

MU *today*

M A G A Z I N E
Summer 2023



ComMUunity CARE

Methodist University's Health Sciences Programs Step Into the Spotlight
With a Unique Mission for Quality and Accountability



Monarch Nation Celebration!

Although one chapter has closed, another one has sprung to life. During Methodist University's brand-new "Commencement Weekend" – where all graduates of the same class celebrate together rather than splitting into fall and spring commencements – the newest class of graduates now proudly hold the title of "MU alumni."

Through three commemorative events across two days – a graduate commencement ceremony at Huff Concert Hall on May 5, a Baccalaureate service at Matthews Chapel on May 5, and an undergraduate ceremony at Crown Coliseum on May 6 – more than 250 graduates celebrated the iconic weekend alongside family, friends, loved ones, faculty, and staff. Each graduate participated in the well-established hooding ceremony, a time in which an individually selected sponsor (often a parent, spouse, child, professor, or friend) hoods the graduate before receiving their diplomas on stage – marking the next chapter of their lives.

Whether you're an alumni fresh out of graduation or a longstanding alumni, be sure to stay connected to Methodist University through our Alumni Office:

Taylor Murphy '15, Director of Alumni Relations
800.488.7110 (ext. 7485) or alumnioffice@methodist.edu

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

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

Dear Methodist University Alumni, Students and Friends,

I want to welcome everyone to an exciting Fall 2023 Semester. It is great to be back in full swing after a wonderful May Commencement and a terrific summer.

In the spring issue of “MU Today,” we shared the announcement of the new medical school. In this issue’s cover story, we are offering you more details, including an introduction to the founding Dean, Dr. Hershey Bell. We are pleased that he has joined the MU leadership team.

But the cover story is not only about the medical school. It also highlights our highly regarded and successful Health Sciences programs. Through programs such as Physician Assistant, Physical Therapy, Occupational Therapy, Nursing, and Health Care Administration, we are helping to meet the growing health care needs of our region.

In addition, this magazine spotlights Dr. Sasan Araghi ’90 and Sayeh Araghi ’98, two of many MU alumni who are working in health care in our community. And we will profile other alumni and tell you about our ribbon-cutting ceremony for the newly named Dr. Frank P. Stout Physician Assistant Complex.

We also are excited to announce an expansion of our graduate programs, including a Master of Education in Instructional Technology, a Master of Science in Clinical Mental Health Counseling, a Master of Science in Criminal Justice, and a Doctor of Nursing Practice degree. All of these have been approved by our regional accreditor, SACSCOC.

I hope you will enjoy the many features of this “MU Today,” from news and notes around campus, to athletics, to reading about your classmates and friends in the Class Notes, Engagements, Weddings, Births and In Memory sections.

We look forward to a great year ahead at Methodist University, and we wish you the same. We hope to see all our alumni at Homecoming, Oct. 27-29. In the meantime, visit us any time, and keep an eye on our website, which provides ongoing news about MU, along with a useful events calendar (methodist.edu/events).

I wish you all the very best this fall!

Sincerely,



Stanley T. Wearden, Ph.D.
President



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COVER STORY

MU’s cutting-edge Health Sciences programs are at the forefront of preparing the next generation of doctors, physician assistants, occupational therapists, physical therapists, nurses, kinesiologists, health care administrators, and more.

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MU

today

M A G A Z I N E

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MONARCH

Minutes

MU News, Notes, and More



MOVING PICTURES

As the old saying goes, “a picture is worth a thousand words.” For one student, a particular photo has been seen by thousands and became a small glimpse into his amazing life before MU. So says the story written for the MU website in April about MU student **Mohamed Osman** ’26.

Osman grew up amid social and political turmoil in Sudan and in 2019 – while he was chanting a poem during a protest as listeners provided lights with their cellphones – photographer Yasuyoshi Chilba captured iconic images of Osman that would garner worldwide attention. In 2020, in fact, one of those pictures won the World Press Photo Contest.

“One of my friends texted me the picture and I was completely surprised,” Osman said. “All of a sudden, journalists from all over the world started reaching out to me to hear my story. Honestly, it became a bit overwhelming at one point. It was all a tremendous shock.”

Osman’s desire to know more about his country’s politics quickly developed. He earned his high school diploma in the Netherlands through United World Colleges, and then came to MU with hopes of graduating with a bachelor’s degree in Political Science in 2026.

His goals? “I hope to one day be a part of a political movement. I hope to become the president of Sudan,” Osman said. “Even if there’s a chance I fail at these things, I’m not worried about that. I want to make a difference.”



STEPS IN A MEANINGFUL DIRECTION

More than a thousand people came to the MU campus on an April Saturday for the Cape Fear Valley Foundation’s Step Up 4 Health and Wellness Expo. The community-centered event – that is returning in April 2024 – featured a 4K and 1-mile race/walk, and a variety of family-friendly activities – raising donations for health services that directly impact the lives of patients in the community, including the Friends of Cancer Center, Children’s Services, and Heart Care. The event came on the heels of MU and Cape Fear Valley Health announcing a new partnership with the intent to establish a state-of-the-art medical school that will train the next generation of healthcare professionals (see page 14).

A HEALTH-CARING GIFT

MU’s Nursing program received a \$25,000 donation from the Robert P. Holding Foundation. MU Nursing has offered a prelicensure Bachelor of Science in Nursing since 2010 and has expanded to offer online RN-to-BSN and Master of Science in Nursing degrees, plus an online Graduate Certificate in Nursing Education. (Read more about MU Health Services, page 14)

The Robert P. Holding Foundation is named for the former president and chairman of the First Citizens Bank in Smithfield, N.C., and has contributed millions of dollars to support health care and higher education in North Carolina.



Pictured here (L-R) are: First Citizen Bank’s Phillip Strickland (Sr. VP / Sr. Director of Institutional Trust) and Bill Norris (Area VP / Cape Fear Area), MU Provost Suzanne Blum Malley, and First Citizen Bank’s Tim Richardson (Sr. VP / Manager of Commercial Banking) and Hank Dunbar (Sr. VP / Charitable & Philanthropic Services).

STAYING CONNECTED

In addition to the news section on our website (methodist.edu/news), and our MU events calendar (methodist.edu/events), Methodist University alumni can receive our E-Newsletter filled with news and useful links to keep you connected to teams, organizations, faculty, and friends. If you’ve moved recently, make sure we have your current email address by emailing alumnioffice@methodist.edu.



BY THE NUMBERS

Nearly 40% of MU undergraduate students are first-generation college students.

PACKING MAKING AN IMPACT

Giving and selflessness are not rare acts on the campus of Methodist University. But sometimes, it’s absolutely palpable. On MU’s Wesley Heritage Day this past spring, dozens of students, faculty, staff, and community volunteers gathered at Nimocks Fitness Center on campus for a meal-packing event.

In partnership with Rise Against Hunger, volunteers packed 10,500 non-perishable/healthy meals for people in need around the world. The meals were distributed through global partners that administer school feeding programs, orphanages, health clinics, vocational training, and others.

The event was made possible by the Wesley Heritage Endowment, established by **Dr. L. Elbert and Lois Wethington**. You can view photos from the event on the MU Flickr page. [Wesleyan Heritage Day Meal Pack 03-29-23 | Flickr](#)



GOOD LOOKS AT BOOKS

This past school year, MU hosted a special author assembly at Margaret Willis Elementary School as a part of the University’s “Love of Literacy” initiative, which is partially funded by the Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi.

In two assemblies, more than 300 young students filled the elementary school’s gym to learn from **Aniesha Jackson**, an N.C.-based Black author whose children’s books focus on diversity and social emotional learning.

“We’re heading this program because we care about the community and care about making higher education possible for all students,” said MU President **Stanley T. Wearden**.



CULTURAL EXPRESSIONS

With more than 50 different countries represented in our student body – and the University ranked as the No. 1, most diverse university in North Carolina by Niche College Rankings – it’s no surprise that one of MU’s largest student-led events of the year was able to bring nearly two dozen cultures and traditions together for one spirit-filled night this spring.

MU’s International Club hosted “Pangea,” an annual event that allows our international students to express themselves through dance, songs, poems, theatrical performances, and more. “Celebrating the culture of international students is essential to creating a welcoming and inclusive campus,” said **Fadhl Al-Names ’24**, the clubs president who hails from Yemen.

DID
YOU
KNOW?

MU is now offering more than two dozen online programs and one of the newest – beginning in Spring 2024 – is a B.S. in Advanced Paramedicine. Course topics include psychotraumatology and critical care. See the back cover of this “MU Today” for more info about MU Online.



MU LEGIONS IN REGIONS

In late May, the MU Alumni Office wrapped up the regional event season with an alumni-and-friends reception with **President Stanley T. Wearden** in Washington, D.C. Dozens of MU alumni attended the spring events in D.C., Richmond, Charlotte, and Atlanta. The Alumni Office is working on a full calendar of regional events for this 2023-24 school year (*see page 24*).



A DRIVE TO INSPIRE

Methodist University senior **Anthony Adelizzi** – who was diagnosed with autism spectrum and nonverbal learning disorders at the age of 5 – was chosen to be a guest speaker this spring at the national Francis Ouimet Scholarship Fund banquet in Massachusetts. Adelizzi is majoring in Business Administration with a concentration in PGA Golf Management and says the sport of golf played a pivotal role in providing the confidence he needed to navigate disorders... and that he **LOVES** attending MU.

“When I found I got into Methodist, which is one of the toughest PGM programs to get into in the country, I was ecstatic,” he said. Adelizzi’s inspiring story led Ouimet – which awards millions of dollars in need-based scholarships to deserving young men and women – to pay 100 percent of his academic financial need for a year. Once he graduates, Adelizzi hopes to work for a golf club company as a golf club fitter, but more importantly, he hopes to make a difference in people’s lives by sharing his story. ■



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- LinkedIn: linkedin.com/school/methodistu
- Flickr: Flickr.com/KingMonarch

Alumni-Specific Social Media

- Instagram: @MethodistUAlum
- Twitter: @MethodistUAlum
- Facebook: @MethodistUniversityAlumni

Engineering Success

Bauer adds personal touch in her many roles at MU

by Michael Molter '94



Methodist University conducted a nationwide search in early 2015 for a founding director of an Engineering program to begin enrolling students in Fall 2016, and Dr. Denise Bauer took notice. At the time, she was an assistant clinical professor at the University of Idaho’s Department of Mechanical Engineering, but she saw a can’t-miss opportunity at MU.

“The idea of starting a program and making it my own and putting the ideas that I had everywhere else into this to make it what it is was really attractive,” Bauer said.

Fast forward eight years, and Bauer’s mark on Methodist University is unmistakable. She crafted a bachelor’s program in Engineering with a concentration in Industrial and Systems Engineering that earned approval from the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC), the University’s regional accreditor, and last year earned accreditation from the Engineering Accreditation Commission of the Accreditation Board for Engineering and Technology (ABET), a global accreditor of engineering programs.

Bauer’s role has expanded in the past year to include becoming a division director, overseeing both Engineering and Environmental and Occupational Management. She has served as the faculty representative on the President’s Cabinet, and continues to serve in the Faculty Senate, of which she was the first chairperson. She has even organized the summer STEM Camp hosted by Methodist University for the past two years (Bauer is pictured working with STEM campers below), leading other

faculty in creating educational experiences in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics for middle school students.

The sustained success of the Engineering program at Methodist University belies the challenges such a program poses for a small, private university. Bauer faces the task of dispelling prospective students’ perceptions that a small school cannot compete with the facilities offered at larger schools.

“I touch on the personal interaction with the students, which has worked,” Bauer said.

A student-centered approach has been the foundation for everything Bauer has done at MU. Her classes are two-way conversations, with the professor and students listening to and learning from each other, and her office door is always open for students who need to talk. Students have praised Bauer as both a teacher and advisor. She was named the Distinguished Professor of the Year in 2020 and won the Jane Weeks Gardiner Academic Advising Award in 2021, both awards being driven by nominations from her students.

Hailey Carlyle ’21, now a distribution engineer with Current Edge Solutions, echoes that sentiment.

“Dr. B was always there for me no matter what kind of help I needed,” said Carlyle, “If I had a problem with coursework or in my personal life, she always knew what to say and how to help. She’s really one of a kind, and if it weren’t for her, I’m not sure where I’d be today.” ■

“I feel if you have the drive and the desire and the determination to do something, then you can make it.”

Dr. Denise Bauer
Founding Director, Chair & Professor of Engineering





WLAX NETS RECORD-BREAKING SEASON



When breaking records seems like a broken record, you know you had an exciting season. “Exciting” and “record-breaking” were certainly common words used by anybody who had the chance to watch the 2023 Methodist University women’s lacrosse team.

Take for example, a 24-1 victory over Greensboro College that resulted in **Rebecca Hart** becoming the all-time winningest coach in MU women’s lacrosse history with 37 wins in just five seasons (and two of those during the COVID pandemic). The team’s 12 wins in 2023 were the most by any MU women’s lacrosse team, and the team scored the most points (476) and goals (307) in a single season.

Goals don’t typically happen solely through individual efforts, it’s a team game, and the 2023 Monarchs also set single-season records for assists (169), draw controls (307) and causing the most turnovers (216). **Kennedy Martin ’24** became the program record holder for caused turnovers in a season.

MU’s record-breaking efforts were rewarded with five USA South All-Conference selections: Martin, who was named defensive player of the year, **Kayla Nee ’24**, **Jazmine Henry ’25**, **Mikayla Ramos ’25** and **Tia Marlinghaus ’25**.



All in the Family

Coach Hart’s brother, **Matthew Sheinfeld ’21**, played lacrosse at MU and this summer played for the Peruvian national team at the World Lacrosse Championships in San Diego, California.

COACHES CORNER

Madej Named McLean Coach of the Year

Head women’s soccer coach **Bryan Madej ’08** was named the 2022-23 Methodist University Thomas R. and Elizabeth E. McLean Foundation Coach of the Year. Madej became the 11th unique coach to receive the honor in its 15-year history. The award, voted on by a committee of MU faculty and staff from outside of the Athletic Department, recognizes a head coach who has shown involvement in campus events and their respective sport’s professional associations, demonstrated excellent recruitment and retention within their program, and led a team that exhibited outstanding athletic and academic performance.

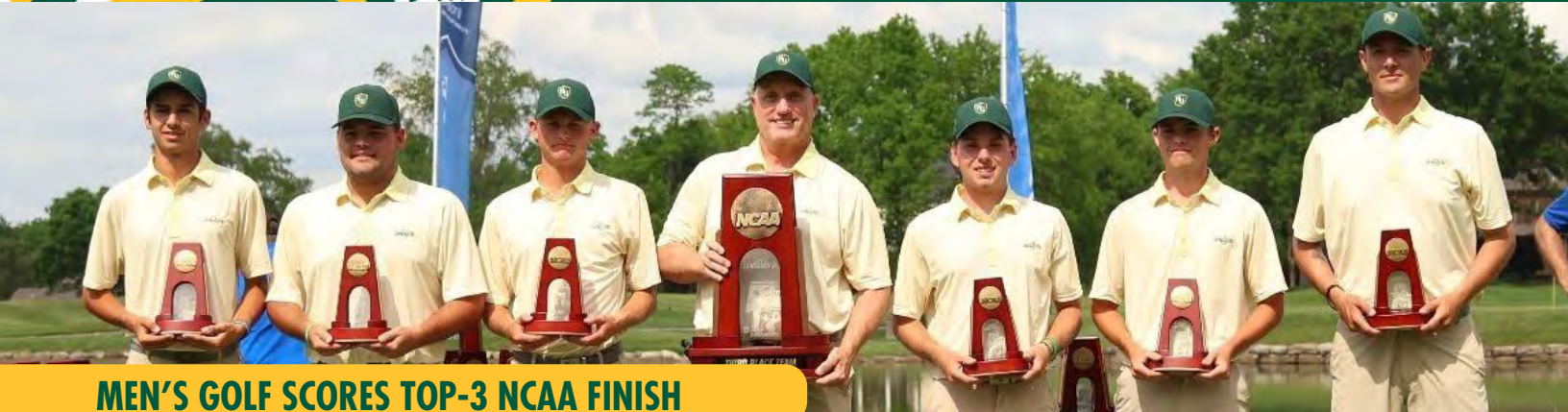


Eye on the Sidelines

In late July, **Ryan McKay** was named the new head coach of the MU men’s lacrosse team. McKay has been an assistant at Piedmont University since 2017, working primarily with the offense and the man-up unit. He became the team’s associate head coach and recruiting coordinator in 2021.

Courtney O’Dea was hired in May as MU’s new cheerleading head coach. She comes to MU after a four-year career at North Carolina State University, where she was a two-time National Cheerleaders Association All-American and a Universal Cheerleaders Association Group Stunt National Champion.

William Helms ’06 is the new head coach of the men’s and women’s cross country teams. He has been an assistant coach of the program since 2013 and was the head cross country coach at Fayetteville’s Pine Forest High School for two years. He will remain an assistant for the MU track & field teams.



MEN’S GOLF SCORES TOP-3 NCAA FINISH

The Methodist University men’s golf team once again battled for supremacy in NCAA DIII, finishing its season and national tournament as one of the top teams in the U.S.

The MU men’s team battled for the top spot for the entire tournament in Nicholasville, Ky., before finishing tied for third place. This was Methodist’s 38th top-five finish in 42 national championship appearances. Just a week before, the MU men won their 33rd USA South Conference title by nearly 30 strokes.

The Golf Coaches Association of America (GCAA) named MU’s **Cooper Hrabak ’24** a first-team PING All-American (this is the third-consecutive season he’s been named to the first team), and his teammates **Aiden Spampinato ’24** (second team), **Cameron Cappuzzo ’23** (third team), and **Jonny Lewis ’26** (honorable mention) were also recognized.

DRINKARD LEADS MU ON AND IN COURSES

The MU women’s golf team finished its national tournament (played in Howey-in-the-Hills, Fla.) in 11th, led by **Jillian Drinkard ’22** who placed seventh. Drinkard was chosen (for the fifth time) as a Women’s Golf Coaches Association DIII All-American, and she was joined on the second team by her Monarchs teammate, **Emily Gresham ’25**.

Drinkard, currently a grad student at MU, was also named the 2023 Mason Sykes Cup winner by the MU Department of Athletics. The award, named for Methodist Hall-of-Fame coach **Mason Sykes**, has been presented annually to the University’s top student-athlete since 1986.

Voted on by Methodist’s head coaches, the winner must display outstanding athletic achievement while also possessing a cumulative GPA of at least 2.0. Drinkard, who also won the award in 2019 and 2021, becomes the second Monarch to receive the honor three times. Drinkard (pictured below) joins fellow women’s golf alumna **Susan Martin ’10**, who won three consecutive years (2008, 2009 and 2010).



HEAD OF THE CLASS

MU Scholar-Athletes for 2022-23 (who earned a perfect 4.0 GPA for the academic year) include:

Female Scholar-Athletes of the Year: **Sydney Bird ’23** (tennis); **Natalie Brosig ’25** (golf); **Kelsey Burge ’25** (soccer); **Rebekah Haigler ’25** (softball); **Kiley Hicks ’25** (basketball); **Valeria Matute ’24** (tennis); **Ainsley McGinn ’25** (lacrosse); **Jenna Rutledge ’26** (golf); **Carolina Simpkins ’26** (soccer)

Male Scholar-Athletes of the Year: **Cody Berry ’26** (baseball); **Chase Carroll ’25** (baseball/football); **Benjamin Gleason ’25** (baseball); **Anthony Miale ’25** (baseball); **Konner Raines ’26** (basketball); **J.J. Zenir ’26** (baseball)

For Bird, Brosig, Haigler, Matute and Miale, this is the second ‘Scholar-Athlete of the Year’ recognition of their careers. The 15 total honorees mark the most Monarchs in one year to be named Scholar-Athletes of the Year, topping the previous high of 12 in 2019-20.

MU ATHLETICS WHERE MONARCHS RULE

MU Alumnus Earns Coaching Fellowship in the NFL

by Christian Naranjo



A Methodist University alumnus is entering the spotlight on one of the brightest stages of all – the NFL – not as a player, but as a coach.

Bryan Bing '15 was recently named one of two 2023 Tony Dungy Diversity Coaching Fellows with the Indianapolis Colts for the 2023-24 season. The fellowship was established by the Colts to hire diverse and talented coaches to full-time, year-long positions – providing opportunity to gain valuable experience.

As a coaching fellow, Bing is already with the team as a defensive assistant for the Colts' defensive line coach – helping plan and operate practice, developing call sheets, and working directly with the players.

"It's a blessing," Bing said. "I'm still a long way from where I want to be, but the skills I learned at Methodist University continue to propel me and set me up for the future."

Bing's journey to MU started when he was in high school in Bradenton, Fla. The football student-athlete met former head football coach Dave Eavenson '96, now MU's vice president and director of athletics, at a college recruitment fair in Tampa.

"(Eavenson) is a great person and had a great message," Bing said. "My family fell in love with him, and when we visited MU's campus, we instantly fell in love with the University."

Bing chose to pursue a bachelor's degree in Criminal Justice and although he said it was difficult at times, he looks back on his experience in the MU classroom as a rewarding endeavor.

"I took pride in academics because my mom always put academics ahead of sports," he said. "There were times where it was challenging balancing school and football, but it helped me grow as a person and think critically about things."

Bing credits Wendy Vonnegut, director of the MU Legal Studies program, for the impact that she made on him as a student and as an alumnus – helping with coaching contracts and legal advice.

"Bryan Bing was the type of student you just knew was going to do great things," said Vonnegut. "He never gave up and was just determined to do the best he could."

On the football field, Bing was a game wrecker as a linebacker. He tallied 319 tackles, three interceptions, and five forced fumbles. He was named a two-time All-South Region selection, a three-time All-USA South Athletic Conference selection, and a five-time USA South All-Academic team selection.

During his junior year, doctors found Bing had an enlarged heart – forcing him to sit out the entire season. Since he was not able to compete on the field, he found other ways to contribute, which included some coaching duties on the sidelines.

"It gave me an opportunity to learn about the coaching world," Bing said. "I knew I wanted to get into coaching one day, but I didn't know it was going to come so soon."

Doctors gave Bing the green light to play his senior season and after graduating he immediately jumped into college coaching – making stops at Heidelberg, Butler, Pittsburgh, Kent State, and Wofford. He also earned his master's in Sports Recreation & Management from Kent State in 2018.

While the fellowship with the Colts is temporary, last year's fellows earned full-time coaching positions with the Colts and the Carolina Panthers after their fellowships concluded.

These are opportunities Bing says would have never happened without his start at Methodist University.

"I'm proud to be a Monarch," he said. "It's shaped me in different ways and has given me opportunities throughout life. I'm very thankful." ■

"The skills I learned at Methodist University continue to propel me and set me up for the future."

Bryan Bing '15



Support student success with a gift to The Loyalty Fund for MU

Engage. Enrich. Empower. : three pillars of The Loyalty Fund for Methodist University. More than a slogan, loyalty is a core value describing the bond we share with our students, alumni, and community. We invite you to **engage** in the transformative power of supporting Methodist University students.

Methodist University's founders knew the importance of a liberal arts education and established the Loyalty Fund for MU. Their determination to **empower** students attracted thousands of loyal supporters, eager to support the mission.

We count on our loyal alumni and supporters, like you, to offer a high-quality Methodist University education to each new class of ambitious Monarchs. Your contribution produces a positive ripple-effect of **enriching** students' lives.

Together, let us engage, enrich, and empower the next generation of scholars, leaders, and change-makers.

To support MU through the Loyalty Fund, please visit donate.methodist.edu/summer. For more information, please call 910.630.7200 or email giving@methodist.edu.

Engage. Enrich. Empower.



The Brunson Method



Madison Brunson '24 puts in effort and care to meet her goals at MU and prepare for the challenges and successes of life after graduation

The old expression is “there’s a method to the madness.” In the case of Methodist University senior Madison Brunson, there is no mystery to thought processes, goals, or even outcomes, and so the expression for her becomes “there’s certainly a method to the success.”

A Psychology major from St. Petersburg, Florida, Brunson is as thoughtful and successful in the classroom, as she is working on her aunt’s farm, coordinating events, or competing in athletics. There’s a strategy in place, an obvious method that has and will reap benefit. That’s the case now, and it was four years ago when she chose to attend Methodist University.

“I knew I wanted to attend a smaller university where I could have meaningful conversations with my professors and get deeper into education than I could at a bigger university,” she said. “Then, when I visited campus, I knew this was the place for me... I was hooked on the academics – especially the Human Performance Concentration in the Psychology major – and all of the beautiful nature on the MU campus. I wanted to go somewhere that had all four seasons, and everybody I met during my visit was so friendly it was such a welcoming environment. I knew I could do well here.”

“Do well here” could certainly be considered an understatement for Brunson, who has an overall 4.0 grade-point average having never received anything but an A in any of her classes. This is with dual concentrations in Counseling/Clinical and Human Performance Psychology, two minors in Neuropsychology and Management (out of MU’s Reeves School of Business), President’s List, Dean’s List, two-time Scholar Athlete for women’s soccer, and having met all requirements for the Leadership Fellows and MU Honors Program.

“In my view, doing well in academics is a rehearsal for how well you will do for the rest of your life,” Brunson said. “If you want to be taken seriously in your professional life, it’s a good idea to take college seriously. You have to prepare yourself well. At MU, you can learn the life skills you need for anything if you pay attention and practice.”

Putting effort, skill, and excellence into use is something Brunson says she learned from her parents, who run a medical practice in Florida. “They both have worked so hard academically and running their practice, it has really shown me and my sister that we can do the same thing,” Brunson said.

That Brunson method for excellence is not just readily visible in MU classrooms. She is one of MU’s New Student Orientation leaders, was a two-time captain and was chosen all-conference in soccer twice, she’s done a study-abroad trip to Guatemala, has walked alongside peers as a CHAMPS (a study hall program for student-athletes) supervisor, and is president of the Alpha

Sigma Alpha sorority (and secretary of the Greek Council). It’s little surprise that Brunson was named a Wright Scholars recipient, a scholarship made possible by a gift to the University from Dr. Harvey T. Wright ’70 and his wife, Mary Fermanides Wright ’68, that covers 100 percent of a student’s tuition for eight semesters at MU.

“I’m really honored to be a Wright Scholar... to be one of five students that receives this scholarship every year,” Brunson said. “I obviously work hard to keep the scholarship by maintaining a high GPA and extra curriculars, but it’s also great because we get to meet the Wrights every year, get to talk to them and know them, and find out why they are passionate about education.”

Dr. Mark Kline is a professor of Psychology at MU and head of the Social Sciences Division. Like other educators that have had Brunson in their class, he’s quick to point out the positives.

“Doing well in academics is a rehearsal for how well you will do for the rest of your life... At MU, you can learn the life skills you need for anything if you pay attention and practice.”

– Madison Brunson '24

“Madison’s passion for learning is evident in everything she does. She is always asking questions, and she is always eager to share her own insights,” Kline said. “She is also a very hard worker, and she is always willing to put in the extra effort to succeed. I am confident that she will make significant contributions to the field of psychology.”

As passionate as she is about education and academics, Brunson lists her sorority sisters, teammates, roommates – and faculty and staff at MU – as some of the most inspiring influences on her amazing college career thus far.

“I have made life-changing connections while at MU,” Brunson said. “I did the CHAMPS and MU Journey classes with (former MU staff member) Dr. Tavares Hunter ’02 and he used the phrase ‘The Brunson Method’ when talking to other

students about how I would spend time in the library before and after classes as a way to get better grades.

“I met my mentor Elena Schmidt ’23, who is in MU’s Doctor of Occupational Therapy program, and amazing professors like Dr. Kline. I met my boyfriend here, and soccer gave me ‘Maddie to the Power of Three,’ which were soccer teammates and now my roommates (Madison Rizer ’24 and Maddie Hernandez ’24). These people and others have made my time at MU so enriching.”

These individuals have had the similar life-changing connections with Brunson.

“I have witnessed Madison Brunson’s passion shining through any activities that she has set out to do,” said Schmidt. “She always does her very best to help others in any way possible. Madison is selfless, kind, motivated and intelligent.”

While walking across the stage to receive her diploma would be another academic milestone surpassed by Brunson, if the strategy goes as planned, Brunson will be right back in the classroom soon after.

“In five years, I hope to have my doctorate in Industrial Organization Psychology,” Brunson said. “I love school and learning. So, I hope to continue that. Psychology really sets you up to do anything well. If you understand people and why they act the way they do, and how you can influence them... you can take that to anything else your interesting in.” ■

MU Today asked Madison Brunson to list just a few proven methods for success that she could share with new students:

- Start the concentration classes for your major as a freshman so you are continually engaged in it. You’ll be excited about those classes and looking forward to all of the content and classes to come.
- While I think students should focus on academics, it’s also important to get involved on campus. I always recommend that people volunteer as much as they can off campus, too. I volunteer with hospice locally and it has been so rewarding.
- Try new things in your free time. I like to go hiking, camping, spending time with my family, and my boyfriend, but I also try to spend a lot of time with people who have different, varied interests and perspectives.
- Enjoy Fayetteville. The city came back to life after the COVID pandemic. There are so many shops and things to do.



ComMUunity Care

MU moves to the forefront in the region with its unique, impactful, patient-centered Health Sciences programs

by Christian Naranjo

Whether through personal experience, observation of a loved one, or living through a global pandemic, the need for quality health services has likely never been more evident. Fortunately, Methodist University is at the forefront of preparing the next generation of doctors, physician assistants, occupational therapists, physical therapists, nurses, kinesiologists, and health care administrators – all through various health sciences programs that are, or will soon be, on the cutting edge of education in the world of health care.

Emerging School of Medicine

According to workforce projections from the Association of American Medical Colleges – and despite the amazing work being done by current physicians – there will be a shortage of 17,800-48,000 primary care physicians and a shortage of 21,000-77,100 non-primary care, specialty physicians by 2034. The eye-popping statistics are one of many reasons why Methodist University and Cape Fear Valley Health’s (CFVH) groundbreaking partnership comes at an ideal time. In February,

the two institutions announced their intent to establish a school of medicine (SOM) located at the CFVH Medical Center. “I could not be more excited about the new school of medicine, and I am so pleased to have Cape Fear Valley Health as our partner,” said Methodist University President Stanley T. Wearden. “When two major organizations in the community combine forces, transformative things can happen, and that is exactly what’s happening with the SOM, which will improve the region’s health care and have a powerful effect on the region’s economy. The new school is a major step in MU’s advancement into health care education. Additionally, the school’s focus on medical education for rural and underserved populations fits beautifully with MU’s missional focus on caring for and serving others.” Falling within Methodist University’s new College of Medicine, the SOM combines the expertise and resources of MU and CFVH to provide students with unparalleled educational and clinical experiences. Students will be able to learn in a collaborative environment with innovative technologies at the newly constructed, cutting-edge facilities.

“Cape Fear Valley Health is expecting the planned SOM to transform the health and economic landscape in the Fayetteville region,” said Michael Nagowski, CEO of Cape Fear Valley Health. “This is a once-in-a-generation undertaking, and we are so excited to partner with Methodist University. We know the University will design an outstanding program, as they’ve shown through their existing Health Sciences programs. We’re also excited about what this will mean for our community’s health outcomes. Wherever there are academic medical centers, partnering with universities to produce physicians and clinicians, the overall health of the population improves.” The SOM will also provide students with the opportunity to work alongside experienced faculty and health care professionals, gaining valuable real-world experience that will prepare them for their future careers.

Embracing Mission and Values for All
Dr. Hershey Bell, the founding dean of the MU College of Medicine, will oversee the accreditation process of the SOM, as MU – currently an applicant program with the Liaison Commission on Medical Education – will submit a substantive change prospectus to the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges for approval. Pending approval, Methodist University plans to begin classes in July 2026. Bell will also develop an innovative curriculum that combines asynchronous with classroom learning. He will also focus on outreach – meeting with business, education, and religious leaders from the greater Fayetteville area to better understand needs and expectations of health care in the community. “Being born out of the vision of two exceptional organizations, the SOM will serve its mission of improving health outcomes and eliminating health disparities in Southeastern North Carolina through educating medical students in a rigorous and socially accountable medical school curriculum,” Bell said. “We will be teaching our students in a model of a community-engaged care that can serve as an example for the entire nation. Our unique ‘Caring for Everyone Everywhere’ curriculum will embrace both Methodist University’s mission of affirming ethical values such as truth, virtue, justice, and love and Cape Fear Valley Health’s mission of providing exceptional health care for all.”



While the school of medicine building will be located at the Cape Fear Valley Health Medical Center, MU already has state-of-the-art facilities on campus for its Health Sciences programs that include: the McLean Health Sciences Building (above), a simulation hospital in the Chaffin Nursing Building (top left), the Dr. Frank P. Stout Physician Assistant Complex (see page 20), and one of the few college human anatomy labs in North Carolina (page 17).

Get to know Dr. Hershey Bell (next page) and additional details surrounding the new school of medicine at methodist.edu/medicine.

The partnership between MU and CFVH will also contribute to the economic development of the region. The proposed school of medicine is expected to create jobs and attract businesses, providing a significant boost to the local economy. According to a July 2021 report from Walden Economic Consulting, detailed analysis reveals substantial financial and employment impacts from the proposed SOM. During construction, regional spending is expected to increase by \$124 million, tax payments to all governments will rise by \$14.2 million, and 922 local jobs will be generated. At the peak of the SOM’s operational capacity, there is expected to be \$72 million in annual spending, 837 permanent jobs, and \$9.6 million in tax revenues. On top of the economic impact, the SOM is a significant milestone in the history of medical education in Southeastern North Carolina. Not only does it help address the shortage of health care professionals and improve the quality of health care delivery, the SOM empowers the goal of providing better care for rural and underserved populations and diversifying the physician workforce. “The new school of medicine will educate a diverse population of students who have a deep understanding of socially accountable medical



Dr. Hershey Bell, founding dean of Methodist University's College of Medicine

- Possesses 30-plus years of knowledge and expertise in the medical field and classroom.
- Served as the vice president for Medical Education Program Development at Cape Fear Valley Health. Before then, Bell acted as professor, vice president for Academic Affairs, and dean for Developing Initiatives at Lake Erie College of Osteopathic Medicine (LECOM) in Erie, Pa. From 2009 to 2020, was CEO and dean of LECOM's School of Pharmacy.
- Boasts successful executive leadership stints at Hamot Medical Center in Erie (2000-03), Duke University Medical Center in Durham (1996-2000), and Hunterdon Medical Center in Flemington, N.J. (1986-96) – practicing family medicine at all three locations.
- Received his Doctor of Medicine in his hometown at the University of Toronto, later completing family medicine residency programs at both the University of Toronto and Duke University. While at LECOM, Bell also earned his Master of Science in Medical Education.
- Interests include producing music, playing instruments, and rooting for his hometown hockey team, the Toronto Maple Leafs.
- Married to his wife, Marianne, for 39 years and has three children – Nicholas (33), Andrew (30), and Audrey (25).

practices and a commitment to serving the people of Southeastern North Carolina,” said MU Provost Suzanne Blum Malley. “Our goal is to shape a model curriculum of community-engaged health promotion and exceptional health care, serving as an example for the nation.”

History of Quality Programs

While the looming SOM is an exciting addition to Methodist University, the institution also boasts a substantial history of providing in-depth, modern health sciences education for the past several decades. Ranging from undergraduate and graduate to on-campus and online, MU currently excels at offering more than 20 programs of study related to the health sciences.

“Methodist University offers a strong portfolio of health science programs, and it began with our Physician Assistant (PA) Studies program more than 25 years ago,” said

Dr. Trey Hoyt, dean for MU's College of Health Sciences & Human Services. “Over the past 13 years, we have developed programs in nursing, physical therapy, and occupational therapy. Additionally, our College provides programs in health care administration, kinesiology, and social work. A common bond between all of our programs is that they prepare students for careers in service to others, and that will apply to the medical school, as well. We're excited about what lies ahead for Methodist University, the community of Fayetteville, Cumberland County, and Southeastern North Carolina.”

The PA program has prepared more than 500 graduates for clinical practice – with more than half entering primary care medicine – since being established in 1996. The graduate program boasts small class sizes, strong support from the medical community, and a Physician Assistant National Certifying Exam pass rate that ranks competitively with the nation's best.

“Methodist University's PA program has helped broaden my knowledge on health care as a whole,” said Tiy Johnson '21, a student who earned a bachelor's degree in Biology from MU and is

now on track to graduate from the University's PA program this December. “Now, I understand health care from a provider role and all of the responsibility that goes along with it. I have gained the skills to fulfill the role of a mid-level provider while being able to diagnose and treat my patients in the most effective and efficient way possible.”

Methodist University's Doctor of Physical Therapy (DPT) program has trained cohorts of students since 2015, educating them to collaborate with patients, families, and health care providers for wellness and prevention, fitness, and rehabilitation. In addition to the broad expertise of the faculty, the program is housed in the University's renowned McLean Health Sciences Building – a 38,800 square-foot facility that provides innovative and collaborative learning spaces.

To read a feature story about one of the first four graduates of MU's Physician Assistant Studies program, see page 18.

Read about an OTD graduate who is giving back to the world through teaching. Copy this url into your browser: t.ly/UEl5t



Within the same building, the Doctor of Occupational Therapy (OTD) program prepares students to become leaders in their field, addressing chronic disease, disability, and mental health conditions in a variety of health care settings, schools, home-based care, and communities.

There is even a bachelor's degree available for students interested in occupational therapy. In 2022, Methodist University announced it would become one of the first universities in North Carolina to offer an accredited Occupational Therapy Assistant program. The undergraduate program is accepting its first cohort of students this fall, anticipating its first graduating class in 2027.

For those considering a graduate degree in physical therapy or occupational therapy, students have access to a career that studies the art and sciences of human movement: Kinesiology. As a bachelor's degree, students understand the human body, how it functions, and how it responds and adapts to physical activity. The cutting-edge program is also housed in the McLean Building.

One of MU's most in-demand programs is Nursing, which offers a strong mix of degrees. The lone on-campus degree in the program, the prelicensure Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree teaches the skills it takes to become a licensed registered nurse.

“The Nursing program has impacted me by fostering a better sense of professionalism while also preparing me with vital skills and relationships necessary in a career as a nurse,” said Nadeen Zananiri, who is graduating with a bachelor's in Nursing in May.

During a time in which many nurses are wishing to advance their careers by garnering more in-depth education, but still need to work a full-time job, MU also offers four online programs in Nursing: RN-BSN Completion, Nursing Education Certificate, Master of Science in Nursing, and Doctor of Nursing Practice in Executive Leadership.

With the expansion of health services comes a need for more administration over those services. MU's Health Care Administration program is offered both on campus and online – challenging students to consider careers as a hospital administrator, health care manager, hospital CEO, health care consultant, and much more. In the fall of 2023, MU is also offering a degree in Advanced Paramedicine.

From the emergence of the state-of-the-art SOM to the history of health sciences programs already offered, Methodist University is on the rise as a hub for health sciences education – and it appears the ascension is taking place at exactly the right time. ■

Learn more about MU Health Sciences & Human Services at methodist.edu/chshs and see how you can take classes or support MU students by visiting methodist.edu/stay-connected or scanning this QR code:



A Family Affair:

Araghis Serve Fayetteville Community Through Patient-Centered Care

by Christian Naranjo



A few decades ago, Dr. Sasan Araghi '90 and his sister Sayeh Araghi '98 traveled more than 6,500 miles to chase their dreams at Methodist University, and now you can find them a mere 2 miles away from campus off Ramsey Street – providing knowledgeable and compassionate health services to the Fayetteville community.

The two grew up in Tehran, Iran before their family decided to immigrate to the United States following the Iranian Revolution. Their brother, Siamak, serving at Fort Bragg (now Fort Liberty), brought Sasan and Sayeh to Fayetteville in 1985.

With his sights set on working in the medical field in some capacity, Sasan pursued a bachelor's degree in Business Administration through then Methodist College's evening program starting in 1987.

"I wanted to go to Methodist because it had a good reputation, and the evening program allowed me to work during the day so I could pay my tuition," Sasan said. "At the time, I sold shoes in department stores to make it all work."

After receiving his diploma on stage from President M. Elton Hendricks in 1990, Sasan had his eyes set on a career as a doctor. By 2000, he had earned a Doctor of Medicine from Ross University in Dominica and completed his residency at Duke Southern Regional Area Health Education Center.

Meanwhile, Sayeh was interested in following in Sasan's footsteps by attending MU. She considered a career in education, but her upbringing was a major factor in deciding on becoming a physician assistant. She was born with double curvature scoliosis, prompting her to wear a Milwaukee brace until she turned 18.

"A lot of people looked at me differently because of my brace," Sayeh said. "But, thanks to the doctors, my parents, and the brace, I can now live a great life."

Through the dedicated work of Hendricks, Founding Medical Director Christopher Aul, and others, MU opened its doors to the brand-new Physician Assistant program in 1996, welcoming Sayeh as one of four students in the first cohort.

"It was a dream come true," Sayeh said. "The faculty and staff were encouraging, pushing me to work harder. It was difficult, but I knew I wanted to change the medical field in my community."



“We love to teach, especially to Methodist University students.”

– Sasan Araghi '90

Sayeh earned her bachelor's degree in Physician Assistant Studies in 1998 before receiving her master's degree in Physician Assistant Studies in 2001 at University of Nebraska Medical Center. After graduating, Sayeh spent several years as a physician assistant at Hope Mills Medical Center.

Fast forward to 2008 and Sasan was able to open his own health services center, Northwood Medical Center, which sits at the corner of Ramsey Street and Country Club Drive in Fayetteville. A year later, when Sayeh joined the practice, the Araghi siblings were finally able to accomplish a milestone that they had always talked about while growing up: running their own medical practice together.

Now, for the past 15 years, the Araghis have prided themselves on treating more than 5,000 patients across the greater Fayetteville area as if they were their own family – many of them current students, staff, faculty, alumni, and even those with ties to



Methodist University's Physician Assistant program.

"The Araghi family is very thorough, very careful, and very patient," said Wanda Foster, a current patient and widow of the late Ron Foster, who served as MU's first director of the Physician Assistant Studies program. "It's very special here, and it's good to have a medical center I have a lot of confidence in."

The Araghis not only give back to the community through their care, but through their expertise and knowledge. Over the years, Northwood Medical Center has hosted many Methodist University Physician Assistant Studies students as interns, guiding them through their patient-centered care.

"We love to teach, especially to Methodist University's Physician Assistant Studies students. We don't take students from other schools because it's important that we give back to the school that gave us so much," said Sasan.

In fact, Sasan said that Methodist University and Cape Fear Valley's recently announced school of medicine (which is scheduled to open for its first cohort of students in 2026) could not come at a more perfect time.

"It's great news," he said. "If there is anything we can do to help, we are in. But it's a great addition to Methodist University and the entire community."

The Araghis look forward to serving the community through Northwood Medical Center for years to come, but it's easy to spot their passion for Methodist University.

Sayeh's brother-in-law, Shahpour Dowlatsahi, was a longtime Economics professor at MU in the evening program while her niece, Katayoon Dowlatsahi '17, graduated with a bachelor's degree in Chemistry and minor in Biology from MU in 2017.

In fact, Sayeh's two daughters, Lily and Sofie, are both strongly



Gathering recently in front of the Araghi's Northwood Medical Center in Fayetteville are (L-R) President Emeritus M. Elton Hendricks, Sayeh and Sasan Araghi, and Christopher Aul, founding medical director of MU's PA Program.

considering becoming physician assistants and would like to attend Methodist University. For the Araghis, Methodist University is a family affair.

"Methodist University made our dreams come true and we would never have been able to pursue our goals without it," Sayeh said. "As MU blossoms, we will continue to stand behind this outstanding University." ■



The Stout Family Legacy: Giving to Methodist University; Shaping the City of Fayetteville

by Wendy Hustwit and Christian Naranjo

The Stout family has made a lasting impact on the greater Fayetteville community, and now, their legacy of giving will continue to live on two of Methodist University's most well-regarded buildings.

In June, Methodist University held an official ribbon-cutting ceremony that unveiled the new name for the area of campus that includes the University's Physician Assistant Academic Building and Medical Lecture Hall, now known as the Dr. Frank P. Stout Physician Assistant Complex. The new name comes on the heels of a \$1.5-million gift from the Stout family following Dr. Frank P. Stout's death in 2021.

The ceremony showed appreciation and gratitude for the Stout family, and included Stout's wife, Carol; son, Cam; daughter-in-law, Kelly; and grandchildren, Craver and Cameron.

"My father always said: 'To succeed at anything, you have to be passionate about it,'" said Cam Stout. "[One of his passions] was Methodist University. He believed in the mission of Methodist University, and we continue with his passion for the University by doing something my mother and I felt he would be very proud of. We felt like it was appropriate that his name be associated with a program like this that is dedicated to the health and wellbeing of the residents of our community."

To better understand the impact made by the Stout family, it is important to reflect on their 60-plus years of philanthropy and service to MU and the greater Fayetteville community.

After the Great Depression, Joe W. Stout Jr., father of Frank Stout, and his wife, Eudora, moved from Sanford, N.C., to Fayetteville where they founded Joe W. Stout Construction – later building Fayetteville's Eutaw Shopping Center, Eutaw Apartments, Greenwood Homes, the Heart of Fayetteville Motor Inn, and the Bordeaux Shopping Center. They also bought 135 acres of land and a home in North Fayetteville.

In the mid-1950s, Fayetteville civic leaders and the United Methodist Church (UMC) founded a private liberal arts university – which would later become Methodist College. Joe Stout generously donated the new college's largest piece of land, a 120-acre wooded parcel that spanned from just west of Highway 401 and east to the Cape Fear River. Joe Stout later cleared a path to the bluffs, etching a main thoroughfare through campus, now appropriately named Joe Stout View Drive.

Joe's son, Frank, loved science and went onto establish his orthodontics practice in Fayetteville in 1970, serving thousands of Fayetteville area patients during his 28-year career in dentistry.

Frank also fostered his own passion for commercial real estate and for Methodist University. Frank and Joe worked together in the 1970s and 1980s, building Fayetteville's Bordeaux Inn & Convention Center, the Bordeaux Recreation Center, and the 10-story Apartel on Bragg Boulevard.

Frank and his wife, Carolyn "Carol" Hardee Stout extended the family's record of service to Fayetteville and Methodist University



Participating in the ribbon-cutting ceremony were (L-R) Tim Richardson (Vice Chair of the MU Board of Trustees); Dr. Stanley T. Wearden (MU President); Carol Stout (wife of the late Dr. Stout); Cam Stout (son of Dr. Stout); Cameron Stout (granddaughter of Dr. Stout); Craven Stout (grandson of Dr. Stout); Kelly Stout (daughter in-law of Dr. Stout).

through the 1990s and 2000s. Carol and Frank established multiple endowed scholarships providing annual financial support for MU undergraduate students.

Frank served on the MU Board of Visitors and Board of Trustees and was awarded Business Person of the Year by the University's Center for Entrepreneurship.

Timeline of Stout Family Service & Giving, by Generation

Joe Wiley Stout (1916 – 1988) and Eudora Stout

- 1956 – Charter Member of the Fayetteville College Foundation (Joe)
- 1956 – Major gift of 120 acres of land for campus
- 1989 – Business Person of the Year Award, MU Center for Entrepreneurship (Joe)

Frank Palmer Stout, DDS (1943 – 2021) & Carolyn Hardee Stout

- 1989 – Founding Member, MU Board of Visitors (Frank)
- 1990 – Established the Carol Hardee Stout Endowed Scholarship
- 1992-2008 – Member, MU Board of Trustees (Frank)
- 1996 – Major Gift to construct Joe W. Stout Hall
- 2004 – Established the Frank Stout Jr. Memorial Scholarship
- 2006 – Established the Joe W. Stout Memorial Scholarship
- 2007 – Business Person of the Year Award, MU Center for Entrepreneurship (Frank)
- 2008-21 – MU Trustee Emeritus (Frank)
- 2016 – Major Gift to establish Joe W. Stout Building Fund
- 2022 – Major Gift (Carolyn) to name Dr. Frank P. Stout Physician Assistant Complex

Cameron "Cam" Wiley Stout and Kelly Craver Stout

- 1999-2001 – Chair, MU Board of Visitors (Cam)
- 1999-2002 – Volunteer, Loyalty Campaign for Student Scholarships (Cam)
- 2009 – Volunteer, Loyalty Campaign for Student Scholarships (Cam)
- 2017-18 – Board of Visitors Tennis Tournament participant (Kelly)
- 2022 – Major Gift to name Dr. Frank P. Stout Physician Assistant Complex (with Carolyn)

After Joe W. Stout died in 1988, Frank and Carol honored his generosity and service with a financial gift to construct MU's Enrollment Services building. This building, named Joe W. Stout Hall, borders Ramsey Street at the top of Joe Stout View Drive.

Cam Stout, son of Frank and Carol, began working with his father in 1990 and has served as CEO of Stout Properties for 27 years. Together, they built Fayetteville's Boone Trail Center, Ramsey Commons, and the Shoppes at Boone Trail. Like his father, Cam has served MU as Board of Visitors Chair and has volunteered for the Loyalty Campaign for Student Scholarships, among several other civic and business advisory boards.

The newly-named Dr. Frank P. Stout Physician Assistant Complex sits on the southernmost edge of MU's campus along Ramsey Street – only 500 yards away from Joe W. Stout Hall, a fitting tribute for a family who's made a large impact at Methodist University for more than half a century.

"Dr. Frank P. Stout was a good friend to Methodist University and obviously a good friend to this community for many, many years," said President Stanley T. Wearden. "I'd like to thank Cam and Carol Stout as it's because of their generosity, and the Stout family's generosity, that we're able to do this in memory of Dr. Stout. This complex of Physician Assistant buildings will now be named after Dr. Stout in perpetuity." ■



POWER OF GIVING

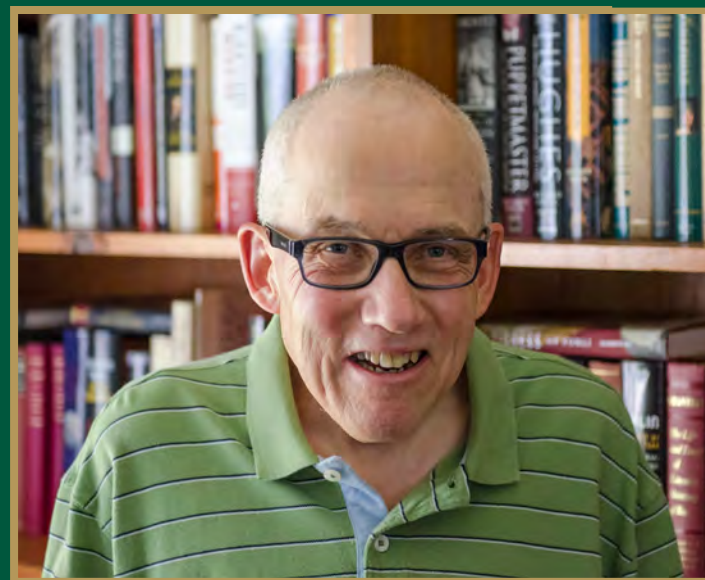
Dale Seibert '70 is active in his High Point, N.C. community where he had a career in accounting before his retirement. He enjoys frequent long walks and occasional visits to Washington, D.C. to visit historical sights.

Dale is also strategic in his philanthropic plans. As a longtime annual donor to MU and community organizations, he realized he wanted to do more. In 2014, Dale endowed a scholarship through an annual gift and future bequest from his estate.

Once fully funded, The Franklin and Emily Seibert Memorial Endowed Scholarship will provide needed funds to exceptional MU students in perpetuity.

Reflecting on how he accomplished this milestone, Dale said:

“Good investments have enabled me to make modest contributions to worthy causes in recent years. My giving will continue after I’m gone with an endowed scholarship at Methodist University.”



Dale Seibert's financial preparation is a bold, forever investment in MU students and in his community. He is a true Monarch!



For more information, contact:

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☎ 910.630.7056

Sign up for our FREE WEEKLY E-NEWSLETTER at:
methodist.edu/donor-e-newsletter

Sprint to Success: Bailey '11 Blazes Path to White House Invitation

by Christian Naranjo



Stepping into the White House for a visit isn't necessarily uncommon, but what is unique is being invited to the White House by Vice President Kamala Harris.

That is exactly what happened to Greg Bailey '11, a moment he believes may have never happened without the experience he had at Methodist University.

"I'm never going to forget that moment and I'll be sure to tell my grandchildren all about it one day," Bailey said. "But when I look back at my time (at MU), I'm probably not here without it."

To understand how the opportunity of a lifetime came about, one must take a step back and understand Bailey's rise to the president's house.

Bailey grew up in the greater Boston area, raised by his parents who immigrated from Liberia. He developed a fiery passion for track and field, which was a major factor in his decision to move to Fayetteville and attend Methodist University.

As a Monarch, Bailey qualified for NCAA Championship events each season and earned All-American honors his sophomore and junior seasons. He also holds three MU track and field records: indoor 200m, outdoor 200m, and the 4x100m relay.

Bailey cherishes his time in the Methodist University classroom just as much – earning a bachelor's degree in Business Administration with a minor in Sport Management in 2011.

"The professors were great at relating what they were teaching to their time in the industry, which helped me tremendously. It attracted me to understanding more about management

organization, how business works, law in business, you name it," he said.

Bailey also values the relationships that he built with fellow alumni – still meeting with other MU graduates from time to time in various cities.

He later earned his Master of Business Administration at Southern New Hampshire University and now works as a senior contract manager for the United States Air Force while living in Nashua, New

Hampshire. But it doesn't take long to figure out one of Bailey's most significant passion projects – Krio Skincare.

In December 2019, Bailey's longtime friend Tony Johnson pitched the idea of the two of them creating a plant-based, all-body skincare business. Bailey jumped on board, and it has been full steam ahead for the two of them ever since, with Krio Skincare offering hair oil, face mist, body butter, and much more.

"We honestly started out with having no idea of what we were getting into with creating the product in our own kitchens to make it work," Bailey laughed. "But now, we have a following... We originally targeted men for our skincare products but found out women like our products as well, so we're really growing."

Fortunately, the two now have a small facility that manages the packing process for their products. But Bailey and Johnson still have the responsibility of running the entire business, which includes sales, marketing, business operations, and everything in between – all while maintaining his full-time job and prioritizing his wife, Kristen, and 4-year-old daughter, Leyland.

Then, in May, the duo received an email from a place they will never forget – the White House.

"It was completely out of the blue; we had to make sure it wasn't a scam at first," Bailey added.

It turns out the White House had their eyes on Bailey and Johnson and wanted them to participate in a small business roundtable at the White House with Vice President Harris and three dozen other men of color to discuss ways the administration could support minority entrepreneurs. Bailey and Johnson had only a few days to plan and make the trip to D.C.

"We had a chance to listen to the challenges other businesses have while thinking through ways to fix some issues. It was also an opportunity to network with other business leaders," he said. "But I'm just happy my parents

get to say their son was in a White House meeting with the vice president. For them to move to this country and see their son have that opportunity, I'm never going to forget that."

It was not a one-time stint either, as the pair have been invited to participate in other roundtable discussions at the White House.

Bailey is quick to credit Methodist University for his growth and development as a lifelong Monarch.

"My experience at Methodist University helped shape me," he said. "I have lifelong friends, lifelong memories, and a lot of accomplishments. I may have not known right away why I was supposed to attend MU, but as a result of my education there, I'm able to do other things... like go to the White House." ■

"My experience at Methodist University helped shape me. I have lifelong friends, lifelong memories, and a lot of accomplishments."

Greg Bailey '11



Homecoming

OCTOBER 27-29, 2023



In addition to the many events designed specifically for MU alumni, for the first time in Methodist University history, the Monarchs are playing a Homecoming football game under the lights! To join in the weekend-long celebration with old friends and special memories, visit methodist.edu/homecoming.

We'll see you there!



OTHER FALL EVENTS INCLUDE:

SEPTEMBER

- 8** Legacy Program: Lafayette Informed by Indigenous Peoples
- 14** Alumni Regional Event (Atlanta, Ga.)
- 15** Friends of Music presents The Guy Unger Band
- 22** Endowed Scholarship Luncheon

OCTOBER

- 3** Fayetteville Symphonic Band & MU Concert Band Concert
- 5** Alumni Regional Event (Wilmington, N.C.)
- 12** Friends of Music presents Charis Duke (Piano)
- 13** Physician Assistant Class of 2024 White Coat Ceremony
- 26** MU Jazz Monarchs Concert
- 27** Athletics Hall of Fame Class of 2023 Dinner

NOVEMBER

- 2-5** MU Theater Performance
- 14** Alumni Regional Event (Pinehurst, N.C.)
- 28** Fayetteville Symphonic Band & MU Concert Band Holiday Concert
- 30** Alumni Regional Event (Greensboro, N.C.)

DECEMBER

- 1-3** Dance Theater of Fayetteville presents The Nutcracker

For more information and events please scan the QR Code or visit our site at methodist.edu/events



CLASS NOTES

STAYING ENGAGED WITH OUR CLASSMATES

Sandra Diane (Phillips) Haithcock '75 teaches 1- and 2-year-old children at Waypoint Preschool in Chapel Hill, N.C. Due to the education and love for the education she received from Methodist, Sandra is still teaching children and she loves it!



John Mahlon Lang '75 and Linda Sue (Mardres) Lang '75 met on their first day at Methodist College in August 1971. They have been together ever since. John has retired from a research and development career in pharmaceuticals and Linda has retired from a career in education. The couple has lived in Raleigh, N.C. since graduation.



Anita Graves '80 retired in September after working in mental health for over 43 years in various cities. Anita has a new grandson, Cairo Andre Brandon, born in February and her granddaughter, Amiya Andrea Graves, graduated from high school in June.



Wesley Rowell '84 is a May 2023 graduate of Princeton Theological Seminary, where he received his Master of Divinity, with concentrations in both Black Church Studies, and in Theology, Women & Gender. He was recently awarded the Edward Howell Roberts Scholarship in Preaching. Wesley's interests in the intersections of race, trauma, justice, gender, families, queerness, Jesus, and the Church led him to Princeton Seminary and Princeton, N.J., and ultimately to Trinity Church Princeton, where he is excited to further his ministry as their full-time lay pastoral associate.



Anthony Ambrose '85 retired in May 2022 after 21 years of service in the Bridgewater-Raritan Regional School District.



Jennifer Proctor '87 was selected as the new chief financial officer for the Greater Fayetteville Chamber of Commerce. She previously spent seven years with the Chamber and was the director of operations when she left in 2020.



Angela (Benjamin) Sampels '89 completed the Certified Personal Risk Manager Program (CPRM), the leading designation for professionals providing insurance and risk management services to this clientele. Angela works as a certified professional risk manager for Glenwood Insurance.



Tricia Criswell '91 was recently inducted to Glenwood High School's Hall of Fame. She is considered a trailblazer of girls' sports at Glenwood where she was a member of the boys' soccer team, girls' basketball team, and the track and field team. Tricia is also a 2010 inductee of the MU Hall of Fame.

Stephanie Nicholson '95 obtained a new position as a lead academic advisor with Augusta University (Ga.) Stephanie is also a Ph.D. candidate in Education with a specialization in Leadership in Higher Education at Capella University.



Jason Childers '98 was elected to the USA South Athletic Conference Hall of Fame. A 2009 MU Hall of Fame inductee, Childers was a Basketball First Team All-American as well as the South Region Player of the Year and Conference Player of the Year.



Andre Gray '98 earned the job as head coach of the Elizabeth City State men's basketball team after serving as interim in 2022. Gray led the Vikings to an upset of Livingstone College in the opening round of the 2023 CIAA Men's Basketball Tournament and coached the CIAA Defensive Player of the Year, Amadou Faye.



Dr. Mica (Gay) Mitchell '01 presented at the American Physical Therapy Association Combined Section Meeting in San Diego Feb. 23-25: "Disparities in Maternal and Infant Health and What You Can Do About It," "Assimilation Is Not Inclusion: Deconstructing and Reconstructing the Hidden Curriculum in Physical Therapy Education," and "Be a Changemaker! Facilitating Social Justice in Your Community: Book Club Edition."



Robert “Bob” Pinson ’01 was named the new president and CEO of the Arts Council of Fayetteville-Cumberland County. Bob has been the interim president of the Arts Council for three years. Before that, he was director of operations for nine years.



Sissy (Sink) Rausch ’01 was named Girl’s Basketball Coach of the Year for the Mid-Piedmont 3A Conference. She is the head coach at Oak Grove High School (N.C.).



Melody Dark ’02 was named program coordinator for One Academy in Chatham County (N.C.). Melody will lead the district’s non-traditional programs that provide support to students who need an alternative pathway to their high school diploma. She has 18 years of service as an educator, all with Chatham County Schools.



Joe Truesdale ’02 served as an assistant coach for the Czech Republic at the 2023 World Baseball Classic. The Czech Republic upset Spain in the qualifier to make its first appearance in the World Baseball Classic.



Michaela Penix ’05 was named to The Fayetteville Observer’s 40 Under 40 for 2023. She is the North Carolina director for Maternal and Infant Health for the March of Dimes and an adjunct professor at North Carolina Central University.



Dr. Doris (Jackson) Munoz ’06, assistant provost, Student Retention and Persistence Initiatives at MU, was elected regional chair for the National Academic Advising Association: The Global Community for Academic Advising’s Mid-South region. Munoz will hold the two-year term.



Kyle Sherrill ’06 was named the 2022-23 Southern Professional Hockey League (SPHL) Athletic Trainer of the Year for his work with the Fayetteville Marksmen.



April (Munoz) Santos ’07 went on The Ramsey Show for a Debt-Free Scream at Ramsey Solutions Headquarters in Franklin, Tenn.



Sharley Dittmore ’08 was recently named principal of Max Abbott Middle School. She has been serving as assistant principal at Spring Lake Middle School and was named a finalist for Cumberland County Schools Assistant Principal of the Year.



Jordan (Grady) Brown ’10, ’13M was named Cape Fear Valley Health’s Advanced Practice Provider of the Year. Jordan, who works with the Orthopedic team on 7 South in Cape Fear Valley Medical Center, was described in her nominations as irreplaceable, compassionate, responsive, professional, and knowledgeable. She has been with Cape Fear Valley since 2014.



Jessalyn (Lykins) Pedone ’10 was named the 2023 Social Worker of the Year for the North Carolina Society for Clinical Social Work. Jessalyn is a mental health therapist for Harnett County Schools.



Russell Hays ’12 has recently joined The Litchfield Company Real Estate, situated in the scenic locale of Murrells Inlet, S.C.



Rebecca King ’12 ’13, director of Academic Support at MU, attended the Southeastern Writing Center Association (SWCA) conference in Memphis, where she was voted in as a board member and the North Carolina state representative. The SWCA offers support to Writing, Academic, and Learning Centers in the Southeast region and professional and development opportunities to Center administrators and consultants.



Ryan Reese ’12 caddied for former NFL receiver Larry Fitzgerald Jr. at the BMW Charity Pro-Am in June. Fitzgerald played 17 seasons with the Arizona Cardinals. Funds raised benefited: Mobile Meals of Spartanburg, Roper Mountain Science Center, Cancer Society of Greenville County, Meyer Center for Special Children, and Gibbs Cancer Center and Research Institute.

Daniel Renz ’14M was recently promoted to chief of counter-insider threat operations with the Defense Information Systems Agency. He was previously counter-insider threat program manager with DISA for three years. DISA is a U.S. Department of Defense Combat Support Agency headquartered at Fort Meade, Md.



Lt. Marsha Wagoner ’14M (right) was promoted to lieutenant within the Iredell County Sheriff’s Office. She began her law enforcement career 23 years ago, joined the ICSO in 2006 as a narcotics detective and moved into the role of school resource officer. She was later promoted to sergeant over ICSO school resource officers. For the past nine years, Lt. Wagoner has worked as a patrol sergeant.



Jamaal Doran ’14 was named to The Fayetteville Observer’s 40 Under 40 for 2023. He is currently serving as a development representative at Methodist University.



Dr. Jameco McKenzie ’15 is the new director of Multicultural Student Affairs at NC State University. He leads a team of professional and student staff in researching, designing, and implementing culturally relevant activities that promote the academic success, retention, and graduation of students, emphasizing students from historically underrepresented, underserved, and marginalized populations.



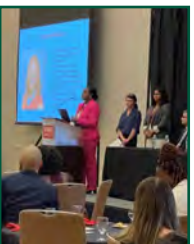
Minnu Paul ’18M, MU’s director of Global Education, has been appointed as a board member for National Advisory Council (NAC) for the National Conference on Race and Ethnicity in Higher Education (NCORE). She will serve on the Transnational and International Committee and provide recommendations for planning and curating critical discussions and presentations for the annual conference.



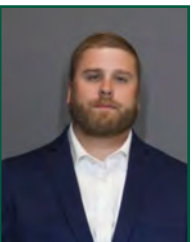
Sean Hardy ’19 graduated summa cum laude with a Master of Divinity from Duke University in May 2023. Sean is working as a case manager at Open Table Ministry in Durham, N.C.



Kelby (West) Hardy ’20 won the 2022-23 Beginning Teacher of the Year for Riverside High School.



Domonique Koomson ’21M represented MU’s Physician Assistant Program at the North Carolina Academy of PA’s (NCAPA) HBCU recruiting fair in Durham. Domonique is chair of the NCAPA HBCU Outreach Committee and was selected to be featured in the Physician Assistant Education Association’s (PAEA) national newsletter as she helped organize the event and served as a main speaker during a student and alumni panel. Domonique also represented MU in March at the NC State Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion in HealthCare Panelist dinner (pictured). The event focused on important concerns in the healthcare field including LGBTQ+, diversity in the healthcare field, and hardships and things to consider on the path to a healthcare career. The goal was to provide the opportunity for college students and early healthcare professionals to network and learn about the healthcare field.



Jordan Downhour ’22 accepted a position at Fort Liberty in the transportation department shortly after graduation. In March, he accepted a position as assistant manager of operations at the Georgia Ports Authority.

BIRTHS



Emily (Jackson) Farrell '11 and her husband, John, welcomed their daughter, Ingrid, on March 8, 2023. Ingrid weighed 6 pounds, 15 ounces and measured 19.5 inches.



Kaitlin (Tart) '17 and **Greg Johnson** had their first child, Ella Grace, on Sept. 14, 2022. Ella weighed 7 pounds, 5 ounces and measured 19.5 inches. Kaitlin is a teacher for Johnston County Schools and Greg works as a sales and marketing representative for Johnson Carpet One Floor and Home in Goldsboro, N.C.



Paige (Gustafson) Bulko '13 and her husband, Alex, welcomed their daughter, Lorelai, to the world on Sept. 14, 2022. Lorelai weighed 7 pounds, 1 ounce and measured 20 inches. Paige works for Medical Leverage as a senior meeting manager.



Katelyn Howell '19 and **Devan Cox '19** welcomed their daughter, Kinsleigh, on Oct. 17, 2021. Kinsleigh was born 8 pounds, five ounces, and measured 21.75 inches. Katelyn and Devan met during their second year at Methodist.



Scottie Gendron '14 and his wife, **Amber (Suits) Gendron '16, '18M** welcomed their son, Noah, on March 23, 2023. Noah weighed 7 pounds, 12 ounces and measured 22 inches.



Caitlin (Alfaro) Pollard '19 and **Sam Pollard '19** welcomed identical twin boys on April 24, 2023. Charlie Carson weighed 8 pounds, two ounces and Ramsay Anthony weighed 6 pounds, 12 ounces. Both were 19 inches. Caitlin and Sam work for non-profit mental health organizations and are excited to share their bundles of joy with the MU community.



Ravon Sheppard '14 and his wife, Erin, welcomed their daughter, Ruby Lynn, on June 16, 2023. Ruby weighed 7 pounds, 3 ounces and measured 20.25 inches.



Heidi (Foreman) Haney '20 and her husband, **Dalton Haney '16,** welcomed son Stephen Lane on Sept. 25, 2023. He weighed 7 pounds, 3 ounces and measured 19 inches.



Noah Camp '15, '17M and **Kaitlin (Ahlmark) Camp '16** welcomed their son, Grayson, on March 27, 2021, weighing 8 pounds, 1 ounce and measuring 21.5 inches.



Olivia Hudson '20 and **Trevor Hill** welcomed their daughter, Charlotte, on June 2, 2023. Charlotte weighed 7 pounds, 1 ounce and measured 20.5 inches long.



ENGAGEMENTS



Daniel Smith '17 proposed to Chantelle Jamison April 15, 2023. Daniel is an identity intelligence analyst for the director of National Intelligence and Chantelle is an intelligence analyst for BAE Systems.



Brandon Spiece '01 and Lori Ann Grady got engaged March 29, 2023. The couple plans to marry on Aug. 12, 2023. Brandon is a teacher at Pamlico County High School and Lori is an assistant controller for Lenoir Community College.

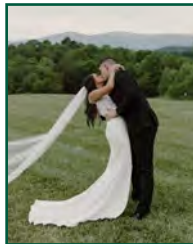


Joel Murphy '19 got engaged to Allison Pridgen on Aug. 29, 2023. They are planning a fall 2023 wedding. Joel works at GOLFTEC in Raleigh where he is a full-time instructor and custom club fitter.

WEDDINGS



Catherine McDaniel '07 married Josh Walcott June 18, 2022. Catherine is a teacher for Cumberland County Schools and Josh is a police officer with the Fayetteville Police Department.



Sareena Coleman '17 married Alexander Hafey on May 27, 2023. **Bianca Terenzi '17** and **Alyssa Like '17** were in the bridal party. Sareena is a family nurse practitioner and Alex is an orthopedic resident physician at The Medical University of South Carolina.



Oriana Clayton '14 married Ashley Williams Jr. Oct. 8, 2023. Oriana is a technical security investigator for the United States Secret Service and Ashley is a uniform division officer and firearms instructor for the United States Secret Service. **Mary (Wittenburg) Fournier** was a member of the bridal party.



Kaitlynn Gray '17 and Timothy Singer were married March 25, 2023. Kaitlynn works at Christopher Newport University as the coordinator for student organizations. **Ann (Mixon) Miller '17** and **Taylor (Owens) Western '18** were members of the wedding party.



Kaytlin Hales '14 married **Bryce Cullipher** April 22, 2023. Kaytlin is a teacher and athletic trainer, and Bryce is a welder.



Taylor Owens '18 and Zachary Western were married March 4, 2023.



Kayla Pless '16 and **Hannah Key '19** got married on June 17, 2023, in Wilmington, N.C. Hannah and Kayla met at Methodist in 2016. Hannah is the assistant director of campus engagement at MU and Kayla is the head varsity women's basketball coach and business teacher at Pine Forest High School



Mary “Lynn” (Lancaster) Faulk ’66, 77, of New Bern, N.C., passed away May 3, 2023. Lynn graduated from Methodist with a degree in education and then attended East Carolina University where she obtained her master’s degree. An educator for many years, she retired as principal in early 2000. After her retirement, she started a jewelry business which quickly grew to become the Boutique of “Alluring Illusions.”



Mary “Page” Moran ’67, 77, of Dillwyn, Va., passed away Nov. 16, 2022. After a stint at Methodist, she transferred to East Carolina University and earned her degree. Page initially taught gifted art students before becoming a lifelong artist.



Teresa (Zahran) Vaught ’67, 78, of Nebo, N.C., passed away June 11, 2023 after a long battle with cancer. Teresa spent much of her career working with her family at Rome’s Jewelers but also worked in administration and accounting at Fort Liberty, Cape Fear Valley Hospital, and the State of North Carolina. Teresa’s true passion was music. Her brother, **Fred Zahran ’70**, and daughter-in-law, **Karen Mobley ’00**, are both Methodist graduates.



Robert Samuel “Sam” Williams Jr. ’68, 78, of Fayetteville, N.C. passed away May 9, 2023. He served in the NC National Guard from 1963 to 1969 and worked for the Social Security Administration in Fayetteville from 1968 to 99.

Robert Moore Jeffreys ’72, 78, of Linden, N.C., passed away Nov. 25, 2022. Robert is survived by his wife, **Kathryne (Holland) ’71**, and two daughters.



Dennis Clyde Aderholt ’74, 71, of Charlotte, N.C., passed away on April 1, 2023, after a yearlong battle with pancreatic cancer. He played professional baseball with the Montreal Expos, but after a career-ending injury, Dennis moved back to Charlotte and earned a degree in criminal justice. He worked at PCA International before joining the Mecklenburg County Sherriff’s Department. Dennis returned to the corporate world while still serving in reserve units before joining Atrium Health in 2008 working in security until his passing.



Elmer Charles Hubbard ’74, 86, of Ozark, Mo., passed away April 13, 2023. A proud veteran of the United States Army for 32 years, Elmer served his country with honor and distinction. In addition to his military career, he was Marshall Hub at Silver Dollar City for 15 years and an accomplished singer. He entertained thousands of people playing with his band the Missouri Travelers and occasionally filled in at the Oldfield Opry both singing and playing guitar.



Herbert “Steve” McGinnis ’74, 81, of Clarksville, Tenn., passed away Dec. 8, 2022. He was a Vietnam veteran where he served as an army medic as a member of the 5th and 7th Special Forces Group and retired from the Army with the rank of Master Sergeant. He also retired as a mail carrier.



Dana (McCormick) Fisher ’75, 72, of Raleigh, N.C., passed away March 17, 2023. After graduating from Methodist, she taught in the Raleigh City Schools. She was a lover of music, poetry, and writing; later in life, she edited a newsletter for Farm Bureau Insurance in the Raleigh office.



Lorrence “Larry” Fiscus ’76, 82, of Del Mar, Calif., passed away Dec. 1, 2022. He was a proud, retired Air Force man who served his country for most of his life, reaching the highest rank of enlisted personnel, Chief Master Sergeant. The majority of his decorated military career was spent at Pope Air Force Base/Fort Bragg, N.C., and he was a veteran of the Vietnam War.



Dr. Mary Jane (McCallum) Kirby ’79, 81, of Fayetteville, N.C., passed away May 12, 2023. Mary Jane was a retired educator and principal; and a member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. Mary Jane served on the Alumni Association Board of Directors since 2020.



Jeanne (Edwards) Roller ’79, 66, of Laurinburg, N.C., passed away March 28, 2023. Jeanne’s love of sports led her to Methodist where she played collegiate tennis and basketball. After graduating, Jeanne became a physical education teacher and was an instrumental part of coaching and mentoring the students at Scotland High School. She was preceded in death by her husband, **David Roller ’78**.



Brenda Lee (Smith) McMorrow ’85 passed away Dec. 3, 2022, at the age of 60. Brenda had recently retired after 23 years with Lockheed Martin Corporation and was a contract negotiator at the Skunk Works in Palmdale, Calif. Prior to moving to California, she spent time at Kirtland Air Force Base in Albuquerque, N.M. with service to the Department of Economic and Social Affairs.

Cameron C. Barr ’90, 67, of Clifton, Va., passed away Feb. 3, 2023. Cameron received an associate degree in business administration from Methodist.



Ernest “Wayne” Hall ’90, 74, of Roseboro, N.C., passed away March 16, 2023. He spent 44 years working for Carolina Telephone, later known as Century Link. Wayne was a proud veteran who served his country in the United States Air Force for 34 years and retired as a Chief Master Sergeant. Wayne his survived by his wife of 49 years, a fellow alumnus, **Joyce “Gigi” Hall ’88**.



Robert Collins Carpenter ’06, 40, of Southern Pines, N.C., passed away April 14, 2023. After graduation, Robert began his career in accounting with Dixon Hughes Goodman LLP. Being close to more golf courses, family, and friends led him back to Southern Pines where he worked for Healthcare Management Consultants, Inc. He had recently opened his own accounting firm, Carolina Professional Consulting & Accounting LLC.



Talmadge “Rob” Schultz ’08, 37, of Wilmington, N.C., passed away May 30, 2023. Rob returned home to Wilmington after attending MU and became a patrol officer with the Town of Topsail Beach. Later, he became a patrol deputy and a bailiff with the Pender County Sheriff’s Office. Most recently, Rob worked at Sharp Energy.



Doretha (Whitehead) Talley ’11, 62, of Fayetteville, N.C., passed away Feb. 3, 2023. She earned her bachelor’s degree in criminal justice through the evening program. Her daughter, **Alecia (Talley) Roberts ’07** is also a Methodist graduate.



Lory Daniel “Dan” Nieshe ’14, 42, of Edmonds, Wash., passed away Feb. 26, 2023. Dan joined the Army in 2000. He continued his quest for understanding the human condition after leaving the army and earned his degree in psychology at Methodist. When he moved back to Washington, he worked as an addiction counselor.



Faith Daugherty ’21, 41, of Upper Marlboro, Md., passed away Nov. 9, 2022. Faith was a Staff Sergeant in the U.S. Army. From October 2019 to July 2020 Faith supported her country in Operation Enduring Freedom in Kuwait. Among her successes, she received the Army Commendation Medal and was awarded the Army Achievement Medal twice.

Former Board of Trustees



Jack Rogers Lindley, Sr., 88, of Burlington, N.C. passed away May 5, 2023. Jack was a 1956 graduate of Elon College where he earned a B.A. Degree in Business Administration. He was very active in Property and Casualty Insurance for 28 years where he served as CEO of Jack Lindley, Inc. He was also CEO of Industrial Paper Products, Inc. and one of the founders and developers of Burlington Outlet Mall. Jack served as a trustee at Methodist from 1999 to 2001.

Donors



Legislature. Billy was a long-time financial supporter of MU.

William Edwin "Billy" Clark, 80, of Fayetteville, N.C. passed away March 20, 2023. A graduate of Davidson College, and the University of North Carolina School of Law, Billy spent his career practicing law in Fayetteville. There he served as City Attorney, and later represented Cumberland County for four terms in the North Carolina State



Alma Rhodes Scholarship. Her brother, **Robert "Dusty" Rhodes '69** is a Methodist graduate.

Rose M. Thweatt, 76, of Fayetteville, N.C. passed away May 5, 2023. She worked for John Ayers CPA and was also a lifelong member of First Baptist Church in Fayetteville. Her mother was Alma Rhodes, long-time Methodist bookkeeper. Rose was a faithful attendee at the Endowed Scholarship Luncheon where she met recipients of the

Former Faculty/Staff



Lenwood Donnell McNair, 77, of Fayetteville, N.C. passed away April 23, 2023. Lenwood was an Army Veteran and was retired from the Fayetteville Police Department. Lenwood's daughter, Cheryl McNair is the head women's basketball coach at Methodist.



Bonita Sue (Carpenter) Rees, 84, of Fayetteville, N.C. passed away on March 8, 2023. Bonita was a retired librarian at Methodist and Main Post Library at Fort Liberty (formerly Fort Bragg).



Ronald Edward Sharpe, 76, of Fayetteville, NC passed away on March 15, 2023. Ronald retired after 26 years from the Special Forces. Ronald taught private classical guitar lessons for many years.

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



Then & Now METHODIST UNIVERSITY



In 2012, construction crews diligently worked on creating the vibrant, powerful brick walls that would end up bearing the name "Methodist University" along Ramsey Street on the west end of campus. The updated brick wall replaced the former light-colored wall that donned the name "Methodist College," as seen in the black and white student photo from 1998. Now, each day, several thousand cars pass by the University's current "main entrance to campus" – a welcoming sign (below) for newcomers and a popular photography spot for current students and alumni.





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