



PANGEA

"Tonight was about embracing each other."

- Nerketa Nelly Damiba (Burkina Faso)



An International Sensation

Pangea, one of the most celebrated events on the Methodist University campus, made its anticipated return in March, filling the Huff Concert Hall stage with the many languages, talents, and colorful attire of the University's international students.

"There's a lot of love and happiness tonight," said Nerketa Nelly Damiba, president of the International Club who hails from Burkina Faso. "It means a lot to me personally. The last time we were able to host the event [in 2019], I was a freshman. Now, I'm a senior."

Dozens of students from nearly 40 different countries provided attendees with a spirit-filled night – performing a range of talents including a religious play by students from Benin, Niger, Mozambique, Liberia, Rwanda, Jamaica, Nigeria, South Africa, and Lesotho; Thai boxing from Thai and Portuguese students; dancing by students from Lebanon, Afghanistan, South Africa, Tanzania, Kenya, Uganda, Niger, and Burkina Faso; and a musical performance by students from Russia, the Dominican Republic, and Portugal.

"Tonight was about embracing each other," said Damiba. "We wanted to highlight not only the differences, but the similarities between countries while bringing our cultures to light." (Learn more about MU's International Programs on page 16).

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

Greetings Methodist University Alumni and Friends!

I am happy to report that Methodist University is thriving and that many exciting things are happening here.

Among them: We are working on five key strategic initiatives that are enabling us to better Engage, Enrich, and Empower our students (see more detail in the Cover Story on page 20).

- o Dramatically improving student success, retention, and graduation rates
- o Extending the MU reach to community colleges, online learners, adult learners, and the military
- o Highlighting career readiness and experiential learning
- o Committing to diversity, equity, and inclusion for all students of all backgrounds so we remain a welcoming university, providing an education that meets the individual needs of each student
- o Increasing our endowment so we may continue to provide generous scholarships to make an MU education affordable for all

In addition, some highlights from this academic year included:

- Welcoming our largest freshman class since 2016
- Hiring a cohort of 18 new faculty members
- Receiving several generous gifts, including the largest in MU history (*story, page 24, and a special "Thank You to Donors" starting on page 23*)
- Adding MU's first Chief Diversity Officer and first Chief Information Officer
- Growing Methodist University Online rapidly, with 14 new fully online programs and more than 170 new, fully online students joining us (since January 2021)
 - Signing partnerships with six community colleges in our region, making it much easier and more affordable for students to transfer to MU after finishing their associate's degrees
 - Beginning the first stages of launching a capital campaign

As you'll read in our cover story, Methodist University is taking renewed pride in its mission statement as it truly sets us apart. it's one of the main reasons I chose to come to MU.

We are proud of who we are at Methodist University, of our many successful alumni, of our impact on our community, and of the tremendous progress we continue to make as a university.

I invite you to come and visit us so you can see our success for yourself (and be sure to save the date and visit us for Homecoming, page 70). Get involved by attending events, mentoring a student, joining an advisory group, guest lecturing, helping us to build our scholarship endowment, or even enrolling in one of our academic programs.

And if you decide to visit, please let me know. I'd love to have a cup of coffee with you and tell you more about why I'm excited for the future of Methodist University.

Go Monarchs!

Sincerely,

Stanley T. Wearden, Ph.D.

President





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MUNews, Notes, and More



Engage. Enrich. *Empower.*

when necessary.



Members of the Methodist University ROTC program – including (L-R) battalion captain Sylvester Odjede, Kathleen McNeill, and Scott Mastrolia – were a part of the battalion that finished in first place at the U.S. Army Ranger Challenge Competition at Fort AP Hill (Va.). The battalion – which had members from MU, Fayetteville State, UNC Pembroke, and Campbell – competed against 40 other schools and more than 400 soldiers.

Teams compete in events such as Rifle Marksmanship, Grenade Assault, Orienteering, Land Navigation, Physical Fitness tests, and more. Cadets were competing for the opportunity to represent their brigade and the U.S. Army Cadet Command at the Sandhurst Military Skills Competition held at the U.S. Military Academy in West Point, N.Y.

Huddleston Speaks on Leadership

Lou Huddleston, a retired Army colonel, spoke to hundreds of MU students, faculty, and staff as a part of the Tally Leadership Center speaker series.

His speech focused on moral and ethical compasses, how his personal morals and ethics played into his life in the Army, and how it will play into the lives of students at Methodist University.

"Do you have a moral and ethical compass? If the answer is 'yes,' do you then have the moral courage to use it?"

Lou Huddleston

A World-Class Education on the World Wide Web

MU offers nearly 30 areas of study in fully online formats. The programs include certificate, associate's, bachelor's, minor, and master's degree programs. Areas of study include:



Business



Criminal Justice



Education



General Studies



Health Care



Psychology



Social Work



<u>Tech</u>nology

To explore all of our programs, visit *online.methodist.edu*.



Named "Military Friendly" Once Again

MU received the "Gold School" designation for the 2022-23 academic year.

MONARCH Minutes (cont.)

TIMES TO CELEBRATE

The MU campus community came together to celebrate notable months of recognition in 2021-22. In February, activities celebrated Black History Month, in March the University celebrated Women's History Month, and in the fall, the campus celebrated Veterans Week from Nov. 8 to 13.

To celebrate the birthdays of students, faculty, and staff in the Green & Gold Dining Hall, Aramark staff has teamed up with the Office of the President to present diners with cake on the first of every month.

The birthday celebration doesn't stop there, as one lucky diner with a birthday that month is picked to receive a special gift.





PA Program Celebrates 25 Years

The Physician Assistant Program celebrated its 25th anniversary in 2021-22.



SCAN TO WATO THE VIDEO The program began under the leadership of former President Elton Hendricks and the late Ron Foster, a local PA who saw the need for more like him in the area. During Foster's tenure, the program grew from a class size of four to 40, and as of 2021, has graduated more

than 600 physician assistants (70 percent of whom have chosen to stay in the Sandhills Region).

RON FOSTER ENDOWED SCHOLARSHIP

This scholarship honors the founder of the PA Program, who served as program director from 1996 until 2009. Foster's vision was to create a PA program that would produce highly trained compassionate physician assistants who would remain in our community, alleviating the need for primary care providers in rural and underserved areas.

To learn more, or offer a gift toward this scholarship, visit: *donate.methodist.edu/pascholarship*

STUDENTS SHINE AT SYMPOSIUM

Ideas, conversations, questions, and more were on full display during Methodist University's 11th Annual Center for Research and Creativity Symposium April 4-8, 2022. This year's CRC Symposium returned to the in-person model after the Ninth and 10th annual events were presented in virtual form due to the pandemic.

Most of this year's marque events fell on CRC Symposium Day – Wednesday, April 6 – allowing approximately 30 students to deliver more than 20 presentations on engaging topics like Shakespeare, occupational therapy and engineering, financial economics, ancient politics and religion, food and travel, music, and domestic concerns.

The 11th Annual Symposium also featured a first for the series, TEDx presentations. Five MU faculty members each produced high-quality demonstrations on their research revolving around their varying subjects of expertise.





(left to right) Dr. Stanley T. Wearden, President; Dawn Ausborn, VP for Business Affairs; and Claudia Velasco Osorio.

Education Granted

Methodist University received two grants that would offer student scholarships and funding for specific education.

In 2021, Consul General of Mexico Claudia Velasco Osorio signed a memorandum of understanding that presented Methodist with a \$4,000 grant. The grant will supply at least one undergraduate student of Mexican origin with financial assistance. Each scholarship awarded will be matched dollar for dollar with an MU Opportunity Scholarship.

Later the same month, the U.S. Department of Health Resources and Services Administration awarded the Nursing Department a \$500,000 grant. The grant will be used for specific training that will help nursing students and faculty recognize and respond to opioid use.

The Arts Come Alive Again

Methodist University's Fine & Performing Arts hosted several events since reopening performances after the pandemic. In February, the Theater program put on "The Fantasticks," the longest-running musical in the world.



GUAN

The annual Friends of Music concert series kicked off the 2021-22 season in the fall with performances from Melvin Ezzell (tenor vocalist). The season continued with performances from Taylor Eigsti (jazz pianist) to Jeri-Mae Astolfi (pianist).

Lastly, the McCune Gallery hosted "Intersection," a collection of works of art using various mediums, beginning Aug. 16, 2021.

The artists included Andréa Keys Connell, Sondra (Soni) Martin, Winter Rusiloski, and Zhimin Guan.

All of the artists have presented their work both nationally and internationally and are art instructors at institutions of

higher learning across the country.

Guan also became the Art department's first visiting artist. He came to campus to offer a one-day workshop for MU Art majors.



Crowning Achievement

On March 15, Methodist University's Student Activities Committee hosted the first Miss Methodist competition since 2020. Emmalee Smith was named the 2022 Miss Methodist. Other winners included Tiyenandi Alexander, Miss Congeniality, and Tanisha Blue, People's Choice Winner.

All of the money raised from Miss Methodist goes to MU's Play4Kay fundraiser, which raises money for women's cancer research and helps local underserved women afford mammograms.

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MU ATHLETICS WHERE MONARCHS RULE



ATOP THE LEADERBOARD MU Golf Programs Continue Unmatched Success

by Christian Naranjo

When the history of Methodist University's golf programs comes to mind, you think of class, tradition, and excellence. The 2020-21 season proved to be no different as both the Monarchs' women's and men's golf teams exemplified success.

The Monarch women captured their 26th NCAA Division III national championship in May 2021, but it didn't come without drama. Heading into the final day of play at the Forest Akers West Golf Course in East Lansing, Mich., Methodist trailed Carnegie Mellon University by four strokes. But the Monarchs came roaring back and ended the tournament with a fivestroke lead to clinch the title.

Then freshman Ingrid Steingrimsen (79-79-75-74—307, +19) and junior Jillian Drinkard (79-76-76-76—307, +19) paced the Monarchs to victory, both earning a tie for third-best individual performance.

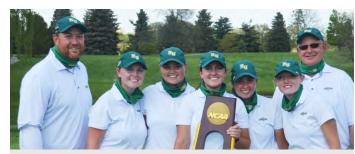
Head Women's Golf Coach Tom Inczauskis, the 2021 Women's Golf Coaches Association Division III Coach of the Year, spoke glowingly of his championship squad.

"What made the championship run so special was overcoming all the hurdles and obstacles with COVID-19. There were times we were unsure if there would be a national championship, but the team kept preparing and practicing," said Inczauskis. "But when it finally happened, they were confident, comfortable, and focused. Then winning it was a completely incredible experience. We made a lot of memories, and I am so proud of what they accomplished."

It's a familiar feeling for Inczauskis, who's led the Monarch women to four first-place trophies since 2009-10. But for Drinkard, a first-time champion, it was a day that she will never forget.

"It was truly one of the greatest moments of my life," said Drinkard. "Since my freshman year, [winning a championship] has been a dream of mine. When I came off the 18th green, I was overwhelmed with emotions. This win proves that hard work and dedication pays off."

Meanwhile, the Monarch men did not finish on top as they hoped, but they still ended their 2020-21 season on a high note. Guided by the incredible play of then freshman Cooper Hrabak (75-69-73-70-287, +4) and junior Andre Chi (72-65-77-74—288, +5), the Monarchs earned a second-place finish at the NCAA



After a dramatic victory, the Monarch women's golf team poses with its national championship trophy.

Division III national championship at the Oglebay Resort in Wheeling, W.Va.

Hrabak's individual performance was one to remember as his two-way tie for second was the highest finish by a Methodist men's golfer since Jeff Wells in 2015. For Chi, his tournament run was a microcosm of his season-long success, as he was an NCAA Division III finalist for the Jack Nicklaus Player of the Year Award.

"The team encouraged one another and pushed each other every day throughout the season so we had positive hopes to perform well at nationals," said Chi. "Coach Steve Conley has created a culture that cultivates a desire for his players to buy into his goal, as well as the program's."

Conley's reign as head men's golf coach is just as victorious as it is long standing. In his 34 years of leadership heading into the 2021-22 season, the Monarchs won 12 NCAA Division III national championships - the most recent title in 2018. In fact, out of those 34 years, Methodist finished in the top five of the national tournament 31 times (and that includes 2019-20 when there was no tournament due to the COVID-19 pandemic). Add in the facts that Conley is a seven-time Division III Coach of the Year and recently surpassed 150 career tournament wins, and you have a recipe for success.

Conley added, "We were just happy to compete. With all of the unknowns of the season, we didn't know if we were going to get a chance to play. It really changed my perspective. I've been a part of some great teams that have won championships. Even though we didn't quite get the top spot, I'm just as proud of this team as the teams that have won it all."

NOTE: *The MU golf teams were both competing for 2022 titles as* this issue of MU Today was being sent to press. The MU men's team earned it's 13th championship, and the Monarch women finished fourth. Detail of these great accomplishments will be in the next issue of MU Today.



PASSING MILESTONES & RECEIVING ACCOLADES

MU's Record-Breaking, Dynamic Duo

by Christian Naranjo

Joe Montana and Jerry Rice, Peyton Manning and Marvin Harrison, and Troy Aikman and Michael Irvin are some of the names that come to mind when you think of the greatest quarterback-wide receiver pairings in football history. Their connections appeared unstoppable at times. For Methodist University football, Brandon Bullins and Xzavier McNeil built a similar unbreakable bond, proving to be one of the most dynamic duos in the country.

The numbers speak for themselves. In 2021, senior wideout McNeil hauled in 56 receptions, 867 receiving yards, and seven touchdowns – helping him break the MU record for most receptions in a career with 212. As if that wasn't enough, McNeil also finished second in career receiving yards and third all-time in career receiving touchdowns.

"Having a go-to guy like Xzavier made my job a lot easier," said quarterback Bullins who graduated in May, but has enrolled in the university's MBA program and still has two years of eligibility remaining. "No matter what, he was going to be the guy to make the play. He seemed to always find a way to get the ball into his hands. His talent on the field is unreal."

McNeil would tell you he couldn't do it without the stellar play of Bullins. In the final game of the season against North Carolina Wesleyan, Bullins completed 37 passes on 60 passing attempts for 488 yards – all three broke MU records in a single game. Heading into next season, Bullins is just 2,807 passing yards, 147 completions, and 32 passing touchdowns away from reaching the all-time MU records for each category.

"Brandon is great because he is a true pocket passer," said McNeil. "He's so accurate on short, medium, and long throws, which made us unstoppable on offense."

It may be surprising to learn the Bullins-McNeil connection didn't come to fruition immediately; instead, it was something both student-athletes had to develop over time.

"During my freshman season, I didn't know Xzavier well," said Bullins. "But during a game against Brevard College in 2019, I threw a 40-yard touchdown to him to win the game. It was the beginning of a long and special relationship."

McNeil added, "After that, we ended up spending a lot of time together, whether it was watching film or building a relationship outside of football. Now, Brandon's my brother for life."

While both are honored by the individual accolades, they remained focused on winning as a team. Bullins and McNeil helped guide the Monarchs to a 7-2 record in 2021, including five straights wins to end the season. It currently stands as the



winningest season at MU since 2013. During the coronavirus-riddled 2020 season, the Monarchs garnered a 4-0 record before losing to Huntingdon College in the USA South Championship.

Keven Williams, who has steadily improved the program since becoming head coach in 2016, mentioned that Bullins and McNeil have been an integral part of the resurgence of Monarchs football.

"They've been vital to the success we've had the past two seasons. Because of Brandon, Xzavier, and the rest of the upperclassmen, we've been able to grow by leaps and bounds from six seasons ago," said Williams. "Not only were Brandon and Xzavier an amazing connection, but their leadership and work ethic rubbed off on the rest of the team. It made everyone else rise up to their level."



HITTING THE HIGHLIGHTS

Austin Reaches 1,200-Win Milestone

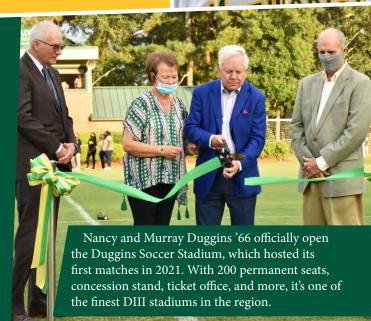
Methodist baseball coach **Tom Austin** has a long and successful history on the baseball field, and he has the numbers to prove it. In 2021, Austin reached the coveted milestone of 1,200 wins. Currently, Austin is sixth all-time among NCAA Division III head coaches and first among active DIII head coaches in victories. Hired by Methodist in 1980, Austin has achieved a winning record in all but one of his 41 seasons. He has guided the Monarchs to six NCAA Division III College World Series appearances (1986, 1988, 1991, 1992, 1995, 1996), finishing no lower than fifth.



Women's Soccer Claims Regular Season Title

The Monarchs were relentless on the pitch in 2021. Going 12-1 overall and 9-0 in the USA South Athletic Conference during the regular season, the Methodist women's soccer team captured a regular season conference title for the first time since 2007.

The team's success led to quite a number of individual honors, as well. **Madison Brunson, Baylor Burch, Laura Harris,** and **Alyssa Morrell** were named to the USA South's all-conference first team while **Maddie Hernandez** and **Mary Newman** earned second team honors. The Monarchs' season ended in the conference tournament semifinals, giving them a final record of 13-2 – one of the best records in program history.





Topoly Makes a Run to Nationals

Methodist's cross country team garnered national attention after one of its student-athletes accomplished a rare feat. Sophomore **Drew Topoly** competed at the NCAA Division III Men's Cross Country Championship in Louisville, Ky. in November. Topoly became the first Monarch to qualify and run at the national meet since 2007. You can't call Topoly a one-trick pony either, as he competes in outdoor and indoor track. In the spring, Topoly set the school indoor record for a 3,000-meter race with a time of 8 minutes, 35.43 seconds – breaking his own school-record time.

Hicks Named Rookie of the Year

The future is bright for the women's basketball program. Freshman forward **Kiley Hicks** nabbed the USA South Athletic Conference Rookie of the Year Award in 2022, becoming just the second Monarch to receive the honor (Kristen Whitehurst '10). Hicks started 22 of the 25 games she appeared in as the team went 12-13 overall, the most wins by the Monarchs since the 2015-16 season.

The freshman led Methodist in several categories, including field goals made (121), field-goal percentage (51.3%), points per game (11.2), and rebounds per game (6.5). Hicks scored in double figures 18 times and registered her first triple-double in the season finale.





Putting Student in Student-Athletes

Methodist University student-athletes are getting it done on and off the field/court/course. The USA South Athletic Conference announced that 154 MU student-athletes earned a spot on the Academic All-Conference team in 2020-21. To make the prestigious list, each student-athlete had to obtain at least a 3.30 GPA in each semester. Of those 154 student-athletes, 30 of them earned at least a 3.90 GPA in each semester and collected honors with distinction. Way to go, Monarchs!



PRICE FIELDHOUSE OPENS FOR MONARCHS SOFTBALL



Primary donors Don and Karen Price (front-row and center, surrounded by family in the picture at left) were on hand for the opening of the state-of-the-art Price Fieldhouse earlier this year. The fieldhouse is unique, offering MU softball players and coaches a practice facility during inclement weather (including pitching and hitting lanes on artificial turf, individual player cubbies, and offices).



A FORMULA FOR SUCCESS Shepard Furthers Love of Learning at MU

by Gabrielle Isaac Allison '15

Mary Shepard '22 left her small town of Four Oaks, N.C., on a mission many high school graduates embark on: attending a large, public college far from home.

After a year and a half at a large state school, the chemistry major found it difficult to get the most out of her education at such a large school. Shepard felt a familiar tug urging her to return to her community. Not only did she want to be closer to her family, but she longed to find a connection she hadn't found at her college.

Her desire to learn more in small classes with familiar faces led her to Methodist University, where she could better explore her lifelong love of learning.

"At first, I wanted to get as far away from home as possible. I wanted to go out and be on my own," she said. "While I loved the location, I didn't have a strong connection to the school. There were a lot of people in my classes. Even the upper-level classes had more than 100 students, so it was hard to get one-on-one time with the professors and connect with my classmates."

With her hometown being only 30 minutes from MU, Shepard was familiar with campus. She applied, was accepted, and transferred in the Fall of 2020.

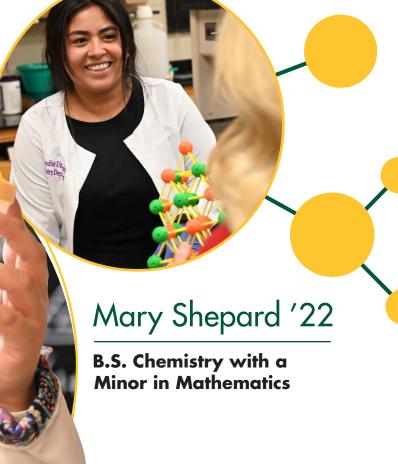
Once she arrived, Shepard knew she made the right decision. She found herself smiling at familiar faces around campus and getting more one-on-one instruction from professors like Dr. Stephanie Hooper Marosek.

"It took her a while to come out of her shell, but once she did, she was very engaged and curious," said Hooper Marosek, who serves as an associate professor of Chemistry and head of the Natural Sciences Division. "She always wants to know how things work and does independent research outside of class. She is also a good student in classes and labs."

This isn't the first time Shepard has excelled in the classroom. While she was a sophomore at South Johnston High School, she finished her required courses and enrolled in the Career and College Promise (CCP) program at Johnston Community College.

The program allowed high school students to take community college courses that would give students a head start when they enrolled full time in a degree program at the community college or another institution.

After meeting her initial goal of completing her core classes, Shepard took Science and Math courses and graduated high school with a diploma and an associate's degree in Science the very same year.





Following her transfer to Methodist University, Shepard was inducted into the National Chemistry Honor Society and Omicron Delta Kappa Leadership Honor Society. She also joined the Science Club.

"She has a great future ahead of her. She's smart, motivated, would do well in grad school, and will have her pick of jobs."

Dr. Hooper MarosekHead of the Natural Sciences Division



"I definitely have a closer relationship with all my

professors and classmates here than I did at my other university. If I need them for a reference, I know I can come back and ask them for it," Shepard said. "It's very easy to talk to them. My professors have been so helpful. Dr. Hooper Marosek helped me see that it's OK to go easy on yourself. I also really enjoy Dr. Kim's classes."

Dr. Eun Hoo Kim, who is an associate professor of Chemistry and Shepard's academic advisor, teaches one of the Chemistry program's toughest courses, Organic Chemistry.

While he knows the subject matter is difficult and he regards himself as an old-school professor, Kim is happy to see students like Mary excel.

"Mary was like a lot of transfer students who have come from other institutions," said Kim. "The best thing she's gained at Methodist University is her confidence. Excellent students always succeed, but the ones who aren't so sure of themselves are the ones I love to see succeed at Methodist."

Shepard took her MU education into the real world with an internship at Grifols, a pharmaceutical and chemical manufacturer in Clayton, N.C. The Clayton branch opened in 2014 with the mission of developing plasma-based treatments for rare and life-threatening diseases. These include chronic diseases like neurological disorder, immune deficiencies, hemophilia, and genetic emphysema.

Shepard said she was nervous on her first day. There was only one spot available for the internship and, out of dozens of applicants, she was selected.

"They kind of threw me right into working," she said. "When you're in a classroom or lab, the professors are there watching to make sure everything goes well. I didn't want to mess anything up, but a lot of it was repetition and there were other people in the lab who were happy to help me out."

Shepard spent her time doing manual sample injections, using about 20 needles per run. She also used an oven method, which was safer, reduced risks in the lab, and allowed her to focus on

other projects while it ran.

She enjoyed her time at Grifols, and after her graduation applied to be a raw chemist at the Clayton location. Shepard said she wants to work in a lab and might consider attending graduate school in the future.

Her family is unbelievably proud of her and all her accomplishments.

"My parents are very supportive, but also so blown away by what I do," Shepard said. "My friends are, too. They were super excited about my graduation this Spring."

Outside of her family, Shepard is glad to be able to call MU home and is surrounded by supportive classmates and professors.

"You can see a reflection of the professor in the student," said Kim. "It is important to me to always remain positive and offer help to all my students. I wish Mary great success."

"Mary is doing great things," Hooper Marosek added. "She has a great future ahead of her. She's smart, motivated, would do well in grad school, and will have her pick of jobs."



ADVOCATING JUSTICE

Fagan Helps Lift the MU Social Work Program to New Heights

by Michael Molter '94



Dr. Carla Fagan has seen a lot of change at Methodist University during her 10-plus years as a faculty member, but one of the constants has been her leadership of the Social Work program. During her time as department chair, Social Work has routinely been among MU's top-10 most popular undergraduate majors. Then recently, when Social Work was offered fully online, it soared to the Top 5 in that modality, as well.

"The online Social Work program provides the

opportunity for adult learners to earn a degree almost completely from home and complete an internship in their local community," Fagan said. "In addition, members of our military community can earn or continue their degrees from Methodist while deployed or when transferred to their new duty stations."

At the root of Fagan's success in leading the program is her commitment to the core values of the profession, as stated by the National Association of Social Workers (NASW) Code of Ethics: service, social justice, the dignity and worth of the person, the importance of human relationships, integrity, and competence.

Fagan's dedication to social justice can be traced back to her days growing up in the 1950s in New York City. During her time as an undergraduate at City College of New York, she was a founding member of the Onyx Society, CCNY's first black student organization. After graduation, she became an active participant in the Civil Rights Movement, joining the Student Non-Violent Coordinating Committee (SNCC) and the Black Panther Party.

"The activism of my youth taught me many lessons," Fagan said. "I learned that the fight for human rights, equality, and social justice is ongoing. We must stand up and speak out for what is right and just. We must give our time and energy to movements that right the wrongs."

Fagan embarked on a 30-year career as a practicing social worker, including 20 years as a nephrology social worker. Her other practical experience is in the areas of juvenile justice, child welfare, AIDS services, and nursing home services. Outside of work, she is an advocate for the homeless, social justice, and public policy change.

Because combating social injustice is not something one can do alone, it was natural for Fagan to share her passion with others, teaching them to do the same. In 2001, she began teaching as an adjunct with St. Francis College in Brooklyn, and she later taught at Brooklyn College (CUNY) and Yeshiva University's Stern College. Upon earning her Ph.D. in 2010 from Yeshiva, she taught full time for a year at Southwest Minnesota State University before coming to Methodist.

"My challenge is to train up the next generation of activists who have the knowledge, values and skills to practice ethical social work and advocate for vulnerable populations," added Fagan. "Education is a mission to which I have dedicated my life and to which I give my energy."

The lessons from Fagan's life and experiences in the social work profession are not lost on the students in her classroom.

"Education is a mission to which I have dedicated my life and to which I give my energy."

Dr. Carla FaganChair of the MU Social Work Program

"Dr. Fagan is professional, experienced in the field and life, but far from out of touch with what is current and trending," said Kesimy Martinez, a May graduate of the Social Work program. "She's taught me that sometimes all people need is to be heard. Period. Providing support for others sometimes has little to do with knowing what advice to give, but rather letting them say whatever is on their mind."

Fagan is a visible member of the MU faculty, actively participating in CIRCUIT on Wednesdays – including a March program celebrating Women's History Month. She also was a panelist at the 25th B. F. Stone Lyceum in April, where she joined five other faculty and staff members discussing the topic, "Our Diversity is Our Strength: Addressing Race and Gender in Higher Education." As a faculty participant in MU's "Here to Hear" program, she offered to listen to students dealing with the stressors stemming from college life during a pandemic.

Not only has Fagan's commitment to the core values of the NASW Code of Ethics made the Social Work program a success, but one can see clearly that she has lived those values through her campus and community involvement.



Methodist University

Where *Excellence* and *Affordability* Come Together







Ava Broussard (Fayetteville, N.C.) Counseling/Clinical Psychology

While the job rates and average salaries of our graduates prove that a degree from Methodist University is one of the smartest investments a prospective student and their family can make, it's also an amazing value.

With nearly 100 percent of MU's students receiving financial aid, the majority of our students have the opportunity to attend this independent, top-tier-ranked university at a similar cost as the big-box, public schools.

Find out more by speaking with expert staff in our Admissions Office. You don't have to figure all of this out on your own; we're here and eager to help you through the process.

80+

97%

100+

Areas of Study

Students Receiving Financial Aid Student Organizations and Clubs

TOP 20-25%

90%

Salary 10 Years after Enrollment (MU grads vs. all other N.C. four-year schools) Jobs (or in Grad School) Six Months after Graduation

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For More Information: methodist.edu | 910.630.7000



HOME AWAY * FROM HOME ;

First Director Paved the Way for International Students and Program at MU

by Wendy Hustwit

For Jane Cherry, serving and living with international students has been "a wonderful way to be in the world."

Cherry always made room in her home and in her heart for travelers from abroad. Even before Cherry became Methodist University's first director of International Student Support Services in 1989, her house was regularly home to multiple students or professors from across the globe.

Cherry grew up on a North Carolina farm in the 1940s and 50s. Her parents raised her in the local Unitarian Universalist Church and first introduced her to a life with international scholars. In 1954, Cherry's family hosted a visiting professor and a student from Japan, who were on a holiday break from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. While the world was still recovering from World War II, hosting Japanese citizens was considered controversial at the time. But Cherry remembers how much she enjoyed having these new friends stay with her family during the holidays.

After college, Cherry moved to Fayetteville to work in education like her mother, grandmother, and great-grandmother. All the while, she hosted international students who came to the region with the East-West Foundation and Friendship Force International. These were just two of the many international youth and student-exchange programs developed in the U.S. as global peace-keeping strategies in the second half of the 20th century.

Methodist University, too, played a part in this global movement toward international collaboration. The first international students enrolled at MU in the early 1970s, and by 1975, the International Club was established on campus with 10 students. The club was advised by librarian Georgia Mullen.

MU became known as a welcoming college campus for international students. In 1978, it was selected as a host for an eight-week summer bridge program for 170 Japanese college students through the East-West Foundation. For three summers, the East-West Foundation students lived on campus in residence halls, took English language classes, and learned about American culture before starting their freshman year of college – either at Methodist or other colleges in the Southeastern U.S.

In her years hosting students in Fayetteville, and then later traveling to visit them in their countries, Cherry developed a

reputation for being the person with the most international contacts in the area.

After she married her husband, Sol, they became adoptive parents for dozens of international students throughout the 1980s. She kept in touch with students after they left Fayetteville and soon became the first point of contact for many families in Asian countries seeking higher education opportunities in the U.S.

Cherry's passion and experience with international students



Jane W. Cherry Former Director of International Services

made her a logical choice for the newly created International Student Support position. During her nine years in the role, Cherry and her husband continued traveling to connect with prospective students, alumni, and their families in countries throughout Asia and the United Kingdom. Until she retired in 1998, Cherry's campus office and home were natural gathering places for international students to feel at home.

The Cherrys were more than a host family for these

students, however. Hiro Ishige '84 from Tokyo formed such a deep bond, he became the "chosen son" to the Cherrys. They traveled to France to be official witnesses for the wedding of Ivy de Dianous '94, and attended Azrul Rashid's '96 wedding along with part of his honeymoon in Malaysia. The Cherrys even named their beloved mixed-breed dog after Colette Gilligan '93, from Ireland.

After Sol died in 2008, Cherry moved to live with her son in California. Now in her 80s, she says she is a very lucky person to have done what she was born to do. She has close ties with so many people around the world. According to Cherry, the hardest part of having friends and chosen family that live abroad is that goodbyes are difficult and permanent. Fortunately, Cherry says



she manages to keep up with some former students on social media and email.

Thanks in part to Cherry's strong recruiting and student support in the 1990s, international student enrollment at MU has increased year after year. International students comprise around 10 percent of undergraduate enrollment each year. The International Programs Office, with three staff members, now focuses on international student recruitment and support services as well as study abroad programming for all MU students.



Timeline of MU International > Student Services

1971

First international students enrolled at MU

1975

International Club established with 10 members (Georgia Mullen, Advisor)

1978-80

Hosts East-West Foundation students in summer orientation program

1985

First graduates present their home country flags at commencement ceremony (Talal F.M.M. Al-Azimi from Kuwait and Won Hyung Un from South Korea)

1989

International Student Services Office established with Cherry as director (35 international students enrolled from 15 countries)

1998

Col. George Blanc becomes director of International Programs after Cherry retires (46 international students enrolled from 23 countries) 2001

Magda Baggett becomes director of International Programs after Blanc is promoted to vice president of Student Life and Dean of Students

2004

Start of partnership with Shelby Cullom Davis
Foundation, which offers full tuition scholarships for
graduates of the United World College high schools
worldwide (54 international students enrolled)

2009

Pum Vamasiri becomes director of International Programs after Baggett retires (94 international students enrolled from 42 countries)

2011

Lyle Sheppard becomes director of International Programs after Vamasiri leaves the University (121 international students enrolled from 52 countries)

2017

Peak nationwide college enrollment for international and domestic students in the U.S. (195 international students enrolled from 80 countries)

2020

Minnu Paul becomes director of International Programs after Sheppard retires (144 international students enrolled)

FOOD IS A LANGUAGE Passion for Cooking Builds Community

by Wendy Hustwit

Rashe Malcolm '05, owner of Rashe's Cuisine in Athens, Ga., is a business owner, community leader, and small-business advocate helping strengthen the food service ecosystem for producers and consumers in her area. But her work started long before she achieved success.

Malcolm grew up in a military family, traveling around the world and eating the local cuisines. As a teenager, she began experimenting with recipes while cooking for family and friends. After high school, Malcolm moved to Jamaica and supported herself by working in a restaurant.

With her culinary experience, Malcolm ended up in Fayetteville for a job in food services at the Cape Fear Valley Health System in 1999. When she was laid off in 2001, she enrolled at Methodist to pursue a degree in Health Care Administration. However, once Environmental and Occupational Management was offered as a program in 2003, Malcolm made the switch. The program was a great match for her experience in the food industry along with her passion for helping others. Malcolm initially planned to become a food industry health inspector after graduation.

Although she was confident in her abilities and ambition, Malcolm's college life was challenging. As a single mother raising two children, she continued catering and even worked as a substitute math and science teacher at Seventy First High School to make ends meet. Malcolm remembers the tough times and

teary episodes while she juggled it all to complete the rigorous program. At the 2005 graduation, Malcolm, Debra McHargue '05, and the late Carrie Horne '05 were the first three people to earn a B.S. in Environmental and Occupational Management at Methodist University.

After graduation, Malcolm moved close to her family in Georgia. She quickly landed a job in 2006 with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). During her eight years with the EPA, Malcolm worked as an inorganic chemist, organic chemist, and later as an environmental scientist traveling throughout the Southeastern United States to monitor samples of water, soil, and air. During this time already busy time, Malcolm also got married and completed a master's in Justice Administration at the University of Phoenix.

In 2013, a workplace injury forced Malcolm to rest and to reconsider what truly makes her happy – serving others. After realizing she wouldn't return to the EPA, and after many discussions with her husband, Malcolm took a big leap.

"I did what any normal person would do and took my life savings and opened a restaurant," Malcolm said.

It's no surprise that starting a restaurant is difficult. While Malcolm admits to being stubborn enough to make it work, she also credits her Methodist education and Legal Studies Director, Wendy Vonnegut, for teaching her the importance of doing research for big projects like opening a restaurant.

In 2014, after completing a six-week course at the University of Georgia Small Business Development Center, Malcolm and her husband opened Rashe's Cuisine in Athens. The restaurant specializes in Jamaican cuisine inspired by her family roots and was successful in its first critical year. Malcolm then embarked

on the complex process of adding food truck operations to her restaurant. Her degrees, once again, proved to be fruitful as she had to complete multiple steps for health, safety, and mobile food-vending permits.

During the food truck permitting process in 2017, the restaurant experienced catastrophes of epic proportions: there was a gas leak, a subsequent fire,

Rashe Malcolm '05

B.S. Occupational and Environmental Management M.J.A. University of Phoenix

Chef and Owner, Rashe's Cuisine in Athens, Ga. Founder, Culinary Kitchen of Athens Founder, Farm to Neighborhood







and then a flood which caused the roof to collapse – all within three months. Despite these setbacks, Malcolm and her husband were determined to rebuild the restaurant. Malcolm was forced to rely on research so she could get the food truck on the road to earn revenue.

"Methodist taught me research, research, research. I couldn't have been the only one this happened to, not the only one who was going through this," Malcolm added.

She recalls looking up old public records, talking to people in multiple city and county departments, and navigating the labyrinth of health, safety, and permitting requirements to get her food truck running. Eventually, the restaurant reopened.

Through this work, Malcolm earned a local reputation for perseverance and leadership in Athens. Entrepreneurs came to her for advice on starting and expanding their businesses. She's been more than happy to share what she knows.

Starting in 2017, the Rashe's Cuisine food truck was parked at a new market, street corner, or community park every day – helping Malcolm better understand the nutritional needs of limited-income residents in Athens and Clarke County. She especially noticed the neighborhoods without convenient access to fresh produce, meats, and dairy found in grocery stores. These food deserts, as Malcolm calls them, are often forgotten about since they have convenience stores. But Malcolm mentioned the food sold in these stores is processed and packed with sodium and sugar rather than the fresh nutrients that people need to be healthy.

Malcolm noticed weekly community markets can provide fresh goods where grocery stores do not, but typical markets are only offered in the spring, summer, and fall. This schedule leaves many residents without fresh options for three months of the year. On the other side of the booth, local vendors who rely on weekly markets to start up their customer base are left with a three-month gap in revenue and product exposure.

"It was never about Rashe. It was about people having better opportunities and opening doors for others."

Rashe Malcolm

Seeing this clear gap in the local food ecosystem, Rashe spent the next three years building again. In 2018, she started the Culinary Kitchen of Athens

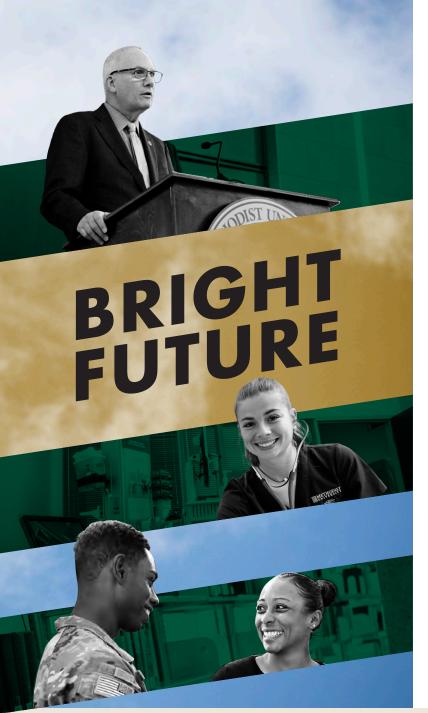
(CKA), which hosts weekly, year-round shared market spaces in the community. Then in 2020, with COVID-recovery grant funding, Malcolm founded Farm to Neighborhood, which provides fresh, pre-packaged, healthy, and affordable mobile meals for limited-income residents in the area. These USDA-approved meals use fresh ingredients from local producers and are sold at weekly CKA markets all year.

Malcolm's influence across the region continues to grow, but she is not in it for the recognition.

"It was never about Rashe. It was about people having better opportunities and opening doors for others," she said.

With her four ventures running smoothly, Malcolm hopes to have a quiet season in her life. Her husband and three children have taken on more operations for Rashe's Cuisine so she can focus more on serving food entrepreneurs and disenfranchised Clarke County residents. Malcolm is already planning her next move, which includes teaching children about the many career opportunities in the food industry.





Clear <u>values</u> and <u>strategy</u> equip Methodist University for continued success.

As many colleges and universities across the nation struggle in an attempt to recover from two years of unprecedented hurdles created by the COVID-19 pandemic, Methodist University is moving forward with confidence and anticipation. That doesn't mean that there aren't great challenges now and ahead, but a purposeful focus on MU's unique mission statement, alongside a calculated but adaptable vision for the future, has the University poised for continued excellence.

With foundational "Mission" and targeted "Vision" working hand in hand, Methodist University is offering its community (most profoundly its students) the uncommon coalescence and opportunity of being engaged today, enriched for tomorrow, and empowered for a lifetime. "Engage, Enrich, Empower" isn't just a clever tagline at MU, it's who we are, it's the goals we're setting, and it's the people and institution we aspire to be.

While there is no way this story could cover in great detail all of the successes, initiatives, or goals that we have at Methodist University, it utilizes "Engage, Enrich, Empower" as a means to offer insight and an overview into the positive and exciting road MU is on. It's a bright future, one that alumni, faculty, staff, current students, and future students can and will be proud of for years to come.

MU MISSION STATEMENT: Methodist University, historically supported by the North Carolina Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church, owes its origin and values to the life and teachings of Jesus Christ. The University is committed to an ecumenical spirit, respects diversity, and recognizes the dignity and worth of all human beings. The University's programs are based on the conviction that a liberally-educated person is sensitive to the needs and rights of others. Methodist University affirms the importance of intellectual values and ethical principles such as truth, virtue, justice, and love. The University community seeks to develop whole persons who will contribute substantially and creatively to the professions and to civic life. Therefore, Methodist University provides opportunities for spiritual, academic, and social growth, to the end that students may acquire enlightened minds and responsible spirits, as well as a continuing thirst for knowledge.

The purpose of Methodist University is to provide an undergraduate and graduate education firmly grounded in the liberal arts tradition that nurtures moral values and ethical decision making; to provide distinctive professional and graduate programs that complement the undergraduate programs; to provide educational and cultural services and resources to the community; and to prepare students for a variety of careers and educational pursuits.

MU VISION STATEMENT: Methodist University will engage in a culture of excellence to provide transformative educational experiences by integrating our liberal arts foundation and spiritual and moral heritage with innovative student-centered programs to produce successful graduates who are dedicated to achievement and committed to making positive contributions to a global society.



ENGAGED TODAY (MISSION)

In Presidential Town Hall events Dr. Stanley T. Wearden has offered the past two years – to share the administration's mission and vision with faculty and staff – he has made clear the question he wants answered for every decision that is made on the MU campus: "Is this decision in accordance with Methodist University's mission of supporting student success?"

Wearden speaks often of how MU's powerful mission statement sets it apart from other schools and was an important factor in the decision to accept his position at the University. It's a foundation for engaging the entire MU community on a daily basis.

"Methodist University is taking renewed pride in its mission statement, which highlights our historical roots in the Wesleyan tradition, our ecumenical spirit, our respect for diversity, and our sensitivity to the needs and rights of others," Wearden said. "In every area we are renewing our commitment to 'intellectual values and ethical principles such as truth, virtue, justice, and love."

With that intentional and direct focus on mission, there are very specific initiatives that promote engagement, enrichment, and empowerment. They are highlighted in the story/sections to follow.

Initiative 1: MU has invested in staffing and process strategies that are intended to dramatically improve student success, retention, and graduation rates. It's imperative that MU focus not only on obtaining new students, but making sure current students are fully engaged while moving forward with their degree in order to reap the full benefit of an MU education.



Every Student Counts

MU launched "Moving the Needle" in 2020. MTN's prevailing goals/outcomes are to improve the campus environment for students through strategic alignment (improving retention and persistence) by creating enhanced systems, processes, and efficiencies, and by increasing opportunities for students to thrive.

MTN currently focuses on five Success Initiatives:

- 1. Student Facing Business Processes (new student onboarding and clearance process)
- Residential Campus Engagement
- 3. Student-Athlete Experience
- 4. Racial Awareness and Campus Equity
- Student Success and Advising ("One Stop" brings
 Academic Support such as tutoring/writing centers –
 Academic and Career Advising and Financial Services
 to one centralized location in Davis Memorial Library.)

In addition to the "Moving the Needle" initiatives, MU is engaging its students through a variety of thriving programs and participation opportunities. MU has more than 100 student organizations and events, internships, community involvement, and athletics (both intercollegiate and intramural).

MU is also becoming increasingly engaged with the city of Fayetteville, Cumberland County, and organizations and businesses in the region. The administration, faculty, staff, and students are speaking or volunteering at numerous events and the University is supporting the community through several sponsorships such as Chamber of Commerce and Fayetteville business leader breakfasts, the Dogwood Festival, and Juneteenth celebrations in downtown Fayetteville.

Initiative 2: Advancing and engaging in relationships like never before, MU is extending its reach to community colleges, online learners, adult learners and members of the military. MU has signed Memorandums of Understanding with six community colleges in North Carolina to help facilitate the move from a two-year Associate Degree to a valuable four-year Bachelor's Degree at MU. The University is also putting unprecedented resource towards a growing number of online programs (see back cover of this MU Today) that are flexible for the busy schedules of our adult and military-afilliated students.





Obtaining a college education and earning a university degree is a monumental accomplishment. However, Methodist University is laser-focused on preparing students for success well beyond their commencement. MU is preparing life-long learners and so quality of education and gained wisdom inside and outside of the classroom has never been more important.

Initiative 3: Methodist University is immersed in the processes of creating the highest levels of career readiness and experiential learning. The attention to the "intellectual values and ethical principles" in every facet of University life creates opportunities for MU students that will serve them well in their careers and life.

"Our commitment to these values, principles, and the liberal arts empowers us to offer a curriculum that is most valuable to our graduates," Wearden said. "This allows us to graduate alumni who are fully career ready, who are prepared for engaged and authentic citizenship."

Obvious support of this initiative in the past year is the hiring of a new cohort of nearly 20 faculty members who are bringing fresh energy and insight to the MU campus. Also new to campus are the positions of Chief Diversity Officer (Dr. Quincy Malloy) and Chief Information Officer (Dr. Mary McCants), with both being members of the presidential cabinet.

Initiative 4: MU is completely committed to diversity, equity, and inclusion for all students of all backgrounds so we remain a welcoming university, providing an education that meets the individual needs of each student. Some examples in this area of focus include growing MU's International Programs (story page 16), a President's Task Force on Racial Healing, and CIRCUIT, which is a weekly on-campus gathering focused on inspiration, education, and community. CIRCUIT is non-denominational, open to all students, faculty, and staff, and includes traditional worship, collaborative programs focused on diversity, equity and inclusion, wellness practices and community connection.

TASK FORCE ON RACIAL HEALING

Created by President Stanley T. Wearden in 2020, the purpose of the Task Force on Racial Healing is to do a careful, systematic study of issues of racial fairness, equity, and justice on MU's campus. If the Task Force identifies areas that need to be improved at MU, whether they relate to policies, practices, behaviors, shared understanding, or anything else, it will ensure that those improvements happen.

Through student surveys, "Here to Hear" digital and in-person listening sessions, and focus groups, the Task Force is active on campus and will continue to ask questions of community members about their experiences and opinions about issues related to race at MU.

Learn more at methodist.edu/task-force



Dr. Malloy presenting at MU's 25th B.F Stone Lyceum: "Our Diversity is Our Strength: Addressing Race and Gender in Higher Education."

EMPOWERED FOR A LIFETIME



Study after study show that companies today and increasingly in the future – from hi-tech to financial firms to health care – are turning to and relying upon employees who have the widest range of skill sets. The ability to think independently, adapt, see the bigger picture – and knowing our purpose in the world is more than creating product and profit – is why MU graduates will continue to succeed at a high rate in their professions and in life.

"Our mission and our initiatives moving forward facilitate our graduates who are professionally prepared and skilled in their area of study," Wearden said, "but also able to think intelligently about larger questions of meaning and purpose, and who understand their ethical and moral obligations in the world."

Professional success – often utilizing a thriving network of fellow alumni – is one reason many seek an MU degree. It's no surprise, for instance, that MU ranks in the top 25 percent of all schools in the state for average salary of alumni. This type of preparation and success often comes at a great price, with increased tuition and/or living expense.

MU, however, was founded by members of the Cumberland County community and its vision is to remain both valuable and cost-effective for the entire community.

Initiative 5: Increase our endowment so we may continue to provide generous scholarships to make an MU education affordable for all.

To accomplish the goal of remaining excellent while affordable, MU must increasing rely on the generosity of its community. Alumni and friends of the University have supported the mission of MU throughout its history and continue to show unselfishness and altruism in record numbers (see pages 24-53).

As MU continues to "Engage, Enrich, and Empower" its students – while also having an enormous impact on the local community (see below) – there is a great deal more to do. You will soon hear about an exciting, upcoming capital campaign and additional initiatives that will positively influence MU.

Hanover Research Shows Quantifiable Impact of MU

Through its commitment to mission – which directs Methodist University to prepare students to not only succeed professionally, but to understand the bigger role all can play in positively influencing their church, neighborhood, city, county, region, and state – MU continues to have a major influence on its community. In fact, in a 2021-22 academic year study by Hanover Research, the data showed that MU's demand-side economic impact to Cumberland County was nearly \$88.5 million, and the total impact on the state of North Carolina was more than \$116 million.

"Community supporters more than 60 years ago had the desire to build a private, liberal arts-based college right here in Cumberland County," said MU President Stanley T. Wearden. "MU, in turn, has produced graduates that have in the past and are today thriving in this community professionally and through charity and service."

MU has more than 6,000 alumni living in North Carolina, has students who do nearly 2,000 hours of service annually, hosts more than 50 community events at campus rental facilities each year, and nearly a quarter of MU's students are affiliated with the military (in service, veterans, or family).

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DONORS SPOTLIGHT 2020-21

ANNUAL REPORT

SPECIAL SECTION FEATURES INCLUDE:

- The Largest Gift in MU History
- Cumulative Giving Tribute
- Endowment History and 2020-21 Gifts
- Alumni Participation By Class
- Join The Parents Program
- Annual Giving Gifts And Grants
- Planned Giving Society
- Endowed Professorships
- Annual and Endowed Scholarship
- Greatest Gift Scholarships
- Honoring a Legacy of Giving
- And Much More ...

Methodist University's fiscal year runs July through June, and this report reflects data from July 2020 through June 2021.

Data from the 2021-22 year will be available in the next Annual Report of Donors.

The late Robert J. Chaffin Chaffin attending the Scholarship Luncheon (2017) Nursing Students in the Robert J. Chaffin Building

Unprecedented & Transformative

Chaffin Humbly Gifts MU A Record-Setting Donation

Methodist University has received a gift of more than \$14 million, the largest gift in school history. More than \$12 million of the gift will go directly to student scholarships.

The record-setting gift — with all but \$1.5 million being endowed — was given through the estate of Robert J. Chaffin of Fayetteville, who died in late May of 2021 at the age of 93. Chaffin's professional career was with Commercial Credit Corporation in Lumberton and Fayetteville, Cross Creek Savings and Loan in Fayetteville, and East Coast Federal Savings and Loan in Fayetteville.

The gift includes \$1.5 million designated for the renowned Nursing Program at MU and its state-of-the-art facility, which will be named in honor of Chaffin.

"This remarkably generous gift demonstrates the extent to which the path we are taking as a faith-based university, rooted in the liberal arts but with strong professional programs, is both appreciated and valued," said Methodist University President Stanley T. Wearden. "Our willingness to adapt to workforce development and professional needs, while also holding strong to our mission and values, has put Methodist University in a position to succeed for decades.

"This gift also gives MU an even greater opportunity to offer scholarships that open doors for students who seek MU's unique combination of a tight-knit, inclusive community with a top-tier education."

Humble service to causes in which he believed was typical of Chaffin, and Wearden spoke to that exceptional humility in the way he established the gift for MU.

"Mr. Chaffin clearly was not looking for attention to his generosity during his lifetime. Quietly, very much behind the scenes, he was working on building a highly successful financial portfolio for the purpose of one day making a transformative gift to Methodist University," said Wearden. "While we knew he had established a bequest for Methodist University, Mr. Chaffin never shared the full extent with us nor did he ask for any thanks in return."

In addition to his successful career, Chaffin served on the Administrative Board and the Board of Trustees for Camp Ground United Methodist Church in Fayetteville, and was a long-time member of the church. He also served in the U.S. military and graduated from the University of North Carolina in Chapel Hill.

"The Board of Trustees at Methodist University has long wanted to grow our endowment and Mr. Chaffin's gift is

foundational as we launch a campaign for that purpose and continue to make MU affordable to all who desire our commitment to a mission-based education that prepares students to be both successful professionals and capable moral actors in the world," said Mac Healy, chair of the Methodist University Board of Trustees. "This gift and others through the campaign will support all of our students, including greater scholarship support and improved campus facilities."

With more than 80 areas of study across bachelor's, master's and doctoral programs — offered on campus and online — MU degrees include Forensic Science, Engineering, Computer Science, Business, Professional Golf Management, Sciences, Liberal Arts, and several programs in the Health Sciences.

"The Nursing Program at MU is continually expanding along with the need for highly trained nursing professionals," said Shannon Matthews, director of the MU Nursing Program. "For more than a decade we've been offering students a hand's-on learning environment — including a nursing building with its own 10,000-square-foot simulation hospital — and we couldn't be more grateful for this gift to help us make this unique, state-of-the-art program even more affordable through additional scholarships for our outstanding students."

With expanding programs for military students and new partnerships with community colleges in the state — plus a growing number of 100-percent online degree programs — MU's footprint is expanding and additional scholarship funds through this gift allow for increased opportunity.

"I'm one of 97 percent of the MU students who receive financial aid from the University already, and to see our school have the chance to reach out and help future Monarchs even "I'm one of 97 percent of the MU students who receive financial aid from the University already, and to see our school have the chance to reach out and help future Monarchs even more is really encouraging."

Daniel Magen '22

Student Government President

more is really encouraging," said MU's 2022 Student Government President Daniel Magen. "That a private institution with one of the best faculty-to-student ratios in the state can be as affordable as the big state schools shows me we're investing in our students, both in our present and in our futures. MU students are so grateful to all who make Methodist University such an amazing value for us."

The \$14-million gift comes on the heels of other recent donations and grants to Methodist University resulting in a ribbon-cutting this fall for the Nancy and Murray Duggins Soccer Stadium, completion of work on the Price Softball Fieldhouse, installation of lights at Monarch Stadium, major renovations to the Green & Gold Dining Hall in the Berns Student Center, construction of the Matthews Ministry Center, construction of the Union-Zukowski Lobby & Gallery, a critical stream restoration, numerous golf course upgrades, a new endowment and naming of the Dr. Darl H. Champion Center for Excellence in Justice Administration, and in 2022-23, the anticipated completion of the Linda and Ralph Huff Concert Hall.

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.



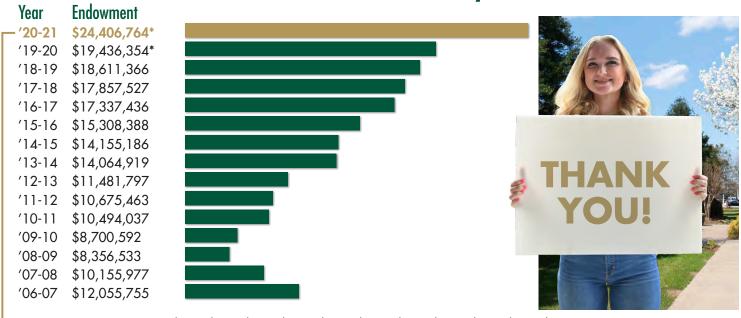
Helps avoid limits on charitable deductions and prevents you from being pushed into a higher tax bracket.



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



Endowment History



\$6M \$8M \$10M \$12M \$14M \$16M \$18M \$20M \$22M \$24M \$26M

*AS OF JUNE 30, 2021

2020-21 Endowment Funds: **\$24.41M, 226 Funds**

General Endowment: \$1.87M (8%), 2 funds

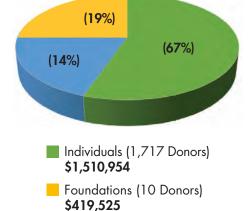
Endowed Professorships: \$1.22M (5%), 11 funds

Endowed Scholarships: \$15.60M (64%), 187 funds

Other Endowed Funds: \$5.72M (23%), 26 funds

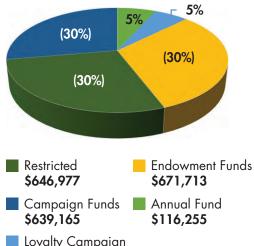
2020-21 Annual Gifts: \$2.24M

WHERE DOES THE MONEY COME FROM?



Corporations (142 Donors) \$312,354

WHERE DOES THE MONEY GO?



Loyalty Campaign \$115,450

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

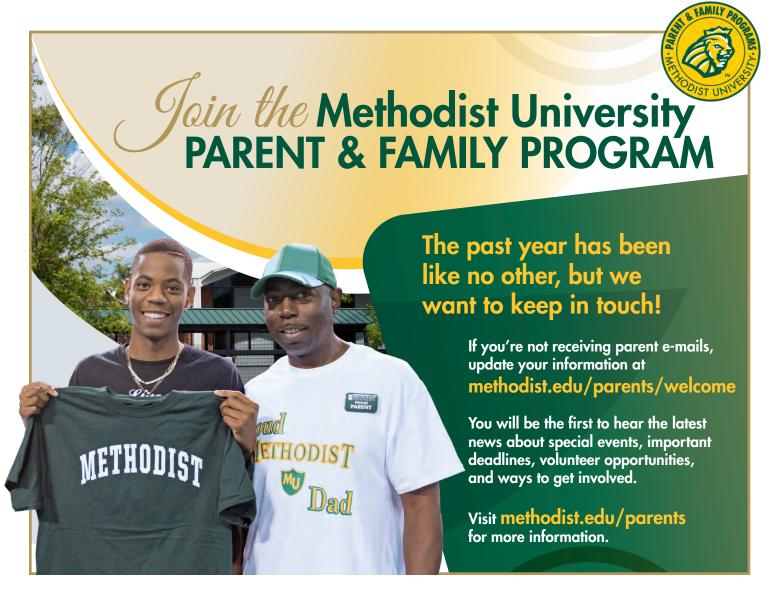
Methodist University sincerely appreciates all alumni gifts, whether large or small. The percentage of alumni participation is especially critical, as it impacts rankings and grant opportunities.

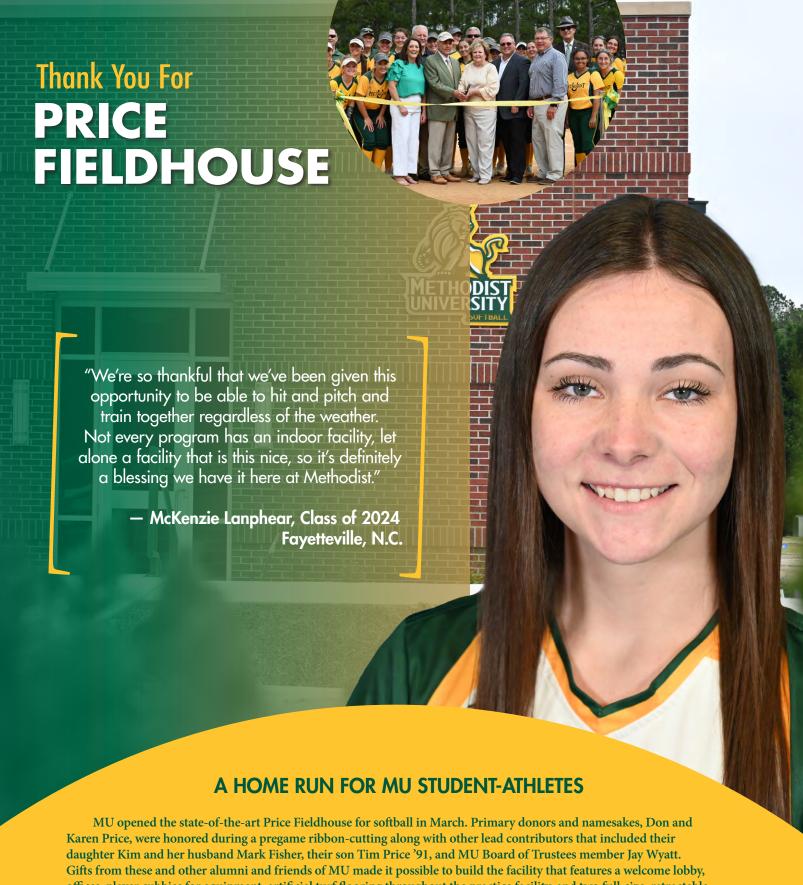
TOP 20 Alumni Classes By Dollars

Class '04 '66 '70 '90 '68 '69	Dollars Given \$278,400.00 \$111,713.50 \$91,792.11 \$43,660.00 \$38,584.61 \$26,945.35	Class '01 '71 '09 '81 '08 '02	Dollars Given \$10,931.00 \$9,625.00 \$9,441.69 \$9,363.00 \$9,275.00 \$7,452.00
'90		'81	
'68	\$38,584.61	'08	\$9,275.00
'69	\$26,945.35	'02	\$7,452.00
'83	\$22,335.00	'07	\$6,217.18
'73	\$17,295.00	'92	\$6,152.40
'67	\$15,735.20	'96	\$5,570.00
'00	\$13,950.32	'05	\$5,510.08

TOP 20 Alumni Classes By Participation

Participation	Class	Participation
26.99%	'76	12.87%
23.53%	'81	11.40%
22.81%	'80	11.38%
21.88%	'09	11.23%
20.59%	'78	11.11%
19.54%	'74	10.47%
17.53%	'00	10.20%
14.45%	'07	9.97%
14.38%	'91	9.62%
13.56%	'04	9.47%
	26.99% 23.53% 22.81% 21.88% 20.59% 19.54% 17.53% 14.45% 14.38%	26.99% '76 23.53% '81 22.81% '80 21.88% '09 20.59% '78 19.54% '74 17.53% '00 14.45% '07 14.38% '91





offices, player cubbies for equipment, artificial turf flooring throughout the practice facility, and two full-size, retractable pitching/batting cages.

"We are so pleased to have the opportunity to publicly thank and recognize Don and Karen Price and the entire Price family for the generous gift that made our softball fieldhouse possible," said Dr. Stanley T. Wearden, President at Methodist University. "This will serve our student-athletes now and for decades to come. Their naming gift is transformative in the lives and education of our softball players."

Thank You For Your

CONTRIBUTIONS THROUGH PLANNED GIVING

"My husband and I have long been supporters of the mission of Methodist University and with our planned gift we will support Methodist University students for generations to come. I encourage others to consider how they, too, might establish a legacy at Methodist University through a planned gift arrangement."

Dr. Loleta Wood Foster
 MU Board of Trustees

SUPPORTING MU WITH A "FOREVER" GIFT

Methodist University has meant *so much* to *so many* for *so long*. It's where foundations for careers have been put in place. It's where character and faith have been tested and advanced. It's where lifelong friendships have been created (and in hundreds of cases, where future spouses met for the first time). It's a meaningful place, and so it's no surprise that so many give back to MU and its students in very intentional and meaningful ways. Planned Giving – a charitable gift that can be made during a lifetime or at death – is sometimes called "legacy giving" as it is planned for the future, beyond one's lifetime. MU Board of Trustees member Dr. Loleta Wood Foster calls it "A *Forever Gift* to MU."

Planned giving is so important to MU because it's a gift that helps keep the University thriving in the future. Taking advantage of numerous tax and financial benefits, alumni and friends often contribute a major gift to MU through their financial or estate plans.

"My husband and I looked at ways we could be intentional about supporting the mission of this institution," Foster said. "We believed in the difference Methodist was making in the lives of our students. We learned about planned giving and decided this would be a great foundation for accomplishing our goal of supporting Methodist forever."

Please take the time to learn more about MU Planned Giving and different gifting options at mu.giftlegacy.com.





\$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."

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

To learn more about the Greatest Gift Scholarship or request an application, contact the Alumni Affairs Office at 910.630.7485, 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 Stout Legacy

\$1.5 Million Gift Honors Dr. Frank P. Stout

As a professional, the late Dr. Frank P. Stout helped put a brighter smile on the faces of thousands in Cumberland County, and his legacy of generosity and care for his community will now continue to an even greater extent as his family has gifted \$1.5 million to Methodist University. To help permanently recognize his altruism, MU is naming its Physician Assistant Academic Building and its Medical Lecture Hall in his honor.

"Having our PA buildings named in honor of Dr. Frank P. Stout could not be more apropos as both Dr. Stout and Methodist University's PA Program are about service and science working together for the benefit of others," said Methodist University President Stanley T. Wearden. "As 'Dr. Frank' was dedicated to the health and wellbeing of residents in our community, more than 70 percent of Methodist's PA Program graduates remain after graduation to work professionally locally and throughout North Carolina."

MU's Physician Assistant Program (PA) – now in its 25th year – well represents the understanding of need and selfless contributions Stout shared as a lifelong Fayetteville resident, orthodontist, developer, and philanthropist.

"The Stout family and Methodist University have the same mission of continuing to positively influence our community," said Mac Healy, Chair of the MU Board of Trustees. "We look forward to many more years of partnership with the Stout family to impact the lives of students at Methodist University and others in Cumberland County."

The two newly named buildings at MU are the Dr. Frank P. Stout Physician Assistant Academic Building (classrooms, simulation exam rooms, student lounge, and faculty/administrative offices) and the Dr. Frank P. Stout Medical Lecture Hall (lecture hall and four breakout classrooms). These are two of the more than 50 buildings on the MU campus and sit about 500 yards from Joe W. Stout Hall (pictured below, which houses the University's Admissions Office and is named in honor of Dr. Stout's father, a successful real estate developer in the area who was instrumental in the founding of the University).

"The Stout family and Methodist University have the same mission of continuing to positively influence our community."

Mac Healy
 Chair, MU Board of Trustees

"Our family supported the mission of Methodist University from the very beginning, my father served on the Board of Trustees, and our family continues to support MU because we all believe in the combination of dreaming and diligence that leads to success," said Cameron "Cam" Stout, son of Dr. Frank and Carol Stout. "It's an honor to know the thousands who pass by the PA buildings just off Ramsey Street each day – and certainly the students who enter them to study – will observe the name of a man who dedicated his life to helping others."







'20-'21 Alumni Giving by the Numbers

Three classes from the '00s cracked the top 20 in participation

Class of





Class of O4

took over the top spot in dollars given after ranking No.13 last year



Class of 90

catapulted 52 spots in dollars given to No. 4



fell back two spots in dollars given but took the top spot in participation at 27%

Alumni giving surpassed

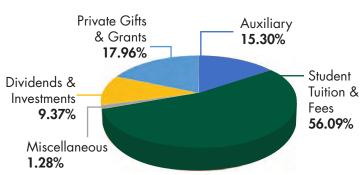
10%

for the first time since 2016-17

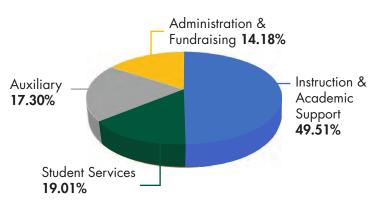


Revenues and Expenditures

REVENUES: Total \$59.3 Million



EXPENDITURES: Total \$44.5 Million



Endowed Scholarships

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

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

Dr. Richard R. Allen, Sr.

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

Frank Barragan, Jr. Scholarship

Oakel B. Bass Endowed Scholarship

Debbie Bright Beaver Endowed Scholarship

Dr. & Mrs. Karl H. Berns Music Scholarship

Alex B. Bethune Scholarship

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

Endowed Scholarship

Mary Jean Blackburn Scholarship

James A. Bledsoe Endowed Scholarship

Brantley Memorial Scholarship

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

Earl W. Brian Scholarship

Catherine Brock Scholarship

John W. and Donna P. Brown Endowed Scholarship Hugh Conway Browning Endowed Scholarship

Paul L. & Mary W. Browning Endowed Scholarship

Bruton Family Endowed Scholarship

Dr. Mary Lynn Bryan Endowed Scholarship

Howard and Marta Bullard Endowed Scholarship Richard P. & Etta A. Butler Memorial Scholarship

Richard P. & Etta A. Butler Physician Assistant

Endowed Scholarship

Hugh Scott and Janet Smith Cameron Endowed Scholarship

Emma McAffie Cannon Memorial Scholarship Capital District United Methodist Men

Marlette Music Scholarship

Carolina College Scholarship

Dr. Paul Carruth & Roberta F. Carruth Scholarship

Robert J. Chaffin Endowed Scholarship

Robert J. Chaffin Endowed Scholarship

- Camp Ground

Robert J. Chaffin Endowed Nursing Scholarship Chaminade Music Club Endowed Scholarship

Cynthia L. Champagne Endowed Scholarship

Dr. Darl H. Champion Sr. Scholarship

Kathryn F. Christian Endowed Scholarship

Robert S. & Kathryn F. Christian Endowed Scholarship

Ann G. Cimaglia '64 Endowed Scholarship Fred E. Clark Scholarship

Walter & Margaret Clark Scholarship

Class of 1964 50th Anniversary Endowed Scholarship

Alfred E. Cleveland Endowed Scholarship

Martha Hicks Culbreth Memorial Scholarship

Daniel DeCriscio Endowed Scholarship The Lebanon Masonic Lodge #391

Endowed Scholarship Highlights

Conrad D. Swick '85 and Mary F. Swick **Endowed Scholarship**

The Conrad D. Swick '85 and Mary F. Swick Endowed Scholarship was established by the Swicks in 2021 to enable the next generation of Methodist University students to realize their potential and achieve success. Conrad had a career in the military and later with the North Carolina Employment Security Commission. He graduated from Methodist with a bachelor's degree in business at the age of 51. Conrad and Mary have been married for 65 years and have three adult children, Constance, Jeffery, and Charity.

Bruce Dent Scholarship Ingeborg M. Dent Scholarship

The Devasthali Family Health Sciences Scholarship Mary Deyampert Leadership Scholarship for the

School of Social Work Dixon Endowed Elementary Education Scholarship G. Gordon Dixon '66 Endowed Education

Sanford Doxey, Jr. Scholarship

Scholarship

Edgar & Lois Draughon Scholarship

Claudia H. Dudley Endowed Scholarship

Murray O. and Nancy T. Duggins Endowed Scholarship

Lenora Auten & Lloyd Dunn Scholarship

Edenton Street United Methodist Men Scholarship Fayetteville Area Advertising Federation

Fayetteville District United Methodist Scholarship Rita Jean Ivany Foley, BA Class of 1973, Magna Cum

Laude Scholarship Dr. Loleta W. Foster and LTC Benjamin F. Foster, Jr. (Ret.), Endowed Scholarship

Ron Foster Endowed Scholarship

Friends of Music Endowed Scholarship

Dr. Sid Gautam Scholarship for Entrepreneurs

J. Nelson & Carolyn S. Gibson Memorial Scholarship Ianie Bell Edwards Gibson

M.F. Grantham Scholarship

Hensdale Scholarship

William F. & Francis L. Grimes Endowed Scholarship Drs. Rakesh and Vinita Gupta Endowed Scholarship George N. Harriss Scholarship

Established by Joe W. Walker

Maurice A. & Vennie Hawley Endowed Scholarship Dr. Bennett A. Hayes, Jr. Endowed Scholarship Linda and Mac Healy Endowed Scholarship John T. & Rebecca B. Henley Endowed Scholarship

Dr. Carol L. Higy Education Scholarship Established by Rita Wiggs

Philip O. Hoffer Endowed Scholarship

Shirley R. Hoffman Endowed Scholarship William E. Horner, Sr. Scholarship Young W. & Morie M. Howard Scholarship Edwin & Dorothy Hubbard Endowed Scholarship Edwin & Dorothy Hubbard Endowed Scholarship in

Hyman-Highsmith Endowed Scholarship Dr. & Mrs. Bert Ishee Scholarship

W. Robert & Thelma Johnson & Robert Neal Scholarship

Edward T. Keil and Kathleen N. Keil Endowed Scholarship

Anne and Tom Keith Valuation Science Endowed Scholarship

Virginia & Martin Kern Education Endowed Scholarship

O. Teague Kirby Scholarship

Todd Stephen Krueger Scholarship

Lynn Morton Kubota Endowed Scholarship

Lambda Chi Alpha Scholarship

Edward Bert Lassiter Scholarship

Edward P. Leatherbury III Scholarship

Little Scholarship

John, Julian, Albert, & Calvin Little

Michael R. Loesekann '75 Endowed Scholarship

William P. Lowdermilk Scholarship

Betty Ruth Maness Memorial Scholarship

Ray and Daphne Manning Endowed Scholarship R.A. Matheson Memorial Fund

Charles K. & Verna McAdams Endowed Scholarship

Dr. & Mrs. Clyde G. McCarver Scholarship

William L. McLaurin Endowed Scholarship

Thomas McLean Scholarship

McMillan Endowed Scholarship

Mary McKinnon McNeill Scholarship

Joseph Gray Melvin & Elizabeth Horne Melvin

Memorial Scholarship

Wesley Mensing PGA Scholarship

William & Betty Mercer Endowed Scholarship

Methodist University Alumni Association Scholarship Methodist University Memorial Scholarship Methodist University N.C. Conference Scholarship Pamela Sturdivant Moll Education Fund Mullen-Mansfield-Clayton Memorial Scholarship Janet C. Mullen '72 Memorial Scholarship Durwood Johnson Murray II Scholarship John & Hazel Neill Endowed Scholarship Jean Bradley Nickerson Endowed Scholarship Joan Alexandra Meade Pait Scholarship The D. Pauly & S. Downs- Applied Forensic Science

Scholarship Park Pil-Hyun and Lee Oh-Soon Endowed Scholarship Florence M. Paul Music Library Scholarship Pay it Forward Endowed Scholarship Alice Pearce Scholarship Richard W. & Neva B. Pearce Scholarship Titus E. Pittman Scholarship Margaret Ann Riddle Player Endowed Scholarship Alan M. Porter Music Scholarship Peggy S. Powers Memorial Scholarship for Women in Business Bruce R. Pulliam Scholarship

Katherine Purdie Endowment Fund Raleigh District United Methodist Church Scholarship Charles Rankin Memorial Scholarship Hector E. Ray, Jr. Scholarship Riddick & Gillie Revelle Endowed Scholarship Alma Rhodes Scholarship J.P. & March Riddle Endowed Scholarship George & Bessie Robbins Scholarship John C. Rosser, Jr. Scholarship

Delsie S. Kelbaugh Annual Scholarship for Biology

Joseph H. Rouse Endowed Scholarship Helen and D.P. Russ, Jr. Endowed Scholarship Salem United Methodist Church Scholarship Sanford District United Methodist Church Scholarship Terry Sanford Scholarship Joel & Marcia Stein Schur Endowed Scholarship Franklin & Emily Seibert Memorial Endowed Scholarship

Sherry Sellers Scholarship Gertrude F. Shore Memorial Scholarship Wilbur R. Smith III Scholarship Dorothy Allred "Dot" Snyder Endowed Scholarship Ann Davis & Spell Family Endowed Scholarship Harriet Jean Spell Scholarship Dr. Louis Spilman, Jr. Endowed Scholarship

William S. & Nannie Seats Spillman

Memorial Scholarship Shirley Starcher Memorial Scholarship Fannie B. Stein Scholarship J. Bernard Stein Scholarship Ira M. Steingold, Esq. Endowed Scholarship Elizabeth Stewart Memorial Scholarship B.F. "Doc" Stone Scholarship Carol Hardee Stout Scholarship Frank Stout, Jr. Memorial Scholarship Joe W. Stout Memorial Scholarship

Harold J. & Josephine L. Sturdivant Endowed Scholarship

James D. Suitch Memorial Scholarship C.C. Powers, Jr. & Wingate E., Sigmund B. & E.L. Swain Memorial Scholarship

Conrad D. Swick '85 and Mary F. Swick Endowed Scholarship

Walter M. & Loretta S. Swing Accounting Scholarship Margaret McLeod Teabeaut Scholarship Louis D. & Bernadine L. Thomas Scholarship Fund Wallace E. & Irene N. Thorne Endowed Scholarship The Titmus Family Scholarship Fund Dr. John O. Tobler Political Science Endowed Scholarship

Arthur & Portia MacPhail Vann Memorial Scholarship Dr. King Ching Wang Political Science Scholarship Stacy & Elizabeth Weaver Scholarship William S. Wellons, Sr. & Family Scholarship West Fayetteville Rotary Club Educational Fund West Fayetteville Rotary Club Scholarship Clara Jewell Spell Westbrook Scholarship Flora Cornelia Bullock & Samuel Bryan Wilkins, Jr. Scholarship

James (Jim) Wilkins, Sr. & Louise Heriot Wilkins **Endowed Scholarship** W. Vardell & Bertha H. Williamson Scholarship Eutha Neighbors Willis Scholarship Hubert Willis Memorial Fund Haymount United Methodist Men Wright Scholars Dr. Harvey T Wright II '70 & Mrs. Mary S. Wright '68 Wyatt Family Endowed Scholarship

The Ziegler Endowed Scholarship

Annual Scholarships BB&T Merit Scholarship Marshall Scholarship Fund William Frederick Bethune Fund for Art Scholarships Richard E. Moran Memorial Scholarship of Cumberland Community Foundation, Inc. NCACPA Foundation Scholarship Bishop Blackburn Scholarship NC Association of Certified Public Accountants Cobb-Evans Scholarship NETWORTH Scholarship Davis United World College Scholars Program North Carolina Conference United Methodist Women Mr. & Mrs. Shelby M.C. Davis Scholarship Robert H. Dedman Scholarship Barbara Olcott Scholarship E. Bascom & Cora Dingus Scholarship Cumberland County Republican Women's Club Duke Energy Foundation Scholarship Susan Blanche Penny Ministerial Scholarship FastMed Urgent Care - Physician Assistant Pittman-Frizzelle Scholarship Robert H. Short/Cumberland Community Alumni Scholarship Established by Robin Elledge & Reza Hatefi Foundation Scholars Program Ralph E. Fowlkes Scholarship Eura Strother Scholarship Franks-Penny Memorial Scholarship UMC Foundation Conference Scholarship Kameron "Kam" Dobie Friendship House UMC Foundation General Scholarship Favetteville Grant **UPS** Scholarship USPTA Southern PTM Program Scholarship The Golden LEAF Foundation Scholarship Ray Thomas Gooch Scholarship Wells Fargo Foundation Highsmith-Rainey Alumni Nursing Scholarship Wells Fargo Fund for Excellence



Endowed Professorships & Chairs

Mary Lynn Bryan Endowed Professorship Elizabeth E. McLean Endowed Professorship

Thomas R. McLean Endowed Professorship

Col. (Ret.) David R. Nimocks Endowed Professorship

Col. (Ret.) David R. Nimocks International Professorship of Business Charles M. Reeves, Jr. Endowed Chair in Business Entrepreneurship

Lura S. Tally Endowed Professorship

Samuel J. & Norma Womack Endowed Chair in Religion & Philosophy The John W. Wyatt, Jr. Family Endowed Professorship in the Sciences

The Union-Zukowski Endowed Professorship (1)

The Union-Zukowski Endowed Professorship (2)

The Union-Zukowski Endowed Professorship (3)

Endowed Awards

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

Other Endowed Funds

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

Political Science Alumni Student Award Lura S. Tally Award for Leadership Excellence

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

Members of the President's Cabinet

Dr. Stanley T. Wearden, President; Dr. Suzanne Blum Malley, Provost; Dawn Ausborn, Vice President for Business Affairs; Dr. William Walker, Vice President for Student Affairs & Dean of Students; Rick Lowe, Vice President for Enrollment Services; Dave Eavenson, Vice President & Director of Athletics; Sheila Carr Kinsey, Vice President for Planning & Administration; Rev. Kelli Taylor, Vice President for Religious Life & Community Engagement; Dr. Quincy Malloy Sr., Chief Diversity Officer; R. Gregory Swanson, Vice President for University Advancement & Senior Counsel; Mary Leary McCants, Chief Information Officer; Dr. Kevin Swift, Faculty Representative

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

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Dorothy B. Hubbard
Jane Hook Johnson
O. Ray Manning, Jr. '73
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H. W. "Mark" Miller IV
Vance Neal
Don Price
Terri S. Union
Ramon L. Yarborough, Trustee Emeriti Chair

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M. Elton Hendricks (1983-2010)



Thank You You You

The previous 30-plus pages are a chance for Methodist University to highlight and thank everyone in our extended community for their remarkable generosity and care. Without you – and the gifts for scholarships, departments, capital improvements, and more – we would not be able to pursue the mission and vision we have for our students and university.

On behalf of the University administration, students, faculty, and staff, please know that every gift has a positive impact and we are truly appreciative.

As has been mentioned, class participation and dollar amounts given by our proud MU alumni is especially crucial, as it influences ranking and grant opportunities. We're particularly thankful for the efforts and gifts in this area.

We've certainly had a unique couple of years, but the MU community has been able to move forward together and thrive because of your support. We look forward to hearing from (and hopefully seeing) you very soon.



R. Gregory SwansonVice President for
Institutional Advancement
& Senior Counsel





Eddie Barber '68, has retired as Mayor of Emerald Isle, N.C. after serving for eight years. At his retirement, Eddie was presented with the Order of the Long Leaf Pine by Gov. Roy Cooper. U.S. Rep. Greg Murphy also presented Eddie with a resolution that was read on the floor of the U.S. House of Representatives and placed in the Congressional Record. Lastly, Eddie was gifted with flags that were flown over the U.S. Capitol and the N.C. General Assembly.

Bill Billings '68, has now written eight chapters and gathered 40 photos for his forthcoming autobiography. In 2023, he hopes to publish and market a 400-page book describing some important lessons he says he's learned over the past 76 years. From 2002-07, he wrote a history of the first 50 years of Methodist University.



Jim Darden '69, was inducted into the Sampson County Sports Club Hall of Fame as part of the 2021 class. He was a basketball standout at Clinton High School from 1962-65 before he had an outstanding career playing basketball for Methodist University. A four-year USA South Athletic All-Conference performer, Jim's name is present in many categories in the MU men's basketball record book. Jim was inducted into the Methodist University Athletic Hall of Fame in 2006.



Charles Bullard '70, has retired after a 51-year career in instrumental music education. Charles became the executive director for Michigan School Band and Orchestra Association in 2017 and served for four years before retiring July 1, 2021. Charles and his wife Brenda (Teal) Bullard '69 have been married 51 years and live in Holland, Mich.

John W. Brown '71, was named Chief Judge of the Chesapeake Circuit Court on Jan. 1, 2021, a court on which he has served since 2008. He received his juris doctorate from the Wake Forest University School of Law in 1974, and his master's in Law and Taxation from the College of William and Mary in 1980. He and his family reside in Chesapeake, Va.



Paul "Buster" Sanderford '72, was named to the Women's Basketball Hall of Fame Class of 2022 for his time in coaching. He boasts 25 seasons as a collegiate head coach with a career record of 453-189 (.709). Buster led Western Kentucky to 12 NCAA Tournament appearances including three Women's Final Fours and was the 1992 NCAA Division I national runner-up.



Allen Borgardts '83, has retired as deputy provost for Army University in Fort Leavenworth, Kan. Allen and his wife Rosalie will start their retirement with an adventure and journey the Great Loop on their Mainship Trawler, "Copacetic." They plan to complete the more than 6,000 miles by 2023 with their crew, Annie and Bear.



Becky Burleigh '89, has retired as head coach of the University of Florida's women's soccer team after 26 seasons and 427 wins. She was hired by the Gators in 1994, started the program in 1995, and won a national title four years later. Prior to joining the Florida staff, Becky won two national championships during five seasons at Berry College (Ga.). She retired at the end of the 2021 spring season and spent the early fall as interim head coach of the Orlando Pride. Becky is currently teaching classes in the College of Health and Human Performance at the university.



Chris Walker '90, joined Merit International as the president of the company's Emergency Services division. He is a nationally recognized and certified emergency manager with more than 30 years of emergency management subjectmatter expertise.



Paul Mann '92, of Northern Michigan University's School of Clinical Sciences is the 2022 recipient of the Stephen Young & Tricia Kinley Distinguished Faculty Award, NMU's top honor for significant professional contributions to teaching, scholarship, and service. Paul is an associate dean, professor, and the director of the school.



Michael Molter '94, received an M.A. in Religious Studies from Athens State University in May 2021. Michael is the webmaster at Methodist University.



Andrew Shuck '95, was named head professional at Cherry Hills Country Club (Colo.) in April 2021. He is the seventh PGA head pro in Cherry Hills history. The club has hosted three U.S. Opens, two PGA Championships, a U.S. Women's Open, a BMW Championship, and nine USGA championships overall. Andrew previously spent 10 years at Charlotte Country Club.



Scott Watts '97, joined INTEREL as senior vice president for the Americas last year. INTEREL is considered a global leader in providing award-winning hospitality guest-room automation solutions. Scott joins INTEREL after serving as president of the Americas for GuestTek Interactive Entertainment, and previously served in other leadership positions for GuestTek around the globe.



Telly Sellars '98, was appointed interim president at Big Sandy Community and Technical College (Ky.). Sellars previously served as associate vice president of Technical Education at Jefferson Community and Technical College (Ky.). He was with Jefferson for more than 19 years, serving as a faculty member and in various leadership positions. Telly also served as an adjunct faculty member at Spalding University and Lindsey Wilson College.



Dianne (Dunn) Jones '01, senior manager of client services at Maxis Advisors, has been named to the Mecklenburg Times' 2021 List of 50 Most Influential Women. Dianne joined Maxis in 2013 to provide site selection and incentives negotiation services to both privately held and publicly traded companies. Internally, she has been a strategic resource to both the business development and project management teams, ensuring excellent client relationships and successful project implementations. Her expertise has assisted several expansion and relocation projects, ranging in size from \$120,000 to \$113 million.



Tim Grady '04, wrapped up his first season as head football coach at James Kenan High School (Warsaw, N.C.). The team posted its first winning record since 2015. Tim is also an assistant pastor at Rose Hill's Free Will Pentecostal Church.



Erin (Patenaude) McKinley '04, Ph.D., RD, LDN, CLC, CHES was named the 2021 Louisiana Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics Outstanding Registered Dietitian of the Year. This is the top honor for dietitians in each state and is awarded based on outstanding service to the profession, the community, and in current didactic practice.



Jon Sherman '05, completed his first season as head football coach at Gray's Creek High School (Fayetteville, N.C.). He joined the Bears after stints at West Bladen and Purnell Swett.



Amanda Smith '06, local residential real estate broker, was installed as the 2022 president of the Longleaf Pine Realtors Association Board of Directors in Fayetteville, N.C. The association serves more than 2,400 local real estate brokers and its service area spans over many surrounding counties. Amanda was also sworn in as a National Association of Realtors Director and will represent the Longleaf Pine Realtor Association on the national level.



Kevin Swan '07, PGA Director of Golf Operations at the Club at Mediterra, in Naples, Fla., earned PGA Master Professional status – the highest educational designation that can be obtained by a PGA member. Kevin joins a special group of more than 400 PGA members who have earned the PGA Master Professional status. He achieved the designation in Golf Operations.



Shannon Alford '08, graduated from University of North Carolina at Wilmington in May 2021 with a doctorate in educational leadership and a concentration in higher education. Shannon now works as an advocacy coordinator in the Women's Center at Virginia Tech.

Andrew Ginther '08, was part of the early planning efforts supporting Operation Warp Speed. Andrew led initial efforts for the six vaccine candidates and established the planning milestones. He integrated the seven lines of effort into a time-based, networked schedule. Andrew attributes his ability to work with others in a rapidly changing environment to his time at Methodist and his experiences in the Student Government and Residence Hall Associations.



Jeremy Perkins '08, assistant principal at Rose Hill-Magnolia Elementary School, was selected as Duplin County Schools' Assistant Principal of the Year. Upon graduation from Methodist University, he returned home to teach physical education at Wallace-Rose Hill and Rose Hill-Magnolia for eight years before entering the administrative ranks. This is his sixth year in leadership.



Jamie Wicker '08M, was named provost of the Public Safety Education Division and Chief Campus Officer of the Public Safety Education Campus at Wake Technical Community College. In her role as provost, Jamie oversees both degree and non-degree programs that respond to community needs, prepare students for success, and

meet the external requirements of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACS-COC), Wake Tech's accrediting body.

Jameson Jones '09, was named an industry ambassador for Racing Pride HQ as part of the group's North American expansion to promote LGBTQ+ inclusion into motorsports. The expansion included several partnerships with You Can Play, Athlete Ally, GRIDLIFE, FCP Euro, and Out Motorsports.



LaToya Robertson '09, earned a Ph.D. from the University of Massachusetts at Dartmouth last May and served as commencement speaker. In November, LaToya was named associate dean of students and director of Divisional DEI Initiatives at the College of Wooster.



Ben Gray '09, was named Outstanding General Manager of the Year (Small Property) by the American Hotel & Lodging Foundation for his work as area general manager for Bethany Beach Ocean Suites Residence Inn by Marriott, Hotel Bethany Beach, and The Bellmoor Inn and Spa Hotel, Bethany Beach. Late last year, he was also recognized as one of Delaware Business Times' 40 Under 40.



Brian Rashley '09, took over as general manager for the Bayside Resort Golf Club, a Troon, Privé-managed, semi-private facility in Selbyville, Del. Brian has 12 years of golf and hospitality industry experience, having most recently served as general manager of Bear Trap Dunes Golf Club, a Troonmanaged and Carl M. Freeman Companiesowned club in Ocean View, Del.



Matt Lowell '10, was named director of Golf at Point Sebago Resort in Casco, Maine. Lowell returned to his home state after jobs at Silver Spring Golf Club (Conn.), Scarsdale Golf Club (N.Y.), and Vineyard Golf Club (Mass.).



Tyler Younger '13, helped the Mississippi State baseball team win the 2021 College World Series as the coordinator of player development. Before the team finished its run, he was named head coach at Gulf Coast State College in Panama City, Fla. Tyler is in his first season at the helm of the Commodores after serving as an assistant coach for the 2017 and 2018 seasons (with a three-year stint at Mississippi State in between).





Gabrielle (Isaac) Allison '15, was named to The Fayetteville Observer's 40 Under 40 for 2021 for her personal and professional growth and her involvement in the community through the City of Fayetteville's Millennial Advisory Commission, on which she serves as the chair. She previously served as the secretary and vice chair.



Lorie Smith '15M, was selected to become chief of the Garner Police Department. Sworn in at a Dec. 21 town council meeting, Lorie became the department's first female chief. She was captain in the department since 2017 and served as interim chief since Oct. 1.



David Prevatte '16M, was named Staff Member of the Year for 2020-21 at Alamance Community College. He has served as director of public safety since 2016.



Derri Stormer '16M, a member of Wake Forest University's campus police, was named an award winner for WFU's 2021 Martin Luther King Jr. "Building the Dream." Building the Dream awards are traditionally presented to a professor or administrator and a student from Wake Forest and Winston-Salem State University

(WSSU) who exemplify King's qualities and promote diversity within the community. Derri, who has worked at Wake Forest since 2016, leads its Citizens Police Academy, which epitomizes her commitment to leadership and justice by teaching faculty and staff about the work of campus police and helping to dispel fear and misunderstandings about police work.



David Kelly '17M, was selected as police chief for Morehead City Police (N.C.). David has more than 30 years of local, state, and international police experience.



Kayla (McLoughlin) Fernandez '18, was the youngest to be named to The Fayetteville Observer's 40 Under 40 for 2021. Kayla served as the Fayetteville's Millennial Advisory Commission's chair and previously as the commission's director of programs. Kayla was also recently promoted to Capability Analyst for U.S. Army Special Operations Command.



Larkin Gross '19, was named 2021 PGA of America's PGA Professional Player of the Year. Larkin, a PGA assistant professional at Springfield Golf and Country Club (Va.), had a memorable year, winning three singleday events in Middle Atlantic PGA Section play in addition to victories in the Section's PGA Professional and Assistant PGA Professional Championships, before capping it off with a fourth-place finish at the PGA Professional Championship.



Gavin Pierce '19, will attend Campbell University's College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences to pursue a doctor of pharmacy degree in the fall. Gavin majored in Biology with a concentration in Health Care.



Christian Austin '20, received the 2021 Joseph A. Alfred Mathematics Excellence Award from the University of Florida. The award is given annually to a first-year graduate student in math for their performance in the program. Christian is currently

a second-year Ph.D. student at the University of Florida studying Applied Mathematics.



Alex Kachler '20, graduated from Methodist during the height of the COVID-19 pandemic and was able to continue his baseball career at the University of North Florida. He racked up honors at UNF, being named Senior CLASS Award First Team All-American, CoSIDA First Team Academic All-

American, as well as the ASUN Conference Player of the Year and Scholar-Athlete of the Year.

ENGAGEMENTS



Andrea Daly '13, announces her engagement to Trevor Ries. Andrea and Trevor plan to marry Nov. 5, 2022. Andrea is a player engagement operations lead for PGA of America and Trevor is the head golf professional for Eldorado Country Club.



Sareena Coleman '17, announces her engagement to Alexander Hafey with plans to marry after they complete their graduate and medical programs. Sareena is a registered nurse for the University of Virginia Health System and Alexander is a medical student at the University of Virginia.



Kaytlin Hales '14, announces her engagement to Bryce Cullipher with plans to marry on April 22, 2023. Kaytlin is a teacher and athletic trainer for Johnston County Schools and Bryce is a welder.



Kaitlynn Gray '17, announces her engagement to Timothy Singer. Kaitlyn is the community outreach and development coordinator for Westminster-Canterbury on Chesapeake Bay.



Danielle Reid '14, announces her engagement to Robert Beckett. Danielle is an occupational therapist for Salisbury National Health Service Foundation Trust and Robert is a staff sergeant in the British Army.



Brittney Leggett '17, announces her Sept. 24, 2020 engagement to Alexander Rabre. Brittney works for Atlantic Telecom and Alexander is an epidemiologist and public health analyst for RTI.



Abbi Carpenter '17, announces her engagement to Hunter Davis with plans to marry May 6, 2022. Abbi is a dental territory manager for Align Technology (Invisalign) and Hunter is an engineer for Davis & Sons Construction.



Alyssa Coffey '19 and **Bryant Goodwin '19** announce their engagement, which took place May 17, 2021.



Taylor Jackson '21 and Joshua Deutsch '20 announce their engagement with plans to marry June 25, 2022. Taylor is an event contractor and Joshua is a tennis professional for Royal Oaks Country Club.



BIRTH ANNOUNCEMENTS



Ashley (Baggett) Such '11, '12M and her husband Trey '12, '13M, welcomed their son, Wyatt, on July 26, 2021. He weighed 7 pounds, 6 ounces, and measured 22.5 inches.



Eli Neal '13 and his wife, Lindsay, welcomed their child Harper Ryan on Oct. 7, 2021. She weighed 8 pounds, 4 ounces, and measured 21.5 inches.



Brittany (Verner) Turnage '12 and her husband Christian, welcomed their child Cameron on Nov. 3, 2020. Brittany is an operations assistant for Gallman Personnel Services and Christian works for Starbucks.



Cassidy (Conley) Polak '14, '17M and her husband, Jonathan, welcomed their daughter, Aspen, on Sept. 15. 2021.
Aspen weighed 6 pounds, 12 ounces, and measured 20.5 inches.



Emily (Huneycutt) Bruns '13 and her husband Robert '12 welcomed their first child, Madalyn, on June 14, 2021. Madalyn weighed 7 pounds, 7 ounces, and measured 20 inches. Emily is a pharmacist with the Veterans Affairs Medical Center and Robert is the head golf professional at Trinity Forest Golf Club in Dallas, Texas.

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

Alanna (Anderson) Giacomini '18 and her husband, **Christopher '17**, welcomed their second daughter, Cassidy, on Jan. 11, 2022. She weighed 8 pounds, 9 ounces, and measured 20 inches.



Stephanie (Wood) Honeycutt '13 and her husband, Tyler, celebrated the birth of their second daughter, MaryTyler, on Oct. 2, 2021. She weighed 7 pounds, 4 ounces, and measured 20 inches. Stephanie is a physical education teacher for Cumberland County Schools.

WEDDINGS



Brenda Vandervort and Harry Miller, Jr. were married Oct. 30, 2021, in Fayetteville, N.C. The wedding party included Shelley Bennett, Bradley Laub '01, Jennifer (Lyons) Lecuyer '99 and Kristina Rodriguez '99. Brenda is an elite corporate travel consultant and Harry is a teacher.



Brian Conover '02 and Nathalia Veale were married June 26, 2021, in Harrington, Del. Charlie Fisher '01 and Jason Wabick '02 were groomsmen. Brian is the director of operations for Peter J. Chipouras, CFP, and Nathalia is a clinical program manager/director for Children's National Medical Center.



Kim McCall '05 married Adam Dresser at Carolina Trace Country Club in Sanford, N.C. on March 27, 2021. Kim works at Central Carolina Community College as an academic coach.



Shannon Alford '08 married Vivek Shastry on Oct. 15, 2021, at Blacksburg Country Club in Virginia. Shannon and Vivek both work at Virginia Tech.



Marissa Hippenmeyer '13 and Anthony Holdaway '13 got married Sept. 25, 2021, at Chota Falls in Clayton, Ga. The wedding party included Nick Aubrey '13 and Stephanie (Ongley) Frisina '13. Marissa is a client associate for Wells Fargo and Anthony is a financial advisor for Merrill Lynch.



Whitney Walker '13 married Dylan LeBel on June 6, 2021, in Rancho Santa Fe, Calif. Jessica (Tennant) Aubrey, Kalie (Ludvigsen) Tangredi '15, and Megan (Tingler) Wagner '14 were in the wedding party. Whitney works for The Knot & WeddingWire as an account executive (Venue Canada) and Dylan is a senior

graphic designer for Wrapify.



Michael Judge '14 and Hailey Machen were married Nov. 13, 2021, in Manquin, Va. Josh Ayers '14, Chris Barger '15, and Mikie Morrison '14 were in the wedding party. Michael is a physical education teacher for Prince William County Schools and Hailey is a surgical technologist for Inova Hospital.



Stephanie Grisi '15 married Steven Wolf on Oct. 23, 2021, in Buzzards Bay, Mass. Taylor Murphy '15 was a bridesmaid and Cameron Taylor '13 was a groomsman. Stephanie and Steven have recently relocated to Virginia.



Nicole Hardin '15 and Peter Wildeboer '17 were married in Toccoa, Ga. on Jan. 11, 2020. The wedding party included Joshua Clarke '15, Joshua Lee '16, Alyssa Like '17, and Taylor (Sluss) Vann '16.





Emily Talley '15 married Cole Pace on Nov. 13, 2021, in San Angelo, Texas. Emily is a flight attendant for American Airlines and Cole is a senior product delivery consultant for Health Care Service Corporation.



Caitlin Young '19 and Sam Pollard '19 were married in Holly Springs, N.C.
Caitlin is a regulatory publisher for Aquila Solutions and Sam is a social work case manager for Middle Flint Behavioral Health Care.



Charè Perkins '16 and Kaneill Smith '19 were married March 26, 2022, after meeting in the Berns Student Center at MU. Charè is a global human manager for Bandwith and Kaneill is an implementation specialist for Prometheus Group.



Kelby West '20 and Sean Hardy '19 were married May 22, 2021 in Jacksonville, Fla. The wedding party included: Brent Breedlove '18, Macrae Conrad '21, DJ DeCotis '21, Mary Dunn '19, '22D, Mallory (Stonesifer) Hardy '19, Ryan Hardy '19, and Tyler Ursuy '18. Kelby is a math teacher for Riverside High School and Sean is a graduate student.



Faith Bowen '18 and Davey Pittard '17 were married July 11, 2020 in Harkers Island, N.C. Dustin Autry '11, Katharine Flournoy '18, Adam Hickerson '18, Gabrielle Wentling '17, Elizabeth Wise '18 '20M, and Joel Wise '12 were in the wedding party. Faith is a medical student at Edward Via College of Osteopathic Medicine – Carolinas Campus and Davey

works for North Carolina State Employees Credit Union.



Blair Bowden '21 and Khalil Purely were married Sept. 25, 2021 in Fayetteville, N.C. The father of the bride is **Henry Bowden** '88. Blair is working as a maternal child health registered nurse. ■



Emily Bledsoe '19 married Jack Holloway '20 in Fayetteville, N.C. on June 12, 2021. Ryan Bledsoe '15 was an honorary groomsman, and Mary Allen '19 and Amanda Allred '18 were bridesmaids. Emily is a self-employed voice teacher and singer, and Jack is working as a tennis professional at Highland Country Club.

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methodist.edu/alumni/class-notes



Harvey Dale Meeks '64, 79, of Phoenix, Ariz., died Oct. 4, 2021. Dale retired from federal civil service as the associate director of Community Relations Service for the U.S. Department of Justice.



Jerry Dean Daughtry '65, 78, of Dunn, N.C., died March 12, 2021. Jerry was a 2nd Lieutenant U.S. Army and Vietnam veteran who retired from Nationwide Insurance as vice president of State Operations. He earned a bachelor's degree in History at Methodist and enjoyed playing golf, fishing, woodworking,

traveling, and was a great baker.

Edmund Lilly Grady, Jr. '65, 83, of Fayetteville, N.C., died Dec. 23, 2021. He was a U.S. Army veteran and graduate of Staunton Military Academy and Methodist University. He worked for MJ Soffe for many years before retiring. Edmund was also an avid hunter, golfer, and angler.



Doris D'Lugin Rulnick '65, 95, died Sept. 9, 202, in Fayetteville, N.C.. Doris started college much earlier but was interrupted by WWII (and then family). After Doris graduated from Methodist, she went on to become a French teacher.



William "Bill" W. Hewlett '66, 77, of Woodmere, N.Y., died Jan. 31, 2021. After attending Methodist, Bill went on to become a probation officer for Nassau County (N.Y.) for roughly 30 years. He was also a 54-year member of the volunteer Woodmere Fire Department.



Robert C. "Bob" Palfrey, 78, of Stratham, N.H., died Jan. 9, 2022. Bob was a proud veteran of the U.S. Coast Guard. He ran the food shack known as Palfrey's Palace for many years and was a former member of the Stratham Volunteer Fire Department. Bob retired from Verizon as a long-range planner

and decided that he did not want to sit behind a desk again, so he started a painting company.



James M. "Jimmy" Zeigler '67, 80, of Richmond, Va., died Jan. 4, 2022. Jimmy was a Richmond-area custom home builder and developer for more than 40 years. In his leisure time, he enjoyed collecting antique muscle cars. He is survived by his wife of 56 years and fellow alumnus, Fran (Abell) Zeigler '65.



Jane Miravelle Carnes, 73, of Charlotte, N.C., died Jan. 15, 2022. After working in Raleigh and Richmond for a few years, Jane moved to Charlotte. She and her husband built a successful business, Selwyn Jewelers. In the 90s, Jane began walking in her neighborhood to help heal a back problem and earned the

nickname "Walking Jane."



David Melvin Holmes '68, 75, of Lumberton, N.C., died Nov. 12, 2021. David last worked as an instructor for adults with special needs at Fayetteville Technical Community College. During David's time at Methodist, he was a member of Circle K International (sponsored by Kiwanis Club) and the Spanish Club and

served as sophomore class vice president.



Ernest H. "Hilton" Newman, 74, died July 22, 2021. During his college years, Hilton worked in maintenance at the Clinton Airport, got his instructor license at Raleigh Durham Airport, and flew B-17s with his older brother to fight fires in North Carolina, Idaho, and Alaska. Hilton went on to graduate from Wake Forest

Law School. He spent time as an assistant district attorney and in private practice before he returned to his calling to be a pilot. He joined Piedmont Airlines, became a captain, and then retired from U.S. Airways after 27 years of commercial flying.



Brenda L. (Phillips) Hughes, 73, of Newport, N.C., died Dec. 29, 2021. After teaching for a few years in Kinston, she returned to her beloved Carteret County home. Brenda combined her love of teaching and the Lord by substituting and teaching Sunday school and Bible classes throughout the community.



Carlos Vance McCracken '69, 74, of Hilton Head, S.C., died Sept. 30, 2021. Carlos was an avid tennis player and owned Mac Sports Travel, a company that specialized in arranging customized sports tour packages to any sporting event including NFL, MLB, Golf, Tennis, and NASCAR.





Miranda "Randy" Puckett Roberts '69, 74, of Roanoke, Va., died July 4, 2021. Randy was an elementary school teacher in Newport News, Va. She served as a Sunday school teacher, deacon, and elder at First Presbyterian Church.



Carl E. Stapleton '69, 74, of Spartanburg, S.C., died March 27, 2021. Carl spent more than 20 years in Portsmouth, Va., where he sold marine paint for Navy vessels, primarily at Anderson Paint, where his colleagues became family.



Edward D. Williams '69, 74, of Newport, N.C., died May 3, 2021. After graduation, Ed went to work for the N.C. Division of Vocational Rehabilitation. Upon retirement, Ed and his wife, Gay (Inman) Williams '69, moved to Bogue, N.C. where he spent most of his time golfing and fishing.

Allie Garnett "Al" Edwards, III '70, 76, of Southern Pines, N.C., died Feb. 15, 2021. After graduating from Methodist, Al worked for more than 33 years with the state of North Carolina as a bank examiner. He enjoyed fishing, watching NASCAR, and getting together with friends.



Jean L. Jessup '70, 74, of Dunn, N.C., died May 31, 2021. After graduating from Methodist, she became a servant to her community by being a pioneer in the field of social work for more than 31 years. She is survived by her husband, Julian Jessup '64.

Kay Nethercutt Meadows '70, 72, died April 29, 2021. After graduating from Methodist, Kay completed a master's in Education at East Carolina University and a six-year advanced degree in Reading Curriculum and Instruction. Kay's career as a teacher spanned 31 years in the Wayne County Public School System.



Carol Williams Lucas '71, 73, of Wade, N.C., died Dec. 21, 2021. Carol was an educator in the Cumberland and Sampson County School Systems. She most recently taught part time at Eastover Central Elementary School. She had been teaching for 50 years prior to her passing.



James T. Martin, III, 71, of Sewell, N.J., died June 2, 2021. James served in the Army National Guard and then earned a master's in Mechanical Engineering from Drexel University while working for Atlantic City Electric and being a father to his children. He worked for Atlantic City Electric and Peco

before becoming an independent consultant for several years prior to his retirement.



Sarah "Carlene" Petree, 72, of Winston-Salem, N.C., died April 2, 2021. She attended Methodist and completed practical nurse training before spending several years in Salt Lake City working in hospitals. Her favorite job was working as a nanny. She loved children, and they loved her.



Ronald Allison Thompson '71, 74, of Sunset Beach, N.C., died Sept. 12, 2021. A devoted husband and father, Ron retired as a quality control engineer from AMP, Inc., in 2000. Ron and his wife, Connie (Underwood) Thompson '69, relocated to Sunset Beach, N.C. to enjoy the beach and the many golf courses in the area.



E. Lewis Cummings, 71, of Lillington, N.C., died March 23, 2022. While attending Methodist, where he played basketball, Lewis was drafted to serve in the U.S. Army. He honorably served for two years in Washington, D.C., where he was awarded the Army Commendation Medal for his exemplary service.

After he returned home and finished his degree, Lewis finished his career teaching and coaching until his retirement in 2010.



Edith Louise "Pat" (Campbell) Lancaster '72, 71, of Aberdeen, N.C., died July 30, 2021. She earned a bachelor's degree in Education at Methodist and a master's degree in Education from Pembroke State University. She taught in Moore County Schools for more than 30 years, specializing in middle school reading and writing.



Billie Pomeroy Widman '72, 86, of Fayetteville, N.C., died April 8, 2021. Billie attended Methodist, where she graduated summa cum laude and earned a teaching degree with double majors in Language Arts and French. Billie went on to attend East Carolina University, eventually earning two master's degrees. She retired in July

1999 after more than 30 years as a school media coordinator.

IN MEMORY (CONT.)



Celia Elizabeth (Edwards) Yarborough '72, 91, of Fayetteville, N.C., died Dec. 7, 2021. Celia moved to Fayetteville at an early age and attended Fayetteville City schools and graduated from Methodist with an Education degree.

Glen J. Cronrath '73, 70, died Jan. 25, 2022. Glen will be remembered as wonderful husband, father, grandfather, and friend and will be dearly missed by those who knew and loved him.



Lloyd Allen Koonce '73, 73, of Jacksonville, N.C., died on May 7, 2021. Lloyd served in the U.S. Army and was a Vietnam veteran. After his service, he returned home and completed his bachelor's degree in Business Administration. He was a renowned businessman and was the proud owner of

Margolis Men's Store for the past 35 years.



Edward Gilbert Odom, Jr. '73, 71, of Fayetteville, N.C., died May 27, 2021. After graduating from Methodist, Edward started a lengthy career with the postal service in Fayetteville and completed his career as Postmaster in Sanford, N.C. He retired to Little River, S.C.

Douglas Franklin Ricks '73, 78, of Eagle, Idaho, died Jan. 2, 2021.



Panthia Helen Buie "Peggy" Collier '74, 82, of Fayetteville, N.C., died April 24, 2021. When her youngest of four children grew to preschool age, Peggy returned to complete her collegiate studies and graduated from Methodist. She then began a 21-year teaching career with the Cumberland County School

System. Upon retirement from teaching, Peggy assumed the duties as an office manager for the Collier Insurance Agency until retirement.



Maj. (Ret.) Russell Delbert Cox '74, 88, of Fayetteville, N.C., died on April 12, 2021. He retired from the U.S. Army at Fort Bragg, N.C., after serving 22 years. He was a veteran of the Korean War and served two tours in Vietnam. He was awarded numerous decorations, including the Bronze Star.



Harold Gordon McClellan, 69, of Fayetteville, N.C., died Nov. 27, 2021. Harold was a business owner and custom cabinetmaker.



Lt. Col. (Ret.) John T. Thompson '74, 78, of San Antonio, died Jan. 13, 2022. Upon graduating high school, he enlisted in the U.S. Army and was trained as an infantry officer while attending Methodist, where he earned a bachelor's degree in Sociology. After 25 years of military service, John retired in 1986. Upon

returning home, he worked in professional filing systems for PPS.



Sgt. Maj. (Ret.) Harvey Lee Burns '75, 90, of Fayetteville, N.C., died Feb. 6, 2021. Harvey was born in Mississippi and joined the military so he could see the world. He proudly served his country for more than 24 years. He then went on to teach JROTC, prepare taxes through H&R Block, and volunteered at the

U.S. Army Airborne & Special Operations Museum.



Master Sgt. (Ret.) Samuel Proctor Hubbard '75, 74, of Fayetteville, N.C., died April 12, 2021. Sammy graduated from Methodist in 1975 with bachelor's degrees in Psychology and History before becoming a supervisor in the Military Maintenance Division at Fort Bragg. He served his country for 30 years in

the U.S. Army Reserves.



Maj. (Ret.) Arthur H. Gensheimer '76, 78, of Lawrenceburg, Ind., died Dec. 12, 2021. Arthur was a decorated retired major of the U.S. Air Force and devoted husband and father. He was a member of the Lawrenceburg American Legion Post #239, an avid stamp collector, and loved to read.



Milton "Tom" Thomas Gibson '77, 87, of Fayetteville, N.C., died March 23, 2021. The two most important priorities in Tom's life were his family and his country. He joined the National Guard while still in high school and enlisted in the Army in 1953. Tom also spent many years being an avid scuba diver and instructor.





Rev. James Erven Heath '77, 69, of New Bern, N.C., died Feb. 5, 2022. James was pastor of Bethel World Prayer Fellowship in New Bern.

Edwin Lee Pavalski '79, 66, of Fayetteville, N.C., died Aug. 7, 2021. Edwin commissioned as an officer in the branch of Field Artillery when he graduated from Methodist. After serving in the Army, Edwin continued his life journey within the fast food and retail industries as a manager at diverse, national chains. He is survived by his three children, including alumna Nicole Pavalski '10.



Jane Harris Barker '81, 66, of Clarksville, Tenn., died Dec. 26, 2021. She was a faithful Army spouse for 22 years and traveled with her husband all over the world. Jane taught school in West Berlin, Germany, and was a woman of many talents. In Clarksville, she worked as a realtor at Alliance Realty.



Margaret Cornelius "Molly" Haigh '82, 84, died Feb. 3, 2022. She worked many years for the Cumberland County School System as an aid, and later, after going to school at night while also raising a family, she earned her degree in education from Methodist and taught fifth grade for many years at Cliffdale Elementary School.



Everett "Reggie" Slicker '82, 61, of Fayetteville, N.C., died Dec. 25, 2021. He retired from Robeson County Schools as a business and marketing teacher. Previously he taught at E.E. Smith, Pine Forest, Southview, and St. Pauls High Schools. His daughter, Brandy Slicker, attended Methodist.

Earl Ray Bleacher '86, 85, of Fayetteville, N.C., died March 30, 2021.



Gregory Pickett '86, 56, of Shallotte, N.C., died Jan. 19, 2021. Greg studied Business Administration and played baseball during his time at Methodist. He is survived by his three daughters.



Pamela Sue Hoff '88, 60, of Fayetteville, N.C., died Aug. 28, 2021. After graduating from Methodist with a degree in Business Administration, Pam went on to work for Cumberland County Schools as a financial officer until her retirement.



Terry Eugene Farr, Sr. '89, 71, of Fayetteville, N.C., died March 12, 2022. Terry proudly served 20 years in the U.S. Air Force before he enrolled at Methodist and earned two bachelor's degrees. He had a love of teaching and was a man of many trades, including locksmithing and real estate. Terry was a

grand knight in Knights of Columbus. He had a love for magic tricks, going as far as to become a magician and hypnotist.



Rickey Hill '90, 54, died Sept. 20, 2021. While a student at Methodist, Rickey was a member of the Methodist cheerleading team and in 2018 he was recognized at the MU Hall of Fame with the 1986 cheerleading team as a Team of Distinction. Rickey also spent five years as the head cheer and dance coach at

Methodist from 1999-2004.

Ray F. St. Onge '90, 72, of Fayetteville, N.C., died Jan. 28, 2021. Ray joined the U.S. Army and served for 22 years until his retirement in Fort Bragg, N.C.



David P. Williamson, 50, of Absecon, N.J., died Jan. 11, 2022. After an injury his freshman year at Methodist, Dave returned home and continued to play ball in the ACBL and the Northfield Men's league. Dave spent the last 30 years as South Jersey's favorite bug guy. He started his career with Western Pest

Control in 1991 and joined the family business, Pro Active Termite and Pest Control, in 2004.

Clifford Overby, Jr. '93, 66, of Raeford, N.C., died June 9, 2021. After graduating from Methodist, Cliff went on to work for PanAm at Fort Bragg. After getting married in 1997, he and his wife moved to Raeford and started their own sign company, Friendly Reminders, Inc.



Alan "Dwayne" Walters, 52, of Fayetteville, N.C., died Sept.13, 2021. Dwayne worked in retail for most of his life and a short time with the public school system. His passion was mentoring young adults through his ministry.

IN MEMORY (CONT.)



Senior Master Sgt. (Ret) Donald "Don" W. East, Jr. '95, 74, of Fayetteville, N.C., died Nov.1, 2021. Don decided to follow in his father's footsteps and join the military, where he served 26 years in the Air Force before retiring as senior master sergeant in 1992. In 1970, Don received the highest medal, a Silver Star, for his

courageous actions while serving in the Vietnam War in Northern Cambodia. After retiring from the military, Don's passion for golf led him to attend Methodist where he earned his degree and spent time as the general manager at King's Grant Golf & Country Club and Florence Golf & Country Club before retiring for good.



Richard Eric Fuqua '95, 71, of Fayetteville, N.C., died Aug. 31, 2021. Richard graduated from Methodist with a degree in Social Work and went on to work as a case manager for many years for community and social services to enhance the community's health, safety, and well-being.

Carina Lindley '97, 100, died in Chamberlain, S.D., in June 2021. Carina was 78 when she graduated from Methodist. She was born in England and spent time working at the BBC before driving military trucks for Holland during World War II. Her first husband died in a plane crash and Carina moved to the U.S. to marry an American soldier. She spent the majority of the last 68 years in South Dakota.



Maj. (Ret.) Ali H. Johnson '99, 49, died Oct. 25, 2021. Ali spent 26 years in the U.S. Army. His military service included many assignments and deployments to include Afghanistan and Iraq. Ali was awarded the Legion of Merit Medal among several distinguished awards. After Methodist,

he went on to receive a master's in Public Policy from the University of Missouri in St. Louis in 2005.



Patrick Nealley Kelly '00, 45, died Feb. 10, 2022. He kicked off his golf career the same month he graduated from Methodist. Patrick started at Nags Head Golf Links as a cart boy and advanced to head professional and general manager.



Deborah Annette (Erskine) King '00, 68, of Fayetteville, N.C., died Sept. 6, 2021. Deborah graduated from the physician's assistant program in 2000.



Priscilla A. Sellers '00, 41, of Fayetteville, N.C., died March 3, 2022. Priscilla studied Education at Methodist.



Zachary M. "Zach" Johnson '01, 42, of Jeffersonville, Ind., died Oct. 31, 2021. Zach was a PGA golf professional and the head golf professional at Valley View Golf Club. He was the team clinician for the Providence High School Golf Team and a member St. Augustine Catholic Church.



Alexander "Alex" Rovillos Fernandez '03, 65, of Hubert, N.C., died March 29, 2021. Alex enlisted in the U.S. Army in 1982. He retired in 2004 with an honorable discharge, after graduating cum laude from Methodist University in 2003 with a bachelor's degree in Accounting. He continued working in public

service by joining the U.S. Census Bureau as a management analyst until 2018, before retiring a second time.



Ryan A. Hayden '05, 38, of Lake Mary, Fla., died Oct. 26, 2021. Ryan was a golf professional who helped develop Neurolearning Golf Live with Michael Hebron. He was also co-founder of Olea Mediterranean Gril in Central Florida and co-authored the book, "Blindfold Economics."



Dr. Jose Carlos Neiva "Zeca Silva" de Carvalho e Silva '06M, 69, of Greensboro,
N.C. and Botucatu, Sao Paulo Brazil, died
Feb. 27, 2022. Zeca became a U.S. citizen in
2005 and received a Master of Medical Science
from Methodist in 2006. In the United States,
he achieved recognition of his Brazilian

medical degree through the Education Commission for Foreign Medical Graduates. Zeca enjoyed practicing medicine in both countries and retired in 2014, finishing his career back in Brazil at Clinica Petala in Botucatu.





Kevin L. Hyde '12, 44, of Fayetteville, N.C., died Aug. 9, 2021. Kevin was in the U.S. Navy and served on the U.S.S. Cole. Kevin survived a bombing on the ship on Oct. 12, 2000. Kevin loved being a friend and was devoted to his family and children.



Cori A. Abbott, 26, of Bowling Green, Fla., died Feb. 16, 2022. Cori studied biology at Methodist and was a part of the 2014 cheer team that claimed first place at Cheer Ltd. Nationals at CANAM in Myrtle Beach, S.C. Cori was a Charcot Marie Tooth Disease (CMT) national spokeswoman, accomplished

equestrian, and animal advocate.

Jermiel U. Covington, 50, of Fayetteville, N.C., died Dec. 7, 2021. Jermiel is survived by his wife and former staff member, Charlene Warren Covington and two children including library circulation assistant, Kwasi Zaire Covington.



Sean Aeryk MacDonald '15, 28, of Manchester, N.H., died Sept. 8, 2021. After college, Sean worked on his uncle's farm before he went back home to New Hampshire where he married and became a father. Most recently, Sean was working as a fire sprinkler installer for Blackwater Fire Suppression and was continuing

to enjoy his passion for soccer as a Seacoast United soccer coach.



Paul Justin Sinclair Coleman, PA-C '16M, 54, of Raleigh, N.C., died March 4, 2021. Born in Wolverhampton (UK), Paul moved to the U.S. when he was 11 and chose to become a naturalized citizen in 2003. After his accreditation as a physician assistant, he practiced in many underserved communities,

most recently with the N.C. Department of Corrections.



Penelope "Penny" Griffin-Cashwell '16, 48, died Jan. 23, 2022. Penny spent many years in retail management before making a career change in 2012. She graduated from Methodist with a bachelor's in Middle School Education. Penny was teaching at Westover High School in Fayetteville.



Lee Richard Letarte, Jr., 34, of Fayetteville, N.C., died July 14, 2021. Lee had a passion for music and was an accomplished concert photographer and videographer. Lee will be remembered for his artistic mind, giving heart, and compassion towards others.



Gabrielle "Gabby" Nicole Singer, 21, of Fayetteville, N.C., died Jan. 20, 2021. Gabby worked as a certified nurse aide on the frontlines against COVID-19 at Whispering Pines Nursing and Rehab. She graduated from Pine Forest High School and attended Methodist, dreaming of one day becoming a doctor and helping people.



Robert J. Skvorecz "Skorr" '18, 26, died Aug. 10, 2021. Rob grew up in New Jersey but had spent the last six years working for Aspen Golf Club in Aspen, Colo. as an assistant golf professional. Robert was a true outdoorsman, when he was not at the golf club, he could be found climbing mountains both summer and winter.



Hennessey Alize' Smith '21, 20, of Clarksville, Tenn., died Oct. 17, 2021. As a military child, Hennessey spent most of her childhood in Germany experiencing many different opportunities to travel and explore. Hennessey was a junior majoring in Biology and was awarded a posthumous degree.

Board of Trustees



George W. Miller, Jr., 91, of Durham, N.C., died Dec. 15, 2021. A graduate of UNC Chapel Hill '54 and the UNC School of Law '57, George served in the U.S. Marine Corps from 1951 to 1953 during the Korean conflict. He practiced law as a partner in the firm of Haywood, Denny, and Miller in Durham for 64 years. He was

inducted into the American College of Trial Lawyers in 1987. He was first elected to the N.C. House of Representatives in 1971. He served continuously until 2000. During his tenure, he served as chair of several committees, including Highway Safety, Insurance, Judiciary, and Finance. His papers are preserved in the Southern Historical Collection at the Louis Round Wilson Special Collections Library at UNC. He was recognized with numerous awards for his service and legislation over the years. George served on the Board of Trustees from 1999 until his death.

Board of Trustees Spouse



Virginia Lilly Yarborough, 86, of Fayetteville, N.C., died Dec. 5, 2021. Virginia served on the Board of Directors of Fayetteville Publishing Company and volunteered and supported many organizations and projects that enhanced the quality of life for others in Fayetteville. She was a founding member and the first treasurer of

the Junior Service League of Fayetteville and a member of the Colonial Dames of America. She is survived by her husband and Trustee Emeritus, Ramon L. Yarborough, Sr.

IN MEMORY (CONT.)

Trustees Emeriti



Rev. Dr. Brian Glynn Gentle, 85, of Durham, N.C., died April 5, 2022. Born in Melbourne, Australia, Brian moved to the U.S. after college and enrolled in Yale Divinity School. He completed his master's degree at Colombia University and doctorate at Duke University. Brian married Arden Bishop and served

successive United Methodist pastorates in North Carolina. He served on the Methodist University Board of Trustees from 2000 to 2012 and was subsequently named Trustee Emeritus.



Dr. Frank Palmer Stout, 77, of Fayetteville, N.C., died March 6, 2021. Though his father had established a foundation in real estate development, Frank was inspired to pursue a career in dentistry. He graduated from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and the University of North Carolina

at Chapel Hill School of Dentistry, then earned a Master of Dental Surgery degree in Orthodontics from Boston University in 1970. He returned to Fayetteville, where he practiced orthodontics from 1970 until his retirement in 1998. In 1996, he and his wife, Carolyn, made a major gift to Methodist that led to the construction of Joe W. Stout Hall, named in memory of his father, which today houses the University's Enrollment Services. He was named Methodist University's 2007 Businessman of the Year and was awarded the Order of the Long Leaf Pine in 2016, the highest civilian honor in the state. He served on the Board of Trustees at Methodist University for 16 years before being named Trustee Emeritus and was an active member of the American Dental Association for 41 years and the American Association of Orthodontics for 37 years.

Donors/Scholarship Contacts



Gerald "Jerry" Lynn Ellison, MD, 83, of Fayetteville, N.C., died Jan. 7, 2022. Jerry graduated from American University and George Washington University School of Medicine in Washington, D.C. Upon the completion of a three-year residency, he joined the Radiology staff at Cape Fear Valley Medical Center in

Fayetteville, N.C., and practiced there until his retirement in 2003. Jerry was an avid art collector and served on various non-profit boards in Fayetteville. He and his wife, Naoma, have been devoted supporters of the arts in the Fayetteville community and Methodist University for many years. They were honored with the Methodist University medallion in 2017 for their support.



Margaret Cotton (Harriss) Foote, 82, of New Bern, N.C., died March 1, 2022. Though always an active member of the United Methodist Church, Margaret did not receive her calling into the ministry until later in life. The last appointment she served was at Rhems UMC and then Beach Grove UMC, from which she

retired. She was a fervent supporter of the scholarship established in memory of her first husband, George N. Harriss III.



Margie I. (Groce) Mann, 98, of Lee County, N.C., died recently. Margie not only lovingly raised a large family, but she also participated in helping manage Mann's Hardware and kept a deep involvement in the Methodist Church. She began her work in the church in 1949 and served the North Carolina Conference United

Methodist Women including a stint as president. She was elected as a delegate to three general conferences and once to the World Methodist Conference. In 1982, Methodist honored her with its Medallion for her significant service to the women of the North Carolina Conference and the general church.



Frances "Fran" Bellamy McMillan, 86, of Raleigh, N.C., died Feb. 2, 2021. Fran taught in the North Carolina Public Schools in numerous cities for over 25 years. She was preceded in death by her husband and high school sweetheart, Rev. Dr. Samuel D. McMillan, Jr., a former member of the Board

of Trustees. When Rev. Dr. McMillan died in 2002, Frances established the McMillan Endowed Scholarship.



Donald Lionel Melvin, 86, of Fayetteville, N.C., died Oct. 11, 2021. He was the longtime comptroller with Cape Fear Building Supply. He loved to golf, spending many hours on golf courses. He worked on Sundays for many years was as a Sunday school teacher. Don and his family have been longtime supporters of the

Joseph Gray & Elizabeth Horne Melvin Endowed Scholarship.





Lt. Col. (Ret.) Charles Ray Pittman, 88, of Greenville, S.C., and formerly of Fayetteville, N.C. and Dothan, Ala., died Dec. 20, 2021. He was called to the ministry as a teenager and was ordained in the United Methodist Church as a pastor in 1954. Joining the U.S. Army as a chaplain in 1961, Charles served his country

until retirement in 1993 as a lieutenant colonel, after which he applied his master's degrees in Counseling and Divinity as a high school guidance counselor at Seventy-First High School in Fayetteville, N.C. He also preached from time to time at Hay Street UMC and Trinity UMC in Fayetteville, N.C. and established the Titus E. Pittman Scholarship at MU in memory of his father.



Lester Jean (Batchelor) Wilkins, 85, of Fayetteville, N.C., died March 26, 2021. Lester was a devoted second-grade teacher for 40 years, most of which was spent at Pope Elementary School on Ft. Bragg. She is survived by her son, Lester "Meredith" Wilkins '93, an alumnus of Methodist.

Former Faculty/Staff



Enelrae "Nell" Collier, 59, died on Feb. 25, 2021. Nell worked in the Housekeeping Department at Methodist University for more 22 years. She was known for her big heart and willingness to help people.



Donald V. Fellers, Jr., 69, of Southport, N.C., died Nov. 13, 2021. Don served as assistant women's basketball coach and was recognized as part of the Team of Distinction in the 2019 MU Athletic Hall of Fame. His daughter, Amanda Hinton '98, and daughter-in-law, Alyson Fellers '02, are both Methodist

graduates.



Paul J. Joseph, 57, of Fayetteville, N.C., died Jan. 30, 2022. Associate professor of communication, Paul had taught at Methodist University since 1996, serving as chair of the Mass Communication department for almost 10 years. He introduced computer-based video editing at Methodist in 1998 and built the

University's first video and radio facilities.



Lorenzo F. Josephs, 73, of Fayetteville, N.C., died June 13, 2021. Lorenzo served as a campus security officer from 2003-15 and is best remembered for his friendly smile and enthusiastic wave for everyone who drove through the Welcome Center. Originally from Panama, Lorenzo immigrated to the U.S. to

study before joining the 82nd Airborne Division of the U.S. Army in 1970.



Dr. Donald S. Kline, Sr., 91, of Wilson, N.C., died Oct. 25, 2021. Dr. Kline taught Economics at Methodist and is father to **Donald Kline, Jr.** '92.



Kelley McGonnell Lash, 46, of Houston, died Feb. 21, 2022. Lash served as director of Student Media at Methodist in 2002.



Lt. Col. (Ret.) Henry "Sonny" Peoples, Jr., 73, of Henderson, N.C., died Dec. 19, 2021. After retiring from the U.S. Army as a Lieutenant Colonel, Sonny served as an adjunct professor at Methodist.



Cory R. Plowden, age 30, of Fayetteville, N.C., died Oct. 5, 2021. Cory worked at Methodist in the maintenance division from 2010-2012.



Rev. Arnold Pope, Sr., 89, of Stedman, N.C., died Sept. 30, 2021. "Dean Pope" was a minister in the United Methodist Church and joined Methodist in 1968, first as Dean of Men, then Dean of Student Life before switching to full-time teaching in the Religion department. His son, Thomas A. Pope, Jr. '78 and daughter-in-

law, Margaret F. Pope '78, are both alumni.

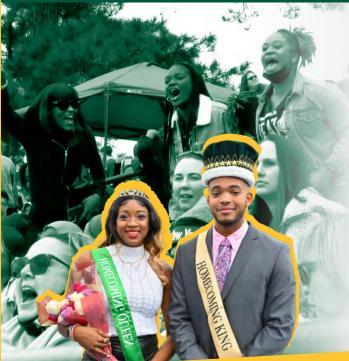


Phillip C. Smith, Jr., 98, of Wilmington, N.C., died Aug. 27, 2021. After retirement from the Navy, Phillip served as a librarian at Methodist from 1967-69, after which he served in the library at UNC Wilmington until his retirement.



DAMECOMING

Campus was bustling with excitement on Oct. 29 and 30 for Homecoming 2021. This weekend was long-awaited, especially after COVID-19 had made a 2020 celebration impossible. Though many alumni, family, and friends came to campus on the weekend to enjoy football and soccer games, alumni gatherings, and time with friends, the campus celebrated all week long. From a Homecoming potluck sponsored by Religious Life to a Pep Rally put on by SAC and SGA, not a day went by without a special event to celebrate the Monarchs.



All Hail the King and Queen

Methodist University's students crowned Quez Harrell and Chakalyn "Tink" Patterson 2021 Homecoming King and Queen. The king and queen, along with the entire homecoming court, were announced during halftime at the football game.

The court also included:

Matthew Parker, Prince Lauryn Fisher, Princess Iordan Bediako, Duke Sarah Jackson, Duchess Asheton Bennett, Marquess Zariah Mosely, Marchioness

Big Day! Big Wins!

The biggest gatherings at every Homecoming Weekend are the athletic events, when the entire MU community can gather to cheer on our Monarchs. On Oct. 30, the cheering from campus could be heard for miles as the football and women's soccer teams had dramatic victories in front of filled stadiums.

Women's Soccer:

Top-seed MU moved to the USA South tournament semifinals with a 2-0 victory at Duggins Stadium.

Football:

MU scored a touchdown with 49 seconds remaining to earn a 31-27 win.



Admirable Alumni and Friends

Methodist University honored 10 members of its community at the Alumni Association Awards during Homecoming Weekend. Each year, the association awards outstanding MU community members for their dedication to MU. Both 2020 and 2021 awards were announced and celebrated.

2020 Award Winners

Distinguished Alumni: Rebecca Spell Vann '74 Distinguished Young Alumni: Madeline Monday '14, '19M Distinguished Young Alumni: L. Jameco McKenzie '15 Outstanding Alumni Service: Diana Sims '69 Outstanding Faculty/Staff: Debbie Yeatts '07, '11M Philanthropist of the Year: D. Keith Allison

2021 Award Winners

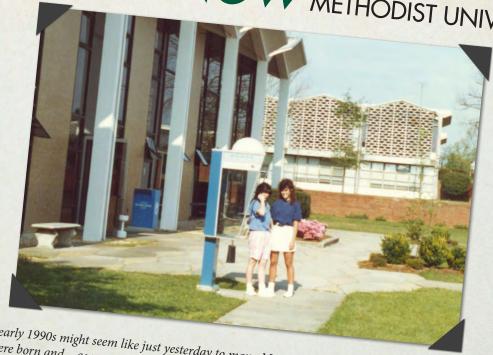
Distinguished Alumni: Dr. Mary M. Atwater '69 Outstanding Alumni Service: C. Steven Faircloth '87 Outstanding Faculty/Staff: Lynetta Allen-Geddie Philanthropist of the Year: Ed "Tuna" Keil '70







Then & Now METHODIST UNIVERSITY



While the early 1990s might seem like just yesterday to many Monarchs, it was before the vast majority of our current students were born and – as you can see in this "Then" image – it was before hand-held devices called "Smartphones" changed a bit in the past 30 years.





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