie and Eliana had visits with their brothers during weekends with Matt and Kelly. In summer 2014, parental rights were terminated, and the siblings were able to be adopted. The court mandated that the girls remain together and the boys be adopted together, and in November the Whites were selected to be the girls’ adoptive parents.

“Matt and I spent a lot of time begging in our prayers that this would happen. So I remind myself when things get hard or when we’re dealing with some of the messiness that comes with adoption that this is my prayer fulfilled. We actually thought the adoption would be finalized a lot sooner than it was. It took a lot of failed paperwork. We didn’t finalize until February 2016.”

**DURING THE WHITES’** adoption process, the girls continued to visit with their brothers while the Whites continued to pray that whoever would adopt the boys would be a couple they could partner with and who would want to maintain the siblings’ relationship.

At the same time, Monique and Matt Scrip were beginning their adoption process.

“We had always planned to adopt or foster,” Monique says. “Matt has two siblings who were adopted, and I have two siblings who were adopted, so we were always on the same page when it came to adopting.”

They began to work with an agency in their hometown of Memphis, Tennessee, to adopt a baby. But when Monique saw a picture of Bryson, 9; Devin, 8; and Adrian, 7, on an Arkansas adoption website, her husband suggested they reconsider.

“Matt said, ‘I bet everybody sees a picture of a sibling group or older kids and thinks somebody will adopt them, but they don’t ever think they could be the ones to do it,’” Mo-

nique says. “He was the one who asked what would keep us from adopting a sibling group. We decided there was no reason why we couldn’t, so we decided to make that happen.”

Since the couple had already begun the adoption process, they asked their social worker to send their information to the Arkansas Division of Children and Family Services to inquire about the boys. During that time, Monique says there were lots of God signs that this was the path they needed to take, but the biggest came when she had questions with seemingly no answer.

“I started to get nervous,” Monique says. “What if this is harder than we expect? What if they have problems I can’t help them with? All these doubts were coming up, and I couldn’t ask DCFS because they aren’t allowed to tell us anything about the boys. So I prayed for God to make it clear and help me find something out about these boys.”

The answer came in the form of a Facebook message.

Kelly had been watching photos of the boys through Project Zero, a Little Rock organization that works to further adoption within foster care, when she noticed a comment someone had left.

“One day, I saw a post from a girl, and I thought, ‘I think I recognize her name.’”

**During Christmas, Kate Marie, Devin, Bryson, Eliana and Adrian make cookies together. Both the White and Scrip families believe it is important for the siblings to spend time together.**



Kelly clicked on the picture and saw a familiar face from her days at Harding. While Kelly and Monique had known of each other in school, Monique and Matt White now both worked for the same company and saw each other on occasion in the Memphis office. After debating some, Kelly decided to message Monique.

“I said, ‘Hey, I don’t know how far you are along in this process or how serious you are, but the boys you’re asking about are our girls’ brothers.’”

Monique was stunned. She now had an opportunity to learn all about the boys — another prayer answered.

“Because of the boys’ visits to their sisters while Kelly and Matt were fostering, she already had a relationship with them, so I was able to ask all of my questions about them,” Monique says. “Everything she told me was such a blessing because it really helped ease all of my concerns.”

When the Scrips met the boys for the first time, it was at Project Zero’s Disney Extravaganza, and Kelly was able to be there for that first meeting.

“It was like we had always been family,” Monique says. “They did weekend visits for about four months before the adoption was finalized. And as much as we were ready for

them, I don’t think there was a way to prepare. You just jump into the deep end.”

**GOING FROM NO CHILDREN** to three boys, now 13, 11 and 10, required some adjustment, but Monique feels like God prepared her for this calling.

“Our boys are full of energy, and I really feel like God made my personality where all of their activity doesn’t really get to me,” Monique says. “I’m also extremely organized, and that has helped with our family because everything is structured.”

Early on, the Scrips realized parenting would have to look a little different for their family as they had to work to rebuild trust and security that the boys had lost in the foster care system. One thing Monique has found important is being dependable and always being on time or where she says she is going to be.

“I feel like that’s important until they get to the point where they know I’m going to be dependable, and I’m going to be there.”

For Kelly, mending past wounds means being open, especially for Kate Marie, who is now 7.

“Kate Marie is so compassionate and tenderhearted,” Kelly says. “She’s learning to do hard things right now, and I’m really proud of her for that. She’s one of the most resilient people I’ve ever met. We talk very openly about her story because we never want to have any secrets in our family.”

When the Scrips and Whites realized how their families would be entwined, they made a commitment to visit each other every month so their children could spend time with their siblings. The boys remember meeting “Aunt Kelly” and “Uncle Matt” for the first time, and the Whites’ 2-year-old biological son, Ephraim, calls Bryson, Devin and Adrian his brothers.

“We made a commitment to keep our kids together,” Monique says. “We try to get together monthly because we know their bond with each other is so important.”

When the families visit, the kids spend all of their time together.

“There’s this love and this excitement that they have for each other you can see every time they get together,” Kelly says. “They range in age from 13 to 5, but there’s never a



**Being paired with a family with the same ideals and commitments has been a blessing for the Scrips and Whites.**

moment where they’re not all fully invested and interested in each other.”

Monique and Kelly also have found value in having another family to walk alongside and to lean on in hard times. According to Kelly, the connection has made Monique a sister to her, and the Scrips have been a huge answered prayer.

“Matt and Kelly have been the perfect family to do life with,” Monique says.

**BOTH FAMILIES ARE STRONG** advocates for fostering and adopting, and Monique and Kelly feel that the greatest blessing in the process is not what they’ve done by adopting their children, but what their children have done for them.

“I feel like the boys have blessed our lives

in that we get to raise them, and I cannot believe God’s given me this gift,” Monique says.

“God has done a good thing through these kids,” Kelly says. “He showed me his heart for the marginalized and the compassion he has for these children, his creation. He helped me learn to be selfless in ways I might not have had to be before. They’ve done just as much good to me as I ever have to them.”

As the White and Scrip families look at where they began, it is clear that there was an intentional design and designer.

“I’m not someone who looks at a lot of things in life and says that was certainly God’s hand,” Kelly says. “But I personally feel like God led us to fostering in a very intentional way and that God put two families together to make this one big family for our kids.”

FORMER  
FIRST LADY  
LAURA  
BUSH

#HUasi18



During the Q&A session after her speech, Laura Bush answers President Bruce McLarty's questions with wit and candor.

FROM WEST  
TEXAS  
TO THE  
WEST  
WING

By KALEB TURNER

Photography by JEFF MONTGOMERY

**O**n the evening of April 16, former first lady of the United States Laura Bush captivated the full house in George S. Benson Auditorium. The former school teacher, former first lady, and now grandmother was the final speaker of the 2017-18 American Studies Institute Distinguished Lecture Series.

Laura was the fourth member of the Bush family to address the Harding community. Her husband, George W., and her in-laws, George H.W. and Barbara, were previous ASI guests.

University President Bruce McLarty followed her speech with a Q&A session. She shared anecdotes from her time as first lady, her life as a grandmother, and her life in Dallas post-White House.

"As for me, it's come to this," she said in her opening remarks placing a Laura Bush bobblehead doll on the podium. The bobblehead, she said, came

from the gift shop of the Constitutional Center in Philadelphia just a few weeks after President Barack Obama's inauguration.

"It was on the clearance shelf."

The audience's laughter and three standing ovations were clear signs of the love for the former first lady whose grace and strength are built on humble beginnings and a strong sense of family. The following excerpts from her memoir *Spoken From the Heart* and ASI speech give a glimpse into these formative experiences.

## FROM WEST TEXAS TO THE WEST WING

### BROWNIE SCOUT WELCH

Laura Welch was a homebody. An only child, she developed a unique bond with her parents. She had grown fond of the commonalities and community of mid-1900s Midland, Texas. So when she was sent to Camp Mitre Peak (a Girl Scout camp for Brownie Scout Welch), Midland could not have felt farther away.

After a mislabeled letter to home bounced back, young Laura thought her parents would forget to pick her up from Mitre Peak. Of course, they did not. She later became an avid camp lover, but as for her first year at Mitre Peak, home was all she could think of.

Her love for home undoubtedly came from her love for her parents.

Harold and Jenna Welch, “Mother and Daddy” as they were more affectionately known to their only child, made Midland a memorable place for their daughter — despite its scorched earth and wind.

“It helped to be fearless if you lived in Midland,” Laura wrote. “What Midland had by the early 1950s were oil storage tanks and junctions of vast pipelines that carried petroleum and natural gas miles away to more populous areas. Sometimes there would be fires at the storage tanks, explosions followed by big, rushing plumes of flame that turned the sky a smoky red. The incinerating heat would pour into the already scorched air and sky.”

Her parents helped curb the harsh elements of the town — wind and sand that gave way to the sense of hardship that lived within the residents there. The Welches were all but ordinary to Laura. Her detailed memories of her parents are evidence of her deep adoration of the two.

Her mother’s attention to detail in “the Big House,” one of many homes the family lived in because of her father’s work in the construction business of Midland, left memories of turquoise everything — refrigerator and countertops in the kitchen and bed skirts and bedspreads in the bedrooms.

Her father’s favorite meal was chicken-fried steak, gravy and homemade french fries (made, of course, by her mother, Jenna). He kept patches of onion, squash and chilies alive in the backyard because, according to Laura, her parents grew up rural enough to know most everything you eat in high summer and early fall could come “off the vine or out of the field.”

“But Daddy said that he loved his Jenna’s cooking best of all,” she wrote. “He wasn’t like the other downtown men who ate lunch out at a restaurant or ordered at the counter at Woolsworth’s. And so Mother would listen each day for his car to come humming up the street right around noon.”

Her parents’ love for one another perhaps came out of example from her grandparents — specifically her mother’s parents whom she loved and admired dearly.

Hal and Jessie Hawkins lived along the Rio Grande in El Paso, Texas. They were both originally from Arkansas (then moved to Texas), but Jessie’s parents were from France.

Laura had a strong love for Grammee, her maternal grandmother, who was only 21 when Laura’s mother was born.

“I loved my Grammee with a particular devotion,” she wrote. “Not only did she make my clothes and doll clothes, but she also

built my doll furniture by hand, little couches covered in lush brown velvet with tiny navy velvet pillows edged in rich gold braid. I thought they were the most elegant things I had ever seen.”

When she visited her grandparents in the heat of the Texas summer, she would forget the summer’s unpleasantries. She was mesmerized by her grandmother’s intricacies — her collection of rocks and disobedience to the standard dresses and aprons of the local women. (Grammee would wear pants, hats, gloves and long-sleeved shirts to combat the sun.) Her grandmother, she believed, could do anything.

At night, her grandmother would lie with her as the desert breeze put the two to sleep in the guest bedroom.

“Grammee, whose own childhood has been cut perilously short, lovingly created so much of my own,” Laura wrote.

### WEST TEXAS CAMPAIGNING AND BABIES

By the later part of the 1900s, the landscape of her childhood would transform to the door-to-door, hand-shaking campaign trail of George W. Bush’s campaign for Congress in 1978.

When a longtime incumbent of their West Texas district announced his retirement, the seat became open, and the Bushes took to the towns of the 19th District. This would be just the smallest glimpse into the campaigning they would do together.

In her book, Laura described campaigning in the communities of the dry Texas-scape as “retail politics.” They shook every hand and knocked on every door.

Back roads and highways up and down the panhandle gave way to the stories of everyday people and everyday life. George’s Oldsmobile Cutlass became the place where the two grew in marriage and learned the lay of the West Texas land. They learned more of one another while politics became an early staple of their marriage — taking to the congressional campaign trail after just one year of marriage.

“We never worried that any long-buried fact about the other person would appear and surprise us. From the start, our marriage was built on a powerful foundation of trust,” she wrote. “We had been cut, as it were, from the same solid Permian Basin stone. So we drove and we talked and we laughed and we dreamed in the front seat of George’s Oldsmobile.”

The 19th Congressional District of Texas was traditionally Democrat, she recalled in her book, so the newly married couple had their work cut out for them. The first campaign found them in small towns across the district, usually next to a pot of coffee and plate of cookies. Though beside him for the campaign, Laura said she would never give a speech. And George told her she wouldn’t have to.

But a campaign stop in Levelland, Texas, gave way to a broken promise — the only promise George has ever broken, she wrote. Her husband was not able to make the stop, and she had to speak for him. Alongside other candidates and in front of the crowd, she made her case.

“When I finished speaking, I wasn’t particularly eager to do it again, but it also wasn’t nearly as bad as I had anticipated,” she wrote. “In fact, it wasn’t much different from reading a story to my students. ... Suddenly, all my old story hours had a very different use.



Former first lady Laura Bush becomes the fourth member of the Bush family to grace the cover of this magazine.

Out on the campaign trail, I discovered that politics is really about people, and even though I was more reserved than George, I liked meeting the oilmen, the farmers, the moms, and the store owners.”

Their stories took her back to her days as a school teacher. The stories meant the most in both cases — campaign trail or classroom.

Ultimately, their campaigning for the 19th District did not pay off. George lost in the general election, and the two returned to life in Midland. George went back to work in the oil business. Laura started to set up their new home — hopeful to fill their empty spaces with cribs and strollers.

Time at home and hopefulness for a family reaped discouraging results. A mailbox constantly filled with shower invites and birth announcements, and countless baby gifts bought did not help the scenario either. Hopefulness led to sadness, and milestones passed still with no children.

“For the loss of a parent, grandparent, spouse, child or friend, we have all manner of words and phrases, some helpful and some not. ... But for an absence, for someone who was never there at all, we are wordless to capture that particular emptiness,” she wrote. “For those who deeply want children and are denied them, those missing babies hover like silent, ephemeral shadows over their lives. Who can describe the feel of a tiny hand that is never held?”

The Bushes spent two years back at home off the first campaign trail, and in April 1981, Laura learned the news they had been hoping for since their return home. She was pregnant.

They welcomed twins Barbara and Jenna Bush (named after their mothers) into the world Nov. 25, 1981.

### FIRST LADY LAURA

The late ’80s and early ’90s gave way to heavy change for the new family.

In late 1988, the Bushes moved to Dallas. George and an oil business partner put together a group to buy the Texas Rangers. Laura, while a fan of baseball, took less stock in the game and more stock in their new Dallas home.

She became involved in Dallas-area life. She was a PTA and carpool mom at the elementary school where Barbara and Jenna attended. Chairing committees for the Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation, she helped with fundraising for the nonprofit. The Dallas Zoological Society and Aquarium invited her to serve on their board.

Laura became an integral part of Dallas-area society, but their sights were never set too far from Washington where her father-in-law was now serving as president. Laura, George, Barbara and Jenna’s names became regulars on the invite list for state occasions.

In November 1992, her father-in-law lost his re-election to Bill Clinton, and just one year later, her husband announced his candi-

dacy for the governorship of Texas.

It seemed she would be making a few more speeches — a stark contrast to that promise of George’s first campaign. Southwest Airlines became a friend for travel and a dear friend for getting George back home in time for dinner during the hectic campaign schedule.

Laura, though remaining primarily in Dallas to take care of Barbara and Jenna, took to the statewide campaign trail, too.

“I did events as well, speaking to women’s groups all around Dallas and sometimes joining George on the statewide hops,” she wrote. “And when I wasn’t his surrogate, I was the mother of two 11-year-old girls, with their myriad of activities, friends and preadolescent dramas.”

Just six years after moving to Dallas, Laura and the family packed up and moved again, this time to occupy the governor’s mansion in Austin. As first lady of Texas, Laura chose to sharpen her focus on education — a natural fit for the former teacher. She also made Texas’ Department of Family and Protective Services a high priority; when they first moved to Dallas, she began working with the agency, and now as first lady, she continued support and reform.

Although first lady of the second largest state in the nation, Laura was able to maintain a certain sense of normalcy while in Austin.

“Barbara and Jenna love to tell the story of the time we were standing in a checkout line at Walmart in Athens, Texas, near our little weekend getaway lake house, and a woman kept staring at me,” she wrote. “Finally, she said, ‘I think I know you,’ and I replied, ‘I’m Laura Bush,’ as if, the girls liked to point out, of course she would know who I was. Her answer was ‘No, I guess not.’”

In 1997, conversation had sparked about George’s interest in the presidency, and that sense of normalcy was soon relegated.

### THE LOSS OF A FATHER

During George’s run for governor, Laura’s father, Harold, began failing in health due to a series of injuries that began in 1974. But her parents, who were her heroes back to her earliest memories, always made it a priority to see their only child.

Laura recalled one of their final visits and the sweet sense of joy that never escaped her parents.

“Grinning, laughing, they turned to each other, eyes catching, and then they looked up again,” she wrote. “They were happy. No sadness ever unraveled their happiness. In the tiniest thing they could find joy. That morning it was our cat, Cowboy, who had climbed up on our roof. And they entered the kitchen smiling.”

A pure adoration that started early continued forever. Through her father’s failing health, she still saw the man who shaped, molded and reassured her under the incessant sun and heat of West Texas.

Harold became housebound. His mind eroded. At a doctor’s visit,

## FROM WEST TEXAS TO THE WEST WING

he couldn't recall the most recent president — Laura's father in law. All the while, life for the Bushes progressed and campaigns turned into terms. Barbara and Jenna grew up. Laura tried to balance both sides of the weighty scale.

Her beloved father died April 29, 1995.

The burden of grief rested heavily on her mother, the second pillar of influence and strength in Laura's life. She watched as it took years for her mother to move past her father's passing and into well-being.

"Daddy's funeral was on a Monday," she wrote. "Later that week, I was back in Austin. My days were crowded; I did not have too much time to dwell on memories until Christmas when we played our home movies of the girls as babies, and Daddy's face and arms flashed across the frames. And for years afterward, even now, I would dream of Daddy. And in my dreams, he is well."

### FIRST LADY LAURA, AGAIN

Laura's journey to the White House and her second time as first lady (but this time as first lady of the United States) began with an announcement on the lawn of the Texas governor's mansion. Two white metal lawn chairs and a press gaggle accompanied the Bushes as George announced the formation of an exploratory committee — an announcement that really meant he was running.

The announcement, however, did not come without reservations from Laura. She had seen the way the 1992 race had pressed their family and her father-in-law.

"I sat beside George, smiling," she wrote. "But I had been late to sign on to his decision to run. ... I believed in my George, I love him, and I knew he would be a great president. It was the process in which I had far less faith."

Iowa was their very first campaign stop in 1999 like nearly any other candidate running for the presidency. The primary state and all of America soon became familiar to the family, but they tried to seek relief back home in Texas as often as they could while airplanes and hotel rooms became commonplace for the Bushes.

After a primary win and a too-close-to-call general election against Vice President Al Gore, George W. Bush became the 43rd president of the United States (after the U.S. Supreme Court ruled a Florida recount had violated the Constitution), and Laura became first lady — again.

During her time as the nation's 39th first spouse, Laura spearheaded multiple efforts.

Like her time as first lady of Texas, education was at the top of her list. She traveled the globe advocating for literacy and education to create stable democracies. Women's initiatives, both foreign and domestic, filled her time as well. Events like 9/11, Hurricane Katrina,



and the war in Afghanistan marked her time alongside her husband in the White House.

Just under a year into the presidency, 9/11 left the Bushes with a nation turned on its head. Hard days left Laura with emotions and attitudes from her husband that she had not seen before.

"I had originally fallen in love with George due in large part to his sense of humor," she said to the Benson crowd. "But there were days when there was no laughing and no wise cracks — when I looked at his face and saw the gravity of the choices he had to make, when I saw tears in his eyes after visiting the parents and spouses of the men and women who had been killed in Iraq and Afghanistan. Not everyone had the opportunity to see this side of George W. Bush."

When the Bushes left Washington on Obama's first inauguration day, Laura said she departed with a sense of pride for the nation, and she told the audience of her love for the American people.

"When you live in the White House, you live not just with the ghosts of presidents but with the echoes of citizens holding this government to account," she said. "Living there certainly does not make you infallible, but it consistently brings you comfort."

Today, Laura and George are back in Dallas where they live a "normal" life according to Laura. They are heavily involved in the work of the Bush Institute where they work on a number of issues. In particular, Laura still heads up multiple women's and educational initiatives.

Their most cherished post-White House duty, however, is spoiling Mila and Poppy, their granddaughters.

"Mila and Poppy are perfect," she said. "And our daughter Jenna and our son-in-law Henry are thrilled — although they have to be careful of being trampled by George and me in our rush to get our hands on the babies."

From Laura Welch to Laura Bush and from first lady of Texas to America's first lady, Laura has held many titles — including Mimi Maxwell, a name she said her grandchildren, for no apparent reason, bestowed upon her (and George just wants the grandkids to call him "Sir," Laura said).

The woman of many titles, many stories told and many miles traveled left the Benson crowd with a final charge, calling each person to service — whether or not they are addressed as "Mr. President" or "Madam First Lady."

"It's not only the president's job," she said. "It's the job of any American — Republican, Democrat or Independent — who has an urge to take a stand and make a difference and who is willing to step up ... to face the banter, humiliation or even mortal danger. The greatest honor of being first lady was having the chance to witness every now and then, not just my husband, but all of America facing up to fear and shattering change and standing proud." 🇺🇸

# W

When looking at the big picture, it is easy to say that Harding works — it is effective in its mission to educate and serve the world. But to really take in all that the University does, you start to wonder, "How?" How do all of the students get fed? How does the University decide when to close for snow? How do I get to ride on the Harding plane? *Harding* magazine looked at these questions and more to find out

# HOW HARDING

# WORKS

PHOTO BY JEFF MONTGOMERY

## HOW DOES HARDING book talent?

**HARDING HOSTS A NUMBER** of big names each year through concerts and the American Studies Institute Distinguished Lecture Series. Securing artists like Lecrae and Jesse McCartney and speakers like Laura Bush and Ruby Bridges starts with doing homework.

For Kim Kirkman, executive director for the American Studies Institute, that means sifting through the number of suggestions she collects throughout the year and deciding who best supports the standards of ASI. While past world leaders and dignitaries may have held a wide range of religious, social and political beliefs, they have all provided insight into the human condition, like the message of forgiveness from both Holocaust survivor Eva Kor and civil rights activist Ruby Bridges or the lesson in encouragement from educator Ron Clark.

Director of Campus Life Logan Light researches music trends when looking at who to put on the concert calendar. Now that many stream their own music, finding an artist who will appeal to most of the student body is challenging. While Light used to look for up-and-comers, like Taylor Swift or Tori Kelly who were relatively new to the music scene when they performed their concerts at Harding, he now seeks out more established artists.

“I have to do a cost/benefit analysis. I can get an established artist who costs more, but people will know who they are,” Light says. “Or I can get this up-and-coming artist who I’m going to have to really hustle and educate everybody on to get them interested, but they cost less.”

Kirkman tackles the same issues with speakers: big names draw a crowd, but sometimes the student body and community have to be educated on who a speaker is.

“For [author] Eric Metaxas, I think if we hadn’t had his book as the Campus Read, his presentation wouldn’t have been as well attended,” Kirkman says. “With Ruby Bridges, a lot of people knew her story; they just didn’t know her name. We had to show the Norman Rockwell painting and tie her name to her story.”

Once an ASI speaker or musical act has been selected, Kirkman and Light both work through management agencies to check for availability and begin contract discussions. The University has a great reputation among management agencies, and although Searcy might seem like a small place on the map, it is not a deterrent to drawing in talent.

“Harding is very well-known as a university that doesn’t treat artists like most universities do,” Light says. “That has really helped us out because those networks communicate with one another. When someone has to stop in Arkansas, Harding’s name is brought up before we even know about it. The second time we had Needtobreathe, they came to us wanting to start their tour with us.”

When trying to schedule President George W. Bush to speak, ASI had not heard back from him, but fortunately word had gotten to his mother, Barbara, a past ASI speaker. “Somehow Barbara contacted him,” Kirkman says. “She told him that he should come and that he’d like it here. So then we got a response from George W. that he would accept our offer.” — *Jennifer Hannigan*



## HOW DOES HARDING pay for things?

**THERE ONCE WAS A SIGN** on the printer in the library that read, “Your technology fee at work.” If there were signs on everything on campus — from academic buildings and professors to light bulbs and toilet paper — what fee would be at work there?

The simple answer might seem to be tuition and room and board, and much thought and care goes into the calculation of that rate.

“University budgeting is a continual process of minimizing expenses but providing excellent service,” says Mel Sansom, vice president of finance. “We want to spend wisely so that we can keep increasing costs for the students to a minimum.”

The University’s board of trustees works with Harding officials to keep costs down for students. Of the calculated value of a Harding education, students only pay two-thirds of the actual cost with the remainder covered by donations.

“A third of the cost that it takes to run the University students don’t have to pay because of the support from our donors,” says Dr. Bryan Burks, vice president for University advancement. “This includes unrestricted giving, giving for scholarships, giving for programs, giving for buildings, and giving to the endowment that generates earnings to help reduce cost.”

The Harding Fund, one of four ways to donate to the University, is categorized as unrestricted giving, which allows Harding to use the contributions as needed. While gifts used to pay for essentials may not seem significant or highly visible, those gifts all serve a unified purpose.

“By giving a general gift, donors are actually helping all of our students,” Burks says. “If you give to a scholarship, you’re helping one student. Now, that student is very thankful, but if you give to the Harding Fund, you’re actually helping all of our students.” — *Jennifer Hannigan*



TOP PHOTO BY THINKSTOCK, BOTTOM PHOTO BY JEFF MONTGOMERY



## HOW DOES BUFF THE mascot work?

**BEING A MASCOT** takes more than the ability to dance in front of Bison fans and willingness to get overheated in a costume. University mascot Buff the Bison has 16 years of experience having previously been a mascot in high school and community college and for various businesses.

Before Buff came to Harding, the University had not had a mascot on a consistent basis, and the bison costume had not aged well.

“When we started, the costume was in bad shape,” says Robbie Dunning, Buff’s coach and handler. “So I worked with a professional mascot designer in Atlanta to get a custom bison costume for something that was Harding specific and truly Buff.”

To get ready for game day, Buff works with a trainer to build the upper-body strength needed to run with the battle flag as well as to execute the stunts he participates in with the cheerleaders. Whenever Buff performs, he makes sure to hydrate before, during and after because of the extreme conditions his costume creates.

“We’re talking hours of drinking water to get ready because it is 40 degrees warmer inside his costume than the environment he’s in,” Dunning says. “When football season starts in late August, it’s not uncommon for him to drop seven pounds of water weight

PHOTOS BY JEFF MONTGOMERY



## HOW DO ACADEMIC programs work?

**EACH YEAR, DEANS AND DEPARTMENT CHAIRS** are asked to consider what new programs Harding should adopt that would benefit students and work well within the University. Professor of Math Debbie Duke and Associate Professor of English Kathy Dillion saw a need for a program that merged the sciences with the arts when they proposed a new major in medical humanities in 2017. Working with Preprofessional Health Science Administrator Judy Hall and Associate Professor of History J.R. Duke, they began the process of suggesting a new program.

“Harding is a perfect fit for this major since we already embrace the spiritual aspect of life,” Dillion says. “This major provides more classes, forums and venues for the importance of the spiritual life to intersect with the health sciences in a more intentional way.”

With each new program, resources necessary can vary — from requiring new faculty and new classes to using faculty and courses the University already has.

“The medical humanities major is a good example of a new program that does not cost the University much money to start because it is an innovative mix of interdisciplinary courses that already existed and faculty already on staff,” says Provost Marty Spears.

Once programs are submitted, they must go through the new program approval process in the fall. Those that require additional University resources must be considered by the president for approval.

“Once a new program goes through the new program approval process, it still has to be approved by the faculty through the normal academic approval process as well,” Spears says.

The medical humanities major and minor was approved last year, and students were able to start declaring it as their major in fall 2017. — *Jennifer Hannigan*

during a game. Hydration and rehydration are critical to keeping Buff healthy.”

Buff is present at most home athletic events, tournaments and campus events. For this year’s Midnight Madness, Buff was able to achieve his dream of dunking a basketball, and earlier in the semester, Buff helped a local girl’s dream come true, too, as a part of a Make-

A-Wish Foundation wish granting experience. While his job is to encourage Bison athletes and fans, Buff has a fan base of his own.

“He has probably had thousands of photos taken with him,” Dunning says. “He has lots of little fans, too. One of his smallest fans walked for the first time toward Buff.”

— *Jennifer Hannigan*



## HOW DO dining services work?

**HARDING'S DINING SERVICES** are managed by a team of 250 Aramark team members that plan, prepare and present thousands of meals for students, faculty and staff and campus guests every single day. The ultimate goal is to serve great food at a great value, and that is no simple task.

"It's about 4,000 meals a day to be more accurate," says Lou Christopher, senior food service director. "We serve about 20,000 meals a week, and that's just in the cafeteria."

In addition to the cafeteria, dining services also oversees the operation of Chick-fil-A, Panda Express, Einstein's Bros. Bagels, Taco Bell, Starbucks, Java City, Coppa Kettle, two P.O.D.s (Provisions On-Demand) locations and Classic Fare Catering.

Menus are constantly changing to reflect how students eat on campus.

"We meet regularly with students to get feedback and ideas, and continuously add new items with on-trend flavors and Harding favorites," Christopher says. "We also use software that captures daily feedback from guests regarding service and menu items."

Once a menu is decided, dining services begins forecasting — a process used to calculate the number of guests and the quantity of each menu item that needs to be produced — and orders are placed.

"Orders are received almost daily," Christopher says. "Upon arrival, everything is immediately checked, dated and properly stored."

Production starts two days prior to service with the dining team checking recipes and ensuring all ingredients are available. The day before, proteins are cut and trimmed, marinates are made, and vegetables for soups and sauces are cut and measured to the recipe specifications. On the day of service, chefs prepare the menu items continuously in small batches. Fresh food is always coming from the kitchen and being served.

Dining services is committed to reducing waste, and that requires ongoing, tedious planning. After a meal, everything gets documented and recorded into a food waste management system that recognizes opportunities and sets goals to help reduce waste in the future.

"The best way to reduce food waste is to prevent it before it's created," Christopher says. — *Jonathan Murphy*

## HOW DOES PRESERVING Harding's history work?

**YOU KNOW THAT FEELING** when you're going through your old things trying to decide what to keep and assigning some kind of order to the items that tell a story of your history? We all have papers, photographs and memorabilia that mark a specific time in our past and chronicle a timeline of our footsteps through life. Harding does, too, and organizing it is no small task.

"I think it's very important to know where you come from — to know whose shoulders you're standing on," says Hannah Wood, archives and special collections librarian in the Brackett Library.

While the library is full of literary works and collections of research for students to explore and learn from, it also is the home of a University initiative to preserve the history of Harding in whatever form it takes. Wood views her job twofold.

"My responsibility is to preserve Harding's history and also make it accessible for researchers and the Harding community," she says. "It doesn't do any good if it's hidden away in a room somewhere. I have to make it available."

Wood, who has a bachelor's in history and a master's in museum studies, physically and digitally archives everything that comes across her desk. Her intake process of physical documents and photos includes the use of a large book scanner where items first are scanned to store on a server and displayed online

for mass access. ScholarWorks hosts past issues of "The Bison" student newspaper, Petit Jean yearbook, and documents Wood finds or is sent. The physical items live in an archive room just outside her office, and contents are color coded by the individual to whom the original documents belonged.

"We have to keep [the room] cool and dehumidified because that helps with preservation," Wood says. "But you don't want zero humidity. You need a certain level of humidity because otherwise the paper dries out, but you don't want it so humid that things start growing. We try to keep it around 55-60 degrees with about 60 percent humidity."

Harding's archives contain pieces individuals have donated, like never before seen photos of J.N. Armstrong and his wife standing in the snow and pieces Wood comes across including stacks of old speeches Chancellor Emeritus Clifton L. Ganus was getting rid of in his office. Wood's goal is to both document and organize content she is sent and also seek out information crucially missing from Harding's timeline. She views her work as a calling.

"We wouldn't be here without the J.N. Armstrongs, the Mrs. Armstrongs, the L.C. Seares, and the Dr. Joe and Bessie Mae Pryors," Wood says. "We wouldn't be the institution we are without those people, and if you forget the sacrifices they made and the things they did to further the mission, Harding will lose its identity. It's important that we remember that the Harding experience is here because we have this rich history." — *Hannah Owens*



PHOTOS BY JEFF MONTGOMERY



PHOTO BY JEFF MONTGOMERY

## HOW DO SCHOOL closings work?

**WHETHER YOU'RE IN FIRST GRADE** or a freshman in college or have held the same job for 15 years, there aren't many feelings that can compare to waking up to a snow day. Though canceling school means sleeping in and a day to relax at home, it also means whatever was planned that day now has to be postponed.

"Faculty are divided about how they feel about a snow day; some love snow days, and others hate them," President Bruce McLarty says. "Students are not so divided; my experience has been that 100 percent of students love a snow day."

The burden of deciding to close school ultimately lands on McLarty, but he works with a team of others to determine campus safety in inclement conditions. Factors that play into a school closing include more than just road conditions. Sidewalks and parking lots have to be clear for students to walk to classes and chapel, and faculty and staff members have to be able to travel to campus.

"When snow and icy weather occurs, I watch the weather reports and listen to the reports of school closings in our area," McLarty says. "It is very difficult to stay open when the schools in Searcy and White County are closed because so many of our faculty and staff are then faced with child care issues."

McLarty typically makes the decision about a school closing at about 5 a.m. after walking around campus to investigate conditions, talking with the department of public safety, and consulting with Executive Vice President David Collins. Once a decision is made, the news is sent out through Pipeline, social media, and the University's emergency notification system.

"We always try to have the announcement made by 6 a.m. so that people don't start getting ready for school or working on child care if they don't need to do so," McLarty says.

Though conversation and anticipation of icy weather is often talked about when it is in the forecast, Harding has typically averaged one or two snow days a year.

"Do you know what students think is the perfect number of snow days?" McLarty asks. "One more!"

— *Hannah Owens*

## HOW DOES social media AT HARDING work?

**COMMUNICATION IN 2018** looks significantly different than it did in 1998 and even 2008. At the center is social media, and the University has an active presence in that space to better connect with alumni, students and prospective students.

"We have Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, YouTube, Pinterest and LinkedIn accounts," says Jana Rucker, vice president for communications and enrollment. "Wherever our audience is, that's where we want to be with engaging content."

A digital media team creates and curates content for all social

media channels. A content planning meeting is held every Friday morning to discuss content ideas and plan for the coming week so that on Monday morning, the team begins creating and sharing content scheduled for the week.

"A social media presence for an institution is more than just finding something and posting it," Rucker says. "We try to be intentional with the content we post and what messages we send and strategic about when we post to best engage with our audience."

The University primarily uses Facebook to connect with an

alumni audience, Twitter to connect with alumni and students, and Instagram to connect with prospective students and parents. The social media strategy Harding uses follows a set of key messages that the digital team wants every post to communicate, which include "It's great to be at Harding" and "You belong at Harding."

"We want our communication on social media to reflect those core values and key mission that represent the institution," Rucker says. "Sometimes we achieve that through videos and photos highlighting the wonderful people who are here,



and sometimes we achieve that through links to news stories about the numerous events we host on campus. But the true beauty of social media is that our communication with our audiences can be two-way. We don't want to talk to our audiences — we want to talk with them, and we're continuously seeking more ways to do that."

— *Hannah Owens*



## HOW DOES maintenance AT HARDING work?

**IF YOU FIND A RIP** in your window screen, you probably should fix that at some point. If you don't have hot water, you should definitely take care of that within the day. If your dishwasher broke and flooded your whole house, you put down what you're doing immediately and fix the problem. At Harding, a devoted group of approximately 60 employees take care of prioritizing and responding to every maintenance related situation that comes up for students, faculty and staff.

Danny DeRamus has been working for the department of physical resources since he was a student in 1977. Now the director, he leads a group of people in the areas of stockroom management, maintenance, construction, grounds and beautification, and rental housing.

The department manages requests using a work order system in which jobs are requested, prioritized and tracked. Each area has both responsive and preventative jobs to accomplish throughout the year. Preventative jobs typically happen annually or a few times a year, and the summertime is when these types of jobs are in high demand.

"We know that if we don't take care of the preventative responsibilities, we're going to have a problem later," DeRamus says. "So we do those to lessen the impact on others."

Responsive jobs come in the form of requests from all across campus. Once a work request is made either over the phone or online, the physical resources department creates a work order and assigns a priority to the situation. There are three levels of priority — 1 is called "loss of life, property or revenue," and requests assigned priority 1 are situations that would stop the loss of any one of those things.

"If it's a danger to someone, if it's going to cause a problem, or if it's currently causing damage, we're going to take care of it right then," DeRamus says.

Every weekend, there is at least one director, plumber and HVAC worker on call in the case of priority 1 situations. Priority 2 jobs are defined as urgent but not emergency situations.

"If your faucet is dripping, we don't have to stop everything else to go do that," DeRamus says. "It's a normal work order, and we try to get to priority 2 within that day."

Priority 3 jobs are considered routine and have a five-day response time. Though the priority classification system is well organized, the physical resources department also stays aware of big campus events when routine tasks should be a higher priority.

In 2017, the department created a Dorm Inspection Readiness Team to walk through all of the dorms and check and secure lightbulbs, doorknobs and locks, air filters, drawers and other features.

"After the first year of our DIRT team, we had probably the best year of compliments and less angst by parents that we've ever had," DeRamus says. "Part of our job is helping with [student] retention and recruitment. We understand that, and we're trying to put more and more effort into that. Our motto is, 'We're here to serve.'" — Hannah Owens

## HOW DOES THE Harding plane work?

**THE LORE** of the Harding plane has captivated students for generations.

Though commonly referred to as the "Harding Jet," it is technically an airplane, a Beechcraft King Air 350 twin-turboprop to be specific. The plane previously was owned by an entertainment group that included country music icon Dolly Parton.

Since the time of Dr. George Benson, a Harding plane has been used to fly presidents all across the country. The purpose is to make it possible for the president to attend functions he might have difficulty attending because of scheduling demands and the time required to travel to distant locations.

While the president is the primary passenger, there are eight other seats on board that are often filled by other individuals.

Consider the following scenario: In the spring, Dr. Bruce McLarty traveled to Houston to attend an evening reception with future students, alumni, parents and friends. McLarty was accompanied by Dr. Bryan Burks, vice president for advancement; Ken Bissell, senior advancement officer; Ben Treme, assistant director of admissions; and Liz Howell, vice president of alumni and parent relations.

For events like this, it is commonplace for a few lucky students to travel with the crew. They are usually from the area where the event is being held. In this case, Claire Owen, Carson Rodgers, Jared Heyen and Lauren Ogden were selected.

The two upfront seats are reserved for Chief Pilot Ken McConaughay and a student co-pilot.

— Jonathan Murphy



TOP PHOTO BY JEFF MONTGOMERY, BOTTOM PHOTO SUBMITTED



## HOW DOES THE Center for Student Success work?

**AN ALL-INCLUSIVE CENTER** where students have access to extensive support and advising services, the Center for Student Success has many parts.

### ADVANCE Program

Classes and workshops designed to prepare students for the courses they will take as part of Harding's liberal arts curriculum

### Academic Resources

Academic coaching and counseling, tutoring and supplemental instruction

### Academic Services

Helping students discover majors and occupations that they will find most interesting and rewarding

### Career Services

Guidance, coaching and resources to help students and alumni successfully identify and pursue career goals

### Counseling Center

A staff of six professional counselors are available to provide counseling resources and services at no cost to students.

### Disability Services

Supporting students that require accommodations due to a documented learning, physical or psychological disability

### First-Year Experience

Offers student mentoring, Learning Enhancement Seminars and other programs and events designed to help students make key connections critical to a successful transition to college

### McNair Program

Provides academically enriching experiences and mentoring to prepare first-generation college and minority students for graduate school admission and eventual doctoral study

### Multicultural Student Services

Promotes academic success and citizenship within a global perspective based on a Christian understanding of and respect for others

### Upward Bound

Provides certain categories of high school students better opportunities for attending college — Jonathan Murphy

TOP PHOTO BY JEFF MONTGOMERY, BOTTOM PHOTO BY STERLING MCMICHAEL

## HOW DO STUDENT athletes work?

**HARDING HAS 408** student athletes, each one balancing a full academic load along with the demands of playing an NCAA Division II sport.

"The biggest challenge is definitely time management," says Jack Thomas, senior baseball player. "We're playing five games this week. There are times when we'll only be in class two of the five days a week. It's easy for assignments and tests to pile up on you."

Every Harding student athlete has to cope with demands of a rigorous schedule.

"In the off-season, I'm waking up at 4:30 a.m. for 5:30 a.m. workouts. I'll shower and eat breakfast before classes start at 8 a.m. In the afternoon, I go to practice from 3-6 p.m. By the time I eat dinner and finish my homework, I'm in bed getting ready to do it all again the next day."

There are no course load exemptions or special allowances for student athletes. They have access to the same academic support services available to the rest of the student body. They are treated no differently than any other student.

"There's definitely an added pressure when you wear 'Harding' on your uniform or jersey," Thomas says. "When you represent the University, you're taking on a responsibility that's much larger than yourself."

Student athletes often share a bond, an understanding of the determination and sacrifice required to succeed in the classroom as well as the court and field.

"Yes, it's a challenge at times, but going through this with my teammates and coaches is an experience I'll cherish forever." 🏆

— Jonathan Murphy







# 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.

## 1950

**Clarence Richmond** was honored at a 90th birthday reception held in Cone Chapel on the Harding campus Feb. 17 by family and friends. He has a master's degree from Stevens Institute of Technology and is a retired aerospace engineer. He was employed 32 years by American Airlines and eight years by Bendix Aviation. He holds a commercial pilot's license with an instrument rating. He has been married to **Valle Beth Horton** ('52) for 67 years, and they have lived in New York, Oklahoma, California and Florida in pursuit of his career. They also have traveled to many parts of the world and are still active in long-term mission work with a Christian high school in Ho, Ghana. They are members at Downtown Church of Christ. They have four children, six grandchildren and 10 great-grandchildren. (131 Longleaf Drive, Searcy, AR 72143)

## 1964

**Bettye Olinger-Fox** had her second book published. It is a collection of poetry titled *Metamorphosis of a Woman*. Her first book, *The Privilege of Man Is to Dream: Mark Twain's Visit to Hawaii*, was chosen to be housed at the Hamilton Library of the University of Hawaii. She is a retired professor of speech and English. (95 17th Ave. S.E., Cairo, GA 39828)

## 1969

**Phil Roberson** is an associate clinical professor at Texas A&M International University in Laredo, Texas. He also is the executive director of the TAMIU-LBV Literacy Partnership, which provides one-on-one tutoring for emerging readers in 11 Laredo elementary schools. He is co-editor of *Literacy Learning and Cultural Competency in a World of Borders*, a 2018 publication on literacy learning and cultural competence at the borders of nations, languages and cultures. (1810 Victoria St., Laredo, TX 78040)

## 1976

**Tim McNeese** won the Focus on York Award. He is in his 26th year as an associate professor of history at York College. He has authored more than 120 books on everything from the Great Wall of China to landmark Supreme Court decisions. His writing has earned him a citation in the library reference work *Contemporary Authors*. He has appeared on several cable television programs as an historical expert and was featured on a documentary on Gen. John J. Pershing. He recently completed a Ph.D. at Faulkner University. His wife, **Beverly Doty** ('75), teaches English at York College. (26 Eastridge Ave., York, NE 68467)

## 1980

**Timothy Farmer** had his first novel, *Project Nephili*, published. He is a hospitalist in Morganton, North Carolina. He has three children and three stepchildren. (84 Far Hills Terrace, Brevard, NC 28712)

**Patti Jo Dillard White** is the assistant dean of student services in the College of Arts, Letters and Sciences at the University of Arkansas Little Rock. She and her husband, Joe, have four children. (1120 Walnut Grove Road, Little Rock, AR 72223)

## 1983

**Daniel Gilbert** was appointed to the board of Select Sands Corp. in March. He serves as a senior adviser at Speyside Partners where he focuses on providing board and executive leadership to companies in transition. He received his MBA in finance from Harvard Business School. (1312 Brians Meadow Cove, Austin, TX 78746)

## 1984

**David McCoy** was named president and chief financial officer for First National Bank and Trust in January. He has more than 30 years of banking and executive leadership experience. He is licensed in Illinois as a certified public accountant and belongs to the Illinois Society of CPAs and the American Institute of CPAs. He and his wife, Kathy, have three children, **Kaitlyn** ('14), **Zachary** ('16) and **Jacob**. (764 Kateland Way, South Elgin, IL 60177)

## 1987

**Scott Harris** has been named Alabama's newest state health officer by the Alabama State Committee of Public Health after six months in the role in an acting capacity. In 2017, he was awarded a master's degree in public health from the University of Alabama at Birmingham School of Public Health with a concentration in health policy. He practiced infectious disease medicine at Decatur General Hospital and Parkway Medical Center. He is past chairman and current member of the Decatur Morgan Hospital Foundation. In 2005, he became medical director at Decatur-Morgan Community Free Clinic, a nonprofit clinic that offers health care and dental care at no charge to low income, medically uninsured local residents. He also has served on many international medical missions to Central America, South America and Africa. He is a fellow of the American College of Physicians; Infectious Disease Society of America; a credentialed HIV specialist, American Academy of HIV Medicine; and currently co-chairs the Alabama Opioid Overdose and

Addiction Council. (605 Maxwell Blvd., #425, Montgomery, AL 36104)

## 1992

**Clarence Hulse** has been elected by the International Economic Development Council to a two-year term on the board of directors. He also is the executive director of Economic Development Corp. in Michigan City, Indiana. He has a master's in economic development from the University of Southern Mississippi and is a graduate of the University of Oklahoma Economic Development Institute. (1522 Oakmont Drive, Jeffersonville, IN 47130)

## 1997

**Jeremy Paden** had a book he co-edited, *Black Bone: 25 years of the Affrilachian Poets*, published by the University Press of Kentucky. It is a collection of both new and classic work and features work submitted by various authors. He is an associate professor of Spanish and Latin American literature at Transylvania University and has authored two collections of poems. (1712 Brook Park Drive, Lexington, KY 40515)

## 1998

**Jeremy Kernodle** has been nominated by President Donald Trump to serve as a U.S. District Judge for the Eastern District of Texas. He is a partner at Haynes and Boone, where he serves as chair of the firm's False Claims ACT/Qui Tam Practice Group. He is a past president of the Dallas chapter of the Federal Bar Association and serves on the association's executive committee. He also is president of the Dallas Chapter of the Federalist Society and secretary of the Dallas Bar Association's Appellate Section. He and his wife, **Robin Jubela**, have two children. (2323 Victory Ave., Suite 700, Dallas, TX 75219)

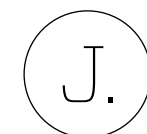
## 2003

**Erin Kemp Brogdon** is executive director of City Connections Inc., a Little Rock, Arkansas, nonprofit, in addition to her work as an attorney at Wright, Lindsey and Jennings LLP. She earned a law degree from the Bowen School of Law at the University of Arkansas Little Rock in 2006. Her husband, **Jay** ('04), is managing director with Stephens Investment Banking. (47 Kings River Road, North Little Rock, AR 72116)

## 2004

**Nathan Lang** joined WeVideo as chief educational officer. He received his master's from the Univer-

## Living history



**C. DAVIS ('70) HAS BROUGHT HISTORY** to life for thousands of students during a teaching career that spans more than 45 years.

For as far back as he can remember, Davis wanted to be a teacher.

"I went to elementary school in a two-room building in Cumberland County, Tennessee, and I recall deciding then that I was going to be a teacher," he said.

After graduating from Cumberland County High School in 1966, Davis attended Freed-Hardeman University and then continued on to Harding where two history professors in particular made a lasting impression.

"Both Dr. [Raymond] Muncy and Dr. [Joe] Segraves impacted not



only what I learned, but the way I now teach history to my students as well," Davis said. "They were role models of what a Christian teacher should be, conducting themselves as Christian gentlemen. I am deeply indebted

to these two fine Christian teachers for all that I learned from them."

Davis landed his first teaching job in Lake Providence, Louisiana, but soon found his new career had to be put on hold.

"I was teaching U.S. history and got drafted right out of class into the Vietnam War. I finished one semester and then went into the service in the Army Signal Corps. After basic [training], I was sent to Korea because by that time the conflict in Vietnam was winding down."

Following discharge from the military, Davis went back to Harding where he earned a Master of Arts in Teaching and met his wife, Lana Delong ('69). After graduate school, Davis returned to East Tennessee where he was hired to teach at his alma mater, Cumberland County High School. He taught there 37 years before retiring in 2010.

Soon after accepting the position at the high school, Davis joined the faculty at Roane State Community College teaching evening classes and continues to teach there.

"I'd leave the high school and go to the junior college and teach a class or two on Tuesdays and Thursdays that started at 3:30 p.m. Some nights it would be 9 p.m. before I'd leave."

Davis loves education, and his students can attest that he doesn't just teach history; he embodies it.

"Education is probably 10 percent knowledge and 90 percent presentation," he said. "Students are visual. I knew right away that I could

hold their attention if they could just see it or somehow experience it."

The idea to use "living history" — an attempt to simulate life in another time — occurred to Davis while he was chaperoning a history contest in Murfreesboro, Tennessee. He attended a faculty program led by a park ranger from Stone's River National Battlefield.

"I wasn't paying very close attention," he said. "I was probably reading a book or grading papers."

He recalls looking up as the speaker began putting on a Civil War uniform while he was presenting.

"That instantly caught my attention," Davis said. "I knew that this was the way to teach history."

Davis began thinking of ways he could do the same in his own classes and give life to his subjects from the past.

"It started when my class got to World War II. My dad and uncle served in World War II, and my uncle still had his uniform, so I borrowed it and wore it to class. That got students' attention."

This show-and-tell approach led Davis to collect artifacts from major events in U.S. history.

"The school had fundraisers to help me buy uniforms. My first uniform was from the Revolutionary War, which I still wear. After that I got one from the Civil War. I slowly added to it. Eventually I had a real collection. Just the other day I wore one from the War of 1812."

Davis' students are no longer surprised when they see their teacher walk into class donning a Seventh Calvary uniform from the Battle of Little Big Horn or a gas mask from World War I. They look forward to it, and so does he.

"There have been countless nights I would lay awake thinking about how much fun I was going to have the next day at school," he said. "I just really enjoy teaching. I wouldn't have been happy doing anything else as much as I enjoy teaching."

Most often Davis' lessons involve far more than simply dressing up in period clothing.

"There were times when we covered the Civil War that we'd go outside and set up camp. I even brought a cannon. We'd have a fire going, and I had another gentleman — an older guy who looked like he stepped right out of the Civil War — that did the cooking. He'd cook a big ol' pot of soup and other foods that soldiers from that time often ate. Students would gather around the camp, and we'd serve a traditional Civil War meal including hardtack, parched corn and salt pork."

"I have so much fun teaching that I often joke that I ought to be paying the school for letting me teach," Davis said. "I recently remarked to the dean of the history department that 'I teach for the fun of it; Roane State pays me to grade papers.'"

Davis could have retired from education years ago but continues to teach because he loves it so much. There will be a time when he hangs up his uniform and steps away from the classroom, and he knows exactly when that will be.

"When it ceases to be fun, I quit," he said. "But for now I'm having too much fun!"

— Jonathan Murphy

SUBMITTED PHOTO



sity of Houston-Victoria and his Ed.D. from Lipscomb University. He is a Google certified educator, Microsoft innovative educator and 2016 Apple teacher. He serves on the ILA Task Force. His book *Everyday Instructional Coaching* was released in April. (722 Larkin St., #6, San Francisco, CA 94109)

2005

**Dustin and Molly Roseberry Sullivan** announce the birth of a daughter, Fiona Rose, Aug. 30, 2016. (36637 Haverford Place, Avon, OH 44011)

**Phillip** ('06) and **Amy Eichman White** announce the birth of a son, Titus Zion, Feb. 8, 2018. Phil is a manager at a plywood mill, and Amy is a homemaker. They also have a son, Isaac, and another son who died, Akiya. (481 Whispering Oak Circle, Chapin, SC 29036)

2007

**Gregory Northen** has been promoted from associate attorney to director (partner) at Cross, Gunter, Witherspoon and Galchus P.C. in Little Rock, Arkansas. (40 Yazoo Court, Maumelle, AR 72113)

**Derek and Sarah Harvey Thomason** announce the birth of a son, Colt Joseph, Jan. 8, 2018. Derek is a marriage and family therapist, and Sarah is a homemaker. They have three other children, Wyatt, Maverick and Ember. (8704 Raven Ave., Oklahoma City, OK 73132)

2008

Danny and **Leslie Galloway Mayberry** announce the birth of a daughter, Anna Ray, Aug. 30, 2017. They also have two sons, Caleb and Joshua. (4271 FM 1565, Caddo Mills, TX 75135)

**Nathan** and Victoria **Wagner** announce the birth of a daughter, Lydia Joy, Sept. 11, 2017. They also have a son, Joel. (1223 Monticeto Lane, Meadows Place, TX 77477)

2011

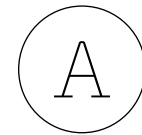
**Daniel Tate** is a software developer for Mainstream Technologies. He volunteers at a local high school teaching drum line in its music department. He and his wife, **Jennifer Moore** ('07), have two children. (5006 Greenway Drive, North Little Rock, AR 72116)

2013

**Peter** ('14) and **Lisa Gurney Hunt** announce the birth of a daughter, Zoey Grace, Dec. 29, 2017. Peter is a youth minister at Lake Jackson Church of Christ, and Lisa is a preschool teacher. (51 Michelia Court, Lake Jackson, TX 77566)

Acting authentically

PROFILE | ABBY SMITH



**AFTER MANY PERFORMANCES** on the Benson Auditorium stage, Abby Smith ('03) graduated from Harding University as a music major with a theatre minor not sure exactly what she was going to do with her love for musical theatre. Fifteen years later, she found herself on the Broadway stage cast as Mrs. Puff in "SpongeBob SquarePants: The Broadway Musical."

"I come from a performing family, so I've been around the arts all my life," Smith said. "I fell in love with musical theatre because it uses music to carry the emotion of a story. I am so moved by great theatre, and I have always wanted to be a part of that. There is nothing more powerful than watching someone open their heart on a stage and take you on a journey — it changes you on a spiritual level to see yourself in the emotion of a dramatic experience."

After graduation, the intimidation of moving to New York City and a secured internship led Smith back to Houston where she had grown up. She worked for three years with the A.D. Players Theatre gaining invaluable professional experience before deciding to attend graduate school at Oklahoma City University, one of the only graduate schools in the nation with a concentration in music theatre. After graduating from the two-year program in 2008, Smith made the move to the Big Apple, going to countless auditions, taking classes and finding jobs in the meantime.



Her love for and experience with children's theatre that had been fostered in Houston helped Smith land her first job after moving to New York City — a national tour of "James and the Giant Peach."

In September 2015, her agent asked about her skills in playing instruments and tap dancing, and as a result, she took some classes to prepare for her audition for "SpongeBob SquarePants: The Broadway Musical." After researching choreography, watching the cartoon and preparing character voices, she got an audition and multiple callbacks that resulted in being cast as Mrs. Puff for the Chicago and Broadway productions.

"Doing this show has absolutely been the hardest thing I've ever done in my life," Smith said. "It has definitely been the most rewarding thing, too. I'm so proud to be a part of it."

In addition to her Broadway debut at the Palace Theatre, Smith also has caught the spotlight of the television cameras on season two of "Orange Is the New Black" and the first season of "Unbreakable Kimmy Schmidt," but musical theatre, on or off Broadway, is where her passion truly lies.

"What I feel is most important to me is being my authentic self and not compromising that based on others' judgment," Smith said. "I am who I am always! I can have confidence knowing that I'm always being my best authentic self. There is room for anyone and everyone in the theatre business. You just have to stay true to who you are, work hard, be kind, and eventually it will find you."

— Megan Ledbetter

SUBMITTED PHOTO

2015

**Kaitlyn Perring** married **John Frizzell** ('16) on May 28, 2016. Kaitlyn works at Macon-Hall Elementary as a fourth-grade teacher. (855 Sun Vista Drive, Cordova, TN 38018)

2017

**David Scorzelli** has been promoted to assistant strength and conditioning coach at Syracuse University after working as an intern for two seasons. (8564 Treeview Circle, Cicero, NY 13039)

Passages

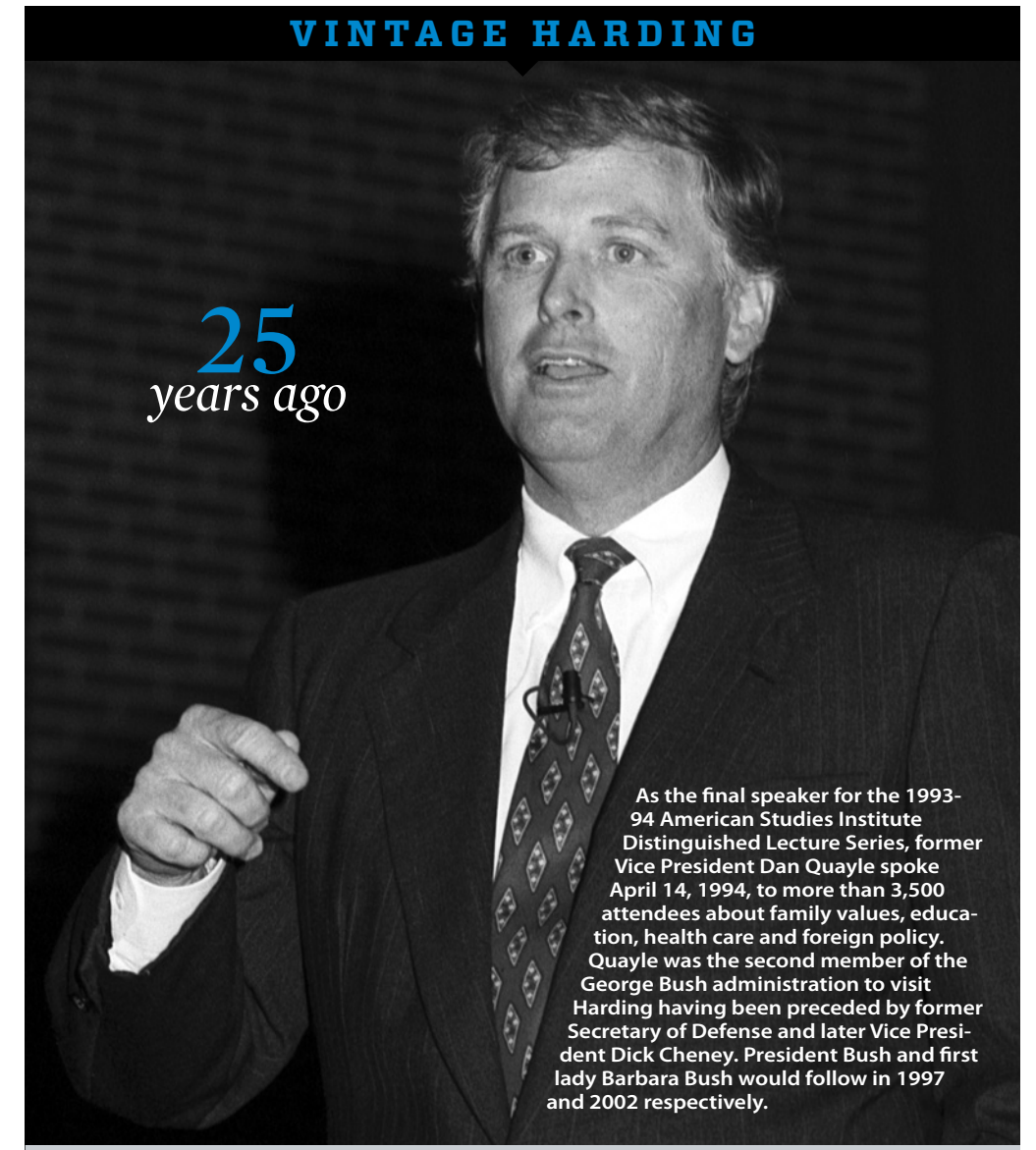
**Helen M. Young** ('39), 99, of Malibu, California, died Nov. 30, 2017. She and her husband, Norvel, ministered 13 years with the Broadway Church of Christ in Lubbock, Texas. In the 1950s, the couple encouraged the founding of The Children's Home of Lubbock, a state-of-the-art, cottage-based home for homeless children. She also hosted and participated in many planning sessions that created Lubbock Christian University. She founded the daily devotional guide Power for Today, which she edited until 1972. In 1957 the couple was invited by the Pepperdine University Board of Trustees to serve as the third president and first lady. As Pepperdine's first lady, she established Associated Women for Pepperdine to use the power of women in support of Christian higher education. Her writing and teaching influenced many generations of women in churches of Christ. She was named by historian Richard Hughes as "perhaps the most visible and influential woman among churches of Christ in the second half of the 20th century." She traveled around the world speaking for women's seminars, lectures and retreats. She taught college courses at Pepperdine in sociology and marriage and family as well as the course The Bible and the Modern Woman. Throughout her time at Pepperdine, she was honored with awards and recognitions including the Pepperdine Alumni Service Award, the Graduate School of Education and Psychology Dolores Award for Special Service, and the Pepperdine Medal of Honor. For her impact on Christian education, she received honors from Lubbock Christian, Oklahoma Christian, Harding and Lipscomb Universities. She was preceded in death by her husband of 59 years, Norvel; and a daughter, Marilyn Stewart. She is survived by three children, Emily, Sara and Matt; 13 grandchildren; and 16 great-grandchildren.

**Esther Marie Clay Yingling** ('42), 97, of Searcy died Feb. 9, 2018. She taught school for 31 years in Kentucky, Arkansas, Louisiana and Tennessee. She especially loved teaching high school history at Harding Academy in Searcy. She enjoyed teaching ladies Bible classes and supporting Bison

QUAYLE PHOTO BY JEFF MONTGOMERY; YINGLING PHOTO SUBMITTED



VINTAGE HARDING



25 years ago

As the final speaker for the 1993-94 American Studies Institute Distinguished Lecture Series, former Vice President Dan Quayle spoke April 14, 1994, to more than 3,500 attendees about family values, education, health care and foreign policy. Quayle was the second member of the George Bush administration to visit Harding having been preceded by former Secretary of Defense and later Vice President Dick Cheney. President Bush and first lady Barbara Bush would follow in 1997 and 2002 respectively.

basketball. She was active in three chapters of Associated Women for Harding with one of her favorite projects being replacing the brick walkways across Harding's campus. She was a member of College Church of Christ. She was preceded in death by her husband, **James Jr.** ('42). She is survived by four children, **Cassie Meeks** ('71), **Angie Yeager** ('74), **Charlotte Bible** ('82) and **James Yingling** ('85); eight grandchildren; and six great-grandchildren.



**Bula Jean Moudy Anderson** ('49), 91, of Lubbock, Texas, died Feb. 9, 2018. She earned a master's degree from Texas Tech University. She taught

elementary school in Alabama and Texas. She taught home economics at Harding from 1966-70 and also at Lubbock Christian University. She served as a home extension agent for a short time. Later, she became a small business owner of The Yarn Shop in Lubbock where she attended Broadway Church of Christ. She was always serving or supporting missions whether on the Navajo reservation, overseas, or in the prison system. She is survived by her husband, **Gordon** ('50); two children, Laura Skains and Scott; and a brother, **Alvin Moudy** ('50).

**Mary "LaVelle" Sewell Smith** ('52), 87, of Springhill, Louisiana, died Jan. 7, 2018. She was an expert seamstress and worked at Shurtleff's Sewing Center until its closing in 1990 when she began



providing alteration services from home. She was a member of North Arkansas Street Church of Christ. She is survived by four children, Barry, Conny, Sharon Griffin and Philip; two sisters, **Esther Dunn** ('45) and Eva Mae Modisette; seven grandchildren; and eight great-grandchildren.

**Lovera Jackson Baird** ('54), 87, of Rolla, Missouri, died Dec. 6, 2017. She was a member of the Rolla Church of Christ where she taught and served in children's ministries for 50 years. She retired from The Frame Shop in Rolla where she worked 19 years. She is survived by her husband of 65 years, **Thomas** ('53); four children, Thomas Jr., **Tim** ('79), Jeanie March and **James** ('86); 11 grandchildren; and eight great-grandchildren.

**Roberta Ann Rhodes Atkinson** ('60), 79, of Montgomery, Alabama, died Dec. 28, 2017. She founded and directed the Carriage Hills Kindergarten. She also served as a classroom teacher, music specialist and elementary principal at Alabama Christian Academy. She was a member of GracePointe Church. She is survived by her husband of 56 years, **Jerry** ('62); two sons, **Greg** ('88) and **Douglas**; two sisters, **Betty Mowrer** ('49) and **Evelyn Wheatcroft** ('50); and three grandchildren.

**Eva Joy Vinson Oliver** ('60), 79, of Searcy died March 4, 2018. She served as secretary/receptionist for the behavioral sciences department from 1985-93 and was a member of College Church of Christ. She was preceded in death by a grandson, **Blake Hunter** ('15). She is survived by her husband of 60 years, **George** ('57); three children, **Debbie Starks** ('93), **Mike** ('82) and **Debra Hunter** ('86); nine grandchildren; and 11 great-grandchildren.

**John William "Bill" Belue** ('62), 79, of Searcy died Dec. 24, 2017. He coached football at Gosnell High

School. After stepping away from coaching, he served as a high school referee. He worked for American Greetings Corp. for 32 years in Osceola and McCrory, Arkansas. He was an avid sportsman. He was preceded in death by his wife of 43 years, Linda Hall. He is survived by his wife of four years, Linda Staggs; three children, Kerri Berkemeyer, **Russ** ('96) and Stan; two stepchildren, Dana Troutt and Jay Staggs; seven grandchildren; four step-grandchildren; and a great-granddaughter.

**Ronald Lee Castleman** ('66), 72, of Warrensburg, Missouri, died Aug. 18, 2016. He received his master's degree at the University of Arkansas and pursued his Ph.D. at University of North Texas. He taught accounting at Virginia Commonwealth University, Park University and Central Missouri State University where he was coordinator and chairman of the accounting department. He owned and operated Ron Castleman CPA for many years as well as The Vintage House Restaurant. He was past president of the Warrensburg Lions Club and a member of the Warrensburg Church of Christ where he taught Sunday school, served as secretary/treasurer of the board, head of benevolence and business finance, and director of music. He is survived by two sons, Clifton and Clayton; and four grandchildren.

**James Simrell "Jim" Woodroof** (HST '67), 85, of Searcy died March 22, 2018. Jim and his wife, Louine, served a number of churches in more than 60 years of ministry. He taught in the College of Bible at Harding from 1989-92. He also wrote eight books over the course of his lifetime. His last book was written and published at age 81. He



PASSAGES | JAMES SIMRELL "JIM" WOODROOF

'67

I counted [Jim Woodroof] as a friend at the age of 6 because he taught me how to roller skate. He took me by the hand and showed me how to put one foot in front of the other as I pushed off with my back foot. His smiles and laughter, his reaching down to help me up when I fell, all of it comes to mind. I remember as a child thinking that surely he was just like Jesus. It was obvious he loved Jesus ... — Alan Underwood, '94



is survived by his wife of 64 years, Louine McGee; five children, **Tim** ('78), **David** ('82), **Jon** ('82), Amy Phillips and Rachel Bossier; two sisters, Jodi Morris and Bettye Alley; 15 grandchildren; and eight great-grandchildren.

**Robert Michael Lawyer** ('68), 71, of Forrest City, Arkansas, died Feb. 17, 2018. He worked for State Farm Insurance for 45 years in Pine Bluff, Forrest City and Wynne, Arkansas. He was a former president of Life Underwriters and member of Rotary Club. He was very involved with the Wynne Music Club and was a member of Wynne Baptist Church. He was preceded in death by a daughter, Janessa Moore. He is survived by his wife, Martha Lynn; five children, **Robert** ('93), Jacob, Lesley Scates, Emma and Mary Catherine; a brother, **David** ('66); and five grandchildren.

**Pattie Sue Sears** ('69), 70, of Flower Mound, Texas, died Jan. 26, 2018. She worked for Modern American Mortgage Co., Savers Federal Savings and Loan, Bear Stearns and its successor JP Morgan Chase in New York City and Lewisville, Texas. She enjoyed traveling and visited all 50 states, Canada, many countries in Europe and the Holy Lands. She collected art and was a member of museums in Dallas, Fort Worth and New York City. She is survived by two siblings, **James Sears** ('69) and **Martha Sears Collins** ('83).

**Lottie Gale Bright Frank** ('71), 69, of Brookhaven, Mississippi, died Feb. 7, 2018. She graduated from the nursing program at Southwest Mississippi Community College. She was a retired registered nurse and was a special counselor after Hurricane Katrina in Gulfport and Biloxi, Mississippi. She is survived by her husband of 48 years, **Gary** ('69); three sons, Jeff, Joseph and Josh; a brother, Michael Bright; and seven grandchildren.

**Cathy Olee Harding** ('77), 61, of Memphis, Tennessee, died Feb. 26, 2018. After staying home to raise her children, she taught at Harding Academy Cordova and White Station. She is survived by her husband, **Jim** ('76); four children, Laurie, Julie, **Barrett** ('12) and Miriam; her parents, **Charles** ('54) and **Miriam Draper** ('55) **Olee**; a sister, **Karen Logan** ('75); and nine grandchildren.

**Brent Wood Rogers** ('80), 58, of Kojima, Japan, died Dec. 18, 2017. He served as a missionary for three years in India, taught English at Augusta (Arkansas) High School, and was a missionary for 22 years in Japan. He is survived by his wife, **Sandra Lee Hougey** ('80); two children, **Tim** ('01) and Rachel Patton; three siblings, Helen Brewer, Eddie and **Ru Anne** ('88); and three grandchildren.

**Larry "Steve" Myers** ('81), 69, of Piedmont, Oklahoma, died Jan. 2, 2018. He spent 10 years in the U.S. Army where he served with Army intelligence and spent time in Vietnam. He also served as a

SUBMITTED PHOTO

## On the shoulders of a giant

By DR. STEVEN FRYE, professor and chair, department of theatre, and director of Spring Sing

*"We are dwarfs perched on the shoulders of giants. We see more and farther than our predecessors, not because we have keener vision or greater height, but because we are lifted up and borne aloft on their gigantic stature." — Bernard of Chartres*



**JOHN H. RYAN WAS A GIANT.** To be sure, he was a tall and formal man with a beautiful, resonant voice. He was, without doubt, a perfectionist both in the classroom and in the recording studio. I am confident he is pleased that there are no vocalized pauses in heaven.

But those are not the attributes that made him a giant. Dr. Ryan was a giant because he was a gentleman in a world filled with change. His kindness, compassion and genuine concern for others was a quiet,



consistent thread throughout his career and personal life. He cared, and he shared with others. A favorite memory of mine is when we moved to Searcy. As we pulled the moving van into our new driveway, standing there at the front door ready to help us unload was Dr. Ryan. In a city in which we had never lived, at a university we did not attend, and a place where we had no real connection, he was the welcoming voice. He became Uncle Jack that day to our family. May we all be perched on such giant shoulders of service. When Dr. Ryan was asked to serve as chair of the department of communication, I was privileged to be the first faculty member he

hired. I still remember the phone call and his sage advice that day, "You are my first hire. Don't mess it up." Then came the laugh: a quick, sharp, joyful sound so full of life and love. It was my joy to hear that laugh every day at work and every night during Spring Sing performances. He was a master storyteller. His ability to time a pause or deliver a phrase was a studied gift. May we all be lifted up onto shoulders bouncing with laughter. Dr. Ryan mentored me as a young professor. He challenged me to be less adamant about things and to be more diplomatic in solving problems. He taught me to listen with an open mind and to look for solutions rather than confrontation. He practiced what he preached with hundreds of faculty and staff members and thousands of students. Harding University was blessed to have Dr. Ryan on this campus, and I pray that his legacy lives on in each of us. He served Harding in a distinguished teaching career spanning 44 years. He also served as producer for Spring Sing for the first 34 years of the production, and for six years he was chair of the department of communication. May we all be borne aloft to new heights on the shoulders of such giants. Isaac Newton said, "If I have seen further, it is only by standing on the shoulders of giants." He is not the only one to say it or to live it. We now join that chorus. Thank you, Dr. Ryan. Rest from your labors. Standing on such giant shoulders, we see the new horizons. 🙏

**John H. "Jack" Ryan** ('59), 87, of Searcy died March 12, 2018. He served in the U.S. Navy for four years as a court reporter before his 44-year teaching career at Harding. He played piano from memory and was a master communicator. He is survived by his wife, **Marjorie Hayes** ('61); two children, **Julie Litchfield** ('92) and **Kevin**; and two grandchildren.

PHOTOS BY JEFF MONTGOMERY

police officer as well as a missionary in Fond du Lac, Wisconsin. He is survived by his wife, Ellen Rae; two children, Chris and Jodie Pierce; and five grandchildren.

**Monda Ruth Underwood Oldham** ('89), 83, of Searcy died Jan. 8, 2018. She retired as an art instructor from Harding Academy and was a member of West Side Church of Christ. She was preceded in death by her son, **Brenton** ('83). She is survived by her husband of 64 years, Bill; two sons, **Clifford** ('79) and **Bill Jr.** ('92); three siblings, Don, Tincey Gorman and Edna Ann Powell; and eight grandchildren.

**Emily Nicole Williams** ('12), 27, of Searcy died Dec. 14, 2017. She loved to dance from age 4, and her interest in dance led to competitions and teaching classes. She is survived by her parents, Lindsey and Patti Williams; and a brother, Ryan.

**Hunter Mathew Williamson**, 21, of Searcy died Nov. 15, 2017. He was a criminal justice major and was employed as a dispatcher in Harding's department of public safety. He is survived by his wife, Meredith Adair; his parents, John and Misty Williamson; and a brother, Isaak.



**Walter Melvin Gardner**, 86, of Fort Worth, Texas, died Jan. 21, 2018. He went to college at North Texas University and North Texas Agricultural College where he studied chemistry. He worked for Fresco Paint Manufacturing Co. and in 1963 started his own business in the paint and coatings industry, which eventually was known as Trinity Coatings Co. He later established Trinity

Coatings International, GWI and Melric. In addition to his business activities, he was active in Fort Worth Chamber of Commerce and Kiwanis Club and served on the boards of Central Bank and Trust, Hughley Hospital, Southwestern Christian College and Harding. He served as a deacon and an elder at Southside Church of Christ. He is survived by his wife of 67 years, Mildred Howeth; four children, **Patti Bolton**, ('73), **Jim** ('77), **Susan Bailey** ('80) and **Beverly Smith** ('88); 10 grandchildren; and 11 great-grandchildren.

**Correction:** In the previous issue, **Shirley Birdsall Alexander's** ('54) survivors — her two stepchildren, **Lisa** ('86) and Mark, and her brother, **Graham Birdsall** ('58) — were incorrectly listed as preceding her in death. We apologize for the error.



# A time for reflection

By DAKOTA ELLIS, 2017-18 student association president


**I** HAD THE WHOLE SUMMER TO PREPARE and plan and think about the year. The day I got elected I started scheduling meetings so I could be prepared — so the rest of the Student Association would have a solid direction moving forward. I didn't want students to see us as a representation of thought but of concrete action.

In the fall, my energy had to shift, and my focus had to be in two places. I've had a tough academic year. Juggling the responsibility this office holds and also my responsibilities as a student hoping to learn everything I can for a future career has been difficult. I have a great team, and as a whole, the executive team and individual committees really took on a lot to make this a successful year. I never felt like it all fell on my back, and that's a blessing.

Our sponsors — Assistant Professor of Engineering James Huff, Assistant Professor of Math Jill Davis, and Director of Campus Life Logan Light — also were a huge reason why the year went so well. They equipped all of us to lead boldly but with the right tenor, and they helped me navigate the complexities of leading with other leaders because that's a tough task.

I'm a pretty conscientious person, so for me, whether or not my conscience is at peace with how I have presented myself as a leader on campus affects my success in great strides. I have had such high expectations for myself, and I leaned on others for perspective throughout the year. One way I've tried to navigate challenges is through inclusivity, and I really value other people's reflections. I learned as a leader the importance of seeking out mentors and leaning on those who can help you succeed in areas you understand less about.

One project I'm really proud of from the school year is the clean-up of Gin Creek. I worked with several campus areas to coordinate this project including the biology department, physical resources, the office of alumni and parent relations, and the office of the president. It was really exciting to see a project that had been in an idea phase for so long come to life through the help of 1,200 students, faculty and staff working together.

Dr. Bruce McLarty has said students should be ready to move on when they're seniors, and if they're not ready to move on, then there's something wrong. We are supposed to grow out of this place, and that's good. I love Harding, but I'm ready to move on to the next phase of my life. I hope Harding continues to be a place where people can find the ability to think critically about things in a Christian learning environment. I hope it does not become a place of division but continues to be a place where we embrace our differences and try to show love to each other. 

*Student Association President Dakota Ellis is a Bible and missions and premedicine double major from Harrison, Arkansas.*



ILLUSTRATION BY JENNIFER ALLEN

# Come home for HOMEcoming

OCTOBER 18-20

#comehomeHU18

- THE MUSICAL "BIG FISH"
- BELLES AND BEAUX AND PIED PIPERS
- ALUMNI CHAPEL
- FAMILY PICNIC AND TAILGATING
- PETTING ZOO AND INFLATABLE GAMES
- BISON FOOTBALL AND MUCH MORE



## You still belong at Harding.

Connect with friends and classmates at many events throughout the weekend and reminisce while enjoying the beauty of campus. Tailgating in front of Ganus Activities Complex is a must for alumni and future students.

Classes of '68, '63, '58, '53, '48 and '43 will be celebrated at the Heritage Circle Banquet and will reunite throughout the weekend. Distinguished and outstanding alumni will be honored at the Black and Gold Banquet.

The class of '68 will hold a reunion at Jim and Kay Gowen's home, and the class of '78 will have a reunion at the home of Bruce and Ann McLarty, both following the football game.

Invite your friends to come home for Homecoming.

[harding.edu/homecoming](http://harding.edu/homecoming)

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## Final Frame

PHOTO BY ROBERT ABSTON



A young girl watches as Belle Canto, an all-female choir directed by Stacey Neely, performs in the atrium of Arkansas Children's Hospital in Little Rock. The sound traveled to the upper floors where people gathered and listened. The ladies brought donations of items for the children's use.