

# HARDING

A torch with a flame, held by two hands, positioned behind the word 'HARDING'. The torch is the central focus, with its flame glowing brightly. The hands holding the torch are visible, with one hand on the left and one on the right. The background is dark, making the torch and the text stand out.

INAUGURATION ISSUE

FALL 2022

INSPIRED PURPOSE



# WHAT'S INSIDE



## WEB EXTRAS

### ON YOUTUBE

Watch the interview with 100-year-old Harding Alumnus Eddie Shewmaker who enrolled in 1939, attended the burning of the Harding College mortgage and shared his memories with us.



Scan to view the Shewmaker interview.



VIDEO BY JAKE WARD

## ON THE COVER

Dr. Mike Williams passes the torch to senior Tyler Harrod, who ran the first leg of the Legacy Relay from Harding's original campus in Morrilton, Arkansas, to Searcy to kick off the inauguration events. Photo by Jeff Montgomery.



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# INSPIRED PURPOSE

Excerpts from Dr. Williams' Inaugural Address  
Sept. 16, 2022



PHOTO BY JEFF MONTGOMERY

The men and women of 1924 who founded this institution were visionaries with inspired purpose. It awakened their imaginations and aspirations to envision a Christ-centered institution. It anchored their faith in God and the teachings of Jesus Christ. It propelled perseverance and tenacity as they overcame significant challenges and barriers. It fostered their courage in the midst of uncertainty. It gave birth to generosity that led the founders to mortgage their livelihoods to see this school established and flourish. This inauguration represents a signature moment in the life of this institution. It is a momentous occasion where we reflect on the vision, heroic sacrifice and unwavering resolve of the founders of Harding University.

We want the blood of our founders to run in our veins. The torch of inspired purpose has been passed on to us. Each generation has faithfully carried their vision. This is our moment to carry the torch together.

We carry the torch of inspired purpose in the midst of a culture labeled "post-Christian"; a time of moral ambiguity; a moment where rage, anger and hatred rule the day; a point in which religious liberty is under attack; a society that disregards human dignity. We carry the torch in the midst of chaos.

But piercing through this cultural upheaval, the torch of inspired purpose is guiding our way, thrusting us into exciting frontiers. In the midst of this turbulence, I believe there is a fresh wind blowing through this emerging generation. I believe God is raising up a new generation to confront the challenges of our time.

Harding students have an unquenchable desire to be relevant and are passionate about serving impoverished people. I believe they may be the first generation in a long time that actually believes in the priesthood of all believers. They are prompting us to redefine and re-imagine what it means to be a Christ-centered university in 2022. A Harding education has to be more than a required Bible class, daily chapel and a lofty code of conduct. It extends far beyond ethics and integrity. We should measure the value of a Harding education based on the contribution we make to broken humanity.

Our university pursuit extends far beyond a commitment to academic excellence. Our measures of success cannot be merely quantified by job placement or graduate school admission. We believe Harding reaches the pinnacle of our existence when we produce graduates who are builders, lovers, forgivers, listeners and givers.

Our first president, J.N. Armstrong, stated, "Our chief aim is to send each boy and girl home with a tenderer heart." May his words live on as we prepare graduates who run toward broken humanity with love, compassion and mercy.

# HARDING MAGAZINE

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IN THE NEWS



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Board of trustees elects  
**ROBIN MAYNARD**

**THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES ADDED MINNESOTA ATTORNEY ROBIN MAYNARD TO ITS RANKS AUG. 15.**

“It is my pleasure to announce the recent election of Robin Maynard to the board of trustees,” said Robert Walker, chairman. **“She and her husband, Paul, have been tremendous supporters of Harding. Robin served faithfully on the presidential search committee last year. She will bring her legal expertise and love for our University to her role as trustee.”**

Maynard serves as counsel at Lathrop GPM, an organization with more than 400 practicing attorneys who help businesses, organizations and individuals grow and succeed. Maynard’s work focuses on investigating allegations of sexual misconduct, sexual harassment, gender-related violence, child abuse, and protected class discrimination and harassment. Much of her investigative work is done on behalf of K-12 schools, higher education institutions and faith-based organizations.

Additionally, Maynard has served as an adjunct faculty member at William Mitchell College of Law, as an attorney and law clerk at Hennepin County Attorney’s Office and as a law clerk at Dakota County Attorney’s Office. She also has served as a member of the Hope Academy Board of Directors and Harding University’s presidential search committee, as co-chair of Harding’s President’s Council, as chair and vice-chair on the New Life Academy Governing Council, and as vice president of Friends of FANA, Minnesota.

Maynard graduated from Harding with a bachelor’s degree in political science and earned her Juris Doctor from William Mitchell College of Law. She and her husband live in Afton, Minnesota, and have three children.

NEW GRADUATE HISTORY PROGRAM OPEN FOR ENROLLMENT



PHOTO BY JEFF MONTGOMERY

The department of history and political science launched a Master of Arts in history this fall. The program can be completed both online and onground in as few as 18 months and is designed for those planning to pursue careers in education, history, archaeology, politics, public service, journalism, law and many other fields.

The Master of Arts in history emphasizes historiographical analysis and research skills, while offering students a flexible curriculum in the history of Europe and the United States. With a focus on meaningful scholarship, affordability and accessibility, this program helps students acquire a sophisticated knowledge of the past and a greater understanding of the global present. The program also offers an accelerated track option, allowing qualified students to complete both a Bachelor of Arts and a Master of Arts in history in five years.

The mission of the department of history and political science is to provide quality, Christ-honoring instruction in the study of the past, politics and public life that enables students to perceive the meaning and determine the context of social issues.

NEW ACCELERATED PROGRAM LAYS THE FOUNDATION FOR FUTURE ARCHITECTS



PHOTO BY JEFF MONTGOMERY

The department of art and design launched an accelerated architecture program designed for qualified students to earn a Bachelor of Arts in architectural studies and a Master of Architecture in only five years.

“First and foremost, architecture at Harding is going to prepare students for practice,” said Mike Steelman, program director. “Even though design and creativity are interwoven throughout every aspect of the program, Harding

is going to make sure students leave here prepared to become licensed architects. We’ll do that through involvement in real-world scenarios, practical experience in internships and projects that are designed not only to stretch your creativity but also give you experience with practical projects.”

The first cohort began this fall. The foundation of the program is to develop architects with character, integrity and hearts for service who are grounded in technical capability and empowered to explore unlimited passion and creativity through the process of design. The program also includes a semester of study abroad following the third year, giving students an opportunity to experience cultural diversity and foundational architecture around the world.

Harding is currently pursuing accreditation through the National Architectural Accrediting Board for the Master of Architecture degree.

Scan to learn more.



ADMISSIONS

**Sydney Bryant** joined the team Oct. 10 as a counselor for the South Arkansas region. She previously served as Harding Fund coordinator for the Office of University Advancement.

ADVANCEMENT

**Lance Bowman** was named business and research analyst in May. He also serves in this role for IS&T.

**Sheryl Ragland** was appointed Harding Fund director on Aug. 15. She previously served as graduate marketing manager for University Communications and Marketing.

ALUMNI AND PARENT RELATIONS

**Rachel Luallen** was named events and digital director Sept. 1. She previously served as an early education coordinator with the Association of Christian Schools International.

CAREER SERVICES

**Brian Harrington** was appointed executive director of the Center for Professional Excellence, effective Sept. 1. Housed in the College of Business Administration, the center has been expanded to serve the entire University.

COLLEGE OF BIBLE AND MINISTRY

Dr. **Andrew Baker**, assistant professor of Bible and director of the Mitchell Center for Leadership and Ministry, was named president of National Christian School Association on Aug. 3.

COLLEGE OF BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

**Malik Young, Allen Watson, Trisha Magadu and Rollansky Darote** were announced as the 2022-23 recipients of the Botham Jean Business Scholarship. All four students are studying accounting.

COLLEGE OF SCIENCES

Dr. **Will Waldron**, instructor of engineering and physics, successfully defended his doctoral dissertation at the University of Alabama in Huntsville in August. The title of his dissertation is “A Pipeline to Study the Hubble Space Telescope ACS/WFC3 Data and Examples of its Applications.”

Dr. **Taylor Williams**, instructor of engineering and physics, successfully defended his doctoral dissertation at Purdue University in August. The title of his dissertation is, “1,500 Students and Only a Single Cluster? A Multimethod Clustering Analysis of Assessment Data From a Large, Structured Engineering Course.”

Dr. **James Huff**, associate professor of engineering, received a National Science Foundation award, along with Oregon State University Professor Shane Brown, for their research titled “Understanding and Improving Design Activity Engagement in the Engineering Capstone Experience.” Harding will receive a \$111,448 grant for the collaborative project.

OFFICE OF STUDENT LIFE

**Zach Neal** was appointed vice president for student life and dean of students in August. He previously served as assistant vice president.

PROVOST

Dr. **Landry Kamdem**, associate professor of pharmaceutical sciences, was named chair of the University’s Institutional Review Board in August.

Dr. **Andrea Morris** was appointed assistant to the provost for strategic initiatives Aug. 1. She previously was director of Washington Semester Leadership through Policy and Governance.

UNIVERSITY COMMUNICATIONS AND MARKETING

**Jennifer Hannigan** was named graduate marketing manager Aug. 15. She previously served as marketing manager at Crescent.

**Kendal Escue** joined the team as a graphic designer Aug. 3. She previously served as a graphic designer for Quest Design Fabrication.

# SPOTLIGHT



PHOTO BY JEFF MONTGOMERY

**DANNY DERAMUS** is the director of physical resources for the University. DeRamus has been a part of the physical resources department since 1982, when he started working on the grounds crew for Harding's first baseball field and did electrical work for the Benson Auditorium during its construction. DeRamus graduated from Harding in 1987, with a degree in general studies, after taking a nearly six-year break following his junior year to work and get married. As the director of physical resources, DeRamus drives himself and his department according to the mission of serving the Harding community.

## DANNY DERAMUS

director of physical resources

### WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE MEMORY FROM A PROJECT ON CAMPUS?

My favorite project that we did was probably when we remodeled Sears Hall. It was the first one that I really took over, and we ran the whole project out of our department. We worked and worked and worked on it, and we even finished two weeks early. Dr. Burks was president then, and that was when "Extreme Makeover: Home Edition" was popular, so I got T-shirts for everyone and talked the Harding bus driver into parking the bus in front of the building. We had a sound system. Those involved in the deans' office and a bunch of people gathered around. We counted down and yelled, "Move that bus!" and everyone cheered. It was a really exciting, really fun way to finish.

### WHAT DO YOU THINK ABOUT ALL THE NEW CAMPUS UPDATES?

This summer probably held the most large projects we've had at one time since I've been here. We have had to work through all kinds of situations, like delays related to supply chain issues. We're still waiting for some parts, but we have to work to meet expectations. We knew we had to finish the projects, and we focused on that. That's kept us together, and we are continuing to finish some projects and begin some new ones as well.

### WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE THING ABOUT WORKING WITH PHYSICAL RESOURCES?

I've always tried to make sure that everyone in this building understands that we are a service-oriented organization. We don't teach, though there are lessons to learn. We don't speak in front of people, but everything we do speaks to everyone who comes on campus. Sometimes you have to ask yourself, "Where do you get your motivation to do the same thing over and over again?" We have to remember that we are created by God to serve and that we are here to serve the people — faculty, students, staff, visitors — everyone that comes on this campus. We just continue to push that. We do get some satisfaction from seeing buildings built and projects finished, but the biggest thing is that even though we are tired at the end of some of these projects, we know we served to the best of our ability and got it done.

— Grant Stewart

# HEARD in CHAPEL

SEPT. 1

"When opportunity and wisdom meet, you get to experience wonder."

**Dr. Andrew Baker**, director,  
*Mitchell Center for Leadership and Ministry*

SEPT. 7

"The biggest challenge I have for you: Don't follow your passion. We have tried to reverse engineer the process. You try to find your passion first and then apply it to your practice. But really, your calling and your passion stem from what you practice. My question for you to ask yourself: Where can I serve somebody?"

**Dr. John Delony**,  
*bestselling author and mental health expert*

SEPT. 16

"Jesus is the first runner. In other words, in this Legacy Race, the one out front of me, the one setting the pace, is Jesus Christ. I keep my eyes on him. I am being transformed by him. ... When I think about what my interaction is with the world, I watch him with people. When I think about what my values should be — about money or about power or about people — my eyes are set ahead. I'm looking ahead to him."

**Mike Cope ('78)**, director of ministry outreach,  
*Pepperdine University*

SEPT. 26

"No matter who you are or what you do, Christ shows up in me when I love you."

**Leonardo Gilbert ('81)**, minister,  
*Sheldon Heights Church of Christ*

SEPT. 27

"God is on a mission to make me nothing, when I've been trying my whole life to be something. Becoming nothing is the only way to love your brothers and sisters."

**Wes Hargon ('18)**, youth minister,  
*Kingwood Church of Christ*

OCT. 20

"The church at its best is the life of the saints and the hope of sinners. It's a city on a hill, a counter-culture for the good of culture. It's the healing of the nations, the hope and life of tomorrow, right here, today."

**Jonathan Storment ('03)**, preaching minister,  
*Pleasant Valley Church of Christ*

FOR A COMPLETE LIST OF EVENTS, VISIT [HARDING.EDU/CALENDAR](https://harding.edu/calendar).

# EVENTS

DEC. 17

### Fall Commencement

Families, friends and faculty will gather to celebrate the achievements of our fall graduates as they walk across the Benson stage into a new chapter in their lives. Join us at the 10 a.m. ceremony as we honor these students for their hard work and dedication.  
[harding.edu/graduation](https://harding.edu/graduation)

JAN. 19

### Arts and Life Series: Ted Ludwig Trio

Ted Ludwig returns to our stage for a full-length concert after his Searcy debut at Java and Jazz last fall. Come see why JAZZIZ magazine praises Ludwig's ability to "flat burn up the fingerboard with mind-boggling technique!"  
[harding.edu/artsandlife](https://harding.edu/artsandlife)

FEB. 14

### Arts and Life Series: Barron Ryan

Mark your calendars for Valentine's Day and come for a romantic dinner in Cone Chapel followed by live piano music performed by Barron Ryan.  
[harding.edu/artsandlife](https://harding.edu/artsandlife)

FEB. 16-18, 23-25

### "The Crucible"

The theatre department presents a gripping dramatization of the Salem witch trials in this timeless American classic, performed in the Ulrey Performing Arts Center.  
[harding.edu/events/theatre](https://harding.edu/events/theatre)

FEB. 17-18

### Bloom Conference

The annual women's conference features keynote speakers Tamera Alexander and Serena B. Miller, USA Today bestselling authors of Christian fiction, as they navigate what happens when God authors your story.  
[harding.edu/bloom](https://harding.edu/bloom)

APRIL 6-8

### Spring Sing Weekend

Join us Easter weekend for Spring Sing 2023: "Stand Out!" and discover how our students stand out from the rest! Performances will compete for cash donations to charities of their choice.  
[harding.edu/springsing](https://harding.edu/springsing)

# BY THE NUMBERS

## LECTURESHIP

99

years of Lectureship at Harding. Join us next fall for our special 100th year!

7

singing groups performed throughout this year's event.



92

total lectures taught this year by a variety of talented speakers

6

student lectures this year

10

years of the Kenneth V. Neller Preacher's Workshop

102+

total attendees of the annual Women's Ministry Workshop this year



Scan for a message from keynote speaker Leonardo Gilbert.



# LEGACY RELAY

Sept. 15, The Legacy Relay began in Morrilton, Arkansas, at Harding's original campus. Nearly 40 students — led by the cross-country team — ran more than 70 miles to Searcy, just as the founders passed the torch of Christian education on to the next generation. Many students also were positioned at key points along the route to cheer on their classmates.

Harding's story has been shaped by men and women with resolute faith and unwavering tenacity who sacrificed greatly to build a school on the foundation of Jesus Christ. For the last century, each generation has been tasked with taking up the mantle and forging ahead, continuing to serve with compassion and boldness.

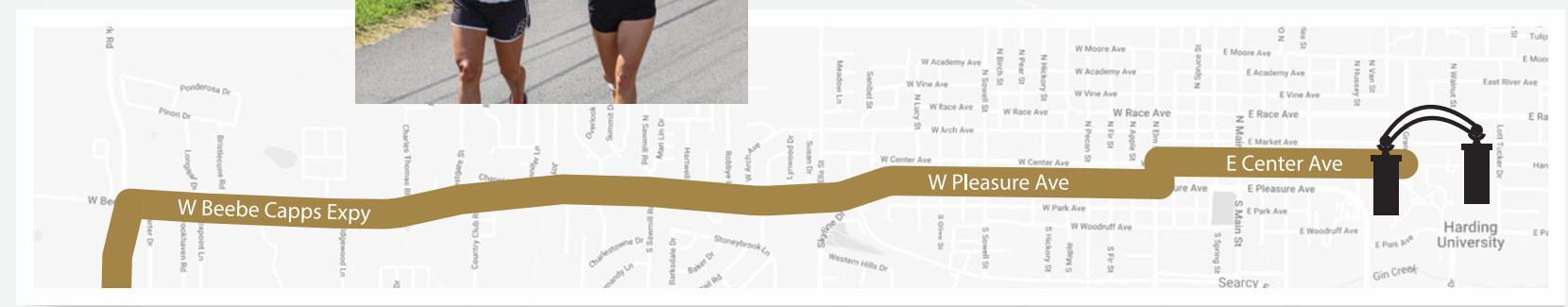


As the last runner, freshman Abby White, crossed the finish line at the Harding College arch, the University community gathered to welcome her home. Then, as one, everyone walked the final leg of the relay across campus to Bison Park.

Many Spirit-led mentors have shepherded students throughout their experiences in the Harding community. Their sacrifices have brought the University into the present. This is the time for current students, faculty and staff, alumni, and administration to decide how the legacy will continue.



Tia Stone ('01) and her daughter, freshman Abi Stone, run in The Legacy Relay on Sept. 15. Tia was a member of the Bison cross-country team from 1997-2001 and has passed her love for running to the next generation.



**"It was such an honor to be able to participate in this historic event. It truly symbolizes the journey that Harding has been on as well as the unity displayed by students and faculty on campus every day."**

**-FRESHMAN ABBY WHITE, RUNNER OF THE FINAL LEG OF THE RELAY**



Scan to view The Legacy Relay recap video.





Senior Collin Brock from Beebe, Arkansas, runs the second leg of The Legacy Relay on Sept. 15.

PHOTO BY MADISON MEYER



*on* SEPTEMBER 16  
 DR. MIKE WILLIAMS  
*was* FORMALLY INAUGURATED *as*  
*the* UNIVERSITY'S SIXTH PRESIDENT  
*in* NEARLY A CENTURY

BY HAILEY PRUITT  
 PHOTOGRAPHY BY JEFF MONTGOMERY,  
 MADISON MEYER, ABIGAIL CALLICOAT, ASHEL  
 PARSONS, JULIANNE BAKER AND GRACE HURT

“A Harding education conjures up deep emotions and has lofty goals. After a time of prayer and reflection, I determined that my presidential motto would be: **Inspired Purpose.**”

- **Inspired** — Anchored in our historic Christian mission, we recognize the very source of our strength: the Spirit of the Lord — a dove to remind us of the one who saves, a fire to impassion us, a wind to refresh and guide us.
- **Purpose** — The essence of the Harding experience extends far beyond career preparation. It is a quest for meaning and vision. It is a crucible to discover our values, convictions and direction.
- **Inspired Purpose** — We aspire to restore the world to what God intended from the beginning.

As I begin my tenure as the sixth president of Harding University, may we be led, motivated and molded by Inspired Purpose.”

— PRESIDENT MIKE WILLIAMS



# Inspired PURPOSE



Dr. Robert C. Walker, chairman of the board of trustees, places the presidential medallion on President Williams.

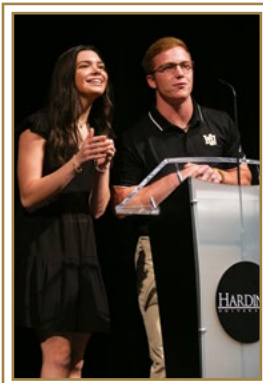
*“This inauguration represents a signature moment in the life of this institution — a momentous occasion where we reflect on the vision, heroic sacrifice and unwavering resolve of the founders of Harding University.”*

– DR. MIKE WILLIAMS,  
SIXTH PRESIDENT



Corene Stevens and Kent Rollmann represent the class of 1953 at the Inauguration Celebration.

Scan to view  
Inauguration recap.



Freshmen Elizabeth Brown and Hudson Vaughn encourage the seniors to always stand up for what they believe in. Representatives of each class participated in a friendly roast of their classmates.



The Thundering Herd marching band performs the University fight song.

*“One of the things I love about President Williams is that he knows the names on all the buildings are some of those people who passed the baton, but he also knows that it’s all those people whose names didn’t get on buildings — it’s the people who put food on our plates in the cafeteria; it’s the people who checked us in and took role and operated computers behind the scenes; it’s moms and dads who helped pay for things; and on and on the rippling effects of the Harding community go. We are here today as heirs of that tradition, but it’s not ultimately to glorify Harding. It’s to glorify the Lord Jesus Christ.”*

– MIKE COPE ('78) IN CHAPEL ON SEPT. 15





Jenna Galloway, Hanna Grace Garner and Debbie Gentry share a laugh with President Mike and Lisa Williams.



Kailey Daniel and Kristin Walker enjoy a cup of coffee, a local brew roasted by RoZark Hills Roasterie in Rose Bud, Arkansas.

Dr. Monte Cox, Dr. Andrea Morris and Dr. Howard Wright enjoy a moment of fellowship during the Inspired Conversations event.



Directed by Dr. Susan Shirel, University Chorus and Concert Choir sing "This Is Your Time" by J. Reese Norris, accompanied by Chuck Hicks on guitar, Dr. Alyssa Koay on piano, and Susie Green and Cameron Maupin on percussion.

Grayson Hume, Savannah Cook, Baylor Cooper and Jake Garms take a selfie with their new president.

"Today, we want the blood of our founders to run in our veins. The torch of inspired purpose has been passed on to us. Each generation has faithfully carried their vision. This is our moment to carry the torch together."

- DR. MIKE WILLIAMS



"We have the privilege of walking alongside a man and leader who is humble to the core with a deep sense of what it means to be Christian. He is compassionate for those who need it most and has a zeal for the current life and future hope of our students. His collaborative and Spirit-led leadership provides a bold and steady vision for our work together."

- DR. JEAN-NOEL THOMPSON, EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT



President Mike and Lisa Williams invited everyone to join them for a time of coffee and inspired conversations following the inauguration celebration Sept. 16. We sat down with the family to learn how they have fostered Christ-centered connection around their own table.

# Inspired CONVERSATIONS WITH THE WILLIAMS FAMILY

By Katie Clement

## What do you enjoy doing together?

**Cade:** On Saturdays we will walk to the farmers market from our apartment in the morning, and we'll cross their [Mike and Lisa's] house, buy our groceries, and go to Wild Sweet Williams and Midnight Oil.

We basically just do this big lap where we are walking and eating, visiting, buying our groceries, and it's an easy time to share about the week.

**Lisa:** We also like fine dining. Cade likes to cook, and we watch cooking shows together, and I think that inspired him to master techniques of cooking. When we go out to eat, it's fun to go to a really nice restaurant together, critique the menu a little bit and look at the new flavor profiles. Movies have always been a part of our home as well. We've had a lot of movie marathons, especially when the boys were younger.

**Quen:** I'd say one of my favorite movies is "Black Panther."

## Describe a special family memory.

**Lisa:** Cade and Cailin have been married for a year now, and so to start at that point, moving forward, there hasn't been a lot of time together. I think it was a good memory for us to watch them go through their engagement, and the rehearsal dinner night was fun. We had a good time and knew that was going to be a special memory for them. It was nice to hear Quen give the toast that night. That, to me, was very special, and I loved that. And the fireworks afterward were a pinnacle for me.

**Cailin:** Each member of the family participated too. Quen did a wonderful job with the toast at the rehearsal dinner, and then you two [Mike and Lisa] got to come up during the ceremony and pray over us. It was a sweet, sweet memory.

**Mike:** Maybe it's because of where we live now, I think about it every day because I walk by it ... but a special moment for us was when Cade and Quen were both baptized in the fountain in front of the Benson. I mean obviously, those are signature moments in our lives that we think about as far as our family being committed to Christ.

## What is some of the best advice your parents have given you?

**Quen:** Nothing is perfect. We have to stick with what we've got.

**Cade:** They would say the same thing before going to school. They'd say, "Work hard, and be kind to others" — which is very simple, but over 12 years eventually it becomes ingrained in you, and it's the natural thing you think of when you go to work or to school. The repetition of that phrase stuck with me.



## Cailin, what is something you love about the Williams family?

**Cailin:** I think the first thing that comes to mind is that the Williams know how to build roots that go really deep. I think that speaks to their ability to do relationship really well. ... To see the way they have made Searcy their home ... They are loved by so many people, and I think that also speaks to their hospitality. I think all four of them live with hands wide open with their time, their energy — relationally, emotionally. They give so much; their home is always open. I've been blessed to be a recipient of that as a daughter-in-law, but it extends to everyone they meet, too. I think students have already seen and experienced that and will be very blessed by their time here.

## What does it mean for you all to be in Searcy together?

**Mike:** I don't know that I could put into words what it means. When we moved here in '87, we moved 800 miles away from our parents.

And, I must admit, I had some guilt over that over the years. I was living so far apart from my parents and Lisa's parents. And I remember late in my dad's life I was basically articulating that I'm sorry that we didn't live closer, and my dad gave me this great affirmation. He said, "It was tough to live apart, but we're just so glad that our grandsons grew up in this community [Searcy] and that you've been part of this community for so long. And we can see the blessings of that. We missed you, but we knew that you were where God had intended." So for us to have this opportunity to live with our children and all of us be together ... we don't know where God will take them next, but we're going to really relish the moments of being in the same community.

## What is an unexpected blessing you've experienced since coming back to Harding?

**Quen:** When I first started auditing an acting class, I didn't think I could do it, but I did. I hope to be a movie actor one day — to make a

difference for the movie community.

**Lisa:** The students are the cream of the crop for us. That's the best experience. We do what we do because of the students, and that's a huge blessing. But you layer on top of that the people who work here, who care about the same things, and that's another blessing. Then you meet the people in the community and the people that you go to church with, and there's another blessing. Those people layer and layer and layer, and that brings a lot of depth.

**Mike:** It's not really unexpected, but it's poignant that we came back into a place that we love, that we lived in for a long time, but we've been gone for seven years. And we came back, and it's just amazing how we can be immersed into this community within seconds. And I don't really think it's about my job; it's

just the type of place Searcy is.

It's a joy as part of that promise of God that if you invest in other people, you're the one who walks away blessed. So I think as we reflect on our lives in Searcy it's such a relational place that you can't outgive this community, it just pours so much back into you. It's a blessing ... This is a culture that's welcoming; it's affirming. We jumped back in, and it's like we never left ... That's only unexpected because it's so unnatural in the world that you can really come back and feel embraced.



CADE, CAILIN, LISA, MIKE AND QUEN WILLIAMS

PHOTOS BY JEFF MONTGOMERY

# A tale of two grandmothers

Holland-Waller family inspired to honor women of faith  
By Hailey Pruitt

*A tear glistened in his eye as Rodney Waller (71) recounted the stories of his family matriarchs who willingly sacrificed because they believed in the power of Christian education. His mother, Joella Yurcho Waller, spent years praying for her children to attend Harding. “Christian education was a key factor in her life,” Waller said.*

Joella Yurcho Waller grew up in Horatio, Arkansas, the oldest of four siblings and valedictorian of her high school class. After graduation, she moved to Shreveport, Louisiana, to be a nanny for a family her parents knew. She later married and had a son, Larry Yurcho (‘66). When he was only a year old, his father died, and the church became their family.

Joella later married Rolf Waller and had two more children, Rodney and Anita. Her ministry became the work of the whole family. “We all worked for the widows, visiting them every Sunday night,” Waller remembers. “At the time, I really didn’t understand why.” In hindsight, Waller realized his mother knew the trials the widows were facing, and she wanted to make their lives easier.

Waller remembers his mother was “always working.” Her legacy is seen in the accomplishments of her extended family, but perhaps the greatest lesson they learned from her was the joy of generosity. “Daddy would bring his check home from the factory on Friday night, and Mother would calculate 10% of the gross and write out her check for church so it would be ready on Sunday morning,” Waller said.

Late in her life, Joella was living on a fixed income, yet she continued to send what little she had



JOELLA WALLER

to every mail-order charity who requested donations. Her children called these the “Waller five-dollar checks.” When they encouraged her to stop because she had already given so much and was living with limited resources, she refused. “Why would I quit giving?” she asked. “The Lord hasn’t quit giving to me.”

**“We recognize the contributions women have made to Harding, helping us model for all graduates what Christian women can do with their families and ministries as we all go out and work for the Lord.” – Rodney Waller**

He remembers his mother had two top priorities: that her children would be faithful church-goers and that they would receive a Christian education. The Wallers even helped raise money for a Christian school in Shreveport, Louisiana. One of the board members acquired a house that was converted into a thrift store, which the Wallers ran as a fundraiser for Shreve Christian Schools.

HOLLAND-WALLER FAMILY



SUBMITTED PHOTOS

Sue Locke and Wasson Holland, parents of Rodney Waller’s wife, Suzanne (‘71), modeled what it means for a man to cherish his wife. “They never said, in our presence, an unkind word or a loud statement,” Rodney Waller said. “It was harmonious, and they sustained and supported each other.”

Sue Holland was beautiful and fun-loving. A middle school librarian, she was beloved by her students. Rodney Waller remembers one day when she took him aside. “You have to choose every day to be happy — sometimes every hour,” she advised.

When Sue was 10 years old, her sister tragically died from a ruptured appendix. For years, Sue remembered her sister’s screams and the pain she endured. Eventually, the grief and guilt created a breach in her parents’ relationship, and they divorced. Years later, when pregnant with her first child, Sue was told the child’s heart had stopped beating. She carried it for another month, knowing the baby would be stillborn. After receiving this insight from Sue, Rodney knew that despite the tragedies she had endured, she was choosing to be happy every day. Sue Holland sustained her family by continuing to be Christ-like and loving. Her steadfast faithfulness significantly influenced her family and the entire church.

It is the examples of these humble grandmothers — and thousands like them who have sacrificed and prayed for their children and grandchildren — that Rodney and Suzanne Waller’s children want to honor with the new Holland-Waller Center on campus. “They were strong influences in our lives but were also very strong women,” Rodney Waller said. The family honors the examples of Christian women and the contributions they have made to the church, their families, Harding and their communities.



SUE HOLLAND



DR. BRAUTNICK

**Dr. Lynsay Waller Brautnick (‘00)**, an oncologist in Bentonville, Arkansas, spoke about her father’s vision to create a program that will highlight women of faith and encourage the women who are coming after them. “I have always been proud of my dad for his respect and acknowledgment of women’s contributions in society and the church,” Brautnick said. “He developed a deep respect for the unique hurdles women face as he watched my mother work as a CPA in the early 1970s when companies often would not allow a woman to participate in their audit despite the fact that this particular woman was more qualified and accomplished than many of her male peers. By the time my sister entered the public accounting field 30 years later, women were in the majority, but my father knew how hard her female predecessors worked to blaze that trail. Even with the passage of time, he saw the unnecessarily difficult path his daughters experienced professionally because of their gender. Dad equipped us with a Harding education, support and anything else we needed to succeed in life and the workplace. He expected us to use our talents and succeed, just as our mother wanted to do. He also was influenced heavily by watching the service of both my grandmothers. In many ways, they and their friends were the heart of the church as they cared for so many needs quietly and without fanfare.”



SUZANNE AND RODNEY WALLER

“We’re at a point in our history where we have so many capable, competent women who have the wisdom and experience to lead. We must steward well their talent, development and commitment for the mission of Harding. We all will be stronger for it.” – Lisa Williams

The building — which will replace the Ganus Building — will feature a collection of tributes to Women of Faith on the second floor. The first four recipients, who will be announced in Spring 2023, were chosen by the Waller family. Future honorees will be chosen by a 12-member advisory board chaired by Lisa Williams. This committee includes influential leaders from across the country to choose the annual honorees and determine how each will be recognized. Each board member will partner with a University staff member, and together they will plan events, presentations and conferences to inspire young women to believe in themselves and to leverage their talents to the glory of God.

The goal is to preserve historical contributions of women while preparing current and future students to maintain

their dignity and commitment to faith when entering the workplace. Rodney Waller hopes this space will encourage current and future students to ask, “How can I use my gifts to glorify God?” Waller also wants to encourage engaged and married students to support each other in ministry, allowing each to develop individual gifts.

After seeing students studying outside Cone Chapel on the second floor of the David B. Burks American Heritage Building, Rodney Waller wanted to provide more optimal spaces on campus for students to study together. He requested a student lounge be added to the second floor of the new facility specifically for students to gather. There also will be a veranda on the second floor for outdoor study space as well as for musical performances and other campus activities.

As the building is constructed, there also are plans to “**bathe it in scripture and prayer:**” Romans 12:1-2 provides the theme for the project. “Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God’s mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God — this is your true and proper worship. Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God’s will is — his good, pleasing and perfect will.” Students, faculty and alumni will be invited to write their favorite scriptures on the steel beams of the building and pray that the vision for the building will be achieved to the glory of God.

“We have learned the joy of giving in big ways that make big dreams possible.”  
– Rodney Waller



Scan to hear more from Rodney Waller.



Holland-Waller Center Entry



Second-Floor Student Lounge

*The Holland-Waller Center is scheduled to open in Spring 2024.*

## MY VIEW

David Kee ('85), associate professor of business, shares his Global Outreach experience in Sopot, Poland, in summer 2022.

# SLAVA BOHU!

FROM AFAR, THE WAR IN UKRAINE IS A NEWS BLIP and has little effect on our everyday lives — until you live with those affected by the war and it changes you. It changed me this summer.

One of the many perks of working at Harding University is the numerous opportunities we have to serve. My wife, Paige, who teaches communication, and I returned for the second time to Sopot, Poland.

As part of Global Outreach, we worked with the local church and the Sopot Bible Institute. Four Harding students accompanied us this year.

We expected this trip to be much like our previous experience, but the war in Ukraine changed our plans. More than one million Ukrainians sought refuge in Poland from the ravages of war. A few thousand made their way to Sopot. Our hosts, Molly ('70) and Annabelle ('04) Dawidow, and the Sopot Church of Christ provided lodging, food and other support services to a large number of refugees, many of them Christians. So, in addition to teaching the Bible to Poles and Ukrainians, we found ourselves putting together boxes of food and supplies for refugees living off-premises, organizing events for the children, and helping coordinate the movement of funds and materials in support of the refugees. Our busyness was overshadowed by our awe for the faith and hope of our new friends. Seeing their homes destroyed and their lives turned upside down, even the loss of relatives and friends, did not deter their commitment to live joyfully for the Lord.

Among others, we shared living quarters with one group of refugees who were members of the Mariupol Church of Christ in southeastern Ukraine. They sheltered for more than 50 days in the basement hallway of the church building with little water, food or clothes. After a harrowing 2,000-mile trip through Russia, they finally made it to Sopot, leaving behind the ruins of their entire hometown as well as family and friends, victims of the Russian invasion. Other Christians from Kyiv and Kharkiv also joined us with similar stories. Despite so many reasons for sadness,



PHOTO BY JEFF MONTGOMERY

these brothers and sisters encouraged us when we thought it would be the other way around. They were joyful and full of promise for the new life they were going to have to build. Without understanding Ukrainian or Russian, we kept hearing the phrase: "Slava Bohu!" — Praise God! Their faith was actually strengthened by their experience, and they continued to share the gospel and build up everyone around them. What a witness to the hopeful nature of our faith!

Along with our group of students, Kyra Joiner Smith, Kate Hutson, Ola Kalafarski and Sargent Erwin, Paige and I learned the ultimate value of missions: We went to serve and ended up being served ourselves. We grew in our faith via the expression of love and hope we saw in the Sopot church and the Ukrainian refugees. We are thankful that Harding and its many donors make it possible for us to be a part of God's great commission.

# Harding University NEUROSCIENCE LABORATORY

## FUNDING

- National Institutes of Health and Arkansas IDeA Network of Biomedical Research Excellence
- Cell Biology Education Consortium
- Margaret V. Plummer Fund
- Arkansas Academy of Sciences

Dr. David Donley,  
principal investigator and lab director

## CURRENT STUDENTS

Taylor Appleton, sophomore  
biochemistry and molecular  
biology major

Bre Bishop, senior molecular and  
cellular biology major

Elizabeth Morgan, sophomore  
biology major

Sydney Reynolds, junior biochemistry  
and molecular biology major

Alyssa Scott, senior biochemistry and  
molecular biology major

Thomas Williams, junior biochemistry  
and molecular biology major

The goal of the lab is to empower students to develop as independent scientists. All projects are designed for students to take ownership, experiencing both the highs and lows of the discovery process. Projects contribute to scientific progress by providing data and training the next generation of scientists.

Students study how the brain's immune system responds to disease, considering the basic processes that occur in microglial cells to better understand conditions like Alzheimer's disease. Students start research in the lab as early as the second semester of their freshman years, and many continue until graduation. A diversity of ages, majors, backgrounds, and life experience enriches the lab culture and encourages students to think broadly about the answer to this question: "Who is a scientist?"

## PHILOSOPHY

The goal of research at the undergraduate level is to empower students to be **curious** and **creative** and to **engage in the process** of science from conception to completion. Each student is given the opportunity to take ownership of a specific project where he or she is responsible for contributing to the design of experiments, processing samples and collecting data, analyzing data, and communicating the results.

## RESULTS

The "real world" impact of this work is on the horizon. However, the students are **the real legacy** of the lab. The long-term effects of these research projects is defined by students and the lasting impact that these experiences will have on their careers and their lives.

## RESEARCH PROJECTS

- Microglial responses to TDP-43: implications for Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis
- How free radicals shape the microglial response to Alzheimer's disease
- Recovery of microglial cells after ethanol exposure
- How iron impacts the microglial response to amyloid-beta: implications for Alzheimer's disease
- Impact of the anti-epileptic drug Levetiracetam on microglial responses

## AWARDS

- Taylor Appleton was invited to present at the Arkansas Undergraduate Summer Research Symposium in 2022.
- Elly John received recognition for an Outstanding Poster presentation by the Arkansas Academy of Sciences in 2022.
- Alyssa Scott and Sydney Reynolds received recognition for Outstanding Poster presentations at the Arkansas Undergraduate Summer Research Symposium in 2022.



PHOTO SUBMITTED

Scan to hear more about Sydney Reynolds' research.



## CONCLUSION:

Research experience immerses students in the culture of science so they can contribute to its vibrancy. These experiences shape how students view their coursework and how they approach their future careers. The research lab is a place where the mission of Harding is lived out. Students meaningfully engage with each other and with faculty.

Special thanks to the Harding University College of Sciences and Department of Biology for supporting student research.

**MOLLIE ARNOLD REYNOLDS, volleyball, 2010-13**

- Two-time Honorable Mention AVCA All-American
- Two-time Great American Conference Player of the Year (2012 & 2013)
- Three-time First Team All-GAC
- Ranks second at Harding in career kills (1,884)

**KRISTEN CELSOR JOHNSON, women's basketball/track and field, 2010-14**

- 2014 women's basketball consensus All-American
- 2014 Central Region, Great American Conference Player of the Year
- Two-time Academic All-American
- Harding record holder in the outdoor high jump at 5 feet, 8 inches

**ADAM DARBY, baseball, 2006-09**

- 2009 First Team Daktronics All-American
- Two-time All-Region and two-time All-GSC
- Second at Harding with 27 career home runs, third with 153 RBI and fourth with a .377 batting average
- Harding's single season home run leader with 16 in 2009

**GUILLERMO HERNANDEZ, men's tennis, 1994-98**

- 1995 NAIA All-American
- 64 career doubles wins, including 43 wins at No. 1 doubles
- Harding-record 12 career tournament wins with Arturo Rodriguez
- Ranks fourth at Harding with 64 career doubles wins

**ADRIAN HICKMON, football, 1973-76**

- 1976 First Team All-AIC
- 1976 NAIA Honorable Mention All-American
- Captain and starting defensive lineman on Harding's 1976 AIC championship team
- Signed as a free-agent in 1977 with the NFL's Washington franchise

**DAVE HUDSON, bowling, 1969-73**

- 1972 NAIA Bowling All-Events Champion
- 1973 NAIA Singles Champion
- 1973 NAIA Bowling All-Events Runner Up
- 1971 doubles national champion

**RONNIE HUCKEBA, outstanding coach**

- Became Harding's fifth head football coach in the modern era in 2007 and went 69-40 in 10 seasons
- Spent 30 seasons on Harding's coaching staff
- Led Harding to an undefeated conference championship in 2016 and a trip to the Super Region 3 finals
- Starting offensive lineman on our 1976 AIC championship team

**ARTUR KERN, track and field/cross-country, 2004-08**

- 2006 South Region Indoor Track Athlete of the Year
- Four-time Indoor Track All-American and 2007 Outdoor Track All-American
- 2006 GSC Cross-Country individual champion
- Three-time Cross-Country All-American

**GERALD PAYNE, football, 1999-2000**

- 2000 Harlon Hill Award Regional Finalist
- 2000 Cactus Bowl (Division II All-Star Game) Offensive MVP
- Signed as a free agent in 2001 with the NFL's Arizona Cardinals
- Second at Harding in career receiving TDs — 25 in 19 games played

**ROBERT TOWNS, football, 2003-06**

- 2006 Second Team AP All-American
- 2006 Harlon Hill Award Regional Finalist
- 2006 First Team All-Region
- Harding career leader with 50 passes defended and second with 18 interceptions

**CALISTER UBA-OKOLI, track and field, 1996-98**

- 1998 NCAA Indoor 55-meter dash national champion
- 1997 NAIA Outdoor 100-meter dash national champion
- Three-time All-American in both indoor and outdoor track
- Harding's record holder in the indoor 55 meters, indoor 60 meters, indoor 200 meters, outdoor 100 meters and outdoor 200 meters

**CHAD WARE, men's basketball, 2000-04**

- 2004 Division II Bulletin Third Team All-American
- 2004 GSC Player of the Year
- 2004 First Team All-GSC
- 2004 CoSIDA Academic All-District

**EWA ZABOROWSKA, track and field, 2012-15**

- Four-time indoor All-American and two-time outdoor All-American
- 13-time All-Central Region (seven indoors and six outdoors)
- Three-time CoSIDA Academic All-American
- 2015 NCAA Elite 89 Award for highest GPA at indoor national meet



MOLLIE ARNOLD REYNOLDS



KRISTEN CELSOR JOHNSON



ADAM DARBY



GUILLERMO HERNANDEZ



ADRIAN HICKMON



DAVE HUDSON

THE HARDING UNIVERSITY BISON BOOSTER CLUB INDUCTED 13 NEW MEMBERS INTO THE HARDING ATHLETIC HALL OF FAME DURING A CEREMONY ON FRIDAY, SEPT. 30 IN CHARLES WHITE DINING HALL. NEW MEMBERS ARE ADDED EVERY FIVE YEARS. THERE ARE NOW 113 MEMBERS OF THE HALL OF FAME.

*By Scott Goode, assistant athletic director for sports information*



RONNIE HUCKEBA



ARTUR KERN



GERALD PAYNE



ROBERT TOWNS



CALISTER UBA-OKOLI



CHAD WARE



EWA ZABOROWSKA

Scan to view the Hall of Fame event recap.



HARDING SPORTS INFORMATION ARCHIVE PHOTOS

ALUMNI  
2022  
AWARDS

Lives of  
PROSPERITY



('72)

PHOTO BY MEGAN STROUD

**Distinguished Alumnus**

DAVID FINCHER

Dr. **David Fincher** fondly remembers his time at Harding where he was mentored by talented, Christ-like faculty. Here, he also met his wife, **Beth Saxton** ('72), for whom he was a required pledge date while she was joining Zeta Rho. Together, the Finchers have answered the call of the Holy Spirit to serve students and families with faith-filled education.

Fincher graduated from Harding in 1972 with a bachelor's degree in history and devoted his career to teaching and mentoring high school students as teacher, principal, vice president and then president of Greater Atlanta Christian School. Currently, he serves as chancellor and is thankful for

the "opportunity to help shape the present and future of lives and organizations and see them transformed."

Fincher also has served his local church as Bible teacher, education minister, pulpit minister and elder. He received the Metro Atlanta Gwinnett Public Service Award in 2017 and was named Harding's College of Education Distinguished Alumnus in 2009 and the National Christian School Association Administrator of the Year in 2007.

Fincher and Beth live in Atlanta, and have three children, Matthew Fincher ('99), Kim Standridge ('00) and Stephanie Oduardo.

Scan for the full interview with Dr. Fincher.



PHOTO SUBMITTED

Dr. Fincher is always willing to take the time to invest in the lives of students and help them find their passion.



('02)

PHOTO SUBMITTED

**Outstanding Young Alumna**

ESPERANZA MASSANA CRANE

At Harding, **Esperanza Massana Crane** learned that her workplace is also her mission. After graduating with a bachelor's degree in marketing and international business in 2002 and then earning a Master of Business Administration in 2005, she took that advice very seriously and has spent the last two decades working at everything as though working for the Lord.

For Crane, economic development is about creating economic opportunities, and she is instrumental in creating those opportunities for minority- and women-owned businesses in Arkansas.

Crane currently serves as the director of the Minority- and Women-Owned Business

Enterprise Division of the Arkansas Economic Development Commission. Previously, she was an account executive and research manager for CJRW advertising agency and assistant to the general manager of Nine West Stores in Central America.

Crane was named Woman of the Year in Business by Women's Foundation of Arkansas in 2022. She also was named to the Arkansas 250 Most Influential Leaders by Arkansas Business in 2021, as well as their 40 Under 40 list in 2018. She serves on the board of directors for the Central Arkansas Library System as well as Girl Scouts — Diamonds of Arkansas, Oklahoma and Texas, and she is a member of the Little Rock Sister Cities Commission.

She and her husband, Christopher Paul, live in Little Rock, Arkansas, with their son, Sebastian.



PHOTO BY KATIE CHILDS

Crane was named 2022 Woman of the Year in Business by Women's Foundation of Arkansas at the Power of the Purse luncheon Sept. 21. Joining her at the event are Lisa Williams, Candice Moore, Lindy Ingram, Dr. Al Frazier, Adriana Fuentes, Liza Freeman, Julia Murphy, Erin Brogdon and Everett Kirkman.



PHOTO SUBMITTED

**Botham Jean Inspiration Award**

MOLLY ('70) and ANNABELLE ('04) DAWIDOW

**Molly Lipe Dawidow** traveled to Vienna, Austria, to work as a missionary assistant after graduating from Harding. There she met Mike Dawidow, a native of Sopot, Poland. They were married in 1974 and moved to Lubbock, Texas, to attend Sunset School of Preaching. The Dawidows served together as missionaries in Vienna, Austria, from 1979-1991, when they moved to Mike's hometown to work with Sopot Church of Christ.

Mike Dawidow oversaw the construction of the church building, which also provides space for the English Bible Study Program that Molly founded in 1993. For nearly 20 years, Mike was instrumental in humanitarian aid and evangelism efforts for Eastern European refugees.

Tragically, the Dawidows' son, Mikey, died in 2011, and then Mike died four years later. The vast scope of his work laid the foundation for the efforts Molly and their daughter, **Annabelle**, are continuing today.

When Russia invaded Ukraine on Feb. 24, Annabelle Dawidow immediately began to make arrangements for receiving refugees who would stream into Poland. She and her mother have organized the refugee center to receive more than 200 Ukrainian Christians so far. College Church of Christ in Searcy has generously supported this effort, allowing the refugee center to serve nearly 15,000 meals and to provide weekly food boxes for 20-25 families. The center also distributes cleaning supplies, toiletries, over-the-counter medication and clothing. They provide medical care, transportation, Polish language lessons and other services to meet needs of those who crossed the border with few possessions. The church in Sopot has grown from 30 members to more than 100.

Annabelle also assists humanitarian groups in purchasing and transporting food and supplies into Ukraine. Fluent in English, German, French and Polish, she also serves as translator and administrator of the refugee program.

The Dawidow family has served the people of Eastern Europe for decades, and they plan to continue loving their neighbors in every way they can. "We pray that God will let us be of service as long as this cruel war continues," Molly Dawidow said.



## 1 College of Allied Health

**MICHAEL ('77) and MARCI JOHNSON ('77) MURPHY**

Dr. Michael Murphy always knew he wanted to serve God by serving others. He thought he would become a preacher but discovered he had a talent for science. With the help of excellent mentors like Dr. Don England, he realized the best path for him was through medical school. While in residency, he also discovered he had an aptitude for teaching.

Murphy was the founding chair of the Harding University Physician Assistant Studies Program in 2004 and continued to lead until his retirement in 2020. Prior to teaching at Harding, he served as residency faculty at Cox Family Medicine Residency in Springfield, Missouri, and as director of St. Francis Medical Center Family Medicine Residency at University of Tennessee-Memphis as well as teaching at University of Illinois College of Medicine at Peoria.

For Murphy, it is always rewarding to make a difference in someone's life — both in patient care and in the classroom. "I relish the 'Aha!' moments when students gain comprehension of an important concept," he said.

Murphy's wife, Marci, partnered with him in creating the Physician Assistant Studies Program at Harding and spent many years serving as admissions director. "Starting a new program was exciting, challenging, scary and rewarding," Marci said. "To see it continue to grow and provide well-trained health care providers for our area and nationwide is amazing."

Michael Murphy has participated in medical missions to Ukraine, Guatemala and Zambia as well as serving as a volunteer clinician for Christian Health Ministry Clinic from 2006-2015. He also was a founding member of Physician Assistant Educators Association Ethics Council and received the Teacher Achievement Award from Harding's College of Allied Health in 2019-20. Marci has been a Bible class teacher and camp nurse as well as working in foster care. The Murphys attend Downtown Church of Christ in Searcy where they have served as small group co-leaders.

The Murphys live in Searcy and have three children, Monica Hofheinz ('02), Ryan ('05) and Laura Rodgers ('07).

## 2 College of Arts and Humanities

**MAJOR RYAN OLDROYD SCOTT ('98)**

Major Ryan Scott graduated from Harding with a Bachelor of Music Education and then spent nearly two years teaching English as a second language in Florence, Italy, as part of the Avanti Italia missions program. Returning to Arkansas, he was a high school band director at South Side Bee Branch School District. Led by a desire to serve both his neighbors and his nation, Scott enlisted as a U.S. Army bandsman in 2005, earning the rank of staff sergeant. From 2010-12, he trained and led more than 300 U.S. Army paratroopers in military operations at Fort Bragg, North Carolina, and in Al Asad, Iraq. Scott also has served as battery commander and as gunnery

instructor for the Field Artillery Basic Officer Leadership Course. Most recently, he served as brigade operations chief at Fort Sill, Oklahoma, coordinating and directing operations for six basic training battalions.

Scott currently serves as an instructor in the department of behavioral science and leadership at the United States Military Academy in West Point, New York. He holds a master's degree in strategic military studies from the University of Turin, in Turin, Italy, as well as a Master of Business Administration from Harding. Scott also serves as officer sponsor of the West Point Cadet Church of Christ.

Scott and his wife, Brook Prater ('97), live in West Point, New York, and have two children, Lily and Sadie. Named Fort Sill's Family of the Year in 2014, the Scotts have actively served their country as well as the body of Christ all over the world.

## 3 College of Bible and Ministry

**ART SMITH ('73)**

Born in Kakanak, Alaska, Art Smith began preaching at the age of 16. He graduated from Crowley's Ridge College in Paragould, Arkansas, in 1966 and earned a bachelor's degree from Harding in 1973 and a master's degree from Harding School of Theology in 1979. Smith has preached in more than 200 Gospel meetings and has participated in approximately 50 foreign and domestic mission trips, including returning to his home state of Alaska to preach the Gospel every year.

For 40 years, Smith has taught Bible at Crowley's Ridge College. He retired from full-time service as vice president for student affairs in 2020 and will retire from adjunct teaching in December 2022. In addition to teaching, he leads an annual student mission trip and connects CRC students to congregations without regular preachers. He has preached for the Commissary Church of Christ for 21 years.

Smith and his wife of 55 years, Brenda, have three children.

## 4 College of Business Administration

**PAUL MAYNARD ('87)**

When Paul Maynard was a freshman at Harding, he saw several seniors wearing suits on campus. After discovering that accounting firms would meet with high-achieving students and offer them jobs for after graduation, he immediately changed his major to accounting. He also was positively influenced by Professors Mike Emerson and Jim Henderson. Professor Emeritus William Hollaway, a sponsor for Maynard's social club, TNT, invited Maynard to live in his home, helping to make it possible for him to afford a Christian education.

Maynard spent 15 years leading audit teams for educational, energy and food clients, eventually making partner at Arthur Andersen accounting firm. In 2002, he transitioned to Deloitte, where he currently serves as senior client partner. A global leader of a 1,000-member team, Maynard loves working with people to solve complex problems. Every day in his role is new and challenging, and having visited nearly 40 countries, he enjoys experiencing new situations and cultures.

The Maynard family has worshiped with the Woodbury Church of Christ in Woodbury, Minnesota, for 25 years. He and his wife, Robin Ross Maynard ('89), have served as co-chairs of Harding's President's Council, and Robin is the newest member of the Harding University Board of Trustees.

The Maynards live in Afton, Minnesota, and have three children, Allie, Matthew and Jake.

## 5 College of Education

**LEWIS L. MOORE ('69)**

Dr. Lew Moore graduated from Harding with a bachelor's degree in psychology, and he later earned a Master of Arts in teaching in 1971. He also completed a doctorate in marriage and family counseling from the University of Nebraska in 1980.

Moore currently serves as director of the University Counseling Center and as professor of marriage and family counseling/therapy. He

enjoys interacting with college students as they learn and experience challenges of personal growth. Joining students in "the search for godly virtues and the realization of his love and grace as we journey on this earth and move toward heaven ... teaches us how God finds solutions that help us mature in faith and relationships," Moore said.

Moore also has served in counseling ministry at College Church of Christ since 1981. He received a Lifetime Achievement Award from Louisiana Association for Marriage and Family Therapy in 2011 and a Servant of the Family Award from York College in 1986. In 2006, he received a Distinguished Christian Service Award from Harding as well as earning his pin for 50 Years of Service to the University in 2021.

Moore and his wife, Sue, live in Searcy and have two children, Michael ('96) and Justin ('00).

## 6 College of Nursing

**DEEANN MARTIN ('75)**

DeeAnn Martin says God led her to nursing. Soon after graduation, Martin took a job working in the neonatal intensive care unit at Arkansas Children's Hospital where she was introduced to children with congenital or acquired heart disease. These children touched her heart and became the focus of her career.

Martin has found that nurses have many opportunities to make a difference for the suffering of the world. "We are gratified when children are healed, but one may not be able to 'make everything better,'" she says. "I am reminded that the Lord tells us to bear one another's burdens, to walk alongside one another. I think this is far more difficult than actually healing and requires strength and endurance, which our gracious Lord provides. In my experience, the parents of a sick child understandably expect healing, at a bare minimum. But when healing is not possible, this is when they lean the heaviest on the healers. It has been rewarding to me to feel 'the lean' of grieving parents, and to know that, just possibly, I have provided a safe, loving shoulder on which they can lean."

In 35 years at Arkansas Children's Hospital in Little Rock, Martin served her patients and community tirelessly. She received the Heart of Excellence award from Arkansas Children's Hospital Heart Center in 2002 and the Daisy Award in 2007. She was nominated for the Most Compassionate Nurse in Arkansas Award in 2015 and received the Arkansas Children's Hospital Quilt at the Heart Ball in 2016. Martin joined the Carr College of Nursing faculty in 2016, teaching for three years before retiring. She also served in

administering vaccines and data entry at Unity Health White County Medical Center during the COVID-19 pandemic.

In retirement, she continues to volunteer with White County Court Appointed Special Advocates and in the Downtown Church of Christ food pantry.

DeeAnn and her husband, Tom ('75), live in Searcy and have two children, Allison Simmons ('00) and Caroline Cormack ('02).

## 7 College of Sciences

**KRISTY ROLLMANN SHELTON ('80)**

For as long as she can remember, Kristy Shelton has loved working with children. She spent her high school summers working at a YMCA day camp and at Osage Christian Camp. She also had a passion for all sports and played softball, volleyball and basketball. At Harding, she played every sport on both her social club team and on an intramural team.

She and her husband, Cliff ('79), earned master's degrees in education with an emphasis in recreation. They had planned to work in intramurals or run a recreation program, but after graduation, they found the market saturated. Shelton took a job as a physical education specialist at Root Elementary in Fayetteville, Arkansas, and instantly loved it. Neither of them had planned to teach, but they decided to send resumes to 10 Christian schools across the nation as a backup plan. Greater Atlanta Christian School called, and the Sheltons drove to Atlanta in May 1982. They were hired practically on the spot, and the rest is history.

Currently, Shelton is the lower school physical education specialist at GAC, teaching second through fifth graders. She also serves as assistant athletic director, assistant varsity volleyball coach, coordinator of the Kids Heart Challenge and leader of the annual Honduras mission team.

Shelton's greatest passion is leading young people to Christ. There are so many lessons that can be learned through sports, which she describes as "a mirror to life." "If I haven't led my students and athletes to Jesus," Shelton says, "then I've failed as a teacher and coach."

Shelton is a four-time State Softball Coach of the Year and was named Gwinnett County Coach of the Year in 2011 for volleyball.

Kristy and her husband have been blessed to teach at the same school for more than 40 years. They live in Duluth, Georgia, and have two children, Tyler ('11) and Alexandra ('12).



1970

**Roger and Marcia Lamb** recently published “This Doesn’t Feel Like Love Either.” This sequel to their 1996 book shares their roller coaster journey of joy and sorrow in losing parents, siblings and children. Roger served as director of media for the International Churches of Christ family of churches from 1992 to 2020. He founded two nonprofit media companies, KNN and Disciples Today, and has filmed and spoken in more than 40 countries. Marcia is an award-winning writer and playwright. She also has performed one-woman plays for many large audiences. The couple currently resides in Massachusetts.

1972

**Larry Stewart** retired May 31 from Rochester University. He served as director of admissions, director of public relations and director of alumni relations. He also produced countless publications, managed the bookstore, taught Bible classes and accompanied the A Capella Chorus on nearly 50 tours. He continues to serve the university as a part-time volunteer. He and his wife, Lynne, have two children and four grandchildren.

1981

**Linda Bonnin** became vice president for marketing and communications at Rhodes College in Memphis, Tennessee, in June. She served as University of Alabama’s vice president for strategic communications from 2015 to early 2020 before becoming senior vice president for marketing and strategic communications at Abilene Christian University.

1984

**David Vick** published a book, “Emotions – Your Child’s and Yours: Encouragements to Help Your Relationship Thrive.” Vick works as a school counselor and private practice therapist. He specializes in helping adults and youth overcome anxiety. He and his wife of 37 years, Brenda, have three children and two grandchildren.

1985

**Ed Madden** is director of the Women’s and Gender Studies program and an English professor at University of South Carolina. He is a creative writer and arts advocate in Columbia, South Carolina, where he was the capital city’s inaugural poet laureate. He has distributed poetry via mock parking tickets and temporary sidewalk graffiti,

conducted a poetry postcard campaign, and projected poetry onto theater screens. He purposely elevates the work of average citizens.

1990

**William Everett** is a communications specialist for Roots of Peace currently working in Afghanistan.

1992

**Jeff Bryson** (M.A.) is the first full-time criminal justice faculty member at Bethany College, beginning Fall 2022. His research is on the lived experiences of prison psychotherapists. He and his wife, Teena, live in West Virginia and have a son.

1994

**David Jarnigan** was named lead executive of customer accounts and membership at Arkansas Blue Cross and Blue Shield. He has been with the company since 2017 and was previously manager of payment innovations. Before joining Arkansas Blue Cross, he spent 19 years at Electronic Data Systems/Hewlett-Packard/DXC Technologies.

1996

**Danny Freeman** recently published a novel “The You I See,” receiving high praise from a number of independent editorial review platforms, including a coveted feature in the July 2022 edition of Kirkus Review.

1998

**Robin Henson Mizell** joined Black Hills Energy as the community affairs manager.

**Lathan Watts** is the new vice president of public affairs for Alliance Defending Freedom – the world’s largest nonprofit, legal organization dedicated to the defense of religious liberty, free speech, sanctity of life, marriage and parental rights. He and his wife, **Kim Knight**, live in Lewisville, Texas, and have two daughters.

1999

**Michael Stone** has been named superintendent of Lee County (Arkansas) School District. Most recently, he served as executive director of Student and Equity Services for North Little Rock School District and was the district’s director of federal programs. He has an education specialist degree from the University of Central Arkansas.

2000

**Megan Wooldridge** married Matthew Haynes Oct. 23, 2021. Megan is a specialist with Jobs for Tennessee Graduates and works at Centennial High School in Franklin, Tennessee. Matthew is a sales representative with Behr Paint.

2001

**Rob Carris** celebrated 20 years of youth and family ministry at Cardinal Drive Church of Christ on July 7. He and his wife, **Molly Flanigan** (’00), live in the Chicago area.

**Barry Finnie** is the new headmaster for Carroll Academy in Carrollton, Mississippi, coming from Greenville Christian. He spent most of his career at Delta Academy, where he was a coach, history teacher and headmaster for 17 years. He obtained a master’s degree from Delta State University in 2012.

**Nathan Hunnicutt** has been named partner at Lufkin Land Co. and The Angelina Fund, LLC, a real estate syndication. He and his wife, Tiffany, live in Lufkin, Texas, and have eight children.

2002

**Julie Newsom Mooney** earned her certified compensation professional certification from Worldatwork, a professional organization for Total Rewards practitioners. She is employed by USAA and has worked in the compensation field for 15 years, after spending several years in a variable compensation role as a senior compensation advisor in executive rewards within the organization. She holds an MBA from University of Texas at Dallas and resides in Frisco, Texas, with her family.

**Angela Rachels** is media relations manager at Ghidotti, a public relations and content marketing agency based in Little Rock, Arkansas. Previously, she spent nearly two decades at KATV as the station’s assignment manager. She is a member of the Public Relations Society of America Arkansas Chapter.

2003

**Kyle Hattenburg** has been promoted to assistant vice president for health professions enrollment management at Marian University. He previously served as director of enrollment management for the University’s College of Osteopathic Medicine.

Hattenburg is a member of the National Association of Graduate Admissions Professionals and the American Marketing Association.

2008

**Jon Brandon Barbaree** is the new head football coach at Des Arc (Arkansas) High School. Previously,

he served as head coach at Gosnell, Carlisle, England, and Drew Central High School. He and his wife, **Jennifer Wallace**, have three children.

2009

**Steven Barnett Jr.** was hired as the girls basketball and track coach at Fordyce (Arkansas) High

School. He spent the past two years coaching seventh and eighth grade boys at Pine Bluff’s Jack Robey Junior High.

2010

**Adam** (’12) and **Sarah Pence Ingle** announce the birth of a daughter, Lucy Moore, on Nov. 11, 2021.

**Gerad Vandergriff** works for Oklahoma Christian School as a 12th grade English teacher, and his wife, **Sarah Crowder** (’11), is a podiatrist nurse for Orthopedic Solutions.

2012

**Mike Wiggins** (MBA), former associate professor of ophthalmology at University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences, recently authored a children’s book with his 11-year-old son, Jack, titled “Magical Arkansas Tales.” The book is a collection of short stories and spans almost 100 years as it uses science fiction and fantasy to explore the challenges, perceptions and dilemmas children face.

2014

**Jay Mirus** is the new elementary principal at Happy Hollow in the Fayetteville (Arkansas) School District. He had served as assistant principal at Vandergriff Elementary School since 2017.

2015

**Alex Jamerison** is the new preaching minister at Southside Church of Christ in Fort Worth, Texas. He and his wife, **Mercedes Robinson**, previously worked with the Camp Creek Church of Christ in Atlanta.

**Blake McNair** is the new boys basketball coach at Hixson (Tennessee) High School. He began his coaching career at Central Arkansas Christian before moving to Chattanooga with his wife, **Bailey Clements**. He was an assistant coach at Sale Creek last season and prior to that spent two years as an assistant coach at East Ridge.

2017

**Mary Anne Gunter** (MFT) earned her doctorate in marriage and family therapy at the University of Louisiana Monroe on May 14, 2022.

**Manuel Barrantes** is regional merchandise operations director at Walmart Inc. In his five years at Walmart, he has been promoted five times.

Computer science for the cure

PROFILE | KEITH PERRY

WHEN KEITH PERRY (’89) graduated from Harding, he never expected his bachelor’s degree in computer science to find a home in the world of health care. Three decades later, Perry is the senior vice president and chief information officer at St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital in Memphis, Tennessee. Perry was awarded the 2022 Tennessee CIO of the Year ORBIE Award for Enterprise, honoring his work and leadership at St. Jude.

“Every organization is technology-dependent, but strong leadership is the X-factor that can turn mundane IT into a remarkable strategic differentiator,” said Andy Flatt, Tennessee CIO chair. “The ORBIE Awards are meaningful because they are judged by peers — CIOs who understand the challenges of technology leadership. Increasingly, having strong business-centric, executive technology leadership is key not only to success, but to the very existence of the business.”



PHOTO COURTESY OF ST. JUDE CHILDREN’S RESEARCH HOSPITAL

Perry is humbled by the high esteem held by his peers but believes the award reflects the entire team’s work. He is passionate about the mission at the heart of St. Jude — to fight catastrophic pediatric disease through research and prevention. Every five years, Perry and his colleagues create a strategic roadmap to serve as a guide for the institution, including a plan for global alliance involving 130 institutions across 61 countries. To meet expansion needs, Perry and his team are implementing electronic health records and resource planning systems, growing high-performance computing including machine learning and artificial

intelligence applications, and constantly evolving cybersecurity capabilities in support of the institutional strategic priorities.

“We are asking ourselves, ‘If we don’t do this, who will?’ We can’t solve this problem by ourselves,” Perry said. “We need a community of people that are thinking about this problem differently. In building and understanding at a cellular level, the work done here flows up through clinical trials and translational research that is giving us better care and tomorrow’s cures.”

Perry loves that St. Jude prioritizes connection, humanity, outreach and teamwork, and he is deeply thankful to Harding for teaching him these values. In his time at the University, Perry was active in the computer science department and learned the value of connection through his professors and classmates. The Harding community nurtured his love for outreach, and playing Bison football developed the value of teamwork.

In choosing the next step forward, Perry states it is of the utmost importance to lean on faith. “Jump and have faith that God is going to catch you. My prayer always is ‘God, use me where I am.’ In each step, have faith, and he will provide the next one,” Perry said.

— Hannah Diles

**Megan Heckes** is manager of strategic investment and impact at United Way of Northwest Arkansas. She earned a Master of Public Administration in nonprofit studies at the University of Arkansas in 2021 and received the Gosack Best Portfolio Award for her work on service projects. She oversees the United Way's paid summer internship program and also runs the federal Emergency Food and Shelter Program for the Department of Homeland Security and the United Way's Community Investment Grants.

**Garrett Koehn** earned his Doctor of Medicine at the University of Kansas School of Medicine-Wichita and began residency at the KUSM in Wichita Family Medicine Residency Program at Smoky Hill-Salina in Salina, Kansas.

2018

**Brooke Miller Money** is a physician assistant at Conway Regional Renaissance Women's Center.

**Matthew Pultz** earned a Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine from New York Institute of Technology College of Osteopathic Medicine at Arkansas State University May 25. He is in a residency specializing in emergency medicine at Kansas City University-Freeman Health System in Joplin, Missouri.

**Deonna Whatley** (FNP) has joined the Malvern Arkansas Baptist Health Family Clinic specializing in family medicine. She worked in ICU/CCU, medical surgical nursing, and cardiac rehab diabetic education for more than 20 years at Baptist Health Medical Center in North Little Rock, Arkansas.

2020

**Ashley Malkowski** (Pharm.D.) has accepted a pharmacy manager position with Saint Francis Pharmacy in Poplar Bluff, Missouri. She is licensed by state boards of pharmacy in Missouri and Arkansas.

2021

**Audrey Jackson** won the Best Emerging Journalist honor — given to a journalist under age 25 by the Associated Church Press. She also earned first place for her image of a nurse's reflective eyewear in Honduras and second place for her photo essay "Compassion at Capacity." She is associate editor for the Christian Chronicle.

Flying high

PROFILE | KELBY TANSEY

**SOUTHWEST AIRLINES** employs more than 62,000 people across the country, so how could one compare its culture to Harding University? According to **Kelby Tansey** ('16), manager of recruitment marketing for Southwest, the company puts its employee community at the forefront, a value Harding shares.

When Tansey received Southwest's highest employee recognition, the President's Award, in 2022, this value of community was revealed even further. Recipients are nominated by their peers and then selected by their leadership.

Tansey was honored for her work in building a team and navigating them through a strong recruitment need in the tough labor market of early 2021. Tansey and her team of five employees innovated several new methods for recruiting and hiring quality employees during this time, including setting up Southwest's very first employee referral system within two weeks. This system has generated 36,000 referrals since August 2021.



Tansey has been a member of the Southwest family since 2015, when she started as a community affairs and grassroots intern. In spring 2016, she returned as a community programs and engagement intern. In May 2016, she moved to Dallas, the day after graduation and started her full-time career at Southwest.

For future Harding graduates and others looking for jobs, Tansey advises doing research on a company's culture before applying or accepting a position.

"Pursue those companies where you really value their culture, even if it's not necessarily your dream role," Tansey said. "The right company culture can be more helpful for your career in the long run if you go somewhere with a great fit for your values."

That's how Tansey's career developed at Southwest. After graduating from Harding with a marketing degree, she began working as a people coordinator, rising through other positions to take on her current role.

Tansey continues to look for more ways to grow Southwest's culture and workforce with great employees. This year, her team found new ways to share company values with potential employees through an employer brand framework and a fresh career site. They also refreshed the use of Southwest's candidate relationship management system, which streamlines the hiring process by finding and nurturing talented non-applicants to contact. This system has contributed to approximately 3,000 new hires in 2022.

— Grant Stewart

PHOTOS SUBMITTED

Passages

**Elizabeth Arnold Green** ('42), 100, of Huntsville, Alabama, died July 26, 2022. She met her husband, **Louis** ('42), at Harding, and for 52 years they worked together to advance the kingdom of God. She was preceded in death by her husband, and she is survived by three daughters, **Anita Hooper** ('65), **Sandy Barron** ('69) and **Betty Gould** ('75); 11 grandchildren; and 23 great-grandchildren.

**William Alfred "Al" Morris** ('50), 94, of Clarksville, Tennessee, died Aug. 29, 2022. He was chair of the department of elementary education at Eastern Kentucky University in Richmond, Kentucky, for 30 years. He served as an elder at Richmond Church of Christ for many years and moved to Clarksville in 2018 where he attended Hilldale Church of Christ. He was preceded in death by his wife of 69 years, **Doris Gibson** ('50), and a son, Jeffrey Wayne. He is survived by four children, **Scott** ('73), **Emily McGinn** ('74), Bruce Lynn and Lou Ann Weakley; eight grandchildren; and 10 great-grandchildren.

**Thomas B. "Tom" Baird** ('53), 92, of Searcy, died June 9, 2022. After a year teaching high school in Bragg City, Missouri, he was drafted into the U.S. Army and completed his military service at Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri. He taught math one year at Rolla High School, worked for the Bureau of Mines, and then completed a master's degree at Missouri School of Mines and joined the faculty. He taught computer science and served as assistant department chair, retiring in 1994. He was honored as the 2021 Outstanding Alumnus from Harding's College of Sciences. He was a member of Rolla Church of Christ, where he served as one of the first two elders, from 1968-2001. He taught Bible classes, counseled with families and did personal evangelism. He wrote a series of Bible lessons on Knowing Jesus when he was turning 90. He supported many area-wide ministries such as Little Prairie Bible Camp, for which he served one term as chair of the board. He was preceded in death by his wife of 65 years,

MORRIS PHOTO SUBMITTED; BAIRD, ELLIOTT AND MOTE PHOTOS BY JEFF MONTGOMERY

**Lovera Jackson** ('54). He is survived by four children, Thomas, **Timothy** ('79), Jeanie March and **James** ('86); 11 grandchildren; and nine great-grandchildren.

**Hollis Bruce Maynard** ('55), 89, of Happy, Texas, died April 15, 2022. He earned a master's in deaf education in 1970 from University of Louisville. He was a full-time preacher for deaf congregations in Indianapolis, Indiana, and Louisville, Kentucky. In 1977, he began a program at Sunset School of Preaching to train men to preach to the deaf. He remained there until retirement in 2001. He was a member of Park Church of Christ. He is survived by his wife of 66 years, **Ernestine Latterner** ('57); three children, **Tim** ('83), **Kay Jenkins** ('85) and **Sharon Dove** ('88); a sister, Rachel Cook; six grandchildren; and five great-grandchildren.

**Lynn Anderson** ('59), 88, of San Antonio, died May 12, 2022. He served a church in Salmon Arm, British Columbia, Canada, from 1960-64. In 1964-65, he preached in Lepanto, Arkansas, and then established a congregation in Kelowna, British Columbia, where he ministered for six years. From 1971-90, he preached for Highland Church of Christ in Abilene, Texas, which grew to more than 2,200 members during his tenure. Beginning in 1992, he authored several books, including two volumes of "They Smell Like Sheep: Spiritual Leadership for the 21st Century" (2011), "Longing for a Homeland: Discover the Place You Belong" (2004), "The Jesus Touch: Learning the Art of Relationships From the Master" (2002), "If I Really Believe, Why Do I Have These Doubts?" (2000), "Navigating the Winds of Change: How to Manage Change in the Church" (1994) and "Freshness for the Far Journey: Reflections on Preaching as We Step Toward the 21st Century" (1992). In 1996, he founded and devoted his full-time work to leadership development and coaching through HOPE Network Ministries. He also taught ministry courses at Pepperdine University and Preston Road Center for Christian Education and spent 30 years as an adjunct professor at Abilene Christian University. He is survived by his wife, Carolyn Bridges; four children, Michele English, Deborah Boggs, Jon and Christopher; 10 grandchildren; and 11 great-grandchildren.

**Robert Luther Kissire** ('61), 81, of Hot Springs, Arkansas, died Jan. 3, 2022. He was director of Hot Springs Boys and Girls Club for 32 years. He was a member of 70 West Church of Christ. He is survived by his wife of 59 years, **Patsy Venable** ('63); three children, Robert Jr., Lisa and Ronnie; six grandchildren; and four great-grandchildren.

**Gary D. Elliott** ('62), 81, of Fayetteville, Arkansas, died Sept. 13, 2022. He served as professor and chair of Harding's English department from 1973-1981 and then as dean and president of Columbia Christian College in Portland, Oregon. He went on to teach at Pepperdine University before returning to Harding's faculty where he retired in 2007. He preached at many small churches, especially the church of Christ in Beedeveville, Arkansas. He is survived by his wife of 59 years, **Cheryl Guild** ('79); two children, Douglas and **Heather Barber** ('93); a sister, **Judy Outlaw** ('65); a brother, **Phillip** ('70); and four grandchildren.



**Patricia R. McNutt Hext** ('63), 80, of Conway, Arkansas, died March 8, 2022, from Alzheimer's disease. She was a member of University Church of Christ in Conway. She was preceded in death by two children, John and Amelia. She is survived by her husband of 56 years, Gordon H; a daughter, **Jenny Cameron** ('07); six siblings, Ed McNutt, Mark McNutt, Chris McNutt, Tom McNutt, Nina Floyd and Mandi Thines; and three grandchildren.

**Jerry Dwain Mote** ('63), 81, of Searcy, died July 25, 2022. He was a team captain for the 1959 Harding Bison football team and was inducted into the Sports Hall of Fame in 1994. In 2006, he was recognized by Searcy School District for 43 years of service in teaching and was inducted to the Hall of Honor in 2008. He is survived by his wife of 60 years, **Betty Sowell** ('63); two children, **Angie Henrie** ('91) and **Greg** ('03); two siblings, **Gail** ('66) and Rhonda Hillis; and seven grandchildren.



**Betty Ritchie Casey** ('65), 82, of Searcy, died June 16, 2022. She taught piano in the home and taught music classes in a Christian school for several years. She taught women's Bible classes at Cedars Church of Christ in Wilmington, Delaware, and College Church of Christ in Searcy through much of her adult life. She was preceded in death by her husband of 56 years, **Gerald** ('61). She is survived by three children, **Brian** ('84), **Laura Finnie** ('94) and **Greta Floyd** ('94); two siblings, **Edward Ritchie** ('59) and **Joan Toepel** ('67); and seven grandchildren.

**Ken Johnson** ('66), 78, of Brentwood, Tennessee, died May 24, 2022. While at Harding, he briefly served in the National Guard during the Vietnam War. After some time in Arkansas, he moved to Madison, Wisconsin, where he completed his master's degree. He then moved to Ruston, Louisiana, where he began work on his doctorate in accounting from Louisiana Tech University. He began teaching at Harding in 1976 and finished his doctorate in 1978. In 1987, he committed full time to his CPA firm. In 1991, he became president of Michigan Christian College, where he served for 12 years. He was instrumental in efforts to rename the school Rochester College, expand academic offerings and launch a master's degree. During his tenure, the enrollment of undergraduate students grew roughly 400%, reaching more than 1,000 students. In 2003, he began serving as a vice president of Drury University in Springfield, Missouri, and served five years as an elder at East Sunshine Church of Christ. In July 2020, he and his wife moved to Brentwood, Tennessee, and joined Harpeth Hills Church of Christ. He is survived by his wife of 57 years, **Mary Flippin** ('66); two daughters, **Kim Careau** ('92) and **Becca Smith** ('95); three sisters, **Mary Burris** ('79), Barbara Schnathurst and Wilma Mallon; and five grandchildren.

**David Alan Dawson** ('71), 75, of Searcy, died June 18, 2022. He earned a Master of Education from Harding in 1978. He taught at Lee County High School from 1971-78. He taught visually impaired adults to program computers for Lions World Services for the Blind for 20 years. A lifelong member of the church of Christ, he volunteered with Lads to Leaders and World Bible School. He served as treasurer for the White County Historical Society, a position he took over after the death of his mother. He was preceded in death by his parents, **Frank**

('68) and **Zelda** ('69). He is survived by his wife of almost 52 years, **Ruth Ann Grogan** ('71); two daughters, **Joanna Crisco** ('97) and **Windy Blythe** ('00); and three grandchildren.

**Randy Charles Shumate** ('71), 72, of Springdale, Arkansas, died May 21, 2022. He was a partner in Waggoner-Shumate Printing Co. in Springdale from 1977-1997. He owned the Overhead Door Co. in Rogers from 1997-99, and later was a salesman with Sam's Furniture and Hank's Furniture where he was a sales award winner multiple times, retiring in 2017. He is survived by his wife, **Kathy Ennis** ('72); three sons, **Aaron** ('94), Noah and **Jonah** ('02); his mother, Ann; two brothers, Ken and Kevin; and seven grandchildren.

**Twanette Sinele Clark** ('73), 70, of Cabot, Arkansas, died May 26, 2022. She was an assistant editor at the Newport Daily Independent newspaper, a typographer at Diversitytype in Little Rock, Arkansas, and a copy editor/proofing specialist and publications editor at CJRW in Little Rock. She was a member of North Jacksonville Church of Christ. She is survived by two children, Walter and Dusan; five siblings, **Ford Sinele** ('71), Raymond Sinele, **Belinda VanDenburg** ('68), Lucinda Hankins and Teresa Long; and six grandchildren.

**Mack Yates Ramsey** ('81), 62, of Jonesboro, Arkansas, died Aug. 20, 2022. He taught math and history at Westside High School for 17 years. Since 2001, he had served as teacher, coach, co-superintendent and junior-senior high principal at Crowley's Ridge Academy in Paragould, Arkansas. He attended Southwest Church of Christ for 23 years and Valley View Church of Christ for 17 years, where he served as elder. He is survived by his wife of 40 years, **Judith Craft** ('79); three children, **Steven** ('11), **David** ('14) and **Elizabeth Boggs** ('20); five siblings, **Mary Margaret Helton** ('77), Ambrose III, **John** ('85), **Pat Sue McReynolds** ('83) and Charlie; and two grandchildren.

**Tracy Harvey Simmons** ('94), 49, of Nevada, Missouri, died April 17, 2022, from pancreatic cancer. She was a homemaker and home-schooled her children. She was a member of the Rinehart Christian Church. She is survived by her husband of 27 years, **Shannon Simmons** ('94); 12 children, Meredith Byler, Carter,

Claire, Hunter, Sophie, Olivia, Thatcher, Hosanna, Archer, Cooper, Tanner, and Amelia; two siblings, Justin Harvey and Angela Fitzgerald; and a grandson.

**Harrison Walt Waldron** ('15), 29, of Nolensville, Tennessee, died June 23, 2022. He met and married his wife, **Hayley Smith** ('15), while at Harding, and they were married in 2014. Shortly after graduation, Harrison was injured in an accident that left him permanently disabled. Harrison and Hayley persevered and inspired a community across countries and continents with their commitment to their marriage and faith. He enjoyed working with children, creating and building, spending time with his family and friends, and making others laugh. He is survived by his wife, Hayley; his parents, Philip and Donna; grandparents, Jim and Laura and Sarah Durham; and two sisters, **Sarah Beckwith** ('13) and **Laura** ('20).

**Donald Paul Diffine**, 80, of Searcy, died Aug. 29, 2022. He earned a bachelor's degree in economics from California State University at Long Beach, a master's degree in economics from St. Mary's University in San Antonio, Texas, and a doctorate from the University of Mississippi. He served as a captain and



squadron commander in the U.S. Air Force during the Vietnam War. He was the chair of the economics program and founding director of the Belden Center for Private Enterprise Education in the Paul R. Carter College of Business Administration, where he served for 45 years. He also was the senior research associate for Harding's American Studies Institute, providing congressional testimony on business issues, economic impact statements and inflation-recession dilemmas. A member of the Governor's Council of Economic Advisors through three administrations, he also served on the board of directors of the Arkansas Council on Economic Education. As deacon at College Church of Christ, he led the senior adults ministry for nearly 20 years. He is survived by his wife of 58 years, Dion; two children, **David** ('93) and **Danielle Cordell** ('95); and four grandchildren.

PHOTO BY JEFF MONTGOMERY

# I thought I knew what pharmacists did, and then I became one.

By DR. JORDAN CARMACK (PHARM.D. '14)

**W**HEN I WAS GROWING UP, my dad was the director of pharmacy of the hospital in our hometown. My first job after high school was in a mom and pop retail pharmacy. But it wasn't until I got my training at Harding University College of Pharmacy and began my career that I realized what being a pharmacist was all about.

I am a clinical pharmacist at St. Bernards Medical Center in Jonesboro, Arkansas. I work with teams of physicians, nurses, social workers and physical therapists in a variety of areas in the hospital. My career has shown me how vital pharmacists are in patient care. Now, I know that the most important aspect of being a pharmacist is the patient. During my training, the patient was always just a hypothetical person whom I had to answer questions correctly about to succeed. In my career now, the patient is an actual person who has placed herself in our care, and now we must answer real-life questions. Sometimes the answers to those questions can be the difference between life and death.

One Saturday morning, I received a call from one of the ICU doctors with whom I work closely. There was a young woman in his care who had been in an automobile accident the

night before. There was blood and swelling on her brain, and she was non-responsive. The doctor had her on a medication treatment (hypertonic saline), but it was not working. He called me to make sure there was nothing else we could do before he called her family to make a very difficult decision. I recommended another medication (mannitol), and he agreed, so I calculated a dose, prepared it and sent it to the ICU.

I went about my day, and, to be honest, I didn't think about it much afterward. The next day, the same doctor asked me to come over to the ICU. I made my way over, wondering if I had done something wrong. When I got there, the doctor walked me over to a room, and through the doorway I saw the woman I had heard about the day before — awake and talking to her husband and child. The doctor said, "Jordan, because of your recommendation, this woman is awake and talking to her family today. I just wanted you to see this and thank you for helping save this woman's life."

I still get emotional every time I think about it. I don't tell this story to sing my own praises. I tell this story to show people who are considering a career in health care how important their knowledge and role in this world can be. For every medication recommended, every prescription filled, every antibiotic given, every COVID-19 vaccine administered, etc. — behind all of that is the patient. It's someone's mother, father, brother, sister, husband, wife, son, daughter. We are here for them. We even save their lives.



ILLUSTRATION BY KIT MOORE



# The Centennial Campaign

We are now **in the final year** of the Centennial Campaign — a **\$120 million comprehensive campaign** that prepares Harding for the start of the next 100 years. Our founders aspired to create an educational experience that

was distinctly Christian. They called our community to step up and serve the world — to be salt and light. Harding has been blessed for the past 100 years. Now is your time to help us craft the next chapter. Every donor matters.

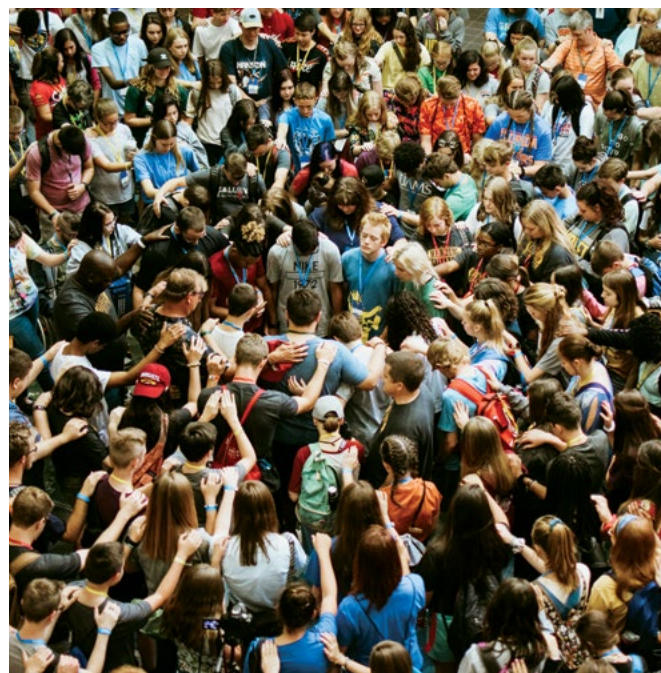
Every gift counts. We are calling on you to lift up Harding in your prayers, continue to send students our way, and to give cheerfully and generously to this Centennial Campaign.

Join **13,000+** donors who have given toward our **\$120 million goal.**



Scan to get involved today!

## CHRISTIAN FOUNDATION \$11.7 MILLION



PHOTOS BY JEFF MONTGOMERY

This initiative through the Harding Fund provides a Christian environment for our students and funds need-based scholarships. The majority of our generous investors like you give to this fund because it impacts the broadest numbers of our students. Through your support, the legacy of our founders continues today as you make it possible for students to gain a high-quality, faith-filled education.

**Supports our Christian culture and faith-building opportunities**

## COLLEGE AFFORDABILITY \$60.3 MILLION



**Kinley Schnell**, senior elementary education major from McKinney, Texas, was awarded the newly created Carla J. Willmon Scholarship in September. She plans to teach abroad on a military base after graduation. **“I am honored to be chosen and will always remember the grace that has been shown to me as I give grace to my students,”** Schnell said.

**Student Scholarships**  
**Missionary scholarships**  
**Freedom Fund**

## EXPANDING ACADEMICS \$18 MILLION



**Dr. Carl Williamson**, serves as the Andy T. Richie Jr. Distinguished Chair for Discipleship and Church Planting, a position created in 2018 as part of this campaign. He is equipping students with tools and practical skills necessary to expand God’s kingdom in the United States and beyond. This includes student discipling groups, church plant coaching and building church connections across the globe.

**Expanded academic programs**  
**Endowed academic chairs**

## CAMPUS IMPROVEMENTS \$30 MILLION



This initiative focuses on providing new facilities, additions and renovations to better serve our students and provide a strong foundation for the future. These state-of-the-art spaces help introduce new families to Harding, provide resources for innovative academics, and bolster our athletic programs and the Bison fan experience.

**Holland-Waller Center**  
**Track and Football Renovation**  
**Huckeba Indoor Football Facility (completed)**  
**Welcome Center (completed)**  
**Hatcher Indoor Soccer Center (completed)**

# HARDING

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## Looking Back

UCM ARCHIVE PHOTO



President Clifton L. Ganus Jr. and Mrs. Louise Ganus enjoy the inaugural dinner in September 1965. Dr. Ganus served as Harding's third president until 1987.