

MU *today*

M A G A Z I N E
Fall 2023



Life-Changing Gifts:

Students Personally Thank Donors at Endowed Scholarship Luncheon

For Jay Lee '25, the idea of selecting a college after high school was overwhelming. But when she realized endowed scholarships were available at Methodist University, she knew she found the place to help her academic dreams come true.

Now pursuing her goal to become a nurse in MU's renowned Nursing program, Lee has found a home at the University – all thanks to the Robert J. Chaffin Endowed Scholarship.

"I can't imagine myself in any place other than Methodist University," said Lee, who grew up in Dunn, N.C. "I would love to send a warm thank you to everyone who continues to donate and help students like me further their education. Your contributions help many students continue their dreams."

Lee's story is just one of dozens of current Methodist University students directly impacted annually by the generosity of donors through endowed scholarships.

In late September, the University hosted its annual Endowed Scholarship Luncheon at Matthews Ministry Center on campus, allowing current students the opportunity to sit down with the very donors who made their endowed scholarship possible. Each student personally thanked donors for their gifts, including Saverio Lennon '26, who received a scholarship through the notable Wright Scholars Program.

"I don't think I'd be able to attend MU without the scholarship," said Lennon, a Kinesiology major. "Thanks to the Wrights, I'm able to continue my education and take the next steps to becoming a better man. Thank you to everyone for your donations."



"Thank you to everyone for your donations."

~ Saverio Lennon '26



Currently, hundreds of endowed scholarships are available to both undergraduate and graduate students at Methodist University – a key part in ensuring the University is able to attract outstanding students.

“The reason this event and celebration of endowed scholarships is so important to Methodist University is because it is the only certain method to sustainability of the institution as well as increasing the affordability of education to our students,” said Dr. Rakesh Gupta, chair of MU’s Board of Trustees. “We know that education changes lives and generations forever. Thank you for everyone’s support.”

To start an endowed scholarship, contact Greg Swanson, the vice president for Institutional Advancement, at 910.630.7200 or via email at gswanson@methodist.edu. ■

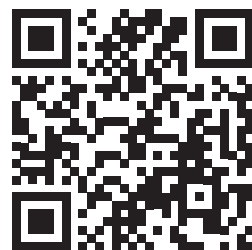


“Your contributions help many students continue their dreams.”

~ Jay Lee '25



To watch highlights of Lee’s and Lennon’s speeches at the Endowed Scholarship Luncheon, scan the QR code.



A Message from Our President



Stanley T. Wearden, Ph.D.
President of Methodist University

Dear Methodist University Alumni, Students and Friends,

Since childhood, Fall has been my favorite time of the year. The crisp, cool air and the leaves changing color all across our beautiful 600-acre campus are daily reminders of how thankful I am to be at Methodist University.

But even more than the beauty of our campus, I am grateful for the fresh Fall energy and excitement of the MU community. The opportunity to walk alongside our talented students, our expert faculty, our caring staff, and our dedicated and engaged alumni and friends of MU is my favorite part of the job.

This Fall Issue of the “MU Today” is particularly rewarding for me because it’s a chance for me and the rest of our MU community to celebrate our gratitude together.

Just a few weeks ago, dozens of Methodist University alumni and friends were able to join us on campus for the many activities surrounding Homecoming 2023 (see some highlights starting on page 4). It was my great pleasure to hear stories of MU past and to have the chance to share news and strategies related to the future of our University.

Another wonderful opportunity for me, alumni, and friends of MU to connect and share our thankfulness has been the regional events arranged by our Advancement and Alumni offices (see more, page 26). I look forward to seeing you at one of these

very soon. For those of you whom I may not have the chance to see on campus or at an event, I love looking through our Class Notes section (starting on page 27) and finding out all the amazing things our alumni are doing across the world. And though it is tinged with sadness, I am thankful for the contributions made by our alumni and friends who have died and whom we have the opportunity to learn more about and remember in our In Memory section (page 30).

Last, but by no means least, I share this “Thankful” message for all the ways we see the life-changing offerings of time, expertise, gifts, prayers, and love that so many of you regularly offer the MU community, and in particular our students.

From those who commit to endowed scholarships (see previous pages) to Norwood Bryan Jr.’s gift of \$1 million for our medical school (page 12) to the hundreds of alumni and friends in our donor listings (pages 6-25) who have selflessly shared their treasures, all of us at Methodist University offer our deepest gratitude. We are impressed, we are humbled, we are encouraged, and more than anything, we are abundantly thankful. I wish you all the very best during this holiday season as we approach 2024!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Stanley T. Wearden'.

Stanley T. Wearden, Ph.D.
President



This Fall Issue of the “MU Today” is particularly rewarding for me because it’s a chance for me and the rest of our MU community to celebrate our gratitude together.”



01

Inside Front Cover

The annual Methodist University Endowment Scholarship Luncheon gives students the opportunity to personally thank donors whose contributions help allow their academic dreams to come true.

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MU
today
M A G A Z I N E

President
Dr. Stanley T. Wearden

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New Address?

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

HOME



Home Sweet Home

HOMECOMING

Alumni Reminisce and Reconnect



Dodworth, Renz, Carol/Cam Stout, Sparrow, Eavenson



'91/'92 Men's Tennis Representatives



Stephens, Emery, Smerka

The famous line “Home Sweet Home” was as true as ever during Methodist University’s 2023 Homecoming – a weekend filled with laughter, memories, and pure nostalgia. From the campus tours to the bonfire to the tailgating to the athletic events to other alumni gatherings, there was no shortage of past, present, and future Monarchs coming together as one on MU’s beautiful campus.

One of the most iconic Homecoming traditions at MU is undoubtedly the Alumni Awards Ceremony, an annual event that recognizes the achievements of extraordinary alumni.

2023 Alumni Association Award Winners

Distinguished Alumni:

Fredy Oxom '11

Distinguished Young Alumni:

Daniel Renz '14M

Outstanding Alumni Service:

Jason Sparrow '17

Outstanding Faculty:

Dr. Cameron Dodworth

Outstanding Staff:

Dave Eavenson '96

Philanthropist:

The Stout Family

“It’s an honor to receive this wonderful recognition,” said Distinguished Alumni winner Fredy Oxom '11, the first person from the Mayan Q’eqchi community in Guatemala to attend a university in the U.S. and who is the advisor to the Vice Minister of Bilingual and Intercultural Education in Guatemala. “I wouldn’t be where I am without Methodist University. MU gave me the right guidance and leadership to help me find my passion. I am fortunate to have received a great education and find a way to continue my community service.”

Another long-standing Homecoming tradition is MU’s Athletics Hall of Fame Induction, which welcomed four new inductees and a team of distinction this year.

Athletics Hall of Fame Class of 2023

Softball:	Julia (Best) Emery '01
Men’s Soccer:	Eirik Nordseth '15
Men’s Lacrosse:	Jake Smerka '17
Women’s Lacrosse:	Jasmine Stephens '12
Men’s Tennis Teams:	'91, '92



Friends and fun at Friday night’s bonfire



Tailgating and talking with the President

“I am truly humbled to be recognized for my accomplishments during my years at Methodist University,” said Julia (Best) Emery '01, a three-time Dixie Intercollegiate Athletic Conference First-Team and two-time All-Region softball infielder. “I’ve lived and breathed softball and baseball my entire life and playing at MU was one of the best times I’ve had. I’m equally thankful for the ongoing support of my family and friends who have allowed me to share my love and excitement of the game with younger generations.”

Of course, many Homecoming favorites returned this year such as the Candlelight Memorial Service, alumni basketball games,

Chorale “Gatherings,” and the Black Alumni Chapter’s Endowed Scholarship Brunch. Big crowds gathered at Duggins Soccer Stadium and Monarch Stadium to cheer on our MU student-athletes in women’s soccer, men’s soccer, and football.

This year’s Homecoming brought back the softball alumni game and added some new events like the RA Reunion and the Black Alumni Chapter’s Karaoke Night. ■

To learn more about the Alumni Association and Athletics Hall of Fame winners, or to view photos of the entire weekend, scan the QR code.



“I wouldn’t be where I am today **without Methodist University.**”

~ Fredy Oxom '11



First Homecoming football game at night



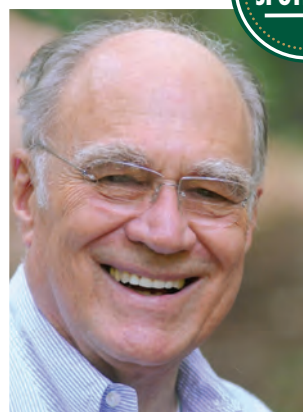
Monarchs score another victory



MU earns regular-season conference title



All smiles at the Black Alumni Chapter Brunch



**DONOR
SPOTLIGHT**



In the McLean Health Sciences Building in February, Methodist University President Stanley T. Wearden and Cape Fear Valley Health CEO Michael Nagowski announced the intentions of creating a new medical school. Learn more at methodist.edu/medicine

Bryan offers \$1-Million Foundational Gift for Medical School

Methodist University President Stanley T. Wearden announced in October that the Methodist University Cape Fear Valley Health School of Medicine received a \$1-million gift from Norwood Bryan Jr., a long-time friend and donor to the University and business executive, community leader and public servant in Fayetteville, the region, and state. The gift is foundational in establishing a state-of-the-art medical school that will train the next generation of health care professionals.

“Norwood Bryan’s gift is an act of extraordinary and selfless generosity,” said Wearden. “I have great respect for Mr. Bryan as one of Fayetteville’s most inspiring success stories and as a genuine servant leader in the community. His \$1-million gift to the medical school is a true legacy gift.”

In February, Wearden and Cape Fear Valley Health CEO Michael Nagowski announced the partnership to form a Methodist University medical school. The new school, to be located on the campus of Cape Fear Valley Medical Center, will combine the expertise and resources of both institutions to provide students with unparalleled educational and clinical experiences. The name of the medical

school was chosen to recognize and honor Cape Fear Valley Health’s remarkable pledge of long-term financial support.

“We extend our heartfelt gratitude to Norwood Bryan Jr.,” said Nagowski. “His support aligns perfectly with our mission to provide exceptional health care as well as our value of education, which enables us to make a lasting impact on our community’s well-being.”

“I’m glad to support this remarkable project that will bring extraordinary benefits to the Fayetteville area.”

**~ Norwood Bryan Jr.
(pictured above)**

Key goals of MU’s medical education program, which currently holds applicant status with the Liaison Committee on Medical Education (LCME) and hopes to have its first class of M.D. students in 2026, are to educate a diverse population of expertly trained medical doctors attentive to the needs of rural and underserved populations, and to become a national leader in team-based medical education.

“I am glad to support this remarkable project that will bring extraordinary benefits to the Fayetteville area,” said Bryan. “I encourage others to put their oar in the water at this stage of the campaign.”

By the mid-1970s, Bryan had graduated from the Yale Law School, re-created the automobile dealership his father started in 1945, and become president of Bryan Pontiac-Cadillac-Honda Co., leaving behind a four-term public service post in the North Carolina General Assembly. Bryan has served his community in many capacities, including as trustee of the North Carolina Environmental Defense Fund, sponsor for the Museum of the Cape Fear Complex, chairman of the U.S.S. North Carolina Battleship Commission, and he has held numerous offices in the North Carolina Automobile Dealers Association including state president. For his efforts, Bryan was named Business Person of the Year by MU in 2002.

“This is an incredible beginning of our journey to bring a medical school to this community,” said Dr. Rakesh Gupta, chair of the MU Board of Trustees. “I wish to express my deep gratitude to Mr. Norwood Bryan for his very thoughtful and generous gift to Methodist University. It is truly inspirational.” ■

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 students 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
Dr. Richard R. Allen, Sr. and Joan E. Allen

Endowed Scholarship

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

Dr. Mary M. Atwater '69 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 DeCrisio Endowed Scholarship

The Lebanon Masonic Lodge #391

Bruce Dent Scholarship
Ingeborg M. Dent Scholarship
Devasthali Family Endowed Scholarship

Endowed Scholarship Highlight

Atwater Endowed Scholarship



The Methodist University Black Alumni Chapter established the Dr. Mary M. Atwater '69 Endowed Scholarship in 2022 to benefit Black students at MU and honor Atwater's groundbreaking achievements. Mary Monroe Atwater was the first African American student to enroll in and graduate from MU. She then earned a Master of Arts in Organic Chemistry from University of North Carolina and a Doctorate in Science Education from North Carolina State University. Atwater was the first African American tenure-track professor at Clark Atlanta University and served most of her career as a tenured professor at the University of Georgia. Once fully endowed, the scholarship will be awarded with a preference to full-time Black undergraduate students.

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 Scholarship
Sanford Dooey, Jr. Scholarship
Edgar & Lois Draughon Scholarship
Claudia H. Dudley Endowed Scholarship
Murray O. and Nancy T. Duggins Endowed Scholarship
Lenora Auten & Lloyd Dunn Scholarship
Edenton Street United Methodist Men Scholarship
C. Steven Faircloth '87 Endowed Scholarship
Rogerlene C. Faircloth and Charles Faircloth, Jr.
Endowed Scholarship
Fayetteville Area Advertising Federation
Fayetteville District United Methodist Scholarship
Rita Jean Ivany Foley, BA Class of 1973, Magna Cum
Laude Scholarship
Dr. Loleta W. Foster and LTC Benjamin F. Foster, Jr. (Ret.),
Endowed Scholarship
Ron Foster Endowed Scholarship
Friends of Music Endowed Scholarship
Dr. Sid Gautam Scholarship for Entrepreneurs
J. Nelson & Carolyn S. Gibson Memorial Scholarship
Janie Bell Edwards Gibson Scholarship
M.F. Grantham Scholarship
William F. & Francis L. Grimes Endowed Scholarship
Drs. Rakesh and Vinita Gupta Endowed Scholarship
George N. Harriss Scholarship
Established by Joe W. Walker
Maurice A. & Vennie Hawley Endowed Scholarship
Dr. Bennett A. Hayes, Jr. Endowed Scholarship
Linda and Mac Healy Endowed Scholarship
Hendricks Endowed Scholarship
John T. & Rebecca B. Henley Endowed Scholarship
Hensdale Scholarship
Dr. Carol L. Higy Education Scholarship
Established by Rita Wiggs

Philip O. Hoffer Endowed Scholarship
Shirley R. Hoffman Endowed Scholarship
William E. Horner, Sr. Scholarship
Young W. & Morie M. Howard Scholarship
Edwin & Dorothy Hubbard Endowed Scholarship
Edwin & Dorothy Hubbard Endowed Scholarship in Biology
Hyman-Highsmith Endowed Scholarship
Dr. & Mrs. Bert Ishee Scholarship
W. Robert & Thelma Johnson & Robert Neal Scholarship
Edward T. Keil and Kathleen N. Keil Endowed Scholarship
Anne and Tom Keith Valuation Science Endowed Scholarship
Virginia & Martin Kern Education Endowed Scholarship
O. Teague Kirby Scholarship
Todd Stephen Krueger Scholarship
Lynn Morton Kubota Endowed Scholarship
Lambda Chi Alpha Scholarship
Edward Bert Lassiter Scholarship
Edward P. Leatherbury III Scholarship
Little Scholarship
John, Julian, Albert, & Calvin Little
Michael R. Loesekann '75 Endowed Scholarship
William P. Lowdermilk Scholarship
Betty Ruth Maness Memorial Scholarship
Ray and Daphne Manning Endowed Scholarship
R.A. Matheson Memorial Fund
Charles K. & Verna McAdams Endowed Scholarship
Dr. & Mrs. Clyde G. McCarver Scholarship
William L. McLaurin Endowed Scholarship
Thomas McLean Scholarship
McMillan Endowed Scholarship
Mary McKinnon McNeill Scholarship
Joseph Gray Melvin & Elizabeth Horne Melvin
Memorial Scholarship
Wesley Mensing PGA Scholarship
William & Betty Mercer Endowed Scholarship
Methodist University Alumni Association Scholarship
Methodist University Memorial Scholarship
Methodist University N.C. Conference Scholarship

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

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

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




Annual Scholarships

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

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



Endowed Professorships & Chairs



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

Endowed Awards

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



Other Endowed Funds

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

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





MU Comes to You

Monarchs on the Move: Regional Events Bring Alumni and Friends Together



Methodist University alumni, friends, and President Wearden enjoy themselves at recent regional events in Charlotte; Richmond; Wilmington, Raleigh, and Washington, D.C.

Being a Monarch is a lifelong experience, no matter where life may take you. That is exactly why Methodist University is proud to offer regional events throughout the year – helping foster relationships between alumni and friends far and wide.

“Each year, the University’s Institutional Advancement and Alumni Relations staff partner to offer regional events, often traveling to a different city each month. The events welcome any alumni and friends in the area to a fun night filled with reflecting on memories while also learning more about the exciting future of MU.

President Stanley T. Wearden typically attends the regional events, ensuring all have a chance to meet him. Depending on location, MU also ordinarily offers hors d’oeuvres and giveaways at the events.”

D’Andre Davis ’16, a Methodist University Business Administration graduate who now works as a high school administrator, attended his first regional event in his hometown of Washington, D.C. last May.

Davis and the other alumni and friends in attendance had a chance to learn about all of the updates to campus and ask questions about MU and Cape Fear Valley Health’s intent to establish a state-of-the-art medical school. But most of all, Davis appreciated the opportunity to build connections.

“It’s all about relationships and events like this are a great way to build relationships with other people passionate about the University.”

~ Jennifer Elam
(far right in bottom-right photo)

“It’s nice to know that there are other alumni and friends from Methodist University who live where I live,” Davis said. “I made a lot of connections – some people in the same line of work as me and others who offer something completely different. But, overall, it’s important to stay connected because no matter what path you take in life, Methodist University is always there for you.”

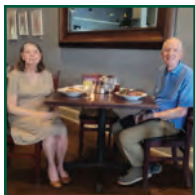
While the regional events attract Methodist University alumni from all walks of life, the regional events also welcome donors, scholarship contacts, parents, members of the Board of

Trustees, and anyone else from the MU community.

For example, Jennifer Elam, who sits on the MU Board of Trustees as secretary, hosted dozens of alumni and friends for a regional event at her house in Raleigh last March.

For Elam, it was a simple way to help the Methodist University community feel welcomed.

“It’s all about relationships and events like this are a great way to build relationships with other people passionate about the University,” said Elam. “There are so many exciting things happening at MU, and we want alumni and friends to be proud of their University.” ■



Laura (Edwards) '71 and Robert Johnson '71 celebrated 53 happy years of marriage. Laura and Bob enjoy hiking, trail maintenance, traveling, and their four grandchildren. The couple met at Methodist University.



Kelly Cap '95 played in the 2023 U.S. Senior Women's Open. After Kelly retired from the LPGA Tour in 2007, she moved to Pinehurst, N.C. as a golf instructor and started her own sports fitness and therapy business, TriMov. Kelly qualified for the U.S. Senior Women's Open in July at the Country Club of Salisbury (N.C.) and competed in the major event Aug. 24-25. She shot a 78 and a 76, finishing 10-over.



Roy "Ash" Philpott '76 has been assigned as Winship Cancer Institute Manager of the Phase 1 Program-Data Team at Emory University (Ga).



Brett Davis '98 has been included in the Marquis Who's Who. Individuals profiled are selected based on current reference value. Factors such as position, noteworthy accomplishments, visibility, and prominence in a field are all considered during the selection process. Brett currently serves as the managing partner for Continuum Advisors, LLC.



Jeffery Deitz '79 is still playing soccer 45 years after his career at Methodist University. Jeffery is a manager for the state of New Jersey.



Dr. Nicole Hodges '99 returned from a medical mission trip to Kenya in partnership with Manna Church, the Charis Foundation, and the PEFA Church in Kenya. Over the course of four and a half days in the clinic, she treated 600+ patients with the help of three other providers. Nicole currently serves as an assistant professor of physical therapy at MU.



William "Billy" Thomas '83 retired as Selma police chief after 20 years. He started as a dispatcher in 2003 and moved up the ranks to become chief in 2018, overseeing the agency of 24 employees.



Will Helms '06 was promoted to head cross country coach at MU, and he continues to serve as an assistant track & field coach. Will has been an assistant coach of the program since 2013. Before transitioning to the college scene, he was the head cross country coach at nearby Pine Forest High School for two years.



Bobbi Larson '87 was one of 39 graduates from the nine-month Appalachian Leadership Institute (ALI). The ALI, a leadership and economic development program sponsored by the Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC), included fellows from 13 states. Larson currently serves as executive director of economic development and community

engagement at University of North Georgia.



Sonny Grosso '10 was named director of golf at Harbour Ridge Yacht & Country Club in Palm City, Fla. He was most recently director of operations at The Seagate Clubs in Delray Beach, Fla.

CLASS NOTES

STAYING ENGAGED WITH OUR CLASSMATES



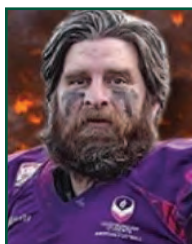
Lauren (Colenda) Kelly '12 completed her doctorate of education in curriculum and instruction from Liberty University this past spring. Lauren is a teacher and curriculum coordinator for Riverside Christian Academy.



David Gilinsky '17 was named director of golf at Cabot Citrus Farms in Brooksville, Fla. He was most recently head golf professional and clubhouse manager at Pinehurst Resort (No. 8).



Victoria (Owens) '13 and Jacob McSwain '14 are expecting baby number two in January 2024. Their daughter Evyn is very excited to become a big sister! Victoria is a program manager for Amazon and Jake is an executive manager at Jobot.



Thomas Gore '21 will be graduating with a master's with merit in storytelling from Loughborough University (England) in December. Tom also competed as a starting nose tackle for the university's American Football team that went undefeated and won the Division 1 National Trophy.



Isabella Graf '16 received the 2023 USPTA Florida Elevate Award. The Elevate Award recognizes the achievements of USPTA certified professionals with five or fewer years of service, which, through tennis-teaching and volunteerism, have increased opportunities for others to participate in tennis.



Epiphany McGirt '23 was promoted in August to teacher assistant for both kindergarten and first grade at Trinity Christian School. Epiphany had been working at Trinity Christian since Nov. 2022 as an afterschool teacher.

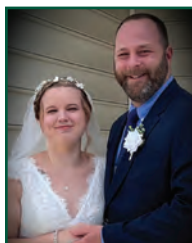
WEDDINGS



Robert Dees '88 and Lindsay Brock Haywood were married by **Rev. Gil Wise '83** on May 5, 2023. Robert is a foster care social worker in Hoke County and Lindsay is licensed clinical social worker (LCSW) therapist at Butterfly Retreat Counseling.

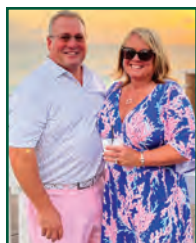


Alyssa Like '17 married Maxwell Smerka on Sept. 9, 2023. Alyssa is corporate e-commerce merchandising manager for The Home Depot and Max is a district sales manager for OFS Brands. **Nicole (Hardin) Wildeboer '15** was the matron of honor and **Jacob Smerka '17** was the best man. **Taylor (Cates) Benson '17, Emily Ewin '17, Sareena (Coleman) Hafey '17, Kyle Peacock '17, Taylor (Hales) Peacock '17, Bianca Terenzi '17, and Haley Pearman '19** were members of the wedding party.

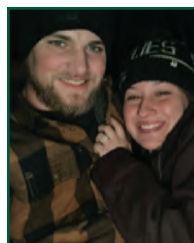


Katherine Phillips '19 married **Christopher Miller '19** on Oct. 7, 2023.

Justin Harris '14 married Ella Rae Harris on Oct. 6, 2023. Justin is a PGA professional at Kensington Golf & Country Club and Ella is an insurance agent for Brightway Insurance.

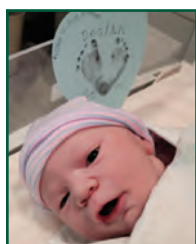


Timothy Price '91 announces his engagement to Heather Gordon on Apr. 23, 2023. The couple plans to marry on Sept. 14, 2024. Tim is vice president at Lafayette Ford Lincoln and Heather is a certified surgical first assistant (CSFA) at UNC Health Southeastern Hospital.



Cheyenne Ferrin '22 and Cody Lee got engaged on Sept. 29, 2023. Cheyenne is a residence coordinator at the University of Wyoming and Cody works as an electrician.

BIRTHS



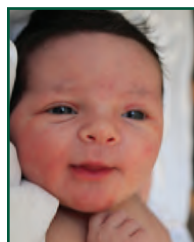
Kimberly (McCall) Dresser '05 and Adam Dresser welcomed their son Joseph Declan on Oct. 10, 2023. Declan was 7 pounds, 2 ounces. Kim is an academic coach at Central Carolina Community College.



Katelynn (Taliaferro) Newton '17 and her husband **David Newton** welcomed their daughter Emilee on July 25, 2023. Kate is a member service representative for Navy Federal Credit Union.



Jennifer (Perez) Bagby '13 and Nicholas Bagby welcomed their son Luther on Feb. 5, 2023. Jennifer is a plant accountant for Purity Zinc Metals LLC.



Amber Martin '18 and Jonathan Humphrey welcomed their daughter, Colbie, on Apr. 14, 2023. Colbie weighed 8 pounds, 9 ounces and measured 20 ¼ inches long.



Lindsay (Tippett) Lang '15 and her husband David welcomed their son Jack on Aug. 31, 2023. Jack was 8 pounds, 14.5 ounces and measured 21.5 inches long. Lindsay is a certified public accountant (CPA) for Gilliam Bell Moser LLP.

SHARE YOUR NEWS



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

IN MEMORY

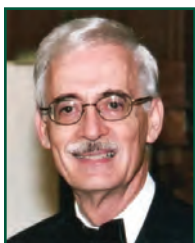
HONORING MU ALUMNI AND FRIENDS



Walter Rupert Turner '65, 81, of Wadesboro, N.C., passed away Oct. 2, 2023. Walter spent his life dedicated to serving his community and the state of North Carolina. Early in his career, he worked for the Peace Corps in the Philippines, and for community social work programs in N.C. and Ohio. He later worked 27 years as historian for the NC Transportation Museum and published books on North Carolina's transportation industry.



Robert Murphy Thompson '67, 84, of Durham, N.C. passed away July 1, 2023. Bob served in the U.S. Army for 39 months, with his last deployment in Augsburg, Germany. He returned to Durham shortly after completing his degree at Methodist University. He attended Duke's Chapel United Methodist Church, often teaching Sunday School and serving as a Lay Speaker. He is the author of the book "Wisdom, Apples, and Black Roses."



William Harmond Billings '68, 77, of Roxboro, N.C. passed away Aug. 15, 2023. A veteran news reporter, he served as director of public relations at MU beginning in 1987 and fulfilled several roles over the years, including director of Monarch Press. He retired after the 2014-15 academic year as a member of the English Department faculty. During his tenure at Monarch Press, he worked part time researching and writing "From Cotton Field to University," a history of Methodist University's first 50 years (1956-2006).



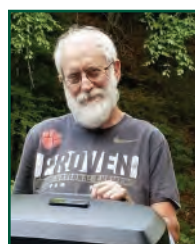
Carroll Lennon Davis '68, 77, of Wadmalaw Island, S.C. passed away July 9, 2023. He graduated from Methodist University and then received a master's in Administration from The Citadel. Carroll retired as an administrator of Wando High School after 32 years of service. He was also a member of the Army Reserves and retired after serving 22 years. Carroll was a Commodore of the Charleston Yacht Club and a member of the Sea Island Yacht Club.



Janice Edge (Owenby) Brodie '69, 76, of Fayetteville, N.C. passed away July 12, 2023. Janice was an accomplished social worker who dedicated her life to helping others. She will be remembered for her selflessness, compassion, and unwavering commitment to helping others.



Thomas Albert Sanders '69, 75, of Fayetteville, N.C. passed away Sept. 19, 2023. He worked at Sears for 33 years. Thomas was a member of ELKS Lodge #1081 for 53 years. Thomas loved coaching little league baseball, watching sports, camping, fishing with his boys at Topsail, being a boy scout leader, and doing any kind of outside work. He is survived by his wife and former Methodist University student, **Sharon (Slade) Sanders**.



James "Jim" Roland McDonell '71, 73, of Belton, S.C. passed away Aug. 17, 2023. Jim earned his doctorate from Columbia University in New York. He had a successful career as an academic researcher and professor, founding the Institute on Family & Neighborhood Life at Clemson University. In his retirement, he and his wife, Shirley, traveled around the world and enjoyed spending time with their children and grandchildren.



Ronald Ray Bremer '73, 72, of Roxboro, N.C. passed away Sept. 17, 2023. Ron attended Methodist University, East Carolina University, and earned a master's in business administration from St. Thomas University (MN). Ron had a strong commitment to financial planning and client service for Edward Jones Investments. He worked in the financial industry until 2022, retiring after 30 years of service.



William "Billy" Harrington, III '73, 73, of Broadway, N.C. passed away Sept. 23, 2023. Billy taught Social Studies at the NC Correctional Facility for Youthful Offenders in Harnett County for several years. He then owned and operated his own trucking company before joining Food Lion, with whom he was employed until his retirement.



Mary Helen (Ragsdale) Wyatt '74, 80, of Fredericksburg, Va. passed away July 14, 2023. Mary found her passion in being an educator and received her master's degree from Shippensburg University while raising three children and teaching. Her career took her to Shippensburg, Pa.; North Myrtle Beach, S.C.; West Jefferson, N.C.; and Glendale-Kenly in N.C., where she subsequently retired.



Col. Larry E. Cooper, (Ret.) '76, 84, of Wilmington, N.C. passed away July 6, 2023. Larry served his country as a member of the U.S. Army for more than 35 years. After he left the service in 1975, he earned a degree in business from Methodist University. After joining the National Guard, he took command of the armory in Wilmington. He was promoted to Major and assigned to the National Guard's 30th Support Group in Durham, N.C. In 1996, he retired as a colonel.



Thomas Roger Canham, Jr. '77, 69, of Riverview, Fla. passed away July 13, 2023. After working as a hospital therapist in North Carolina, Tom moved to Florida to be closer to family. In 1987, Tom started his career with the state social services, Dept. of Children & Families, with whom he worked as a devoted employee for 32 years. He is

survived by his brother, **Jeffrey Canham '80**.



Rev. Maurice L. Lancaster '78, 90, of Fayetteville, N.C. passed away Sept. 28, 2023. Maurice was a Methodist minister. He is survived by his brother, professor emeritus of Education, **Rev. Dr. Tryon Lancaster**.



Harriet Gillis Faircloth Bradley '81, 68, of Cordova, Tenn. passed away Aug. 23, 2023. Harriet worked in banking and handled property management for Admiral Elmo Zumwalt and his son, Elmo Zumwalt III, in Fayetteville, N.C. This led her to move to Memphis to work with her brother, Jerry Gillis, at Gillis & Co, later to become

FaxonGillis Homes. Her final years were spent as an agent for RE/MAX Experts in Germantown, Tenn.



Kathleen Zambie Doody '86, 76, of Fayetteville, N.C. passed away July 13, 2023. Kathy graduated with a degree in music and went on to teach many students at St. Patrick Catholic School and through private lessons. Her love for music and teaching, along with her infectious laughter and warm smile, brightened countless lives. Kathy loved to

sing and play church and classical music.



MSG Thomas Snyder Hatfield, (Ret.) '88, 85, of Fayetteville, N.C. passed away Aug. 4, 2023. Tommy transferred to Methodist University after two years at Fayetteville Tech and graduated with a bachelor's degree in Psychology. He had a full career in the Army and retired.



Chief MSGT Robert "Bob" Hathcock, (Ret.) '89, 83, of Linden, N.C. passed away Aug. 17, 2023. Bob had a distinguished military career, serving in the Air Force for 30 years. After retirement from the military and completing his degree at Methodist University, Bob went on to serve as a substance abuse counselor. He received the

prestigious Norbert L. Kelly Award of North Carolina for his tireless devotion and dedication to the field of substance abuse.



Yvette Faye (Jackson) Carson '95, 57, of Linden, N.C. passed away Aug. 28, 2023. Yvette earned a master's degree in School Administration from Fayetteville State University and a master's degree in educational services from Appalachian State University. Yvette was an educator who taught school in Slidell, La.; Dunn, N.C.; and Sanford, N.C.

Most recently, she served as was assistant principal at Benhaven School in Sanford, N.C.



Terrance "Abe" Abraham '02, 44, of San Antonio, Texas passed away July 25, 2023. At Methodist University, Abe was a football player ("Wild Horse Rider") and developed great friendships on and off the field. He found a love for mass communications, which led him to a career in radio at 104.5 and 99.1. He taught communication students

at Central Carolina Community College and fostered their love for broadcast radio. Abe then moved to Texas and explored a career in sales.

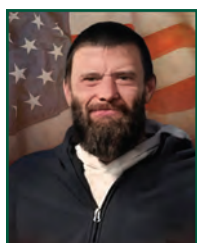


Floyd McClinton Goods III '03, 54, of Fayetteville, N.C. passed away July 9, 2023. He was an Army veteran and spent many years as a social worker and as director of Care Transition at Cape Fear Valley Health after graduation. Floyd is survived by his wife, **Angela Goods '09**.

Former Students



Morgan Wayne Williamson '67, 85, of Foxfire, N.C. passed away on June 9, 2023. Wayne graduated from North Carolina State University in 1968 and later served in the U.S. Air Force before joining the Department of Defense from which he retired.



Dustin Ian Abbott '17, 38, of Colorado Springs, Colo. passed away June 30, 2023. Dustin served in the U.S. Army from 2006 to 2010 receiving the Army Commendation Medal, the National Defense Service Medal, the Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, the Iraq Campaign Medal with Campaign Star, the Army Service Ribbon, and the Overseas Ribbon. In 2021, Dustin started a new career as an assembler working in water treatment.

Former Faculty/Staff

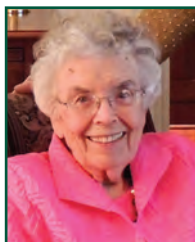


Benny Morris Pearce, 83, of Eastover, N.C. passed away July 17, 2023 after a long battle with cancer. Benny was the athletic director for Cumberland County Schools (CCS) for over 20 years and was named to the NC Athletic Directors Association Hall of Fame in 1998. He completed his 34-year tenure with CCS as an assistant superintendent in 1996. He also served at Campbell and Methodist Universities after his retirement from CCS.



Dorothy "Dottie" Sparrow, 80, passed away Sept. 3, 2023. Born and raised in Baltimore, Md., Dottie earned a bachelor's degree from the University of Baltimore before pursuing a career path spanning social work, journalism, public relations, insurance claims, and teaching English as a second language. Dottie worked at Methodist University as the public relations director starting in 1973 and eventually moved to Yorktown, Va.

Scholarship Contact



Frances (Loy) Grimes, 100, of Fayetteville, N.C., passed away Sept. 13, 2023. Frances graduated from Flora MacDonald College in Red Springs with a bachelor's degree in music, majoring in violin and public-school music. She taught music in many schools for nearly 30 years. She is a founding member of the Fayetteville Symphony Orchestra (1956).

Frances and her late husband, Dr. William F. Grimes, established the William F. & Frances L. Grimes Endowed Scholarship in 2001.

Board of Trustees Emeritus



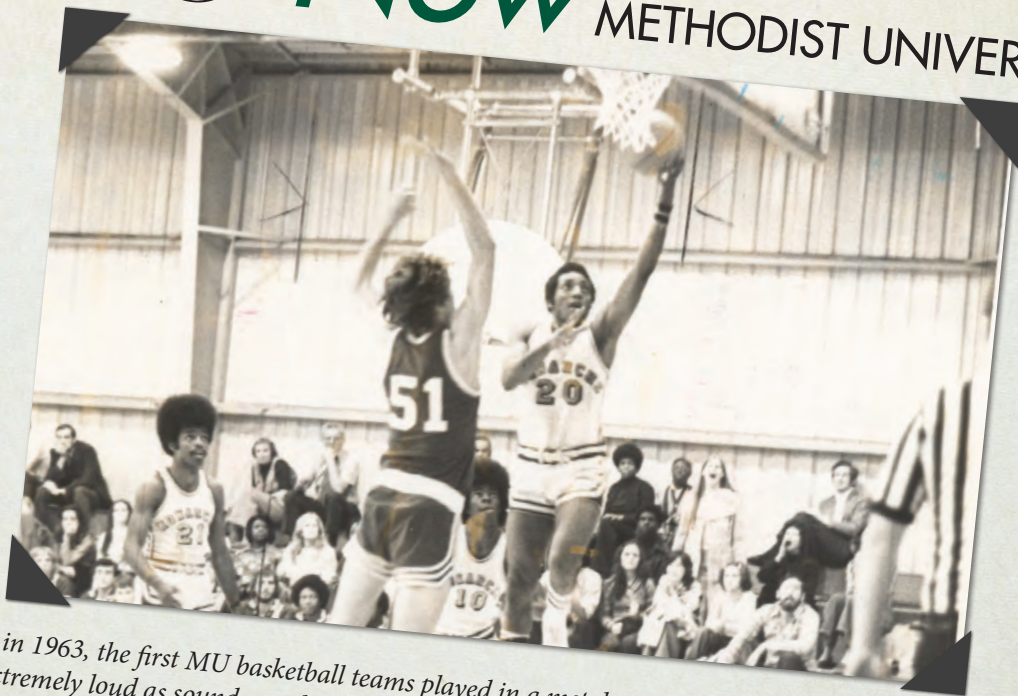
Dr. Ramon Lyon Yarborough, Sr., 90, of Fayetteville, N.C. passed away Aug. 20, 2023. Yarborough – who joined the MU Board of Trustees in 1991 and was chair from 1997 to 2002 – played an integral part in the continued growth and success of MU. He was a co-chair of the "Seeds on Good Soil, A New Season" campaign (2002-05) that

raised \$14.7 million for the University and, along with his wife, the late Virginia Lilly Yarborough, was involved in dozens of other fundraising efforts at MU and across Cumberland County. Born and raised in Fayetteville, Yarborough received recognition and awards for many of these efforts, and in 2011 was presented a Doctorate of Humane Letters from Methodist University. Named MU's Entrepreneur of the Year in 1985, Yarborough generously supported students and University efforts, and exemplified MU's core values through a distinguished history of civic, community, and educational involvement. Yarborough was a member of the MU Board of Visitors and the MU Endowment Society. His love for Methodist University was a family trait. His parents – Dr. Wilson and Mary Butler Yarborough – gave funds to build the iconic Yarborough Bell Tower that stands at the center of the MU campus. Dr. Yarborough was an original trustee and helped acquire the 10 tracts of land on which MU was built. A graduate of UNC Chapel Hill and a UNC School of Journalism Hall of Fame member, Ramon Yarborough was a vice president, president, publisher, and chair of the board for the Fayetteville Publishing Company which produced the Fayetteville Observer and Fayetteville Times newspapers. ■



Then & Now

METHODIST UNIVERSITY



Starting in 1963, the first MU basketball teams played in a metal gymnasium known as "The Tin Can." It was extremely loud as sound reverberated around the aluminum walls. In 1987, Fayetteville developer and MU trustee J. P. Riddle made a \$500,000 gift toward a new physical activities center, which would be named for his wife, March Floyd Riddle. The first game on the Monarchs' new court was in 1990. The Riddle Center – which has offices, classrooms, training rooms, and more – has been the site for many commencement ceremonies and other special events through the years, and today is home to the MU volleyball and basketball teams. Below is a recent "packed house" as the Monarchs wear their pink uniforms for a Play4Kay (Kay Yow Cancer Fund) game.





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Your value to the Loyalty Fund cannot be overstated. It's not just about finances; it's about being a champion for education, a true partner in the MU mission.

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2. **Engage** in sustainability. Your annual, monthly, or quarterly sustaining gift to the Loyalty Fund ensures promising students have access to a world-class MU education, regardless of their financial circumstances.
3. **Engage** in volunteer opportunities. Your hands-on involvement can ignite a spark that ripples through our community. MU programs are fueled year-round by generous volunteers, fundraisers, clinical preceptors, alumni leaders, and mentors worldwide.
4. **Engage** your network. Please share our posts, stories, and updates on social media platforms. Encourage your friends and family to engage in and support MU students.
5. **Engage** on a personal level. We want to know how you would like to engage with Methodist University. We depend on you to continue driving positive change for students.

However you engage, you are investing in a bright future for MU students, and we are grateful for your generosity.



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