



From left, Dr. Bill Brown, provost; Steve Whisler, Life Service Award recipient; Herbert Pedersen, Life Service Award recipient; Pat (Kaiser) Betteridge, Edwin Lightfoot Distinguished Alumni Award recipient, Sondra (Isenburg) Mahoney, Life Service Award recipient; Holly Stockard, director of alumni engagement; and Dr. C. Pat Taylor, president.

## Alumni Awards celebrate servant leadership

*Five SBU alumni were honored with awards during Homecoming events Oct. 3 and 4. Read about their life achievements and their time at SBU.*

### Alumni Life Service Awards

Inspired by the Life Beautiful Award presented each year to one male and one female graduate, President John Dowdy suggested to the Southwest Baptist College Board of Trustees in 1955 that the Life Service Award be given annually to graduates whose lives have exemplified the principles which are upheld at Southwest. The award is the highest recognition that the University can bestow upon an alumnus or alumna.

### Edwin Lightfoot Distinguished Alumni Award

The Alumni Association presents the Edwin Lightfoot Distinguished Alumni Award annually to an alumnus or alumna who demonstrates the ideals personified by the late Edwin Lightfoot '40. The award criteria include alumni leadership in the University, dedication to the education and welfare of youth, and demonstrated support for SBU.

To make nominations for this award, visit: [www.sbuniv.edu/alumni](http://www.sbuniv.edu/alumni)

# PATRICIA (KAISER) BETTERIDGE '51

EDWIN LIGHTFOOT DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI AWARD RECIPIENT

- AA from SWBC in 1953; BFA from Kansas City Art Institute in 1968; MA in Education from University of Missouri KC in 1975.
- Married Bill Betteridge '49 and they were blessed with a daughter, Toni Pine.
- President of Independence Art Association for two years and in charge of Summit Art Scholarships for Blue Springs Art League for four years.
- Member of Greater Kansas City Art Association, Blue Springs Art League, Summit Art, and Independence Art Association.
- Received the President's Award from Cultured Arts Coalition in 2012.

“SWBC, as it was called when I was a student here, has had a very positive impact on my life, and I am very thankful for all the wonderful teachers and friends I met here. Many friendships have continued through the years from my time on campus. I’ve discovered that learning to really see outwardly also tends to help us to see inwardly and art is a wonderful avenue for healing and self-discovery.”



# THE LATE BETTY (YOUNG) CLARK '47

LIFE SERVICE AWARD RECIPIENT

4/4/1927 - 9/11/2014

- AA SWBC in 1947; RN Mather School of Nursing in 1950; BRE New Orleans Baptist Seminary in 1951.
- Married the late Clyde Clark '47. They were blessed with two children, Mark Alan Clark and Rebecca Lou (Clark) Rutledge, six grandchildren, and 10 great grandchildren.
- Hospice volunteer, English as a Second Language tutor, Chamber of Commerce volunteer, church organist for 50 years, Sunday School teacher, and WMU member.
- Three generations were on the mission field! Mission trips to Zaire in 1994 (after Rwanda war), Belarus Children's Camp in 1996, and Louisiana (after hurricane Katrina).

“This institution held a very special place in my mother’s heart. On behalf of her family, I thank you for the award.”

Mark Clark, Betty's son, who accepted his mother's award



# SONDRA (ISENBURG) MAHONEY '62

LIFE SERVICE AWARD RECIPIENT

- AA from SWBC in 1962; BS in Education from Missouri State University in 1964.
- Received Life Beautiful Award at SWBC. Other activities while at SWBC include B.S.U. member, Choir, Ladies Trio, Mozarkian Royalty (Best All- Around Student), Intramural Basketball, Work Program (Dining Commons), and Summer Missionary work in Los Angeles, CA (1963).
- Thirty years of service in the public school system. Worked in the Cabool School District as an elementary school teacher for 6 years; Mountain Grove School District as an elementary school teacher for 24 years.
- Served on the HUD and Crisis Center boards.
- Member of First Baptist Church, Mountain Grove, Mo. Serves as W.M.U. Director, Sunday School teacher, on the Pastor Search Committee, participates in the choir, and serves as Associate Executive Board Member. Previously the Children's Choir and Children's Bible drill coordinator. Participated in two mission trips after Hurricane Ivan and Hurricane Katrina.

“I am thankful to SBU for the foundation that you provided to learn leadership skills, and I was taught Christian values. I looked up to the faculty members, and the SBU family really became my family. SBU will always hold special memories for me, and I thank you for the award. I want to say, "To God be the glory.”



## SBUlife

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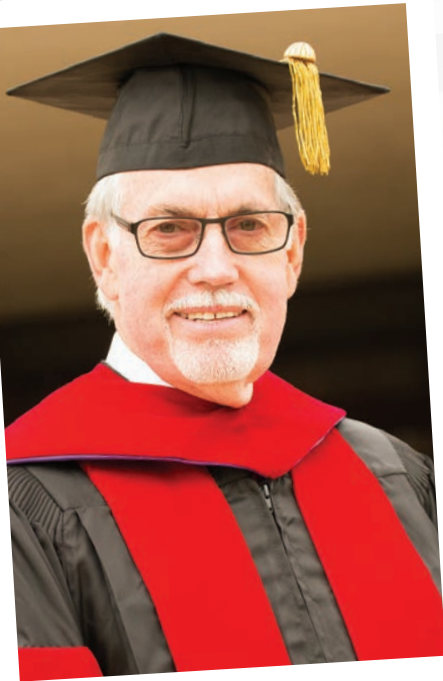
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SBUlife highlights the University's mission: to be a Christ-centered, caring academic community preparing students to be servant leaders in a global society. SBU does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, creed, national origin, gender, age,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

# HERBERT PEDERSEN '66, '68

LIFE SERVICE AWARD RECIPIENT



“Once God called me to the ministry, I felt like there was something that was necessary and had to take place in my life to serve God efficiently and effectively. When I had the opportunity to come here, it was unbelievable. The Lord opened that door, my wife and I were able to attend together. I studied here under the finest faculty that I’ve ever studied under.”

- AA from SWBC in 1966; BS from SWBC in 1968; MDIV Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, Texas, 1971; DMIN Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, Texas, 1976.
- Married to Barbara (Holman) Pedersen '67. They were blessed with three daughters Rhonda Denise Bailey, Angela Gail Cagle, and Elizabeth Ann Savage.
- Fifty Years of Ministry! Current and founding pastor of Longbranch Community Baptist Church, Midlothian, Texas.
- Adjunct Professor and Director of Ph.D. Internship Program at Dallas Baptist University

# STEPHEN WHISLER '71

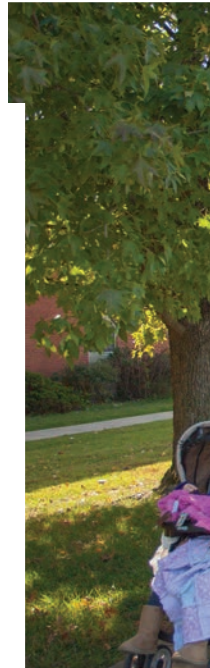
LIFE SERVICE AWARD RECIPIENT



“Whatever I have achieved so far is in great part due to the role that this University has played in my life. Thank you, SBU, for all the memories, the enormous impact you have had on all my family, which spans four generations back to 1910, and for this distinct honor today.”

- BA from SWBC in 1971; Master of Music from UMKC Conservatory of Music in 1976.
- 1971 Life Beautiful Award recipient, 1999 Edwin Lightfoot Distinguished Alumni Award recipient and 2006 Bob Woolley Award for Achievement in Music Ministry recipient
- Composed “SBU, Our Alma Mater” in 1981. Served as a faculty member in the SBU Department of Music from 1976 to 1981 and served as the Director of Alumni/Planned Giving from 1989 to 2010.
- Has served at more than 25 churches in Southwest Missouri as the interim minister of music and currently attends Second Baptist Church in Springfield, Mo., where he is an executive staff member and a former deacon and former choir member.







## What is the SBU National Alumni Association?

SBU's National Alumni Association Board is a group of SBU alumni that meets three times a year to discuss ways to promote SBU and build more connections with alumni and future alumni. Our biggest honors are choosing the recipient for the Edward Lightfoot award, the recipients for the Life Service awards, and recipients for the SBU Alumni Scholarships. Each member serves a three-year term with the ability to serve a total of six years. It is an incredible group of people with a common love for SBU with memories covering many decades!

—Dr. Amy (Gibbs) Spears '00

### SBU National Alumni Association Board Members

Chelsea Abercrombie '08

Patricia Betteridge '51

Andrea Denison '01

Virginia Dorth '52

Jessica Funk '03

Bradley Hall '83

Robert Hurtgen '96

Robert Ingold '72

Brian Jess '96

James McDermott '75

Barbara Miller '06

Brenda Morris '90

Tasha Rayburn '03

Cynthia Reilmann '92

Dr. Amy (Gibbs) Spears '00

Nicholas Stevens '03

Jacquelyn Till '86

Bryan Walker '02

Graham Williams '54

**More board members are needed. For more information about serving on the board, contact Holly Stockard, director of alumni engagement, at (417) 328-1806 or [hstockard@SBUuniv.edu](mailto:hstockard@SBUuniv.edu).**

# SBU Alumni Association awards scholarships

BOLIVAR, Mo. — Four Southwest Baptist University students were recognized Saturday, Oct. 4, during the University's Homecoming festivities for receiving scholarships from the SBU Alumni Association.

"The National Alumni Association Board provides scholarships for students to help them with their needed funds," said Dr. Amy Gibbs Spears '00, president of the SBU National Alumni Association Board. "Our goal is for these students to grow spiritually and academically while they attend SBU. We know that SBU is an amazing university and want to help out in whatever ways we can."

The four scholarships are given to a freshman, sophomore, junior and senior who are full-time students at SBU and the child of an SBU graduate. Other qualifications include maintaining a 2.0 cumulative GPA, being a dedicated Christian and being an active member of an evangelical church.

### Recipients are:

- Allison Locke, a freshman from Baxter Springs, Kan., is majoring in pre-physical therapy. Her mother, Brenda Karnes-Locke, is a 1987 graduate. Allison graduated in May 2014 at the top of her graduating class and is excited to be at SBU and motivated to do well in college to make the best life she can for herself.

- Brooklyn Siegismund, a sophomore from Rockville, Mo., is majoring in commercial art with a concentration in graphic design. Her mother, Debbie Oberly, is a 2000 graduate. Siegismund hopes to work as a graphic designer for 3M in Nevada, Mo., and enjoys graphic design because she enjoys working with people and helping them understand the meaning behind other artworks of the past made by brilliant artists. She hopes that through her artwork she can be a witness and tell others about Christ.

- Courtney Hagan, a junior from Nixa, Mo., is majoring in athletic training to then continue into the doctorate of physical therapy program at SBU. Her mother, Kimberly Hagan, is a 1985 graduate. Courtney wants to work as a physical therapist in a sports rehab center.

- Taylor Merriott Jaudes, a senior from Lebanon, Mo., plans to graduate with a degree in elementary education and art education in December 2014. She and her husband, Robert, both attend SBU, and she wants to serve in a school in southwest Missouri and continue her education at SBU for a master's degree in education. Her father, Thomas Merriott, is a 1989 SBU graduate.

## 1960s

**Connie (Jackman) Wyatt '66** currently resides in Nixa, Mo. She was married to her late husband, Don Wyatt, for 30 years and they have two grown sons and four grandchildren. Connie was a homemaker until her boys were in second and third grades and then worked in human resources for Syntex Pharmaceutical Company for 20 years. She is now retired and enjoys traveling, hiking, reading, painting and church activities. She hopes to hear from and reconnect with former SWBC classmates.

## 1970s

**Gary Lynch '74** has been selected to serve on the National Center for State Court's Board of Directors for a three-year term. Lynch is a judge in the Missouri Court of Appeals, Southern District, where he was appointed in 2006. He previously served a three-year term as associate circuit judge of Polk County in the 30th Judicial Court and is the immediate past president of the Council of Chief Justices of the State Courts of Appeal. The NCSC is headquartered in Williamsburg, Va., and is a non-profit court organization dedicated to improving the administration of justice by providing leadership and service to the state courts.

**Brownlee Williams '74** has lived in Marceline, Mo., for the past 40 years since graduating from SWBC. He has worked in several industries, pastored two congregations, and has been active in the Masonic Lodge and Shriners. He is currently retired, but still active every day.

## 1980s



**Margaret (Kight) Cook '89** graduated with her Juris Doctorate from the University of Tulsa Law School in December 2012 and passed the Oklahoma Bar Exam in February 2013. She now works as the Executive Director for

Help-In-Crisis, a private nonprofit. Help-In-Crisis is the sole provider of comprehensive domestic violence and sexual assault services in a four-county area of Oklahoma and also operates a 32-bed shelter. Margaret and her husband, Ron, have been married for 21 years. They have four children and three grandchildren.

## 1990s

**Stephanie (Dasal) '92** and **Rodney Godbey '92** have both started new jobs recently. Stephanie now works in the amusement industry as an accountant for Hydro Adventures. Rodney started working for Kelley Electric in October. They are also excited to announce that their oldest daughter, Amilita, is making them grandparents for the first time this fall.

## 2000s



**Patricia (Schierholz) '01** married **Sam Jordan** on September 15, 2013, at the Garden of the Gods Club in Colorado Springs, Colo. After Sam finished a deployment in Afghanistan and Patricia finished the school year as assistant principal and fifth-grade teacher at Cheyenne Mountain Charter Academy, the couple moved to North Dakota where he continues to serve as a JAG lawyer with the Air Force and she is substitute teaching.

**Jordan Cofer '03** is an associate professor of English at Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College in Tifton, Ga. He recently released his first book, "The Gospel According to Flannery O'Connor."

Cofer also was approved for tenure at ABAC in August 2014.

**Maranda (Meyer) M.S. '06** married Michael Amons on November 9, 2013.

## 2010s

**Victoria (Neumann) '14** and **Braden Jones '15** were married on June 21, 2014.

## Future Bearcats



**Pamela (Bryson) Foster '05** and her husband, Mike, officially adopted their two foster children, Joshua Michael and Michaela May, on November 21, 2013. Joshua and Michaela were their foster children for about 20 months before the adoption became official. The children are now 3 and 4 years old.

## In Memory

**Dorothy Thelma Cross '51** of Sheldon, Mo., passed away at the age of 92 on July 7, 2014. Dorothy spent many years as an elementary school teacher and had many friends.



**Linda Slates** passed away in January 2013 after battling brain cancer for 3 1/2 years. She is survived by her husband, Leonard. For a copy of her obituary detailing her journey, please contact Leonard through [www.LeonardSlates.com](http://www.LeonardSlates.com).

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. [www.SBUniv.edu/alumni](http://www.SBUniv.edu/alumni)



Save the date  
for Homecoming 2015!  
**September 25-26, 2015**

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For more SBU News, visit [www.sbuniv.edu/news](http://www.sbuniv.edu/news). Did you know SBU has an RSS news feed? Check it out online!



SOUTH WEST BAPTIST UNIVERSITY

# HOMECOMING



## CAT FIGHT GIVING CHALLENGE DRURY vs SBU

From November 13-18, the SBU Bearcats are going head-to-head with the Drury Panthers in a Catfight Giving Challenge in conjunction with the Highway 13 Catfight double header basketball game November 18.

**GIVE** \$13 to SBU's annual scholarship fund  
**DONATE ONLINE:** [www.SBUuniv.edu/catfight](http://www.SBUuniv.edu/catfight)

**CHALLENGE** 13 friends of SBU; use social media, personal visits or phone calls

- **Goal:** Raise \$13,000 faster than the Drury Panthers
- **Campaign updates**– SBUuniv.edu, Facebook, Twitter, Instagram

Donations also can be mailed to: SBU, University Relations, 1600 University Ave., Bolivar, MO 65613  
Donations must be received by SBU no later than Nov. 18 to be included in competition



Forrest '16, Social Science Education major  
from Park Rapids, Minn.

## I'm here because

#BearcatsGiveBack

.....  
*98% of students receive  
financial aid*

Annual scholarship fund assists nearly every student at SBU by funding scholarships that reduce the amount they pay for tuition