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ON THE COVER
At the faculty and staff recognition dinner April 21, President Bruce McLarty presents Chancellor Emeritus Clifton L. Ganus Jr. with his unprecedented 70-year service pin. Ganus was honored in March with the Distinguished Chair of History and Political Science. See page 6.

PHOTO BY ASHEL PARSONS
PHOTO BY JEFF MONTGOMERY

Check out our new WEBSITE:
www.harding.edu/mag
Senior status

by Bruce D. McLarty, president

I t is hard to believe I am completing the fourth year of my presidency. I think of it as my senior year, having begun my first year with the freshman students in 2013. This senior class of 2017 is the one I began with, and they will always have a special place in my heart. See page 26.

I am sure my fellow seniors can identify with what a ride this year has been, filled with accomplishments, challenges and blessings. Our athletic teams have taken us to new heights this year with the football team having its first undefeated regular season and going as far as the national quarterfinals. Our Lady Bison softball team has already delivered an historic winning streak with 27 wins. Another highlight of the year has to be our first campus read program. Eric Metaxas, the author of the chosen biography Amazing Grace: William Wilberforce and the Heroic Campaign to End Slavery, came to campus as part of the American Studies Distinguished Lecture Series in early January, and I was honored to be interviewed on his radio show likewise. That day this University just got a little bit bigger.

What is your favorite memory from Spring Sing?

My favorite memory of Spring Sing is jersey night — when we all wore our club jerseys and run our shows — and everyone gets to watch for the first time. I love how, even though we are competing against each other, we realize it’s all fun, and our unity is in Christ. I get chills every time I hear everyone singing “United We Stand.”

Shannon Hills, Arkansas

My favorite memory from Spring Sing back in the 80s is the applause Ticket and Fraternity got for our clockwork with our glow-in-the-dark hands as part of the show “On the Radio.” We were a small group, but we were proud of our show and took our performance seriously. I will always be glad I decided to participate in Spring Sing!

Donna Slackenson, ’83
Montgomery, Alabama

Your favorite memory of Spring Sing is jersey night — when we all wore our club jerseys and run our shows — and everyone gets to watch for the first time.

Kyla Renee Ross, Student
St. Charles, Illinois

The … wait for it … camaraderie.

Spring, Texas

I love how, even though we are competing against each other, we realize it’s all fun, and our unity is in Christ. I get chills every time I hear everyone singing “United We Stand.”

Art Fussinger, ’96
Wylie, Texas

My favorite memory from Spring Sing in the fall issue.
Daffodils surround a whimsical sculpture donated by Bob and Sandy Brackett in the secret garden, an addition to the First Ladies Garden completed in 2016.

PHOTO BY JEFF MONTGOMERY
Distinguished Chair honors Ganus

IN MARCH, WITH DONATIONS from the Ganus family, the University established the Clifton L. Ganus Jr. Distinguished Chair of History and Political Science in the College of Arts and Humanities. The endowed chair will serve to enhance the level of teaching and learning of history and political science not only in the department but also throughout the University.

“Most people know Dr. Ganus as an administrator for the University and an effective speaker and preacher,” Senior Planned Gifts Officer Don Koo said. “Generally, only former Harding students over age 70 know him as an outstanding history teacher and chairman of the history department. Dr. Ganus was a dedicated student and teacher and an accomplished historian.”

Ganus joined the faculty as professor of history and chairman of the department of history and social science in 1946. An archived letter from former student Bill Diles (’38) notes Ganus was “knowledgeable, interesting, professional and left every indication that he had the best interest of the student at heart.” Ten years later Ganus was appointed as vice president, and he became Harding’s third president in 1965.

The distinguished chair appointment in his honor will be awarded to candidates showcasing excellence in teaching and potential to make a difference through use of the accompanying funds. The first appointment will be named in fall 2017. The endowed funds to be used by the chair will potentially cover research and publications, travel expenses for field trips, equipment and materials, expenses of special seminars and conferences, and visiting lecturers in the history and political science fields.

“The concept of an endowed chair is really neat because the financial gift recognizes the honored individual and the faculty member who fills the position, and it continually supports the mission of the college or department,” Provost Marty Spears said. “Our hope is to establish endowed chairs in every college or department to honor supporting individuals and distinguished faculty in that area.

“Chancellor Emeritus Ganus is of course a legend at Harding, and his career began as a history professor who had a reputation for making history come to life. I believe this honor will be very special to Dr. Ganus because it acknowledges and supports his beginning as a faculty member at Harding.”

College of Education CAEP accredited

IN DECEMBER 2016, Cannon-Clary College of Education became the first higher learning institution in Arkansas to receive accreditation from the Council for the Accreditation of Educator Preparation (CAEP), the single-specialized accreditor for educator preparation in the United States.

“This recognition reflects a commitment from everyone in the College of Education, as well as our many professional partners in the field, to further our mission of preparing excellent educators who are ready to teach with a strong skill set and an even more powerful mindset,” Dr. Donny Lee, dean, said. “We are grateful that we can make a difference providing teachers, leaders and counselors for schools in Arkansas and literally all over the world.”

Although Harding is the first in Arkansas to complete the new CAEP standards accreditation process, the College of Education has been accredited by the National Council Accreditation of Teacher Education every seven years since 1961.

The CAEP Standards, adopted in 2013, reflect the voice from the education field on what makes a quality teacher.

“The concept of an endowed chair is really neat because the financial gift recognizes the honored individual and the faculty member who fills the position, and it continually supports the mission of the college or department.”

Every professor I have ever had in the College of Education has gone above and beyond to help me succeed.” Harris said. “My professors provide me with so many opportunities to observe, plan and teach lessons. One of my favorite things is that our professors practice what they preach. They are truly experts in their field, and they do everything they can to pass that knowledge on to their students.

Treat others how you want to be treated, and even when they treat you bad, you treat them better.

JONATHAN, Harding Academy Third grade

Her speech made me feel like I should be more nice to people.

JODY, Indian Hills Elementary first grade

Even though they were yelling at her, she acted calm and still went to school. She also prayed for them. She can be an example to us that we can do the right thing no matter what other people think.

LILLYN, Greenbrier Heights Elementary first grade

Her lecture was amazing. It almost made me cry. I learned about how her experience was challenging and sometimes lonely. From her speech, you learn how, even when life brings you down, you can persevere and get through it.

AUSTIN, Greenbrier Heights Elementary eighth grade

No matter what your age, you can still make an impact on the world.

LOLLY, Greenbrier Heights Elementary seventh grade

Ruby Bridges inspires local students
PREPARING HIM FOR A CAREER IN CRIMINAL JUSTICE

SENIOR TRUETT KEENER’S EXPERIENCES ARE CHOOSING A PATH

In high school, senior Truett Keener from Millersburg, Pennsylvania, did not anticipate attending college. When he visited Harding’s campus in 2013, he discovered an environment and a career path he wanted to pursue. “I wanted to experience what it’s like living in a community where there are a lot of Christians—a lot of believers and followers of Jesus. After touring the campus and looking at all the different departments, I realized criminal justice is something that would be very consistent with my interests down the road.”

A PURPOSE

Keener is majoring in criminal justice and plans to enroll in a police academy after graduation. He said a career in law enforcement would provide him with opportunities to positively influence his surrounding community. “For me, I found that the purpose of our life is to live for the Lord, to surrender to him, and to do and live as God would have us to live. With my passion to reach out to people and to help people who are in need, it’s a career that I believe in, and it’s a career that I see a lot of need for more Christians.”

OUTREACH During the fall 2016 semester, Keener interned at the White County Sheriff’s Office. He worked with deputies, detectives, jailers and bailiffs and experienced various patrolling calls and courtroom procedures. During his four years at the University, Keener has been active with several community outreach programs, spring break missions, and the Student Association, and he has served as a resident assistant. “There is such a large population of incredibly warm-hearted people here who really love Jesus and to me that has been the absolute highlight of being here especially given that there is such diversity in nationalities from all over the world.”

FRUITFUL EXPERIENCES From leading mission trips to participating in student committees, Keener said his time at the University has prepared him for his future. “Every opportunity that we have, whether we take it or not, we learn something from, and through that it better us so that it broadens our horizons, experiences, abilities and capabilities. I would say those definitely helped prepare me for my goals in the future. These four years here at Harding have been fantastic—so many experiences, so many opportunities, a lot of great people. My experiences here at school—in the classroom as well as interacting in an internship—have more than prepared me to start out with a criminal justice career.”

MARCH 27, 2017

“When you will allow him, the road God chooses may be long—it may be winding. But nevertheless, wherever he leads us, that road is always going to bring us nearer to him. God left us the answer key for every test that we take in this life. He gave us the correct response for every question we have to answer.”

Dr. Mike Justin (‘74), member of the University’s board of trustees

MARCH 23, 2017

“I’m learning daily that I’m part of a bigger picture. As a college student, I’ve realized the world we live in is about so much more than what I learned to be content with. I am. Instead of failing to my knees to give up. I fell to my knees in prayer. Jesus can fix us in a way that no one can ever tell we were broken.”

Heidi Abston, senior accounting major from Searcy

MARCH 26, 2017

“I believe in a God that is all powerful—all knowing. The only thing I am don’t know. I don’t have all the powers. I’m not going to let any of this keep me from having the faith that I have. I pray that you don’t let those struggles keep you away from who God is and what he can do for you.”

Aria Ortiz, senior mathematics major from Old, Arkansas

MARCH 14, 2017

“I believe firmly in my heart that it’s God who decides what it means to be made in the image of God.”

Dr. Dennis Matlock (‘60), chair of the department of chemistry

MARCH 26, 2017

“Culture wants to define your singleness as a detriment, and that’s not what the Bible teaches. The question for me is not, ‘Are you single? Have you got somebody?’ The question for me is ‘What are you doing with your singleness?’”

Dr. Brian Simmons, professor of communication at Oklahoma Christian University

JUNE 8-9

National Leadership Forum

Students in ninth through 12th grade study the traditions and ideals upon which America was founded as a nation of freedom. Campers stay in residence halls and eat in the campus cafeteria. Uplift is open to students between seventh and their freshman year of college. www.upliftcamp.com

JUNE 9-10, JUNE 13-22 AND JUNE 26-29

Uplift

A Christian camp on campus, Uplift provides classes and speakers for campers to grow spiritually as well as plenty of time devoted to recreation and entertainment. Campers stay in residence halls and eat in the campus cafeteria. Uplift is open to students between seventh grade and their freshman year of college. www.upliftcamp.com

JUNE 8-9, JULY 13-14 AND AUG. 16-17

Summer Stampede

Stampede, the University’s required summer orientation program, is a great time for incoming freshmen to meet their fellow classmates, build their class schedule, and prepare for their first semester of college. www.harding.edu/Stampede

JUNE 15-16, JULY 22-23 AND AUG. 26-29

Global Missions Experience

UNASHAMED: SHARING FAITH IN THE FACE OF PERSECUTION

Nearly 1,200 students are expected to attend Global Missions Experience, enjoying experiential learning and networking with missionaries from around the world. Held at Tahkodah, the Experience will include 25 hands-on learning stations, a market experience, training in the discovery Bible study method, and classes on how to use all kinds of major in God’s mission. www.harding.edu/gme

JULY 30-31

Lectureship

RIGHTSPOKEN FROM GOD: THE REVOLUTIONARY MESSAGE OF ROMANS

Lectureship attendees can look forward to learning more about the remarkable influence of the book of Romans throughout history and in the hearts of countless believers, participating in uplifting worship assemblies, and above all, experiencing a deeper awareness of the nature of our salvation. www.harding.edu/lectureship

For a complete list of events, visit www.harding.edu/calendar

BY THE NUMBERS

HALL OF FAME

1989

Year of first induction

100

Total number of inductees

5

Number of women added this year, the most in any induction class

15

Total number of coaches inducted including four in this year’s class

27

Number of inductees associated with the football program, the most of any sport

11

Total number of induction classes

15

Number of sports teams represented, including the first women’s soccer inductee this year

EVENTS
Klein leads 20 years of Arkansas Capitol tours

WHEN LOBI KLEIN, PROFESSOR of political science, began teaching courses on Arkansas state and local government in 1996, a trip to the Arkansas State Capitol was already included in the structure of the class. Klein wanted his students to have the same experience previous classes had, so she gathered her students as well as her infant son and a babysitter to venture around the Capitol. She led her 20th annual tour Wednesday, Feb. 1.

“I take them for one reason: you cannot replace seeing things with your own eyes,” Klein said. “I can talk to them about great war stories. You can read the best books on theory and on practice, you can watch all the ‘House of Cards’ episodes you want, but there is no substitute for being there, for meeting the people, for the building itself.”

Klein said students have made a mental note of how to navigate the building and taking in the perfect connections between classroom lectures and reading to real-life people and responsibilities. “The students get to meet people who were in their seats just a few years before who are now making a major impact on policy in the state of Arkansas, and they come away with a better appreciation for the complexity of the system,” Klein said. “The drive to be of service is strong in the Searcy community, so the drive for public service is strong here as well. It’s one of many reasons why it’s great to be at Harding.”

During the trip, the group visited alumnus Caroline Pruitt (’16) who is currently working in the governor’s office of correspondence at the Capitol. As they were visiting Pruitt’s office, the staff director walked in and announced a new future job opening. According to Klein, seniors on the trip now hold her business card. Klein said she wants her students to meet people working in government and understand how many of them have ties to Harding, and such opportunities are found inside Searcy.

“Although government may seem very intimidating to the average citizen, it is more inviting than it appears,” Brimmberger said. “Government is made for the people, by the people, and the legislators proved this point by making us feel welcome.”

Theatre offers new majors

THE DEPARTMENT OF THEATRE ADDED three new majors and rebranded two current majors. Beginning fall 2017, bachelor’s degrees in acting, design and production and theatre education for grades 7-12 will be added along with enhanced theatre and education K-12 majors.

“Theatre arts at Harding University is about creating a collaborative community on an artistic mission,” said Dr. Steven Frye, chair of the department. “Students are guided in this collaboration by a talented faculty and staff who strive to model Christian values and Christian belief in the creative process, in scholarship, in mentoring and in service.”

The design and production major will have four concentrations including set design, costume design, production, and light and sound. According to Frye, changes in curriculum have been made to better equip students for the job market. He said programs were influenced by common theatre practices and standards set by the National Association of Schools of Theatre.

Drew Holley, a freshman theatre major, said he plans to take advantage of the upcoming programs. “My primary focus is acting, so the fact they are adding that as a major is fantastic,” Holley said. “I feel that the upcoming theatre majors will not find it so difficult to define or pick their major.”

The department of theatre also offers minors in costume, theatre offers new majors, represent the Searcy area.

The students were recognized by both chambers of the Arkansas General Assembly and were seated in the Senate gallery reserved for special guests. They were given the opportunity to sit in senators’ chairs on the state Senate floor and attended a private session with Hutchinson.

Senior Rachael Brimmberger said students were treated as future members of Arkansas government as well as guests.

“As Harding students, it makes us proud to see many Harding alumni taking a role in our state government,” Brimmberger said. “It helps to affirm that Harding has a larger impact on the state of Arkansas and other states as well as the nation by creating leaders who will promote Christian principles.”

According to Klein, in the last 20 years, a Supreme Court chief justice, a governor, a House speaker, a senator preside pro tempore and other state government officials have come from White County. Klein said students make connections between classroom lectures and reading to real-life people and responsibilities.”

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The department of theatre also offers minors in costume, design, lighting and sound, set design, acting, and technical theatre for various nontheatre majors.

“These new programs, coupled with a strong production program, a resident summer theatre program, internships and professional network working, provide students with the tools they need to succeed and develop as theatre professionals,” Frye said. “It allows students to truly become a jack of all trades in one theatre education.”

Media’s role

The term “fake news” has populated numerous headlines and been used as a definition for completely fabricated news stories. In a December 2016 Pew Research Survey, 64 percent of adults said adults believe completely made up news has caused a great deal of confusion about the basic facts of current events, and 23 percent admitted to accidentally or purposefully sharing a made-up news story. In a world where content from countless news sources fills our social media feeds and web browsers, how can we stay informed on current nation- and world-wide events that affect our lives? We talked to former CNN producer and Assistant Professor to learn about Ginger Blackstone about her perspective on fake news and the role of media in America.

FAKE NEWS. As a longtime journalist and current media researcher, the rhetoric and controversy surrounding fake news feels familiar. According to the Pew Research Center, 64 percent of Americans believe made up news is a basic fact of current events. So how can you tell when news is believable?

First, pay attention to the language of a story. Separate fact from opinion. Is someone sharing his or her feelings about how something ought to be? Or is this researched information attributed to a reliable source with facts, figures and data? Is the source nonprofit? Is it trustworthy? Turn on your inner skeptic. Is there bias? Yes. We’re all biased. A dozen people can witness a car crash, and each one will tell police something different. Are they all telling the truth? No, just as doctors interview multiple people, we should seek a variety of reputable perspectives.

A theory called the hostile media effect suggests audiences have a tendency to perceive news that corresponds with their beliefs as “objective”; conversely, they perceive news that challenges their beliefs as “biased.” News we don’t like may still be true. Remember that mainstream news operations take their reputation and credibility very seriously, yet mistakes happen. Maybe a trusted source relays incorrect information. Perhaps a reporter misinterprets or misquotes a document. But most of the reporters with whom I worked tried to get it right.

On the other hand, bad actors have had an interesting relationship with the press even in the early years of our nation. The forefathers who authored the First Amendment later passed the Sedition Act of 1798, which made it a crime to speak or publish false or malicious statements against the U.S. government. Politicians like transparency as long as journalists report on others’ misdeeds rather than their own.

But, if not for journalists, who will weed out corruption among our leaders? This is not a partisan issue but one of holding all those in power accountable to the people. While President Donald Trump is experiencing a strained relationship with the press, fellow Republican and former President George W. Bush recently held that the media is “important to democracy.” I happen to agree. But that is my opinion...
The Lady Bisons celebrate after winning the regional title to advance to the Elite Eight in Columbus, Ohio.

For the latest sports information, visit www.hardingsports.com.
was the No. 2 seed. Top-seeded Emporia State played its home basketball games at White Auditorium in Emporia, Kansas. The arena also hosts the Kansas State High School Activities Association 6A state championship the same weekend as the NCAA Division II Central Region Tournament. So hosting duties went to the No. 2 seed: Harding.

The Lady Bisons entered the Central Region Tournament a perfect 12-0 at home. It was only the second time in program history that women’s basketball won all its home games. They needed three more home wins at Rhodes-Reaves Field House to claim their first Central Region championship.

In game one, the team faced a familiar opponent. For the fourth time and second-straight game, Harding took down Arkansas Tech 59-46. The two teams have a long history that began in 1994, and much of it was dominated by Tech. The teams met exactly once every season after that, and Harding did not earn its fourth win against Tech until 2013. 30 years later. But Harding owned the 2016-17 season. The fourth win over Tech sent Harding into the NCAA Central Region Tournament.

Sophomore Sydnie Jones goes up for two as the Lady Bisons entered the NCAA Tournament as the No. 2 seed. Emporia State pushed its lead to 18 points early in the third quarter. But this Lady Bison team had another surprise in store.

Harding stormed back, using its vaunted inside game and a smothering defense, and with 41 seconds left, Jones showed off her late-game magic again hitting a layup that gave the team its first lead since early in the first quarter. An Emporia State turnover and foul sent Rose to the free throw line where she made one of two. Emporia’s 3-pointer at the buzzer missed, and Harding won 58-56 before what many believe was the loudest crowd ever to see a game at Rhodes-Reaves Field House.

The win moved the team into the regional championship where it faced the nation’s sixth-ranked team, Emporia State. The first half looked bleak for the Lady Bisons, trailing 38-24 at halftime, and Emporia State pushed its lead to 18 points early in the third quarter. But this Lady Bison team had another surprise in store.

Harding风暴回击，依靠其强大的内线和防守，最后41秒，琼斯再次展示了她的末节魔法，投进一记打板，让球队在上半场落后的情况下第一次取得领先，哨音未响，哈丁以58-56战胜了对手。

Fifth in the final WBCA Coaches Poll, the Lady Bisons entered the NCAA Tournament as the No. 2 seed. Emporia State pushed its lead to 18 points early in the third quarter. But this Lady Bison team had another surprise in store.

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inducted new members into the Harding Athletics Hall of Fame. The 16 members of the 2017 Hall of Fame represent the 11th induction class and bring the total number of inductees to 100.

Friday, Feb. 3, at a ceremony in the David B. Burks American Heritage Building Founder’s Room, Bison Boosters

HALL OF FAME grows to 100

By Scott Goode

FRONT ROW: Mildred Groover (posthumously for Hugh Groover) Karel Baker Daniel Kirwa Kendyl Washburn Bryan Danny Sloan

MIDDLE ROW: Alicia Williams Lavoieette Julius Kosgei Bridget Benson Justin Cone Manuela Nesheva Harris

BACK ROW: Rick Jones Lewis Walker Avon Taylor Matt Hall

NOT PICTURED: Lori Hendricks Piland Gil Troutt

KARYL BAILEY, OUTSTANDING COACH
- Harding’s first head volleyball coach in 1983
- Compiled a 370-273 record in 16 seasons as head coach
- Won five AIC regular-season championships and his 1991 team advanced to the NCAA National Tournament
- Won more than 30 matches in a season four times including a school-record 43 wins in 1989

BRIDGET BENSON, BASKETBALL, 1992-97
- Third in career scoring at Harding (1,863 points)
- Two-time all conference and all-region — played two seasons when Harding was not in a conference
- Second at Harding in career steals (101), third in blocks (103), fourth in rebounds (878) and fifth in assists (377)

KENDYL WASHBURN BRYAN, SOCCER, 2004-07
- Three-time all conference and one-time all-region, two-time Academic All-District and 2007 Academic All-America
- Appearred in Sports Illustrated’s Faces in the Crowd
- Harding’s career leader in goals (48) and points (112)
- 2007 Gulf South Conference Player of the Year and 2008 Berryhill Award winner

JUSTIN CONE, BASEBALL, 2003-05
- Three-time all-conference, 2005 all-region (Bison baseball’s first all-region player in NCAA)
- Harding’s career leader in hits (219), home runs (47) and RBIs (198)
- Played in 194 games as a Bison with a .363 average, 47 home runs and 198 RBIs
- 9.5 with a 3.60 ERA and six saves in 34 career appearances over 90.0 innings

AARON FARLEY, BASKETBALL/FOOTBALL, 2000-03
- Three-time all conference, twice all-region, 2003 All-American
- 2003 GSC Player of the Year and Berryhill Award winner
- Second in career 3-pointers (206), sixth in assists (416), sixth in steals (115) and eighth in points (1,539)
- Made a school-record 88 consecutive free throws as a senior
- 2003 men’s golfer leader in stroke average

HUGH GROOVER, OUTSTANDING COACH
- Harding’s first men’s basketball coach after the program was re-established in 1957
- Coached the Bisons for 12 seasons, including Harding’s first winning basketball season in 1963-64
- Coached Harding to a then-record 17 victories in 1968-69, his last as head coach
- Also coached track and field and tennis
- Served as athletic director from 1969-77

MATT HALL, BASKETBALL/FOOTBALL, 2004-07
- Three-time all conference, three-time all-region, two-time All-American and three-time Academic All-GSC
- Three-time conference player of the year and 2005 regional player of the year
- Second in career scoring (3,227 points) and scoring average (19.2) at Harding
- Holds Harding’s record for free throws made (634)
- 2007 Academic All-GSC in golf and 2008 Berryhill Award winner

MANUELA NESHEVA HARRIS, VOLLEYBALL, 2000-09
- Three-time all conference, three-time All-region, and 2007 All-American
- Two-time Academic All-District
- Harding’s career leader in kills and aces
- Harding won three regular-season conference championships in her four years with a 101-34 record

RICK JONES, DISTINGUISHED COACH/ALUMNUS
- 1977 Harding graduate
- Has won six state championships at Arkansas’ Greenwood High School
- 2012 National Federation of High School Coaches Coach of the Year
- Has a 251-65 career record and 121-17 record at Greenwood

DANIEL KIRWA, TRACK AND FIELD/CROSS-COUNTRY, 2008-10
- 13-time All-American and four-time national champion in track and field
- Three-time conference champion and three-time regional champion in cross-country
- Twice finished in the top seven at the national cross-country meet

JULIUS KOSGEI, TRACK AND FIELD/CROSS-COUNTRY, 2008-08
- Five-time All-American and one-time national champion in track and field
- Four-time all conference and all-region, including the 2006 regional champion in cross-country
- Twice finished in the top four at the national cross-country meet
- 2009 Berryhill Award winner

ALICIA WILLIAMS LEVERETTE, TENNIS, 2000-09
- Harding’s career leader in No. 1 singles wins (70)
- Ranks second at Harding in career doubles wins (66)
- 2009 Berryhill Award winner

LORI HENDRICKS PILAND, VOLLEYBALL, 1992-96
- Two-time All-American
- Two-time AIC MVP
- Harding was 72-28 during her junior and senior seasons

JIMMY SLOAN, TRACK AND FIELD/FOOTBALL, 1999-92
- Four-time All-American in pole vault, three-time indoors and once outdoors
- Holds Harding’s indoor pole vault record at 16-6
- Won the 1990 AIC pole vault at 15-5
- Played 22 football games with 43 receptions for 555 yards
- Had six touchdowns in 1991-92

GIL TRUFTT, DISTINGUISHED COACH/ALUMNUS
- 1956 Harding graduate
- Served 33 years as a teacher, principal and basketball coach at Mount Edgecumbe High School in Sitka, Alaska
- Inducted into the Alaska High School Hall of Fame in 2006
- Led Mount Edgecumbe to the Southeast Conference Class B championship

LEWIS WALKER, TRACK AND FIELD/FOOTBALL, 1989-92
- Harding’s starting quarterback for the football team in 1959-61 and also played defense and returned kicks
- Won the 1959-60 220 yard low hurdles at the AIC meet and placed second in the 120-yard high hurdles, second in both events in 1960 AIC meet, second in the 120-yard high hurdles in 1961, won the high hurdles and placed third in the low hurdles in 1962

By Scott Goode

Photography by Jeff Montgomery

HALL OF FAME grows to 100

On Friday, Feb. 3, at a ceremony in the David B. Burks American Heritage Building Founder’s Room, Bison Boosters inducted new members into the Harding Athletics Hall of Fame. The 16 members of the 2017 Hall of Fame represent the 11th induction class and bring the total number of inductees to 100.
I took speech class under Sister [Woodson] Armstrong. She said to me, “Honey, you’re the only person I know who puts two syllables in ‘and.’” I loved her very much.

I had to learn a lot from [former first ladies] Mrs. Armstrong and Mrs. [Sallie] Benson. Mrs. Armstrong gave me an Emily Post etiquette book that I used when we had guests and dinners. Mrs. Benson had me serve a lot, sit at the head of the table, and help her. It helped me to learn what to do when my time came. The dinners were up to the women. They had to cook, clean and have them in their home. There was no catering. I had friends and my daughter, Debbie, helping me.

The house was like Grand Central Station. We didn’t have hotels. We kept the guests in our homes. Everyone from men playing faculty/staff softball to dignitaries, parents wanting to bring their kids to look at the school came through there. We lived in the Rock House [now the campus ministry house on Market Avenue] and built the house we’re in now in 1961. We knew we needed a house that could keep guests.

The early first ladies had flower gardens. I would make arrangements for the dinners from those flowers. I was one of the founding members of the Searcy garden club, Greenkeepers. We made corsages. We didn’t have a florist in Searcy. That was part of it, being able to pull off those things together. It was a lot to do. I’m thankful I was healthy, and Cliff was healthy.

I began associated women for Harding. When we were in New York, I was a member of the Columbia Dames while Cliff was in school there. We did activities together. I enjoyed being a member of that group and supporting that school. So I brought that back to Harding. We wanted an activity group. It’s grown to different towns.

I wrote individual letters to the wives of board members. I didn’t type back then, and I wrote individual letters inviting them to come to the meetings with their husbands. That created a relationship with them that became helpful. They went back to their communities and got help for the school, raising funds.

I had to work after my freshman year. I had a scholarship the first year, but after that I had to work. I worked for Dr. [George] Benson in college and learned to sign his name on letters exactly as he did.

I loved being first lady. I really enjoyed it, and I’ve loved having Harding as a part of our lives. I was just fortunate enough to come to Harding and meet Cliff Ganus. It has been a wonderful life.

On a brisk March morning, first ladies Louise Ganus, Leah Burks and Ann McLarty gathered for tea under the colonnade in the First Ladies Garden. Upon sitting down at the table together, Burks remarked how nice it was for them to still be in the same place as many past university presidents and their wives tend to leave after retirement. The three women, who collectively make up more than 50 years of Harding’s history, share a special bond having served in the same role. Through their connection, these first ladies of Harding are able to provide support and understanding for each other that few others can.

As to be expected when three friends meet up, the conversation turned to their shared experiences and the memories of being first lady.
Leah Gentry Burks
FIRST LADY FROM 1967-2013, WIFE OF DR. DAVID B. BURKS

My philosophy was whatever I need to do, that’s what I’ll do. My family came first, which meant the children and David, and I would support him in whatever way I could. Whatever he asked me to do, I’d try to do it.

My first priority was family, so until they were out of the home, I really tried to keep an even keel. I didn’t travel with David as long as they were at home, but when they left and got married, then I could start doing projects. But I remember Dr. Benson came to me one day and said, “Whatever you do, don’t forget your family.”

We tried to be considerate of our children’s lives because they were still at home when David became president. It affected them probably more so than it did us. We tried to keep things on a normal keel. When we built the house, we purposely put a staircase right inside the backdoor so that when the kids came in from their activities, they wouldn’t have to go through the crowd, they could just go up to their bedrooms. If they wanted to come down, that was fine, but if they wanted to go up there and have their own time, they could. We tried to be a normal family and stress the importance of family.

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Things didn’t change that much when David became president because he had always been active. We always entertained; it was just on a bigger scale. We always had lots of company. We still do.

The Harding community is always there to help. I guess when I had my cancer, that was probably the biggest example. They were there. They were very supportive. I did what I could, and they were understanding. I think the part that really impressed me was all the notes I got from all over the world. The concern I got. I’m a very private person. I didn’t realize all these people were out there. They showed how much we’re a family.

Mrs. Ganus told me the same thing I told Ann: Just do it your own way! Don’t try to copy someone else. There’s enough stress without trying to be somebody you’re not. For Louise, it was a different time. It was a smaller campus. She had a hard act to follow with Mrs. Benson. She was supportive. If I had any questions, I could always call on her. We’re so different that I just tried to be myself.

I would never have dreamed growing up on a farm in Illinois that I would be entertaining dignitaries in my home. That we would have Mikhail Gorbachev in our living room or Barbara Bush sitting by my fireplace and asking about my children or Margaret Thatcher talking to my daughter-in-law and giving her advice on her newborn baby. I found Barbara Bush to be the most approachable. After it was all over, she could have said she was tired and left, but she sat down and patted the seat and said, come, sit and talk to me.

I have loved watching the students develop from coming in as freshmen. We had a home Bible study, and since our home was nearby, we had a lot of freshmen. And I’ve been able to watch them grow over the years and have their own families. It’s kind of like children. You prepare them all their lives to leave and then when the time comes and they do, you don’t want them to.

As the times have changed and the college has changed, I believe God has stepped in and guided. There was a need, and I think he was responsible for choosing and making it possible.

I think I had an advantage in that Bruce was on the cabinet, and so I got to watch Leah for about seven years before all of this, so that helped me in knowing what to expect. It wasn’t an overwhelming task when the time came, and then I had those two to seek advice about whatever I was wanting or needing. Leah never made it look difficult; which was wonderful. That doesn’t mean that it wasn’t, but she never made it look that way.

One of the biggest things that surprised me about being first lady was the pace. We vacillate from crazy to it’s insane. The pace is unrelenting. It’s constant. You have to make your peace with that; otherwise, it would drive you nuts.

It touches me deeply when someone will say, “I pray for you and Bruce Daily.” And I may not even know them. I always say, “Please keep on because we’re always going to need that.”

I was a nurse at the campus clinic for 20 years, and watching the students mature and launch is one of the most fulfilling things. It’s just great to see the difference because there’s a big difference from a freshman to a senior. It’s so exciting when the freshmen come because they are so excited. And then, at the end, they’re kind of melancholy when they leave. It’s fun to meet up with them later on.

Leah Burks carries flowers from the First Ladies Garden. (Photo by Jim客户需求的摄影图库, 1992 by Woolson Harding Armstrong, and Ann McLarty’s tea cup bears Texas first lady’s favorite color pink.

The First Ladies Garden
CREATED TO HONOR THE FIVE WOMEN who have served the University as first lady, the First Ladies Garden also serves as a way for students, alumni and friends to celebrate the women who have helped shape their lives and is a visual reminder of the impact women have had on Harding. As Women for Harding worked to raise funds for the project, the idea was that every family has a woman who has served as its first lady, and those mothers, grandmothers, sisters and friends are represented throughout the garden.

Completed in 2016, the corridor sits between Stephens, Shores and Pryor halls and links older portions of campus to the newer Legacy Park area. Included in the addition are a colonnade, fountain, outdoor classroom and secret garden. Each first lady—Woolson Armstrong, Sallie Benson, Louise Ganus, Leah Burks and Ann McLarty—has a garden named in her honor with her favorite flowers.

Ann Hutson McLarty
FIRST LADY FROM 2013 TO PRESENT, WIFE OF DR. BRUCE MCLARTY

Family life is a day-to-day thing, day-to-day working on balance. It’s not looking too far ahead so it’s not so overwhelming. I’m having to try to make sure we get the time with the grandchildren and our daughters that we really want to have. We take advantage of the Christmas break and other times and then I’m free at other times. You can stay so busy that there’s no time to do anything with family.

When Bruce was named president, the first thing that went through my mind was, I’ve got to talk to Mrs. Burks and Mrs. Ganus. The neat thing was that they gave me their support. That was the best thing. Mrs. Ganus said, “I live right next door. You can come talk to me any time.”

It’s the knowing that someone has walked this before. We got to talking one time as the three couples and said, you know, it’s a rare thing to be in this position and know that there are only two other couples who understand your world.

They never did give me any advice—and I think they did that on purpose so that it would encourage me to make it my own. In any incoming first lady’s mind, you wonder, “How in the world am I going to live up to her?” And there’s no way to equal it. I just have to go my own path. There’s a continuity that’s been fun, for all of us to be here. It’s been great to have them.

The First Ladies Garden
Finding community while earning a doctorate proves to be a journey worth taking for Mac Sandlin and his family.

In June 2014, Mac Sandlin, associate professor of Bible, and his wife, Jenni, moved from Searcy to Cedarville, Ohio, with their three children — Elijah, Josie, and Judah — for Mac to pursue a doctoral degree in theology at the University of Dayton. Both born and raised in Searcy, Arkansas, Mac and Jenni were accustomed to frequent family visits and hefty Sunday-afternoon home-cooked meals before moving away from their hometown. After dinner one evening, they discuss how different it was having their first Sunday lunch in their new home.

“We get here that first Sunday, and we don’t know anybody at church,” Mac says before taking a bite of panna cotta Jenni made for dessert. “We come home and cook a big Sunday lunch, and no one is eating it. The walls are bare because we just moved in — it was so sad. We were homesick and lonely. While we are eating, the Jehovah’s Witnesses knocked on the door. I was so excited to have people there.”

“He always wants so many people in the house,” Jenni interjects. “I asked them, ‘Do you want to come in, sit down and have a glass of tea?’” Mac continues. “They wouldn’t come in. Even the Jehovah’s Witnesses wouldn’t come in and visit with us. So yeah, it was a pretty lonely first few months.”

Since then, the Sandlins have made connections at UD and Xenia Church of Christ. Mac finished classes in May, and the family will soon return to Searcy so he can resume his position in the College of Bible and Ministry. Looking back, Jenni says it’s easy to see God’s hand at work over the last three years.

“I was excited because I like a little adventure, but it was also scary because we had never been totally on our own before,” Jenni says. “Our family is very active and involved in our lives, so to come here with no one around, it was kind of scary. But it worked out really, really well. If we had to move away, it could not have happened any better. We love this little place, we knew was kind of scary. But it worked out really, really well.”

“Jenni says it’s easy to see God’s hand at work over the last three years.

Making Adjustments

Cedarville is a small, quiet college town of 4,000 people located just outside of Dayton. With one school building housing the entire district and mom-and-pop restaurants that close every summer, it has a Stars Hollow or Gilmore Girls feel to it. Twice a week, Mac commutes 30 miles from Cedarville to UD, a Catholic institution with about 11,000 students. Jenni says Mac’s responsibilities at UD are one of the biggest adjustments for them.

“We sometimes wish we were closer to UD because he has his life there and then our life here,” Jenni says. “The biggest difficulty has been how we live together. He was gone a lot, especially that first year. He is occupied with what is going on at school and gets exhausted. He’s a very hands-on dad, so during the busy school times the difference really shows.”

In his first year, Mac took night classes and served as a graduate assistant while considering topics for his dissertation. Continuing his own work on the biblical prophets and wisdom literature, Mac says his “biggest difficulty has been how we live together. He was gone a lot, especially that first year. He is occupied with what is going on at school and gets exhausted. He’s a very hands-on dad, so during the busy school times the difference really shows.”

In all of the rhetoric from the school, there’s an emphasis on community,” Mac says. “Hospitality and community are key Marianist traits, and they take it seriously.

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“They have been incredibly hospitable to me. There are a number of social customs that are normal to Catholics that are not normal to me, and they are always very accommodating. I think part of that is the Marianist emphasis on community, hospitality and friendliness. They try to make me feel at home, and they are very respectful of who I am and where I’m coming from.”

Finding Community

“The joke with Marianists is ‘There will be food!’” Mac says sitting down for lunch with Anthony Rosselli, a friend and fellow graduate student.

On Tuesday, I gave a lecture on the prophets and wisdom literature,” Mac says. “That was one lecture in this course, but it’s an entire semester at Harding. There is some overlap with classes I taught at Harding because the biblical stuff is all the same. There is some new stuff like Vatican II documents that I teach.

“I’m not Catholic, and I tell them I’m not Catholic, but I’m also respectful of the environment. I frequently will say, ‘Catholic doctrine says this on this topic: ‘They sometimes ask what I would say, and I feel free to say what I would think.’”

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For them, community is best expressed by the table, the sharing of a meal. For our orientation, they did a Marianist table setting ceremony, and it was beautiful.

From tablespoon to bread, salt to plates, every portion of the ceremonial table setting signifies an important aspect of the Marianist tradition. Even though no one in their community knew the Sandlins’ stay would be temporary, they did a Marianist table setting ceremony, and it was beautiful.

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One of the frequent guests at Mac’s class, there are so many people that have come to us and don’t yet know what college is. I love getting to help teach them that I also have a speech and give. “College is a place you come to read books, so we are going to read books in this class.” I also want them to know that they are not alone and should not be challenged. For me, teaching the text of Scripture every day grounds the more philosophical and abstract thought that I do.”

“So I have to do it quickly, and I have to do it exceptionally well.”

A PERFECT FIT

Finding his place at the table at UD was beneficial to Mac, but it was finding a church home that helped the whole family adjust to their new surroundings. When deciding on which congregation to visit first, Mac’s dad insisted they visit Xenia Church of Christ – he had lived with some members while attending college in the 1960s. “I told him it was silly that he thought anyone would remember him or still be there,” Mac says.

Sure enough, the greeter at the door remembered Don Sandlin as the young man who lived with his parents one summer decades ago. As the service continued, the family was impressed in other ways, and it was enough for them to come back without visiting other area churches. They felt that Xenia had what they needed.

“Xenia is a different environment in this city, and it’s a big deal. It made me feel comfortable.”

While it’s clear how Xenia Church of Christ is the perfect fit for the Sandlins when they were in need of community, the church was also in need of them. The congregation knew the Sandlins’ stay would be temporary, and they welcomed them. “They are like surrogate parents or mentors to us.”

“One of the challenges we’ve always had is having really good classes. We always had great classes, but I believe it is a lack of numbers. They didn’t always have the skills to help. There always needs to be a sharpening of the people and the classes and equipment to be better teachers. That’s why we started having the teacher seminar.”

The annual seminar has been offered four times with Mac facilitating it. “I have to do it exceptionally well. It has been a great learning experience for me. It’s refreshing to have someone talk to a peer, who can give you new insight and can challenge your thinking — and give you an outrageous reading list!”

“I talk to Mac more than a peer than as a person who is younger than my son,” Dick says. “He’s wise and gives good advice. It’s refreshing to talk to him because he has insights and perspective.”

As the Sandlins’ time in Xenia comes to an end, Mac is happy to acknowledge the impending goodbye. “Being in the Air Force and moving every three years or so, I’ve had that experience of where you build friendships on a temporary basis and then you have to move on. I still have ties with people and still visit them,” Dick says. “So we will come to Hebrew and eat with them and always have an invitation to be here with us.”

COMING HOME

Mac finished his classes and exams at UD in May and will now return to Harding to teach and work on his dissertation about ethics and the Holy Spirit, which he will complete in one to two years. He plans to teach an upper-level Bible class at a new university — a topic he says he wouldn’t have felt competent to teach before coming to UD. In addition to teaching ethics and theology courses, he hopes to continue teaching freshman Bible.

“Oh, I love freshman,” Mac says. “They come to us and don’t yet know what college
At the beginning of the 2013-14 school year, McLarty, who officially took over as the University’s fifth president June 1, 2013, had much in common with the 1,261 students from all 50 states and 43 nations and territories.

“As we make this journey, as we start together, I think we’re going to have a special sense that we understand each other,” McLarty said in his convocation address.

For many new students, this event was their first official introduction to Harding and its newest leader. Senior Sara Denney was one of those students, coming to Harding from Missouri knowing one other person.

“It was very comforting knowing Dr. McLarty acknowledged all the fears and was even vulnerable enough to admit that he felt some of those fears, too,” she says.

To an audience of incoming students and their parents, McLarty initiated a request from students, something he has repeated in all convocations since. He asked students to raise their right hands and recite, “I give my word that I will not leave Harding until I have gone and talked with Dr. McLarty.”

“The message I wanted to deliver that day was that if we work together, every student at Harding University can succeed,” McLarty says. “Mainly, I didn’t want students to leave for any of the wrong reasons. Sometimes students give up when there is a relatively simple solution at hand if they only knew where to find the help they need.”

After convocation that year, McLarty returned to his office to find a student waiting to uphold that pledge. He said it gave him a chance to direct the student to a place on campus that could help and to make a new friend in the process.

“In these last four years, a number of students have taken me up on the promise,” McLarty says. “Most were already packed up and ready to leave, but a few have given me the chance to help them find...
LEARNING AS YOU GO

"A neat thing about this class is that every experience I have had as a president, we have had as students," McLarty says. "Whatever that's going on these four years on the Harding campus, we have shared together, and there will never be another group where we are as parallel as we are at this moment.

McLarty’s inauguration ceremony was held Sept. 20, 2013, at 2 p.m. in Benson Auditorium on campus, and more than 100 colleges and universities across the nation marched in the ceremony to pro-
ceeding their respective schools. Faculty, staff, stu-
dents and guests from all over gathered to experience a rare event
for the University.

Senior Drew Howerton came to Searcy from Berryville, Arkansas.
"I thoroughly enjoyed what I was doing there, but I felt that this
was a different ministry that might well be the move I needed
to make at this point in my life, and I saw it as an opportunity to have
great influence on the Harding campus," he says. "So I gave it five years before I would question it. And it’s been a predict-
able finals didn’t prove to be an option at Harding.

"Whether it’s public speaking or social media, humor is the riski-
est thing in the world," McLarty says. "For me, the safest territory
in the arena of humor is self-deprecating humor. If you can poke fun
at yourself, that’s safe. My code from before I started was never be
negative, never be sarcastic."

JUMPING INTO STUDENT LIFE

"Just look around campus any year, and you can see it in the eyes of
the freshmen — once we all settle in and get into our routine, I don’t
know if anybody enjoys the University more than freshmen," McLar-
ty says at convocation. "Freshmen have a sense of wonderment about
this place. We see it as the marvelous adventure that it can be.

"Whenever you talk to him, he is genuinely interested in you and
what is going on in your life," senior Will Francis says. "I’m sure be-
ing president of the University that he is constantly in conversa-
tion with people, but every time someone talks to him, he is interested in
that person. He tries to connect with students in so many ways and
is truly making a difference at Harding University as president."

One afternoon, Howerton was having lunch in the cafeteria with
his friends and he saw McLarty walking around.
"Someone was like, ‘What if Dr. McLarty came and sat with us?’
I wouldn’t know what to do,” Howerton remembers. "He got his drink,
waved at him, and then he came over and sat with us for lunch. He’s
a person and makes every person feel important and special while
being a part of a group of people.

McLarty says leadership today requires different skills and be-
haviors than it did when he was in school.

"The Rhodes Rowdies high five
President Bruce McLarty at
the 2015 Arkansas Tech
University game.

One of the biggest differences socially from my era as a student
in the 70s and those students today is leadership today requires rela-
tionships," McLarty says. "I don’t think it did in my day. I think then
there was a natural respect for the position. Today, I think students’
expectations is that in order to follow a leader they insist on having
knowledge of a person and what they do, so there are relationships
that leadership comes from.

"He just seems to be the biggest fan of all the students," Denney
says. “That’s encouraging now as a senior, and even though I don’t
know Dr. McLarty on a personal level, I feel like he will be there
cheering for us graduating and wishing us the best."
1956

Lawrence Barclay was named professor emeritus of Bible and biblical languages by the board of regents of Harding University in June 2007 after 57 years of teaching (1950-97 at Faulkner University and 1997-2007 at Harding University). He has been involved in deacon ministry for 58 years and cur- rently serves as minister to the deacon Church at Clinton in Montgomery, Alabama. His wife, Joanna Agnew (’57), taught many years at Alabama Christian Academy and Faulkner University and is also a media specialist in the Faulkner University library. They have two sons, Nathan and David. (326 Harvard Road, Montgomery, AL 36109)

1987

David E. Smith was awarded the Fay Rosenzweig Award, given annually to a physician who has demonstrated excellence in Christian faith and personal life, integration of faith into the practice of medicine, and commitment to community service and public health. He was a founder of Heart Clinic Arkansas and served as a cardiologist for 35 years. In 2012 he became director of supportive medicine at Baptist Health-Little Rock where he serves as chairman of the medical ethics committee. He is one of the founders of the Haiti Christian Development Project and has worked on short-term and development projects there since 1985. He also leads a group of physicians, dentists, and eye specialists for clinical trips each year. After completing a masters in bioethics, he has taught molecular biology, biochemistry and pre-med students at Harding each fall since 2000. He serves on Harding’s Mission Advisory Council and has helped develop a third-world village for training missionaries at Campus Life Village. He has been a deacon at: Peavile, Georgia. He and his wife, Lanette Mahle, have two children. (710 Silver Street, Neeho, MO 64850)

1988

Jo Matthews Umberger has been named vice president of philanthropy for New Life Behavior International. She has used her speech communica- tions and education degree in business and mission. She and her husband, E.C. (“Ted”), worked with an indigenous church in Adelada, South Australia, in the 1980s before returning to the U.S. They have a son, (1920 Persimmon Place, Boyseville, TX 75088).

1995

Todd Dawey Edwards completed his doctorate in profes- sional counseling from Mississippi College on Dec. 15, 2014. His wife, Tanya Taylor, have three children, Emily, Allison and Joseph. (305 S.E. Decore Drive, Brandon, MS 39047)

1996

Philip Sherin has been named president of Master- mard Health Care Systems. He and his wife, Lacie V. Sherin, have four children, Malachi, Israel and Amal. (7625 Chastain Drive, North Richland Hills, TX 76182).

1998

Jason Wiley was honored with the Excellence in Teaching Award at the 60th National Conference for College and University Biology Educators. He is a tenured professor of biology at Jacksonville University. (212 James Street, Sydney, AR 72381)

2001

Scott and Shannon Humphrey Edwards opened a Southern specialty medical, including the Vietnam memorial in Missouri. He has also written and recorded songs and jingles for local radio stations.

2005

Keith Fallin, Edward majored in business and performed with the traveling trio The Time of Day, which he appeared with on “The Gong Show” in 1977. He previously worked in the advance of office until enrolling in law school in 2008.

2007

Lauren (’03) and Allison Brown colvin announce the birth of a daughter, Eliza Faith, Sept. 26, 2016. They have three other children, Sophia, Silas and Joseph. (97 Coldspring Drive, Harvest, AL 35749)

2008

Sarah Terry married Zachary Luke on Oct. 29, 2016. Sarah is a senior account executive with inVeritas, and Zachary is a public affairs special- ist for the Arkansas Military Department. (1322-B Kavannaugh Blvd, Little Rock, AR 72205)

2009

Tyrone Matlock was named head baseball coach at Newberg (Oregon) High School. He and his wife, Jessica Berger, ’00, have a daughter, Brin. (2233 Samar Street, Newberg, OR 97132)

2010

Philip and Claire Davidson Draper announce the birth of a daughter, Miriam Margaret, Nov. 14, 2016. They also have a son, Zake (404 Sky Valley Trail, Smyrna, TN 37167)

2012

Jason Fallin, Edward majored in business and performed with the traveling trio The Time of Day, which he appeared with on “The Gong Show” in 1977. He previously worked in the advance of office until enrolling in law school in 2008.

2013

Sarah Terry married Zachary Luke on Oct. 29, 2016. Sarah is a senior account executive with inVeritas, and Zachary is a public affairs special- ist for the Arkansas Military Department. (1322-B Kavannaugh Blvd, Little Rock, AR 72205)

2014

Josh Payne and Heather Guthrie announce the birth of a daughter, Keenan Adeline, Jan. 29, 2016. They have another daughter, Emma. (265 Rocky Lane, Memphis, TN 38117)

2015

Philip and Claire Davidson Draper announce the birth of a daughter, Miriam Margaret, Nov. 14, 2016. They also have a son, Zake (404 Sky Valley Trail, Smyrna, TN 37167)

2016

Joan Halford and Amanda Jerkins announce the birth of a daughter, Kennedy Isla, June 19, 2016. Scott and Allison Brown colvin announce the birth of a daughter, Eliza Faith, Sept. 26, 2016. They have three other children, Sophia, Silas and Joseph. (97 Coldspring Drive, Harvest, AL 35749)

2018

Josh Payne and Heather Guthrie announce the birth of a daughter, Keenan Adeline, Jan. 29, 2016. They have another daughter, Emma. (265 Rocky Lane, Memphis, TN 38117)
Jeffrey (’07) and Debbie Deacon Jones announce the birth of a daughter, Eliza Jean, Dec. 24, 2016. Jeffrey is a staff accountant, and Debbie is a teller supervisor at Georgia Bank and Trust. Marymount Heights, MD 20134

Caleb (’10) and Kari Kridlo announce the birth of their third daughter, Emily Jean, on July 15, 2017. Caleb is an educational auditor for the Mid-Shore Special Education Consortium, and Kari is a reading specialist at Sudlersville Middle School. (25485 Adams Landing Road, Denton, MD 21629)

2012

Samantha Simpson graduated cum laude from Belhaven University College of Law in May 2016. She passed the Tennessee Bar Exam in October 2016 and was admitted to practice in the Tennes- see Bar in November 2016. She is working as a judicial law clerk for the Tennessee Court of Criminal Appeals. (2021 Traemoor Village Drive, Nashville, TN 37205)

2013

Lucy Brown was named Teacher of the Year for Jim Allen Elementary in Pensacola, Florida. She teaches third grade. (11746 Old Course Road, Canton- town, FL 32533)

2014

Jackson Petty (’10) married Ashlyn Bolton on July 2, 2014. Jackson is in his first year of dental school at University of Tennessee Health Science Center. Ashlyn is an assistant teacher for elementary age students at Youth Villages, a residential mental health facil- ity. (601 Rionne Drive, #21, Memphis, TN 38101)

Passages

Harry Robert Fox Jr. (’44), 93, of Orem, Utah, died Jan. 1, 2017. He was the son of missionaries, he lived in rural Utah until he was 14. After college, he and his wife, Jeri, served as missionaries in Japan for 10 years where he was co-founder of Biakari Christian University. When they returned to the U.S., Harry taught in the biology department at Per- pendine University for two and a half years. He then served two years as a preacher for Northshore Church of Christ and then as a social worker for Los Angeles County for 20 years until his retire- ment in 1983. He and Jeri continued to serve in many congregations in various ways in California, Oregon and Utah until his death in 2010. He is survived by four sons, Ken, John, Larry and Jerry; four brothers, Logan, Stanley, Cliven and Armond; 20 grandchildren; and 26 great-grandchildren.

Lea Brant Campbell (’49), 88, of Bartlett, Tennes- see, died Dec. 7, 2016. Her greatest passion in life was Ford/Lincoln Motor Co. He was active in his church, taught in the Bible department at Purdue University for two and a half years. He taught all levels of students throughout his career and served as the chair of the business department at Brookville Community College in New Jersey. He is survived by his wife, Gloria Branst; two daughters, Debra Baird (’79) and Don (’80) and a grandson, Alex Branst. (853 Old Stage Farm Rd., Waynesboro, VA 22980)

Eddie Ray Campbell (’47), 85, of Searcy, died Dec. 15, 2016. His decades-long career and life of service began and culminated at Harding University where he served more than four decades in the counseling department and as dean of men. He also served as a minister in Florida, Georgia and Texas and at Downtown Church of Christ in Searcy where he served as pastor. He was preceded in death by his wife, Kathryn Roberts (’45), and a daughter, Darby (’77). He is survived by four children, David (’75), Danny (’77), Julianne Young (’80) and Mindy Sue (’78) and 14 grandchildren.

Ann Petree Ergle (’56), 82, of Holland, Utah, died Nov. 10, 2016, from leukemia. She worked as a laborer of the arts. In addition, she and her children were older, sang and recorded with the Lone Welsh Chorale, and at age 67 climbed to the top of Mount Olympus with her daughter. She housed strangers who needed room and board, served at the homeless shelter kitchen, nuked and abused children, donated to charitable organiza- tions, made dolls for orphans, and blessed her fam- ily by sewing professional-grade clothing. She was preceded in death by her parents, Art and Jean, Sack, and five of her siblings including her twin brother, John. (768) She is survived by a sister, Harriet Gardner; two children, Kerri and John; seven grandchildren, and seven great-grandchildren.

James “Jim” Carroll Christian (’57), 87, of Searcy, died Feb. 20, 2017. He was preceded in death by his wife, Laura, more than 30 years in Marked Tree, Griftonville and Searcy. Arkansas. He was a member of the Arkansas High School Hall of Fame and coached the speech team for 30 years. He also was a member of the Arkansas Offi- cials Association and spent 42 years officiating high school football. He was president of the Tri-City Senior Golf Association for 8 years and was an active member of the White County Ranchers Club and Ranchers Alumni Association. He was a deacon and elder at First Presbyterian Church in Searcy. He is survived by his wife of 58 years, Jo- ean; four daughters, Nicole Ann Herndon, Mary Margaret Painter, Caroline Garibah and Catherine Williams; a brother, Don; and eight grandchildren.

Gary D.Blake (’50), 79, of Overland Park, Kansas, died Sept. 1, 2016. He started the first camp for the deaf at Camp Wildwood and taught at School for the Deaf and Rehabilitative Military Academy in Fairbanks, Minnesota, from 1960-02. He and his wife, Mary Matthews (’57), were missionaries in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, and helped begin the first School for the deaf there in 1962. They returned to the U.S. in 1963 where he worked at the Rehabilitation Center in Hot Springs, Arkansas, as a counselor for the deaf. After receiving his
In 1982, he was minister of the deaf and a counselor at Overland Park Church of Christ. In 1993, he began his private family and marriage counseling practice. In 2010, he added the position of minister of First Church of Peculiar (Missouri). In addition to his work, Mary, he is survived by five children, eight grandchildren, and four great-grandchildren.

Edwin Hightower Sr. (76), 79, of San Antonio, Texas, died Nov. 18, 2016. He earned a master’s in political science from University of Texas at Austin and worked for various companies and government agencies. He began his automotive career in 1966 and joined Government Mutual Liability Insurance Co. in San Antonio in 1969 where he worked until he retired in 2002 as senior vice president. He attended the University of the American Academy of Actuaries. He served as a director of the early church of Christ in San Antonio and was a Paul Harris Fellow in Rotary International. He is survived by his wife of 56 years, Shirley Richardson (76), four children, Sean Carlin, Shelley McDonald, Susan and Kevin Jr., and five great-grandchildren.

Jewel Goodman Warfield (76), 86, of Lancaster, California, died Dec. 21, 2016. Two of her greatest joys were reading and teaching. She was a member of a sharecropper who struggled to read, she was inspired to learn to read and teach others as an elementary school teacher for more than 30 years. She is survived by her husband of 49 years, Edward Lass; three sons, James Lass, John Mark and Paul David, a brother, Jack Goodman, and six grandchildren.

Dr. Howard Hack (76), 81, was ordained in the Churches of Christ in Texas and Alabama. He is survived by his wife, Mary, he is survived by five grandchildren; and four great-grandchildren.

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A divine calling

By Cheri Smith, assistant professor of education, chair of teacher preparation and director of elementary education

I never got over that feeling. I often asked her if she would let me sit in her classes again just so I could learn the secrets of her masterful teaching. She would always say, “Oh no, I don’t want people to watch me. Just be yourself and they will love you.” She was a constant encouragement. When she saw education majors in the hallway of the building, she would say in her sweetest, slowest voice, “Look at those beautiful teachers.” She mentioned thousands of students through the years, taking them under her wing as if they were her children. Retirement was a difficult decision for her. She loved her life, and she loved Harding.

When Dr. Watson found out she had cancer in May 2016, she made sure the house she loved was completely decorated for fall. That was her favorite season, and she wanted to be certain she could experience it one more time. When she died at home on Feb. 19, a few days after Valentine’s Day, she was surrounded by family, friends, expressions, bright red valentines, red gingham pillows and roses, celebrating life until the very end.

At her memorial service, which she planned herself, her beloved husband, Zeand, and her grandchildren, Mackenzie and Josiah, welcomed guests as if they were the first day of school, including apple stickers and paper airplanes. We signed our names to a large confetti balloon that had a cardboard cut-out, yellow pencil sticks instead of pens. We felt like first-graders again. Her magic touch was seen and felt even at her own memorial.

If you took Dr. Watson’s Bible classes in the last few years of her career, you probably read Tuck Everlasting, a fantasy book about a family who dreamt of an enchanted spring and became imm mortal. This particular book was one of her favorites, and she loved discussing it with her classes. In one of our last exchanges, Dr. Watson waved at me with the sad news that the chimera treatment was no longer working, and she felt she was ready to let go. i said, “Oh, Dr. Watson, but I wanted you to live forever!” Without hesitation, she quickly replied, “Oh, but I will live forever!”

Yes, Dr. Watson, forever in heaven and in the hearts and lives of those whom you loved. #
THE LAST WEEK OF AUGUST 1974, I enrolled as a freshman at Harding. As I stood in the registration line in American Heritage, I noticed a middle-aged man dressed very well in coat and tie making a beeline for me. He came right up to me, looked me in the eye, and asked, “Are you Lee Thornton from Nash-ville?” “Yes sir,” I replied. “Can you swim?” he asked. “Yes sir.” With- out missing a beat, Coach Arnold Pylkas told me, “Swim team practice starts today at 3:30 at the pool behind the Administration Building. I want to see you there!” With that final statement, this bundle of energy marched off.

I was impressed. I had been a lifeguard in Nashville, Tennessee, the previous two summers but had never swum competitively. I decided to go college swimming a try. So that afternoon I went to my first swim team practice. The pool was only 20-yards long and was the oldest indoor pool in Arkansas — it looked and smelled like it. I realized pretty quickly after a few workouts I didn’t have the buoyancy our best swimmers were blessed with. I could swim the breaststroke OK; however, I didn’t earn enough points in swim meets during the winter season to secure a letter jacket.

Two days before the conference championships Feb. 22, 1975, Coach pulled me aside after practice. “Lee, I just found out that in the 200-yard butterfly there will only be the final on Saturday night, and there is an open lane. I entered you, all you have to do is finish the race so the team will get points.” I replied, “Coach, you know I can’t finish the 200-yard fly. I can’t even finish the 100-yard fly!” Coach countered, “Lee, I need you to do this for the team. You can finish this race.”

Talk about two sleepless nights. I tried the next day in practice to go 200 yards in the fly but only made it 100. However, I reassured myself that I was 19, strong and stubborn, so I would just muscle my way through the race, but deep in my heart, I knew that I was going into the lion’s den.

Midway through the championships that Saturday night, the words I was dreading to hear came over the loud speaker: “200 butterfly participants, please come to the blocks.”

I got through the first two laps OK; I started to struggle a little on lap three, and by the end of lap four, I was toast. Still four laps to go, and nothing to give.

I seriously considered quitting, but Coach was depending on me, so I decided to finish no mat-ter what. The pain was awful, but the worst part was the embarrassment of looking like Shamu the killer whale who had just been harpooned and floundering around in the water.

When I finally finished, you could have heard a pin drop. No clapping, no atta-boys, nothing. Total embarrassment for yours truly.

I climbed out of the pool, and Coach came over to offer words of encouragement, “Lee, your speed is great, but to be honest, I was upset with him for putting me in a race I told him I couldn’t finish.

When I got back to Armstrong Hall, I slammed down in the hallway outside my door and sobbed. I decided that night my swimming days were over.

The next six months passed quickly. After lifeguarding in Nashville that summer, I knew after returning to campus I would have to tell Coach I had no intention of returning to the swim team.

He found me quickly that week and told me to come to the kickoff swim team meeting at Pizza Hut that Friday night. I replied there was no need for me to attend based on what had happened at the Arkansas Intercollegiate Conference meet that previous February. We got into a slight argument, but finally, just to get him off my back, I told him I would come.

Coach gave his kickoff pep talk about how we would win the AIC championships, which we did. Then Coach presented jackets to the guys who had lettered the previous season.

After the letter jacket presentation, he closed the gathering with these words: “Last February, I asked someone to swim a race that was definitely out of his comfort zone. I have never seen such determination to finish a race. He may think he doesn’t deserve this letter jacket, but I do. The final letter jacket goes to Lee Thornton.”

I was stunned. The place broke into applause, and I left my seat to receive my jacket from Coach who helped me put it on. I wore it back to the dorm even though it was more than 95 degrees outside. I wore that letter jacket a lot the next three years at school.

I still have that jacket; it hangs in the back of my closet next to my dad’s World War II Army dress jacket decorated with his ribbons and patches for bravery under fire.

During the valleys of my life the past 40 years, I would put it on and remember that February night. Then I would put on my dad’s Army dress jacket and think of what he and his buddies went through in combat and how my jacket could never compare to his.

More importantly, I realized a few years ago the letter jacket was a greater symbol of grace and favor from Coach that I didn’t deserve or earn just like what the carpenter did on the cross for my sins. I know, despite my efforts that night, I really didn’t deserve that jacket just like I don’t deserve eternal life.

But I got the jacket from Coach, and I have been promised eternal life from my savior. I think the best lesson on grace I’ve ever experienced. For that, I am forever grateful.

Oh yes, I swam two more races for Coach — the butterfly, just the breaststroke.

Story condensed from Lee Thornton’s (’78) tribute at Coach Arnold Pylkas’ funeral Jan. 14. For Coach Pylkas’ obituary, see page 35.

The lette}r jacket and the 200 butterfly

By LEE THORNTON, former Water Buffalo in Arnie’s Army

REUNIONS – “ANNE GET YOUR GUN” – ALUMNI CHAPEL

DEDICATIONS OF THE DR. JOE AND BESSIE MAE PRYOR

LEGACY TOWER, ALUMNI CENTER, AND THE BETTY ANN WATSON EDUCATION RESOURCE CENTER

FAMILY PICNIC AND TAILGATING

PETTING ZOO AND INFLATABLE GAMES – BISON FOOTBALL

AND MUCH MORE

Connect with friends and classmates at reunions, tailgating, the musical and more for a weekend of spirit and camaraderie.

Classes of ’67, ’62, ’57, ’52, ’47 and ’42 will be celebrated at the Heritage Circle Banquet and will reunite throughout the weekend. Invite your friends to come home for Homecoming.

Tickets will be available at www.hardingtickets.com.

More information on reunions and events will be posted at www.harding.edu/events/homecoming.
The demand for the Jesse McCartney concert Feb. 18 was so great the venue had to be changed from the Administration Auditorium to the Benson to accommodate the crowd of approximately 2,200. McCartney opened and closed the show with classic tracks from 2004-08.