

HARDING

SPRING 2021

THE CHANGING
PRACTICE OF
PHARMACY



KENT NGUYEN
Director of Pharmacy Student
College of Pharmacy



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PHOTO BY JEFF MONTGOMERY

OPPOSITE PAGE AND FAR RIGHT PHOTO BY JEFF MONTGOMERY, TOP PHOTO ATHLETICS ARCHIVES

A time of transition

By DAVID B. BURKS, *president*

SINCE BEING ASKED by the board of trustees to assume the responsibility of president in November, I have been overwhelmed by your emails, phone calls and texts. Thank you for your support, your prayers and your love for Harding.

I would like to express thanks to Dr. Bruce McLarty for his many years of service to the Harding family. He has a great love and passion for this work, and I am confident he will continue to be a blessing to many in the future. I wish him well in the years to come.

For the first time in almost a year, because of COVID-19, in-person chapel was initiated on a two-day a week basis in both Benson Auditorium and Rhodes-Reaves Field House. As you might expect, I used “camaraderie” as the opening line for all of these chapel experiences. Harding is about high-spirited fellowship, which requires meaningful connections, meaningful relationships — the cornerstone of the Harding experience — that go beyond the time it takes a student to earn a degree.

It was my pleasure to announce recently our plans to honor seven African American individuals who played a distinctive role in Harding’s history — Elijah Anthony, Howard Wright, Lewis Brown, Walter Cunningham, David Johnson, Thelma Smith and Curtis Sykes. These individuals will be honored at Homecoming this October (page 6).

We also will pay tribute to Botham Jean, whose tragic death on Sept. 6, 2018, shook the entire campus and world. We really miss Botham, and his life and story are going to be remembered and honored on our campus in September, on the occasion of his 30th birthday (page 6).

I am also pleased to announce several new leadership appointments you can read about on pages 8 and 9. I am really looking



forward to their leadership and to the establishment of new initiatives in their respective areas.

As we speak to the future, I am very pleased that the board of trustees has announced a presidential search committee. They have selected an executive search firm, CarterBaldwin of Atlanta, to advise them through this process.

This is indeed a time of transition for Harding, but I am confident we have a very bright future. I have never been more excited about the opportunities for us to attract new students, maintain the mission of Harding, and share the good news of Jesus Christ with an even wider audience. Please continue to pray for us during this time of transition for God’s continued guidance. 🙏



HARDING

SPRING 2021 | VOLUME 29 | NUMBER 1

EDITOR/DESIGNER
Tom Buterbaugh, '78

COPY EDITOR/WRITER
Jantzen Haley, '17

WRITERS
Katie Clement, '16
Josie Parker, '18
Megan Stroud, '19

SPORTS WRITER
Scott Goode, '97

PHOTOGRAPHER
Jeff Montgomery, '91

CONTRIBUTORS
Emma Aly, '20
Joanna Crisco, '97
Michael Justus, '74
Jeff Mercer
Shannon Overcash, '12

PRESIDENT
David B. Burks, '65

ASSISTANT VICE PRESIDENT FOR UNIVERSITY COMMUNICATIONS AND MARKETING
Candice Moore, '01

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

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

EMAIL
hardingmag@harding.edu

WEBSITE
harding.edu/mag

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All masked up

PHOTOGRAPHER JEFF MONTGOMERY CATCHES A WIDE VARIETY OF MASKS AROUND CAMPUS



TOP ROW: Kylie Coffey, Milyn Ross, Michael Keene MIDDLE ROW: Peydon Harlow, Matthew Fortkamp, Andrea Martinez BOTTOM ROW: Victoria Lowery, Mallory Prior, Dalton Koch

PHOTO BY JEFF MONTGOMERY

During a lull in the abundant snowfall on campus Feb. 15, Jillian Jarvis and Morgan Marcum make snow angels. Extreme cold and two snowstorms the week of Feb. 14 caused classes to transition online all week.

PHOTO BY JEFF MONTGOMERY





Administration building to be named for Anthony, Wright

PRESIDENT DAVID BURKS ANNOUNCED Feb. 1 that the University will honor and celebrate Bro. Elijah Anthony and Dr. Howard Wright, the first African American undergraduate students to earn bachelor's degrees from Harding, by naming the Administration building in their honor.

During the years Anthony and Wright attended Harding, the Administration building was the center of campus activity, holding various school events, presentations and chapel. Today, the building remains a prominent fixture on the campus quad housing several administrative offices and a 973-seat auditorium.

"Elijah Anthony and Howard Wright are deserving of this honor," said President Burks. "I know both men and am grateful for their faithful leadership. I'm so glad future students will always be able to refer to this iconic building as the Anthony and Wright Administration Building."

In front of the Administration building, a bronze three-dimensional plaque will bear the images of Anthony and Wright and tell their inspiring story. Nearby, additional plaques will stand — one honoring the first three African American students who enrolled as undergraduates at the University: Lewis Brown, Walter Cunningham and David Johnson. The other will honor the first two African American students to be awarded graduate degrees from the University: Thelma Smith ('65) and Curtis Sykes ('65).

A dedication ceremony that honors these esteemed alumni and celebrates all African American members of the Harding family will take place during Homecoming weekend in October. Brown, Johnson and Cunningham, who did not graduate from the University, will be awarded honorary degrees during the ceremony, Johnson's and Cunningham's posthumously.

"The fact that my time spent at Harding gave no indication that I would ever be honored in this way is a testimony to the growth and progress of Harding University," said Anthony. "I am humbled beyond expression that God has chosen my experiences at Harding and beyond to influence the lives of untold numbers of young people for generations to come. To God be the glory!"

Anthony was born in Birmingham, Alabama,

in 1946 and enrolled at Harding in 1966. Wright was born in Chester, Pennsylvania, in 1945 and enrolled at Harding in 1965. In May of 1968 both graduated from Harding with a Bachelor of Arts in English. Anthony and Wright have both been named distinguished alumni recipients.

"When we stepped onto the Harding campus, we stepped into history," said Wright. "When we graduated from Harding, we stepped into history. We didn't come to Harding to make history. Claudine and I had more faith in God than fear of uncertainty, hatred or racism. Since walking across that administration auditorium stage, God has blessed me for 5 1/2 decades to walk in the footsteps of Jesus. It's all about a life of service."

On Feb. 8 President Burks announced that the University also will remember and honor the life of Botham Jean by placing a bronze monument bearing his image in front of the American Heritage Building. Jean, a 2016 alumnus from St. Lucia, was murdered Sept. 6, 2018, at his home in Dallas. Further, the Botham Jean Inspiration Award has been created to be given each year at Homecoming to a member of the Harding community for demonstrating exceptional faith and perseverance and serving as a role model for all.

"Botham was a unique and influential leader on our campus," said President Burks. "I loved his smile, the way he led singing in chapel and at church, and his enthusiasm for life. We are looking forward to a dedication ceremony honoring his life that will be held on or around his 30th birthday in September 2021."

In addition to the Inspiration Award, two scholarships were established in 2019 and are given annually in memory of Jean. The Botham Jean Memorial, created by Jean's parents Bertrum and Allison Jean, is given to students who have lived in the Caribbean. A second scholarship established by the Paul R. Carter College of Business Administration, in cooperation with PricewaterhouseCoopers, Jean's employer, is given to historically underrepresented populations as they pursue degrees within the Harding College of Business.

These announcements were made following a proposal in October by the University Task



ABOVE: Standing in front of the Administration building at their commencement ceremony, Howard Wright and Elijah Anthony become the University's first African American undergraduates in 1968. **BELOW:** Botham Jean leads singing in chapel in 2014.



Force on Recognizing African American Achievement at the University and approved by the board of trustees. The task force, chaired by women's soccer coach Dr. Greg Harris, was formed in June 2020 and is made up of Black and white members of the board of trustees, faculty, administration, students and alumni. The goal of the task force was to identify the most meaningful and appropriate ways in which the University can memorialize and celebrate the history and presence of African American students and alumni at Harding.

"This announcement is a result of many hours of conversation, collaboration and hard work by our task force members as well as other Harding stakeholders," said Harris. "It is also the outcome of the University's willingness and intentional vision to move forward along this path of celebrating the entire heritage of our Harding family."

TOP PHOTO SUBMITTED; BOTTOM PHOTO BY JEFF MONTGOMERY



I N A WORLD THAT LIVES FOR A STANDING OVATION, humble servants are a rare breed.

They do their finest work in the shadows, making sure others remain in the spotlight. Their concern is for the greater good, deflecting appreciation that rightfully belongs to them.

Dr. Jerome Barnes belongs in that elite company. Had he been an artist, his paintings would have no signature. Had he been a writer, his publications would have no byline.

He was a quiet man, yet his life spoke volumes about his concern for the well-being of others.

He delighted in helping children experience the thrill of Independence Day. As if by magic, he could transform 50 cents in a child's hand into \$5 of bottle rockets from his fireworks stand.

He understood emotion hidden in photographs set to music. During the final chapel assembly each spring semester, his audiovisual genius was on display. It took days for him to sift and sort hundreds of slides, ensuring that as many faces as possible were included in his visual montage. For 20 minutes we watched ourselves relive the year and left chapel humming "friends are friends forever."

Dr. Barnes was a dedicated teacher in the classroom. He expected from us no less than what he demanded from himself, and we learned from him the value of an exemplary work ethic.

He was convinced that we needed an education beyond our textbooks, and in Student Association meetings, he gave us permission to ask questions and to debate decisions. He was quick to hoist us up onto his shoulders for a better view of all our options before we made a hasty decision. But once our choice was made, he did not shield us from the consequences.

When we mismanaged our responsibilities, he walked us through the moment. He was the one who nudged me to apologize in person to the faculty for the language and behavior of a musical group whose performance fell short of Harding's expectations. The apology was necessary, but more importantly, he taught me that when outcomes are disappointing, true leaders accept blame, and when projects are successful, servants are quick to share the credit.

JEROME BARNES | 1934-2020

Humble servant

By MICHAEL JUSTUS, *Student Association president 1973-74*

In 1984, the year before our family returned to Searcy, a book arrived in our mailbox. I remember little of what was written on the pages, but I will never forget the title: *Tough Times Never Last, But Tough People Do*. The return address on the package belonged to Jerome Barnes. It was his subtle vote of confidence, an unsolicited affirmation, which came at a moment when I needed it most.

It is impossible to think of Dr. Barnes without his wife, Barbara. They have been known affectionately as Pa and Ma Barnes, and together they have demonstrated the heart and hands of hospitality. Our children will tell you the Barnes' house was their favorite stop after school for soft drinks in miniature bottles, and we remain grateful for the year they shared their Christmas Eve dinner with us when we were displaced in temporary housing. Their front door has always been open, and the sofa in front of Ma Barnes' fireplace remains a welcome seat for conversation.

Jerome Barnes was convinced that the most effective teachers are perpetual students themselves. My guess is that in his personal Bible study, he and the apostle Paul talked often about how best to "do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourselves."

Pa Barnes was a mentor, counselor and trusted advisor. Surely, he will hear the words that best describe the lifeblood of

his character: "Well done, my good and faithful servant." 🙏

Jerome Medwick Barnes ('56), 86, of Searcy died Oct. 3, 2020. He received a master's in education from Harding and a doctorate in education from University of North Texas. He was principal at Truman, Arkansas. He worked 48 years at Harding, first serving as elementary principal at Harding Academy of Memphis, Tennessee, and then as vice president of student services, professor of education, and director of the educational media center at the University. He was sponsor of the Student Association and the student activities committee. After retirement from the University, he worked at Health Talents International for 15 years. He was a member of College Church of Christ. He is survived by his wife of 62 years, Barbara Green ('64); three children, Roy ('82), Jerome ('89), and Jennifer Moffett ('95); sister, Clara Haskill; seven grandchildren; and four great-grandchildren.



UCM FILE PHOTO



Steve Lake and Candice Moore

Lake, Moore named to new positions

STEVE LAKE WAS APPOINTED vice president of enrollment services over admissions and financial aid, and Candice Moore was named assistant vice president of University communications and marketing, both effective Dec. 2, 2020.

Lake ('86) came to the University in 2008 as a gift officer in the office of advancement where he was appointed assistant vice president in 2012. In addition to fundraising, he has been heavily involved in recruiting efforts. He previously served as vice president of sales for an industrial manufacturing company in Dallas.

"His love for Harding and his focus on the significance of personal relationships will be extremely valuable in this new role," said President David Burks.

Lake also will continue to manage a

portfolio of donors.

Candice Moore ('01) came to the University in 2016 as the events and project specialist in the office of alumni and parent relations. In 2017 she moved to the office of University communications and marketing as the director of marketing, and in 2020 she was appointed as campaign and project director in advancement. Moore brings 15 years of experience in sales and marketing prior to her time at Harding.

President Burks noted, "She and the team helped build branding and marketing campaigns with many programs and events across the University. Her familiarity with our team and efforts will serve her well in this new leadership role of UCM."

UCM now reports to Dr. Bryan Burks, vice president of University advancement.

Ganus memoir tells of an extraordinary life

THE FAMILY OF CLIFTON L. GANUS JR. has released *I'd Do It All Again*, a memoir written by the former president and chancellor of Harding recounting adventures and experiences from his life.

Ganus was known by many as a leader, supporter and representative of the University. His life also involved travels to 117 countries, four 700-mile Mississippi River trips in a small boat, conversations with world leaders, annual fishing trips to Alaska, lecturing in universities internationally, representing the church of Christ to foreign governments, climbing the Great Pyramid, establishing a Christian school in Uganda, and much more.



"He was devoted to his faith, to his wife and family, and to Harding University, the school that helped to shape him and that he in turn helped to shape as its president," said Cliff Ganus III. "His life was transformed when he came to Harding as a student in 1939 and then

again when he came in 1946 as a teacher. He discovered a passion that he didn't know he was going to have and was influenced by many who convicted him of what it meant to be a Christian."

In 2016, at the age of 94 and at the request of his family and friends, Ganus began drafting his book, using notes he had collected throughout his life. He continued to compile, write, travel and maintain a full schedule until May of 2019, when he developed a serious illness. He died Sept. 9, 2019.

"For those who knew him the book is a reminder of the joy and commitment that characterized him," said Ganus III. "For those who did not know him, this is an introduction to a man who was committed to God, family and service, told with a dash of adventure and humor in his own words — an ordinary accounting of an extraordinary life."

I'd Do It All Again can be purchased for the discounted price of \$24.95 in the Harding University Bookstore and online at hubookstore.harding.edu. All proceeds from the sale of the book, after expenses, will go to the Clifton L. and Louise Ganus Endowed Scholarship fund. For more information or to purchase, visit library.harding.edu/ganusbook.

PHOTO BY JEFF MONTGOMERY

Have you HEARD?

HU16 IS NOW AVAILABLE AS AN APP on Roku devices. The app allows users on any Roku system to watch live programming or a wide variety of past productions available through HU16's Video on Demand service, including chapel presentations, Spring Sing performances, commencement ceremonies, campus speakers and more. To add the app to your list of Roku channels, search 'Harding' or 'HU16' and look for the logo, download the app, and begin watching your favorite Harding programs.



SEEN on SOCIAL MEDIA



Benjamin Watson

Great to visit the state of Arkansas and Harding University. When it comes to confronting the legacy of racism in our society, we must address the sacred and the secular; the spiritual depravity of man as well as the systems he erects. I'm hopeful because of how far we have come and the openness of the many to challenge themselves, their colleagues and their communities.

NOVEMBER 10, 2020



T Derrick Beckom @DVMMIAMSOCCER

A 4 1/2 hour drive to sit outside and watch you graduate from my iPad, you have no idea the emotions going through me. You



made it look so easy although I know it wasn't. You trusted God's process and now you're a graduate of Harding University. Thank you HU family, thank you so much.

NOVEMBER 22, 2020

HU Black Student Association [hardingbsa](https://www.instagram.com/hardingbsa)

Thank you to all of you who came and supported us yesterday, at our Martin Luther King Jr. celebration and 'Worship Walk.'

JANUARY 19



Caper Media [caper_media](https://www.instagram.com/caper_media)

Harding University has had a huge impact in my life. While I never attended myself, both my parents went to Harding and a large number of my friends did. I'm so thankful for this wonderful school and the work they're doing to make the world a better place!

JANUARY 26



Frank McCown @fmccown

All joking aside... I really appreciate @pfizer, @moderna_tx and others for all their hard work in getting this #COVID19 vaccine out so quickly. And I appreciate @HardingU for making it available to the faculty!

JANUARY 28

HU Online established

PRESIDENT DAVID BURKS announced the expansion of the University's educational offerings with the creation of Harding University Online, led by Senior Vice President of IS&T and CIO Keith Cronk. Dr. Susan Kehl, dean and associate professor of nursing, was appointed to serve as dean.

"The mission of online education will be to provide a Christ-centered, transformative Harding education through a framework encapsulating online and a variety of other nontraditional methodologies," said President Burks.

In April 2020 a task force was created to explore possibilities of online education. Members of the task force included Burks, Cronk, Kehl, Dr. Marty Spears, Dr. Reet Cronk, Dr. Tim Westbrook and Becky Tubb (board representative).

"The task force concluded that we have reached a point where there is little doubt that online learning will be a major part of higher education in the future," said Burks. "They also concluded that online learning can broaden the reach of Harding and enable us to take our mission and programs to all the world."

HU Online will collaborate with colleges, departments and di-

visions across the University while simultaneously working to grow the University's online presence worldwide. Currently, it offers one undergraduate distance program, nursing, while a second graduate distance program, organizational leadership, is under development. New programs and offerings will be launched later this year through 2022. HU Online also will work with the University's existing online programs, but they will remain housed in their respective colleges.

"The distance/online degree program format allows students the flexibility to work and care for their families while furthering their education," Kehl said.

BY THE NUMBERS

SIZING UP CHARTWELLS FOR THE FALL

715

Transactions on the Boost mobile ordering app

6,000+

Meals delivered to students in quarantine and isolation

10,000+

Meal swipes used per week in the dining hall

400

Number of students allowed in the dining hall at a time to maintain social distancing



600+

Meal exchanges used per day in the student center food court options

130

Students served in the dining hall after on-campus classes ended Nov. 20



SPOTLIGHT



TIM HAMILTON is an assistant professor of communication and multimedia producer for the University. After graduating with a B.A. in mass communication in 1980, Hamilton began working with KATV in Little Rock, Arkansas, where he spent 32 years as a videographer for news and sports, before returning to the University.

WHY DID YOU RETURN TO HARDING?

What I realized was that as much as I enjoyed my job at KATV, what I really loved was working with Paul Eels, the sports director at the time and the “Voice of the Arkansas Razorbacks.” He was the kindest man I ever knew. In 26 years of working with him, I never saw him lose his temper, get rattled or raise his voice at anyone. We were in some really tight moments and windows in the commercial breaks before he was about to be live, and he just kept me calm in a very chaotic environment. After 26 years of working together, he was killed in a car wreck and from that moment on, it was not the same. I started thinking about what else I could do. I still enjoyed the job, just not like I did before. I loved my time at Harding as a student, and I’d get back to campus occasionally to cover a story. I guess I always thought in the back of my mind it might be fun to come back and try to pass on a little bit of something that I learned in this profession.

WHAT DOES YOUR JOB ENTAIL?

When I started it was as the multimedia producer for sports, but they asked me if I would be willing to teach a class as an adjunct, if needed. During my second semester I taught the TV production project class, and since then I have had at least one class every semester. After we started a major for students interested in multimedia journalism, I began teaching sports broadcasting, sports writing and reporting, and also an advanced video production class in the spring. Outside of teaching, most of my time is at games supervising students who work the cameras, direct, produce, and report on camera interviewing players and coaches after the games.

WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE PART ABOUT WORKING WITH STUDENTS?

My favorite part is when you have a student in class, and then they graduate and get that first job, and you get a call that said you were exactly right about something you said in class. That might be number one because I do try to be extremely honest about the profession. I try to really tell it like it is as far as what it’s like out there, and I want them to understand the pressure, stress, deadlines and tempers and all that stuff that can go on. It’s also a lot of fun to be at the games and watch students get better each and every time they are out there. When they are directing their first game they may struggle a bit, but then they get to their second game and you can tell they are already better. After two or three games, they are really doing a good job at that point, and it’s fun to see the progress in whatever position they are working.

WHAT ARE SOME OF YOUR FAVORITE MOMENTS ON THE JOB?

If I was picking a favorite moment while working at KATV it would have to be the Razorbacks winning the national championship in 1994. My favorite memory since I have been back at Harding would be when the Lady Bisons made it to the Final Four a few years ago. The game that they won at Rhodes that put them into the Final Four was probably the most exciting game since I have been here. That was a great evening, the best I have seen at Rhodes during my time here.

WHAT ADVICE WOULD YOU GIVE TO STUDENTS GOING INTO THIS PROFESSION?

There is real value in showing up. What I mean by that is be on time, work hard and always have a great attitude. I think you can have less talent, but if you show up on time, work hard and have a great attitude, that makes up for the difference in talent level. It’s not always the person with the most talent that advances. I have seen people with tremendous talent be late, not work hard and have a lousy attitude, and it hurts them in the long run. If you show up, then you have an opportunity to stand out. 📺

PHOTO BY JEFF MONTGOMERY

MY VIEW

JULIE HIXSON-WALLACE

Vaccinating for COVID-19

Because of her extensive background in pharmacy, Harding magazine asked Dr. Julie Hixson-Wallace, the founding dean of the College of Pharmacy who now serves as vice president for accreditation and institutional effectiveness and associate provost, to provide her perspective on COVID-19 vaccines.

AS SOLOMON TELLS US through inspiration in Ecclesiastes 1:9, “That which has been is that which will be, and that which has been done is that which will be done. So there is nothing new under the sun.” (NASB 1995)

The year 2021 marks 30 years since I graduated from Mercer University Southern School of Pharmacy with my Doctor of Pharmacy degree. Thus, it comes as no surprise that while many things have changed in medicine, many things have stayed the same. In 1991 there were 9,643 measles cases reported in the United States, a 65.3% decrease from the 27,786 cases reported in 1990. The large decrease in measles cases was due to a renewed effort to provide routine vaccination against measles following seven large outbreaks in 1989-90 due to unvaccinated preschool-age children. The CDC’s Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report declared, “... only a sustained effort to provide age-appropriate vaccination will prevent another resurgence of measles.”

We now are in the midst of a viral pandemic due to a member of a family of viruses that have caused endemic common colds and flu-like symptoms for decades. Twice before, in 2002-03 and 2012-13, coronavirus epidemics occurred. This led to research in the areas of both prevention and treatment of coronaviruses, but the interest has waxed and waned in conjunction with how serious each epidemic has been. Knowing that the current COVID vaccines were expedited by research performed over many years can help ease the minds of those who have raised concerns that the vaccines have been brought too fast to clinical use.

While being vaccinated for COVID-19 and the viruses that cause influenza can never achieve nearly complete disease eradication like that experienced for infections such as polio, smallpox and measles, I believe taking care of the bodily temple God gives each of us through preventative healthcare is prudent. His provision to humankind, the brains and natural resources to develop vaccines, gives us the responsibility of being good stewards of that creation. Like the old story of the man stranded on his roof during a flood who passed up the boat and helicopter that came to save him and then asked God when he arrived in heaven why He didn’t save him, I hope we will not turn up our noses to COVID-19 vaccines. They are our helicopter to safety and normalcy – don’t miss out! 📺



PHOTO BY JEFF MONTGOMERY

NEWSMAKERS

ADMISSIONS

David Hall, manager of the Bookstore, also was named executive director of enrollment services Dec. 2, 2020.

ADVANCEMENT

Ronnie Huckeba was appointed director of senior advancement officers in January.

ATHLETICS

Michael Gragg was named head strength and conditioning coach in December 2020. He previously served as the assistant strength and conditioning coach at Northern Arizona University.

COLLEGE OF EDUCATION

Lisa Bryant, assistant professor of education, successfully completed her doctoral work in special education at the University of Memphis in October 2020. The title of her dissertation is “Collegiate Experiences of Individuals with Mild to Moderate Intellectual Disabilities: Our Success Stories.”

COLLEGE OF PHARMACY

Sarah Steely and **Natalie Stirrup** represented HUCOP in the ASHP National Clinical Skills Competition in December during the 2020 Midyear Clinical virtual meeting. Steely and Stirrup made the top 10 finalists out of 126 colleges of pharmacy across the nation.

COLLEGE OF SCIENCES

Dr. Frank McCown, associate professor of computer science, recently co-authored an interactive, online textbook *Database Systems with SQL*.

Dr. Mike Plummer, professor emeritus, recently had research published on Researchoutreach.org involving the hibernating behavior of small softshell turtles.

PUBLIC SAFETY

Craig Russell, director of public safety, was awarded senior regional vice president of the year by ASIS International at a virtual Leadership Exchange event in January 2021.

STUDENT HEALTH SERVICES

Mary Darden was appointed director of student health services in August 2020.

UNIVERSITY COMMUNICATIONS AND MARKETING

Lane Gammel joined the team in February as the director of communications and media relations. He previously served as director of communications for the Seattle Seahawks.

Amanda Rice was named marketing manager in January. She previously served the office as marketing assistant, a position being filled by **Luke Humphrey** who began in February.



Be The Match program on campus results in donation



LUMNUS JULIAN TRUJILLO ('19) from Coppell, Texas, recently made a trip to Washington, D.C., to donate bone marrow after discovering he was a match to a 16-year-old girl with acute lymphoblastic leukemia.

Trujillo said he became involved with Be The Match, an organization that connects donors with those in need of a transplant, after they came to the University his sophomore year. Since then, he has received a couple of calls about potential matches, but it wasn't until this past summer that he received THE call. In August he was informed he was informed he was a match and would be flown to the District of Columbia to continue the donation process. In preparation for his donation, Trujillo completed a health checkup to confirm he was able to carry out the donation.



"I was pretty excited just because you sign up hoping you get an opportunity to help out, but you don't really understand the process of how people become matches," Trujillo said. "Just to have the opportunity to help someone was pretty cool."

Trujillo was originally scheduled to go in August but was delayed until September due to the pandemic.

"The morning of I had to show up around 6 a.m. I was introduced to the doctor who proceeded to tell me they do this procedure upwards of 200 times a year, and the facility is number one in the country, so that was comforting."

The procedure took an hour and a half, during which the doctor retrieved bone marrow from Trujillo's lower back. Other than a bandage covering the retrieval site and a sore throat from the intubation tube, Trujillo said he felt great and was allowed to go home a couple of hours later the same day.

Trujillo is allowed to communicate with the recipient through Be The Match, however, no information can be disclosed until a year after the donation date. Following his trip, Trujillo says it is definitely something he would consider doing again.

"At most, it is a minor inconvenience for me, but it can be life changing for someone else. It's not really up for debate and completely selfish to think otherwise. You could be providing so many more future memories for thousands of people involved in the other person's life. God sent his son to die on a cross to save my eternal life — the least I could do is give some bone marrow to try and help save her earthly life."

New system improves library efficiency

IN DECEMBER BRACKETT LIBRARY officially made the transition to a new system, a process that had been in the works since July 2020. As part of the upgrade, the system has a new searching interface that allows users to search across all library resources at one time providing users the ability to renew books and place holds, all within one area.

The library had been on the previous system since 2001.

"Our old system was really built for print collections, but the new system is designed to work with both print and electronic resources," said Jean Waldrop, library director.

Users' library accounts will now work with their interlibrary loan account, allowing them to view their requests and renew books online. Additionally, if a user is unable to find a resource in the Brackett Library collection, they can broaden the search to include availability at other library locations.

In addition to the new features the system provides, managing day-to-day processes has drastically improved.

"The landscape has changed dramatically in the library world since we implemented our last library management system 20 years ago," said Brenda Breezeel, library systems administrator. "We are no longer just managing books, we are managing electronic resources such as e-books, online journals and databases. The new system allows us to manage all of these resources more efficiently, which in turn allows us to get those resources ready for students and faculty quicker."

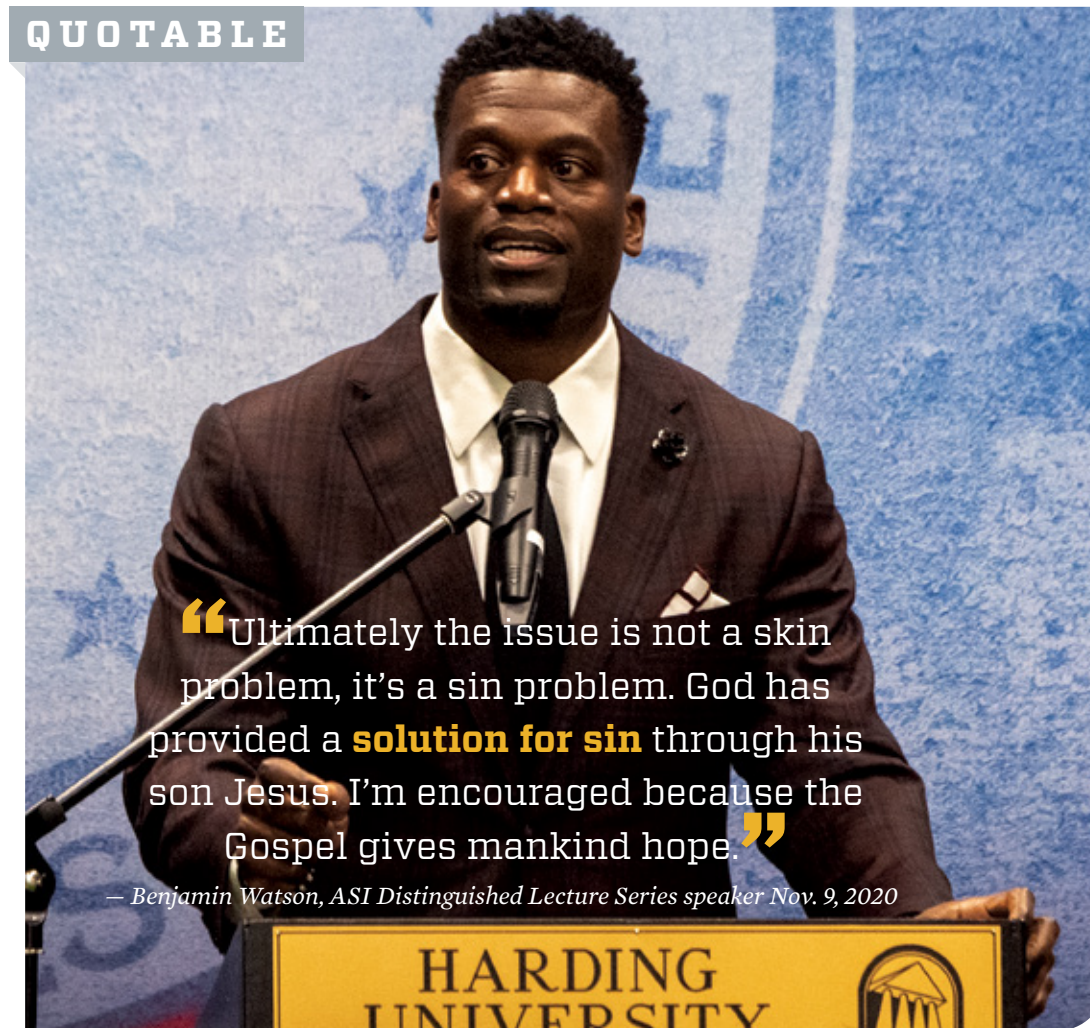
Breezeel says the transition and migration to a new system have been a success.

"Overall it has gone smoothly. We spent a lot of time in the spring and summer preparing for the migration, brainstorming project planning and doing data clean up to help make the transition easier."

Harding School of Theology shares a library system with the University and participated in the migration process as well.

SUBMITTED PHOTO

QUOTABLE



— Benjamin Watson, ASI Distinguished Lecture Series speaker Nov. 9, 2020

Nursing master's first of its kind in Arkansas

CARR COLLEGE OF NURSING launched a Master's Entry into Professional Nursing program in fall 2020. This is the first prelicensure Master of Science in Nursing program in Arkansas and permits graduates to sit for the NCLEX-RN licensing exam as well as achieve higher levels of nursing.

The MEPN program equips registered nurses to provide excellent patient care while understanding the complexities of the healthcare system. Graduates will be prepared for direct patient care roles as well as indirect roles in diverse settings. Special topics in the MEPN program include, but are not limited to, leadership, management, quality improvement and care coordination. MEPN graduates will be prepared to lead and serve in administrative roles as their careers progress.

The year-round, five-semester program includes 72 credit hours, 1,032 clinical hours and prepares

PHOTO BY JEFF MONTGOMERY

students with a bachelor's degree or at least 90 undergraduate credit hours and undergraduate nursing prerequisites to become advanced entry-level professional nurses. The MEPN program is ideal for individuals seeking an exciting career change to professional nursing and healthcare. The degree allows faster attainment of the advanced practice roles in nursing and completion of the Doctor of Nursing Practice following graduation.

"This is an exciting opportunity for Carr College of Nursing to offer a master's entry for those who already have a bachelor's degree but also for incoming freshmen to move straight through undergraduate classes right into master's level courses," said Debby Nutt, program director. "The program will be a benefit to healthcare organizations across the state of Arkansas, the United States and other countries."



Holiday housing

AS THE ON-CAMPUS PORTION of the semester ended Nov. 20, a number of students remained on campus through the week of Thanksgiving, and some through Christmas as well. Ten students stayed the entire break, while around 80 were on campus for different time frames. Additionally, more than 125 student-athletes remained for different time periods related to practice schedules and games for their sports.

Aside from athletics, reasons for remaining on campus included international students unable to return home, students in quarantine or isolation, those completing student teaching requirements or other work commitments, as well as some who required internet access to complete the semester remotely.

"I stayed because of work, so it was just me in my apartment for the break," Alexis Smith, a senior social work major, said. "It can get pretty lonely being on campus by yourself, but honestly the Christmas lights on campus kept it feeling a lot more homey. You can see the lights from off campus, and it just reminded me of lighting ceremonies and hanging out with friends."

The dining hall was open between Thanksgiving break and Christmas break. The numbers during each break were low enough that each student received individual communication to ensure they had access to food. These students also stayed in touch daily with a residence life coordinator over the holiday breaks. According to Dean of Students Zach Neal, a special meal was offered to those interested at Thanksgiving and at Christmas, and most, if not all, students made other plans.

"I am very thankful that the University was able to offer this opportunity," Neal said. "We are in conversations now to create a way for students to have this option when gaining their housing assignments in the future."



For the latest sports information, visit hardingsports.com.

Bisons back in the herd

By SCOTT GOODE, assistant athletic director for sports information

EVERY YEAR, more than 100 new students come to Searcy because they have been given a chance to participate in intercollegiate athletics for one or more of Harding's 18 teams. Many of those student-athletes graduate and move away, but a surprising number stay or come back to Harding to work.

In the athletic department, the University has 14 former student-athletes now on its coaching staffs, including head coaches Dr. Patrick McGaha (baseball), Paul Simmons (football), Dustin Howell (men's and women's golf), Jon Ireland (men's soccer), David Red-

ding (tennis) and Meredith Fear (volleyball). That number is by far the most of any university in the Great American Conference. Arkansas Tech, by comparison, is next with five.

But possibly the most remarkable figure is the number of former student-athletes who now work at the University outside of athletics. There are more than 30 current employees at Harding who participated in athletics.

Karie Fouts Fager says that her time as a student-athlete at Harding prepared her for many other aspects of post-college life.

"Athletics prepares you for so many things — working as a team, trusting a coach or boss, being able to talk to your coach or boss, winning

and losing, being early and not just on time, always working to be better, encouraging your teammates, realizing your role on the team and so much more."

For many of these student-athletes, working at Harding became a goal while they were still in school or soon thereafter.

"I loved everything about my experience at Harding as a student-athlete," Dr. Clay Beason says. "I loved my professors, my coaches, dorm life, hanging out in the student center, eating with friends in the cafeteria, home Bible studies, spring break mission trips and more. I wanted to continue to be associated with that."

"The men I was around during my time on

"The **influence** that coach Dick Johnson and coach Steve Smith had on me and my teammates is the biggest factor from my experience in Harding athletics that made me want to come **back to work** at Harding."

MARTY SPEARS, PROVOST

hu:apocalypse (Harding's ultimate Frisbee club team) were of such high caliber, actively pursuing loving the Lord in their daily lives," Dr. Justin Bland says. "I wanted them to remain influential in my life. At the time, I thought if God were to provide me with a family and children, I want my children to look up to these men. So we established a plan and wrote out a contract agreement that we would all come back to Searcy and teach at Harding. Life has thrown us some curves, but 14 years later, three of the four of us have succeeded in living in Searcy and the fourth is still committed if the Lord wills."

Tia Tarole Stone remembers: "When my parents dropped me off at Harding, I did not

know a single student. They said goodbye and drove 18 hours back home. Over the next few weeks and months, my teammates became my family. We practiced together in the mornings and afternoons. We traveled together on the weekends. We ate together and at times worshipped together. This spirit of family and belonging has made me feel a part of Harding ever since, and making the decision to work here was an easy one."

Former student-athletes also saw how Harding improved their lives and wanted to provide that for others.

"I thought everyone who came to Harding grew up in a faithful Christian household," Dr.

Jason Darden says. "Through my experiences as a student-athlete, I began to realize that college students are in a very formative phase of their lives. Teaching scriptures and sharing faith with college students can change the trajectory of their lives. I learned this while witnessing a few of my teammates come to faith in Christ."

For Ross Cochran, the example set by his coach influenced the way he deals with his students.

"Coach David Elliott used to come into Armstrong Hall and check on another freshman and me just to see if we were studying and were not homesick. I see the importance of that personal touch in my present interactions with students."

FORMER ATHLETES WORKING OUTSIDE OF ATHLETICS

JIM BAIRD
Job: Manager, client support and consulting
Sport: Men's track, 1984-85
Stat: Ranks eighth on Harding's all-time outdoor 2-mile list at 9:54.22

DAVID BANGS
Job: Professor, College of Education/ chair of graduate studies
Sport: Football, 1977-79
Stats: Compiled 1,122 career all-purpose yards and scored five touchdowns

KLAY BARTEE
Job: Assistant professor, HU Counseling Center
Sport: Football, 1977-82 • coached Bison football for 24 seasons
Stats: Played 32 games as a Bison • had a 10-yard interception return for a touchdown in 1980

CLAY BEASON
Job: Professor, College of Education
Sports: Football, 1992-96; Track and field
Stats: The only Bison football player with more than 2,000 career passing yards and 1,000 career receiving yards • 1994 AIC 110-meter hurdles champion and 1995 AIC high jump champion

JUSTIN BLAND
Job: Associate professor, department of exercise and sport sciences
Sport: Club ultimate frisbee, 2003-07
Best memory: Harding's upset victory over No. 2-ranked Texas State in the regional tournament

RYAN CARTER
Job: Construction manager, Physical Resources
Sport: Men's track and field, 1995
Stat: Cleared 6 feet, 6 inches in the high jump

ROSS COCHRAN
Job: Professor, College of Bible and Ministry
Sport: Men's Tennis, 1975-76
Stats: Won 21 singles matches in 1976, seventh in an HU single season • AIC No. 5 singles and No. 3 doubles (with Charles Ganus) champion in 1976 • 33-8 career singles record

DAVID COLLINS
Job: Executive vice president
Sport: Men's basketball, 1988-92
Stats: Played in 89 games • scored 573 points with 278 rebounds and 75 3-pointers made

LUKE CULLINS
Job: Assistant professor, College of Sciences
Sport: Football, 1996-99
Stats: Fifth at Harding with 5,027 passing yards and third with 44 passing touchdowns

JASON DARDEN
Job: Instructor, College of Bible and Ministry
Sport: Football, 1999-2003
Best memory: Slip-n-slide on the third floor of Harbin Hall with freshmen football players

TESSA TAROLE DAVIDSON
Job: Associate professor, department of art and design
Sport: Women's cross-country and track and field, 2003-07
Stats: Had career-best times of 2:24.66 in the 800 meters and 5:08.84 in the 1,500 meters

J.R. DUKE
Job: Associate professor, department of history
Sport: Men's basketball, 1994-98
Stats: Ranks second at Harding in career 3-point field goal percentage (45.3%) • 1996-97 NAIA All-Region • 1997-98 CoSIDA Academic All-America

LEE EDWARDS
Job: Associate professor, College of Bible and Ministry
Sport: Football, 1991-94
Stats: 120 tackles and 4.0 sacks in 35 career games

KARIE FOUTS FAGER
Job: Residence life coordinator for Allen Hall
Sports: Basketball, 1995-99; track and field, 1999
Memories: "I have great memories of going to nationals in 1996 and 1997, of road trips in the minibus, of being a Lady Bison with my sister for two years, of playing in the Rhodes, and playing with such great teammates. I am proud to have been a Lady Bison!"

MARC FAGER
Job: Associate professor, department of mental health and wellness
Sport: Football, 1995-99
Honors: 2000 Berryhill Award winner as Harding's top male senior athlete

BRITNEY COPELAND FINLEY
Job: Assistant professor, department of kinesiology
Sport: Women's cross-country and track and field, 1998-2002
Honors: 1998 Lone Star Conference women's cross-country Freshman of the Year

BUTCH GARDNER
Job: Director, career services
Sports: Basketball, 1973-77; track and field, 1974-75; baseball, 1975
Stats: Bison basketball's career leader with 2,255 points and 983 rebounds

RONNIE HUCKEBA
Job: Director of senior advancement officers, Advancement
Sport: Football, 1973-76
Coached for 30 seasons at Harding, including 10 as head coach • started at guard on the Bisons' 1976 Arkansas Intercollegiate Conference co-championship squad

DAVID KEE
Job: Professor, College of Business Administration
Sport: Club men's soccer
Memories: "We competed against a variety of schools across Arkansas and the region. Our team was a rag-tag group of talented players representing more than a half-dozen countries. We had no scholarships and no money, except from our sponsor Searcy Steel Co."

KENDALL LOWE
Job: Preventative maintenance service specialist, Physical Resources
Sport: Club ultimate frisbee, 2012-16
Best memory: "The best memories I have of playing for Harding were our numerous road trips to tournaments, particularly our trip to nationals in Minnesota in 2013."

NATHAN MILLS
Job: Professor, department of biology
Sport: Men's cross-country and track and field, 1989-93
Awards: Two-time All-AIC (1991 and 1992), placing fourth both seasons

JESSICA MOORE
Job: Associate professor, department of kinesiology
Sport: Softball, 1980-81
Comment: "I graduated from Harding in 1980 but entered the graduate education program in order to play on the first softball team. This certainly helped me attain my first coaching position."

ERIC MYERS
Job: Coordinator of sports medicine
Sport: Football, 1988-90
A member of Harding's 1989 team that upset University of Central Arkansas to earn the AIC co-championship

FARAH MACKKEY PRICE
Job: Administrative assistant, physical therapy
Sport: Women's tennis, 1990-94
Comment: "I really loved getting to spend time with the Hispanic players that Coach (David) Elliott always recruited. We are still friends to this day."

JANIS COPELAND RAGSDALE
Job: Administrator, International programs
Sport: Softball, 1982
Memories: "My best memories include practices at Berryhill Park, workouts at the small red-carpeted weight room in the GAC, friendships, and experiencing positive mentoring by coaches Ted Altman and Robbie Shackelford."
SCOTT RAGSDALE
Job: Associate professor, department of computer science
Sport: Football, 1977-80
Harding's starting quarterback in 1980

MARTY SPEARS
Job: Provost
Sport: Baseball, 1984-88
Memories: "I was part of a very special team my freshman year, and we came within six outs of going to the NAIA World Series. My senior year was special because I was the only senior, and it was Coach (Dick) Johnson's last year. We went out together and really enjoyed that final season. I was sort of like an assistant coach that year and even drove the bus to some of the games."

TIA TAROLE STONE
Job: Preprofessional health sciences administration
Sport: Women's cross-country and track and field, 1998-2001

Best memory: "My husband (John) proposed to me immediately following the national cross-country meet in Pomona, California, my senior year."

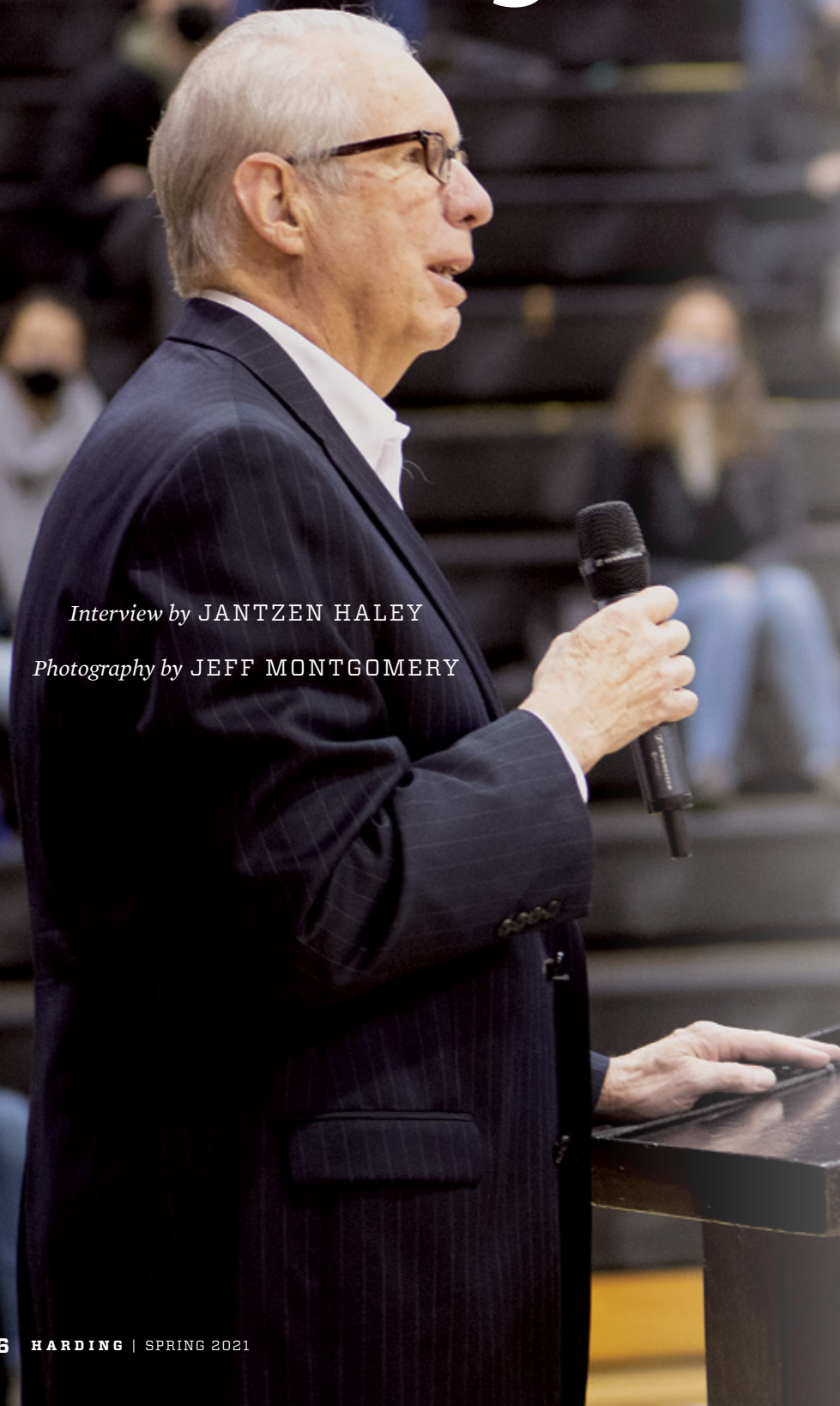
PHILIP THOMPSON
Job: Professor, College of Bible and Ministry
Sport: Baseball, 1972-74
Memory: "In one of the first games I pitched, a batter on the opposing team hit a monstrous home run. The ball was still rising when it cleared the fence of the ballfield at Berryhill Park. It finally landed in the adjacent Little League field."

LAURIE WALKER
Job: Assistant professor, department of math
Sport: Women's track and field, 1985
Comment: "I was very excited to be part of the first women's track team at Harding!"

CARL WILLIAMSON
Job: Professor, College of Bible and Ministry
Sport: Men's cross-country and track and field, 1998-2002
Awards: 2000 Academic All-Lone Star Conference

JAMIE GARNER WILSON
Job: Assistant director, postal services
Sport: Women's basketball, 1997-98
Played on Harding's first NCAA Division II team

Back in the saddle again



Interview by JANTZEN HALEY

Photography by JEFF MONTGOMERY

Dr. David B. Burks returned to the role of president Dec. 1, 2020, after serving as chancellor since 2013. His Harding career spans more than five decades since joining the faculty in 1967. In addition to teaching accounting in the Paul R. Carter College of Business Administration, he served as dean of the college for 13 years and as director of American Studies for five years. Focused on the integration of faith, learning and living, Burks led the University to record growth in enrollment and giving during his first administration. He has held leadership positions on the Higher Learning Commission, on the North Central Association of Colleges and Universities, First Security Bank, the Founding Council of Presidents of the Great American Conference, and the Searcy Regional Economic Development Corporation. An elder at College Church of Christ, Burks and his wife, Leah, have two sons, Bryan and Stephen, and six grandchildren. Here's what he had to say about his time as chancellor, his plans for the future, and his secret to success.

WHAT ARE YOUR MOST SIGNIFICANT ACCOMPLISHMENTS FROM YOUR TIME AS CHANCELLOR?

I spent a considerable amount of my time as chancellor designing and developing Legacy Park residential, which includes some 38 homes, three townhouses and 12 condominiums. I also worked on economic development projects for Harding and the city of Searcy. In addition, I worked on special projects for Harding, for example, chairing the Task Force on Online Education.

WHY DID YOU DECIDE TO ACCEPT THIS INTERIM ROLE?

I love Harding and I love her mission, and I simply felt that I should answer yes when I was asked to fill this role again by the board of trustees. I do believe we have a bright future, and I want to do all that I can in this interim period of time to help advance our mission and ministry at Harding.

WHAT ARE YOUR TOP GOALS TO FULFILL AS PRESIDENT?

The top goal is simply to make sure we continue with the implementation, in the most successful way possible, our mission of integrating faith, learning and living. I would like to see as many students as possible receive what we refer to as "the Harding experience." It is a transformational, life-changing experience.

DEALING WITH THE PANDEMIC AND UNREST IN OUR COUNTRY HAS CHALLENGED THE UNIVERSITY. WHAT WOULD YOU SAY ARE THE BIGGEST CHALLENGES FACING THE UNIVERSITY TODAY, AND HOW DO THEY AFFECT YOUR ROLE?

Our country is facing unprecedented times as we deal with the pandemic and unrest in our nation. This will challenge Harding and other institutions of higher education in ways we have never seen before. We will continue to be challenged in terms of enrollment and the cost of attending a private Christian university. However, I believe that this is a wonderful investment for people to continue to make, and I believe our students will continue to make a meaningful difference in our world.

THE TERM 'CAMARADERIE' IS ATTACHED TO YOU AND YOUR PRESIDENCY. IN WHAT WAYS DOES IT ENCAPSULATE THE HARDING EXPERIENCE?

Camaraderie is just my favorite way of talking about fellowship and the closeness that students feel to one another, to their faculty members and to God, as a result of their experience at Harding.

STEPPING BACK INTO THE ROLE OF PRESIDENT, WHAT HAS CHANGED THE MOST IN YOUR LIFE? AT HARDING? IN THE SEARCY COMMUNITY?

The change that is most obvious is the role of social media in every aspect of life, but other than this transparency, much of what is involved in being president of the University is very much the same as it was when I was in this position eight years ago. We are still all about working with students and trying to teach and demonstrate how to integrate faith, learning and living.

IS THERE A PRESIDENTIAL SECRET TO SUCCESS?

I really don't know of any secret to success other than being committed to God and trying to do the best you can to follow his principles. I do believe in strategic planning although it is tough to do in an interim period of time. However, we can still set goals and try to achieve those that fit into our existing plan.

WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE PLACE ON HARDING'S CAMPUS, AND WHY?

That is hard to say because I love the entire campus, but my favorite place would be Cone Chapel with its view of the quad.

WHAT PERSONALITY TRAIT HAS GOTTEN YOU IN THE MOST TROUBLE? HOW SO?

I am always in a hurry and want to get things done as quickly as possible and as efficiently as possible. This is not always the best way to go, and sometimes it gets me in trouble. Sometimes I have not been able to enjoy the journey as much as I would like.

WHAT ONE ITEM COULD YOU NOT LIVE WITHOUT IN YOUR OFFICE?

Hard to say, but I would not want to be without the family book of pictures, which is given to Leah and me every year by our children, including all the major events of the preceding year. I have 20 of these books in my office, and these books are precious to me.

WHAT'S THE FIRST THING YOU DO WHEN YOU GET TO YOUR OFFICE EACH MORNING? WHAT'S THE LAST THING YOU DO BEFORE YOU LEAVE YOUR OFFICE EACH EVENING?

The first thing I do when I get to the office each morning is not very original. I turn on the computer and check emails if I did not do it at home. The last thing I do as I leave the office is the same, turn off the computer.

WHAT'S THE MOST UNIQUE THING YOU'VE BEEN ASKED TO DO BY A STUDENT OR GROUP OF STUDENTS?

I remember being asked by the SA president at the time, James Huff, who is now on our faculty, to sing a song with him in an SA Talent Show. I am not a singer but fortunately, James carried the day. We were both dressed in dark clothing and wore sunglasses and the lights were dim in the auditorium. This was before the time when everyone had a camera with them so I don't think it was recorded. It was funny! There were a lot of these incidents over the years.

WHAT ARE YOUR HOPES FOR HARDING IN 2021 AND BEYOND?

I just want Harding to be true to her mission statement in everything that we do. I am hopeful that we can continue to attract wonderful young people who want to be a part of what we have to offer at Harding. I am hopeful that this can be done, not only in Searcy but in other locations and even on the internet by way of online education. This would allow students to benefit from the Harding experience worldwide. 🌐

Pursuing a shortened pathway to PHARMACY

By JEFF MERCER, dean of the College of Pharmacy

Photography by JEFF MONTGOMERY

This May, the College of Pharmacy will graduate its 10th class of Doctor of Pharmacy students. They will join hundreds of other Harding-trained pharmacists who are caring for patients at practice sites throughout the nation at a time when frontline health providers are needed the most. Dr. Wali Abdul, a 2020 graduate and now community pharmacist at Kroger in Mesquite, Texas, says, “Being a pharmacist is more important than ever before. Harding prepared me to take on the added responsibility of immunizing patients in my home community during the pandemic.”

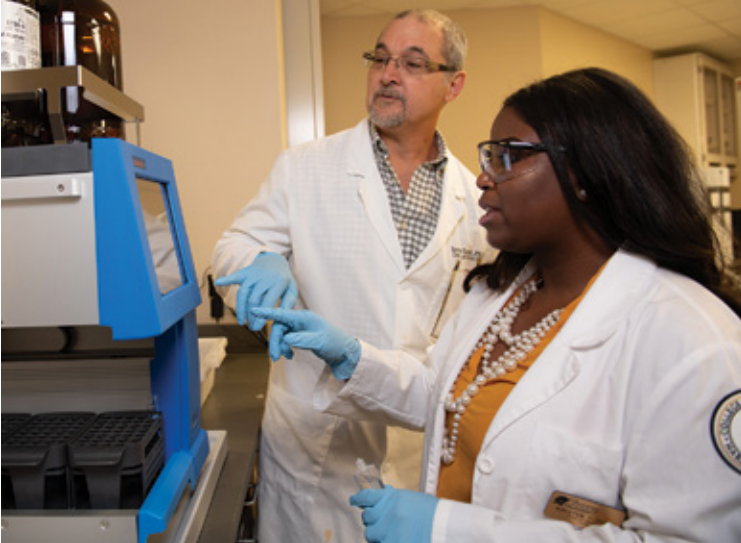
Pharmacy practice has changed significantly over time, and that is evident in the diverse careers that graduates have chosen following their education at Harding. A number of alumni are now community pharmacy owners. Some have moved into corporate management and regulatory affairs with companies like Walgreens and Walmart. Others are fulfilling operational roles as directors and managers of pharmacy and related services at hospitals and health systems throughout the United States. Still more have entered direct patient clinical-care roles at institutions throughout Arkansas and nationally at well-known sites like Johns Hopkins, Le Bonheur Children’s Hospital, MD Anderson and Veteran’s Administration Systems.

While Harding’s College of

Pharmacy is well established and has produced excellent pharmacists through the years, the drive to innovate and adapt to new opportunities in pharmacy education remains a goal for the program. That was the purpose of a recent announcement outlining a new 3 ½ year pharmacy curriculum that offers incoming students the opportunity to save time and money by starting their pharmacy education sooner and finishing earlier. This unique program is designed around the student and offers hybrid modes of learning with online coursework in the summer and on-ground classes during the traditional fall and spring semesters. Students also continue to learn experientially in real-world settings, all with Harding’s commitment to teaching within a foundation of Christian ethics and values.

Jessica Carter and Chithien Le are overseen by Dr. Rayanne Story as they practice their aseptic technique in the sterile compounding lab.

Dr. Jim Tarrant demonstrates the use of a compound purifier with third-year student Kristen Dixon in the medicinal chemistry lab.



HARDING'S NEW 3 ½ YEAR PHARMACY CURRICULUM is the first of its kind in Arkansas and is unlike other pharmacy programs throughout the country. Where most pharmacy schools or colleges are four years in duration, Harding's College of Pharmacy utilizes contemporary teaching and practice models to prepare students for graduation at least one semester earlier. The result will allow pharmacy graduates to finish their training and enter the workforce earlier, all at less overall cost as compared to students from traditional four-year institutions.

Dr. Steve Sparks, a 2013 graduate and now pharmacist and director of U.S. Ethics and Compliance at Walmart Corporate, points out that the move to a 3 ½ year curriculum will offer Harding graduates the unique opportunity to enter the job market during the cold and flu season when many pharmacies are hiring. "HUCOP is creating a way for their program to be successful and competitive by offering a great educational experience that can offer a job placement in a time of need," Sparks says.

The first students in this innovative new curriculum will enroll at Harding this summer, but they will not be physically on campus until fall. Dr. Jeanie Smith, assistant dean for admissions and student affairs, explains that "the biggest change in our curriculum is the utilization of online learning during our summer terms. These were downtimes in our four-year curriculum, so we set out to design a manageable schedule for students that would continue their education while still offering time off for breaks and flexibility in preferred locations." Summer courses are online, customizable and flexible enough to allow students to enroll in these courses from home or elsewhere while working for pay or completing pharmacy

practice experiences as part of the pharmacy curriculum. Breaks are also strategically built into the program for students to enjoy time with family and friends and to assure student health and wellness. Courses in the fall and spring semesters remain traditional and on campus so as to maintain the special connection that Harding pharmacy students gain as a cohort.

Implementing a program change of this magnitude is quite an undertaking and has involved all of the faculty and staff at the College of Pharmacy working together to make sure that a successful plan is in place for the future. Dr. Josh Brown, associate professor in the department of pharmaceutical sciences, outlined the process for approval of the new curriculum: "We began with three goals in mind – to condense the program to 3 ½ years, to utilize new and innovative teaching methods, and to integrate and align existing coursework in the classroom in order to provide a new and innovative curriculum for our students. Any one of those would have been a challenge, but our focus was on student needs. Through tough and focused work, I think we have created something special for our future cohorts of

pharmacy students. I'm really excited to see it come to life."

Another important goal for pharmacy students is to explore areas of professional interest through classroom electives and pharmacy practice experiences. The revised curriculum is designed to provide more opportunities for students to choose electives and experiences that are specific to their career goals. Students may choose from a variety of focused educational tracks that offer extra training in advanced pharmacotherapy, management, medical missions, or public health. Dual degree options are also available in collaboration with Harding's Paul R. Carter College of Business Administration, where students can pursue an online Master of Business Administration or a Master of Science in Information Systems in conjunction with their Doctor of Pharmacy degree. With online options for these additional degrees as well as other elective and training opportunities available in the new curriculum, Harding's pharmacy graduates will enter the workforce even more confident and prepared for contemporary pharmacy practice.

FOR STUDENTS WHO MAY BE CONSIDERING a career in healthcare, pharmacy offers the opportunity for direct patient care and the chance to be on the front lines as a trusted healthcare provider. Whether working in a hospital, community pharmacy, or through a variety of other direct patient care settings, pharmacists serve as the most knowledgeable medication experts on the healthcare team.

A pharmacy career is very rewarding, both financially and professionally. With average six-figure starting salaries, Harding-trained pharmacists consistently enter the job market among the

highest paid graduates from the University each year. The quality of academic training is in line with schools and colleges of pharmacy across the nation, as demonstrated through national accreditation and the academic performance of Harding students on national assessments and feedback from students and alumni.

But Harding is more than just academics. Dr. Kirsty Wasaham, a 2014 alumna and current inpatient pharmacist at Med Center Health in Bowling Green, Kentucky, says that Harding's pharmacy program is different from others: "What really sets Harding's program apart from other pharmacy schools is the emphasis on patient-centered care and a heart of Christian service. Providing the best outcome to your patients is only possible if they trust you and you can communicate the necessary information to them – both things I was taught well by Harding faculty and staff."

Students interested in pursuing a Doctor of Pharmacy degree at Harding can apply to the pharmacy program as early as their freshman year of college, and an undergraduate degree is not necessary. Smith points out that "many students assume that a degree is required for admission into our program, but in reality, only 64 hours of prepharmacy coursework is required. With our new condensed program, students can even earn a practicing doctorate degree in less than six total years of study." 📌

Harding College of Pharmacy offers one of the more unique educational pathways for students to consider when pursuing pharmacy. For more information about the program or details on how to apply, visit harding.edu/pharmacy or contact the office of pharmacy admissions at 501-279-5528.

SINCE DECEMBER, the College of Pharmacy has partnered with hospitals, pharmacies and other locations statewide to assist in the distribution of the COVID-19 vaccine.

After the approval of the first COVID-19 vaccine in December

"Our finals ended Thursday, and we sent our first students Friday and Saturday," Story says. "Even during the week of Christmas, we sent students out."

The vaccine initiative has grown through strong relationships between the College of

"Supply continues to build, but the challenge is scaling up the workforce in order to deliver it," Mercer says. "That's where our students and faculty come in and really anyone who is able to immunize because every little bit we contribute is use of the supply and encouragement for more supply to be provided to that particular community. It really is an all-hands-on-deck situation. We're doing everything we can to try to find opportunities for students to volunteer or to get hours for their practice experiences."

Story says students from all four years of the pharmacy program are helping in this effort. After their first year of the program, students are certified

to give vaccinations. This allows some students to give vaccinations while others help with paperwork, monitor vaccine recipients and draw doses.

"It's a win-win situation because it gives a chance for our students on all four levels to be able to go face-to-face with a patient and work with them and potentially even give them a shot or drop a medication and a syringe for them," Story says.

While working at Medic Sav-On Drugs in Searcy, Arianna Nuhung, a second-year student, has had a role in every part of the process from helping with paperwork to administering the vaccine to patients. She said her involvement allowed her to learn in a

way that differed from many other experiential learning activities.

"Other experiential education often utilizes the 'shadowing' technique where a student follows a preceptor and participates through observation, verbal discussion or presentation," Nuhung says. "Working with the novel COVID-19 vaccines is different because it allows for a more hands-on experience. By doing so, pharmacy students gain a better understanding of the pharmacy field and retain more knowledge from their experiences."

Despite the program requiring students in all four years to have experiential education, Mercer says many have already fulfilled those requirements but

are still volunteering.

"A lot of our students are not getting any academic credit for what they're doing," Mercer says. "They're volunteering their time. They're choosing to show up and just kind of rolling up their sleeves and helping. It speaks to the service mindset of our students."

Mercer hopes the service provided by College of Pharmacy students and faculty is beneficial to the pharmacy profession and will help bring an end to the pandemic.

"I see this as a great opportunity to truly position ourselves as the front line," Mercer says. "We are answering the call that will ultimately help us return back to a life of normalcy." 📌

— Emma Aly



Second-year pharmacy student Hannah Jones Ferguson prepares a vaccination for administration at a recent vaccination clinic.

Distributing the **VACCINE**

2020, the College of Pharmacy began sending students and faculty to local hospitals across the state to help healthcare workers receive their vaccines. Dr. Rayanne Story, assistant dean for experiential education and assistant professor in the College of Pharmacy, says students did not delay in their assistance.

Pharmacy and many pharmacies, hospitals and clinics across the state, especially to heavily populated or very rural areas that would benefit from extra help.

Dr. Jeff Mercer, dean of the College of Pharmacy, says student help is useful because pharmacists have full-time jobs within their normal duties.



A MAN OF MISSION

Compiled by TOM BUTERBAUGH
Photography by JEFF MONTGOMERY

Dr. Bruce McLarty's inaugural address theme "A Community of Mission" will forever be part of the legacy our fifth president leaves at the University, saying that it is what we are and what we aspire to be. His love for his alma mater was clear in that speech and also in his daily life as he fulfilled the duties of president.

Toward the end of his 2010 book *Embracing the Mission*, McLarty wrote, "Working at Harding is so much more than a job; it is being part of a Christian community." It was always visible how well he embraced this community, whether it was stopping by an office to say hello or fellowshipping with students on the sidewalk.

So when the announcement of his retirement at the end of November 2020 came from the board, our magazine staff felt the only fitting way to pay tribute to the man was by using his own words and the words of those who knew and loved him best as well as through his communication on social media.

Dr. McLarty's thoughts shared with the Harding community in an email from the board Oct. 30, 2020

I AM DEEPLY GRATEFUL to the Harding University Board of Trustees for giving me the opportunity to serve as Harding's president for the past seven and one-half years. The University has had a profound impact for good on everyone in my family, and I owe it a debt of gratitude I will never be able to repay.

When I was preparing for my inaugural address at the beginning of this journey, I identified two words that, for me, capture the heart of what makes Harding so special: mission and community. Mission describes the longing that so many of us have had as we came to Harding with the hunger to build our lives upon the person and teachings of Jesus.

Community describes the deep relationships we developed as we grew alongside others who had that same heart of purpose. That is why, for the time I was privileged to serve as president, we described Harding University as "A Community of Mission." I have experienced that as both a present reality and an aspiration for the future. As we have said for years, "It's GREAT to be at Harding!"

Now as I retire from the University, I am reminded of Robert Frost's line, "and miles to go before I sleep." There is so much I want to do. I am a preacher at heart, and I look forward to using my new freedom to teach, preach, encourage and write. I have been so blessed to have this time at Harding, and I am excited to find out what God may yet have in store for Ann and me.

A MAN OF MISSION

Selections from the more than 475 comments and posts received

“Thank you for your time of service Dr. McLarty. During our time at Harding it was always clear how you loved us as students and how your greatest wish was for us to know Jesus.”
EMMA PEYTON

“We love you, Bruce. You led Harding with such grace and humility. The way you cared for the student body and your Christ-like spirit will be missed.”
ALLIE GRIFFITH

“Dr. McLarty, you have made such an impact in my life and the lives of Harding students the past 7 ½ years. You created personal relationships and challenged us in ways unimaginable. Thank you for your service, leadership and wisdom. We will miss you! God bless.”
HANNAH JONES FERGUSON

“Thank you for having such a positive presence among the student body during your time as president! I will miss being connected to Harding through your Instagram posts!”
LANI PRUETT

“You are indeed a spiritual leader, thank you for inspiring our generations.”
MICHAEL SOTO

“Thank you Dr. McLarty for everything you have done for Harding and us students! You are an amazing man, president and disciple for Christ.”
BRITAIN BOSSIER

“Your attitude has been that of Christ which is why you are going to be missed. Prayers and blessings for you and our beloved Harding.”
VICKI P. WALLACE

“Thanks Dr. McLarty for being so personal and bringing a sense of community to Harding while I was a student! I am very appreciative of my time at Harding and so many fond memories.”
KYLIE DEANN WOMBLE

“Thank you Dr. McLarty! It was wonderful having you as a president during my time at Harding. You made the students feel valued and loved.”
MOLLY GAMMON

“I remember at the lighting ceremony last year when I showed you the sticker of your face that I had on my water bottle, and you thought it was hilarious. You’ve always been so upbeat and caring about the whole Harding community, and I’ll miss seeing you around campus and saying hi.”
ASHLEY MOONEY

“@brucemclarty you are a true servant leader. Thank you for leading our Harding community. You trained us in character. I will always appreciate the impact that you have made on my life and the lives of many others. Best wishes to you and Ann both.”
PERRY PATTON

“God bless you for sharing yourself and your family for so many years. You have and will continue to be a mentor to me for living and applying Jesus’ love.”
BJ AUSTIN

“Bruce, I’ve been so honored to have you as my president. Eating breakfast with you freshman year, bumping into you on front lawn walks, and even being featured on your Instagram have proven again and again what a kind, joyful, funny, real and servant-hearted man of God you are. Thank you for loving us deeply and unconditionally. You care, and you make that known.”
VICTORIA LANGLEY

“You reached out to me personally when I suddenly lost my brother last year ... I didn’t think the president of my University would be so in tune with his students’ lives, but you were. I appreciate the energy, spirit and compassion you brought to Harding. Thank you.”
BRIELLE HETHERINGTON

“Dr. McLarty, being a freshman with you was such an honor! I always appreciated your care for the student body. When we grieved, you grieved. When we celebrated, you celebrated. Your ability to connect with us on a personal level went above and beyond, and I appreciate you encouraging us to always keep our feet firmly planted on the Gospel and Good News. I am sad for what Harding is losing in your retirement, but I am praying that the Lord blesses you and keeps you wherever you go next!”
ESTHER DAVENPORT

“As president of Harding, you made us proud. I go way back to Dr. Benson’s days. Never have I seen a president so involved with the students and so approachable for visitors and families. You nailed it!!! Thank you for all you have done and best wishes in the future. The best is yet to come.”
SUSAN SIMMONS

“The most Christ-like president Harding may ever see. Thank you for your daily example. God bless.”
HALEY DELYNN TAYLOR

“Thank you for all you’ve done for our university and for me! I remember you coming up to me in my chapel seat on my first day freshman year. That set the tone for the rest of my time at Harding. Your engagement with students is unmatched anywhere, and I appreciate so deeply how you have impacted my time at Harding. Harding is better because of all that you’ve done, and there is no one who I would have rather had as my president for the last 3 ½ years. Blessings for you and Mrs. McLarty.”
CHRIS KELLY

“The Harding family is the blessed one to have had you at the helm! Our family is very thankful for the way you have loved the school and loved the students so very well. Harding is better because of you and Mrs. Ann!”
MICHELLE WILLIAMS TILLMAN

“Thank you for your incredible leadership and influence. You have impacted more lives than you’ll ever know. We love you!”
LAUREN BURCHAM

Excerpts from Dr. McLarty’s letter to the student body published in the Nov. 20, 2020, edition of The Bison

Dear Harding students:

THERE IS SO MUCH THAT I WOULD LIKE TO SAY TO YOU, but the next 500 words are what my heart most wants to share about why I love you and am so inspired by you.

First of all, I have always seen myself in you. The world was very different when I arrived on campus as a freshman in the fall of 1975, but so much about being a Harding student has not changed. On that Sunday afternoon after my parents dropped me off on campus, I remember walking by Graduate Hall and being almost overwhelmed by a sense of a new beginning. Few people on campus knew if I had been good or bad, kind or cruel, sincere or hypocritical, intelligent or not-so-smart. I sensed that, more than ever before, I was in charge of the person I would become. I think the memory of that moment is the lens through which my heart has viewed Harding students all these years. Every one of us comes here in the process of becoming. In the hands of God, this is called “sanctification,” and we can all be changed for the better during our time here. That is why I see in you a reflection of my 1970s self. It makes me nostalgic and helps me to pass along to you some of the grace that I so much needed and so freely received in my own days as a student. And it reminds me of how important it is to choose life, to seek first the kingdom of God, to find the straight gate and the narrow way, and to respond with all of our heart, soul, mind and strength when Jesus calls to us, “Follow me.” Incredible life-altering choices continue to be made every day on the Harding University campus. This is why my experience more than 40 years ago has much more in common with your experience today than you might at first imagine.

In Proverbs 31, scripture tells about the noble virtues of Lady Wisdom. She lives with tremendous character and, as a result, she “laughs at the time to come.” You probably have not realized it, but you have often filled my heart with laughter during these past seven and one-half years. Your compassion for people in all kinds of need, your joy in discovering the deepest fellowship you have ever experienced, your openness and transparency about the broken road you have traveled to get here and even the battles you currently face, your commitment to Jesus, and your willingness to follow him wherever he may lead you — these are the ways you inspire me and cause me to laugh at the time to come. As people age, we tend to become negative and grow cynical about the generations that are coming along behind us, but you have helped me to stay young. I have seen the future, and it is in good hands. You continue to be a source of hope and comfort to me.

Thank you for all you have done for me and for all you will yet do to the glory of God. I love you, and I pray that God will bless you richly on your journey through life.

With love and gratitude,
Bruce

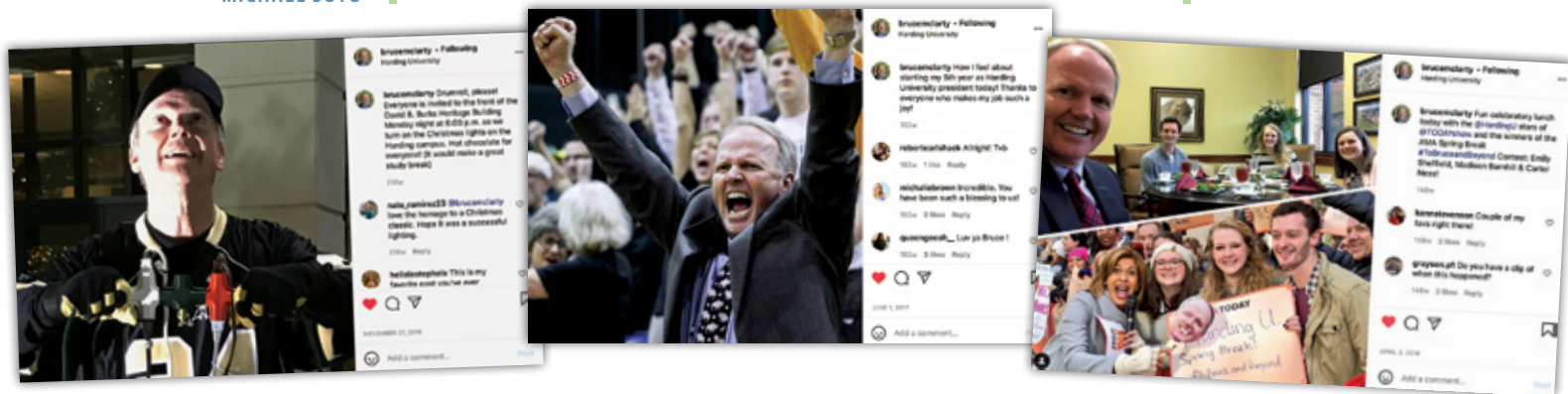
“You are the reason I sent my children to Harding. I heard your “why Christian education” speech, and I knew you would take care of them. God bless you and keep you. If we don’t meet again on Earth, I will hug you in Heaven.”
ANGELA SHEFFIELD

“Thanks for remembering my aunts from Wilson Elementary and reconnecting with them and my family. That spoke volumes! I know you didn’t do it for notoriety, but I have to share. Dr. McLarty remembered my two twin aunts who integrated Wilson Elementary in Little Rock, Arkansas, in the early ’60s. He found them about two years ago and took them and about six other family members to dinner. Class act, sir!!!”
COREY LITRELL

“I cannot imagine during these trying times having anyone more faithful, more prayerful, more loyal to the University, leaning into him for direction and guidance running Harding University.”
HOLLY RACHELS HOOK

“Thank you for being there as my daughters grew into adulthood helping to guide their paths of service and giving them encouragement and God’s love. You inspired them to care. One is now an MD fighting COVID-19 on the front lines for all of us in Christ’s name, and one is a great elementary school teacher and mother of almost two. Bless you, bless you, bless you.”
RICHARD BULLOUGH

“Such class and sophistication. Harding was blessed to have him and his wife on campus.”
SANDY MALSOM



A MAN OF MISSION

“Your interest and care for us at all times felt that they truly came from the heart of a humble, prayerful man. In my first weeks as a transfer student, which was also your first year, you declared the focus of the campus to be “Mission.” It affirmed the reasons I chose Harding, and I felt that it spoke to so much of what I was looking for in my Christian education. Following this theme, you and the rest of the faculty guided students to see their time at the University as preparation for mission in every profession and area of our lives. The following spring, you joined my group at HULA and we Hulgans were always delighted when you wore your llama tie to chapel! Thank you for such wonderful memories and a beloved legacy! You will be missed greatly!”

CATHERINE WAMACK LOWE

“Dr. McLarty, my name is Sydney Reynolds, and I am a freshman this year. I just wanted to let you know that you had a huge positive impact on me during this semester. During the first week of this semester, I had emergent brain surgery for a problem that I didn’t know I had lived with my entire life. Because of this, I had to be online this semester while recovering. It has been a physically and mentally painful time, and there were many times when I felt that I would not be able to complete the semester. I felt hopeless. However, something that played a big part in keeping me going was seeing your positivity and enthusiasm each day while watching chapel. I just want to thank you for, unknowingly, helping me complete this term despite my brain surgery and the trouble that came along with it. I truly appreciate it. Thank you.”

SYDNEY REYNOLDS

“Thank you for all the great things you have done as president. As an alumnus, Harding is such a special place and one that lives in my heart. Some of the most special days in my life were there, and I will always love the great Christian education that I received there. Thanks again, and I wish you and your family the very best.”

RANDY VERDELL

“I have never been a Harding student, but I have visited the University. I went to chapel every day during my one month stay in Searcy. Such a warm, welcoming environment. I was honored to get to meet Dr. Bruce McLarty — well-respected man. He will be missed ...”

ARJAN MUCA

“Bruce, you are truly a class act. Your message was grace-filled. Thank you for loving our Harding community so well. May the Lord bless you and keep you.”

BUFFY MANNING LYNN

“... I first visited Harding when I was a junior in high school. In the very first session of that Friday, you spoke about the mission of Harding and the importance of what you learn, who you learn with, and who you learn from. You have always put the Christian mission of Harding front and center. Until I visited Harding, I didn’t know colleges could have such a foundational identity. It is a mission that has already greatly changed my life for the better. Now you carry this identity, which you have so embodied and championed, into the next stage of your life. As a college sophomore, I wish you and your wife, Ann, all the very best. You have built your house on the rock, and though the rains may fall and the floods come and the winds blow, the Lord will bless you and keep you in this time of transition. I know you have always rooted hard for us students. We’re pulling for you, too, wherever God may take you next.”

JOHNNY GALLOWAY



“Your humility showed greatly my whole time at Harding and your steadiness, dedication and leadership gave me and so many others that extra little boost we needed in tough times making it through the crazy world of college. Simply put, you were such a big part of my Harding experience, which I absolutely loved! Thank you, Dr. McLarty. BRUUUUUUUCE!”

PHILIP WARREN

“I was with a group of friends delivering Christmas cookies to Dr. McLarty during my freshman year. We thought it was going to be a drop-and-go situation, but then he invites us into his office and gives us a tour of the place, including the legendary ‘shrine’ to William Wilberforce. It’s the little things that count, and it was so meaningful for us to get to experience such a warm, personal moment with this celebrity of a president. Dr. McLarty is truly a man of grace, joy, class and love, in both the big and the little things in life.”

JOHN LIM

“Many conversations were had at our house regarding things going on at Harding, and many times my kids would say, ‘Well Dr. McLarty says ...’ I want you to know they were listening, and they were observing. They watched you treat people with kindness and understanding. They watched you deal with adversity like no other Harding president has had to deal with. And they saw in you an example of a leader who could be kind, yet stand for what he believed in and serve God — all at the same time. As a parent, there is no greater gift you could have given my children.”

LISA JARNAGIN



“A long time ago he started a tradition that became an adopted tradition in my family. Just before Christmas break on the last Wednesday evening the lights were dimmed in the Benson, and he would read *A Cup of Christmas Tea*. It was my favorite way to end the semester before Christmas break. My mom and dad bought me a copy of the book and since children I have added other books to our holiday reading, but still my favorite is the book that Dr. McLarty would read to send us off for break. Sometimes it’s one small thing that inspires so much more.”

DEBRA BLAND LOWRIE

“Your service has richly impacted everyone who has walked on this campus. Thank you!”

MAKENNA JONES

“Bruce, like you, I was a freshman in the fall of ’75. My life has taken some unexpected turns, but one of the constants has been Harding. It was special then and is special now. Thank you for your service to this great University. You have done a great job leading these past seven years. Blessings to you and Ann in your next endeavor. May our Father light your path.”

DALTON SULLIVAN

“The joy on your face is truly and honestly what sealed the deal for me coming to Harding. You talked so joyfully, lovingly and fondly of this place — this community. I knew after meeting you that first time that Harding is where I wanted to be. The following four years were the best of my life. ... Hearing in chapel nearly every day about this wonderful community of mission was the repetition I needed to build such strong friendships and grow as a Christian.”

MICHAELA WOODS

“Dr. McLarty’s Harding is the only Harding I’ve known so far, and it is a Harding that I cherish. His presence is known throughout every aspect of life on campus. Whether it’s in chapel when the auditorium echoes the name “Bruuuuuuce,” in the parking lots where his face is on every car freshener, or the Instagram meme pages named in his honor, it is obvious that Dr. McLarty is adored by the students of Harding. He is welcoming, uplifting and joyful, and he is a friend to everyone he meets. He’s practically a celebrity to me. He has led this school with grace through a turbulent year and is ready to offer an encouraging word during any difficult time — whether that’s during a pandemic or simply during finals week ... Thank you, Dr. McLarty, for what you mean to Harding. Thank you for all the love and care you have invested into each and every student. Thank you for making Harding University the beautiful entity it is today.”

JULIE RECORD

“What a blessing to work under your leadership. Thank you for teaching us to love, ask forgiveness for our wrongs, and walk in Jesus’ footsteps. You will be missed!”

JEANIE SMITH

“Dr. McLarty, I once visited your office with another student looking for perspective and understanding surrounding a difficult subject. You welcomed our questions, facilitated warm and honest discussion, and left us with an overwhelming sense of confidence in your leadership. Thank you for serving the Harding community, as a whole and all the way down to individual students such as myself. I wish you all the best in the years to come.”

KELSEY SMITH

“On July 14, 2020, my husband collapsed after our exercise on campus. He died two days later, and I will never know for sure what killed him. The night he collapsed, Bruce McLarty was the first person with me in the ER waiting room. I don’t know that many college presidents would have joined a faculty member in an ER waiting room during a pandemic on the worst night of her life. I will always be thankful for his presence on that night.”

STACEY RODENBECK

“Dr. McLarty, thank you so much for the example you were to me and so many of my peers during our time as students at Harding. Your dedication to the Lord and serving him in teaching the truth and serving others was so very evident and an inspiration. Your interest and willingness to be involved in the lives of Harding students ... welcoming us to chapel each morning, chatting with those of us at HU16 on Tuesdays, reassuring parents as they are dropping off the next class of students, signing students’ yearbooks, taking the time to listen to those of us in Chi Sigs as we spread Christmas cheer, coming by Dr. James’ devo, and so much more ... your kind spirit has been such a blessing. May the Lord bless you and keep you.”

BRANDON EMLAW



Rhodes finalist

2019 alumnus Taylor Brown
affects social services
policy worldwide

By MEGAN STROUD, *photography by* JEFF MONTGOMERY

During his senior social work field placement, Taylor Brown ('19) got his first taste of social policy, an experience that is changing the trajectory of his career. Along his pathway to career and educational goals, he was named a Rhodes scholar finalist for the prestigious international postgraduate award where 32 students are chosen

as scholars to study at the University of Oxford in England. While finalists are not chosen to receive funding, that has not slowed him down. Brown is continuing to work in social policy with government agencies and international organizations through his own consulting firm while teaching adjunct at Harding, helping students through the same senior placement internships that shaped his career.

"Had I not gone to Harding, I would not be doing what I'm doing now," Brown says. "Most of the things that I learned that I use everyday, I learned in the social work program in my undergraduate experiences. When I compare myself to my peers in my master's program, I was leaps and bounds ahead of everyone. I credit that to the social work faculty. Great classes and the opportunity to work in Little Rock really set me apart whenever it comes to policy and politics."

Brown came to the University from Paragould, Arkansas, as the

first member of his family to attend a four-year college. He originally declared Bible and English majors, but, as a sophomore, began studying social work. Even after changing his major, he stayed involved with ministry, working with River City Ministry, a homeless shelter in North Little Rock, for three years. After only two weeks of working in the local child welfare office for his senior field placement, he was asked by the director of the Arkansas Division of Children and Family Services to serve as a legislative aide for Arkansas' legislative session in Little Rock.

"I was super anxious, but I did it, and that really got my feet wet in social policy and politics at a state level," Brown says. "That completely changed my career trajectory because I had planned on doing therapy and working with kids."

After graduating, Brown worked in the Arkansas governor's office

as a research and legislative assistant to the governor's senior director on issues of child policy including Medicaid, child welfare and juvenile justice.

In order to move forward in his career, Brown knew he needed to begin his master's degree, and, after being accepted into all his desired schools, he chose Washington University in St. Louis because of their reputation in macro social work. He began the 1 1/2 year program with a concentration on social and economic development policy and research.

"I approach quantitative research through my social work training," Brown says. "I do research with the goal of making the world a better place, even if it's just a small degree."

WHILE GETTING HIS MASTER'S DEGREE at Washington University, he continued pursuing professional opportunities. Through a racial equality fellowship, Brown consulted with a K-12 school district in St. Louis and organized their racial equality assessment. He also served in the Missouri state legislature as an aide for the Senate and House of Representatives minority leaders. When the global pandemic began, Brown focused on local campaigns, most notably the campaign for Mayor Ella Jones, the first African American and female mayor of Ferguson, Missouri. After her campaign, he served her as a senior advisor, running a regional economic development task force.

During summer 2020, Brown had plans to work in Washington, D.C., but, because of COVID-19, worked remotely as a program analyst in the immediate office of the assistant secretary of the Administration for Children and Families, the largest federal agency for social services in the U.S. He started as a student but became an advisor to the assistant secretary on the policy and politics of social policy.

"If I had not been working remotely, I would have been working directly with the assistant secretary every day," Brown says.

He helped organize the federal response to COVID-19, led the strategic planning process for the agency, and made several policy proposals. He led the inaugural transatlantic foster adoption virtual learning exchange, a virtual summit between ACF and the United Kingdom's Department for Education. Because of this, the UK is discussing raising their maximum age of adoption from 18 to 21.

"If they follow through with that, it will benefit a whole lot of older foster children who will then have the chance to be adopted for three more years, which is a big deal in the child welfare world," Brown says. "Social science tells us they're likely to have poor outcomes when they age out of foster care."

He also helped lead the global children and care virtual summit, during which nine young people who had been in different foster care contexts were able to share their experiences to representatives from 31 countries.

He also was a part of the ACF assistant secretary's all-in foster adoption challenge, focusing on children whose parental rights have already been terminated and are waiting to be adopted. This challenge resulted in the passing of an executive order, discussing adoption policy reform in all 50 states as well as communication

strategy with former First Lady Melania Trump, who promoted the challenge in her Be Best campaign.

While his contract with ACF ended in January, he has been filling in as a director of communications for the agency during the turnover caused by the presidential election, writing speeches and op-eds for the assistant secretary.

With hopes of finding a potential funding opportunity for continuing his education in the UK, Brown applied to become a Rhodes scholar at the University of Oxford.

"I applied expecting not to make it past the first round and ended up making it to the final round," Brown says. "I was very surprised the whole time, but I was also very skeptical the whole time, because you don't apply to something like that expecting to win."

Brown was named a finalist but was not chosen as a scholar to receive funding to attend Oxford. Nevertheless, earning another master's degree in the UK is still at the top of his list of next steps for his education and career path before beginning his Ph.D. in social work.


"The UK studies social policy differently than we do here in the U.S.," Brown says. "They tend to use a comparative approach, comparing the social policy of all the different countries around them. You can apply it to the U.S. by either comparing us to other countries or comparing states to each other. Some of the research in my master's degree was taking that approach, and I want to learn more about that methodology."

Brown completed his master's degree from Washington University in December and had plans to move to Washington, D.C., to continue his work there. Because of COVID-19, Brown and his wife, Caitlyn Spears ('13), moved back to Searcy where she became the social services director at Sparrow's Promise, a private foster care agency.

Rather than viewing the hurdles of the global pandemic as something holding him back, he is taking this chance for new opportunities.

In September, Brown began his own remote consulting firm to continue to work with government agencies in St. Louis and Washington, D.C., as well as international organizations. Through his consulting firm, he is providing three main services: evaluation and research, organizational development mostly for nonprofit organizations, and political strategy for public officials.

In addition to his consulting firm, Brown also is teaching adjunct at Harding as a field liaison, mentoring and supervising senior field placements with plans to teach more classes in the fall and get involved with aspiring research students on campus through the Honors College.

"[Teaching adjunct] is probably the most fulfilling thing that I'm doing right now. I wouldn't be doing anything I do now without my time at Harding and especially without the mentors that I had at Harding. It's very valuable to be back with those same mentors. In fact, I'm being mentored again, which is awesome. I also love the opportunity to mentor students and help them grow, especially because I am not much older than they are. I think it's exciting to show them what they could be doing in the next year or two and tell them that they could be helping the world in a lot of different ways." 



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.

1974

Glen Goree writes nonfiction books based on his experiences as a missionary in Rhodesia and his counseling experiences in Texas. In 2019, he was diagnosed with liver cancer, and his latest book, *So You Have Cancer. Now What?*, deals with his struggle with this disease. His wife, **Valerie Massey** ('72), has written six romantic suspense novels for the Christian market since retiring from teaching. Her latest release, *Forever Under Blue Skies*, is set in Australia. The couple lives in Port Ludlow, Washington.

1979

Sammie Berry has served at Dallas West Church of Christ for 41 years — his first 21 years as minister of personal evangelism, and since then as both an elder and pulpit minister. He also is a licensed CPA. His mission is to help others, especially with spiritual matters, and he has taken on several roles in the community including chairman of Dallas Area Preachers and Church Leaders, Harding President's Council member, member of the Lifeline Chaplaincy Development Board, president of the United Christian Basketball League, and treasurer of the Southwestern Christian College Beautification Program. He and his wife, **Renee Ruffin**, have two daughters, **Jessica** ('07) and **Jennifer** ('07).

1983

Karen Wallis Curtner is the new superintendent of Nettleton Public Schools. She has worked in public education for 37 years and has served as Nettleton's assistant superintendent for the last 12 years. During her career, she taught family and consumer science at Brookland High School and Douglas MacArthur Junior High School, served as the director of Success Achievement Academy, and principal of Westside High School. She was the principal of Westside Elementary School on March 24, 1998, when two students opened fire, killing four classmates and a teacher. As a result of that experience, she has traveled around the world addressing school violence at national and international conferences. She holds an Ed.D. in educational leadership and an M.S. in educational administration from Arkansas State University. She also has received the Educational Leadership Outstanding Alumnus Award from Arkansas State University, the Arkansas Association of Elementary School Principals Distinguished Award, and was elected as one of Northeast Arkansas' Most Fascinating Educators.

Ben Waites joined Regional Health Properties Inc. as its chief financial officer. He spent 10 years as vice president of finance and assistant treasurer

for Cajun Operating Company Inc., the franchisor and operator of more than 1,600 restaurant locations. He previously spent two years as chief accounting officer at Lavie Healthcare and 11 years at RARE Hospitality.

1985

Roselyn May Miller earned an M.S. in secondary education and a Ph.D. in curriculum and instruction from Mississippi State University. Before joining the Center for Distributed Learning at University of Central Florida in 2018, she worked as a senior research associate at Mississippi State University. Her research interests include effective instruction, learner motivation and STEM education. She and her husband, **Andy** ('85), live in Orlando, Florida.

1986

Kerrie Horn Rhodes retired in January 2020 after 21 years at Lockheed Martin in Marietta, Georgia. She worked as a systems engineer on the F-22 and C-130 programs. Her husband, Mark, also retired from Lockheed Martin as a senior design engineer. The couple lives in Cumming, Georgia.

1989

Daniel Bristo was named head football coach for Riverview High School in Searcy after serving as an assistant for a year. He was an assistant football coach at Ouachita Christian School in Monroe, Louisiana, for 25 years, serving as defensive coordinator. He and his wife, **Angie Smith**, have two children, Braden and **Anna Caroline** ('20).

1992

Scott White, associate professor of chemistry and director of the Southern Arkansas University STEM Center for K-12 education, was named the 2020 Honor Professor Sept. 10, 2020, the highest accolade bestowed upon faculty at SAU. He earned his M.S. and Ph.D. from Purdue University. He has taught physical chemistry, inorganic chemistry, and freshman-level chemistry courses and labs. He is a past recipient of the Calvin Wetzig Faculty Excellence Award for Teaching and a Spirit of SAU Award. He previously served as chair for the department of chemistry and physics and facilitated the growth of the separate departments of biochemistry and chemistry and engineering and physics. He has served two terms each as secretary, vice president and president of the SAU Faculty Senate. He is a board member of the Mulerider Club and enjoys helping serve as a scoreboard operator and announcer for Mulerider athletics and Magnolia Panther athletics. He also has directed

the annual Southwest Regional Science Fair at SAU and is an elder at Jackson Street Church of Christ in Magnolia. He and his wife, **Jennifer Brandon**, have a daughter, Alyson, a student at Harding.

1993

Rick Fought has been promoted to assistant vice chancellor of the Health Sciences Library at University of Tennessee Health Science Center. He previously served as professor and director. He is a fellow of the National Library of Medicine/Association of Academic Health Sciences Libraries Leadership Fellows Program and is chair-elect of the Consortium of Southern Biomedical Libraries.

1995

Renay Davis McCarley received the Faculty Life Beautiful Award Dec. 1, 2020, at Southwest Baptist University, the highest honor SBU bestows. She has been a member of the SBU faculty since 2017 and is the division head of Associate Level Nursing and Health Sciences and assistant professor of nursing. She completed a Master of Science in Nursing from University of Central Missouri in 2011 and her DNP from Case Western Reserve University in 2017. She attends Northside Christian Church in Springfield. She and her husband, Brian, have two daughters, Bethany and Hannah, and a son, Conner.

1996

Russ Phillips married Laine McKenzie Oct. 25, 2020. Russ is an informatics associate at Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minnesota.

Angela Smith Proctor graduated with her Ph.D. in educational psychology in December 2020 from Texas A&M University in Commerce. She has served as an academic advisor and adjunct instructor at TAMUC for more than 10 years. Her research includes investigating the impact of developmental trauma on children, parents and professionals who served traumatized children. She has dedicated her career to serving at-risk children and their families.

1998

Chad McNatt is the new superintendent for Seattle Christian School. He holds a master's in educational leadership from Western Washington University, a master's in ministry from Pepperdine University, and is pursuing his Ph.D. in organizational leadership from Concordia University. His administrative experience includes serving as secondary principal in Kigali, Rwanda, at the Kigali International Community School, as well as dean of students at Cedar Heights Junior High School

in Port Orchard, Washington. He joined the Seattle Christian staff in the fall of 2018, serving as elementary principal. He is married to **Melia Byrd**.

2000

Mitch and Elizabeth Dismang ('06) **Breitweiser** launched Allegiance Arts in May 2020, the coun-

try's youngest independent comic publisher. The couple lives in Little Rock, Arkansas.

David James Haustein became associate dean of the Springfield Clinic Campus at the University of Missouri School of Medicine Sept. 1, 2020. In addition to serving as associate dean and as an associate professor of clinical physical medicine and rehabilitation, he also began clinical work at

Mercy Hospital in Springfield. He is board certified in physical medicine and rehabilitation with additional subspecialty certification in neuromuscular medicine. He earned his medical degree and completed a PM&R residency at the University of Missouri School of Medicine. He also earned a Master of Business Administration at Bellarmine University in Louisville, Kentucky. He and his wife, **Sandi Wright** ('99), have four children.

2001

Jesse Jordan is a program specialist for the state of Texas. He became a soccer scout at Sports Recruiting USA, the world's leading U.S. College Soccer recruiting agency in 2019. He also has been a private soccer coach at Coach Up since 2001 and is ranked No. 1 soccer coach in Austin, Texas; No. 5 in Texas; and No. 33 nationally. He and his wife, Rosa, live in Leander, Texas.

Robert G. O'Lynn II was promoted to associate professor of preaching and ministry in June 2020 and appointed dean of the School of Distance and General Education in October 2020 at Kentucky Christian University in Grayson.

2002

Justin Brewer launched Mississippi's only maternal fetal medicine program outside of Jackson at North Mississippi Medical Center Women's Hospital in Tupelo in 2013. He is a board-certified obstetrician-gynecologist who completed a three-year fellowship in maternal fetal medicine at the University of Mississippi Medical Center in Jackson after earning his medical degree from the University of Mississippi School of Medicine. He is married to **Brooke White**.

2004

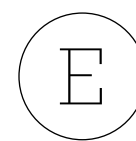
Daniel McGraw graduated from Naval Chaplaincy School and Center in April 2020. He serves as a chaplain in the U.S. Navy Reserves and as an associate minister at Bentonville Church of Christ.

2006

Neil Rampy, senior medical officer and psychological health officer for Navy Expeditionary Forces Command Pacific-Commander, Task Force 75, was awarded Navy Medicine's Clinical Social Work Officer of the Year for 2020. A lieutenant, he completed nearly 300 one-on-one behavioral health encounters with service members throughout 2020. His close attention to sailors' behavioral health exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic and restriction of movement quarantine orders

Theatre with a twist

PROFILE | JESSICA PELL TATE



ENDING A YEAR FULL OF CANCELED EVENTS and disappointments, the Lyric Theatre of Oklahoma found a new way of telling stories on stage through an immersive outdoor show. Replacing the stage with an evening stroll through Harn Homestead, a 10-acre living history museum in central Oklahoma City, this 75-minute, outdoor production created a more "COVID friendly" telling of the classic, "A Christmas Carol." Led by guides, the audience walked from scene to scene following the actors and the action.

Jessica Pell Tate ('95) played a role in this production as the ghost of Christmas past as well as a solicitor. Tate said, "Combining unbelievable talent, passionate determination and a supportive community of sponsors, the production team was able to pull off what was



impossible in so many other regions of the world this year. The fringe benefits of having to make so many adjustments was an experience that pulled the audience into the story in a way that can't be accomplished within four walls of a theater. Add a cast and crew humbled by knowing so many artists who are out of work and grateful for the opportunity to tell an important story, and you find yourself in the middle of an experience that feels like you will never be the same after having been a part of it."

Tate has played many roles — some on Harding's stage — including Fanny Brice in "Funny Girl" in 1993. Tate said, "The opportunities and the direction I received on the Harding stage taught me to cherish the people all around me as we get to create art together. You won't sound good if someone doesn't blow a pitch for you backstage before you enter for an a cappella intro. You won't look good if someone isn't willing to help you with nearly impossible costume changes. And you won't feel good if you miss out on building relationships with the unique family that is created with each and every show. Cherish each other, and let the art speak for itself."

For Tate, the last several years have been filled with raising her family, teaching music and performing on stage every chance she could. She and her husband, Tony ('94), and her sons, Jackson and Deacon, made the move to Oklahoma nine years ago. This afforded Tate more opportunities to work on stage and in film. Tate says these opportunities have always been met with overwhelming support and encouragement from all three of the men in her life.

With shows and audiences decreasing in number, it's not getting any easier in show business. Tate hopes to encourage and provide an example of using your talents for good and to the glory of God. As an elementary music teacher, she hopes to grow creators, patrons and supporters of the arts. As a performer, she hopes to continue to tell stories that enlighten, inspire and transform the hearts of those who witness it. "COVID has slowed everything down, if not brought it to a grinding halt. My hope is that we will all recognize the power and value of the arts as a tool for helping us weather the challenges this life brings." — *Josie Parker*

PHOTO SUBMITTED



Oklahoma's Secretary of Education

PROFILE | RYAN WALTERS

F

FROM DAY ONE, RYAN WALTERS ('10) has been influenced by and invested in education. From high school and college teachers to family to career, it has had a big impact on his life.

"I had several teachers who made a tremendous difference in my life while attending McAlester Public Schools," said Walters. "I knew while sitting in my high school classes that I wanted to be a teacher and have the influence on students like so many of my teachers had on me. My mother and father also always stressed to me how important it was to follow my passion and follow Christ's teachings. They knew I loved working with young people and always encouraged me to be a teacher."



Walters graduated with a Bachelor of Arts in social science from Harding.

"I was heavily influenced by my professors in the history department and the College of Education. The lessons I learned in those classrooms have had a tremendous impact on

my career and on my life. I also loved being able to be a part of such a Christian atmosphere and developed lifelong friendships."

After graduation, Walters spent eight years teaching advanced placement courses in world history, U.S. history and U.S. government, as well as on-level history classes, special education classes, and AVID (advanced via individual determination classes) at McAlester High School in his hometown. Now, he teaches AP U.S. history at Millwood High School and McAlester High School as a pilot course through the Oklahoma supplemental course program.

"I've been teaching for a decade now and it's been amazing to see the innovation and growth in our state," said Walters. "This has of course been expedited over the last year because of the pandemic. I know this year has been a hard one for all educators. I am in awe of what my fellow teachers have been able to accomplish together over the last 10 months, and I look forward to seeing how we'll continue

meeting our student's education needs."

In 2016, he was named as an Oklahoma Teacher of the Year finalist by the Oklahoma State Department, and in 2019 he was appointed executive director of Oklahoma Achieves, an effort founded by the State Chamber of Oklahoma to better engage the business community in education.

In addition to these responsibilities, Walter serves as the CEO of Every Kid Counts Oklahoma. This program was launched in the summer of 2020 and works to help establish the vision for the organization and build awareness across the state.

"EKCO is an education-focused organization that is empowering teachers, parents and community leaders to improve our education system for all Oklahoma students," said Walters. "Recently we have partnered with Gov. Stitt's office to allocate the Bridge the Gap Digital Wallet grant to low-income families to help them purchase the supplies, materials and technology needed to have a successful virtual school year."

In September 2020, Walters was appointed Secretary of Education for Oklahoma and has been working on a number of initiatives that will help students, teachers and the Oklahoma education system as a whole.

"As secretary of education, I have the incredible opportunity to connect with people and organizations across the state. It excites me that we can partner together as people who share a common interest and passion in bettering education. I feel like my role is to be a champion for all Oklahoma students, and to me that is an incredibly exciting opportunity."

Walters says he didn't realize how formative his K-12 education was until he stepped foot into the real world. Now he is invested in giving that same experience to others.

"I can clearly see how the influence, support and care of my teachers and mentors shaped me into the professional I am today. Through my work, I hope to ensure every student has access to the resources, individualized care and supportive mentors they need to walk across the graduation stage and to be set up for success well beyond their school years."

"Education can truly change the trajectory of young people's lives. God has given everyone of us a unique set of talents that can improve the lives of those around us, and as adults it is our responsibility to help young people find and develop those talents. That journey is an incredibly rewarding one." — *Katie Clement*

resulted in a 99% fit for duty and worldwide deployable rate among 1,200 deployed and forward-deployed naval forces. He and his wife, **Angie Mowrer**, and their two sons, live in Guam.

2007

Holly Threm Goslin was awarded the annual Outstanding Faculty Award at the University of Arkansas Community College at Batesville. She earned her master's from the University of Central Arkansas and was an adjunct professor at Harding for five years before going to teach at UACCB in fall 2015. She also is a published writer.

2009

Jessica Strack (P.A.) is a physician assistant with the Conway Regional Health System. She has worked as a health care provider in Central Arkansas for the past 11 years. She resides in Conway with her husband, Jonathon, and four sons.

2010

Brock ('09) and **Julya Bentley Gandy** announce the birth of a daughter, Lincoln Elizabeth, June 17, 2020. Brock is corporate controller at Revolution Plastics, and Julya teaches fourth grade in Little Rock, Arkansas.

Collin ('10) and **Carlyann Miller Swafford** announce the birth of a son, Reid Voss, Nov. 3, 2020. Collin is a pediatric neurohospitalist and associate fellowship director at Dell Children's Medical Center. The couple also has a son, Dean, and reside in Austin, Texas.

2011

Charles Bradley was named assistant baseball coach at Murray State University in December 2020, where he also handles baseball recruiting. He previously was an assistant coach and recruiting coordinator at Queens University of Charlotte. He spent one year as an assistant coach at Ouachita

Baptist University and also was an assistant baseball coach at Lenoir-Rhyne University from 2012-15. He also has served as the head coach of the Gastonia Grizzlies, a summer league team that competes in the Coastal Plains League, where he led the team to a CPL Championship in 2017 and a First Half Western Division Championship in 2019.

2012

Logan Callier is a dentist for emergency dental solutions at Emergency Dental Service in Garland, Texas. He earned his doctorate of dental surgery from Texas A&M University College of Dentistry. He has clinical awards in fixed prosthodontics, endodontics and periodontics. He and his wife, Jenna, have two children.

Cory Spruiell is the executive director for Grand Prairie Court Appointed Special Advocates in Lonoke County, Arkansas. He earned a master's degree in theology from Harding in May 2020. He is married to **Ashley Bratcher**.

2013

Brady ('15) and **Erin Gurchiek Clark** announce the birth of a son, Samuel James, Aug. 2, 2020. Brady is a clinical pharmacist at Unity Health in Searcy, and Erin is a pediatric speech-language pathologist at UAMS Kids First.

Ashley Harris Dargai received her Master of Divinity from Brite Divinity School. She serves as the senior minister of Azle Christian Church in Texas.

Lawrence W. Rodgers is the 24th senior pastor for the Historic Second Baptist Church of Detroit. He came to Detroit after leading the Westside Church of Christ in Baltimore. He earned a master's degree in divinity from Howard University.

Meagan Spencer earned her Doctor of Education in organizational leadership in higher education from Abilene Christian University. Her dissertation was titled "A Program Evaluation of a Rural Academic Nursing Partnership." She earned a master's in speech pathology from Harding in 2015. She has been an instructor of anatomy and physiology at Freed-Hardeman University since 2016.

Levi ('12) and **Reatta Williams Walker** announce the birth of a daughter, Emberly Kate, Nov. 3, 2020. They also have a son, Asher.

2014

Mark ('12) and **Amberly Rogers Finch** announce the birth of a son, Cameron Seth, Feb. 17, 2020. Amberly is nursing supervisor at Our Lady of the Lake Regional Medical Center. They live in Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

Candice Meadows is a guest ambassador for 360 Blue, a vacation rental company in the Destin/30A area of Florida.

Kate Scherer Wimer is a research and instruction librarian and assistant professor at George Fox University. She lives in Tualatin, Oregon.

2015

Lea Reinhardt married David Deutscher on May 23, 2020. The couple resides in Munich, Germany.

Amber Johnson Walker is the social media marketer and marketing coordinator for First Security Bank and was awarded this year's Leadership Award by Searcy Regional Chamber of Commerce at its virtual ceremony Dec. 11, 2020. She helps organize Entrepreneurial Women of Searcy, a network of 82 women business owners. She also volunteers as event, marketing and social media support for Beats and Eats, ThinkART Project and Searcy Holiday of Lights. Her husband, **Will**, owns Yesteryear in downtown Searcy.

2017

Andrew Davis was chosen as 2020's Searcy Police Officer of the Year by his peers. He formerly worked at Public Safety for Harding and is in the Arkansas Army National Guard. He is married to **Katie Snell**.

Mary Anne Gunter (MFT) is a doctoral candidate with University of Louisiana Monroe, where she was inducted into Phi Kappa Phi National College Honor Society. In October 2020 she was named recipient of the 2020 Feldman Outstanding Research Proposal for Research in Family Policy Award from the National Council on Family Relations. The award recognizes a graduate student or new professional who has demonstrated excellence in research and potential contribution to family policy studies, particularly in the areas of gender/women's issues or poverty. She is dual-licensed in the state of Arkansas as a Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist and Licensed Professional Counselor and is a certified family trauma professional.

2018

Micayla Mobley married **Jackson Russell** ('19) on Sept. 14, 2019. Micayla is a registered nurse at Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minnesota.

Passages

Julia Tranam Hawley ('45), 95, of Milwaukee, Wisconsin, died Sept. 20, 2020. She and her husband moved to Milwaukee in 1951 when he began work with the 35th and Cherry Church of Christ and later with Southside Church of Christ. For more than



50 years, she taught fifth and sixth grade and women's Bible classes at Southside. She also counseled teens at Wisconsin Christian Youth Camp. She was preceded in death by her husband of 71 years, **Monroe** ('45). She is survived by her children, **Wayne** ('72), Dale, Glynda Giemza and Glenn; 12 grandchildren; and 16 great-grandchildren.

Hilda Fern Anthony Brady ('47), 98, of Conway, Arkansas, died Dec. 10, 2020. She attended Harding and graduated from University of Central Arkansas with a B.S. in home economics. She taught in several schools throughout Arkansas, with the largest portion of her career spent teaching fourth grade at Mayflower Elementary. She was a founding member of University Church of Christ and attended there for more than 55 years. For the past several years, she was a member of Robinson and Center Church of Christ. She volunteered at Conway Regional Hospital, tutored reading to underprivileged children, participated at the local and national level in the Republican party, and worked at the polls. She was preceded in death by her husband, Arthur. She is survived by three children, **Phyllis Moore** ('62), Anthony Brady and Susan Baker; six grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren.

Charles Hodge (M.A. '53), 88, of Dallas, died Nov. 1, 2020. He was a fixture on Harding's Lectureship programs for decades and was so much a part of the program that he was named a "Lectureship Living Legend" in 2015. He also was presented with Harding's Distinguished Christian Service Award in 1983, and he and his wife received it together in 2000. He was a preacher for more than 60 years at churches throughout North Texas and Arkansas. The primary churches he served were Rosemont Church of Christ, Duncanville Church of Christ and Bardwell Church of Christ. He authored more than 22 books during his lifetime, including *Amazing Grace* and *Will God Run?*. He was in demand for gospel meetings, leadership retreats, and as an after-dinner speaker. He is survived by his wife of 68 years, **Helen Maupin** ('52); four children, Sherri Marchant, Terry Hallmark, Jack and Jerry; 10 grandchildren; and four great-grandchildren.

Bobbie Jahliel "Bob" Nossaman ('55), 86, of Lee's Summit, Missouri, died Aug. 19, 2020. He earned an M.S. at the University of South Dakota. He taught school for many years in Iowa, Kansas, and at York College in York, Nebraska. He also worked in quality assurance for Protein Technologies division of Ralston Purina in Memphis, Tennessee, and St. Louis. He preached and taught Bible classes for more than 50 years at congregations throughout the Midwest. He was a gifted athlete, who played ball into his 60s. He was preceded in death by his wife of 57 years, **Betty Berry** ('56). He is survived by four sons, **Larry** ('56), David, **Robert** ('83), and **Doug** ('89); a sister, **Rita Rhodes** ('53); 10 grandchildren; and five great-grandchildren.

PHOTO SUBMITTED



Gay Sue Willis Bowers ('56), 86, of Shreveport, Louisiana, died July 28, 2020. She attended Port Arthur Business College after Harding and worked for Gulf Oil Refinery until her first child was born. She later worked for the Caddo Parish School system with special education children for 24 years. She taught Bible classes for younger age groups. She is survived by her husband of 65 years, Clayton Sr.; four children, **Clayton Jr.** ('78), **Connie Boyd** ('79), **Tammye Jackson** ('80) and **Randal** ('83); 10 grandchildren; and nine great-grandchildren.

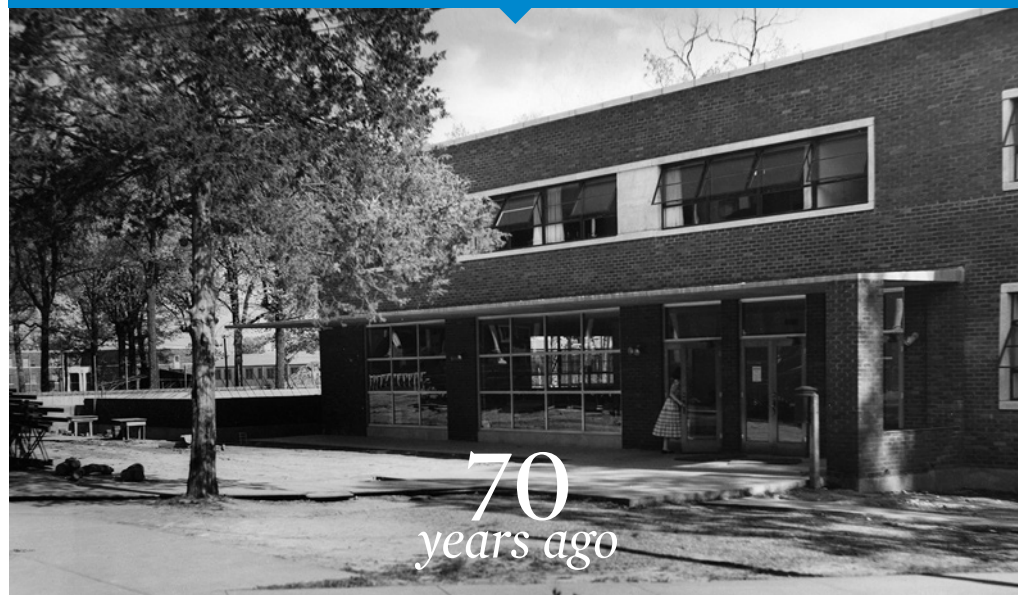
Maynard "Bud" Hammans ('58), 89, of Broken Arrow, Oklahoma, died April 3, 2020. He enlisted in the Air Force as a jet mechanic during the Korean War. He obtained a master's degree in Bible from Eastern New Mexico University. He and his wife became missionaries to Japan and Australia and later ministered to churches of Christ in Texas, New Mexico, Colorado, Oklahoma, Kansas and Minnesota. He also served as a hospital chaplain at Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minnesota. In his later years, he served in prison ministry and helped Chinese-Americans improve their English using Friend-Speak and the Bible. He was known for his encouragement. He is survived by his wife of 64 years, **Sue Billingsley** ('59); three children, **Felicia** ('98), Mark and Cindy Yeats; and four grandchildren.

Heywood Ray Loyd ('60), 82, of Searcy died Aug. 17, 2020. After joining the Air National Guard in 1961, he served his country six years. He loved rebuilding cars and was an entrepreneur. He taught school and later owned and operated W-R Motor Supply in Searcy. He was a member of Pangburn Church of Christ. He is survived by his wife of 59 years, **Jean Croom** ('64); two children, Vikki Church and **Robert** ('87); five grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren.

Thomas "Tom" D. Brister ('61), 82, of Beebe, Arkansas, died Nov. 14, 2020. He served as a church of Christ minister for several congregations and retired from preaching at Austin Church of Christ after 18 years. He also worked for DHS as a social worker at Arkansas Children's Hospital. He was active in Lads to Leaders and loved to garden. He is survived by his wife of 57 years, **Juane Smith** ('62); three sons, **Tim** ('88), **Trent** ('92) and **Thad** ('96); one brother, Wendal "Jeff"; and five grandchildren.

James "Jim" Forrest Grady ('63), 79, of Jacksonville, Arkansas, died Aug. 1, 2020. He taught school for 26 years and was named teacher of the year in 1971. After retiring from teaching, he worked as a courier for Fujifilm, where he became one of only two couriers to achieve a million miles accident free. He enjoyed collecting decorative eggs, was an aficionado for the arts and a member of the church of Christ. He was preceded in death by his wife, Gloria Kay Baker. He is survived by his daughter, **Scarlett** ('93); and two brothers, **John** ('68) and **Daniel** ('73).

VINTAGE HARDING



The Ganus Building, then the Ganus Student Center, opened in 1951. In the background, construction on the Administration building can be seen as well as Armstrong Hall, constructed in 1949.

William H. "Bill" Hunter ('63), 80, of Searcy died Jan. 12, 2021. He was a member of the 1959 inaugural football team. He spent 16 years in education and worked for Weyerhaeuser for four years before opening Hunter Insurance Agency, which he had for 25 years before retiring in 2006. He led singing at church and sang with a barber shop quartet, a praise group, and at weddings and other events. He is survived by his wife of 60 years, **Mary Jane Turner** ('63); four children, **Todd** ('87), **Kim Magness** ('88), **Amy Bowman** ('91) and **John** ('94); a brother, **David** ('68); 11 grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren.

Jerry Wayne Whitehead ('66), 76, of Knoxville, Tennessee, died Oct. 12, 2020. He spent most of his career in real estate beginning with RM Moore in Knoxville and later moving to O'Connor, Piper and Flynn in Baltimore and Annapolis, Maryland. He and his wife, Susie, moved back to Knoxville in 1994 and are co-owners of Gables and Gates Realty, and developers of Bridgemore in Farragut, Tennessee. He was a member of the church of Christ. He is survived by his wife of 36 years, Susie Lash; and a sister, Laura Horn.

Robert James "Jim" Howard ('68), 75, of Shreveport, Louisiana, died Oct. 23, 2020. In the 1970s he joined the family business started by his father and uncle and eventually served as president of Howard Brothers Discount Stores. Later, the family entered the warehouse club business opening the first Super Saver Wholesale Club in Shreveport in 1994 with Jim serving as executive vice president. Three years later, Super Saver would be purchased

by Walmart. He would spend his semi-retirement working on other family businesses. He is survived by his wife, Linda Devore; two children, Stacy and **Chad** ('94); five stepchildren, Ryan, Robert, Trenton and John Redstone and Leah Sheehy; 11 grandchildren; and one great-grandchild.

Paul Randall Hughes ('69), 73, of Maumelle, Arkansas, died Jan. 1, 2021. In 1971, he and two others established Dox Sporting Goods in Nashville, Arkansas, which expanded to include a clothing store. He later opened Hughes Printing, which burned during a historic fire. He was instrumental in establishing other local businesses in Nashville including Sonic Drive-In and Taste Freeze. He loved sports and was a basketball official for many years. Serving as the first Nashville City Park director, he secured land and began the development of what is now Nashville Parks and Recreation. He changed career paths after the store fire and entered education as a teacher in Blevins, Arkansas. He earned a master's degree in education from Ouachita Baptist University and a specialist degree from East Texas State University. He became an elementary principal and then superintendent at Blevins and later at his hometown of Delight, Arkansas. As superintendent, he was one of 25 Arkansans appointed to the Governor's Blue Ribbon Commission for Education. During his 25 years in education, he served as president of Arkansas School Business Officials and Arkansas Rural Education Association, and was president-elect of Arkansas Education Administrators Association before retirement. After retirement,

he moved to Maumelle and became involved in jail and prison ministry and served as a volunteer prison chaplain at Ouachita Regional Correctional Facility and at Cummins Prison. He taught classes and preached at several small congregations in southwest Arkansas spreading the good news of Jesus Christ. He is survived by his wife of 50 years, Karan Bowline; two sons, **Toby** ('99) and **Hayden** ('11); two siblings, Carolyn Holmes and Howard; and four grandchildren.

Ray Forsyth Medlock Sr. ('69), 80, of North Little Rock, Arkansas, died July 27, 2020. With an interest in electronics and communications and an eagerness to serve his country, he joined the Arkansas National Guard in 1956, serving more than 30 years. A lieutenant colonel, he also served in the U.S. Army Reserves and taught Army Signal Corps classes. He directed an adult education program in North Little Rock for nine years, retiring in 2007. He earned a Master of Science in education in 1990 and an education specialist degree in 1994 from University of Central Arkansas. He is a graduate of the U.S. Army Command and General Staff College. He was a member of Windsong Church of Christ for more than 40 years, an Eagle Scout and amateur radio operator. He is survived by two children, Ray Jr. and **Margaret Guthrie** ('88); and five grandchildren.

Richard "Dick" W. Shenfeld Jr. ('69), 73, of Fort Wayne, Indiana, died Dec. 3, 2020. He earned his master's degree in secondary education from Indiana University-Purdue University, Fort Wayne. He spent his first five years teaching at Huntertown Junior High and then taught health, physical education, driver's education and coached at Homestead High School for 35 years. He retired in 2010 as the HPE department head and head boy's cross-country and track and field coach. As a middle-distance runner, he was a member of the New Haven High School Hall of Fame and a 2008 inductee into the Indiana Track and Cross-Country Hall of Fame. He enjoyed competing in local road races and track events. In retirement, he continued his involvement in the sport as a track and field official. He is survived by his wife of 54 years, Diane Haeger; a daughter, Jala McLaughlin; his mother, Norma; and three siblings, Bob, Roger and Pam Short.

Gary Dewayne Caudle ('70), 72, of Benton, Arkansas, died Oct. 7, 2020. He received his Master of Science in applied mathematics from the University of Arkansas. He was a member of Northside Church of Christ, where he previously served as a shepherd, and also at Barrow Road Church of Christ. He is survived by his wife of 52 years, Maude; three daughters, Rebecca Sipes, **Melissa Baxley** ('00), and Ashley Clancy; his mother, Louise; and seven grandchildren.

Freeman Hicks ('70), 91, of Harriman, Tennessee, died Dec. 26, 2020. He worked at Burlington Mills Corp. from 1948 until he joined the U.S. Army in 1950. He served in the Korean War until he was honorably discharged in 1952 with the rank of staff sergeant. He worked full time to support his wife and three children while attending Harding. After obtaining his degree, he became a full-time minister and served churches of Christ in many areas in the South, including Danville, Virginia; Scottsville, Kentucky; Moulton, Alabama; and lastly, his home congregation in Harriman from 1980-2018. He also was instrumental in assisting and supporting the Sevier Drive Church of Christ in Harriman. He is survived by his wife of 66 years, Agnes Griffin; three children, Freeman Randal, Cynthia Plemens and Andrea Underwood; a sister, Geneva H. Dailley; seven grandchildren; seven great-grandchildren; and one great-great-grandchild.

Diann Jane Williamson Huston ('70), 72, of Grove City, Ohio, died Aug. 12, 2020. She taught art in Reynoldsburg City Schools for more than 20 years. After leaving teaching due to hearing loss, she worked for Nationwide Insurance. She also worked with Girl Scouts of America and Cochlear America and was a member of Fishinger and Kenny Church of Christ. She is survived by her husband of 50 years, Paul; two daughters, Clarissa Miclat and **Amber Scott** ('06); and four grandchildren.

Paul Edward Noles ('70), 72, of North Little Rock, Arkansas, died Dec. 24, 2020. After graduating from Harding, he entered the U.S. Air Force and served one year in Thailand as an operational intelligence specialist. Upon discharge, he went to work at Coleman Dairy, Reesers and Cintas as a catalogue sales manager. He was a member of North Pulaski Church of Christ in Jacksonville, Arkansas, and served as a part-time minister and teacher. He is survived by his wife of 53 years, Donna Sue Gilbert; a son, Johnathan; two siblings, Richard and Mary Frances; and three grandchildren.

Carol Garrett Bailey ('72), 69, of Hatfield, Pennsylvania, died Sept. 21, 2020. Her life was dedicated



to serving others. She volunteered with the ladies auxiliary at Northeastern Christian Junior College and coordinated their annual Country Fair. For more than 40 years Carol volunteered her talents to serve Camp Manatawny where she coordinated rentals, food service, was chief cook, and served on the board of directors. She was a longtime member of the North Penn Church of Christ, North Wales, Pennsylvania; and was a tireless volunteer, teacher and servant. She is survived by her husband of 47 years, **Jim** ('72), two daughters, **Allison Gladfelter** ('00) and **Lauren Popeck** ('01); and four grandchildren.



Sherry Ann Smith Grisson ('79), 64, of Tuscumbia, Alabama, died Nov. 10, 2020. She worked at Bank Independent before her children were born. She also was librarian at the Colbert campus of Mars Hill Bible School. She loved music and taught many children to play the piano. She was a member of Tuscumbia Church of Christ. She is survived by her husband, Steve; two children, Shannon Rickard and Seth; a brother, Gale H. Smith; and three granddaughters.

G.K. Pennington (HST '00), 72, of Vienna, West Virginia, died Dec. 19, 2020. A minister with more than 51 years of service, he was working with the Riverside Church of Christ in Williamstown, West Virginia. He also was a professor at Ohio Valley University. He is survived by his wife of 51 years, Glenda Jo Pitman; three children, Marissa Reinsch, Michael and Steven; four sisters, Beverly Johnson, Andra Watson, Dale Rushing and Cheryl Gutierrez; and a grandson.

Matthew "Matt" Steele Fitzgerald ('09), 35, of Baton Rouge, Louisiana, died Nov. 26, 2020, from COVID-19. He spent most of his adult life serving as a missionary in Honduras. He oversaw a feeding program, El Comedor de Vida Nueva (the New Life Feeding Center), where about 200 children received a hot lunch each day and attended school. In addition, he fed and ministered many adults who made their living collecting recyclable items at the Tegucigalpa city dump. He and his wife managed a children's home providing permanent housing to 20 children. While in Honduras, he also led a ministry called Honduras Hope in which he directed teams of volunteers in various humanitarian aid projects such as home construction and medical clinics. He wanted people to know Jesus, and lived out his calling of feeding the hungry, sheltering the homeless and caring for the orphaned. He is survived by his wife, **Nicole Tindall** ('08); three daughters, Haley, Emma and Paige; his parents, Ronnie and Cheryl; and a brother, Austin.

Jack Thomas Lewis ('20), 25, of Little Rock, Arkansas, died Oct. 26, 2020. He loved the outdoors, especially hunting, fishing and golf. He recently moved to Big Sky, Montana, to start a new adventure. He is survived by his mother, **Mary Thomas** ('87); his father, **Jonathan** ('87); and two brothers, Thomas and Robert.

Lottie Mae Nichols, 89, of Searcy, died Nov. 14, 2020. She worked in banking and savings and loan services most of her life. When her children entered college, she worked at the Harding University Bookstore from 1985-98. She loved bowling and was part of the women's bowling league in Searcy. She was preceded in death by her husband of 68 years, **Loren** ('50). She is survived by two children, Kris and **Cindy Wyatt** ('89); and five grandchildren.

UCM FILE PHOTO

PHOTO SUBMITTED



Life in the COVID-19 hall

By SHANNON OVERCASH, Kendall Hall residence life coordinator

NOTHING COULD HAVE PREPARED ME for what I was walking into when I was offered the position of residence life coordinator in Kendall Hall. COVID-19 was still relatively new, and I had not been exposed to anyone who had the virus. Before I knew it, I said yes and jumped in with both feet. I'm glad I did. This position has brought with it growth, change and tremendous blessings. It can get a little chaotic at times, even in the isolation dorm, with check-ins/checkouts, meal delivery and general daily life. But every afternoon, there was a quiet lull in the busyness — the low murmur of students in their rooms updating their families on symptoms and school work, studying or attending classes via Zoom, and resting and recovering from the virus. As a dorm mom to students numbering from one to more than 50, I reveled in the quiet but also smiled, knowing that soon noise and busyness would pick up again.

In Kendall lobby, there is a bulletin board behind the front desk. During my first month in the hall, I mulled over ideas for themes or decorations I could put up but never quite landed on anything specific. Then one day a group of girls who had recently moved in presented me with handwritten notes and drawings they had made for me and hung them up on the bulletin board. Since then, it has been filled with notes and drawings from students who have lived in Kendall. That bulletin board is my favorite thing about the dorm — it reminds me of students who have come and gone, their encouragement to me, and of our COVID-19 family.

My goal for Kendall was and is to foster an environment where students who are sick can move in, get the rest and recovery time they need, and encourage them when they return to the general population on campus. I had never considered taking on a role like this, but sometimes opportunities come out of nowhere when they are least expected. It would be easy to say it was just a coincidence, but I know better than that. I truly believe that God opened the door for me to take this position — I was in the right place at the right time.

Managing Kendall Hall has its ups and downs. There are many times where I feel ill equipped for the position or like I have no idea what I am doing. Any time I feel that way, it isn't long before someone is offering me a handwritten note or speaking words of encouragement over me. The other RLCs on campus, as well as the Office of Student Life, make me feel very welcome for which I am so grateful.

When I accepted this position, I did not think about the possible drawbacks or the potential impact that COVID-19 would have not only on my life but on the lives of my students as well. The hardest parts have been seeing genuine fear come across someone's face, watching people shift away from me upon learning what my position is on campus, not being able to go to church due to COVID-19 guidelines, and hearing from my students about how their friends and classmates are nervous around them even though they completed their isolation dates and are no longer contagious. Despite the hard moments there have been positives too, such as the opportunity to minister to students differently than I have in the past, getting to meet some of the most amazing students on this campus

and hearing them laugh and joke, seeing them rejoice with each other when someone finishes isolation, and watching friends come to visit and encourage them.

My time in Kendall Hall has been like no other experience I have ever had. It's funny how blessings come in all shapes and sizes. If you had told me at the beginning of 2020 that

I would be taking a job managing a residence hall on campus, and an isolation dorm at that,

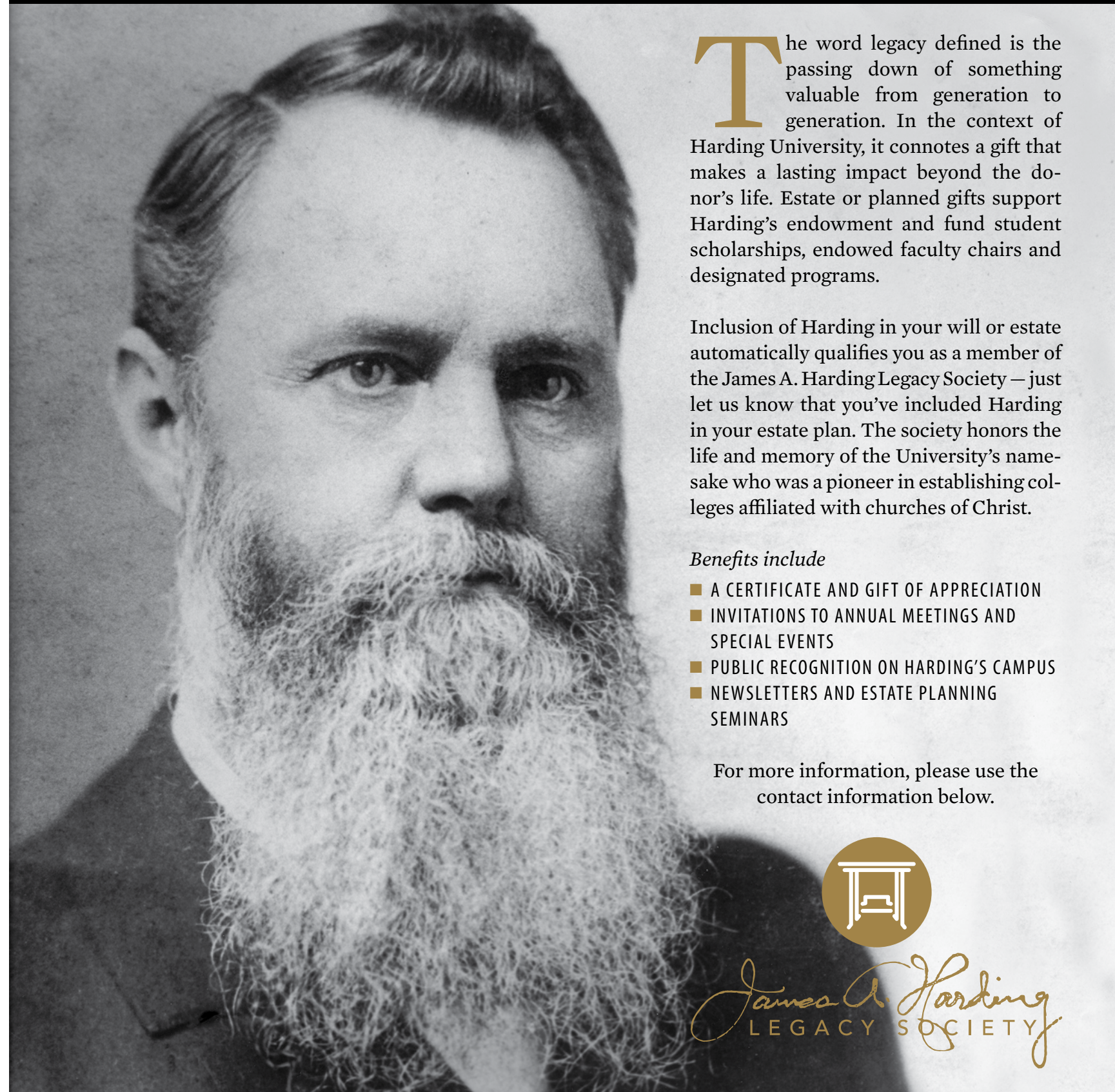
I would have thought you were crazy. And yet, here I am, one semester down and working on round two.

While a unique year, I cannot wait to see what 2021 holds. ☺



ILLUSTRATION BY JENNIFER ALLEN

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PHOTO BY JEFF MONTGOMERY

Rhodes-Reaves Field House is one of two locations for in-person chapel, which began Feb. 8. The first physical chapel since March 2020 is held in eight small sessions in both the field house and Benson Auditorium.

