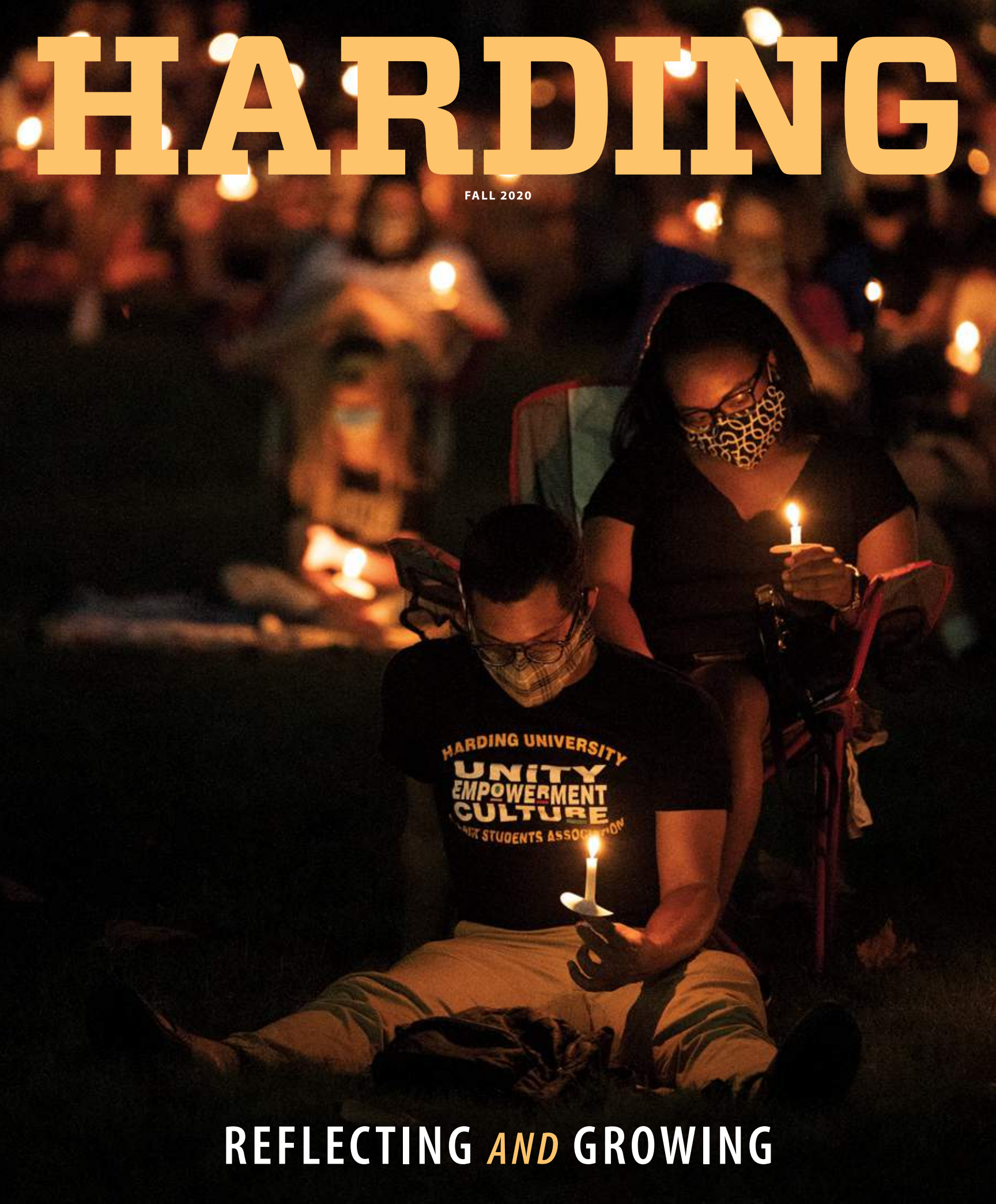


HARDING

FALL 2020



REFLECTING *AND* GROWING



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Begun in 2005, the physician assistant studies program hit a new milestone – 1 million patients seen through the efforts of more than 400 students.

1970 PETIT JEAN PHOTO



HARNDEN PHOTO BY JEFF MONTGOMERY, ALLEN 1970 PETIT JEAN PHOTO



ON THE COVER
On the evening of Sept. 6 and in recognition of the second anniversary of 2016 alumnus Botham Jean's tragic death, Isaac Davis and Addie David gather with the Harding community on the front lawn to share memories, sorrow and gratitude for the man Jean was.
PHOTO BY JEFF MONTGOMERY

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A culture of community

By BRUCE D. McLARTY, *president*

WHAT A YEAR! Who would have dreamed before 2020 began we would be telling students not to return after spring break, planning diligently for their return this fall, turning Kendall Hall into an isolation dorm and the Heritage Inn into quarantine headquarters, having our fall planning sessions virtually, and that I would have a favorite mask given to me by men's basketball with a Bison and #5 (I'm the fifth president) on the side.

As board member and local physician Mike Justus reminded us during one of our virtual fall semester pre-session meetings, at Harding we have a culture of community where empathy for others is helping us through this season of COVID. He told faculty and staff, "A touchless campus does not keep you from touching the hearts and minds of your students."

As we navigate 2020 where it seems we have lost so much and many things have gone wrong, I am reminded of the good things God is doing and has done during these turbulent times. A few of these are:

- Ninety-eight percent of our students indicated in a survey that they felt care and concern from faculty when they had to go home in March and switch to distance learning.
- We have managed to physically distance our entire schedule of classes, utilizing College Church of Christ across the street, the old Family Dollar facility, and every space possible in our auditoriums.
- Our Physical Resources department built 1,450 plexiglass shields for student desks, 150 podium shields and 115 computer lab shields during the course of the summer to aid in our safety.
- Our local community has remarkable healthcare resources that are available during this pandemic.



- The Campus Activities Board has done a tremendous job with physically distanced events including concerts and multiple showing times for movies.
- Even though chapel is being held virtually, we were able to have our traditional favorite "Muffin Chapel" in front of the Heritage Building.
- We moved our lighting ceremony up to Nov. 2 so students could enjoy the lights before Thanksgiving.

We are indeed thankful for a fall semester that, while very different from the normal, has been spent together. When the church faced persecution, it spread the Gospel, just as this virus is producing opportunities to share the love of Christ with a world desperately in need of hope. 🙏



EDITOR'S NOTE: As we were finishing this issue, we learned of the retirement of Dr. McLarty. Look for coverage in our next issue.

HARDING

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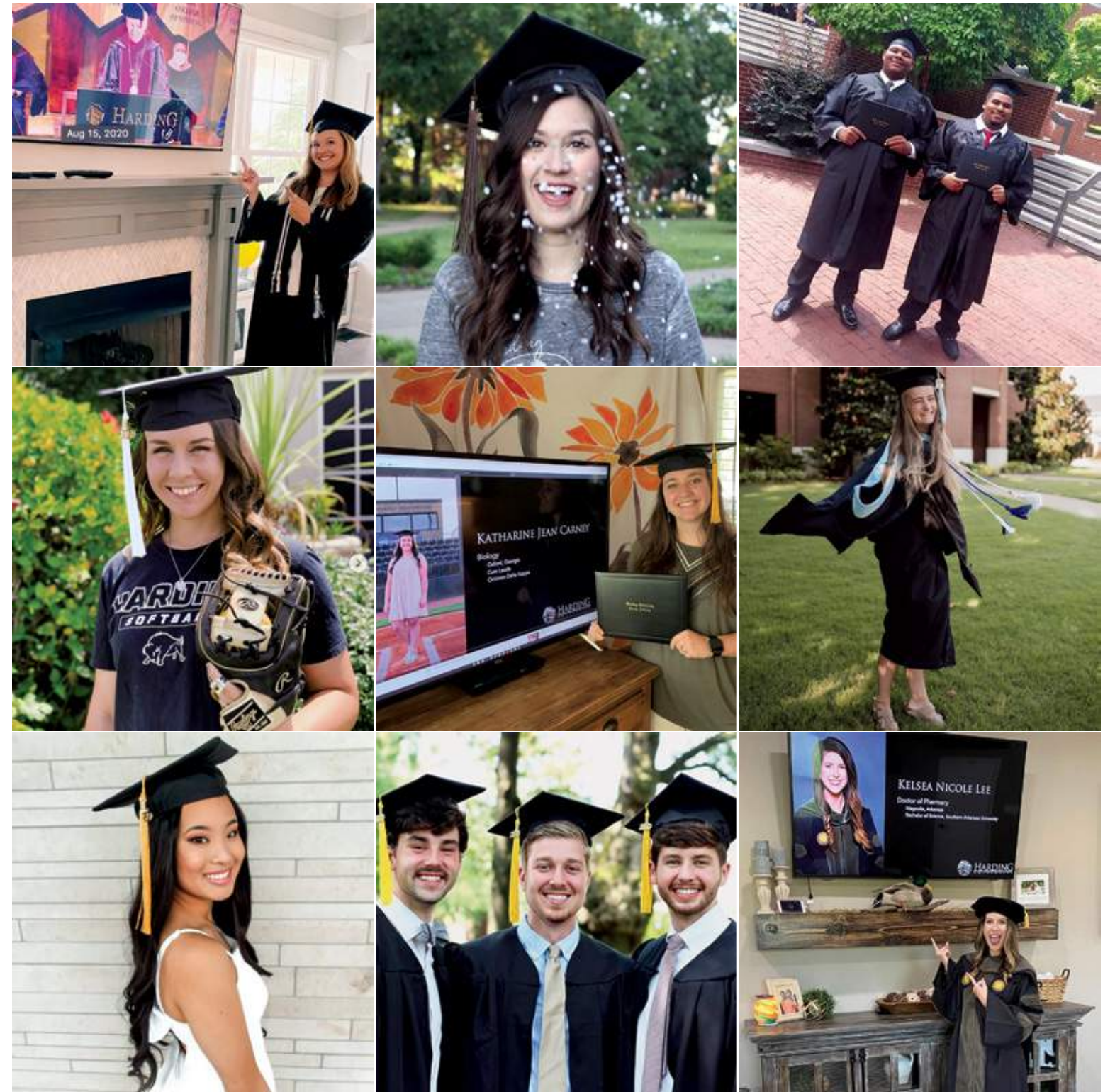
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#HUgrad20

SELECTIONS FROM AUGUST'S VIRTUAL COMMENCEMENT 📷



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PHOTO BY JEFF MONTGOMERY

Gathering on the front lawn June 19 while physically distancing, Juneteenth's history and meaning are commemorated with singing, prayer, Black literature and encouragement. Instructor of Bible Jason Darden shared the story of his grandparents and family in Galveston, Texas, and the journey that followed after being told they were free.

PHOTO BY JEFF MONTGOMERY





Degree programs expanding

THE UNIVERSITY HAS INCREASED its undergraduate and graduate school offerings in Fall 2020. Fifteen new programs were approved within the Colleges of Allied Health, Arts and Humanities, Business Administration, and Sciences, along with the Graduate School of Business and the College of Education Department of Mental Health and Wellness. These new programs include dual/accelerated degrees, interdisciplinary and innovative bachelor's and master's degrees, and certificates. Many of these new programs are offered in a fully online format.

The College of Allied Health has added to its educational offerings with the launch of two dual-degree programs for undergraduate students. One program combines a B.A. in communication sciences and disorders with an M.S. in speech-language pathology. The second offering combines a bachelor's degree meeting required prerequisites with a new M.S. in strength and conditioning. These dual-degree programs

allow students to earn both a bachelor's and master's within five years instead of six, saving a year of tuition and allowing graduates to enter the workforce a year earlier with higher academic credentials. While the new dual-degree programs were offered beginning Fall 2020, a standalone M.S. in strength and conditioning will begin in Fall 2021.

"Harding's leadership continually assesses current academic programs and researches the market for new, mission-fit programs that equip our students for lives of service in their chosen vocation," said Dr. Marty Spears, provost. "The new programs include a number of certificate programs that provide specific skills or expertise, several new bachelor's programs including interdisciplinary majors in areas like cybersecurity or a master's in student affairs that integrate coursework from technology and business or social work and counseling. We continue to develop new accelerated programs to save students time and money."



Honors College names new leadership

DR. KEVIN KEHL HAS BEEN SELECTED DEAN and Dr. James Huff and Dr. Jim Miller have been chosen as faculty fellows following a leadership restructure in the Honors College this summer.

Huff, recently promoted to associate professor of engineering from the College of Sciences, and Miller, associate professor of communication from the College of Arts and Humanities, have been named the first two-year appointees as Honors College Faculty Fellows beginning Aug. 1, 2020, through May 2022. In addition to teaching Honors courses, the faculty fellows help develop the Honors College curriculum and co-curriculum and help guide and mentor students through various experiential learning and capstone projects.

Since its inception in 1989, the Honors Program, which became the Honors College in 1998, has provided the most scholarly of undergraduate students at Harding with special opportunities for academic and social enrichment. The Honors College is open to qualified undergraduate students from any college and actively seeks to partner with faculty in every college to provide a rich experience for their students through honors sections and courses offered with honors credits.

"I am pleased that Dr. Kevin Kehl has agreed to serve as the new dean of the Honors College," said Marty Spears, provost and chief academic officer. "Dr. Kehl is passionate about helping students from all colleges and programs of study achieve their goals. He is committed to continuing the tradition of strong leadership in the Honors College and empowering the faculty fellows to develop and pursue a vision for the future of the Honors College at Harding. Dr. Kehl also will continue to serve as dean of University College."

Kehl fills the role previously held by Dr. Mike James, who retired after 47 years with the University.

COLLEGE OF ALLIED HEALTH

- Certificate in American Sign Language
- B.A. in Speech-Language Pathology Assistant (SLPA)
- B.A./M.S. in Communication Sciences & Disorders-Speech Language Pathology (dual accelerated)
- B.S./M.S. in Strength and Conditioning (dual accelerated)

COLLEGE OF ARTS AND HUMANITIES

- B.A. in English and Business Communication
- B.A. in Foreign Language and Missions

COLLEGE OF BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

- B.A. in Cybersecurity

GRADUATE SCHOOL OF BUSINESS

- Certificate in Project Management (MSIS)
- Certificate in Healthcare Management (MBA)
- Certificate in Entrepreneurship (MBA)
- Certificate in Principled Leadership

COLLEGE OF EDUCATION DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH AND WELLNESS

- Certificate in Counseling Skills
- M.S. in Student Affairs

COLLEGE OF SCIENCES

- B.S. in Community Engagement
- B.S. in Event Management
- M.S. in Kinesiology and Sport Administration



Preaching was his passion

JIMMY ALLEN | 1930-2020

By JERRY JONES, Bible department chairman 1974-83



THE TRAJECTORY OF JIMMY ALLEN'S LIFE was decided a few months after he arrived on the Harding campus and was baptized. At that point the desire to preach the gospel truly began to burn in his bones. Graduating from Harding in 1952, he began

his preaching ministry in Arkansas. By the end of his life he had preached to more people than any other evangelist in churches of Christ in the 20th century and was known as the Billy Graham of our fellowship. Regardless of the venue or audience, his preaching exuded energy, passion and conviction.

Dr. George Benson, second president of Harding, saw the potential in Jimmy for the brotherhood as well as for the college and invited him to join the Harding Bible faculty in 1959. As an instructor, Jimmy was demanding, and only the serious student enrolled in his classes. Although he was an informed and effective teacher in all topics, Romans was arguably his favorite. He never tired of impressing his understanding of grace, forgiveness, security and the cross found within its pages.

During his tenure at Harding, both as a student and faculty member, Jimmy was a tremendous athlete. His competitive spirit was seen in basketball, softball, baseball and ragtag football, and he approached his favorite sport, fishing, with the same intensity. Often, he would use fishing trips to teach others the gospel.

Jimmy was well known for his courage to support nondenominational Christianity and strongly opposed sectarian attitudes within the church regardless of personal cost. He opposed liberalistic attitudes among his fellow teachers. In 1968 he helped organize a forum to address the issues of racism within churches of Christ.

Perhaps one of the qualities I admire most about Jimmy was his ability to change his perspective on previously held positions if his study led him to different conclusions. He instilled this love and respect for the Scriptures as being the word of God into the lives of

his three children and the students in his classes. Jesus was the Lord of his life, not just his savior.

It is true that behind every great man is a great woman, and Jimmy Allen could never have been the powerful force he was without the support of his wife, Marilyn. She was an outstanding Christian and teacher in her own right while being 100% supportive of Jimmy as he preached the gospel throughout the world.

Jimmy urged the church to preach the word and make seeking the lost its priority. In his last years he lamented a lack of evangelism in churches of Christ and the demise of gospel meetings as a tool to reach the lost. He did not believe the gospel allowed a person

the luxury of indecision and when he preached the gospel, he expected people to respond. As people stepped out of their seats and into the aisle, Jimmy would meet them with his hand extended. In one of his gospel meetings, he tried to restore an elder coming down the aisle to get the baptistery ready!

On Aug. 5, 2020, Jimmy Allen did not leave the land of the living for the land of the dead, but he left the land of the dying for the land of the living. He always joked that he would continue his passion for fishing in the river of life! My spiritual father in the gospel will continue to live in many hearts as long as this world exists. We will see him again someday. 🙏

Jimmy Allen ('52), 90, of Searcy died Aug. 5, 2020. In 1948, he was discharged from the Army with the rank of staff sergeant. He was a gospel preacher for more than 60 years preaching in 42

states and seven countries, taught Bible and church history at Harding from 1959-2009, and authored 13 books. He received an MRE degree in Bible in 1959 from Harding's graduate school in Memphis, Tennessee. He was the recipient of honorary doctorate degrees from Oklahoma Christian University and Harding. He was preceded in death by his wife of 63 years, Marilyn McCluggage ('50). He is survived by three children, Cindy Payne ('81), Jimmy H. ('82) and Mike ('89); seven grandchildren; and four great-grandchildren.



PHOTO BY JEFF MONTGOMERY

COMMUNICATIONS AND MARKETING FILE PHOTO



A PLACE TO CALL HOME Aliyah Muhammad, a sophomore from North Little Rock, Arkansas, grew up hearing it was great to be at Harding. “I grew up hearing former youth group members talk about how great Harding was, and I denied the fact that it could be that great. Junior year of high school comes along, and I decided to go to college. My friend wanted to prove to me that Harding was indeed great, so we came on a campus visit, got a tour, and returned home. When I got home, I left a part of my heart. I kept coming back and fell more in love. My friend was right. In fact, so right that she didn’t even come to Harding, but I did.”

CALLING A biochemistry major, Muhammad says the first thing she notices about someone is their smile even if we are seeing fewer smiles these days. “Most people notice eyes when they see someone. I, on the other hand, notice teeth. Some people are self-conscious about their smiles, and I want to be the person to change that. I was told that I couldn’t be an oral maxillofacial surgeon, and if it’s God’s will I am going to prove them wrong.”

GIVING BACK TO OTHERS As a Women for Harding scholar, Muhammad says she enjoys volunteering and giving back to those who give. She also has been in Justified, the BSA choir, and a resident assistant for Sears Hall.

CAMARADERIE “Harding teaches you real love. Some of your biggest supporters will be some of the people you least expect. You also have late nights and early mornings: they push you to go harder because they know you can. They are here for you to be the best you can be!” — *Katie Clement*



Everyday STUDENT

**SOPHOMORE BIOCHEMISTRY MAJOR
ALIYAH MUHAMMAD WANTS TO BRING
CONFIDENCE TO OTHERS’ SMILES**

PHOTO BY JEFF MONTGOMERY

SEEN on SOCIAL MEDIA

On Sept. 24 the University shared on Facebook the post below of the Cathcart remodel from SCM Architects, prompting much feedback and reminiscing.

Lou Ann Cushman Cathcart was my freshman dorm in 1967, daughter’s in 1991, granddaughter’s in 2016 and 2017. Very happy it is being renovated.

Patty Fisher Galvan Memories of sunbathing on the roof listening to Footloose!!! What a beautiful remodel!

Susan Griffin Definitely not the Cathcart I spent a year in back in 1976-77! Looks great!

Darcy Roberts Lacy We had so much fun! Still remembering Carol trying to wash a burnt sheet cake down the bathtub!! ... I think we need to schedule another girls trip to Harding when the world is healthy again!!

Ruby Morgan I was on the top floor when it was brand new. Kathryn Roberts was my big sister and Laura Perrin my first roommate. Wonderful memories and people that taught me how to live a Christian life. I am 87 now and been an RN for 55 years. Our God is awesome.

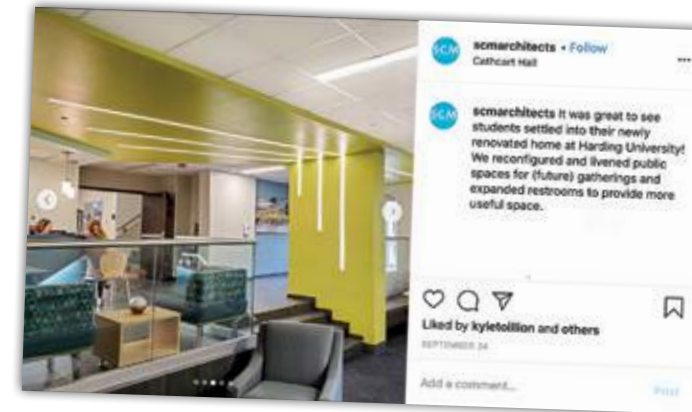
Belinda Sinele VanDenburg It was also my freshman dorm in 1964 & I

remember meeting Ms. Cathcart when she was dean emeritus in the 50s. WOW, I’m ancient!! Go Bisons!

Sharon Messersmith Whitlege My first thought was WHAT? Wasn’t it JUST renovated?? Um. Yeah ... 30 years ago! Hahaha. Doesn’t seem that long.

Becky Owen Willis Lived in Cathcart three years and the last time it was remodeled in 1990. My daughter lived there last year.

Lanette Roby Woodard BEST year of my life was spent in that dorm!!



Harding Read examines leadership

PRESIDENT BRUCE MCLARTY chose *View from the Top: An Inside Look at How People in Power See and Shape the World* by Dr. Michael Lindsay as the 2020-21 Harding Read.

Lindsay, an award winning sociologist, educator and president of Gordon College, is an expert on religion, culture and leadership. The book reports on Lindsay’s findings of his 10-year Platinum Study, the largest-ever interview-based study of senior organizational leaders — including Presidents Carter and Bush and hundreds of CEOs at the nation’s

largest corporations and non-profits. *View from the Top* is the fifth campus-wide read since the program began in Fall 2016. The program encourages the campus community to read a book together and engage both in and out of the classroom.

One reason McLarty wanted students to read this year’s book was because it is written by a person of faith who looks at leadership and expresses values that are held to be most important.

“I think for a lot of people in their college days, leadership roles are still a mystery,” said McLarty.

“How did that person get to that level? How do you get from here to there? And this book I think opens doors for people to see how their life could well progress in the direction of leadership.”

McLarty’s favorite chapter in the book, chapter two, is titled “Leadership begins at 20.”

As Lindsay puts it, “Leadership is not handed down. There is no one right path to the top. The key time in a proto leader’s development is in his or her mid-20s.”

As part of the Harding Read program, the American Studies Institute Distinguished Lecture Series will feature Lindsay as a keynote speaker on Feb. 18, 2021.

BY THE NUMBERS

VIRTUAL SPRING COMMENCEMENT

36

Instagram feed posts, IGTV videos and stories shared

40

Countries represented by viewership

1,171

Views of graduate names outside of the livestream

1,234

Twitter engagements with 20 University live-tweets

1,175

Views on “Lord Bless You and Keep You” video posted to IGTV and YouTube

1,428

Viewers on HU16 livestream, plus 235 who watched after the live broadcast ended

8,618

User engagements on Facebook Live

34,175

Total minutes viewed on Facebook Live



Graduate and professional support grows

A NEW OFFICE OF GRADUATE and professional support was established by the University July 1. The office provides expanded resources for more than 50 graduate and professional programs.

Graduate and professional programs have been a part of the educational offerings at the University since 1952, growing to account for close to 20% of annual enrollment in recent years and representing significant growth opportunities in coming years due to increased demand and job requirements for graduate education.

Mitch Walton, director of the office, reports to Dr. Julie Hixson-Wallace, associate provost and vice president for accreditation and institutional effectiveness. Walton has served as director of Harding-North Little Rock since August 2017. Previously, he served as director of professional development for the Arkansas Association of Educational Administration, executive director of three AAEA umbrella organizations, and as both the superintendent and high school principal of Sloan-Hendrix School District. Walton holds degrees from both Harding and Arkansas State universities.

The office includes five additional staff members who contribute to the recruiting, marketing and support of the University's graduate and professional programs. These members include Sheryl Ragland, marketing manager for graduate programs; Katherine Boone, administrative assistant; Sharyl Holst, tech and information management assistant; Deb Plybon, academic affairs assistant; and Alice Ramsey, admissions assistant.

Cox, Walls new Arts and Humanities chairs

AMY COX WAS APPOINTED CHAIR of the department of art and design, and Dr. Jay Walls was named chair of the department of music effective Aug. 1, 2020.

Cox came to the University in 2001 in the early years of her interior design career. Since then, she has



completed an MBA and a terminal degree in collaborative design from John Brown University and was recently promoted to associate professor. Cox holds a certification from the National Council for Interior Design Qualification and is a professional member of

the American Society of Interior Designers and the Interior Design Educators Council. She has held regional leadership positions for ASID and is serving as campus sponsor for this professional organization.

Cox has served as director of the interior design program. Her community work includes various projects in Searcy and throughout the state, service on regional boards, and convention presentations for interior design colleagues at IDEC conferences.

Walls earned his Ph.D. in music composition from the University of North Texas in 2011. He came

to the University in 2000 when he became assistant director at Harding University in Florence. After two years serving at HUF, Walls returned to Searcy as an assistant professor of music. In 2004 he was employed as a teaching fellow in music and Italian



at the University of North Texas and later hired by the UNT Graduate School as coordinator of interdisciplinary studies and graduate recruitment. In 2014 Walls returned to the University and is now an associate professor of music and director of the

Arts & Life performance series.

In addition to teaching, Walls is a music composer with several works in circulation. His most recent works include "The Clothes of Heaven," performed by the University Chorus, and "Intempestus," premiered by Dr. Andrew Cook and Dr. Wesley Parker at the North American Saxophone Alliance convention in 2018. This summer he completed a new work for the Searcy High School Orchestra.

Cox fills the role held by Dr. John Keller, who returned to full-time teaching, and Walls replaces Parker.

Equip: Connecting learners locally and globally

THE UNIVERSITY HAS BEEN offering online Bible courses since 2005, and in the summer of 2020 the Center for Distance Education in the College of Bible and Ministry launched "Equip at Harding University," blending the long legacy of the University's on-campus training programs for ministry for adult learners with its 15 years of experience in online Christian higher education.

Equip provides training and education appropriate for students entering into full-time or volunteer religious vocations. By offering a degree program for online students in addition to the current on-campus community for adult majors in Bible, Harding provides ministry education opportunities to students who are in need of an alternative to a full-time degree on the main campus. Tailored to the varying needs of adult learners, Equip and the College of Bible and Ministry provide a culture of sup-

port that recognizes adult learning context and balance with academic rigor, structure and appropriate requirements for the degree.

In addition to an online Bachelor of Arts degree in Bible and ministry, Equip offers two Certificates of Completion in biblical studies and Christian ministry designed for continuing education for ministers, deacons, teachers, elders and anyone else who desires to continue their studies at the collegiate level.

"Our goal is to connect students with enriching and meaningful learning experiences," Tim Westbrook, associate professor and director of the Center for Distance Education, said. "Christian education and ministry training are too precious to limit it to the few who can move to a particular location. Not only are we striving to help students learn ideas, principles and skills for ministry, but we also are

intentional about creating a community of learning and Christ-like care in spite of physical distance."

Some of the ways Equip attempts to foster community with students who are located states apart include live online chapel, small group exercises within courses, and a combination of online and hybrid courses that give them an opportunity to take classes online or on campus.

All students enrolled at Harding through the Center for Distance Education receive an automatic 50% tuition discount, whether they take classes online or attend on campus. Once admitted, they may earn their entire Bible degree online or come to campus to take classes face-to-face if they live in or near Searcy. Four Directors Scholarships, 100% ministry scholarships, are awarded each year, which students must apply for and be on campus in Searcy to receive.

PHOTO BY JEFF MONTGOMERY

MY VIEW DAVID ADAMS

Pandemic perspective

Because of his research expertise in pandemics, Harding magazine asked Associate Professor of History and Political Science David Adams to provide a historical perspective on COVID-19.

WHEN I FIRST STARTED studying pandemics 15 years ago, scholars were predicting a future flu pandemic. Diverse strains had produced three pandemics in the previous 100 years, with the 1918-19 flu pandemic earning the distinction of the deadliest pandemic in recorded history.

By 2005 it was clear that when the next pandemic hit, two things would be dramatically different. For one, we were further removed from death than those who lived in the early 20th century. Even during the height of the pandemic in 1918, major belligerents were more focused on the Great War. By the start of the next century, though, major warfare, industrial accidents and childhood mortality looked all but conquered in the developed world, and most took for granted the security of a long, healthy life.

In a second related theme, despite incurable ailments like cancer and AIDS, people had placed an inordinate amount of faith in medicine. Researchers even talked about overcoming death. But those who studied pandemics cautioned that medicine would not provide a quick fix. As COVID-19 plays out, we have rapidly seen that faith shaken to a point where some

no longer trust the experts. The problem with pandemic diseases is that the novelty exists not only for our bodies' immune systems but also for our minds. Starting from a disadvantaged position, we are left playing catch up.

In many ways today's advice echoes that of more than 100 years ago: wash your hands, don't touch your face and wear a mask. But pandemics reach beyond the individual and affect our communities. Individual desires and beliefs war with love for and commitment to others, and when the wrong side emerges victorious, consequences can be deadly. Past pandemics show that after the storms passed, these new habits were unlearned. History doesn't repeat itself, but the failures of past generations reemerge. And each time that happens we are given a unique opportunity to end those cycles by choosing a different path. 🙏



PHOTO BY JEFF MONTGOMERY



NEWSMAKERS

ADVANCEMENT

Jeff Mills was named senior advancement officer July 31.

Candice Moore was appointed campaign and project director June 1. Moore previously served as director of marketing in the Office of University Communications and Marketing.

Laurel Shearin became director of prospect research and grants Aug. 12.

ALUMNI AND PARENT RELATIONS

Heather Kemper was named director of alumni and parent relations July 1. She fills the role previously held by Liz Howell, who retired in June. Before filling this position Kemper served as event and project director, a position now held by Shelbi Bridges. Bridges previously served as Generation HU director in advancement.

ATHLETICS

Bryce Bray was appointed assistant football coach. Bray served as a graduate assistant during the 2019 season.

Mills Bryant, a member of the football team, was named Great American Conference Male Scholar Athlete of the Year.

Rylie Cox-Evans, a member of the women's tennis team, received the Intercollegiate Tennis Association NCAA Division II Central Region Arthur Ashe Leadership and Sportsmanship Award in May. Cox-Evans is the first female tennis player to receive the award.

Victoria Hood was named assistant cross-country and track and field coach. She previously served as a graduate assistant for the 2019-20 season.

Emily Shell-Collins, member of the track and field team, and Miles Humphreys, member of the baseball team, are the 2020 M.E. Berryhill award winners.

Dawson Yates was appointed assistant women's basketball coach.

COLLEGE OF EDUCATION

Dr. Cheri Smith, associate professor and chair of the teacher preparation program, was appointed to the Arkansas Early Childhood Commission by Gov. Asa Hutchinson in March.

COLLEGE OF SCIENCES

Dr. Kathy Helpenstill, associate professor of behavioral sciences, successfully completed her doctoral work in social work at the University of Tennessee on Feb. 25, 2020, to earn a Doctor of Social Work. The title of her capstone project is "BSW Student's Self-Efficacy and Influencing Variable for Field Placement."

FACULTY/STAFF AWARDS

Faculty members Dr. Scott Adair, Dr. Greg Brooks, Dr. Marc Fager, Dr. Cliff Ganus, Dr. James Huff, Kimberly Laing, Dr. Michael Murphy, Dr. Jake Stewart and Laurie Walker are the 2019-20 Teacher Achievement Award recipients. Staff members Mary Alice Brooks, Angela English, Dana McMillion, Debra Nesbitt, Nancy Tackett, Dale Warren, Naomi Valentine and Melissa Westerholm received the 2019-20 Distinguished Service Award.

HARDING UNIVERSITY IN FLORENCE

Ethan Brown joined the International Programs team as the HUF assistant in January 2020.

OFFICE OF CHURCH RELATIONS

Andrew Braxter was appointed as director of church outreach Aug. 10. Braxter is also a part of the University's multicultural consortium and serves on its diversity committee.

REGISTRAR'S OFFICE

Dr. Will Perkins, associate registrar, successfully defended his dissertation to earn his doctorate in educational leadership at Harding University in May 2020. The title of his dissertation is "The Predictive Effects of Completing College-Level Work in High School on Baccalaureate Degree Outcomes."

UNIVERSITY COMMUNICATIONS AND MARKETING

Josie Parker joined the office in June 2020 as marketing manager.



For the latest sports information, visit hardingsports.com.

Honored now, awarded later

By SCOTT GOODE, assistant athletic director for sports information

IN JANUARY OF 2020, former Harding athletic director Greg Harnden learned that NCAA Division II Athletic Directors Association selected him to receive its highest honor — the DII ADA Lifetime Achievement Award — to recognize his outstanding career at the University.

For Harnden, it may feel like another lifetime before he actually receives the award. He was to accept the award at a ceremony in Las Vegas in June as part of the National Association of Collegiate Directors of Athletics convention. But due to COVID-19, organizers canceled the convention. The new plan is for a ceremony in Orlando, Florida, as part of the 2021 NACDA convention.

“Waiting to receive the honor is really no big deal,” Harnden says. “The big deal is for Harnden. The award just shows what Dr. Burks and

Dr. McLarty have allowed us to do to build up the program and allow us to have the success we have had in Division II. And besides, we still get to go to a nice place like Orlando.”

Under Harnden’s direction, Harding won its first Gulf South Conference Men’s All-Sports Trophy during the 2010-11 school year and captured the 2016-17 Great American Conference All-Sports Trophy. As athletic director, Harnden added women’s soccer, men’s soccer, women’s golf and softball. Harnden oversaw the renovation of several athletic facilities. He also helped facilitate the move from the NAIA to the NCAA as well as the transition from the Gulf South Conference to the current home in the Great American Conference.

Women’s soccer coach Dr. Greg Harris spoke for many who worked with Harnden during his time as AD, saying, “The most im-

portant thing about Coach Harnden in my eyes is the care and support he has for his coaches, especially their families. He has celebrated with us, prayed with and for us, and cried with us when things were tough. You don’t always get that from your boss.”

Before assuming his role as athletic director, Harnden served eight years as head coach of the successful Lady Bison basketball team. He led the Lady Bisons to the NAIA national tournament in 1996 and 1997 with a 153-91 overall career record.

During his career, Harnden served as inaugural chairman of the GAC Committee of Athletic Administrators and chair of the Gulf South Conference Committee of Athletic Directors. He also represented the GAC on various regional advisory committees and Division II on the NCAA Women’s Basketball Rules Committee.

Harnden says one of his favorite times as athletic director came early on with the opening of the renovated Rhodes Field House in 1997.

“I loved seeing it packed game after game, and the excitement it created on campus,” Harnden says.

Harnden also cited the success that Harding’s teams more recently have had at the regional and national levels with softball coming within one out of the College World Series and women’s basketball and football reaching the national semifinals.

“Another of the unusual things about Harding is that we have always had a lot of coaches and staff who came and stayed, so I got to work with them my entire time as AD,” says Harnden. “That certainly made my life a lot easier.”

The impact Harnden left upon the University is sizable and goes far beyond the success experienced by the school’s athletic programs. In his role as athletic director, he mentored thousands of student-athletes and served as coach to his department’s staff. Additionally, his reach extended beyond the Harding sphere as an incredible resource to other administrators in the GAC.

“After his many years of service, it is only right that Greg is being honored for his work. Not only was he a leader, but he had the ability to be the calming voice of reason to get things accomplished,” voiced Chris Ratcliff, DII ADA president and Rogers State University director of athletics. “Under his leadership, Harding University grew leaps and bounds, not only becoming a national contender, but with the addition of sports and an affiliate change, Greg never skipped a beat, providing continued compassion for all of those at Harding University.”

The attribute most associated with Coach Harnden is integrity. His actions and leadership in 21 years as Harding’s athletic director have followed the school’s role to create servant-leadership.

The attribute most necessary for those wanting to honor Harnden is patience. But someday, hopefully summer 2021, he can finally take home his award. 🏆



Holding the traveling trophy, Greg Harnden celebrates with the Bison football team after they defeated Ouachita Baptist University 31-28 Oct. 7, 2017, in Arkadelphia, Arkansas.

PHOTO BY JEFF MONTGOMERY

PHOTO BY JEFF MONTGOMERY

BY THE NUMBERS



No matter the weather, soccer practice continues inside the new Hatcher Indoor Soccer Center, which opened this fall.

11,220

Total square feet of the Hatcher indoor facility.

6

Number of lifting stations in the weight room

5

Number of rooms plus two restrooms

148-by-60

Size of playing area in feet

HARDING

50

YEARS AGO

By RAYMOND KELLY, *president of the class of 1970*



There's a saying that goes something like this: the days and weeks sometimes seem to drag by, but the years fly by. My classmates and I can attest to the latter part of that saying. Fifty years has certainly flown by! You know you're getting old when you see the names of personal friends, coaches and teachers on the buildings and facilities around campus today.

It was a milestone year for the Harding class of '70. We all had our graduation from Harding as a major event in our lives. That year also marked many other milestones – not only graduation but first jobs, graduate schools, engagements, weddings and military service.

The town of Searcy was much smaller then with no freeway type highway. Entertainment and restaurant choices were limited. There were theatres in Kensett and Bald Knob as well as the Rialto in Searcy. Harding brought in The Lettermen and The Association performing groups to entertain students. We also enjoyed the talents of fellow students who sang and performed for us.

Frozen Delight, The Pit and White House Café were some of the popular places to eat. Several of us guys loved to go eat the Sunday buffet offered by the Holiday Inn motel. Pizza was quite popular even though there wasn't a sit-down pizza restaurant. However, there was a place that made pizza and delivered it to the dorms. I actually ate pizza for the first time in my life at Harding.

Much of our entertainment and recreation was enjoyed on campus through club and intramural sports. The intramural softball field was located between the library and Rhodes Field House and is now a parking lot. The tennis courts were east of Rhodes Field House and were later removed to construct Benson Auditorium.

A large percentage of the student body participated in club and intramural sports, and we loved competing with other students as well as with the always formidable faculty and staff teams. President Ganus, Jimmy Allen and Jerry Jones were among those staff members participating, and it was exciting to play against them.

Social clubs were an important part of student life, just as they continue to be today. Many of the clubs continue to exist while others have been discontinued. Pledge week was a humbling experience for new members and yes, I wore a "firecracker" made from a toilet paper roll on my head. Banquets and outings to places like Batesville and Blanchard Springs were popular.

The campus was very beautiful then as well as now. We can all be proud of the first class facilities and campus that Harding provides. We met for chapel in the Administration Building, enjoyed

devotionals surrounding the "Lily Pool," and got our mail at the Ganus Student Center located immediately west of the Administration Building. Harding swings were enjoyed by us oldtimers, too. Many of us ate our meals at Pattie Cobb cafeteria, which was located in Cobb's basement.

Communications were vastly different in 1970 – no internet, social media, cell phones, and no phones in dorm rooms. It was rare for anyone to have a TV in their room. We exchanged written letters with our family and friends back home and waited for our turn to use the pay phones in the dorm halls to make a call.

The best memories from my time at Harding have to do with the people – the faculty, staff, administrators and sponsors as well as the other students. President Ganus, Joe Pryor, Ken Davis, Neale Pryor, M.E. Berryhill, Jerry Jones, Harry Olree, Hugh Groover, Jimmy Allen, John Prock, Jess Bucy, Dick Johnson and many others had such a great influence on so many of us. Many lifelong friendships were made with other students, many met their spouses, and we all have a shared bond that comes with being a part of the class of 1970.

We've certainly seen a lot of changes at Harding including new and improved facilities, housing, programs, expanded course offerings and majors. We are proud of the progress and improvements, but there are things we hope never change. We hope and pray that Harding will always be committed to encouraging students to develop an abiding and sustaining faith in Jesus and the hope that we all have through Him. We want to see students continue to prepare themselves for lives of service as well as preparing for their respective careers.

We all have much for which to be grateful. We should be forever grateful to our parents and the sacrifices they, as well as others, made to enable us to attend Harding. We are grateful for the wonderful, caring teachers, coaches, sponsors and staff who served us. We are grateful for the current faculty and staff.

We hope and pray for a bright future for Harding University, for success in coping with the current pandemic and accompanying challenges. May Harding University continue to grow and thrive and provide the "Harding experience" to many generations to come.



HARDING 50 YEARS AGO



Who was your favorite Harding professor, and why?

Joe Cannon, the first visiting missionary to teach for a year at Harding, instilled a deep love for mission work in my heart that still thrives.

JOE CHESSER *Jackson, Missouri*

Dr. Dean Blackburn Priest, my academic advisor and mentor, who also took a special interest in me at a pivotal time in my life.

DANIEL DOAK *Vienna, West Virginia*

My favorite professor has to be Dr. Kenneth Davis, Uncle Bud. He was strict and he had high expectations. His humility and strong faith were an inspiration to me.

LANA KAYE JONES GILLIAM *Blacksburg, Virginia*

Dr. Raymond Muncy. He was a wonderful Christian man and such a devoted scholar. I learned so much from him about research and writing and he deepened my love of American history. It was such an accomplishment to earn an "A" in his classes. He was the best!

GUNILDA ENSMINGER JACOBS *Knoxville, Tennessee*

Dr. Jerry Jones, he was open to hear your views and support them even if they did differ from his.

JAMES (DENNIS) MCCALL *Fresno, California*

Allan Isom. I was a new Christian when I came to Harding and brother Isom's class gave

me a great picture and understanding of God's plan for the salvation of the world and Christ's love for me and mankind.

JAMES ROWAN MCLEOD *Searcy, Arkansas*

Jimmy Allen was my all-time favorite! He opened my mind to grace in a way I had not experienced previously. I loved his classes!

SANDRA MOORE NELSON *McKinney, Texas*

Leslie Burke, in Greek he was so passionate about and so well prepared for the subject.

LARRY OWEN *Henderson, Tennessee*

Too many, but Dr. Joe (Pryor) gave me a week-long Physical Science 102 course so I could graduate and go to work.

DAVID "PINKY" REVES *Keller, Texas*

How can one choose a favorite professor? So many from which to choose. Mr. Rushton took our elementary science class on an overnight "expedition" to hunt for fossils. So fun!

LIZ BENNETT REVES *Keller, Texas*

Dr. Mildred Bell ... an example of living a successful life as a single, professional woman.

ANITA WHERRY *Smyrna, Tennessee*

Dr. Ryan, his classes were difficult but engaging and what he taught me has helped me use my gifts in ministry.

BECKY SCHREIBER WOOLEY *Chattanooga, Tennessee*

Dr. Betty Work. She made her students feel like professionals.

SUSAN "DI ANN" BOMAR WILLIAMS *Kensett, Arkansas*

How do you believe being at Harding made an impact on your life?

My friends from Harding are still my friends today.

JOYCE AILES BIEN *Verona, Wisconsin*

Things came together to gift me with three of the happiest years of my entire life.

JAMES COOKE *Willow Park, Texas*

Harding helped me mature into a Christ-loving wife, mother, grandmother and teacher. I NEVER worried about talking about God in my classroom, EVER.

SHARON LEA ROGERS FARIES *Alma, Arkansas*

The Christian spirit of Harding lives in me today through the spiritual influence of my classmates and the professors at Harding.

D. PAUL GARTMAN *Columbus, Ohio*

Through Bible classes and chapel, I began my journey of gaining the personal relationship with my Lord, the strength and faith I needed in order to handle the challenges in my life.

PAULA JOHNSON *High Point, North Carolina*

Meeting so many people and teachers who loved each other and demonstrated great faith. It was a great beginning to adult life.

JUDY ERWIN KOCHAN *Garland, Texas*

Harding opened many doors for us professionally. It is also the place we fell in love sitting on the white swings. Harding changed our lives.

DUANE AND DIANE MCKINNEY *Red Oak, Texas*

The people it put into my life. There were many, but the ongoing friendship and mentor at the top of the list was Floyd Daniel. He was always only a phone call away, and I cherish the letters from him that I have kept.

BOYD PATE *Winfield, Alabama*

I could socialize and do intramural athletics with kindred spirits in college without needing to drink or do drugs.

DAVID ROLL *Caledonia, New York*

It extended my Christian upbringing for four more years after leaving home and lifetime friendships!

RACHEL COOK SCOTT *Georgetown, Texas*

The atmosphere at Harding with first-class professors and excellent student colleagues was something I never found outside the Harding campus.

LARRY SMITH *Hampton, South Carolina*

It gave me a network of friends and contacts all over the world who I can call on at any time.

ROY STEELE *North Richland Hills, Texas*

Strengthened my love for the Lord, wanting to do more each day for him and his church. Gave me self-confidence in daily activities of life, being able to speak in public, having friends of like faith, being taught by such wonderful instructors. They were such a great example.

BONNIE LEE DAILEY WEBER *Fleming, Ohio*

PETIT JEAN PHOTOS

What do you consider your favorite or most humorous incident during your time at Harding?

We thought it was amusing that we named the bathroom stalls in Pattie Cobb dorm: 1 John, 2 John, 3 John and Jude.

MARTHA BIBEE BOSTON *Wilmington, Delaware*

Favorite times were club functions and outings. I loved going to Petit Jean Mountain.

JOYCE PIPPIN COX *Argyle, Texas*

During our sophomore year Chorale trip, we performed the life of Christ in song. During "When I Survey the Wondrous Cross," Dr. Baggett looked up at the cross behind us. His eyes reflected such love and thankfulness, I remain impacted to this very day.

CAROL FIELDS DAVIS *Ridgefield, Washington*

I thoroughly enjoyed going to small congregations in rural Arkansas and preaching on Sundays. I was always invited into a member's family home for Sunday dinner. This allowed me to be able to know the people and learn to appreciate them.

JOEL DAVIS *Ridgefield, Washington*

Being thrown in the Lily Pool in front of the Administration building late on a cold December night after announcing our engagement.

KEITH HAWKINS *Owens Cross Roads, Alabama*

Getting to go on a USO tour for Harding, visiting military installations in Iceland, Greenland, Newfoundland and Labrador. Hard work but unforgettable memories.

NANCY INGRAM KEISER *Buda, Texas*

When my dad came to get me my freshman year at Christmas break, he found me hanging through the transom over our room door to unlock it because my roommate left for home when I was in the shower!

ROGER LAMB *Chelmsford, Massachusetts*

The first day of chapel my freshman year, I went to my assigned seat and sitting next to me was a handsome young man. We have been sitting together ever since then. (I married him when I graduated from Harding.)

LYNN GREENWAY LUCAS *Maumelle, Arkansas*

During a choral concert, all of the basses and tenors played "hot potato" with an alarm clock. Kenneth Davis Jr. was not amused.

ARTHUR SHEARIN *Searcy, Arkansas*

In jest, our club voted to ask Dr. J.D. Bales, the very dry, very scholarly Bible professor, to be the after-dinner speaker at our banquet. No one could believe it; however, his talk was hilarious. He kept us in stitches and was often asked by others after that.

JOE STOKES *Deer Park, Texas*

During Saturday morning marching band practice on a field near the track that ran behind the campus, a short train rolled by. No big deal, but rehearsal broke up when the engineer threw candy.

HANABA MUNN WELCH *Abilene, Texas*

Striding toward more
DIVERSITY
on campus



By JESSICA BERRY

Photography by JEFF MONTGOMERY



IF I had to pick the least favorite year of my life, I would probably pick 2020. If I had to pick the best year — so far — of my life, in the same breath, I would still pick 2020. This year has helped me grow in so many areas. I also have seen other things grow during this year including my employer: Harding University. The current world pandemic brought into focus several ongoing challenges in our country and University, specifically the epidemic of racism and racial division in the U.S.

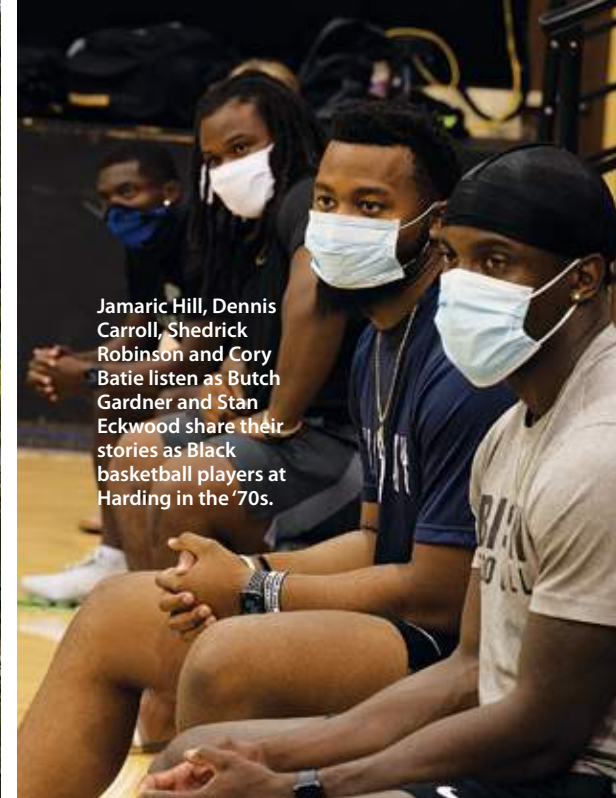
When I came to Harding as a freshman in 2002, I always had in the back of my mind, “How can I increase diversity at this wonderful, Christian, yet predominantly white institution?” I really did not have a plan. I just knew something needed to be done and fast. I came across some friends who wanted to help. I had the desire back then, but not the influence or resources needed to make significant change. No one person is to blame. At that time, the urgency for diversity in higher education was not on the radar for most individuals or institutions.

Fast forward to January 2019 when I accepted an offer to be an admissions counselor for Harding. I automatically assumed nothing had changed since my time as a student, and I was beginning to set my mind on how I could really be effective in starting conversations in topics related to race. Unbeknownst to me, things had been changing, and it was time for me to step up and use my voice. Part of my job responsibilities included recruiting students in churches with underserved or “minority” populations. I noticed there was now more diversity on campus especially more Black students, an office for diversity services, and a director of church outreach focused on working with underserved churches. These new positions and efforts signaled a shift in my alma mater that I felt confident would take us to the next level of racial inclusivity.

I always have ideas floating in my head about ways something I care about can be better. The very first day of work, the list of ideas began forming in my head as I learned the campus culture, and I began identifying places I thought I could make a difference — more diversity in chapel leadership and content, more participation in student activities by underserved students, and representation in faculty, staff and senior leadership. Knowing these are three areas where my people look the most when they are learning about Harding and its offerings, I wanted to start here. I anticipated this process of change would be very slow and



On the lawn in front of Brackett Library, panels tell the stories of seven African American leaders in churches of Christ (harding.edu/everyvoice).



Jamaric Hill, Dennis Carroll, Shedrick Robinson and Cory Batie listen as Butch Gardner and Stan Eckwood share their stories as Black basketball players at Harding in the '70s.



The "Lift Every Voice & Sing" mural in Hammon Student Center serves as a backdrop for student conversations.

gradual. I had no idea the time to step up and execute would be right around the corner.

In May of 2020 the brutal killing of George Floyd shook the world. His death brought into clear focus that organizations across America needed to respond to this tragedy. Harding was no exception. This was a pivotal time for us to take action, and I was ready to do my part. Our students were hurting, and I was able to swiftly help organize and facilitate a forum for African American students to express their hurt through a Zoom virtual meeting with President Bruce McLarty and other University leaders. As a member of our Diversity Consortium, I was able to help with the planning and implementing of suggestions made by our students. This momentum encouraged several offices on campus to start implementing other ideas around diversity.

In the month of June, the University took several actions. Among the first was the announcement by Dr. McLarty of the formation of a task force for Recognizing African American Achievement at Harding University. This was in response to a Change.org petition to change the name of the George S. Benson Auditorium to be named for fellow alumnus and a dear friend of mine, Botham Jean. Botham was murdered in his Dallas apartment by an off-duty police officer in 2018. The petition cited as the reason for the change Dr. Benson's views on racial segregation and his initial resistance to integration of the University until 1963.

McLarty responded to the petition in a statement (harding.edu/benson) indicating the name would not change. At the same time, he acknowledged Benson's flaws and the fact that even though Black students had been a vital part of the University since 1963, there had not yet been any recognition of their important contributions at Harding. Dr. Greg Harris, women's head soccer coach, became the chairperson of the task force, and the first meeting was held in August. I was honored to be asked to be part of this work, and I strongly agree with Dr. Harris' view that the task force and its purpose are exactly what Harding needs. "Our task force's views and opinions

on the direction Harding needs to go in terms of racial reconciliation and recognition run very much in line with the students', they want to see change. They want to see these people known, honored, loved and respected who have not been in the past."

A powerful Juneteenth celebration brought much needed life and community to Harding's campus at the height of the pandemic. This event spoke volumes to so many current students, faculty, staff and alumni that through conducting this significant and symbolic remembrance, the University is listening and changing for the better.

PRIOR TO CLASSES beginning in August, the faculty and staff pre-session conference, an annual coming together to prepare for the beginning of a new school year, included dialogue around race with minority faculty members speaking from their perspectives in video segments called, "Why I Teach at Harding." This along with an outline of events coming in the fall semester designed to help continue the conversation around race further solidified that we were on the right track. In the month of September the College of Bible and Ministry developed and conducted a two-day seminar course for one-hour credit called "Conversations in Cultural Competency," a series of presentations and discussions about the ways races and cultures have been affected through events of the past 250 years in our country that have shaped our current circumstances.

Our student leaders did not waste any time either, immediately planning ways to engage their peers across campus in the conversation. Student Association President Morgan Proffitt and Black Student Association President Raissa Ames developed and facilitated a panel discussion, "Let's Revisit: A Conversation About Race" on Sept. 18. The title was a nod to a previous panel discussion hosted by the American Studies Institute Distinguished Lecture Series in 2016. The 2016 panel consisted of the first two African American undergraduates of Harding, Elijah Anthony and Howard Wright, who is on the board of trustees; former attorney for Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., Fred Gray; along with former Oklahoma State

Senator Anastasia Pittman. Panelists expressed the need for change in our country on this same topic.

Ames knew her friends and colleagues were hurting, and this panel discussion was a step toward healing. "We see this huge outcry on social media, but how can we move this from social media to campus?" Proffitt agreed, "Our two big goals for the panel were to empower students, to know that they did have a voice and to encourage the Harding community in general that this is a conversation that is being had and will continue to be had."

Anthony, a panelist for both the 2016 and 2020 events, emphasized the importance and critical timing of the conversation that night, "I think we have a perfect storm right now in the country that places institutions like Harding right in the middle of some great challenges. I think it's the schools who really want to do what's right that are providing this kind of forum because if we don't talk about — if we don't discuss this — then we'll never get beyond it."

Dr. Ann Brown, panelist and associate professor of English, agreed, "As we engage with one another, in meaningful, personal, real-life experience, then we begin to see each other more as humans and Christians — neither slave nor free, neither Jew nor Greek — that we talk about in the Scripture and that we read about in the Scripture."

Some of the other actions around diversity and inclusion on campus this semester included A Night of Praise, Remembrance and Unity honoring Botham Jean on the second anniversary of his death Sept. 6 and athletes and coaches gathering in Rhodes-Reaves Field House Sept. 16 for a conversation with 1970s Black athletes Butch Gardner and Stan Eckwood, moderated by the voice of the Bisons, Billy Morgan.

A new mural in Hammon Student Center titled "Lift Every Voice

& Sing" highlights favorite hymns of Black students and alumni. A campus art exhibit was developed around a work commissioned by Harding School of Theology. It features seven African Americans who made significant contributions in the churches of Christ. Named for the art piece, the exhibit titled, "Every Voice: A Portrait of African American Churches of Christ in the Art," included the work on display inside the Brackett Library. An outside portion devised to

Throughout this eventful semester, the Task Force on Recognizing African American Achievement has been working in the background. At this writing the task force is close to making final recommendations to the board of trustees on what the physical recognition should look like. From documenting African American "firsts" at Harding to naming buildings and creating a permanent campus feature, this significant, visible progress will be the cornerstone of the future of changes that continue in hearts and minds as we come together as a multiracial community of mission.

allow proper distancing for visitors was made up of seven 7 1/2-foot-tall panels, which include the image and biography of each featured individual so that new generations can begin to know these important figures in the church. In October Daniel Adams, professor of art and director of Harding University in Greece, presented an exhibit titled "Dinner Guests: A Gathering," a series he has been working on for four years after noticing food mascots were usually people of minority status and stereotypically worked in service and domestic industries.

Under Dr. McLarty's leadership, actions like those mentioned above and especially the efforts of 2020 have helped Harding make significant strides toward diversity. Harding has seen a 40% increase in minority student enrollment since 2015. Graduation rates for underrepresented students grew from 46% to 53% in the

last five years. The growth in diversity in the student body is a huge part of keeping the conversation going.

I am definitely pleased and proud of the work accomplished on Harding University's campus so far. As a community, we are only at the beginning and know we plan to accomplish much more moving forward. Everyone's enthusiasm to create an inclusive environment on campus provides a sense of security and encourages me to keep thinking of new ideas. The best is yet to be. 🙏

1MM

LIVES TOUCHED

*The physician assistant studies program
serves its 1 millionth patient*

By MEGAN STROUD, photography by JEFF MONTGOMERY

Since Dr. Michael Murphy founded the program, the first in the state of Arkansas, the physician assistant studies program has reached 1 million patients through the work of more than 400 students. Mary Madill, director of the program, was a student in the program's first class in 2005 and took over the role of director from Murphy who retired in April 2020.

"[Murphy] has been watching out for this milestone for so long, and I think part of that is because it represented, within the program, how far we have come in a state where very little was initially known about PAs prior to the program starting," Madill said. "It represents the culmination of efforts on a lot of different levels, just one of which being the fact that our students have seen that many people and exposed each one of them to the profession and the care that can be provided by a PA."

The PA program, a 28-month Master of Science degree program in physician assistant studies, begins with three semesters of didactic learning in the classroom and laboratory before students move to supervised clinical experiences. In March, the program transitioned to online course delivery with the rest of campus due to the COVID-19 pandemic. During the summer, the class of 2021 returned to complete the remainder of their required didactic coursework and joined the class of 2020 in supervised clinical settings, allowing the program to complete its 1 millionth patient encounter in August.

Patient encounters are logged by students in their off-campus clinical rotations, which take place nationwide and, sometimes, even overseas. During each patient encounter, the students are learning through hands-on experience and direct interaction with a patient.

"Our mission is developing caring physician assistants who practice competent, patient-centered primary care in diverse environments," Madill said. "So much of how we treat our students is what we want to model for them when they are going out and providing that patient-centered care. I had the honor of being part of the program's mission from the beginning and saw that mission come to life as a primary care PA in rural Arkansas after graduation and now as the program director."

Marc Dipasupil, a student in the program who began his clinical studies in August, celebrates this milestone because of how it speaks to the program's overall mission.

"If you look at it as just one number, one number represents someone who was helped, someone who was seen, someone who was heard and was ultimately ministered to by the program," Dipasupil said. "It's a big deal. When you look at the 1 million, that's how many lives have been affected by Harding's PA program. It's a lot more than the students who have been taught here and the faculty who taught here, but the patients who were seen. Knowing that I'm coming from a program that has seen 1 million patients, it's a reassuring thing. It's a solid foundation. I really believe that my program has prepared me well."

Taylor Halter, a student in her eighth of nine clinical rotations, values the fact that she gets to be part of the legacy of Harding's PA program and recognizes the value of the lessons she learned



Physician assistant student Barry Myers talks with a patient in the simulation lab.

both in and outside the classroom.

"Achieving the 1 millionth patient mark is incredible, and it's an honor to be a part of the class that reached that milestone," Halter said. "Not every health care profession offers such extensive training in so many different roles and specialties, which is the beauty of being a physician assistant. The education I have received from the HUPA program was based on medicine but also taught me empathy, compassion and humility."

Gary Hill has been the clinical director since the inception of the program and oversees students during the clinical phase of their education.

"We were very happy to see that milestone," Hill said. "When you have seen 1 million patients, there is a lot of learning that has taken place. Our PA students have impacted the lives of 1 million people with direct person-to-person contact. That is a tremendous impact when you think about it. And our gradu-

ates working in the health care field literally all over the world have seen countless more."

According to Madill and Hill, the program's preceptors are the only way this has been possible. Preceptors are physicians, PAs and nurse practitioners who train students for six weeks at a time.

Dr. John Cook is a general surgeon in Jonesboro, Arkansas, and has been a preceptor for the program for more than five years.

"What I enjoy the most has been getting to know and work with these PA students," Cook said. "I honestly do not understand how the Harding PA program is able to repeatedly find the high caliber students that they do. They are all different, but each one has come here well prepared academically and hungry to learn more." 📱



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.

1969

Lana DeLong Davis has written and illustrated a book about her life titled *Inside the White Picket Fence; A Story of the Providence of God*. She lives in Crossville, Tennessee, with her husband, **J.C.** ('70)

1974

Gail Welker Miller retired from York College after 35 years where she was an associate professor of biology. Her husband, **L. Ray** ('73), retired from York College where he was professor of chemistry, academic dean and division chair of the natural science department. The couple were the first recipients of the York College Distinguished Achievement in Academics Award. They live in York, Nebraska, attend East Hill Church of Christ, and have two children and four grandchildren.

1975

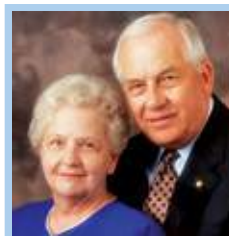
Peggy Matson became a board member of the Arkansas PBS Foundation in May 2020. She is director of the Arkansas State Board of Collection Agencies and holds a Juris Doctor from the University of Arkansas at Little Rock William H. Bowen School of Law.

1976

Larry Franke retired as reference librarian in the history and genealogy department at St. Louis, Missouri, County Library. He helped patrons with their genealogical and historical research, taught genealogy classes, and gave presentations at local and national conferences. He also managed the periodical collection, wrote articles for and proof-read *PastPosts*, the monthly e-newsletter, oversaw donations to the National Genealogical Society's Book Loan Collections, and wrote book notes for publication in *NGS Magazine*. Before working at the library, he taught English as a second language to refugees and immigrants.

1980

Robin Bales Kirk is a member of the board of directors of the "Ding" Darling Wildlife Society-Friends of the Refuge at Sanibel Island, Florida. Her passion for nature and getting children to read resulted in volunteering for the Cuyahoga Valley National Park in Ohio, where she worked with school groups. Later, she served as a seasonal park ranger and self-published children's nature books that encouraged children to read and get outside.



Don L. and Lois Shores celebrated their 70th wedding anniversary July 28, 2020. They are lifelong residents of Cave Springs, Arkansas, and former owners of Shores Hardware and

Propane Gas where they worked side by side for more than 50 years. He was a member of Harding's board of trustees from 1976-2019, and she is a member of Women for Harding. They are members of Cave Springs Church of Christ. They have four children, **Don** ('74), **Brenda** ('76), **Cherryl Bassing** ('78) and **Gary** ('79); 11 grandchildren; and 19 great-grandchildren.

1983

Jeffrey A. Baughn has been appointed senior vice president of finance and technology at Lipscomb University. In his new role, he leads the business operations, finance and information technology functions. For more than 30 years, he has served in various leadership roles in the financial services industry at IBM, PriceWaterhouseCoopers and Andersen Consulting. Most recently he, along with his two sons, established a family-owned and operated business, Atlanta Motor Gallery, which is focused on delivering a superior customer experience. He and his wife, **Leah Barker** ('86), have three children; Justin, **Christian** ('17), and Grace Koehler.

1984



Kim Hudson married **Kyle Beatty** on May 2, 2020, 39 years after meeting at Harding. The couple resides in Harrisonburg, Virginia.

1986

Cary Gilbert is enjoying his second career as a restaurateur in Munich, Germany, after retiring from a career with Yahoo Inc. in Los Angeles. His restaurant, **MUN**, serves traditional sushi and Korean cuisine. He visits Asia several times a year to bring back new culinary ideas.

Susan Sweany Wright is assistant superintendent of instruction at Glen Rose Independent School District in Texas. She and her husband, Bobby, have a daughter.

1992

Darrell Amy has written a new book, *Revenue Growth Engine: How to Align Sales and Marketing to Accelerate Growth*. He has been nominated to the Forbes Business Council.

1993

Shawn William Hart graduated with a Doctor of Ministry from George Fox University in Oregon.

Karla Massey serves as the new principal of Caldwell Elementary in the McKinney, Texas ISD. She has accumulated 27 years of experience in education with 15 as a campus administrator. She holds a master's degree in business administration from Amberton University. She and her husband, **Mark** ('94), live in Plano, Texas.

Barbara Evans Townsend completed her post-professional occupational therapy doctoral degree from Creighton University on May 16, 2020.

Doug Tracy, general manager and chief executive officer of Cuivre River Electric Cooperative in Troy, Missouri, was recently elected to a three-year term on the board of directors of Touchstone Energy Cooperatives. He began his career in the electric co-op family with Illinois Valley Electric Cooperative (now Cornbelt Electric) in Princeton, Illinois. Before joining CREC, the largest electric co-op in Missouri and a Touchstone Energy member since 2003, he served as a senior member services representative for National Information Solutions Cooperative. He holds a master's degree in business administration from Lindenwood University. He has completed numerous National Rural Electric Cooperative courses, including the Managers and Supervisors Conference Supervisor Certification and the Strategy Execution Master Class by the Palladium Group. He and his wife, **Carol Reeves** ('94), live in O'Fallon, Missouri.

1994

Trevor Black was promoted to president and CEO of Farmers and Merchants Bank in Caldwell, Ohio, where he was serving as executive vice president. He previously was assistant vice president of PNC Bank of Cambridge, Ohio. He and his wife, **Jennifer Neuhart** ('94), live in Senecaville, Ohio, and have four children, Sydney, Easton, Boston and Cami.

Jeff Goodson has been elected president of the Tennessee Municipal Attorneys Association. He previously served as vice president and as secretary/treasurer for the organization. He has worked in the Clarksville City Attorney's office since 2012, where he is deputy city attorney. He previously worked in private practice in Nashville.

He received his Juris Doctor law degree in 2004 from the University of Memphis.

Shannon Simmons owns Shepherd's Touch Counseling, and his wife, **Tracy Harvey**, is a homemaker. They have 12 children.

1995

Phillip Jones is agent, owner and broker for Arkansas Mountain Real Estate in Clinton. He is active with the Clinton Area Rotary Club, Clinton Chamber of Commerce, president of the Clinton Booster Club, and president of the Greers Ferry Lake Board of Realtors.

1996

Learnon Dalby has been promoted to manager of business development at Today's Power Inc., a renewable energy company of Little Rock-based Arkansas Electric Cooperatives Inc. He joined the company in 2019 as project foreman and communications/data coordinator. He also is sales coordinator and successfully closed several solar projects in the school, education and public entity sector. In his new role, he manages growth in the company's retail sector and oversees sales and business development and also leads a team of retail project managers, system designers, proposal developers and the communication team. He and his wife, **Stephanie Lucas** ('94), live in North Little Rock, Arkansas.

Mark Hall has been named head football coach at Sycamore High School. He comes from Rossvie High School in Clarksville, Tennessee, where he was assistant football coach and assistant athletic director. He is married to **Karen Derryberry** ('97).

Lauryn Rydl Turner is chief of staff and chief operating officer for USA Gymnastics, the national governing body for gymnastics, which selects and trains the U.S. gymnastics teams for the Olympics and World Championships. She and her husband, **Chris**, live in Zionsville, Indiana, with their two children, Price and Rylee.

1997

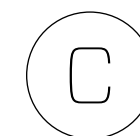
Jim Brauer has joined Syntrinsic as director of consulting. He previously worked with TIAA. He and his wife, Gretchen, live in Denver.

1999

Patricia Williams teaches second grade in Lynwood, California. She has a multi-subject teaching credential from California State University Dominguez Hills and administration credential from National University.

Legacy teacher

PROFILE | **CHRISTYN SIMMONS HENDERSON**



CHRISTYN SIMMONS HENDERSON ('15) is in her fifth year teaching third grade at Searcy's McRae Elementary School. Watching the impact her mother, who previously taught third grade and now teaches art for Searcy's Westside Elementary School, has had on her students helped Henderson recognize her passion for teaching. She'd always imagined herself being

a teacher, even playing school with her sister while growing up. All this practice and drive have paid off — this year Henderson was awarded Searcy School District Teacher of the Year.

Henderson comes from a strong legacy of teachers. Her mother-in-law, sister-in-law, grandmother, uncle, aunts, parents, and even her younger sister have been able to touch



lives working in education. Her mother, Cheryl Brooker Simmons ('89), won Searcy District Teacher of the Year in 2012. Henderson says it has been so special to share this honor with her and says, "She was so proud when I told her I received this honor. I am definitely a behind the scenes person. It has all been a bit of a whirlwind getting all of this recognition, but it has been affirming, and all the kind words I've received have been so sweet. It is really special sharing in this excitement with all the teachers in my family, too!"

Henderson feels fortunate to have had professors who matched her view of teaching as a ministry. "There's a bigger picture than just teaching them curriculum and standards. I pray that I've made a difference in the lives of

my students and that they remember that I was, and will always be, in their corner, they are loved, and they should dream big." Henderson is back at Harding working on her master's degree, but like so many things this year — online. She is pursuing a Master of Arts: Excellence in Teaching with gifted and talented licensure, expecting to finish in Spring 2021.

She has made strong relationships with her grade-level teammates and coworkers at McRae. "They care so much about the kids and their McRae family," Henderson said. "My team has really pulled together this year and has already faced many challenges in just the first few weeks of school. It is especially tough balancing everything with these new restrictions and policies COVID-19 has created. I'm thankful I have many people at work who pray for me, send me scriptures, celebrate the highs, listen to all my worries, and be there for my lows. I'm very thankful for my people. McRae is a special place."

What fuels Henderson's passion for teaching is the growth she sees and relationships she has been able to build. "I try to have a unique and personal relationship with all my students and make sure they feel loved and safe at school," says Henderson. "When a student makes gains in an area we've been working on, it is so rewarding to see the smile on their face of how proud they are of themselves." Though Henderson is missing carpet time and hugs, the majority of her class has been able to meet in person this school year, and she is still finding ways to keep connecting with her students even through screens and masks.

When asked what guidance she would share to new teachers Henderson suggests, "to look for ways to make learning and teaching fun, be an advocate for your kids, and take care of yourself. Give yourself grace. You'll have really great days and really bad ones." Henderson continues, "I would also advise them to not be afraid to ask for help. Finding a community of Christian teachers is crucial. Finding people you can lean on and who can build you up make all the difference. Quiet time with God also is essential. Being in the Word, praying and listening have been very beneficial, especially when things are hard. Through all of this, I've learned to lean on God and trust that he will work things out and give me strength when I need it." — *Josie Parker*

SHORES PHOTO BY DEBORAH BILLINGSLEY, HUDSON-BEATTY AND GILBERT PHOTOS SUBMITTED

PHOTO BY JEFF MONTGOMERY



Meaningful IMPACT

By JANTZEN HALEY

Homecoming each year provides an opportunity to reflect on the many alumni who have been shaped and changed by their time at the University. While this year's Homecoming was unlike any other — alumni unable to gather on the campus of their alma mater — the impact of their lives and influence on the Harding community is no less important. Each year, the University chooses exemplary representatives from more than 40,000 deserving alumni to honor for their achievements. The following have been selected based on their work and accomplishments, earning the respect of those around them while serving God, family and community.



Distinguished Alumni

Devoting their life to the practice of law and Christian higher education, Dr. **MIKE** ('68) and **NANCY LAVENDER** ('75) **O'NEAL** keep an active life in retirement — spending time outdoors, traveling and volunteering while staying involved in the lives of their two children and six grandchildren with Mike referring to Nancy as grandmother extraordinaire.

Earning his Juris Doctor from Stanford University in 1974, Mike practiced all aspects of real estate, tax, labor, litigation, contract, corporation, securities, and education law, and used his talents to teach accounting, tax and business law courses as well as lead universities in numerous administrative roles. After working for Harding, Pepperdine University, University of Rwanda and Ohio Valley University, he retired as president of Oklahoma Christian University where he serves as president emeritus.

"The opportunity to help shape young lives is such a precious gift from God," Mike said. "Serving the Lord and our fellow man with desperately needed truth, and working with some of the finest of God's children [is the most rewarding part of my job]."

Mike earned a Bronze Star for Meritorious Service in Vietnam as a Navy officer, as well as Navy and Army Letters of Commendation. He has won many awards in his lifetime, including a Pathmaker Award for Oklahoma County and a Christian Service Award by San Diego Christian Foundation.

He has been a member of many organizations, currently serving on boards for ACE Educational Foundation Inc., AEON Inc., BioEnergy Capital Corp., The Christian Chronicle, Heritage 21 Foundation, Kimray Inc., Oklahoma Council of Public Affairs, and Salt and Light Leadership Training. Nancy shares in his desire to serve, and the two are passionate about missions as well, with connections to Rwanda and the Philippines through Shepherd's Hill International and local churches, colleges and universities.

"I consider myself among the most blessed of all people for all time — to have lived during amazing times and to have been able to devote all of my effort to eternal purposes," Mike said.

Married 45 years, the O'Neals live in Edmond, Oklahoma.

PHOTOS SUBMITTED



Outstanding Young Alumni

After a life-changing residency rotation at Tenwek Hospital in East Africa, Dr. **WILL COPELAND** ('04) had a decision to make about his future in neurosurgery. He and his wife, **ALISA WRIGHT** ('04), thought through the choice to become missionaries, feeling much like Moses in Exodus 3 as he asked "Who am I that I should go?"

They currently serve at Tenwek Hospital in Bomet, Kenya, with World Gospel Mission — Will as a neurosurgeon and Alisa as mother to their seven children, Liam, Hayden, Harper, Charley, Nora, Emery and Rhett.

Will also is working with Pan-African Academy of Christian Surgeons to begin a neurosurgery residency program at Tenwek to train and disciple African doctors to become neurosurgeons and missionaries in other parts of the world. In addition to homeschooling their children, Alisa leads Side by Side ministry, an outreach ministry for doctors' wives.

"The privilege to serve in a Christian mission hospital setting is a unique opportunity to model Christ in his ministry," Will said. "Providing quality medical care in Christ's name to those underserved allows God to demonstrate his healing power and opens the door to share the good news of his love to our patients."

Prior to moving to East Africa, Will was a resident physician at Mayo Clinic. Fueled by a love for medicine and a unified desire to serve the suffering as Christ did, Will and Alisa said it is a daily privilege to serve those in need and see God at work in the lives of those they serve as well as in their own.

"We are finding our greatest joy in treasuring God and serving others," Will said. "The reason why we're doing what we're doing is that we are learning what the writer Paul says in Philippians 3:8 to be true — 'I count all things as loss compared to the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus.'"



College of Allied Health

SHELLEY PRIVETT CHESNEY ('89) has been a successful speech-language pathologist in Arkansas and Louisiana since graduating from the University. Now owner and SLP at Chesney Center Therapies, she specializes in teaching children and adults who are deaf or hard of hearing to listen and speak using hearing technology.

"It is a powerful reward knowing and watching that the work we are doing — together with these patients and their families — makes their lives so much bigger because they can hear and speak and communicate with anyone they come in contact with," Chesney said.

Since opening her own practice in 2007, Chesney says her main focus now is mentoring future SLPs, reflecting on the impact her mentors have had on her experience — namely, Harding professors Dan Tullos and Beckie Weaver. It was Dr. Weaver who aided searching sophomore Chesney when she realized accounting was not her ultimate calling.

And calling she found. Chesney said the unexpected loss of her and her husband's first son, Cole, allows her to relate to patients and to share her experiences of how God supported and continues to walk with them.

Over the course of her 30 years in the speech therapy field, Chesney has held many roles, including board positions for Louisiana Speech-Language-Hearing Association, American Speech-Language-Hearing Association and Southern University Department of Speech-Language Pathology. In 2007, she became the first — and remains the only — LSLC Certified Auditory-Verbal Therapist in the state of Louisiana. In 2017, she graduated from the Goldman-Sachs 10,000 Small Businesses Program, and in 2018 was awarded honors from the Louisiana Speech and Hearing Association and with ASHA's State Clinical Achievement.

She and her husband, Patrick ('89), live in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, and have three children, Evan ('20), Claire and Kaylan, both Harding students.

College of Arts & Humanities

From a young age, **SHELLY PARKS** ('01) loved to help her mom in the classroom, developing a passion for teaching she still has today. Parks says she feels called to do three types of work in her life — teach teenagers, do mission work and be a mom.

"I don't teach about Jesus, but I try to shine His light through my actions, my words, and the way I treat my students and colleagues," Parks said. "And as for being a mom, fortunately, God has allowed me to be a 'school mom' to many of my students and a mom to our four children."

While her desire to teach was never in question, Parks worried she was not cut out for teaching English, afraid that others had read more than she had — that there was much to learn before she could succeed. One particular conversation with Dr. Gary Elliott during her time at Harding put that fear to rest.

"[Dr. Elliott] told me that hearing me be honest and reflective while desiring to learn as much as possible let him know I would be a strong English teacher," Parks said. "He also encouraged me to have this same attitude when approaching my spiritual walk: humility that there was much I didn't know combined with a deep desire to learn and read as much as possible. I'm forever grateful for the time and energy he invested in me."

Her love for her job was evidenced recently as she was announced 2019 Missouri Teacher of the Year. It's easy to understand why when Parks describes what she loves about her profession.

"Teenagers are incredible humans," Parks said. "They're funny, they're smart, they're curious, and they need our support and encouragement. Some students need more advocacy and support than others, and those students who need more support have a big piece of my heart."

Parks shares her heart with her students at Francis Howell North High School in St. Charles, Missouri, along with the youth group at church; her husband, Michael; and their four children, Elise, Bennett, Deacon and Judah.

College of Bible & Ministry

Dr. **LESLIE J. WILLIAMS** ('88) has spent his life serving Christ as a missionary, minister and teacher. Graduating with a bachelor's degree in missions, he went on to earn his Master of Divinity and Doctor of Ministry from Harding School of Theology. He currently serves as an elder and minister at Northwest Church of Christ and minister-at-large in Canada, sponsored by German-town Church of Christ in Memphis, Tennessee.

Williams said his interest in missions all began with an internship in Mount Hagen, Papua New Guinea, after high school in 1982, where he stayed until 1984. He returned to Papua New Guinea to Port Moresby in 1988 and remained there until 1994, and once more from 2000-2010 to Milne Bay Province.

"One cannot serve in ministry or missions without the partnership of congregations," Williams said. "To this end, the sponsorship of Prince Albert, Bel-Aire and Hernando Churches of Christ, and especially Germantown Church of Christ, currently sponsoring me for more than 20 years, has made my life's work possible. The relationships with the elders and other servants from these congregations have been invaluable."



In his time in the U.S. between missionary stints, he served churches in Arkansas, Tennessee and Mississippi. He also has spent time as a missionary in residence at Western Christian College in Saskatchewan in 2008 and at Harding in 2011.

"Christianity is service, first to God and then to his people," Williams said. "[It is rewarding] seeing God's transforming work in the lives of his people."

Williams has volunteered with the Alotau Cancer Society and Regina Wildlife Federation. He served on the International Education Association of Papua New Guinea as board chairman of Alotau International School and national board of directors and was president and weigh master of the Milne Bay Game Fishing Club.

He and his wife, LaVonna Lafferty ('88), live in Regina, Saskatchewan, and have five children, Logan, Zachary, Tate ('16), Thomas ('16) and Baylee.

College of Business Administration

PAUL WOOLARD ('87) was the first in his family to graduate from high school and attend a university, beginning his time at Harding as a social sciences major. The first test in Western civilization quickly changed his mind. While Woolard pulled through the class with a B — something he credits to the patience of Fred Jewell — he switched his major to accounting and the rest is history. In his more than 30 years in global agriculture and energy investing, Woolard has traveled to more than 20 countries and across the U.S.

"With a strong foundation in accounting, and soon thereafter the CPA credential in hand, I was able to experience a variety of industries and positions that kept things rewarding and challenging to this day," Woolard said.

Woolard is currently vice president for finance and risk management at Eco-Energy, a leading ethanol and natural gas marketing firm based in Franklin, Tennessee. He began his accounting career with KPMG in Little Rock, Arkansas, and spent 20 years in central Illinois with Archer Daniels Midland Co. in a series of senior finance, innovation, M&A, and business development roles.

He has served on the University's President's Council and business advisory board, the Greater Decatur YMCA board of directors, and board of directors of BioBlend Renewable Resources. Woolard is a strategic advisor for Veteran Ventures Capital and has twice served as a guardian for Honor Flight for Veterans to Washington, D.C.

"[I serve God and others] by being a servant leader and instilling the platinum rule in all walks of life," Woolard said. "I also have actively mentored Harding grads wherever possible and opened doors in several countries for study abroad pro-



Shelley Privett Chesney ('89)



Shelly Parks ('01)



Leslie J. Williams ('88)



Paul Woolard ('87)



Charles Dupre ('84)



Audianna Ward Copeland ('12)



Fortune Mhlanga ('84)

grams to meet with my business connections and learn about a broader world vision. But more important than anything to me was being a good husband and father and providing for our family."

He credits his wife, Heidi Meadows ('89), for her support raising their family while he traveled the globe. They currently live in Fairview, Tennessee, and have two children, Blake and Kayla Craig ('16).

College of Education

Dr. **CHARLES E. DUPRE** ('84) is the superintendent of Fort Bend Independent School District, where his leadership affects more than 11,000 staff members and nearly 80,000 students each year. He attributes his leadership skills and talents to God and his unique childhood. Adopted from Morocco, Dupre's adoptive mother died when he was 5, and at age 7, he was taken in and raised in Fair Haven Children's Home near Springfield, Missouri.

"God shaped my heart in a way that allows me to provide love, mentorship and support to others," Dupre said. "For many years, when I was an accountant, this calling was fulfilled as a youth group leader at Bammel Church of Christ. Now, as a leader in public education, I am able to invest in children and staff members. I am here because this is the work God called me to do."

With a deep desire to teach and mentor others, and to ease the path for children facing obstacles, Dupre has dedicated his life to education, serving in many roles in the Pflugerville and Fort Bend school districts in Texas. After more than a decade in accounting Dupre became the internal auditor for the Fort Bend district and has been in education since.

"The work I do affects the community, state and nation because education supports our democracy and protects against losing the freedoms we enjoy," Dupre said. "We are teaching young people to use their voice as active, contributing citizens who are willing and able to invest in their communities."

In 2019, he was named Region 4 Superintendent of the Year. In 2012, the Greater Austin Chamber of Commerce named Dupre Superintendent of the Year and in 2008, University of

Texas at Austin's University Council for Education Administration awarded him the Excellence in Education Leadership Award.

He and his wife, Seeju Merritt ('86), live in Sugar Land, Texas, and have two sons, Drieux and Devin, and a grandson.

College of Nursing

Growing up, **AUDIANNA WARD COPELAND** ('12) watched her mother as a nurse, eventually assisting her and cultivating an admiration for her mom and a profound impression of the ways a loving, Christian nurse can make a difference. Her passion for nursing only increased as she and her husband, Ross ('12), interacted with countless doctors and nurses in the pediatric ICU where their son Reese spent much of his short life.

"I was called to begin working in that very unit, which we had grown so familiar with, even after he passed away," Copeland said. "I am confident that God has called me to this specific niche within the nursing realm, armed with a personal life experience that allows me to relate to and show genuine sympathy for the multitude of families facing difficult circumstances similar to mine."

Copeland now works as a critical care registered nurse in the surgical ICU. She was a 2018 recipient of the DAISY Award for Extraordinary Nurses, 2018 nominee for Huntsville Hospital Nurse of the Year, and 2017 Huntsville Hospital Care Champion.

For her, the most rewarding aspect of her job is often the most difficult — meeting people when they are in the worst of health, caring for them and their families, celebrating in the good news of recovery, and grieving when the outcome is grim.

"Even when the worst case scenario happens, there is much joy seeing how God can ease the pain and comfort those in the same way he comforted my family," Copeland said.

This spring, Copeland took a travel nurse assignment to Massachusetts General Hospital in Boston to assist during the pandemic, hoping to learn all she could about caring for COVID patients to bring back to her hometown in Fairhope, Alabama, and save as many lives as

possible. She lives in Fairhope with her husband and their daughter, Adalynn.

College of Sciences

Dr. **FORTUNE S. MHLANGA** ('84) holds a master's and doctorate in computer science from New Jersey Institute of Technology, which he uses in his role as executive director of the Data Science Institute at Meharry Medical College in Nashville, Tennessee, where he lives with his wife, Florah.

In addition to his executive director role, where he is responsible for academic programming and research and development in applied computational sciences, he also is a professor of computer science and data science. Mhlanga previously worked for Lipscomb, Abilene Christian and Faulkner Universities and University of Zimbabwe in a number of academic and administrative roles.

"My work as an educator has pretty much become my mission," Mhlanga said. "I have had opportunities to work with kids from underrepresented groups in the metropolitan Nashville public schools, bringing them to my college to showcase and demystify computing and information technologies."

He finds many ways to combine his passion for data systems and for missions, leading groups of students, faculty and fellow church members on Zimbabwe Missions and establishing an International Student Opportunity Fund to assist Zimbabwe orphans to come and study computing and technology at Lipscomb University.

When he returned to Zimbabwe after college to work at University of Zimbabwe, Mhlanga was honored as Outstanding Young Zimbabwean by the Junior Chamber International. In 2017, he was granted a Carnegie African Development fellowship, which allowed him the opportunity to collaborate with Ebonyi State University in Nigeria on a number of educational projects and initiatives to support higher education in Africa. He has spoken at the Fifth World Summit on Internet and Multimedia.

He is a member of Otter Creek Church of Christ, where he is on the racial reconciliation team. He and his wife have two children, Carl and Craig.



2001

Indie Pereira received a Master of Divinity from Vanderbilt University in May 2020. She was awarded the J.D. Owen Prize for accomplishments in the New Testament.

Susan Polk married Jon Hardy on Sept. 17, 2019. She is an attorney. They live in Hot Springs, Arkansas.

2002

Christopher and Heather **Courson** announce the birth of a son, Chase James, April 20, 2020. They reside in Wesley Chapel, Florida.

Ryan Lee has been named director of One Kingdom, a global missions and disaster relief organization based out of White's Ferry Road Church of Christ in West Monroe, Louisiana. One Kingdom's mission is to empower and equip local leaders to share the gospel to every nation in every language. He and his wife, **Miranda Vincent** ('02), have two sons.

Kenny Simpson is the new head football coach at Searcy High School. He previously coached at Southside Batesville, where he guided the Southerners to four consecutive playoff appearances. He and his wife, **Jamey Jones** ('01), have three children.

2003

Catherine Butler earned a master's in biological sciences from Arkansas State University. She is an instructor of science at Crowley's Ridge College.

Joshua ('11) and **Amanda White Miller** announce the birth of a daughter, Lacy Ann, July 27, 2020. They live in Searcy with their four other children, Seth, Hannah, Audra and Elaina.

2004

Ashley Floyd Comiskey has been named quality director at Baptist Health Paducah. Her nursing experience includes neuro intensive care at Vanderbilt University Medical Center, intensive care at Stanford University Hospital, and post-anesthesia care at University of Vermont. After returning to west Kentucky, she became the physician educator for Baptist Health's Accountable Care Organization and Clinical Integration Network. In 2017, she joined Clinical Documentation Integrity as the supervisor for the Paducah facility. In 2019, she was recognized by the Association of Clinical Documentation Integrity Specialists as Rookie of the Year and was a recipient of the Nursing Excellence in Patient Safety award from Baptist Health Paducah. She has a master's degree in nursing from Western Governors University.

Josh and Heather **Payne** announce the birth of a

son, Silas Macon, April 16, 2020. They reside in Lake Providence, Louisiana.

2005

Robert Conn earned his Ph.D. in classical civilizations from the University of Florida in December 2019. He is a founding faculty member of Thaden School in Bentonville, Arkansas, and was appointed academic chair of the world language department beginning in the 2020-21 academic year. His wife, **Lauren Younger** ('04), is a senior manager at Walmart Inc. They have two children, Quinn and Cora.

Cade Smith has been named director of intercollegiate athletics at The University of Alabama in Huntsville. He has been at UAH since 2013 when he joined the Chargers as an assistant coach, and he took over the reins as head volleyball coach in 2016. During his head coaching tenure, UAH volleyball has posted the most season wins since 2001 (2019) and most conference wins in school history. They also have been an NCAA tournament qualifier (2019), GSC tournament qualifier multiple years (2017, 2018, 2019), and GSC tournament semifinalist (2018, 2019). In recognition of his efforts, he was selected chair of the Gulf South Conference Volleyball Coaches Committee, an American Volleyball Coaches Association Top 25 Voter, AVCA Mentor, Regional Advisory Committee member for South Region Volleyball, and AVCA Head Coaches Committee member. He earned his master's in 2006, certifications in educational leadership in 2011 and 2012, and a doctorate in education in 2015 from Harding. He also holds a master's in human resource management from UAH, which he earned in 2018.

Justin ('14) and **Mary Ellen Legg White** announce the birth of a son, Warren Parker, April 25, 2020. Justin is an inventory auditor for Electrolux, and Mary Ellen is a speech language pathologist. They have two other sons, Jameson and Nolan.

2006

David Pietzman has been named principal of Greenbriar East Elementary School in Virginia, where he served as an assistant principal beginning in July 2019. Previously, he was the assistant principal at Mosby Woods Elementary School from 2014-19. He holds a National Board for Professional Teaching Standards endorsement and the administration and supervision endorsement from the University of Virginia. He and his wife, **Meredith Myhan** ('08), have two daughters.

2007

Mark ('06) and **Tara Steward Jones** announce the

birth of a daughter, Isla Juliet, March 13, 2020. They have two other daughters, Ellie and Emmie Kate and live in Chattanooga, Tennessee.

Anthony and **Jackie Tharp Sofio** announce the birth of a son, Declan Graham, June 30, 2019. Anthony is a software developer at Blueprint Technologies. They have three other children, Ian, Reagan and Kellan, and live in Edmond, Oklahoma.

2008

Heather Browning married Lt. Cmdr. Eric Wallace on March 14, 2020, at the U.S. Naval Academy. The couple lives in Washington, D.C., where Heather serves as managing director of philanthropy at the Competitive Enterprise Institute.

Leslie A. Marshall (PA) has joined the multidisciplinary Ozarks Medical Center in their dermatology clinic. She previously worked for Cleaver Dermatology in Kirksville, Missouri, where she also served as faculty for the Northeast Regional Dermatology residency program. She earned her medical degree from A.T. Still University in Kirksville. She and her husband have four children.

David Walker works as a physician recruiter at Merritt Hawkins. He recently created "Iron Horse Podcast," with former NFL pro Brandon Carr, which is aimed at athlete development and an audience of athletes, coaches and parents. He and his wife, **Laura Merritt** ('09), have two sons, Beckham and Chamberlain.

2009

Brandi Bailey Moody shares her passion for fitness and fashion through her blog, *BlondeCoffeeMom*. Her husband, **Ryan**, owns a furniture store in Pleasant Plains, Arkansas, and also runs a shipping container company, Arkansas Containers LLC. They have three daughters, Lyla, June and Adeline, and attend North Heights Church of Christ.

Leslie Pierce is the inaugural Texas A&M-San Antonio women's soccer coach. Her past experience includes success as a professional in the Women's Premier League in London and as a high school and college coach in various club programs and as head coach at Faulkner University. She has received a "D" level license from the United States Soccer Federation, as well as an NSCAA Futsal Level 1 Diploma and Coerver Team Coach Certification.

2010

Harrison Cobb completed fellowship training in pediatric cardiology with University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences in Little Rock. He joined Arkansas Children's Hospital Northwest in Springdale as a pediatric cardiologist in July 2020. He

is married to **Linzi Lawson** ('09), and they have a son, Lawson Lee.

Austin and **Molly Ellis Davidson** announce the birth of a daughter, Dollie Nell, Jan. 11, 2020. The couple live in Knoxville, Tennessee, where Austin is in private practice. They have another daughter, Nola.

Alyssa Hall is expanding her role as a full-time certified school counselor after also serving as assistant athletic director at Brentwood Academy. She holds an M.S. in school and clinical counseling and an Ed.S. in professional counseling from Harding. She and her husband, **Wesley** ('07), have two children.

Sara Shaban Hendrixson received her Ph.D. in journalism from University of Missouri. She is an assistant professor in the School of Journalism and Communication at Seattle Pacific University.

Brice and **Jacey Priestly** announce the birth of a daughter, Martha Kate, May 4, 2020. Brice is a finance manager at Southern Methodist University, and Jacey is a preschool teacher. They live in Dallas.

2011

Collin and **Katherine Fittz Harwell** announce the birth of a son, Aidan Oliver, Oct. 26, 2019. They also have a daughter, Ella Ruth.

2012

Austin Brown works at Riceland Farms Inc. as manager of sustainability. He played soccer for three seasons in the Premier Development League/USL. He then served as an assistant women's soccer coach at the University of Mobile for three years.

Jeremy J. Cohen earned a Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine in May from New York Institute of Technology College of Osteopathic Medicine at Arkansas State University. He is in a residency specializing in family medicine at University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences Area Health Education Center in Jonesboro.

Chase D. Haynes was one of only 30 CPAs honored by the American Institute of CPAs as a member of the Leadership Academy's 12th graduating class. He is an audit manager at the Little Rock, Arkansas, office of Landmark CPA and has more than eight years of public accounting and auditing experience. He earned his Certified Public Accountant license in 2015 and his certified Fraud



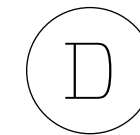
PHOTOS SUBMITTED

Examiner certification in 2020. He is a member of the AICPA and the Arkansas Society of CPAs. He and his wife, **Rachel Martin**, have a son.



Breaking the cycle

PROFILE | DE'ONTE GARRETT



DE'ONTE GARRETT ('17), program director for Timothy Hill's residential program in Tennessee, helps men from the ages of 17 to 25 develop independent living skills and workforce training. He visited Timothy Hill residential program in New York for the first time as a student during a spring break mission trip and instantly discovered his passion for the mission and opportunity to work with young men.

"While working with the young men in New York, I feel like God assigned me my mission, which is to break the cycle of the fatherless home," Garrett said. "I look back on my journey growing up without my father. I realized it took the help of male role models in my life to teach me how to be a man. I truly felt obligated to give that back to the fatherless of the world today."



Timothy Hill is a nonprofit organization that helps youth, young adults and guests develop mentally, physically, socially and spiritually through retreat centers in Tennessee and Massachusetts and residential programs in New York, Tennessee and Arkansas.

"When we help these young men develop into leaders, fathers and pillars in their communities, we change lives beyond their own," Garrett said. "Our world is sadly getting used to the idea of a fatherless home, and I intend to do as much as I can while I'm here to fight against that idea."

After learning from his mentors on the football team and graduating with

his degree in Bible and family ministry, he moved to New York with his wife to begin working at Timothy Hill. In June 2019, he moved to Tennessee to work at Timothy Hill's residential program there.

"Being a part of the football team, the brotherhood, made a huge difference for me," Garrett said. "All of the coaches were great role models. Coach Huck basically directed me to the Bible department. Coach Simmons was my defensive line coach, and he showed us, taught us and held us accountable to being real men. He has this warrior mentality in him that he holds us all accountable to, and I wouldn't have made it this far without that mentality driven in me." — Megan Stroud

B.J. Johnson was chosen as District Teacher of the Year in Anadarko, Oklahoma, where she teaches second grade.

2013

Kayla Howard is a speech language pathologist in Lubbock, Texas.

Kiffany Pride (Ed.D.) has been named by Arkansas Education Secretary Johnny Key as the new

assistant commissioner for learning services in the Division of Elementary and Secondary Education. She was previously director of curriculum and assessment for the state Department of Education.

Kolby Tackett was named head football coach for Oviedo (Florida) High School in June. He led Mount Dora Christian football to its most successful three-year run in school history. His wife, **Victoria Partee**, is a marketing and sales strategy manager at Walt Disney Co.



2014

Ben Buterbaugh earned a Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine May 2, 2020, from Virginia College of Osteopathic Medicine in Blacksburg. He is in a residency specializing in physical medicine and rehabilitation at Vidant Medical Center in Greenville, North Carolina. His wife, **Shelby Smith** ('15), earned her master's degree in education from East Carolina University in 2018 and is a math teacher at Pactolus School.

Jared Cleveland (Ed.D.) became superintendent of the Springdale School District July 1, 2020. He was formerly the district's deputy superintendent for personnel and support services. He earned a master's degree in educational leadership from Harding in 2003. His wife, Cristi, is a media specialist at Young Elementary School. They have three children.

Weston Jameson has joined the Arkansas State University women's basketball staff as an assistant coach after five seasons in the same position at Harding. He and his wife, **Lauren Harrison**, have two daughters.

2015

Ryan Palenske earned a Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine in May from New York Institute of Technology College of Osteopathic Medicine at Arkansas State University. He is in a residency specializing in emergency medicine at Geisinger Medical Center in Danville, Pennsylvania.

Samuel Stringfellow earned a Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine in May from New York Institute of Technology College of Osteopathic Medicine at Arkansas State University. He is in a residency specializing in family medicine at University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences Area Health Education Center in Jonesboro.

2016

Dillon Coplin earned a Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine in May from New York Institute of Technology College of Osteopathic Medicine at Arkansas State University. He is in a residency specializing in anesthesiology at Morsani College of Medicine in Tampa, Florida.

Corbett Hall earned a Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine in May from New York Institute of Technology College of Osteopathic Medicine at Arkansas State University. He is in a residency in family medicine at Camp Lejeune Navy Medical Hospital in Jacksonville, North Carolina.

Debbie Godinez-Flores Seabers graduated in May 2020 with her master's in social work from University of Texas San Antonio. She is married to Thomas.

2018

Joe Bernard Keys has written a book with his son Ted, titled, *The Last Men on the Last Battles of World War II*. He is the author of 12 other books.

2019

Mason Banger is the assistant men's golf coach at University of Louisiana at Lafayette. He was three-time All-Great American Conference selection and 2018 PING All-Central Region honoree at Harding.

Cheyenne Brown was named assistant women's basketball coach at Jacksonville (Texas) College.

Bronson Crabtree won the \$150 Family award for his film, "Pieces of History: Kent Westbrook," featuring the American Indian artifact collection of his grandfather Dr. Kent Westbrook in the Isolation Imagination Film Contest.

2020

Alexis Haney is kitchen and bath design assistant with the Kitchen and Bath Design Center at West Side Lumber in Macomb, Illinois.

Passages

Nancy Ruth Mullaney Chapman ('44), 97, of Dallas died July 12, 2020. She met her husband in Pattie Cobb Cafeteria in 1940. They married in 1941 and, when he felt led to become a minister, she grew to fully embrace her role and responsibilities as a minister's wife. They shared an urgent call and strong love for those who did not know the Lord. Many years of local church of Christ ministry were spent in Kansas City, Kansas; Athens, Georgia; and Port Arthur and Dallas, Texas. Through First Century Way of the Cross Ministry, a charitable organization the couple created, they were instrumental in planting and strengthening churches across the South and Midwest. When the ministry established a nursing home in Fort Worth, Texas, to assist elderly ministers and others in need, she became a certified dietary manager to lead that department. Their final work was as advocates to address the inner-city Dallas needs of both aging members and the homeless population attending Main Street Church of Christ (formerly Peak and Eastside), where they worshiped. She was preceded in death by her husband of 72 years, **Adair Pinckney Chapman Jr.** ('43); and a son, **Adair Chapman-Green** ('69) and **Larry Lynn** ('82), two granddaughters; and four great-grandchildren.



Mary Belle Garner Helsten ('47), 94, of Columbus, Ohio, died May 1, 2020. She and her husband did mission work in Germany for six years before moving to Searcy. She taught fourth and fifth grade at Harding Academy for 28 years. She was known for reading *The Chronicles of Narnia* and *A Wrinkle in Time* to her class each year. After living in Searcy for 51 years, she and her husband moved to Columbus, Ohio, to be near their daughter. She was preceded in death by her husband of 72 years, **Robert** ('46). She is survived by two children, **Robert** ('73) and **Patricia Petrella** ('75); four grandchildren; and six great-grandchildren.

Betty Spruell Bates ('48), 91, of Memphis, Tennessee, died June 28, 2020. She was an educator who served Harding Academy of Memphis for 27 years. She taught English for several years and then served as vice president for curriculum and instruction. She was a longtime member of White Station Church of Christ. She was preceded in death by her husband of 61 years, Claude. She is survived by two daughters, **Donna Kent** ('75) and **Claudia Boswell** ('77); five grandsons; and six great-grandchildren.

Joseph Henry Mitchen ('48), 93, of Baton Rouge, Louisiana, died May 7, 2020. He earned a master's degree in chemistry from Louisiana State University. He worked for Winchester R+D and Ethyl corporations. His job as a research chemist at Ethyl allowed him to travel to Europe, Asia, India, South America, and Australia. He served as a pulpit minister and helped plant congregations in New Haven, Connecticut; Port Allen, Louisiana; and Baton Rouge. He served as an elder for churches in South Baton Rouge and South Corpus Christi, Texas. He was preceded in death by a son, Michael. He is survived by his wife of 74 years, **Jane Zazzi** ('48); six children, **Diana Jones** ('68), **Linda Brooks** ('75), Susan Collins, James, Richard and Charles; 16 grandchildren; and 27 great-grandchildren.

Maxine Grady Shepherd ('49), 92, of Searcy, died July 27, 2020. In 1947, she helped clear the ground to start Camp Wyldewood, where she taught classes for campers and gave swimming lessons for 10 years. She taught school while earning her degree and was Harding's first female physical education teacher and women's intramural director. She taught in many places in Arkansas, including Paris, Newport, McCrory, Beedeville and Fort Smith. She taught at Lipscomb University in Nashville, Tennessee; and also Ogden, Utah; Lubbock Texas; Fairbanks, Alaska; and Dickson, Tennessee. She retired at 72. She and her husband spent summers in Arizona teaching Navajo children. In 1999, the couple joined Sojourners Church of Christ Mission and traveled the country in an RV with groups doing volunteer work at small churches, children's homes and Bible camps until 2014, when she could no longer travel. They

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then moved to Searcy and worked with World Bible School. She was a member of West Side Church of Christ. She is survived by her husband of 63 years, Doug; and a son, Michael.

Ermal Eugene "Gene" Catterton ('50), 92, of Mayfield, Kentucky, died May 4, 2020. He served in the U.S. Navy during World War II in the Philippines. He earned a Master of Science in Education from Arkansas State University in 1954 and a Master of Science from University of Arkansas in 1963. He taught mathematics and science for 13 years in Weiner, Hickory Ridge and Wynne, Arkansas. He completed his years with Wynne Public Schools as the coordinator of federal programs, retiring in 1987. He lived in Wynne for 42 years where he was active with the Kiwanis Club and chaired the Red Cross blood drive for 17 years. In 1984, he was honored as a Wynne Distinguished Citizen. His deepest love was for God, and he served as an elder at Wynne Church of Christ for nearly three decades and four years at the University City Church of Christ in Gainesville, Florida, where he lived from 2002-08. He and his first wife visited 49 states and several foreign countries, mostly during their years with Sojourners, a Christian service organization. He was preceded in death by his wife of 58 years, **Fayrene Imboden** ('50). He is survived by his second wife, Barbara Holland; three daughters, **Judy Thomas** ('71), **Holly Allen** ('73) and **Gena Granberg** ('79); nine grandchildren; and 22 great-grandchildren.

Francis Burl Curtis ('50), 90, of Searcy died June 6, 2020. He received a master's from Harding School of Theology in 1975. For 17 years, he and his wife worked in the mission field in South Carolina where he preached for five congregations, planting three of the five. Side by side, they conducted home Bible studies, campaigns, Bible camps, Vacation Bible Schools, and owned and operated a Christian book store. They conducted more than 100 Bible teacher workshops in 12 states. They also operated Curtis Kindergarten in Searcy, caring for preschool and kindergarten students for more than 30 years. During his lifetime, he wrote hundreds of articles published primarily in *Carolina Christian* magazine and *Gospel Light*. He was passionate about his work with Truth for Today World Mission School, where he served on the board of directors. He is survived by his wife of 70 years, **Mary Evelyn Hayes** ('53); four children, **Larry** ('77), **Rebecca McLain** ('79), Beth Hoofman and **Kevin** ('94); 14 grandchildren; and seven great-grandchildren.

Lewis Erwin Yingling ('50), 94, of Searcy died April 4, 2020. During World War II, he was a corporal in the Army Air Corps and was part of the occupation forces in Bavaria, Germany. He had a broad career including Kroger, HUD, White County Hospital, Kensett and Judsonia Housing Authorities, plus

his own home design business. He was a song leader at Sylvan Hills Church of Christ and most recently a member of West Side Church of Christ. He was preceded in death by his first wife, **Dot Munger** ('48); second wife, Helen McLeod; and a son Phillip. He is survived by two sons, **DeWitt** ('76) and **J.D.** ('82); and five grandchildren.

Joe Nell Flynt ('51), 91, of Greenway, Arkansas, died Feb. 17, 2020.

Hugh D. Newcomb ('51), 90, of Meridian, Idaho, died March 30, 2020. He attended Palmer College of Chiropractic in Davenport, Iowa, where he earned a Doctor of Chiropractic degree. After two years, he realized it was not the profession for him. One of his patients persuaded him to come work in the oil fields. He worked for Fluid Packed Pump Co. for the next 32 years as a salesman and area manager, finishing out his career as a production manager in Los Nietos, California. Retirement brought him to Boise, Idaho, to be near grandchildren. He worked retirement jobs at Producers Lumber Co., Plaza Suite Hotel and Idaho Banking Co. A natural storyteller, he wrote a book, *A Collection of Stories out of Arkansas*, which he enjoyed promoting and selling. He also wrote columns for small newspapers in southwest Arkansas. He was a member of Linder Road Church of Christ. He is survived by his wife of 71 years, **Mary Jo Walker** ('51), who died June 21, 2020; three children, **Linda James** ('70), **Gary** ('72) and **Kathy Harris** ('75), who died July 12, 2020; a sister, Billye Newcomb; seven grandchildren; and 13 great-grandchildren.

Mary Jo Walker Newcomb ('51), 90, of Meridian, Idaho, died, June 21, 2020. She was a devoted wife and mother, seamstress, and a member of Linder Road Church of Christ. She was preceded in death by her husband of 71 years, **Hugh** ('50). She is survived by three children, **Linda James** ('70), **Gary** ('72) and **Kathy Harris** ('75), who died July 12, 2020; seven grandchildren; and 13 great-grandchildren.

Valle Horton Richmond ('52), 90, of Searcy, died July 5, 2020. She was the consummate housewife. She enjoyed her involvement in book clubs and the Red Hat Society, was a reader to visually impaired individuals, served as a teacher's aide, and was a host to foreign exchange students. She is survived by her husband of 69 years, **Clarence Jr.** ('50); four children, **Beth Hendrix** ('74), Robin, **Melanie Roseberry** ('79) and Charles; six grandchildren; and 12 great-grandchildren.

Guy Roger Vanderpool ('56), 86, of Nashville, Tennessee, died Oct. 21, 2019. He earned an M.A. in diplomatic history from George Washington University. After graduating from Harding, he was drafted and joined the U.S. Army's Counter Intelligence Corp. After his term in the Army, he worked as an analyst for the National Security Agency in



Fort Meade, Maryland, where he spent his 35-year career. While a Department of Defense employee, he served under nine U.S. presidents and received the Meritorious Civilian Service Award for "distinguished and unselfish service, loyalty and devotion." After retiring in 1996, he started a second career teaching. As a visiting professor at Lipscomb University, he taught the history of Russia, China and international relations. He was a member of Woodmont Hills Church. He previously taught Sunday school classes at Bowie Church of Christ in Maryland where he served as an elder. He is survived by his wife of 61 years, Joanne Edmondson; two children, Laurie Anglin and Guy; three brothers, **Harold** ('58), **John** ('58), and **Roy** ('60); five grandchildren; and a great-granddaughter.

Gilbert Allen Truitt ('57), 93, of Sitka, Alaska, died July 10, 2020. He earned a Master of Arts in education from Arizona State University in 1972. He served in the U.S. Army, stationed in Juneau and Fort Richardson, Alaska. He returned to Mount Edgecumbe, his high school alma mater, in 1957 where he taught history and physical education, was basketball coach, activities/academic director and administrator until retiring in 1990. The activities center on the MEHS campus is named for him. He was honored with five MEHS yearbook dedications and was the first student athlete to be inducted into the Mount Edgecumbe Hall of Fame. He also was involved in youth baseball as a coach/manager for many years and was a basketball referee for 18 years. He received an honorary Doctor of Laws degree from the University of Alaska-Anchorage, a meritorious award from the University of Alaska Southeast, a citation and commendation from the Alaska legislature, and a Sitka street is named after him. The Alaska School Activities Association inducted him into the very first cohort of the ASAA Hall of Fame in 2001. In 2009, the Alaska Federation of Natives named him "Elder of the Year," and in 2018, the Central Council of Tlingit and Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska presented him with the President's Lifetime Achievement Award. For several years, he wrote a column, "Gilnettings" for the local paper. He was inducted into Harding's Athletic Hall of Fame in 2017 as a distinguished coach/alumnus. He is survived by his wife, Shirley Guilford; three children, Phil, Ken and Laura; and nine grandchildren.

Robert Lee Williams ('57), 86, of Jasper, Alabama, died May 18, 2020. He loved Jasper and worked there more than 62 years. Active in the community, he was president of Jasper Kiwanis Club for several years. In addition to his full-time employment, he filled in as a preacher for several different churches of Christ in Walker County. He was a member of Sixth Avenue Church of Christ. His life centered around his faith, family and church. He is survived by his wife, **Sally Taylor** ('57); three



children, Angela Sasser, Steve and Richard; six grandchildren; and four great-grandchildren.

Doris Jean Loudermilk Dalton ('64), 89, of Searcy, died April 25, 2020. In 1976, she took a position with Harding as a dorm director and remained in that position for 25 years. She attended churches of Christ her entire life. She is survived by two children, **Joy Slayton** ('98) and Jim; four grandchildren; and six great-grandchildren.

Marilyn McElroy ('65), 76, of Weatherford, Texas, died March 5, 2020. She earned her master's from Eastern Michigan University. She taught for a total of 34 years, beginning in Oglala Community High School in Pine Ridge, South Dakota, and ending with Warren Woods Public Schools in Warren, Michigan. After moving to Palm Springs, California, she worked in the box office for the Indian Wells Tennis Garden. She also worked with the boy's basketball program at Cathedral City High School. She was active in several book clubs and volunteered at the Palm Springs Public Library. She moved to Weatherford in 2016 to be nearer to family and was a member of South Main Church of Christ. She is survived by a sister, Kathleen Poznick.

Roger Eugene "Butch" Carey ('68), 75, of Helena, Montana, died May 27, 2020. After college, he joined the U.S. Army stationed at Pirmasens Army Depot in Germany. After his honorable discharge, he went to work on the family farm at Fort Benton, Montana. He attended Helena College in Helena, Montana, and studied diesel mechanics. He also attended Montana State University where he earned a teaching certificate. He taught school at three different Hutterite Colonies. He earned a Juris Doctor in 1993 from University of Montana Law School. He was admitted to the state bar of Montana and practiced law in Helena until his retirement. He was a member of Morning Star #5 Masonic Lodge and served as worshipful master. He also was a member of Marysville Lodge #51 and York Rite. He was preceded in death by his wife, Jeanette Bach. He is survived by his sister, Cyndi Thornton.

Carolyn Ann Cowan Hook ('68), 74, of Bentonville, Arkansas, died April 13, 2020. She was a talented artist, painter, crafter and interior designer with a passion for herbal foods and their efficacy for health. A devoted Christian homemaker and minister's wife, she served as a member of Bentonville Church of Christ for 40 years. She led sixth-grade Bible classes and studied and taught biblical evidence and archaeology. She is survived by her husband of 52 years, **Walton** ('67); two sons, **Todd** ('92) and **David** ('95); her stepmother, Virginia Cowan; two siblings, Joe Cowan and Jan Arcidy; two stepbrothers, Paul Parrish and Jon White; and five grandsons.

VINTAGE HARDING



Founded in 1965 by President Clifton L. Ganus, Associated Women for Harding (now Women for Harding) began selling its first cookbook with recipes from its members on Nov. 24, 1965, and was so popular a second printing occurred in 1966.

Arthur "Art" Lee Hudkins ('68), 73, of Battlefield, Missouri, died May 7, 2020. After college, he served 14 months in Vietnam as a forward observer for the U.S. Army 1st Cavalry Division. After his service, he earned a master's degree in radio and television from Syracuse University. He earned a Juris Doctor from University of Missouri at Kansas City School of Law. He worked for the FCC in Washington, D.C., before moving into private practice in Springfield, Missouri, in 1978. He served on the Zoo Board and was legal counsel for Missouri Broadcasters Association as well as Springfield Ad Club. He served as an elder at Sunset Church of Christ in Springfield and in Brookline where he aided in the church plant. He is survived by his wife of 51 years, **Irene Curtis** ('71); three children, **Sean** ('99), **Bryan** ('98) and **Eric** ('98); two "adopted" sons, T.J. Robinett and Matt Seats; and 16 grandchildren.

Rodney "Rod" Vernon Holland ('69), 72, of Corvallis, Oregon, died March 23, 2020. He obtained a Doctor of Chiropractic degree from Western States Chiropractic College, a CCSP from Los Angeles College of Chiropractic, and an MBE from the Academy of BioEnergetics. He served his country in the U.S. Air Force as a pilot and, later, in the Oregon Air National Guard. He established his Corvallis chiropractic office in 1979 and practiced until January 2020. In recent years, he authored a book focused on the efficacy of natural medicine. He was a member of Circle Church of Christ in Corvallis where he served 26 years as an elder, teacher and worship leader. He is survived by his wife of 52 years, **Linda Brown** ('71); three children, Karie Slater, Jason and Travis; a brother, Van; and seven grandchildren.

Deborah "Debbie" Kathryn Parkey Latimer ('70), 71, of Searcy died July 4, 2020. She was a long-time business education teacher at Searcy

High School. She was preceded in death by her husband, Jackie. She is survived by her daughter, **Holly** ('96); and a granddaughter.

Wayne Scott ('70), 71, of Ennis, Texas, died June 12, 2020. He received a master's from Harding School of Theology in 1977. He worked as a campus minister at Henderson County Junior College in Athens, Texas, and then spent six years teaching Bible at Lipscomb Academy in Nashville, Tennessee. In 1983, he became a partner in the book-keeping firm, Oldroyd and Scott, in Corsicana, Texas. He received his CPA license in 1997. His accounting career included 24 years as controller at Berry Chrysler Motors and three years as CFO for Prairie Pet Ingredients. He served as an elder and Bible teacher at several churches, the last at the church of Christ on Country Club Road in Ennis. He is survived by his wife, **Deborah Oldroyd** ('70); two sons, **Tim** ('93) and **Ryan** ('97); a sister, Kathy Leonard; and three grandchildren.

Kathy Newcomb Harris ('75), 67, of Boise, Idaho, died July 12, 2020. She earned a degree in medical technology from University of Arkansas. She worked as a med tech for several years before staying home to care for her daughters. She served as president of Boise State University Bronco Athletic Association where she headed the department's fundraising. She ran and walked several marathons and half marathons. She was a member of Cole Community Church leading women's Bible studies and going on mission trips. She is survived by her husband of 45 years, **Randy** ('75); two daughters, **Gretchen Arguedas** ('04) and Darcie Altree; two siblings, **Linda James** ('70) and **Gary Newcomb** ('72); and one grandchild.

Beverly Ann Bucy Frizzell ('77), 64, of Harrison, Arkansas, died Aug. 13, 2020. She was a teacher and administrator in schools in Arkansas, Tennessee and Louisiana. She retired as elementary principal at Valley Springs, Arkansas, after 20 years. She was preceded in death by her husband, Terry. She is survived by three children, Jena Estes, Terry and Jamie Hedden; her father, Jess Bucy; a sister, **Carol Knight** ('74); seven grandchildren; and four great-grandchildren.

Norman Fisher Hale Sr. ('79), 80, of Searcy died July 20, 2020. Before becoming an educator, he served in the Army National Guard. He taught vocational agriculture and carpentry before becoming an elementary principal. He served as vice president of finance for Northeastern Christian Junior College. He also spent many years as a preacher in Pennsylvania and Arkansas. He was a retired EMT from Bald Knob Ambulance Service. He is survived by his wife of 60 years, **Mary Browning** ('62); three children, **Gerri Lilly** ('84), **Norman Jr.** ('90), and **Judy Hall** ('89); a sister, Arlene Everett; six grandchildren; and four great-grandchildren.

PHOTO BY JEFF MONTGOMERY

Thomas W. Schmidt (M.A.Ed. '81), 72, of Dayton, Ohio, died July 24, 2020. He received an M.Div. from the Athenaeum of Ohio. He was ordained on May 15, 1999, at St. Peter in Chains Cathedral, Cincinnati, by Archbishop Daniel E. Pilarczyk. He retired from active ministry on June 30, 2018.

Rhonda Gail Porter Ingalls ('81), 61, of West Fork, Arkansas, died March 22, 2020. During her 25-year teaching career, she taught elementary school in Spokane and Seattle, Washington, and Anaheim, California, before moving back to West Fork after her husband's U.S. Coast Guard retirement. She taught special education and elementary education in the public school systems of West Fork, Winslow and Greenland. She is survived by her husband of 33 years, Kenneth; two daughters, Rebecca Lehev and **Rachel** ('16); her father, Junior Leon Porter; and three brothers, Ronnie, Randy and Rusty Porter.

Ron Mashburn ('84), 58, of Sherwood, Arkansas, died March 21, 2020. He was a residential building contractor. He loved gun collecting, hunting, fishing and coaching. He is survived by his wife of 34 years, Karen; two children, Ryan and Alexa Grace; his parents, Curtis and Doris; a sister, Lisa Elfrink; and a granddaughter.

Raymond "Ray" Lucy ('85), 77, of Kensett, Arkansas, died May 8, 2020. He served in the U.S. Army during the Korean War, retiring as sergeant first class. Remembered for his sense of humor, he enjoyed his radio program and found joy in deejaying events and radio shows. He was a deacon at Judsonia Church of Christ. He is preceded in death by his wife of 53 years, Ruth Ann Newton. He is survived by his three children: **Scott** ('94), **Chris** ('88) and **Avriel Brown** ('98); a sister, Joyce Cummings; four grandchildren; and one great-grandchild.

Nathan Lee Malone ('87), 58, of Oklahoma City died January 20, 2020. While at Harding, he played tennis and was two-time all conference in the Arkansas Intercollegiate Conference and two-time all NAIA District 17. He recently played in the 7.5 division at the USTA League National Championship Tournament representing the Missouri Valley Region. He spent several years training horses and then moved into sales where he won numerous awards in sales and sales management at Purina Mills, Frontier Auto Group, and Chappell Supply and Equipment. He ended his career as director of tennis at Hidden Trails Country Club in Oklahoma City. He is survived by his mother, Mary Ann; two sons, Kobie and Collin; and two sisters, **Glenda** ('78) and **Voni Ribera** ('79).

Vicki Martin McMinn ('87), 55, of Fort Smith, Arkansas, died June 30, 2020. She was a homemaker and member of the churches of Christ. She enjoyed working with and helping children, which was shown through her dedication in the schools for which she worked. She is survived by



her husband, Mark; two children, **Caleb** ('14) and **Caitlyn** ('18); her mother, Marifred Hamm Martin Johnston; and one sister, **Connie Clepper** ('84).

Ross Spurlock ('89), 56, of Maumelle, Arkansas, died July 6, 2020. He worked as wildlife enforcement officer for Arkansas Game and Fish for more than 32 years. He loved the outdoors, hunting and fishing, and was an avid golfer. He is survived by one son, Ryan; and two brothers, Mike and Steve.

April Winebarger Yoder ('04), 38, of Lancaster, Pennsylvania, died June 16, 2020. She was a real estate agent for Weichert Realtors where she received the 2019 President's Award as one of the top performing agents in sales. She had a deep love and talent for music. She was a member of Ephrata Area Church of Christ. She is survived by her husband of 14 years, Sam; three children, Samuel, Savannah and Isaac; her parents, Weldon and Brenda Winebarger; and a brother, Nathan D. Winebarger.

James "Jim" Rodenbeck, 53, of Searcy died July 16, 2020. He obtained a bachelor's degree in music education from Butler University in 1989. He spent most of his adult life as a professional trombonist, performing with the Circle City Sidewalker Stompers Clown Band, the Starry Knights Big Band, as the principal trombonist of the Carmel Symphony Orchestra, and was the founder of the Basement Brass Quintet. He moved to Searcy where he studied computer science and was a business analyst at Harding. He is survived by his wife, Stacey Dineen; two children, Susan and Christian; his father, Jim; and his sisters, Kellee Helbig and Heather Alexander.

Donald Eugene Allee, 81, of Searcy died, Aug. 3, 2020. He was a custodian at Harding from 1979-2000. He was a member of Cloverdale Church of Christ. He is survived by his wife of 43 years, **Linda Murphy** ('65); one daughter, Lisa Boggan; and three grandchildren.

Albert Dale English, 80, of Searcy died Sept. 7, 2020. His love for Searcy showed in his many contributions to the city. He was alderman on the Searcy City Council for 33 years beginning in 1987 until his passing. In addition, he worked 20 years with the Searcy Fire Department and retired as captain. He served in the Arkansas National Guard for 22 years, retiring as sergeant first class. As a charter member, he spent 30 years with the Searcy Girls Softball League. He was a member of the Arkansas Officials Association and was a high school football official for 25 years. He worked at Harding Press as a folder operator from 1995-2004 and was a member of First Baptist Church. He is survived by his wife of 59 years, Hazel Huntley; two daughters, Kristy Parish and Tiffany; a brother, Robert; three grandchildren; and five great-grandchildren.



Just give it a chance

By ANDREW M. BRAXTER, director of church outreach

GROWING UP, I WAS A VERY PICKY KID, and honestly, I am a very picky adult — I hate trying new things. I'm a creature of habit, and normally when I find something I like, I stick with it. My father would tell me that I would never know the difference between what I liked and what I disliked if I never gave anything a chance. With new things I was skeptical about he would simply look at me and say, "Son, just give it a chance." I am so glad that I decided to do just that.

In 1999 my family made the decision to give private schools a chance, and I started attending Alabama Christian Academy in Montgomery. Because of that decision, in 2006 I received my first introduction to Harding University. Who would have thought that more than a decade later, Harding and I would be giving each other a chance in hopes of changing the world.

Ironically, my parents convinced me to try private schools in 1999, and in 2008 I convinced them to give a chance to a struggling historically Black college and university by the name of Southwestern Christian College. That was probably one of the most challenging things I ever had to convince them to try. I honestly believe it would have been easier to get a toddler to eat Brussels sprouts than it was for me to go off for undergrad, but that's a different story for a different time. To this day, that has got to be the best thing I have done, and it turned into the place that afforded me the most chances. Because of that place, I was given the opportunity to meet Dr. Harold Redd in 2014, who introduced me to Matt Carter in 2015, who reintroduced me to Harding University through Harding School of Theology, which is the place that I gave a chance in 2016. Now in 2020 I have been given a chance to serve as the director of church outreach in the Office of Church Relations.

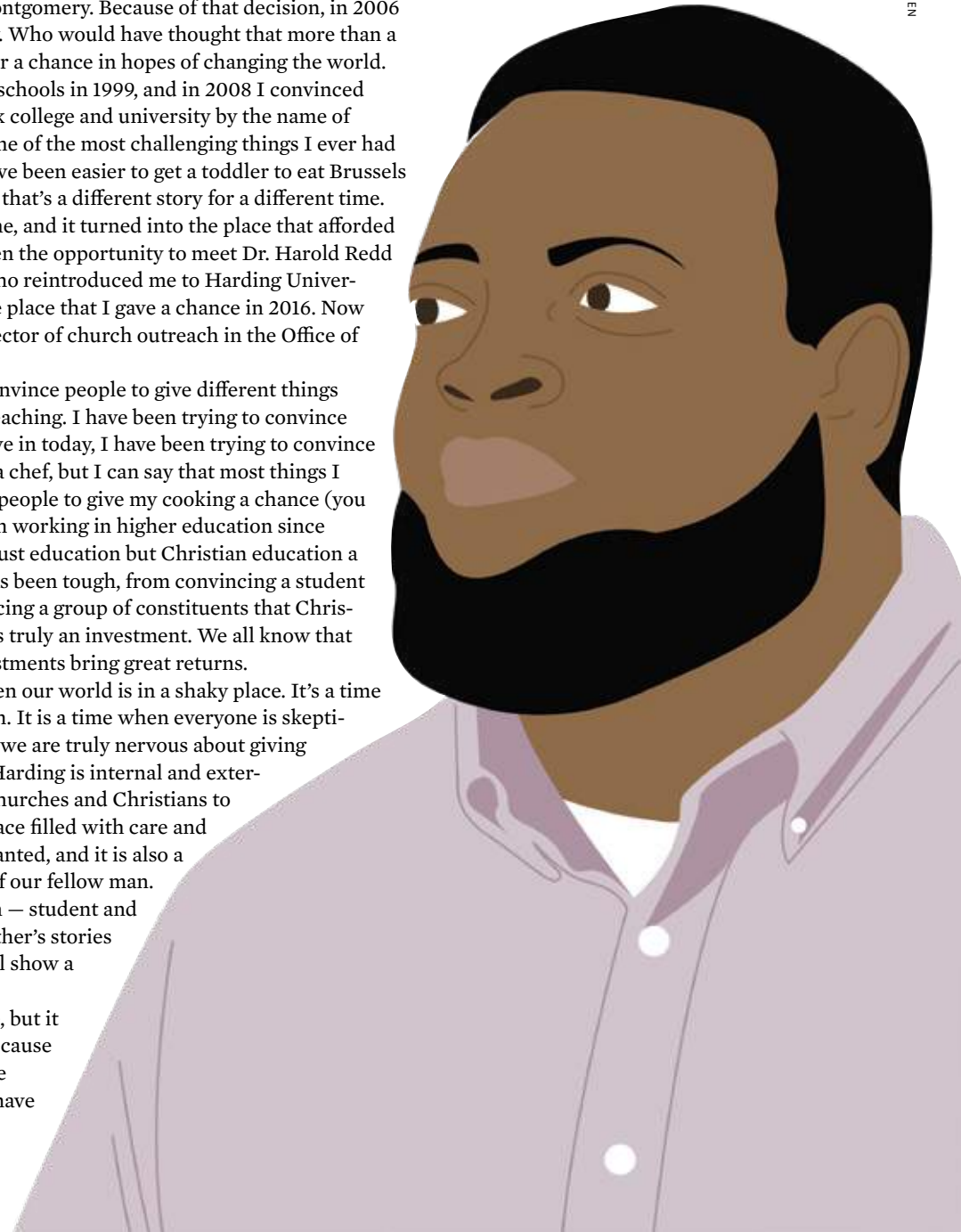
For the majority of my life, I have been trying to convince people to give different things a chance. In December, I will celebrate 22 years of preaching. I have been trying to convince people to give Jesus a chance, and in the society we live in today, I have been trying to convince others to give "church" a chance. I do not claim to be a chef, but I can say that most things I have cooked come out great. I have been trying to get people to give my cooking a chance (you should try it one day; I promise it's edible). I have been working in higher education since 2013, and I have been trying to get people to give not just education but Christian education a chance. There have been some days when that task has been tough, from convincing a student that giving it a chance is truly life changing, to convincing a group of constituents that Christian education really doesn't cost but pays, because it's truly an investment. We all know that investments start off small, but the right types of investments bring great returns.

I have joined the Harding family during a time when our world is in a shaky place. It's a time and place that our world has been turned upside down. It is a time when everyone is skeptical about so many things, and we are in a place where we are truly nervous about giving things, places and even people a chance. My work at Harding is internal and external. Externally, I am encouraging underrepresented churches and Christians to give Harding a chance. I want to show that this is a place filled with care and concern for the community in which we have been planted, and it is also a community of people who believe in the betterment of our fellow man. Internally, I will be encouraging everyone I work with — student and staff — to give someone else a chance and hear each other's stories and experiences, so that the greater Harding story will show a picture of success even through moments of struggle.

Giving things a chance has been a challenge for me, but it also has brought some beautiful changes in my life. Because I have given some people a chance, I have gained some amazing friends who are really like family. Because I have

given some places a chance, I have traveled and experienced places that others have only dreamed of going. Because I have given some challenges a chance, I have seen some major life changes. Whatever you are faced with that may seem challenging or even confusing, just give it a chance. 🙏

ILLUSTRATION BY JENNIFER ALLEN



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