

HARDING

SUMMER 2021

**QUALITATIVE
RESEARCHER
OF IDENTITY**





28



24



11

Departments



2 **VIEWPOINT**
Gratitude

3 **HU VIEW**
Nine photos from Spring Sing '21

4 **ONE MOMENT**
Celebrating spring commencement in five ceremonies



6 **AROUND CAMPUS**
Presidential search continuing, online opportunities growing, and other happenings around the University



12 **SPORTS**
Freshman Dorian Chaigneau vaults to national indoor title.



30 **CONNECTIONS**
31 | **PROFILE**
Lauren Rydl Turner, 1996
32 | **PROFILE**
Joseph Ross Smith, 2018



36 **END NOTE**
Reflecting on commencement, retiring School of Theology dean Dr. Allen Black shares thoughts on his 38-year career.

ON THE COVER
Dr. James Huff, associate professor of engineering and Honors College faculty fellow, earns a National Science Foundation award for research.

PHOTO BY JEFF MONTGOMERY

Features

14 **PT: REWARDING. RELATIONSHIPS. WORTHWHILE.**
Three members of the 2021 physical therapy graduating class reflect on the past three years of training.

18 **HELPING PEOPLE UNDERSTAND WHO THEY ARE**
Dr. Jim Miller tells how Dr. James Huff's early years influenced him to win a nationally-recognized research award focusing on shame and identity in engineering.

24 **NO ROOTS, NO LIMITS**
2018 alumnus Caleb Brackney turned a school bus into a tiny home with only \$10,000 and a lot of ingenuity.

28 **THE ELEPHANT IN THE ROOM**
Tacker's Shake Shack in Marion, Arkansas, is synonymous with good food, Southern hospitality and a surprising elephant collection.

Gratitude

By DAVID B. BURKS, *president*

COMPLETING THE 2020-21 school year with five commencement ceremonies on the main campus instead of our normal three while handling COVID-19 protocols is just one example of the many ways this University came together during a very difficult year and made things happen. The joy was evident, and I am very thankful we were able to celebrate together. This is just one of many things for which I am grateful.

I am grateful for our faculty as I witness the fruits of their labors. The National Science Foundation recently awarded Dr. James Huff, associate professor of engineering and Honors College faculty fellow, a \$575,000 grant for his psychological research on shame, identity and well-being in engineering education settings (page 18). Dr. Clara Carroll, Dr. Carol Douglass and Dr. Lisa Bryant were honored with a grant from the Arkansas Department of Education's Division of Elementary and Secondary Education to launch the Special Education Resource Teacher Academy.

I am grateful for the work of our faculty and staff in sharing the mission of Harding. I especially appreciate the faculty members who taught both in-person and virtually all year. It was a tremendous challenge, and they responded beautifully by truly going the second mile. For the staff and administrative support which allowed this to happen, I am thankful.

I am grateful for our safe environment for instruction and work with our students this year. Our COVID-19 protocols worked out very well, and we have been blessed as a University. Dr. David Collins spearheaded this effort, and I am grateful for him and all those who worked diligently to make this happen.

I am grateful to Dr. Marty Spears and his team for all of the work done to shepherd



new and developing programs. I am excited to see new programs in architecture, strength and conditioning, nutrition, and occupational therapy approved and ready to be implemented. I am especially excited about the establishment of Harding Online, led by Keith Cronk, and other new programs that will be implemented soon (page 6).

I am grateful for the improvement of conditions so that we could have a President's Council meeting, Spring Sing and commencement ceremonies this spring. I am excited to see us return to normal operations this fall.

I am grateful for all of you and what you do to make our mission and ministry at Harding possible. God is faithful, and I am excited about the future of our work. 🙏

David B. Burks

HARDING

SUMMER 2021 | VOLUME 29 | NUMBER 2

EDITOR/DESIGNER
Tom Buterbaugh, '78

COPY EDITOR/WRITER
Jantzen Haley, '17

WRITERS
Katie Clement, '16
Lane Gammel
Luke Humphrey, '20
Megan Stroud, '19

SPORTS WRITER
Scott Goode, '98

PHOTOGRAPHER
Jeff Montgomery, '91

CONTRIBUTORS
Emma Aly, '20
Allen Black, '74
Joanna Crisco, '97
Jim Miller, '97
Hailey Pruitt, '10

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

© 2021 Harding University

PHOTO BY JEFF MONTGOMERY

Spring Sing '21

INSTAGRAM SELECTIONS FROM "TWICE UPON A TIME" 📷



TOP ROW: @karlifisher, @rachel.e.story, @dontchasegrace MIDDLE ROW: @morganjollynn, @thehannahhackworth, @kathleen_ogden BOTTOM ROW: @kattstinn, @edentaylor, @janae.p

After the first commencement ceremony held at 4 p.m. on Friday, May 7, Ingmar "Iggy" Hemesath, a Bible and ministry major, smiles for a selfie with his parents in front of the McInteer Center. Because of COVID-19 restrictions, commencement was held in five ceremonies this spring instead of the usual three, but everyone was all smiles to actually be able to walk across the stage after last spring's virtual ceremonies.

PHOTO BY JEFF MONTGOMERY





Presidential search ongoing

IN FEBRUARY, Dr. Robert Walker, chairman of the board of trustees, announced the appointment of a presidential search committee made up of faculty, staff, alumni and board of trustee members to identify and recommend Harding's sixth president. CarterBaldwin, an executive search firm, also was hired to assist the board and the committee with the search process.

Shortly after the announcement was made, a survey was sent out seeking input from the Harding family.

"We have shared this search nationally among the Harding family, churches of Christ fellowship and higher education," said Charles Ganus, vice chair of the search committee. "It was wonderful to hear from people and get their thoughts and responses."

A presidential profile was created using input from the committee, board of trustees and more than 2,000 survey responses. Anyone interested in the position was encouraged to apply or submit candidate nominations before May 7. After the application process ended, the search committee and CarterBaldwin met to discuss the candidates and provide an update to the board of trustees.

Ganus said CarterBaldwin has been a wonderful resource during the process. "Of the searches done for faith-based institutions, they have led half during the last year and are very well-regarded. They have contacts with a huge number of people in higher education that they have helped get the search out to."

During the summer CarterBaldwin is conducting interviews with semifinalists, and the search committee will determine the final candidates.

"The main message that we want to share is that the search is going well and is on schedule," said Ganus. "We continue to solicit prayers for God's guidance for the right person as Harding's next president."

To view the presidential profile and any updates on the search process, visit harding.edu/presidentialsearch.

Harding Online developments growing

SINCE HARDING ONLINE'S establishment in the spring, four new programs have been or are in the process of being developed and added to the list of University academic offerings. Harding Online seeks partnerships with organizations that identify with the University's mission and can assist Harding in reaching a global audience.

The first new program is a Master of Arts in Organizational Leadership, an interdisciplinary academic field of study that is focused on individual and team success. Harding Online has signed an agreement with Strata Leadership to help develop and grow this program. Out of this agreement came the formation of the University Center for Organizational Leadership under which the MAOL will be offered, in collaboration with Harding Online and the College of Business. The MAOL is a 30-hour degree offering graduate certificates that focus on leadership coaching, human resources and other areas. As part of the partnership, Strata Leadership is helping the University seek adjunct professors and students interested in enrolling in the program, which is set to begin in August 2021.

Harding Online also has signed an agreement with Orbis Education to implement an advanced Bachelor of Science in Nursing, commencing in Fall 2022. All of the didactic requirements will be taught online by Harding faculty. After students have completed that portion of the degree, they will arrange to take their clinicals. Orbis will help establish connections with hospitals in West Memphis and Northwest Arkansas, in addition to building out centers where students can fulfill their simulation laboratories. Students also will be able to arrange to take their clinicals in other locations, if needed.

"The longer term plan for that is to not just limit it to nursing," said Keith Cronk, chief information officer and senior vice president of information systems and technology and Harding Online. "We would love to expand our physician assistant programs as well, and they could use the same sort of facilities in years to come."

The third initiative Harding Online has

developed is an agreement with Grand Canyon Education to offer an MBA and MSIS degree that will begin in Spring 2022. Currently these programs are offered through the College of Business Administration; however, Harding Online's instructional designers will collaborate with COBA and GCE. GCE will be primarily responsible for running the digital marketing and the enrollment process.

"GCE approached us initially and asked if we wanted to partner with them," said Cronk. "They are overtly Christian, so it was a great opportunity to partner. If these are successful, the idea is we will expand out from there. We are looking to get a total of 150 students a year in those two programs."

The fourth program Harding Online has been working to implement is a Master of Education in Christian education.

"We are working very diligently with Brandon Tatum to kick this off in Spring 2022," said Cronk. "His long-term association with the National Christian Schools Association and the

Association of Christian Schools International gives us an incredibly broad spectrum of opportunities to reach those schools, particularly because this is a nonlicensure degree. We won't have to go through state boards of licensure."

Harding Online instructional designers will begin collaborating with current

University online programs on their curricular development. Any additional faculty hired for new programs will continue to go through the University hiring process.

Cronk says Harding Online is something he has envisioned for more than a decade, and he is excited to see how things progress.

"I have a folder that has a strategic plan in it from 1999. That plan has always been to take Harding Christian higher education to all the world. That's what I want to do, to get what we have, in terms of Christian higher education, out to people who will never come to our campus. I think in two years time we could have 800 to 1,000 students that we never had before because we have offered this opportunity."

"That plan has always been to take Harding Christian higher education to all the world."



Dr. James Berry

DIRECTOR OF ASSESSMENT AND TESTING

- 2004 Lubbock Christian graduate
- M.M. from Texas Tech University in 2006, Ph.D. from Texas Tech in 2011
- Advice for students: "Use your time at school to learn about lots of different areas. Don't become so focused on your major that you only learn to do one thing. Become the kind of person who can adapt to many different kinds of jobs. You never know where God will lead you in the future."



Dr. Shawn Fisher

CHAIR OF THE DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY AND POLITICAL SCIENCE

- 1997 Harding graduate
- M.Ed. from Harding in 2006, Ph.D. from University of Memphis in 2013
- Choosing the field of history: "I teach traditions, our mistakes, our victories and our values in light of God's sovereignty in this world because it is the most important thing any human can do. By making the past accessible, you make the present meaningful and the future possible."



Dr. Mike McGalliard

ASSOCIATE PROVOST FOR HEALTH SCIENCE

- 1994 Abilene Christian graduate
- MPT from Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center in 1997, D.Sc. from Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center in 2008
- Favorite Bible verse: Isaiah 41:10 "Fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you, yes I will help you, I will uphold you with my righteous right hand."



Dr. Jon Singleton

CHAIR OF THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE DEPARTMENT

- 2002 Harding graduate
- M.A. from Syracuse University in 2006, Ph.D. from Syracuse University in 2010
- Choosing the field of teaching literature: "Teaching lets me work with people, which I enjoy, while teaching literature lets us talk about deep experiences of life and the big ideas that shape our world."



Dr. Reet Cronk

ASSOCIATE DEAN AND PROFESSOR, HARDING ONLINE

- 1981 graduate from the University of Southern Queensland
- M.S. from Australian National University in 1984, Ph.D. from University of Southern Queensland in 2004
- Favorite aspect of your role: "Ideation and being part of an innovative team committed to extending the reach of Harding's mission through online programs."



Dr. Jeffery Massey

DIRECTOR OF THE OFFICE OF SPONSORED PROGRAMS, ASSISTANT PROFESSOR OF ENGINEERING AND PHYSICS

- 2005 Arkansas State University graduate
- M.S. from Missouri University of Science and Technology in 2008, Ph.D. from Missouri University of Science and Technology in 2011
- Favorite aspect of your role: "Bringing together multiple stakeholders to create opportunities for the students, faculty and the institution."



Dr. Mark Powell

DEAN, HARDING SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY

- 1993 Lipscomb graduate
- M.Div. from Emory University in 1996, Ph.D. from Southern Methodist University in 2005
- Advice for students: "There are more important things than grades. Focus on getting a good education and being a person of faith and high character."



Dr. Dana Steil

ASSOCIATE PROVOST FOR ACADEMIC AFFAIRS, ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF COMPUTER SCIENCE, DIRECTOR OF INSTITUTIONAL RESEARCH

- 1997 Harding graduate
- M.S.E. from Harding in 2004, M.S. from University of Alabama in 2008, Ph.D. from University of Alabama in 2010
- Favorite family trip: "Traveling to Harding University in Greece in the summer of 2017. The opportunity to teach and learn in the cradle of western civilization was life changing. We love our HUG family and the investment we made in each other's lives."





WHY HARDING Gabriella Fields, a sophomore from Rogers, Arkansas, knew right away that Harding was going to be the place for her. "I came and visited for Trustee Weekend in January of 2020, and I got to see the campus, but then everything shut down because of COVID-19 so I didn't get to make any follow-up visits. However, on that first visit to Harding it just felt like home. It felt like a place that was going to be incredible, and the people were so amazing. The campus was so beautiful, and this just felt like the right place. This all sounds so cliché, but it's absolutely the truth."

CAREER PATH A biomedical engineering major and programming minor, Fields wants to use her love for building things to help others. "I thought I wanted to be a doctor for the longest time, but biomedical engineering just kind of fell in my lap. I loved my anatomy class, and I love to build things, so I really can see myself working with prosthetics. I also considered computer engineering, so I started a minor in programming. I'm so excited that I can take classes that I enjoy and will have the ability to engineer things."

INVOLVEMENT Fields' background and love for engineering helped land her a position on Harding's Baja Club, which builds a race vehicle to the specifications set out by the Society of Automotive Engineers and competes in at least one of the annual competitions. "We went to (Tucson) Arizona this year, and in the 4-hour endurance race, which is the hardest of them all, we took first place. As a first-year member I just got to do odd jobs like helping with the tire rods. Next year I'm going to try and be on the welding team to help build the frame. I don't think anyone expected we would do that well. It was amazing for the seniors who didn't get to compete in 2020."

CAMARADERIE Diagnosed on the autism spectrum as a toddler, Fields was inspired by Temple Grandin's campus lecture and wants to promote awareness at Harding. "It's amazing to me that Harding would bring someone here in my demographic — someone who is autistic. Not only was she female and autistic, she's also someone who has made it her purpose to show how she can overcome it and use it to her advantage to grow and raise awareness. Harding has a great support office, but I don't really know anyone who is autistic here, and there has to be so many. One of my goals is to create a community where we can all come together."

She is using social media as a way to visually express her feelings and build awareness for the autistic community. Follow Gabriella on Instagram: @i_am_from_another_planet

— Lane Gammel



Everyday STUDENT

SOPHOMORE BIOMEDICAL ENGINEERING STUDENT GABRIELLA FIELDS PROMOTES AUTISM AWARENESS ON CAMPUS

PHOTO BY JEFF MONTGOMERY

HEARD in CHAPEL

JAN. 21

"All of us at some point in this last year have been overwhelmed, but those times when I pour out things to God, and I say, 'God, I don't get it,' and then I focus on what I have or what I don't have, I found that he does give me a peace. ... God has some peace for you. [I hope] that you can begin to experience that, so lay your anxieties on him. He understands you're human, but he wants to give you peace."

Todd Gentry ('85), *Colle Church of Christ college and community outreach minister*

JAN. 22

"Today, amid our anxieties, our concerns, our downcast moods, our uneasy spirits and even in the presence of our greatest successes and joys, we believe that Jesus is enough and that he is our satisfaction. He is enough for us, and we are enough for him."

Daylan Moore ('19), *clinical mental health counseling graduate student*

FEB. 2

"The one to whom I pray is with me always, is with you always, is with us all always. When I pray, I am calling upon that and reminding myself of the communion I share with God."

Steven Hovater ('00), *preaching and outreach minister at the Church of Christ at Cedar Lane, Tullahoma, Tennessee*

FEB. 24

"When we come before God in the name of Christ, we not only come with Christ, we come as Christ. I have

to admit I shudder to even say that because I know I am not Christlike, and my guess is you do, too. It is only by the grace of God's spirit who puts Christ in me and puts me in Christ that I can say this: I come to God as Christ because I am hidden in Christ, I am clothed in Christ, I have been buried with Christ and raised."

Mac Sandlin ('03), *assistant professor of Bible and religion*

APRIL 2

"There are times in life that we go through that we can't make sense of. There are times in life for everybody where God feels impossible or a million miles away, but here's what Good Friday means: don't let your pride fool you. We are not the masters of the universe that we think we are, and in those moments where we think he's a million miles away, God might be closer to you than your own breath, and God might be trying to reach through your life to do something about evil. Evil is still a four letter word, but so, thank God, is love."

Jonathan Storment ('03), *preaching minister at Pleasant Valley Church of Christ, Little Rock, Arkansas*

APRIL 6

"We leave the people we care about briefly and come back from solitude a more stable, confident, compassionate friend. ... We need to be with people, but we also simply must create time and space to listen. ... Solitude is about waiting patiently and quietly to hear from God."

Michael Claxton, *professor of English*

EVENTS

AUG. 19-22

Stampede

Campus comes to life as freshmen and transfers move in and complete a weekend orientation to kick off their college careers. harding.edu/stampede

AUG. 23

First day of classes

The start of a new school year brings with it anticipation of new knowledge, new friendships and continued camaraderie.

SEPT. 24-25

Family Weekend

Fall is in the air as Harding welcomes families to campus to enjoy a taste of college life alongside their students. harding.edu/familyweekend

SEPT. 26-29

Lectureship

Harding hosts a brilliant lineup of speakers and classes for "Invincible! Courageous Faith in Troubled Times" as the annual event studies the book of Daniel. harding.edu/lectureship

OCT. 1

Fall break

Nearly halfway through the semester, campus takes a day off to rejuvenate and prepare for the remainder of fall.

OCT. 22-23

Homecoming

There will be no shortage of fun for the whole family with "Elf" the musical, Homecoming parade, Class of '71 anniversary and more. harding.edu/homecoming
For a complete list of events, visit harding.edu/calendar.

BY THE NUMBERS

ACCOLADES 2020-21

No. 1

Best Faith-Based College or University in Arkansas by PLEXUSS

Best Value College in Arkansas by SmartAsset

RN Program in Arkansas by RegisteredNursing.com

No. 2

Best Colleges in Arkansas by Intelligent

No. 4

Best Christian Colleges in 2020 by Best Value Schools

Best Value Education School in the U.S. By College Factual

No. 9

Best Degrees in International Business by Study.com (No. 1 in Arkansas)

Listings

College of Distinction by Colleges of Distinction

Best Regional Colleges in the Southeast by Princeton Review



MY VIEW CHAD JOICE

Getting back to normal

The magazine staff went to one of our assistant deans, Chad Joice, to find out his perspective on student life this past pandemic year as well as his hopes for the fall.

WHAT DO YOU DO WHEN your position is thrown a curveball by a virus? How do you adapt to what seems like an unadaptable situation? When can we get back to “normal?” I wrestled with these questions in March 2020 when the University asked our students not to return to campus after spring break. To be honest, I still wrestle with these questions a year later even though we are closer to normal.

I came to work at Harding in Fall 2013 in the Office of Student Life. How do you work at a job that revolves around students when those students are



not on campus? There always are times when our campus is empty during holidays and between sessions. Even though it is nice to recharge for a few days, or maybe a week or two, there comes

a time when I am ready for students to return. Our students are our lifeblood. March to August was way too long to be without them, and I was tired of emails and phone calls from my recliner. I needed face-to-face interactions. I entered a career in education 17 years ago to make a difference in the lives of our youth, and, for me, that means interacting with students and developing relationships. That is hard to do when no one is around.

I was thrilled when our students returned to campus this past August, but I knew things would not be normal. There were difficult decisions that had to be made, guided by the CDC and the Arkansas Department of Health, in order to keep our community safe. While masks were becoming more commonplace in our lives, distancing was accepted, and elbow bumps were the norm for hello, our lives on campus were anything but normal.

Due to the nature of my specific role, it is not un-

common for me to have face-to-face meetings with 400 students during a typical semester. I quickly realized this would not be the case; in fact, most of my student interactions in the fall were conversations guiding students through the isolation and quarantine process. Delivering information of isolation from peers is difficult to give, but every student was gracious and accepting. While my face-to-face interactions decreased, my ability to connect and support students through difficult situations increased the number of relationships I was able to cultivate. I still get text messages from many of these students or a fist bump from student-athletes when watching them practice. We are bonded by COVID-19.

Besides the loss of face-to-face interactions, I have missed Harding activities. I love Bison athletics and am fortunate to be the public address announcer for several of our teams and keep the official book for others. It is hard to go several months without watching our student-athletes compete in their chosen sport. For me, it does not stop with athletics. I’ll tell you a secret; I love musicals. I hated not getting to watch our students share their gift of performance through the Homecoming musical. I missed the sound of instruments from the Thundering Herd. Our campus started out void of these extracurricular activities. However, that has now changed. Our bands have given front lawn performances. Students joined social clubs. Spring Sing happened. Almost every sports team had a season during the Spring semester. We have even been able to worship together, in person, during chapel. Through it all, I have been there supporting, encouraging, elbow and fist-bumping, all while smiling through my mask.

So, what do you do when your position is thrown a pandemic curveball? You adapt to the situation and show students that you care and love them through your actions. You scream that COVID-19 will not win. I have learned more than I ever wanted to know about practices and guidelines related to this virus, but one thing I know for certain is we are getting back to normal. It may not be what we remember, but isn’t that the same with life? We adapt and overcome. We are Harding, and we will continue to move forward. 📌

Fund teaches students stewardship

THE COLLEGE OF BUSINESS Administration announced in May the establishment of a Student Managed Investment Fund created to offer business students valuable experience in investment analysis and portfolio management.

“The Student Managed Investment Fund is a significant opportunity for our student members to gain valuable experience in investment analysis and portfolio management,” said Dr. Allen Frazier, dean of the college. “Students will work with a contingent of Harding’s board and COBA’s finance faculty to gain a unique educational experience in financial management and understand how to become faithful stewards of money entrusted to them.”

The fund will be overseen by a student manager team made up of 12 junior and senior COBA students. Under oversight of faculty, student managers will research and analyze stocks to identify prospective changes to the fund. Student managers will meet frequently to address board market movement and expectations, fund and sector performance, and discuss prospective investments. At the end of each month, student managers will provide a written and oral report on performance of their investments and recommend changes to the fund portfolio.

A sum of \$500,000 has been designated as an initial fund balance while another \$500,000 will be invested simultaneously in an S&P 500 index fund.

PHOTO BY JEFF MONTGOMERY



During dead week, Ryan Turley, Joshua Kelso and Travis Turley participate in the Murph workout challenge as coordinator Antonio Montez, Chilo Espinoza and Anna Beth Neely monitor.

HU HEAL encourages active living

HARDING UNIVERSITY HEALTHY EATING Active Living was introduced to students on campus in 2019. Although activities were slowed due to COVID-19, HU HEAL is now offering more opportunities for students to focus on their nutrition and exercise.

Christy Swaid, founder and CEO of HEAL Inc., founded the HEAL program in 2002 after retiring from a career of extreme sports.

“I began noticing how many children were not eating healthy food or moving adequately, and the consequence is early disease and obesity,” said Swaid. “This knowledge moved my spirit to design a rescue mission to save children from suffering preventable diseases and put them on a path of health and wellness.”

Swaid said it was clear that the best place to begin the HEAL mission would be in physical education classes in elementary schools. Before HEAL came to Harding, it was implemented across the state of Alabama.

When asked what motivated her to bring HEAL to Harding, Swaid said it all boils down to one word: love.

“I love my Harding family and the beautiful students applying themselves to higher education to be further equipped with skills to glorify the Lord. Health supports brain performance, mental and emotional balance, and self-esteem. These qualities make college life so much more enjoyable and manageable.”

When Swaid introduced the program to faculty, Britney Finley, assistant professor of kinesiology, immediately jumped on board.

“I loved it,” said Finley. “That’s where my heart is, is helping those kids, and that is exactly what she is doing.”

Finley meets with a team of students each week to develop tools and resources HU HEAL can use to encourage students

PHOTO BY JEFF MONTGOMERY

to invest in fitness and nutrition. During the 2020-21 school year HEAL offered multiple events including a GLOW run, cooking competitions, events at a yoga studio in Searcy, StartHer runs – a company building community through running – and fitness classes such as yoga, strength training and spin. Most, if not all, of these events were at no cost to students.

HU HEAL also provides opportunities for students to request a personalized fitness plan or a workout buddy. Students are paired with a HEAL ambassador who does a workout with them, encourages them, and creates customized fitness guides to meet their needs. Dr. Bryan Phillips, exercise physiologist and exercise science professor, helps ambassadors personalize these plans to individual students.

In addition to growing HEAL on Harding’s campus, Swaid hopes to see doors open to continue sharing the love of Christ with others.

“Heal provides an opportunity to show love to all people and tell them how valuable they are. The HEAL lifestyle is for everyone no matter the age, race, gender, religion or political stance. This conversation opens the door for powerful mission work. I hope to see the HEAL movement well-embraced and understood across campus so we can begin leading the path to implementing HEAL in K-12 schools across Arkansas.”

HU HEAL resources – basic nutrition information, workout plans, exercise principles and more – are found in their new office located just inside the Ganus Activities Complex. HU HEAL also has partnered with student health services and Chartwells to offer a more comprehensive wellness approach on campus. This fall they hope to have pop-ups in the cafeteria at least once a month to allow students an opportunity to taste and learn about new foods.



NEWSMAKERS

ACUE CERTIFICATES

Dr. Scott Adair, Megan Adams, Amy Baker, Dr. Nick Boone, Dr. Josh Brown, Dr. James Burk, Tessa Davidson, Dr. Laurie Diles, Jessica Gardner, Karen Garner, Dr. Russell Keck, Dr. Melanie Meecker, Dr. Jesse Robertson, Dr. Patrick Ruhl, Nekia Shelton, Dr. Susan Smith, Dr. Kevin Stewart, Kim Swenson, Dr. Jan Traugher, Jean Waldrop, April Watson, Dr. Anessa Westbrook and Dr. Jon White successfully completed an Association of College and University Educators’ certificate in effective college instruction endorsed by the American Council on Education. The certificates were earned over the course of 2020-21.

ALPHA CHI

Dr. Usenime Akpanudo, associate professor of education, and Dr. Ginger Blackstone, associate professor of communication, were awarded the 2021 Alpha Chi Faculty Scholar Award in April 2021. They each received \$1,000 in professional development funding.

COLLEGE OF ARTS AND HUMANITIES

Dr. Ginger Blackstone, associate professor of communication, along with two co-authors from Georgia Southern, received the BEA Diversity & Inclusion Research Award in April 2021. The title of their paper is “Framing a Movement: Media Portrayals of the George Floyd Protests on Twitter.”

Dr. Dutch Hoggatt, professor of communication, was awarded the Broadcast Education Association 2021 Faculty Audio Radio Documentary Best of Competition Award in May 2021. The title of his documentary was “Artist Spotlight – Billie Holiday.”

COLLEGE OF BIBLE AND MINISTRY

Dr. Jesse Robertson, associate professor, was appointed assistant dean of the College of Bible and Ministry May 1, 2021.

Mac Sandlin, assistant professor, successfully defended his dissertation, earning his doctorate in theology with honors at the University of Dayton on May 11, 2021. The title of his dissertation is “Help Us to Be Good: A Pneumatological Virtue Ethic for Churches of Christ.”

COLLEGE OF EDUCATION

Dr. Clara Carroll, associate dean and professor, Dr. Carol Douglass, director of special education and professor, and Dr. Lisa Bryant, assistant professor, received a grant from the Arkansas Department of Education’s Division of Elementary and Secondary Education in April 2021. The grant award is \$559,817 and will serve Arkansas public school educators.

FACULTY/STAFF AWARDS

Faculty members Mike Allen, Dr. Tim Baird, Charles Bane, Ben Jones, Dr. Travis McNeal, Rhonda Reely, Dr. Mac Sandlin, Dr. Melissa Shipp and Steve Warren are the 2020-21 Teacher Achievement Award recipients. Staff members Bob Barnett, Tiffany Byers, Allison Case, Pam Celsor, Shane Fullerton, Paula Kirby, Deanna Nowakowski and Wayne Westerholm received the 2020-21 Distinguished Service Award.

HARDING SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY

Jessica Holland was named library director effective July 1, 2021. She previously served as the librarian for Harding Academy Memphis.



Vaulting to the top

By SCOTT GOODE, assistant athletic director for sports information

FRESHMAN POLE-VAULTER
Dorian Chaigneau (pronounced SHIN-yo) describes his arrival on Harding's campus as "eyes blind." Chaigneau is a native of Fontenay-le-Comte, France, a town of 13,000 located in west-central France less than 30 miles from the Bay of Biscay.

At 6 years old, Chaigneau's parents signed him up for a track and field club in France. The only problem was he really, really hated running.

Around the age of 10, he arrived at the club and saw some older team members pole vaulting, and his life changed forever.

"I am just too lazy to run," Chaigneau says. "I saw those guys vaulting, and I went completely crazy about it. I just wanted to jump and jump and jump. The guys made fun of me because I just kept jumping. The coach would get nervous at the end of practice because he wanted to go home. His wife was waiting. He would say, 'last one, last one,' but I just kept jumping."

He continued with his club in France, twice finishing as high as third in competition. But eventually, Chaigneau's progress at the club began to stall, and he looked for somewhere else to continue his career.

He hired a recruiting agency to help him find a home at an American university. One of the emails the agency sent out landed in the inbox of Harding head coach Don Hood, a nationally respected pole vault coach.

"I reached out to him once and did not hear back from him," Hood says. "About a month later, I heard back, and we set up a Zoom call. I told him about the strong group of vaulters we had and about our facilities. It was what he wanted, and things moved pretty quickly from there."

"I came to Harding because the team had a good group of pole vaulters," Chaigneau says. Five of Harding's top 10 pole vaulters of all time are currently on the team. "I knew nothing else about the school. I had only seen pictures. But I said, 'OK, let's go.'"

Chaigneau knew early on in his time at Harding that his decision to come to America would lead to changes he had hoped for.

"When I got here, it was everything I expected," Chaigneau says. "My situation in France was not stable. Harding gave stability to my life. I was able to train and study at the same time. I was not able to do that in France."

It also did not take long for coach Hood to realize that Chaigneau was something special.

"Dorian is super competitive," Hood says. "He wants to be perfect every time. He will

himself to be great. He still loves to pole vault. He would practice every day if we would let him. He is the perfect mix of athletic ability, competitiveness and the drive to be technically perfect."

Chaigneau's impact on the track program was immediate. In his first collegiate indoor meet, he broke Harding's indoor school record.

"It was cool. I knew it was the school record, but it was not a crazy height," Chaigneau

says. "But for me, it was not (too difficult)."

The record might not have been too much for him, but it had stood at Harding for 32 years. Harding Hall of Famer Jimmy Sloan set the mark at 16-6 in 1989. Chaigneau won the Arkansas Invitational on Jan. 16 by clearing 16-8 3/4 inches (5.10 meters).

His marks continued to improve throughout the indoor season.

On Jan. 22, he cleared 16-10 (5.13 meters) at the Central Missouri meet. On Feb. 28, he became the first Harding athlete ever to clear 17 feet in the pole vault. At a meet in Indianapolis, he soared over the bar at 17-1 3/4 inches (5.23 meters). That vault made him one of the favorites at the NCAA Indoor National Championship.

"Every week, I felt I was better. I used stronger poles and continued to go higher. It was just the (culmination) of a lot of hard work," Chaigneau says.

Chaigneau was his best on a national stage. "At nationals, it was really special because I came in with the feeling that I was going to win," Chaigneau says. "I had no pressure. I was just going to do my job."

Chaigneau cleared 5.07 meters on his first attempt, then 5.17 meters also on his first attempt. When he cleared 5.27 meters (17-3 1/2 inches) on his first try, the championship was his. Tommy Ansel of Cedarville also cleared the same height, but Chaigneau won with fewer misses.

"I was really happy. I had never finished first at a national meet," Chaigneau says. "I was really happy for coach Hood, too. I feel like, for him, it was a really big deal."

Chaigneau's success continued outdoors. Not surprisingly, he broke the Harding outdoor record in his first meet, then set a personal best of 5.30 meters (17-4 1/2) in finishing second at the prestigious Texas Relays. Chaigneau won the Great American Conference championship with a conference-record height and was a Second Team All-American at outdoor nationals.

Although Chaigneau came to Harding "blind," his success has definitely opened people's eyes. 🏆



PHOTO BY JEFF MONTGOMERY

For the latest sports information, visit hardingsports.com.

BY THE NUMBERS

.403 Hitting percentage of David Butterfield, the 11th Bison baseball player to hit over .400 for a season and the first since Jason Nappi hit .413 in 2010.

19.2 Career scoring average of two-time honorable mention All-GAC basketball player Romio Harvey in 42 games as a Bison, good for third all-time.

1,244 Career point totals for senior women's basketball player Carissa Caples, who ranks 12th at Harding in career scoring, with teammate senior Kellie Lampo ranking 14th with 1,234.

1.76 2021 GAC Pitcher of the Year and Berryhill Award winner Ryder Yakel's ERA, the best in Harding baseball program history.



.794 The fifth-best singles winning percentage by Berryhill Award winner and 2021 GAC Player of the Year Rylie Cox Evans in women's tennis history.

1 Harding's first recorded hole-in-one in tournament play by junior Jacob Hefley on the sixth hole at Greystone Country Club, a 205-yard, par 3.

9 Placing of the Lady Bisons women's golf team in the regional tournament, their first NCAA postseason play since 2013.

3 Number of double-overtime games by men's soccer in its six-game abbreviated spring schedule, winning one, losing one and tying one.

0.95 Team-best goals-against average by women's soccer senior goalkeeper Jenni Nadeau. She also placed second in the javelin at the GAC Track and Field Championship and played three seasons on the Lady Bison basketball team.

1.58 ERA of sophomore Lily Tanski, GAC Softball Pitcher of the Year, and only the third Harding pitcher with a single-season ERA lower than 2.00. She also set a school record with 0.87 walks per seven innings pitched.

60 Career wins by senior Morgan Salvan, the 15th Harding men's tennis player with 60 or more career singles wins and the first to eclipse the mark since Leoncio Dominguez in 1996.

5 Number of times the Lady Bisons tennis team has finished ranked in the NCAA's top 40, ending this season ranked No. 26.

52.42 400-meter hurdles time for freshman Nikolasz Csokas in earning First Team All-America honors at the NCAA Division II Track and Field Championship.

153', 1" Length of the school-record javelin throw by freshman Anna Kay Clark in placing fifth and earning First Team All-America at the NCAA Division II Track and Field Championship.



REWARDING.
RELATIONSHIPS.
WORTHWHILE.

By JANTZEN HALEY, *photography by* JEFF MONTGOMERY

Harding's physical therapy program sat its first class in 2011 and for the past 10 years has trained students to be leaders and innovators in physical therapy, providing their communities and the profession with Christian service. The eight-semester program seats a cohort of around 35 students each fall. While year one focuses on didactic classroom instruction, and year two combines classroom teaching with real-world experience, the final year of Harding's physical therapy program is devoted completely to clinical rotations. At the time of this writing, these three students are concluding their final clinical placements, preparing to graduate and take the national licensing exam to enter the field as certified physical therapists.



Emily ENOCH

WHAT DREW YOU TO THE FIELD OF PHYSICAL THERAPY?

I love the idea of working in a medical field that allows me to make such a significant impact on a patient's overall quality of life. Physical therapists get to spend a significant amount of time with patients, which allows us to build strong relationships with them.

WHAT DO YOU HAVE PLANNED AFTER GRADUATION?

I will be specializing in pelvic floor physical therapy and working at a local outpatient clinic in Little Rock.

GIVE ONE WORD TO DESCRIBE YOUR PHYSICAL THERAPY EXPERIENCE AT HARDING.

Rewarding.

WHAT HAVE YOU LEARNED ABOUT YOURSELF THROUGHOUT THE PROGRAM?

I learned that by having good friendships with my peers and professors I am able to handle a lot more stress than I initially thought I could.

WHAT DO YOU WANT PEOPLE TO KNOW ABOUT PHYSICAL THERAPY?

Physical therapy doesn't only offer rehab for sports injuries and orthopedic issues. There are a number of different fields physical therapists can help with including things like pelvic floor, pediatrics and vestibular impairments.

WHAT HAS BEEN YOUR FAVORITE EXPERIENCE AT HARDING?

My husband and I are both in the Harding physical therapy program. Getting to learn and grow together during this time has been very fulfilling.

WHAT HAS BEEN YOUR MOST MEMORABLE MOMENT DURING A CLINICAL ROTATION?

This past rotation I have had the opportunity to treat many pediatric patients with pelvic floor dysfunction. Being able to help them return to the activities they love to do and make such a big impact on their daily lives has been the most gratifying experience so far.

Nelson BORCHARDT

WHAT DREW YOU TO THE FIELD OF PHYSICAL THERAPY?

Initially, I was interested in physical therapy because of my own experiences as a patient. Throughout my teen years, I spent a lot of time in physical therapy as I recovered from several different injuries. As I became more interested in being a physical therapist, I saw it as an opportunity for me to serve and love on others who are hurting.

WHAT DO YOU HAVE PLANNED AFTER GRADUATION?

My wife and I currently live in Fort Worth, Texas, as I finish up my clinical rotations. I will have the summer to study for my upcoming board exam at the end of July, and I hope to find a job working in a hospital setting in the DFW area.



GIVE ONE WORD TO DESCRIBE YOUR PHYSICAL THERAPY EXPERIENCE AT HARDING.

Relationships.

WHAT HAVE YOU LEARNED ABOUT YOURSELF THROUGHOUT THE PROGRAM?

Physical therapy school has definitely taught me to have discipline. I had to learn how to focus my energy on the task at hand instead of worrying about the number of other things I had to accomplish. This is a great skill that I will carry with me throughout life.

WHAT DO YOU WANT PEOPLE TO KNOW ABOUT PHYSICAL THERAPY?

Working as a physical therapist is a great opportunity to show love and compassion to individuals who are experiencing a low point in life. I really enjoy and take pride in helping my patients feel better and improve their ability to be independent and in control of their lives.

WHAT HAS BEEN YOUR FAVORITE EXPERIENCE AT HARDING?

My experiences during my clinical rotations have been my favorite part. I was blessed with several great clinical instructors who allowed me to learn and grow as a therapist.

WHAT HAS BEEN YOUR MOST MEMORABLE MOMENT DURING A CLINICAL ROTATION?

Seeing the progress that a young man about my age made during his stay at an inpatient rehab hospital. He was recovering from the negative effects of COVID-19 and was initially unable to get out of bed. However, in a matter of weeks he was able to walk independently. We became good friends during his stay, and I enjoyed getting to work with him.



Hailey JACKSON

WHAT DREW YOU TO THE FIELD OF PHYSICAL THERAPY?

I am very passionate about exercise, and I believe our bodies were designed to heal. Physical therapy uses exercise as a means of healing, and I love it!

WHAT DO YOU HAVE PLANNED AFTER GRADUATION?

My husband and I are going to spend a week at the beach, and then I will spend most of the summer preparing for our national exam. After that, I plan on going into women's health physical therapy.

GIVE ONE WORD TO DESCRIBE YOUR PHYSICAL THERAPY EXPERIENCE AT HARDING.

Worthwhile.

WHAT HAVE YOU LEARNED ABOUT YOURSELF THROUGHOUT THE PROGRAM?

My brain is capable of storing a lot more information than I imagined prior to physical therapy school, but also I really love sleep.

WHAT DO YOU WANT PEOPLE TO KNOW ABOUT PHYSICAL THERAPY?

It's a great profession with a lot of opportunity. There are a lot of things physical therapy can resolve that I wasn't aware of before starting physical therapy school — our bodies are pretty resilient, and movement heals.

WHAT HAS BEEN YOUR FAVORITE EXPERIENCE AT HARDING?

I really enjoyed the cadaver lab. It was neat to see how intricately detailed the human body is, plus we all bonded pretty quick in the lab.

WHAT HAS BEEN YOUR MOST MEMORABLE MOMENT DURING A CLINICAL ROTATION?

Not one specific moment, but watching people's confidence grow as they return to their hobby or sport or regain functional independence is really rewarding. The transition from feeling like a student to feeling like an actual physical therapist was pretty cool, too. 🙌

Helping people **UNDERSTAND** who they are

*Engineering and Honors
College faculty fellow wins
National Science Foundation
award for research*

By JIM MILLER

Photography by JEFF MONTGOMERY

At age 4, Dr. James Huff, associate professor of engineering and Honors College faculty fellow, was diagnosed with mild cerebral palsy. The motor disability played a significant role in his youth. He was reminded of his athletic limitations. He was bullied. He felt singled out and isolated from others.



Helping people
UNDERSTAND
who they are

“For the first 12 years of my life, that was a very visible part of who I was,” Huff said. “There were a lot of ways my mild cerebral palsy showed up, and I spent much of my childhood being on the outside. Those experiences helped me to develop a sense of observing the world around me and grappling with my own questions of identity.”

Huff said by the grace of God, a supportive family, and physical therapy, he overcame many of the physical symptoms of the condition and went on to become a starting player for his high school varsity basketball team in his hometown of Haskell, Texas.

Looking back, Huff said he values the benefits of growing up with mild cerebral palsy, which motivated him to relate to the world around him with humor, compassion and curiosity. The physical limitations he experienced because of the condition diminished with time, but his interest in identity and well-being have never been stronger.

In fact, that interest has become the focus of a nationally recognized research agenda.

In April, The National Science Foundation awarded Huff a \$575,000 grant for his research titled “CAREER: Advancing Academic Cultures of Well-being by Understanding Professional Experiences of Engineering Faculty.” This grant is the most prestigious individual award given to an early-career faculty member at Harding. It is the 59th CAREER grant awarded in the state of Arkansas and only the sixth at an institution other than the University of Arkansas since NSF’s inception in 1994.

This is the first CAREER award given among Harding’s peer

institutions, including church of Christ-affiliated universities.

The grant will help Huff advance his psychological research on shame, identity and well-being in engineering education settings through a nationwide qualitative investigation of engineering faculty. The grant also will facilitate in-depth training for engineering faculty to cope with their experiences of shame.

“I am a qualitative researcher of identity, the central question of how people understand who they are,” Huff said. “In this project, I will help transform the very essence of how we define engineering as we discover what it means to be human within the engineering profession. Specifically, I will examine the ways that engineering faculty experience professional shame when they fail to achieve what they feel is expected of them.”

HUFF SAID MOST PRIOR RESEARCH investigates engineering faculty as static fixtures of student outcomes. His goal is to develop a holistic understanding of how faculty regulate emotion in moments of shame that are often hidden. The findings, he said, will help equip faculty with strategies to live out of a mindset of care toward themselves and their students.

“When people think about research on professions, they often think about getting people into a profession and helping them to be better at that profession,” Huff said. “In my research, I take a step back and ask, ‘How does being in this profession help this person answer the deeper questions of who they are?’ That’s important because who we are is much bigger than what and how well we’re

doing at work. Who we are involves our well-being. It involves our whole selves. It involves our souls.”

Prior to winning the CAREER award, Huff worked as the principal investigator with collaborators from Harding and University of Georgia on a different NSF grant studying the lived experience of professional shame in engineering students. Huff and his colleagues published their theory of professional shame in the Journal of Engineering Education.

“Professional shame is the very deep, visceral emotion we often feel and seek to hide in professional contexts when we think we don’t meet expectations related to our professional identity,” Huff said. “Through extensive interviewing and a qualitative method called interpretative phenomenological analysis, we found this phenomenon is a very real and painful experience for students.”

Huff and his colleagues researched white male students, a social group that is well-known to comprise the majority of students in engineering disciplines. Their research found that when experiencing professional shame, these students often responded in ways that, regardless of their intention, likely perpetuated the professional shame experience for other students. However, when these students recovered from their shame experience in a healthy way, they developed a social bond with other students through vulnerability.

His past research on professional shame in engineering students inspired Huff to consider investigating engineering faculty — the source of professional expectations that give rise to instances of shame in students. How do faculty create environments that lead to

professional shame? How do they personally encounter the emotional experience? The CAREER grant will allow Huff to explore these questions and more.

“By understanding this experience in engineering faculty, we can help give faculty tools to advance their own well-being in the engineering space,” he said. “Also, if we can help develop secure, whole faculty who are in tune with their emotion regulation, that gives us a great chance for facilitating a strong, inclusive environment for all students in their domain.”

Huff’s trajectory of conducting qualitative, psychological studies is highly regarded within the international engineering education research community. Dr. Julie Martin, associate professor of engineering education at The Ohio State University, was Huff’s mentor when writing the CAREER grant proposal. She said Huff’s research is critically important to the future of the engineering profession.

“His groundbreaking work will provide the field with important new insights that will help faculty better understand their own professional experiences and better educate the engineers of the future,” Martin said. “Dr. Huff is a well-respected scholar in engineering education and is uniquely qualified to carry out this ambitious project. I am confident that it will lay the foundation for his long-term career contributions.”

Dr. Shane Brown, professor of civil engineering at Oregon State University and editor of two engineering education research journals, is collaborating with Huff on a different grant proposal that examines engagement in capstone design courses. He said Huff’s work is im-



Helping people
UNDERSTAND
who they are



Dr. James Huff works with Laura Faye Weber, a medical humanities major who graduated in May.

portant because there is little research on well-being in engineering. “Engineers spend significant effort on learning, retention and other more common topics but often ignore the fact that we are still human beings living in a complex and challenging environment,” Brown said. “[Dr. Huff] is deeply rooted in complex, in-depth qualitative methodologies and has an extremely positive reputation in our field for his exceptional work. He is very good at what he does and has an amazing understanding and awareness of the literature and methodologies. He also is kind, generous, compassionate, and a very good colleague and friend.”

Huff graduated from Harding in 2005 with a degree in computer engineering as an Honors College Graduate with Distinction. As an undergraduate student, Huff was well known for his role as Student Association president in 2004-05. He frequently promoted student-led events through creative chapel announcements, including song duets with President David Burks. His theme for the year focused on building bridges within the University’s student body, a resonant

focus with his current research agenda on facilitating social connection in professional environments.

After graduating from Harding, Huff earned a master’s degree in electrical and computer engineering from Purdue while working as a technical lead engineer at a human simulation software development company. He returned to Harding in 2008 as an instructor and noticed a troubling trend in engineering education. Engineering courses are historically designed to emphasize mathematics and scientific principles that can be applied to social problems, but they often overlook the complexity of the social problems themselves. This compartmentalized approach to education concerned him because it reinforced a narrative that being an engineer required students to disengage from who they were as whole people.

Ultimately, his experiences as an instructor led him to pursue a Ph.D. in the field of engineering education at Purdue, where his research agenda in identity, well-being and professional shame was born.

After earning his doctorate, Huff returned to Harding for a sec-

ond time in 2014 and quickly established the Beyond Professional Identity (BPI) lab. The name of the lab, Huff said, is derived from the central focus of his career research, which is to advance well-being in individuals beyond the concerns of their professional identities.

Through the BPI lab, Huff has mentored 14 Harding students from 13 academic disciplines as co-investigators on ongoing qualitative research projects. These projects have ranged from studying the experience of frustration in STEM courses to examining the experience of identity amid chronic homelessness to investigating social connection amid physical distancing regulations during COVID-19.

“Part of my work as faculty involves going alongside students and having them think not as performers of knowledge, that they can perform well by getting the right grades on exams, but rather as investigators and inquirers of knowledge,” Huff said.

HUFF MENTORS THE STUDENTS to pursue their original research questions that are broadly related to investigating identity. Active BPI students include Grant Countess, accounting major; Mary Grace Golden, double major in public administration and communication studies; Kyle Shanachilubwa, computer science major; Mackenzie Beckmon Sharbine, psychology alumna; John Lim, interdisciplinary studies alumnus; and Laura Faye Weber, medical humanities alumna.

“Dr. Huff and the BPI lab were like a family to me while I was at Harding,” said Taylor Brown, a 2019 alumnus and Rhodes Scholar Finalist. “Dr. Huff mentored me during my first foray into research, sparked a career in social science research, and lived out what it meant to glorify God through research. We remain close friends, mentoring burgeoning scholars and exploring people’s lived experiences.”

Huff said the University is the perfect environment to advance this scholarship.

“I have always been captivated by Harding’s mission to integrate faith, learning and living,” he said. “This research agenda of investi-

gating people holistically is in line with the mission of the university. The biggest asset of Harding is that faculty care deeply about students. I see this every day in my role with Honors. I get to work with faculty across campus to help shape students into investigators. By the time they graduate, these students have not only performed well in their classes, they have a deep sense of knowing who they are and knowing the questions they want to ask of the world.”

Dr. Brad Miller, chair of the department of engineering and physics, said winning the CAREER award puts Huff on par with the top junior academicians from prestigious universities nationwide.

“We have terrific faculty in our department, and this recognition for Dr. Huff is one more piece of evidence for the outstanding overall quality of our faculty,” Miller said. “We are very proud of the research Dr. Huff is performing studying professional shame in the context of engineering education. We look forward to participating with him in the research and learning ways we can improve the learning environment and create a healthier sense of well-being among the engineering students and faculty in our program.”

Huff, who comes from four generations of ministers in churches of Christ, said he enrolled at Harding as a first-year student in 2001 wanting to orient his career with the mindset of a minister while not getting paid for full-time ministry. He believes his research and the NSF CAREER award that will fund his research for at least six more years are his ministry.

“This work is a way for me to live out my mission as a disciple of Christ,” he said. “I am grateful for the opportunity God has given me to investigate ways that we engage our whole persons, our souls, in the things that we do in our professions.”

DR. JIM MILLER is an associate professor of communication in the College of Arts and Humanities. He and Dr. Huff are the first two-year appointees as Honors College faculty fellows.

National Science Foundation fellowships go to three alumni

THREE ALUMNI HAVE WON the prestigious Graduate Research Fellowship from the National Science Foundation, which recognizes and supports outstanding graduate students in NSF-supported STEM disciplines who are pursuing research-based master’s and doctoral degrees at accredited U.S. institutions. Typically considered the most prestigious award for graduate students in scientific disciplines, the five-year fellowship includes three years of financial support including an annual stipend of \$34,000.

The 2021 NSF GRF awardees are Her-

man Ronald “Ronnie” Clements, Kanembe Shanachilubwa and Amanda Coleman Walls.

Clements graduated in 2019 with a Bachelor of Science in psychology and is pursuing a doctorate in engineering education research at Purdue University. While at Harding, he was a member of the Beyond Professional Identity research lab and was a McNair Scholar. His NSF GRF was awarded in the field of engineering education research.

Shanachilubwa earned a Bachelor of Science in mechanical engineering in 2019 and is pursuing a doctorate in mechanical

engineering at Penn State University. He also was a member of the BPI research lab and a McNair Scholar while at Harding. Engineering education research is the field of his NSF GRF.

Walls graduated in 2020 with a Bachelor of Science in biomedical engineering and is pursuing a doctorate in the same field at University of Arkansas. While at Harding, she was a member of Dr. Jeff Massey’s research lab and was connected to the Arkansas Space Grant Consortium. Her NSF GRF was awarded in the field of biomedical engineering.

NO ROOTS, NO LIMITS

Utilizing ingenuity and talent, Caleb Brackney creates the Roamer Bus



By MEGAN STROUD
Photography by ALEXIS HENDERSON
Logo by CALEB BRACKNEY

INSPIRED BY WHAT HE LEARNED IN THE INTERIOR DESIGN PROGRAM AT HARDING, Caleb Brackney ('18) converted a school bus into his own tiny home for only \$10,000, utilizing space planning and repurposing unusual materials to create a viral result.

Brackney came to Harding to study interior design as preparation for the dual master's degrees he is currently pursuing at the University of Tennessee — a Master of Architecture and a Master of Landscape Architecture.

"Harding grounded me, taught me fundamental skills and ideas, and introduced me to a lot of concepts that graduate school did not," Brackney said. "I learned a lot about how space affects lifestyle and how materials and textures influence the way you experience life. They sound simple, but studying them really opens the world up to understanding how all those things come into play to form your experience. Landscape architecture deals with textures and patterns in nature while interior design is on the inside. Those honestly go together more for me than architecture and interior design because architecture is about projects where interior design and landscapes are about people."

Brackney decided to be a landscape architect when he was 12 years old while riding in his music teacher's Jeep full of plants. Raised in a family with seven children, playing music together — whether it be a fiddle, mandolin, bass, banjo or guitar — was their way of bonding and spending time together. In the same way that music is woven into Brackney's decision to become a landscape architect, music also is woven into the space he created for himself in the "Roamer Bus."

When Brackney decided to go for it, he shopped on Facebook Marketplace for about a month before purchasing a 36-foot, 1995 Thomas International school bus for \$3,000. With only \$7,000 left in his budget for a project that typically takes nearly \$50,000 to complete, Brackney focused on repurposing materials, learning things like plumbing, carpentry and sewage on the go, and personalizing the 220 square feet of space to his own lifestyle using space planning.

"Space planning, for me, is about using spaces for as many different purposes as you can," Brackney said. "It's understand-

ing how spaces are used and organizing them in a way to maximize their potential."

Brackney's kitchen, which is home to the mini fridge from his college dorm, utilizes the driver's space for additional storage. His unique skylight allows him to stand up tall in front of his kitchen and closet. His living and bedroom are combined to allow more guests to sit comfortably in front of his swivel television. His bathroom, hidden in the back of the bus behind his headboard, allows the large door in the back of the bus to remain functional for loading and unloading larger items. Other features include a 7-foot closet, queen bed, couch that converts into a second bed, headboard with magnetic cabinet doors, and hammock hooks.

"There is no wrong or right way to do it," Brackney said. "I think that's why it's so critical to understand your client or yourself when you are doing a project like this."

One of Brackney's favorite aspects of the bus is utilizing optical illusion. The shiplap in the front of the bus is actually wider than the shiplap in the back so that when you are in the front of the bus looking backward, it makes it look longer and wider. He created the same effect with the shelves on the

sides, which taper in and become smaller as you move from the kitchen to the bedroom. Brackney used intentional design to make the most out of a small, 7.5-foot-wide space.

"In my head I had this vision for basically what it turned out to be, but I honestly didn't think it would get so viral," Brackney said.

Since its completion, the "Roamer Bus" has gained 2.5M views on TikTok and 52,000 followers on Instagram alone. Because he was getting daily inquiries about different aspects of his project, he created a website and Etsy store where people could use his plans and ideas as resources for their own projects.

Brackney lives in the bus full time with his golden doodle Ivy and plans to take it to Berkeley, California, this summer for a highly





competitive internship with Peter Walker Landscape Architects, known for projects all over the world such as the 9/11 Memorial, Marina Bay Sands Resort and Jewel Changi Airport.

“Walker is arguably the most famous landscape architect alive,” Brackney said. “One intern is from India, one is from Harvard and one is me, and the reason I got it is because of the bus. They loved the idea of using what knowledge I have learned in school and figuring out how to do something like this. The bus was my way of getting in. I am no different from anyone else at Harding. My dad is a minister, I am the oldest of seven kids, and I was homeschooled. I think it shows that if you work really hard, you can be bold.”

Brackney began this conversion project as a personal case study to apply what he had learned in school and, at the end, gained a full-time home, confidence in his ability and a chance to show off his work to the world. With the “Roamer Bus,” he has no roots and no limits, and he encourages others to do the same by finding their passion and sharing it with the world.

ARCHITECTURE COMING FALL 2022

The 168-hour accelerated program, built on a cohort model, will result in the completion of a Bachelor of Arts in architectural studies and a Master of Architecture in five years. Upon completion of the M.Arch., students will be eligible to sit for the licensure exam. Taught from a Christian perspective and with an emphasis on a liberal arts foundation, the curriculum will support and encourage interactive learning during lectures and studios. Additionally, there are plans to include an internship experience and an international program component to the degree, exposing students to a diverse set of architectural examples around the world. Learn more at harding.edu/architecture.

“Focus on what is interesting to you in your field. You chose interior design for a reason — or business students choose business for a reason, or PT students choose that for a reason. Focus on what excites you about your passion. Your passion is not necessarily just your major. There are so many different aspects of it. If you focus on what inspires you, figure out a way to show that to the world. When you have an idea that you are really passionate about, start acting. I am so thankful I acted and accomplished this dream. If you are passionate about something, don’t let other people hold you back from what you want to do, but build off their excitement as it progresses. At the end of this conversion, so many people were excited about it, and it kept me inspired. I led the charge for inspiration and then relied on other people the rest of the way.”

Learn more about Caleb Brackney and the Roamer Bus by following him on Instagram and TikTok (@RoamerBus), exploring his website (roameroutpost.com), and watching this Tiny Home Tour at magazine.harding.edu.

THINK OUTSIDE THE BOX

Caleb Brackney made a small space a functional home in which he can thrive. Learn more about some of his favorite innovative ideas utilizing space planning and repurposed items on a budget.



SLIDE-OUT KEYBOARD

If music is what makes your space feel like home, utilize space to hide it away when it’s not being used. A slide-out keyboard from the main eating and studying space offers a perfect opportunity to hide a piano. “Music is special to me, so I intertwined it with my bus because it’s my life and home,” Brackney said. “I’m not the most accomplished musician, but I enjoy playing with other people and building memories around a campfire with a guitar.” Brackney also was a member of Belles & Beaux while he was a student at Harding.



TRAILER ROOF DECK

Even with a small interior space, the bus serves as a camping destination for many of his friends, so Brackney created an outdoor space on the top of the bus. After taking the axle off an old trailer, he attached it to the two rails on the roof, preventing leaking that would have occurred from bolting into the sheet metal.



BUTCHER BLOCK COUNTERS

Countertops are essential but costly. Brackney found these old semi-truck beds made of oak on Facebook Marketplace for only \$40. Knowing it would be durable, he bought them and repurposed them into his butcher block kitchen countertops by planing, sanding and staining them.

MULTIPURPOSE MASON JAR LIGHTS

In search of extra light and storage, Brackney used a set of mason jars, half of which serve as storage containers while the other half serve as drinking cups and clear shades on light bulbs. He is an advocate of glass storage, and attaching the tops of mason jars into the shelf makes it a rattle-proof and shatter-proof option on the road. “I had seen the idea about mason jars hanging, but dropping the lights in was one of my little brother’s ideas,” Brackney said. “I needed some light on my desk area, but I didn’t want lamps sitting on the counters. It’s so iconic. I’ve never seen anyone do this before, and it ties in with the lights in the back, which was actually a repurposed light fixture from the Branding Project during my junior year at Harding.”

CLERESTORY SKYLIGHT

If you are too tall to stand up straight inside a bus, like Brackney, find a way to create more head-room. Acrylic strips let light stream in and fill the center of the bus while adding extra headspace. “I have never seen anyone do skylights like this,” Brackney said. “I got the idea from researching sailboats, which have closed, rounded interiors. Some sailboats have a little bit of a skylight above, so I just cut a hole in the ceiling, hoped the bus didn’t fall apart and made it work. It makes a big difference.”



OPTICAL ILLUSION SHELVING

Create an illusion of more space with intentional design. Much like the windows of Cinderella’s castle get smaller as they go up to create the illusion of a taller building, the shiplap in the front of the Roamer Bus is actually wider than the shiplap in the back so that it looks longer and wider when looking from the front of the bus to the back. Brackney created the same effect with the shelves on the side of the bus, which taper in and become smaller moving from the kitchen in the front to the bedroom in the back. By utilizing intentional design, he was able to make the most out of a narrow space.





Loretta Tacker with her son, Jeff, and daughter, Lisa Taylor, pose for a photo in front of her elephant collection from Dr. Clifton L. Ganus Jr. A photo with Dr. Ganus is displayed with the collection.

THE ELEPHANT IN THE ROOM

By TOM BUTERBAUGH
Photography by JEFF MONTGOMERY

While returning from a quick road trip to Laurel, Mississippi, on March 27, my wife, daughter and I got off the Marion exit on I-55 to head west on 64 to Searcy and needed to fill up the CRV with gas. As I filled the tank, I began debating a fill-up for myself with a shake from the nearby Shake Shack, and my daughter said, “What would Dr. Ganus (‘43) want you to do?” Of course, I got the shake!

When you walk into the lobby at Tacker’s Shake Shack in Marion, Arkansas, it feels like a little piece of Harding is there with you. Two Harding Bison flags provided by Morris Seawel (‘80) greet you, and any alumni are invited to join the hundreds of signatures already written on them. Stepping into the restaurant, you are warmly greeted by the staff, and if you are wearing a Harding shirt as my daughter was, you are immediately Harding family.

With the encouragement of his father, the late John Tacker (‘70), and his wife, Loretta Cheek (‘70), purchased the Tastee-Freez in Marion in 1977. Ironically, they had posed for pictures for the advertisements division page in the 1968 *Petit Jean* where else but at the Tastee-Freez located at that time in Searcy. Their Tastee-Freez quickly became Tacker’s Shake Shack, known for the burger named after its owner, the Big John.

Harding people on the way to and from Memphis, Tennessee, quickly found the location a convenient place to stop. One of the first regulars was former chorus director Andy T. Ritchie and his wife and also driver, Kathryn (‘50), because at this point he was nearly blind.

One day Loretta looked up to see another familiar face enter the restaurant and said, “Here comes my president.” Dr. Clifton L. Ganus was there, the first of his countless visits through the years. Still president at the time, he and his wife, Louise Nicholas (‘42), became close friends with the Tackers. Any time he headed to Memphis or beyond for a ball game or to fly somewhere on one of his many ventures, he would stop for a Shake Shack burger.

Upon returning from his many trips to Africa, he would visit and pull out of his pocket a gift for Loretta, usually an elephant statuette. The number grew and soon became a collection that she proudly displays on a case in the corner of the restaurant along with the picture from Dr. Ganus’ 95th birthday celebration at the Shake Shack with presidents Ganus, Burks and McLarty and their wives. Her favorite treat to send home with him and Mrs. Ganus was her homemade peanut brittle.

Loretta has made trips to and fallen in love with Africa herself, especially when her son, Jeff (‘91), and his wife, Sheri Wells (‘91), had a baby while serving on the Togo team in the early ‘90s.

The 2019 winner of the Arkansas Food Hall of Fame “Proprietor of the Year,” Loretta has been with the restaurant since its opening. Her peanut brittle has been featured in a Southern Living cookbook. On the day of our interview, she was returning from delivering 30 meals to the local hospital, her second delivery of the day. Affectionately known as Memaw, she doesn’t meet a stranger, and while the fried pies and catfish on Friday are a big draw, perhaps the main reason for the restaurant’s popularity is the Southern hospitality she and her family so warmly give.

Tacker’s Shake Shack is truly a family affair. Her daughter and right hand, Lisa Taylor (‘92), has been with her since 2007, and her son, Jeff, came to work with her in 2012. Her grandson, Mark Tacker, is the head chef and is responsible for the many specialty burgers, including the mac & cheese and muscadine bacon varieties. Her children’s spouses and all her grandchildren with the exception of Mark are Harding alumni and have Shake Shack flowing in their blood.

Loretta’s favorite elephant souvenir she received from Dr. Ganus has seven elephants in a line, special to her because as she explained, she has seven siblings, five of whom went to Harding, and he did not know that. She met her late husband while refereeing a volleyball game, and the couple married at the Downtown Church of Christ less than a year later. She is a President’s Council member who loves her Harding connections, saying that anywhere she ventures she meets Harding people. Harding remains special to her, providing her with Christian friends she will treasure forever.

In 2019, it became time for the original Shake Shack to say goodbye after 42 years with its successor being built right next door and opening that June. The new facility retains much of the original atmosphere. With the addition of two food trucks, one of which will be at Homecoming festivities this fall, opportunities for growth continue. Loretta has no plans to retire, and Memaw’s friendly welcome remains, especially if you are wearing Harding apparel. 🐘





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.

1968

Mike O'Neal is the new chair of the Christian Chronicle's board of trustees. He was instrumental in establishing the Chronicle's board during his presidency at Oklahoma Christian University and has served as a trustee since 2003. He and his wife, **Nancy Lavender** ('75), are members of Memorial Road Church of Christ in Oklahoma City. They have two children and six grandchildren.

1971

Jeff Woods serves as youth deacon for Bethel Church of Christ in Athens, Alabama. He retired in 2014 from Athens State University as a physics content specialist for Alabama Science in Motion. His wife, **Debbie**, also is retired, and they have two children, **Courtney** ('09) and **Monica Cherry** ('13).

1975

Martha Farrar Highfield has written a new book, *A Time to Heal: Missionary Nurses in the Churches of Christ, Southeastern Nigeria (1953-1967)*. She is professor emeritus of nursing at California State University/Northridge and advisor for the Research Fellowship Magnet Program at Providence Holy Cross Medical Center. She has authored numerous peer-reviewed publications and serves on the board of International Health Care Foundation/African Christian Hospitals. She is married to **Ron**.

1983

Lisa Dawn Chapman received her Master of Arts in theological studies from Houston Baptist University in August 2020. She leads adult Bible classes at Sugar Grove Church of Christ in Meadow Place, Texas, and for former co-workers of Shell Oil Co.

1984

Jeff Tennyson was named to the 2020 Mortgage Global 100 list. He is president and CEO of Lima One Capital, where he is responsible for the company's overall business strategy and day-to-day operations. He is a founding member of and currently serves on the executive advisory council for the National Private Lenders Association. A certified public accountant, he is a graduate of Harvard Business School and married to **Kathy Lee Jenkins**.

1993

Steven Nutt was promoted to executive vice president and chief financial officer at Commu-

nity National Bank & Trust of Texas. He holds an MBA from Brenau University and an active CPA license in Texas. He serves on the board of Youth Reach International and Fellowship of Christian Athletes- Heart of Texas East. He also serves on the Accounting Program Advisory Committee and Strategic Planning Committee at Navarro College.

1997

Bill Huddleston was promoted to assistant commissioner for insurance at the Tennessee Department of Commerce and Insurance. A TDCI team member since 2014, he previously served as director of insurance. A certified public accountant, he was a recipient of a Governor's Excellence in Service Award in 2017 for his leadership in the Division of Regulatory Boards.

1999

Jason Carmichael is University of West Georgia's new athletic director. He previously served as director of intercollegiate athletics at California State University East Bay since 2017. He earned a master's degree in physical education, health and recreation from Emporia State University.

2001

Jeff Venable has been named Magnolia market president for BancorpSouth Bank. He joined BancorpSouth in 2017 with nearly 15 years of experience in the banking industry. He serves as board president of Abilities Unlimited Inc. in Hot Springs, Arkansas; board president of Magnolia

Columbia County Chamber of Commerce; board member of Columbia County Community Foundation and United Way of Columbia County; advisor for Youth in Action in Columbia County; and a member of the Rotary Club of Magnolia.

Calvin Wright, manager of the Batesville, Arkansas, Home Depot store, joined the University of Arkansas Community College at Batesville board of visitors. He participates in volunteer efforts with Team Depot, Arkansas Sheriffs Youth Ranch, March of Dimes and local school districts. He also is a member of the advisory boards for Batesville Parks and Recreation and White River Medical Center, the board of directors for Batesville Area Chamber of Commerce, and is a 2016 graduate of the Batesville Area Leadership Program.

2002

Esperanza Massana-Crane is the new director of Arkansas Minority and Women-Owned Business Enterprise Division, part of the Arkansas Economic Development Commission. She was the AEDC's marketing director before the promotion. She was honored as an Arkansas Business 40 under 40 recipient in 2018. She is on the board of Girl Scouts-Diamonds of Arkansas, Oklahoma and Texas and serves on the Little Rock Sister Cities Commission. She is a graduate of the Greater Little Rock Class XXX and Leadership Arkansas Class XII.

2004

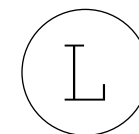
Jay Brogdon is executive vice president, chief financial officer and treasurer at Simmons First National Corp. Prior to joining Simmons, he worked at Stephens Inc. from 2008-21 where he most recently served as managing director in the investment banking division. Active in the Little Rock community, he serves as deacon at his church, board member of Spark of Life, and volunteer basketball and baseball coach for numerous youth teams. He is married to **Erin Kemp** ('03).

2005

Michael Hoggard has been promoted by Citizen's Bank of Batesville, Arkansas, to senior vice president, controller and information security officer, overseeing all financial activities of the bank. Before joining Citizens Bank in 2017, he was audit manager at Erwin and Co. He is a licensed CPA, a graduate of the Leadership Arkansas Class XIII, and attends Fellowship Bible Church. He and his wife, **Ashley**, have two children, **Caden** and **Sloane**.

Gymnastics chief of staff

PROFILE | LAUREN RYDL TURNER



AURYN RYDL TURNER'S ('96) TIME AT HARDING was influential in preparing her for her current role as chief of staff for USA Gymnastics.

After finishing her time as a Bison cheerleader and graduating with a degree in math and computer science, Turner taught math and Spanish for three years in and near Jackson, Tennessee, while also coaching competitive cheerleading.

Though Turner said she enjoyed teaching, she wanted to grow and do more with her talents. Through the recommendation of a friend, she began working for Varsity Spirit in sales. After growing in the brand and eventually serving as vice president of development



for Varsity Brands, the umbrella company over Varsity Spirit, Turner said her diverse professional experiences allowed her to move into a larger position with USAG.

"I've gone from teaching in a small private Christian school to being in the boardroom with private equity funds in New York and in Boston," Turner said. "I've learned so much from that experience, and it prepared me for my role at USAG."

Turner said she is able to succeed in her current position by combining her passion for athletics with her knowledge of business. She said student athletes are taught both sport-based and character skills, which she feels are important in building resilience and integrity.

"I am passionate about the life lessons and the incredible experiences sports provide athletes," Turner said. "Being able to bring my passion and leadership experience to the organization along with my business acumen provided a perfect blend for what USAG was looking for."

As chief of staff, Turner manages human resources, IT and finance along with leading strategic planning and execution. She said her computer science degree is useful as she interacts with and advises IT, and her math degree provides a skill base in analytical problem solving.

"With a math major, the biggest skill that is required is taking a complex problem and creating a solution," Turner said. "Being solution minded, whether that is personnel, resources, operations or strategy, is something I utilize every day. I would say a math degree does prepare you. Although it's not a calculus problem from Dr. Duke or differential equations class with Dr. Brown, it's the same process as far as identifying a problem and the tools that I have to solve it, and here's how I'm going to create that solution."

Turner said her involvement as a student gave her leadership experience that proved invaluable to her professional life.

"The opportunity that exists in a smaller university to be involved in things and to be a leader is harder to achieve if you're at a school with 60,000 people," Turner said. "It's harder to connect. It's harder to raise your hand to volunteer or to express interest in being involved. The opportunity of being heavily involved in Spring Sing, in a social club, being a cheerleader or playing intramural or club sports, learning those leadership components is inevitable when you're involved like that." — *Emma Aly*

2007

Carl McAfee opened the doors to McAfee Chiropractic in Weatherford, Texas, in 2011 and specializes in chiropractic wellness, car injuries, concussions and sports rehabilitation. He earned his Doctor of Chiropractic degree from Parker College of Chiropractic in 2010. He is a member

of North Side Baptist Church and past president of Weatherford Noon Lions Club. He and his wife, **Trisha Roseberry**, have three sons.

Michael Whitlow was recently promoted to vice president of marketing for Greystone Communities. He resides in Celina, Texas, with his wife, **Natalie Wade** ('05).

2008

Corey and **Valerie Mowrer Bryant** announce the birth of a daughter, **Evelyn Ann**, Dec. 4, 2020. The family resides in Tifton, Georgia.

2011

Rae Melton is a software developer at Mainstream Technologies. She has 14 years of software development experience including work with American Airlines and ABF Datatronics.

2012

Ben ('11, DPT '14) and **Emily Chilton Watson** announce the birth of a son, **Henry**, in February 2021. They have two other children, **William** and **Margaret**. The family lives outside Raleigh, North Carolina, where **Ben** is a physical therapist, and **Emily** is a homemaker.

2013

Kolby Tackett was named Middle Tennessee Christian School's new football coach. He coached in Florida the past four years at Oviedo High School and Mount Dora Christian Academy. In 2017, he was named Lake-Sumter County Coach of the Year and Florida Sunshine State Conference Coach of the Year.

2014

Emily Spencer Carlson completed her master's in educational leadership from Harding in 2017 and began teaching second grade in Bentonville (Arkansas) Public Schools. In 2018, she and her husband, **Kurt** ('09), lived in Melbourne, Australia, where she taught third-sixth grade in Victoria Public Schools. In 2019, the couple returned to Bentonville where she rejoined Bentonville Public Schools teaching fourth grade. In 2020, she was promoted to vice principal at Willowbrook Elementary School, the largest elementary school in the district with more than 900 students. She is the youngest administrator in her district.

William Coy Hardin was named to the National Association of Realtors Class of 30 Under 30. He is owner/broker with Habitat Land Co. in Searcy.

2015

Joshua Jones has been named safeties coach at University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff. He comes to UAPB after spending the previous three seasons at University of South Alabama (2018-20) as cornerbacks coach.

My top goal is to create opportunity. Our work benefits other people. It's very touching to realize that you're able to help provide jobs and change lives.

— *Esperanza Massana-Crane*





Photographic exposure

PROFILE | JOSEPH ROSS SMITH

TO CELEBRATE BLACK HISTORY MONTH in February, Apple commissioned 32 Black photographers from all over the U.S. to capture their hometown through the lens of an iPhone 12 Pro in a series aptly named "Hometown." Searching for talented photographers to feature, Apple reached out to Joseph Ross Smith ('18), professionally known as Joseph Ross, to photograph his hometown of Nashville, Tennessee.

Shortly after graduating, Ross moved to Nashville with \$200, a car full of his belongings, and a whole lot of ambition. Starting out, he worked as a barista while taking freelance photography jobs as they came — cultivating a hobby Ross had picked up only weeks



before graduation. He eventually began an internship for a local photographer whom Ross looked up to. "The internship opened my eyes to an entirely new world of photography — one that I could see a career in and one that I'd want to chase," Ross said. "It's almost been two years, and I never would have imagined I'd be a full-time photographer."

Being commissioned by Apple comes with plenty of challenges and nerves, but Ross thrived in the pressure. "My best work comes from these high-pressure scenarios because it pushes me to think deeper and more creatively," Ross said. The "Hometown" series was the first time Ross' work was exposed to millions of people. The entire series was featured on Apple's website and Instagram account,

and Ross' photographs were featured on six billboards throughout Nashville.

Ross photographed several places full of Black culture, but he specifically had Jefferson Street in mind. "Jefferson Street, back in its day and before Nashville's recent 'big boom,' was the 'Mecca' of Black culture and history in Middle Tennessee," Ross said. "I felt that shedding light on that bit of history was a critical part in trying to help preserve it." Apple's feature of Ross shows a video of a woman named Joi Ware dancing artistically under the Jefferson Street bridge and other photographs around Nashville, including a photograph of Ross' niece.

Ross' involvement in the "Hometown" series assured him there is space for him in the photography industry. He said being commissioned by Apple set the precedent for himself and other emerging photographers in Nashville. "For me personally, the 'Hometown' project was my opportunity to introduce myself to the photo world as an emerging photographer with a lot of passion and fire for this medium," Ross said. "For my community, I hope that my involvement in this project as a representative of Nashville and the photos themselves inspired whoever saw them." — Luke Humphrey

2018

Tim Wagner has been hired as Valley City State University lead assistant men's basketball coach. He worked the previous three seasons as an assistant coach at Bemidji State University. He recently earned his master's degree in sports management from Winona State University.

2020

Jessa Heavin is the family and consumer science/4H county extension agent for Van Buren County, Arkansas.

Passages

Ann Richmond Sewell ('45), 96, of Searcy, died May 5, 2021. After earning her master's degree, she joined the Harding faculty in 1961 and was an associate professor of music. She authored several articles for Christian magazines and the book *Sounds of Joy*. She was preceded in death by her husband of 42 years, Edward. She is survived by three children, **Mary Ann Sniff** ('68), **Granville** ('69) and **Kirk** ('74); a brother, **Clarence Richmond** ('50); seven grandchildren; and 16 great-grandchildren.



Edith Kiihnl Chaffin ('48), 93, of Heber Springs, Arkansas, died Feb. 2, 2021. She worked for the superintendent's office of the Pulaski County Special School District in Little Rock, Arkansas, working for seven superintendents for more than 35 years before retiring in 1987. In 1988, she and her husband retired to Eden Isle at Heber Springs. She was a member of Heber Springs Church of Christ for more than 30 years. A member of Women for Harding, she was awarded Outstanding Member of the Year in 2007. She was preceded in death by her husband of 69 years, **Jack** ('50). She is survived by her son, **Gary Lynn** ('75); three grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren.

Dale A. Jorgenson ('48), 95, of Bettendorf, Iowa, died April 25, 2021. He served in the U.S. Army Air Force from 1944-46 as part of the 315th Bomb Wing and as a chaplain's assistant on Guam. He received a Master of Music at George Peabody College and his Doctor of Philosophy at Indiana University. He served as instructor at Southeastern Christian College in Louisville and as a pastor of Ebenezer Church of Christ, Salem Church of Christ, and the Christian Church in Bryantsville, Indiana, while completing his doctorate. He served on the music faculty at Texas Women's University in Denton, Texas, and as head of the music department at Bethany College in Bethany, West Virginia, for three years. He then served as director of fine arts at Milligan College in Johnson City, Tennessee. In 1963, he moved to Kirksville, Missouri, to serve as chairman of the fine arts department at Truman State University. He spent almost 20 years serving as minister to Knox City Christian Church, part of which time he served simultaneously at Edina Christian Church. After his retirement from Truman State, he served 10 years as interim pastor at Perry Christian Church in Perry, Missouri. He wrote several books, among them *Moritz Hauptman of Leipzig, Theological and Aesthetic Roots in the Stone-Campbell Movement, The Life of Karl Anton, and The Life and Legacy of Franz Xaver Hauser*. He is survived by his wife of 73 years, **Mary Lee Strawn** ('50); five children, Dale, Rebecca Lee Stringert, Mark, Janet and Eric; a sister, Iva Hoffman; 10 grandchildren; and four great-grandchildren.

Billie Baird Dykes ('48), 94, of Fort Worth, Texas, died Jan. 27, 2021. She lived most of her life in the Houston metro area. She was devoted to God and serving others, with much of her life centered around church administration and outreach activities including working at Southeast Church of Christ in Houston and leading World Bible School Outreach efforts, touching the lives of thousands. She was preceded in death by her husband of 54 years, **Burrell** ('44); and a daughter, Linda McKnight. She is survived by three children, **Larry** ('73), **John** ('79) and **JoAnn Wallers** ('80); 11 grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren.

Peg Pike Gordon ('50), 94, of College Station, Texas, died Nov. 22, 2020, from COVID-19. She worked in her husband's accounting firm for nearly 20 years. She was an accomplished weaver and seamstress and passionately pursued family genealogical history. She was a member of the Johnson Street Church of Christ, and she also was an active member of the National Society of Daughters of the American Revolution in Bryan, Texas. She was preceded in death by her husband of 66 years, **Robert "Bob"** ('47). She is survived by five children, Drexel, Kearby Etheredge, Sharla, B. Kevin, and Kyle; and numerous grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Margaret See Parker ('52), 90, of Edmond, Oklahoma, died Feb. 1, 2021. She received her master's degree from Southwestern Oklahoma State University in Weatherford. She was employed by Lawton Public Schools as an elementary school music teacher, retiring in 1985. She was a member at Porter Hill Church of Christ. She is survived by her husband of 66 years, Dewey; a son, Keith; a sister, **Mildred Barkemeyer** ('53); and six grandchildren.

Doris Okay Storey Vaughan ('54), 89, of Texarkana, Texas, died Jan. 5, 2021. She worked as the bookkeeper for Vaughan Oil Co. for more than 50 years. She was a greeter at Walnut Church of Christ. She was preceded in death by a daughter, Terri. She is survived by her husband of 68 years, **Max** ('52); two children, Tracy and Cari Sue Brown; and three grandchildren.

Frances M. Lorton ('55, MAT '58), 88, of Cowden, Illinois, died March 12, 2021. She taught elementary school for 10 years before stepping away to raise her children. She was a member of the church of Christ in Cowden and enjoyed quilting, sewing and gardening. She was preceded in death by her husband of 43 years, Otis. She is survived by three children, James, Linda Hattemer, and Sally Ruot; and five grandchildren.

Dale "Martel" Pace ('56), 86, of Montgomery, Alabama, died Nov. 7, 2020. He received a master's in theology from Alabama Christian School of Religion in Montgomery. For more than 60 years, he was a minister of the gospel of Christ and served locally at Lakewood, Vaughn Park and University Churches of Christ, where he remained a member until his death. Prior to moving to Montgomery in 1982, he served churches in Arkansas, Michigan and Missouri. He also was an instructor in the Bible department at Faulkner University for 20 years and authored commentaries on the books of Hebrews and Mark. He is survived by his wife of 65 years, **Doris Grimes** ('55); three children, Mark, Pam Williams and Lisa Dunn; two brothers, Jerry and Roger; nine grandchildren; and five great grandchildren.

Glen D. Moore ('57), 85, of Nashville, Tennessee, died Feb. 3, 2020. He taught high school math in the Metro Nashville Public School System for 25

years. He also worked part time selling appliances at Famous State Sales and HH Gregg. He was a member of Crieve Hall Church of Christ, where he served as a deacon for more than 50 years, established the kindergarten program, and worked with the Sunday School and Vacation Bible School programs. He is survived by his wife of 62 years, **Elaine Foren** ('57); three sons, Perry, Neely and Paul; and 10 grandchildren.

Anthony Lee Phippen ('58), 84, of Ada, Oklahoma, died Jan. 11, 2021. He spent most of his working life as a newspaper journalist for the Ada Evening News. He was preceded in death by his first wife, **Sharon Wylie** ('60); and a daughter, Tanya Stevens. He is survived by his wife, Dona; a stepdaughter, Dana Chilcoat; a sister, Phyllis; a granddaughter; two step-grandchildren; a great-grandson; and three step-great-grandchildren.

Kenneth Gene Vanderpool ('58), 84, of Cordova, Tennessee, died April 8, 2021. He earned two bachelor's degrees from Harding in physical



education and Bible. He also earned his M.Ed. and Ed.D., both in health and physical education from Temple University. While living in Philadelphia, one of the first preaching jobs he had was at the church of Christ at 56th Street and Warrington Avenue. He spent 60 years teaching in higher education. He first began teaching at Rutgers University as a visiting instructor, teaching physical education courses at night while a graduate student at Temple. He also taught at the following higher education institutions: Northeastern Christian Junior College in Villanova, Pennsylvania, coaching basketball, cross-country, soccer and baseball; Northeastern University in Boston as an assistant professor, coaching water polo and swimming; Navajo Community College in Tsaile, Arizona, where he served as athletic director as well as helped coach basketball; Shelby State Community College in Memphis, Tennessee, where he served as athletic director and taught health and physical education courses; and Delta State University in Cleveland, Mississippi, as a tenured professor, teaching a variety of health and physical education courses for 15 years before retiring. He came out of retirement to teach at Southwest Tennessee Community College in Memphis, Tennessee, as assistant professor. An accomplished athlete, he completed the Boston Marathon twice and ran countless 10Ks, 5Ks, and 4-miler races. During the spring of 1967, he challenged himself to set a sit-up record in Temple University's health and physical education and recreation department, completing 10,000 consecutive sit-ups, at the rate of 1,600 per hour within six hours and nine minutes. He was third



best in the world unofficially, at the time. He was preceded in death by his wife of 63 years, **Lucia DuBois** ('59); a daughter, Melanie Jerden; and a grandson, James Hodge. He is survived by three children, Suzanne Hodge, Kenneth Jr. and Nancy Kathleen Manning; and seven grandchildren.

Lucia Worth DuBois Vanderpool ('59), 84, of Cordova, Tennessee, died Jan. 19, 2021. She earned her BBA in office administration from University of Memphis, an M.S. in operations management



from University of Arkansas, and at age 72, an Ed.D. in higher education leadership from Union University. She was a retired college professor with 26 years of teaching experience in higher academia, including 17 years in distance education

and online learning. Most recently, she taught part time for Southwest Tennessee Community College in Memphis, Tennessee. Before that, she was an associate professor of computer information systems at Baptist College of Health Sciences, served as a graduate faculty mentor and instructor for the Tennessee Board of Regents Online Degree Program, and was an innovative specialist with University of Memphis Advanced Learning Center as well as an academic advisor. She studied classical piano and played the clarinet. She was preceded in death by a daughter, Melanie Jerden; and grandson, James Hodge. She was survived by her husband of 63 years, **Kenneth** ('58), who died April 8, 2021; three children, Suzanne Hodge, Kenneth Jr. and Nancy Kathleen Manning; and seven grandchildren.

Margaret Ann Langford Duvall ('60), 82, of Russellville, Arkansas, died Feb. 28, 2021. She worked as a secretary with various companies, including Sugar Creek and Valmac in Russellville. She was a member of Fifth and Greenwich Church of Christ. She was preceded in death by her husband of 53 years, Oscar. She is survived by her son, Larry; and three sisters, Louise Barton, Kathryn Cochran and Mary Branch.

Richard Allison "Dick" Johnson Jr. ('60), 95, of Searcy, died Feb. 5, 2021. He served in the U.S.



Army during WWII in New Guinea and South West Pacific. He coached football, girls' basketball and baseball in Georgia for nine years. In 1966 he was voted Georgia High School Coach of the Year. In 1969, he returned to Harding as a teacher, offensive line coach in football, and head baseball coach. During his 20 years as head baseball coach, he compiled 289 wins and was named AIC Coach of the Year and NAIA District 17 Coach of the Year. He was honored with a flagpole erected



at Jerry Moore Field in 2019. He was a member of West Side Church of Christ. He was preceded in death by his daughter, Nancy Ratliff ('74); and one grandson. He is survived by his wife of 73 years, Joyce Springer; a son, Bill; five grandchildren; and 10 great-grandchildren.

Arthur Emory Voyles ('60), 84, of Crane, Missouri, died March 25, 2021. He taught music in Stockton, Mountain View, Morrisville, Forsyth, Verona, Galena and Clever schools in Missouri. He also taught at Fort Worth Christian Junior College in North Richland Hills, Texas, and Alabama Christian College in Montgomery. Following early retirement from teaching, he was the administrator for the Crane Senior Center. He coached Little League baseball, was a member of Lions Club International, was an alderman for the city of Crane, and served on the board of Crane Senior Housing and Crane Nursing Home. He volunteered for the American Cancer Society and Meals on Wheels. A tenor, he sang in several operas. He served churches in any city he lived and was a member of Union Hill Church of Christ in Nixa, Missouri. He is survived by his wife of 59 years, Irene Herbert; four children, Valerie Jones, Felicia Friebe ('89), Natalie and Matthew Voyles; a sister, Marilyn Stegall; 11 grandchildren; and four great-grandchildren.

Kathleen "Kathy" O'Conner Thompson ('61), 81, of Daingerfield, Texas, died Jan. 20, 2021, from COVID-19 related complications. She was a charter member of Zeta Rho social club and served as a secretary for Andy T. Ritchie Jr. She earned a master's in education from University of Central Arkansas. Although she started out as a minister's wife for several years, she was a high school business teacher for 35 years, primarily in Daingerfield. She was a member of the Daingerfield Church of Christ. She is survived by her husband of 59 years, Charles "Charlie" ('63); two children, Nancy ('84) and Tim ('86); and three grandchildren.

George Robert "Bob" Crosby ('61), 81, of Ozark, Alabama, died Sept. 30, 2020. After graduating from Southern College of Optometry, he began his optometry practice in Ozark in 1965. He served as president of the Alabama Optometry Association and as president of the Southern Council of Optometry, served three terms on the Alabama Board of Optometry, and was an adjunct professor with University of Alabama School of Optometry. He was active in Boy Scouts where he achieved the Eagle Scout and the Silver Beaver awards. He was a board member of the Alabama-Florida Boy Scouts of America Council and had been named Ozark Man of the Year. He served as Dale County Chamber of Commerce president, was instrumental in the organization of the Flowers Center for Performing Arts in Ozark, served as president of the Ozark Rotary Club where he was a Paul Harris Fellow, served on the Alabama Medicaid Review

Committee, and served as a longtime board member of Vivian B. Adams School, which opened in 1971 serving people who have cognitive and developmental disabilities. He is survived by his wife, Hulene Lunsford Stevens; four sons, John, Scott, Blaine and Chris; three siblings, Ed ('63), Dean and Nancy Schufflebarger; six grandchildren; and two great-granddaughters.

Carolyn Giles York ('62), 82, of Little Rock, Arkansas, died, Jan. 25, 2021. She obtained a master's from University of Arkansas at Little Rock. She worked at Arkansas Services for the Blind, where she taught daily living skills to blind children in nine counties in Central Arkansas. She was a painter and played in a recorder group. She enjoyed teaching Sunday school for an older ladies' group at Pulaski Heights United Methodist Church. In later years, she was active in yoga. She also served as membership chair for the Arkansas Audubon Society. She is survived by her husband of 62 years, Lyndal ('58); two children, Michelle Gocio and John; a brother, Bill Giles; three grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren.

Richard Edward Peck ('64), 84, of Searcy, died Oct. 21, 2020. He worked several years as a school administrator, a faculty member in the College of Education from 1986-2002, and a member of College Church of Christ. He was preceded in death by his wife, Jeanine ('60). He is survived by his children, Stephen ('89) and Shari Adcock ('90); two sisters, Tammy Peck and Betsy Mills; four grandchildren; and seven great-grandchildren.

Susan Williams Paine Rosenbaum ('64), 75, of Live Oak, Florida, died Dec. 8, 2020. The great-granddaughter of James A. Harding, she was a member of Live Oak Church of Christ, where she served assisting and encouraging her husband in his ministerial work. She is survived by her husband, Dennis; five children, Sarah Pinson, Mary Atkins, Rachel Penick ('02), James and Chip; two siblings, Victoria Harding Paine ('65) and Charles Herman Paine IV ('74); 10 grandchildren; and one great-grandchild.

David Earl Treadwell ('71), 71, of Edmond, Oklahoma, died Feb. 4, 2021. He taught economics, finance and social studies at several schools during his tenure including Mounds, Beaver and Geary, Oklahoma, retiring in 2020. He served as coach and assistant coach in three sports: football, basketball and baseball. He also worked as a director for several charitable organizations in planned giving including Salvation Army, Brian Memorial Hospital, Arthritis Foundation, Prison Fellowship Ministries and Children International. He is survived by his wife, Gloria DeMier; two children, Daniel and Sarah Scott; a sister, Brenda Barre; and four grandchildren.

Lyle E. Dunlap ('74), 74, of Sherwood, Arkansas, died Feb. 4, 2021. He served for many years in the U.S. Air Force and Arkansas National Guard. He is survived by his wife of 51 years, Cheri Ann ('70); two children, Blake and Hilari Shirley; a brother, Jerry; and eight grandchildren.

Nancy Claire Duhon Hatton ('74), 69, of Beaumont, Texas, died April 10, 2021. A Lamar University graduate, she was involved in Beaumont Rotary Club, was a sales woman for Colonial Insurance, and was an educator at Lumberton Elementary School for 22 years before retiring. She spent time volunteering and serving her church and community. She was involved in Hope Women's Resource Clinic since her retirement. She is survived by her husband of 30 years, Roy "Mike" Hatton Sr.; three daughters, Avy Heather Williams, Holly-Nan Furlow, and Olivia Schutt; two stepsons, Roy Michael Jr. and John Marty; her mother, Betty Duhon; a sister, Betsy Davis ('77); and four grandchildren.

Juanita Jeannette Buckley Enloe ('75), 80, of Montgomery, Alabama, died Jan. 28, 2021. She dedicated her life to taking care of her family, raising her four children, teaching kindergarten, and serving others. Upon her retirement from teaching, she became an avid worker for Faulkner University as a part of Friends for Faulkner. As a member of the church of Christ, she constantly looked for ways to serve. She was preceded in death by her husband, John Smith Enloe Jr. ('72), and a daughter, Tanya Sue ('83). She is survived by three children, Rhea Wynn ('83), Vohn ('96), and John; 10 grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren.

Mary Lou Taylor Dunn (M.Ed. '77), 72, of Searcy, died Feb. 27, 2021. She began her career teaching fourth, fifth and sixth grade special education at McRae Elementary while also serving on the board of directors of The Sunshine School. During this time, she was selected as Outstanding Young Educator and Professional Women's Woman of the Year. In 1978, she became executive director of The Sunshine School where she served 40 years. Under her leadership, the White County Group Home opened in 1986. She served on the board of directors of Special Olympics Arkansas-Area 6. She worked with Performing Arts Center on the Square, was a member of Searcy Civitan Club, supported United Way in White County, and served as a women's social club sponsor at Harding.

Emmett Floyd Smith III ('82), 65, of Paragould, Arkansas, died Dec. 24, 2020. He graduated from Arkansas State University in 1988. He began his career as an electrical engineer and later became a self-employed professional land surveyor. He also preached for the Mountain Home Church of Christ in Paragould for more than 30 years. He was a member of the Emmaus Community, where he was

VINTAGE HARDING



50 years ago

Sponsored by Ju Go Ju social club, the winding of the May Pole on the front lawn was an annual ritual held each spring until 1990. Representing Gata social club, Frances Prater Chism ('71) was selected the 1971 May Queen and received a crown of flowers.

MAY POLE PHOTO COURTESY OF THE 1972 PETIT JEAN, TATE, LAWRENCE AND HUYNH UCM FILE PHOTOS

known for his wisdom, gentleness and love for Jesus and others. He was active in 12-step recovery circles. He is survived by his wife of 41 years, Jeanina Yeary ('82); three daughters, Emily Chaffin, Katie Vaught and Claire Smith ('18); and six grandchildren.

Rhonda Gale Sanford Roberts (M.Ed. '91), 68, of Bald Knob, Arkansas, died Jan. 23, 2021. She taught special and alternative education in the Bald Knob School District for more than 27 years, was committed to Special Olympics and Camp Quality and attended Rocky Point Baptist Church. She is survived by her husband of 49 years, Owen; three daughters, Bradi, LaTasha Johnson and Ky-

lie Hamrick; two siblings, Sandy and Skip Sanford; and four grandchildren.

Micah Lee Sexson ('01), 42, of Texarkana, Texas, died April 20, 2021, from complications following cancer. He served as a North Little Rock, Arkansas, police officer for more than eight years where he also was a member of the SWAT team. He continued his law enforcement career as a special agent with the FBI for almost 10 years. He was a member of the church of Christ. He was preceded in death by a daughter, Clara Jade. He is survived by his wife, Courtney Phillips ('03); four children, Daphne, Kaylee, Noah and Aubrey; his parents,

Steve ('77) and Gail; his grandparents, David and Carole Maves; and three brothers, Matt, Mark ('03) and Marshall ('07).

Susan "Sue" Ann Juillerat (M.Ed. '13), 57, of Gentry, Arkansas, died Jan. 18, 2021. She taught high school special education and geometry for 35 years and was a member of St. Mary Catholic Church in Siloam Springs, Arkansas. She is survived by her husband, Mike; three children, Joanna Beck, Scott Jones and Matthew Juillerat; a sister, Lisa Beagle; and two grandchildren.

Van Tate, 85, of Searcy, died Jan. 24, 2021. He earned a Master of Arts from Fuller Theological Seminary and a Ph.D. in anthropology from University of Nairobi. In 1965, he moved his family to Kenya where they served as missionaries through 1975. In 1976, he began a career at Harding teaching sociology, anthropology, missions and Bible, influencing another generation of missionaries who went all over the world. He and his family also were founding members of Cloverdale Church of Christ, where he served as an elder until his health no longer allowed. He is survived by his wife of 64 years, Jean Fortenberry; four daughters, Susan Harrington ('83), Lori Shelton ('90), Ann Neal ('88) and Jill Wood ('90); two sisters, Janice McCoy and JoLynn Wilson; nine grandchildren; and 11 great-grandchildren.

Patricia Ann Waggoner Lawrence, 76, of Searcy died Jan. 22, 2021. She traveled the world with her husband as an Air Force wife of 22 years, then as a preacher's wife until his death. She was a member of the church of Christ and served as a secretary in the Public Relations office at Harding from 1993-2002. She was preceded in death by her husband of 48 years, Gerald ('56). She is survived by her three children, Gayla Pruitt ('87), Tonia White ('88) and Rebecca Spear ('97); and eight grandchildren.

Christine Minh Huynh, 28, of Little Rock, Arkansas, died Jan. 28, 2021. She was attending the College of Pharmacy at Harding. She was a member of American Pharmacists Association Academy of Student Pharmacists, Rho Chi Society Delta Omicron Chapter, and the student society of Health System Pharmacists. She is survived by her mother, Susan Le; her stepfather, Tai Nguyen; her brother, Nam Truong; her stepsister, Zaozao; and her grandmother, Phung Phung.



It's a most wonderful time of the year

By ALLEN BLACK, retiring dean of Harding School of Theology

BY THE TIME YOU READ THIS, HARDING SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY'S 63rd annual commencement is a thing of the past.

Commencement is one of my favorite times of the year. I know that according to the song, "The Most Wonderful Time of the Year" is in December. However, May is an exciting and energizing time for HST faculty and staff — not to mention the graduates with their families and friends. I'm sure this is true for faculty and staff in every segment of Harding, but I would like to focus on the piece of the pie centered in Memphis, Tennessee.

As I end a 38-year career at Harding School of Theology, I have seen close to half of our 1,771 graduates receive their degrees. Each year I am energized as I see how far each graduate has come, think about the impact they are already having, and ponder what our Lord will accomplish through them in the future.

The Lord sends HST a wonderfully gifted array of students. They have diverse ministerial interests, including preaching, youth ministry, chaplaincy, campus ministry, international missions and teaching. They represent diverse age groups: 20s to 60s — and beyond if you count auditors. They come from throughout the U.S. and the world. In fact, since we began using Zoom several years ago and well before COVID-19, we have a growing group of international students, most still living abroad (currently including Africa, Australia, Canada, the Caribbean, Central America, China, India, and both Western and Eastern Europe).

This year we graduated 27 students. One is the last student to complete HST's Master of Arts in Counseling (replaced now by a master's degree in clinical mental health counseling operated in Memphis as part of Harding's College of Education). Two graduated with the more academically oriented Master of Arts (one in New Testament and one in theology). Eight received the more pastorally oriented Master of Arts in Christian Ministry. All of these master's degrees represent at least two years of full-time work, although very few of these students were full time.

At the center of our program are the Master of Divinity and Doctor of Ministry degrees. The Master of Divinity degree involves studies in all areas needed by preachers and takes an absolute minimum of three full-time years — although our students customarily take four to 10 years. The Doctor of Ministry rests on a completed Master of Divinity and must be done part time while a student is involved in ministry. This year we had 13 students complete the Master of Divinity and three complete the Doctor of Ministry.

All of our graduates are involved in ministry. All of them make significant personal sacrifices of time and money to improve the quality of their ministry. A majority of this year's graduates are already working for a church. Some are looking

for a church, and a few have pursued a degree to help with their volunteer service at a local church (with no intention of pursuing a paid ministry). Nine are pulpit ministers. Six work as youth, family, young adult or campus ministers. Two work in hospital chaplaincy. Two plan to pursue further graduate work. One helps lead Harding's work in Zambia, and one will soon be planting a Hispanic church.


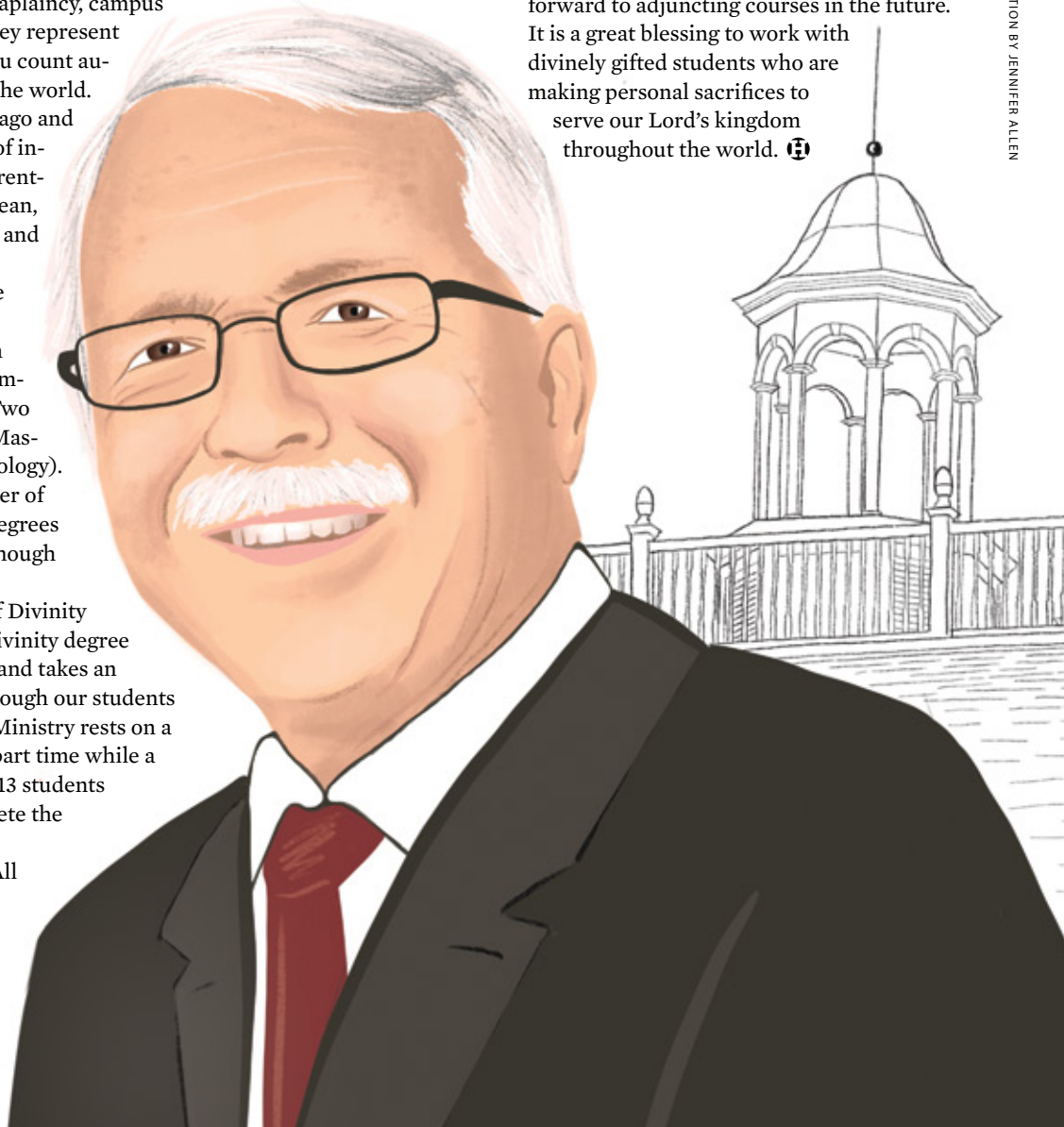
I have loved working for Harding University and in particular its School of Theology in Memphis. Although I will no longer serve as dean or a full-time professor, I look forward to adjuncting courses in the future. It is a great blessing to work with divinely gifted students who are making personal sacrifices to serve our Lord's kingdom throughout the world. 

ILLUSTRATION BY JENNIFER ALLEN



REUNITED AND IT FEELS SO GOOD COME HOME THIS FALL

Homecoming

OCTOBER 22-23

"ELF" THE MUSICAL · BELLES AND BEAUX · PIED PIPERS · BLACK AND GOLD BANQUET

ANTHONY & WRIGHT ADMINISTRATION BUILDING DEDICATION

FAMILY PICNIC AND TAILGATING · PETTING ZOO AND INFLATABLE GAMES

BISON FOOTBALL AND MUCH MORE

#comehomeHU21

harding.edu/homecoming

HARDING

UNIVERSITY

Office of University
Communications and Marketing Box 12234
915 E. Market Ave.
Searcy, AR 72149-5615

Electronic Service Requested

Nonprofit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Little Rock, AR
Permit #420

Final Frame

PHOTO BY JEFF MONTGOMERY



Freelance photographer Ashel Parsons takes a club group shot for Pi Theta Phi on the porches of Pattie Cobb Hall.