

HARDING

SPRING 2019

SWAID AND CHRISTY SWAID
CENTER FOR HEALTH SCIENCES



SELFLESSLY DRIVEN



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The founding dean of the College of Allied Health and professor of communication sciences and disorders, Dr. Beckie Weaver is retiring following 37 years of distinguished service.
PHOTO BY JEFF MONTGOMERY

Finding forgiveness

By BRUCE D. McLARTY, *president*

IN THE SERMON ON THE MOUNT, we read to “forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors.” In Luke, Jesus cries out while hanging on the cross “Father, forgive them for they do not know what they are doing.”

On April 10, I shared those verses in chapel before our speaker, Roy Willmon, gave a powerful testimony on forgiveness during our “Struggles of the Faith” series.

The idea for Mr. Willmon to speak came in November 2018 when I attended the annual Christian college president’s meeting held this school year at Oklahoma Christian University. As part of our activities, we went to a private viewing of the Oklahoma City Bombing Memorial at the Murrah Federal Building.

While I was observing the displays at the memorial, Clint LaRue, executive director for budget and financial services at OC, came up to me and asked how long I had been at Harding and if I had ever heard of Carla Willmon.


I was thinking of her just then as the Oklahoma City bombing and her death are joined together in my mind. I had just returned from her memorial chapel service when I learned of the bombing. He asked if I knew the rest of the story.

LaRue is from Mount Pleasant, Texas, the same town as the Willmons, and he gave me their number. We talked, and Mr. Willmon agreed to come and speak about their incredible journey to this point. He



sent me his proposed manuscript for his speech, and I shared it, with his permission, with the magazine staff. They felt this remarkable story of forgiveness needed to be shared with our readers.

Dr. Kevin Stewart led us in “Wonderful, Merciful Savior” to begin chapel that day, a fitting song for the Willmons’ incredible story of forgiveness and the power of God to change lives.

Read Mr. Willmon’s words beginning on page 14. Also check out a story from the past (page 17), Honors happenings (page 26), and a life of service (page 20). 



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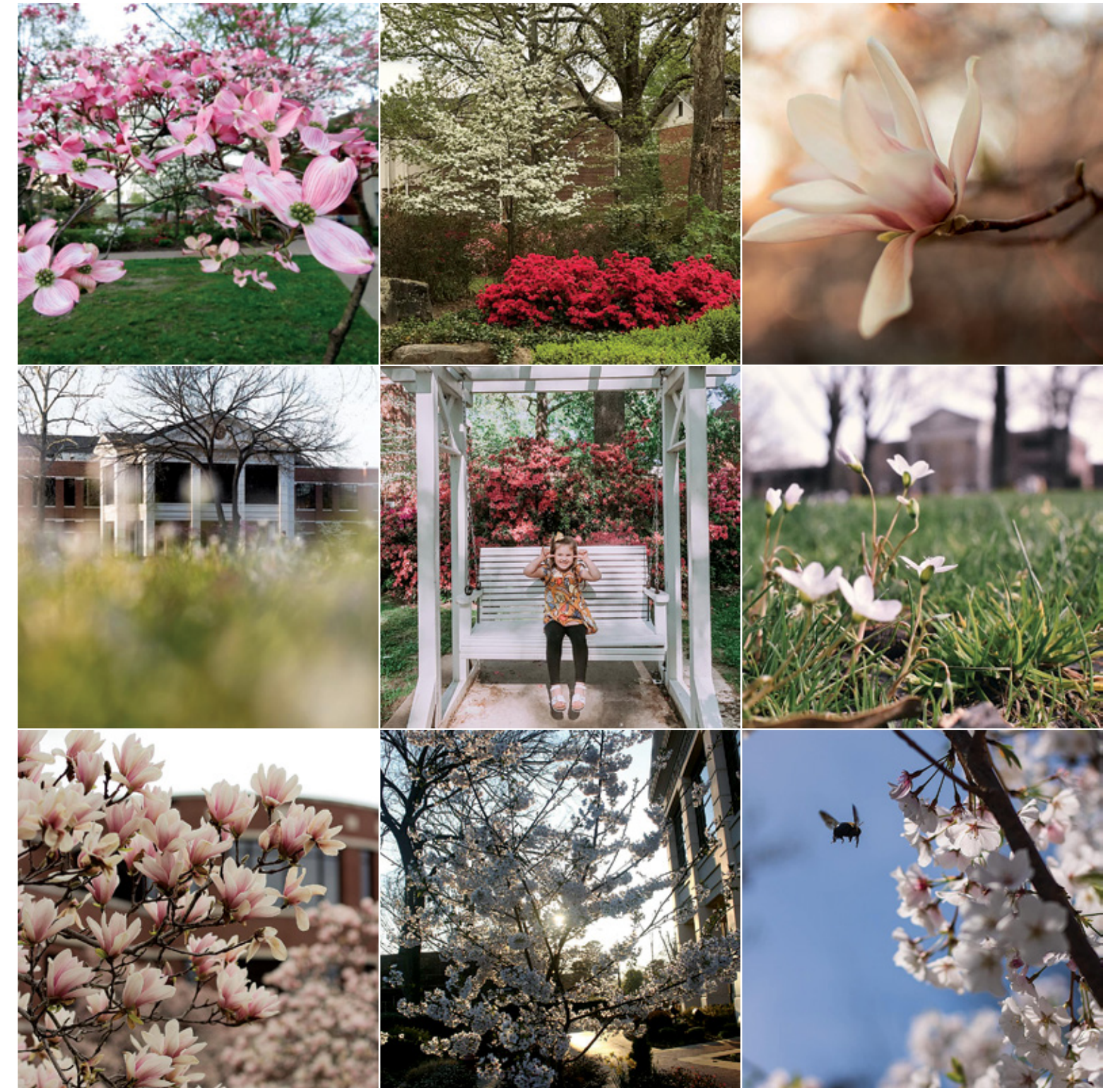
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PHOTO BY JEFF MONTGOMERY

#springatharding

SELECTIONS FROM THE SPRING SEMESTER 



TOP ROW: @a_gunn_show, @trelrod, @leahjohnson_11 MIDDLE ROW: @jason_floms, @nikkahorschig, @sopthoth BOTTOM ROW: @klynnvance, @dgarthonphotography, @namon.pope.photography

Sophomore theatre major Delaney Hill from Emory, Texas, takes advantage of the sunny morning March 19 to sit outside in front of Benson Auditorium and write in her journal.
PHOTO BY JEFF MONTGOMERY





The crowd in the Benson Auditorium Feb. 26 erupts when Searcy is named the winner of the Small Business Revolution.

Searcy wins Small Business Revolution

SEARCY WAS SURPRISED with a moment in the national spotlight on Feb. 26 as Deluxe Corp. revealed the University's hometown as the winner of their Small Business Revolution contest. Since the company announced its top 20 selected cities to compete for a winning prize of \$500,000 and the starring role in a HULU original series "Main Street - Small Business Revolution," business owners and residents had been rallying support on social media to poise Searcy as the city to win it all.

"If I were planting Harding University anywhere on planet earth, it would be right here in Searcy, Arkansas," Dr. Bruce McLarty said to a full Benson Auditorium on Feb. 26. Campus and Searcy residents gathered together for a watch party that transformed into a celebration of Searcy when Deluxe's Chief Brand and Communications Officer Amanda Brinkman stepped onto the stage, signifying Searcy was victorious.

After being chosen as a top 30 business, 12 local businesses found out they had been selected as finalists to receive a business makeover as part of a feature in the fourth season of the series. Deluxe then interviewed business owners and selected six — Zion Climbing Center, El Mercado, Savor + Sip, nooma, ARganic Wood-

work and Whilma's Filipino Restaurant.

Alumni have had a significant presence in Searcy's small business community, and four business owners of the six chosen graduated or attended the University. Catrina Mendoza ('06) and her husband, Jose, opened El Mercado Cavadas, a grocery store that specializes in Mexican and Hispanic food items, in April of 2017.

"At the time, my husband was working 70 plus hours a week just during weekdays doing construction work, and we were expecting our fourth child," Mendoza said. "So we thought we would like for there to be a way for me to have income so he could do something different ... This looked like something we could do, and we just jumped in."

Mendoza said she is hoping that through working with Deluxe, they can improve operations of things they are already doing in the store and expand into new features, like adding a bakery.

"They are investing so much into educating us — all kinds of investments in us and growing us as business people," Mendoza said. "A lot of us don't have business degrees, so we're just learning as we go."

Sean ('99) and Emily Felker ('05) Hudkins

started Zion with two other couples from college in 2005. Now an established nonprofit business, Sean serves as the executive director, and Emily is on the board.

Sean has never taken home a paycheck, and the couple has put their own money into the business. Because they felt that their resources were running thin to maintain operations of their 140-year-old building, selling seemed like a good option.

"Even though we saw the potential and loved our location, we just did not have the resources to put into it to make it what it could be," Emily said.

When they found out Zion had been selected to be featured as part of Searcy's Small Business Revolution, Emily said it was "a complete gamechanger."

"Despite having a great location and despite having potential in the building that we are in, Sean and I have gotten tapped out on our resources and our ability to reach those potentials," Emily said. "Throughout this whole process, we hope that potential can be reached so that we can maybe get some deeper roots in the community that we've always wanted."

Season four of the HULU series will premiere in fall 2019.

PHOTO BY JEFF MONTGOMERY

PHOTO BY JEFF MONTGOMERY

Communicating new majors

THE COMMUNICATION DEPARTMENT IS OFFERING three new majors this fall, bringing students and faculty from across campus to explore 21st century media through film, integrated marketing communication and multimedia journalism.

The film major is led by Dr. Charles Bane, professor of communication. The current electronic media production major, revised and renamed media production, will remain an option for students.

This new film major will offer students a focused path straight to the film industry. Dr. Jim Miller, chair of the communication department, anticipates that while many students will stay in media production, many will also make the switch to film.

"For a lot of students in the media production major, [film is] ultimately what they want to do," Miller said.

The film major is going to involve departments alongside communication. Miller and Bane said professors in the English, theatre and foreign language departments will be collaborating.

"It is truly interdisciplinary, so it is going to have lots of involvement. We will still house it here in the communication department, but other departments are going to help us out," Bane said. "That excites us because it feels like everybody is buying into it."

The communication department is also joining with the College of Business Administration to create the integrated marketing communication major. The IMC degree plan, approved March 21, consists of 27 hours of classes in the College of Business and 31-38 hours in the communication department.

Lori Sloan, associate professor, spent 23 years in the College of Business. She relocated to the communication department to lead the IMC program.

"Technology has changed, everything is changing, there's a greater need for all of the groups to work together and to be more integrated," Sloan said. "[IMC is] a truly collaborative degree."

The third degree being introduced is multimedia journalism, led by Dr. Jim Miller. This is a combination of the current journalism and broadcast journalism majors and includes courses from other departments including English, kinesiology and art.

Miller said that journalism today is much more convergent than ever before.

"Everybody who works in journalism needs to be able to do a little bit of everything," Miller said.

Multimedia journalism majors can emphasize in one of four areas: news and editorial, broadcast, photojournalism and sports journalism.

Harding strives to teach all courses from a Christian perspective, and the new communication majors are no exception.

"We believe that it is really important to have people of faith who are working in entertainment media, and that is part of our mission as people who strive to be salt and light in the world," Miller said. "We are really excited about the opportunities our students will have in these classes to be successful wherever that leads them."



Dr. John Lewis was first to turn the spade at the planting of a cherry tree in honor of his father, Dr. Jack P. Lewis.

Lewis' legacy includes \$1 million gift

HARDING SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY received a \$1 million gift from the estate of Dr. Jack P. Lewis who died July 24, 2018. The gift will be added to the Pearl and Anna E. Lewis Endowment that Lewis established in 1981 to honor his late parents. Income from the endowment will increase funding for books and electronic media available for students and academic research.

"For decades, Dr. Jack Lewis served generations of students at Harding School of Theology," Jim Martin, vice president of HST, said. "He lived frugally, choosing to use so much of his income to invest in the school that he loved. We at Harding School of Theology are deeply thankful for this generous gift that will bless generations of students, who in turn will bless congregations throughout the world."

On March 13, family, friends and colleagues of Lewis gathered in front of the HST library to plant a Yoshino cherry tree in honor of what would have been Lewis' 100th birthday.

"Before Dr. Lewis was a man of letters, he was a man of the soil," Greg Muse, HST advancement director, recalled in remarks to

the audience. "He picked cotton on his family's Texas farm and enjoyed food from the family garden cooked and canned by his mother. The cherry tree is a sweet way to remember a man who never abandoned his farming roots."

Dr. John Lewis, Jack's firstborn son, turned the first spade of dirt, followed by succeeding generations of his extended family. Pink and white ribbons on the spade and the tree represented blossoms that the tree will ultimately produce. A small silver plaque designed for the occasion reads, "In Honor of Dr. Jack Lewis, 100th birthday, March 13, 2019, Harding School of Theology."

An ice cream social followed the tree planting ceremony to commemorate Lewis' lifelong love of ice cream.

Lewis was a member of the founding faculty for HST, eventually becoming professor emeritus. He specialized in Old Testament studies but was a lifelong scholar of the Bible and Christianity. His work significantly contributed to the seminary's transition from startup in the 1950s to leadership in Christian theological studies in the 21st century.



TEN-HUT Perry Patton, a senior from Murfreesboro, Tennessee, knew that Harding is where he belonged. "My junior year of high school, when it came time for me to start seriously considering colleges, I came to visit Harding and fell in love with it. It just truly felt like home. I knew it was a place where I could grow academically and spiritually and be surrounded by some of the best people in the world. This was where I wanted to be."

SERVICE A marketing major with a secondary leadership and ministry major, Patton aims to serve others. "I take great joy in helping people discover and meet their goals and needs, and marketing is all about knowing what consumers desire and how you can help them. As for leadership and ministry, I know that no matter what career I pursue, I want to be able to minister through it. I am preparing for a life of ministry."

SQUAD As a member of the University's ROTC program, Patton is preparing to fulfill a lifelong goal of serving in our nation's military. "Ever since I can remember, I have wanted to be a soldier. My dad was an Army aviator, so I grew up having a great appreciation for military service. In kindergarten, when asked what I wanted to be when I grew up, my response was 'an Army man, and a man of God.'" In addition to "really good scholarships" that the Army ROTC makes available to cadets, the program provides military training opportunities that benefit a future Army officer. "We have physical training three days a week from 6-7 a.m. ROTC also offers classes where cadets earn college credit while learning valuable leadership skills that can help in any career. We have lab once a week where we do field training — Army tactics, land navigation, drill and ceremony and a variety of other training opportunities."

CAMARADERIE "The community at Harding has had a strong impact on my development as a student, as a cadet and as a person of faith. They have helped me think seriously about my goals, and they do everything possible to help me achieve them. This comes from professors, students, administrators and alumni."

FORWARD, MARCH Upon graduation, Patton will head to Fort Lee, Virginia, to begin a career as an Army officer. He has been selected to serve as a quartermaster officer — a logistics branch of the Army. "I aspire to serve in our nation's Army for as long as possible while hopefully getting to receive graduate-level education. I am in pursuit of a life of service — service to God, service to others and service to country." — Jonathan B. Murphy



Everyday STUDENT

SENIOR PERRY PATTON RECEIVES TRAINING AND PREPARATION FOR A SUCCESSFUL ARMY CAREER THROUGH THE ROTC BISON DETACHMENT

PHOTO BY JEFF MONTGOMERY

HEARD in CHAPEL

On Thursday, March 21, our campus community gathered together for daily chapel to remember and honor the life of junior Mary Joy Uebelein, who died March 16 from injuries she sustained in a car accident March 8. For Mary Joy's obituary, see page 35.

"Remember this: God calls each and every star by name — It's not likely He has forgotten yours."

*Tweet from Mary Joy on Jan. 16 read by
President Bruce McLarty*

"We sing when words are not enough."

Sean Alex Smith, song leader

"Mary Joy was passionate about people. She was passionate and present in all of her relationships."

"I'm confident that Mary Joy never had to ask Jesus who her neighbor was. She always put others before herself."

"She chose joy in all circumstances and gained hope in return."

"I challenge you on Mary Joy's behalf to choose joy every day you are blessed to be on this earth."

Chase Mangrum, Delta Gamma Rho president

"She did everything in life with her crown held high, a smile spread delicately across her face, and a servant's heart. She chose joy every day that God had her placed in our lives."

Statement from the Uebelein family

"Because she was an organ donor, she has been able to bless or save 10 lives because of that final act of giving."

"We grieve, but we grieve with hope, and that makes all the difference in the world."

"The songs that we've sung today ... were all songs that were favorites of Mary Joy's ... I wonder how many times Mary Joy sang ['It is well'] with us here in chapel, and today we sing it knowing she loved this, and it's a message for all of us."

President Bruce McLarty

EVENTS

JUNE 8-13, 15-20, 22-27

Uplift

Hundreds of seventh through 12th grade students, sponsors and youth ministers will participate in classes, worship and fun activities surrounding the theme "Believe." A new addition this year, Spark, allows fourth through sixth graders and their parents to have a taste of Uplift with a three-day experience June 27-30. upliftonline.com

JUNE 13-14, JULY 11-12, AUG. 14-15

Bison Bound

The University's required, two-day summer orientation gets first-year students and their parents ready for classes to start in August. The schedule is full of information-packed sessions and opportunities to tour campus, build a class schedule, develop friendships, preview campus life, and learn what to expect from the Harding experience. harding.edu/bisonbound

JUNE 21-JULY 5, JUNE 28-JULY 12, JULY 5-19, 12-26

Summer Academic Institute

Qualified high school students entering their senior year spend two weeks on campus growing spiritually and academically through stimulating classes and activities, taught and led by some of the University's finest professors and student counselors. These students will explore campus, meet potential roommates, earn college credit and form lifelong friendships. harding.edu/summeracademic

SEPT. 27-28

Family Weekend

See what campus life looks like for your student as you spend the weekend attending chapel and classes, eating in the student center, cheering on Bison sport teams, touring residence halls, and networking with fellow Bison parents. Family weekend promises fun for the whole family! harding.edu/familyweekend

SEPT. 29-OCT. 2

Lectureship

Described by last year's attendees as "a week of renewal, reconnecting and learning," Lectureship 2019, Fan the Flame: Renewed by the Power of the Holy Spirit, will take a deeper look at the book of Acts, bringing ministers and people of faith to campus for an enriching time of worship and study. harding.edu/lectureship

OCT. 17-19

Homecoming

You won't want to miss the theatre department's production of "Matilda," the Bison football game and crowning of the queen, or the chance to reconnect with fellow alumni and meet current students. Campus is always abuzz with excitement as many visit home sweet Harding. Make plans for October now! harding.edu/homecoming

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

BY THE NUMBERS



458,689

Copies made in the Center in 2018

5,292

Length in feet of projects laminated in 2018 with heat and cold laminate

4,375

Items available for checkout in the Watson Center library, including 12 iPads and two projectors

91

Colors available between butcher, cardstock, construction, copy, parchment and resume paper

71.75

Hours open each week, including evenings and weekends

18

Font choices on the laser die-cut machine

3

Names in the center's history: The Curriculum Lab Education Resource Center Watson Center



BACK ROW: Dr. Brad Miller, Dr. Dana Steil, Dr. Mike McGalliard, Dr. Zane Gastineau, Dr. Wesley Parker
FRONT ROW: Dr. John Keller, Dr. Laurie Diles, Tammy Hall, Dr. Cindy White, Daniel Adams

Moving up

THE UNIVERSITY ANNOUNCED several leadership promotions this spring across multiple offices and departments.

The Provost Office made two academic leadership appointments April 18. Dr. Dana Steil is assistant provost, and Dr. Mike McGalliard is the new dean of the College of Allied Health, replacing Dr. Beckie Weaver, who is retiring.

Steil has been an important part of the provost leadership team since June 2016. His contributions in the areas of institutional research and effectiveness have been invaluable in support of efforts to improve access to meaningful data to inform decision making across campus and to develop a culture of continuous improvement. He won the Teacher Achievement Award in 2011 and 2017. He will continue to focus efforts on institutional research and effectiveness and serve as a connection between the provost office and the faculty.

McGalliard joined the University in 2010 as the founding chair of the physical therapy doctoral program. He recruited an outstanding faculty and has guided the department successfully through the accreditation process. The quality of the program under his leadership is evident with a 100% first-time pass rate in four out of the first five graduating classes. He has extensive work experience as a physical therapist.

The Office of International Programs announced Daniel Adams as the new director of the Harding University in Greece international studies program. Adams was previously professor and chair of the department of art and design.

As director, Adams oversees day-to-day operations of the program and supervises faculty and students as classes are conducted and they explore the country. His wife, Meagan, resigned from her position as CFO of the Arkansas Symphony Orchestra and serves as the assistant director.

Dr. John Keller, art professor, replaces Adams as chair of the department of art and design. He has been on the department faculty since 1979 and served as chair from 1999 to 2014.

Dr. Zane Gastineau, professor and chair of the engineering and physics department, was appointed dean of the College of Sciences.

As founding chair of the department, Gastineau has recruited and hired an outstanding faculty and successfully navigated the accreditation process multiple times to create new programs in computer, electrical, mechanical, biomedical and, most recently, civil engineering. Under his leadership, engineering and physics has grown to 230 students as of the fall of 2018. He replaces Dr. Travis Thompson,

who returns to the classroom.

Dr. Brad Miller, professor and director of mechanical engineering, replaces Gastineau as chair of the department of engineering and physics.

The College of Sciences has appointed Dr. Cindy White chair of the department of chemistry and biochemistry. White replaces Dr. Dennis Matlock who will resume teaching full time.

The College of Arts and Humanities announced that Dr. Wesley Parker, music professor, will assume the responsibilities of chair of the department of music beginning June 1. He will replace Dr. Cliff Ganus who is returning to classroom teaching.

Dr. Laurie Diles, associate professor of communication, has been named chair of the department of communication beginning June 1. She replaces Dr. Jim Miller who is returning to full-time teaching.

Tammy Hall has been promoted to vice president and chief financial officer for the University. She has served as assistant vice president for finance since 2004 and has been instrumental in providing leadership in accounting and financial matters of the University including budget, payroll, accounts receivable, accounts payable and purchasing. Hall replaces Dr. Mel Sansom who had served as CFO since 2002.

PHOTO BY JEFF MONTGOMERY



NEWSMAKERS

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Errica Rivera received the 2019 Insurance Industry Leadership Award Feb. 9 at the "Pathways to Success" Scholarship Gala in Irving, Texas. The event was presented by the Dallas-Fort Worth chapter of the National African American Insurance Association.

BOOKSTORE

In January, Tracy Yarbrough was appointed textbook manager. She replaces Brenda Miller who served as the textbook and assistant manager of the bookstore since 1991.

CENTER FOR STUDENT SUCCESS

Caitlin Denton was named events and communications coordinator in February.

Jenise Williams Hiles is the first student permitted by the U.S. Department of Education to be served by Harding's Ronald E. McNair Post Baccalaureate Achievement Program on the basis of being a woman engaging in a STEM field, where women have long been underrepresented. Hiles is pursuing a double major in mechanical engineering and art.

COLLEGE OF ALLIED HEALTH

Alice Henton successfully defended her dissertation in December 2018 at Nova Southeastern University and earned the Doctor of Speech Language Pathology. The title of her dissertation is "Long-Term Educational Outcomes in School-Aged Children with Craniosynostosis."

Debbie Woodroof was appointed by the Educational Testing Service to serve on the Praxis National Advisory Committee for American Sign Language. The first meeting was in March in Princeton, New Jersey.

COLLEGE OF ARTS AND HUMANITIES

Dr. Ginger Blackstone was elected to the Mid-America Emmys Board of Governors in December 2018. The Mid-America division is made up of television professionals in Arkansas, Missouri, Louisiana, Illinois and Iowa. It is affiliated with the National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences in New York.

Senior Kaleb Turner won College Journalist of the Year — the top prize — at the Southeast Journalism Conference at Middle Tennessee State University Feb. 16. HU16 won Best College TV Station and Best College TV News Program.

The Bison and the *Petit Jean* both placed third for Best College Newspaper and Best Yearbook Layout, respectively, at the College Media Association Apple Awards in New York City March 9.

The Bison newspaper, the *Petit Jean* yearbook and the Link website each won the General Excellence Award for their respective categories at the Arkansas College Media Association conference at Arkansas Tech University April 5.

Dr. Terry Engel had two stories selected for publication: "Dora the Explorer" and "Prayer." "Dora the Explorer" was published in *Adelaide Literary Magazine* in January and "Prayer" in *Dreamers Creative Writing* in February.

COLLEGE OF EDUCATION

Dr. Marc Fager received the Rosenthal Award for Outstanding Counselor Educator of the Year at the Arkansas Association for Counselor Education and Supervision conference in February.

COLLEGE OF NURSING

Kim Swenson successfully defended her dissertation in January at Chamberlain University and earned the Doctor of Nursing Practice. The title of her dissertation is "An Evidence-Based Approach to Improving Provider Utilization and Patient Adherence to HIV Pre-exposure Prophylaxis (PrEP)."

MY VIEW

DR. KEN OLREE

Solving problems

In February, Searcy was named winner of the Deluxe Corp. Small Business Revolution contest. Local businesses rallied support throughout the semester for a revitalization of the city through improvements to small business. We talked with Director of the Waldron Center for Family Business and Entrepreneurship Ken Olree about his perspective on starting a small business in an era where many customers prioritize shopping and eating locally.

YOU REALLY HAVE TO understand if there's a market for whatever product or service you want to provide. There's a little bit of a shift in thinking in terms of entrepreneurship. Historically, it has been about putting forth an idea and building a strong business plan around it with very little focus on customer interaction. That has changed a lot in the sense that there's a much larger emphasis on really getting to know your customer well — understanding what their needs are and understanding how a solution that you might provide will fit into their daily way of doing things already rather than trying to impose an artificial solution onto them and having them back away and say, 'I can't integrate that into the other things that I'm doing.'

Instead, you examine how potential customers make purchasing decisions and solve problems to understand if they would buy your

product or like what you're selling. I think people are realizing this is much more important than saying, 'I've got a great idea, and I'm going to impose it on everyone else.' Now, more businesses owners are exploring how they can design a product or a service that fits well with the way people are already operating. It's about coming through and solving a problem. 📱



Business ranking high

THE PAUL R. CARTER College of Business Administration has received national recognition from multiple college ranking sources.

College Factual, the leading source of data analytics and insights on college outcomes, has ranked the finance program No. 11 for "Best for the Money" in the United States and No. 1 in Arkansas. The site also ranked the accounting program No. 15 out of 601 colleges and universities in the U.S. and marketing No. 4 out of 402.

Another college ranking site, study.com, listed the finance program No. 16 among the top 50 schools in the U.S. and listed COBA No. 34 among the top 50 business schools in the U.S.

Harding's online MBA was ranked in the Top 50 Best Online MBA programs in 2018 by bestcolleges.com.

"COBA has a strong reputation for preparing outstanding Christian professionals," said Dr. Allen Frazier, dean. "We are happy and encouraged by others recognizing our excellent faculty and students through these rankings."

PHOTO BY JEFF MONTGOMERY



Honored to serve

By ASHLYN QUESINBERRY, reprinted from *The Bison*

AFTER 32 YEARS, Sandra Harris Boaz ('69) retired as the volunteer bookkeeper for the men's basketball team.

In 1964, Boaz and her family moved to Searcy so that she and her three siblings could enroll at Harding Academy. Boaz's father, Bill Harris, was a life insurance agent who officiated track and football and became an instrumental volunteer at both Harding Academy and the University.

Boaz and her husband, Ned ('66), met at Harding where he played basketball for the Bisons. After he graduated, he played for Carder Buick in the Amateur Athletic Union league, and Boaz figured out bookkeepers were cheating their team out of points. She then decided she was going to keep a book, too, so that she could keep the other bookkeepers honest. This is how her love for bookkeeping began.

She started out occasionally substituting for Harding's bookkeeper, Joe Pryor (former vice

president for academic affairs), in 1983. She said she was a nervous wreck when she would sub for him. The job requires a lot of concentration, and what the bookkeeper has in their book is the last line of defense for the referees.

In 1987, she started keeping the book full time. She said for the first few years she was still a nervous wreck, and one of the fastest lessons she learned while on the job was to always screw the lid back on her drinks because basketballs fly around everywhere.

Becoming friends with the referees and the other table members was a highlight for her; she said the referees were not happy about her retirement.

"It's really a team effort," Boaz said. "I don't do anything on my own. This isn't all about me. If I missed something, someone was always there to help me figure it out."

Boaz's spirit for volunteering was passed on to her from her father. Harris was the Bison Booster Club president in 1965 and was instrumental in starting the Harding Athletics Hall of Fame. She said keeping the book is mind-intensive and that she never knew the importance of a sharp pencil until she started bookkeeping. She kept books for both men's and women's basketball until 20 years ago when she moved her focus to men's.

She said she will miss the camaraderie she has built with the referees and the people at the table. As bookkeeper, she said she was supposed to be unbiased, but the referees all know she was not.

Over the years, Boaz became the No. 1 fan for the basketball teams. She watched team practices and she and her husband always traveled to the Great American Conference Tournament. She started making both the teams chocolate cakes in 2000 for player's birthdays.

"She makes a chocolate-on-chocolate cake for us, and they are always really good," junior Jenni Nadeau, a guard for the women's basketball team, said.

In 2015, she had to cut back on the amount of cakes she made because she was diagnosed with breast cancer. She planned all of her surgeries around the season. She thought she was going to have to quit that year, but she pushed through and made it through the season. She has struggled with her health some this year but said the only thing that would have caused her to miss a game was being in the hospital.

She has been a dedicated fan and bookkeeper for both of the teams for 32 years and said she will not ever lose contact with them.

"It won't hit me until the basketball season starts back up again," Boaz said. "It's been my honor to serve." 🏀



Assistant Men's Basketball Coach Ray Lynn Woods and Athletic Director Jeff Morgan present Sandra Boaz with a plaque March 2 at the Rhodes-Reaves Field House upon her retirement after serving 32 years as bookkeeper for the men's team. Her husband and former Bison basketball player, Ned Boaz, stands beside her.

PHOTO BY JEFF MONTGOMERY

PHOTO BY JEFF MONTGOMERY

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BY THE NUMBERS



Reggie Anthony

304 Number of assists by senior Reggie Anthony during his career, becoming only the 14th Bison basketball player to reach that milestone.

10 Number of 20-win seasons in Lady Bison basketball program history. The team went 21-9 in 2018-19 during the fifth 20-win season for head coach Tim Kirby.

8.42 Senior James Bowie's season-best time in the indoor 60-meter hurdles. Bowie

owns nine of Harding's 10 fastest 60-meter hurdles times since 1997.

30 Number of years the school record stood for the Lady Bison 4x800-meter relay team, which was broken at the fourth-annual Indoor Gorilla Classic in Pittsburg, Kansas. The team of Kaylin Turley, Kinga Szarzynska, Parker Fane and Hayley Baca placed fourth in 9:30.13 and broke the previous record of 9:43.16. Turley's mother, Harding Athletics Hall of Fame member Kelsie Hutchison, was on the team that set the record in 1989.



The transforming power of FORGIVENESS

By ROY WILLMON

EDITOR'S NOTE: *The "Struggles of the Faith" chapel series each semester allows a variety of speakers to discuss with the student body how their faith has helped them overcome the burdens of everyday life. Roy Willmon's story of forgiveness April 10, 2019, literally raised the hair on my head as I was struck by the forgiving power of the Spirit in him and in his wife. Some of our readers will remember the 1995 event described in his powerful words to the two chapel audiences.*

I'd like to thank Dr. Bruce McLarty and the University staff for the invitation to participate in your chapel series "Struggles of the Faith." This is my first attempt to speak to an audience like this so I ask in advance for your patience and understanding as I try to speak about the transforming power of forgiveness.

PHOTO BY JEFF MONTGOMERY

"It's not about me anymore. It's about **Christ** and what he gave us **at the cross** ... What a gift!"

PATRIC PATTERSON, IN A LETTER TO THE WILLMONS

Dr. McLarty asked me to share our story about our struggle in the tragic death of our daughter and, more importantly, the story of the transforming power of God's forgiveness — a forgiveness that transforms both the forgiver and the forgiven.

My wife, Jeanie, and I love your wonderful university which was so good to our two children, Curtis and Carla Willmon. And our story started right here on your beautiful campus in 1990 when our son, Curtis, the oldest of our two children, came to Harding followed some four years later by his younger sister, Carla.

In April 1995, Carla, then a 20-year-old junior, returned to Harding on Sunday afternoon following Easter weekend, which was spent with us in Mount Pleasant, Texas. On Monday evening, apparently in the midst of studying — books were left open, lamp on and drink left on her study area — she decided she needed something from Walmart. As she left the store, two men kidnapped her, stole her car, drove her to a vacant trailer house owned by a brother of one of the men, and during what must have been a long and terrifying night, raped and murdered her.

The two men put Carla's body in the trunk of her car, along with a can of gasoline, with the intention of driving to a remote area and dumping and burning her body. But on the way, they ran off the road and got the car stuck in the ditch. They decided to burn the body and the car there in the ditch, but just as they were about to pour the gasoline, another car came down the road and stopped in a nearby driveway. Realizing it was too populated an area for them to escape such a scene undetected, they fled on foot, not lighting the gasoline. A few days later one of the men turned himself in and implicated the other in the kidnapping and murder.

The eight months before the trial dates were months of bitterness and hatred, filled with a determination to seek revenge through a death sentence for each murderer. However, on the morning of the trial, in response to a plea for a life sentence without parole instead of the likelihood of the death sentence if it went to trial, one man changed his plea to guilty and agreed to testify against the other.

The second trial was delayed for another month to give the defense time to prepare after the first man's plea. Meanwhile, we were even more determined to seek the death penalty in the trial of the

second murderer. However, on the morning of the second trial, the second man also wanted to plead guilty in exchange for a life without parole sentence, and my wife and I inexplicably accepted the life sentence. Perhaps it was God's Spirit intervening to keep us from having to sit through the gory details of the trial or perhaps God was simply using that moment to set the stage for the transforming of four lives through the transforming power of forgiveness.

Speaking of the providence of God — I must tell you this: After Dr. McLarty called me in late December asking me to share our story with you in chapel, I went back to a scrapbook of news articles about the events surrounding the murder, trial, etc., and a quote by one of the writers caught my attention. It was a quote from my wife, which I was never aware of before my reading this last December: "I hope to find it in myself to find some type of peace in my heart to forgive them for what they did." God had already planted that seed in her heart way back then. I assure you, that thought certainly had never crossed my mind at that time!

For the first 10 years after the murder, Jeanie and I wrestled with the emotions of our tragic loss, but thankfully we found great comfort through our faith, our brothers and sisters in Christ, and the power of gospel music. The singing group Free Indeed (and others) shared their ministry in music with us. And I would be amiss not to mention and once again thank members of the Harding choir for traveling to Mount Pleasant, Texas, to sing at Carla's funeral. Songs can touch a place in the heart that words alone can never reach. We will always be grateful to those who shared the love of Christ with us through song.

We gradually over the years came to believe that we had forgiven the two men who had murdered our daughter. But truthfully, at least speaking for myself, I had only tried to suppress their memory to some dark corner of my mind — to pretend that those men just did not exist. I think I called that forgiveness.

It took 20 years, but the Spirit of the Lord finally convicted me — and my wife agreed — that we needed to officially tell the two men that we forgave them. So on Feb. 12, 2015, we finally surrendered to God's will, and I wrote a letter to each of the two men telling them of our forgiveness. Included in that letter were the following two sentences; they are my definition of forgiveness. "To forgive someone is not to say that what that person did was OK; it simply means (at least to me it means) abandoning the desire for retaliation and revenge, and granting forgiveness along with concern for that person's future welfare. So in your case, although justice must be served and your fate in this life is set, Jeanie and I have a true concern and desire for you to have a better life beyond the grave." I went on to tell each that there was a much greater forgiveness available to them through Jesus Christ, and if they were interested in learning how they could obtain such forgiveness, I would be happy to study the Bible with them through correspondence.

Both men were housed in separate prisons and did not communicate with each other, but both responded in very similar fashion; with great skepticism over our offer of forgiveness and each stating

“I thank God every day for his **forgiveness** and your willingness to **surrender** your own emotions to **serve** a loving God.”

MITCHELL SKINNER, IN A LETTER TO THE WILLMONS

they doubted our forgiveness and that they did not believe God could or would forgive them or that he even cared.

I responded with the very simple message of the gospel of Jesus Christ. Over the following year and a half, we had regular biweekly Bible studies about the love, mercy and grace of God, his covenant relationship with mankind, his ultimate redemptive act of sending his son Jesus to die for our sins, and that God wanted all men everywhere to come to repentance and accept his offer of salvation, regardless of their sins.

With the help of the College Church of Christ prison ministry team, Randy Hughes and others, both men obeyed our Lord in baptism, receiving the forgiveness of their sins and the gift of the Holy Spirit to live within and guide them in their new walk of life by helping transform them from a world of darkness into the world of light in Jesus Christ.

And you know what is so amazing? It all started by the transforming power of a few spoken words of forgiveness!

Both men's responses to their newfound forgiveness and freedom in Jesus have been heartwarming and inspirational, showing true repentance through their gratitude, changed lifestyle, and their passion for sharing the gospel with others. They each are leaders in their respective 20 to 30 member “congregations” within their respective prison units — both taking leading roles in their weekly worship services, both giving communion thoughts, teaching, and conducting Bible studies wherever they can find willing participants. Mitchell also leads the singing in his congregation. Patric has led and baptized three other prisoners into Christ, and Mitchell is trying diligently to do the same.

Both Mitchell Skinner and Patric Patterson continue to communicate with Jeanie and me every two weeks, and each and every letter has words of love and appreciation for us, and joy, gratitude and thanksgiving for their new life in Christ Jesus.

Jeanie and I can now testify that God truly is true to his word. It truly is more blessed to give than receive. Our lives have been blessed and our faith fortified by this simple act of giving forgiveness. And Christ's kingdom is being expanded.

Jesus certainly knew the importance and the transforming power

of forgiveness. After all, he died on a cruel cross so that he might give forgiveness to us. He simply asks that we pass it on to others.

Do you remember when Jesus' disciples asked him to teach them how to pray? Right in the middle of Jesus' model prayer, Jesus said we should ask the Father to “Forgive us our sins as (or in like manner) we forgive those who sin against us.” Do we really want God to forgive us in the same manner as we forgive others? That's a sobering question.

Then Matthew quotes Jesus in the two verses following his model prayer as saying these words: “For if you forgive men when they sin against you, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. But if you do not forgive men their sins, your Father will not forgive your sins.”

We all need— we all must have — God's forgiveness. But I also want you to understand, God gives us much more than just forgiveness when we forgive others; he also gives us peace and comfort and a serenity the un-forgiving world will never know.

It took Jeanie and me 20 years to do what Jesus had asked us to do and to receive that peace. So as I leave you this morning, let me beg you, let me implore you, don't be so tardy with your forgiveness. If you have a family member, a fellow student, or someone in the world who has done you wrong, be the stronger person and offer your forgiveness.

And let me say this: The person who has offended you, who has hurt you, who did you wrong, does not need to ask for your forgiveness before you offer it. That is the devil speaking, trying to get us to procrastinate in doing

what we know we ought to do. The other party may even refuse to accept your forgiveness. They may even throw your forgiveness back in your face, but you are obeying God, and you are the one who will receive the greatest blessings of comfort and peace and living hope that comes only from the one who gave the greatest gift of forgiveness this world has ever known.

So my challenge and my charge to each of you here this morning is to allow God's Holy Spirit to fully develop his fruit of love, joy, peace, patience, kindness and faithfulness. Let him develop that fruit into a life that is ready to forgive as we have been forgiven. You will be blessed and lives can be changed from darkness into the light of Jesus. 🙏



Carla Willmon's senior photo

HARDING

THE ANSWER TO A DREAM

EDITOR'S NOTE: When two of Harding's oldest alumni died at the age of 102 last year, Ruby Davis Anderson Williams, who helped with preparations in Searcy upon the move from Morrilton, was one of them. Upon her death, the magazine came upon her remembrances of the beginning of Harding in Searcy in 1934. • While hard to imagine, Harding's 100th anniversary will be here in 2024, only five years from now. If you have stories or memorabilia from Harding's history you would be willing to share for the celebration, we would love to hear from you. Email centennial@harding.edu or send to Centennial, Office of University Communications & Marketing, Box 12234, 915 E. Market, Searcy, AR 72149-5615.

By RUBY D. WILLIAMS

At a very early age I dreamed of becoming a teacher — it became a passion with me. My teachers were my heroes. As a young girl, every time I passed Galloway College in Searcy my dreams of going to college and becoming a teacher became stronger. Those buildings, especially Godden Hall, seemed to hold within their walls the answer to all of my dreams.

I was a member of the first graduating class in April 1934 from Plainview High School north of Judsonia, Arkansas. It was one of the first, if not the first, of the rural consolidated high schools in White County. This was at the height of the Great Depression. The prospects of going to college were absolutely out of the question. There was just no hope of that ever happening. Where would I get the money, and where would I go? If my father had bountiful crops, prices were so low he just barely managed to pay bills and provide us with life's necessities. This was true of every family in the area. My parents had always encouraged and supported me in my quest to attend college and become a teacher. Even though in those days in Arkansas one could attend Arkansas State Teacher's College in Conway for six weeks in the summer, pass a test, and secure a license to teach through the eighth grade, I couldn't even afford to go to college there.

One afternoon toward the end of May, two men, Brother [S.A.] Bell and Brother [R.N.] Gardner, were in the area recruiting students for a college that was moving from Morrilton, Arkansas, to the Galloway plant in Searcy. The more they talked, the greater my desire became to attend college. My father explained to them that he absolutely could not afford to send me to college. I had two younger sisters and a younger brother. There just wasn't money for college. When they heard that, these two gentlemen told of the need for workers to get the Galloway buildings and equipment ready for occupancy by September. Also, workers would be needed during the school

SUBMITTED PHOTO

COMMUNICATIONS AND MARKETING ARCHIVE PHOTO



GOING FULL CIRCLE

year. The pay would be 50 cents an hour. That was a lot of money to me! My closest friend also wanted to attend college, but her family was in the same situation as mine. Nevertheless, arrangements were finally worked out for my friend and me to live in a room in the Patie Cobb building and prepare our meals in the kitchen.

There were a number of other workers involved in the cleaning of the Galloway buildings and the move of equipment from Morrilton. Travel between Searcy and Morrilton required three to four hours with loaded trucks, which had to be unloaded to make the drive back to Morrilton the next day for another load. This was a long, hard day's work for the young men that were doing the job.

Ruby Lowery, who later became Ruby Stapleton, was our supervisor. Those of us from the farm brought in produce — eggs, butter, milk and vegetables. Miss Lowery, with a little of our help, prepared our meals in the kitchen. But first it had to be cleaned since it was so very dirty and required a lot of work.

The summer was terribly hot and there were no fans. Air conditioning? What was that? Mosquitoes were plentiful, and no screens were on the windows. Getting to sleep early in the evening just wasn't possible. About the time one drifted off to sleep, the train from Doniphan and Kensett came chugging and clanging down the DK&S tracks just across the street from our room. At this time Doniphan was a thriving mill town, north of Kensett and east of Searcy. A large number of families lived there and worked in the mills. The DK&S railroad track was the connection for Searcy to the mail rail line of the Missouri Pacific Railroad in Kensett and Doniphan.

After the evening meal we would often gather around the piano and listen to Miss Lowery play our favorite tunes and hymns. Often we would all join in and sing along. There were several softball teams in Searcy, and one or two nights each week we would go to the games. On Wednesday nights we would all walk to the Downtown Church of Christ for services. At that time the church building was located northeast of the old Armory Building, which is now where Walgreens is located.

By the end of August we had scraped and scrubbed the science building, the training school building and all furnishings. They were spic and span, as they had to pass inspection by Mrs. [Pattie] Sears, Mrs. [Woodson] Armstrong or Miss Lowery.

The summer work did not cover all of my tuition so it was necessary during the school year to spend two hours Tuesday through Saturday and four hours on Monday working. Classes were on Saturday but not on Monday for the benefit of those who went some distance away to preach on Sunday mornings and Sunday nights.

May 1 was celebrated by a tradition known as "winding the Maypole." The young ladies were selected from the social clubs for this event. They practiced for many hours before the big event, and classes were dismissed for this special occasion, which was indeed a spectacular sight. I'm not sure if this was a tradition with Harding at Morrilton, but it was with the young women of Galloway.

When Dr. [George S.] Benson arrived in 1936, he hit the ground running. It would be impossible to describe his impact on Harding and Searcy. On Thanksgiving Day 1939, the mortgage on Harding

had been paid off, and the paper was burned in a ceremony.

During 1930-32 the Great Depression was taking its toll on the American people. Thousands were out of work. Factories and businesses were closing down, and farmers could not sell their produce. There began to be a movement by many people toward socialism. Huey P. Long of Louisiana was advocating "share the wealth" and many people across the country began to echo his plea.

While a missionary in China, Dr. Benson was able to see something of the evils of communism. With a strong belief in the American free enterprise economic system he began speaking to industrial and business leaders across the country. Often through these contacts he was able to secure financial support for Harding.

DURING THE 1920S, 30S, AND 40S, White County was the greatest strawberry producing area in the United States. Often it was difficult to get enough help to pick the berries, and they would ruin in the fields. In May of 1942 Dr. Benson made arrangements with a large producer in the area for Harding students to help pick his berries because they were spoiling in the fields. Harding kept half of the berries as payment. The students picked a lot of berries that day, even though many of them had never seen a strawberry patch or picked them before. There were a lot of aching backs and legs at day's end. The next day when students were not in class, they spent much of the day removing the green caps, or "capping the berries." Ma Chandler, the school dietitian, froze some of them and made jam from the remainder.

Dr. Benson was a leader who would not let a person give up and quit. He inspired one to "keep on keeping on" and give all you had and then at least an ounce more. When Dr. Benson retired and Dr. [Clifton L.] Ganus Jr. became president of the college, the fundamental promotion of American democracy and free enterprise continued. He continued to build upon the foundation laid by those before him. His belief in democracy and constitutional government, along with a strong faith in God, prepared him to become an outstanding president of the school. Through his efforts and the American Studies Institute, outstanding speakers from the United States and around the world have been brought to speak at Harding.

At every event, Benson Auditorium was filled with people from all across the state and many from outside the state. Dr. [David B.] Burks, a student of Dr. Benson and Dr. Ganus, continued to build on the foundation laid by those faithful men and women of Harding's past. New buildings and new fields of study were added. Enrollment greatly increased with students from every state in the union and around the world.

As a teacher of American history and economics in the Searcy Junior High School, I relied heavily upon films and materials from Dr. Don Diffine and the Belden Center for Private Enterprise Education at Harding. My task would have been very difficult without them.

If I were asked the secret to Harding's success my answer would be "faith and sacrifice." Those professors, supervisors and mechanical workers made great sacrifices. They were on a mission. Their income was meager, so many of them supplemented their income by preaching in churches around the area.



1935 PETIT JEAN PHOTO

I HAVE ALWAYS LOVED THE STRETCH of sidewalk between the back side of the Olen Hendrix building and the Student Center. It is not exactly the first place people list as a favorite Harding destination but, to me, it's where so much of my story started.

My grandmother, Lena Ruth Story Pearson (or Mimi as I knew her) would always tell me stories from "the old days" back when she was a little girl growing up in Griffithville, Arkansas, the daughter of a farmer and a store keeper. She told me about living in the first home to have a television set and the only storm shelter in town, right in the middle of tornado alley. She would tell me stories about high school and growing up during the Great Depression in rural White County. She would tell about going down the road to school at "the College."

I remember the day I told her I had decided to attend Harding University. She smiled so big, pride welling up in her face. She was proud to be the grandmother of a third-generation Harding student.

She would always tell me about being at Harding College during the war years. She started as a freshman in 1945, lived in Godden Hall, and studied to be a school teacher. I asked her once if she was in a social club; she replied "Oh it was Tau somethin'."

After one year of college, in 1946, she was asked to teach grades first to 12th in a one-room schoolhouse in her hometown of Griffithville. She spent her first paycheck on a pair of roller skates, her favorite activity.

She returned to Harding when the war ended and all "the boys" came back.

My grandmother loved being active. She played basketball and volleyball. But I think she always had an affection for tennis, at least after a fateful meeting one day at Harding.

I had always known that my grandparents met at Harding, but I am embarrassed to say that I didn't know the whole story until quite recently. My grandmother didn't talk about my

grandfather, Charles Pearson, I think because I never knew him. He died in 1983, well before I was born, and I think talking about him made her sad. But I, a young public relations student in the middle of learning how to do in-person interviews, decided to ask. "Mimi, how did you and grandpa Charles meet?"

My grandparents met at that stretch of sidewalk between the back side of Olen Hendrix and the Student Center back when it was tennis courts. My grandmother and two friends were at the courts and wanted to play doubles. Right at the moment they were looking for a fourth player, Charles Pearson, a recent WWII coast guard veteran, walked out of his house across the street where the Student Center and McInteer buildings are now. They yelled over at him, "Want to play doubles?" He agreed. The Pearsons married about a year later and started life together. Little did Lena Ruth Story and Charles Pearson know that seven decades later their grandson would walk over that space almost daily for four years.

I was recently on that stretch of sidewalk. I was back in Searcy for my grandmother's funeral, and as I was driving through campus, I couldn't help myself but go there for a moment and remember what took place in that space 70 years ago. In that moment, reflecting on my grandmother's life as a whole, I realized that so much of what she learned from her time at Harding, I too had learned in mine.

EVERY TIME I WOULD GO TO SEE HER, she would ask me two things: "Well Grant, how're you doin'? Where'd you go to church last Sunday?" Always the same, always in quick succession. In my adolescence and even in early adulthood I found these questions a little annoying. Maybe it was because she always asked them. Or maybe it was because I was embarrassed to answer them. But regardless of my answer, her response was always the same: "Well God loves you, ya hear. And so do I." It took me a while to realize why she

always asked those questions, but it was because she cared for me — for my personal well-being just as much as my spiritual welfare.

In the same way my grandmother asked me how I was doing personally and spiritually, my Harding experience also provided that for me. She nurtured me to be the best possible version of myself, and as a student, I was constantly encouraged to renew and strengthen my being. She constantly built me up and encouraged my passions and dreams. In the same way my peers and professors gave me confidence to accomplish whatever I set out to do.

I cannot even begin to count the number of times I passed over that stretch of sidewalk during my four years at Harding. Looking back on it now, each time was as if my soul intersected with those of my grandparents. We three all lived very different lives, separated by seven decades, but the spirit of our experience remains the same. I can hardly walk in front of the Student Center without being transported back in my mind to the late 1940s, seeing Lena on the courts and Charles on the sidewalk opposite, at that serendipitous moment of meeting.

It is so incredibly important that we share these stories. They connect us to a time long past but also to a space that is all too familiar and provide a link to "the old days" but make their yesterday relevant in our today. They make the mundane something extraordinary. Looking into the past is 20/20 — it's all in plain sight. We can clearly see how God worked in those moments leading two souls to a divine meeting. These stories have power to enrich our lives and strengthen our faith, but first we have to ask to hear them, because if we don't, they will fade away. Knowing the presence of his plan can lead us to those moments where it all comes back around again, where so much of our lives, and lives before ours, make sense.

What will lead you full circle? What will be your concrete sidewalk? 📍 — Grant Schol ('15)

COMMUNICATIONS AND MARKETING ARCHIVE PHOTO

When I reflect on those early years of Harding in Searcy, I see the faces of dedicated people; Dr. [W.H.] Summitt, Dr. Ray Stapleton, Brothers L.E. Pryor, Bell, Gardner, [B.F.] Rhodes, Brother and Sister Armstrong, Mrs. [Florence] Cathcart, Dean and Mrs. [L.C.] Sears, Ruby Lowery, Mrs. [Ermine] Coleman, and so many more. They were all people of faith with a strong belief in what they were doing.

Being a part of that first year in 1934 and seeing Harding grow and expand each year with new programs and buildings has been both amazing and a joy for me. When I am asked where I attended college, I answer with pride. From that little acorn planted in Searcy in 1934 by a few faithful, dedicated men and women, a mighty oak, Harding University, has grown, and its influence is felt around the world. 📍

BENEFITING FROM BECKIE

After 37 years of tireless service, the first dean of Allied Health, Dr. Beckie Weaver, is putting her grade book away forever.

By JANTZEN HALEY

Photography by JEFF MONTGOMERY

On the afternoon of Feb. 13, Harding colleagues received an email announcing the retirement of Dr. Beckie Weaver after 37 years of service to the University. The announcement came from Dr. Marty Spears, provost, and his thoughts succinctly encapsulated Weaver's passion and commitment over her time here.

"The Harding family owes her a great debt of gratitude for outstanding service as a teacher and administrator," Spears wrote. "Dean Weaver retires as the founding dean of the College of Allied Health and professor of communication sciences and disorders. She is a beloved member of the deans' council and has provided strong leadership on this important academic team for the past nine years."

Spears goes on to list a few of Weaver's many accomplishments and contributions to the communication sciences and disorders department, international programs, Center for Health Sciences, and institutional research board, to name a few.



BENEFITING FROM BECKIE

“Dr. Weaver is a good friend and a trusted colleague,” Spears wrote in conclusion. “Her approach to leadership is very Christ-like, which has given me great confidence in her ability to manage even the most difficult situations well. She is a wonderful example of how to truly live out our mission in a way that honors God and impacts the lives of those around her.”

YEAH, THAT SOUNDS GOOD.

Beckie Oldroyd stepped onto Harding’s campus as a freshman student in 1969. She wanted to major in speech and theater, and was pursuing her degree when a friend, Dan Tullos, planted a new thought: They could take one extra speech class and become certified to be speech therapists.

“So, I took the class, and that was fun.”

Tullos wasn’t done there. He prompted that a master’s degree in speech pathology would allow them to practice anywhere they wanted to practice. The University of Mississippi was her next step.

“I said, ‘sure, why not? I’ll go.’ A group of us all went to Ole Miss, and I think I fell into the profession by saying, ‘yeah, that sounds good.’ After I had been in it for a little while, I developed a huge passion for it.”

As she neared the completion of her master’s degree, she received a phone call from Dr. Evan Ulrey, former chair of Harding’s speech department.

“He said, ‘You’re about to get your master’s degree, aren’t you?’ I said yes. And he said, ‘Would you ever consider coming back and working at Harding?’”

That was 1974, and Dr. Richard Walker had been leading the speech therapy program alone since the early 1950s. He and Ulrey wanted to talk to Weaver about joining the growing program.

“I came and talked to them, never dreaming that it might be something that I would do. And by the end of the day, I was hired as their newest instructor.”

After about two years, during which Weaver met and married her husband, Gene, they packed up and moved to Texas for Gene to pursue a high school football coaching position. While in Texas, Weaver worked as

a speech therapist, her husband coached, and their daughter Reagan was born.

Eight years passed. The University’s speech therapy program had since hired Weaver’s friend, Dan Tullos, as an instructor, and when he went on leave to pursue a doctorate, a position in the speech department was once again open. After eight years of long hours and weekend games, Gene was ready to be in the classroom full time, ready to spend more time with his family. The Weavers decided it might be time to look into Searcy again.

“So, we checked it out, and I was hired by Harding for a second time in the fall of 1984. I’ve been here ever since.”

MAKING CHANGES

Weaver attended and initially worked at Harding College as part of the speech department. When Harding achieved university status in 1979, the speech department fell under the College of Arts and Sciences, then moved to the College of Arts and Humanities several years later as the need for more colleges grew.

She taught in the speech department, which was narrowed to the field of communication, which eventually became known as a degree in communication sciences and disorders. At the time, the degree was considered an emphasis major available only at the undergraduate level. In 2005, then president Dr. David Burks came to the faculty members — Tullos, Weaver and Becky McLean at the time — and said it was time to think about what it would take to add a master’s program. After a year and a half of studying, it was decided that a master’s program was, indeed, needed. In the meantime, Weaver had gotten her doctorate, and while Tullos was on board with the addition of a graduate degree, he did not want to lead it.

“They said, ‘Well, would you lead it, Beckie?’ And I said, ‘Well, sure. I’ll give it a try.’”

Conversations continued, the communica-

tion sciences and disorders department was created in conjunction with the master’s program, and Weaver was named the first chair in 2007. Developing the master’s program was no small task to undertake. The decision for Weaver to lead the program was just the beginning. She visited with the chair of the CSD department at the University of New York at Buffalo to review their materials and came back to Searcy with a step-by-step plan.

“One of the first things we needed was a mission statement. And then we needed a strategic plan.”

After the strategic plan came the fun part: meeting accreditation standards by evaluating and implementing each and every one in some aspect of the program. When discussion of a graduate program had previously come up, expense always halted progress. Standards required access to a certain number of resources that would have added exorbitant costs for the library, but the technology age opened access to hundreds of databases and the interlibrary loan system.

“That was not the obstacle anymore. The only obstacle was finding people.”

Molly Ellis Davidson ('10) and her daughter, Nola, work with Dr. Beckie Weaver in a hands-on demonstration during a graduate course titled “Prevention, Diagnosis and Treatment of Communication Disorders: Birth to Five Years Population.”



From this round of hires came Sara Shock, Melanie Meeker, Jennifer Fisher, Jan Traughber and Tim Chance.

“We’ve hired other people, and the Lord provides people who are here, who are qualified, and who do an excellent job in teaching. And that’s essentially how the program developed.”

CURRICULUM AND CLINIC

Following accreditation standards to build a curriculum provided a basic outline, but Weaver was looking for ways, in addition to the amazing faculty, to make the graduate program stand out from competing schools. She started this process by looking at how other universities approached curriculum when she came across the University of North Carolina at Greensboro. Their curriculum was built to cover age ranges — rather than have one class on articulation, one on language, and so forth, they have a class on each age range and all the possible communication disorders one might encounter during that age.

“I called them and said, ‘We like this. Can

we copy you?’ And they said, ‘Absolutely, we don’t own this. Take it, make it yours. Do what you want with it.’”

Weaver goes on to explain that curriculum has to cover the entire lifespan as part of the graduate program requirements, so this new outline was a perfect fit. She also speaks to how this style benefits the work that happens in the on-campus speech clinic.

“Say someone walks into our clinic who is 18, so they fall into the adolescent, young adult stage. We can, with confidence, look at their speech, their articulation, their voice, their fluency, how they interact socially — we can do all those things because we’ve been trained to look at that particular age range.”

It’s clear when she speaks that she holds a passion for the subject, particularly related to

the experience students get while working in the speech clinic.

“The speech clinic was in an office adjacent to [Richard Walker’s] on the third floor of the administration building. It eventually grew to three rooms on the third floor, which is where it was when I was a student. And from 1953 to now, we have continually offered speech therapy services to the public.”

Weaver details that services are one of the ways the University can connect with local residents and make an impact on the community. Ten clients in the clinic’s early days has grown into an average of 120. What started as one room connected to Dr. Walker’s office is now a 12-room clinic in the Swaid Center for Health Sciences equipped with the latest and greatest technology, capable of serving clients of all ages. And the services are free.

“We have always had a caseload of people, always had people with very unique and interesting needs. We saw children who would fall under the diagnosis of autism in the ‘60s and ‘70s before there was a real diagnosis, before anybody really knew much about it.

And we continue to this day to see a lot of individuals with that particular diagnosis.”

Adding the graduate program added the capability to work with more adults. Passionately, Weaver speaks about the many disorders that students are trained to work with and recent discoveries in technology that aid in treatment strategy in the clinic as well as classroom instruction. While the curriculum and clinic work made Harding’s program distinctive in their own way, Weaver and the CSD team were looking for something more.

TAKING IT INTERNATIONAL

Weaver had developed a passion for travel as she watched her daughter participate in international trips as early as the age of six, when she went to Europe; two years later to Australia; and as a college student to an international study abroad program. Weaver wrapped up her doctorate in 2000 and was invited to serve as faculty to HUF that summer.

“I was just absolutely hooked.”

A last-minute cancellation allowed her to go to HUG in 2002, and in 2006, she returned for a second trip to Italy — during which time she worked on the CSD graduate program application for accreditation.

“At that time, I had a lot of ties to International Programs. I was doing all of their orientations for them, and I had gone on several overseas programs as faculty.”

Those connections led to a conversation with Dr. Jeff Hopper, dean of international programs, who insisted that Africa — an English-speaking country with a solid infrastructure — was the perfect place to have a program specific to speech pathology.

The Namwianga Mission has a board in Africa and in the United States, and both approved a visit to further explore the possibility and start making plans. As luck would have it, during this time, Harding gave the then president of Zambia, Levy Patrick Mwanawasa, an honorary doctorate degree, and he made a trip to campus with most of his ministers. Weaver helped host a lunch during their visit. Sitting with the ministers of health, education, forestry and transportation, Weaver discussed what she was hoping to create. Their response: we’ve got nursing students, physician

BENEFITING FROM BECKIE

assistants, but no speech pathologists in our entire country. We need them.

“I looked at them and said, ‘We’re coming. We’re going to do everything we can to get there.’”

THE DISCOVERY TRIP

That summer, Weaver, Tullos and Shock visited Zambia.

“We looked at the country, we looked to see what kind of fun things we might do. Because after you work real hard, you’ve got to have something fun. And we wanted to talk to the people at the Namwianga Mission because that is the one where George Benson Christian College is, that’s the one Harding has had the longest relationship with. We met some incredible people.”

One of those people was Ellie Hamby, whose husband, Kelly, was the first director of George Benson Christian College. Hamby told Weaver exactly who she needed to talk to and took it one step further — she invited them all over for dinner that same night. Weaver explained what she thought a speech pathology trip could do, how many students would be part of it, and how the Zambians would benefit. When she finished, the head of the mission, the head of George Benson Christian College, and a few others gathered to the side to talk.

“We were sitting, saying, ‘oh, did we offend them? Is everything okay?’ When they finished their conversation, they looked at the three of us, and the head of the mission said, ‘We believe you’re a gift from God.’ Oh my goodness! That’s like the most emotional thing.”

Prior to the meeting, the mission leaders had been told they needed to expand the mission’s offerings, and they thought Harding’s proposal to bring speech pathology was the perfect answer. Just two days later, a meeting was scheduled in the capital city of Lusaka with the minister of education.

“When we said we were going to offer some of the first speech pathology classes in the country, the minister said, ‘We must alert the media! Would you come back later for an interview?’ And we said of course we will.”

Weaver, Tullos and Shock headed back toward the hotel, just a block or so from the

minister’s office, when the phone rang. It was the education minister — the media had arrived. He needed them back for an interview right away. The news crew filmed a live interview with Weaver and the minister of education. With quite the pigmentation difference between the two, Weaver wound up appearing on screen surrounded by a large, white glow.

“You can’t tell where my face is ... and he’s talking about me, saying, ‘she’s coming, and she is going to bring speech pathology to Africa.’ It looked like some kind of an angel had dropped down — quite humorous. They were not accustomed to having the whitest woman in America filmed next to their minister of education.”

It was safe to say that everyone was on board with a speech pathology program being brought to Zambia, and details were quickly ironed out. Aside from the discovery trip, Weaver has been to Zambia eight additional times as part of the HIZ-PATH program, accompanying more than 150 students.

Weaver says that students’ lives are changed each year, noting that a few have made repeat trips on their own. It is not uncommon for graduate students from other universities to call and inquire about going on the trip, as well. HIZ-PATH has helped put the CSD graduate program on the national map, but a study abroad option is just one aspect of Harding’s CSD program that attracts students. With the program’s growth and other University-wide updates, it was time for a structure change.

REORGANIZATION: ROUND TWO

In late 2009, Dr. Mike James announced he was stepping down as dean of the College of Communication, and Weaver decided she might be interested in taking on the role. The selection process ensued, and she was chosen as the next dean for the College of Communication.

Not long into her deanship, Harding had much going on in the world of academics — the College of Pharmacy had taken shape, engineering programs were started — and the decision was made to create a College of Allied Health. Leadership and administra-

tion wanted Weaver to be the dean.

“So that happened at the end of 2010, and that’s where I’ve been ever since.”

Along with the communication sciences and disorders undergraduate and graduate programs, the physician assistant studies program was one of the founding departments of the College of Allied Health. A graduate program in physical therapy quickly followed. Most recently, administration discussed bringing athletic training under the health sciences wing as it transitions to master’s level. Even as her date of retirement nears, she has worked tirelessly to continue bettering the College of Allied Health and the communication sciences and disorders field nationwide.

BEYOND HARDING

Weaver said she always loved going to continuing education classes, but she was quite comfortable in the back row, unnoticed, where she could do her own thing, and learn what there was to be learned. When Tullos brought to light that networking was an important piece of these conferences — that it was their job to make Harding known so that Harding students would be known — Weaver knew he was right.

“I told him, ‘Well, I can do this. It’s not my first choice, but I can do it.’ And then I found out that I really enjoyed some of it.”

Working up to the national level with the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association, Weaver has found it exciting to help make decisions that affect the whole profession across the nation, from lobbying on Capitol Hill for matters that would benefit clients to being part of changes to educational requirements. She has held offices at the state and national level and has been appointed to numerous boards and councils. In 2012, she was selected as a fellow of ASHA for her contributions to the field. She set out to help students, to create a reputation for Harding among other CSD professionals, and as is common when she sets her mind to it, she greatly succeeded.

“After about 10 years [of involvement with ASHA], I was at a national meeting, and they had a lot of faculty and supervisors from

across the South in one room. I made a comment about something, and the moderator said, ‘if you all don’t know her, that’s Beckie Weaver, and she’s from Harding University. And if a Harding University student ever applies to your university for grad school, you need to snap them up because they are prepared, and they’re ready to learn.’ That was a fabulous feeling. In that moment, I knew that’s why I’ve been doing this. That’s why I’ve been going to all these meetings. That’s why I’ve been saying, yes, I’ll run for this office. Yes, I’ll serve on this board so that our students could benefit from it. And they have indeed.”

MEMORABLE MOMENTS

Not all moments have been glorious. Weaver described a scenario when a student visited her office.

“She came into my office, sat down across from me and said, ‘Well, everybody tells me that you’re very easy to work with, but, frankly, I haven’t seen it.’”

Weaver apologized and asked to talk through it. When she realized the girl was

requesting the rules be bent in the student’s favor, Weaver explained how that would be unfair to all others in the class.

“That hasn’t happened very often, but that one kind of brings you back to reality.”

Aside from the rare disgruntled student, Weaver’s experiences and relationships with students, faculty, peers and administrators are the driving factor in her career at Harding. She is quick to answer how she knew Harding was where she was supposed to be.

“Some of [knowing I’m supposed to be here] comes from a relationship with my colleagues, things we’ve lived through together as colleagues, and we just had to lock arms and just keep going because things got hard at home, or some of the students we were dealing with — that’s when you know you’re where you’re supposed to be. When students come back or they write and say something, that’s when you know.”

Beyond her department, Weaver speaks to the blessing of support from the presidents she worked under — Dr. Ganus, Dr. Burks and Dr. McLarty — as well as the friendship

she has found with each.

“That’s amazing to me. People from other universities ask, ‘you know the president?’ Yeah, I do!”

She makes a point to thank Dr. Ganus for not hiring her once, but twice, and is still impressed that she receives a call each year from him on her birthday — something he does for all employees hired during his presidency.

As she continues to think through her list of mentors and important relationships at Harding, and with tears in her eyes, she ends with this.

“Those are the people who I look up to, and I can’t even start on my colleagues who were so, so much a part of my life.”

THE NEXT CHAPTER

While Weaver looks fondly on her 37 years with Harding, she won’t miss some aspects of her work. She jokingly reflects on things she’s grateful to leave behind.

“I look forward to never grading a test. I can remember being 10 years old and playing school. You know, I had a grade book and all those things. When it actually comes down to it, grading is not fun. I don’t know why I thought that might be fun when I was younger. I won’t miss that at all.”

She knows that her retirement will be bittersweet, that the time will come when she must talk about her colleagues and let the tears come. She will celebrate a long, successful career and will always be vested in the success of the students, faculty and administration of the communication sciences and disorders department, the College of Allied Health and Harding University. But retirement is brimming with new opportunities, adventure and excitement as she and her husband move north to be closer to their daughter and her family, who live in Massachusetts.

“The other day, my husband looked at me and said, ‘You know what, either this year or next year, when we get everything sold and we’re up there, and we wonder what the leaves look like in New Hampshire, we’re going to just get in the car and drive over there.’ And I said, well that’s wonderful. I’m looking forward to that a lot.”

Yeah, Beckie, that sounds good. 🍷



Dr. Beckie Weaver addresses the graduates at the 2014 Physician Assistant's hooding ceremony.

Delving DEEPER

By JONATHAN B. MURPHY
Photography by JEFF MONTGOMERY

CREATING CONVERSATION — that is what the Honors College hopes to achieve with the L.C. Sears Collegiate Seminar Series named after the University's first academic dean.

The Honors College was started in 1989 by Dr. Larry Long, distinguished professor emeritus and former provost.

"One of the things he wanted was to offer a lecture series, and it's something we've continued all these years," said Dr. Mike James, dean of the Honors College. "It's designed to be academically stimulating and challenging, to create new ideas, and to look for creative ways in which we can improve each other's lives. The goal is to encourage public dialogue on important topics, thus bringing together the entire Harding intellectual community."

Guest speakers are invited to campus to present on topics relevant to the University, and following each presentation, there is a question and answer segment allowing the audience to participate in thought-provoking discussions. Each presenter is carefully selected by the Honors Council, a group of Honors students who meet weekly to plan and develop activities for the Honors College.

"We want our students to have a big say in who the speakers are going to be," said James. "The council and I look for opportunities to bring in people who can touch on something that we feel needs to be highlighted."

In 2017, the College invited Mark Moore ('90), CEO of Mana Nutrition, to speak. Mana is one of the leading global suppliers of ready-to-use therapeutic food and a front line defense against severe acute malnutrition.

Mana partners with UNICEF, the World Food Program, World Vision, Doctors without Borders and USAID in their efforts to fight malnutrition in more than 50 countries across the globe. Headquartered in North Carolina, Mana can produce up to 46,000 pounds of peanut paste per day, which is enough to feed 1,500 children over six weeks.

The program is designed to provide nourishment to families three times per day for six weeks, preventing them from succumbing to severe acute malnutrition.

"Students are always looking for ways that they can be of service," said James. "Mark was here talking about world hunger and ways they can get involved."

Moore challenged the audience to think differently about what it means to be successful.

"We talked about living your life for, and measuring success by, impact," said Moore.

"A lot of people will tell you the way to measure success is to get these things called dollars, and then you count them. And if you have more than other people, then you're more successful than them. That's one way to do it, but another way to do it is to measure the meaning. How effective is your impact on the world? What kind of difference are you making?"

Moore acknowledged that for some, money can be the source of success, but when it comes to serving others, it is about more than the bottom line.

"There are different ways to do business — to actually forego having more dollars in my pocket by being a business that is really concerned about ethics, about impact, about making people's lives better," said Moore.

Last year, the seminar featured Capt. Ryan O. Scott ('98), instructor at the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, New York.

"CAPT. SCOTT SPEAKING came about as a result of some conversations I had in my Honors classes," James said. "We were talking about how you can be in the military and be a Christian. It came from some ideas that we were pushing around at the time with developing ROTC here on campus."

Scott spoke on the topic "The Christian Soldier: Calling or Contradiction?"

"The role of a Christian in the military is of immediate importance to me," Scott said. "Many of my soldiers feel a call to serve

something greater than self. My challenge as a Christian leader of soldiers is to introduce them to service in the kingdom."

Senior ROTC Cadet Wade Chezem attended the seminar and walked away encouraged by Scott's presentation.

"[Scott] mentioned how the army, and military as a whole, right now need people with good ethical and moral values," said Chezem. "Christians absolutely provide that, and the nation can only benefit from Christians entering the military, especially in roles of leadership."

Scott's message wasn't solely directed toward individuals serving, or interested in serving, in the military.

"Even if you are not going to serve in the military in any capacity, our servicemen and women need support," said Chezem. "In general, I'd say there is a disconnect between the public and the military's role, especially a Christian's role in the military. Anything that universities and colleges can do to bridge that gap and to put that knowledge out there for the public to know is vitally important."

While each presentation is unique and individually themed, they all set the stage for an important, sometimes difficult, discussion. In October, the series featured internationally recognized anti-bullying advocate Paul Coughlin.

"Paul Coughlin was serendipitous in a sense for me because my grandson committed suicide two years ago as a result of bullying," said James. "I was perusing the [Abilene Christian University] website one day and it said 'new text written by bullying specialist.' I collaborated with the College of Education, the Jesse Dylan Foundation and the American Studies Institute, and we all got together to bring him to campus."

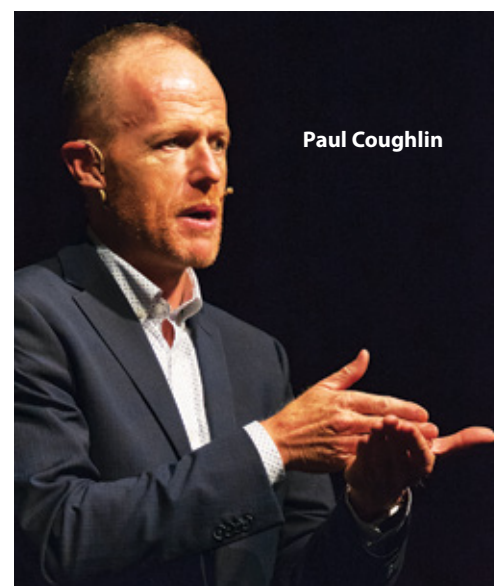
The Jesse Dylan Foundation is a nonprofit organization created to bring awareness to suicide and bullying. It was formed in October 2018, one month following the suicide of Jesse Dylan James, James' grandson.



Mark Moore



Capt. Ryan O. Scott



Paul Coughlin



Michael Pullara

"[The Honors College] wants to bring God's love, mercy and justice into the theater of bullying," said Coughlin. "I'm fortunate to know [James], and to hopefully work with his program to liberate more children from the leading form of child abuse in the nation and the world. Harding impacts the world, and the world needs all Christians to stand against bullying. I hope we can do that together."

An expert in the field of school and workplace bullying, Coughlin delivered an impactful message to a crowd gathered in the Administration Auditorium.

"Virtually every educator agrees that bullying is a significant problem," James said. "Though it has always been an issue in schools, the expansion of digital media puts bullying in the relatively anonymous hands of everyone. These actions affect everyone — the teachers, the parents, the victim and the bully."

In February, the series featured Michael Pullara ('77), author of "The Spy Who Was Left Behind," which tells the shocking true

story of the 1993 murder of CIA officer Freddie Woodruff ('69).

"The most recent seminar was special in a number of ways," said James. "While it is a story of international espionage and intrigue, it is saturated with connections to Harding and Searcy."

WOODRUFF'S PARENTS BOTH retired from the University: his father, Dr. George Woodruff, was a professor of biology and his mother, Dorothy, worked in the Office of University Relations. His three sisters are all alumnae of the University: Georgia Alexander ('77), Jill Pulley ('80) and Cheri Gardner ('81). "This is as local a story as you could ever hope to have," said Pullara. "Freddie was a graduate. His father was faculty. All three of his sisters were graduates. I am a graduate. Family business is what this is."

In 1992, the Bulletin, which was the University publication preceding the magazine, featured Woodruff who identified himself

as a foreign diplomat for the U.S. State Department, though he was later revealed to be a CIA agent. According to the article, "Woodruff's job was to help establish the first American embassy in Kazakhstan in the capital city of Alma Ata."


Harding magazine continued coverage of Woodruff following his death in 1993. He was reportedly shot while riding in a car near Tbilisi, Georgia. A Georgian man, Anzor Sharmaidze, was arrested for recklessly discharging a rifle that resulted in an accidental killing.

Pullara succeeded in having Sharmaidze released from prison in 2008.

"For me, the story is important to tell because it is such a hopeful story," said Pullara. "The Woodruff family's profound grace in engaging me to go to get the young man convicted of murdering Freddie out of prison because he was innocent was wholly unexpected and completely unique in my experience."

A trial lawyer by training, Pullara has pursued the case of Woodruff for more than 20 years. Using redacted FBI documents, a barrage of interviews with FBI special agents and CIA operations officers, witnesses from the soldier's criminal trial, and previously unreported eyewitnesses to the murder, he constructs a convincing case that Woodruff was the casualty of a larger geopolitical game between a crumbling Soviet empire, KGB assassins, and an aggressive U.S. moving in to influence this previously held Soviet territory.

"It is a modern day recount of the Good Samaritan in the context of murder, intrigue and treason. It is both inspirational and worth retelling," said Pullara.

Whether searching for solutions to life-threatening issues like world hunger or bullying; reflecting on the role of Christians in the military; or uncovering the 25-year-old murder mystery of an alumnus; the L.C. Sears Collegiate Seminar Series is here to have a conversation and talk about topics of consequence to our students and our world. 



Connections



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

1948

Joseph and Jane Zazzi Mitchen celebrated their 73rd wedding anniversary on Nov. 2, 2018. They were married by L.C. Sears. They have six children and a host of grandchildren. (822 Canforth Drive, Baton Rouge, LA 70810)

1967

Gary Turner has been selected as deputy region director for Region 14 for the American Society of Quality. His duties are in assisting governance of sections in Arkansas and Oklahoma for 2019. He is president of Turner Consulting and has been a member of ASQ for 21 years. He is an elder at Robinson Avenue Church of Christ in Springdale, Arkansas, and is married to Kathy. (12581 Ervin McGarrah Road, Lowell, AR 72745)

1973

Lois Diane McKinney Guild was honored with more than 60 cards as a thank you for her more than 35 years of encouraging others. Affectionately known as “Card Lady,” she sends cards and notes of encouragement to her entire congregation at Creekside Church of Midlothian and beyond. She was married to **Charles “Chuck”** for 43 years before his passing in 2016. She has three children and two grandchildren. (106 S. Crestwood Blvd., DeSoto, TX 75115)

1974

Doug Killgore has been selected to receive the National Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Association Thomas E. Frederick Award of Excellence. He retired in 2018 as assistant principal and athletic director at Central Arkansas Christian Schools in North Little Rock, Arkansas, where he continues as a full-time substitute teacher. He was named Arkansas High School Athletic Administrators Association’s Athletic Director of the Year in 2008 and was inducted into the AHSAAA Hall of Fame in 2018. He served as president from 2011-13. He has had three articles published in *Interscholastic Athletic Administration* magazine, was the recipient of the National Federation of State High School Associations Citation in 2010 and the NIAAA State Award of Merit in 2012. He served six years (2010-16) as secretary on the NIAAA board of directors and served on their Leadership Training Institute faculty. He is the six-time recipient of the Frank Kovaleski Professional Development Award for Arkansas. He also traveled to Bangkok, Thailand, to teach at the 2017 Leadership Conference for the East Asia Regional Council of Schools. (700 Autumnbrook Circle, Sherwood, AR 72120)

1976

Jeff Broadwater has written a book *Jefferson, Madison, and the Making of the Constitution* and has co-edited *North Carolina’s Revolutionary Founders*. Both books are being published by UNC Press. (1133 Kenan St. N.W., Wilson, NC 27893)

1981

Linda Hilbun Bonnin was awarded the Silver Medal by the American Advertising Federation-Tuscaloosa. The Silver Medal is awarded annually to a person of integrity who displays creative thinking in advertising and has been active in organizations dedicated to human or social welfare. She is the vice president for strategic communications at The University of Alabama. She has been a member of the president’s senior leadership team at UA since 2015, serving as their chief communications and marketing officer. She created Where Legends are Made, the first integrated branding campaign in UA’s history, in 2016. (2525 Beacon Hill Parkway, Tuscaloosa, AL 35487)

David A. Verret has been selected as Docent of the Year at AirBase Arizona, a museum with the Commemorative Air Force. He is a former campus minister at the University of Guam, associate minister at Boulevard Church of Christ in Lake Charles, Louisiana, and pulpit minister at the Church of Christ at Pearl Harbor in Hawaii. He is retired from the U.S. Air Force, Department of Transportation, City and County of Honolulu, Hawaii. He is a member of Mesa Church of Christ

Ten Central Arkansas Christian varsity teams won a total of 26 state championships under Doug Killgore’s guidance with 15 runner-up finishes. He also supervised the fine arts department.

’74

and is married to Tuyet. (32089 N. Larkspur Drive, San Tan Valley, AZ 85143)

1982

Robert Vawter has been named chairman of the Asia Pacific and Japan International Executive Committee by the board of directors of CPAs Net, an association of independently owned public accounting and consulting firms. He is managing partner at Vawter, Gammon, Norris and Co., P.C., a Tennessee-based public accounting and business consulting firm, and has more than 35 years of public accounting experience in tax planning, estate planning and consulting. He is a member of the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants and the Tennessee Society of Certified Public Accountants. He and his wife, Lynn, have two children.

1983

Lynn Wright is Little Rock market executive for Regions Bank. He was named to Arkansas Business’ Power List for the state’s banking and finance industry in 2016. He also serves on the boards of Big Brothers Big Sisters of Central Arkansas, Arkansas Bankers Association and Little Rock Regional Chamber. He and his wife **Patti Harvey** (’80) have two children. (301 Easy St., Little Rock, AR 72223)

1984

Mark Parkey is the new CEO of J. Alexander’s restaurants. He has been CFO of J. Alexander’s and its immediate predecessor since spring of 2013 and has been with the company since 1993. He is married to **Catherine Miller** (’82). (1106 Walnut Grove Drive, Franklin, TN 37069)

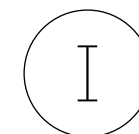
1985

Roger Holroyd is president and chief executive officer for the Fort Smith and River Valley division of Arvest Bank. He earned a master’s in finance at Texas A&M and is a graduate of the Graduate School of Banking at Louisiana State University. He is a member of the school board for Siloam Springs School District and has been an officer for the United Way of Northwest Arkansas and the Siloam Springs Chamber of Commerce. He and his wife, Bonita, have two children. (16728 Old Highway 68, Siloam Springs, AR 72761)

1987

Diana Arn was selected interim chancellor of the University of Arkansas Community College at Morrilton. She enters the role with 32 years of

Keeping the lights on



IF YOU ASK BRENT BEAULIEU (’97) how he got into hospital administration, he will tell you, “I kind of fell into it.”

“I feel like a lot of things were just laid out in front of me, and God took care of me throughout the way,” Beaulieu said, “despite my own efforts at times.”

In January, Baptist Health — Arkansas’ largest hospital system — named Beaulieu as its senior vice president and chief financial officer.

An accountant by trade, Beaulieu did not plan to work in health care, “it just happened.” That was 20 years ago.

“My dad used to tell me, ‘the world will always have money so it will always need someone to count it,’” Beaulieu said. “Later, when I got into health care, he told me, ‘people will always get sick and need health care, so you found a great combination.’”

Beaulieu grew up in Jacksonville, Arkansas, where his dad was stationed in the military. He decided to attend Harding after his sister, Amy Buss (’93), came and also at the urging of his parents.

“Harding is a great school — its technical education, the Christian atmosphere and the connections,” Beaulieu said. “Harding helped me get to that next stage, networking that had great significance — helping me get my first job that led to my second job here [at Baptist Health].”

Prior to arriving at Baptist Health, Beaulieu worked with BKD, a public accounting firm in Little Rock, where he primarily worked with clients in the health care industry.

“When I went to work [for BKD], I wanted to learn,” Beaulieu said. “I asked where they had opportunity and need, and they put me in health care. I worked with a lot of hospitals throughout the state, and Baptist Health was a client. I worked with BKD for nine years, and then I had the opportunity to come work here. That’s how I fell into health care.”

Beaulieu joined Baptist Health in 2007 serving as assistant vice president of finance and was promoted to vice president of finance in 2008. Though he didn’t know it at the time, he soon realized that accounting and finance play a vital role in providing health care and serving the community.

“For someone who is not a direct health care giver — people like me that are ‘bean counters’ or finance folks — this gives me an opportunity to do what I enjoy doing, which is finance, but do it in a way that is a community service,” Beaulieu said. “Baptist is not-for-profit

PHOTO SUBMITTED

experience at UACCM and is a U.S. Army veteran. Since 2008 she has sat on the Arkansas Rural Nursing Education Consortium Board, presiding as chair on three separate occasions, and has served on the Arkansas Community Colleges Board. (19 Walker Road, Conway, AR 72032)

Tim Hicks is director of Grace Crossing Academy Ministry. Grace Crossing Academy is a school serving children six weeks old through kindergarten and is a ministry of Grace Crossing, a community

church of Christ in Conroe, Texas. His wife, **Becky Taylor** (’84) serves as the curriculum coordinator, teaching training coordinator and school counselor. (2104 Lost Timbers Drive, Conroe, TX 77304)

1989

Laura Gillett Light is the managing director of Ozark Actors Theatre, a professional summer stock theatre in Rolla, Missouri. She also serves on the board of directors for Heart of American

PROFILE | BRENT BEAULIEU

and faith-based. Getting to do both together is special. Knowing what Baptist means to the community and Central Arkansas and being able to be a part of it is what makes it so enjoyable.”

With more than 200 points of access — including 11 hospitals — Baptist Health employs more than 11,000 Arkansans and is the fifth-largest employer in the state behind Walmart, Tyson Foods and the



federal and state governments. As CFO, Beaulieu knows there are a lot of individuals and families depending on him and his team to “keep the lights on,” as he says.

“I try to see what’s happening big picture for the organization,” Beaulieu said. “I think long term and try to make sure that, as we make decisions, our leadership team understands what that means for us financially. You try not to be overly reactive when looking

ahead. You want to see what’s coming down the pipeline so that you can be proactive and not be caught off guard.”

That can be a challenge in an industry that is constantly changing.

“It’s a complex topic,” Beaulieu said. “It’s the one industry where you mix regular business, extensive government regulation — whether state or federal — and then you throw in that you’re a charitable organization. It’s one of the few I’ve seen where all three of those mix together, and it makes for a very complex and fluid atmosphere.”

With fewer resources than many other states, the future of health care in Arkansas is presented with its own unique challenges, and that is a particular focus for Beaulieu and his team at Baptist Health.

“We have to be different,” Beaulieu said. “We’ve got to be more effective, more efficient and make this work for our state, knowing that our solution is not going to look like that of anybody else. I believe in my heart that Baptist is the place to figure that out. We have the right people, the right resources, the right leadership and involvement from the community. I hope to be a key part of figuring out how to care for people in our state in a different way, a more effective and affordable way.”

— Jonathan B. Murphy

Leadership Training for Christ. She and her husband, Kenny, have five children. (10300 Audubon Place, Rolla, MO 65401)

1991

David Sachar was a member of an expert panel for the United Nations-Office of Drugs and Crime in Seoul, South Korea, in December 2018. He is a graduate of the William H. Bowen School of Law. He has served as executive director of the



Arkansas Judicial Discipline and Disability Commission for six years and is the current president of the National Association of Judicial Disciplinary Counsel. He also serves on the advisory board of the Center for Judicial Ethics. (13916 Foxfield Lane, Little Rock, AR 72211)

1992

Clarence Hulse was elected to the Dunes Arts Foundation Board of Directors. He is the director of Michigan City's Economic Development Corp. His past experiences include community and economic development manager for the city of New Bern, North Carolina, director of economic development for the city of Jeffersonville, and deputy city manager of Cocoa, Florida. He has won both state and national awards for his work in the community and economic development arena. He earned a master's in economic development from University of Southern Mississippi and also is a graduate of University of Oklahoma Economic Development Institute. He is married to **Gina Wendel Welds** ('94). (1522 Oakmont Drive, Jeffersonville, IN 47130)

2001

Zac and **Sarah Terry Lehr** announce the birth of a son, Jacob Palmer, June 6, 2018. Zac works in the public affairs office of the Arkansas National Guard. Sarah is a marketing strategist for CHI St. Vincent. (223 S. Martin St., Little Rock, AR 72205)

Nathan Hunnicutt is the Hot Springs Village Area Chamber of Commerce executive director. He recently founded the Arkansas Country Music Awards program and is currently its president. He and his wife, Tiffany, have seven children.

2002

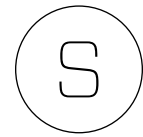
Jeris Noye is senior vice president of logistics for Sweetwater Sound. He is overseeing the music retailer's 400,000-square-foot distribution center project, part of an \$80 million investment expected to create 1,000 new jobs. He has a master's degree in business administration from Florida State University. He and his wife, **Holly Dawson**, have two sons, Maddox and Jack. (2837 Redfield Drive, Charlotte, NC 28270)

2006

Shawn ('07) and **Katie Barker Frazier** announce the adoption of a daughter, Daisy Mae, who was born May 28, 2018. Shawn is the worship minister for North Boulevard Church of Christ, and Katie is a homemaker and musician. (303 Gaitherhill Drive, Murfreesboro, TN 37130)

All students, all the time

PROFILE | SHELLY TURPIN PARKS



HELLY TURPIN PARKS ('01) HAD NO IDEA what was waiting for her when she arrived at Francis Howell North High School in Saint Charles, Missouri, on Aug. 28, 2018. The announcement was truly life changing. Parks was celebrated that day for winning 2019 Missouri Teacher of Year.

On her way to the school that August morning, Parks was under the assumption that she would be interviewed by a local television station about being a finalist for Missouri Teacher of the Year. The process had been narrowed from hundreds down to seven finalists. As far as she knew, no final decision had been made. But as she was entering the gym, she heard the cheers and knew she was walking into something else entirely. Parks entered a gymnasium filled with 1,700 students, administrators, teachers and family all cheering for her.



"I had no idea this was coming, no idea that they already had everybody in the gym," Parks said. "It was really cool because they had my family there, my mom and in-laws were in town. It just was overwhelming, and it was very humbling. It really was special to see that everybody came out to celebrate."

This was quite the culminating moment for Parks, who always wanted to be a teacher. Her mom, Sandy Turpin, retired after 40 years of teaching, and Parks grew up helping set up her classroom, watching from a distance, and developing a passion and desire to teach. Initially

interested in elementary, Parks changed her mind after a mission trip to Romania during college revealed a new appreciation for teenagers. Wise counsel from a professor upon her return prompted her to pursue an English degree with a secondary teaching license.

"English was always my love and my passion," Parks said. "I was in [Dr. Gary Elliott's] English class, and he took me under his wing. He really gave me the confidence and just instilled in me that if that's what I wanted to do, that I was talented enough to do it."

She teaches ninth through 12th grade students and finds new ways to share Christ's love and demonstrate faith in a public school setting. With her colleagues, that looks like a prayer group, where 30 to 40 of the school's 120 teachers on staff meet to pray for the students, administrators and each other. In the classroom, it looks a little different.

"I really think that it is loving kids the way Christ loves us," Parks said. "I think it is helping serve those populations of kids that we see who are underserved and just bringing joy into a career. Kids notice if there's a joy about you that not everybody shares."

That's not the only distinctive aspect of Parks' classroom. In the past several years, she has implemented a new style of teaching called cooperative learning, which organizes students into teams and breaks down tasks and responsibilities by team member.

"There's a lot of community building and class building activities that have to be put in place to make these teams work," Parks said. "And that culture and climate, that connectedness kids feel with each other and with me, and the fact that they are using their voice, is really powerful."

This specific teaching style is one she shares with other teachers and future teachers. As Missouri Teacher of the Year, Parks will spend the 2019-20 school year touring, speaking and learning — with many events she described as once-in-a-lifetime experiences. Training at Google's headquarters and visiting the White House are just a few of the year's highlights, but Parks also has loved sharing her passion for education with current and future educators.

"That has been really meaningful because that's one of my heart's works," Parks said. "For most teachers of the year, their year doesn't stop after their year. They're still doing lots of work in terms of advocating for teachers and students across the state." — Jantzen Haley

PHOTO SUBMITTED

2007

Jonathan and **Julia Selby Edelhuber** announce the birth of twins, Anne Monroe and Henry Sinclair, Oct. 22, 2018. The couple also has a son, Lewis. (1025 Grace Meade, Ashland City, TN 37015)

Cody and **Jessica Jones Hall** announce the birth of a daughter, Adelynn Faith, Feb. 2, 2019. The couple also has a son, Hayden. (1609 Stonehenge Place, Little Rock, AR 72212)

2009

Jason and **Katie Meiners Enlow** announce the birth of a daughter, Evelyn Faye, on Oct. 30, 2018. The couple also has two sons, Owen and Vance. (3935 Lester Harris Road, Kevil, KY 42053)

Josh McAfee joined Callahan and Associates as an advisor for credit union solutions. He most recently was vice president of corporate strategy at Confluent Strategies in Memphis, Tennessee. Prior to that he led marketing automation and content management at MAX Credit Union. He and his wife, **Kristen Owens**, have three children. (24 Brackenhouse Square, Jackson, TN 38305)

Amanda Bynum Perring is the 2019 Elementary Teacher of the Year and is a third grade teacher at Fogarty Elementary School in Guthrie, Oklahoma. Her husband, Matt, is an English teacher and track coach at Guthrie High School and a football coach at the junior high. They have a daughter, Ainsley. (9421 Acorn Drive, Manuel, TX 77578)

2011

Jonathan ('12) and **Jennifer Schopper Futrell** announce the birth of a son, Miles Philip, Sept. 24, 2018. (7006 Wynterhall Drive, Germantown, TN 38138)

2013

Daniel and **Amber Doyle Benskin** announce the birth of a son, Gabriel James, Oct. 6, 2018. (2004 Boxwood Path, Round Rock, TX 78664)

2014

Cameron ('11) and **Jamison Hardin Frazier** announce the birth of a son, Louis Parker, Jan. 7, 2019. (212 Alta Loma Road, Madison, TN 37115)

Taylor and **Ashley Ragland Kelton** announce the birth of a son, Josiah Robert, July 9, 2018. (9858 Southern Gum Way, Olive Branch, MS 38654)

2016

David and **Madison Teague Brooker** announce the birth of a daughter, Bea Lynn, Dec. 26, 2018.

(6052 Wisteria Lane, Jonesboro, AR 72404)

2017

Taylor Hodges was named Freed-Hardeman University's sports information director on Jan. 1, 2019. He previously served as assistant sports information director at Faulkner University and as a sports reporter at the Columbia (Tennessee) Daily Herald. (495 Homestead Lane, Henderson, TN 38340)

2018

Kaycie Alexander is a policy analyst and social media manager/web writer for Right on Crime and the Center for Effective Justice at the Texas Public Policy Foundation. She previously served as a criminal justice policy intern with the American Conservative Union Foundation and studied at the Charles Koch Institute. (305 Springhill Drive, Hurst, TX 76054)

Passages

Edith Landiss Cavin ('41), 101, of College Station, Texas, died Jan. 6, 2019. She worked 30 years for the Federal Aviation and Social Security Administration in Kansas City, Missouri. She was preceded in death by her first husband, **Lonnie E. Pryor Jr.** ('41) and her second husband, **Kay Thomas Cavin** ('48).

Fayetta Coleman Murray ('46), 94, of Searcy, died Jan. 8, 2019. As an infant, she moved with her family from Montana to Morrilton, Arkansas, so her parents could help with the formation of Harding College. At the age of 10, she and her family moved with the college to Searcy. She taught speech, drama, grammar and literature for 28 years. She had a phenomenal memory and could, years later, recognize her former students by name, relate where they sat in her class and which class they were in. She loved to walk and during her many years of teaching in Searcy walked to school almost every day. She hiked two parts of the Appalachian Trail and at 93 still took daily walks and could climb the three flights of stairs to her apartment. She loved to travel and visited cathedrals, museums and historical locations in 49 states and various foreign countries. She was the last living charter member of College Church of Christ. She was preceded in death by her husband of 54 years, Malcolm. She is survived by her four children, **Kathy Rambo** ('69), **Susan** ('73), **Peggy Matson** ('75) and Cliff; a brother, Neil Coleman, five grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren.

Lois Hemingway Lemmons ('47), 92, of Broken Arrow, Oklahoma, died Feb. 18, 2019. She taught one year at Mars Hill Bible School in Alabama before marrying **Joseph C. Lemmons** ('49). Their



life's work was serving churches of Christ in Missouri, New York, New Jersey and Colorado. She was preceded in death by her husband and a son, Wayne. She is survived by four children, **Karen Mason** ('72), Anita Lietzke, **J** ('80), and Brian; 12 grandchildren; and 15 great-grandchildren.

Mildred "Millie" Lanier Root ('47), 93, of Crosby, Texas, died March 3, 2019. She distinguished herself as a secretary, working as the church secretary for Lyons and Majestic Church of Christ, Scott Paper Co. and First City Bank. She was a natural performer, loving any opportunity to sing and act. She was preceded in death by her husband, Robert; a daughter, Cozette Rayburn; and two grandchildren. She is survived by five children, Denise Bynum, Stephen, **Jeraine** ('78), Lori Riley and **Shari Bang** ('85); one brother, Henry Lanier; seven grandchildren, and many great-grandchildren.

Jack Dempsey Dillard ('48), 91, of Searcy died Jan. 24, 2019. He served in the U.S. Army for two years as a surgical technician. He taught in schools in Arkansas, New Mexico and Arizona. He then served as director of education at Arizona State Prison in Florence. He retired as chief examiner for the adult education division of the Arizona Department of Education. He was an elder of the Broadway Church of Christ in Arizona and member of College Church of Christ in Searcy. He was preceded in death by his first wife of 53 years, **Marjory Lee** ('49) and his second wife, Alma Guthrie. He is survived by his four children, **Debby Hewitt** ('74), **Carol Sparks** ('76), **Patti Jo White** ('80) and **Glenn** ('84); one sister, **Dixie Pettigrew** ('48); 12 grandchildren; and 17 great-grandchildren.

Lena Ruth Story Pearson ('49), 90, of Searcy died March 21, 2019. She was a school teacher and retired from the Head Start Program. She enjoyed sewing, needle crafts and gardening. She was a member of West Side Church of Christ. She was preceded in death by her husband of 35 years, Charles, and daughter, **Charla Ann Schol** ('81). She is survived by her son, Mark; and three grandchildren.

Oliver Calvin Smith ('49), 92, of Twin Bridges, Montana, died Jan. 21, 2019. He worked at Paige Lumber Co. in Twin Bridges; on an assembly line for General Electric in Erie, Pennsylvania; as an equipment foreman for Norris Cattle Co. in Florida; and upholstering aircraft interiors at Meacham Field in Fort Worth, Texas. He returned to Twin Bridges to lease and buy the home ranch on which he was born. In 1956, he and three others began making payments on a dude ranch which became Bow and Arrow Bible Camp and was later renamed Yellowstone Bible Camp. He designed and built from scratch loaders and hay loading heads, did welding and shop work, sold Oliver Tractors, and started Oliver Smith Irrigation. He could design and build whatever was needed. In the winter of



1984-85, he backpacked around the world with his older daughter. He taught many lessons at Twin Bridges Church of Christ. He is survived by his wife of 62 years, Edna; two daughters, Janice and Belinda; a sister, Virginia Holton; six grandchildren; and four great-grandchildren.

Myra Wade Underwood ('52), 87, of Searcy died March 18, 2019. As a minister's wife, she worked and lived in Oklahoma, Tennessee and Alabama. She and her husband worked at Heritage Christian University for many years and served as missionaries in West Africa. She developed Bible

curricula and taught ladies' and children's classes. She was preceded in death by her husband, **David** ('52). She is survived by three children, **Rebecca Dorfmueller** ('74), **David** ('78) and Bryan; four siblings, O.L. Wade, G. Hoyt Wade, H. Mathis Wade and Vonceil Enlow; six grandchildren; and seven great-grandchildren.

Russell McNalty ('54), 87, of McLeansboro, Illinois, died Jan. 30, 2019. He served in the U.S. Army. He received master's degrees from Harding and Harding School of Theology. He was a teacher and preacher and provided a home for more than

80 foster children. He was preceded in death by a son, Jim. He is survived by his wife of 63 years, **Sherry Hunter** ('58); three children, Kathy Teffertiller, Christi Curfman and Paula McNalty; two sisters, Edna Preston and Ada Binkley; seven grandchildren; and 12 great-grandchildren.

Laura Perrin Balcom ('55), 87, of Allen, Texas, died Feb. 6, 2019. She and her husband, **Lester** ('52), were house parents at the Maude Carpenter Children's Home in Wichita, Kansas. In 1959, they moved to New Orleans where Lester became headmaster of Clifton L. Ganus School for 31

years, and Laura worked as a school secretary, substitute, bus driver, tax preparer for H&R Block, and bookkeeper for stores owned by the Ganus family. She served alongside her husband during his time as elder at the Gentilly/Crowder Boulevard Church of Christ in New Orleans. In 1997, they moved to Allen, Texas, and became members at Waterview Church of Christ where she served in a ministry to teach foreign graduate students English using Bible classes. During her years in Allen, she worked as a senior tax advisor for H&R Block. She was preceded in death by her husband. She is survived by two daughters, **Sherry Clifton** ('76) and **Vicky Davis** ('84); two brothers, **Jerry Perrin** ('56) and **Kenneth Perrin** ('55); four grandchildren; and two great-grandsons.

Jordine "Jerry" Chesshir McNutt ('55), 87, of Searcy died Nov. 23, 2018. She took a sabbatical while attending Harding and worked at Southern Christian Children's Home in Morrilton, Arkansas. While her husband, **Jack** ('56), was completing his degree, she worked in the Alumni Office at Harding. After moving to New York City, she worked for Chase Manhattan Bank. In 1957, the couple moved to El Dorado, Arkansas, where she worked as a cashier for American Oil until 1964. She was survived by her husband of 63 years who died Jan. 16, 2019; a daughter, **Marsha Hendricks** ('87); and two grandchildren.

Jack Wray McNutt ('56), 84, of Searcy died Jan. 16, 2019. He received his master's in economics from Columbia University in New York City in 1957. After returning to El Dorado, he began working for Murphy Oil Corp. as an accountant. He retired in 1994 after more than 36 years, reaching the rank of president and CEO. He was preceded in death by his wife of 64 years, **Jordine Chesshir** ('55). He is survived by a daughter, **Marsha Hendricks** ('87), and two grandchildren.

Jesse Norris Keathley ('57), 83, of Little Rock, Arkansas, died March 1, 2019. He received a master's from University of Southern California. He served in the U.S. Marine Corps for 21 years, retiring in 1977 as a lieutenant colonel. He was a longtime member of West Side Church of Christ in Searcy. He was preceded in death by his wife of 50 years, **Mary Anne Smith** ('58); his second wife, **Mary Hicks Birmingham** ('65); and a son, David. He is survived by a daughter, **Cindy Sittler** ('80); three grandchildren; and a great-grandchild.

Martha Ann Burns McKee ('59), 84, of Burleson, Texas, died Jan. 25, 2019. She taught for the Burleson Independent School District for several years. She was a founding member of Hilltop Church of Christ. She was preceded in death by her husband of 64 years, **Harold "Buddy" McKee** ('60). She is survived by a son, **Kyle** ('87); a brother, Leon Burns; and four grandchildren.

PHOTO BY JEFF MONTGOMERY

PASSAGES | CARL MITCHELL | 1926-2018 | FRANKIE MITCHELL | 1928-2019

Committed to Christ and each other

By DAVID B. BURKS, *chancellor*

M

Y WIFE, LEAH, AND I LOVED Carl and Frankie Mitchell very much. We established a close bond very early in our relationship, and we were privileged to travel with them overseas on many occasions. Carl and Frankie were spiritual giants and mentors for us.

One of the first projects that I worked closely on with Dr. Mitchell was the development of plans for the McInteer Bible and World Missions Center. He and I both wanted it to be the centerpiece of our



work at Harding, and we worked to create a facility emphasizing world missions. Carl was always interested in sharing the good news of Christ to everyone. In fact, it seems to me that missions and the names Carl and Frankie Mitchell simply are synonymous.

Carl also was extremely interested in counseling. He helped establish the Marriage and Family Therapy program at Harding and insisted that I put this program into place. I seldom said no to Carl Mitchell.

Early on, I realized that Carl had a passion for encouraging people everywhere to read the entire Bible every year. Carl produced a daily Bible reading schedule, including it in his Christmas cards and giving it to his friends. Before coming to Harding, he had sponsored a steak dinner in other places where he had preached for those who had read through the Bible. He asked me to work with him in that regard, and we started having a steak dinner for Harding and College church, which continues today. Carl was quite particular and wanted the steaks cooked in just exactly the right way, and he seldom thought my way was the right way.

He loved our international programs and was instrumental in starting our work in Italy, Harding's first program overseas. Carl was one of the strongest proponents of our being involved in international edu-

cation. On numerous occasions, we were privileged to travel to these campuses with Carl and Frankie, and they were always our guides.

One personal trip that I'll always remember was a cruise to the Baltic Sea. While on the ship, as was Carl's custom, he had a notice placed in the ship's paper that on Sunday we would have the Lord's Supper for anyone who wanted to come. We thought we might have five to six people in addition to the four of us. We ended up having 40 people at our service.

I loved working with Frankie in human resources. She worked for Lott Tucker, who was an icon at Harding, and only Frankie could "out Lott" Lott Tucker. Not just anybody could do that. I could hear Frankie coming down the hallway before she ever arrived. She had a contagious personality.

On a more personal note, I seldom ever said the name Carl without saying Frankie. They were simply inseparable. They loved each other, believed in each other, believed in the work of the Lord's kingdom and were an example for many because of their commitment.

Hebrews 11 is the great faith chapter in the Bible. It contains a roll call of men and women who made an eternal difference through their lives of faith. If such a list were being written today, I believe Carl and Frankie Mitchell would be included among the inspiring examples of trust and endurance. In the fourth verse of chapter 11, the writer mentions Abel and observes, "And by faith he still speaks, even though he is dead." This is the very definition of legacy. I believe that, through faith, Carl and Frankie Mitchell still speak to us today, and they will for decades to come. Heaven has gained a wonderful couple. 🙏

Carl G. Mitchell, 92, of Mesquite, Texas, died Dec. 19, 2018. He was followed by his wife of 65 years, **Frances Rotramel** ('91), 90, on Jan. 6, 2019. Carl earned a bachelor's and master's from Pepperdine University and a doctorate from the University of Southern California. He served in the U.S. Army from 1944-46. Carl worked in higher education for more than 40 years. At Harding, he was dean of the College of Bible and Religion from 1989-2006. Earlier, he was a tenured professor and administrator at Pepperdine. He was active in ministry with churches of Christ, serving churches in Italy, California and Arkansas. He also was a licensed marriage and family therapist. Frankie was director of human resources at Harding from 1991-96. They are survived by three children, **Michelle Glover** ('80), **Mickey** ('85) and Cary; eight grandchildren; and seven great-grandchildren.



VINTAGE HARDING



The old Godden Hall bell rang Friday morning March 26, 1954, announcing Harding's admittance into the North Central Association. The accreditation was announced by Pres. George S. Benson from Chicago only minutes after Harding was named with four other schools as a college to be admitted into the association.

Harold "Buddy" McKee ('60), 84, of Burleson, Texas, died Oct. 22, 2018. He served in the U.S. Navy during the Korean War. He was a teacher and baseball coach at Burleson Independent School District for 25 years and was a founding member of Hilltop Church of Christ. He was survived by his wife of 64 years, **Martha Burns** ('59), who died Jan. 25, 2019; a son, **Kyle** ('87); and four grandchildren.

Lucile Albrette Spain ('60), 80, of Martin, Tennessee, died Dec. 23, 2018. She worked in food services at the former Volunteer General Hospital in Martin and was a member of Martin Church of Christ. She was preceded in death by her husband, **Robert** ('58). She is survived by four children, Sara, Carl, Karen French and Timothy; eight grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren.

Willa Dean Wingfield, ('60), 81, died March 22, 2019. She earned her master's in elementary education from University of Central Arkansas. She taught school at Bentwaters U.S. Air Force

Base near Ipswich, England, for nearly three years while her husband served as a missionary. She was instrumental in the beginnings of Central Arkansas Christian Schools and was a teacher and elementary principal for more than 33 years. She retired from her leadership position in 2009 but worked part time for several years. She was involved in starting the nursery program at Sylvan Hills Church of Christ, taught Bible classes at many churches, served as volunteer coordinator for many children's programs, and worked with multiple other ministries. She was preceded in death by her husband, **Robert** ('60), and a son, **Barry** ('92). She is survived by two children, **Ellen Binford** ('88) and **Jeff** ('88); a sister, Carolyn Holt; six grandchildren; and a great-grandson.

Virginia "Joan" Waddill Helms ('61), 79, of Little Rock, Arkansas, died Dec. 16, 2018. She earned her degree to become an RN from Philips County Community College in West Helena, Arkansas, and worked as a nurse in Arkansas, Florida and



Kentucky. She also spent many years as a teacher and guidance counselor in Marshall County Schools in Kentucky after earning her bachelor's from Murray State University. She was preceded in death by her husband of 55 years, **Boyce** ('59). She is survived by her two children, **Dee Anne Palmer** ('83) and **Russ** ('91); a sister, **Catherine Harris** ('67); four grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren.

Doyle Max Kee ('62), 80, of Searcy died Jan. 25, 2019, following a brief illness. He received his master's from Harding School of Theology and a Doctor of Divinity from University of Geneva. He served as a minister and missionary for more than 60 years in Clarendon, Arkansas; Syracuse, New York; and 47 years in Geneva, Switzerland. He is the author of 36 books and initiated numerous publications, evangelistic and medical campaigns, and church plants on nearly every continent. He was preceded in death by a son, **Daniel** ('96). He is survived by his wife, **Barbara Ethridge** ('58); three children, **Mark** ('83), **David** ('85) and **Bonnie** ('88); four siblings, **Windle** ('53), **Jeanette Schoof** ('55), **Marie** ('88) and **Barbara** ('65); and eight grandchildren.

Margaret Jeanine Peck ('62), 80, of Searcy died Jan. 21, 2019. She received her master's from State University of New York and her Ed.D. from Mississippi State University. She was an elementary educator for 25 years in New York and Vermont before coming to Harding in 1987 as an education professor. She developed the Teaching Reading the R.I.G.H.T. Way program. She is survived by her husband of 58 years, **Richard** ('63); two children, **Stephen** ('89) and **Shari Adcock** ('90); and five grandchildren.

Solomon Morgan Outlaw ('65), 75, of Portland, Oregon, died Jan. 8, 2019. He received a master's from University of Arkansas. His career in education allowed him to work in nine different schools in four different states, including five Christian schools: Harding Academy-Memphis, Madison Academy, Columbia Christian College, Cascade College and Columbia Christian Schools where he served as an administrator. At each location, he served the congregations where they worshipped in any needed capacity including teaching, preaching and as a deacon or elder. He is survived by his wife of 55 years, **Judith Elliott** ('65); three daughters, **Malia Hasegawa** ('88), **Anna Carter** ('90) and **Lezie Wright** ('95); 10 grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren.

Ronald Linn Gibbs ('67), 73, of Searcy died Dec. 18, 2018. He taught and coached in Safford and Bowie, Arizona, and White County Central Schools in Arkansas. He then worked for the Arizona Commission of Agriculture from 1973-83. After returning to Arkansas, he worked for Samuel Bingham Co. in Searcy 18 years and for the River

PASSAGES | RON FINLEY | 1946-2019

Caring colleague

By JIM NICHOLS, retired distinguished professor and associate dean, College of Education



I KNEW THE FIRST TIME I MET RON FINLEY that we would be friends. I had no idea that our friendship would last almost 45 years. Our paths first crossed at church in Camden, Arkansas. We soon realized that we would not only be worshipping together but also working together in the Fairview School System. I was the new principal, and he was already the school counselor. Ron proved to be a very valuable co-worker. I could always count on him to get a job done and to do it well. I cannot remember a time when he was not willing to at least try



whatever task he was asked to do. In later years, he said maybe there were times he shouldn't have been so accommodating, such as directing the school's senior play when he had zero experience. I'm not sure that he ever forgave me for talking him into doing that.

It was only after one year of working for Harding that I learned of a job opening in the registrar's office. Immediately, I thought of Ron. I encouraged him to apply, and he was hired as assistant registrar. He was later named registrar when Virgil Beckett retired. Ron served the office and Harding well during those years. He was committed to excellence in his work and was always on board when new ideas needed to be implemented. His daily demeanor at work was one of a quiet, patient, kind and caring person. Through the years I've heard many "Mr. Ron" stories from my daughters who worked for him during their college years. They admired and respected the way he handled life and work situations.

With both of us working at Harding, it was easy to keep our friendship intact. We often had lunch together, especially after the untimely death of his wife, Linda. That was a difficult time for Ron, but with the combined efforts of his church family, those of us at Harding, and especially his office staff, we loved and helped in the ways that we could. Left with the task of raising his three boys by himself, Ron met the challenge. With his faith in God, his job as a father was successful as is evident in the lives of Jon, Ben and Stephen.

What a blessing it was when Billie came into Ron's life. She was the perfect match for him. They complemented each other and had fun with their travels. They became a team in their work for Harding and the church. They worked hard at making their blended family a loving and caring one. My wife and I admired the respect they had for each other's former spouses. They were often referenced along with the children and grandchildren stories. As a couple, they were good, supportive friends, and we are thankful for all that we shared with them.

When I think of Ron, I think of many descriptive words, but most of all, I remember that he was my friend, my colleague and my brother in Christ. I will miss him and think of him often, but I will rejoice in the fact that he is safe in the promise of eternity with God. 🙏

Ronald Gene Finley, 72, of Searcy died March 18, 2019. He received an M.A. in counseling from the University of Arkansas. He served as assistant registrar at Harding from 1978-88, and as registrar until 2006. He served as a major in the U.S. Army and was a deacon at College Church of Christ. He was preceded in death by his first wife, Linda Needham, and granddaughter Melanie Cox. He is survived by his wife, Billie Fairley ('67); three sons, Jon ('95), Benjamin ('99) and Stephen ('01); three stepchildren, Maleah Bufford, Shane Fairley and Paige Talley ('01); two brothers, Tony ('80) and Joe ('78); and 15 grandchildren.

PHOTO BY JEFF MONTGOMERY

Oaks Commons Homeowners Association. He also served 20 years as Justice of the Peace in White County. He loved sports, fishing, woodworking and researching his family genealogy. He was a member of West Side Church of Christ. He was preceded in death by a daughter, Sherry Paone. He is survived by his wife of 53 years, **Rachel Fishel** ('67); one son, Michael; two siblings, **Steve** ('72) and Glennis Lewis; seven grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren.

Jimmy Lee Scudder ('68), 71, of Kenya, East Africa, died Dec. 17, 2018. He spent 47 years in full-time mission work beginning in 1971 in Zambia. He returned to the U.S. to attend the Sunset School of Preaching in Lubbock, Texas, in 1973. After graduating, political unrest made it impossible for him and his family to return to Zambia so they immediately joined a team in Kenya in 1975 where he served until his death. He is preceded in death by his first wife, Linda Faye Freeman. He is survived by his wife of 41 years, Grace Wangeshi Kiemo; his children, Melinda Wolford, Wendy Czerwonka, **Andrew** ('97), **James** ('97), **Elizabeth Ewing** ('97), Malaika Ballard, Anna Edgeston, Johnny, Elizabeth Kiemo and Kadison Kiemo Karatu; 16 grandchildren; six siblings, **Gwen Anderson** ('71), Frank, Sidney, Regina Hudson, Barney and Ellen Scudder; and three great-grandchildren.

M. Dean Kilmer ('71), 68, of Waxahachie, Texas, died Aug. 21, 2018. He began preaching at the age of 16 and continued for the rest of his life. He received master's from both Harding and Abilene Christian University. He was a football coach in both Atkins, Arkansas, and Cedar Hill, Texas. He served churches in Texas, Oklahoma and Arkansas, most recently serving as the preaching minister at Brown Street (formerly College Street) Church of Christ before retiring in 2015. He authored two books, *Igniting the Moral Courage of America* and *Soaring Above the Circumstances*. He conducted numerous seminars for churches throughout the country and was involved in activities to promote leadership among young people. He is survived by his wife, **Karen Crawford** ('71); two children, **Keith** ('94) and **Kelly Jordan** ('99); one sister, Kay Lemon; and six grandchildren.

Mitchell Donelson Grubb ('72), 68, of Montgomery, Alabama, died Dec. 11, 2018. He received a master's degree from Middle Tennessee State University. He spent 39 years teaching and coaching at Alabama Christian Academy, Arlington Christian School, Jefferson Christian Academy, Faulkner University and Boyd Buchanan School. He served as an elder and deacon at churches in Alabama and Georgia. Most recently, he worked with University Church of Christ in Montgomery in the Hispanic ministry.

UBELEIN PHOTO FROM FACEBOOK

He is survived by his wife of 43 years, **Martha Myers** ('78); three children, Patricia Manning, April Kendrick and Matthew; one brother, Steve; and seven grandchildren.

Mustafa Ibrahim Abdul-Aziz (formerly James D. Sanford) ('77), 75, of Warren, Ohio, died Jan. 4, 2019. He served in the U.S. Air Force during the Vietnam War. During his career, he provided consultancy and training services in engineering and management to various companies and institutions in the United States, South America, South Pacific and the Middle East. He is survived by his wife, Sabria Haoui; seven children, Emir, Jamel, Khadija and Fatiha Abdul-Aziz, and Alethea, Latonya and Rachel Sanford; two siblings, Helene Hugley and Melvane Sanford; and 19 grandchildren.

Debra Gilbert Pinner ('79), 60, of McRae, Arkansas, died Feb. 17, 2019, from cancer. She is survived by her husband of 38 years, James; three children, **Christina** (13), Christopher and Elizabeth Stevenson; her father, Ross Gilbert; three siblings, Gary, Bob and Bruce Gilbert; and seven grandchildren.

Tanya Sue Enloe ('83), 57, of Valdosta, Georgia, died Aug. 3, 2018, from cancer. She dedicated her life to teaching, serving as a speech language pathologist for 11 years in public schools and then for 24 years in the department of communication sciences and disorders at Valdosta State University. She was a member of Dasher Church of Christ where she taught preschool Bible classes. She is survived by three siblings, **Rhea Wynn** ('83), **Vohn Enloe** ('96) and John Enloe.

Sue Ellen Rhoten Baldwin ('84), 58, of North Richland Hills, Texas, died Jan. 26, 2019, from cancer. While at Harding, she was a member of Tri Kappa, a queen for Kappa Sig, and a Bison cheerleader. She is survived by her husband, **Payte** ('84); two daughters, Lauren and Logan; and seven siblings, Dixie Hanson, Vickie Roland, Mickie Ray, Doris Dawkins, Betty Martin, Joe Rhoten and Dickie Rhoten.

Barry John Wingfield ('92), 47, of Sherwood, Arkansas, died Nov. 4, 2018, while training for a half marathon. He received his Ph.D. in marriage and family therapy from the University of Louisiana at Monroe. He was a licensed professional counselor and was an associate professor of counseling and marriage and family therapy at John Brown University's Little Rock center. He was a former pastor of Cornerstone Bible Fellowship. He was preceded in death by his father, **Robert** ('60). He is survived by his wife of nearly 30 years, **Alicia Woodell** ('92); four children, Daniel, Jeremiah, Mikaila, and Katherine; his mother, **Dean Starling** ('60), who



died March 22, 2019; two siblings, **Ellen Binford** ('88) and **Jeff** ('88); and a grandchild.

Steve Wayne Sterling ('94), 64, of Searcy died Feb. 17, 2019. He was serving his sixth consecutive term on the Searcy City Council. He was a member of the Arkansas Municipal League, First United Methodist Church and Ducks Unlimited. He was owner of Cabot Mental Health and Wellness. He is survived by his wife, Melanie; two sons, **Brent Vaughn** ('18) and Hunter Sterling; a sister, Rita Iglehart; and three grandchildren.

Rebecca Moody Ely ('96), 69, of Ada, Oklahoma, died Feb. 20, 2019. She received a master's in social work from University of Arkansas and her license of clinical social work from the state of Arkansas. She worked at White County Hospital in various offices. She was a realtor, managed a mental health clinic for 15 years, and also worked in the emergency room and with hospice. She was a member of Downtown Church of Christ in Searcy for 50 years and Southwest Church of Christ in Ada for five years. She was a houseparent at a children's home in Morrilton, Arkansas, and taught at World Bible School. She is survived by two children; **Alan** ('89) and **Melissa Eck** ('91); eight grandchildren; one sister, Joanna Brookhart; and one great grandchild.

Cecil Colbert Lasley, 96, of Conway, Arkansas, died Jan. 23, 2019. He served in the U.S. military during World War II. He later worked as a cattle herdsman, store manager, and in maintenance at Harding University from 1983-2000. He was a member of Liberty Church of Christ. He was preceded by his wife of 68 years, Nita Taylor; two children, Roma Carl and **Loretta Hall** ('69). He is survived by two sons, **Raymond** ('73) and **David** ('84); two sisters, Martha Sue Farmer and Martha Marcelle Harlan; and five grandchildren.

Mary Joy Uebelein, 20, of Wildwood, Missouri, died March 16, 2019, from injuries sustained in an automobile accident on March 8. She was a junior nursing major and a member of Delta Gamma Rho social club. She was a fun, loving, kind, generous, caring young lady who was truly pure joy. Her biggest passion was her love of God and his son Jesus Christ. She was known for saying "Jesus is so, so good." She was a member of Lafayette Church of Christ in Ballwin, Missouri. She is survived by her parents, Keith and Sherry; three siblings, **Caleb** ('16), **Luke** ('18), and Rachel; and her grandparents, Charles and Dorothy Uebelein and Betty Tomnitz.

Only deaths received by March 28, 2019, are reported in this issue.



Stepping out of the ordinary

By TRACE LAFFOON

ON THE CUSP OF BEGINNING the summer before my senior year at Harding, I was lost. I had quit the major with which I had begun school, drastically altering my eventual career path, and I had lost sight of why I was even studying Spanish in the first place. I recognized that I was in a rut, and what I wanted more than anything at that time was to see the world and my situation differently. Wanting to get out of town for the summer and desiring to, at the very least, retain the Spanish that I had learned so far, I applied to intern with Paul Crites, a missionary in Guatemala. We corresponded twice, and by June I was on a plane heading toward Guatemala City. Not knowing what to expect in the slightest, I planted my feet on Guatemalan soil for the very first time.

The next six weeks were some of the most eye-opening and encouraging of my life, and during my time working with and for La Iglesia de Cristo de San Cristobal or Amor sin Temor, I learned a great deal about myself and my God.

One lesson I learned was the value of boldness. This trip challenged me to be bold from the very outset. I was afraid that I would get lonely; however, I knew that this trip was where I needed to be, and God soon quieted my fears by pouring out a flood of friendship in the form of my fellow interns and the small congregation that we were there to serve. We bonded over doing chores in preparation for the various mission teams that visited us, befriending members of the nearby village, and playing cards or watching movies in Spanish at the end of the work day. I was introduced to the young men who lived in the transition house — a part of Paul’s ministry geared at helping youths while they were in technical school — and soon found some kindred spirits in Marlon, Marcos, Ivan, Freddy and Josué through our mutual passion for soccer (and the ongoing World Cup), cards and “chocobananos.” Perhaps best of all, every Sunday soon became like a small family reunion as the congregation showered all of the “gringos,” myself included, with love, support, encouragement and prayer. I have never felt more loved in a church setting than I did in San Cristobal, and though language was sometimes a barrier, the sentiments of love that we conveyed to each other were undeniable. And if I had not been bold in going or bold in conversing with the people there in my second language, I would never have met some of my most cherished friends.

Another character trait that Guatemala allowed me to strengthen was a sense of flexibility. We did not function on a concrete schedule most days that I was there, and this wasn’t due to a lack of planning, but rather it was simply the nature of the ministry. Many days we would get everything done without much of a hitch, and we would all revel together at having accomplished a small something for the growth of God’s kingdom. But sometimes it would rain, forcing us inside. Some-



times it would be sunny when we had expected it to rain, and we would take advantage of the good weather and switch to an outside project. Sometimes we would have issues with transporting people or their luggage, or with our power or our water, and sometimes we would just be too exhausted to accomplish what had been planned. But through all of these problems and setbacks — which initially caused me a lot of internal turmoil — I slowly came to recognize the necessity of flexibility. I found that by accepting the things that I could not change and allowing myself to be completely

invested in the people surrounding me, I could find peace even amidst the craziest of circumstances, even in a culture that was far different from my own. By simply choosing to be present every moment, I was able to grow greatly as a Spanish speaker, to flourish in my faith, and to do what I had come to do in the first place: to see myself and my future a little more clearly.

God truly is as much at work all over the world as he is in our own lives, but sometimes we have to step outside of ourselves to be reminded of that. I may never have appreciated the breadth of God’s love as I do now if I had not stepped out of my ordinary life to work and serve in Guatemala. Although I still do not have everything about my future plans sorted out, I have learned from my time in Guatemala that that is perfectly okay, and I will continue forward boldly, flexibly and faithfully. 🙏

Trace Laffoon is a Spanish and English double major from Searcy.

ILLUSTRATION BY JENNIFER ALLEN

Come home for HOMECOMING

OCTOBER 17-19

#comehomeHU19

YOU STILL BELONG AT HARDING. Homecoming is the perfect time to ask your friends to reunite while you reminisce and enjoy the beauty of campus. More than 100 events are planned throughout the weekend. Tailgating in front of the Ganus Activities Complex is a must for alumni and future students. The 1989 AIC Champion football team, Galaxy social club and Delta Gamma Rho’s 30th anniversary are three of the many reunions planned. Dedication of the Ronnie Huckeba Field House will be held, and Harding History House will showcase women of Harding.

Classes of '69, '64, '59, '54, '49 and '44 will be celebrated at the Heritage Circle Banquet and will reunite throughout the weekend. Invite your friends to COME HOME FOR HOMECOMING.

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harding.edu/homecoming

Final Frame

PHOTO BY JEFF MONTGOMERY



Defensive lineman Jordan Allison and head coach Paul Simmons greet Tony Dungy during his visit to the football team's afternoon workout session March 28. The head coach of the 2007 Super Bowl Champion Indianapolis Colts and football analyst for NBC Sports spoke to a packed Benson Auditorium as part of the American Studies Distinguished Lecture Series telling the crowd, "It's not what you do in life — it's how you do it. It's not what you accomplish in life — it's who you accomplish it for."