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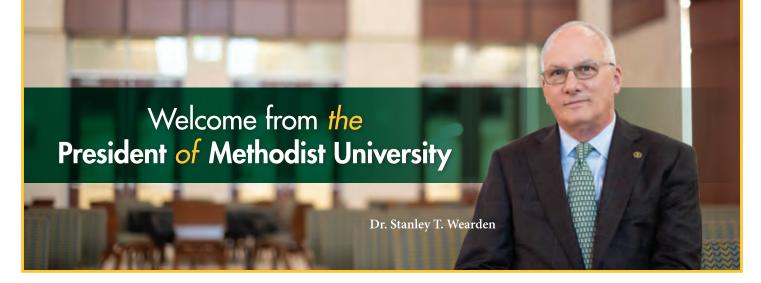




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What a year it has been! Perhaps the most challenging year in the history of Methodist University. Because of the alarmingly fast spread of COVID-19 in the spring and a state of emergency in North Carolina, MU had to suspend in-person learning for one week, beginning on March 16, 2020 so faculty could prepare a shift to fully remote teaching and learning.

On March 18, we announced that our commencement ceremony was canceled. After the one-week break in classes, we transitioned to fully remote learning on March 23. Because of the increasingly rapid spread of the pandemic, we also required our residential students to vacate the residence halls and return home on March 23. All faculty and staff who could do so were told to work from home as well, and all sports practice and competition was canceled for the remainder of the school year. In less than three weeks, the campus became silent and empty. And of course, we all know the pandemic and subsequent shutdowns created a recession and widespread job loss, which had a major impact on the lives of our students and their families.

At the same time, following the death of George Floyd at the hands of Minneapolis police on May 25, another national crisis began to take shape that would have a profound effect on many of our students. The first protest of Mr. Floyd's death was held in Minneapolis on May 26, and by June 6, protests had spread to all 50 states.

These things happened with breathtaking speed, and could have left Methodist University reeling. But because of our outstanding faculty and staff, we were able to plan, adapt, and respond quickly. The faculty did a heroic job of transitioning to remote learning, making sure our students continued to receive the high-quality education for which MU is known. Staff worked effectively and efficiently from their homes. And MU found ways to assist students and to keep all faculty and staff fully employed. We received CARES Act funds, which we were able to provide directly to students. We had previously established the Last Dollar Fund to help students remain in school when they were struggling to cover costs. And, we established the MU Rapid Response Fund to help students with financial and food insecurity challenges related to the pandemic. In addition, we were able to acquire a Paycheck Protection Program loan that helped us avoid any employee furloughs or layoffs through the end of 2020.

Fast forward to fall semester 2020. Because of a nearly universal willingness of the entire MU community to practice social distancing, wear masks, and follow health and safety protocols, we were able to complete the entire fall semester on campus with in-person learning. It was a triumph for MU at a time when so many schools across the state and nation had to send their students back home before the semester ended. About midsemester, we also were able to resume limited sports practice, but the USA South Conference made the decision to postpone all fall and winter sports until spring semester.

2020 was a stressful but highly gratifying year to serve as MU's president. I have been heartened repeatedly by the hard work, care, and compassion of our faculty and staff. I have been equally impressed by the resilience and commitment of our students. We have truly been able to continue moving Forward Together. Please read more on this in our cover story starting on page 20.

As I write this message to you, we are launching the 2021 Spring Semester. We began with remote learning for the first two weeks, with a phased return of students over a four-week period. As of today, this process has gone well. Also going well are a number of important strategic initiatives we have begun. In partnership with a consulting firm called Credo – known for helping universities improve student success, retention, and graduation rates – we are well into a student success initiative that will help us keep many more of our students in school until they graduate in a timely manner.

In January 2021, we also launched the first six new programs in the newly established MU Online, a set of fully online undergraduate programs in Business, Criminal Justice and Psychology; master's programs in Business Administration (MBA) and Health Administration (MHA); and a postbachelor's certificate in Health Care Administration. These programs will serve adult learners across the Sandhills region, the state, and the nation.

In addition, we have signed four agreements with local community colleges and are working on two other agreements. These partnerships are creating clear and streamlined pathways for community college students to transfer all of their credits to MU, so that they can complete a timely and hassle-free

bachelor's degree after completion of their associate's degrees at the community colleges.

Further, we created a Task Force on Racial Healing, consisting of faculty, staff, board members, and students, tasked with listening to the MU community's experiences with race and racism and helping us determine how we can continue to ensure that MU is a place of racial equity and inclusion.

But wait, there's more, as they say on those kitschy late-night TV commercials. We also have been making many improvements on campus. Because of generous gifts and grants, we were able to completely renovate the Green & Gold Dining Hall to offer our students a beautiful and inviting 21st-century dining experience.

Another major gift made it possible for us to install lights in our football and lacrosse stadium, which will give us much more flexibility for both practices and games. A third major gift made it possible for us to completely renovate and upgrade our soccer stadium, and additional gifts have given us the opportunity to finish improvements to our on-campus, 6,500-yard golf course.

Finally, partially through grant funding, we were able to address the deep ravine that cut through the middle of our campus and was threatening the structural integrity of several buildings. The ravine repairs, done in a completely sustainable and environmentally friendly manner, have eliminated the threat of the ravine and opened up a beautiful vista between the golf course and other sports facilities down back.

Be sure to take a unique "bird's-eye" view of these wonderful campus improvements in a special photo series called "2020 (re) Visions" starting on page 37.

My second year as president of MU was filled with challenges and successes. We will continue to maintain our focus on ensuring that MU thrives for many years into the future, but we also continue to face many challenges related both to recent enrollment declines (which MU Online will more than offset over time) and the ongoing physical and financial stresses of the pandemic. If you're interested, there are many opportunities for you to help our students. We have funds established for scholarships, as well as the funds I mentioned above that directly benefit students with financial challenges. I personally have donated to these funds, and I humbly encourage you to do so as well. As you can see in our "Thank You to Donors" special section starting on page 27, even small gifts go a long way in improving the lives of our students.

I wish you all good health, happiness, and success in 2021.

Sincerely,

Stanley T. Wearden, Ph.D. President







CARCH MUNews, Notes, and More

Moving In & Moving On

Students moved into their on-campus residence halls on Aug. 7, 2020. Classes began the following Monday. Only a few months later, a new class of graduates earned their degree and moved on to the next leg of their journey.

Fall and spring 2020 graduates were honored in their own Virtual Graduate Celebration ceremony, which included speeches from the president, provost, and students; a reading of the names of the graduates; presentations of special awards; and prayers for guidance.

The videos premiered on YouTube the date on which commencement was set to occur. Viewers were invited to participate and cheer on their graduate in a live chat.

To watch the Virtual Graduate Celebration videos from Spring 2020 and Winter 2020, scan the QR codes below!









Katlin Kendrick Fall 2020 Distinguished Graduate



Justin Ty Starling Fall 2020 Sam R. Edwards Award Recipient



Allison Nagel
Spring 2020
Distinguished
Graduate

Stellar Students

during the opening of the Winter Commencement.

During the May and December 2020 Virtual Graduate Celebrations, MU named distinguished graduates and the winner of the Fall 2020 Sam R. Edwards Award.

The top-five students (by grade-point average) are nominated for Distinguished Graduate, and the senior class selects one of these five to represent their class. The Sam R. Edwards Award was given to a student in the MU at Night program based on a vote from MU at Night faculty.

TOP-10 COUNTDOWN

MU offers more than 80 areas of study. The undergraduate degree programs with the most majors for the 2020 Fall Semester:

- **Business Administration (215)**
- Biology (112)
- Pre-Nursing & Nursing (97)
- Criminal Justice (81)
- Kinesiology (73)
- Psychology (62)
- Engineering (51)
- Forensic Science (46)
- Social Work (46)
- Accounting (45)

To explore all of our degree programs, visit *methodist.edu/academics/programs*.

Selected to Select Medallion Winners

The Algernon Sydney Sullivan
Foundation selected Methodist
University to award Algernon Sydney
Sullivan and Mary Mildred Sullivan
medallions and certificates beginning
with commencement ceremonies in
May 2021. The University will also
house a permanent plaque where
the names of the recipients will be
added annually. The medallions are
awarded to students and members of
the university community who have
demonstrated noble character and
have acted as humble servants to those
around them.

Rembrandt Visits MU



The David McCune International Art Gallery on the Methodist University campus celebrated its 10th anniversary in 2020 with the "Rembrandt: The Sign and the Light' exhibition, which ran from Sept. 11 to Nov. 18, 2020. Visitors wore masks, were socially distanced, and used magnifying glasses to view the more intricate details of the exceptional collection of 59 etchings spanning the 35-year career of Rembrandt van Rijn (1609-69). The etchings included religious

Salute to Veterans

figures and scenes, portraits,

the famous beggars.

figure studies, genre scenes, and

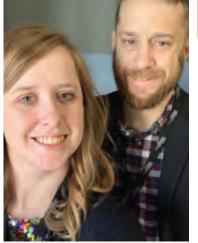
On Nov. 10, Methodist University at Fort Bragg and the Office of Veteran Services at MU gathered in the Quad area of campus for a wreath-laying ceremony. This more than 15-year tradition was led by the two offices to honor veterans and those who continue to serve, especially those who work or learn at Methodist.

"Our intent was to conduct an intimate gathering of a few people to honor our veterans and that's what we did," said Billy Buckner, director of MU at Fort Bragg.

Randy Smith, director of Veteran Services at Methodist, led the ceremony alongside Buckner. Prayers and comments were made by members of the Student Veteran Association, and members of the Methodist University ROTC program placed the wreath.

METHODIST UNIVERSITY

MONARCH Minutes (cont.)



An MU Life-Saving Sister

Nick Owen '13, a former adjunct professor in the MU Theatre Program, recently received a life-saving gift – a kidney – from his sister Melissa '10.

In addition to a life-long battle with diabetes, Nick was diagnosed with Chronic Kidney Disease in 2016. At the highest-severity stage, when Nick's kidney functioning was at three percent, Melissa found out she was a match and could donate.

"When I called and told him I was a match, it definitely brought light to a tough hospital visit," Melissa said.

After the successful transplant in 2020, Nick says he is doing well and was told by his doctor that he is ahead of the curve in his recovery.

The family was supported by multiple community members and friends, raising more than \$8,600 on GoFundMe and additional funds through shirt, bracelet, and Scentsy sales.

"The support has been fantastic," said Nick. "There have been so many people who have contributed both time and resources that it's been a blessing."

2020-21 Quick Facts

of undergrad students are first-generation college students

of students receive financial aid





Women's Soccer Team on a "Twinning Streak"

Did you know that our women's soccer team has had a streak of twin sisters on the roster?

Allie '22 (left) and Grace Page '22 are the most recent set, but Head Women's Soccer Coach Bryan Madej has had twins on his team for several years.

Alexandra '15 and Cassandra (Walter) Stapleton '15 played 2011-14, followed by Catherine Gaughan '20 (who played 2015-18) and Danielle Gaughan '19 (who played 2016-18).

Visit MU Athletics at mumonarchs.com.



"As a community, there are different topics we are not goin agree on," said Ja'Quez Harrell, a member of the Omega Ps ii Fraternity at MU. "But black lives mattering is a topic I

DOUGHNUTS

VOTER REGISTRATION DRIV

DEMOCRACY

Any Signs of Racial Inequity Being Taken to Task

Methodist University formed its Task Force on Racial Healing heading into the 2020 Fall Semester. This task force, made up of students, faculty, and staff, was created to address racial equity at MU. The task force has several forums in place for the 2021 Spring Semester.

Preparing for the Election

When election season was just around the corner – and with many students having never voted before – MU's Center for Community Engagement hosted "Doughnuts and Democracy," a voter registration event. This nonpartisan education and registration drive rewarded participants with a tasty treat.



We Are Here to Hear

Recognizing the stresses that came not only with the rise of COVID-19 as a world-wide pandemic, but also nationwide protests and a contentious election season, Methodist University launched a "Here to Hear" campaign. The goal of the campaign was to connect students, faculty, and staff with others eager to listen and the counseling professionals in the University's Center for Personal Development, driving home the importance mental health plays in a great education.



Methodist University announced the development of several colleges across the state. The goal of the MOUs is to make transferring credits easier for community college students to Carolina, Robeson, Bladen, and Sampson Community.

Connect With Us On Social Media

Keep up-to-date on everything happening at MU with Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and MU"s YouTube Channel.

- @MethodistUniversity
- @Methodist News
- @MethodistUniversity
- **VouTube** YouTube.com/MethodistUMonarchs

Alumni Specific

- MethodistUniversityAlumni @MethodistUAlum
- @MethodistUAlum

MU ATHLETICS WHERE MONARCH'S RULE

ehind the Scenes

Throughout the MU campus, at any given time, amazing efforts are put forth and triumphs accomplished. In the Athletic Department, such victories are obvious through our talented student-athletes and coaches, but there are others working just as hard in less visible capacities. Here are just a few of the many who help the Monarchs roar from "Behind the Scenes."

by Jason Canady

HENRY ABERNATHY Athletic Fields Supervisor

Henry Abernathy is responsible for all of MU's fenced athletic fields. As visitors arrive on campus, the first field they see is the Duggins Soccer Stadium with its carefully manicured lawn. Abernathy takes pride in his work and loves cutting the diagonal stripes in the field.

"Henry's knowledge of what it takes to make a field look incredible has certainly helped our visitors entering our campus, potential recruits, and current soccer student-athletes," said Head Women's Soccer Coach Bryan Madej.

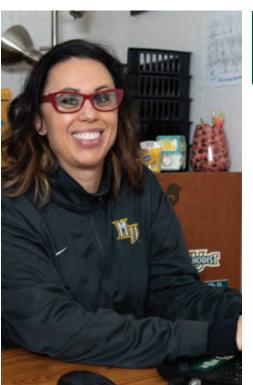
Abernathy starts his day on the tractor and mows the fields. He then uses a smaller mower for the trimming, followed by the weed eater for the fine tuning. Abernathy has a background in irrigation, but his knowledge and talents allows him to do it all.

"Irrigation is very important. Without proper water, fertilization, and treatments, we wouldn't have the fields we have today," said Abernathy.

Abernathy says his favorite part of the job is being on the tractor, "but could do without the troublesome weeds." He loves the progress he's made in the beautification of MU's athletic fields and so does the MU community.

"MU Athletics is very lucky to have Henry take care of all of our athletic fields," said Madej.





DR. KYRSTIN **KRIST** Faculty Athletic

Representative (FAR)

In addition to her role as FAR, Krist is an associate professor of Physical Education & Exercise Science. As the FAR, she is the acting liaison between academics and athletics.

"Sometimes hiccups arise between academics and athletics,"

she said. "Academia wants students in the chairs, but student-athletes must travel, which can sometimes generate conflicts."

That's where Krist comes in. If student-athletes run into an issue, are hitting a hurdle in the classroom, or just have a question or something to share, Krist is there to make sure the students and department are working hand in hand to do what's best for all

"Dr. Krist is an amazing asset to the Athletic Department here at Methodist University," said Dee Dee Jarman, deputy athletic director and senior women's administrator. "Her caring nature for our student-athletes goes way beyond academics. She genuinely cares about our student-athletes. Not only does she provide services to our student-athletes, Dr. Krist provides support to our coaches, as well."

Krist says she wakes up happy every day and excited to come to work.

"Methodist lets me be me," she said. "I get to just be unapologetic me. I can be my authentic self and it shows the students they can be their authentic self."

Krist's office is always packed with students. She provides a safe ear for them and her office is a popular hangout for all Methodist University students, but assuredly for student-athletes.

"Dr. Krist represents Methodist University within the conference and on the national level by being involved with committees within the NCAA," said Jarman. "She is an amazing woman and advocate for athletics. Dr. Krist has made our department better."



Eric Wilkerson retired from Cumberland County Schools and now at MU he's responsible for the upkeep and maintenance at the March E. Riddle Center, which houses MU's basketball court, coaching offices, training rooms, classrooms and much more.

Wilkerson is also seen just outside the arena's grounds, painting railings and restoring the large "MU" embedded in the Monarch Stadium grassy hillside.

"Eric is that irreplaceable behind-the-scenes person.," said MU Sports Information Director Gregg Petcoff. "Sports Information, event management, participating teams, and fans would be left out in the cold without Eric's actions in facility preparation."

Wilkerson takes great pride in his work. His supervisors and fellow coworkers are quick to point out his importance in making the Athletic Department run smoothly, and how well he does his job.

"I'm the one responsible for this building," said Wilkerson, "I do all the maintenance, and if I can't do it myself, I'm the one who puts in the work order."

Wilkerson works closely with MU's coaches. He loves sports and is thankful his job revolves around the subject.

If you've been to an event in the Riddle Center in the past five years, you can bet it was Wilkerson who set up for it (including setting up team locker rooms).

Petcoff said: "Eric's day-to-day responsibilities at Riddle allow for a winning environment for the entire Athletics Department."



BRENDA MCLAMB

Administrative Assistant Athletic Department

McLamb." McLamb is the administrative assistant to MU's Athletic Department, and her office is

done in this department without Brenda

It has been repeatedly said, "Nothing gets

joined with the office of Dave Eavenson, MU's vice president and director of athletics.

A big part of McLamb's day is working with MU coaches on accounting matters, and she works as the procurement manager for athletics.

"I assist the coaches any way they need me. I do mailings, contracts, agreements, and really just about anything else I can help with," she said.

McLamb assists coaches with their recruitment efforts and when their team travels. She works with the NCAA regarding MU's studentathlete eligibility. She's also the university's liaison between campus and its telephone service provider.

"Brenda's talents and skill set are a tremendous asset to our Athletic Department and university," said Eavenson. "Her hard work behind the scenes is extremely important to our day-to-day operations."

McLamb says her favorite part of the job is serving those who walk through her door. She loves it when students walk by her office and wave. Some stop in to chat, and she misses them dearly when they graduate. She often thinks about where they are today and hopes they'll come back to visit and let her know how they're doing.





To stay up with the latest features, news, schedules and more from the MU Monarchs, visit our web site at *mumonarchs.com*. Check in often to catch our latest live-streamed events. You can also

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Kachler, here sporting a

Methodist College retro

jersey, was a star both

on the baseball field

and in classroom.

MU ATHLETICS WHERE MONARCHS RULE



by Jason Canady

sk long-time Methodist University Head Baseball Coach Tom Austin about Athe best players who ever played in his program and he'll recite a who's who of the greats as if calling off the next batting order. Names like Jansen Evans, Jay Kirkpatrick, Mike Brewington, and Danny Hartline roll easily off his tongue. Fresh onto Austin's "greatest lineup" is catcher Alex Kachler '20.

During his four years at MU, Kachler raised the bar on some of MU's greatest baseball stats. He became the first student-athlete to earn the MU Male Senior Athlete of the Year, the MU Sykes Cup, and the Scholar-Athlete of the Year. While Kachler set new records, he earned the Don Scalf Award, the USA South Athletic Conference's most prestigious award. He was voted CoSIDA First-Team Academic All District, and placed on the Academic All-America Division III Baseball Team.

While racking up records on the baseball field, Kachler also earned a 4.0 grade-point average.

Kachler's MU journey started while attending a baseball camp near Charlotte. MU Assistant Baseball Coach Spencer Martin '08 spotted Kachler and invited him to MU's baseball camp. When Kachler set foot on campus, his heart responded with a popular mantra at MU, "It felt like home."

"I know everyone says it, but it's true," said Kachler.

Kachler is described by Austin as thoughtful, analytical, honest, and hard-working. He has a "team-first" attitude, willing to do anything the coach asked him to do. Kachler was a great teammate and player, but what really stuck out to Austin was that Kachler worked hard when nobody was watching. MU's batting cages and facilities are open to any player willing to put in the extra work, and Kachler took full advantage. According to Kachler, one of MU's biggest recruitment attractions was the access to round-the-clock training the program provided.

Kachler started on the MU junior varsity team as a first baseman. But in 2017, the starting catcher went down with a leg injury. Austin knew Kachler had catching experience in high school and called upon him to fill in. What happened next became a part of MU's rich baseball lore. Kachler threw out several base stealers, which surprised everyone (including the coaches). Austin immediately promoted Kachler to varsity and he played the very next weekend.

"You have a professional arm," Austin told Kachler. Kachler's high school coach had told him that very thing, only Kachler didn't believe it. It wasn't until Austin used those exact words that Kachler believed it.

"It surprised me. He said the words my previous coach said, 'You have a professional arm," said Kachler. It was in that moment when Kachler's focus of who he really wanted to become began to shift. He always wanted to play professional baseball, but now he felt validated.

Kachler worked hard and in his second season his batting average jumped from .264 to .397 and his hit total went from 24 to 69. The following year (2019), his batting average climbed to .406 with 67 hits and 54 RBI.

Kachler gives Austin and his staff the credit for his batting IQ. Austin worked pitch selection into every single practice.

"At every plate appearance, Coach Austin taught us to know what the pitcher is trying to do to you and what he may throw, so we're not just swinging blindly out there," said Kachler.

Through Austin, Kachler was connected to the Fayetteville Swampdogs, a collegiate summer league team. There, he learned more footwork and additional catching techniques. He did well, playing in 43 games and finishing with a .333 batting average.

Though the 2020 baseball season was cut short due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Kachler put up numbers that rival professional all-star seasons. Kachler's career 56 doubles is a new MU record. He finished his playing days at MU with a .364 batting average, 183 hits, 147 RBI, and 119 runs scored.

Due to COVID-19, the NCAA allowed Kachler an extra year of eligibility, so he could pursue his graduate degree at the University of North Florida, and also play for the Division I university. Kachler continues to work hard in the hope of getting his chance to play professional baseball. With his talent and work ethic, the sky's the limit for Alex Kachler.

"Alex was a top student, but he also put in the work and was dedicated to his studies... his ability to balance the classroom and baseball helped him reach high levels in both."

- Dr. Denise Bauer, chair and director of the Engineering Program





MU'S TROPHY CASE

A few of the honors from 2019-2020

Academic All-Conference Methodist University Athletics placed 122 student-athletes on the 2019-2020 USA South Conference Academic All-Conference Team with a GPA of 3.3 or better for the fall and spring semesters.

In addition, MU had more than 250 student-athletes earn a 3.0 GPA or higher during the spring semester.

USA South Athletic Conference Don Scalf Award & MU's Mason Sykes Cup Award

Baseball student-athlete Alex Kachler (see feature on these pages) was named the 2019-2020 USA South Conference Don Scalf Award winner. This award goes to the top male studentathlete in the conference.

Kachler also won the Mason Sykes Cup Award as the top performing student-athlete at Methodist for 2019-2020.

Female and Male Scholar-Athletes of the Year

MU had 12 student-athletes earn a perfect 4.0 GPA for the 2019-2020 academic year. This is a record number for MU Athletics. The female winners were Megan Andrews, Katlin Kendrick, Allison Nagel, Emily Ricks, Elizabeth Schmitz, and Aiden Sherry. The male winners were Jacob Austin, Tucker Criswell, Stephen Dukes, Alex Kachler, Henry Murray, and Jonathan Wertz.

McLean Foundation Coach of the Year

David Smith, head men's basketball coach, was named the McLean Foundation MU Coach of the Year for 2019-2020. His team won the USA South Athletic Conference Championship advancing to the NCAA Men's Basketball Tournament.

Athletics Hall of Fame

2020 Hall of Fame inductees: Francie Barragan, former head women's tennis coach; Jerry Hogge, former head women's golf coach and director emeritus of the PGA Golf Management Program at MU; Susan Martin, '10, women's golf; Kristy Zeiler Olivarez '11, '13M, track and field and cross country.

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Gregg]



reshman pre-nursing student Geraldo Sibinde '24 is no Γ stranger to long journeys.

After taking a plane out of his home country of Mozambique to Tanzania, Sibinde took four more connecting flights to make it to Methodist University's campus. His physical journey was long, but he knew he was starting an educational journey that will improve the lives of his community.

"I always like the trip," he said. "At times we learn more from the road than we do from the destination."

Sibinde spent more than 48 hours traveling to MU. In the process, he acquired a rushed COVID-19 test, went through new customs procedures, an airline lost his luggage, and it arrived a week after he started his first semester.

But he says it's all worth it for the chance to make further advancements to health care in his home country.

"Back home, we need more qualified medical personnel, many born before 2003 have had malaria at some point," he said. "Back home, health care is improving, but there is still work to do."

His advocacy for health care sparked at the young age of 13, but his main goal has always been to help those in his home country live a better life. Sibinde is one of six siblings, many of whom are focused on careers in education and engineering in hopes of reaching the same goal.



Sibinde's book roughly translates to "The Country I Want."

His educational journey - which brought him to MU - was long, but paved with fantastic opportunities.

In 2017, Sibinde attended United World College Costa Rica (UWC Costa Rica). While there, he applied for and won the Go Make A Difference grant to help address child marriage and HIV/AIDS awareness in Mozambique. Following this project, he went to Brazil with Global Citizen Year, a gapyear fellowship program where he focused on educating citizens about environmental conservation.

While at UWC Costa Rica, his college counselor urged him to look

into MU. After researching the university, Sibinde knew it would be the next stop on his educational journey.

"I wanted to go to a smaller college," he said. "MU has like 2,000 students and one of the best nursing programs in the country."

In 2020, Sibinde combined his passion for health care and writing and published a book of poetry in the Portuguese language. The book highlights issues we face in our world today and the title translates to, "The Country I Want."

"My book talks about social problems in general," he said. "It talks about what I would want to see in a society."

Since arriving at MU, Sibinde has penned an English translation of his book, which is set to release on Amazon in May of 2021. He has at least two future books in the works, which will focus on different experiences and varying perspectives of life.

He says his passions for health care and writing are equal, and that he hopes his writing can help support him financially so he can assist those who cannot afford medical care.

"It's dangerous for people not to have access to health care," he said. "If that means I'm giving my time as a medical provider for free, I might have a source of income to support myself and others from my writing."

As a pre-nursing student, Sibinde will need to keep a cumulative grade-point average of at least 2.8 and successfully pass pre-nursing courses. Then, he will have to complete the Kaplan Nursing Entrance Exam, apply to the program, and be interviewed by the Nursing Program Admissions Committee to be admitted fully into the nursing program.

"Our Nursing Program strives to attract students who genuinely view nursing as a passion and exhibit the desire to fulfill the holistic needs of the patient and community they serve," said Dr. Shannon Matthews, director of the Nursing Program.

> "If I had to choose one group of people that keeps me going, it's the children and those in rural areas... If I can impact even just a few lives, then that is progress."

> > - Geraldo Sibinde '24

Dr. Cheryl Dodson, assistant professor of Nursing and Sibinde's advisor, said the most important qualities she feels every nurse should possess include authentic empathy and true compassion.

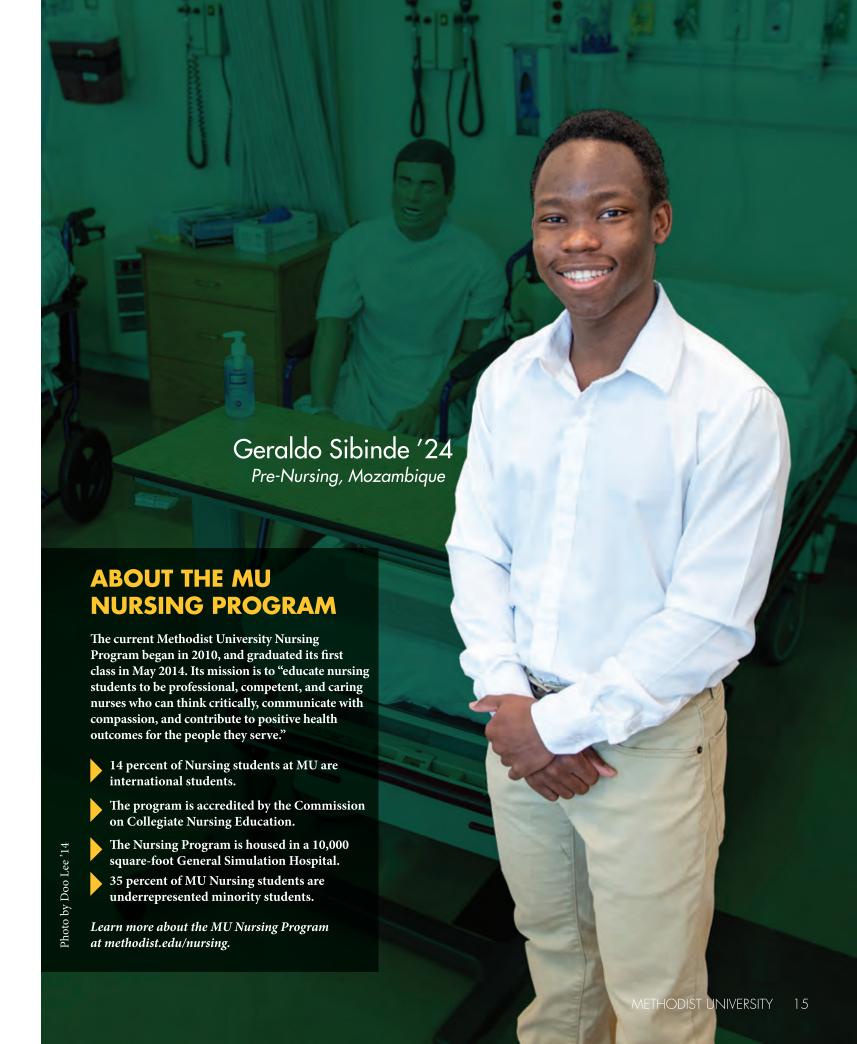
"Geraldo absolutely possesses these qualities," she said. "As I've gotten to know him, what struck me most was his authentic empathy. It's what has been driving him since he was a kid. He is committed, driven, and impressive. After meeting him a couple of times, I said we were so lucky he was coming to MU. I am so excited for him to start our Nursing Program."

Dodson, who has experience traveling in parts of Africa, agreed health care is improving in the area, but can improve further with skilled nurses and health care professionals. That is why the Nursing Program formulated a small group study with international students to better understand the goals of nursing students from other countries.

Sibinde was a part of this study, which Dodson says should result in a four-year plan for international students interested in pursuing nursing.

Following his successful completion of the Nursing Program at Methodist University, Sibinde hopes to practice his profession for a few years in the United States before returning home.

"If I had to choose one group of people that keeps me going, it's the children and those in rural areas," he said. "The rural area of my country is where many people don't have access to hospitals. If I can impact a few lives, that is progress."



N.C.'s First Doctor of Occupational Therapy Program Makes MU History

by Michael Molter '94

In December, Dr. Meredith Gronski, assistant professor and director of the Doctor of Occupational Therapy (OTD)

Program at Methodist University, received word from the Accreditation Council for Occupational Therapy Education (ACOTE) that the program had earned full accreditation for a period of seven years, after an on-site evaluation committee found the program to be compliant in all standards.

"We are free to shout this from the rooftops!" a jubilant Gronski exclaimed.

This was a satisfying culmination to Gronski's work to help build the program from the ground up. Hired as a consultant in 2015, she joined the faculty the next year and began developing what would become MU's second doctoral program (after Physical Therapy) and the first doctoral-level program in Occupational Therapy in North Carolina. Gronski also worked tirelessly to guide the program through the initial accreditation process. In March 2017, the program received regional accreditation from the University's accrediting body, the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC) and shortly thereafter was named a "Developing Program" by ACOTE.



The program's first class of 30 students were enrolled in the Fall 2018, and they will graduate in December.

"Occupational therapy is an exciting profession that serves individuals and communities as a bridge between medical science and the social-cultural human arts," Gronski said. "Our students will launch their careers to address chronic disease, disability, and mental health conditions in a variety of clinics, schools, home-based

Dr. Meredith Gronski variety of clinics, schools, home-based care, and communities. Our goal is to produce highly skilled, compassionate occupational therapists who are committed to bringing innovative care to our communities in North Carolina."

In the classroom, students are engaged by coursework in human health, anatomy, and kinetics, along with a variety of courses dealing with therapeutic methods and professional practice skills. All students must also complete a capstone project, begun in the second semester and culminating in a project completed in the ninth semester. Students also collaborate on research with OTD faculty and their colleagues in the Doctor of

Physical Therapy program.

In addition to a rigorous didactic curriculum, OTD candidates do clinical fieldwork to gain practical experience in occupational therapy interventions. The state-of-the-art laboratories and equipment in the Thomas R. McLean Health Sciences building provide many opportunities to simulate occupational therapy settings. While the COVID-19 pandemic has curtailed the types of off-campus settings in which students can safely engage, fieldwork and community involvement remain strengths of the program.

"When safe, we visit and learn out in the community," said Gronski. "We established a community advisory board in 2017 comprised of local clinicians, and our community partners have kept us rooted in our mission to link learning activities in the curriculum, our faculty scholarship, and our exceptional fieldwork education to surrounding local and regional community agencies and programs."

Extracurricular community involvement for students is also encouraged. The program has established a campus chapter of the Coalition of Occupational Therapy Advocates for Diversity (COTAD), with the goal of increasing the diversity of applicants to Methodist University's program.

"The profession of occupational therapy is 90 percent white and female," said Gronski. "We will hold events to increase awareness about the profession, as far back as middle school, and with underrepresented groups and communities."

Another immeasurable strength of the program is its faculty. All members of the OTD faculty are licensed to practice in North Carolina, and they practice in their areas of specialization one day per week. Faculty who are practicing clinicians naturally bring what they have learned from authentic, contemporary clinical experiences into the classroom.

The faculty are actively engaged not only in practice, but also in academic research. Gronski's recent research has focused on occupational therapy interventions for young children to support self-care skills and sleep. Among the diverse research interests of the other OTD faculty are providing occupational therapy for persons with sensory processing disorders (Dr. Amy Spence), neuromotor conditions (Dr. Matthew Foreman), chronic disease and dementia (Dr. Dana Kolbfleisch), and neurological and orthopedic injuries (Dr. Cindy Erb). Dr. Susan Misciagno specializes in management of rehabilitation services, and the program's newest faculty member, Dr. Sheryl Michel, has established herself on the cutting edge of rehab program development for soldiers dealing with trauma.

Lauren Frey '18, '21D, a graduate of MU's Biology Program, was attracted to the OTD program because it was the first of its kind in North Carolina and that it focused on evidence-based practice. But for Frey, occupational therapy was influential to her at an early age. Born with seven fingers, Frey was visited by an

occupational therapist for the first time when she was an infant. She credits the support of her family and occupational therapy with helping her on the way to success, and she wants to fill the same role for others going through similar trials.

"Just because I'm different doesn't mean I'm disabled. Having that mindset at such an early age really helped me understand people who are going through differences," Frey said. "Growing up through that, and knowing how people who are different feel, really helped me get an understanding of how to help others."

Now the Class of 2021 is on the verge of graduating and joining the profession as entry-level practitioners, and Frey is excited about the opportunities that await her.

"In the next 10 years, I hope to work or volunteer in every type of setting, because I don't want to get too comfortable in one type of setting and not try all the other ones," she said. "The advantage of occupational therapy, coming in as a generalist, is that you can work in every single area."

OTD Faculty Member Receives One of U.S. Army's Highest Civilian Honors

On Nov. 6, Methodist University Assistant Professor of Occupational Therapy Dr. Sheri Michel received the Meritorious Civilian Service Medal, one of the U.S. Army's highest honors for civilians, for her work at BAMC at Fort Sam Houston in San Antonio, Texas.

Prior to joining MU's
Doctor of Occupational
Therapy program in August
2020, Michel worked as
the Chief of Rehabilitation
Services of the Soldier
Recovery Unit (formerly
Warrior Transition
Battalion) at Brooke Army
Medical Center.

She was honored with the award for her work with the U.S. Army, which dates back to 2008, during an OTD faculty and staff meeting via Zoom.

"Without a doubt, it truly is an honor," said



Dr. Sheri Michel

Michel. "I know that I made a difference over the years, some small and some large. It is quite humbling and exciting to know that others saw my accomplishments as distinguished enough to warrant an award of this caliber."

Fall Semester Debuts New Academic Department Organization by Michael Molter'94 by Michael Molter '94

Tn July, Methodist University announced it would change its Administrative structure for academic departments from five schools to three colleges, starting in the Fall 2020 semester. For several years, academic departments were located in either the School of Arts & Humanities, the Charles M. Reeves School of Business and Economics, the School of Health Sciences, the School of Public Affairs, or the School of Science & Human Development. The new structure consists of the College of Arts, Humanities & Sciences; the College of Business, Technology & Professional Studies, and the College of Health Sciences &

Human Services. "The main goal of this reorganization is to create opportunities for engagement and collaboration across disciplines while aligning our teaching and research functions with both our mission and shifting market demand," said Dr. Suzanne Blum Malley, University provost. "By organizing programs that share traditions and are experiencing increasing connections for cross-disciplinary work under the same figurative roof, we can foster creative partnerships and interaction for faculty and students, extend and highlight current strengths of our growth programs, and strengthen the offerings in our general education curriculum, which serves as the core learning experience for every Methodist University student."

Several other structural changes have occurred at the departmental level. The Departments of Music & Theatre have combined to form the Department of Performing Arts, and the Psychology & Sociology Departments are now one Department of Psychology and Sociology. Also recently, the Departments of Athletic Training, Kinesiology and Physical Education and

Health Education merged to form a new Kinesiology RESTRU Department. The Criminal Justice Department,

which also houses programs in Forensic Science and Digital Forensics and Cybersecurity, has

been renamed after being known as the Department of Justice Studies for a decade.

Three of the former school deans have been appointed to lead the colleges. Former School of Arts & Humanities Dean, Dr. J. R. Hustwit, heads the College of Arts, Humanities and Sciences. Dr. Tat Chan, who served as dean of the School of Science & Human Development, helms the College of Business, Technology & Professional Studies. Dr. Trey Hoyt

leads the College of Health Sciences & Human Services after serving as interim dean of the School of Health Sciences. Dr. Kimberly Scruton, who was dean of the Reeves School of Business, has returned to full-time teaching, and Dr. George Hendricks, former dean of the School of Public Affairs, has accepted a position in the Institutional Advancement Office.

List of Departments by College

College of Arts, **Humanities** & Sciences



Dr. J. R. Hustwit

- Modern Languages
- English and Writing Psychology and
- History
- Military Science ROTC

College of Business, **Technology & Professional Studies**



Dr. Tat Chan

- Reeves School of Business and Economics (all majors and concentrations)
- Computer Science
- Education
- Engineering
- Environmental and Occupational

College of Health Sciences & **Human Services**



Dr. Trey Hoyt



You don't have to come to campus to benefit from a Methodist University education. You can enjoy an online learning environment that offers the same quality as in-person courses, including dedicated faculty members and an overall caring, friendly atmosphere for pursuing your professional and personal goals. And you'll have access to all of the academic support services that on-campus students receive.



Our programs are perfect for working adults and MU is always there to "Serve Those Who Serve," whether that's active duty military, veterans, or their families.

Call us at 910.212.4956 to speak with a knowledgeable counselor dedicated to personalize your enrollment experience. We'll be with you every step of the way. Visit online.methodist.edu for more information.

A GROWING LIST OF DEGREE PROGRAMS INCLUDE:

Accounting, Business Administration, Computer Information Technology, Criminal Justice, Health Care Administration, Marketing, Psychology, Psychology Counseling/Clinical Psychology, Human Performance Psychology, Social Work, Community Health Education (Cert.), Health Care Administration (Cert.), Master of Business Administration, and Master of Health Administration



Forward Together

Monarchs Rise to the Challenges of a World-Wide Pandemic

These are unprecedented times. No one could have foreseen in December 2019, as mask-less Methodist University graduates walked across the stage at the Cumberland County Arena, the world would be under a health and economic crisis just a few months into the next year.

The year 2020 saw COVID-19 move into our lives like a Trojan horse, wreaking havoc on our privacy and the comforts of daily life. No one was immune. The presence of COVID touched every citizen in every city, of every nation. In March, the impact of the virus reached MU.

Methodist University responded at once to the challenges presented by the pandemic. It's not possible to eliminate the virus, so MU's goal then (and now) was reducing exposure and keeping the safety of our students as the No. 1 priority.

The objective to remain open for in-person classes in the fall – when universities across the nation were closing their campus doors - could only be reached if the community cared enough to stay safe, follow strict guidelines, and to sincerely, move Forward Together.

"I believe in years to come we will look back on this as a time when we were severely tested and passed the test with distinction."

> - Dr. Stanley T. Wearden President



MU Pandemic Response Team (PRT) Launches in March

On March 5, 2020, before the first COVID-19 case was reported in Cumberland County, a team was formed to keep Methodist University on top of the pandemic crises. The team - which remains active today – consists of leaders from every area of campus, as well as public health and medical experts. The team consults with expert epidemiologists and remains in constant contact with the Cumberland County Health Department. The team meets regularly, prepares COVID-19 guidelines for MU, and updates policies as the virus shifts.

Our House is in Order



One of the great successes of the fall and early spring semesters has been the efforts put forth by students and staff in the residence halls. With necessary guidelines to limit

gathering, and prohibit visitation to other residence halls, students were able to find ways of enjoying fellowship without opening the doors to the spread of COVID-19. While students are supplied with masks and sanitation stations in every building, the MU staff charged with keeping the residences clean and safe continues to go above and beyond.



Taking Tests

On July 21, the March F. Riddle Center at MU was turned into a free COVID-19 testing lab. This summer testing was just one of multiple opportunities for the MU community to get free testing on campus in 2020.

The Green Screen App



Because aspects of the COVID-19 virus could shift daily and require an up-to-the-minute status, Methodist launched "The Green Screen App." Encouraged by MU administration to be used each morning by faculty, staff, and students, the app acts as a wellness check-in. Users answer wellness questions and respond to COVID-19 safety protocols by pledging to do their part in keeping the campus safe.

Signs of the Times

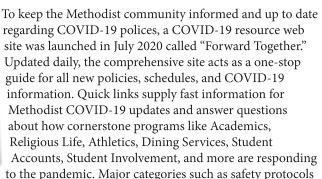


As MU's new guidelines and policies regarding COVID-19 were put in place, an extensive campaign was also released. Overnight, posters and signage were placed throughout campus reminding everyone to keep safety protocols in the

forefront of their minds. Hallways and classrooms saw custommade Monarch sanitations stations, which allowed students access to sanitizing gel and wipes. Signs that read "Do Your Part," hung throughout campus and stickers on the floor directed students where to stand and reminded everyone to stay socially distanced. Meanwhile, signs on MU's doors share the occupancy limits for each room. Throughout campus, seating was strategically limited, and signs could be seen in classrooms and venues that offered the important direction: "Skip This Seat."



MU Launches COVID Resource Web Site



and gathering guidelines, are represented along with a dashboard which provides on-campus COVID-19 statistics. The site taps into the power of videos to instruct faculty and students on the latest guidelines like wearing masks, housing, socializing, and new classroom etiquette.

The Power of Video

Studies show that students would rather click and watch an informative video than read the same information in print. To help demonstrate COVID-19 protocols, Methodist launched a series of videos with the message, "It's in Our Hands." The videos featured MU students who reminded their fellow classmates to use their Green Screen app, how to stay safe while traveling, and taking part in indoor and outdoor physical activities. The series kicked off with a video featuring faculty and staff revealing why they wear a mask in the video, "I Wear My Mask Because..." In October, a campuswide music video was recorded called, "Monarch Mask." The video, which spun lyrics and melody from the classic Halloween song "Monster Mash," demonstrated COVID-19 protocols in a fun way. MU's videos were so compelling, the university was asked by the North Carolina Independent Colleges and Universities organization to lead a seminar on quality and usage for all of the other NCICU schools





To Gather Without Gathering



Dr. Doris Munoz '06

What if it were your job and responsibility to bring students together for social interaction; only students have limits on gathering because of the necessary safety protocols? This has been the task facing Dr. Doris Munoz '06, associate

dean of students and director of student involvement.

"So, we had to think creatively," she said. "How can we bring people together that's not physical?"

The Student Involvement Center has created virtual activities such as: bingo, paint night, trivia night, and book clubs. They hired a virtual mind reader for the students' entertainment one night, and there have been numerous outdoor activities that included both fun and food!

Green & Gold Dining Hall Goes Take-Out Only for Fall

Due to gathering and food serving restrictions from state government, our Green & Gold Dining Hall, which recently saw a fresh remodel (see page 43), shifted to take-out only. Students were often seen carrying take-out boxes across campus to their residence halls or outdoor seating spaces. To lift student's morale and stay focused on safety guidelines, an innovative sticker campaign was launched called, "It's in Our Hands!"

A collaboration between Student Involvement and University Relations, a sticker was applied by volunteers to the box top of each meal. The sticker depicted an MU student with their own quotes and words of encouragement reminding fellow classmates

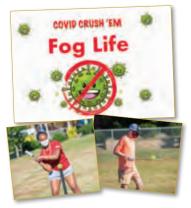
Just a few "firsts" for MU during this full year of COVID:

- Student Orientation held online
- Commencement Ceremonies including Baccalaureates, held online
- Greek Life organizations and the Honor Society Phi Kappa Phi, utilize online inductions
- White-Coat ceremonies and pinnings, held virtually
- The Green & Gold Dining Hall, take-out only in the fall
- Homecoming (and all of the surrounding festivities and sporting events), canceled
- All athletic events, canceled in the fall
- Mr. And Miss Methodist events, canceled
- Some students, such as our International students, lived on campus year-round as travel was restricted
- Travel Abroad opportunities, canceled
- At times, classes held online for some or all residential students ("Remote Learning")



why it is important to wear a mask and keep to guidelines. The first wave of stickers had an additional QR code that students could scan with their phone to watch a personal video message from that sticker's corresponding student. Methodist students took an active role in following safety protocols and encouraging fellow students when they needed it most.

Covid Crush'em: The MU Community Descends Upon Sink Field for a Day of Fun



Students, faculty and staff soaked up some sun, played games, and enjoyed delicious food during the COVID Crush 'Em Champion Challenge. The event was hosted by Religious Life, The Center for Community Engagement, and the Center for Sport Science & Wellness.

"COVID-19 caused a seismic shift in the way we live and learn which manifests itself in the mental, physical, and emotional lives of students," said Rev. Kelli Taylor, vice president for Religious Life and Community Engagement and university chaplain. "We approached this collaboration as an opportunity to engage students – body, mind, and spirit – to address the stresses of COVID-19."

Games were all COVID-themed, many of which highlighted the struggles the community faced on campus.

These games included "The Fog Life," which poked fun at the fogged lenses of glasses wearers donning a mask; a mask-decorating station, and the opportunity to smash a ball decorated to look like the coronavirus.

"The scene was like a healing balm," said Taylor. "An important goal of the event was to model how engaging events can be planned safely. Planning such an event safely is certainly more laborintense, but it is possible to have fun and to be safe. Kudos to the students, who were champions of mask-wearing and social-distancing without much, if any, prompting from staff."

Mission, Messages, Music, and More

While MU is dedicated to following all safety protocols, we also remain creative with our efforts to "Engage, Enrich and Empower."

Speakers and Presentations

Though speakers and their presentations shifted to online, it opened the door for the possibilities of a greater viewing audience which allowed anyone with a link to view the event from wherever they were.

Music Lifts the Spirit



The Music Department recorded and posted their performances, from student recitals to MU Chorale, allowing them to post on social media. They collaborated with two area high school programs which allowed more participants and more viewers who normally would not get the chance to watch due to their locations.

Staying Active in a Quarantined World

To stay active and fit, MU launched a yoga and mindfulness video series called "Soul Reset" led by Deborah Davis (who is married to MU President Stanley T. Wearden). The series featured 10 videos recorded at various locations on MU's campus.

Frequent Encouragement

A daily positive message campaign called "Daily Roar" was launched on MU social media in 2020. The uplifting campaign featured faculty and staff sharing a word of encouragement and wisdom.

Presidential Messages

In 2020, a Presidential Update Campaign was launched by Dr. Stanley T. Wearden. Every weekday (March-May) he kept the MU community informed and supported a positive outlook. The president's weekly emails – often sent multiple times a week to students, faculty, staff, and parents - continue to offer great detail and vision for the entire community.

Spiritual Enrichment

Traditional Wednesday Chapel services at Methodist went outside and virtual, again opening the door to additional viewers. On Oct. 7, World Communion Day was held outside the Matthews Ministry Center while observing all social distancing and other protocols. A highlight was MU students from around the world reading scripture in their native languages.

Adjunct Chaplain Becky Durham distributes Communion during World Communion Day.





Let the Games Begin

While athletic competitions were canceled in the fall, that didn't stop our amazing student-athletes from staying sharp and in shape with masks on and while socially distanced. There was then great joy and anticipation when it was announced by the conference and university that all sports would compete in the spring. Though the first practices of 2021 were held in the chilly conditions of late January, our Monarchs took to the courts, courses, and fields and the first games of the 2020-21 school year were held. With the continued rise of COVID cases in Cumberland County early in the year, careful monitoring and decisions had to be made about spectators at events, but MU Athletics has worked very hard to live-stream as many games as possible at mumonarchs.com.

Methodist University Passes the Test with Distinction (Dec. 2020)



Methodist University ended its Fall semester with success having completed the semester with in-person classes. On Dec. 12, Winter Commencement was held through a virtual live event on YouTube. Dr. Stanley T. Wearden (left) praised MU's faculty, staff, and students and delivered a special message to MU's 2020 graduates.

"Together we've faced an unprecedented challenge and students, faculty, and staff have risen to that challenge with remarkable hope, demanding work, and courage. Because of our willingness to work together as a team, we were able to complete the fall semester on campus in person," said Wearden. "I'm so immensely proud of Methodist University and our December 2020 graduates for finding creative and effective ways to ensure

that no mere virus could prevent Monarch teaching and learning. I believe in years to come we will look back on this as a time when we were severely tested and passed the test with distinction. Having been through this will only make us stronger and our memory of this time will remind us that if we can get through this pandemic together, we can do anything together."



To celebrate Methodist University's hard work and the accomplishments of the 2020 Fall Semester, the Office of Student Life set up a yard display in the Quad for the final week of classes. Together – an entire community moving Forward Together – resulted in something that was nothing short of remarkable.



SPECIAL SECTION FEATURES INCLUDE:

- CUMULATIVE GIVING TRIBUTE
- ENDOWMENT HISTORY AND 2019-2020 GIFTS
- ALUMNI PARTICIPATION BY CLASS
- JOIN THE PARENTS PROGRAM
- ANNUAL GIVING GIFTS AND GRANTS
- 2020 (re)VISIONS PHOTO SERIES
- PLANNED GIVING SOCIETY
- ENDOWED PROFESSORSHIPS
- ANNUAL AND ENDOWED SCHOLARSHIP
- GREATEST GIFT SCHOLARSHIPS
- ALUMNI AND SERVICE PROFILES
- AND MUCH MORE ...

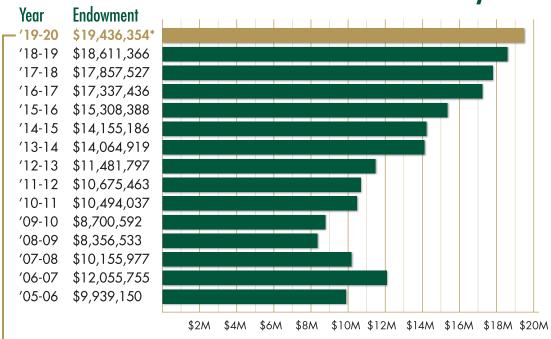
ATTENTION READERS

In this digital version of the Spring 2021 MU Today, Methodist University is choosing to exclude individual donor names and gift amounts for privacy and protection purposes. Because of this, other pages within this 32-page special section will appear out of sequence, but are included as they are valuable to our readers.

Methodist University's fiscal year runs July through June, and this report reflects data from July 2019 through June 2020.

Data from the 2020-2021 year will be available in the next Annual Report of Donors.

Endowment History





*AS OF JUNE 30, 2020

2019-2020 Endowment Funds: \$19.43M, 211 Funds

General Endowment: \$1.30M (7%), 2 funds

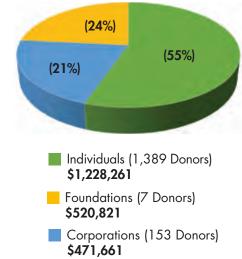
Endowed Professorships: \$1.01M (5%), 10 funds -

Endowed Scholarships: \$12.55M (65%), 176 funds

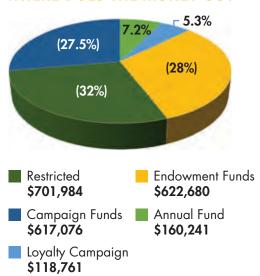
Other Endowed Funds: \$4.57M (23%), 23 funds

2019-2020 Annual Gifts: \$2.22M

WHERE DOES THE MONEY COME FROM?



WHERE DOES THE MONEY GO?



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



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
'70	\$184,316	'00	\$6,571
'66	\$103,350	'92	\$6,474
'68	\$46,682	'04	\$6,355
'64	\$28,355	'81	\$6,121
'73	\$16,525	'67	\$5,940
'69	\$12,515	'02	\$5,242
'74	\$11,140	'07	\$4,795
'71	\$11,025	'86	\$4,565
'01	\$7,238	'94	\$4,450
'08	\$6,979	'99	\$4,400

TOP 20 Alumni Classes By Participation

Class	Participation	Class	Participation
'64	31.03%	'19	11.41%
'68	23.16%	'74	10.91%
'66	23.08%	'71	10.60%
'67	23.08%	'78	10.23%
['] 70	20.89%	'79	10.00%
'69	19.51%	'73	8.93%
'20	15.62%	'09	8.07%
'72	14.86%	'81	7.14%
'76	13.13%	'08	6.94%
['] 65	12.96%	'80	6.72%

PARENTS PROGRAM

The past year has been like no other, but we want to keep in touch!











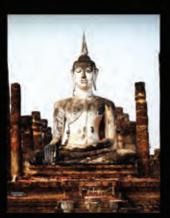
2020 (re) Visions THE FUTURE IS BRIGHT A significant donation from the Mayefskie family enabled the installation of light stands in Monarch Stadium. For the first time, Monarch football, lacrosse, and track & field programs have options for scheduling night practice and competitions throughout the year. The lights also promote new opportunities for hosting high-profile regional athletics and other events.











A Path Less Traveled - -

Alumna shined as non-traditional student

by Gabrielle Isaac Allison '15 and Wendy Hustwit



Ruby Strouse '80 at a donor event in 2006

both young and old have interesting stories, but we all call Methodist "home." Ruby Strouse '80, had lived half a lifetime before enrolling at Methodist College. At

age 49, as a

widowed military spouse living near campus in the Kinwood subdivision, Strouse found a home among her classmates and professors.

Strouse, a native of Lumberton, N.C., met her husband at a New Year's Eve Party at Fort Bragg. They were married in 1956 when she was 18.

Ruby's husband, LTC William Richard Strouse, was deployed to Bangkok, Thailand early in their marriage. "I had never been in Southeast Asia before, so everything about it was new to me," she said. Like so many military families stationed overseas, Ruby and her husband traveled whenever they could. They would often hop on training flights out of the Philippines to visit surrounding countries like China and India. Her favorite place was the Taj Mahal.

But whether overseas or living in Fayetteville, Ruby always delved into her own projects. While her husband worked, Ruby held jobs in Bangkok, one at an English language school and another as an English teacher at Thammasat University. It was there, working with undergraduate students applying to graduate schools in the United States, that Ruby first seriously considered her own college ambitions.

After years of travel, Ruby and William settled back in Fayetteville in the early 1970s. Ruby went back to work in a dental office and the couple built a house in the Kinwood neighborhood, just north of campus.

Unfortunately, William died in 1973, leaving Ruby to forge a new path for herself. During this time, she and her dog, an Afghan Hound named "Golden Trumpet," took daily walks together around the neighborhood and through campus.

"I could hear all the sounds from the different games they played on the Methodist campus, and I could tell there was a lot of exciting activity," she remembers.

Ruby stayed active in her church and with friends after her husband's passing. Then, at age 49, Ruby found her next adventure – earning a business degree. She enrolled at Methodist in 1976, and, despite being twice as old as most of her classmates, Ruby found a new community that made her feel at home.

"People were just so kind. Even the young students treated me like I was one of them," she recalls. She fondly remembers her English professor, Dr. Bob Christian, with whom she shared her love of language. She recalls her business professor, Dr. Sid Gautam, as a lovely, patient person who taught her all about the stock market.

Unlike in her work with university students in Bangkok, however, Ruby was dedicated to her own studies at Methodist. When asked if she mentored any of her younger Methodist classmates, she replied, "No, I was too busy studying!"

After graduating in 1980, Ruby quickly accepted a job at the local Employment Security Commission. This was during a time of high unemployment and the office was

Outside of work and in retirement, Ruby continued her life of projects an learning. With her friend, French-born Martha Duell, she helped establish the Lafayette Society in 1981 and visited France four times with the group.

ABOUT THE LAFAYETTE SOCIETY

The Lafayette Society of Fayetteville, N.C., was founded in 1981 with the goal of raising funds for a statue of Fayetteville's namesake to be erected in Cross Creek Park. After the statue was dedicated in 1983, the society continued to be a positive force in the community, funding scholarships for students pursing studies in French and contributing to the Lafayette Collection at Methodist University.



Strouse has traveled extensively. This map highlights some of her most memorable travels, which include Thailand, China, India, France, and the Philippines.

Ruby served as a member of the Methodist University Alumni Board for years and consistently and faithfully supported her alma mater with her talents and treasure.

Strouse moved from her Kinwood home in 2010 to Penick Village in Southern Pines, N.C. Today, at 93, Ruby admits her eyes are getting blurry and some memories take longer to access, but

she treasures her friends and her Methodist yearbooks, especially to help pass time during recent periods of quarantine due to the COVID-19 pandemic. While reminiscing on a recent phone call, she said, "I hope there have been other people who gained as much as I have from being there."

Methodist was just the home Ruby Strouse needed.



21 MU Alumni Named **Best Young PGM Teachers in America**

Golf Digest recently named 178 professionals to its new Best Young Teachers in America, and 21 are MU PGM graduates!

Jeremy Anderson '07

Legacy Golf Performance Center, Phoenix, Ariz.

David Angelotti '11

Sea Island GC, St. Simons Island, Ga.

Christopher Ardolina '07

Cove Cay GC, Clearwater Fla.

Mario Bevilacqua '11

TPC Summerlin, Las Vegas, Nev.

Chris Biggins '14

The CC of Birmingham, Ala.

Nick Bova '07

Hamilton Farm GC, Gladstone, N.J.

Preston Combs '11

Twin Lakes GC, Goleta, Calif.

Sara Dickson '09

Wilderness CC, Naples, Fla.

Pete Egazarian '04

Northeast Performance Institute, Portland, Conn.

Adam Farabaugh '09

CC of Detroit, Grosse Pointe Farms, Mich.

Robbie Fritz '05

Greensboro CC, N.C.

Brian Gussis '06 GolfTec Woodbridge, Metuchen, N.J.

Billy Hoffman '05 Westwood CC, Vienna, Va.

Justin Klemballa '09

Forest Highlands GC, Flagstaff, Ariz.

Chad Middaugh '07

Muirfield Village GC, Dublin, Ohio

CJ Nafus '12

Roxiticus GC, Mendham, N.J.

Jake Pleczkowski '09 Naples, National GC, Fla.

Justin Sheehan '07 Pelican GC, Belleair, Fla.

Alana Swain '10

PGA Tour Performance Center at TPC Sawgrass, Ponte Vedra Beach, Fla.

Michael Sweeney '08

The Bridge Golf Harlem Learning Center, New York City

Colby Wollitz '08

The Golf Academy at Persimmon Ridge, Louisville, Ky.



For more information on our PGM program, visit methodist.edu/pgm.





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

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."

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To learn more about the Greatest Gift Scholarship or request an application, contact the Alumni Affairs Office at 910.630.7167, toll-free at 800.488.7110, or via email at alumnioffice@methodist.edu. You can also visit

www.methodist.edu/alumni/greatest-gift-scholarship for eligibility and other FAQs.

A CHAMPION-SIZED GIFT

Emeritus Professor's Career of Service Honored with Endowment Gift





Darl H. Champion Sr. speaks at his retirement party on Dec. 5, 2018.

by Jason Canady

r. Darl H. Champion Sr., Emeritus Professor of Justice Studies, has built a career of service to students, to Methodist University, and to the Fayetteville community. In honor of Dr. Champion's legacy of service, his son, Darl "Champ" Champion Jr. '04, recently donated \$250,000 to MU to establish a new endowment and rename the existing Center for Excellence in Justice Administration at Methodist to the "Dr. Darl H. Champion Center for Excellence in Justice Administration."

The "Dr. Darl H. Champion Endowment for Criminal Justice" will offer permanent, annual funding for students pursuing a degree in Justice Studies at Methodist University. Each year, funds earned from the endowment will help resource three areas within the department: equipment, student travel support, and educational outreach.

Dr. Champion started teaching Criminal Justice at MU in 1993 and retired in December 2018. During his distinguished teaching career, he established the Justice Studies Department at MU and

the Master of Justice Administration program. Dr. Champion is well known across the University for being a committed and patient educator who instills in his students a love for the learning process. He is known throughout the Fayetteville area for his commitment to civic improvement and well-being for all residents. Dr. George Hendricks, former dean and current senior director for community affairs, said Dr. Champion epitomizes what a faculty member at MU should be.

"He embodies the concepts of truth, virtue, justice, and love in his work with students and in his 'service above self' mentality. He's a role model in community service," said Hendricks.

Dr. Champion is a founding member of Greater Fayetteville United (GFU), a grassroots organization dedicated to improving the quality of life in Fayetteville through education, cooperation, and empowerment. GFU projects include evaluating social capital gaps and solutions in education, economic development, crime and safety, senior engagement, and affordable housing.

This significant gift, like Dr. Champion's contributions, will empower MU students with the tools to succeed. Dr. Eric S. See, professor and chair of the Department of Criminal Justice, praised Champ for his generosity.

"This endowment will benefit the department and students for decades to come," said See. "It will help us purchase much needed equipment that will benefit both faculty and students. Student scholarship and research were important to Dr. Champion, and this gift will allow us to send students to academic conferences, connect students to the latest research and scholarships, and allow them to network with top experts in the field, which add valuable components to their educational experience."

Dr. Champion and his wife, Victoria, have three children. Since retiring from Methodist, Dr. Champion and his wife have lived in Greensboro, N.C., where they moved to be closer to their two oldest children and their grandchildren.

The new fund's donor, Champ, and his sister, Kimberly Champion Johnson '91, both graduated from Methodist. Kimberly lives in Mooresville, N.C., and works for Lowe's Home Improvement at their corporate office.

After Champ graduated from Methodist University in 2004, he went on to earn a law degree from Mercer University in Georgia in 2007. Champ is currently practicing law at The Champion Firm in Atlanta, Ga., a personal injury law firm that he established in 2014.

"I believe you're not a self-made person; there is always someone or some group of people who are responsible for helping you get to where you are. If it were not for MU, I would not be where I am today," said Champion Jr. "MU played a big role in

our family. This gift made perfect sense. It was a way to give back to MU in a way that would make a real impact, while also honoring my father for everything he accomplished at the school. This fund will provide financial resources every single day. The gratification from giving this gift is tremendous."

Champ has advice for anyone who may be considering this type of gift.

"If you can do something, regardless of size, do it.



Darl "Champ" Champion Jr. '04

Everyone should look for opportunities to give where they can make an impact. For anyone who attended MU, donating to MU is a great opportunity to give back," said Champion Jr.

Roman emperor and philosopher Marcus Aurelius said, "What we do in this life ripples in eternity." If that's the case, the Champion family's continuous contributions will make ripples through the lives of MU students and colleagues both now and for vears to come.

If you are considering an endowment, please contact: R. Gregory Swanson, Vice President for Advancement & Senior Counsel, at 910.630.7200 or gswanson@methodist.edu.

Make a Tax-Wise Decision and Support Our Mission!

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.



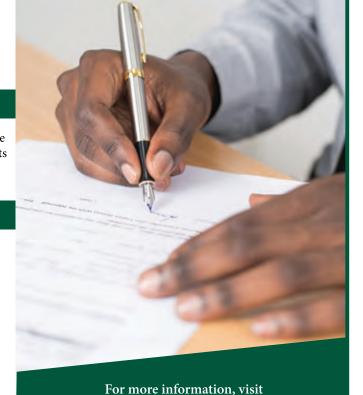
Minimizes the effect your giving has on your cash flow, as you're giving from your assets, not your checkbook.



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



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



mu.giftlegacy.com or call 910.630.7200

2019-2020 Alumni Giving by the numbers

CLASS of '66 jumped 28 spots in dollars given to No. 2.



The class of '09 climbed into the Top 20 in participation percentage after ranking #30 last year.

The '60s and '70s still dominate the Top 20 Participation List with 14 of the Top 20.

Alumni nearly doubled their giving in 2019-20 with

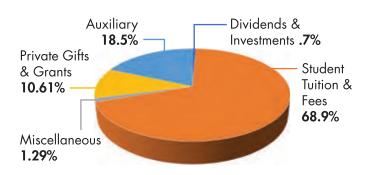
\$431,149.

The **Class of '64** resumed the top spot in participation while the **Class of '70** has maintained the hold on dollars given for the past three years.

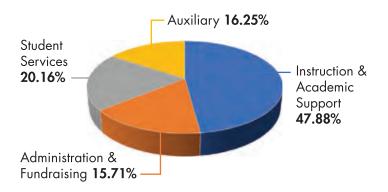
For more information on alumni giving by class, please contact Kirbie Dockery '03, Senior Director of Advancement Services & Prospect Research at 910.630.7167 or kdockery@methodist.edu.

Revenues and Expenditures

REVENUES: Total \$47.6 Million



EXPENDITURES: Total \$48.1 Million



Members of the President's Cabinet



(Top L/R) Joanna Young, Interim Chief Information Officer; Rick Lowe, VP for Enrollment Services; Rev. Kelli Taylor, VP for Religious Life & Community Engagement and Chaplain; Dr. Suzanne Blum Malley, Provost (Middle L/R) Dawn Ausborn '89, VP for Business Affairs; Sheila Kinsey, VP for Planning & Administration; Dr. Stanley T. Wearden, President; Dr. Beth Carter, Associate VP for Academic Affairs (Bottom L/R) Dave Eavenson '96, VP & Director of Athletics, Greg Swanson, VP for Institutional Advancement & Senior Counsel, Dr. Denise Bauer, Faculty Representative (Chair & Director, Engineering); Dr. William Walker, VP for Student Affairs & Dean of Students

Methodist University's Board of Trustees



John "Mac" Healy, Chair Rakesh Gupta, Vice-Chair Timothy "Tim" S. Richardson, Secretary Jennifer Cleveland Elam, Treasurer Mary Lynn Bryan, Immediate Past Chair

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William "Dickson" Schaefer Andrew Shuck '95 Elton Stanley '75 Ira M. Steingold James J. Townsend '80 Scott Weathington William "Bill" R. West, Sr. '69 Gilliam P. Wise '83 Harvey T. Wright II '70 John "Jay" W. Wyatt III

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Thank You

As we close this special section highlighting gifts from last year, I want to take a moment and personally thank each and every donor for the contribution you made to the Monarch community. Every gift is important, whether it's found in cumulative giving, planned or annual giving, or it's to the contribution of our athletic department, they all make a statement and a difference.

Speaking of making a statement, we've noticed class participation and dollar amounts given continues to rise thanks to our proud MU alumni. Class participation is especially crucial, as it impacts ranking and grant opportunities. On behalf of Methodist University, I offer our sincere gratitude. It's been a most unique year and we could not have moved forward together without your care and support. We look forward to hearing from (and hopefully seeing) you very soon.



R. Gregory Swanson Vice President for Institutional Advancement & Senior Counsel



STAYING ENGAGED WITH OUR CLASSMATES

Jim Darden '69 has been elected governor of the first North Carolina Chapter of the Jamestowne Society. The term runs 2020-21. If any classmates have Jamestowne ancestry and are interested in joining the association, please contact him at jimdarden@embarqmail.com.

Mark Kendrick '83 & Associates, LLP, with a staff of 10 HR/ EAP consultants, is celebrating 30 years in providing regional businesses with human resources and employee assistance services for employees and their family members. Services include individual and family counseling, financial planning, anger management and customized corporate training programs.



Rickey Hill '90, Loyola University's cheer and dance coach since 2016, was named 2nd vice president of the NAIA Competitive Cheer Coaches Association. He will serve on the rules committee for the next two years, and he's also in his second year as chair of the Southern States Athletic Conference for cheer and dance.

Dawn Krawczyk '92, her husband Nathan, and their children relocated to Clarksburg, Md., in Aug. 2019 to be closer to family. Nathan is a third-grade teacher in the Montgomery County Public School System. Dawn is the director of Youth and Children's Ministries at Chevy Chase UMC. Dawn would love to hear from you at dawneduc8s@hotmail.com.



Dwayne Mack '93 was appointed vice president for diversity, equity, and inclusion at Berea College (Ky.). He has been with the college since 2003 and has taught American History, African-American History and General Studies. He serves as professor of history and the Carter G. Woodson chair in African-American History.



Kim Miller '95 was named a Tony Webb Outstanding Coach Award winner by the N.C. High School Athletic Association. She has been at Swansboro High School for 24 years and serves as a co-athletic director while coaching volleyball and basketball.



Craig Marsh '00 has been named the new women's golf head coach at Black Hills State University in Spearfish, S.D.



Juliana Suso '00 was named chief institutional relations officer for Interconexión Electrica SA ESP (ISA) in Sept. 2020. She has more than 20 years of experience in leadership for multinational companies in the U.S. and Europe, including commerce, marketing, communications, corporate affairs, and public policy advocacy. Since 2019, Juliana was called by President Iván

Duque and Vice President Marta Lucía Ramírez to be part of the Presidential Advisory Council of Colombian Businesswomen.

Daniel Caleb McKeel '03 was promoted to the rank of Lieutenant Colonel in the U.S. Army in Oct. 2020.

Stacey (Sheppard) Walsh '04 opened Serenity Massage & Esthetics in Dunn, N.C, in June 2020. The business offers massage therapy, corrective facials, skin care, hair removal, and spray tanning.



Roni (Wilkinson) Williams '05 was awarded the 2019 Clear Channel Outdoor Way Spotlight Award. The award recognizes employees who consistently demonstrate exemplary performance and dedication to their clients, coworkers, and communities. As a part of her prize package, she was gifted an all-expenses paid trip to New York City, where she was honored on a digital billboard in Times Square.



After nine years of being an associate at a law firm, **Rhyan Breen '07** started his own practice in his hometown of Wilson, N.C., where he focuses primarily on criminal law and small business formation and development.



Andrew Ginther '08 graduated from the School of Advanced Military Studies (SAMS) on May 21, 2020, earning a Master of Arts in Military Operations. This will be his second master's degree since graduating from MU. Andrew will be assigned to Fort Bragg, N.C., to serve as his SAMS utilization and follow-up on assignments as an information operations officer.



James Buie '10M, the former chief of the Gaston County Police Department, came out of retirement this summer to become head of security at a private school in Gastonia, N.C. He retired from Gaston County Police in July 2015 after more than 29 years in law enforcement.



Travis Brittain '13M took over as chief of police for the Gastonia (N.C.) Police Department in October 2020. He has served the department for 25 years, the past six of those in executive management. In January, Gaston Clergy and Citizens Coalition named Brittain as one of the 2021 recipients of the Martin Luther King Unity Award.

In March 2020, **Daniel Renz '14M** was selected to be the program manager of the Counter-Insider Threat Program at the Defense Information Systems Agency (DISA) at the agency's headquarters in Fort Meade, Md. DISA is a Department of Defense (DoD) Combat Support Agency tasked with providing DoD information network command and control capabilities across the department and to the president, vice president, and joint chiefs of staff, among others. DISA's Counter-Insider Threat program is tasked with investigating and assessing all acts committed by trusted insiders that place agency resources at risk. Renz is in his 12th year of federal civil service.



Since graduating, Morgan (Gehres) Swain '15 has married and had two children. She is a qualified autism service practitioner supervisor at A New Leaf Therapeutic Services, PLLC and attending classes to complete a master's of Applied Behavior Analysis.



William "Bill" Harrell '16M was appointed Franklin, N.C. police chief on June 1, 2020. Chief Harrell transitioned from Highlands police chief in Macon-Jackson County, N.C., where he served for almost 15 years and has been serving in public safety for nearly 30 years.

Gabriela Mendez '17 was named to Oklahoma's Next Generation of Leaders and Achievers (NextGen Under 30) for K-12 Education. Mendez serves as Living Lab Coordinator at Kingston Elementary, Middle and High School in Kingston, Okla. She earned her Master of Public Health from Oklahoma State University.



Cheri Molter '17 graduated from East Carolina University with a Master of Library Science (MLS) with a concentration in Academic Libraries in May 2020. For her internship, she worked with Arleen Fields in the Methodist University Davis Memorial Library Archives on the Catherine Huske Collection.



Vic Ward '17M has been named chief of the Carolina Beach (N.C.) Police Department. Retired from the North Carolina Highway Patrol, Ward took over on Dec. 1 and oversees 32 police officers and administrative staff.



Rachael Arabian '18D is the first MU physical therapy alumni to graduate from a neurologic residency program. Rachael was accepted into the Johns Hopkins Hospital and University of Delaware Neurologic Residency Program in 2018 and has spent more than 13 months gaining clinical experience in a variety of settings in addition to serving as a clinical instructor at the

University of Delaware.

Ashley Hemingway '18 graduated from Virginia Commonwealth University in May 2020 with a Master of Science in Biochemistry. She is now attending Virginia Commonwealth University School of Dentistry to obtain a DDS degree.

METHODIST UNIVERSITY 61



Kim McCall '05 is engaged to Adam Dresser and planning a March 27 wedding.



Ravon Sheppard '14 announces his engagement to Erin Ingram. They are planning a May 22 wedding. Ravon is a music teacher for Montgomery County Schools (N.C.).



by U.S. Army Civil Service.

Kirbie (Britt) Dockery '03 and her husband, Steve, welcomed their third child, Kallie Jean, on April 25, 2020. She weighed 8 pounds, 3 ounces and measured 19 inches. Kirbie is in her seventh year in the Alumni and Advancement Office at Methodist, and Steve is a golf account manager with Ewing Irrigation and Landscape Supply.

David Culbreth '87 and his wife, Courtney, welcomed their

daughter, Josie Belle Marie, on Nov. 14, 2019. She weighed 8

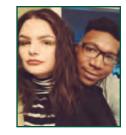
pounds, 9 ounces and measured 21.5 inches. David is employed



Zan (Messer) Burick '09, '11M and her husband, Tom '08, welcomed their second daughter, Emerson, on Nov. 16, 2020. She weighed 6 pounds, 12 ounces and measured 19.75 inches.



Junko Suzuki '09 is engaged to Blair Harkins. Junko is a regional league manager for PGA of America and Blair is the head golf professional at Rolling Hills Country Club.



Jesseca Bell '17 is engaged to James Atkinson'16. James is a hazardous waste specialist at N.C. State University and Jesseca is a law student. The couple met at Methodist in Wendy Vonnegut's class.



Alison (Friend) Thibaut '03, '07M and her husband, Drew, celebrated the birth of their manager for Illuminating Technologies.



Trey Howell '10 and his wife, Lacy, welcomed their daughter Loughlin on June 19, 2020. She weighed 8.2 pounds and measured 21 inches. Trey is an area sales manager for ST Wooten.



Marissa Hippenmeyer '13 is engaged to Anthony Holdaway '13 and planning a Sept. 25 wedding. Marissa is an event manager for Hilton and Anthony is a financial advisor with Merrill Lynch.



Maggie Harris '18 is engaged to Tyler Hardee '17. Maggie is a graduate student and Tyler is an engineering technologist with Pike Engineering.



son, Bryar, on April 2, 2020. He weighed 8 pounds, 13 ounces and measured 20.5 inches. He joined big sisters Lucy and Ruthie. Alison is a national account

Matt Seals '05 and his wife, Leslie,

Manteo, N.C.

celebrated the birth of their daughter,

Kayleigh Claire, on Oct. 1, 2019. Matt

is a United Methodist Church pastor in



Gary Michel '10 is celebrating the birth of two children in the

past few years. Lilly was born April 26, 2018, and Gideon was



Emily (Jackson) Farrell '11 and her husband, John, welcomed their daughter, Adelaide, on Sept. 27, 2020. She weighed 7 pounds, 5 ounces and measured 20 inches.



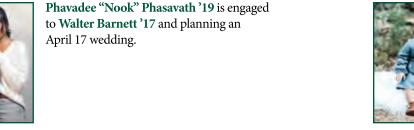
Lizzy Blomgren '14 is engaged to Dustin Wrighter '14. Lizzy is an assistant program director for First Tee Metropolitan New York and Dustin is the director of golf for Golf Lounge 18.



Kelsie Pearsall '19 announces her engagement to Casey Lewis. They are planning an Aug. 28 wedding. Kelsie is a supplemental staffing manager for Cape Fear Valley Medical Center in Fayetteville, N.C., and Casey is a manager at Carolina Farm Tech.



Laura (Gilbert) Milligan '10 celebrated the birth of her daughter, Anna, on May 25, 2020. Laura is an adaptive physical education teacher for Albuquerque, N.M. Public Schools.



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Alex (Bass) Glass '11 celebrated the birth of her daughter, Charlotte, on Nov. 26, 2020. She weighed 7 pounds, 4 ounces and measured 20.5 inches. Alex is a dermatologist.



Daniel Renz '14M and his wife, Lauren, welcomed their first child, Theodore, into the world at Saint Agnes Hospital in Baltimore, Md., May 5, 2020.



Kayci (Miller) Gowins '11 and her husband, Matt '10, welcomed their son, Jonah, on Feb. 1, 2020. He weighed 7 pounds, 8 ounces and measured 20 inches.



Jordan Rieling '16 and his wife, Jessica, celebrated the birth of their daughter Karsyn Marie on Nov. 5, 2020. She weighed 7 pounds, 7 ounces and measured 19.5 inches. Jordan is a health and physical educator for Camden County Schools in Georgia.

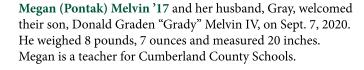
Adriana (Reid) Wilson '11 and her husband, Fred, celebrated the birth of their daughter, Aria, on Nov. 1, 2020.



Allison (Ray) Cooper '12, '14M and her husband, Blake, welcomed Andrew Blake on Oct. 6, 2019.



Reid Berry '13 and his wife, Caitlin, welcomed their first child, Cannon, on March 29, 2019. He weighed 6 pounds, 12 ounces.





Jackson Collier '18 and his wife, Arierose, celebrated the birth of their daughter, Annaliese, on Sept. 21, 2020. She weighed 4.6 pounds and measured 17.5 inches. Jackson is the first assistant golf professional at Highland Country Club.

Alanna (Anderson) Giacomini '18 and her husband, Christopher '17, welcomed their daughter, Addison, July 26, 2020. She weighed 7 pounds, 11 ounces and measured 20 inches.



Jimmy Crayton '01, '16M married Marney Harris on Oct. 5, 2019 in Smithfield, N.C. Jimmy is the chief of police for the Town of Wallace, N.C.



Nick Capapas '13 and Leziel Matugas were married on June 9, 2019 in Saint Pauls, N.C. Nick is an accountant for C&S Commercial Properties and Leziel teaches at Pine Forest Middle School.



Hillary Petruska '13, '15M married Alec Frisby on Oct. 5, 2019 in Charlotte, N.C. The wedding party included Isabella Graf '16 and Erin McAuliffe '14. They both work at Wells Fargo, Hillary as a home mortgage consultant and Alec as a small business banking manager.



Kalie Ludvigsen '15 married Michael Tangredi '15 on July 11, 2020 in Plano, Texas. Jessie Earp '14, Kendra Krupp '14, Reagan Salyers, and Whitney Walker '13 were in the wedding party. Kalie is a development assistant for a non-profit in Dallas. Michael is a golf professional at Preston Trail Golf Club.

Jordan Smith '16 married Ivy Weber on Oct. 19, 2019. Jordan is a forensic technician for the City of Fayetteville.



Kailah Pemberton '16 married Brandon Sparrow '17 on Feb. 15, 2020 in High Point, N.C. The wedding party included Chae Awong-Cole '17, Jamaal Doran '14, Christa (Rhodes) Faison '14, Jason Sparrow '17, Erica Williams '14, and Jaylynne Williams '17. Both serve in the Army, Kailah as a medical service officer and Brandon as a signal officer.



Amber Suits '16, '18M and Scottie Gendron '14 were married on June 29, 2019. Gabrielle Wentling '17 was a bridesmaid. Amber is a physician assistant at Cape Fear Orthopedics and Scottie is a detective with the City of Fayetteville.



Taylor Godfrey '16 and Kevin Barry were married on May 10, 2019 in Walnut Cove, N.C. Alysa Hilliard '16 and Whitney (Stewart) Hunter '16 served as bridesmaids. Taylor is a nurse at New Hanover Regional Medical Center and Kevin is in the Army.



Taylor Hales '17 and Kyle Peacock '17, '18M were married on Oct. 3, 2020. The wedding party included Abbi Carpenter '17, Taylor Cates '17, Jacob Fitch '17, Alyssa Like '17, Dan Richards '17, Andrew Ruskey '17, Jake Smerka '20, and Aaron Ward '18. Taylor works as field support for Maxim Healthcare

and Kyle is a real estate appraiser for Appraisal Incorporated and real estate broker for ENC Pirate Realty.



Kaitlin Tart '17 married Gregory Johnson '17 on May 2, 2020 in Goldsboro, N.C. The wedding party included Tyler Hardee '17, Maggie Harris '18, Nick Norton '18, Adrianna Roberts '18, Tracie Taylor '18, Brock Waynik '18, and Carson Yow '18. Kaitlin is a sixth-grade teacher for Johnston

County (N.C.) Schools and Greg is a sales and marketing representative for Johnson Carpet One Home and Floor.



Kayla McLoughlin '18 and Taylor Fernandez were married on Nov. 14, 2020 in Atlantic Beach, N.C. The wedding party included Taylor Bryant '20 and Taylor Murphy '15. Kayla is a marketing analyst for U.S. Army Special Operations Command and Taylor is a grounds technician at MU.

Heidi Foreman '20 married Dalton Haney '16 on Sept. 26, 2020. Anthony Radtke '16 was a groomsman in the wedding.

SHARE YOUR NEWS

We want to hear what is going on in your life, additions to the family, engagements, and weddings.

Simply fill out our form online at:
methodist.edu/alumni/class-notes

Jean Bradley Nickerson '64, 76, of Huntsville, Ala., passed away May 21, 2019. She was an elder in the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians and was a member of the Great Huntsville Newcomers Club. She enjoyed nature, taking cruises, and playing bridge.

B. Wayne Autry '65, 77, of Nebo, N.C., passed away Dec. 9, 2020. Coach Autry, as he was known in all the High Country, roamed the sidelines and hallways at Avery County High from 1971-94. He coached varsity men's and women's basketball as well as baseball, men's golf, and football at the school. He amassed more than 350 total wins in 20 seasons, including 69-straight conference wins as the women's coach. He was named coach of the year among his peers 10 times. He retired as the school's winningest girls and boys basketball coach in 1994. Wayne is survived by his wife of 55 years, **Donna Aldridge Autry '65.**

D. Keith Cook '65, 79, of Bedford, Va., passed away April 4, 2019. Over his more than 30-year career in city and county government, Keith served as assistant to the city engineer in Fayetteville, N.C. before becoming the county manager's administrative assistant in Henrico County, Va. As his career progressed, Keith served as county manager in Caroline County, Va. and in Stafford County, Va. Upon coming to Bedford in 1973, Keith served as city manager for nine years and retired as director of human resources for Roanoke County, Va. He is survived by his wife of 54 years, **Ann Scott Cook '66.**

John W. Hamilton '65, 77, of Waynesboro, Ga., passed away July 29, 2020. John taught in Griffin, Ga., and was a school guidance counselor in Sandersville, Ga. He retired from the Burke County School System having taught at Waynesboro High School, Burke County Comprehensive High School and Burke County Middle School. He also taught at Augusta Technical College. He worked part-time for The True Citizen for several years. His brother, Robert "Bob" Hamilton '72, was also a graduate and passed away less than two months later.

Paul P. Pope III '65, 77, of Pinehurst, N.C., passed away Dec. 16, 2020. After graduating from Methodist, he served his country in the U.S. Air Force. Paul worked in sales until his retirement.

Delores Maples Bunch '66, 75, of Wilmington, N.C., passed away Oct. 2, 2019. She met the love of her life, Lonnie, at Methodist and they were married the following year. She was a people person and enjoyed a long career in banking at United Carolina Bank/BB&T before her retirement.

Norma J. (Bloh) McNally '66, 96, of Greenville, N.C., passed away June 4, 2019. Norma graduated from Texas Christian University. Her first job was cashier at Boulevard Drive-In Theatre in Fayetteville, N.C. She then went back to school at Methodist, received a teaching degree, and taught for many years in Cumberland County Schools.

Raymond K. Ussery, Jr. '66, 76, of Dunn, N.C., passed away March 3, 2020. After Methodist, Raymond spent time working at Black & Decker, before traveling the world as an executive for Abbott Laboratories.

Dale W. Marshall, Jr. '67, 78, of Colfax, N.C., passed away May 8, 2019. Dale enjoyed a successful career in construction and spent many years on the MU Alumni Association Board of Directors.

Frederick Thomas Ritter, Jr. '67, 74, of Fayetteville, N.C., passed away Jan. 15, 2020 after a short, but fierce battle with pancreatic cancer. He was a lifelong outdoorsman, spending every free minute in the woods or on the lake. Fred was a mentor to many, teaching people hunting and fishing skills he had acquired over a lifetime of experience.

Mary Frances (Fincher) Wells '67, 76, of Ashland, Va., passed away Jan. 12, 2021. She met her love, Milton (Maynard) Wells '68 at Methodist and the two moved to Ashland, Va. where she became a homemaker and mother of two sons. In 1994, she went to work for Hanover County as a clerk to the Juvenile and Domestic Relations Court. After Maynard's passing, Mary rekindled a friendship with college friend Guy "Bud" Beattie '64.

Donald W. Bullard '68, 75, of Pembroke, N.C., passed away Sept. 23, 2020. Donald practiced law in Robeson County and surrounding areas for nearly 40 years. It is a consensus among his colleagues that he was one of the most accomplished and skilled trial attorneys Robeson County ever had.

Margaret Rose Dickinson DeJong '68, 78, of Clinton, N.C., passed away Sept. 9, 2020. She was a dedicated educator in North Carolina and Florida. She taught for more than 30 years, impacting many students' lives along the way.

S. Claire (Godwin) Hopkins '68, 74, of Lake City, S.C., passed away Sept.12, 2020. After she retired from Clarendon District 3 after also serving at Lake City High School and Olanta High School, she continued her calling as an English instructor for Florence Darlington Tech, Limestone College, and Coker University.

Charles Linwood "Lin" Ferrell '69, 77, of Dunn, N.C., passed away Sept. 20, 2020. He served in the U.S. Air Force and retired from Nationwide Mutual Insurance Company after 47 years and proudly served the community of Dunn as the local agent for most of his career.

Elizabeth Auman Jennings '69, 73, of Raleigh, N.C., passed away Aug. 14, 2020. Among other talents, she was an administrative assistant in the N.C. General Assembly, Wake Enterprises, the 1984 Jim Hunt Committee, and a church administrator at West Raleigh Presbyterian Church.

Rita Kay Johnson Olson '69, 73, of Forest Hill, Md., passed away Nov. 20, 2020 after a long battle with Frontotemporal Dementia. She was immersed in the Methodist community from an early age. Rita worked as a social worker in Virginia for 26 years.

Jane Cook Remling '69, 72, of Raleigh, N.C., passed away Aug. 27, 2019. She taught elementary education in the Wake County Public Schools for 17 years. She was active in the Junior Woman's Club of Raleigh and a member of Trinity Baptist Church.

Carol Mitchell Stone '69, 73, of Graham, N.C., passed away Nov. 10, 2020. She worked for a variety of retail businesses including Ivey's, Peaches and Cream, and Macy's. She retired from Cato Corporation in 2012. Carol combined her love of shopping and antiques to create Stone's Henge Antiques with her husband.

Sandra A. Wheeler '69, 72, of Alexandria, Va., passed away July 17, 2020. She started her career as a recruiter for Kelly Temp Services and later served in the Human Resources Departments of Arlington Hospital and Airlines Reporting Corporation, American Meat Institute, and later as the human resources director for The National Rural Electric Cooperative Association.

Anthony W. B. Whisler '69, 72, of St. Charles, Mo., passed away April 24, 2019. He found success in the business world, first as a hotel accountant and later owning and managing several different restaurants throughout the country.

Paula Gore Jackson '70, 72, of Clinton, N.C., passed away Jan. 15, 2020. She was a dedicated teacher for 36 years, having taught kindergarten, first, and second grades at both Turkey Elementary and Hargrove Elementary schools.

Charles F. Jones '70, 71, of Morehead City, N.C., passed away Nov. 26, 2019. Charles taught history in the Wake County school system for 21 years, served as an assistant football coach and was a finalist for teacher of the year. During his teaching career, his long-term interest in fine art developed into a business idea that would take him away from teaching and back to Morehead City where he opened Carteret Contemporary Art in March of 1992.

Betty Lou Burns '71, 70, of Mt. Gilead, N.C., passed away May 18, 2019. She was teacher in the Montgomery County Schools for 33-and-a-half years. She was a member of the Lee County Retired School Personnel and served as community participation chair.

Ronald W. Roberts '71, 70, of Lynchburg, Va., passed away on May 18, 2020 after a long battle with cancer. He served in the USMC Reserves from 1971-77. After graduation from Methodist, Ronnie farmed tobacco with his uncle for two years. He later was a branch manager for Central Carolina Bank in Roxboro, N.C. and then an agent for Farm Bureau Insurance. In 1991, Ronnie moved to Lynchburg, Va. to work for the Lynchburg Red Sox as their head groundskeeper. In 1993, he was promoted to assistant general manager and then became general manager in 2016 and retired in 2018 from the Lynchburg Hillcats organization. He was inducted into the MU Athletic Hall of Fame in 2015.

Thomas P. Allsbrook '72, 72, of Fayetteville, N.C., passed away June 1, 2019. Tom was employed by Hatcher Construction, Inc. and V.F. Talley Companies until his retirement.

Robert L. Hamilton '72, 76, of Aberdeen, N.C., passed away Sept. 8, 2020. Robert served in the U.S. Navy as a radio intelligence seaman during the Vietnam War. He later worked and retired from IBM in production control. After retirement, he settled in Aberdeen to play golf, but ended up co-managing a toy store for more than 20 years in Southern Pines, earning the name Choo Choo Bob. His brother, John Hamilton '65, was also a Methodist graduate and passed away less than two months earlier.

Charles V. Hartsell, Jr. '72, 69, of Florence, S.C., passed away April 17, 2020. Charles was an independent insurance agent before retiring.

Susan Sanderson Lasater '72, 70, of Mount Olive, N.C., passed away Sept. 13, 2019. She was a native of Robeson County and was a retired school teacher with Wayne County Public Schools.

Charlie "Kim" Nazarchyk '72, 69, of Eastover, N.C., passed away July 14, 2019. He was a Fayetteville native, town manager of Eastover, and former chairman of the board of trustees of the Cumberland County Public Library and Information Center. He was a former banker of 36 years.

Richard Dean "Dick" Phillips, Jr. '72, 69, of Winston-Salem, N.C., died unexpectedly on Aug. 1, 2019. Dick worked as a credit manager for Hanes Printables, a division of the Sara Lee Corporation, prior to retiring.

IN MEMORY (CONT.)

D. Mark Wilson '72, 69, of Elm City, N.C., passed away May 5, 2019 after a 10-year fight with brain cancer. With 41 years in the newspaper business, he held many different positions at the News and Observer, Zebulon Record/Gold Leaf Farmer, Suffolk News Herald, Florence Morning News, Greenville Daily Reflector and the Rocky Mount Telegram.

Eugene "Gene" Dillman '73, 68, of Louisburg, N.C., passed away Oct. 18, 2019, from pancreatic cancer. He served four years in the U.S. Navy, achieving the rank of Lt. JG. He then received an MPA degree from UNC-Greensboro. Gene had a career in human resources for more than 30 years, most of which was spent with the N.C. League of Municipalities. He was also the founding president of the MAPS Group, a human resources consulting firm, primarily serving local governments and non-profits in N.C. After retirement, he turned a hobby of buying and selling political memorabilia into a business called OldPoliticals.com. He also dealt briefly in historical antiques, donating many items to the Methodist University Lafayette Society.

Reid A. Horne '73, 69, of Fayetteville, N.C., passed away Jan. 8, 2021. Reid began a successful career as a commercial lender in the banking industry holding various positions at several banks including Cape Fear Bank, United Carolina Bank, and BB&T.

Ronald A. Sykes '73, 69, of Wilmington, N.C., passed away unexpectedly Dec. 10, 2019. He worked in the insurance industry, stocks investments, and commodities. Ron enjoyed being a member of the Cape Fear Shag Club, where he made many friends. His twin brother, Donald "Don" Sykes '73, is also a Methodist graduate.

Dr. Robert B. Turner '73, 89, of Seattle, Wash., passed away after a long illness on April 11, 2019. He began his career by enlisting in the U.S. Army and serving for 20 years as a veteran of WWII, Korea, and Vietnam. Following his military service, he worked in sales and hospitality before receiving degrees from Methodist University, North Carolina State University, and UNC-Greensboro (Ed.D.). He held positions at MU and other institutions of higher learning until retiring from teaching and administration at Averett University. Bob moved to Seattle in 1994 and was employed as a front desk agent at the Claremont Hotel and later as doorman at Bay Vista Condominium until 2017. During that time, he enjoyed part-time responsibilities as a seating host at Safeco Field, CenturyLink Field, and KeyArena.

Maj. John C. Gooden, Jr. '74, 82, of Morehead City, N.C., passed away Oct. 20, 2020. He served his country in the U.S. Army for 20 years, where he retired with the rank of major. After retiring from the Army, he started a new career in the textiles industry as an industrial engineer in Carteret County. He worked with the Blue Bell Corp. for many years until they moved most of their operations overseas. He wanted to stay in Carteret County with his family, so he decided to work for a few smaller companies regionally until he retired.

John W. Irwin '74, 78, of Fountain, Colo., passed away Aug. 27, 2019. John entered the U.S. Army in 1958 and served for 31 years before retiring as a Command Sargent Major. John was a Green Beret and a Vietnam veteran. After his military career, John became an accomplished photographer and writer.

CWO3 (Ret.) Frank R. Lopes, Sr. '74, 89, of Fayetteville, N.C., passed away May 7, 2020. Frank enlisted in the Army's 82nd Airborne Infantry Division, entering active duty service in Jan. 1951. He retired from active duty service in July 1977 and enjoyed a second career as an educator and counselor with the Cumberland County School system, teaching and coaching at Cape Fear High School, leading the baseball team to a championship, and serving as counselor at Anne Chesnutt Junior High until his retirement in 1996.

Rev. Dr. Jerry A. Jackson '75, 70, of Fayetteville, N.C., passed away Feb. 7, 2020. Jerry was an excellent Bar-B-Q pig cooker with a very special sauce. He served the Church of Jesus through the N.C. United Methodist Church for 47 years. He was a past president of the Methodist University Alumni Association Board of Directors. In 2007, he was selected by the Methodist University Alumni Association for the Outstanding Alumni Service Award. Both of Jerry's daughters, Doris Munoz '06 and Jerianne Stone '10, graduated from Methodist.

Sharon E. Robertson '75, 66, of North Augusta, S.C, passed away Sept. 4, 2019. She retired from a career in nursing which included jobs with University Hospital Med-Surg, ER and Internal Medicine Partners of Augusta.

Betty Jo Dew '77, 66, of Fayetteville, N.C., passed away April 12, 2020. Betty was a nurse at Fort Bragg.

Lawrence Allen Barner, III '78, 64, of Fayetteville, N.C. formerly of Suffolk, Va., passed away Oct. 15, 2020. He wore his heart on his sleeve and would give you the shirt off of his back. One of his favorite past times was visiting Busch Gardens and Kings Dominion.

David E. Roller '78, 65, of Laurinburg, N.C., passed away Oct. 25, 2020. David was an All-American catcher at Methodist. After moving back to Scotland County with his son, Russell, David began working with Scotland County Schools where he worked in maintenance, became a teacher, and later retired as the school system's transportation director. David leaves behind his loving wife, Jeanne Edwards Roller '79.

Jeffery L. Norton '79, 62, of Gaffney, S.C., passed away April 6, 2019. He was the office and service manager for Fox Pools and a member of Rehoboth Baptist Church, where he served as a deacon.

Anna Tatum Smith '79, 63, of Fayetteville, N.C., passed away Aug. 27, 2019. Her twin sons, Ethan Smith '10 and James Smith '10, both graduated from Methodist.

Alec N. Burgess '80, 69, of Durham, N.C., passed away Sept. 7, 2020.

D. Marie Spencer '80, 61, of Boonville, N.C., passed away July 26, 2020. She served the public and private sectors for more than 20 years,.

Michael W. Strickland '81, 59, of Fayetteville, N.C., passed away Feb. 28, 2020. He practiced real estate law at the firm of Blackwell, Swaringen & Russ from 1985-1991. From 1991-2018, he practiced real estate law at the firm of Anderson and Strickland.

Carol Davis Wilbur '81, 59, of Wilmington, N.C., passed away Aug. 25, 2019 after complications from a medical procedure. She met her husband, Jerry F. "Jay" Wilbur III '82, at Methodist.

Elizabeth Marie "Betsy" Vann Adkins '82, 63, of Wilmington, N.C., passed away Sept. 1, 2020. She moved to Wilmington in 1988 and remained there until her passing.

SGM (Ret.) Vello Savi '82, 87, of Fayetteville, N.C., passed away May 16, 2019. He was retired from the U. S. Army with 27 years of meritorious service.

Rev. Richard L. De Priter, Sr. '83, 87, of Fayetteville, N.C., passed away Feb. 25, 2020. He became an Air Force chaplain in 1961 and served for 20 years in several places, including North Carolina, where he was base chaplain at Pope Air Force Base. After his retirement, he pastored some Presbyterian churches and was a chaplain at the VA Hospital in Fayetteville for about 30 years. His son, Richard "Rick" DePriter, Jr. '83, graduated the same year as his dad.

Carol Marie Brown Hosseini '83, 58, of Statesville, N.C., passed away April 7, 2020. Carol worked as a pedorthist in Cornelius. She was also a talented stained-glass artist and choral soprano. Her brother, Rev. Dr. Wesley Brown '73, is also a Methodist graduate.

Terry L. McPherson '87, 61, of Bowie, Md., passed away Dec. 14, 2019 from heart disease. He enlisted in the Army and was stationed at Aberdeen Proving Ground and later in Washington before eventually being discharged in 1993 with the rank of captain. From 1995-2001, he was director of technology-based training for Pricewaterhouse Cooper LLP in Philadelphia and later worked in a similar capacity with the Diversity Channel and MedStar Health. Before his death, he was working for MuniEdPro for the Municipal Securities Rulemaking Board in Washington.

Gregory W. Stroud '89, 52, of Williamston, N.C., passed away Aug. 9, 2020 following a long struggle with diabetes. He worked as a substitute teacher until his health kept him from doing so.

Peter R. Volin '89, 72, of Cary, N.C., passed away Nov. 28, 2019. Peter received three Bronze Stars while serving three tours in Vietnam before retiring from the U.S. Army. Following his military career, he managed the GED and ESL Adult Education Program for Fayette County, Ga. for 15 years.

Jay P. Atkinson '90, 58, of Merrimac, Kan., passed away unexpectedly June 28, 2020. He enlisted in the U.S. Army in 1981 and served until 1985. Jay worked for several pharmaceutical companies and later started his own company, Blue Sky Consulting, focusing on the quality of manufacturing of pharmaceutical medications.

Ret. SFC Martin F. Oehmke III '90, 72, of Fayetteville, N.C., passed away April 22, 2020.

Mary Nan Ciampa Thompson '90, 76, of Fayetteville, N.C. passed away April 23, 2019 from complications of pancreatic cancer. She was a gardener, court reporter, published author, and accomplished artist.

Jill Spell Koonce '92, 57, of Hope Mills, N.C. passed away Jan. 6, 2021. Jill worked for 22 years at Southeastern Medical Supply of Fayetteville and has worked in the business office at the Fayetteville Observer for the past 20 years.

IN MEMORY (CONT.)

Michael E. Field '94, 64, of Iowa City, Iowa, passed away April 11, 2019 after a six-year battle with lung cancer. He was a founding member of the 1st Ranger Battalion of Ft. Stewart, Ga. Mike served for 13 years in the U.S. Army Special Forces, 10th Group, at Fort Devens, Md., and Flint Kaserne, Bad Toelz, Germany. Upon military retirement, the Field family relocated to Iowa City, where Mike owned and operated a plumbing and drain cleaning business for 17 years.

Krista L. Scott '99, 43, of Atlanta, Ga., passed away Oct. 8, 2019. She received her Masters from the University of Michigan in 2003. Krista moved to Atlanta in 2004 and soon after, she joined Georgia Power as a Profitability & Economics Analyst.

Stacy T. Cook '00, 43, of Crescent City, Fla., passed away Dec. 1, 2020. Stacy was initially employed in the Putnam County School District at Middleton-Burney Elementary School and subsequently, Crescent City High School. Stacy was an outgoing, positive-minded and likeable football assistant since 2005, athletic trainer; head coach of the girls weight-lifting and flag football programs, as well as head track and field coach.

Justin M. Hinesley '01, 40, of Ramseur, N.C., passed away Nov. 5, 2019. He was employed with Creative Pool Builders and a member of Holly Spring Friends Meeting.

Amy L. Mitchell '02, 42, from Garner, N.C., passed away Nov. 8, 2019. Amy was an active volunteer in several organizations, serving as a board member for the Triangle Technical Recruiter Association, the Demolition Crew for Habitat for Humanity, a Contributor to the Outreach Ministries, and a volunteer for the SPCA of Wake County.

Rev. Winston Boykin '03, 77, of Fayetteville, N.C., passed away April 25, 2019. He was a Baptist preacher for many years.

Willie Rogers "Bobby" Nobles, Jr. '03, 37, of Randleman, N.C. passed away April 23, 2019. He worked at American Premium Beverage Inc. for more than 14 years and part time at the Wingate by Wyndham in Greensboro.

Allen H. Lee '06, 35, of White Lake, N.C., passed away Sept. 1, 2019 from complications following a vehicular accident. He faithfully served the Northwood Temple Church family as the technical director for 17 years.

Matthew W. Borys '07, 36, of Lewisburg, Pa., passed away unexpectedly Oct. 1, 2020. He worked at hotel and airline jobs where he enjoyed flying and traveling during his days off. He was employed as a delivery service provider for Amazon.

Douglas "Tre" Russell III '07, 35, of Fayetteville, N.C., passed away Jan. 20, 2020.

Curtis Burnett '08, 51, of Fayetteville, N.C., passed away Oct. 22, 2020. Curtis had a successful career in the U.S. Army, he was able to obtain a top security clearance with the Telecommunication MOD. Curtis maintained a successful career in the restaurant industry as a general manager for On the Border, Cracker Barrel and KFC.

Stacey Park Milbern '09, 33, of Oakland, Calif., passed away May 19, 2020 from surgical complications. She served as a leader in many organizations including the National Youth Leadership Network, National Council for Independent Living, Sins Invalid, and a multitude of others. In 2014, she was appointed by President Obama to the President's Committee for People with Intellectual Disabilities. After moving to the Bay area, she joined the program management team at the landmark Center for Independent Living in Berkeley. In addition to her many community impact projects, Stacey also worked at Wells Fargo.

Brenda D. Freeman '11, 61, of Fayetteville, N.C., passed away Jan. 27, 2020.

Rimoni P. Peniamina '12, 34, of Carrboro, N.C., passed away Jan. 17, 2020. He worked in the Davis Memorial Library at Methodist from 2012-17 and was working toward a master's degree in library science at UNC-Chapel Hill at the time of his passing.

Kevin F. Wells '15, 48, of Fayetteville, N.C. formerly of Laurinburg, N.C., passed away July 28, 2019. He worked many years in security for Methodist and served as a member of the Internal Order of Police.

Rusty L. Baggett '17, 41, of Fayetteville, N.C., passed away Nov. 14, 2020. He spent many years serving in the U.S. Army and impacted many other veterans through the Wounded Warrior Project.

Dr. Erica P. Drukenbrod, DPT '19, 27, of Brookville, Pa., passed away Nov. 20, 2020. She was a physical therapist at Phoenix Physical Therapy in Brookville. She took part in Mission trips to Haiti and Morocco, where she used her skills to help many people.

Daniel L. Guyer '19, 29, of Broadway, N.C., passed away unexpectedly in a motorcycle accident on Jan. 26, 2020. He served in the U.S. Army, deploying with both the 82nd Airborne Division and the 173rd Airborne Division in Italy. He just started working as a PC tech at Central Carolina Community College.

Christopher M. Schwartz '19, 35, of Fayetteville, N.C. formerly of Grand Blanc, passed away Oct. 21, 2019. He completed four years with the U.S. Army during which he served a tour in the Middle East. Chris was enrolled at Methodist upon his passing and received his degree posthumously in December 2019.

Donors/Scholarship Contacts

David C. Bryan, 80, of Fayetteville, N.C., passed away Sept. 10, 2020. After teaching himself celestial navigation, he served as an officer and navigator on the USS Capapon in the Pacific for the U.S. Navy. Returning home, he joined the family business Bryan Pontiac-Cadillac Co., now Bryan Honda. David was an invisible yet generous philanthropist.

Robert B. Jordan III, 87, of Mount Gilead, N.C., passed away Feb. 16, 2020. Bob served as Lt. Gov. of North Carolina from 1984-88, and as state senator from 1976-84. His history of public service included leading efforts to improve economic and educational opportunities for citizens. Post-graduate recognition included: Honorary Doctor of Sciences from N.C. State University and Honorary Doctor of Humanities from Methodist, among others. He served as CEO and president of Jordan Lumber & Supply, Inc. and its affiliates from the time he returned from the Army, until being succeeded by his son, Robert, this year.

Dr. Wallace H. Kirby, 93, of Asheville, N.C., passed away Sept. 12, 2020. He served in the U.S. Navy during WWII and graduated from UNC-Chapel Hill in 1950 with a degree in business. Wallace graduated from Duke Divinity in 1954, was ordained in the United Methodist Church, and served churches for nearly 40 years. He served as MU's August 1988 graduation speaker and received an honorary doctorate of divinity.

Joel Schur, 87, passed away Dec. 2, 2020. He was a longtime manager of the Capitol Department Store in downtown Fayetteville. Joel was a loyal attendee of the MU Endowed Scholarship Luncheon and made a generous gift toward the Stein-Schur Scholarship upon his passing.

L. Stacy Weaver, Jr., 90, of Fayetteville, N.C., passed away Dec. 16, 2019. He was the son of the late L. Stacy Weaver, Sr. (first president of MU) and Elizabeth Hallyburton Weaver. In Aug. 1954, at the request of Terry Sanford, Stacy moved to Fayetteville and began his 54-year career of law practice. Among his clients,

he was proud to serve as the principal counsel for both Methodist University and Fayetteville Technical Community College from their respective inceptions in 1957 and 1963.

Davison Heriot Wilkins, Sr., 85, of Fayetteville, N.C., passed away July 3, 2020. After graduating from N.C. State University with a degree in agriculture, he served in the U.S. Army. He served as president and executive of multiple financial institutions. He later worked in real estate as a developer. In 2019, he made a generous gift to Methodist to initiate the James Wilkins & Louise Wilkins Endowed Scholarship. His son, L. Meredith Wilkins '93, is a Methodist graduate.

Past Board of Trustees Spouses

Jane McNeill Cleveland, 86, of Fayetteville, N.C., passed away Sept. 26, 2019. After graduating from UNC-Chapel Hill, she taught English and Latin at the high-school level, and she remained an expert in English grammar throughout her life. Her husband Alfred "Al" Cleveland was an MU trustee from 2000-16 and later named trustee emeritus. She is survived by her two daughters, Kendrick C. Fentress and Jennifer C. Elam. Jennifer is currently serving on the board of trustees.

Lucille McMillan Warren, 98, of Fayetteville, N.C., passed away May 16, 2019. During WWII, she worked at Fort Bragg in the Registrar's Office for Dr. Murray Bowen, who would become an important psychoanalyst and author, and a lifelong family friend. She married Charles (Charlie) Warren, eventual owner and manager of Jernigan-Warren Funeral Home. Charlie served as a member of the Methodist University Board of Trustees from 2000-10.

Former Faculty and Staff

Gina Billman, 59, of Fayetteville, N.C., passed away Jan. 18, 2021. She served as the academic records analyst in the Registrar's Office at MU for nearly nine years. She is survived by her husband and four children, including Methodist alumnus, **Nathan Billman** '19.

Robert V. Brady, Jr., 61, of Cameron, N.C., passed away Nov.11, 2019. He spent time as a custodian at Methodist.

Walter E. Darden, 78, of Stedman, N.C., passed away Dec. 10, 2019. He spent time working in the maintenance department at Methodist.

IN MEMORY (CONT.)

Charles A. Fountain, Sr., 77, of Fayetteville, N.C., passed away Nov.21, 2019. Charles was a retired MSG with the U.S. Army special forces after 20 years of service, where he served two tours in Vietnam and was awarded the Bronze Star Medal. He spent time as a security officer at Methodist. His daughter, Dawn Ausborn '89, is a Methodist graduate and the University's vice president for Business Affairs.

Tabitha Gail Kidd, 43, formerly of Fayetteville, N.C., passed away Oct. 11, 2020 after a three-year battle with cancer. Tabitha worked as a Department of the Army civilian and held jobs with the Airborne and Ranger Training Brigade, The U.S. Army Armor School, the Army Corps of Engineers, and the Public Affairs office for Fort Benning, Ga. She spent time as a marketing assistant at Methodist. Her husband, Christopher Kidd '04, is a Methodist graduate.

Joseph L. Miller, 80, of Sugar Grove, N.C., passed away Nov. 7, 2020. Joe served as a physical education teacher and coached most of his career. He coached football, basketball, track, and baseball at Ohio Northern, basketball at Methodist and finished his career in Adoptive P.E. After his retirement in 2000, Joe and his wife, Sue, moved to Boone. In 2011, Joe had a stroke but that did not stop him from many activities, especially a trip to Lourdes, France in 2018 and playing freecell.

Scott R. Morris, 62, of Fayetteville, N.C., passed away Nov. 21, 2019 in Fayetteville, NC. He served the City of Fayetteville as a fire fighter for 25 years and as a security guard at Methodist University for 11 years. His son, David Morris '12, is a Methodist graduate.

Dr. Trevor G.N. Morris, 60, of Grapevine, Texas, passed away Jan. 11, 2021. He was professor of political science at Texas Wesleyan University in Fort Worth, Texas. In his earlier years, he taught at Methodist University, and served as provost of Lambuth University in Jackson, Tenn. Trevor was hired in 1989 and spent 17 years at Methodist in the Political Science Department. In 2005, he was appointed as vice president for planning and evaluation. He devoted his life's work to liberal arts education, teaching in the classroom, and above all to his many students over decades. He is survived by his wife, Monica Ng '03.

Beverly (Bev) S. Pankey, 82, of Cascade, Mich., passed away Aug. 11, 2020. He served our country for more than 20 years after graduating from the U.S. Naval Academy in 1961. He later taught and held executive positions in higher education at Aquinas College, Methodist, Indiana University and Georgia Southwestern University.

Chief James "Jim" K. Phillips, 59, of Greensboro, N.C., passed away Aug. 8, 2020. He was serving as the chief of police for Guilford Technical Community College, a board member of the North Carolina International Association of Campus Law Association, and a member of The American Society for Industrial Security and the N.C. Law Enforcement Officers Association at the time of his passing. He retired as a Lieutenant for the Detective Investigation Division after more than 20 years with the Carrboro Police Department. He went on to serve as chief of police for Methodist University for six years.

Jo Ann Knox Taylor, 90, of Fayetteville, N.C., passed away Oct. 24, 2020. Jo Ann retired as administrative assistant to the vice president of Methodist University after over 20 years of service.

David ("Dave") G. Wilson, 81, of Fayetteville, N.C., passed away Nov. 24, 2019. Dave worked for many years at both Black & Decker and Fasco Industries but primarily at Fasco where he later became president of Fasco Consumer Products. He served as Methodist College Board of Visitors President and Methodist College executive in residence at the Reeves School of Business.

Dr. Jerry N. Woods, 81, of Fayetteville, N.C., passed away May 7, 2020. He taught at four colleges and universities in the Fayetteville area: the University of North Carolina at Pembroke, Fayetteville Technical Community College, Methodist College, and Fayetteville State University.

Then & Now METHODIST UNIVERSITY

Dr. L. Stacy Weaver, here overseeing the construction of the Davis Memorial Library circa 1964, was not just the first president at Methodist, he was the rock upon which all future leaders have stood. A giant in the community, Weaver was the primary force in establishing a mission for the university that we follow all these decades later.





Dr. Stanley T. Wearden - here in the fedora he wears often on campus - is MU's fifth president, charged with overseeing the vision and mission of the university. He said: "I was drawn to MU because of what Dr. Weaver started here, and I am honored to have the opportunity to keep that remarkable mission moving forward."



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