

SUMMER 2021

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ALSO INSIDE

2021 Rex Brown Award recipients announced

PAGE 13



TAKING FLIGHT

First pre-licensure BSN cohort from Bolivar campus begin nursing careers

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IN THIS ISSUE

02

LETTER FROM THE INTERIM PRESIDENT

03

TAKING FLIGHT

The first PLBSN cohort graduates from Bolivar campus

08

SCENES FROM 2021 SPRING COMMENCEMENT

10

NEW OFFERINGS

SBU introduces new degrees in Global Education, new Agriculture minor

13

ATHLETICS HONORS

Meet the Rex Brown Award recipients

17

SBU NEWS

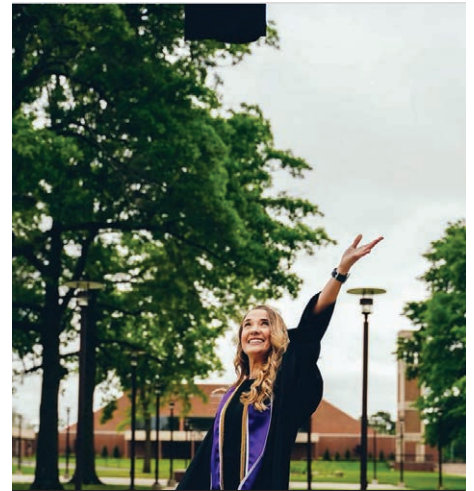
Read what people are sharing about SBU.



@bugattimo



@catarinazheng99



@maggie.hops

This school holds my heart! So thankful for 3 INCREDIBLE years of community and growth! Can't wait to see where God takes me next.



@jordynriley2002



@kara.sue

HEYYYY!!! Catch me at Southwest Baptist University this fall ;) #sbuniv #nationaldecisionday

Happy National College Decision Day!! Can't wait to see where God takes me and how He moves in my life! #SBUiv



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LETTER FROM THE INTERIM PRESIDENT

Dear alumni and friends,

I grew up on a farm in West Texas, where I loved watching our crops grow. Little by little, corn kernels turned into towering stalks. Tiny seeds grew into golden grains of wheat. These days, my farming may look different, but the work I get to do alongside fabulous colleagues is even more transformational and life-changing!

At Southwest Baptist University, each of us gets to plant seeds of greatness in students' lives that will reap a harvest for eternity. The work we do makes a tremendous impact in southwest Missouri and around the globe. SBU faculty, staff and alumni live out the Great Commission, spreading the Gospel – one life at a time, one seed at a time.

Alumni and friends like you make this Kingdom work possible, and we are deeply grateful! See how your continued prayers, generous gifts and encouragement have helped reap a harvest in recent months:

- SBU was the only school in Missouri (and one of just 24 institutions nationwide) to receive an “A” rating this spring for its general education curriculum, according to an annual report published by the American Council for Trustees and Alumni.
- SBU received a historic \$1,153,975.72 endowment from the Glen and Elsie Blair estate. The gift will help prevent burnout among ministry leaders and prepare students for a lifetime of successful leadership. Also, this gift led to the best fundraising year since 2018. We finished the fiscal year with \$5,873,790 in donations, a 9.2 percent increase over last year. We thank God for His provision, especially during the pandemic!
- Through our Center for Global Connections, SBU remains a nationwide leader among all Baptist universities for sending out students on mission trips. This summer, we have teams serving in Colorado, Georgia, South Dakota, Utah, Missouri and beyond.
- More than 4,000 students experienced the love of God through church and athletic camps at SBU. Centrifuge, Student Life, Math Camp, CentriKid, Tennis, Basketball and Football Camp are just some of the camps we host.
- Nine SBU sports programs earned academic all-conference honors from the Great Lakes Valley Conference for their team grade point average (GPA), including Women's Tennis (3.78), Women's Cross Country (3.70), Women's Golf (3.66), Women's Soccer (3.59), Volleyball (3.50), Women's Basketball (3.45), Softball (3.43), Men's Basketball (3.34) and Women's Track & Field (3.33).
- The Division of Education recently was named one of the best affordable teaching certificate bachelor's education programs in Missouri by EducationDegree.com. The division has been recognized for its excellent certification offerings, a strong history of high passing rates for Missouri assessments and incredible field experiences!
- The Division of Computing and Mathematics recently had 31 senior students present projects sponsored by several leading companies and organizations, including the U.S. Federal Reserve Bank.
- SBU now offers two Global Education degrees, available in Elementary Education and Middle School Education. Students in these programs experience coursework in education, intercultural studies and Christian ministry to prepare them to teach and serve worldwide.
- We would be remiss if we did not mention the great work that the College of Health Professions has done throughout the pandemic. Our nursing professors, students and alumni have volunteered many hours of service at numerous vaccination clinics throughout southwest Missouri to help our local communities.
- We are thrilled to announce SBU will soon begin an Agriculture minor that can be paired with several other majors to help prepare the next generation of leaders in the agriculture industry. With my farming roots, I am particularly excited about this development!

Please join me in praying for SBU every day. Pray for students to come and experience a Christ-centered education at SBU. Pray for students as they minister to others through mission trips, Bible studies, and other evangelistic opportunities. Pray for faculty and staff to experience rejuvenation and be ready to welcome students back in August.

Thank you for your faithful support of SBU. In the words of our founders Abner S. Ingman and James R. Maupin, “By the grace of God, we will succeed!”


Brad Johnson, Ed.D.
Interim President



TAKING FLIGHT

The first pre-licensure BSN cohort to graduate from the Bolivar campus is taking their skills into the real world.

BY DENISE ELSON TUCKER '89

What started as a mission of the Southwest Baptist University leadership to offer a residential nursing program on the Bolivar campus has resulted in the graduation of the first pre-licensure bachelor of science in nursing (PLBSN) cohort on May 14.

“Our communities need nurses, and at SBU we are proud of the ability to graduate servant leaders who incorporate their faith into the care they provide,” said Dr. Brittney Hendrickson '08, '11, '12, DNP, RN, dean of the College of Health Professions and nursing faculty at SBU. “This could not have happened without the faculty who teach in this program and the example they set. This group of students has been a blessing to work with and has reminded us many times why we are here.”

After a successful site visit from the Missouri State Board

of Nursing in early January of 2019, the board approved an enrollment of 24 students to the Don and Carrie Babb Department of Nursing for the 2019 cohort. That first class began their studies on Jan. 23.

And two and a half years after classes began for the PLBSN program on the Bolivar campus, sending off this first cohort was bittersweet for program coordinator and instructor Dr. Nancy Delmont, DNP, RN, CNE and the BSN team of Heather Daulton, MSN, RN; Blair Stockton '18, MSN, RN, OCN; Julie Wilken, MSN, RN; Tori O'Brien '16, '19, MSN, RN; Cindy Todd '07, '11, '13, DNP, RN; Kati Clancy '09, '12, '15, MSN, RN; Leigha Pellegren '06, '12, '18, MSN, RN; Hendrickson and division head Dr. Renay McCarley, DNP, RN, CNE.

“The faculty put in so much work to prepare these new



Christ cares for the person. Yes, He cares about their physical needs, but He cares about them.

Amelia Masters '21 with her grandmother during the Bolivar Nurse Pinning Ceremony

graduates, and we are so excited to see them go off in the world; we feel like they're really well-prepared," Delmont said. "We get a lot of positive feedback about their professionalism, integrity and quality of their work, so we feel like the hard work that we put in paid off in them.

"It is exciting because it's like watching your babies grow up at warp speed. But at the same time, it's bittersweet because they're going to leave the nest. This will be our first NCLEX pass rate, which is very significant to our graduates and our program."

MEET THE CLASS OF 2021

Amelia Masters, Taylor McKowen, Jess Struckman and Landon Fisher may have traveled different paths to get to the program, but together with their 16 classmates they reached the same destination – SBU BSN graduates.

"Honored and humbled is what comes to mind," Amelia Masters '21 said of being a member of the first cohort. "It's kind of unprecedented. Whenever you're part of something that has never been done before, there's a certain 'specialness' about it that no one else will get to feel, and so you get really close with who you get to do it with."

Masters, a native of Kiron, Iowa, was looking at a few other schools before learning about SBU. Her uncle, who works for Mercy, told her that the hospital employs many top-notch SBU nursing graduates. So, she and her family made a side trip to Bolivar while visiting relatives in the Springfield area.

"As soon as I walked on campus, it felt like it was home," Masters said. "I never felt that on any other campus. I was like, 'there's something different about this campus.' And it was the middle of summer when there were no students here or anything."

Taylor McKowen '21 began her nursing degree journey in her hometown on SBU's Springfield campus. Her desire for a residential college experience led her to make the move to the Bolivar campus.

"I'm just so thankful the Lord provided an amazing

community here and friends that I would not have met, if I wouldn't have transferred," McKowen said. "The Center for Global Connections (CGC) has provided opportunities for missions and that's grown my love for going overseas – and all of that happened here.

"I feel honored to be in the first cohort. I feel like our cohort has been really flexible and the instructors have been great. They've given us so many opportunities. They really form relationships with us and help us grow and help us to keep moving forward when things get tough. We all have each other's backs, and it's been really great."

Landon Fisher '21, a transfer student from Pleasant Hope, made a few stops before finding his place at SBU. He went to Missouri State University and then Ozarks Technical Community College when he was contacted by Delmont, a family friend, who told him he would be a good candidate for SBU's program.

"And it's just kind of where I was being led," Fisher said of the move to Bolivar. "So, I applied and now we're here. It's just crazy how things work out."

Fisher said the thought of being part of SBU's first PLBSN cohort to graduate from Bolivar is "surreal."

"You come in here and it just seems long – the five semesters – and you're just ready to get started," Fisher said. "But, honestly, it flew by and it's just such a blessing to be able to be surrounded with people of a like faith. It's an honor, really, to be part of the first cohort and help lay this



Taylor McKowen '21 being pinned by her mother at the Bolivar Nurse Pinning Ceremony

foundation for, hopefully, a long time to come.”

Jess Struckman '21 had taken a year off after her senior year of high school and was taking a class at Citizens Memorial Hospital when she was encouraged to contact Delmont about SBU's new program.

“I was taking the class at CMH to be a medication technician and the teacher of that class was talking to me about SBU's program because I was having trouble deciding which school to apply to,” Struckman said. “She gave me Dr. Delmont's contact information, I got in touch with her and now we're here.

“I feel very excited and really lucky to have been a part of it and really just blessed that I was able to get in and do it. I'm really glad I waited an extra year for it to open up.”

RESILIENCY DURING A PANDEMIC

The cohort had completed two semesters before the COVID-19 pandemic interrupted the Spring 2020 semester. Delmont said the faculty did not see a drop-off in the students' performance.

“I've got to give credit to an amazing group of faculty that put our students first,” Delmont said. “And while the experience wasn't the same as face-to-face, or patient-to-nurse, we provided experiences, virtual experiences, and the discussions that followed, to really work on their clinical reasoning, clinical judgment and reflection of practice. Those are things that are very significant in nursing that we also work on when we're here.

“When they came back, we actually worked that much harder to make sure that we had activities designed for them to ensure that they could still do the skills they had not been able to perform for months. Quite frankly, we didn't see any negative impact. I've been in nursing education for nine years, and this is the best group of graduates I've ever seen.”

NURSING/HONORS PROGRAM IS POSSIBLE

Masters, who was presented with the Bolivar PLBSN Florence Nightingale Award, not only was a member of SBU-Bolivar's first PLBSN cohort but she was the first nursing student to graduate as a member of the Gordon and Judy Dutile Honors Program.

“It was a really neat thing to be a part of both



SBU nursing faculty earn doctorate degrees

Six Southwest Baptist University nursing faculty members recently earned doctorate degrees from Regis College of Weston, Mass.

Nursing faculty and the title of their dissertations included:

- **Dr. Nancy Delmont, DNP, RN, CNE** – “The Impact of Scaffolding Simulations on Nursing Students' Self-Efficacy”
- **Dr. Savana Ayers '09, '10, DNP, RN-BC** – “Improving Soft Skills in the Undergraduate Nursing Student”
- **Dr. Rachel Kopsas, DNP, MSN, RN** – “Empowering Nurses and Parents to Board the Discharge Train: A NICU Discharge Improvement Project”
- **Dr. Kristi Burks, DNP, RN** – “Student Satisfaction and Self-Confidence on Medication Administration Competence”
- **Dr. Kimberly Burks, DNP, RN** – “Measuring the Impact of the Virtual Experience on Nursing Students' Self-Assessment of Clinical Judgment”
- **Dr. Tami Glessner '04, DNP, RN** – “Nursing Students Perception of the Effectiveness of Learning in a Traditional Clinical Setting Compared to a Simulation Based Learning Environment”
- **Jodie Snider '02, DNP(c), RN** – “The Impact of a Flipped Classroom Design on Therapeutic Communication”
- **Becky Cave, DNP(c), RN** – “Investigating Student Nurses' Attitudes Toward the Homeless Population Following a Clinical Experience”

“I am proud of this group of faculty for advancing their nursing education as they demonstrated their dedication and resilience,” said Dr. Brittney Hendrickson, DNP, dean of the College of Health Professions and nursing faculty at SBU. “Through their scholarly projects, completed as part of their degree requirements, they made a lasting impact on our SBU nursing programs and local healthcare facilities.”



Students practicing skills in the SIM Lab.

Right: Jess Struckman '21 with her mother, Julie, during the Bolivar Nurse Pinning Ceremony.

honors and nursing while I've been here," Masters said.

Masters worked with Dr. Jodi Meadows '92, former director of the Dutile Honors Program, to develop a path specifically for the nursing/honors student because it had not been done before.

"Dr. Meadows taught me how to love learning again, and I think that that has been priceless for my nursing education," Masters said. "We were able to figure out an honors/nursing plan and now there are people in the cohorts below us who have followed my path; the classes that I took, they're making it work."

The Florence Nightingale Award recipient is voted on by the PLBSN Program faculty and presented to one student based upon: Servant Leadership - interaction with peers, faculty, clinical sites, the community, patients and their families;

Academic Excellence - ability to apply their knowledge of theory and clinical concepts in the delivery of safe, quality, and compassionate patient care; and Professionalism - attendance and punctuality, positive presence in the classroom and clinical settings, passion for the profession of nursing.

LOOKING BACK, LOOKING FORWARD

Masters, McKowen, Struckman and Fisher secured jobs prior to graduation, as did many others in the cohort, and feel confident and well-prepared heading into their careers.

Masters and McKowen, both have hearts for overseas missions and recently completed a medical mission project in Uganda, hoping to return one day.

"I really love that our nursing professors stressed that Christ is the center of our education and Mrs. Stockton has said to me

multiple times that they want us to be competent nurses, but to be serving nurses first,” Masters said. “Christ cares for the person. Yes, He cares about their physical needs, but He cares about them. To be able to see that demonstrated to us, and to learn that here, I think is very, very valuable.”

“Every patient was created by God, and the Lord intentionally puts us in their lives,” McKowen said. “I’ve been trying to go into each shift that I work as a tech with a mission mind-set, which has grown through being here through our nursing instructors and through the CGC. All of that combined has helped me grow into wanting to be on mission all the time.”

Struckman, who plans to pursue her master’s in nursing administration this fall, said the growth she experienced through SBU’s PLBSN program, both academically and spiritually, has made her more confident as she begins her career.

“All I can say is it’s just life-changing for me; that really sums it up,” Struckman said. “I have definitely grown in my faith. I had the opportunity to pray with a patient, and I feel like that’s a great thing that we’re able to do. I know we won’t always have patients who have the same religious views as us, but I feel like we can always share about God whenever, and I feel like SBU has really helped shape our education, not just academically but with our faith as well.”

Fisher has always wanted to help people and will be doing that in CoxHealth’s step-down unit. He says the PLBSN

faculty at SBU have prepared him and his fellow graduates for their careers.

“I think everyone I’ve talked to has kind of come into their own and they’re realizing that all these skills, all these assessments, everything that we’ve done these last four semesters is coming to this peak,” Fisher said. “Everyone’s doing it and doing it like flawlessly, and they’re excited. They’re excited about starting an IV and they’re proud of themselves. When I start one I’m like, ‘I’m prepared to do that, that was easy to do, and I feel confident in what I’m supposed to listen to, and I’m confident enough to know what’s not supposed to be there.’ I feel like I gave good, competent, holistic care to my patients, and I feel like I can do that from being in this program.

“It’s difficult, but you learn from your failures and you grow. I like to say, ‘Be comfortable with being uncomfortable,’ because that’s where you get the most growth.

“I feel like I can trust in these people with my life. I would easily let them take care of me. And the faculty is like family. They’re not really faculty – they’re honestly family.”

And, Delmont says the faculty feel the same way.

“Having a team that works together, with the same goal that uses the gifts and talents that God has given each one of us, is huge,” Delmont said. “I have learned that these students value the relationships that they have had with each other, and with the faculty, and those relationships will be lifelong.” ■

And the faculty
is like family.
They’re not really
faculty – they’re
honestly family.



Landon Fisher '21 shakes Dr. Brad Johnson's hand during Spring Commencement



2021 GRADUATION

352 undergraduate. 240 graduate. 592 total graduates.



1.



3.



5.



2.



4.



6.



7.

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."

1. Caitlin Diepenbrock '21, summa cum laude with a bachelor of science degree in biomedical biology. She has served three years as a teacher assistant and study session leader in anatomy and physiology, as well as an active member of the undergraduate research lab in the Division of Natural Sciences. Diepenbrock also is the author and co-author of six published abstracts and she presented at the National Sigma Zeta research conference during the Spring of 2021.

She is the daughter of David and Shirley Diepenbrock of Papua New Guinea.

2. Chance Bedell '21, graduated with a bachelor of science degree in interdisciplinary studies. He served as an ambassador in the President's Office, and also served with the Office of Admissions as a campus host, the Office of Institutional Advancement and the Office of Marketing and Communications. Bedell also

represented SBU at the Missouri Governor's Student Leadership Forum. Currently, he serves with the House of Hope Mission in Bolivar, with SBU's Center for Global Connections, and went on the Appalachian Trail mission trip this summer.

He is the son of Liz Bedell of Odessa, Mo.

3. ORIEN B. HENDREX AWARD

RECIPIENT: Jason Halverson, assistant professor of exercise science on the Bolivar campus, received the Orien B. Hendrex Distinguished Teacher Award. Halverson has been a full-time faculty member at SBU since 2003. He and his wife, Rachael, have one daughter, Brionna, and one son, Blake.

The award is presented 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. The SBU Board of Trustees designated this award in memory

of Hendrex, a former academic dean.

4. Taliayah Wilson '21 receives her diploma from Dr. Johnson.

5. COMMENCEMENT

SPEAKERS: Commencement speakers for the undergraduate ceremonies featured Dr. Patricia N. Long '73 and Dr. Tami Glessner '04. Speakers for the graduate ceremonies included Brooke Dudley '12, '19 and Dr. Richard L. Asbill '14 (pictured).

6. Doctor of Physical Therapy graduates proceed into graduate commencement ceremony.

7. Three generations of SBU graduates gather for a photo after the undergraduate commencement ceremony.

 Watch May 2021 recap video
[SBUinfo/may21graduation](https://www.sbu.edu/info/may21graduation)



SBU diversifies degree offerings with new Global Education majors

BY CHARLOTTE HIGHSMITH MARSCH '97

Southwest Baptist University continues to expand degree offerings with an international focus with two new Global Education degrees, available in Elementary Education or Middle School Education. The degrees were developed as part of the new SBU Global initiative.

"SBU Global encompasses several aspects of cultural diversity, including bringing more international students to our Bolivar campus and sending more of our students on study abroad experiences," said Dr. Kelly Malone, director of global education. "Another component is increasing culture diversity in our degree offerings. Education is a natural addition to other globally focused degrees in International Business, Intercultural Studies and a Cross-Cultural Ministry concentration within the Christian Ministry degree."

SBU's innovative Intercultural Studies program prepares students with academic training and practical experience needed for long-term service in a cross-cultural setting. A six-month semester abroad experience required in the program allows students to be immersed fully in another culture to gain experience in ministry, language acquisition and cultural acclimation.

"We are so blessed to have the Intercultural Studies degree at SBU to help complement our Education degree offerings

and make these new degrees possible," said Dr. Jennifer Fox '07, assistant professor of education, certification officer and coordinator of clinical experiences. "We have worked with the ICS faculty to develop a more culturally diverse major, aligning with the University's mission."

Completing majors in both Education and Intercultural Studies typically takes longer than four years. The Global Education degrees combine education and cross-cultural courses in a four-year degree plan culminating with an international student-teaching experience.

"We worked with the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education to ensure graduates with these degrees will be eligible for Missouri teaching certification," Fox said. "The international student-teaching will be in an accredited school with certified cooperating teachers approved by DESE. While the degree initially is available only for elementary and middle school certification, we plan to open the degrees to secondary and K-12 majors in the future."

For more information about the new Global Education degrees, visit SBUUniv.edu/explore or contact Fox at jfox@SBUUniv.edu or (417) 328-1581. ■



SBU establishes agriculture minor starting in 2022

BY CHARLOTTE HIGHSMITH MARSCH '97

“I hope this Agriculture minor is just the beginning of more to come in agriculture at SBU.”

Recognizing that agriculture is a major economic driver in Missouri and particularly in southwest Missouri, Southwest Baptist University is adding a minor in agriculture, with classes starting in 2022.

“Missouri ranks second in the nation for number of farms, and Polk County is first in the state of Missouri in beef production,” said Interim President Dr. Brad Johnson. “Farming is an integral part of the history and economy of southwest Missouri, and many students in this area are seeking agriculture-related vocations. I hope this Agriculture minor is just the beginning of more to come in agriculture at SBU.”

Dr. John Murphy, associate professor of biology, has led the curriculum development process. He has extensive education and experience in agriculture.

Though he currently teaches primarily anatomy courses at SBU, his Ph.D. is in agronomy from Kansas State University. His grandparents, aunts and uncles farmed in Nebraska. He has managed a large farm operation and spent three years managing a research farm at Kansas State.

Murphy locally owns and operates an 800-acre farm with 200 head of cattle. Students already are using his farm to conduct research projects, with a team of students winning a national research award this spring.

Students will gain first-hand knowledge of working with and handling cattle, feed preparation, daily farm management,

equipment maintenance, planter and sprayer calibration, field scouting and harvest.

“We’re going to sit in the classroom and learn and then be out in the field practicing what we learned,” Murphy said. “Labs will be very hands-on and production-oriented. We also will utilize field trips to farming operations, seed dealers, feeding operations and mills.”

Murphy said the minor can pair with any major, but it will fit best with majors within the sciences, business, communication and intercultural studies.

“For a lot of agriculture jobs, you need the business side,” Murphy said. “Many positions within the United States Department of Agriculture, Missouri Department of Natural Resources, as well as Missouri Department of Conservation require, at a minimum, coursework in crop production, soil science and animal science. This program will allow students to meet those requirements, opening up new career opportunities.”

The 21 courses of coursework required for the minor can be completed in three years or less.

“I appreciate Dr. Murphy’s passion for and knowledge of agriculture and look forward to seeing a successful agriculture program,” Johnson said. “I am excited about this addition to SBU’s academic offerings.”

For more information, contact Dr. Murphy at (417) 328-1995 or jmurphy@SBUuniv.edu. ■



Biology students already are using a local farm to conduct research.



‘Handshake’ provides SBU students, alumni job-search option

BY DENISE ELSON TUCKER '89

Southwest Baptist University’s Career Services has made another tool available for students – and alumni – who are in search of a job or internship.

“Handshake,” which was founded in 2014, is a platform that can be accessed online or through an app, and connects employers, schools, current students and alumni.

“Handshake is in every single state and across the globe, and there are more than a million different job postings that students have access to reviewing,” said Shonna Fore, director of career services at SBU.

Fore emailed approximately 700 employers and asked them to create an account, which is free for them to do. Once an employer has an account, they can create job postings, host informational sessions, conduct online interviews, attend virtual events that SBU hosts through Handshake, and they also have the ability to connect with students.

Currently, there are more than 1,100 employers who have officially completed a profile and connected with SBU. Of those employers, more than 3,200 jobs or internships are posted by those connected to SBU, though students can view more than that by searching for

an organization and finding their open positions.

Fore works hard to make sure students are connected to employers with legitimate positions.

“I am vetting these employers, so my hope is that I never allow a scammer to get through the cracks,” Fore said. “I don’t know if Indeed, Monster, etc., have a process they have to go through before they can technically post. But with Handshake, we can say we have vetted these employers; we know they have a good trust score.”

Handshake is focused on the student experience and allows them to fully connect with an employer.

“It’s more personalized, and it’s geared more toward college students or alumni of an institution,” Fore said. “Our alumni are welcome to use it. We just ask that if they want to create an account that they contact me so I can give them an alumni tag, which prevents them from receiving the emails that come from our office that are specifically for students.

“It’s just a great platform for students to be able to look for part-time jobs, full-time jobs or internships.”

For more information, contact Fore at careerservices@SBUuniv.edu or (417) 328-1689. ■

CAREER CLOSET PROVIDES PROFESSIONAL WEAR

Southwest Baptist University students in need of professional wear as they prepare for their careers or internships can now “shop” at SBU’s Career Closet.

The Career Closet, which is located in the Clark University Success Center on the Bolivar campus, was created by Shonna Fore, director of career services at SBU.

“I had known about career closets and so I did a lot of research on it and realized it’s a huge need for students,” Fore said. “Some of them can’t afford to buy professional wear or some of them have a last-minute need and they don’t know where to get it. Just seeing that there’s a need and a desire for our students to be prepared was my goal behind it.”

The Career Closet has been open for a few months. Fore announced last semester that the Closet would begin accepting donations, and as donations began to trickle in and the inventory began to grow, Fore announced that the Closet was officially open.

“We’ll continue to take donations year-round,” Fore said. “Right now, we have pants, shirts, skirts, suits, ties, belts, shoes – your basic professional wear. We’re not opposed to more business-casual wear, as well, because not every employer requires professional attire. We currently have mainly business professional attire.”

In addition to the basic items the Closet currently has in stock, other requested items include:

- Professional bags
- Portfolios
- Briefcases
- Men’s clothing and shoes
- More sizes in women’s clothing and shoes
- Mannequins to dress and promote the Career Closet

To learn how to donate, contact Fore at careerservices@SBUuniv.edu or (417) 328-1689.



GO BEARCATS



Finley, Ridenour named Rex Brown Award recipients

BY DENISE ELSON TUCKER '89 AND SPENCER GREATHOUSE '16, '21

Southwest Baptist University Track and Field athletes Trenton Finley '20 and MeLeah Ridenour '21 have been named the Rex Brown Award recipients for the 2020-2021 academic year.

The Rex Brown Award is the highest award given to SBU's student-athletes and is determined by SBU's Executive Cabinet, head coaches and athletics administration team. Each year, the award is presented to one female and one male senior student-athlete, who has exhibited strong Christian character, academic achievement, leadership qualities, and has had a major impact on their sport.

"I'm delighted that Trenton and MeLeah are this year's winners of the Rex Brown Award," said SBU Athletic Director Mike Pitts '85, '10. "I was able to watch them represent SBU at the NCAA National Outdoor Track and Field Championships in Michigan in late May. They are outstanding student-athletes, who compete with excellence at the national level. They are also 'all-stars' in the classroom, in our community and in our churches.

"The pandemic has disrupted the timing of when we select and recognize the recipients of this prestigious award, but I am thrilled that we have chosen Trenton and MeLeah."

Ridenour, who earned a bachelor of science degree in psychology with a minor in counseling, was a three-time, first-team All-American; three-time, second-team All-American; five-time conference champion; five-time conference athlete of the week; seven-time academic All-American; 2019 USTFCCCA Indoor Regional Field Athlete of the Year; SBU record-holder (indoor) 60-meter hurdles, triple jump and pentathlon, and (outdoor) 100-meter hurdles, triple jump and 4x100-meter relay.

Ridenour also was an outstanding member in Psi Chi, the International Honor Society in Psychology, and the Pearlene

Breshears Outstanding Senior in Psychology Award Recipient.

"Receiving the Rex Brown Award is an honor that was unexpected but highly appreciated," Ridenour said. "I could not have accomplished the things that I was able to accomplish without phenomenal people in my corner to support me. Corey McElhane '06, '12, Marshall O'Brien and my teammates were instrumental to my success on the track. Their continual support and inspiring character challenged me in many aspects of my life. I will forever be grateful for my SBU athletic family.

"My professors, Dr. Bill DuVall, Dr. Shelley Kilpatrick and Dr. Chris Dinwiddie, were significant in my decision to pursue my graduate degree in counseling. Not only did they challenge me intellectually and academically within the classroom, but they were wonderful models of Christ as professionals in psychology. They will never fully understand the appreciation I have for their dedication to the psychology department and helping mold young professionals."

Finley, who earned a bachelor of science degree in exercise science, was a first-team All-American; second-team All-American; five-time national qualifier; conference champion; conference athlete of the week; and holds the indoor and outdoor SBU pole vault record.

Finley also made multiple academic honor rolls and volunteered in the Bolivar community.

"This honor means a great amount to me," Finley said. "As an athlete, I always tried to strive to be the best person I could be even if the athletics side wasn't there that day. I would not have been able to accomplish anything I did while in school without the help of my family, my track family, coaches and my wife, Stephanie '19, '21. They always pushed me to grow not only in athletics, but in life." ■

GLVC presents SBU with 2020-21 James R. Spalding Overall Sportsmanship Award

BY SPENCER GREATHOUSE '16, '21 AND THE GREAT LAKES VALLEY CONFERENCE

Southwest Baptist University was named the 2020-21 recipient of the Great Lakes Valley Conference's James R. Spalding Overall Sportsmanship Award for the first time after just two years as a full-time member of the conference.

At the conclusion of each sport's season, the head coaches across the conference rank the top three teams that displayed good sportsmanship throughout the season. The team with the highest ranking receives the sportsmanship award for that sport's season, and the institution with the highest point total across all sports receives the James R. Spalding Overall Sportsmanship Award. SBU led the league with five team sportsmanship awards: women's cross country, volleyball, men's basketball, women's basketball, and women's track & field.

In addition, head coaches from each sport select an individual from their team to serve as a candidate for the institution's individual James R. Spalding Sportsmanship Award. From those candidates, each institution selects one male and one female to be named the James R. Spalding Sportsmanship Individual Award winners. Men's track and field athlete Asa Carter '21 and women's basketball player Regan Tibbits were selected as SBU's James R. Spalding Sportsmanship Individual Award winners.

Behind SBU's five-team sportsmanship selections was Quincy University with four, including both men's and women's lacrosse, softball, and men's tennis. Missouri S&T had three teams picked at the top (women's soccer, men's swimming, men's golf), while the only other multi-sport school winners were Tuman State University (football and baseball) and

McKendree (women's bowling and men's basketball).

University of Illinois-Springfield men's cross country, University of Missouri-St. Louis men's soccer, Lindenwood University women's swimming, associate member Davenport University men's wrestling, Maryville University women's golf, University of Southern Indiana women's tennis, and University of Indianapolis men's outdoor track & field each earned awards.

SBU joins nine other schools as award winners in the 13-year period the honor has been presented – former league member Northern Kentucky University (2007-08), former member University of Wisconsin-Parkside (2008-09), Bellarmine (2009-10, 2010-11), University of Southern Indiana (2011-12), Drury

University (2012-13), Lewis University (2013-14), William Jewell (2014-15), Maryville (2015-16), Truman (2016-17, 2018-19), and former member Bellarmine University (2017-18).

The GLVC renamed its annual sportsmanship award in 2016 after Spalding, who is referenced as one of the league's two "Founding Fathers" and for his longtime service at Bellarmine from a student-athlete,

to a coach to director of athletics. During his tenure as AD, Spalding expanded Bellarmine's participation in intercollegiate sports from four to 16 teams and played a prominent role in both the formation of the GLVC and the sponsorship expansion of women's athletics within the league. Long revered as one of the league's pioneers, Spalding was inducted as a charter member of the GLVC Hall of Fame in 2001. He died in 2012 at the age of 79, following a lengthy illness. ■



Asa Carter '21



Regan Tibbits

Szeri named national recipient of Arthur Ashe award



Southwest Baptist University men's tennis player David Szeri was named the NCAA Division II Men's Tennis ITA National Arthur Ashe Leadership & Sportsmanship Award recipient on June 22.

The Arthur Ashe Leadership & Sportsmanship Award recognizes outstanding student-athletes who exhibit sportsmanship and leadership, as well as scholastic, extracurricular and tennis achievements. Szeri was the Midwest

Region selection, which made him eligible for the national award.

Szeri is just the fifth National Arthur Ashe Award winner in program history and his prestigious ITA National Award is just the ninth in program history. He finished the spring with a 16-8 singles record on court 4 and an 18-6 doubles record on court 3. He helped the Bearcats claim the GLVC Tournament Championship and ended the season on a 10-match winning streak.

2020-2021 Athletic Honors

WOMEN'S CROSS COUNTRY

Elysia Burgos, Tessa Valdivia, and Tabitha Weber, All-GLVC honors

Great Lakes Valley Conference champions

MEN'S BASKETBALL

Received votes all season in national rankings

GLVC West Division champions (undefeated)

Brady Smith, All-GLVC First Team; Quinn Nelson, All-GLVC Second Team; Mitch Ganote, GLVC All-Defensive Team

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

Kyleigh Vaught, All-GLVC Third Team

MEN'S & WOMEN'S INDOOR TRACK & FIELD

Tamia Rayford, Elysia Burgos, Madison Hicks, Tahje Parrish (2), MeLeah Ridenour (2), Britney Clark, GLVC Indoor Track & Field Athlete of the Week honorees

Women's Indoor Track & Field receives highest ranking in program history (#4)

10 Indoor Track & Field athletes earn USTFCCCA All-Region honors

8 athletes competed at Indoor Track & Field National Championships

Women's Distance Medley Relay, Britney Clark and Tahje Parrish earn First Team All-American honors at Indoor Track & Field Championships

Tamia Rayford, MeLeah Ridenour (3), Second Team All-American honors at Indoor Track & Field Championships

Zara Brown named GLVC Freshman of the Year for Outdoor Track & Field

MEN'S & WOMEN'S OUTDOOR TRACK & FIELD

MeLeah Ridenour and Elysia Burgos earned GLVC Outdoor T&F Athlete of the Week honors

8 athletes competed at Outdoor Track & Field National Championships

Women's 4x100 relay, Elysia Burgos, Trenton Finley, Tahje Parrish earn First Team All-American honors at Outdoor Track & Field Championships

Asa Carter, Second Team All-American honors at Outdoor Track & Field Championships

BASEBALL

Zack Ehlen, Ryan Carmack, All-GLVC Second Team

Ryan Carmack named to the American Baseball Coaches Association Midwest All-Region Second Team

FOOTBALL

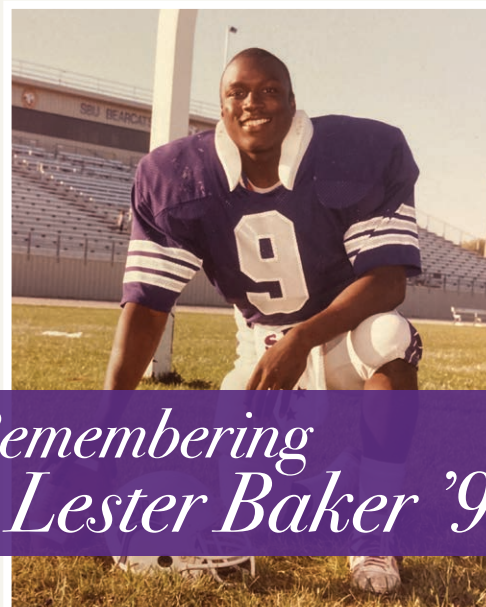
Troy Landon, GLVC Defensive Player of the Week

Cooper Callis, GLVC Football Offensive Player of the Year

3 athletes named First Team All-GLVC, 7 named Second Team All-GLVC

WOMEN'S TENNIS

Runner-up at Indoor ITA National Championship



Remembering Lester Baker '90

Southwest Baptist University mourns the loss of former SBU Football player Lester Baker, who unexpectedly passed away June 24 at the age of 54.

Baker, nicknamed "Touchdown Maker," was a member of the SBU Football team from 1985-89, serving as a team captain in 1987 and 1989. He served as a foundational role to the SBU Football program, helping the team to their first winning season and first national rankings appearance in 1986. Baker also was a member of the team when it transitioned from the NAIA to the NCAA. His name is written all over the SBU record books, holding the career rushing yards (3,892), rushing touchdowns (42), touchdowns scored (45), and single-game rushing touchdowns (5) records. He has the second-most single-season rushing yards (1,391), rushing touchdowns (19), rushing yards per game (126.5), and single-game rushing yards (238) in program history.

In his four years of eligibility, Baker led the team in rushing yards. Three of those four years he led the team in scoring, and he led the team in total offense his senior year. After his senior year, Baker was named to the Football Gazette All-American Second Team and was named MIAA Offensive Player of the Year. He was inducted into SBU's Athletics Hall of Fame in 2009 and was a member of the Missouri Sports Hall of Fame's inaugural Elite 11 class in 2014.

Baker earned his bachelor of science degree in psychology from SBU in 1990. After his collegiate football success, he became a member of the Bolivar High School football coaching staff and worked with youth in the school district.

Received highest ranking in program history (#7)

GLVC West Division champions

Diana Cabrera, Adham Gaber (2), Constanca Crespo, Dona Abohabaga (2), GLVC Athlete of the Week honorees

Dona Abohabaga, Constanca Crespo, Diana Cabrera, All-GLVC team

Received #2 seed in Regional Tournament, defeated Ferris State in first round

MEN'S TENNIS

Received #14 ranking

GLVC West Division champions

GLVC Tournament champions

Adham Gaber, GLVC Tennis Player of the Year

Adham Gaber, Alvaro Nunez, David Szeri, All-GLVC team

Fanni Varga, GLVC Men's Tennis Coach of the Year

Adham Gaber named ITA All-American

Received #2 seed in Regional Tournament, defeated Ferris State in first round

ACADEMIC ALL-GLVC

Team GPAs

Women's Tennis (3.78), Women's Cross Country (3.70), Women's Golf (3.66), Women's Soccer (3.59), Volleyball (3.50), Women's Basketball (3.45), Softball (3.43), Men's Basketball (3.34), Women's Track & Field (3.33)

INDIVIDUAL HONORS

Baseball (16)

Ryan Carmack, Kyler Charchun, Hayden Crabtree, Rhys Cratty, Zack Ehlen, Matt Eleiott, Blake Ford, Andrew Jones, Blake Lutgen, Keaton Mandryk, Joshua Scott, Kyle Smith, Colby Sneed, Logan Sorrell, Drew Wagner,

Brett Wilbanks

Men's Basketball (9)

Cameron Altena, Mitch Ganote, Blake Gordon, Houston Johnson, Joe Miller, Juan Morales, Quinn Nelson, Brady Smith, Richie Thompson

Women's Basketball (10)

Natalie Basham, Mary Rose Foster, Brylee Graddy, Bella Irlenborn, Regan Tibbits, Rachel Tippens, Kyleigh Vaught, Alyssa Williams, Taliayah Wilson, Megan Worthington

Men's Cross Country (9)

Peter Bowling, Ansen Covin, Daniel Garrison, Tyler Goatley, Austin Haynes, Blaine Jimerson, Samuel McCormick, Will O'Keefe, Austin Wilson

Women's Cross Country (13)

Anna Bandy, Alexis Barber, Brocklyn Barber, Amanda Berkstresser, Elysia Burgos, Jordan Campbell, Mercy Dement, Allison Green, Ashley Knoll, Claudia Nichols, Nevaeh Page, Stephanie Penticuff, Lainy Williams

Football (18)

Mason Bollin, Bryant Burns, Cooper Callis, Preston Carson, Mason Dunn, Jarvis Funk, Kyle Ghetes, Landon Gibson, Ryan Jones, Zach Jones, Dennis Mack, Jarrett Massie, Josh Palacios, Zach Shaffer, Ryan Skeens, Coleton Smith, Nate Stelken, Cole Walker

Women's Golf (5)

Jaidee Akers, Andrea Brown, Kathryn Kelley, Makenna Krysl, Kasydie Shipp

Men's Soccer (10)

Kyle Asbury, Tyler Frolik, Pierre Lurot, Rickie Mills, Armani Morato, Xavier O'Garro, Danny Parrish, Alberto Rodriguez, Will vanHoorbeek, Kevin Zavala

Women's Soccer (19)

Samantha Crawford (Boese), Rocci De Felice,

Madison Eads, Raegan Edwards, Emma Garner, Madison Geren, Ashlyn Gibbs, Madeleine Gillman, Alexis Hale, Rheagan Hancock, Madalyn Henley, Sam Heustis, Morgan Houston, Skylr Houzenga, Lexi Lanzafame, Regan Resz, Kylee Ryan, Mallory Smith, Kailey Weiskopf

Softball (15)

Izabella Anderson, Kaitlyn Bagby, Alissa Collette, Emma Ezzell, Renae Gillmore, Isabelle Harrison, Hallie Henderson, Abby Henson, Nicole Horstman, Katlynn McConville, Morgan McMullin, Alyssa Reed, Reilly Rupert, Taylor Williams, Emma Wood

Men's Tennis (5)

Carlos Corser, Logan French, Alvaro Nunez, Max Sanoja, David Szeri

Women's Tennis (7)

Dona Abohabaga, Diana Cabrera, Lola Cincunegui, Constanca Crespo, Emma Davis, Giselle Garcia, Catarina Zheng

Men's Track & Field (21)

Darren Arzu, Braeden Bakos, Peter Bowling, Jared Breig, Asa Carter, Ansen Covin, Dylan Fellers, Trenton Finley, Daniel Garrison, Tyler Goatley, Bladen Hancock, Austin Haynes, Brayden Housh, Blaine Jimerson, Tristan Jones, Paden Lewis, Parker Love, Samuel McCormick, Grant Miller, Will O'Keefe, Austin Wilson

Women's Track & Field (25)

Jaidee Akers, Anna Bandy, Alexis Barber, Brocklyn Barber, Natalie Basham, Amanda Berkstresser, Paige Bradley, Elysia Burgos, Jordan Campbell, Britney Clark, Paige Cummings, Mercy Dement, Alexa Fredrick, Allison Green, Madison Hicks, Rachel Holt, Ashley Knoll, Nevaeh Page, Stephanie Penticuff, Jazmin Ray, MeLeah Ridenour, Rebekah Rodgers, Renee Shreve, Aubrie Sorrell, Lainy Williams

Evans Jones receives Missouri Sports Hall of Fame's Diamond 9 Award



Former SBU softball player Catlin Evans Jones '17 received the program's Diamond 9 award, presented by the Missouri Sports Hall of Fame at its annual Baseball and Softball Luncheon on May 25. The award honors former high school, college and professional players, or those who have made significant contributions to the sport.

"Jones was a two-time First Team All-State catcher for Pleasant Hope in 2011 and 2012, which were memorable seasons for the Lady Pirates. The team was 55-3 those years as Pleasant Hope finished as a state runner-up

her junior season and won the Class 2 state title a year later. Overall, the team was 99-15 in her four seasons. In fact, the 2009 third-place team was Pleasant Hope's first softball team to reach a Final Four.

"At Southwest Baptist, Jones started all 161 games in her three-year career and is all over the record book there. Career-wise, her 147 hits rank seventh, while she is first in sacrifice bunts (33), tied for fourth in runs scored (76), third in stolen bases (41) and set a single-season record for at-bats (196) in 2016." – Kary Booher, Missouri Sports Hall of Fame.

Volleyball (9)

Lindsey Barton, Chanelle Boldridge, Lauren Compton, Ashleigh DeWees, Sydney Ernsbarger, Rachel Francis, Ashley Lasher, Loran Pritchett, Delanie Tipton

Brother James Gaffney

Distinguished

Scholar Award Winners

Ryan Carmack, Baseball
Hayden Crabtree, Baseball
Keaton Mandryk, Baseball
Logan Sorrell, Baseball
Mary Rose Foster, Basketball
Daniel Garrison, Cross Country
Samuel McCormick, Cross Country
Brocklyn Barber, Cross Country
Amanda Berkstresser, Cross

Country
Jordan Campbell, Cross Country
Claudia Nichols, Cross Country
Stephanie Penticuff, Cross Country
Lainy Williams, Cross Country
Jarvis Funk, Football
Alberto Rodriguez, Men's Soccer
Raegan Edwards, Women's Soccer
Emma Garner, Women's Soccer
Madeline Gillman, Women's Soccer
Alissa Collette, Softball
Emma Ezzell, Softball
Emma Wood, Softball
Carlos Corser, Tennis
Max Sanoja, Tennis
Dona Abohabaga, Tennis
Diana Cabrera, Tennis
Constanca Crespo, Tennis

Emma Davis, Tennis
Trenton Finely, Track & Field
Bladen Hancock, Track & Field
Brayden Housh, Track & Field
Paige Bradley, Track & Field
Jazmin Ray, Track & Field
MeLeah Ridenour, Track & Field
Rebekah Rodgers, Track & Field
Aubrie Sorrell, Track & Field
Chanelle Boldridge, Volleyball
Sydney Ernsbarger, Volleyball
Ashley Lasher, Volleyball
Loran Pritchett, Volleyball

Council of Presidents' Award Winners

Blake Lutgen, Baseball
Houston Johnson, Basketball
Brady Smith, Basketball
Regan Tibbits, Basketball
Meghan Worthington, Basketball

Blaine Jimerson, Cross Country/Track & Field
Jordan Campbell, Cross Country/Track & Field
JaiDee Akers, Golf/Track & Field
Samantha Boese, Soccer
Rocci De Felice, Soccer
Emma Garner, Soccer
Ashlyn Gibbs, Soccer
Emma Ezzell, Softball
Nicole Horstman, Softball
Morgan McMullin, Softball
Dona Abohabaga, Tennis
Constanca Crespo, Tennis
Emma Davis, Tennis
Asa Carter, Track & Field
Rachel Holt, Track & Field
MeLeah Ridenour, Track & Field
Lindsey Barton, Volleyball
Chanelle Boldridge, Volleyball

SBU recognizes Dill, Chaney scholarship recipients

Three Southwest Baptist University students received two of the University's prestigious awards – the Stanley H. Dill Distinguished Scholar Award and the Chaney Scholar Awards – which are among SBU's largest endowed scholarships.

The scholarships are determined through faculty nominations provided to the Deans Council, which narrows the nominations to a group of finalists. These finalists are then presented to the president for final selection.

"Charles Chaney and Stanley Dill deeply loved Southwest Baptist University, and their legacy of love for SBU is passed on through the scholarships that bear their names," said Dr. Brad Johnson, interim president of SBU.

Tyler Gallion (pictured left), a senior psychology and Christian studies major from Petersburg, Ill., is the recipient of the Stanley H. Dill Distinguished Scholar Award. The award is presented to the student who has demonstrated exemplary academic performance, campus leadership, Christian character and involvement in

church ministry.

Gallion has been a worship team leader for KLIFE since his freshman year. He is a SuperK leader and co-leads a group of fifth-grade boys after school. Gallion also has volunteered with Sling N Stones, a rehabilitation ministry, where he co-lead a group of children while their parents

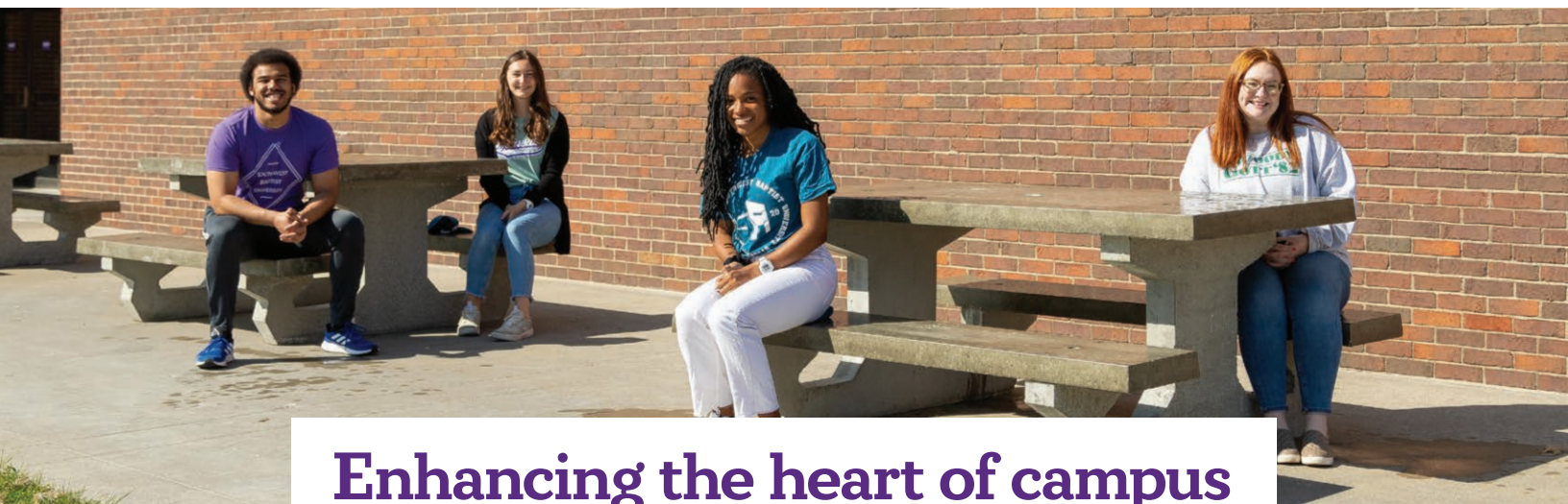


attended service. At SBU, he served on mission teams to Baja, Mexico, to work on orphanage buildings and spend time with the children at the Door of Faith Orphanage.

The Chaney Scholar Award is presented to one male and one female student who prove themselves to be exemplary in their academic endeavors and character, potential for professional development, and leadership in campus, church and community activities.

Alexis Stout (pictured middle), a management graduate and MBA student from Lee's Summit, Mo., is the female recipient of the Chaney Scholar Award. She is a member of both the Phi Eta Sigma Honor Society and Delta Mu Delta. Stout was a national speaker (as a freshman) and active member of Enactus, a member and leader of Jump Start, an organization that helps students start businesses while at SBU. She also leads on campus as a Resident Assistant and fitness instructor, and was a member of the Passion Mission Trip.

Tyler Burnett (pictured right), a senior computational finance major from Ballwin, Mo., is the male recipient of the Chaney Scholar Award. Burnett is a member of Phi Eta Sigma National Honor Society, a Resident Assistant and an intern at Sterling Investment Advisors, LLC, in Bolivar. He also served as Enactus President and Project Leader his sophomore year and as a national speaker his freshman year – an impressive feat. Burnett leads the Dangerous Men Bible Study and has served on the Wild at Heart and Pyrenees mission teams. ■



Enhancing the heart of campus

Student Association officers, Aaron Hayes, Anna Saffels, Britney Clark, and Ally Coats '21 at new picnic tables outside of the Student Union

Aaron Hayes saw a need on campus and wanted to find a solution.

He noticed there were more people on Southwest Baptist University's Bolivar campus eating their meals outside or just choosing to be outside this spring in part to more restrictions inside related to the COVID-19 pandemic.

"I would see some of my friends sitting on the hot concrete being blinded by the sun and think, 'There's definitely a better way to enjoy God's beautiful nature,'" said the junior social work major and Student Association (SA) Campus Improvement Chair.

SA reached out to SBU administration and that solution was to add seating outside of the Goodson Student Union as part of the Burnidge Memorial Forum.

"The approach of the campaign was to evaluate the future SBU Campus Master Plan and take a step toward it by providing an area that we could," Hayes said. "Dr. Brad Johnson (SBU interim president), Dr. Allison Langford (vice president for strategic planning and initiatives) and Robbie Bryant (director of facilities) worked extremely hard to make this a reality from the start. Along with Dr. Nathan Penland '06, director of student leadership and engagement, SA President Anna Saffels and the rest of the SA team,

we were able to come together to complete such a huge project in a month and a half."

Saffels said the entire SA team was excited when Hayes brought the idea to them.

"Outdoor seating addition ideas have been tossed around in the past, but was never much of a priority," said Saffels, a junior intercultural studies major. "However, with indoor restrictions and mask requirements, the idea of outdoor dining and study areas became much more of a need.

"Aaron has worked hard on this project putting together research, scouting out the best areas to utilize, and collaborating with upper administration. I want to thank Dr. Johnson, Dr. Langford, Robbie Bryant, and Dr. Nate for facilitating and bringing to fruition this project; it was definitely a team effort.

"I am proud of this project and of the encouragement, teamwork and fellowship that SBU administration embodies."

Dr. Johnson was encouraged and excited to see students take the lead on this type of project.

"To all those who had a part in making this project a reality, we say, 'thank you.' In particular, I want to thank Aaron Hayes and Anna Saffels for bringing this fun and creative idea forward for us to consider,"

Dr. Johnson said.

"Their leadership and initiative have helped the University accomplish one of the goals in our Master Plan, 'setting the table' for increased student satisfaction and a more robust campus life experience. Students will enjoy the fruit of their work for years to come."

Once the tables were delivered, it didn't take long for them to be put to use.

"I love having more seating options outside," said Bailey Major, a junior biology education major. "It's great since it is so close to the buildings, which makes Wi-Fi accessible. Also, I enjoy taking a green box and eating outside to enjoy the warmer weather."

In addition to providing more outdoor seating as options for places to eat, study, have Bible studies or watch the sunrise, Hayes also hopes it will promote an atmosphere of community in the heart of campus.

"My hope is that God uses a little thing like outdoor seating in a bigger way than I could hope," Hayes said, "using it to be the place that two friends share their testimonies for the first time, a student eating with his family on a visit decides to attend SBU, or future students gather to pray over their friends' many decisions, like a 'ring before spring.'" ■

SBU CIS seniors present projects for 2020-21

Nine projects demonstrate servant leadership focus

Southwest Baptist University's Division of Computing and Mathematics had 31 computing seniors, now graduates, work on and present nine projects sponsored by several leading companies and organizations, including the U.S. Federal Reserve Bank.

"God blessed us with some great projects and our students completed the projects with quality," said Dr. Kevin Hopkins, division head and professor of mathematics at SBU. "As I retire this year, I am glad I got to experience these presentations this year. Our students will take this, and all their experiences from SBU, and go into the workforce prepared to be servant leaders in a global society."

Senior projects are an annual event for students majoring in computer science, computer information science, cybersecurity, or web systems and design. Over the course of their senior year, students in the CIS area work on cross-discipline teams to develop commercial-quality applications for end-users working in faith-based companies, not-for-profit charities, and leading American companies and organizations.

"It is remarkable to see our seniors present high-quality and professionally done projects that solve real-world problems for real clients," said Dr. Amos Gichamba, incoming head of the Division of Computing and Mathematics. "We appreciate the companies and organizations that have supported these efforts and provided our students with a launching pad to excel in their computing careers."

Projects and teams for the 2020-2021 academic year included:

• **Federal Reserve Bank of Kansas City**

(Mo.) Code-A-Thon

Student Team: Emily Wipf (web systems and design) from Marshfield; Draden Davis '21 (computer information science) from Butler; Hannah Ewing Toombs '21 (accounting and information assurance) from Bolivar; and TJ Brooks '21 (computer science and mathematics) from Columbia.

• **Duck Creek Technologies Dev Ops Tool, Bolivar**

Student Team: Max Stoner '21 (computer information science) from Preston; Jacob Chappell '21 (cybersecurity) from Blue Springs; Colby Welch (cybersecurity) from Harrison, Ark.; and Ezekial Page (computer science) from Siloam Springs, Ark.

• **Bolivar City Government IOT-Enabled Tornado Shelter Activation (Bolivar, MO)**

Student Team: Jacob Hake (web systems and design) from Humansville; and Jordan Hillenburg '21 (cybersecurity) from Pleasant Hope.

• **The App Pros Customer Support System, Springfield**

Student Team: Guy Batton (web systems and design) from Bolivar; Stephen Winder '21 (computer information science) from Bolivar; Tyler Nowak '21 (cybersecurity) from Camdenton; and Levi Zustiak '21 (computer science) from Galena, Kan.

• **Missouri Baptist Credit Union Email Marketing Program, Jefferson City**

Student Team: Emma Pierce '21 (web systems and design) from St. Clair; Ben Schulz '21 (computer information science) from Omaha, Neb.; Nathan Hooper '21 (cybersecurity) from Bolivar;



Jordan Hillenburg and Jacob Hake presented their senior project to the Bolivar City Government

and Haley Bahn '21 (mathematics and computer science) from Springfield.

• **SBU Gameroom Usage Tracker, Bolivar** Student Team: Treyton Davis (web systems and design) from Nevada; Chase Lawrence '21 (cybersecurity) from Harrison, Ark.; and David Schmidt '21 (computer science) from Richland.

• **Missouri Department of Revenue, Jefferson City**

Student Team: Nathan Schaffner '21 (computer information science) from Collinsville, Okla.; Jackson Brown (cybersecurity) from Bolivar; and Ashley Pearce (computer science) from Billings.

• **Bicycle Outlet Website, Springfield**

Student Team: Matt Wolf '21 (web systems and design) from Fenton; Sam Lewright (web systems and design) from Bolivar; Thomas Lay '21 (computer information science) from Independence; and Cameron Thomas (cybersecurity) from Stockton.

• **Polk County Community Connections Virtual Resource Center, Bolivar**

Student Team: Kali Crockett '21 (web systems and design) from Marshfield; Elise O'Banion (computer information science) from Kokomo, Ind.; Jaxon Harvey '21 (cybersecurity) from Carrollton; and Jonathan Steigleman '21 (computer science) from Anchorage. ■

SBU student earns top scientific presentation award

Six Southwest Baptist University biology majors presented research at the Sigma Zeta National Convention, with Nicholas Schulte bringing home the Top Scientific Presentation Award for 2021.

Sigma Zeta is a national science and mathematics honor society. The society funded 17 research projects for 2020-21 nationwide through a competitive process, with six of the projects awarded to SBU students.

Dr. John Murphy, associate professor of biology, has mentored the students, using his farm as their research laboratory.

“It has been so fun to watch these students learn and grow through this research process,” Murphy said. “Two years ago, we started the research lab with three students learning techniques for venipuncture, serum isolation and ELISA measurements. This year, those same students were mentoring and training the new lab recruits and received funding from a national organization. I am incredibly proud of each one and am excited to watch their bright futures!”

The students spent more than 400

hours during the fall of 2020 collecting samples, extracting the hormone cortisol and isolating immunoglobulins from blood serum. They presented their research at the Sigma Zeta Convention during spring break in March and were invited to present their research at the Missouri Cattlemen’s Association’s Hickory County meeting on May 13.

“Each student was commended on their project and presentation,” Murphy said. “As well as presenting, each student also was published in the Sigma Zeta abstracts journal. I am so proud of these students and their hard work.”

The research projects are:

- **Ashleigh DeWees ’21**, a senior biology major with a concentration in biomedical science from Rowlett, Texas – “Cortisol Research for Southwest Baptist University”
- **Caitlin Diepenbrock ’21**, a senior biology major with a concentration in biomedical science from Deltona, Fla. – “Cortisol Release During Weaning and its Effects on Physical Behavior”

- **Nicholas Schulte**, a junior biology major with a concentration in biomedical science from Junction City, Kan. – “Immune System Response to Vaccinations and Stress in Weaning Beef Calves”

- **Haley Stoner ’21**, a senior medical technology major from Nixa – “The Impact of Cortisol on Killed Vaccine Effectiveness in Bovine”

- **Kailey Weiskopf**, a junior biochemistry major from St. Louis – “Free Cortisol Levels in Saliva Samples vs. Total Cortisol Levels in Blood Serum Samples”

- **Megan Worthington ’21**, a senior biochemistry major from Camdenton – “Analysis of cortisol and IGg levels in Calves”

Students also conducted further research in the spring looking at the impact of weaning on immune system response to vaccination against Bovine Respiratory Disease. Murphy is working with 13 students in the research lab on proposals for next fall. ■

SBU, OTC articulation agreements focus on business and education degrees

Ozarks Technical Community College and Southwest Baptist University finalized articulation agreements this spring providing OTC graduates the opportunity to pursue bachelor of science degrees in the areas of education or business at SBU.

One agreement allows OTC graduates who earn an Associate of Arts in Teaching degree to smoothly transition into SBU’s bachelor of science in elementary education program.

“This agreement sets OTC graduates on a path toward continued success and allows them to reach their goal of certification while taking full advantage of the coursework they completed at OTC,” said Dr. Dwight Haun ’81, coordinator of teacher education and professor of education at SBU.

The second agreement provides OTC graduates who earn an Associate of Arts in Business degree the opportunity to pursue

any of SBU’s business-related bachelor of science degrees.

“The Business Division at SBU embraces the opportunity to partner with OTC to facilitate the smoothest transition for students into any of our 10 innovative, market-driven bachelor’s degree programs,” said Dr. Nathan Wright ’05, division head and associate professor of business.

The partnership also allows SBU, consistently one of the top transfer destinations for OTC students, the opportunity to continue to engage students currently enrolled at the Springfield, Mo.-based community college, and who are wanting to pursue a bachelor’s degree at a liberal arts Christian university.

For more information on transfer opportunities, visit SBUiv.info/transfer. ■

SBU Honors Program students present capstone projects

Thirteen students in Southwest Baptist University's Gordon & Judy Dutile Honors Program presented their Senior Honors Capstone Experience projects during an open house May 4.

Students are admitted to the Dutile Honors Program before their freshman year through a competitive process. The program includes nine honors-specific courses designed to provide scholastic enrichment and opportunities for practical application and professional development; honors colloquium for sophomores and juniors; and the Senior Honors Capstone Experience that allows students to complete a project or research in the student's field of study, including the integration of faith and discipline.

Students who presented projects are:

- **Audra Addison '21** of Marionville, Mo., presented "Simulating the Genetics of Equine Coloration." She is the daughter of Bradley and Jana Addison.
- **Dason Boren '21** of Carl Junction presented "Capillary Electrophoresis: Method Development and Application." He is the son of David and Cindy Boren.
- **Mikayla Becker** of Bolivar presented "Forensic Accounting." She is the daughter of Raymond and Cheri Baker.
- **Hannah Bredehoeft '21** of O'Fallon, Mo., presented "Effects of Self-Isolation on College Students' Physical (and/or Mental) Health." She is the daughter of Steve and Monica Bredehoeft.
- **Caleb Burnham** of Bolivar presented "Analysis of Machine-Learning Taught AI in Game Development." He is the son of Brian and Arlita Burnham.
- **Nathaniel Dascher** of Highlandville presented "Development of Physical Housing and Software of a Capillary Electrophoresis Instrument." He is the son of Gene and Amy Dascher.

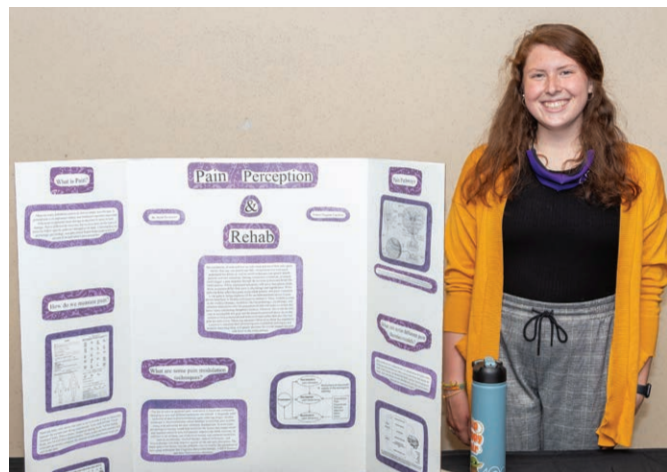
- **Draden Davis '21** of Butler presented "The Effect of Technology in Today's Education." He is the son of Stacy Davis.

- **Jack Erbland '21** of Ironton presented "The Psychology of individuals who commit accounting fraud." He is the son of Steve and Rachel Erbland.

- **Nathan Spencer '21** of Garfield, Ark., presented "Understanding Behavior, Cognition, and Emotions of 'a target culture' for Cross-Cultural Counseling Intervention." He is the son of Christopher and Jennifer Spencer.

- **Haley Stoner '21** of Bolivar presented "The Impact of Stress on Vaccine Response in Beef Calves." She is the daughter of William and Tracy Gill.

- **Sarah Swainston '21** of Warrensburg presented "The Effects of Pain Perception on Rehabilitation." She is the daughter of Doug and Sandra Swainston.

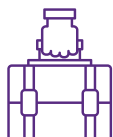


Sarah Swainston presented her Capstone Experience, "The Effects of Pain Perception on Rehabilitation."

- **Grace Tayloe** of Owensville presented "An Approach to Physical Therapy Incorporation for Cerebral Palsy Patients in Third World Countries." She is the daughter of Vernon and Shannon Tayloe.
- **Joseph Wilson** of Willard presented "Validation of a Custom-Built Capillary Electrophoresis Instrument." He is the son of Angie Brushwood.

The Dutile Honors Program started during the fall 2005 semester and now has 278 graduates.

For more information, contact Dr. Dana Steward '95, '03, assistant provost for general education and transition, at dsteward@SBUuniv.edu. ■



SBU IS HIRING!

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Carillon playing again at SBU

Surgeon Carillon will play once again on Southwest Baptist University’s Bolivar campus beginning this summer. May 2021 graduate and current MBA student Chance Bedell led an effort this school year to raise money for renovations to the Kate Stamper Wilhite Tower, primarily to make the carillon play once again. His dream was to have the carillon play at the end of each commencement ceremony on May 14-15. After presenting the idea to SBU’s administration, the project grew to include additional components:

- A new digital, Wi-Fi-enabled carillon;
- Color-changing LED lighting;
- Frosted glass panels to magnify the cross; and
- A deep cleaning of the exterior.

“The bell tower is an iconic structure on our Bolivar campus that serves as a reminder of our Christ-centered mission,” said Interim President Dr. Brad Johnson. “Between Chance’s vision to upgrade the carillon and other ideas included in our Campus Master Plan for enhancing the bell tower, the structure will continue to be treasured by Bearcats for generations to come. I am thankful for Chance’s leadership in this campus improvement project.”

Initial fundraising efforts provided enough money to

purchase the carillon. The bell tower was cleaned and new speakers were installed the week of June 21. Faculty and staff enjoyed hearing it play “Amazing Grace” the morning of June 23 and the bell tower now chimes on the hour every day. Further updates, including LED lighting and glass panels around the cross, are planned as fundraising continues.

“Hearing the chimes ring from the bell tower has been better than anything I could have imagined.” Bedell said. “I am so thankful for the donors who made this dream a reality and I am also excited to see the reaction of Bearcats when we return in the fall!”

“A renewed sense of joy and purpose wells up in me every time I hear the chimes and I am thankful for all those whose generosity has made this possible,” Johnson said. ■



GIVE ONLINE AT
advance.SBUiv.edu/belltower

Fundraising continues for the remainder of the project. For more information about donating to the project, contact Savannah Palmer '16, '20, assistant director of philanthropic support, at (417) 328-1804 or Give@SBUiv.edu.

SBU selects Hill-Stanford as dean of Casebolt College of Arts and Sciences

Dr. Holly Hill-Stanford, professor of English, is the new dean of the Geneva Casebolt College of Arts and Sciences at Southwest Baptist University.

“Dr. Hill-Stanford brings many years of experience in academic leadership to the role,” said SBU Provost Dr. Lee Skinkle. “Her prior service as a department chair and division head will serve her well in leading the Geneva Casebolt College of Arts and Sciences.”

Hill-Stanford most recently served as head of the Bob R. Derryberry Division of Language and Communication and chair of the Department of Language and Literature at SBU. She also was director of the Barnett-Padgett Literary Artist Series from 2008-2020 and acting chair of the Department of Language and Literature from 2001-2003.

“I am honored and humbled to have been selected for this position and look forward to working with my colleagues

as we begin a new academic year,” Hill-Stanford said.

She was an adjunct instructor of English at SBU for five years before joining the full-time faculty in 1997. She served as Faculty Senate President for the 2004-05 academic year. She taught at Johnson County Community College and the University of Kansas before moving to Bolivar in 1992.

Hill-Stanford completed her B.A. in English, Biology and Secondary Education at Drury University, an M.A. in English from Iowa State University, and a Ph.D. in English and Administration in Higher Education, from the University of Kansas.

The Casebolt College includes the Division of Arts and Humanities, Division of Behavioral Sciences, The Courts Redford Division of Christian Ministry, the Bob R. Derryberry Division of Language and Communication, and the Division of Natural Sciences.

“She is well respected by her peers as evidenced by their advocacy for her candidacy as dean,” Skinkle said. “Dr.

Hill-Stanford has a demonstrated understanding of the current and future needs of SBU and the unique nature of the College of Arts and Sciences. I look forward to working more closely with Dr. Hill-Stanford and seeing how she grows into the new role.”

Hill-Stanford lives in Bolivar with her husband, Tom, and is a member of First Baptist Church, Bolivar. ■



Arve on training staff with New Orleans Saints

After completing a seasonal internship in the spring, Erik Arve, DPT '16 was hired by the New Orleans Saints of the National Football League on May 1 as an assistant athletic trainer/physical therapist.

Arve completed his doctor of physical therapy degree at Southwest Baptist University in 2016, while his wife, Paige, served as resident director in Woody Hall.

“The Saints and I had conversations and the goal was to get me onboard full-time before OTAs (Offseason Training Activities) hit,” Arve said. “I have been involved with the rookie mini-camps, offseason workouts and the mandatory veterans OTA minicamp.”

After SBU, Arve went to work as a physical therapist for two years at a Bartlesville, Okla., outpatient orthopedic

clinic and did some high school sports outreach work. He then decided to go back to school and earned a master's in athletic training from Oklahoma State University in Tulsa.

One of Arve's clinicals was with the North Carolina State football team. And while he thought he may end up working in the college arena, he wondered what it might be like to work in professional sports.

“I had applied for a seasonal internship with the NFL, and if you look at any of them, they have multiple internships,” said Arve, who earned his bachelor's degree in biological sciences from North Carolina State in 2011. “I sent applications to all 32 teams and started to get college interviews. I applied for a PT as a contractor for the Air Force Special Operations and

was offered that position. I also had an interview with the Columbus (Ohio) Crew of Major League Soccer. But, the Saints reached out and said an intern left (which opened up a spot) and I turned down the Air Force job.”

After graduating from SBU, Arve said he felt challenged and well-prepared for his clinicals, the real world and board exams.

“It was tremendous,” Arve said. “I compare my experiences here (in New Orleans) with other people here. We had top-notch clinical experiences and the SBU instructors were great. They taught me a lot and gave me a critical eye coming out. The NFL philosophy approach is 99 percent the same, and a lot of that I attribute to what I had at SBU.” ■



FROM THE **DIRECTOR OF ALUMNI ENGAGEMENT**

Dear alumni and friends,

I feel like the word of the last year was “pivot” at least in higher education. Events pivoted online, classes pivoted online (and hybrid, and in-person), the cafeteria pivoted to delivery for those students in quarantine, reunions pivoted to an online format, etc. Yet, with all this pivoting I’m thankful. Thankful SBU can still engage with alumni and students, albeit via new platforms. Thankful reunions could be held, while different still exciting and energetic. Thankful that the cafeteria could feed students regardless of location. Thankful academics could still be taught through the lens of Christian-higher education.

Campus is somewhat quiet and still right now. (I say somewhat because camps have returned this summer and occasionally their laughter and music trickles down to the Administration building!) Truth be told, the normalcy of a summer in higher education is not taken for granted by me this year. While there’s much to do this summer as I begin to plan Homecoming activities and determine alumni regional events for the year, I can’t help but look back on this past year.

In the midst of this past year, so many have faced

loss, sadness, and isolation. I hope you know that you aren’t alone. I pray you will be comforted by the Father above and that you will feel His presence near. So many are still living in uncertainty. I pray that you will be able to have peace and that the Lord will provide. Others are looking forward to what is to come. I pray the Lord will provide protection and continue to heal.

I have a one-year old; so it’s interesting to look back on this year for many reasons. My little boy knows only a world full of masks and truthfully has met a limited number of strangers. Yet, when I think over his year from tiny newborn to toddling-all-over-the-place and jabbering constantly one-year old; his world is just beginning and for that I am thankful.

I hope you will continue to pray for your alma mater. I hope you will consider coming home for Homecoming (October 1-2!). I hope you know you are a part of the SBU legacy and for that I am so thankful.

Holly Bridge

Holly Bridge '08, '20

Director of Alumni Engagement

SIGHT & SOUND
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LIVE ON STAGE

SBU ALUMNI EVENT: Saturday, September 11, 2021

Purchase tickets at Advance.SBUniv.edu/Jesus by August 20, 2021.



1.

1950s

Jacquelyn (Bateman) Thorn '59 lives in Kansas City, Mo., and can be reached at jackiethorn1@gmail.com.

1970s

Gene Daugherty '71 can be reached at grdaugherty@gmail.com.

Duane Davis '75 and his wife, **Alice (Garner) '73**, live in Mahomet, Ill., and can be reached at daideen@outlook.com.

Larry Scantlan '78 entertains at senior living facilities throughout St. Louis and St. Charles counties. He can be reached at scanco@charter.net.

Charles Woods '79 and his wife, **Christine '79**, live in Marysville, Calif., where Charles serves as a pastor and director of missions. Charles also has had two books published. Charles can be reached at charleswoods5001@gmail.com.

1980s

Jon Park '83 of Shelbyville, Ky., recently was appointed Deputy Judge Executive of Shelby County, Ky. He can be reached at Jepark7275@gmail.com.

David Smith '86 lives in Park Hills, Mo., and can be reached at mr_smigh1962@hotmail.com.

1990s

Mike Brown '90 is a Realtor and is in his second year as the Assistant Team Leader of Keller Williams of Greater Springfield (Mo.) He also founded BrownTown Homes Real Estate in



2.



4.



3.



5.

2020 for residential real estate needs in the Metro Springfield and Branson Tri-Lakes areas. Mike plays in the local big band/events band "The Wings of Swing," and can be reached at Mike@BrownTownHomes.com.

Michael Hill '96 can be reached at mhillisaiah611@yahoo.com.

2010s

Melinda (Jarvis) Richards '09, '12 lives in Bakersfield, Calif., and can be reached at melinda.richards1984@outlook.com.

FUTURE BEARCATS

1. Sarah (Utley) Follmer '11 and her husband, Brett, welcomed their first child.

IN MEMORY

2. Stephen (Steve) Jackson '67-'68, '68-'69 passed away on Feb. 10 at home after a battle with cancer at the age of 71. He and his wife, **Linda (Cartwright) '70**, were married just more than 50 years. Steve was a CTT3 in the U.S. Navy from 1969-1973 and was a hub manager for the Burlington Northern-Santa Fe Railroad.

Jon F. Caudle '68 passed away on May 27. He attended a one-room schoolhouse in rural Washington County (Mo.), graduated from Ste. Genevieve High School in 1957, and after a short stint in college in Rolla, he moved on to Southwest Baptist University. There, he met **Judith '58, '68** on a revival team. They were married on May 29, 1959,

shortly after Jon began his first pastorate at Morrisville Baptist Church, and had three children: **Jon Jr., '83, Jeffrey '87** and Karen. His passing was two days' before his and Judith's 62nd anniversary.

Jon served in the USAF from 1960-1964 and was stationed in Illinois, Kansas and California, serving in the pastorate in Kansas and California. After his discharge, he continued to serve as a pastor, church planter, director of missions and adjunct professor during his 60 years in ministry in Missouri, Kansas, California, Texas and West Virginia. In addition to his passion for Jesus and for Judith, he was a passionate fisherman and he enjoyed listening to St. Louis Cardinals baseball games on the radio.

3. Andrew Dale Briggs '86 passed away Jan. 2 at Stonecrest Medical Center in Smyrna, Tenn., after a prolonged battle with COVID-19 at the age of 57. Andrew was a music teacher at Community Elementary school and dedicated his life to teaching children.

4. Paul Douglas Wooderson, '90, passed away on Jan. 26, after a battle with COVID-19. Paul touched the lives of so many people through his love, compassion and kindness. Many people experienced the love of Jesus through him. He genuinely loved God and loved people. Paul was born in 1968 to Guadalupe Hernandez in Huejutla, Hidalgo, Mexico, and was adopted May 25, 1973 by Rev. Roland Douglas Wooderson and Doris Lynell McCollum Wooderson from Texas. At the time of his death, he was serving as an educator with Brownsville (Texas) Independent School District as director of choirs. Paul also was an active member of his church, International Christian Center.

5. Amy E. (Fast) Baker '97 of Republic passed away on April 27 at Mercy Hospital-Springfield at the age of 47. She was born Jan. 5, 1974, in Altus, Okla., to Dennis Gene and Carma Fast. She graduated from Bolivar High School in 1992 and from Southwest Baptist University with dual degrees in accounting and math in 1997. She was the payroll and accounting manager for Ozarks Community Hospital in Springfield at the time of her death.

SBUlife

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A large, stylized graphic for Homecoming. It features a purple and white hexagonal border. Inside the hexagon, the SBU logo is at the top, followed by the word "Homecoming" in a large, purple, cursive font with a white outline. Below that, the dates "October 1-2, 2021" are written in a smaller, purple, sans-serif font.

SBU
Homecoming
October 1-2, 2021

Registration opens August 11, 2021.
Advance.SBUniv.edu/Homecoming