

SBUlife

Magazine of Southwest Baptist University Summer 2015

Striving for excellence

Robert W. Plaster College of Business and Computer Science looking to the future with student-focused facility upgrades

ALSO INSIDE:

Computer science students learn real-world skills
SBU Enactus makes a difference in the community

» Be Social

Read what students are sharing about SBU.



This day reassured why I decided to go to SBU! I love it here and I can't wait to start in the fall
[#SBUUniv](#) [#Blessed](#)
[@LittleB_6](#)

Got a fist bump from Dr. Taylor. I think I'm ready to graduate now. [#sbuniv](#)
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Another delicious Late Night Breakfast at [@SBUUniv](#). Thanks for all your help Bearcats. [#SBUUniv](#)
[@freshideasfood](#)



I don't think I could be more stoked about college [#SBUUniv](#)
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C. Pat and Judy Taylor are the best, no question – the senator even said so [#boom](#) [#sbuniv](#) [#servants](#) [#gradlivetweet](#)
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Summer orientation at [@SBUUniv](#) was awesome. I can't wait for welcome week! [#SBUUniv](#)
[@Jeremiah_Abell](#)

Check out **“The Hub”** - Southwest Baptist University's new website showcasing what people are saying about SBU on social media. Go to [social.SBUUniv.edu](#) to see Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, YouTube and news release postings all in one place.

And be sure to use [#SBUUniv](#) when you post about SBU on social media and you may see your post featured on “The Hub” as well!



Be social with SBU on Twitter, Facebook, Google+ and Instagram. **#SBUUniv**



Guess Who?	3
Computer science successes	4
SBU Enactus team projects	8
Tennis standout Fanni Varga finishes record-smashing season	12
Taylor Center makeover	14
Drs. Bill and Kathy Brown memories	16
5 Questions: Susan Applegate	18
SBU News	20
Recommended Reads: Jenell Wagner	23
Keeping in Touch	24



10 Accounting alumni give back

Volume 100 Issue 3
USPS 507-500

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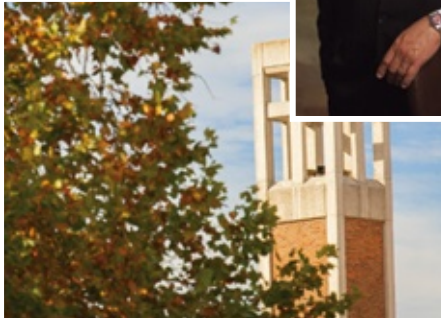
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SBUlife (USPS 507-500) is published in February, April, July, and November. It is distributed free for alumni, parents and friends of Southwest Baptist University by the Office of Marketing & Communications, 1600 University Ave., Bolivar, MO 65613. Periodical postage paid at Bolivar, Mo., and additional mailing offices.

SBUlife highlights the University's mission: to be a Christ-centered, caring academic community preparing students to be servant leaders in a global society. SBU does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, creed, national origin, gender, age, marital status or disability. Any person having inquiries regarding this may contact Tara Parson at [417] 328-1511.

PRESIDENT'S PERSPECTIVE



Dear Alumni, Donors and Friends,

We celebrated a strong finish to another academic year when 571 students graduated during three different ceremonies: one in Springfield and two in Bolivar. For the first time, we separated the undergraduate and graduate students into two different ceremonies on the Bolivar campus, both held indoors. The undergraduate ceremony was at 10 a.m., and the graduate commencement was at 3 p.m.

We had intended to continue to hold the undergraduate ceremony on the Forum to be able to accommodate the crowd but had to move this year's ceremony indoors due to construction that began during the last week of March.

The Merrill Burnidge Memorial Forum construction and renovation project includes new concrete for stairs and sidewalks, as well as a new water sculpture that will replace the fountain. The Forum area frequently is used for student, alumni and community events, so it is important to keep it safe and attractive.

A water main break this winter necessitated replacement of the fountain. The new water sculpture features a globe and the Bible, representing Jesus' command in Matthew 28:16-20 to make disciples of all nations. This fountain is a fantastic centerpiece for the campus and a visual reminder of our mission to be a Christ-centered, caring academic community preparing students to be servant leaders in a global society.

Enrollment in the Mercy College of Nursing and Health Sciences of SBU on the Springfield campus has been steadily increasing and has outgrown the available space in the current building. This past fall semester, we had 730 students enrolled on the Springfield campus. Therefore, SBU recently purchased a commercial building with 15,000-square-feet near the Springfield campus that will meet the needs of the growing health sciences programs. We have been working with our architects to renovate the building and purchase equipment for a simulation lab and Learning Resource Center in order to create a fully functioning building to meet the specific needs of the health sciences programs.

Another exciting building and renovation project is beginning soon in the Gene Taylor National Free Enterprise Center, home of the Robert W. Plaster College of Business and Computer Science. Enrollment growth and reinstatement of the master of business administration program within the college necessitate additional classroom and faculty office space. The renovation and expansion will modernize the building and be much more student-focused with classrooms and study areas utilizing the latest technology.

Building and construction projects are always exciting, as they signal growth and forward momentum for our University.

Our goal is to graduate students who will leave SBU and be servant leaders for the Kingdom. Thank you for your commitment to supporting Christian higher education. Please pray for our University and our students, faculty and staff as we prepare to start another academic year of educating and preparing students for successful careers and to go forth and make disciples of all nations.

C. Pat Taylor
SBU President

Guess Who?

SBU faculty members help prepare students for a lifetime of servant leadership by sharing their academic expertise combined with personal care and attention for each student. Faculty in the Robert W. Plaster College of Business and Computer Science intentionally use Psalm 15 as a guide for integrating Christian faith with the academic disciplines.

Can you name any of the former or current accounting, business or computer science faculty members pictured below?

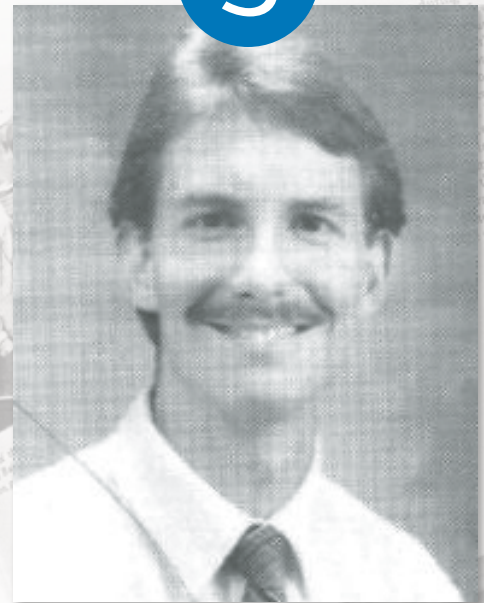
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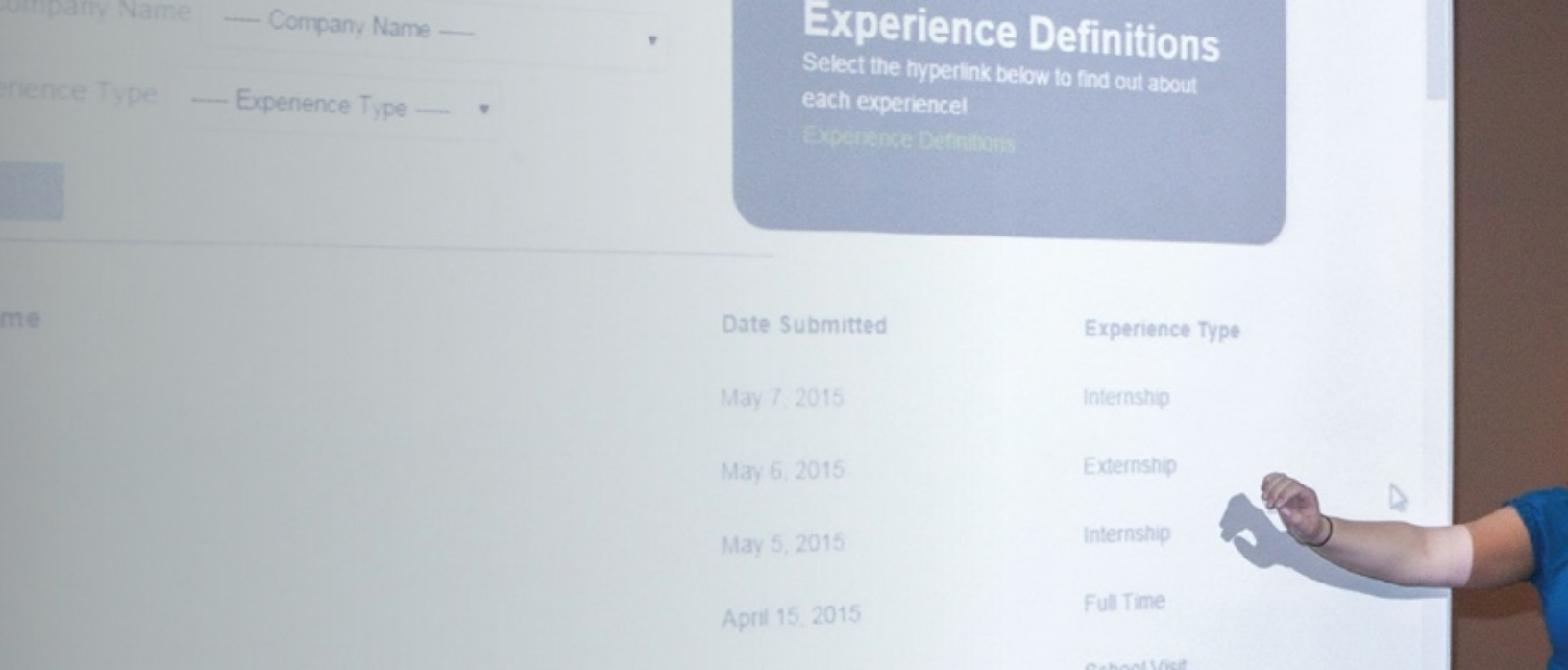


Everyone who correctly identifies at least one of these faculty members will be entered into a prize drawing. Submit your guesses by email to SBUcommunications@gmail.com or by mail to: Office of Marketing and Communications, 1600 University Ave., Bolivar MO 65613. Entries must be received by Friday, Aug. 7.

Thank you to all who participated in the previous Guess Who contest. The pictured Mr. and Miss Southwest winners were Richard Hilderbrand and Nina Ingold, Willie Nobles and Karen Seals, and Brad Brotherton and Dena Howard.

The following all submitted correct responses: Jeff and Kay Barbour, Roger and Janice Baxter, Mary Ann [Maulsby] Bell, Caroline Bradford, Kate Cammack, Lyle Catron, Judith Caudle, Rebecca Clemens, Dr. Joe D. Dillsaver, Karen Fowler, Jim Hickman, Richard Hilderbrand, Mark Jenkins, Janet Noot, Cheryl Oxley, Kilee [Staples] Smith, Patti Lewis Statton, Susan [Maxey] Williams, Carolyn [Fuchs] Wright, Earl Scott Wright, Laurel M. Zuber

Congratulations to Mary Ann [Maulsby] Bell who won the prize package.



Get with the Programming

SBU's Computer and Information Science department rises to the top in the complex and ever-changing realm of computer science

BY STEPHANIE BENOIT

The SBU Computer and Information Sciences (CIS)

department has been hard at work every day since its founding in 1983 to become one of the nation's top programs. Those determined efforts in the context of a dedicated Christian setting situate SBU CIS in a distinct position among other universities.

"SBU is a sincerely, purposefully and absolutely Christian university," said Dr. Tim DeClue, professor and chair of the department. "It pervades everything that we do. But even if we weren't, you still ought to want to come here to get our degree because of the quality of the program that we have."

The program's quality is solidified by significant industry recognitions, including full accreditation from the Accreditation Board for Engineering and Technology's (ABET) Computer Accrediting Commission, one of the most widely recognized accreditation standards for engineering and

technology programs. Within Missouri, SBU is one of six universities—such as University of Missouri and Missouri State University—to hold this accreditation. Additionally, SBU houses the only ABET-accredited program at an evangelical Christian university within 500 miles of Bolivar, and is the only Christian university to house programs within a single department accredited by both ABET and the Accreditation Council of Business Schools and Programs.

Building on these distinctions, SBU CIS students are earning major recognition, as well as putting their newly learned knowledge into practice, by competing in notable programming competitions, such as the Consortium for Computing Sciences in Colleges (CCSC) Central Plains Region Programming Contest. There, for the seventh time since 2005, SBU's top competitive programming team earned first place, this year in a field of 23 teams from 12 highly

competitive schools such as University of Kansas, which finished second, and University of Central Missouri, which finished third.

Striving for excellence in these various arenas is part of a larger goal of becoming the premier CIS program at an evangelical Christian university, a reality that the faculty and students are well on their way to achieving.

"If you accept as a part of your vision that you can be the best, then that is very motivating and it's very exciting," DeClue said. "That's what we want to do. The tradeoff is that it takes a lot of hard work, but it's a lot more enjoyable, and I think it honors God in a much better way if you are striving to be the very best. It helps you get out of bed with a smile on your face and go after the biggest dreams that you can dream."

Practice Makes Perfect

One way that CIS professors help their students



SBU students Renee Coleman, Alex Barcus, Josh Inman and Kenson Ashton present their work at the Springfield Chamber of Commerce. Left: SBU students at the Springfield Chamber with Dr. Tim DeClue (far right) and the organization's communications coordinator Maggie Kost (third from right) and business assistance manager Lindsay Haymes (second from right).

achieve those dreams is through coordinating impressive senior projects. Each year, graduating students must complete a group project in partnership with a variety of organizations, from global companies to small businesses, to help them begin converting their classroom knowledge into real-world results. This task, although daunting, provides students with valuable experience leading up to their entrance into the professional world.

"[They do] a capstone project where you synthesize a lot of the things that you have been building all the first three years and we say, 'Now, let's put it all together,'" DeClue said. "We get them working with practicing software engineers. Our students get to work with huge software systems with lots of moving parts. Students get this incredible experience that has real risk and consequences, and that prepares them so well."

And that unique preparation, combined with the enormous efforts of enthusiastic faculty and advisors, is translating into impressive results: CIS graduates have enjoyed a more than 97-percent job placement rate for the past 13 years, 11 of which boasted a 100-percent rate. Many of those jobs are at powerhouse companies, from Cerner to Accenture to

Striving for excellence throughout the department of computer and information science is part of a larger goal of becoming the premier CIS program at an evangelical Christian university, a reality that faculty and students are well on their way to achieving.



CIS students Elizabeth Coleman, Jonathan Moore, Joseph Miller, Josh Oryall, and Julie McGlaughlin prepare to present their project to the 2015 CIS Industry Advisory Board.

“We get them working with practicing software engineers. Students get this incredible experience that has real risk and consequences, and that prepares them so well.”

Dr. Tim DeClue, professor and chair of the Department of Computer and Information Science

Walmart Information Systems. Those outcomes are on the minds of faculty when they assign senior projects.

“One of the filters that we use is ‘will this senior project open a door for our students,’” DeClue said of how projects are selected from a number of proposals by different companies. “We view opening doors for our students so they can get great jobs as very, very important.”

Another important filter used by faculty when selecting the projects is, “Does it fit the mission of our University and our department,” DeClue said, citing past projects where students have used their abilities to significantly benefit nonprofit Christian organizations such as New Tribes Mission, Global Media Outreach or the International Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention.

“We always try to include at least one senior project that is very clearly in that mission category,” DeClue said. “Those are the kinds of things that don’t [always] open a door to a job for [students], but I think it is what we are about.”

Here are the impressive results of the work done by this year’s seniors.

Project: Open Source Software

COMPANY: *MediaWiki*

TEAMMATES: *Michael Gooley, Jarrett Munton and Kyle Wendland*

FACULTY ADVISOR: *Dr. Baochuan Lu*

OVERVIEW: This team of students coordinated with sponsors from Israel and Croatia to make contributions to MediaWiki, the open-source software on which Wikipedia runs. They ultimately worked with an existing team and obtained specific objectives to revamp aspects of the Content Translation dashboard that helps contributors translate articles into other languages.

WHAT DID YOU LEARN? *Jarrett Munton:* “In this project, my team learned a lot about the systems that large organizations use to manage big projects, such as version

CIS students Andrew Wilson, Alex Barcus and Josh Inman (above) and Kristof Kinal, Tanner Barnes and Bethany Hash (below) present their projects to the 2015 CIS Industry Advisory Board.

control tools. My learning about Git and bug- and task-tracking systems has already been helpful in my job. In addition, we learned much more about web languages and many advanced techniques in coding to support the giant code base and to allow expandability of content into different human languages and different browsers.”

Project: Chat Window Plugin

COMPANY: *Accenture Duck Creek*

TEAMMATES: *Steven Hopkins, Nathan Hughes and Justin Stout*

FACULTY ADVISOR: *Dr. Jim Cain*

OVERVIEW: Students worked on a chat window plugin for Microsoft’s Visual Studio to enable developers at Accenture to quickly and easily communicate and collaborate on the code on which they are working. The system enabled employees to communicate quickly and easily without switching to another program and diminishing productivity.

WHAT DID YOU LEARN? *Justin Stout:* “Communication is key! Getting regular feedback from our contacts at Accenture was essential to keeping the project on track. Also, don’t over-commit. Keeping our project focused helped us create something really useful in the time we had. And be a team player. The project went very smoothly because of trust.”

Project: Student Networking Website

ORGANIZATION: *Springfield Chamber of Commerce*

TEAMMATES: *Kenson Ashton, Alex Barcus, Renee Coleman, Josh Inman and Andrew Wilson*

FACULTY ADVISOR: *Dr. Tim DeClue*

OVERVIEW: Students created a website that compiled information for students, educators and parents about available work and internship experiences offered by businesses in and around the Springfield area. The goal was to meet the growing need for internships and real-world experiences for high school and college students and to build a website to help connect them to local businesses and organizations.

WHAT DID YOU LEARN? *Renee Coleman:* “Because we chose to go with a new tool that even our professors had never used, we had a high learning curve. We learned to ask the right questions, and we also learned to rely on one another as we worked to create the site. I believe our team grew stronger and closer because our project was so unique and challenging.”

Project: Personnel Management Website

COMPANY: *Burlington Northern Sante Fe (BNSF)*

TEAMMATES: *Tanner Barnes, Clayton Gray, Bethany Hash and Kristof Kinal*

FACULTY ADVISOR: *Dr. Jeffrey Kimball*

OVERVIEW: Students worked to create a website for BNSF



managers in a particular office to manage personnel on the train yard. This website would help personnel track their efficiency and performance as a call center by measuring different types of data pertaining to the office. The website also enabled employees to set specific thresholds for the various data being tracked.

WHAT DID YOU LEARN? *Tanner Barnes:* “We learned a great deal about working with others. While we all had to learn a new programming language, most of our learning came from speaking with our project sponsor and making sure we were gleaned the right information from him and gaining soft skills in presenting our ideas and solutions to actual industry workers.”

Project: Communication Mobile Program

ORGANIZATION: *International Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention*

TEAMMATES: *Elizabeth Coleman, Julie McGlaughlin, Joe Miller, Jonathan Moores and Josh Oryall*

FACULTY ADVISOR: *Meilani Conley*

OVERVIEW: This team worked with the organization to create an online application to help missionaries communicate their whereabouts and travels with the home office and to increase the security of those communications. This online application also streamlined the process used previously for communications of this nature.

WHAT DID YOU LEARN? *Julie McGlaughlin:* “Our team learned a lot about flexibility and working together. Scheduling time to work on this while juggling class and other jobs was difficult, but we learned to keep each other accountable and focused. We also learned that when creating products for a customer it is important to be aware of what they want and to communicate clearly.”



Open For Business

SBU Enactus students put their education into practice in the community through impactful, real-world projects

BY STEPHANIE BENOIT

Business has been booming for SBU Enactus, one of more than 1,600 college chapters of the international nonprofit organization promoting entrepreneurship as a means for bettering society. Housed within the Robert W. Plaster College of Business and Computer Science, SBU's Enactus team has been on the forefront of this philosophy, sponsoring and executing community-development projects that are impacting the region in a major way.

Their efforts—building on those of SBU notables such as Alvin Rohrs (who served as director of SBU's Gene Taylor National Free Enterprise Center and currently is president and CEO of Enactus, formerly Students in Free Enterprise, or SIFE)—help transform lives and serve the community by applying not only their business acumen, but also their servant-leader outlook to various real-world projects.

"Like how we are very intentional in academics, we get to integrate our faith [in Enactus]," said business instructor Levi Bridge, who with Dr. Nathan Wright, assistant professor of economics, and Angie Brown-Peterson, assistant professor and chair of business administration, advises the team. "We are presenting ethical situations in class about how to be a future Christian business professional, and then the students are

able to experience that and integrate that into their Enactus projects."

Through participating in these projects, students grow and develop skills that serve them well in competition (the SBU Enactus team regularly places among the top teams in the country, including in the top 48 nationally this year), as well as long-term in the professional world.

"The biggest benefit is that experience of applying your coursework in a real-life situation, and on their resume, they can say, 'I have been a leader, and here's how I've been involved,'" Bridge said. "Employers are looking for students that are going above and beyond what's required and are putting in that effort. Not only do they have the knowledge, but they have the know-how."

A Light in Darkness

For the last two years, SBU Enactus has partnered with Nightlight Branson, a nonprofit organization addressing commercial sexual exploitation in Branson, Ozark and Springfield, cities that struggle mightily with this gruesome—and growing—issue.

"They go to clubs and try to build relationships with these women that are in sex trafficking—they talk to them, and let them know

that people care for them," said sophomore Tori Bailey, the project's team co-leader and incoming SBU Enactus president.

The team has found many ways to support the organization's efforts, such as establishing a business plan and helping acquire and assemble hundreds of gift packages, which Nightlight provides to local at-risk women as an outreach tool.

A major success achieved by the students this year was acquiring the Walmart Women's Economic Empowerment Grant that, in addition to helping procure office equipment and supplies for the program, enabled the organization to create microgrants for the women.

"Whatever they need that is keeping them from a job, we can help them buy that," said Bailey, citing examples like purchasing Microsoft Office to help a woman from the program continue her college education.

In addition, through hosting events like a widely attended screening of *Nefarious: Merchant of Souls*, a documentary detailing the evils of modern-day sex trafficking, SBU Enactus helped raise awareness about trafficking, an issue which the students themselves were educated about through their work with Nightlight.

"I came into this not knowing much about sex trafficking—I'd heard about it on an international

level, but I didn't know that it was that big of an issue [here]," Bailey said.

Teaching the Next Generation of Businesspeople

A project partnership developed with Lebanon High School in fall 2014, shortly after SBU Enactus gave a presentation to Bolivar Rotary Club. Lebanon High School's principal was present at the meeting and was so impressed that he approached the team with the idea of making a version of Enactus available to his students.

Now, the high school program is nearly off the ground, with SBU Enactus partnering with Lebanon High School to develop curriculum and lay the groundwork to offer the class in fall 2015. SBU team members will serve as advisors to 32 Lebanon High School students who will be divided into two teams, each with two student leaders and a project partnership with a local business.

"We are trying to develop entrepreneurial action [in students] to [help them] become business minded, understand what a business is, and work with businesses in the area so that they can get experience," said junior project leader Sean Bates.

In addition to providing high-school students opportunities to develop valuable knowledge and skills, team members hope that their efforts can help spark an economic uptick in a town where more than 27 percent of the population lives below the poverty level.

"That's one of the things that we really want to try to address, and we really hope that the community will be able to benefit," Bates said. "It's very ambitious, and it's going to take a lot of work."

Encouragingly, several other Missouri high schools have taken note of SBU Enactus' program and expressed interest in bringing it to their students.

"We are focusing on Lebanon High School and trying to get the framework of what [the program] is going to look like, so that we can easily replicate it from Lebanon to whatever schools are interested in doing it," Bates said.

The Business of Beauty

MK Blush, a small business selling Mary Kay cosmetics products in Bolivar, Mo., was in need of financial assistance, as well as strategic direction, which the students of SBU Enactus helped provide. The partnership, begun in 2014, helped the business owner substantially reduce debt and develop better managerial skills.

"We started working with her on basic business skills like organization, keeping track of all of her expenses and revenues, and branding," senior project leader Saralyn Glassock said.

Another key development was implementing a retail inventory system to dramatically improve the owner's ability to sell and store the products in her retail space on the downtown square.

Additionally, Enactus team members helped the owner consolidate her various social media accounts, creating a unified, cohesive platform for the brand to improve her ability to market MK Blush and communicate with customers.

Now, MK Blush sales have increased by 30 percent, and debt has been reduced by 25 percent, resulting in not only a stronger future for the business, but also improved quality of life for the owner.

"She personally benefited in the way that she has less stress and is also in a more organized state," Glassock said. "We enjoyed learning more about running and maintaining a small business. It was very meaningful to see the improvements she made."

Ministering to the Imprisoned

This year, SBU Enactus partnered with Blessed Behind Bars, which focuses on diminishing recidivism and helping current and former inmates transition from life in prison to one of crime-free self-sustainability. The nonprofit is based in St. Louis, Mo., the city with the second-highest

violent crime rate in the country.

"Blessed Behind Bars assists inmates with job readiness through job training, which means helping them create a resume, filling out job applications and preparing them to enter back into the community," said Matt Randolph, a junior who serves as the team's project co-leader. "The founder also is providing services to those who are on parole or probation, and those who have families who are dealing with that."

The team supported the nonprofit in a variety of ways, including through fundraising, marketing and social media, all of which helped strengthen the organization's relationships with community partners and its ability to serve inmates. In addition, the team helped promote


Students' efforts help transform lives and serve the community by applying not only their business acumen, but also their servant-leader outlook to various real-world projects.

a book written by founder Ann Perry, as well as readied her to apply for 501(c)(3) status to pave the way for grant applications and increased fundraising.

Their efforts this first year alone resulted in measurable improvements, including a nearly 1,800-percent increase in website views, a more than 6,000-percent increase in social media followers and a 186-percent increase in donations.

The team hopes to build upon this momentum in years to come and continue supporting the organization as it serves the physical and spiritual needs of the current and formerly incarcerated.

"Through all that Ann is doing, she is also sharing the Gospel," Randolph said. "There's the purpose of getting inmates community ready, but the primary reason she's doing this is to show them Christ's love and who Jesus is."



Enactus co-advisor Levi Bridge (right) with Lebanon High School teachers Sherri Pentecost (left) and Stephanie Embry (middle). Pentecost and Embry will teach the high-school-level Enactus course beginning at Lebanon High School this fall.

Accounting their Blessings

SBU's accounting department graduates find ways to give back to their program

BY STEPHANIE BENOIT



SBU alumni Kalena Bruce and Chelsea Abercrombie support current students by offering internships at their firm, Integrity Tax and Accounting. They also began a scholarship this year to benefit undergraduates studying accounting. Above left: Accounting major Matthew Randolph works as an intern at Integrity Tax and Accounting.

For most students, the transition from high school to college and college to the working world can be wrought with challenges and uncertainty. But for SBU accounting department majors, the efforts and input of alumni are helping ease that transition and pave the way for a lifetime of success.

“Because our program is so small and alumni have been treated so personally—they weren’t just a number, and we really got to know them well—they want to give back to the students who come after them,” said Jenell Wagner, assistant professor of accounting.

Accounting alumni involvement manifests in various forms and benefits students in myriad ways, from providing career advice to connecting students with internships to financially supporting their academic pursuits.

One such means is the department’s Interview Blitz, an annual event that pairs students with experienced alumni for simulated job interviews and evaluations in an effort to prepare students for future job interviews.

“The Interview Blitz is very helpful,” said Wayne Clark, professor of accounting and chair of the department. “Alumni will write up a summary [of the interview] and give it to the students the next day. The interviewers are honest with them.”

“The more interaction and feedback students can get from experienced professionals, the better,” said Jody Burdette, an SBU graduate who participates in the event and currently serves as director of finance of an electronic medical record



SBU graduates Kalena Bruce (left) and Chelsea Abercrombie in front of Integrity Tax and Accounting, their Bolivar-based firm.

system developer in Ozark, Mo. “Being able to sit down with multiple professionals helps students get different perspectives and advice on what employers are looking for, and will hopefully help with some of the nervousness that usually comes when it’s time for their first real job interview.”

For some students, that first job interview is only a few short weeks after the event. “We do our Interview Blitz early in the fall because CPA firms usually come in to interview juniors and seniors by mid-September, so [students] are going to be doing real interviews just a few weeks [later],” Clark said. “So, we try to get them short interviews that night with someone who has been out in the field and has interviewed other people in real-life situations.”

Alumni provide students with similar practical advice through talks on campus where they network with students and share their insights on a host of subjects.

“We love having them come back,” Wagner said. “We usually have them talk about what they’ve learned, the most important things that they learned in college, and what they wish they would have known, even practical things like building your work wardrobe—things that our students who are about to graduate start thinking about. It makes that transition easier.”

One such alumnae is Kari Wooderson, CPA, a senior accountant at KPM CPAs & Advisors, who was invited by Sharla Bailey, assistant professor of accounting, to visit with students in class this spring.

“I felt like it was a great opportunity to help share my knowledge about transitioning from college to the workforce,” said Wooderson, who related her experiences working in both private and public accounting. “Involving alumni is extremely important because it enables students to see the result of hard work. These

connections can provide networking and mentorship opportunities to help students better understand what opportunities exist.”

Other accounting alumni give of their time and expertise by serving on the College of Business and Computer Science Advisory Board, which meets annually to discuss the programs’ direction.

“I view serving on the board as a small way to give back to the accounting department and the people who were so supportive and influential to me during my time at SBU,” said Jody Vernon, CPA, a financial analyst for the City of Springfield who graduated from SBU. “Alumni who have been in the workplace have an interesting perspective to offer the department, college and students.”

Their perspective has been influential in helping provide feedback as the department seeks to adapt to trends in the profession.

“We bounce ideas off of them, especially in our accounting curriculum,” Clark said, citing examples such as beginning the accounting and information assurance major. “They helped us confirm that our students need more information technology learning, so that helped lead to our newest major. Now, students take enough computer and information sciences courses that they can communicate quite well in that realm and be a very big asset for their organization, wherever they work.”

In addition to giving of their time, accounting graduates have used their successes as a means to help support students’ studies. In 2007, accounting alumni banded together to create a scholarship for incoming freshmen in an effort to assist students and attract high-quality new

“Our accounting students are much like a community. They work together, play together and support each other. I think our alumni remember that and feel like an extended part of that community.”

Sharla Bailey, assistant professor of accounting

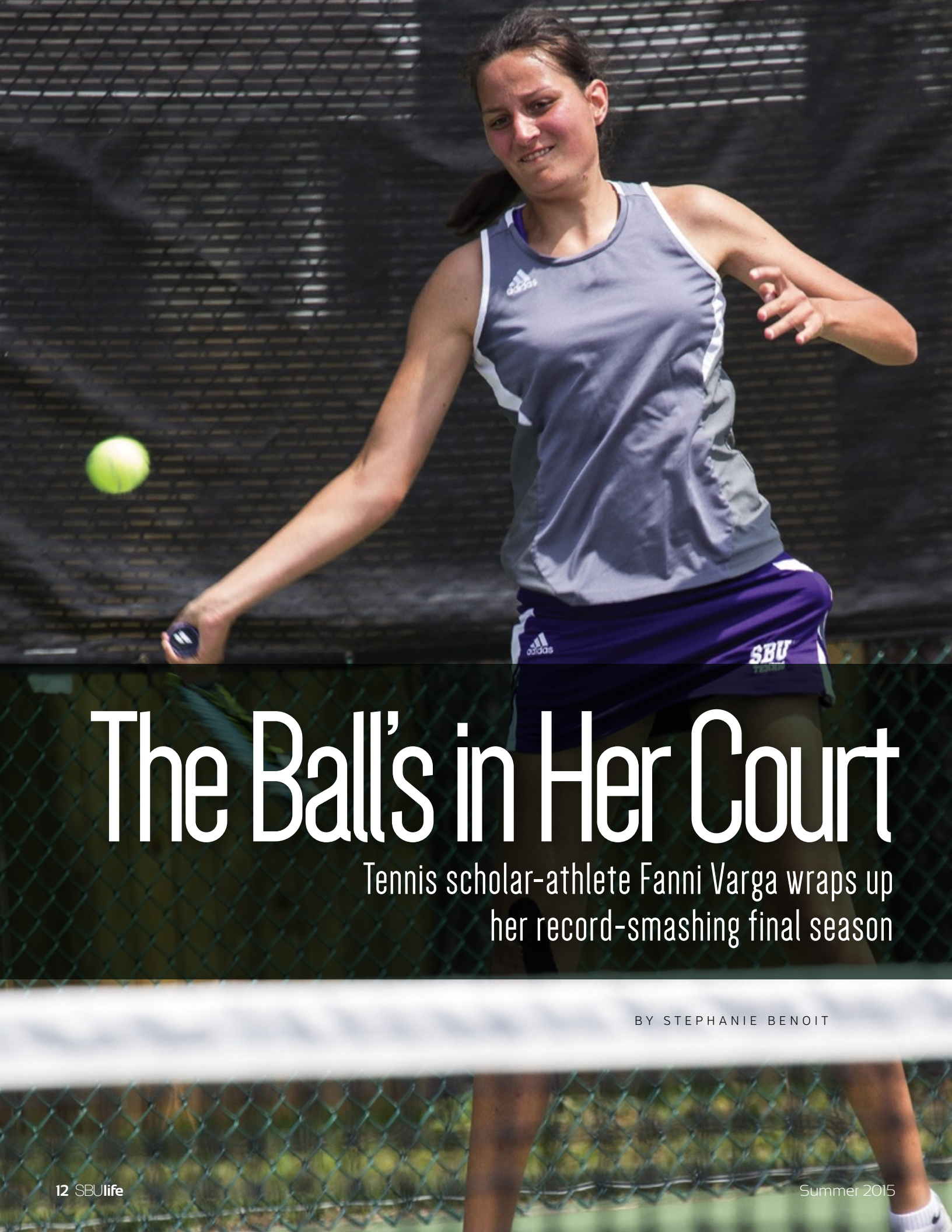
students to SBU. To date, about two-dozen students have benefited from this scholarship.

Hoping to similarly aid students, 2008 accounting graduates Chelsea (Kenney) Abercrombie and Kalena (Kenney) Bruce, owners of the Bolivar, Mo.-based CPA firm Integrity Tax and Accounting, have established their own scholarship, the Integrity Tax and Accounting Excellence in Accounting Scholarship at SBU. The sisters also support students’ futures by offering internships at their firm.

“We’ve had some really great interns and we wanted a way to financially help with their education,” Bruce and Abercrombie said of their reasons for beginning the scholarship. “It’s important to us that students be recognized for their hard work, and we hope that this scholarship will do so.”

Together, these alumni give students the opportunity to prepare for a bright future, with 92 percent of them finding a financial-related job or in graduate school within three months of graduating. Their involvement also sets an example of giving back and helps the accounting department provide a high-quality education and close-knit academic environment for years to come.

“If you spend much time around our offices, you will see that our accounting students are much like a community,” Bailey said. “They work together, play together and support each other. I think our alumni remember that and feel like an extended part of that community.”



The Ball's in Her Court

Tennis scholar-athlete Fanni Varga wraps up her record-smashing final season

BY STEPHANIE BENOIT

SBU senior Fanni Varga feels, unsurprisingly, right at home on the court, where she's spent countless hours since leaving Budapest, Hungary, to compete and study business management at SBU.

It's where she's honed her skills, perfected her technique, and won match after match, finishing her career with an unprecedented SBU record: 107 wins to six losses in singles, and 110 doubles wins—many with her remarkable teammate, Christina Zentai—to 11 losses. She even capped off her college career by defeating the NCAA's top-ranked doubles team during their final match in the Final Four of the NCAA Semi-Finals.

It's also where she's earned honor upon honor, from Mid America Intercollegiate Athletics Association (MIAA) Player of the year (four times, more than any other player in conference history) to two-time Intercollegiate Tennis Association All-American.

“Fanni is very talented, athletically and academically. However, champions are defined by ‘want to’ more than talent, and she has the ‘want to.’”

Head tennis coach John Bryant

“She's unique,” said head tennis coach John Bryant. “She's very talented, athletically and academically. However, champions are defined by ‘want to’ more than talent, and she has the ‘want to.’”

Off the court, Varga is equally at home in the Robert W. Plaster College of Business and Computer Science and has taken dozens of courses for her business management major. As a standout student, Varga's focus and drive are equally present.

“Fanni is an extremely dedicated student,” said Dr. Nathan Wright, assistant professor of economics, who served as Varga's academic advisor. “She is very driven to succeed. She is extremely bright, organized and thoughtful. I especially appreciated how well prepared she always was for class. Her preparation, mastery of the material, and thoughtfulness in her comments during class discussions set her apart.”



The Southwest Baptist University women's tennis team with C. Pat Taylor, Ed.D., SBU president (far right), after defeating Arkansas Tech University to win the NCAA Central Regional title.

That dedication helped Fanni earn honors such as induction into SBU's chapter of Delta Mu Delta, the distinguished invitation-only international honor society in business in which membership is based upon the student's grade point average (minimum of 3.25), class rank (upper 20 percent) and individual character.

That success hasn't been without its challenges. Difficult coursework, a demanding practice schedule, adjusting to a new country, and learning a new language were all pressures for the scholar-athlete, pressures that she learned to balance, particularly by developing strategic study habits.

“It wasn't easy,” Varga said. “I had to figure out what time and where is the best for me to study. So after I figured it out, I needed less time to study and could be more efficient.”

Another important factor was SBU's faculty. “At SBU, the teachers really want you to learn what they are teaching,” Varga said. “Their main purpose is to help you. It really makes me feel like I want to put in my effort because I see their effort.”

Her days at SBU are only the beginning of an exciting career. This summer, she is coaching and interning at Harvard University's Tennis Academy, after which she will return

to SBU to finish her last semester of school and graduate in December. Then, she hopes to pursue a master's in sports management, with the goal of working for organizations such as the Hungarian Olympic Committee or International Tennis Federation.

Whatever path she takes, those who know Varga are confident that her experiences as a student-athlete at SBU have prepared her well to succeed.

“She has really flourished as a student, as a tennis player, and as a person,” Bryant said. “Once you've established the skills to handle tennis and academics for four years, the method of operation for being successful is identical. I see her being very successful.”

Looking back, Varga is satisfied with her accomplishments at SBU, many of which she credits to the encouragement and support of a caring community of professors, coaches, teammates and friends.

“In the last four years, I feel that I did my best—I am very proud of it,” Varga said. “I improved personally here because of the community at SBU. I really appreciate that I could my spend my four years here.”



Fanni Varga (right) is honored on Senior Day by SBU President C. Pat Taylor, Ed.D., and Mike Pitts, SBU director of athletics.



Taylor Center makeover

Business building to be renovated, expanded

The Gene Taylor National Free Enterprise Center, which houses offices and classrooms primarily for the Robert W. Plaster College of Business and Computer Science (COBACS), is undergoing a facelift and expansion.

COBACS has experienced steady enrollment growth within all of its programs in accounting, business administration and computer and information science (CIS), with more growth anticipated in the future.

"We are looking for opportunities to grow what we offer, but we need additional classroom and faculty office space in order to do that," said Troy Bethards, D.B.A., associate professor of business administration and dean of the Robert W. Plaster College of Business

and Computer Science. "Additionally, the updated facility will reflect the high-caliber of our programs."

Existing space will be remodeled to add faculty office space in the current office suite on the first floor, with accounting and CIS student computer labs moving to the addition. Woody Auditorium will be completely renovated.

The addition will include new classrooms, a student lounge, student study rooms, seminar rooms and team presentation rooms.

"All the new space in the expansion is student-focused," Bethards said. "We are updating facilities, particularly for computer and information science, so that our facilities will mirror more of what our programs are already doing. It will be much more functional

and include technology our students need to be using."

A seven-figure gift from the Robert W. Plaster Foundation in Lebanon, Mo., in late 2014 started the fundraising efforts for the renovation and expansion. The Taylor Center was completed in 1981 and named in honor of former Missouri Congressman Gene Taylor.

For more information about the Robert W. Plaster College of Business and Computer Science, contact Bethards at (417) 328-1757 or tbethards@SBUniv.edu. For information regarding SBU giving opportunities, endowment, estate planning or capital projects, contact Dr. Brad Johnson, vice president of university relations, at (417) 328-1805 or bjohnson@SBUniv.edu.

Master of business administration degree returns to SBU

Southwest Baptist University's Robert W. Plaster College of Business and Computer Science once again is offering a master of business administration degree with classes beginning Fall 2015 on the Bolivar campus.

SBU's Board of Trustees voted during the board's April 28 meeting to reinstate the master of business administration degree that was suspended in May 2012 due to low enrollment and decreasing revenue. However, SBU has continued to have approved degree status for the program from the Higher Learning Commission, the University's overall accrediting body, and the Accreditation Council for Business Schools and Programs (ACBSP), the business accrediting body.

The program has been evaluated and reorganized to provide a program that is unique to southwest Missouri. The program has three distinctive components: Being intentionally faith-based with a focus on leadership and an emphasis on entrepreneurship.

"These components will be in every class," said Troy Bethards, D.B.A., associate professor of business administration and dean of the Robert W. Plaster College of Business and Computer Science. "That is unique to southwest Missouri. We would be the only faith-based MBA program in southwest Missouri."

Bethards said that research has shown that companies want MBA programs to include leadership development and entrepreneurial

knowledge, so SBU's MBA will fill that void.

The Residential MBA is designed for graduates of the traditional undergraduate program on SBU's Bolivar campus. The degree can be completed in as few as 12-14 months in the Residential program.

A second track, the Professional MBA that is designed for the business professional who desires to return to school to complete an MBA, will be introduced to the Springfield market at a future time. Students must have been out of college for at least one year, and the degree will be completed at a slower pace to accommodate students who are working full time.

For more information, contact Bethards at (417) 328-1757 or tbethards@SBUniv.edu.

Striving for excellence. That is the overarching goal of what we do in the Robert W. Plaster College of Business and Computer Science at SBU. For many years, students who graduated from the departments of accounting, business, or computer and information sciences can attest that SBU offers quality programs. Shortly after taking my first position as a mutual funds representative in the early 1990s, I distinctly recall the moment of understanding that there was a difference in the quality of education I received at SBU. Today, I believe we are even more effective in preparing our students for what lies ahead. During finals week in May, I received an email from Jenna Dempsay, one of our graduates. Here is an excerpt from what she had to say as she spoke about two of our students:

"I just want to say how proud I am to be an SBU alumna right now! Having two soon-to-be graduates come to the home office to interview today reminded me how great of a job SBU did in preparing us for our future. They were selected rather than students from other larger universities, as well as experienced internal associates, to earn a second interview with one of the company vice presidents. Both students came into what can be an intimidating corporate office with confidence. They were professional and displayed excitement for the opportunity to work with the company. I know that this is a result of coming from a university that not only challenges their students, but more importantly cares for each individual's success. Thank you for all that you and the university have done to give us a great education, preparation for our future careers, and the tools for continued growth!"



I get excited when I hear from SBU graduates. Sometimes they share what they are doing, opportunities they have before them, or even identify things we need to consider as we strive for excellence in offering our current students a great education. Our alumni are using the knowledge and insights they gained at SBU to make a difference in their part of the world while also serving as a light for Christ.

In the Robert W. Plaster College of Business and Computer Science, the faculty and staff desire to see students draw closer in their walk with Jesus. While we are certainly passionate about accounting, business, and computer and information sciences, we also desire to integrate the Christian faith in all that we do. It makes sense because it is who we are. Several years ago, the College chose to emphasize Psalm 15 and the eight character traits God revealed within the Psalm that He desires to see in those who follow Him: Integrity, Service, Respect, Charity, Faithfulness, Truthfulness, Humility and Perseverance.

In considering each of the traits from that Psalm, it is apparent that they would be desirable characteristics that any employer would want to find in an employee. It turns out that several employers feel that way as well. On the morning of commencement in May, we polled our newest graduates and found that 72 percent of them had already accepted a job prior to graduation. That is impressive! It speaks to the character and quality of our students as well as the type of student the College of Business and Computer Science graduates.

Things are going well in the College of Business and Computer Science. Yet, we strive to continuously improve the academic quality of our programs and more effectively meet the needs of those who benefit from our students' talents. In an attempt to follow the model of Jesus, we are striving for excellence!

Troy Bethards, D.B.A.

Dean of the Robert W. Plaster College of Business and Computer Science

Ruby Letsch-Roderique Chair of Finance/Economics

Thanks for the memories

SBU alumni share their memories of Drs. Bill and Kathy Brown as a tribute to them upon their retirements this summer

Drs. Bill and Kathy Brown have a total of 70 years of combined service to Southwest Baptist University. Both are music professors, and Bill has served as Provost, the University's chief academic officer, since 2009. Here are some memories of the Browns that you shared with us.

I have a vivid picture of Dr. Bill Brown bounding in to my Sophomore Music Literature Class. Here was this tall, lanky guy with a spring in his step and a smile on his face that was infectious. His love for the subject made me want to learn. That is that man that I came to love and appreciate on more levels than I can count.

Dr. Kathy Brown (she was Mrs. Brown back then) believed in me — I mean really believed in me. She taught me to sing and would not give up. I eventually went on to receive an MCM Degree with an emphasis in voice. I have taught literally entire choirs to breath deep using her method, and used the same technique as a voice instructor at the college level. Her gift of breath goes on.

Those years at SBU were foundationally formative for me, and Drs. Bill and Kathy Brown's legacy has lived on and on through my ministry ... and now the ministry of others.

Dr. Bill Maxon

Executive Pastor, First Baptist Church, Elk Grove, Calif.

Bill and Kathy are great examples of two independent scholars who also work so well together. Their talent is only surpassed by their commitment to serve the Lord as Christian educators and great human beings. I so wish I could be there this weekend to help them celebrate. They were outstanding role models during my time at SBU and I'm so thankful to have shared in their influence.

Dr. Katrina (Fisher) Mitchell '94

While I never had Dr. Brown as a professor, I still remember that I took a guitar class with John Strickland and Dr. Brown came to everyone's juried performance, which really surprised me. As I have gone into higher ed, Dr. Brown has given me a lot of advice—which has been extremely helpful as I begin my own career in higher education. He has always been someone that I have greatly respected and admired.

Jordan Cofer, Ph.D.

Associate Professor of English and Head, Department of Literature and Languages at Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College, Tifton, Ga.

One of the greatest memories shared with Dr. Kathy Brown was in the first few weeks at SBU as a freshman. I had only been taking vocal lessons for a couple of weeks from her when I showed up to lessons on September 11. We spoke for a moment and then she said that we would not be meeting today. She was concerned as she knew I did not know what was going on. I remember her taking me into the music lobby and watching the television there and seeing those historic events unfold before our eyes. I will always remember how much she challenged me and made me to be the vocalist I am today. I am continually reminded when I teach my current middle schoolers in my choir how her legacy will be left with not only me but also in my students I teach. Thank you for the music, KB!

Olivia Howard '06





More 2015 faculty retirements

Dr. Bill Brown was my piano teacher.

My fondest memory of him has nothing to do with music. I was an international student just learning to drive, and he let me drive him to the Ad building one day! It was a lot scary and somewhat exhilarating at the same time. I prayed I wouldn't crash the car between the music and Ad buildings! He wasn't just a piano teacher to me; he's a mentor and a friend, and someone I admire professionally. When I teach my own students, I often ask myself, so what would Dr. Brown do? I am forever grateful to him for a wonderful education experience at SBU.

Dr. Kathy Brown was my advisor at SBU, and the first time I had an advising session with her she had computer problems. And every time after that, too! She would then have to call Dr. Bill, and he would have to come over from wherever he was to help her. It became a standing joke between us, and our sessions were peppered with laughs and giggles.

These are two very special people, and I thank God He led me to SBU and to them!

Audrey Lim '03

Dr. Kathy Brown was not only a wonderful vocal instructor, but a wonderful person to talk to through all struggles of college/young adult life. She helped me through many stressful times. If it was family, relationships, or the sickness that I had my last semester, she was always

there for me. She helped me more than I could ever say!

If I could think of any words that describe both Dr. Brown and Dr. Kathy Brown, it would be: Christian, talented, inspiring, hard-working, and encouraging. They both always put a smile on my face when I saw them on campus. I even invited them to my wedding this past fall. Unfortunately they were not able to attend, but I still received a congratulatory text from Dr. Kathy Brown the morning of my wedding.

Katherine [Russback] Qualls'10

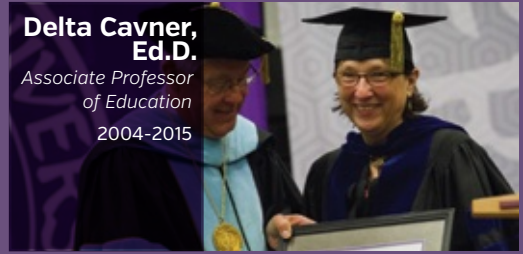
My husband Aarik and I were both privileged to study voice and piano

with Dr. Kathy Brown and Dr. Bill Brown respectively during our tenure at SBU. We witnessed first hand their dedication to SBU, the music department, and their individual students. We were both challenged and well cared for as their students, and have a fond collection of inspiring memories and fun anecdotes that have stayed with us since our college days. We both grew tremendously as musicians while studying with the Browns. Since graduating, it has been a true pleasure to see their continued commitment to the music department and SBU in their various roles. What a blessing they have been to so many!

Brooke and Aarik Danielsen



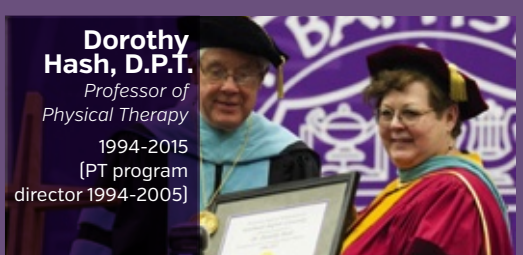
Pearlene Breshears
Assistant Professor of Psychology
Coordinator of counseling and full-time counselor
1990-2015



Delta Cavner, Ed.D.
Associate Professor of Education
2004-2015



Jim Frost, D.Min.
Professor of Intercultural Studies
Director of Intercultural Studies Semester Abroad
1987-2015



Dorothy Hash, D.P.T.
Professor of Physical Therapy
1994-2015
(PT program director 1994-2005)

Retiring cabinet member



Ron Maupin, M.A., M.S.
Vice President for Administration
Chief Financial Officer
1999-2015

5 Questions

with **Susan Applegate**



In each issue of SBU Life magazine, we interview one of our staff members so you can meet the people who help make SBU a Christ-centered, caring academic community.

Susan Applegate recently assumed the position of administrative assistant to Dr. Troy Bethards, dean of the Robert W. Plaster College of Business and Computer Science. Previously, she served as department secretary for the college. She plays an important role in helping COBACS function smoothly each day.

When did you first start working at SBU?

I began working at SBU in August 2014 as the department secretary for the Robert W. Plaster College of Business and Computer Sciences. With the transition of our former administrative assistant to a new position at SBU, I am honored to have the opportunity to continue serving in COBACS as the new administrative assistant to the dean.

What is a typical day for you like at SBU?

As department secretary, typically my day was spent doing various jobs for faculty and staff, such as setting up prospective student visits, proctoring exams, preparing department mailings, enrolling MBA students, supervising work-study students, and many other clerical tasks. Now as I move into my new position, my time will be spent supporting Dr. Bethards in day-to-day administrative tasks in COBACS, as well as assisting with university-wide events.

What is your favorite aspect of your job?

My favorite aspect of my job is being able to use the talents that God has given to me to serve the university, faculty and students in a way that brings glory and honor to Him.

What do you think is special about the Robert W. Plaster College of Business and Computer Science?

The focus on developing Christ-like attributes in our COBACS students stands out to me as a unique trait. We strive to teach and live out eight characteristics that are found in Psalm 15: Integrity, Service, Respect, Charity, Faithfulness, Truthfulness, Humility, and Perseverance. I feel that by teaching these traits within the curriculum, our COBACS graduates enter the workforce knowing how to live out their faith in their chosen profession.

What would you say to someone interested in joining the SBU family as a student, employee or supporter?

I would encourage them to become a part of the SBU family! The Christian environment is so refreshing and to be surrounded by fellow believers that truly care is amazing! We are so blessed to be on a university campus where the focus is on being a Christ-centered, caring academic community preparing students to be servant leaders in a global society. Who wouldn't want to be involved in a university with a great mission statement like that!



Graduation

571 GRADUATES

378 undergraduate, 193 graduate

Life Beautiful Awards

The award is given annually to an exceptional man and woman in SBU's spring graduating class whose outstanding scholarship and character demonstrates that they live a "life beautiful."



Renée Coleman, computer science and mathematics major from Springfield, Mo., is the daughter of Dr. Kelly and Kristin Coleman.



Orien B. Hendrex Award winner: Dr. Craig Endres, chair of the department of biology and professor of biology. This honor is given annually to a faculty member who has been judged by the previous three years' graduating classes to be outstanding in both teaching ability and personal guidance.



Senior musician (above): Violinist Elizabeth Caddy, economics and finance major, performed "Glorious Things of Thee are Spoken."



Taylor Qualls, psychology and Christian studies major from Lee's Summit, Mo., is the son of Michael and Rebecca Qualls.



Bob R. Derryberry Senior Address speaker (above left): Meagan R. Burns, communication major, encouraged students to strive to exceed the perceptions others have of their generation, as well as to approach challenges in their lives as opportunities to grow.

Commencement speaker (left): U.S. Sen. Roy Blunt '70 challenged students to cherish and protect the American right to religious freedom, as well as to build their lives on Gospel truth.



Brown-Peterson named chair of SBU business administration department

Angie Brown-Peterson, assistant professor of business administration, has been named as chair of the department of business administration in the Robert W. Plaster College of Business and Computer Science at Southwest Baptist University.

“I am excited to have Angie serving in the role as department chair for business administration,” said Troy Bethards, DBA, dean of the Robert W. Plaster College of Business and Computer Science. “She has a vision for the department and the drive and desire to move the department forward.”

Brown-Peterson earned a bachelor of science in business administration (marketing) and a master of business administration from SBU. In addition, she holds a social media certification from Drury University.

She is currently ABD in the pursuit of completing her Ph.D. in business administration (marketing) from Northcentral University.

Brown-Peterson teaches various business administration courses, such as business communications, social media marketing, ethics and professional development, marketing research and advertising.

“As a graduate of the business administration department and a faculty member in the department for six years, I am honored to serve as the department chair of business administration,” said Brown-Peterson, who assumed the role on Monday, May 18. “I am blessed to be surrounded by exceptional leadership, colleagues and students in my new position at SBU.”

SBU comes out on top at regional programming competition

Southwest Baptist University’s top competitive programming team earned first place in a field of 23 teams from 12 universities at the Consortium for Computing Sciences in Colleges (CCSC) Central Plains Region Programming Contest held Saturday, April 11, at the College of the Ozarks in Branson, Mo. This is the seventh time that an SBU team has placed first in the competition that is informally called the “Battle of the Brains.”

“The students have worked very hard this year and it has been an honor to be a part of their success,” said Dr. Tim DeClue, team coach and CIS department chair. “Both of our seniors will be starting work this summer for software engineering companies, which is the real victory. Jarrett will be working for a defense contractor in St. Louis, and Justin is headed to Perceptive Software in Lenexa, Kan. They have finished this year with a victory and they are headed to their next big victories in industry.”

In just 12 minutes, SBU’s top team—consisting of junior Brady Kornrumpf of Jefferson City, Mo.; senior Jarrett Munton from O’Fallon, Ill.; and senior Justin Stout from Gardner, Kan.—submitted the first successful solution of the



competition. They then proceeded to solve four more problems in four hours for a total of five solutions, more than any other team in the field, which included highly competitive schools such as University of Kansas, which finished second, and University of Central Missouri, which finished third.

SBU’s second team— freshman Chase Bussey from Sedalia, Mo.; sophomore Braden Steffaniak of Edwardsville, Ill.; and junior Bobby

Sterling from Buffalo, Mo.—finished 11th.

The Central Plains Region of the CCSC is one of only 10 CCSC regions in the United States and comprises universities from Missouri, Kansas, Illinois, Iowa and Nebraska. The Consortium is a non-profit organization focused on promoting quality computer-oriented curricula as well as effective use of computing in smaller institutions of higher learning which are typically non-research in orientation.

Master's in Nursing program receives full ACEN accreditation

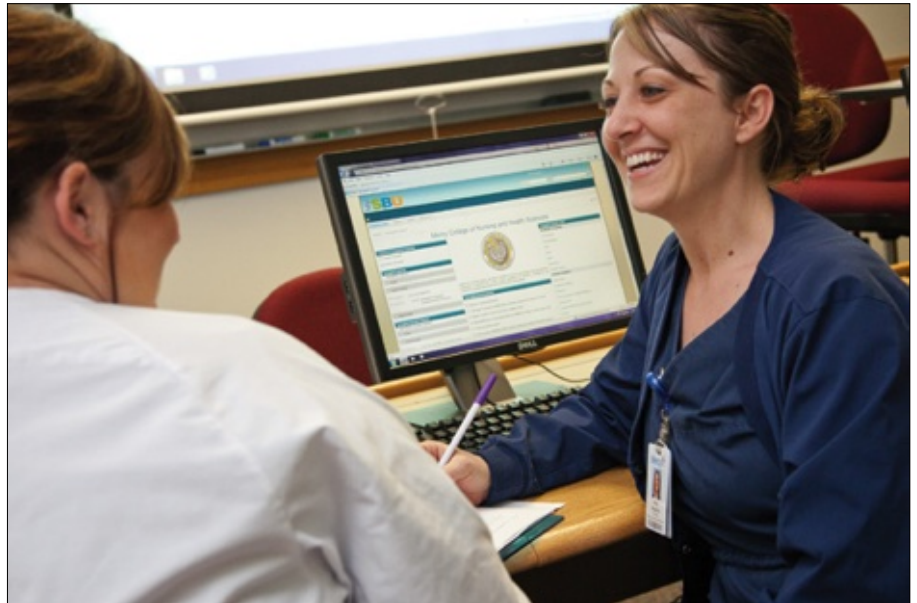
Mercy College of Nursing and Health Sciences of Southwest Baptist University has received full accreditation for its Master of Science in Nursing (MSN) program.

The Board of Commissioners with the Accreditation Commission for Education in Nursing (ACEN) granted initial accreditation and scheduled the next evaluation visit for Fall 2019.

"The master's program supports the Institute of Medicine initiative for nursing students and faculty to achieve a higher level of nursing education," said Dr. Kezia Lilly, dean of Mercy College of Nursing and Health Sciences of SBU. "The MSN program provides a seamless educational pathway for students progressing from their Bachelor of Science (BSN) in Nursing to MSN."

The master's degree program combines a unique blend of online courses, hybrid classes and clinical experiences to provide advanced degree options for nurses who already have a BSN. MSN students have the opportunity to specialize in either nursing education or nursing administration.

"Because of our spiritual heritage, the MSN



program is grounded in a Christian worldview focusing on servant leadership," said Dr. Cozi Bagley, MSN program director. "Students in our MSN program have voiced that SBU provides a unique learning experience allowing the

development of close mentoring relationships between faculty and students. We strive to provide educational components beyond textbooks that assist in bringing professional socialization into future roles of master's graduates."

SBU inducts 18 students into Alpha Chi National Honor Society

Eighteen Southwest Baptist University students were inducted into the Missouri Gamma Chapter of Alpha Chi Honor Society April 10.

Alpha Chi is a national college honor society that admits students from all academic disciplines. Membership is limited to the top 10 percent of an institution's juniors and seniors who have at least a 3.8 grade point average and a record that reflects academic integrity and honesty.

"We are very proud to see so many accomplished students recognized by being admitted to one of the nation's premier honor

societies," said Coyle Neal, Ph.D., assistant professor of political science.

Students who were inducted are:

- Christian Binger, sports management major from Lee's Summit;
- Dillon Chronister, social science education major from Stockton;
- Meghan Curry, music major from Mansfield;
- Wendy Farmer, health sciences major from Republic;
- Aric Gooch, social science education major from Bolivar;
- Lauren Hargus, radiography major from Springfield;
- Kyle Hollmann, biology major from Ozark;
- Robert Jansen, social science education major from Elsberry;
- Kimberly Kuykendall, social work major from Bolivar;
- Katie Mahon, accounting major from O'Fallon;
- Caitlin McEwan, an elementary education major from Lee's Summit;
- Allison Molbach, elementary education and math education major from Ballwin;
- Tori Morris, accounting major from Ozark;
- Blaise Onyiaike, computer science and mathematics major from Nigeria;
- Patrick Phillips, biology major from Bolivar;
- Spencer Smith, mathematics and computer science major from Springfield;
- Beth Ann Winship, accounting major from La Grange; and
- Samantha Wolle, accounting major from Springfield, Ill.



Speaking Bearcats achieve high honors at national tournament

Southwest Baptist University's Speaking Bearcats concluded their 2014-2015 season with a successful performance at the Pi Kappa Delta National Tournament, held March 4-8 at Ohio University in Athens, Ohio. The Speaking Bearcats team earned high honors—including "Superior" in Overall Sweepstakes, "Superior" in Individual Event Sweepstakes, and "Excellent" in Debate Sweepstakes—amid a large competition field, which included 79 schools, 513 debate entries, and 1,597 individual entries.

In addition to the team successes, the Speaking Bearcats obtained numerous individual honors, including:

- Senior Meg Burns earned the Pi Kappa Delta "All-American" award for her excellence in academics and service to her community. She also earned the "Excellent" rankings in Program of Oral Interpretation, Poetry, Communication Analysis, and Informative Speaking.
- Junior Reed Dressler, the chapter vice president, earned a "Superior" ranking in Impromptu Speaking and an "Excellent" ranking in Extemporaneous Speaking.
- Junior Will Wheeler, chapter treasurer, obtained "Superior" rankings in Interviewing—with second place overall—and in Impromptu Speaking as well as an "Excellent" ranking in Informative Speaking.
- Sophomore Lydia Swisher, chapter historian, earned an "Excellent" ranking



- in Prose.
- Junior Lyndal Doherty earned a "Superior" ranking in Broadcast Journalism;
- Freshman Kensity Slone earned a "Superior" ranking in Broadcast Journalism and an "Excellent" ranking in Extemporaneous Speaking.
- Freshman Tiana Brownen achieved "Superior" rankings in Broadcast Journalism, Communication Analysis, and Extemporaneous Speaking, as well as "Excellent" rankings in Informative Speaking and Interviewing.
- Freshman Tyler Middleton earned an "Excellent" ranking in Broadcast Journalism.
- Freshman Reece Tabor earned "Superior" rankings in Persuasive Speaking and

Interviewing as well as an "Excellent" ranking in Broadcast Journalism. In individual debate, the Speaking Bearcats competed successfully and achieved high marks, including:

- Two teams—Meg Burns with Will Wheeler and Lydia Swisher with Tiana Brownen—earned "Excellent" rankings in Public Forum Debate.
- Kensity Slone earned a "Superior" ranking in Novice IPDA, while Meg Burns and Will Wheeler both earned "Excellent" rankings in Open IPDA.
- Reed Dressler and Reece Tabor both earned "Excellent" rankings in Student Congress.
- Lydia Swisher earned an "Excellent" ranking in Discussion.

Dr. Allison Langford named interim provost for '15-'16 year

Dr. Allison Langford has been named interim provost at Southwest Baptist University effective July 1 for the 2015-16 academic year, after the retirement of Dr. Bill Brown, who has served as provost since 2009.

"We are so fortunate to have someone as knowledgeable and talented as Allison to step into the interim provost position for the upcoming academic year," said SBU President Dr. C. Pat Taylor. "Our chief academic officer is such an important role for the University, and I am confident Allison will do a fantastic job."

Langford has served as the associate provost for teaching and learning since October 2012. She came to SBU in August 2003 as an

instructor of university studies in the University Success Center, and in January 2005, she became director of the newly formed Gordon & Judy Dutile Honors Program. She was promoted to assistant professor of university studies in 2010, named assistant provost in March 2011 and promoted to associate professor in 2015. She also serves as a member of the Executive Cabinet.



Langford's degrees include a B.S. in applied mathematical sciences from Texas A&M University in 1992; M.S. in mathematics from Missouri State University in 2002; and Ed.D. in higher education from the University of Arkansas in 2010. She was named Outstanding Doctoral Student in Higher Education.

"I am honored to serve SBU as interim provost and am looking forward to leading the academic side of the University during this time of transition," Langford said.

She is married to Joe, a 1992 SBU graduate with a B.A. in Biblical studies. They are founding members of Alliance Christian Fellowship, where Joe serves as pastor.

Recommended Reads



In each issue of *SBU Life*, we ask one of SBU's noted faculty to highlight a book that has had an impact on his or her life.

Jenell Wagner

Assistant Professor of Accounting

RECOMMENDED READ: "The Way of the Shepherd: 7 Ancient Secrets to Managing Productive People" by Dr. Kevin Leman and William Pentak

What do you usually like to read?

I don't get to read as much as I'd like to. Sometimes I only really get to read textbooks! But I gravitate toward fiction. I read a lot of Christian fiction, but no author in particular, really.

Can you tell us a little bit about "The Way of the Shepherd"?

It is definitely a book that I would recommend to others. I read this book a couple of years ago, and I've actually been re-reading it. It's a management book, but it is about managing people more than managing work.

The book takes principles of leadership from the analogy of a shepherd leading his flock. One reason I like the book is that it reads like a story.

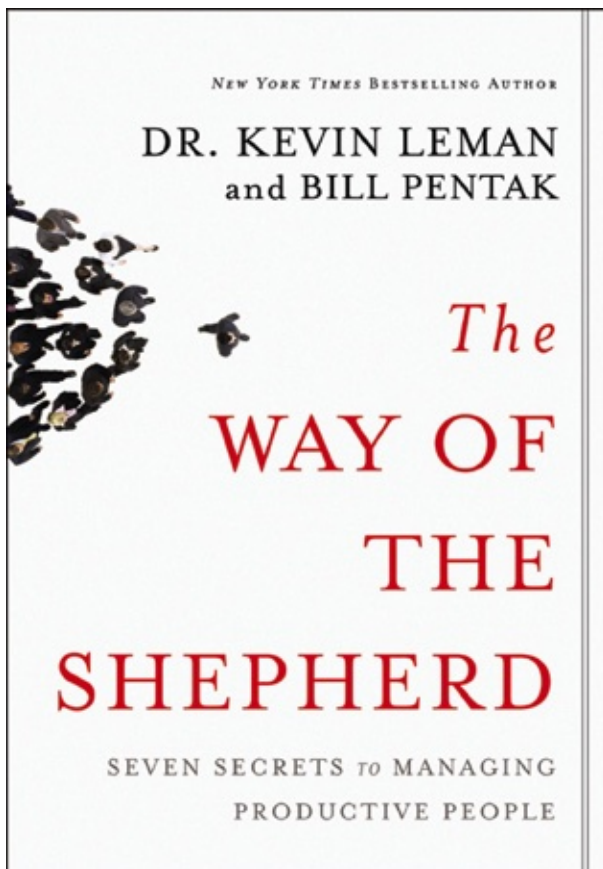
What are some of the leadership principles in the book?

The book is about caring for people and knowing them individually. You always hear that people don't care how much you know unless they know how much you care, so it's really [about] caring and knowing personal things going on with the people who work for you.

Have you found that these principles relate to you?

I don't supervise anyone in my role, but I think the principles apply to teaching because I am, in a way, supervising people. I am evaluating and leading students.

As I am re-reading the book, I have realized that [in] evaluations from my students, their comments, positive or negative, [show that] their overall satisfaction with a course and with me as a teacher have more to do with my availability and me caring about them than they have to do with how much I know the material. So that has been something that the book reminded me of: that it really has as much to do with how much I care about students' learning as much as how much I know.



Cover image courtesy of Zondervan

1960s

J. W. (Jim) Wilcox, Jr. '61 has been living in Springfield, Mo., since retiring from full-time pastoring in 2000. He is in his 55th year as a pastor and is serving in his eighth interim at FBC, Gainseville, Mo. He has been on four mission trips: Brazil in 1987; Lesotho, Africa in 2013; Angola State Prison in Louisiana in 2014 and 2015 with Awana Lifeline; and Guayaquil, Ecuador with International Commission. He will travel to Chile in October, again with International Commission. He may be reached by email at jimwilcox35@att.net.

Beth Bartholf (Carol Beth Ammerman AA '66, BA '67) returned to teaching part-time Talented and Gifted after two years of being retired. She taught full-time for 43 years in every grade from preschool through high school, as well as art at the college level. Her husband, Gene, is a retired prison chaplain. Together, they go and speak at the prison once a month. They are also part of a team that holds marriage seminars two to three times per year. Beth has two sons and two stepsons with her deceased husband, Col. Donald Royal, U.S. Army retired, and three stepsons from her current husband, Gene. Beth has traveled to or lived in 22 countries, in many of which she has worked with missionaries. Beth and Gene traveled to Turkey this past June.

1970s

Catherine (Brant) Chesebro '74 and her husband Richard Chesebro are in their 10th year of ministry at Twin Rock Friends Camp, a Christian camp on the coast in Rockaway, Ore. Richard is head of grounds and Catherine serves in the coffee and gift shop, in addition to teaching piano lessons and working at the local police department. They have two children, Jenelle and Micah, and two granddaughters, ages 16 and 5.

Dennis Mooneyham '75 worked for nine years with Nowata Printing Company in Springfield, Mo. He attended Santa University in Arvada, Colo., in 2011 where he received a Mall Santa Certificate and was the Santa for Fort Hood, Texas. In 2014 he was the Santa Claus for 45 days for the Walt Whitman Mall on Long Island, N.Y. For 52 years Dennis has been involved with Royal Ambassadors both locally and with the Missouri Baptist Convention where he was a Special State Royal Ambassador Trainer. Currently Dennis is a driver for J. Howard Fisk Limousines in Springfield and may be contacted at SpringfieldSanta@yahoo.com or (417) 343-2675.

Jeanette (Ross) Adcock '76 studied elementary education at SBU and retired from the North Callaway R-1 School District in 2005. She continues working with children in the classroom

through doing substitute teaching during the school year. Jeanette and Roy, her husband of 36 years, live in Centralia, Mo. at 13801 North Route Z. She may be reached at rjadcock@juno.com.

Jerry Carlisle, D.Min., who earned his B.A. in religion from SBU in 1978, is now serving as vice president of Texas Baptist Missions Foundation, which works with people who want to use their resources to help facilitate various ministries. Previously, he served as pastor of First Baptist Plano since 2002.

1980s

Cathy Tisher '83 received the 2014 Career Chaplain of the Year award from the Chaplaincy Office of the Baptist General Convention of Oklahoma. Cathy is President/Chaplain with Called To Care, Inc., in Oklahoma City, Okla. She is endorsed as a Mission Service Corps Chaplain missionary by the North American Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention.

2010s

Andrew Brantley '11 and his wife Kara were married June 14, 2014. In addition, Brantley graduated from Trinity Evangelical Divinity School in Deerfield, Ill., with a Master of Divinity.

Please note that alumni updates are published in *SBU Life* in the order they are received, depending on the space available in each issue. Therefore, it may take several months for Keeping in Touch submissions to be printed. Also, we will be happy to list your weddings and babies, but it is our policy not to list engagements or little expectations.



Let's Keep in Touch!

Alumni News: _____

Name: _____ Class of: _____ Degree: _____
(please include maiden name if applicable) (AA, BA, BS, MBA, MPT, MS)

Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Email: _____ Telephone: _____

of Children: _____ Employment: _____

Spouse: _____ Class of: _____ Degree: _____
(please include maiden name if applicable) (AA, BA, BS, MBA, MPT, MS)

Please do not publish my address Please do not publish my email address

Return to: Southwest Baptist University • Office of Alumni Relations • 1600 University Avenue • Bolivar, MO 65613
You can also complete this form online at www.SBUniv.edu/alumni if it's more convenient.

If I described my first year as Director of Alumni Engagement in one word, it would be “energetic.” The Office of Alumni Engagement is a busy office! I have enjoyed this new role at SBU and I have especially enjoyed having the opportunity to meet many of SBU’s alumni.



The Alumni Office seeks to develop and maintain relationships with alumni by coordinating and hosting alumni events to connect alumni to the University. The alumni events held this year included:

- Homecoming 2014 – tripled attendance!
- Tailgates in conjunction with athletic events in Liberty, Mo., and Bethany, Okla.
- Regional alumni events at the Sedgwick County Zoo in Wichita, Kan.; at the St. Louis Cardinals game in St. Louis, MO.; and at the Sight and Sound Theatre’s production of Jonah in Branson, Mo.
- Alumni Appreciation Day – doubled attendance!
- Student-oriented events and other connection opportunities.

Each event that was held this year had record attendance!

You, as a Southwest Baptist University alumnus, play a vital role in the present and future life of SBU. Your engagement in SBU alumni events can take many forms, including event attendance, volunteer activities, supporting admission efforts, creating internship and job opportunities, interacting on social media and serving on the SBU National Board of Alumni. Developing strong, lifelong relationships with our alumni is essential to the future of the university.

In addition, it is my goal and our joint responsibility to shape the next generation of alumni. It is their character, talent and leadership abilities that will define and chart the future of SBU.

I look forward to the upcoming school year and a new round of alumni events.

Planning for Homecoming 2015 is well under way. Make plans now to connect with us this year at Homecoming Sept. 25-26. Regional alumni events for spring 2016 are already being discussed and decided, but we enjoy hearing from you. What regional events would you like to see SBU host? How would you enjoy fellowship with other SBU alumni? As the new academic year quickly approaches, I would love to hear from you how the Office of Alumni Engagement can better serve you. If there is ever any way the Office of Alumni Engagement can serve or assist you, please don’t hesitate to contact me at alumni@SBUiv.edu.

Holly Stockard '08
Director of Alumni Engagement



St. Louis Cardinals alumni event



St. Louis Cardinals alumni event



Jonah alumni event in Branson, Mo.

SBUlife

Southwest Baptist University
1600 University Avenue
Bolivar, MO 65613

Register NOW!

SEPTEMBER 25-26

Pre-registration due September 1
www.SBUniv.edu/Alumni/Homecoming

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H O M E C O M I N G 2 0 1 5
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Contact Holly Stockard, director of alumni engagement,
at (417) 328-1806 or alumni@SBUniv.edu.

