

HARDING

SPRING 2020



#STAYS SAFE



#STAY HOME





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BACK TO PAKISTAN

Seizing the opportunity more than 50 years later to revisit the places where they spent their youth in the mission field, Beth Hogan James, Dave Hogan and Julie Hogan Garner take a nine-day trip in early February 2020 to Lahore, Pakistan, with their father, Gordon.

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HARDING AT A DISTANCE

No one could imagine the last half of the spring semester would be without a bustling campus, but the Harding spirit is prevailing even from afar. Hannah Owens provides an overview and timeline of the crisis, and several students, faculty, staff, alumni and parents share their perspectives on a semester apart, but not alone.

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ON THE COVER

The Harding family could not return to campus after spring break due to the COVID-19 crisis, but even from a distance, we are #BisonsTogether.

ILLUSTRATION BY TIM COX

LEFT PHOTO BY DAVE HOGAN, RIGHT AND OPPOSITE PAGE PHOTOS BY NICOLE SWANN

Thankfulness and longing

By BRUCE D. McLARTY, *president*

ON MARCH 6, we were still shaking hands. Students were finishing their last day of classes before heading out on their much-anticipated spring break. Many were heading home and others were going to help with tornado relief in Tennessee. On March 6, we had no idea how much our world would change before the end of the month.

The following Thursday, because of concerns relating to COVID-19, we instructed students not to return to campus after break. Their semester would continue online. Then, on March 19, we made the heartbreaking announcement that we would not resume on-campus classes for the remainder of the spring semester. Spring Sing 2020 was pushed back for a full year, and May commencement was postponed until August. It is still difficult to absorb how much our semester — how much our entire world — changed after March 6.

When I spoke to the Harding family on video via Instagram and email, I shared with everyone what, to me, was the most helpful analogy at that confusing moment. Ann and I have a granddaughter who lives in Montana. Maggie is now 20 months old, and since her birth we have had a special family ritual at Maggie's bedtime each night. We facetime her, and Ann, who has a beautiful alto voice, sings a lullaby to Maggie. When I reflect on those tender moments, I am always reminded of two words that seem to pull my heart in opposite directions. Those two words are the same ones I find battling in my heart these days when I think of this semester at Harding — thankfulness and longing.

Thankfulness. Ann and I are so thankful that we live in a time when we can see our granddaughter's face and hear her voice before she goes to sleep each night. Not too many years ago, such a connection was unimaginable. In a similar way, I am so thank-



ful we can continue this semester online. Because of the technology we have access to, we are able to continue the classes that were half finished. There is, indeed, so much for which to be thankful.

Longing. However, the technology that allows us to see our granddaughter each night leaves us with a sense of longing. We ache to hold her in our arms, kiss her little cheeks and nuzzle her hair. That also is how it is with this at-a-distance semester. We can connect in so many ways, but we are still left longing to speak face-to-face.

On March 6, we were still shaking hands. Now we are scattered all over the world. We are so thankful for the connections we still have, but we long for the time when we can hug and laugh and sing and cry together, remembering the thankfulness and longing that marked the spring semester of 2020. 📞



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PHOTO BY JEFF MONTGOMERY

Apart, but not alone

SELECTIONS FROM A SILENT SPRING 📷



TOP ROW: @meetashel, @SAHardingU, @billymorganhu MIDDLE ROW: @sydneybryant, @HUCPE, @matheusfb_ribeiro BOTTOM ROW: @beccaakared, @megs_72310, @_andrewsbaker



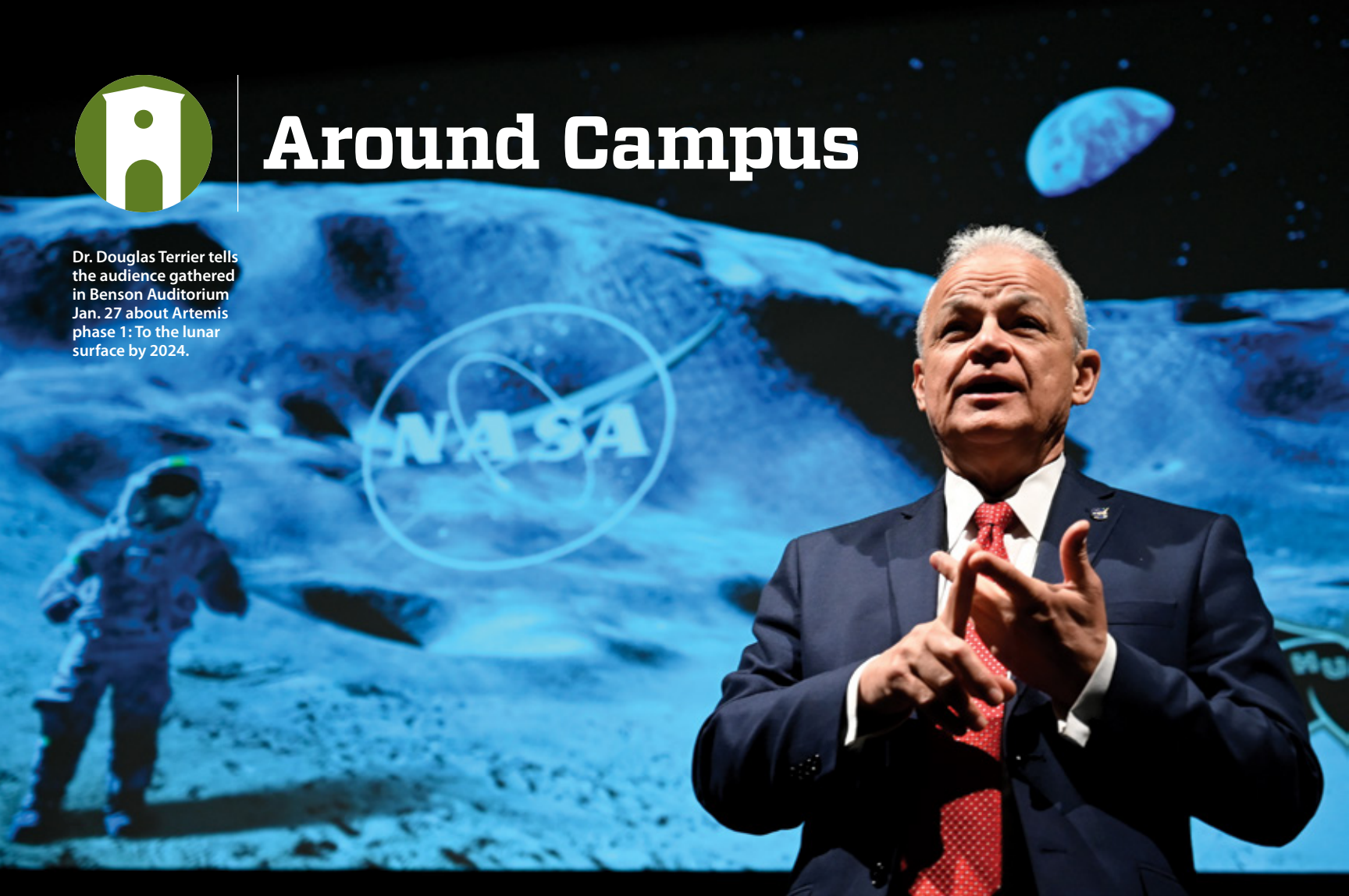
An empty Benson Auditorium March 25, 2020, sits ominously quiet awaiting the return of students and the bustle of campus activities this fall.

PHOTO BY JEFF MONTGOMERY



Around Campus

Dr. Douglas Terrier tells the audience gathered in Benson Auditorium Jan. 27 about Artemis phase 1: To the lunar surface by 2024.



NASA collaboration continues

NASA CHIEF TECHNOLOGIST Douglas Terrier, the highest ranking NASA technology official and first NASA chief technologist ever to visit Arkansas, was the featured speaker Jan. 27 when the departments of engineering and physics and chemistry hosted NASA Day at Harding.

In recognition of Dr. Terrier's visit, Gov. Asa Hutchinson proclaimed Jan. 27 NASA Day in Arkansas. Throughout the day, Terrier held meetings with and made a series of presentations to various groups, including more than 1,000 area elementary, middle, junior and high school students, as well as Harding students and faculty. Along with student meetings about NASA programs, jobs and opportunities, Terrier met with representatives from the Arkansas Space Grant Consortium, which includes 17 four-year universities and colleges throughout Arkansas.

The day's events included the dedication of a plaque recognizing the NASA research conducted at the University from 1967 to present

day. A special exhibit titled "Harding and NASA: Through the Years" also displayed various grant-funded research projects beginning with astronaut physical fitness to prepare for the first moon launch to Harding's membership in the Arkansas Space Grant Consortium and scientific and technology research that continues today.

A 7 p.m. lecture by Terrier in Benson Auditorium titled "Forward to the Moon: The NASA Artemis Program" ended the day. Terrier discussed NASA's planned return to the moon, including landing the first American woman on the moon by 2024.

Following NASA Day, a group of students conducting NASA-funded research represented the state of Arkansas in Washington D.C. for the 30th anniversary of the Space Grant Consortium. The Harding University Space Research Team, made up of students Abby Bankhead, Sidney Brandon, Hannah Smith, Parker Pruitt and Elizabeth Reed, and faculty advisors Dr.

Dennis Province and Dr. Cindy White, was one of only 25 teams chosen from across the country to represent the consortium.

While in Washington D.C., the team presented their research results to lawmakers, senators and representatives, including six Arkansas congressmen, on Capitol Hill Feb. 25-27. The team's research focuses on enhancing the current system of wastewater treatment in space with a reactive oxygen species generator that will break down complex molecules and kill microbes using a combination of UV light and titanium dioxide. This process, known as photocatalysis, will help to clean and disinfect the air and water aboard the International Space Station so that it can be recycled.

Since Harding's involvement with NASA first began in the 1960s, the University has continued to maintain strong ties to America's space program through scientific and technology research and its membership in the ASGC.

PHOTO BY JEFF MONTGOMERY

For the very latest campus news, visit harding.edu/news.



Kendall, Cone Halls in transition

THE UNIVERSITY IS IMPLEMENTING some housing changes on campus to provide room for growth while improving facilities, student experience and educational offerings.

The first change, announced in February, is a new vision for Kendall Hall. Located just off the front lawn, Kendall has been a women's residence hall since 1961. However, while evaluating women's spaces in need of renovation, it was determined there was enough room for students previously housed in Kendall to be placed in other residence halls. Due to its central location on campus, Kendall is being evaluated for ways it might better meet current academic and student needs. A remodeled configuration of Kendall currently being considered could include common areas for meeting and studying on the first floor, while the second and third floors could become home for departments such as history and political science and foreign language.

In addition to the remodeling of the women's dorm, Cone Hall, a men's apartment-style residence hall on campus, is being reclassified as privileged housing for fall. Privileged housing is designed for qualifying second-semester junior or senior status students and has no residential curfew or required meal plan. Currently, privileged men's housing is exclusively in Village Apartments located at the southeast edge of campus. On a consistent basis, men who are eligible for privileged housing in Village do not utilize the apartments due to their distance from campus. While better meeting student needs, this change will nearly double the number of men who live in privileged housing. Village Apartments will continue to be available for lease to students who are eligible for off-campus housing as has been the case for a portion of the units for some time.

"As Harding nears its 100th year, we are more committed than ever to keeping Harding strong and vibrant while operating on sound business principles," said President Bruce McLarty. "Our plans for the future will continue to reflect our reliance on God's provision as we respond to the opportunities before us, and we are excited about how these changes will improve the environment for our campus community. We will not waver from our commitment to providing every student a Christ-centered education and look forward to a bright future for this community of mission."

PHOTO BY MADISON MEYER

Delta Gamma Rho social club dedicates seat, honors Uebelein

WOMEN'S SOCIAL CLUB Delta Gamma Rho dedicated a seat in the Rhodes-Reaves Field House to former member Mary Joy Uebelein Feb. 20.

Uebelein, a big fan of Harding basketball, died March 16, 2019, from injuries sustained in a car accident March 8. DGR member and fellow St. Louis resident Emma Vaughn was the driving force behind the seat dedication, wanting to find a way to honor Uebelein's memory before graduating.

"We wanted to cement her legacy here on campus," Vaughn said. "I wanted it to be a good seat that you could see very well. I made sure it was behind the boys' bench because that was a good spot where she could see the boys and the whole game. The number 14 was her jersey number for DGR, so we picked number 14 for it."

The dedication was held at halftime during the Bison basketball game. Her parents

Keith and Sherry; her three siblings, Luke, Caleb and Rachel; Luke's wife Julianne; and Rachel's fiance Blake Herring were in attendance along with many friends and DGR club members. The seat was marked with yellow balloons, a yellow rose and a DGR jersey.

"I really wanted people to just show up to the game even if you didn't know her," Vaughn said. "One, that's supporting the basketball team, and two, that's supporting her family in a way that isn't super intimate but something they will really appreciate."

President Bruce McLarty reflected on the evening in a tweet the following day: "Beautiful, tender and heartfelt ceremony in the Rhodes-Reaves Field House last night as Delta Gamma Rho dedicated a seat in memory of Mary Joy Uebelein. So thankful Mary Joy's family was able to be here for the event!"



A plaque, a Delta Gamma Rho jersey and a yellow rose mark seat #14 which was dedicated in Mary Joy Uebelein's memory Feb. 20.



WHY HARDING "I was certain I wanted to do ministry, and Harding started sending summer interns to my congregation through Global Outreach. Along with stories from the alumni in my congregation, I realized that this was a good place, the kind of place I want to tell my stories about. So I applied, got the Trustee Scholarship, and found myself for the first time on campus three days before classes began in Fall 2017. I had never seen the place before, and I fell instantly in love with it."

INVOLVEMENT On campus, John is a beau for women's social club Delta Gamma Rho, intern for the Original Rock House, member of the SA Chapel Committee, peer guide for Bible professors Gary Jackson and Dr. Phil Thompson, and tutor for University College.

PASSION "My passions revolve around people, worship, ministry and writing. I just love to be where people are. I believe that I have something to learn from everyone I meet and the potential to share something from my own life that will bless them. I keep a blog (thewildernessvoices.org) where I write personal reflections from my experiences. I see my blog as a means to speak life and build up others instead of criticizing and tearing down."

CHAPEL "When I'm on the Benson stage, I look out and take in the thousands of faces staring back at me. I realize that every one of those faces has a story, a joy, a burden, or some combination of them. Ideally, I want to lead a worship where everyone leaves talking about how God rejuvenated or comforted them, or what they heard him say. Ideally, they won't remember the worship leader because they were so enraptured by the God whom they beheld."

GRACE & PEACE "Grace and peace to you in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ" is John's often-heard greeting to those in chapel. "While preparing to share a devotional message when I was studying abroad, I realized that the apostle Paul was always using this phrase in his letters to greet his audience. First, I just love the idea of using a biblical greeting to greet the people of God. Second, grace and peace are things that our college community could use a lot more of. The third reason stems from the history of the phrase. Grace was the word of greeting in the Greek language, and peace was the Hebrew greeting. That the apostle Paul combined these into a single greeting meant that he acknowledged the Jew-Gentile diversity of the church and that both groups were welcomed into one united body. We need to be reminded that we live in this Christian narrative where we affirm our unity and embrace the diversity that gives that unity so much color and vibrancy. That's what I pray something as simple as a greeting can encourage people to think about."

MINISTRY After graduating, John plans to return to his home congregation in Singapore to take on a full-time role as youth, worship and media minister while pursuing a Master of Divinity. He knows he wants to follow God wherever he calls, living his life by the words found in Galatians 2:20. "I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me, and the life that I now live in the flesh, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me." — Megan Stroud

Everyday STUDENT

JUNIOR JOHN LIM FROM SINGAPORE, AN INTERDISCIPLINARY STUDIES MAJOR STUDYING MINISTRY BY FOCUSING ON BIBLE, COMMUNICATION AND ENGLISH, IS WELL-KNOWN FOR HIS LEADERSHIP IN CHAPEL AND AMIABLE PERSONALITY.



PHOTO BY JEFF MONTGOMERY

HEARD in CHAPEL

JAN. 14, 2020

"I pray that during your time here you will come to love and respect this chapel hall. I pray that you will feel the presence and love of God here in a more personal way. I hope that you will never forget that chapel is the most important thing that happens here."

John Smith, guest speaker

FEB. 17, 2020

"If you want to go fast, go alone. If you want to go far, go together. At Harding, we run together."

President Bruce McLarty

MARCH 3, 2020

"Things are going to happen that are unexpected. You never know, really, what is going to happen. I challenge us to be people who look for opportunities to serve others and share God's light. No matter where you go this spring break, these are things you can do."

Grant Fitzhugh, junior Bible and divinity major

On March 18, classes resumed after spring break, but there were no students on campus. Throughout the duration of the second half of the semester, Dr. McLarty continued to bring the community together through a virtual chapel — a daily devotional on social media and at harding.edu/dailydevo.

MARCH 26, 2020

"When we remember who Jesus is, when we lift him

up and see him in his glory, so many of the things that confuse us disappear."

McLarty

MARCH 27, 2020

"We spend so much time borrowing trouble from an uncertain future. We are anxious because we worry about tomorrow. Jesus says stay in the moment and remember how God takes care of his creation. God will take care of you."

McLarty

APRIL 1, 2020

"We walk on through the night. Jesus walks with us on this journey of faith."

McLarty

APRIL 10, 2020

"The cross was not an accident. The cross was not a failure of the plan of God or ministry of Jesus. The cross was by God's intent and design. Jesus was always moving toward the cross."

McLarty

APRIL 13, 2020

"It changes everything. The worst day in the history of the world on Friday becomes the greatest day in the history of the world on Sunday. Today, as we begin a new week, we begin this week living in the light of the resurrection."

McLarty

EVENTS

AUG. 15

Commencement

While those who completed graduation requirements in May had their degrees conferred at that time, the late summer physical ceremony allows graduates, faculty, family and friends to celebrate together. harding.edu/graduation

AUG. 20-22

Welcome Week: Stampede

Campus welcomes new students to the University with informative sessions, activities and fun in this event formerly known as Impact. harding.edu/stampede

AUG. 24

First day of school

Classes begin for what hopes to be an uneventful fall semester with campus full of life after a quiet spring.

SEPT. 27-30

Lectureship

Join us for the 97th Lectureship, Invincible!, as talented ministers and speakers help us delve into the book of Daniel and study courageous faith in troubled times. harding.edu/lectureship



OCT. 2-3

Family Weekend

Experience life with your college student — attend chapel and classes and see firsthand what makes Harding so special. harding.edu/familyweekend

OCT. 29-31

Homecoming

Enjoy reuniting with old friends and classmates for reunions, tailgating, the Homecoming musical and more. harding.edu/homecoming
Events currently scheduled at publishing time may change subject to federal and local guidance on reopening. harding.edu/calendar

BY THE NUMBERS

SPRING STATS

100

Percent of May candidates in the speech-language pathology master's program who passed licensure exam on first attempt

14

Articles in first digital edition of student-run Bison newspaper, published April 2

21

Students, faculty and staff who spent spring break helping with Middle Tennessee tornado disaster relief, some of whom joined as a result of an international mission trip cancellation

200

Number of face shields, along with 10 masks, for Unity Health designed and 3D printed by a team led by Rich Wells, assistant professor of engineering

20

Members of the information systems and technology team, comprised of IT services, e-learning and multimedia services and Brackett Library, who played pivotal roles in helping faculty and students transition to online instruction



Chartwells chosen culinary provider



AS PART OF ONGOING EFFORTS to increase food quality and improve student satisfaction, University leadership decided to evaluate dining services

providers. In November 2019, a Request for Proposals was issued to seven vendors. Incumbent vendor Aramark and six others participated in the bidding process, a standard practice for colleges and universities.

A selection committee made up of faculty, staff and student representatives evaluated each provider based on their food presentation, student dining menus, nutrition and dietary needs, catering menus, sustainability measures, local food procurement, marketing, campus/community partnership, business model, and experience. The selection committee also received feedback from off-campus students, international students, athletes and students with dietary restrictions.

After a thorough review, the committee announced in March that Chartwells, a division of Compass, is the University's new dining services vendor beginning May 26. Chartwells will continue to operate Chick-fil-A, Panda Express, Starbucks and Einsteins in the student center. Java City will be replaced by a new coffee provider, and a student choice option will take the place of Taco Bell, beginning with a Chartwells branded concept — Tu Taco. Tu Taco brings street tacos indoors, focusing on quality ingredients and made from scratch sauces. Each year, students will vote on one of eight restaurant concepts for the following year. "We are grateful to Aramark for being an excellent dining partner for so many years," said Tammy Hall, vice president for finance and CFO. "Strong professional and friendship bonds have been forged with so many on this team, and we appreciate their willingness to work with us for a smooth transition."

As the move to a new provider takes place, additional changes to the University's campus dining will continue in an effort to improve food quality and choice. These changes include the incorporation of clearly marked allergen friendly food lines, open to close access to the dining hall, four-week menu cycles and technology solutions to manage food lines and peak periods.

Harding Network offers alumni new communication channel

UNIVERSITY ALUMNI CAN NOW CONNECT with each other in a new digital space through Harding Network, built through a University partnership with the digital company Graduway. The Office of Alumni Relations launched Harding Network in May at network.harding.edu as a tool for alumni to communicate with each other and stay up to date on what's happening at Harding.

"Alumni involvement and engagement are vital components in every university," Vice President for Alumni and Parent Relations Liz Howell said. "In July 2019, the board of trustees alumni relations committee met to explore ways we could create more opportunities to ensure our graduates find jobs."

After a recommendation from a colleague at another university, Howell explored what the Graduway platform could offer. Campus stakeholders from various areas of campus weighed in on how the platform could be used by alumni and campus representatives to share information and events.

"Harding Network brings everything together on one page with information, events and jobs

and gives a more efficient and cohesive network to help new graduates and alumni to navigate their interests and connections," Howell said.

While the platform was created with alumni in mind, University employees and students also may use the platform to network and find professional mentors or mentees.

"Students will be introduced to Harding Network as they are planning their courses of study," Howell said. "We will have mentors and internships in place to streamline the process of enhancing their college experience and close the gap between graduation and job placement."

The site is integrated with other digital platforms so users can create and customize an account with their existing

Facebook, Google or LinkedIn profile, which makes signing up and importing personal information easy. The platform combines personal profiles with professional networking to create a space where users can access a directory of other users, find upcoming events of interest, and interact with alumni.

To create an account through Harding Network, visit network.harding.edu.



HARDING NETWORK

Coming together as one

IN FEBRUARY, President Bruce McLarty announced the University will be returning to one chapel beginning this fall. One chapel assembly is familiar to many alumni as it was the norm from 1979 through 2005. However, in 2005 student numbers required Harding to begin offering two chapels during the fall semester, and eventually, in 2013, both fall and spring semesters.

Due to the size of recent freshman classes, the entire Harding community can now gather together at 9 each morning.

"There will be adjustments that we will all have to make," said McLarty. "For instance, Chick-fil-A will have to have enough chicken biscuits for the entire student body ready at 9:35. However, this fall, one chapel will become our new normal. For many, it should make scheduling classes easier, and I look forward to the special experience of all being together for chapel."

The transition to one chapel will give students, faculty and staff an additional hour in their daily schedules for coursework and other activities.

"We live in a place, time and situation where there is always more than we can get done. But we leave the stresses and the assignments, the demands of life, outside the Benson Auditorium, and we have 35 minutes of protected time with God each day. Here we remember who God is, who we are, and what life is all about."

MY VIEW KWAME YEBOAH

Getting back to normal

In March, many Americans started spending more time at home than anywhere else. While separated from friends, family and regular day-to-day activities, the thing at the top of everyone's to-do list was social distancing. On April 16, the White House unrolled a three-phase strategy for opening the country. We talked with Dr. Kwame Yeboah, associate professor in the College of Pharmacy, about his view on a successful reopening, particularly in Arkansas.

SO FAR ARKANSAS has been partly shielded from some of the damaging effects of the COVID-19 pandemic. In an outbreak spread by direct contact, being a state with inhabitants spread out between large farm lands and removed from major ports of entry into the country has been an advantage. This inherent geographical distancing backed by the social measures put in place have mitigated the spread of the infection so far.

However, as creatures of habit, the adjustments to life and constantly evolving nature of this situation have been stressful and hard. This has led to preparations to open up the state, and to normal activities of life that may possibly affect the miti-

gating practices. Furthermore, Arkansas' population is skewed toward the elderly with underlying health conditions that predisposes to severe COVID-19 cases. So far, SARS-Cov-2 has shown to be a ferocious master pathogen that can be spread even by people without symptoms. In only a few months it has triggered lockdowns of the world and claimed thousands of lives. In Arkansas, the epicenters of infection are the crowded places like prisons, thus following the characteristic spread of the disease. This means uncontrolled opening up of the state can have dire consequences.

I feel any program for opening up needs a delicate balance between social response and a clinical response. It should be based on a triage not only of patients but seemingly healthy people. Arkansas state and local governments should offer robust support for telecommuting and remote learning. Statewide face mask wearing and social distancing should be enforced during the reopening. More importantly, there should be designated testing centers to intensify screening the public particularly in places of large gathering with rigorous contact tracing efforts to help interrupt the transmission. This should last long enough to aid in abating community transmission in the country. 📌



PHOTO BY JEFF MONTGOMERY



NEWSMAKERS

ADMISSIONS

Emily Conner joined the Office of Admissions in December 2019. She serves as an admissions counselor recruiting prospective undergraduate students from Northwest Arkansas and Missouri.

ATHLETICS

Zach Beasley was appointed assistant baseball coach in December 2019. Before filling this role, Beasley served as assistant football coach and head baseball coach at Hazen High School.

CENTER FOR CHARITABLE ESTATE PLANNING

Ken Bissell was named director for charitable estate planning Feb. 1. Bissell has served since 2011 as the senior advancement officer supporting Harding alumni and friends in Texas and the southeastern United States.

COLLEGE OF ALLIED HEALTH

Mary Madill was appointed program director of the physician assistant program effective April 1. She is taking the position previously held by Dr. **Michael Murphy** who is retiring in July. Madill previously served as academic director for the program, which is being filled by **Amanda Diles**.

COLLEGE OF SCIENCES

Dr. **James Huff** was named as a *Journal of Engineering Education* Star Reviewer for 2019 in April 2020.

DINING SERVICES

Lewis Curtis was appointed head executive chef of the dining program. Curtis has more than 14 years culinary experience with businesses and leaders from around the world.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNICATION

Sarah Pearce, Nicole Swann and Hannah Wise successfully presented their research virtually to the International Organization of Social Science and Behavioral Research on March 26. Their research papers were titled "Effects of Digital Ad Platform on Consumer Perceptions of Brand Ethicality," "Sorry, Not Sorry: An Analysis of Celebrity Apologies on Social Media from 2013-2019," and "Communication Management Theory: Effects on Mental Health and Willingness to Attend Professional Counseling," respectively. Pearce and Wise received best paper awards for their presentations. **Hannah Faulkner** was awarded third place in the Jeanie Dolan Carter Memorial Collegiate Poetry Contest in April. Her poem was titled "Haunted House."

Alexa Blankenship, Melanie Cummings, Logan Hoffner, Connor O'Keefe, Nick Stevenson, Patrick Kelly and Zane Harris contributed to the production of "Sell Searcy," a promotional film by Jake Reeves of OakenElk media made for the Small Business Revolution Hulu series. The film received a gold medal at the ADDY Awards given by the American Advertising Agency in February.

Student Publications editors **Emma Aly, Emily Nicks and Hannah Wise** attended the annual College Media Association conference in New York City in March. The Bison was awarded third place for best newspaper and Shockwave Radio received third place for best podcast.

Student Publications received more than 70 awards from the Arkansas College Media Association including second place overall in general excellence for The Bison and *Petit Jean*.

HONORS COLLEGE

Ashlyn Wilson was selected by the Great Plains Honors Council as the winner of the Boe Award for the second consecutive year. Wilson's paper was titled "Gender, Images and Evaluation of Abuse Survivors."



Keeping a team mindset

By SCOTT GOODE, assistant athletic director for sports information

THE MONTH OF MARCH IS AN extremely busy time for the University's athletic department. The winter sports of basketball and indoor track and field reach a climax with basketball in its post-season and track and field athletes pushing to qualify for the national meet. At the same time, the spring sports of baseball, softball, tennis, golf and outdoor track and field are hitting the most important parts of their regular seasons.

The first two weeks of March 2020 were no different. The women's basketball team reached the Great American Conference Tournament in Bartlesville, Oklahoma. Junior Kinga Szarzynska, a native of Poland, qualified for the indoor national track and field meet in the 800 meters and was among the favorites to earn All-America honors.

Harding's spring sports were in full swing. On March 12, the baseball team was 18-6, had won 11 of its last 12 games, and was near the top of the GAC standings. The squad was preparing to host Oklahoma Baptist in a three-game series that would set them as the early favorite for the conference championship.

The softball team was preparing for a trip to meet Oklahoma Baptist for a four-game series in Shawnee, Oklahoma.

The men's tennis team was 14-1 and had won eight straight. The women's tennis team was 14-5 and had won 11 straight. The men were scheduled to play regional powerhouse Washburn on Friday, and both teams were slated to meet Delta State Saturday in Mississippi.

Harding's golf teams had only a couple of tournaments remaining in the regular season and both were in contention to earn places in the NCAA Division II regional tournaments.

Outdoor track and field had just begun its season. The squads had competed in a meet at Hendrix College, and the multi-event athletes just finished the Harding Spring Break Multi in Searcy. Szarzynska was on her way to Birmingham, Alabama, with her coaches to compete at indoor nationals. Her meet was canceled the day before she was scheduled to run.



Tennis courts sit empty waiting for the return of players in this April drone shot.

Then late in the day on Thursday, March 12, it all stopped. No more baseball series, softball series, tennis matches, golf tournaments or track meets. The COVID-19 pandemic forced the NCAA to cancel all events for the rest of the season.

Harding's coaches and student-athletes moved into transition mode.

"We shifted from getting ready for the next game or practice to trying to meet the individual needs of each player on our teams and working through it," athletic director Jeff Morgan said. "We are used to seasons ending and how to deal with those, but we were dealing with teams whose seasons ended in a way we have never seen before."

Sports ended but school continued with all classes moving online, and the transition had to quickly take place. Spring break ended that

weekend, and classes moved online the following week.

The transition was especially tricky for some of Harding's teams with large international student contingents. Many returned to their home countries to continue their academic semesters. Harding tennis coach David Redding had 11 international students on his men's and women's teams.

"I KEEP UP WITH THEM ALMOST EVERY DAY," Redding said. "The athletes from Spain and France had to be quarantined immediately, and the hope was that everyone stays strong and healthy. It is just really disappointing that the season ended the way it did because we were having such a great year."

Another key aspect of the transition for coaches was making sure that students adjust-

ed to taking all their classes online.

"Pretty early after classes went online, I reached out to all of our players to make sure that they had what they needed to finish their semester online," baseball coach Dr. Patrick McGaha said. "I also talked to several professors to let them know how much I appreciated them during this transition. We had almost no issues at all."

While the shutdown caused some changes, other aspects of the athletic department continued. Coaches still recruited potential student-athletes via virtual tours and conversations. New information was reviewed as it came in and was communicated to members of the athletic department. And the bond of the teams was kept a priority.

"One of the most important aspects of coping during shutdown was getting information from the NCAA and GAC and passing those rulings to our coaches and athletes to keep them informed," Morgan said. "We also encouraged our coaches to be monitoring their athletes academically, to stay in touch through Zoom meetings, and to keep that connection as a team."

Those connections are what the Harding community is looking forward to when everyone is able to return to the fields of play. But in the meantime, head football coach Paul Simmons gave a challenge to his team.

"My message to my players every day is, 'Do what you are supposed to do and be accountable, but then figure out who around you needs you the most, who is hurting, and how can you go be Jesus Christ to those around you that are hurting,'" Simmons said.

"The truth is that people need us, and we are built for this. There has never been a time in my lifetime where there has been more opportunity to lead and to serve and to be an example of the way Jesus wants us to live."

"My hope is when all this calms down, that there is going to be a great benefit from it," Simmons said. "Jesus says in John 16 that in this world you are going to have trouble — and this feels like trouble — but take heart, because I have overcome the world." 🙏

PHOTO BY MIKE JAMES

PHOTO BY JEFF MONTGOMERY

For the latest sports information, visit hardingsports.com.

BY THE NUMBERS

44 Games senior Miles Humphreys reached base, the last 23 of the 2019 baseball season and the first 21 of the 2020 season, beating Harrison Hunter's record of 35 games in 2015.

565 Points scored by junior men's basketball player Romio Harvey during the 2019-20 season, the most since Matt Hall scored 643 points in 2007-08.

2 Number of women's basketball players in Harding's career top 10 in both rebounds and assists — senior Peyton Padgett and Harding Hall of Famer Bridget Benson.

73.64 Career scoring average of sophomore Ryan Camras, the lowest by any Harding golfer with 50 or more career rounds played.

317.87 Scoring average of the Lady Bison golf team through 15 rounds of the 2019-20 season, the best scoring average in program history and topping the 2012-13 team at 322.63.

1.093 On-base percentage plus slugging percentage compiled by freshman softball player Nicole Shano through the season's first 24 games. She was on pace to break the Lady Bison freshman record of 1.087 set by Alexis Lawellin in 2016 when the season was cut short.

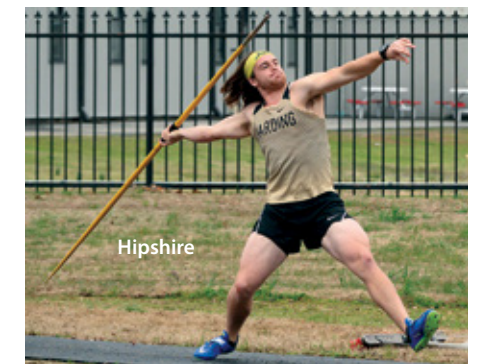
.815 Winning percentage of junior Morgan Salvan who was 13-1 in singles when the season ended early and 53-12 in his career. The .815 winning percentage is the highest ever for a Bison tennis player who has 50 or more wins.

22 Number of doubles matches won by senior Rylie Cox Evans and junior Hana Folsie together during the 2019-20 Lady Bison tennis season, tying the school record set by Laura Golubic and Piper Huey in 2017.

3 Number of school records broken during the 2020 indoor track season — freshman Dakarai Bush in the 200 meters, senior Mitchell Kessler in the weight throw, and junior Matt Hipshire in the heptathlon.

2:10.59 Time junior Kinga Szarzynska ran the 800 meters at the fifth-annual Indoor Gorilla Classic in Pittsburg, Kansas, qualifying her for the NCAA Division II Indoor Track and Field Championship with the ninth-best time in Division II. The NCAA canceled the meet one day before she was to run in the preliminaries.

6,259 Junior Matt Hipshire's decathlon score at the Harding Spring Break Multi, placing him third on Harding track's career performers list.



4,606 and **4,481** Scores of senior Emily Shell-Collins and junior Darcy Sanford in the heptathlon at the Harding Spring Break Multi, the two best heptathlon scores in Lady Bison track history.

BACK TO Pakistan



Gordon Hogan and his children, Julie Garner, Beth James and Dave, smile for a photo at Lahore American School, one of many locations they toured in a February trip to revisit the city and places where the Hogan family served as missionaries in the 1960s.

Interview by JANTZEN HALEY, photography by DAVE HOGAN

If the opportunity arises

to revisit the places where you spent your youth in the mission field more than 50 years later, you take it. Gordon Hogan, now 92 years old, and his three children, Beth James ('73), Dave Hogan ('78) and Julie Garner ('79), made a nine-day trip in early February 2020 to Lahore, Pakistan, visiting many of the places and people that marked their time as a missionary family in the 1960s. Dave, a talented photographer, shares the visit via images while Julie and Beth share their reflections in words.

Where all did you live growing up?

JULIE: I was three years old when my parents, Gordon and Jane Hogan, made the decision to go to India in 1960. They tell me we flew from New York to Germany, where we (and two other families) purchased three Volkswagen camper vans and drove all through the Holy Land following Paul's missionary journeys recorded in the book of Acts. **BETH:** When we arrived in Lahore, Pakistan, and found the visas we applied for to go to India had been denied, Dad flew to Karachi, Pakistan, and secured paperwork for us to stay in Lahore. We had driven overland from Germany for about four months. That in and of itself was a journey of a lifetime!

What is one story or distinctive memory from your childhood?

BETH: Most of my memories are of our family discovering new things together in new places. We flew to London, flew to Germany, and then drove to Pakistan. That journey of four months was rich with new places, sights and smells. Some were hardships — we were mired in thick mud, stuck in the middle of a stream, had tea with the king's brother in Iran, turned over in a ditch in Turkey, mama was sick in a hospital, but the kindness of strangers made it a trip of a lifetime ending with living in Lahore. Watching my parents navigate the unknown with our family helped me learn to navigate life for the better. **JULIE:** I was the one Hogan child who was the pickiest eater on the planet. My mother, having survived the Great Depression in her childhood, was not a fan of her youngest not eating everything on her plate. One night at supper she decided she was going to wait me out. Bless her heart. I was whining about how I hated green peas, which were stone cold at that point, to which my mother countered, "Millions of starving children in India would love to have those green peas on your plate." As young as I was, even I saw the hilarity in her statement, and I suggested that the neighbor kids just outside our compound would want them just as much as the kids right across the border in India (14 miles away from our house in Lahore). I ate the green peas ... probably the last green peas ever to pass my lips!

The ministry started by the Hogans continues today at Lahore Church of Christ.



How did your time in Pakistan shape who you are today?

JULIE: Our international childhood gave us a global perspective that I don't think we would have acquired growing up in Pinellas Park, Florida. There is just something instantly connecting between folks who have traveled and/or lived overseas. I have maintained friendships from all these various seasons of my life because they are golden. I just recently found out that a woman, a few years my senior, who has lived and raised her family here in little old Dexter (Missouri), was raised in Peshawar, Pakistan. We made a date for tea and have become fast friends. We share something that no one else understands. When someone crosses my radar with any kind of international background, I make a beeline to go talk to them and share any common experiences. When others travel to remote areas, I follow their Facebook or Instagram feed with dedication, hoping for perhaps a glimpse of a city or experience of my youth.

But beyond the international experience, the influence of what this life my parents had chosen and we got to participate in, of making disciples half a world away, meant. How can that NOT shape who we are today? Any visiting missionary invited to speak where we worship here in Dexter/Bernie are like

visiting royalty to me. I want to soak up what they have to say, what they were trying to do. Our Pakistan/Singapore lives have permanently colored everything I have ever done and will do in my life.

BETH: I definitely grew up with a foot in two worlds. Being 11 when arriving in another culture and transitioning to an 18-year-old missionary kid was definitely impactful. I don't think I realized it so much when growing up there — that our life was different than anyone else. But virtually growing up overseas in the '60s, you were very cut off from those in the U.S. It took two weeks to get an airgram (a letter on a prepaid folded sheet) and longer for anything else. Packages came a few times; we had no telephone; and of course computers were not around! Telegrams were sent if we needed to know something immediately. We came to view those as sad or bad news. I attended an all-girls school and was the only foreign student. It was taught in English. My last year I transferred to the Lahore American School to get credits needed for college entrance. It was coed American students, diplomat kids, oil workers, etc. with very small classes (there were seven seniors). All of these factors made me see we had a different life than most of my college friends. We were exposed to many different cultures in Lahore, which broadens your worldview and increases your knowledge of those around you.

Which places did you visit in your recent trip, and what was it like to see those places and people today?

BETH: It took a few days to get our bearings because Lahore has grown so much since we left. It was a city of 1 million when we lived there, now it is about 12 million. The cultural aspects have not changed much, but the infrastructure has. Many large roads, large mall complexes and tall buildings exist now. When we lived there most buildings were from the era of British rule in India, since it was all one country until 1947. We toured some of the historic sites such as the Badshahi Mosque, Lahore Fort and some of the gardens in the area. We searched for old addresses of places we had lived and found two of them.



Beth James and Julie Garner peruse the handcrafted shoe selection at a local shop. While ready-made clothes and fixed prices are much more common in Lahore today, intricate stitching, beautiful fabrics and negotiable prices are still part of the shopping culture.

JULIE: Finding the property at Siddiqui Street (now Abu Bakar in New Garden Town) where we lived the longest was monumental. It took a dedicated driver to finally locate the property. The compound wall was still there, but the house was gone. This property housed our family in one half of the house and the worship area in the other half. The floor where we worshipped had bright red, waxed floors. All of this was gone. We took pictures of where it used to be and compared them to pictures of us in that very place. When people use the word “bittersweet,” that word encapsulated our experience standing in the midst of that compound. We only wish our mom could have joined us there.

BETH: We spent all day Sunday with the church family in Lahore and again on Thursday evening as we gathered in a tiny home of one of the local families for tea and cookies and a time to share Scripture. We sat in chairs my dad had purchased for worship in the '60s, and he preached from the old lectern he had someone build during our early years in Lahore. All of us cried tears of joy being with the brethren. The work had been a part of our lives so many years before,

and is still alive and thriving and so dear to our hearts. We visited our old schools and had tea time with two of my Pakistani school mates. We had a huge spread of food and visited for several hours after having been separated for 52 years. I thought it might be awkward after all these years as adults ... also separated by different faiths, but we picked up, filling in the gaps of our distance and years with laughter and tears.

JULIE: On our Sunday in Lahore, Dad delivered the message and Asghar Ali translated, just like back in the day. Dad had taught and baptized Asghar in 1962. He has remained faithfully carrying on all these years, preaching the word of God. Seeing and hugging Asghar again after all these years was heart bursting. Seeing Asghar and my dad together again was heart melting. As one of Dad's girls meeting one of Asghar's girls — heart-rending.

What are the most significant changes to the places, the people, the culture?

JULIE: The walls. There are now walls around every significant building in Lahore — walls with massive metal gates and gun-toting guards. You must make an

appointment to visit many places. We had trouble recognizing places because the walls obscured views of the buildings. Security checkpoints were set up in various parts of Lahore. None of this existed in the '60s when we lived there. As we drove into our hotel compound several times a day, the gate would open, the security guards would check under the hood and in the trunk of the car. America and Americans were loved in the '60s. Now there is a “going-to-keep-you-at-arms-length” for a minute ... and then it was just like when we were kids. The everyday Pakistani was curious about these foreigners visiting their city. First question — where are you from? Next question — do you like Pakistan? Our answer was always a resounding “we love Pakistan!” Instant friends.

BETH: The most significant changes are to the city infrastructure. Because of the sheer growth of the population it has had to keep up. Many of the older sections have been torn down and built up. Ox carts and horse-drawn tongas have been exchanged for many more cars. Cell phones are everywhere, and people constantly stopped us to take photos with them. We saw no foreign activity anywhere, which was unusual for

us. Travelers of many nationalities used to be present. Interaction between males and females was much more prevalent. Lahore in our days was very segregated between males and females. In those days, women wore the burka and stayed at home. Now all are out and interacting, and some have public jobs — unheard of when I was a kid. Stores have ready-made clothes, as opposed to selecting material and having everything stitched from a picture. Many stores also have fixed prices for things — as a child we bargained for every purchase. Also many food products are available now in chain grocery stores. As a kid we bought meat fresh from an on-the-street butcher, fresh vegetables and fruit. Milk used to come directly from a local seller that bought it from a farmer and watered down a few times and then sold to us, or sometimes the water buffalo was milked at our house as they walked from house to house. We also had someone who brought fresh ground peanut butter door to door on a donkey. They spooned it out of a larger vat into your own container and sold it by weight. It was not homogenized or pasteurized or very smooth and had to be stirred before every use because of the oil collecting on the top, but it was good! We made our own mayonnaise, marshmallows and potato chips. Now Lays and other companies are in local stores.

What has remained largely the same?

JULIE: It is still very much a male-dominated Muslim controlled country. There are people everywhere. As women, Beth and I knew when to cover our heads with dupattas (head scarves). Cricket is still THE sport. Glass bangles are still very popular. Eat only with your right hand. The traffic is horrendous. You had to just learn to not look out of the car window. Even with signs that said fixed price, you could still bargain and get the “special price for foreign visitors.” My overall takeaway within an hour of being back in Lahore is that the hospitality of Pakistanis is unparalleled. Wherever we went, in the finest areas and the poorest areas, we were sincerely welcomed, always. It was a humbling nine days that will forever be etched in my heart.

BACK TO Pakistan

Were there any signs or restrictions regarding coronavirus as you were traveling?

JULIE: Fortunately, we were traveling right before this impacted most international travel. I think the only restrictions were travel to and from China at the time. When we arrived at the airport in Lahore, there were three uniformed men scanning all incoming passengers with forehead scanner thermometers. They did it so rapidly, I wondered how they could even read one before scanning the next person. But perhaps they were proficient at it!

BETH: They took our temperature when we arrived at the airport, and those people were wearing masks. We didn't see anything else related to it except for a few signs in a couple of public places, but definitely no social distancing going on in that incredibly crowded city. Stores were full and busy, and traffic was heavy.

BETH: The Muslim culture is still very much the driving force, but at least in the major cities like Lahore, the people seem more relaxed about the rules. Even at the active Badshahi Mosque, there was no one monitoring dress code, head covering or behavior, like it is in other cities where we have traveled. The people in Lahore have always been friendly, but this trip we were overwhelmed with how kind people were to us as travelers. Everywhere we stopped people introduced themselves, many times mentioning relatives in the U.S. and wanting to help us in some way. At a shopping area a family stopped as we were having trouble with our loaner phone, gave us their Uber and arranged to send a car for us to eat with them the next night. We went and had a nice meal together and have met their relatives here in Oklahoma since returning.

What does it mean to you to be able to revisit these locations with your father 52 years later?

JULIE: As they say in the MasterCard commercials: Priceless. Who gets this kind of gift given them? To go back to their childhood home in Pakistan with their 92-year-old Dad and brother and sister? It was truly priceless. I would do it again in a heartbeat.

BETH: Visiting in Lahore with my Dad and siblings meant we had come full circle. The days living in Lahore were during my formative years growing up and helped shape attitudes and feelings toward others and experiences. I think all this early traveling made our time in Greece when we served as directors of HUG and as faculty at HUF and HUA especially meaningful. We pulled together and worked to learn about new and different things, including a language and customs very different than our own. Now we are grown and have families of our own who will never really be able to know what that life was like, but together we were able to feel transported back to a very important place and time in our lives and see how it has changed and is yet so familiar. The only part missing was our mama, who passed away four years ago. Having her with us would have made our hearts complete. 🇵🇰



Gordon Hogan stands in what remains of the pool and baptistry behind where the Hogans lived and worshiped in Lahore. The rest of the property is no longer there.

HARDING at a DISTANCE
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By HANNAH OWENS

W

hen I stepped into the office on April 16, 2020, it was like stepping back in time. Campus had been nearly empty for more than a month, but I made the trip to campus to complete this story assignment — I knew writing would be more meaningful in this place. The stack of *The Bison* newspapers we provide for visitors to our department was still neatly sitting on the coffee table. Before I even turned on the office lights, visible from the doorway were the words “Leaving Florence” under the masthead over a photo of Florence, Italy. The headline on that issue, stamped with a date of Feb. 28, wasn’t breaking news anymore, and so much has happened since that ink first dried. As I locked in on that space above the fold, in that moment it was like time was frozen. For the first time ever, students were not rushing to chapel, classrooms were empty, and we probably made the least amount of chicken biscuits we’ve ever made. Harding was still existing — still teaching, nurturing and providing — for its students, but those students were far away.

HARDING at a DISTANCE

The first report of a person who tested positive for the novel 2019 coronavirus in the United States came Jan. 21, sending shockwaves through every industry across the country. But the top of the news hour was reserved for stories surrounding the virus in early January when the World Health Organization identified a surge in “pneumonia of unknown cause” in Wuhan, China. The world watched as this highly contagious strain of coronavirus, COVID-19, spread over city lines, international borders and continents. Words such as “uncertain,” “unprecedented” and “social distancing” defined this experience that tied every human on earth together. Health care workers stayed where they are every day — on the front lines of saving and preserving human life. Almost everyone else was instructed to stay home.

According to the WHO, “Coronaviruses are a large family of viruses which may cause illness in animals or humans. In humans, several coronaviruses are known to cause respiratory infections ranging from the common cold to more severe diseases.” COVID-19, a completely new coronavirus, was first discovered in a Chinese seafood and poultry market. WHO says person to person exchange of the virus occurs “through small droplets from the nose or mouth which are spread when a person with COVID-19 coughs or exhales.” The CDC and other health professionals communicated preventative

measures like avoiding close contact with people, especially those who are sick; frequent hand washing; wearing a mask in public; cleaning and disinfecting surfaces often touched; and staying home.

Harding’s first decision as a result of COVID-19 came Feb. 26 when the announcement was made classes were suspended at its study abroad program in Florence, Italy. The University’s decision to suspend all on-ground classes was reported March 12 during spring break. Faculty began transitioning all course materials into online learning environments, and most students completed their coursework far from within the University’s classroom walls. University administrators monitored movement of the virus in addition to state and nationwide efforts to stop the spread to ensure Harding’s response aligned with guidelines and recommendations.

It was a spring without Spring Sing, sporting events and speakers. As classroom instruction went virtual, the effects of our empty campus reached far and wide. In the next few pages, several different voices of our community reflect on this time in history from their perspective.

Harding is a beautiful place, but this semester Harding was an experience that transcended a physical space. There were challenges and obstacles to overcome, but chapel on social media was no less thoughtful, classes were no less



prepared for, and relationships were no less meaningful. As a writer for *Harding* magazine, I’ve interviewed many people — students, faculty, staff and alumni. The one question people have the most common answer to is, “What makes Harding so special?” “The people,” most say. Harding operated completely at a distance for the first time ever in spring 2020, but people — faculty, staff, students, alumni — contin-

ued to do what they do to make Harding the truly special place it is. It’s great to be at Harding, even at home. 📺

EDITOR’S NOTE: *Hannah Owens, director of digital media, has been a vital part of the magazine staff since 2011. Her contributions will be sorely missed as she left the University in May for a new position.*

COVID-19 TIMELINE OF EVENTS AT HARDING & BEYOND

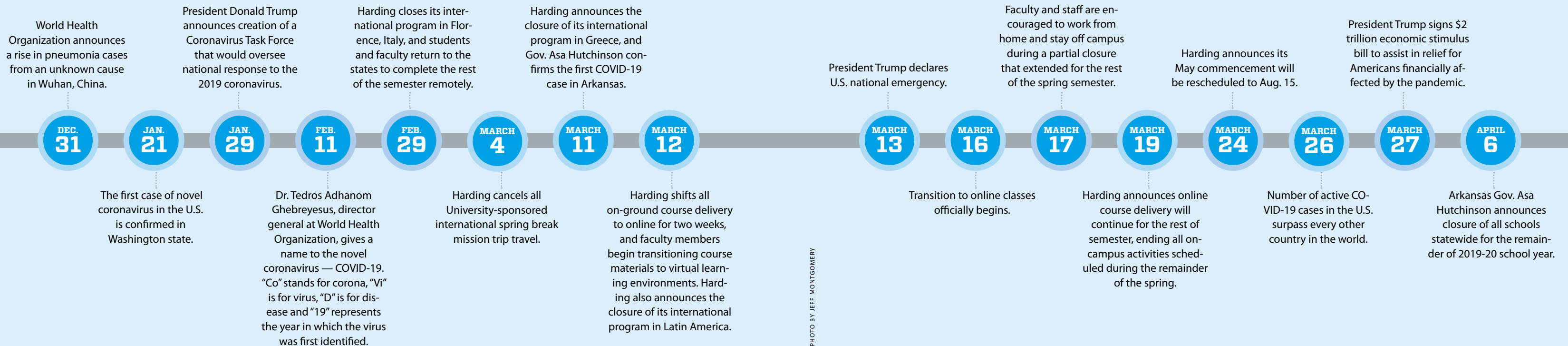


PHOTO BY JEFF MONTGOMERY

Students, faculty, staff, alumni and parents share their perspectives from the pandemic.

HARDING at a **DISTANCE**
HARDING at a **DISTANCE**
HARDING at a **DISTANCE**



Seeking beauty

WHEN ASKED TO WRITE a piece for this magazine about my international experience at Harding University Florence being cut short due to COVID-19, I was overwhelmed with what I could talk about. There of course have been negative effects to coming home so early from Italy, but I am focusing attention on how I've twisted the negative into something positive by turning the whole situation to my benefit these past couple of months.

To provide an idea of what transpired leading up to us leaving, students received the news that the campus in Italy was being shut down in late February just three weeks after we arrived in the country. After being told the news, we spent our last few days in Florence visiting museums, churches and, most importantly, discovering as many new gelato shops as possible before going to the airport in Rome. To end the experience, the amazing staff threw a banquet for everyone, which is something students usually throw for staff at the end of each semester. It was such an emotional, raw and perfect way to end our time with each other.

I want to make one thing unambiguous. Though our time abroad was reduced substantially, those three weeks were the most

enriching and rewarding weeks of my life. The kindness, support and love that exuded from our director had profound effects on our attitudes toward embracing everything foreign that we encountered. We got to know the locals, we learned about the art and history of the city, but what I'll always remember and what I took away from Robbie (Shackelford) is to aggressively seek beauty every day. We all took this advice and remembered it as we walked into buildings with magnificent architecture, but we also remembered to seek beauty in something as simple as a grocery store or a coffee shop.

As I wake up every morning in my house in Colorado, I try to seek beauty in every way possible. Because of the virus, I've learned a few new songs on the piano, I'm starting to read much more than I used to, and I've learned that cooking has easily become one of my favorite pastimes.

I'm also discovering that this time with my family is precious and that I should cherish every moment while I can. If you think about it, how often does the entire world come to a halt and you get to spend time with the ones you love the most? I've used this time since coming home to discover new things about myself and learned not to view this experience as an impediment but to see it as a rare opportunity for growth. I hope others are doing the same. Next time you wake up, wake up with this in mind and it will change your entire attitude for the rest of your day: Aggressively seek beauty!

JAKE RIGGS, April 22

A bigger plan

PERU UPDATE: Thank you everyone for your prayers and encouraging words! We are having quite the time as we navigate uncertain times, but we are making the most of it with plenty of love and community!

Every day of the past week has potentially been our "last day" as many people have been working hard to get us flights back. I'm so thankful (especially for our director and Harding's abroad programs) for being so diligent and hardworking!

Once again, tomorrow may be the day. The MOST LIKELY course of action will be to get on a bus in the afternoon for an 18-hour ride to Lima. We'll stay in a hotel until our chartered flight to the U.S. leaves on Sunday.

Again, this is OUR plan, and something

we're learning is that OUR plans are not fail proof. We're all in a much bigger plan, and I'm so grateful for each step of the plan we've been a part of. On this trip, we've seen things with the least likely probability occur despite their improbability. From a worldwide virus to being called back home, to the descent of a random fog, to unfortunate typos in an important document, to the daily question of if we'd be granted permission to travel — I am learning that what I want to happen and what I think is the best way are not things I can hold fast to.

That's the end of the update, keep reading for a piece of my heart.

Thank you for your prayers. We are not one more thing to worry about. There are too many things that are clamoring for front and center attention right now. Instead, take hold of what



you know to be true and hold fast! We hold His hand, and He is guiding us everywhere we go. We have an opportunity to grow through crisis. Lean into the lessons being shown to you. Instead of asking "Why?" I dare you to ask "What?" What are you being shown, what can you learn, what are you hoping in?

I'm so broken, but I'm so redeemed.

GRANT COUNTESS, March 26 Facebook post

The HULA group arrived in the U.S. March 30.

PHOTOS SUBMITTED

Learning to teach online

IN THE TRANSITION TO TEACHING ONLINE, concern for our students has been the overriding theme, and we have been able to gauge what our students are feeling through the experiences of our own children. One, a college freshman, feels the loss of friends and community, her routine and her independence. She returned home to a world that feels a little too much like high school. Our younger daughter watches the milestones of her senior year of high school

Sing, celebrating graduates at senior award ceremonies, and meeting prospective students in person.

The shift to online has been hard for professors of composition classes, and they've accommodated by reviewing essay drafts over Zoom and Facetime and tracking changes in Word files, a labor-intensive process. I have been fortunate to offer my English classes synchronously, since they are discussion based, but as I launched the first Zoom meeting, I wondered

if my students would attend, and if my plans were even feasible through cameras and internet connections. But the class began, and my picture was joined by students logging in, their faces accumulating on the screen like "The Brady Bunch." And I saw that they were OK, and in fact they were happy to see me and one another, and we began class and did the best we could do to make this new normal work. Seeing my students' faces pop onto the screen, hearing their voices, replying to their comments and questions, brought tears to my eyes because interacting with



being clipped away like the limbs of a pruned tree: Her final theatre production, prom, senior ceremonies at school and church, and graduation. Questions about the future dog her as she weighs college options. It's easy to project their sense of loss, fear, isolation and anger onto our own students.

Our efforts have been devoted to retooling our syllabi to make sure that important student learning outcomes are met, to learning new technologies like Zoom and the finer points of Canvas (Harding's learning management platform), to finding ways to do things we take for granted in face-to-face interactions, to managing the emotional and technical disruptions faced by our students. Nursing faculty have faced moving from hospital-based clinical hours to virtual, case-study-based clinical hours, no easy task. This all comes with the emotional drain of empty buildings and closed office doors and canceling the events that highlight the spring semester, such as seeing alumni at Spring

students is the best reason for choosing this line of work.

In the College of Nursing, classes quickly moved to Zoom and/or recorded Echo lectures. Faculty have become creative by filming their own cases in our state-of-the-art simulation labs. Textbook publishers, especially Elsevier and F.A. Davis, scrambled to provide faculty and students with resources at discounted rates or even free of charge. Like Terry, seeing my students has been extremely emotional and I cried the first time we met via Zoom. The College of Nursing has many alumni working on the front lines of this pandemic. The faculty walk the halls, looking at class composites and praying for our alumni, along with all health care professionals, who are working to save lives and serve the Lord.

DR. TERRY ENGEL, English department chair

DR. LISA ENGEL ('88), Carr College of Nursing associate professor
April 13

Strengths and blessings

THE END OF THE SPRING SEMESTER has certainly not played out as anticipated for either students or teachers at Harding University. As I taught my last class before spring break, I chatted with my students about their plans, encouraged them to get some much-needed rest, and looked forward to seeing them in one short week. I didn't expect that it would be many months before I saw them again.

As I've talked with both graduate and undergraduate students, I hear many of the same concerns. Spotty internet, missing motivation and elusive time management skills are common challenges for students across all levels of learning. In addition to these hurdles, graduate students are facing other worries. In our master's program for speech-language pathology,



graduates must demonstrate academic knowledge and clinical skills across a wide scope of practice before they are eligible for professional credentials. They also must log a minimum of 400 hours of direct client contact.

To assist in meeting these requirements, externship placements are a significant part of our training program. As concern over the novel coronavirus increased over break, many sites where SLP students were placed for externships were not able to continue supervising our students. These decisions left students and faculty looking for valid and creative ways to help students complete requirements for licensure. The timeline has been especially tight for our May graduates, many of whom have already accepted jobs around the state and nation.

To meet these challenges, we have utilized our willing community partners to a larger degree than ever before. Speech pathologists

whose settings have continued to allow students have embraced them with open arms and been willing to heavily invest in their training. We are utilizing an online simulation platform and have invested in some new technology to help our students develop skills they won't have time to get in their externships this year. Our on-campus speech clinic is now providing teletherapy to clients of all ages who were previously being seen in the clinic, at Harding Academy, or in other clinics around the state. Our clinic is free, so we don't have to deal with insurance issues that can make service delivery challenging in other places. Making these changes quickly has allowed us to keep these students on track for an on-time graduation — we are all very proud of that.

My role in academia during this experience has revealed numerous strengths and blessings I might not have seen in absence of a global pandemic. I am so proud of the CSD faculty and the creative diligence they've shown in support of our students. Faculty have gone above and beyond all expectations to help our students graduate on time without sacrificing the quality of their training. Our students have demonstrated a determination and resilience they might not have known they possessed. I see students advocating for themselves and paying close attention to the national dialogue surrounding changing practice patterns, infection control and quickly-evolving evidence to support best practices in patient care. Faculty are utilizing new technologies and finding additional ways to deliver course content. While I hope we never live through another pandemic, the resourcefulness and flexibility that's being uncovered now will undoubtedly serve each of us well when life returns to normal.

DR. MELANIE MEEKE ('95), *Communication Sciences and Disorders chair, April 9*

Missing her mission

LIKE MANY AROUND THE NATION, my recent travel plans were canceled at the last minute. I had planned to spend my spring break serving the residents of the City of Children in Ensenada, Mexico. However, my mission group was told that due to concerns regarding the spread of COVID-19, there may be potential border closures. The University, desiring to keep our group safe, decided it was not prudent for us to travel to Mexico at this time. Those of our

number who had not been before were disappointed. Others, like me, who had been able to work with the people at the City of Children before were heartbroken. It wasn't because preparations for our time there had been in vain. Rather, it was the lost chance to see those sweet children and help those seeking to take care of them and teach them more about God.

Last year was my first time to go on a Harding-sponsored spring break mission trip to the City of Children. Several of my close friends, knowing how much I enjoy being with children, had asked me to join their group



heading to Ensenada. They were not mistaken. As an elementary education major, I thoroughly enjoyed preparing materials and lessons for our time there and spending spring break forming relationships with those precious children. That's why I was so excited to return this year and see them all again! Even though we spoke different languages, we were still able to interact with one another and build friendships — not to mention the fact that their precious smiles could melt your heart. I began looking forward to returning this year as soon as our group left last March.

Next year at this time, I will be in the middle of my student teaching semester with graduation only a couple of months away, making this my last opportunity to go on a spring break mission trip as an undergraduate student. However, you can be sure that I will be looking for other chances to go back to the City of Children.

Plans change. Things far beyond our control happen, but one thing remains the same — God's love for us. He will see us through this time of uncertainty and will provide for the City of Children in the absence of foreign helpers. Of that I am certain, no matter the circumstance.

BRILEY SAUNDERS, April 12



Senior season

ON THURSDAY, March 12, 2020, the entire college sports world came to a halt, including the immediate suspension of all Great American Conference games.

The previous Monday, March 9, everything seemed normal. We were going to head to Oklahoma Baptist University on Thursday, play four games, and come back home late Saturday night. We practiced like normal on Tuesday amid growing concerns about the virus and what was going to happen. Wednesday, the whole team heard about March Madness and the teams playing with no crowd. Thursday, we went out to practice, wondering if it would be our last.

As a senior, I was terrified. I may have played my last game of softball ever, and I did not even know it at the time. We all felt so many emotions that day. My fellow seniors and I were in shock when head coach Phil Berry broke the news. He told us at the beginning of practice to think of it as the last one. It was overwhelming in so many ways. We also got news of the Harding campus shutting down and transitioning to online.

People in sports always say, "Play every game like it's going to be your last." As athletes, we hear it so often, but we don't truly understand what it means. For most of us, we know when our last game is going to be. At least, we think we know. My last game of my senior season had already been played in Durant, Oklahoma, against Southeastern Oklahoma.

Harding softball had five seniors this year whose final season was cut short: Katie Carney, Lindsey Duncan, Aidan Nichols, Mary Mills Lochala and me. This group of seniors poured everything we had into Lady Bison softball, and we wanted to accomplish so much. Katie, Lindsey and I had been at Harding since our freshman year. We were a part of the team that won a conference championship, hosted and won a regional, and hosted a super regional. We were one out away from heading to the world series. Aidan joined us in 2018 and made an immediate impact on the team. Mary Mills joined us in

LEFT PHOTO BY JEFF MONTGOMERY, RIGHT PHOTO SUBMITTED

LEFT PHOTO BY JEFF MONTGOMERY, RIGHT PHOTO SUBMITTED

On the front lines

MY COVID-19 EXPERIENCE is quite different compared to that of my friends and family. I started college at Harding in the fall of 2016. I was accepted into the Harding College of Pharmacy in the fall of 2018 and began coursework this past August. I chose to spend my senior year at Harding pursuing my first year of a doctoral program — a very unique situation! For the most part, my life remained normal. I was still active in my social club, Ju Go Ju, attended semiformal, and studied on campus at Starbucks with my friends.

I knew the coronavirus was bad as soon as the HUF Spring 2020 group was sent home. I spent spring 2018 in Florence and couldn't believe their experience had been taken in the blink of an eye. I went on with life as normal and didn't think much of the COVID-19 threat.

As my friends were in their last few months of college, we spent our senior spring break at Blue Mountain Beach in Santa Rosa, Florida. We had the trip planned for months. However, everything changed for me on March 12. My friends and I were sitting on the beach when we received an email from Dr. McLarty that school would be held online indefinitely. Reality hit me like a ton of bricks.

Since I was in pharmacy school, my lasts of college weren't really over. Technically they were, but since I had 3 1/2 years of school ahead of me, I wasn't in the same position as my



friends. I wasn't in search of a job or an apartment to live in like all of my 14 friends on the trip with me. They were devastated. Wedding showers, social club formals and our last Spring Sing were taken from us. It was a hard reality to face. We were forced to say our goodbyes and depart forever without a graduation to celebrate or senior tea (a Ju Go Ju tradition) to commemorate our four years in the social club that gave so much to us. It was very sad and surreal.

As we parted ways and began our new normals at home, my normal didn't really change. As a pharmacy intern at Walgreens in Searcy, I went on with life as normal, working long hours in the pharmacy with the fear of contracting COVID-19 through each person I encountered. I have actually been working almost full time since COVID-19 hit Arkansas. We have changed many policies at Walgreens, but every time I walk in the store I remain terrified of

catching the virus. While everyone else gets to shelter in place safely in their own homes, I cannot. I am on the front lines of this pandemic. It is scary and it is real.

My professors, classmates and friends have been so encouraging and uplifting during this time. I am so happy that I chose Harding to continue my education to become a pharmacist. The only thing getting me through this time is my faith. God remains in control and I confide in that. A verse that I have kept close to my heart during this time is Philippians 4:6-7, "Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus."

HANNAH JONES, Pharm.D. candidate class of 2023, April 2

2019 and brought her passion for the game.

Soon after the cancellation of the season, we waited to hear about eligibility relief for spring sport seniors. We found out that Division II was allowing seniors to return for a fifth year. While the other seniors already have jobs lined up and weddings to plan, I have decided to come back for a fifth year and start my Master of Business Administration through Harding.

We will be honoring the four seniors at Family Weekend in the fall.

I can't wait to see what Harding softball accomplishes during the 2021 season. This whole situation has enhanced my mindset. Every time I step on the field next year, I will not take it for granted. I want to play my last season for my group of seniors who didn't get to finish theirs.

BRILEY FERLINGA, April 10

Upside down

MARCH 5

I landed in Dallas to work some labor and delivery shifts to aid in our ability to get a home loan. This was a step in the preparation process as we transition back to America in June 2020. I was supposed to be here for two weeks.

Then the coronavirus exponentially wreaked havoc across the world.

MARCH 20

We learned that my flight back to Rwanda was cancelled. Rwanda closed its borders and suspended air travel, leaving me trapped here and my family across the world.

When U.S. embassy staff and Peace Corp volunteers were recalled from Rwanda and evacuated to the U.S., the urgency began to rear its head.

Then the word “indefinite” began circulating from our U.S. Embassy referencing Rwanda’s closure. This terminology meant our family could potentially be separated for many months.

MARCH 21

The most logical yet gut-wrenching decision was to have Eric and the kids depart Rwanda immediately.

Within 24 hours Eric packed up our entire home and life in six boxes to depart on one of the (if not THE) last flights departing the country. My enneagram type one and perfectionism took a big hit here not to be personally present to urgently pack our entire home and life. Far from ideal.

Eric walked around the house videoing while asking what I wanted to keep ... uh all of it. But not possible.

Meaningful goodbyes, visiting places one last time, hugging friends and so much more were not an option.

The last 24 hours have been unexpected, emotional and trying. This abrupt departure has been brutal; we never imagined eight years of mission work overseas ending like this. We’ve read the books, listened to seminars, and learned from others all about “leaving well.” Apparently we failed to factor in a world pandemic to our carefully planned exit.

Oddly enough, back in 2012, when we first stepped foot off the plane as long-term missionaries on foreign soil, we were in Wuhan. We were later led to Rwanda after being in China for several years. What a treasured journey this has been.

The guys are currently flying in the air. I told the kids that it’s not a matter of IF they’ll come in direct contact with corona but how many times as they travel internationally.

Upon landing, they will quarantine for two weeks at a dear friend’s lake house in Texas. Would you believe our friends hurriedly prepared the place and stocked it with some groceries in advance of them arriving?

Next they’ll visit family and we’re not sure what things look like beyond that.

I am in NYC working a crisis response assignment and begin tomorrow. It’s a ghost town here as I’m sure most places are at this point. A local guy here told me, “Nurses are the firefighters of 9/11,” which was like a punch to the gut.

FEMA has brought in hundreds of nurses. We’ve been told we’ll be in a hospital setting or drive-thru testing site. I have no idea what I’m walking into. OK, I have some idea based on the media.

I walked to get groceries from my hotel and Times Square is empty. It’s surreal. Oh, how I ache for the mental health issues living on the streets. I walked past several with a strong cough and also know that living in community is so dangerous for them. Yesterday the news reported one New Yorker dying per hour here.

I have a small arsenal of essential oils that I’ve been practically bathing in and dousing the inside of my face mask with. Ginger shots, eating gluten free/sugar free, probiotics, vitamins, apple cider vinegar, etc. — all the feels. And the incredible power of prayer covers. I’m gonna ward off corona with all I got. I won’t get sick without a strong fight first.

We couldn’t secure the paperwork in time to bring our dog and best friend, Sarge, with us. That’s also a huge blow as we call him our “working dog.” His gentle and tolerant nature would have brought such calm and peace to our kids if he were journeying with us. And who am I kidding, he’s my therapy dog, too. He’s in excellent hands with dear friends, and we hope to figure out a way to get him back as soon as possible.

In short, this has turned things upside down for us as it has for everyone. We’re tremendously grateful to all the folks who’ve helped our family along the way. It takes a village for sure. We’re so deeply sorry for the missed goodbyes. We painfully grieve this sudden loss; it feels surreal.

WENDY GREEN DAVENPORT ‘00
March 23 Facebook post



PHOTO SUBMITTED

Inform, record, connect

WHEN THE 2019-20 SCHOOL year began, we took a long look at the purpose of The Bison newspaper within Harding’s community. I was honored to be leading this publication, and I did not take the responsibility lightly. As a staff, we decided our purpose was twofold. First and foremost, we serve to inform the current community. Secondly, we serve to record history for the communities to come.

Inform and record. Along with an amazing team of fellow students and our faculty advisor, April Fatula, we spent our days on campus informing and recording. It became second nature — almost routine.

When we learned over spring break that we would not be returning to campus, we were shocked, just as most students were. It didn’t feel real. With such news though, The Bison needed to serve both its purposes: to inform and record.

For the next several weeks, as Harding’s situation continued to develop, The Bison team continued to work. Spread across the country, we made phone calls and sent emails. We edited stories virtually and came up with a new system. We were in the beginning stages of unprecedented times at Harding. More than ever before, we felt the need to inform our community and record history.

Now, we’ve begun to settle into the new normal. As we all dealt with our personal emotions and feelings about the semester’s strange evolution, we figured out how to continue our work. As a senior, I especially struggled with persevering through the emotional challenge of knowing my final weeks as a Harding student would take place away from the campus and community I had grown to love over four years. However, we knew there was still work to be done.

For the second half of the spring semester, we met with our writers and staff members via video conference calls instead of in the office. We uploaded new stories and content to The Link every Friday. We even established The Bison’s first e-newsletter, sent to our subscribers’ inboxes Friday mornings with the week’s top stories.

We have a new process, and our product looks different. However, our purpose remains the same. We inform our community, now spread across the world. We record history, knowing that many will be reading our words for years to come as a documentation of this time.

Through the process, we’ve also discovered a third purpose, just as important as the first two. In this confusing, uncertain time, The Bison serves to connect. We know how easy it is to feel completely cut off from the community during this time. We’re students ourselves



— we feel it, too. Because of that, The Bison has tried to connect our community through the stories and information we share.

Inform. Record. Connect. Working with The Bison newspaper this year has shown me the power of such simple, yet critical, purposes. It has been an honor to serve the community in this capacity, now more than ever.

EMILY NICKS, *The Bison editor-in-chief*,
April 12

Transition mode

I WAS IN UTAH ON A SKI TRIP when I heard that we were not returning to campus after spring break. Immediately, I switched into Student Association mode and began calling the other executive officers and our faculty advisors. Before long, we in the Student Association Council and our advisors agreed these circumstances called for a reassessment of our priorities. With the representatives no longer on campus, it would be impossible for the 12 SA committees to continue pursuing their projects and proposals. More importantly, the current circumstances rendered many of our projects temporarily moot. For example, the Technology Committee’s initiative to put printers in the lobbies of dorms is much less relevant if all



attention is now devoted to helping students vacate those same dorms.

I would be lying if I said this wasn’t disappointing or even frustrating. Projects we had worked passionately on for months had to be put on hold just when we had been racing to complete them before the transition into a new SA administration. Still, we didn’t have much time to grieve these potentially forgotten projects. The responsibilities of the SA did not stop when we left campus.

We laid out our new objectives as the following: assisting students (as well as the rest of the Harding community) in this transition and maintaining the most essential SA functions remotely. The first objective required that we focus on current dilemmas — working with the Office of Student Life to help students move out of campus residence halls as well as coordinating with the provost to educate students and faculty about online class etiquette and protocols. While these all dealt with current issues, the scope of our other objective focused more on the future of the Student Association.

In one of my first virtual meetings with Dr. James Huff, one of the SA faculty advisors, we agreed that our most fundamental responsibility for the time remaining was conducting a fair and accessible election. We held interest meetings via Zoom, spent hours communicating with all interested students and relevant administrators and staff, and updated our intent to file forms and candidacy petitions to Google Forms so candidates could run for office from all over the world. As I write this, our online election for the SA Council of 2020-21 is underway, and our advisors have informed me that voter turnout is excellent considering our situation. I am glad to say the torch is nearly passed, and the Student Association of our great school will outlast this pandemic.

Moving forward, we will continue doing what we can to support the students and administration during this challenging season. Until the end of our term, we will carry on the types of tasks I already mentioned, and we will almost certainly gain more. The most encouraging part of our situation is this: everyone wants to help. A class of public relations students has dedicated the rest of their semester to helping us keep the student body connected via social media, and I have seen other remarkable acts of kindness and generosity done by people at Harding and in the worldwide community recently. All in all, while none of this is what I ever expected for my closing chapter at Harding, I have witnessed encouraging blessings throughout it. I find solace in Mordecai’s advice to Esther that perhaps our generation was raised for such a time as this.

MICHAEL KRUPKA, *SA president*, *April 11*

Surrounded

AS I SAW THE EMAIL March 12, 2020, asking students not to come back to campus until further notice, I was in disbelief. At the time, it seemed confusing. Why were such drastic measures being taken when I was just at church the evening before? As I continued reading the email, I saw that Spring Sing was being postponed until on-campus classes resumed. While this was encouraging to see, I knew that no matter what Spring Sing looked like, it wouldn't be the same. However, I knew the producers were doing everything they could to work it out, and as a Spring Sing director, this provided a beacon of hope for me.

A few days passed, and I continuously checked the Spring Sing directors Facebook page. I was on the edge of my seat waiting to find out something, whether it was good or bad. Waiting was the hardest part, not knowing whether I needed to be making a checklist of the things to do as soon as I got back to campus. On March 19, 2020, a week after we had gotten the news about postponing on-campus activities, we got the news about Spring Sing being cancelled. I knew what was coming next: online classes for the rest of the semester.

At first, I was angry. How could this be happening the year that I decided to be Spring Sing director? I had put in a year of work for this show and it seemed like it was so quickly taken away.



As the news came out to all the students about on-campus classes not resuming, my co-directors and I compiled messages for the participants of our show. It was heartbreaking to type our farewells and gratitude posts so soon, but we all knew it was for the best. Past Spring Sing directors, participants and club members reached out to check on us. While the Harding community couldn't physically reach their arms out and support us during this time, I felt so surrounded. I started to see that this was a

Stuck in the states

AFTER I GRADUATED IN 2018, I moved to a city in China to teach English. The population of the city was just over 11 million, yet it was relatively unknown to the western world at the time. Nobody would have guessed that a year and a half later my little neighborhood of Wuhan would be the epicenter of a worldwide pandemic.



At the end of December, some of my students told me about a virus infecting people and that I should protect myself. At the time, it was still very new and my students didn't know how to explain everything in English. Despite not knowing exactly why, I began wearing my face masks more often and spending less time in group settings. I, along with many others, was not aware of the number of people infected and how serious the virus was at the time.

My semester ended following the first week of January. I stayed in China a week longer to travel, and then I went on a preplanned trip back to the U.S. Even though I already planned to go to the states, I was only supposed to be there for a couple of weeks. I only packed one suitcase and a carry-on full of things I didn't need in China anymore. Almost everything I own is still in my apartment in Wuhan.

Once I arrived in Arkansas, I realized the magnitude of COVID-19. My friends and students in China have been giving me updates daily. Wuhan began quarantine in January. In China, especially Wuhan, quarantining looks much different than social distancing or even stay-at-home orders here in the states. It started with closing public transportation, trains and flights. Then it expanded to instituting specific, limited times people could leave their homes. By February, the government was delivering food to each community — no one could enter or leave. Throughout the past couple of months, quarantining has become more severe.

Through these strict quarantining measures, Wuhan seems to be improving. Starting on April 8, China began to lift domestic travel restrictions. While life seems to somewhat normalize for Chinese residents, foreigners are still restricted from entering China.

This entire situation has been difficult for millions of people for multiple reasons. As for the expats in China, everyone's struggling in different ways. Some of my American friends are still stuck in their apartments in Wuhan. The rest, including myself, are stuck in the states. Currently, like many people, I am without a job, not knowing when or if I'll ever return to my second home in Wuhan.

Even though I trust that God has this all under control, that doesn't make it hurt any less. For now I'm social distancing like everyone else and appreciating my time with family. I still pray that somehow and someday I will return to my Chinese home and my sweet friends in China.

ABIGAIL COOPER ('18), April 8

blessing in disguise.

While it was hard to grasp at the time, I am so thankful for a university that was proactive in keeping us all safe. I am thankful for professors who were understanding and patient with us as we adjusted to new routines. Most of all,

I am thankful for God because he offers hope for something better. While we are uncertain of the day that we will reunite here on Earth, we look forward to the day we will all be together in heaven.

BRIANNA ALLMAN, April 12



Modify and adjust

I ALWAYS ANTICIPATE SEEING everyone the Monday following spring break. I include a prayer of safety and that all students will finish strong. In this case, it is the truest form of a never-ending prayer. The students are always on my mind but never before at this level as we are all missing the relationship-driven approach to everything we do in the Office of Student Life.

When the decision was made to move to an online format until further notice, IS&T assisted us in having studentlife@harding.edu made accessible by all of the deans. Informational updates were being sent to students via email and posted on the COVID-19 webpage, but every student has a specific, unique situation, thus creating the understandable need to ask questions. We wanted to be able to give personal responses. We received close to 1,500 emails within five days of the announcement. I'm also pretty sure the phone rang every two minutes on that first day as administrative assistants managed and directed each call.

When the decision was made to remain online for the semester, a Google form was created for students to sign up for a day and time frame to retrieve belongings and check out while honoring CDC guidelines. The next major step in our modify and adjust plan was the day it was determined that we needed to suspend the retrieval of belongings for a temporary time with the goal of reducing the risk of exposure for campus, the Searcy community, and to individual students traveling.

We have done our best to respond to the concerns of all students, from the students who did not have another option where to live this

HARDING at a DISTANCE

semester, those who needed items from their room immediately, and those who needed to work out a place for their belongings to remain all summer.

A huge thank you to the assistant deans who each fielded hundreds of emails and continue to remain immediately available to students near and far, administrative assistants who weathered the immediate response of increased communication and continue to manage normal tasks while being away from the conveniences of the office, residence life coordinators who were ready at a moment's notice and continue to assist students in the residence halls while honoring CDC guidelines, Residence Life who had to adjust the entire fall housing assignment process, Campus Life who created options for students to stay plugged in via online interactions, games and competitions, and the Office of Disability Services and Educational Access who continue to make sure all students have the support they need.

To our students, we truly miss you being on campus. We are praying for you daily and encourage you to stay strong in your studies. Please look for us on Instagram @HUSDeanTeam. We're hopeful it creates another way for us to stay connected. I'm confident we will all be stronger than ever after we walk through this surreal time together. Please do not hesitate to reach out. Hope to see you soon.

#BisonsTogether

ZACH NEAL ('01), assistant vice president for Student Life, April 11

Drawing you back

CORONAVIRUS HAS THROWN a big monkey wrench in everyone's plans. The loss of the last two months of her senior year at Harding is very disappointing for my daughter Hannah, and there is nothing my wife and I can do about it. Our sympathy for her loss is profound. We are all adjusting to a new normal.

As a family physician, I am learning telehealth strategies to meet patients' needs. Our daughter is finishing her degree from Harding and our other two children are learning remotely, as well. E-learning takes place all over the house, video chatting with family and friends is nearly constant, and even church is remote. Our poor router is pushed to its limits, I am sure.

Being nine hours away from Harding has conditioned us to value our time together and

not take it for granted. We also experienced the separation on a greater scale when our daughter went to Harding University Latin America. There is a certain amount of jealousy regarding our time with her. Right now we are loving having her at home! Both of her grandfathers are at high risk due to health issues, so the call to adhere to prevention strategies is especially meaningful at our house. However, there is a bittersweetness to this whole COVID-19 thing.

Being apart from her fiancé and other close friends is not ideal, but they are coping.



She moved out of her apartment the second weekend in April. There was no celebration or hugging and crying together with her roommates of three and four years and her many classmates and club sisters. There was no four-part harmony in the Benson Auditorium or post-graduation shake at Frozen D's as in years past. The thing that makes Harding so special — camaraderie — is the thing that is being altered so drastically.

Fortunately, Harding has a way of drawing you back. My wife and I were away for several years after graduation. Medical school and "life" took us away from Searcy, but since our daughter has been a student, the familiar warmth of the campus (though significantly different than 1995) immediately welcomed us back. I suspect each of the 2020 graduates will experience a sense of unfinished business due to COVID-19 forced changes. Thankfully, I know they will each be welcomed back in future visits to campus, as we have been. For our family, our youngest son plans to be a freshman in 2021, so we look forward to many more trips to Harding in the future.

ANDY ('94) and ANDREA PORTER CHUNN ('95), Loveland, Ohio, April 14



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.

1970

James W. Carr was appointed to the U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom. He is currently president and chairman of Highland Home Holdings, a Dallas-based investment fund. Before his retirement from Harding in 2019, he served as executive vice president and professor of business. In 2015, he was appointed by Gov. Asa Hutchinson to the Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board, where he now serves as chairman. He also has served on the board of directors of World Christian Broadcasting since 1993 and from 2006-11 he served on the National Security Education Board. He serves on the executive board of the Quapaw Council of the Boy Scouts of America, on the board of Arkansas State Chamber of Commerce, and on the business board of First Community Bank. He and his wife, **Susan Housley** ('80), have three children.

1972

Mark Sperry recently published *God's Secret of Happiness*. It's a short book encouraging the reader to redefine happiness through the use of Scripture. He and his wife, Nadara, live in Texarkana, Texas.

1978

Lanny Dauksch retired after 40 years in public education. For 35 years, he coached high school football taking teams to 13 state championship games. He was inducted into the Arkansas Coaches Hall of Fame in 2015 and the West Memphis Athletic Hall of Fame in 2019. He and his wife, Penny, have been married 34 years and have two children, Megan and Cody. They attend Pine Street Church of Christ in Heber Springs, Arkansas.

1982

Lori Deacon married Daniel Arnold on June 1, 2018. Lori retired from the Ohio Department of Health, and Daniel works for the Ohio Department of Medicaid. The couple reside in Columbus with their daughter, Charis.

Mark Horsley was inducted into the West Union (Ohio) High School Athletic Hall of Fame on Jan. 17, 2020. He ran track for four years at WUHS and was the first cross-country state qualifier from Adams County and the first individual state qualifier at WUHS. He spent 32 years teaching history at Dickson County High School and has been a minister in the church of Christ for 20 years. He has

had numerous articles published, sponsored the Junior Civitan Club, coached high school teams to four straight International Economic Summit first-place titles, and competed in marathons. He and his wife, Debbie, live in Dickson, Tennessee.

1984

Kyle Beatty retired as an equity shareholder in the Dallas law firm of Winstead PC, following a 32-year career specializing in commercial mortgage-backed securitizations. Prior to joining Winstead, he was a managing director at Nomura Securities, The Bank of New York and Washington Mutual Bank, and a partner at the law firm of Bryan Cave.

John M. Brown received his Ed.D. from University of the Cumberlands, Williamsburg, West Virginia. He teaches at Greenup County High School and also is an adjunct instructor at Ashland Community and Technical College and Kentucky Christian University. He serves as minister for the Church of Christ in Olive Hill, Kentucky. He and his wife, Dana, live in Flatwoods, Kentucky.

Vicki Cole Clayton is chief information officer of Generations Bank in Rogers, Arkansas. She has served as information technology officer at the bank since March 2018. She previously was information technology officer at Heartland Bank of Little Rock for 20 years and information systems manager for Lockheed Martin for nine years.

I got into the industry of athletics because of the positive impact a coach had on me. That impact allowed me to grow at a pivotal time in my life. I enjoy trying to help support similar opportunities for our student athletes.

— Jason Carmichael

'99

1987

Kevin Ward became a certified professional coder and certified professional medical auditor in 2019. He is employed at the University of Michigan as a revenue specialist, website administrator and medical coder for the Department of Neurology.

1991

Bryan Jackson has been named chief administrative officer of Jefferson Regional in Pine Bluff, Arkansas, where he has served as chief financial officer since 2011. He is a Fellow of the Healthcare Financial Management Association. He and his wife, **Charlotte Baird**, live in White Hall, Arkansas.

Karen DeWoody Roberts was honored with the 2019 Gayle Pettus Pontz award from the University of Arkansas School of Law Women's Law Student Association. She received her J.D. in 1995. She is executive vice president and general counsel for Walmart Inc. where she oversees the legal department. She was previously executive vice president and president of Walmart Realty. She serves on the Mercy Northwest Arkansas Community Board and the Northwest Arkansas Council. She is a previous board member for Mercy Health Foundation Northwest Arkansas. She is a member of the Arkansas Bar Association and the American Bar Association. She and her husband, **Richie**, have two daughters.

1993

Steven McRoberts has been hired to lead the Missouri State volleyball program. He comes to Missouri State after a six-year tenure at the University of Mississippi, where he guided the Rebels to the 2017 National Invitational Volleyball Championship title. In 23 years as a collegiate head coach, including 15 at the Division I level, he owns a 587-245 (.706) overall record with 21 winning seasons and 19 years with 20 or more victories. A 10-time conference coach of the year, his teams have won a combined 13 conference regular season, tournament and national postseason tournament titles. He has mentored a total of 20 All-Americans, 64 all-conference players, 11 conference players of the year, 12 academic All-Americans, and 29 total specialty award winners at the conference level. He and his wife, Stacy, have three children: Jackson, Nathaniel, and Mollie.

1999

Jason Carmichael is California State University East Bay athletic director. He completed his master's degree in physical education, health and recreation from Emporia State University.

Faith in action



ARAH FELPS SCHECTER ('84) FOUND that stepping out in faith and trusting in God's plan ended up being different than anything she had ever imagined.

For more than two decades, Schecter has worked in education, and for the last 10 years she has served as the principal of the lower grades at The Oakridge School, a private school in Arlington, Texas.

"I love my kids. They are sweet, smart, fun and always ready to learn." As head of the lower school, Schecter forms relationships with both



students and their parents. During fall 2018, she had a conversation with Amenze Jones, the mother of three students, that left her thinking.

"I asked Amenze how her summer was going and she said OK, but her answer seemed a bit flat, and that didn't seem like her. So I said what's going on, and she just spilled the beans and said they were really struggling."

Schecter learned Amenze's husband, Nate, had been having health issues. What started out as a possible

vision problem turned into an immediate visit to urgent care, a two-week hospital stay, and being put on dialysis.

"When I first talked to Amenze, Nate was already on dialysis. I couldn't believe it. I saw him on field day, and he looked fine. It just seemed ridiculous that you could go from a normal, healthy looking person, to someone who's on dialysis in just a few weeks."

Schecter said it was after that conversation that she felt God was calling her to do more than just pray for the family. And, after learning that Nate had been placed on the donor list, that tug grew stronger.

"I just kept feeling heavily like I was the person who was supposed to do this. It was weird. I discounted and ignored it because it didn't make sense I would be the person to help because I am not close friends with them, and I have never even thought about being a donor."

Schecter kept tabs on the family through the fall, prayerful that Nate's health would swing back the other way, and he would recover. By Christmas Nate wasn't any better, so she approached her husband and two children about being a donor. She was surprised at how quickly they were on board.

"All three of them were like, 'You've got to do it. If God put this on your heart, you have to do it. At least get checked to see if you are a match.'"

2001

Kyle Johnson has joined Nobis Rehabilitation Partners as director of information technology. With nearly two decades as an IT professional in health care, he oversees the architecture and implementation of all operational and business

support systems. He previously was the director of IT at LifeCare Health Partners.

Ben ('02) and **Kristina Watkins Stephens** announce the adoption of twin boys Nov. 26, 2019. Lucas Barrett and Carter Ellis were born Dec. 25, 2017. Kristina is a licensed professional counselor and play

therapist. She is owner of Campbell Counseling Group. They also have a daughter, Finleigh Grace.

2003

Amy Cooper has been inducted into the 2019-20 Women in Industry inaugural class. She is the

PROFILE | SARAH FELPS SCHECTER

Despite having her family's full support, Schecter said it wasn't until parent teacher conferences a month later that she fully committed.

"One of Nate's kid's teachers had said she would like for me to be there. To me, that was God saying, 'Sarah, you need to do this. Stop putting it off.'"

After the conference was over, Schecter pulled Amenze aside and told her that she felt she was supposed to be the person to give her kidney to Nate and would do what was needed to get on the donation list.

After several months, Schecter was called and quickly found out she was a perfect match. However, it wasn't until the following school year, in November 2019, that Schecter received the call.

What had just been a possibility was now a reality. The pieces appeared to be coming together seamlessly, but Schecter said it wasn't an easy journey.

"There were some hard days in there. About a week before the surgery date I started getting a little antsy and nervous and having some doubts."

Those doubts quickly dispersed when Schecter's church family, the Hills Church of Christ, organized a prayer circle at her house a week before her surgery.

"They prayed for every aspect of the surgery — it was amazing. After that, I was excited. After that, all my worries, doubts and fears were totally behind me, and I never had a second thought."

Schecter said the entire journey has been an opportunity not only to listen and learn to hear God better but to obey and act on what he is calling her to do in any given moment.

"Just like the old song says, 'Trust and obey, for there's no other way, to be happy in Jesus, but to trust and obey.' As soon as I obeyed, the happiness in Jesus was there, and that's how it's been all along."

This not only has had an impact on Schecter's life but the lives of her students. Her hope is that one day they will remember this experience and listen to God's voice in their own lives.

"I have 145 students in lower school and I hope and would love it if 20 or 30 years from now many of them have donated a kidney or liver or whatever science allows them to donate or even just their time, love and attention."

Putting your hope in God and God alone can impact your life in ways you can't even imagine. Schecter says she feels this more and more as she grows older.

"Nearly all of us have these crazy ideas, but because we are so pragmatic and on our own schedule, we refuse to hear them. It's been one of the highlights of my life and to think that if I hadn't listened and followed through, I would have missed out on it completely." 🙏

— Katie Clement

PHOTO BY JEFF MONTGOMERY

PHOTO SUBMITTED



public information officer for the North Little Rock, Arkansas, Police Department, where she assists with the reporting and communicating of major events in the community. She also is responsible for completing Freedom of Information Act requests among other duties.

2005

Philip ('06) and Amy Eichman White announce the birth of a son, Ezra Ceola, Jan. 10, 2020. Philip is a manager at a plywood mill and sawmill, and Amy is a homemaker. They have two other sons.

2006

Harold and Mary Cunningham Steiner announce the birth of a son, Harold Lee Steiner IV, Jan. 28, 2020. The couple also have twin daughters, Kathryn and Clara.

2007

Brett ('08) and Amy Jones McGohan announce the birth of a son, Chance Carter, Nov. 26, 2019. They also have another son, Charlie Grayson.

2008

Kristie Miller Finley received an MSN-FNP from Bradley University in December 2019. She works for Southern Arizona Orthopedics. She and her husband, Sam, have two children and live in Tucson.

2009

Seth Woodason is director of sports and recreational facilities at Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology in Terre Haute, Indiana, where he oversees the operation, maintenance and scheduling of the Sports and Recreation Center and athletic facilities. A member of the SRC staff since 2015, he formerly worked at athletic facilities for University of Evansville and Gonzaga University. He earned a master's degree in recreation and sports management from Indiana State. He and his wife, Jessica, have two children.

2010

Riley ('16) and Robin Gould Pate announce the birth of a daughter, Eden Rebecca, Nov. 30, 2019. They also have a son, Silas.

Joe Price III was named director of player personnel at University of Texas at San Antonio in March. He joined UTSA after spending the 2019 season as director of high school relations for the Illinois football program in Champaign. Prior to his time at Illinois, he was passing game coordinator, wide receivers coach and recruiting coordinator at perennial prep powerhouse North Shore High School from 2014-18. He helped the Mustangs to a pair of Class 6A-DI state championships and four district titles during his time with the program. He earned a master's degree in educational leadership and administration from Stephen F. Austin in 2017. He is a member of the Texas High School Coaches Association, the American Football Coaches Association, and the Greater Houston Area Football Coaches Association, where he served as secretary on the executive board of directors. He and his wife, Joy, have two daughters, Ryan and Jordan.

2011

Calea Bakke married Blake Davis on March 31, 2018. They live in Nashville, Tennessee, where Calea is a real estate appraiser and agent and serves on the board of the Mary Parrish Center, and Blake is a film producer.

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

Caleb and Ashley Ward Mitchen announce the birth of a daughter, Rachel Jane, Oct. 4, 2019. Caleb is a national account executive for Keurig Dr. Pepper, and Ashley is a director of operations in finance at Walmart Inc. They also have a son, Luke.

2012

Nathan Baskett received the Rotary Club's teacher recognition award for winter quarter 2019-20, along with a plaque and \$1,000 to spend on classroom needs. He teaches sixth grade at McKinley Elementary School in the Santa Barbara (California) School District. He received his M.A. from the University of Southern California.

Ben Caudill was named head football coach for Stewart Creek (Tennessee) High School where he previously served as defensive coordinator and taught math. Before working at Stewarts Creek, he served on the coaching staff at Brentwood High School. He and his wife, Alice, have two sons, George and Max.

Ashley Shelton received a master's in public administration from George Mason University in December 2019. She is the legislative director for U.S. Representative Rick Crawford from Arkansas.

2013

Josh Jackson has joined Rainwater Holt & Sexton as associate attorney where he works in the personal injury department. He holds an MBA from the Walton School of Business and a Juris Doctorate from the University of Arkansas School of Law in Fayetteville.

Melissa Lea Nelson married Nathan Stanaland on March 9, 2019. Melissa is a special education teacher at Cypress-Fairbanks ISD in Texas.

2015

Claire Summers is a history teacher at Conway Christian Upper School. She was one of the teachers honored at the 35th annual Golden Apple Awards by the Conway Noon Lions Club Feb. 25, 2020. She serves as the senior high sponsor for Quiz Bowl and coaches the women's bowling team at CCS.

2016

Sarah Hines started at News Channel 6 in Wichita Falls, Texas, in 2016 as a reporter and anchor of "News Channel 6 Weekend Morning" before being promoted to anchor of "News Channel 6 This Morning." She serves on the board for the VITA program



through the North Texas Area United Way and is a member of the Junior League of Wichita Falls.

Heath Houtchens is a nurse practitioner and one of two faculty leaders at Baptist Health Urgent Care in Little Rock, Arkansas. He earned a Master of Science in Nursing from Harding in 2019. He and his wife, Anne Fitzgerald ('15), have a daughter.

2019

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

Bronson Crabtree is a junior videographer at Sells Agency in Little Rock, Arkansas, where he interned. He is married to Sydney Warren.

Robyn Terry is working as a global classroom language assistant in Madrid, Spain, for the 2019-20 school year. She teaches English and history and runs the Model United Nations program.

Passages

A. Earl Priest ('42), 97, of Memphis, Tennessee, died Nov. 9, 2019. He married Willene Jones in 1941 and joined the U.S. Navy. He moved to Memphis in 1946 where he worked for an advertising agency and later served as chief financial officer for St. Francis Hospital. In retirement, he served as president of Kirby Pines Advisory Group, a position he volunteered for and held 10 years. He was a member of the church of Christ at White Station and served as an elder for more than 40 years. He was preceded in death by his wife and a son, Duane.

Lucian Paxson Gordon ('49), 94, of Edmond, Oklahoma, died Sept. 19, 2019. He joined the Army Air Corp in 1943, serving until the end of World War II. Upon graduating from Harding, he began a career in education that led him to Beaver County, Oklahoma. He retired from teaching at Liberal, Kansas, in 1992. He loved to preach the gospel and spent much of his spare time studying and preparing sermons. He spent time in the pulpit in Booker and Darrouzett, Texas, and Beaver, Oklahoma. He and his wife spent many years traveling to Romania serving as missionaries. He also served as an elder at Beaver Church of Christ. He was preceded in death by a daughter, Alma. He is survived by his wife of 73 years, Opal Fae Shaffer ('48); four children, Norma Bridgwater, Larry, Linda Peters and Sylvan; 13 grandchildren; and 28 great-grandchildren.

Dennie Hall ('56), 85, died April 17, 2020. He was a respected journalist and then a journalism professor and historian at University of Central

Small agency, big impact



AT FAULKNER ('02) IS THE FOUNDER and chief idea officer of Think Idea Studio, a full-service marketing agency based in Searcy. Mat met his wife, Shelley Lawson, at Harding, and they have three sons. Think Idea Studio began with Faulkner working as a freelance graphic designer during school, expanded to a home-based agency offering graphic design, web design and photography, and eventually grew into the award-winning team and agency it is today.

In 2014, the Faulknors purchased Robbins-Sanford Mercantile in Searcy's Main Street district. The downstairs space continued operations as an event center, while the upstairs was renovated in 2016 to become home to Think Idea Studio and other loft tenant office spaces. Think had been providing pro bono design services to Main Street Searcy for several years, but their presence on the square catapulted Faulkner's involvement with downtown Searcy. Always searching for ways to collaborate with other community organizations, Faulkner's efforts have led to a monthly art and music festival, Beats & Eats, and the Think ART Project, one of many town revitalization and beautification initiatives.



"At Think, our mantra is 'Small Agency. Big Impact.' Our mission is encapsulated within the concise second half of our mantra. We strive to make a 'Big Impact' for our families, our clients and our community. Ever since we started this company, we have used whatever talents and resources we had available to try and help others."

Faulkner's knack for innovative problem solving and community mindset have been especially notable this past year, first as he led the charge for Searcy winning the Small Business Revolution hit Hulu series and now as he searches for ways to partner with and support local businesses through the COVID-19 pandemic. When the virus began making its presence known in the U.S., Faulkner was quick to jump into action.

"We took the early warnings seriously and pivoted our agency to a work-at-home status beginning the week of March 15. We have attempted to act as proactively as possible, both in taking safety measures for our team as well as clients, and also by applying for appropriate relief programs."

In the month of March alone, Think saw a 40% decrease in revenue with further reductions expected as the effects of the virus on businesses and the economy persist. Faulkner took note of a piece of advice from an online webinar on how to survive the pandemic — stay true to your company's mission and values during times of crisis.

"As a marketing agency, we are equipped to develop and deploy

messaging and communication in a creative, swift and engaging manner. With regard to the COVID-19 crisis, our first step was to identify segments of the community who were being immediately adversely impacted and create and implement ways to encourage the community to support each other."

In late March and early April, Faulkner and the Think team organized a COVID-19 press conference at City Hall; organized and executed a community Park 'n' Pray event where thousands came to Unity Health to encourage doctors and nurses; partnered with Burrito Day and facilitated over 30 small business owners' families receiving free fresh groceries; helped (to date) 33 small businesses with an influx of revenue through the "Cash Mob" program by encouraging the community to support certain businesses all at one time; marketed a T-shirt fundraiser aiding a few dozen small businesses through shirt sales; and launched a "Big Bloomin' Weekend" campaign to beautify the community and help bring revenue to small businesses that sell landscaping, paint and supplies.

In addition, Think has worked to provide free digital content to help businesses adapt to the changing economic landscape, covering topics like DIY iPhone photo tips, quickly transitioning to selling online, social media best practices during a crisis, and elements of websites that drive sales.

"When I take into account the effort our team is contributing in the middle of this challenge, I can say we are continuing to meet our mission and we are doing it by loving and serving our neighbors and being resourceful even when conditions are tough. Challenging circumstances can lead to innovation, and I am directing our team to explore new avenues of revenue that will help others, not only during this crisis, but to sustain our agency for the long term."

It's clear that Faulkner is not afraid to try something new and share what's successful with those around him to benefit the larger community. When asked about Think's creative process, he boiled it down to this: listen, learn, create, launch, repeat. Implementing this process has proved successful so far for Faulkner, Think Idea Studio, the Main Street district and Searcy, leaving no qualms that the town can rebound from the pandemic and grow stronger than ever.

"Searcy, as a community, continues to be a serving community. We are fortunate to have been coming together for the past couple of years, and this experience just strengthens those bonds. I believe Searcy is being true to itself — we are watching and learning from other areas of the country, we are supporting each other, we are showing we are a strong faith community, and we will continue to come together. Just like the Revolution mural on the side of Crafton's Furniture downtown depicts: 'Together, we can do so much.'"

— Jantzen Haley

PROFILE | MAT FAULKNER

PHOTO SUBMITTED



VINTAGE HARDING

40 years ago



Dedicated March 27, 1980, this rendering was used on the cover of the dedicatory program of Benson Auditorium, which began construction in March 1978. According to the program, "It is a building for the '80s. The strong graphic lines of the new George S. Benson Auditorium reflect a growing and progressive period of campus history. Generous use of space, repeated lighting pattern and semicircular seating combine functionality with the aesthetic." The architect was Yearwood and Johnson of Nashville, Tennessee, and the 58,000 square-foot facility cost approximately \$2.6 million and used an estimated 350,000 red bricks.

Oklahoma. He was co-founder of the Oklahoma Journalism Hall of Fame and served as its director. The recently published book *Our Greatest Journalists: Fifty Years of Oklahoma Journalism Hall of Fame* is dedicated to him and Dr. Ray Tassin. He was the longtime advisor to UCO's The Vista and known for supporting his editors against attacks from the administration. The student newspaper was named an All-American College Newspaper for the first time in its history while he was advisor. He was The Oklahoman's book editor known for his reviews and helping great future authors. He fought for civil rights, First Amendment freedoms and the downtrodden, especially those wrongfully imprisoned. He was a grammar and Associated Press style guru with a dry sense of humor. He was preceded in death by his wife of 55 years, Ann Mathews. He is survived by two children, John and Amy Hall; his siblings, Mickey, Karen Dye, Patricia Yarbrough, and Jimmy; three grandsons; and a great-granddaughter.

Mary Ruth Herren Lewis ('57), 83, of Cumming, Georgia, died Dec. 6, 2018. She worked at Vanderlyn Elementary School and Tucker High School in DeKalb County, Georgia. She retired from the school system at age 60 and went to school to become a licensed massage therapist where she worked until her retirement at age 74. She was preceded in death by a daughter, Kyrie. She is

survived by her husband of 63 years, **Joe** ('56); five children, Joe, Mary Jane Bannister, Bonnie, Laura and Bobby; a brother, Bob Herren; nine grandchildren, and 15 great-grandchildren.

Betty Sue Butler Hill ('62), 79, of Searcy, died March 4, 2020. She was an Air Force wife and a devoted Christian. She was preceded in death by her husband, Gerald "Skip." She is survived by a daughter, Melinda Sue Kimbrell.

Philip Wayne Sturm ('64), 77, of Parkersburg, West Virginia, died Feb. 9, 2020. He received a master's and a Ph.D. in U.S. history and Appalachian studies from West Virginia University. He was professor emeritus of history and social studies at Ohio Valley University and formerly chaired the humanities division. He also taught briefly at the University of New Orleans and Loyola University. He was a James Still Fellow at University of Kentucky in 1987 and held a full-time John B. Stephenson Fellowship from the Appalachian College Association at WVU in 1999. In 2000, he was chosen by the Faculty Merit Foundation of West Virginia as the West Virginia Professor of the Year. In 2019, he was recognized by the West Virginia legislature as a West Virginia History Hero. He authored five books and numerous articles on regional history. He served as president of both the Parkersburg Bicentennial Commission and the Wood County Bicentennial Commission, and

was commissioner and member of Fort Boreman Historic Park for the Preservation Development Initiative of the Greater Parkersburg Convention and Visitors Bureau. He was a member of the Sons of the American Revolution and an honorary member of the Centennial chapter of Daughters of the American Pioneers. He was preceded in death by his wife of 51 years, **Annette Tucker** ('64). He is survived by three daughters, Melanie Valentine, **Leslie Rollings** ('90), and Betsy Thornabar; three siblings, Pat Michaels, Judy Adams and Dwight; seven grandchildren; and six great-grandchildren.

Barbara Ann Kee ('65), 75, of Searcy died Dec. 15, 2019. She earned her Master of Library Science from Syracuse University. She spent two years in Geneva, Switzerland, and several years in Louisiana working for the Whites Ferry Road School of Biblical Studies as a librarian, counselor and Bible teacher. She received a master's in marriage and family counseling from University of Louisiana Monroe and a doctorate in marriage and family counseling from Texas Woman's University. She practiced as a marriage and family counselor in Richardson, Texas, and later was a doctoral dissertation coach. She devoted her life to teaching ladies Bible studies, private Bible studies, and embarked on numerous mission trips to Europe. She wrote eight Christian historical romance books under the pen name of A.J. Hawke. She

was a member of College Church of Christ. She is survived by three siblings, **Windle** ('53), Jeanette Schoof and Marie.

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 evidences 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.

Rodney "Rod" Vernon Holland ('69), 72, of Corvallis, Oregon, died March 23, 2020. He obtained a D.C. 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 the 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.

Mike Kirksey ('76), 64, of Friendswood, Texas, died Feb. 14, 2020, from progressive supranuclear palsy. He obtained his Texas CPA license shortly after graduation. He worked for Arthur Andersen, Keystone International, Input/Output, Metals USA, Sirva, Endeavour, Stewart & Stevenson, and W.W. Williams, allowing him to live and work in Belgium, England and Illinois as well as Houston. He was a member of Southeast Church of Christ, where he served as an elder and teacher. He is survived by his wife of 43 years, **Debi Baten** ('76); his parents, Jerrel and Virginia; two children, **Ryan** ('02) and **Jason** ('04); two brothers, Tim and Terry; and four grandchildren.

Alan Pogue ('78), 62, of France, died Nov. 22, 2019. He was a licensed professional counselor who mentored and educated new counselors in Arkansas. He was a longtime member, minister and elder of Levy Church of Christ. He is survived by his wife of 43 years, **Sherry Dunn** ('01); three children, **Heather Sutherlin** ('99), **Shannon Iverson** ('06), and Aaron; his father, Al; a brother, Perry; and eight grandchildren.

Rhonda Gail Porter Ingalls ('81), 61, of West Fork, Arkansas, died March 22, 2020, from esophageal

cancer. 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 Lehew and **Rachel** ('16); her father, Junior Leon Porter; and three brothers, Ronnie, Randy and Rusty Porter.

Kay Lynette Fudge Nix ('81), 62, of Cypress, Texas, died Jan. 4, 2020. She earned a bachelor's degree in education from Sam Houston State University and a master's degree in education from Stephen F. Austin University. She taught in the public school systems in Arkansas and Texas for more than 25 years with her last 18 years in Cabot public schools. She was an avid runner and biker. She is survived by her husband of 39 years, **Bobby** ('92); three children, **Ryan** ('03), **Keith** ('09) and **Kevin** ('11); siblings Donald and Allen; and four grandchildren.

James Berton Bellcock ('82), 88, of Searcy died Jan. 6, 2020. He served 22 years in the U.S. Air Force as a communications officer and navigator during the Korean and Vietnam conflicts. After retiring from the Air Force, he attended Sunset School of Preaching and spent five years as a minister in Wisconsin. In 1981, he moved to Searcy and completed a master's in education. He taught school and drove a school bus for several years. He served as a deacon and elder at Four Mill Hill Church of Christ. He was preceded in death by his first wife, Sueyo, in 1969 and his second wife, Belva, in 2014. He is survived by four children; **James** ('84), **Donald** ('86), **Karen Fonville** ('86), and **Nancy Nicholas** ('95); 11 grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren.

Terry Wayne Neu ('82), 60, of Storrs, Connecticut, died Feb. 4, 2020. He obtained his master's degree in educational psychology from the University of

PASSAGES | JOHN GRANVILLE FOX

John loved teaching his grandchildren and any youngsters how to fish. He enjoyed being out in nature, especially on his farm. His garden was enormous. He loved to load any visitors up with bags of his beautiful veggies — corn and tomatoes were his specialty. You could taste the love that he put into his produce.



Central Arkansas and his doctorate in gifted and talented education from University of Connecticut. He was the director of special education and an assistant professor at Sacred Heart University. He participated in Sacred Heart's alternative spring break and was a member of the El Salvador service group since 1989. He also participated in service trips to Costa Rica. He earned his black belt in karate and practiced Tai Chi as both student and teacher. He was preceded in death by a son, Jacob. He is survived by a daughter, Rachel Elizabeth Grace; and her mother, **Jane Elizabeth Shewmaker Neu** ('82); his parents, Wayne and Bertie; and two siblings, **Lisa Tyler** ('83) and **Nick** ('86).

Ron Mashburn ('84), 58, of Sherwood, Arkansas, died March 21, 2020, from cancer. 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.

Betty Sue Smith Slaughter ('84), 91, of Searcy, died Dec. 10, 2019. She was a member of the White County Writers Guild. She was a writer and a musician. She was preceded in death by her husband, Roy. She is survived by her children Roy, Samuel and Kathy Throckmorton; six grandchildren; and eight great-grandchildren.

John Granville Fox ('91), 55, of McCune, Kansas, died Feb. 16, 2020. He drove a propane truck for McCune Co-op. He was an avid fisherman and gardener. He was preceded in death by his wife, **Cathie Binns** ('81). He is survived by two daughters, Chelsea Wertz and Chaney; and three siblings, Mark, **Kenneth** ('90) and Connie Carbery.

James Stanley King ('91), 50, of Pensacola Beach, Florida, died Feb. 23, 2020. He was a registered nurse, med flight nurse and instructor. He worked on Survival Flights in Arkansas and was working as an emergency room nurse in Florida. He was a member of First Baptist Church of Pensacola.



The power of a nudge

By DAN WILLIAMS, vice president for church relations

ONCE HE MET JESUS, the first thing Philip did was find his friend Nathanael and excitedly inform him, “We have found the one Moses wrote about in the Law and about whom the prophets also wrote — Jesus of Nazareth.”

Upon learning of the hometown of Jesus, Nathanael dismissively replied, “Nazareth! Can anything good come from there?” Philip could have taken offense at this response; could have argued with Nathanael; could have attempted to pressure or coerce his friend. He didn’t do any of those things. Instead, Philip simply replied, “Come and see.”

Philip gives Nathanael a nudge. Reading this story from John 1:43-46 we know what Nathanael could not possibly have comprehended at the time — as a result of this brief encounter his whole life was about to change forever. Crucial turning points in our life do not always appear at the time in the form of dramatic encounters.

Sometimes they come about as gentle nudges.

For example, if I trace backward the trajectory of my own life to 1972, one of the most crucial turning points turns out to have been a load of laundry — that I didn’t do.

It was a September Saturday morning. I was a freshman at Freed-Hardeman College and was walking across campus on my way to the laundromat when I ran into a friend. Denise looked at the basket of clothes under my arm and said, “Dan, aren’t you going to tryouts this morning?”

I replied, “What tryouts?”

“For the Pied Pipers,” she said.

“What are Pied Pipers?”

“A children’s theatre group,” Denise explained.

“No, that’s not my thing,” I laughingly said.

“Oh, but you’d be so good at it,” she insisted.

“I don’t think so,” I said as I started to leave.

Denise pleaded, “If you go, I’ll do your laundry.”

“Where did you say these tryouts are?” I responded.

To make a very long story short, I was chosen for the troupe and made friends with Glen Henton, the upperclassman Bible major who served as leader. He recommended me for a summer ministry internship with a church in Virginia where he had previously worked. There I met a pretty woman named Gina, and this year we will celebrate our 43rd wedding anniversary.

I cannot imagine how my life would have turned out differently if my friend Denise hadn’t nudged me to try out that long-ago Saturday morning. I am just thankful she did.

One Wednesday night a couple of years ago I had the opportunity to talk to a church youth group about Harding. Two of the teens present that night went on to enroll here, including one young lady I’ll call Sara who came from a difficult family situation and had not known of Harding before coming to school here. Last spring I happened to

run into Sara as she was walking through the student center with an armload of textbooks. “How is your semester going?” I asked. “I’m taking 17 hours so I’m really busy,” she answered. Then Sara broke into a broad smile and said, “But, oh, Mr. Dan, I have loved every minute of my time here at Harding!” With that she walked on down the hall, still beaming.

I’d like to feel I had a small part in nudging Sara in the right direction, and perhaps someday she will look back on that Wednesday night presentation as a crucial turning point in her life. I know this: Sara’s story could be multiplied by the thousands. Every year I am gratified to see young people from around the nation and the world arrive on our campus because I know here they will have a life-changing experience. Harding is a place where faith is strengthened, minds are challenged and character is molded. This is a place where lifelong friendships are formed, and where, for some students, romantic relationships are initiated that eventually lead to the formation of strong Christian homes.

Since that is the case, I have just one question: Is there some young person you care about who could use a nudge? 📩

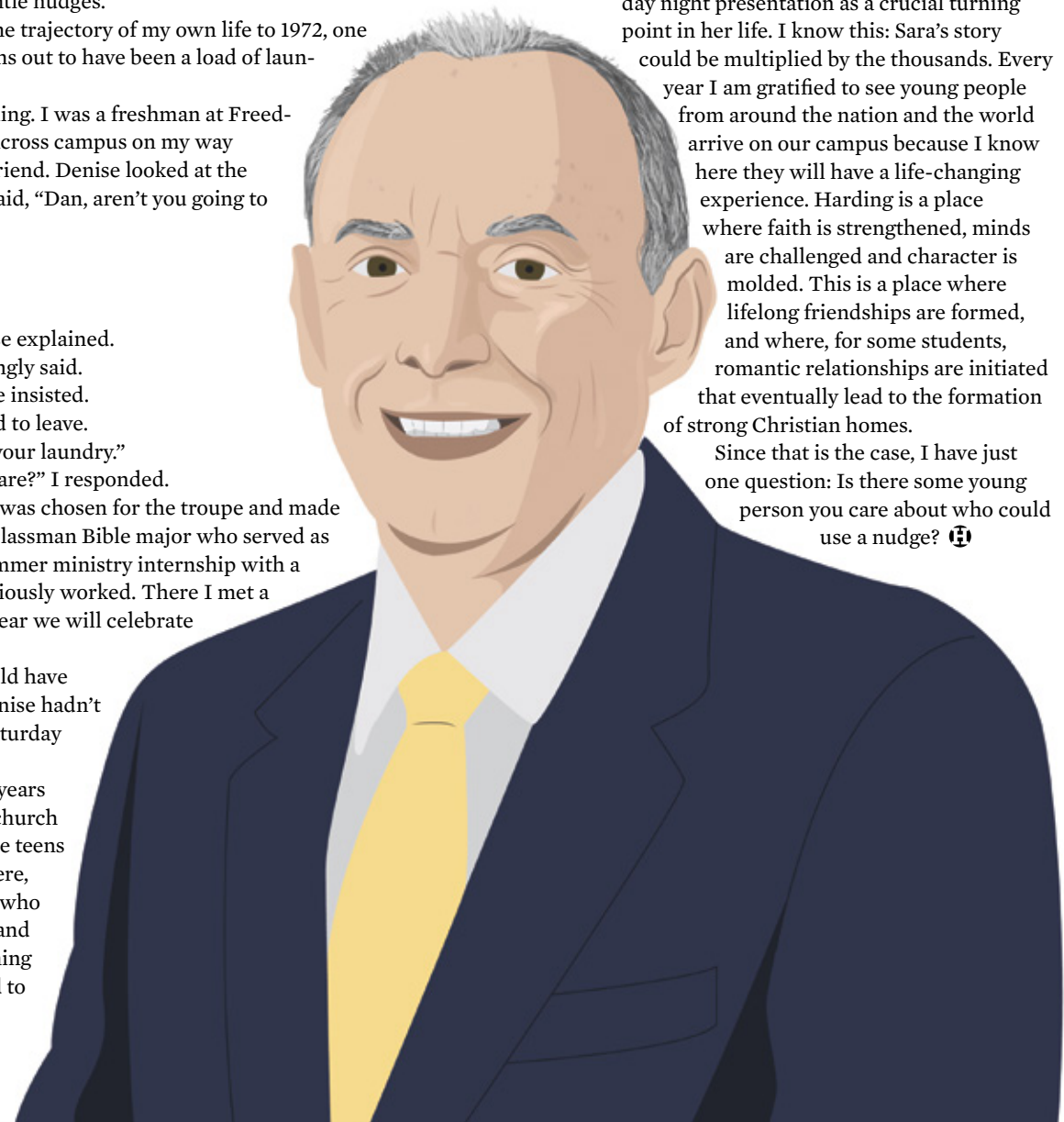


ILLUSTRATION BY JENNIFER ALLEN



THIS FALL IT'S TIME TO COME HOME

Lectureship
SEPTEMBER 27-30

**INVINCIBLE!
Courageous Faith
in Troubled Times**

- A STUDY OF THE BOOK OF DANIEL
- SHEPHERDING WORKSHOP
- YOUTH AND FAMILY TRACK
- WOMEN’S MINISTRY
- YOUNG MINISTERS’ NETWORK
- PREACHER’S WORKSHOP

Homecoming
OCTOBER 29-31

#comehomeHU20

- “ELF” THE MUSICAL
- BELLES AND BEAUX · PIED PIPERS
- BLACK AND GOLD BANQUET
- HERITAGE CIRCLE CHAPEL
- FAMILY PICNIC AND TAILGATING
- PETTING ZOO AND INFLATABLE GAMES
- BISON FOOTBALL AND MUCH MORE

Final Frame

PHOTO BY JEFF MONTGOMERY



NASA Chief Technologist Douglas Terrier studies the poster highlighting Harding's first grant with NASA in 1967 and showcasing the work of Dr. R.T. Clark, Bob Corbin, Dr. Harry Olree and Dr. Carroll Smith. The poster was part of the exhibit "Harding and NASA: Through the Years" held in Cone Chapel as part of NASA Day Jan. 27. For more on NASA Day, see page 6.