



New water sculpture and forum renovation are complete



Southwest Baptist University unveiled the newly renovated Merrill Burnidge Memorial Forum at a dedication ceremony Thursday, Sept. 10.

“The forum was originally constructed during the 1970s, so it was time to update this part of our campus that is consistently used by many students, alumni and the Bolivar community,” said SBU President Dr. C. Pat Taylor. “The updates will be enjoyed by the SBU community for decades to come and will greatly enhance this part of our campus.”

In addition to new concrete sidewalks and stairs, LED lighting, landscaping, and other maintenance, the forum renovation project included replacing the original fountain with a water sculpture by Texas-based artist Max Greiner.

The water sculpture, entitled “The Great Commission,” is fashioned from bronze and features imagery of the globe resting upon a rock and a Bible open to the Great Commission,

illustrating Christ’s call to make disciples of all nations and that the world is sustained by the Word of God and Jesus, the rock.

“The new fountain will be an impressive centerpiece for the forum, both visually and with what it represents,” Dr. Taylor said.

Greiner—a Christian artist whose pieces are in the collections of figures like President George W. Bush, Billy Graham, Gov. Mike Huckabee and Sen. Ted Cruz—said he hopes that the sculpture will honor Christ and lead viewers to reflect and turn toward God, as he hopes for all of his pieces, from grand sculptures to smaller works.

“I hope that [viewers see] God and have an experience with the Holy Spirit,” Greiner said. “The sculpture is just a piece of metal and is nothing to be worshiped, but it is something that points to Jesus Christ. So I hope and will pray that God will use this sculpture to change people’s lives.”

Top photo, President Dr. C. Pat Taylor introducing sculpture artist, Max Greiner; Bottom photo, dedication attendees view the new water sculpture after ceremony.

From left, back row: Holly Stockard, Director of Alumni Engagement; Dr. Allison Langford, Interim Provost; Dr. C. Pat Taylor, President; Dr. Amy Spears, SBU National Alumni Board President. From left, front row: Margie and Dale Lacquement, Edwin Lightfoot Distinguished Alumni Award recipients; Ronda Owens Credille, Life Service Award recipient; Beth Baker Grabowski, Life Service Award recipient; Patricia Nobles, Life Service Award recipient; Veda Williams Locke, Life Service Award recipient.

SBU awards alumni honors during Homecoming

Six Southwest Baptist University alumni were recognized for living lives of service at Honors Chapel Friday during Homecoming festivities Sept. 25 and 26.

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 National Alumni Association Board 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.

Go to www.SBUiv.edu/alumni/nominations to submit a nomination for these awards.

ABEL DALE '58 AND MARGIE '58 LACQUEMENT EDWIN LIGHTFOOT DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI AWARD RECIPIENTS

For more than 30 years, Abel Dale Lacquement has pastored Faith Southern Baptist Church in Moreno Valley, California. He is also the founding pastor of Moreno Valley Church and has planted numerous other churches.

"My desire is to express gratitude to an excellent school, faculty, staff and student body for the honor you have given my wife and me," he wrote. "This is the school where wonderful experiences in education began for us."

Margie recently retired as a teacher. She has been an educator for 23 years, including 15 years in the San Bernardino Unified School District.

"For a rural, small-town girl, Southwest Baptist College was a great start in higher education," she wrote. "Receiving a liberal arts education here prepared me very well for the studies in elementary education at a senior college. Southwest was a great blessing in my life."



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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 Tara Parson (417) 328-1511.

RONDA OWENS CREDILLE '80
LIFE SERVICE AWARD RECIPIENT

Ronda Credille has served as professor and chair of the department of business administration at SBU. She and her husband, John Credille '76, '92, SBU registrar, are members of First Baptist Church in Bolivar.

She has gone on mission trips to New Zealand and Russia and is in PEO International, a philanthropic organization encouraging women to achieve their

highest aspirations and advancement. In 2014, SBU awarded her the Faculty Life Beautiful award.

"I was astonished and humbled when I was notified of my selection," she wrote. "Southwest Baptist provided me with both the spiritual and educational foundation needed to serve God in the business world and in the classroom."



BETH BAKER GRABOWSKI '83, '04
LIFE SERVICE AWARD RECIPIENT



Beth Baker Grabowski has served in public education for 20 years and is currently a gifted education teacher in the Bolivar R-1 School District. She and her husband, Mark Grabowski, SBU director of safety and security, are active members of First Baptist Church in Bolivar. In March 2015, she co-led a team of SBU students on a mission trip to El Salvador in partnership with Living Water International.

"This honor is a good gift, and I know it is coming from my Heavenly Father," she wrote. "I thank Him

for this good gift. I joyfully acknowledge the support of my parents, Don and Pat Baker, during my years as an undergrad at SBU. I gratefully acknowledge the encouragement of my husband, Mark, and our children, Jim and Amy, while I worked on my master's degree here. I readily acknowledge the investment that professors like Dr. Twila Smith and the late Dr. Don Allen made in my life, influencing me at a very deep level."

VEDA WILLIAMS LOCKE '50, '76
LIFE SERVICE AWARD RECIPIENT

Veda Williams Locke and her late husband, Russell, served as missionaries in Nigeria from 1955-1991 through the Foreign Mission Board (now known as the International Mission Board). Russell received the Life Service Award in 1962. Veda was awarded the Missouri Women's Missionary Union Emeritus Missionary of the Year in 2014. She is a member of First Baptist Church of Springfield, Mo., where she

has served as WMU Prayer Group Leader, WMU Director and a Sunday school teacher.

"Southwest Baptist College had a significant impact on my life," she wrote. "The Christian values and educational opportunities here helped provide a foundation for the mission work God called me to do in Nigeria. I am both humbled and honored to receive this award from my alma mater."



PATRICIA NOBLES '76
LIFE SERVICE AWARD RECIPIENT



Since graduating from SWBC and University of Arkansas at Little Rock School of Law, Patricia Nobles has served as an attorney. She retired from her position as a corporate secretary of CHRISTUS Health in May 2015. In 2005, she received the Edwin Lightfoot Distinguished Alumni Award. She is a member of Preston Hollow Presbyterian Church, where she is actively involved as an elder, usher, the director of the Faith Bible Discovery adult education class, and a lay liturgist.

"Being considered for this award would not have been possible but for the many people who have helped and influenced me as I traversed through life," she wrote. "Many of those people who have positively impacted my life have been associated with SBU. For all of those who have cared about me and wanted what was best for me in life, I give thanks to God."



SOUTHWEST BAPTIST UNIVERSITY

HOMECOMING 2015







SBU Alumni Association Scholarship recipients are, from left, Rachel Updegrave, daughter of David '90 and Paula (Greenlaw) '91 Updegrave; Allison Locke, daughter of Brenda Karnes-Locke '87; Abby Porter, daughter of John Porter '91 and Gina Lawson '92; Olivia Harris (not pictured), daughter of Stephen and Lori (Schroeder) Harris '92.

SBU Alumni Association awards scholarships

Four Southwest Baptist University students were recognized during Homecoming 2015 festivities for receiving scholarships from the SBU Alumni Association.

Each year, \$2,000 scholarships are awarded to one recipient from each class. Each is a full-time student at SBU and the child of an SBU graduate. Other qualifications include maintaining a 3.0 cumulative GPA and being an active member of an evangelical church. Since June 1, 2002, the Alumni Association Endowed Scholarship has provided students with \$51,500 in scholarship support.

Recipients

Olivia Harris is a freshman from Maumelle, Ark., majoring in criminal justice. Her father, Stephen Harris, graduated from SBU, and her mother, Lori (Schroeder) Harris, graduated in 1992. After graduation, Olivia hopes to attend law school in Little Rock, Ark.

Allison Locke is a sophomore from Baxter Springs, Kan. Her mother, Brenda Karnes-Locke, is a 1987 SBU graduate. Allison is excited to be at SBU studying pre-physical therapy and is motivated to do well in college so she can make the best life she can for herself.

Rachel Updegrave, a junior from Wellington, Mo., is majoring in Christian ministry with an emphasis in children's ministry. Her father, David Updegrave, graduated from SBU in 1990, and her mother, Paula (Greenlaw) Updegrave, graduated in 1991. Rachel hopes to work as a missionary in the United States and tell the next generation about Jesus Christ.

Abby Porter is a senior from Bolivar, Mo., majoring in middle school education. Her father, John Porter, is a 1991 SBU graduate, and her mother, Gina Lawson, is a 1992 graduate. A member of SBU Honors Program, Abby hopes to become a math or language arts teacher and use her talents in the classroom to minister to middle school students at such a crucial age in their lives.



Save the date
for Homecoming 2016!
Sept. 30 - Oct. 1, 2016

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For more SBU News, visit www.SBUniv.edu/news. Did you know SBU has an RSS news feed? Check it out online!

1950s

Michael Speer '54 and Mary (Donley) Speer '54 celebrated their 59th wedding anniversary in August. In January of this year, Mary was advised to move into an assisted living facility. Michael moved to a new house nearer to where she is in Franklin, Tenn. They fondly remember many of their friends from years at Southwest Baptist and may be reached at popoo0210@gmail.com.

1960s

Dr. Joe D. Dillsaver '67 is the new president elect and board member of the University of Missouri Veterans Alumni Association, a group within the Mizzou Alumni Association.

Fred McLean '67 has retired from teaching grant writing and he and his wife, Cynthia, have moved to Peculiar, Mo. to be closer to their great-grandchildren. They are happy to be back in Missouri.

1970s

Ron Blount '72 recently celebrated 38 years in vocational music ministry and 14 years as associate pastor of worship at Community Bible Church (CBC) in San Antonio, Texas. CBC began in May 1990 and has grown to 23,000 members, with more than 1,500 involved in the Worship Ministry, 80 of whom are part of the CBC Orchestra and Instrumental Worship Ministry. A published writer, arranger and orchestrator of articles and print music with several publishers, Ron has spent his entire ministerial career as a builder and encourager of instrumental music programs in churches, both nationally and internationally. In addition to his music leadership responsibilities, Ron and his wife, Jean, meet with young engaged couples for pre-marital mentoring and encouragement. Ron and Jean have four grown daughters, one of whom is **Betsy Blount '01**, and four grandchildren.

Eldon Manwiller '73 is currently working as a contractor to the Missile Defense Agency as senior scheduler.

Mary (Manley) Harroun '75 retired from teaching in June 2014 and moved to Michigan with her husband, **Marshal Harroun '77**. They moved to be near family and are enjoying their grandchildren.

Dara Wakefield '75 is the Leland E. Green Professor of the Charter School of Education and Human Sciences of Berry College in northwest Georgia. He earned an M.R.E. degree from Southwestern Theological Seminary in 1980 and an Ed.D. from Baylor University in 1996. His wife, **Carolyn (Kampen) Wakefield '75** teaches third grade. They have 5 grandchildren.



Michael Rorie '78 was recently assigned to the 84th Training Command at Fort Knox, Ky., in the position of Senior Chaplain Assistant NCO.

1980s

Dr. Tony Lynn '80 was named the state director of missions for the Baptist State Convention of

Michigan by the North American Mission Board. His new role began Oct. 1. He may be reached at tony@bscm.org.

Elizabeth (Vincent) Rohrs '80 was elected as Associate Circuit Judge for Polk County, Mo. She began her term January 1. She and her husband, **Alvin Rohrs '79**, live in Dunnegan and have two grown children. Alvin continues as President and CEO of Enactus.

Anita (Pierce) Harris '84 became disabled about a year ago. Her husband **James (Randy) Harris '84** works at the Fulton Reception & Diagnosis Center, which recently gave him the Dudley Award for his professional service. He also teaches a class at their church's youth group on Wednesday nights.

Paul Etter '86 has accepted the position of Music Department chair in the School of Performing and Visual Arts at Gardner-Webb University, where he has been a professor for the last 14 years. Last year, he was awarded the Excellence in Teaching award.

Dr. Christopher L. Markwood '87 was named president of Columbus State University in Columbus, Ga., by the University System of Georgia, effective June 1, 2015.



1990s

Michael Kerr '90 lives in northern Minnesota with his wife, **Malissa (Bartley) Kerr**, and eight of their children running their construction business, Kerr and Sons Construction, and Kerr Family Farm, where they raise organic produce. Michael is part of shepherding a home fellowship that meets house to house. Michael has a deep love for the land of Israel, having joined the work of HaYovel with son, Gideon, in 2011 and 2012 to work pruning vineyards alongside the Jewish people fulfilling Isaiah 61:5. The Kerrs have 11 children, including: Samuel, 23, who has two children—Eloise, 3, and Oliver, 1—with his wife Hilary; Annie, 20, and her husband, Nathan; Gideon, 18, and his wife, Danielle, who is due to give birth in February; Timothy, 16; MaryGrace, 15; Benjamin, 13; Malachi, 10; Hadassah, 8; Nathanael, 6; Carmi, 4; and Beraiah Gabriel Emet, 1.

Jon Trusty '91 of St. Clair Shores, Mich., recently became a certified addiction counselor.

Mark Ford '92 and his wife, **Kristy (Martin) Ford '92** were called to the Pacific Northwest, where Mark serves as pastor of First Baptist Church of Longview, Wa., after having spent 12 years with the church they planted in Wentzville, Mo. As pastor there, Mark is leading their church to plant churches and to make disciples in a wide open mission field in the Pacific Northwest, where only 4 percent of people attend church and 87 percent do not know Christ. Mark and Kristy met and married at SBU. They would love to hear from old friends at fbclpastor@gmail.com.

Doug '98 and Emilee Irwin '99 have recently been appointed missionaries to Lille, France, with Greater Europe Mission. They are currently finding



the ministry partners God has set aside to support them prayerfully and financially. Their goal is to leave for the field by the summer of 2016 and they are excited to

see how God will use them to reach the people of northern France. More information is available at www.peopleofpeace.squarespace.com. They have two children, Graham, 10, and Maeve, 8, and can be reached at emilee.irwin@gemission.org and doug.irwin@gemission.org.

2010s

Robert Varner '12 graduated from Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary in Wake Forest, N.C., in December with an advanced master of divinity. He and his wife **Amy (Grabowski) Varner '11** moved to Springfield, Mo., in January for Robert to begin a new job as the student minister at South Gate Baptist Church.

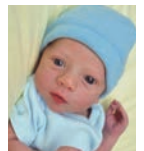
New Bearcats

Michael Kerr '90 and Malissa (Bartley) Kerr welcomed Beraiah Gabriel Emet Feb. 8, 2014.



Amy (Grabowski) Varner '11 and Robert Varner '12 welcomed Sarah Elizabeth on Aug. 5, 2015.

Bailey (Shaw) Glor '13 and Chris Glor '16 announce the birth of Shaw Durham Glor on June 5, 2015.



In Memory

Elizabeth (Frazee) Potts '43 passed away September 4, 2015. She was a recipient of SBU's Life Service Award in 1984. She is preceded by the passing of her husband, Wayne, and survived by her children Lloyd, Ron, Randy Robert and Clint, as well as her sister, Norma, and many grandchildren, and great-grandchildren.



Michael McDonnell '71 passed away May 11, 2015. He graduated from SBU with a B.S. in business administration and was a center on the Bearcats basketball team. He went on to earn an M.S. and Ph.D. in animal science from the University of Missouri-Columbia and University of Nebraska-Lincoln, respectively. He is survived by his daughter, Jennifer; mother, Rose Marie; brother, Mark; sister, Karla; and grandchildren, Sydney and Jacob.

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

SBUlife

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S O U T H W E S T B A P T I S T U N I V E R S I T Y

HOMECOMING

#BEARCATSGIVEBACK TO MOVE SBU FORWARD



YOU ARE A *BEARCAT*.
YOU ARE *PURPLE AND WHITE*.



CATFIGHT
GIVING CHALLENGE
NOVEMBER 12-17

Last year, you helped Southwest Baptist University raise more than \$13,000 to beat Drury University in the inaugural *CatFight Giving Challenge*.

SAVE THE DATE. From November 12 through November 17, the SBU Bearcats are once again going head-to-head with the Drury Panthers in a *CatFight Giving Challenge* to see who can raise the most support for the Annual Scholarship Fund.

HELP US REACH OUR GOAL. This year your participation is crucial! Your gift will impact the lives of students and help SBU beat Drury. Watch for social media updates beginning November 12 and help cheer the Bearcats on to victory!

MAKE A DIFFERENCE. The Annual Scholarship Fund provides financial support for students to attend SBU.

WAYS TO GIVE

ONLINE

SBUniv.edu/CatFight

MAIL

Attn: University Relations
Southwest Baptist University
1600 University Ave
Bolivar, MO 65613

PHONE

417.328.1801

On November 12 & 16
a student may
attempt to call you!



Donations must be received by SBU no earlier than Nov. 12 and no later than Nov. 17 to be included in competition.