

MU *today*

M A G A Z I N E

SPRING 2023

INSIDE

- Monarch Spotlights
- “Thank You” to Donors
- Golf National Title
- Class Notes & More!



LIFELONG MONARCHS

Alumni Stay Connected in Many Ways

MU MILESTONE

Partnership is Major Step to **New Medical School**



Partnership Creates Opportunity for New MU Medical School

With more than two-dozen media members on hand – along with government officials, several other local dignitaries, board members, faculty, staff, students and more – all eyes (and cameras) were directed to the podiums for a very special, milestone announcement from Methodist University President Stanley T. Wearden and Cape Fear Valley Health CEO Mike Nagowski.

“In partnership with Cape Fear Valley Health, we are pleased to announce a new partnership with the intent to establish the state-of-the-art, M.D.-granting Methodist University medical school,” Wearden said to a crowd that filled the lobby of MU’s McLean Health Sciences Building on Feb. 27. “This partnership is a tremendous opportunity for our institution to engage with Cape Fear Valley Health to address the shortage of healthcare professionals, particularly in rural areas, and to improve the quality of healthcare delivery, which will enrich the local community and beyond. The focus of this medical school on rural and underserved populations is

“The focus of this medical school... is a perfect match for MU’s service-focused mission.”

MU President Stanley T. Wearden

a perfect match for MU’s service-focused mission, and the focus on a health-systems approach to medical education fits well with our longstanding liberal arts tradition.”

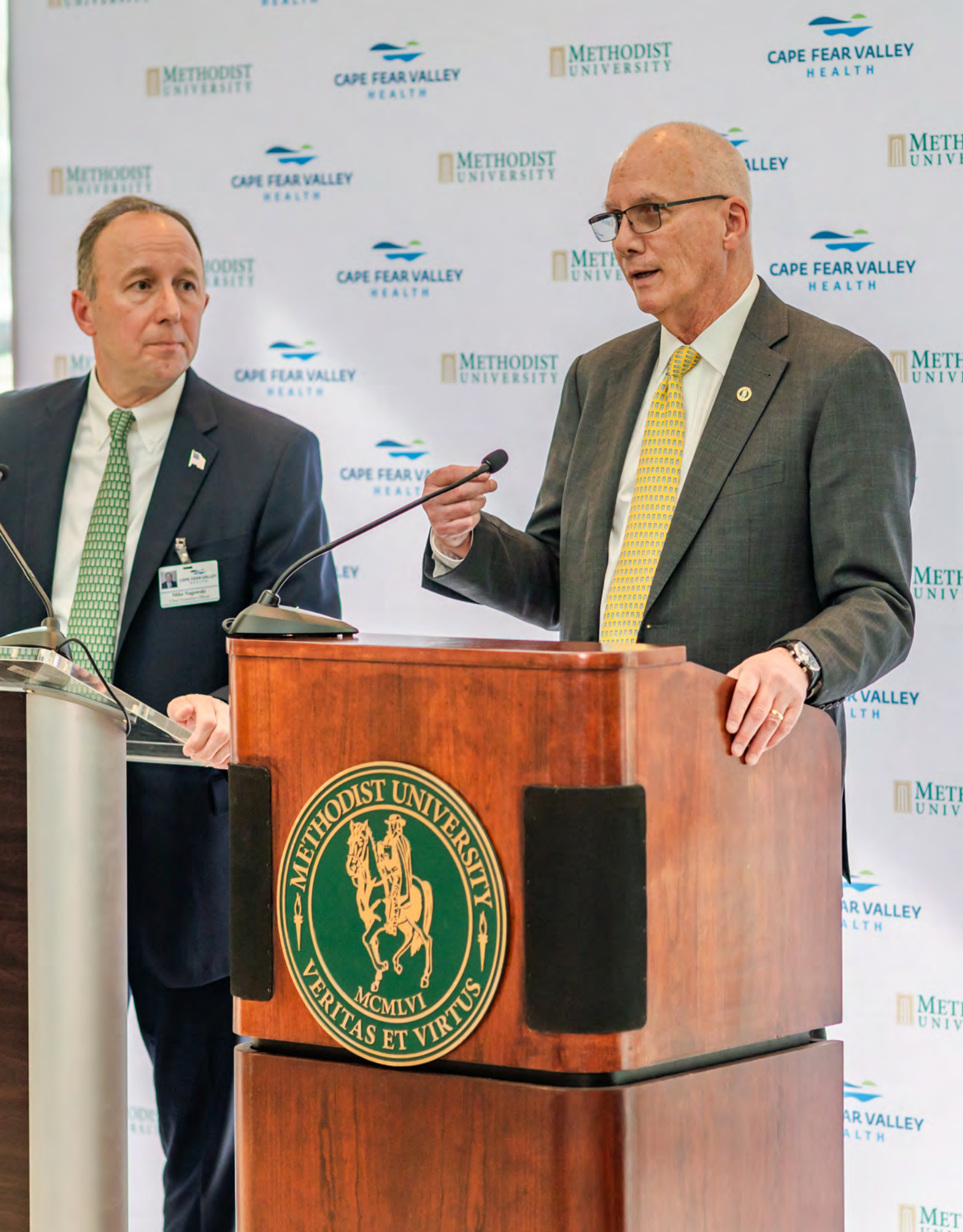
The MU medical school would be a newly constructed, \$50-million facility on the campus of Cape Fear Valley Medical Center. The school will combine the expertise and resources of both institutions, providing students with unparalleled educational and clinical experiences.

“The creation of the medical school on our campus is truly transformational for Fayetteville and Southeastern North Carolina and will create a culture of innovation and excellence in healthcare delivery for our region,” Nagowski said. “Having the opportunity to partner with such a highly regarded university in our community ensures our students will receive an exceptional education that will prepare them to become the next generation of physicians.”

The partnership creates opportunities for students to learn in a collaborative and innovative environment, with access to cutting-edge technologies. The new MU medical school also provides students the opportunity to work alongside experienced faculty and healthcare professionals, gaining valuable real-world experience that will prepare them for their future careers.

The partnership between MU and CFVH will also contribute to the economic development of the region, creating jobs and attracting new businesses to the area. The MU medical school in partnership with Cape Fear Valley aims to begin classes in July 2026 pending approval by the Liaison Committee on Medical Education (LCME) and SACSCOC (Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges). *Check methodist.edu for more news and announcements about the medical school as details are finalized and released.* ■





Welcome from the President of Methodist University Dr. Stanley T. Wearden

Greetings Methodist University Alumni and Friends!

What a wonderful time it is to be a Monarch, and what a great honor for me to share with you some of the exciting things happening both at MU and throughout this publication.

First, and foremost, this particular “MU Today Magazine” is an opportunity for me – on behalf of our entire MU community – to thank the thousands who have provided gifts that support our University. From mentoring and networking to financial support and prayers, MU would not be on the positive trajectory it is today without the gracious offerings of our alumni and friends. We’re privileged to share a special “Thank You” section (pages 11-37), celebrating the difference makers who have donated financial gifts to support our current and future students, faculty and staff.

Taking the opportunity to mention just a few MU highlights here, perhaps the recent news that is garnering the most discussion – and press coverage locally, regionally and even nationally – is the announcement that MU has forged a partnership with Cape Fear Valley Health with the intent to create a new M.D.-granting Methodist University medical school. The goal is to build a new \$50-million-plus, state-of-the-art facility that would be built for the medical school on CFV’s Fayetteville campus. If you didn’t already, please view the previous two pages and see how/why this partnership and medical school are perfect fits for the mission of MU and why the timing is also perfect to benefit our school and community.

In addition to the news of the medical school, MU has “been in the headlines” again this semester as Higher Education Digest named Methodist University one of the “10 Must-Watch Universities in North America,” joining the likes of Oklahoma State, San Diego State, and only three others from the United States. HED is an independent publication that has a widespread international audience and the successes of our Global Education Office and international students was an influential factor. MU was also, again, ranked No.1 in the Niche College Reviews and Rankings as the most diverse university in North Carolina. This also falls right in line with our continued mission to be an inclusive campus that is *Engaged, Enriched* and *Empowered*.

Lastly, I’m confident you will truly enjoy this issue of “MU Today,” as it puts a spotlight on some of the people and activities that make MU so wonderful. Our golf national champions, our Homecoming festivities, a new endowed scholarship established by the Black Alumni Chapter, a ribbon-cutting ceremony... this issue is full of news, notes, and features.

I hope you will visit – and I’ll have the opportunity to speak with you in person – very soon.

Sincerely,



Stanley T. Wearden, Ph.D.
President



08

COVER STORY

From visiting campus for Homecoming to taking online classes or supporting students in a number of benevolent ways, there are many opportunities for an MU alum to stay connected as a Lifelong Monarch.

IN THIS ISSUE:

FEATURES

MU Pursues New Medical School	Inside Front Cover
Cover Story: Alumni Staying Connected.....	8
Special Section: Donors Offer Impactful Gifts.....	11-37
Student Spotlight: Fisher '23 in the Fast Lane	21
Faculty Spotlight: Pabon's Intentional Involvement.....	23
Scholarship Spotlight: New Black Alumni Chapter	26
Gifting Spotlight: Chaffin Building Ribbon Cutting.....	28
Homecoming 2022: Welcome Home Highlights.....	38
Alumni Spotlight: Simpson '15 a Social Sensation.....	40

DEPARTMENTS

Presidential Welcome: From Dr. Stanley T. Wearden	2
Monarch Minutes: MU News, Notes, & More	4
Where Monarchs Rule: MU Athletics.....	6
Class Notes: Weddings, Births, and More	41
In Memory: Honoring Alumni and Friends.....	49
Campus Spotlight: Then & Now.....	Inside Back Cover

MU
today
M A G A Z I N E

President
Dr. Stanley T. Wearden

**Vice President for
Institutional Advancement**
R. Gregory Swanson

**Senior Director of
Advancement Services**
Kirbie Dockery '03

Director of Alumni Relations
Taylor Murphy '15

**Marketing & Communications
Director:** Brad Johnson

Senior Graphic Designer: Binh Nguyen

Content Producer: Christian Naranjo

Digital Media Coord.: Karalee Scouten

Webmaster: Michael Molter '94

Other Contributors: Wendy Hustwit,
Scott Shaffer '23, Michael Spratt

ATHLETIC
SPOTLIGHT

TALKING TITLES | 6

DONORS
SPOTLIGHT

SPECIAL SECTION

Thank You
TO OUR DONORS

DIFFERENCE MAKERS | 11

SCHOLARSHIP
SPOTLIGHT

NEW CHAPTER & SCHOLARSHIP | 26

MU Today Magazine is published for friends and alumni of Methodist University by the Alumni and Marketing & Communications offices. To be added to our mailing list, call 910.630.7200 or email alumnioffice@methodist.edu.

New Address?

One call or email will update your University record.
Email: alumnioffice@methodist.edu
Phone: **910.630.7200**

MONARCH

Minutes

MU News, Notes, and More



Eyes of the World on MU

Higher Education Digest, an independent higher education magazine with a wide-spread international audience, recently promoted Methodist University as one of 10 “must-watch” North American colleges and universities in 2022. MU was the only university from North Carolina on a list that featured Oklahoma State, San Diego State, and three others from the U.S. The magazine’s writers point to a number of MU’s successes and attractions, including its thriving city atmosphere (nestled between the Appalachian Mountain Range and North Carolina coastline), MU’s ranking as the No. 1 most diverse university in North Carolina, the more than 80 types of undergraduate and graduate areas of study, and the top 16% ranking nationally in *The New York Times* for overall economic mobility.



Campus Camps

While the spring semester winds down on the MU campus, preparations for “camp season” begins. Last summer – and it’s looking like there will be additional this summer – MU hosted more than a dozen summer camps that included: SummerJam! Music; Shelton Leadership; PGA Golf Management; STEM; and several athletic camps. Check the QR code link often for the latest/updated list.



Infusion of Inclusion

More than 20 MU students, faculty and staff attended this year’s Martin Luther King Jr. brunch at the Crown Expo Center in Fayetteville. The brunch was just one of several opportunities and events (on and off campus) arranged by the MU Student Belonging & Inclusion Office and others during Black History Month.

Changing Prospective Perspectives

Methodist University unveiled its brand-new website in the fall, showcasing how vibrant and comprehensive MU truly is. While you can still find us at methodist.edu, you will access a completely different website experience – one that allows you to find the exact information you need while coming across more visual and interactive elements. “The new website not only makes it easier for prospective students to find what they are looking for, but it highlights why MU is the perfect place for students to receive a transformative educational experience,” said **Rick Lowe**, vice president for enrollment services. Be sure to check out the MU Events Calendar on the homepage of the site and visit whenever possible.

Tech, Talk, Teach

MU’s Education Department is always finding inventive ways to teach its students while productively giving back to the community. During tutoring sessions recently, teacher candidates operated Robokind humanoid robots as their own personal teaching assistants — helping students learn how to verbalize consonants and vowels. As a bonus, the teacher candidates can prompt the robots to talk, dance and even offer virtual prizes as the students learn.



A Monarch Salute

Pregame “wows” and halftime “honors” were a big part of this school year’s Military Appreciation Day football game. The game capped off a special afternoon that featured lively tailgating, free admission for all military personnel, the All-Veteran Group parachute team flying in, and multiple opportunities to honor active-duty service members, veterans, and their families (including Sergeant First Class **Kevin Quinones** of the 82nd Airborne Division who was given the ceremonial game ball by MU President **Stanley T. Wearden**).

HOPE and a Smile

MU’s PGA Golf Management (PGM) program displays the caring spirit MU is known for when it shares the game of golf with N.C. veterans. MU’s PGA HOPE (Helping Our Patriots Everywhere) initiative allows military veterans – many with cognitive or physical limitations – to learn the game of golf at Downback, MU’s on-campus, 18-hole golf course, at no cost to the veterans. Each semester, MU works with the Fort Bragg Service Recovery Unit to find veterans interested in participating in the program. Once they are selected, the veterans simply show up each week during an eight-week stretch to receive instruction – some utilizing adaptive golf carts – from the PGM’s expert faculty and staff.

DID YOU KNOW?

In addition to the many shows, speakers, and conferences that are held on campus each semester (check out methodist.edu/events), MU also held a Career Fair for students this spring and is a sponsor and host of the Step Up 4 Health and Wellness Expo, which brings thousands from the community to our campus.

Campus Connections

Be sure to catch the latest MU news, alumni and student profiles, and more (multiple stories every week) at methodist.edu, and also continue to connect with MU through all of our social media platforms below.

Connect With Us On Social Media

- | | |
|---|--|
| YouTube.com/MethodistUMonarchs | @MethodistUniversity |
| linkedin.com/school/methodistu | @MethodistUniversity |
| Flickr.com/KingMonarch | @MethodistU |

Alumni-Specific Social Media

- | | |
|--|---|
| @MethodistUAlum | @MethodistUniversityAlumni |
| @MethodistUAlum | |



MU ATHLETICS *WHERE MONARCHS RULE*

Par For the Course

MU Golf Programs Shine; Men Win 13th Title

Once again proving the home for DIII golf national championships is Fayetteville, N.C., the Methodist University men's golf team captured the program's 13th NCAA title in 2022. With the victory, Methodist took sole possession of the record for the most titles in DIII history.

Leading the way for the Monarchs was then-senior **Andre Chi**, who became the 10th MU golfer to finish the national tournament in first place. Chi finished two strokes ahead of the second-place finisher and MU finished eight strokes better than its nearest competitor.

Other MU golfers finishing in the Top 20 in 2022 were sophomore **Cooper Hrabak** (10th) and senior **Henry Angier** (13th). Joining Chi, Hrabak and Angier (first-team) as a PING All-American was freshman **Will Campbell** (honorable mention).

For his continued leadership and unprecedented success, MU Men's Golf Coach **Steve Conley** was named the NCAA DIII National Coach of the Year by the Golf Coaches Association of America. It's the eighth time Conley has been honored with the award. Conley is also a 24-time USA South Coach of the Year.

"I'm really proud of this team and how they came together and met the high expectations head-on," said Conley. "Andre Chi has put in the work and certainly deserved his first-place finish."

MU Women Earn Top-10 Finish

Led by **Jillian Drinkard**'s two-over par, MU finished seventh in the nation at the 2022 NCAA Division III Women's Golf Championships.

Drinkard '22 finished tied for third out of 151 golfers and **Ingrid Steingrimsen** '24 finished in the Top 15 (at nine over par).

Coaching to Classroom

Women's Golf Coach **Tom Inczauskis** '07M moved into a full-time faculty position at MU in the fall, and former MU player **Kelsie (Carralero) Warren** '14 became the new coach of the 26-time national champion program.

"I am incredibly grateful for the opportunity to have coached at Methodist University. I have met so many remarkable people, traveled the country, and coached amazing young women over the past 13 years," Inczauskis said. "I look forward to remaining an active member of the Methodist University community as I transition to the Sport Management Department in the Reeves School of Business and will always be a Monarchs fan."

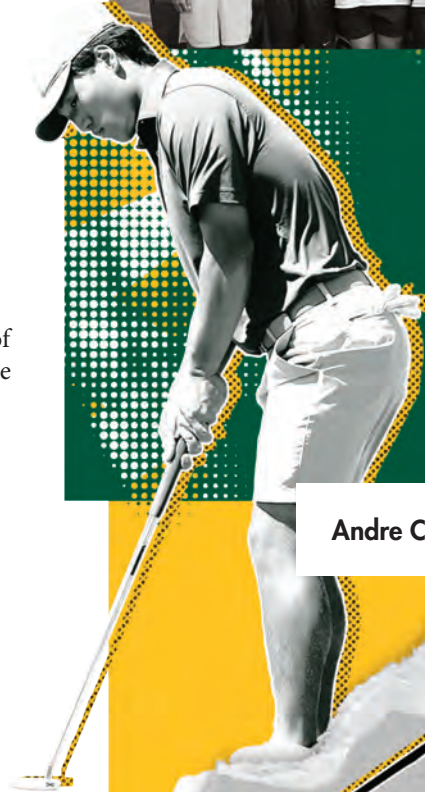
During his time as head coach, Inczauskis kept the team's historic success going by winning four national titles, including three straight in his first three seasons. Recently, he was named the 2023 Gladys Palmer Meritorious Service Award Recipient, the Women's Golf Coaches Association's (WGCA) most prestigious honor.

Warren comes back to the green and gold after serving as the head women's golf coach and assistant men's golf coach at Washington and Lee University. She was a four-time All-American and a member of two national championship winning teams at MU.



Chi was selected as the Methodist University Department of Athletics 2022 Sykes Cup winner. The award, named for former MU soccer coach Mason Sykes, has been presented annually to the University's top student-athlete since 1986. Elected in a vote of the department's coaches, the winner must display outstanding athletic achievement and possess a cumulative GPA of at least 2.0.

Andre Chi '23



Jillian Drinkard '23



Ingrid Steingrimsen '24





HITTING THE HIGHLIGHTS

MU Scores Soccer Championship

With a trip to the NCAA DIII Women's Soccer Tournament at stake, the Methodist University women's soccer team scored a 3-1 victory over Southern Virginia to earn the USA South Athletic Conference Championship at Duggins Stadium.

It was the 12th time the Monarchs earned a trip to "The Dance," but the first time since 2017. The win was MU's 14th straight, and despite a tough match-up and loss to nationally-ranked Rowan in the first round, Coach **Bryan Madej's** Monarchs finished their season with an impressive 16-3-1 record (9-0 in conference).

Success on the field led to impressive honors for MU players. **Rianna Orello '23** and **Corrine Shovlain '24** became MU's first All-Region players since 2015, and it was the first time since 1996 that multiple Monarchs were selected.

Joining Orello and Shovlain on the All-Conference team – in which Orello was named league Player of the Year – were **Madison Brunson '24**, **Baylor Burch '23**, **Alyssa Morrell '24**, **Laura Harris '23**, **Tatiana Lourenco-Shiber '23** and **Amanda DeDomenico '25**. **Kelsey Burge '25** was the Monarchs representative on the All-Sportsmanship team.

"This team represented itself so well on and off the field this year," said Madej, who was named conference coach of the year. "They certainly worked hard all year and earned their conference title and trip to the national tournament."



Thank You and Welcome

In addition to new leadership of the women's golf team (see previous page), two long-time head coaches at MU retired, handing the reigns to some familiar faces.

Last summer, Director of Athletics **Dave Eavenson '96** announced that Men's Basketball Coach **David Smith '81** was retiring after 23 seasons at the helm for the Monarchs. **Aloysius Henry** was promoted from assistant coach to the head position.

"David has had a tremendous impact on Methodist basketball the past 27 years as a player, an assistant coach, and as our head coach," Eavenson said. "David leaves MU as the all-time wins leader (279) in men's basketball history winning six conference titles and making three NCAA appearances. David has done a fantastic job as our head coach, and we will miss him!"

Henry, an assistant under Smith since 2015, played at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro and professionally overseas.

Another coach retiring after decades at MU was Softball Coach **Ron Simpson**, who spent 24 years at the helm. **Alexis Allaman '18M** was promoted from assistant coach to the head position.

Simpson had a long and fruitful career that featured 538 wins, the most in program history. During his reign he was a four-time conference coach of the year, won four regular-season championships, three conference tournament championships and made six NCAA tournament appearances.

"I want to thank and congratulate Ron Simpson on an outstanding coaching career" Eavenson said. "Ron did an excellent job as our coach the past 24 years. He leaves as the all-time wins leader in program history but more importantly his teams competed with class on the field and at a high level in the classroom."

Allaman, who served as an assistant under Simpson starting in 2018, is a 2016 graduate of Fayetteville State University and began her coaching career there in 2017. She earned her masters in coaching education and athletic administration at MU in 2018. ■

Class Act

MU wins on the field/course/courts... but succeeds in the classroom, as well. Here are the 2022 Male and Female Scholar-Athletes of the Year – all of whom posted a 4.00 grade-point average in both the fall and spring academic terms.

Female Scholar-Athletes of the Year

Sydney Bird '23 – Tennis
Natalie Brosig '25 – Golf
Madison Brunson '24 – Soccer
Bri Caton '23 – Softball
Rebekah Haigler '25 – Softball
Tatiana Lourenco-Shiber '23 – Soccer
Liz Schmitz '22 – Softball

Male Scholar-Athletes of the Year

Brandon Bullins '22 – Football
Anthony Miale '25 – Baseball

This marked the third MU scholar-athlete award for Schmitz, and the second for Brunson.



LIFELONG MONARCHS

Alumni Stay Connected in Many Ways

by Christian Naranjo

Lions are one of the most aggressive and ferocious creatures in the animal kingdom. Yet, they are considered one of the most sociable predators – working with their group of up to a few dozen other lions, known as a “pride,” to keep their status as “kings of the jungle.”

As lifelong Monarchs, it’s only fitting the Methodist University community takes a similar approach of engaging, enriching, and empowering the lives of past, present, and future MU students – a task that cannot be completed without staying connected and being a part of the pride.

Whether you are longstanding alumni with proven success, alumni fresh out of graduation, or somewhere in between, there is no shortage of ways to embrace Methodist University and stay connected. From continuing your education to supporting monetarily to becoming an active part of the community, we can help you find your purpose at MU. All you need to do is take the time to review your options and utilize the QR code at the end of the story to get started.

Continuing Your Education

Part of Methodist University’s mission is to provide opportunities “for a continuing thirst of knowledge.”

One way for alumni to quench that thirst is by continuing their education through Methodist University’s online programs. Abigail Avalos ’20, ’22M is a perfect example.

Like many alumni, Avalos started her MU career on campus – eventually earning her bachelor’s degree in Health Care Administration in December 2020. As a wife and mother of two children, while also working full time, Avalos originally decided not to pursue a graduate degree.

But many of her fellow Methodist University alumni who did join MU’s online Master of Health Care Administration program immediately, spoke glowingly of the online experience. Avalos quickly pivoted and started the program a few months later, setting the table for her to receive her master’s degree in Health Care Administration in December 2022 – becoming part of the first class of fully online graduates in MU history.

“Pursuing my master’s degree helped me realize that one person can make a huge difference in health care. The program was difficult, but I truly enjoyed it and it has set me up to

“If you want to grow professionally and personally, I would tell any MU alumni thinking of continuing their education online to go for it. It may seem different and daunting, but it’s not, and MU’s faculty will make sure you’re successful.”

Abigail Avalos ’20, ’22M
Health Care Administration



continue my education if I want to,” said Avalos. “If you want to grow professionally and personally, I would tell any MU alumni thinking of continuing their education online to go for it. It may seem different and daunting, but it’s not, and MU’s faculty will make sure you’re successful.”

Avalos may not stop there as she is considering pursuing a doctorate degree in health care in the near future.

While there may be more options these days, the move to continue education at MU is nothing new, as evidenced by Jimmy Crayton ’01, ’16M.

After earning his Bachelor of Science in Criminal Justice and Sociology in 2001, Crayton worked in law enforcement for five years before moving to the District Attorney’s Office in the 11th Prosecutorial District (N.C.) as an investigator for 11 years.

Crayton was ready to take on a role as a police chief, so he decided to return to Methodist University for its hybrid Master of Justice Administration program.

“It was the most perfectly designed program like it in North Carolina,” he added. “Even though most of it was done online, there was a justice academy once a month. The networking and information sharing was absolutely crucial. It was better than any other program in the state.”

Shortly after earning his master’s degree in 2016, Crayton became the police chief in Wallace, North Carolina and has successfully served his community ever since.

If you are ready to continue your education today, MU offers more than 80 undergraduate and graduate degree programs. Most programs are available on campus with a growing list also becoming available online (online.methodist.edu) – a perfect option for anyone with a full-time job, in the military, or ready to finally earn that elusive but valuable degree.



Supporting MU

The success of Methodist University would not be possible without the support of our alumni. A simple act of giving can make an everlasting difference within the MU community.

There are many ways to directly give to MU including cash gifts, credit card gifts, pledges, matching gifts, estate gifts, gifts of stock, bonds, and other securities. Methodist University's secure giving site (methodist.edu/giving) provides a safe and easy place to donate today. If online giving is not your cup of tea, alumni can also give in person, over the phone or through the mail.

However, there are other options for giving like planned giving – a donor's intention to contribute a major gift to MU beyond their lifetime. Not only does it preserve a donor's legacy, but it can often provide valuable tax benefits.

A few years ago, married alumni couple David '65 and Wanda '66 Herring – who received their bachelor's degrees in business and English, respectively – decided they would participate in MU's planned giving campaign. Their \$200,000-plus gift funded the beautiful, multi-colored stained glass window that can be seen in Matthew Ministry Center today (*see picture below*).

"We evaluated our lives and realized all of the good fortune we've had," said David Herring. "We have to credit the education we received from Methodist University, along with the experiences and tools it provided to shaping our lives. We've been blessed and we praise God for that."

Like the Herrings, making a planned gift part of your estate plan is an excellent way to provide for your family while also supporting a scholarship, program or sport at Methodist University. You can create a legacy that will impact future Monarchs in the years ahead.



Volunteer for MU

You may be asking: How may I volunteer my time to Methodist University? Fortunately, the University also has a variety of opportunities available for alumni.

The MU Board of Trustees oversees policy making and ensuring sound resource management of MU. Currently, 10 out of the 29 Board of Trustees members are proud Methodist University alumni.

Perhaps you are more passionate about alumni relations. Then, the Methodist University Alumni Association (MUAA) may be for you. As an MU graduate, you are automatically enrolled as a member of the MUAA, which meets quarterly to identify and implement ways to keep alumni informed and involved.

One of multiple alumni chapters in the MUAA, the Black Alumni Chapter (BAC), started in 2022 and welcomes black alumni to a number of gatherings and events throughout the year. It has even set up an endowed scholarship to support students of color. To learn more about the BAC, visit page 26.

Another way to volunteer is the Founders Council. This group of individuals who believe in MU's mission exists to aid, foster, and promote the growth, progress, and general welfare of the University, Cumberland County, and North Carolina. At the moment, seven members of the Council are MU alumni.



Supporting Student Scholarships

A powerful way to support MU is by funding student scholarships. While there are more than 30 scholarships funded by MU alumni, the Alumni Endowed Scholarship Fund is especially known for making a powerful difference year in and year out. Set up by the Methodist University Alumni Association, the Alumni Endowed Scholarship Fund designates gifts to current, full-time students who have completed the FAFSA. The best part: At an annual luncheon, you get to meet the scholarship recipients who like to personally thank you (*see more on page 17*).

For alumni seeking a different way to help current students, you should consider a mighty recruiting tool: the Greatest Gift Scholarship program (*see back cover*). As an MU alumni, you have the power to give out one Greatest Gift Scholarship each year to a full-time, incoming freshman or transfer student. If the student's application reflects that you actively recruited the student to attend MU, the scholarship is worth \$500 per year and is fully renewable if the student maintains eligibility.



Career Connection

As you drive across the greater Fayetteville area, it does not take long before you start noticing businesses owned by Methodist University alumni. With that growing network of MU alumni, an ever-increasing number of career possibilities comes with it. In fact, many of our alumni business owners have hired fellow MU alumni.

Whether you are alumni looking to hire or an alumna hoping to be hired, Methodist University can help with the process. Alumni employers have the ability to create an employer account on Handshake – an online employment recruiting tool – and request to connect with MU. On the other side of the coin, alumni job seekers can also create an account on Handshake, where they also have the ability to connect with MU alumni-employers.

Better yet, Methodist University's Career Advising & Employer Engagement Office is available every week (tvann@methodist.edu) to assist you through the entire process.

**DID
YOU
KNOW?**

Methodist University is a proud employer of its alumni. Currently, 60 alumni work at MU as full-time staff or faculty.



**ENGAGE
WITH
MU!**

How Will You Stay CONNECTED?



We Can't Wait to See You!

It's that glorious time of the year when you can reconnect with your Methodist University friends and reminisce about the "good ol' days": Homecoming Weekend.




On top of the always-anticipated intercollegiate athletic events, there's a bevy of other alumni-focused events including: the alumni awards ceremony, alumni tailgate, campus tour, coffee social, alumni basketball games, and so much more.




"It's always good to see the progress that's being made," said Candis Milligan '08, who attended MU's 2022 Homecoming (see page 38 for a recap). "Every time I step foot on campus, it seems like there's something new. [My husband and I] love coming back for Homecoming."

In fact, be sure to save the date for this year's MU Homecoming: October 27-29, 2023.

There are plenty of other events that alumni are always welcome to: MU's Military Appreciation football game (see page 6), event, theatre and musical performances, and more (visit methodist.edu/events for the latest). We also have regional alumni events that might be near where you live. Be sure to read the Alumni Newsletter for the latest detail.

As it's certainly understandable not all alumni are able to attend in-person events, it's easy to stay engaged on MU's social media platforms (Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, LinkedIn, YouTube). They are just some of the many different ways MU alumni continue to stay connected. ■

 @MethodistUniversity
 @MethodistUniversity
 /MethodistUMonarchs

 @MethodistU
 @MethodistU
 /kingmonarch

As Methodist University continues its positive trajectory, now is the perfect time for you to jump on board and make a difference. To stay or get connected with any of the mentioned opportunities (or others), scan the QR code.

Thank You *Donors*

2021-22

METHODIST UNIVERSITY
**ANNUAL
REPORT**

**DONORS
SPOTLIGHT**

SPECIAL SECTION FEATURES INCLUDE:

- ♦ Cumulative Giving Tribute
- ♦ Endowment History and 2021-22 Gifts
- ♦ Alumni Participation By Class
- ♦ Endowed Scholarship Luncheon
- ♦ Annual Giving Gifts and Grants
- ♦ Planned Giving Society
- ♦ Endowed Professorships
- ♦ Annual and Endowed Scholarships
- ♦ Ribbon-Cutting Ceremony
- ♦ And Much More ...

Methodist University's fiscal year runs July through June, and this report reflects data from July 2021 through June 2022.
Data from the 2022-23 year will be available in the next Annual Report of Donors.

Endowment History

Year Endowment

'21-22	\$28,985,372*
'20-21	\$24,406,764
'19-20	\$19,436,354
'18-19	\$18,611,366
'17-18	\$17,857,527
'16-17	\$17,337,436
'15-16	\$15,308,388
'14-15	\$14,155,186
'13-14	\$14,064,919
'12-13	\$11,481,797
'11-12	\$10,675,463
'10-11	\$10,494,037
'09-10	\$8,700,592
'08-09	\$8,356,533
'07-08	\$10,155,977

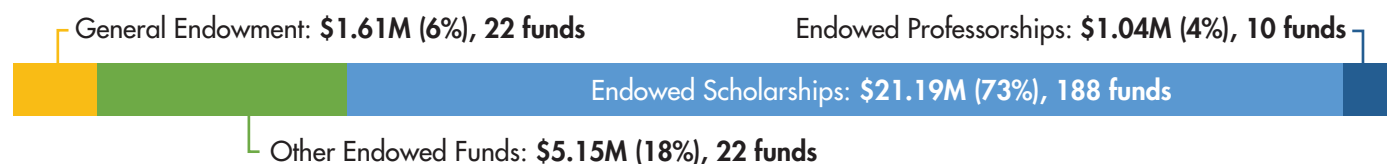
\$8M \$10M \$12M \$14M \$16M \$18M \$20M \$22M \$24M \$26M \$28M \$30M

*AS OF JUNE 30, 2022

Thank you!

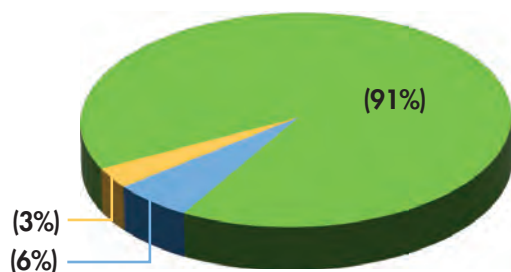


2021-22 Endowment Funds: \$28.99M, 242 Funds



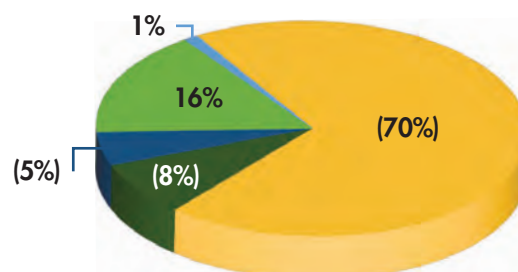
2021-22 Annual Gifts: \$12.17M

WHERE DOES THE MONEY COME FROM?



Individuals (1,667 Donors)	\$11,120,622
Foundations (9 Donors)	\$317,930.19
Corporations (193 Donors)	\$724,726.04

WHERE DOES THE MONEY GO?



Restricted	\$1,026,196.38	Endowment Funds	\$8,497,647.17
Campaign Funds	\$574,129.77	Annual Fund	\$1,961,576.93
Loyalty Campaign	\$107,168.34		

Learn more about your giving opportunity to MU at methodist.edu/advancement



ALUMNI PARTICIPATION: GIVING BACK TO MU

Thank you to all of our alumni who gave back to Methodist University this year! Whether it was your time, talent, or treasure, we appreciate you. We have made significant strides in the past 15 years and we couldn't have done it without you.

Our goal is to increase our alumni participation rate each year. Your gift is a vote of support for Methodist. U.S. News & World Report tracks alumni giving percentages to determine

alumni satisfaction for its college rankings, and many foundations and major donors also consider alumni participation as they determine if MU is a place worthy of investment.

Alumni participation also demonstrates an attitude of gratitude for the education you received and the people who helped you earn it, while providing an even better experience for the next generation of students.

TOP 20 CLASSES

IN DOLLARS GIVEN AND PARTICIPATION

Methodist University sincerely appreciates all alumni gifts, whether large or small. The percentage of alumni participation is especially critical, as it impacts rankings and grant opportunities.

TOP 20 Alumni Classes By Dollars

Class	Dollars Given	Class	Dollars Given
'74	\$104,540.00	'81	\$16,790.00
'70	\$46,789.42	'07	\$7,897.75
'66	\$32,385.00	'73	\$6,725.00
'85	\$26,600.00	'86	\$6,015.00
'71	\$25,625.00	'11	\$5,970.00
'68	\$24,014.42	'99	\$5,700.00
'00	\$22,185.04	'98	\$5,625.00
'69	\$20,342.23	'89	\$5,513.94
'67	\$20,213.17	'02	\$4,917.00
'01	\$16,961.00	'03	\$4,695.00

TOP 20 Alumni Classes By Participation

Class	Percent	Class	Percent
'22	37.21%	'72	12.03%
'70	25.47%	'73	10.65%
'66	20.00%	'81	10.53%
'68	20.00%	'76	9.90%
'69	18.24%	'79	9.73%
'67	17.91%	'21	9.25%
'71	16.45%	'07	9.06%
'78	14.77%	'99	8.99%
'65	12.73%	'17	8.72%
'64	12.50%	'05	8.70%



Endowed Scholarship Luncheon

Scholarships Help Students Achieve
Their Academic Dreams

It was a time of gratitude and friendship as students and donors gathered for Methodist University's annual Endowed Scholarship Luncheon in September. Each year, the luncheon provides an opportunity for current students to personally thank donors from the community for their contributions to the hundreds of endowed scholarships available to MU students.

"Not only is this a chance to thank donors, but this also provides a venue for our donors and students to build relationships with one another," Greg Swanson, MU's vice president for Institutional Advancement and senior counsel, said at the event. "Our students can share their story and learn why you support endowed scholarships. All of us have benefitted from someone who has helped us from our past. Thank you, donors. We're very grateful for your contributions."

A pair of Methodist University students shared their stories of how endowed scholarships have impacted their lives, including nursing student, Madeline Wilson '23. Wilson is a non-traditional student planning to graduate with an RN-to-BSN degree. She said: "being the recipient of the Robert J. Chaffin Endowed Nursing Scholarship and the Kathryn F. Christian Endowed Scholarships has allowed my academic dreams to come true." ■

Madeline Wilson '23

Recipient of the Robert J. Chaffin
Endowed Nursing Scholarship
and the Kathryn F. Christian
Endowed Scholarships



Life in the Fast Lane:

Fisher Makes the Most of Her Time at MU



by Christian Naranjo

When you give a young driver the chance to drive a Corvette, you know "going too slow" won't be the issue.

There was a similar feeling when Lauryn Fisher '23 came to Methodist University's campus as a freshman in the fall of 2019. Like the young driver, Fisher was determined to hit the gas and make a difference on campus from the get-go.

Born and raised in Raleigh, Fisher grew up with an appetite for criminal justice and forensic science.

"It was the main reason I came to Methodist University. I wanted to be a part of the Forensic Science program," Fisher said. "I've always enjoyed solving problems and putting things together. MU's program stood out because it offers a concentrations in CSI and Chemistry, while other schools only focused on the laboratory aspect."

Only a month into her first semester, Fisher was already trying out extracurricular activities. What started with one or two undertakings, quickly grew to three, four or even five at a time. In her time at MU – while making sure activities didn't negatively influence her studies – she has been involved with:

TO-DO LIST

- ✓ Student Activities Committee (marketing coordinator for two years, president for two years)
- ✓ Criminal Justice & Forensic Science Association
- ✓ Resident Assistant at Garber Hall
- ✓ Leadership Fellows Program
- ✓ Student Employment Program
- ✓ Black Student Union
- ✓ Dance Team (captain for one year)

Fisher also was voted Homecoming Queen in 2022, was featured in a popular University instructional video and even worked at a fast-food restaurant during a stretch of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Fisher said a few people have tried to tell her to "slow down," but staying in the mix is the only way she knows how to operate.

"Growing up, my parents always brought me out into the community. There was a lot of outreach with our church and my father's fraternity. It was always something," Fisher said. "I simply want to help other students have fun while on campus. Yes, the main priority is to work on your degree, but it's also OK to take a break and have fun. It brings me so much joy when I see people enjoying my hard work."

Fisher is set to graduate with bachelor's degree in Forensic Science and Criminal Justice this May with hopes of working for the North Carolina City County Bureau of Investigation,

the Fayetteville Police Department or Salem Police Department. She is also considering graduate school.

Dr. Eric See, head of MU's Justice & Military Science Division, feels Fisher has what it takes for the profession.

"Early on, Lauryn faced a number of challenges as a student," See said. "However, rather than allowing those challenges to end or derail her academic career, she has used them as fuel and motivation for her success at MU."

While Fisher is proud of her accomplishments, she is quick to credit various MU faculty and staff for their impact, including See, Sarah See (assistant professor, Criminal Justice) and Gavin Myrick (director, Student Belonging & Inclusion).

However, Fisher's biggest inspiration is her younger brother, Ethan, a high-school senior who has autism.

"The relationship is very rewarding because I get to see him be inspired by me," she said. "He wants to be the first African-American NASCAR driver with autism, and there are moments where he says he wants to do what I do. It's nice to see a glimpse of him thinking, 'If Lauryn can do it, I can do it.'"

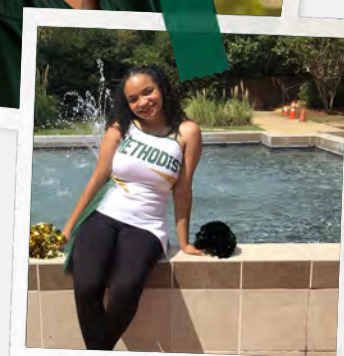
Although Fisher's life in the fast lane has been a blur, she wouldn't have it any other way.

"I'm thankful for my time at MU because of the people, growth and experiences I've had," she said. "I've grown in so many different aspects since stepping foot on campus. I'm very grateful for that." ■

Homecoming
Queen
(crowning
moment on the
Homecoming
Spread
- pg. 39)



Forensic Science
Major



#Dance Captain

Fluent in Many Talents:

Pabón Makes Impact on Students In and Out of Classroom

by Christian Naranjo



He grew up in Ecuador and Colombia. He teaches language and culture classes. He coaches tennis and even takes classes as a student from time to time. Dr. Javier Pabón might be one of the most interesting faculty at Methodist University.

Pabón has donned many hats since arriving to MU in 2018, but he is now known as the head of the Humanities Division and associate professor of Modern Languages. While his main areas of research are Spanish language, literature and culture, Pabón instructs other areas of study, including film, Latin American history, interdisciplinary studies for the MU Journey and even French occasionally.

While Pabón is proud of his knowledge and education – which includes a bachelor's degree in Communications from La Sabana University in Colombia, a master's degree in Liberal Studies from Duke University and a doctoral degree from Simón Bolívar Andean University in Ecuador – he receives no greater joy than the opportunity he has to collaborate with students in the classroom.

"There's a cliché that says the students teach you as much as you teach them, and it's true," Pabón said. "A lot of the times we all come from different worlds so the students challenge me to seek effective ways to communicate with them. Education is an active process and it's not about me only transmitting knowledge to them. It's a joint effort to think, learn and do things together."

Pabón is quick to credit the successes of his former and current students – pointing to their many next steps including becoming translators, continuing careers in the U.S. Army and earning their graduate degrees.

"There's a cliché that says the students teach you as much as you teach them, and it's true,"

Dr. Javier Pabón

Associate Professor of Modern Languages

"She was very frustrated, so I helped her think through her Plan B. She decided to apply for a master's degree in Latin American Studies at the University of Florida, so I sponsored and put together a recommendation for her," he said. "Now, she's a master's graduate. That's the sort of thing that you enjoy sharing with a student – a love for learning."

Pabón's achievements extend outside of the classroom. Recently, he authored and published his own book, "A Tres Voces," exploring contemporary symbolic representations of Afro-Ecuadorians in poetry, oral tradition and media discourse. When time allows, he also partakes in a combination of filmmaking and theater performances for social justice projects.

However, one of Pabón's most fiery passions comes from his love for

tennis. He grew up playing on the clay courts in Quito, Ecuador and Bogotá, Colombia. He played and coached at Academia Internacional de Quito, where he was able to hit with several future professional tennis players. He even competed for his college men's tennis team.

When he joined Methodist University in 2018, Pabón was quick to reach out to Head Women's Tennis Coach John Blackburn to find out how he could help. Soon enough, Pabón earned the title of "assistant women's tennis coach" – now spending as many as 10 hours per week helping students with individual workouts that focus on specific skills and strategies.

"It allows me to interact with students at a different level," he added. "Many of them see me in the classroom, but the tennis courts are a much different environment. I've found coaching is the same as teaching, you're just using a different set of skills."

Pabón also occasionally takes classes as a student from the University's Professional Tennis Management program.

On top of it all, Pabón loves spending time with his wife and 5-year-old son (Anna and Ezra). Although his plate is undoubtedly full, Pabón would not have it any other way.

"My wife would tell you I'm crazy, but this is how I grew up in Ecuador and Colombia. You had to be fast-paced and moving all the time," he said. "Maybe one day I'll focus on only a few things, but for now, I truly enjoy spending my time with many things." ■



Make a Tax-Wise Decision and *Support Our Students!*

What is an IRA Charitable Rollover Gift?

An IRA charitable rollover allows taxpayers to make tax-free charitable gifts up to \$100,000 directly from their Individual Retirement Accounts to eligible charities like Methodist University. If you are 70-and-a-half years old or older, you can use your IRA to support MU!

Benefits of an IRA Charitable Rollover Gift



Simplifies the giving process. It's easy to do – just notify your IRA custodian.



Helps avoid limits on charitable deductions and prevents you from being pushed into a higher tax bracket.



Minimizes the effect your giving has on your cash flow, as you're giving from your assets, not your checkbook.



May satisfy your required minimum distribution, or RMD, up to the amount of your gift.





Supporting Students of Color

New Black Alumni Chapter Establishes Scholarship and More

by Wendy Hustwit

In summer 2022, Deion Garner '17, Jamaal Doran '14, Syntina Nesbitt '14, Jerome Purdie '14, Brandon Sparrow '17, (pictured left to right above), in addition to Jay Carroll II '15, Antjuan Jones '14, Lorenzo Jameco McKenzie '15, Shawntavia Smith '15, and Jason Sparrow '17, approached MU Alumni Relations with a proposal to form the Black Alumni Chapter (BAC). In collaboration with the University and MU Alumni Association, this group quickly formalized some Black alumni homecoming traditions and established an endowed scholarship.

Each of these individuals served in leadership roles at MU, as elected Student Government Association reps and founders of Divine Nine fraternities or sororities; as resident advisors and club presidents. When recalling their achievements, these trailblazers are quick to praise earlier Black MU student leaders in shaping their own undergraduate successes.

The legacy of Black student leadership and mentorship motivated these 10 students to establish the BAC to celebrate the MU student-of-color experience and raise scholarship funds for future MU students of color.

Approximately one-third of the MU student population is comprised of students who are African American, American Indian, Asian/Asian American, Hispanic/Latino American, Multi-racial American, or International citizens. "We are proud MU graduates and we [as students of color] have a unique experience of finding our MU family," Doran said.

Like college students across the country, many MU students are away from their homes for the first time. While they treasure the abundant diversity on campus, they also yearn for familiar traditions, foods, language, and hobbies over which they can bond with new friends.

The Black Alumni Chapter of the Alumni Association is a natural extension of cultural celebrations most MU students experience on campus. MU students have sustained culture-celebrating groups for decades and any student is welcome to join. Currently active clubs on campus include the African Student Organization, Black Student Union, LatinX Club, and International Student Association.

"[I hope] that others receive the foundational knowledge and skills I received at Methodist University to be successful in their careers and lives."

Dr. Mary M. Atwater '69

By the conclusion of Homecoming 2022 in October, the BAC had already met its goal to raise the first \$5,000 for a new scholarship for MU students of color: the Dr. Mary M. Atwater '69 Endowed Scholarship. Atwater, a Fayetteville native, was the first African American student to enroll in and to graduate from Methodist University.

The idea to name the BAC's new endowed scholarship began with Tracey Sherrod, MU's director of Library Services. Sherrod met Dr. Atwater in 2018, when Atwater gave the keynote speech for MU's Spring Convocation. "People should know how much courage and determination Atwater had when she was at Methodist," Sherrod said.

Atwater enrolled at Methodist in 1965. In the Civil Rights era of the 1960s – and when there were no Black faculty or students at MU – one can imagine Atwater's determination to enroll and complete a Bachelor of Science in Chemistry with honors. She later earned a Doctorate in Science Education and helped establish the field of multicultural science education in the U.S.

Upon agreeing to have the new endowed scholarship named after her, Atwater expressed her gratitude to receive this honor in her lifetime. In personal notes to each of the BAC founders, Atwater shared: "[I hope] that others receive the foundational knowledge and skills I received at Methodist University to be successful in their careers and lives."

Like all endowed scholarships at MU, the Atwater Scholarship will be endowed and begin disbursing awards when it reaches \$25,000. The BAC goal is to raise at least \$5,000 per year for the next four years to achieve full endowment, but there is no limit to how large it can grow. A larger endowed scholarship will support more MU students of color.

All MU alumni and friends are invited to contribute to the Atwater Scholarship at donate.methodist.edu/atwater. ■

To connect with the Black Alumni Chapter and hear more details about alumni events in your area, sign up for the Alumni Newsletter or contact Taylor Murphy, Alumni Relations Director at tamurphy@methodist.edu or 910.630.7485.





During a ceremony for Methodist University's newly-named Robert J. Chaffin Building, Chaffin's nephew Sam Byrd (center left) and niece Valerie Chaffin (center right) are surrounded by students, faculty, and staff as they cut a ribbon to officially signify the naming of the building.

An Honoring Celebration

MU holds ribbon cutting for naming of Robert J. Chaffin Building

Family members of Robert J. Chaffin joined dozens from the Methodist University community as MU held a ribbon-cutting ceremony in the fall to celebrate the naming of its state-of-the-art nursing building in his honor.

The impact of the Chaffin family on the North Carolina community can be traced back for centuries, and now, their legacy will continue to live throughout Methodist University's campus for years to come.

The ceremony came on the heels of a record-setting gift of more than \$14 million from the estate of Robert J. Chaffin following his passing in 2021. More than \$12 million of the gift goes directly to student scholarships – with a portion going directly to nursing students – with another \$1.5 million designated to name the facility that houses the renowned nursing program.

During the ceremony, President Stanley T. Wearden demonstrated his gratitude for the Chaffin family as Chaffin's nephew, Sam Byrd, and niece, Valerie Chaffin, sat in attendance.

"I want to express my deep appreciation to Robert Chaffin and his family," said Wearden. "This is a once-in-a-career type of gift. It changes the University for the better and will have a lasting impact. This is a very special moment for Methodist University and the Chaffin family."

Valerie Chaffin was moved by the experience, with Nursing Program students in attendance and lining up directly underneath the new building sign that bears her uncle's name.

"I truly didn't understand the impact [Robert Chaffin] had until I got here and saw the building with the nursing students," she said. "It's helping me realize his legacy and how important education and scholarships are, especially for nursing students. He made great plans for this gift, and now we're just carrying it out."

On top of an outstanding group of faculty, and a low student-to-faculty ratio, the Nursing Program's Robert J. Chaffin Building includes a 10,000-square-foot general simulation hospital that includes a discharge area, pharmacy, skills lab, nurse stations, private hospital rooms, triage suit, simulated patients, and more.

"This gift is incredible for our students and the University," said Dr. Rakesh Gupta, chair of the MU Board of Trustees. "An endowment keeps the cost of education down and changes the trajectory of the University in the short and long term. We will always remember Robert Chaffin." ■



Each day, students pass the plaque and image of Robert J. Chaffin as they pursue their academic dreams.



'21-22 Alumni Giving by the Numbers



Class of
'74

jumped 29 spots in dollars given to lead all classes.

The May '22 graduates had **37%** participation through the Grads Give Back program to lead all classes this year.



More than **1,000** alumni made a gift in 2021-22.



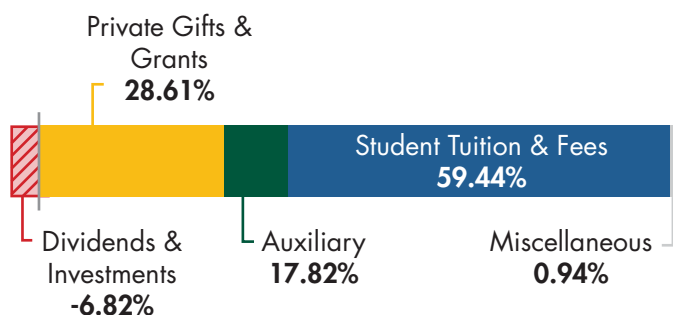
At least one class from all **seven decades** were represented in the Top 20 for participation.



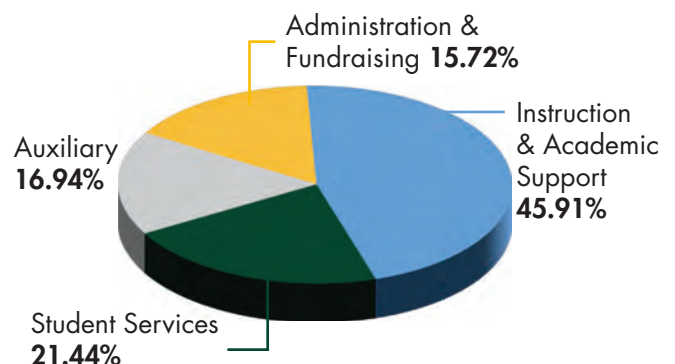
All six classes from the **1960s** are represented in the Top 20 for participation.

Revenues and Expenditures

REVENUES: Total \$56.7 Million



EXPENDITURES: Total \$47 Million



Endowed Scholarships

The scholarship program at Methodist University has prospered through the generosity of its donors. Following is a summary of existing endowed and annual scholarships at Methodist. We are grateful to those who have established and contributed to these scholarships which provide financial assistance for deserving young men and women to obtain an education at Methodist University.

Donnell G. Buck Adams Memorial Scholarship
Margaret Stafford Alexander Scholarship
Mary Neal Alexander Memorial Scholarship
William Tasse Alexander III Endowed Scholarship
Allen Scholarship

Dr. Richard R. Allen, Sr.

Lydia Lennon & George W. Applewhite Scholarship
Carolyn R. and George H. Armstrong '68 Family
Endowed Scholarship

Dr. Mary M. Atwater Endowed Scholarship
Frank Barragan, Jr. Scholarship

Oakel B. Bass Endowed Scholarship
Debbie Bright Beaver Endowed Scholarship
Dr. & Mrs. Karl H. Berns Music Scholarship
Alex B. Bethune Scholarship

James Spencer Birdsong Endowed Scholarship
James Carter Black, Sr. & Florence Siems Black
Endowed Scholarship

Mary Jean Blackburn Scholarship
James A. Bledsoe Endowed Scholarship
Brantley Memorial Scholarship

*Dr. Allen P. Brantley, Mary Miller Brantley,
Mildred Cozart Brantley*

Earl W. Brian Scholarship
Catherine Brock Scholarship
John W. and Donna P. Brown Endowed Scholarship
Hugh Conway Browning Endowed Scholarship
Paul L. & Mary W. Browning Endowed Scholarship
Bruton Family Endowed Scholarship
Dr. Mary Lynn Bryan Endowed Scholarship
Howard and Marta Bullard Endowed Scholarship
Richard P. & Etta A. Butler Memorial Scholarship
Richard P. & Etta A. Butler Physician Assistant
Endowed Scholarship

Hugh Scott and Janet Smith Cameron Endowed Scholarship
Emma McAffie Cannon Memorial Scholarship
Capital District United Methodist Men
Marlette Music Scholarship

Carolina College Scholarship
Dr. Paul Carruth & Roberta F. Carruth Scholarship
Robert J. Chaffin Endowed Scholarship
Robert J. Chaffin Endowed Scholarship – Camp Ground
Robert J. Chaffin Endowed Nursing Scholarship
Chaminade Music Club Endowed Scholarship
Cynthia L. Champagne Endowed Scholarship
Dr. Darl H. Champion Sr. Scholarship
Kathryn F. Christian Endowed Scholarship
Robert S. & Kathryn F. Christian Endowed Scholarship
Ann G. Cimaglia '64 Endowed Scholarship
Fred E. Clark Scholarship
Walter & Margaret Clark Scholarship
Class of 1964 50th Anniversary Endowed Scholarship
Alfred E. Cleveland Endowed Scholarship
Martha Hicks Culbreth Memorial Scholarship
Daniel DeCriscio Endowed Scholarship

The Lebanon Masonic Lodge #391

Bruce Dent Scholarship
Ingeborg M. Dent Scholarship
The Devasthali Family Health Sciences Scholarship

Endowed Scholarship Highlights



Hendricks Endowed Scholarship

The Hendricks Endowed Scholarship was established by Methodist University President Emeritus Dr. M. Elton Hendricks and Mrs. Jerry A. Hendricks in 2022, furthering their legacy of educating students and serving their community. Once fully endowed, the scholarship will be awarded to any full-time, main campus undergraduate students with a 2.5 GPA. During Elton and Jerry's 27-tenure in the President's House (1983-2010), they lived by the principle that a quality education is essential for fostering a life of virtue.

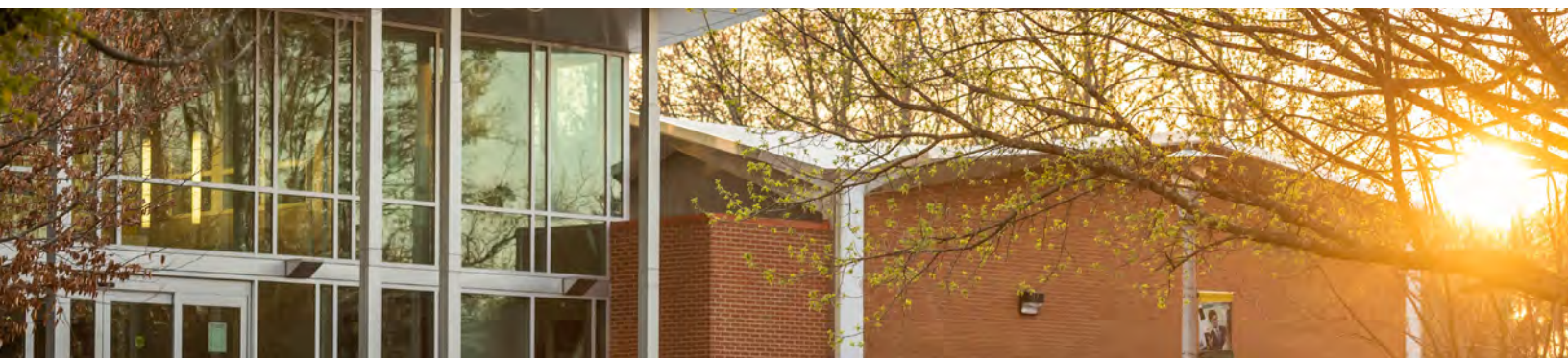
Mary Deyampert Leadership Scholarship for the
School of Social Work
Dixon Endowed Elementary Education Scholarship
G. Gordon Dixon '66 Endowed Education Scholarship
Sanford Doxey, Jr. Scholarship
Edgar & Lois Draughon Scholarship
Claudia H. Dudley Endowed Scholarship
Murray O. and Nancy T. Duggins Endowed Scholarship
Lenora Auten & Lloyd Dunn Scholarship
Edenton Street United Methodist Men Scholarship
Fayetteville Area Advertising Federation
Fayetteville District United Methodist Scholarship
Rita Jean Ivany Foley, BA Class of 1973, Magna Cum
Laude Scholarship
Dr. Loleta W. Foster and LTC Benjamin F. Foster, Jr.
(Ret.), Endowed Scholarship
Ron Foster Endowed Scholarship
Friends of Music Endowed Scholarship
Dr. Sid Gautam Scholarship for Entrepreneurs
J. Nelson & Carolyn S. Gibson Memorial Scholarship
Janie Bell Edwards Gibson
M.F. Grantham Scholarship
William F. & Francis L. Grimes Endowed Scholarship
Drs. Rakesh and Vinita Gupta Endowed Scholarship
George N. Harriss Scholarship
Established by Joe W. Walker
Maurice A. & Vennie Hawley Endowed Scholarship
Dr. Bennett A. Hayes, Jr. Endowed Scholarship
Linda and Mac Healy Endowed Scholarship
Hendricks Endowed Scholarship
John T. & Rebecca B. Henley Endowed Scholarship
Hensdale Scholarship
Dr. Carol L. Higy Education Scholarship
Established by Rita Wiggs
Philip O. Hoffer Endowed Scholarship
Shirley R. Hoffman Endowed Scholarship
William E. Horner, Sr. Scholarship
Young W. & Morie M. Howard Scholarship
Edwin & Dorothy Hubbard Endowed Scholarship
Edwin & Dorothy Hubbard Endowed Scholarship in Biology

Hyman-Highsmith Endowed Scholarship
Dr. & Mrs. Bert Ishee Scholarship
W. Robert & Thelma Johnson & Robert Neal Scholarship
Edward T. Keil and Kathleen N. Keil Endowed Scholarship
Anne and Tom Keith Valuation Science Endowed
Scholarship
Virginia & Martin Kern Education Endowed Scholarship
O. Teague Kirby Scholarship
Todd Stephen Krueger Scholarship
Lynn Morton Kubota Endowed Scholarship
Lambda Chi Alpha Scholarship
Edward Bert Lassiter Scholarship
Edward P. Leatherbury III Scholarship
Little Scholarship
John, Julian, Albert, & Calvin Little
Michael R. Loesekann '75 Endowed Scholarship
William P. Lowdermilk Scholarship
Betty Ruth Maness Memorial Scholarship
Ray and Daphne Manning Endowed Scholarship
R.A. Matheson Memorial Fund
Charles K. & Verna McAdams Endowed Scholarship
Dr. & Mrs. Clyde G. McCarver Scholarship
William L. McLaurin Endowed Scholarship
Thomas McLean Scholarship
McMillan Endowed Scholarship
Mary McKinnon McNeill Scholarship
Joseph Gray Melvin & Elizabeth Horne Melvin
Memorial Scholarship
Wesley Mensing PGA Scholarship
William & Betty Mercer Endowed Scholarship
Methodist University Alumni Association Scholarship
Methodist University Memorial Scholarship
Methodist University N.C. Conference Scholarship
Pamela Sturdivant Moll Education Fund
Mullen-Mansfield-Clayton Memorial Scholarship
Janet C. Mullen '72 Memorial Scholarship
Durwood Johnson Murray II Scholarship
John & Hazel Neill Endowed Scholarship
Jean Bradley Nickerson Endowed Scholarship
Joan Alexandra Meade Pait Scholarship

The D. Pauly & S. Downs- Applied Forensic Science
 Park Pil-Hyun and Lee Oh-Soon Endowed Scholarship
 Florence M. Paul Music Library Scholarship
 Pay it Forward Endowed Scholarship
 Alice Pearce Scholarship
 Richard W. & Neva B. Pearce Scholarship
 Titus E. Pittman Scholarship
 Margaret Ann Riddle Player Endowed Scholarship
 Alan M. Porter Music Scholarship
 Peggy S. Powers Memorial Scholarship for Women
 in Business
 Bruce R. Pulliam Scholarship
 Katherine Purdie Endowment Fund
 Raleigh District United Methodist Church
 Scholarship
 Charles Rankin Memorial Scholarship
 Hector E. Ray, Jr. Scholarship
 Riddick & Gillie Revelle Endowed Scholarship
 Alma Rhodes Scholarship
 J.P. & March Riddle Endowed Scholarship
 George & Bessie Robbins Scholarship
 John C. Rosser, Jr. Scholarship
 Joseph H. Rouse Endowed Scholarship
 Helen and D.P. Russ, Jr. Endowed Scholarship
 Salem United Methodist Church Scholarship
 Sanford District United Methodist Church Scholarship

Terry Sanford Scholarship
 Joel & Marcia Stein Schur Endowed Scholarship
 Franklin & Emily Seibert Memorial Endowed Scholarship
 Sherry Sellers Scholarship
 Gertrude F. Shore Memorial Scholarship
 Wilbur R. Smith III Scholarship
 Dorothy Allred "Dot" Snyder Endowed Scholarship
 Ann Davis & Spell Family Endowed Scholarship
 Harriet Jean Spell Scholarship
 Dr. Louis Spilman, Jr. Endowed Scholarship
 William S. & Nannie Seats Spillman Memorial Scholarship
 Shirley Starcher Memorial Scholarship
 Fannie B. Stein Scholarship
 J. Bernard Stein Scholarship
 Ira M. Steingold, Esq. Endowed Scholarship
 Elizabeth Stewart Memorial Scholarship
 B.F. "Doc" Stone Scholarship
 Carol Hardee Stout Scholarship
 Frank Stout, Jr. Memorial Scholarship
 Joe W. Stout Memorial Scholarship
 Harold J. & Josephine L. Sturdivant Endowed Scholarship
 James D. Suitch Memorial Scholarship
 C.C. Powers, Jr. & Wingate E., Sigmund B. & E.L.
 Swain Memorial Scholarship
 Conrad D. Swick '85 and Mary F. Swick Endowed
 Scholarship

Walter M. & Loretta S. Swing Accounting Scholarship
 Margaret McLeod Teabeaut Scholarship
 Louis D. & Bernadine L. Thomas Scholarship Fund
 Wallace E. & Irene N. Thorne Endowed Scholarship
 The Titmus Family Scholarship Fund
 Dr. John O. Tobler Political Science Endowed Scholarship
 Arthur & Portia MacPhail Vann Memorial Scholarship
 Dr. King Ching Wang Political Science Scholarship
 Kimberly S. Weathington Cheerleading Scholarship
 Stacy & Elizabeth Weaver Scholarship
 William S. Wellons, Sr. & Family Scholarship
 West Fayetteville Rotary Club Educational Fund
 West Fayetteville Rotary Club Scholarship
 Clara Jewell Spell Westbrook Scholarship
 Flora Cornelia Bullock & Samuel Bryan Wilkins, Jr.
 Scholarship
 James (Jim) Wilkins, Sr. & Louise Heriot Wilkins
 Endowed Scholarship
 W. Vardell & Bertha H. Williamson Scholarship
 Eutha Neighbors Willis Scholarship
 Hubert Willis Memorial Fund
Haymount United Methodist Men
 Wright Scholars
Dr. Harvey T Wright II '70 & Mrs. Mary S. Wright '68
 Wyatt Family Endowed Scholarship
 The Ziegler Endowed Scholarship



Annual Scholarships

BB&T Merit Scholarship
 William Frederick Bethune Fund for Art Scholarships
 of Cumberland Community Foundation, Inc.
 Bishop Blackburn Scholarship
 Cobb-Evans Scholarship
 Davis United World College Scholars Program
Mr. & Mrs. Shelby M.C. Davis
 Robert H. Dedman Scholarship
 E. Bascom & Cora Dingus Scholarship
 Duke Energy Foundation Scholarship
 FastMed Urgent Care – Physician Assistant Alumni
 Scholarship
Established by Robin Elledge & Reza Hatefi
 Ralph E. Fowlkes Scholarship
 Franks-Penny Memorial Scholarship
 Kameron "Kam" Dobie Friendship House Fayetteville Grant
 The Golden LEAF Foundation Scholarship
 Ray Thomas Gooch Scholarship
 Highsmith-Rainey Alumni Nursing Scholarship
 IME Becas Scholarship
 Delsie S. Kelbaugh Annual Scholarship for Biology
 Marshall Scholarship Fund

Richard E. Moran Memorial Scholarship
 NCACPA Foundation Scholarship
NC Association of Certified Public Accountants
 NETWORTH Scholarship
 North Carolina Conference United Methodist Women
 Scholarship
 Barbara Olcott Scholarship
Cumberland County Republican Women's Club
 Ingram Cannon Parmley Annual Scholarship
 Susan Blanche Penny Ministerial Scholarship
 Pittman-Frizzelle Scholarship
 Robert H. Short/Cumberland Community Foundation
 Scholars Program
 Eura Strother Scholarship
 UMC Foundation Conference Scholarship
 UMC Foundation General Scholarship
 UPS Scholarship
 USPTA Southern PTM Program Scholarship
 Wells Fargo Foundation
 Wells Fargo Fund for Excellence
 Emmett Roger Williams & Faye W. Williams Scholarship





Endowed Professorships & Chairs

Mary Lynn Bryan Endowed Professorship
Elizabeth E. McLean Endowed Professorship
Thomas R. McLean Endowed Professorship
Col. (Ret.) David R. Nimocks Endowed Professorship
Col. (Ret.) David R. Nimocks International Professorship of Business
Charles M. Reeves, Jr. Endowed Chair in Business Entrepreneurship
Lura S Tally Endowed Professorship
Samuel J. & Norma Womack Endowed Chair in Religion & Philosophy
The John W. Wyatt, Jr. Family Endowed Professorship in the Sciences
The Union-Zukowski Endowed Professorship (1)
The Union-Zukowski Endowed Professorship (2)
The Union-Zukowski Endowed Professorship (3)



Endowed Awards

Robert S. Christian Endowed English Achievement Award
Fred E. Clark Memorial Science Service Award
Theresa P. Clark Legal Writing Endowed Award
Walter B. Clark Maximum Effort Award
Alfred E. Cleveland Award for Excellence in Teaching
Jane Weeks Gardiner Advising Award
Fleeta Harris Gibson Library Endowed Fund
Dr. Sue L. Kimball Creative Writing Contest Endowed Award
Coach Larry Kirchner Gold Medal Award
Ronald P. Kirchner Award in Resort Management
Dr. William P. Lowdermilk Student Achievement Award
McLean Foundation Coach of the Year Award
McRae-Klein Math Endowed Award
George and Lillian Miller Award
Ott-Cooper Science Award
Pauline Longest Education Award
Plyler Humanities Award
Political Science Alumni Student Award
Lura S. Tally Award for Leadership Excellence



Other Endowed Funds

D. Keith Allison Hall Endowment
Bullard Science & Religion Lecture Series
Dr. Darl H. Champion Endowment for Criminal Justice
Friends of Davis Memorial Library
General Endowment
Lafayette Society Endowment
Last Dollar Fund Endowment
James Maynard Library Endowment
PA Program Enhancement Endowment

Pauline Longest Nature Trail
Pauline Longest Science Endowment
Quasi-Endowment Investment Fund
Reeves School of Business
Technology in the Classroom Endowment
The Tobler-Wang Endowment for Political Science
Wesley Heritage Celebration Fund
The Yarborough Family Fund
The Union-Zukowski Jewish Studies Endowment

Welcome Home!

Homecoming 2022 was a perfect mix of past, present and future as our MU alumni joined current students, their families, prospective students, and many friends and guests for a fall weekend of fun.

From student dance performances, a campus bonfire event and athletic competition to Chorale's "Gatherings" and alumni-specific functions and ceremonies, it was a weekend to remember for all Monarchs.



Enjoy looking back at some of the highlights here, and be sure to register for Homecoming 2023 at methodist.edu/homecoming. Access photos from Homecoming 2022 at King Monarchs on Flickr or scan the QR code.

Winners On and Off the Field

While intercollegiate athletic events are a highlight of every homecoming – and in 2022 all Monarchs gathered to cheer on our football, women's soccer and men's soccer teams – there was also an alumni basketball game, the PGA Golf Management Ceremonial Tee Shot, and the Athletics Hall of Fame Induction.

Due to COVID-19 restrictions the past couple of years, three classes of honorees were included:

Francie Barragan (Class of 2020)

Jerry Hogge (Class of 2020)

Susan Martin '10 (Class of 2020)

Kristy Zeiler Olivarez '11 (Class of 2020)

Colette Gilligan '93 (Class of 2021)

John Storms '90 (Class of 2021)

Vivian Davis '87 (Class of 2022)

Mark Faber '94 (Class of 2022)

Intermission Recognition: At the football game, MU recognized 1997's 9-1 football team and MU's men's golf team received its championship rings for winning the 2022 NCAA Division III National Championship (story page 6). President Stanley T. Wearden also handed the Mason Sykes Cup (MU's top student-athlete) and the McLean Foundation Coach of the Year (MU's top head coach) trophies to golf's **Andre Chi '22** and **Steve Conley**.

Annual Traditions of Excellence

Traditions of celebrating outstanding individuals, class reunions and the naming of the Homecoming King (Doryan "Kobe" Praylow '23) and Queen (Lauryn Fisher '22, see page 21) – continued, and the Candlelight Memorial Service was an opportunity to honor alumni and friends. Another tradition was established as a new organization – MU's Black Alumni Chapter (see page 26) – held its inaugural BAC Scholarship brunch.

2022 Alumni Association Award Winners

Distinguished Alumni: Rashe Malcolm '05

Distinguished Young Alumni: Walter Barnett '17

Outstanding Alumni Service: Renny Taylor '86

Outstanding Staff: Charles "Charlie" Crumpler Jr.

Outstanding Faculty: Dr. Kyrstin Krist

Philanthropist: Robert J. Chaffin (see page 28)

Note: Accepting the Philanthropist Award – on behalf of the late Robert J. Chaffin – was Dr. Elton Hendricks, former MU president (pictured at right).



SAVE THE DATES
OCT. 27-29, 2023

**We'll See You at
HOMECOMING
2023!**

For more information, visit:
methodist.edu/homecoming





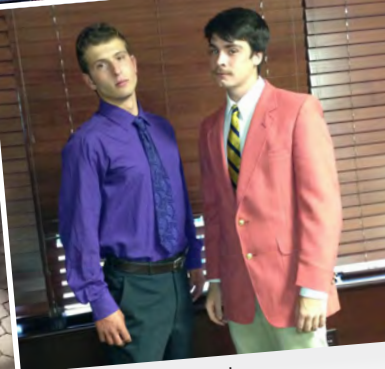
FROM FAYETTEVILLE TO FAME:

Caleb Simpson '15 Becomes Social Media Sensation

by Christian Naranjo



♥ Q ▼ Simpson's viral TikTok video touring Barbara Corcoran's (Shark Tank) NYC apartment.



♥ Q ▼ Simpson the student (right) posing with Max Manicini '16 in MU's Alumni Dining Hall. #throwback

Normally, Caleb Simpson '15 is the one putting others in the spotlight. But this time around, the tables have turned, and the focus has shifted to the viral MU alumnus.

If you spend any time online, it doesn't take long before you run into Simpson's social media content. With 8.4 million followers across YouTube, Facebook, Instagram and TikTok, Simpson is best known for his video series that tours some of the most unique apartments in New York, Los Angeles, and other large U.S. cities.

Most of Simpson's videos show him walking up to someone and asking them how much they pay for rent each month – ranging from \$700 to \$10,000 – followed by a tour of their studio, loft or apartment. While Simpson typically meets up with everyday Americans, he's also had the chance to feature well-known celebrities like "Shark Tank" business tycoon Barbara Corcoran – who actually reached out to Simpson to be featured.

His friendly, "MTV Cribs"-style videos have become such a sensation on social media that ABC, NBC, the New York Post and more have featured Simpson on their platforms.

"I simply want to be out in the community, interacting with people," Simpson said. "This gives me a chance to experience something new each day while potentially uplifting people and showing off their homes."

Simpson would tell you his rise to social media fame wasn't immediate and it took years of hard work. He grew up in Morganton, N.C., before he started at MU in 2010.

"I grew up playing tennis, but I wasn't really sure what I wanted to do. Once I found out that Methodist University had a Professional Tennis Management (PTM) program, I knew that's where I wanted to go," Simpson said.

On top of his studies, Simpson was in the Kappa Sigma fraternity, a captain of the MU Club tennis team, and he found his passion for creating video content. After earning his bachelor's in Business Administration with a concentration in PTM, he went on to work in the tennis management industry in Raleigh and NYC. He also taught himself how to record and edit high-quality videos and started volunteering for social media personalities.

In 2021, Simpson helped start a media company in the NFT-crypto space, but he also had been building up his personal social media brand and decided to become a full-time content creator on various platforms. Since then, Simpson's social media accounts have "blown up."

Simpson acknowledges some people may not understand how he's able to make a steady living in the profession, but he aptly explained how his business degree helps him to this day.

"Looking back at my time at Methodist, it was a great time for me. Without my experience there, I'd honestly be working a dead-end job."

Caleb Simpson '15

Content Creator, Filmmaker, Photographer

"I'm a walking billboard," he said. "A Super Bowl ad may cost a company a few million dollars with less than a 100 million people watching. I normally get half a *billion* views a month. If you do the math, there's a lot of money to be made in this space."

Moving forward, Simpson hopes to tour more celebrity homes and create videos across the world. And, he's grateful for the experience he had as a Monarch.

"Looking back at my time at Methodist, it was great for me," said Simpson. "Without my experience there, I'd honestly be working a dead-end job. It was definitely a valuable time." ■



CLASS NOTES

STAYING ENGAGED WITH OUR CLASSMATES

Phillip Levine '65 was featured on Spectrum News 1 as the owner of Phil's Deli in Charlotte, N.C. for its "New York flair."



John Lipscomb, Jr. '68 of Sanford, North Carolina was featured on WRAL's Tar Heel Traveler for his incredible handmade baseball bats.



Bill Blalock '69 announces his second book with Archway Publishers (Div. Simon & Schuster), "Mastermind Your Life." His book is considered comprehensive in defining success, career and leadership development and the impact of current and future technologies personally and professionally. Leading experts such as Jim Collins and

Simon Sinek contributed to the book.



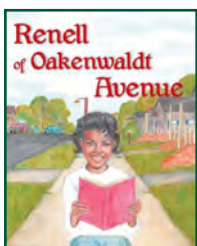
Robert Flynn '70 and Jeannine (Faulkner) Flynn '71 are excited to announce that they are celebrating their 55th wedding anniversary in Smithfield, N.C. on March 9, 2023. Jeannine and Robert met at Methodist in the fall of 1967 and were in the MC Choir together. With the help of friends, Dr. Lorenzo Plyer and Dr. Allen Porter, their

wedding was on March 9, 1968 in the Chapel, then located on the lower level of the Classroom Building (now Trustees).



John W. Brown '71 retired as Chief Judge of the 1st Judicial District, Chesapeake, Va. after more than 14 years on the bench handling criminal felony matters, actions involving medical malpractice, contracts, divorces, and general civil filings all with and without juries. John graduated from Methodist, cum laude with a B.A. in Political

Science, received a Juris Doctorate from Wake Forest School of Law in 1974, and a Master's in Law and Taxation in 1980 from the Marshall-Wythe School of Law at the College of William & Mary. John plans to be involved in mediation and arbitration in the near future and enjoy retirement with his family.



Muriel Brooks '77 released "Renell of Oakenwaldt Avenue," about an enthusiastic 8-year-old girl who lives on Oakenwaldt Avenue in Mansfield, Ohio. Muriel said that her main character, Renell's, childhood aptly embodies the African proverb, "it takes a village to raise a child!" Muriel is a dedicated wife, mother, and grandmother with a bachelor's degree in elementary education and a master's in education.



David Smith '81 retired after 23 seasons as head men's basketball coach at MU. David walked away with 279 victories, the most wins by a men's basketball coach in program history. During his tenure, he coached nine 15-plus-win seasons. The two-time coach of the year won six regular season championships, three conference tournament championships, and made three NCAA Division III tournament appearances.



Dr. Donald Phipps '89, Caldwell County Schools (CCS) Superintendent, was named the Region Seven Superintendent of the Year by the Northwest Regional Educational Service Alliance (NWRESA) for 2022-23. Don then won the A. Craig Phillips Award as the 2023 NC Superintendent of the Year given by the NC School Board Association,

the NC School Superintendent's Association, and the NC Association of School Administrators. Don joined CCS as superintendent in July 2018. Prior to that, he served the Beaufort County Schools as superintendent for 8.5 years. Don's 28-year professional career has been entirely in education.



Ron Phipps '89, former Cumberland County Schools associate superintendent of data and accountability, retired in June. Phipps served as a teacher, a coach, an assistant principal, and principal before becoming an associate superintendent.



Dr. Tanya (Howell) Turner '92, Superintendent of Perquimans County Schools, received the Dr. Dwayne Stallings Leadership Award from the North Carolina School Superintendents' Association (NCSSA). Tanya was named superintendent in May 2019. Prior to that, she served 18 years in the Edenton-Chowan School System.



Waylinda (Royal) Williams '93 was named principal of Ponderosa Elementary School after serving at the school as the assistant principal for nearly eight years. Waylinda joined Cumberland County Schools in 2000. She also obtained a Master of Education in Middle Grades Education in 1997 and her master's degree in school administration in 2004.



Capt. Doug Tabler '96 was promoted to assistant police chief for the Greensboro Police Department (GPD). He began his career with the GPD in 1997.



Jason Childers '98 will be inducted into the USA South Athletic Conference Hall of Fame this summer. Jason was a four-year member of the Methodist men's basketball team (1993-97). During his senior year, he was named a First Team All-American, the South Region Player of the Year, and the Conference Player of the Year.

Colonel Jesse Phillips '99 took over as the Director of Communications & Chief of Information Operations for United States Africa Command in Stuttgart, Germany back in July 2021. Jesse recently passed his 34th anniversary of military service and had the honor of commissioning his daughter as an Army Second Lieutenant in the Armor Branch.



Jim Wood '00 is CEO of SEG Solar. Last fall, the company announced plans to set up a solar module manufacturing plant in Texas with an annual capacity of more than 2GW.



Hon. John Morris '01 was elected as a Superior Court Judge in North Carolina District 17A (Rockingham and Caswell Counties). Previously John served as Rockingham County attorney and graduated from Elon University Law.



Dr. Tavares Hunter '02 earned his Ph.D. in Education with a concentration in Policy, Leadership & Management (P-20) from Walden University. Tavares is the Director of Academic Support & Student Services at MU.

Rhyan Breen '07 has been elected as Bar President for the 8th Judicial District.



Brock White '07, '14M was honored with the 2022 Carolina Section Bill Strausbaugh Award. This award is presented to a PGA member, who by his day-to-day efforts has made significant contributions through mentoring of PGA Professionals and impacting their careers. The award also considers the integrity and character of the PGA member, service to the Section, and involvement in community and charitable activities.



Tom Inczauskis '07M, former head women's golf coach at Methodist University, has been named the 2023 Gladys Palmer Meritorious Service Award Recipient, the Women's Golf Coaches Association's (WGCA) most prestigious honor. Tom currently serves as Director and Associate Professor of Sport Management at MU.



Alicia Bates '08 graduated from Grand Canyon University in April 2022 with her Ed.D. in Organizational Leadership. Alicia works in higher education for the University of Notre Dame.



Bryan Madej '08, in his 13th year as women's soccer head coach, has earned his first USA South Coach of the Year honor. Last fall, he led his team to the program's second-consecutive USA South regular season title, the 12th in program history. He coached a team that compiled a perfect 9-0-0 record in conference play and now has a 23-0-1 record against USA South regular season foes over the past 24 matches.



Samantha Inczauskis '08M became a full-time assistant professor of marketing at Methodist in Aug. 2022, drawing upon her experience in the accounting industry as a marketing director and senior program manager to give back and help the next generation of marketing professionals launch their careers. She was also elected to the Greater Fayetteville Chamber of Commerce as an officer of the Board of Directors, and her three-year term started in January.



Chief Gerald Childress '10M was named Police Chief for the City of Kings Mountain (N.C.). Gerald previously he served as the Administrative Lieutenant for the Town of Spindale, N.C.



Sabrina Steigelman '11 was honored as part of Fayetteville's 40 Under 40 for 2022. She serves as the Grants and Project Management Coordinator for Cumberland County Schools.



Jose Martinez '12 has retired from the U.S. Army after 28 years of service, most recently as a teacher in the Foreign Languages Department at the U.S. Military Academy West Point in New York. Jose and his wife, **Gina Martinez '14**, have decided to stay in the area as Jose has transitioned to working in the Academy's Operations.



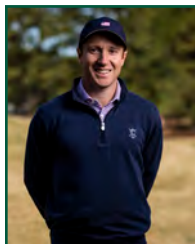
Wyatt Worthington II '12 competed with the United States PGA Cup team in September. The team captured the PGA Cup for its first overseas victory since 2009.



Sheriff Chad Hawkins '13M was elected sheriff of Gaston County (N.C.) after previously serving as chief of Belmont, N.C.



Breon Holmes '13 was named head football coach at Cox Mill High School (Concord, N.C.). He spent the past three seasons as associate head coach and offensive coordinator at Charlotte's Ardrey Kell High School. At Ardrey Kell, Breon helped the Knights to three-straight playoff appearances and helped produce 18 all-conference selections.



Chris Biggins '14 was named the 2022 Journey of Hope honoree by United Ability, which provides services connecting people with disabilities to their communities and empowering individuals to live full and meaningful lives. Chris is director of player development and head coach of the junior golf program at the Country Club of Birmingham (Ala.). He's currently the third-ranked player in the world, according to the World Ranking for Golfers with Disability.



Esra Al-Shawafi '15 was a presenter for the International Information System Security Certification Consortium, Inc. (ISC)2 Toronto Chapter in August. She was a cybersecurity consulting manager for Accenture in Toronto, Ontario before joining Amazon Web Services as a senior technical product manager.



Dr. Jameco McKenzie '15 has completed his studies at Gardner Webb University to earn a Doctor of Education in Organizational Leadership. Jameco's research centered around developing strategies to embolden the services, offerings, and activities of the African American Cultural Center at North Carolina State University in Raleigh.



Chief Bryan Dixon '16M was appointed police chief of Morehead City (N.C.) Police Department after serving in the interim role. Bryan, who was appointed deputy chief in 2015, served as commander of all divisions of the department, both operational and administrative.



Jesseca Bell '17 graduated from Campbell University's Norman Adrian Wiggins School of Law in May 2022.



Allison (Himes) Dean '19 was named USPTA Southern Elevate Professional of the Year for 2022. Allison works as an assistant tennis professional at The Chapel Hill (N.C.) Country Club.

CLASS NOTES

STAYING ENGAGED WITH OUR CLASSMATES

Kelsie (Pearsall) Lewis '19 began working as a laboratory analyst for an environmental laboratory called Microbac Laboratories, Inc. in March of 2022. In September of 2022, Kelsie was promoted to Quality Assurance Specialist.



Rachel Townsend '20 won the Miss Fayetteville Scholarship Pageant Feb. 4, 2023 in Fayetteville, N.C. Rachel will go on to compete in the Miss North Carolina pageant at the end of February. Rachel is Fayetteville State University's internship coordinator in the Office of Career Services.



Jaime Logan '20 was crowned Miss Mount Holly 2023 in November at Stuart W. Cramer High School. Her community service/social impact initiative is titled "All In: Everyone Belongs in Sports." Jaime is a ticket sales account executive with the Carolina Panthers.



Katie Strain '21 became Miss Sampson County 2022 on Sept. 18, 2022. Katie teaches second grade in Harnett County, N.C.

BIRTHS

Shannon (Alford) Shastry '08 and her husband, Vivek, welcomed their identical twin boys, Ari and Zayne Shastry, on Dec. 29, 2022.



Junko (Suzuki) Harkins '09 and her husband, Blair, welcomed their daughter, Maisie, on Sept. 13, 2022. She weighed 7 pounds, 9 ounces and measured 18 inches. Junko is a golf professional and PGA player engagement consultant for the PGA of America.



Alex (Bass) Glass '11 and her husband Stuart welcomed their son, Luke on May 23, 2022. Luke weighed 8 pounds, 11 ounces and measured 20.75 inches. Alex works as a dermatologist.



Kelly (Orpin) Powles '11 and her husband, Casey, welcomed their second daughter on Oct. 16, 2022. Miss Camryn Lee Powles arrived on her own time, coming one week earlier than scheduled. Camryn was 5 pounds, 13 ounces and measured 19.5 inches. Their eldest daughter, Henley, has been a fantastic big sister! Kelly is a physical therapist for Sentara.



Steve Hosack '09 and his wife, Kelsey Conway, welcomed their son and "future PGMer Class of 2044," Stevie Hosack, on Oct. 12, 2022. Stevie weighed 8 pounds, 13 ounces and measured 22 inches long. Steve is currently the director of golf at Burlington Country Club in Vermont.



Kelli (Shelton) Delia '13 and her husband **Chad Delia '13** celebrated the birth of their son, Joseph, on Nov. 22, 2022. He weighed 8 pounds, 4 ounces and measured 21.75 inches. Kelli is a teller for First Bank and Chad works for Golf Genius.



Kayla (Talbert) Mize '09 and her husband, Michael, welcomed their daughter, Emma Kay, on Nov. 11, 2022. Emma was 10 pounds and measured 21.75 inches. Kayla works as a physical therapist.



Stephanie (Breitenbach) Carnes '14 and her husband, **Tanner Carnes**, celebrated the birth of their son, Rhett Carnes, on June 3, 2022. Rhett was 7 pounds, 7 ounces and measured 20.5 inches. Stephanie is a toxicologist with South Carolina Law Enforcement Division.



Lacey (Truelove) Carter '14, '18D and **Christopher Carter '14** welcomed their daughter, Morgan, Oct. 28, 2022. Morgan weighed 6 pounds, 2 ounces and measured 18 inches. Lacey is a physical therapist with OrthoCarolina and Chris is the controller at Carter Chevrolet, Inc. in Shelby, N.C.



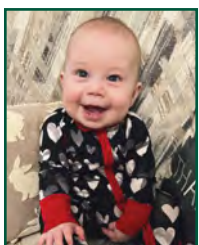
Taylor (Sluss) Vann '16 and **Jordan Vann '15** welcomed their first child, Ayden James, on Sept. 2, 2022. AJ weighed 7 pounds, 14 ounces and measured 21.5 inches.



Justin Roberto '14 and his wife, Hannah, welcomed their daughter, Charlotte Rose, to the world on Oct. 7, 2022. Justin is a financial planner and consultant for Colonial Wealth Strategies in Williamsburg, Va.



Megan (Pontak) Melvin '17 and her husband, Gray, celebrated the birth of their son, Walter Zachary, on Sept. 14, 2022. Zac weighed 8 pounds, 4 ounces and measured 21 inches. Megan is a science teacher for Bladen County Schools.



Emily (Talley) Pace '15 and her husband, Cole, welcomed Eleanor on Sept. 17, 2022. Eleanor weighed 8 pounds, 8 ounces, and measured 21.5 inches. Emily is a flight attendant with American Airlines.



Taylor (Hales) Peacock '17 and **Kyle Peacock '17, '18M** welcomed Winley Eve to the world on April 24, 2022. Taylor is a case management and utilization review coordinator for ECU Health in Greenville, N.C., and Kyle works for ENC Pirate Realty.



Stephanie Grisi-Wolf '15 and her husband, Steven, welcomed Micah on July 26, 2022. Micah weighed 7 pounds, 14 ounces and measured 20 inches long. Stephanie is the golf retail manager for The Golf Club at Landsdowne.



Shawn Cunningham '18 and his wife, Julie, adopted their son, Silas, born July 7, 2020. Shawn works in copper refinery utility for Steel Dynamics. They are thrilled to finally be parents and are loving every blessed day they have with their son.



Nicole (Hardin) Wildeboer '15 and **Peter Wildeboer '17** celebrated the birth of their daughter, Adelina, on Apr. 2, 2022. Adelina weighed 8 pounds, 6 ounces and measured 21 inches long. Nicole works as a forensic scientist for the South Carolina Law Enforcement Division.



Marissa (Carter) Ford '19 and her husband, Dennis, welcomed their daughter, Susie Sue, on Feb. 4, 2023. Susie weighed 7 pounds and measured 20 inches.

Emily (Lopes) Townsend '16M and Alex Townsend announce the birth of their second child, James Vance Townsend II, on Aug. 10, 2022. Emily works as a physician assistant in dermatology and Alex is the broker in charge with Townsend Rental/Commercial Real Estate and a member of Methodist University's Founders Council, charged with helping raise funds for student scholarships.



Kaylee Carroll '22 and Patrick Bransky celebrated the birth of their daughter, Quincee, on July 30, 2022.

WEDDINGS



Kelsie Carralero '14, '16M and John Warren were married June 11, 2022. Kelsie is the head women's golf coach and an assistant professor at Methodist. **Jenny Sullivan '13, Peyton (Durham) Hemme '19, and Jillian Drinkard '22** were members of the wedding party and **Tom Inczauskis '07M** accompanied her for the father-daughter dance.



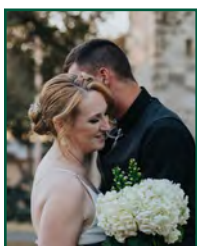
Marcy McKee '14 and Tyler Johns were married June 18, 2022. Marcy is a health and physical education teacher at Milford Central Academy, and Tyler works in petroleum services at First State Petroleum. **Lindsay (Tippett) Lang '15** was in the bridal party.



Brittney Leggett '14 married Alexander Rabre on Sept. 24, 2022. **Victoria (Owens) McSwain '13** and **Alexis (Speck) Vestal '14** were members of the wedding party. Brittney works for Charter Communications as an account executive for Spectrum Business, and Alexander is an epidemiologist/public health analyst for Research Triangle Institute (RTI).



Raymond Caldwell '15 and Samantha Brzenk got married May 14, 2022. Raymond is a network infrastructure technician in the United States Air Force and Samantha is a research scientist for Moffitt Cancer Center. **Evan Lang '15, Dylan Cox '15, and Karly Klimas '16** were in the wedding party.



Bethany Huff '15 married Seth McKenzie Jan. 13, 2023 at the Historic Fort Sam Houston Quadrangle in Texas. Bethany is a digital media manager for US Army North, and Seth is a military horseman for the US Army.



Tashara Robinson '15 and **Vionte Pigford '13** got married Apr. 30, 2022. Tashara is an artist and Vionte is an IT specialist. **Sheena Williams '14** was Tashara's maid of honor.

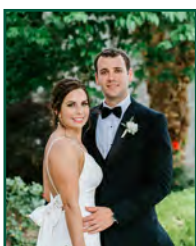


Heather Strickland '15 and **Chris Perry '12** were married Oct. 16, 2022. The wedding party included **Ally Griffin '15, Carly Klinedinst '15, Harrison Lee, and Hope Motahari '15**. Heather is a nurse practitioner and Chris works in construction.



Jessica Bell '17 and **James Atkinson '16** had an intimate wedding Aug. 24, 2022 in Ilminster, England, just two hours outside of London. The couple met in Wendy Vonnegut's course on litigation and were both involved in fraternity and sorority life. Jess recently graduated from law school and is working as a law clerk for Breeden Law Firm, while

James is a hazardous waste specialist for NC State. **Taylor (Cates) Benson '17, Hannah Fickle '17, Ziere Diggs '19, and Dameon Griggs '19** were members of the wedding party.

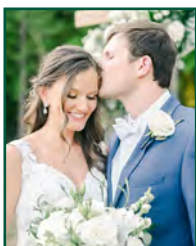


Abbi Carpenter '17 and Hunter Davis were married May 6, 2022. Abbi is a dental territory manager for Align Technology and Hunter works for Davis and Sons Construction. **Hope Motahari '15** and **Chelsea (Mundy) Thompson '16** were part of the wedding party and **Taylor (Hales) Peacock '17** was Abbi's matron of honor.

Brent Breedlove '18 married Ashley Amoia Oct. 1, 2022. Brent is a physician assistant for Eagle Physicians.



Lauren Frey '18, '21D and Andrew Cobb were married May 5, 2022. Lauren is an occupational therapist for ECU Health and Andrew is a professional gun dog trainer for Fowl Minded Retrievers. **Alyssa Rossini '18** and **Alexis Walters '21D** were part of the wedding party and **Carson Yow '18** was Lauren's maid of honor.



Maggie Harris '18 married **Tyler Hardee '17** June 24, 2022, in Williamsburg, Va. Maggie is a doctor of chiropractic medicine, and Tyler works as an engineer for Duke Energy. **Gregory Johnson '17, Emily (Creasy) Evans '18, Sydney (Schmeltzer) Howard, Nick Norton '18, and Brock Waynik '18** were in the wedding party.



Taylor Woods '18 and Daniel Shepherd '19 got married Aug. 20, 2022, at the Seattle Yacht Club in Seattle, Wash. A lot of MU faces were amongst their wedding party, including **Jared Chinn '18, Sydney (Syster) Emmel '18, Reagan Holloway '18, Chelsea Wareham '18, Ryan Berg, Danielle Brendes '19, Larkin Gross '19, Connor Mangelson '19, Alex**

Watson '19, and Maggie Flurschutz '21. Dan is currently the head golf professional at Fall River Country Club in Massachusetts.



Marissa Carter '19 and Dennis Ford were married July 9, 2022. Marissa is a registered nurse at ECU Health and Dennis works general labor for International Paper.



Alyssa Coffey '19 and Bryant Goodwin '19 were married Sept. 24, 2022 in Concord, N.C. Alyssa works for the Charlotte Country Club in hospitality, and Bryant works in production for Perdue Farms. **Brook (Such) Smith '19, '22M, Chris Smith '19, Brandon Hunt '20, Evan Hutcheson '20, Samantha Spooner '20, and Kaeli Ryan '21** were in the wedding party.



Allison Himes '19 married **Thomas Dean '19** July 23, 2022 in Louisburg, N.C. Allison is a tennis professional at the Chapel Hill Country Club, and Thomas is a tax accountant for Thomas, Judy & Tucker P.A.

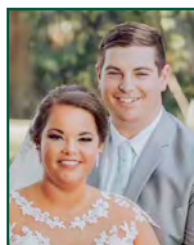


Courtney Powell '19 and Blake Moyer '17 were married Feb. 12, 2022 in Pilot Mountain, N.C. They met at MU when both were employed in the Nimocks Fitness Center. Courtney is a human resources specialist for the United States EPA, and Blake is an economic developer for Henderson County Partnership for Economic Development.

Katelyn Elmore and **Selena Burger '22** were in the wedding party.



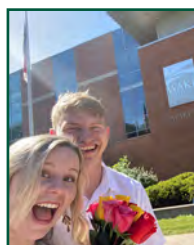
Brook Such '19, '22M married **Chris Smith '19** Oct. 29, 2022. Members of the wedding party included **Ashley (Baggett) Such '11, '12M, Trey Such '12, '13M, Alyssa (Coffey) Goodwin '19, Bryant Goodwin '19, Bailey Helms '20, '22M, and Evan Hutcheson '20.**



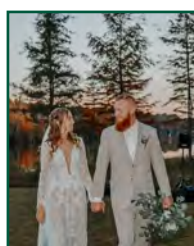
Aly Thomas '19 and Tyler Brown '20 were married Oct. 21, 2022. Aly is working for the Florida Gators as the assistant director of ticket operations, and Tyler is an account executive for Brown & Brown.



Paige Church '20 married **Larkin Gross '19** Dec. 17, 2022. Paige is a golf professional with The Club at Creighton Farms, and Larkin is a golf professional at Springfield Golf and Country Club. **Connor Evers '19, Peyton (Durham) Hemme '19, Dan Shepherd '19, Morgan Bowen '20, and Jillian Drinkard '22** were in the wedding.



Katlin Kendrick '20 married Jacob Erdmann on May 7, 2022. Katlin works as a digital assurance and transparency associate for PricewaterhouseCoopers, LLP, and Jacob is a specialist in the U.S. Army.



Kelsey Smith '20 and Stewart Morris were married Oct. 22, 2022. Kelsey is an athletic trainer for Scotland High School and Stewart is a farmer for Morris Plan Farm. **Samantha Hawkins '20 and Olivia Rust '20** were members of the wedding party.



Taylor Jackson '21 and Joshua Deutsch '20 got married June 25, 2022 in Burnet, Texas. Luciana Forma, **Jack Raynor '21, Casey (Carroll) Schlesman '21, Mary Sue Parker '21, Blythe (Best) Raynor '22, and Brent Schlesman '22D** were members of the wedding party. Taylor works in event management with WTS Player Services & Transport and Josh works for Royal Oaks Country Club in Dallas, Texas.



Blythe Best '22 married **Jack Raynor '21** on June 11, 2022. Blythe works as a contact lens specialist and Jack works as an optometric assistant for Professional Eye Care. Members of the wedding party included **Reilly Nehring '19, Coleman Baker '21, Joel Blasiole '21, Joshua Deutsch '21, Taylor (Jackson) Deutsch '21, Hayden Wilfong '21, and Dani Jones '22.**

ENGAGEMENTS



Patrick Hamel '13 got engaged to Lori Colaluca on Oct. 7, 2022. Pat works in training and development for Align Technology and Lori is a psychologist in Buncombe County (N.C.).



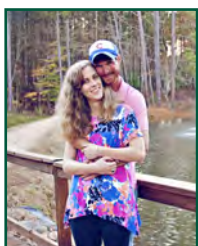
Kayla Pless '16 and **Hannah Key '17** got engaged June 5, 2022. Kayla is a career and technical education teacher and head women's basketball coach at Pine Forest High School in Fayetteville, N.C., and Hannah is assistant director for Campus Recreation and Campus Engagement at Methodist. They are planning to marry June 17, 2023.



Raevin Harvey '13 is engaged to Ashley Andrick and planning an Oct. 28, 2023 wedding. Raevin is an athletic trainer with EmergeOrtho of the Triad, and Ashley is a physician assistant for Southeast X-ray Inc.



Alyssa Like '17 announces her engagement to Maxwell Smerka Oct. 7, 2022. Alyssa works in corporate merchandising for The Home Depot and Max is a regional sales manager for OFS Brands. The couple plans to marry in September in a familiar city, but different state, Fayetteville, Ga.



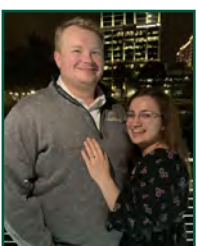
Chris Harper '13 announces his engagement to Jordan Davis. Chris is an assistant tennis professional with Hasentree Country Club in Wake Forest, N.C., and Jordan is an elementary special education resource/inclusion classroom communication resource teacher for North Forest Pines Elementary School. The couple got engaged at Bass Lake in Blowing Rock, N.C. last Memorial Day Weekend. They are planning a wedding for Aug. 5, 2023 in Mount Pleasant, N.C.



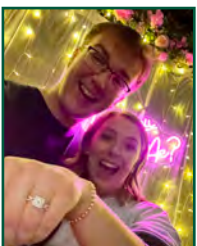
Bailey Helms '20, '22M and **Joe Moore '21** announce their engagement on Nov. 23, 2022. Bailey is a physician assistant for Atrium Health in their Emergency Department, and Joe is an assistant golf professional at Myers Park Country Club both in Charlotte, N.C. The couple met as students in 2018 and are grateful to Methodist for bringing them together, giving them amazing careers, and some of the best memories to look back on together.



Miranda Conaway '16 announces her engagement to Stephen Worsley on Nov. 25, 2022. Miranda is a senior community manager for Greystar Property Management and Stephen is a mortgage loan officer with Wells Fargo Home Mortgage.



Michaela Kroll '21 and **Taylor Breazeale '18** got engaged Oct. 29, 2022.



Ashley Hunt '22 and **Alex Parker '22** got engaged Feb. 9, 2022. Alex is working as a teller for State Employees' Credit Union, and Ashley is working as a forensic technician for the Fayetteville Police Department.



Joyce Malon (Stewart) Bullock '65, 79, passed away Dec. 23, 2022. After Methodist, Joyce went on to get her master's and doctorate degrees from Campbell University. She retired as a schoolteacher at Clement School after more than 30 years of service.



Bruce A. Darden, Sr. '67, 77, passed away Sept. 22, 2022. He was passionate about his family, his Lord, and his church. Bruce was generous to family and friends alike.



Talmadge A. "Lonnie" Bunch '65, 79, passed away May 17, 2022. Lonnie attended Methodist and then UNC-Wilmington. He met the love of his life, Delores (Maples), during his time at Methodist. Lonnie was the founding CEO of the insurance auditing firm, TCR, which was his lifelong career. He was an active member of his Baptist Church and served as a deacon, youth leader, and Sunday school teacher.

David Roy Cooper '68, 76, passed away Aug. 30, 2022. After attending Methodist, David worked at Sunkist Fruit as a chemical engineer and process developer. Once he retired from Sunkist, he traveled to Mississippi, where he trained others how to develop catfish into tablets to help with nutrition in third-world nations.



Dwight Lee Cotton '70, 73, of Kipling, N.C. passed away Aug. 19, 2022. As a jack of all trades, in his early years Dwight farmed tobacco, soybeans, and cotton; followed by mastering grading and excavating. His love for sports led him to refereeing football and volleyball, and umpiring baseball and softball. Additionally, Dwight enjoyed being outdoors and was an active member of the Harnett County Master Gardeners.



George "Gordon" Dixon '66, 77, passed away July 27, 2022. Gordon served as the second registrar at Methodist from 1974 to 1983. In memory of his parents and in honor of **Margaret "Meg" Hyde Dixon '81 and Beverly Dixon Cleverley '79**, he established the G. Gordon Dixon '66 Endowed Education Scholarship in 2007 to assist future educators.

Then in 2016, Gordon and his wife, Meg, established the Dixon Endowed Elementary Education Scholarship as part of the Trustees Endowment Challenge campaign.



Samuel Pittman Guy, II '70, 76, passed away Dec. 1, 2022. Sam served in the National Guard while attending Methodist. He went on to pursue a master's degree in School Administration from East Carolina University and served as an administrator, teacher, and coach for over 53 years. Sam's sister is also an alumni of Methodist, **Betty-Neill Parsons '64**.

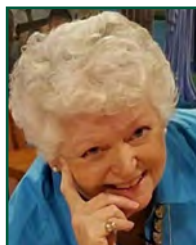


LTG James Michael Link, U.S. Army (Ret.) '66 passed away Jan. 12, 2023. Jim was former president of Teledyne Brown Engineering, and he amassed considerable experience in technology and systems modernization gained during a long and distinguished military career. Prior to the post at Teledyne, he also served as senior vice president at

SAIC, also in Huntsville, Ala. Link held several command and staff positions while on active duty.



Cynthia (Cindy) Leigh Strickland Long '70, 74, of Charlotte, N.C. passed away Sept. 23, 2022, after a courageous nearly year-long battle with Glioblastoma Stage 4, an aggressive brain cancer. After high school she attended Methodist and later transferred to UNC-Chapel Hill graduating in 1970, majoring in Sociology and afterwards began her lifetime career as a social worker helping children.



Frances Harriss Mason '66, 78, passed away Jan. 15, 2023. Frances was a real estate agent in Severna Park, Md. and eventually took a position at Open Door in Annapolis, Md. where she worked as a substance abuse counselor for the remainder of her professional career.



Mary Gayle Jepsen Brown '72, 72, of Charlotte, N.C., passed away on April 22, 2022. Mary worked as a social worker until retiring from the Mecklenburg County (N.C.) Department of Social Services in 2011. Mary spent her retirement years engaged in many hobbies, including travel, gardening, Mahjong, and doting on her beloved Maine Coon cats, Cici and Max.

IN MEMORY

HONORING MU ALUMNI AND FRIENDS



Wayne Joseph Lahr '73, 83, of Worthington, Iowa passed away Dec. 19, 2022 after a battle with Parkinson's Disease. Wayne served the U.S. Army for 20 years and traveled widely, living in various stateside and international postings. After retiring in 1977, Wayne returned to his family and to his Iowa farm.



Robert "Bobby" Durant Wham, Jr. '76, 69, passed away Oct. 12, 2022. He had his own landscaping business prior to working for Weaver Fertilizer Company in Winston-Salem and for IMC Fertilizer Company in Chesapeake, Va. After retiring, Bobby enjoyed being a substitute teacher for the Winston-Salem/Forsyth County (N.C.) School System.



Donna Patricia (Hambelton) Lewis '73, 73, of Bunnlevel, N.C., passed away Nov. 8, 2022. After graduating high school from Pine Forest in Fayetteville, N.C., Donna attended Methodist to further her Music Education. Prior to retirement, Donna was a teacher's assistant at South Harnett (N.C.) Elementary School and was a full-time certified Bus

Transportation employee for 26 years.farm.



Rev. James Edward Malloy, Jr. '78, 66, passed away Aug. 15, 2022. He earned a Master's in Divinity from Boston University in 1983 and subsequently began pastoring in United Methodist Churches until he retired in 2016. James was a member of Lambda Chi Alpha Fraternity and SGA president and also served on the Alumni Association Board of Directors.



Dawn Liane Cropper Chandler '74, passed away Oct. 2, 2022. Dawn was born in Salisbury, Md. After she attended Methodist, she lived most of her life in Dagsboro, Del. Her father was a farmer and a waterman who owned two oyster boats and founded Cropper Oyster Company and Gulls Way Campground. For years, Dawn worked side

by side with her father and eventually became vice-president and co-owner of both businesses.



Olivia Riley Ollis '78, 66, of Tomahawk Hwy passed away June 5, 2022. Olivia always had a passion for art, obtaining her undergraduate degree at Methodist and then her master's in art education from UNC Greensboro. She used her gift as an artist to teach children the love of art and to use their gifts of creativity. She taught in Cumberland, Sampson, Bladen

and Duplin counties in North Carolina; most recently working at B.F. Grady Elementary School.



Robert Lee Jones, Jr. '74, 78, of Severn, Md. passed away July 9, 2022. Bob joined the U.S. Army right out of high school and served from 1961 to 1981, first as an enlisted man and then as an officer. After retiring from the military, Bob held several positions in the federal government where he advocated for veterans, including Deputy Assistant

Secretary of Defense, Prisoner of War/Missing Personnel Affairs.



John Edward Voter '78, 97, passed away Jan. 27, 2023. John served his country for 30 years. His granddaughter, Ashley, graduated in 2008.

Robert Albert Peele '74, passed away Feb. 7, 2022. Bob studied business administration at Methodist and served as SGA President.

Richard Frank Mika '74 83, of Fayetteville, N.C., passed away May 23, 2022. Richard graduated cum laude from Methodist with a degree in political science.



Michael "Mike" George Ruff '80, passed away Aug. 26, 2022, following a brief battle with metastatic cancer. It was at Methodist that he met Brenda, David, John, Doug and Bucky, who all became lifelong friends. In 1983 he joined the U.S. Navy. After his wife Amy's retirement from the U.S. Air Force, they settled in Colorado Springs, Colo. In

2017, they made their final move to Walla Walla, Wash. where Mike spent his happiest retirement years, hunting and fishing, umpiring baseball, and golfing.



Hollis Glen Tingler, Jr. '80, 70, of Fayetteville, N.C., passed away Nov. 9, 2022. He was a veteran of the U.S. Army where he served in Korea. Hollis retired from Civil Service at Ft. Bragg where he worked as an engineer. He was a member of the Church of the Open Door where he was an elder and teacher of the Adult Sunday School Class.



Donald Edgar Tilley '81, 87, of Fayetteville, N.C., passed away Sept. 17, 2022. Don served in the U.S. Army in both Korea and Vietnam and attained the rank of captain. He was awarded many honors including the Bronze Star and retired after 20 years of honorable service. After graduating from Methodist, Donald assisted others through a Civil Service career as a Drug and Alcohol Counselor and in Family Advocacy.



Margaret Tippy '81, passed away Sept. 15, 2022. Margaret's 35-year career in the U.S. Army began in 1975 and covered multiple departments and awards. Margaret was an avid distance runner and skydiver with more than 200 freefall parachute jumps.



Richard Allen Jones '82, 64, passed away Jan. 22, 2023. When Rick began managing a disability later in life, he turned his efforts to helping people in his community meet their daily needs. In his small business Fetch, Carry, & Feed, Rick worked to serve those who didn't have access to reliable transportation. His brother, **Dr. Thomas H. Jones '71**, is also a Methodist graduate.



Susan Dolores Todd-Adame '83, 91, passed away May 19, 2022. Susan worked for 23 years as a federal employee, primarily as a speechwriter for the U.S. Army at Ft. Bragg and in the Republic of Korea. After retiring from Federal Service in 1992, Susan volunteered for the U.S. Census Bureau, the United Way in Mississippi, and as a contracted federal test administrator at Columbus AFB.



Paula E. Lewis Spann '84, 61, of Fayetteville, N.C., passed away on Oct. 30, 2022.



John Steven "Steve" Rangel '84, passed away Sept. 11, 2022. Steve was a standout athlete growing up and went on to play baseball at the collegiate level. He spent most of his career working for Gold Cross EMS. Steve enjoyed fishing, golf, cooking on the grill and adored his Auburn Tigers and Dallas Cowboys. Always the life of the party, he will be dearly missed by his family and friends.



Aaron Garyer Melvin '87, 87, of Fayetteville, N.C., passed away June 8, 2022. Aaron graduated from Methodist with a degree in social work.



Donald Hitchcock Laney '89, 75, passed away Nov. 21, 2022. Donald was a Vietnam Veteran proudly serving 20 years with the U.S. Army. He taught special education for many years at Hillcrest Middle School, 71st High School, McNair Elementary, Bowley Elementary and Butner Elementary. Donald was an active member of the Booster Club at 71st High School and was the Head Boy Scout Leader at Westminster Presbyterian Church. He taught Sunday School at Arran Lake Baptist Church with his wife of 54 years, Patricia.



Celeste Vestal DePriest '90, 74, of Eden, N.C., passed away May 19, 2022. Celeste first enrolled at Methodist in 1968 and worked as secretary to the Education, Religion, and Athletic departments (1968-73) before returning to graduate in 1990. She served on the Rockingham County (N.C.) School Board for 10 years and ran "Best Friends of Rockingham County" for years.



Ernest "Ron" Ronald Foster, Sr., PA-C '90, 76, passed away June 8, 2022. He began his career in medicine as an army medic, surgical technician, and clinical specialist. Following his discharge from the U.S. Army after tours in Vietnam he began practicing as a physician assistant. He became the medical officer of Methodist in 1992 and began developing the Physician Assistant Program in 1994. He went on to become the director of Methodist's Medical Science Division and assisted in taking Methodist College to a graduate level institution with the development of the Master's of Medical Science Degree in Physician Assistant Studies.



William "Steve" Parlett '90, 65, passed away Dec. 4, 2022. Steve joined the Cumberland County Sheriff's Office as a jailer and served many roles before becoming patrol commander prior to his retirement in 2002. He is survived by fellow Methodist alumni, his wife **Lynda (Womack) Parlett '82** and sister **Kathryn (Parlett) Lumpkins '71**.



Kevin Glen Connors, Sr. '95, 50, of West Palm Beach, Fla., passed away January 23, 2023. After graduation, Kevin worked for IBM and Lockheed Martin before moving to Florida in 2016.



Alice Marie Freeman Cashwell '92, 52, of Marshallberg, N.C., passed away April 17, 2022. Alice served many years in music ministry as a staff member at Cumberland Baptist, Southview Baptist, and Lebanon Baptist churches. Additionally, she was a piano and voice instructor for many years. More recently, Alice moved to her seaside



Willie James Joseph '95, 78, of Fayetteville, N.C., passed June 11, 2022. Willie graduated from Methodist with a degree in social work.

home on North Carolina's Crystal Coast and became the music teacher at Beaufort Elementary School.

Susan L. Fleak '92, passed away Aug. 18, 2022. Susan graduated from Methodist with a degree in education.



Gregory Neal Cox '93, 52, of Denver, N.C. passed away Aug. 26, 2022 after a courageous battle with brain cancer. Greg loved baseball and was especially proud to be a member of the College World Series teams in 1991 and 1992. Greg was the owner of Lake Norman Frameworks and Gallery and was involved in the Denver community through his store,



William Ruiz '97, 69, of Fayetteville, N.C., passed away Oct. 3, 2022. William retired as a Sergeant First Class after 22 years of service with the U.S. Army. He retired after 25 with the U.S. Postal Service where he spent most of his time as a mail carrier with the Cliffdale Post Office.

community auctions and charity events since 2007.



Robert A. McGraw, III '98, 50, passed away July 10, 2022. Bobby proudly served in the United States Marine Corps (1995-99). He had been a Pennsylvania State Trooper for seven years before becoming a full-time basketball coach. Bobby served as the women's basketball coach for Slippery Rock University for the past eight seasons.



Julia Gonzalina Abner '94 passed away Nov. 17, 2022. In 1990, Julia returned to college as a non-traditional student and earned her bachelor's degree in Spanish. She was a full-time wife, full-time mom, and full-time student. She made history as a student at Methodist University by becoming the first Cuban graduate. Julia was an educator,



James (Jamie) Edward Caffelle, Jr. '02, 43, of Palm Beach Gardens, Fla., previously of Arlington, Mass. passed away Dec. 27, 2022. Jamie had a passion for helping others and built a successful sales career, and most recently worked as the sales director for Oakmont Custom Homes.

teaching Spanish at all levels in the public-school systems in North Carolina (to include pre-school and university levels).



Dereck Jamal Barnes '94, 57, of Oakton, Va., formerly of Fayetteville, passed away June 2, 2022 in Texas. Dereck graduated from Methodist with a degree in mathematics. He spent over 10 years working for Parks Global Solutions, LLC.



Kent De Wayne Carter '05, 40, of Northern Virginia, passed away Oct. 2, 2022. Kent joined the U.S. Army in 2000 and served until he sustained an injury that ended his active-duty career. He served as a special investigator for the Office of Special Investigations as well as for the Department of Commerce. Kent later became a realtor with Keller

Williams Metro Center in Arlington, Va. Kent was a leader in the NAACP as 1st vice president and chairman of the Criminal Justice Committee.



Deanna "Michelle" Simmons '11, 34, of Fayetteville, N.C., passed away Nov. 10, 2022. Michelle served as a special education teacher in Cumberland County (N.C.) for 11 years, teaching at Max Abbott Middle School and Margaret Willis Elementary School. She was recently appointed as a board member of the "Jarred Bryan Spark Foundation" with the School of Hope for autism in Fayetteville and was an active volunteer. During her time at Methodist, she was a founding member of Alpha Delta Pi Sorority and she was crowned Miss Methodist University in 2009. Michelle's brother, **Brandon Simmons '05, '15M** is also a graduate.



Jermaine N. Lee '24, 20, of Maple Hill, N.C., passed away Sept. 13, 2022. Jermaine was studying marketing at Methodist, and he had been recruited to play football. He planned to join the military, play football, and become a Navy Seal.



Ethan Jeremy William Ward '24 of Fayetteville, N.C., passed away June 12, 2022. Ethan was majoring in sports management and was a member of the track team.

Trustees Emeriti



Betty Upchurch Hasty, 89, passed away Aug. 22, 2022. Betty served as a member of the Methodist University Board of Trustees from 1989 to 2020. She served as a trustee emeritus since 2020. Betty was a supporter of Methodist University from the very beginning when she monetarily supported the Methodist Conference to help establish the College in Fayetteville. With the encouragement from Betty and her sister, Eloise Upchurch Carter, the family businesses of Upchurch Milling and T. B Upchurch Inc. paid a special tribute to their parents, Thomas Benton Upchurch Jr. and Anne Hoyl Upchurch, by funding the beautiful rose window symbolizing peace at Matthews Chapel.



Dorothy Bell Hubbard, 103, of Sanford, N.C., passed away Oct. 19, 2022. She graduated from Women's College in Greensboro, N.C. in 1940 and held an assistantship in zoology at UNC-Chapel Hill before marrying Edwin Hubbard in 1941 and moving to Sanford. Edwin served as a Methodist trustee from 1999 until his passing in 2002. Dot was elected to join the trustees in 2003 and served until 2014 when she was named trustee emeritus. Dot established two endowed scholarships at Methodist.



Martha "Jane" Warren Hook Johnson, 94, passed away on Nov. 29, 2022. Jane's leadership and devotion to the United Methodist Women and The United Methodist Church was rewarded with the Methodist University Medallion in 1991. Experience gained her the presidency of the United Methodist Women of the NC Conference. She was elected to the General and Jurisdictional Conferences, the World Methodist Council, and the British Methodist Conference. Jane served as a member of the Methodist Board of Trustees from 1990 to 2014 when she was named trustee emeritus.

Former Board of Trustees Spouse



Margaret Tuttle Smith, 96, passed away Sept. 24, 2022. Margaret was born in Walnut Cove, N.C., and came to Fayetteville with her husband, Wilbur, in 1952, where they opened their first wholesale plumbing supply store, W.L. Smith Supply Co. Wilbur served as a member of the Methodist Board of Trustees from 1975 to 1986. They lived in Fayetteville until business took them to Memphis, Tenn., and later retired to Wilmington, N.C. Margaret and Wilbur's daughters, **Janet (Smith) Cameron** and **Judy (Smith) Gregg**, graduated from Methodist in 1971.

Donors



Jessie H. Byrd, Jr., 88, of Fayetteville, N.C., passed away on May 13, 2022. Jesse was a retired CPA with Haigh, Byrd, and Lambert, LLP. He was proud to serve on multiple charitable boards including Methodist's Board of Visitors and McCune International Art Gallery Advisory Board. Jesse was a long-time financial supporter of Methodist, as well.



Swayn Gray Hamlet, 89, of Fayetteville, N.C., passed away Oct. 25, 2022. Swayn was an entrepreneur at heart and first established a business as an optician in Wilson, N.C. After 12 years in Wilson, Swayn and his family moved to Fayetteville, N.C. as a Cumberland County industrial developer for the state. He went on to establish a real estate appraiser business and continued to support Methodist University over the years.



Dr. Betty Smith Cline, passed away Jan. 3, 2023. Betty became an adjunct professor at Methodist University in 1968, teaching Psychology and Special Education through the years, finally leaving the university system in the 1990's. She also became a professor at Fayetteville Technical Community College. She loved teaching secondary students, particularly military soldiers and their families.



David M. McCune, 68, passed away Oct. 2, 2022. David was a sculptor, author, businessman and entrepreneur and he left his mark on Fayetteville and elsewhere through his art, work, and philanthropy. His artwork is displayed in homes, businesses and public spaces around the city and state. Methodist University's art gallery is named after him.

After running his business for 44 years, McCune Technology was sold in 2015 and David retired.



Joycelyn Walden Cogswell, of Fayetteville, N.C., passed away Jan. 2, 2023. In 1984, she began leading a Young-Musicians' Preparatory Program at Methodist University. She was also the founding director of the Methodist University Summer Music Camp in 1989 and served in that position until 2002. It is now in its 34th year. Joy also pioneered the offering of Kindermusik, an internationally respected children's music education program, and brought it to the Arts Council and Methodist.

Former Faculty/Staff



TSGT Calvin Jackson Allen (Ret.), 97, of Fayetteville, N.C., passed away July 19, 2022. Calvin was drafted in the U.S. Army when he turned 18. He stormed the beaches of Normandy and during the battle of the Bulge was wounded, spending six months in a Military Hospital recovering from his injuries. For his heroism he received the Bronze Star and Purple Heart. He later joined the U.S. Air Force and retired in 1969. After retirement he worked at Methodist for 22 years.



Christopher Faison, 49, of Fayetteville, N.C., passed away Jan. 24, 2023.



Robert Williams Bloodworth, Jr., 83, passed away Nov. 29, 2022. Robert served as a 1st Lieutenant and pilot in the U.S. Air Force. Robert had a distinguished career as a professional actor and an educator. Robert created and ran the theatre department at Coker College between stints as an actor in New York City. He finished his academic

career at Methodist University, where he was associate professor of Mass Communication and served as department chair until his retirement in 2006. Robert also performed at Cape Fear Regional Theatre and Ft. Bragg Playhouse. He acted in many Methodist University productions, serving as mentor for student actors.



Mary Martin Holben, 91, passed away Aug. 18, 2022. Mary was the administrative assistant to University President Richard Pearce. Mary retired from the Howard Hughes Medical Institute at Duke University Medical Center. Her daughter, **Kim (Holben) Strickland** graduated in 1978.



Jason N. Johnson, 41, passed away Aug. 10, 2022. Jason was an assistant men's basketball coach at Methodist from 2016 to 2022. Most recently, he served as an assistant football coach at Douglas Byrd High School and an assistant for the men's basketball team at Fayetteville Technical Community College.



Halcyon “Tudie” MacKnight-Moore passed away Oct. 5, 2022. Tudie competed at the University of Kansas, winning numerous All-American and Conference titles in track and field. She is a KU Hall of Fame inductee. After graduation, Tudie worked as a social worker in the New York City Public School system and coached the Bronx-Manhattan Federation

Track Team. Tudie moved to North Carolina, continuing in social work until she left the field to pursue a track and field coaching career. She started coaching at Pine Forest High School and then went on to coach at UNC-Chapel Hill, Methodist, and Winston-Salem University.



Alan Porter passed away peacefully Jan. 9, 2023, after a lifetime of spreading the joy of music. Alan had a 45-year career at Methodist University as a professor of music. At Methodist, Alan served as head of the Music Department and director of the Division of Fine Arts. Upon his retirement from Methodist University in 1998, he and

his wife, Elaine, moved to Kure Beach, N.C., where he directed the Wilmington Choral Society for nine years. He was a member of Carolina Beach Presbyterian Church and the American Guild of Organists for church musicians. In March 2017, Alan was inducted into The Fayetteville Music Hall of Fame.



Robert Daniel Montgomery, 65, passed away Sept. 2, 2022. Robert worked at Good Year Tire for 30 years until he retired. Then he worked with the Fayetteville Police Department and was a sergeant with the Campus Police at Methodist University until he retired in 2019.



James Renberg, 87, of Pinehurst, N.C., passed away Jan. 4, 2023. In 1991, he moved to Southern Pines, N.C., and he taught history at various schools in the area: Campbell College (now Campbell University), Methodist University, and St. Andrews University. Until his retirement, he was an enthusiastic educator in any classroom he inhabited.



Rev. Carrie (Whitehurst) Parrish, 80, of Huntersville, N.C., and formerly of Stedman, N.C., passed away Aug. 18, 2022. Rev. Parrish was a United Methodist Minister for over 35 years serving Bethany UMC, Halls UMC, Bethabara UMC, Roseboro UMC, Christ UMC and served as college chaplain at Methodist University. She also spent time

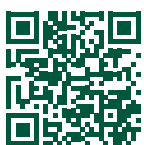
teaching history and coaching at Stedman High School, Cape Fear High School, Midway High School, and Mac Williams Middle School. Carrie's daughters, **Julia (Parrish) Riddle '93** and **Margaret (Parrish) Colvin '99**, both graduated from Methodist.



Adalberto Stratta passed away May 12, 2022 after a short illness. He was born in the Alpine region of Piedmont, Italy. After Al graduated from Cornell University's Hotel Management School in 1959, he decided to pursue an international career in hotel management and spent the next 20 years working abroad. After his retirement from the hotel and hospitality

business, he went on to teach hospitality services at Methodist. His path led back to family in Greenwich, Conn. in 2018. ■

SHARE YOUR NEWS



We want to hear what is going on in your life, additions to the family, engagements, weddings, and certainly honor our alumni and friends “In Memory.” One great way to stay connected with your MU community is by simply filling out our form online at: methodist.edu/alumni/class-notes or scan the QR code.

SEGRA STADIUM

SPRING COMMENCEMENT '22

CROWN COLISEUM

WINTER COMMENCEMENT '22

NEW ERA FOR OUR *Newest* ALUMNI

Following the 2022 May and December MU Commencements – at Segra Stadium and Crown Coliseum – Methodist University announced a new and exciting change for its future commencement events. Instead of separating students – who have lived, studied and achieved together for four years – into fall and spring events, starting in May of this year, MU will hold one “Celebration Weekend” with a commencement for graduate students on Friday (May 5) and undergraduate students on Saturday (May 6).

MU’s graduation traditions – such as Baccalaureate Service and hoodings on stage – will continue as we **welcome our newest Alumni!**

“Stay Connected” through the Alumni Office:
Taylor Murphy '15 Director of Alumni Relations
☎ 800.488.7110 ext. 7485
✉ alumnioffice@methodist.edu

To explore your alumni benefits, please visit:
methodist.edu/alumni/benefits



Then & Now

METHODIST UNIVERSITY



In 1967, Davis Memorial Library was a quiet place for students to study and spread out the many books they needed on large, wooden tables. Today, the encyclopedias and rows of bookshelves have been replaced by e-books and electronic databases. The tables, chairs and linoleum floors have given way to open, carpeted study areas with comfortable, modern seating appropriate for individual and small-group study. It's also home to "One Stop," MU's academic support and career advising space. It isn't as quiet as it once was, but it's still a valuable, popular place for students to get their work done!





MU ALUMNI SUPPORT

GREATEST GIFT SCHOLARSHIPS



\$500 scholarships
per year for a
four-year period

"Scholarships are more than financial. They're building blocks for connections and success in life. Scholarships help students achieve their goals and help them connect with a community where they start becoming the best version of themselves."

— Kimeesha Whitlock, Class of 2023
Nursing
Fayetteville, N.C.

So that the next generation of college students can benefit from what you know is a unique, one-of-a-kind education at Methodist University, we are one of only a few institutions in the entire country offering what we call the "Greatest Gift Scholarship."

This scholarship — offered by alumni, but at no cost to alumni — is given to encourage students to attend Methodist. As an MU graduate, you can award one new Greatest Gift Scholarship per year to a full-time, first-year day student or new transfer student that you actively recruit for undergraduate admission.

To learn more about the Greatest Gift Scholarship or request an application, contact the Alumni Relations Office at **910.630.7485**, toll-free at **800.488.7110**, or via email at alumnioffice@methodist.edu.

You can also visit methodist.edu/alumni/greatest-gift-scholarship for eligibility and other FAQs.