

SBUlife

Magazine of Southwest Baptist University Winter 2016



ABOVE & BEYOND

Alumni share how the Gordon and Judy Dutile Honors Program has prepared them for a lifetime of excellence

**INSIDE: 2015
PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

» Be Social

Read what students are sharing about SBU.



We had a FANTASTIC visit day today with 90+ on campus! Thanks for making the time to come! **#futurebearcats #SBUUniv @SBU_Kim**

sbu is the best; they brought puppies to the union for us to play with **#sbuniv** [via **@elizaburris** on Instagram]

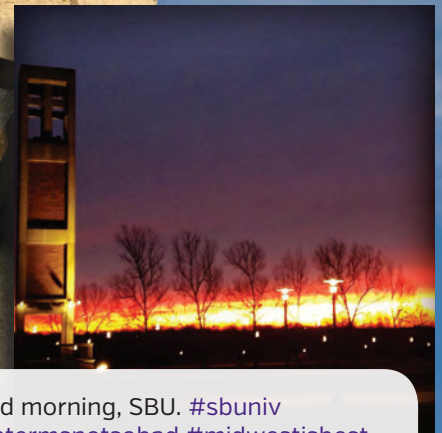
Awesome job **@SBUbearcatsWBB!!** We are so proud of you girls!! Great win!! **#bearcatroar #SBUUniv @Dewey_Dogger**



Love this university. Being surrounded by so many people who have a deep desire to serve Jesus is truly incredible. **#SBUUniv @sward2013**

In honor of finals and first semester being over, **#tbt** to when we first became a family. **#woodythird #woodygott #sbuniv** [via **@mary_rose_18** on Instagram]

Good morning, SBU. **#sbuniv #jantermsnotsobad #midwestisbest** [via **@courtney_kliment** on Instagram]



Check out **“The Hub”** – Southwest Baptist University’s social media mash-up site showcasing what people are saying about SBU online. Go to **social.SBUUniv.edu** to see Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, YouTube and news release postings all in one place.

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

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

#SBUUniv



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Aiming High

The Gordon and Judy Dutile Honors Program marks its 10th anniversary and the graduation of its 100th student

By Stephanie Benoit

In December, eight scholars gathered at Southwest Baptist University to discuss and present their meticulously gathered research. Their topics covered a multitude of academic disciplines and represented hundreds of hours of writing, work and study.

These aren't professors or Ph.D. students. They are undergraduates in SBU's Gordon and Judy Dutile Honors Program presenting their Capstone senior projects.

In addition to this significant accomplishment for those Honors Program seniors, this past year marked other milestones for the program, including the 10th anniversary of its founding in 2005 and the graduation of its 100th student in December.

The program was initiated by Dr. Stephanie Miller, then SBU's vice president of enrollment management,



Honors students Susan Mills and Jeremiah Bechtold (right) present their senior Capstones.

and instituted to help attract high-ability students and enrich their academic experience at SBU. The program then was cultivated by an ad hoc faculty committee responsible for developing its structure and components.

"Our goal was to provide a well-balanced program that was attractive to potential students, that would truly provide them with enrichment experiences beyond what the regular classroom could offer and that would produce exceptional graduates who would bring honor and glory to God in their respective disciplines," said Dr. Holly Hill-Stanford, who served on the group that designed the program and was faculty senate president at the time.

Once the program's structure was determined, interim provost Dr. Allison Langford, then an instructor in the University Success Center, assumed the role of director and pioneered the program until 2014. For

Langford, who still participates in certain aspects of the program, one of the essential goals was always the personal and spiritual development of each student.

"I hope that students leave the program having been challenged academically and intellectually, but also challenged to understand how their academic and intellectual lives can—and should—continue past here and how it can be partnered with humility and other

aspects of their character," Langford said.

That growth is encouraged through academic components including honors-specific seminars introducing new students to college life; roundtable-style colloquium classes; more rigorous versions of general education courses; and the final Capstone project in which students work side-by-side with a professor in their area of study over a semester.



Each of these components is designed to benefit students academically and provide them with an enriching, engaging education, rather than creating a bulk of additional work, as may have been students' experience in the past.

"Sometimes in K-12, the gifted or honors experience is just more work for those students—that's not the approach that we want to have," Langford said. "As far as credit hours go, there's not a lot more. So [for example] in honors history, they may have more reading, so in that

sense it's a 'more,' but are they going to enjoy the end results better in the honors [course]? Probably so, because there is a stimulation and a participation that they get to have that generally meets their needs and desires more than they would be in a more traditional class setting."

In addition to academics, the program has always focused on building community between honors students and providing unique cultural experiences through activities such as excursions to museums and theatre performances. There's also one-on-one faculty advising, a particularly key piece for students as they adapt to the challenges of college life.

"It's really important for the program to support student's growth as they develop," said honors program director Jodi Meadows, who is nearing completion of a Ph.D. in educational psychology with an interest in high-ability learners.

"I say to students 'you're not a walking ACT score—you are a developing person, you have developmental needs that in some ways are going to be unique because of your abilities,'" she said. "Not all high-ability students are well adjusted and high achieving, so [it's about] recognizing the special advising needs of those students and providing support throughout the whole four years."

Looking back, many Honors Program alumni regard that faculty care, support, passion and involvement as one of the program's most influential and meaningful aspects.

"Dr. Langford was always such an encouraging presence for all of us," said Parker Bohm, an Honors Program alum who graduated in 2012. "She really had our future career goals in mind and was always willing to give advice or help us figure things out. The professors in the honors-specific classes put in a lot of time and helped those classes really be good learning experiences. All of the professors really went the extra mile to make our education what it was."

The ultimate goal of all of these combined elements of the program—from advising to academics to the senior Capstone—is that students will be equipped for a lifetime of service and excellence as they develop and explore their God-given talents.

"An objective of the program is for students to grow in servant leadership—I think that Honors Program students affect the environments they are in," Meadows said. "Our saying in the program is that we learn so we can love, so as students grow, develop and press into their interests and abilities, that's going to make them more effective as they serve and lead in the environments in their sphere of influence."

Gifts to the Honors Program activity account help expand learning opportunities for students within the program. Your gift supports cultural excursions, equipment or resources for students' Capstone projects, and more. If you are interested in helping to enrich student learning through the Honors Program, please contact the Office of University Relations at (417) 328-1802.

Gordon & Judy Dutile



Honors Program was named for Dr. Gordon and Mrs. Judy Dutile, who served SBU faithfully in numerous distinguished capacities.

Dr. Dutile came to SBU in the fall of 1980 as assistant professor of Bible to teach Greek and New Testament. He was appointed as provost in 2000 and served until 2008.

Mrs. Dutile served in several positions at SBU and also taught home economics and early childhood education for much of her career. As of her retirement in 2008, she was director of international studies, director of career services, an academic advisor in the University Success Center and sponsor for the Ambassadors.



Honors student Tori Morris presents her senior Capstone.

Honors Program alumni share their stories on pages 9-19.

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Questions *with* **Diana Gallamore '91**

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

Last December, Diana Gallamore received the SBU Life Beautiful Award, an honor given annually to employees – one faculty member and one staff member – who exemplify a “life beautiful.” She has worked in the University Ministries area of SBU for 15 years and currently serves as the director of the Center for Global Connections (CGC).

Could you please describe the work of the Center for Global Connections?

To increase mission awareness, education and participation on the campus by providing a global classroom for students to have the ability to use their talents, gifts, passions and academic disciplines as a part of God’s redemptive plan.

What is a typical day for you like at SBU?

The CGC mobilizes approximately 30 teams a year, so I spend much of my day meeting with team leaders and students and equipping them for their short-term CGC projects. The other part of my day is spent overseeing the promotion, logistics and training for the student participants, connecting with hosts and partners of our projects, and mentoring students.

What motivates you during your workday?

Recognizing that I am making an educational, spiritual and eternal difference in the lives of many—in the lives of those we serve through our CGC projects and most particularly in the lives of our own SBU students.

What is your favorite aspect of your job?

Being a part of the discovery in a student’s life when they recognize who the Lord is in their life, how He wants to use them to make a difference spiritually in the lives of others, and then witnessing the impact they make in the lives of those they encounter.

How did you feel when you found out that you won the Staff Life Beautiful Award?

I was very overwhelmed, humbled, blessed and grateful. Although I desire to live a life beautiful unto the Lord, I was actually very surprised and shocked in receiving the award because I work alongside many other individuals who are equally deserving. Having been nominated and selected by my peers at SBU, this award is one of the bigger highlights in my life.



2015 PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Featuring:

A WORD FROM THE PRESIDENT

SBU FACTS AND FIGURES

HONOR ROLL OF DONORS

HONORS PROGRAM ALUMNI PURSUE THEIR CALLINGS AROUND THE WORLD

DEAR ALUMNI, FRIENDS AND DONORS,



As I reflect on the past year, I know that the Lord truly has blessed Southwest Baptist University with outstanding faculty, staff, students, alumni, friends and donors. With the faithful support of our alumni and friends, students are gaining knowledge and skills as they develop into servant leaders who are impacting the world for Christ.

The past year has been a time of positive momentum. Highlights of 2015 include:

- Breaking ground for the renovation and expansion of the Gene Taylor National Free Enterprise Center.
- Completing renovation of the Merrill Burnidge Memorial Forum, including the installation of “The Great Commission” sculpture that proclaims our Christian mission at SBU.
- Making plans to start offering a pre-licensure nursing program on the Bolivar campus, pending approval from the Missouri State Board of Nursing.
- Beginning a major expansion of our Springfield nursing and health sciences campus.
- Hosting a peer review team from the Higher Learning Commission as part of the reaccreditation process.

Building on this momentum from 2015, we are looking forward to a fantastic year of growth with projects such as:

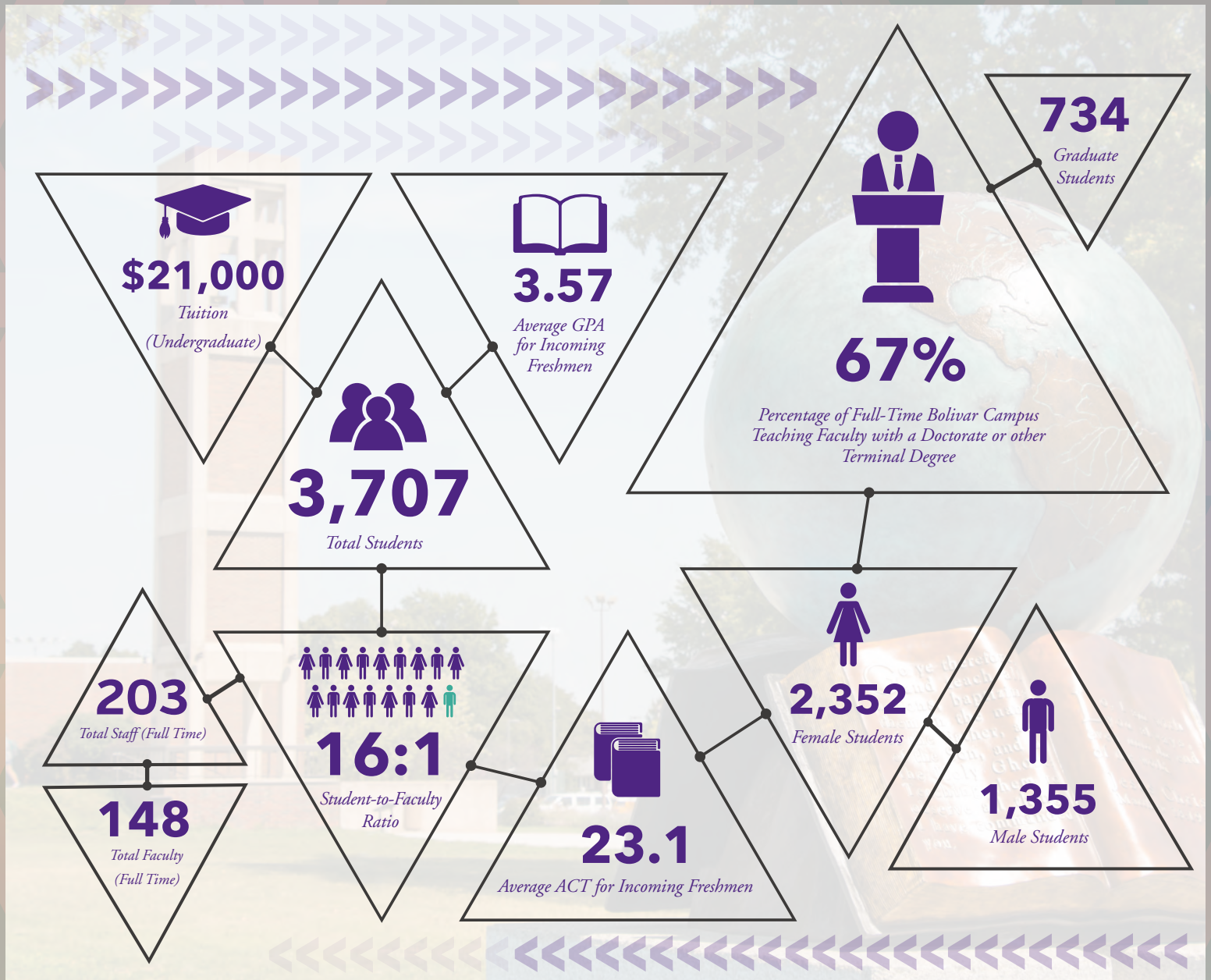
- Construction on the Gene Taylor National Free Enterprise Center, which should be completed by the end of the year. Our students and faculty will benefit greatly from the additional space and updated student areas. It also will accommodate growth within the Robert W. Plaster College of Business and Computer Science.
- The second building on our Springfield campus, including a state-of-the-art simulation lab and learning resource center, is scheduled to be in use beginning this summer. The additional space and equipment will allow us to expand our health care programs that are in high demand.
- Our Doctor of Physical Therapy program is scheduled to have its faculty clinic open by June, providing students opportunities for clinical experience before their final year in the program.

Romans 12:2 says, “Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God’s will is—His good, pleasing and perfect will.”

Whether investing in a building project or supporting our educational efforts through scholarships, you are making a difference in the lives of students who will be transformed by the renewing of their minds.

C. Pat Taylor

Sincerely,
C. Pat Taylor



BUDGET FIGURES

Revenue Budget

	2015-16 Final Budget	
Tuition & Fees	\$45,750,026	81.04%
Missouri Baptist Convention	\$1,200,000	2.13%
Other Undesignated Gifting	\$600,000	1.06%
Investment Earnings	\$342,780	0.61%
Financial Aid Revenue	\$1,154,811	2.05%
Miscellaneous Revenue	\$527,342	0.93%
Auxiliary Enterprise Revenue	\$6,877,041	12.18%
TOTAL	\$56,452,000	100.00%

Expense Summary

Educational and General			
Total Instructional and Departmental	\$15,486,898		27.43%
Organized Activities	\$3,221,411		5.71%
Total Library	\$1,347,404		2.39%
Total Student Services	\$3,181,526		5.64%
Total Operation/Maintenance of Plant	\$3,329,763		5.90%
Total Administration	\$1,730,264		3.07%
Staff Benefits	\$1,269,636		2.25%
Total General Institutional	\$3,121,354		5.53%
Total Student Aid	\$17,724,351		31.40%
Debt Retirement	\$1,195,189		2.12%
Contingency	\$408,011		0.72%
Total Educational and General	\$52,015,807		92.14%
Total Auxiliary Enterprises	\$4,436,193		7.86%
TOTAL EXPENSE BUDGET	\$56,452,000		100.00%

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Parker Bohm '12

Third-year medical student at the University of Kansas Medical School

By Stephanie Benoit

Southwest Baptist University's Honors Program was a stepping stone that helped Parker Bohm, a 2012 SBU graduate with degrees in Spanish and biology, achieve big goals and refine his abilities for his next stage in life: medical school and a master's in clinical research at the University of Kansas.

Bohm found that his experience at SBU in the Honors Program provided valuable preparation as he began these endeavors.

"I do believe that the Honors Program helped me significantly in graduate school and is continuing to help me," he said. "I was worried going to a public medical school that I was going to be a little fish in a big pond, out of my league. But I really think the Honors Program helped us learn how to think, which is obviously applicable in the field of medicine, so I have been able to thrive in graduate school so far."

The element of the program that has been particularly significant for Bohm was his Capstone project, the findings of which were eventually published in the "Journal of Immigrant and Minority Health" during his second year of medical school.

"For my Capstone, I surveyed rural hospitals in Kansas and Missouri to understand

how they accommodate Spanish speakers who are unable to speak English when they are admitted to the hospital," Bohm said. "Because rural hospitals do not have the same resources as urban centers, they have to be a lot more creative with how they deal with Spanish speakers."

Beyond the classroom experience, Bohm fondly recalls how the Honors Program also provided him with support and close friendship throughout his time at SBU, particularly when he first came to campus as a freshman.

"I enjoyed the camaraderie among students in the Honors Program because I only knew two other people at SBU when I [first] went there, so it was nice to have a core group of students that I knew a little bit better starting off," he said.

For Bohm, who is currently in the clinical phase of medical school, residency—which if he determines to continue pursuing neurology or neurosurgery could be four or seven years, respectively—is right around the corner, but what he and his wife, Jessica (Erbeck) '10, are most excited about in the future is the birth of their first daughter.

"Our daughter is due to be born right around Valentine's Day," he said. "We are so excited about the future and our growing family!"



Caitlin Gasaway '09

Project Specialist at Unbound

By Stephanie Benoit

Since graduating from SBU with degrees in psychology and criminal justice, Caitlin Gasaway has traveled all over the world to locations such as the Philippines, Ecuador and Nicaragua.

She has traveled in a variety of capacities, including teaching English in Panama after graduating from SBU, and currently with Unbound, a Kansas City-based humanitarian and child sponsorship organization addressing poverty in developing nations by helping provide education, food, health care and livelihood opportunities for families.

"I really enjoy the opportunity to go to other countries," said Gasaway, who travels several times a year and works closely with teams across the globe when she is stateside. "Communication is extremely important in my role—being able to communicate cross-culturally with a variety of different cultures every day and also getting to experience that firsthand when I travel to go support our staff. It's a very challenging but interesting experience, and I learn something new all the time."

After returning from teaching in Panama, she began at Unbound in a donor relations role before transitioning to her current department: international programs.

"I work with our internationally based

staff to help them monitor and support our programs that they are conducting overseas," she said.

Her time at SBU was significant in helping her determine her direction and prepare for her future, specifically as she went through the Honors Program.

"Critical thinking is probably the most important skill that I attained from the program—being able to think critically about information, not just to accept things at face value, and to filter information logically from not so much of a biased perspective," she said.

SBU was also influential in providing Gasaway with her first overseas experience: a ministry project through the Center for Global Connections.

"What was influential for me as far as guiding me toward where I'm at now was a mission trip to El Salvador with SBU," she said. "I loved it and thought if there was some way to keep doing things like humanitarian work in other countries, that would be awesome."

Her dream became a reality, and she intends to continue serving internationally in the future.

"As long as the Lord gives me this job to do I'm going to keep doing it well for Him," she said. "I really have no idea what things could look like five years from now, but I'll leave that to Him."

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Chris '09 and Sarah Dodson '09

Chris: Third-year Ph.D. student at the University of Aberdeen

Sarah: Freelance designer

By Stephanie Benoit

Chris and Sarah (Minott) Dodson, who met at Southwest Baptist University in their Honors Program Welcome Week group and married seven years later, followed God's call on their lives to Scotland, where Chris is working on a Ph.D. in systematic theology at University of Aberdeen.

"I knew that I wanted to be in some sort of theological vocation – [I became] a Redford College major at SBU as soon as the paperwork could go through," Chris said. "I believed then and continue to believe that I was meant to work for the church in some capacity. Yet I would never have thought this vocation would lead me to pursue a Ph.D."

Chris, whose current research focuses on the theologies and ethics of Dietrich Bonhoeffer and Martin Luther, believes that participating in SBU's Honors Program was significant in his academic and professional growth.

"The honors classes and colloquia all honed critical-thinking skills that allowed me to excel as studies continued," he said. "Beyond the classes, the Capstone was my first piece of extensive research. Completing that doubtlessly helped build the confidence that has carried me through the process of doctoral studies."

Sarah, who majored in middle school

education, recalls being similarly impacted by her experience in the Honors Program.

"The high standards and well-rounded experiences required helped me explore activities and perspectives I would not have discovered otherwise," said Sarah, who taught at American Indian Christian Mission in Arizona after graduating from SBU.

Her professional and academic path also led her to graduate school; she joined Chris at Baylor University—where Chris went to seminary after graduating from SBU—and completed a master's degree in museum studies there in 2013. She has also used her skills in recent years to do document design work.

"The emphasis on critical thinking, treating classmates as colleagues and achieving a large project like the Capstone prepared me in particular for graduate school," she said.

Although Sarah and Chris are unsure exactly where the future will take them, it most certainly includes caring for their son, Charlie, who was born in January 2015.

"We don't know what the next year holds for us after Chris finishes his Ph.D., but we hope to be involved in a school or university with Chris teaching and me designing and taking care of our family from home—[some day] I may be back in the classroom as well," she said. "The opportunities are unknown right now, but we will take one step at a time."

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Jared Brandt '12

Third-year philosophy Ph.D. student at Baylor University

By Stephanie Benoit

Since graduating from Southwest Baptist University with degrees in chemistry and religion and philosophy in 2012, Jared Brandt has pursued a Ph.D. in philosophy at Baylor University, where he is currently in his third year.

He believes that his experience in the Honors Program—particularly the in-depth colloquium classes—were influential in preparing him for the rigors of graduate school.

“Since coming to Baylor, I have come to see how my SBU education equipped me with the sort of skills that I needed to be successful in graduate work in philosophy,” he says. “Those colloquium classes revealed to me how important philosophy is and how beneficial it can be in that context of a discussion-based class. They kind of brought things together and helped push me toward graduate work in philosophy.”

Another helpful stepping-stone was the Capstone experience. Done under the supervision of Dr. Zach Manis, professor of philosophy, his project focused on the relationship between human freedom and God's knowledge of the future.

“The Capstone was one of the most valuable experiences of my time at SBU because it had me work closely with one professor and work on a bigger project,” he

said. “Giving the presentation and fielding questions prepared me for what it is like to present papers at conferences, which I now have the opportunity to do with Baylor University.”

Although he and his wife, Courtney, a pediatric ICU nurse studying to be a nurse practitioner, are unsure exactly where they will end up after the Ph.D. program, which he expects to complete in 2018, he hopes to one day teach at a Baptist institution.

To pursue this goal, he joined the Baptist College and University Scholars program, a collaboration between schools in the International Association of Baptist Colleges and Universities designed to encourage retention of students in Baptist institutions as doctoral students and eventually as faculty.

He was largely inspired to follow this path because of what he witnessed from his professors at SBU.

“Ideally I would like to teach philosophy at a school like SBU, partially because of what I saw Dr. Manis get to do when I was at SBU: working with students who were going into ministry and giving them skills that will really help them,” he said. “Also, the small major allowed him to get to know his students really well and engage with them not just about academics but also about their spiritual lives.”



Evan Johnson '11

Associate at Jones Day

By Stephanie Benoit

For Evan Johnson, who graduated from Southwest Baptist University in 2011 with a degree in political science, the Honors Program was one of the major factors attracting him to SBU.

“When I came to visit campus, I met with people from the Honors Program—Dr. Allison Langford, some of the other honors students—and everyone was really nice and approachable,” Johnson said. “I got the sense that they were the kind of people who actually cared about helping me succeed.”

Once at SBU, he found the Honors Program to be beneficial not only for its interesting classes and engaging programming, but also the fun, tight-knit community of students and faculty that it offered.

“The thing that I found the most helpful about the Honors Program and was a blessing to me was that it provided an immediate social group,” he said. “It was great to immediately be in a group of people who all have something in common—you are all going through the Honors Program together, you have classes together, and you have some similar interests. It’s not just an academic experience—it’s also a really fun, fulfilling social experience.”

In the classroom, he thrived in Honors Program components like the colloquia and the Capstone, both of which he considers influential in the development of the critical-thinking and researching skills that were so essential to him at the University of Virginia School of Law. Currently, he is using those skills in Dallas, where he lives with his wife, Emily (Bethea) '11, and practices corporate law at the prominent firm Jones Day.

“In the honors classes, they teach you not just to memorize material, but they really encourage you to develop the kinds of critical thinking skills that are helpful in law school particularly,” he said. “I think it prepared me really well. Being able to learn how to research, how to challenge ideas and find support for them is something that has been extremely useful.”

He believes this essential knowledge and preparation has helped provide him with a framework for thinking not just about academic and professional subjects, but broader situations in life.

“The Honors Program was really good in helping [me learn to] think critically, not just about whatever subject you are talking about in class, but also about issues and life generally—what your goals are.”

First Baptist Church, Iberia, Mo.
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First Baptist Church, Saint Charles, Mo.
First Baptist Church, Steelville, Mo.
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First Southern Baptist Church, Stockton, Mo.
Forest City Education Foundation, Forest City, Iowa
Fort Wood Community Spouses Club, Fort Leonard Wood, Mo.
Gammill Family Foundation, West Plains, Mo.
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Michael Leskowat '12

Fourth-year seminary student at The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary

By Stephanie Benoit

As a Southwest Baptist University senior, Michael Leskowat '12 completed his Honors Program Capstone, a final research project concluding the four-year-long program. Entitled "The Warrior Race: An Example of the New Testament Ministry of Encouragement," the project related the Apostle Paul's methods of encouragement to the context of the military.

Now, three years later, he has finished an Army chaplaincy program in Fort Jackson, S.C., and will soon complete seminary at The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Ky. After graduation, he will find a church to fulfill a requirement of two years of post-graduate ministry experience so he can eventually put his knowledge and skills into practice encouraging military members as a chaplain.

"I actually came to SBU with the goal of becoming an Army chaplain, and that's still the goal that I'm headed towards," he said.

Originally from Tulsa, Okla., Leskowat first became interested in Army chaplaincy growing up at the height of the war in Iraq and seeing the great need for personnel to minister to the military.

"I saw the need for it, so I started pursuing that door and God opened one door after

another, including the Honors Program and scholarships through SBU that allowed me to go to school," he said.

Once at SBU, Honors Program activities and classes, such as the colloquia courses, helped prepare him for graduate school and cement his writing, presentation and research skills.

"The structure of having instruction but also having to do research and present our research was helpful," he said. "I think sometimes in my other classes I could just write a paper and turn it in and I wouldn't have to personally back what my paper said. When I'm the one presenting, I feel a lot more responsibility for my research."

In addition to developing deep friendships and being challenged academically at SBU, Leskowat believes that perhaps the most significant outcome of the Honors Program was being imbued with a desire to become a life-long learner.

"[The Honors Program] encouraged me in my direction, and that emphasis on not giving up on learning when you graduate—this being a stepping stone to learning throughout life—I think that's going to be important as an Army chaplain because there's always going to be the need to keep on learning."

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 Brighton Baptist Church, Brighton, Mo.
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 Calvary Baptist Church, Alton, Ill.
 Calvary Baptist Church, Neosho, Mo.
 Calvary Temple Assembly of God, Lawrence, Kan.
 Capital Region Medical Center, Jefferson City, Mo.
 Capital West Christian Church, Jefferson City, Mo.
 Cass Community Health Research Foundation, Kansas City, Mo.
 Catalyst Church, Springfield, Mo.
 Church at Osage Hills, Osage Beach, Mo.

Citizens-Farmers Bank, Cole Camp, Mo.
 Clever United Methodist Church, Clever, Mo.
 Clinton High School, Clinton, Mo.
 Clinton J. Carr Foundation Inc., Lebanon, Mo.
 Commerce Trust Company, Saint Joseph, Mo.
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 Council for Drug Free Youth, Jefferson City, Mo.
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 Elliott, Robinson and Company LLP, Springfield, Mo.
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 Eula Mainland Circle of Kings Daughters, Hannibal, Mo.
 Faith Baptist Church, Lees Summit, Mo.
 Faith Rock Church, Ava, Mo.
 Fellowship Baptist Church, Nevis, Minn.
 First Baptist Church Thayer, Mo.
 First Baptist Church, Appleton City, Mo.
 First Baptist Church, Baxter Springs, Kan.
 First Baptist Church, Bentonville, Ark.
 First Baptist Church, Carl Junction, Mo.
 First Baptist Church, Centralia, Mo.
 First Baptist Church, Clinton, Mo.
 First Baptist Church, Dadeville, Mo.
 First Baptist Church, Dexter, Mo.
 First Baptist Church, Diamond, Mo.
 First Baptist Church, Hamilton, Mo.
 First Baptist Church, Hermann, Mo.
 First Baptist Church, Houston, Texas
 First Baptist Church, Jefferson City, Mo.
 First Baptist Church, Jenks, Okla.
 First Baptist Church, Jonesboro, Ark.
 First Baptist Church, La Junta, Colo.
 First Baptist Church, Leach, Okla.
 First Baptist Church, Lexington, Mo.
 First Baptist Church, Licking, Mo.
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 First Baptist Church, Mansfield, Ark.
 First Baptist Church, Marshall, Mo.
 First Baptist Church, Maryville, Ill.
 First Baptist Church, Mascoutah, Ill.
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 First Baptist Church, Monroe City, Mo.
 First Baptist Church, Nixa, Mo.
 First Baptist Church, Pierce City, Mo.
 First Baptist Church, Potosi, Mo.
 First Baptist Church, Schell City, Mo.
 First Baptist Church, Seneca, Mo.
 First Baptist Church, Sunrise Beach, Mo.
 First Baptist Church, Valley Springs, Ark.
 First Baptist Church, Weaubleau, Mo.

2015 PRESIDENT'S REPORT

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 First United Methodist Church, Canon City, Colo.
 Forest Park Baptist Church, Joplin, Mo.
 Foundation for Springfield Public Schools, Springfield, Mo.
 Friendship Baptist Church, Dexter, Mo.
 Gainesville Lions Club, Gainesville, Mo.
 Garland Area Alliance of Black School Educators, Rowlett, Texas
 Gift of Hope, Inc., Forsyth, Mo.
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 Grant Avenue Baptist Church, Springfield, Mo.
 Great Lakes Bible Camp, Barstow, Ill.
 Greater Kansas City Community Foundation, Kansas City, Mo.
 Hamels Foundation Inc., Springfield, Mo.
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 Intel Foundation, Princeton, N.J.
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 Lebanon Baptist Church, California, Mo.
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 Lighthouse Baptist Church, Brumley, Mo.
 Macks Creek Baptist Church, Macks Creek, Mo.
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 Mansfield R-4 School District, Mansfield, Mo.
 Maplewood Baptist Church, Sedalia, Mo.
 Marble Creek United Baptist Church, Arcadia, Mo.
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 MECE Credit Union, Jefferson City, Mo.
 Mercy Auxiliary - BV, Inc., Berryville, Ark.
 Mesa Hills Bible Church, Colorado Springs, Colo.
 MFA Foundation, Columbia, Mo.
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 Millcreek Baptist Church, Silex, Mo.
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 New Hope Christian Academy, Harrisburg, Ill.
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 Northside Missionary Baptist Church, Berryville, Ark.
 Odd Fellows Home Association, Fulton, Mo.
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 Pleasant Home Baptist Church, Springfield, Mo.
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Meg Goodman '14

Associate at BKD CPAs & Advisors

By Stephanie Benoit

As a student at SBU, Meg Goodman, who graduated from SBU in 2014 with a degree in accounting, took part in numerous academic activities, but one of the most influential was the Honors Program, particularly because of its emphasis on critical thinking.

"SBU does a good job of requiring students to take a critical-thinking class, but there's even more of a focus on critical thinking in the Honors Program because of the additional classes you take and the research you do," she said. "I think it's a skill that not enough people focus on these days, so I appreciate the insights I got. In the colloquium classes, which are discussion-heavy, you end up considering a lot of things you hadn't thought of before. Dr. Allison Langford really encouraged us to think critically."

Today, she is putting those critical thinking skills into practice as an associate at BKD CPAs & Advisors, which is headquartered in Springfield, Mo., and is one of the largest accounting and advisory firms in the U.S. She enjoys her role, which allows her to travel across the country often to do audits and work with clients such as hospitals and health care systems.

Looking back on her college years, she is happy to have participated in outstanding

extracurricular experiences, from the prestigious Heritage Foundation internship in Washington, D.C., to attending the Republican National Convention in 2012, which Dr. Langford encouraged her to do.

"It was a week of learning about the presidency and the convention and the point behind it, and then you spend a week working the convention," she said. "I don't think I would have been able to do that if she hadn't known about it and helped me with it. I really appreciate Dr. Langford. She went above and beyond."

In the future, she hopes to continue in her role as a CPA, as well as potentially continue her education with either an MBA or master's degree in accountancy, an exciting endeavor for which she believes her experience at SBU in the Honors Program and the Robert W. Plaster College of Business and Computer Science helped prepare her.

"Life-long learning is certainly something that is important to me," she said. "I absolutely think SBU and the Honors Program helped prepare me for the possibility of pursuing a graduate degree. If my college experience hadn't emphasized the importance of critical thinking and research skills, I would feel unprepared academically. The Honors Program ensured those things were a priority."

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 Providence Baptist Church, West Plains, Mo.
 Raymore-Peculiar Public School Foundation, Peculiar, Mo.
 Redford Baptist Church, Redford, Mo.
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 Saint Joseph Beverage LLC, Saint Joseph, Mo.
 Saint Joseph School District, Saint Joseph, Mo.
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 Shannondale United Church of Christ, Salem, Mo.
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 Stony Point Presbyterian Church, Trimble, Mo.
 Sunrise Optimist Club, Clinton, Mo.
 Temple Baptist Church, Poplar Bluff, Mo.
 Temple Baptist Church, Sullivan, Mo.
 Toledo First Baptist Church, Toledo, Wash.
 Tower View Baptist Church, Kansas City, Mo.
 Trinity Baptist Church, Reedsburg, Mo.
 Trinity Baptist Church, Willow Springs, Mo.
 Trust Company of the Ozarks, Springfield, Mo.
 Tustin Toyota, Tustin, Calif.
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 Vanleer Baptist Church, Cumberland Furnace, Tenn.
 Verona Baptist Church, Verona, Mo.
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 Wellspring Church, Webb City, Mo.
 West Side Baptist Church, El Dorado, Ark.
 Westside Baptist Church, Waynesville, Mo.
 Willard Tigers Booster Club, Willard, Mo.
 Willow Springs Rotary Club, Willow Springs, Mo.

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 Calvary Baptist Church, Normal, Ill.
 Calvary Baptist Church, Republic, Mo.
 Calvary Chapel Freewill Baptist Church, Buffalo, Mo.
 Celebration Church, Atchison, Kan.
 Chatham Baptist Church, Chatham, Ill.
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 Cross Timbers Southern Baptist Church, Cross Timbers, Mo.
 CrossPointe Baptist Church, Lees Summit, Mo.
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 First Baptist Church, Braymer, Mo.
 First Baptist Church, California, Mo.
 First Baptist Church, Carlyle, Ill.
 First Baptist Church, Cassville, Mo.
 First Baptist Church, Crocker, Mo.
 First Baptist Church, Fair Play, Mo.
 First Baptist Church, Hermitage, Mo.
 First Baptist Church, New London, Mo.
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 First Baptist Church, Waynesville, Mo.
 First Baptist Church, Winfield, Mo.
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 Gashland Baptist Church, Kansas City, Mo.
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 Grace Point Baptist Church, Kansas City, Mo.
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 Heartland Asphalt, Inc., Mason City, Iowa
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 Lake Area Civic Association, Camdenton, Mo.
 Lewis County Mutual Insurance Company, Lewistown, Mo.
 Lighthouse Baptist Church, Saint Ann, Mo.
 Love and Truth Ministries, Jackson, Tenn.
 Macedonia Baptist Church, Springfield, Mo.
 Macks Creek R-5 Schools, Macks Creek, Mo.
 Maplewood Baptist Church, Maplewood, Mo.
 Mount Olivet Southern Baptist Church, Purdy, Mo.
 Mount Vernon High School Foundation, Mount Vernon, Mo.
 National Christian Foundation Heartland, Olathe, Kan.
 New Bloomfield R-3 High School, New Bloomfield, Mo.
 Nixa General Baptist Church, Nixa, Mo.
 Northeast Baptist Church, Clinton, Mo.
 Northern Hills Baptist Church, Holt, Mo.
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 Texas County Baptist Association, Houston, Mo.
 Union Hall Baptist Church, El Dorado Springs, Mo.
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Guess Who?

The Faculty Life Beautiful Award was established in 1987, and the Staff Life Beautiful Award was established in 1992. This is the highest honor an SBU employee can receive. Congratulations to Dr. Troy Bethards, 2015 Faculty Life Beautiful recipient, and Diana Gallamore, 2015 Staff Life Beautiful recipient.

Can you name any of the previous Faculty/Staff Life Beautiful recipients pictured below?

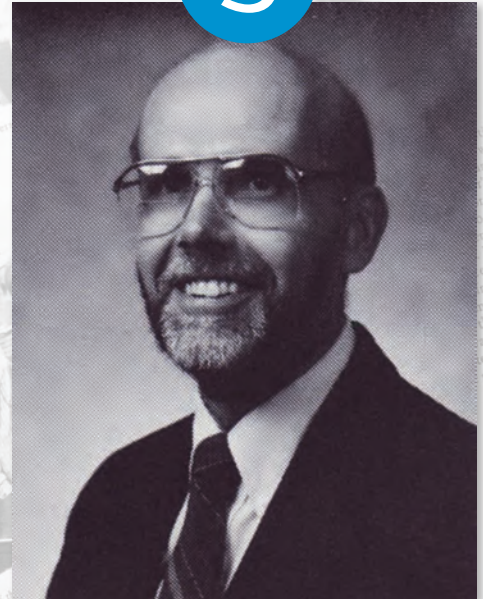
1



2



3



Everyone who correctly identifies at least one of these Life Beautiful recipients will be entered into a prize drawing. Submit your guesses by email to SBUcommunications@gmail.com or by mail to: Office of Marketing and Communications, 1600 University Ave., Bolivar MO 65613. Entries must be received by Friday, Feb. 26.

Thank you to all who participated in the previous Guess Who contest.
The pictured faculty members were Dr. Ed Clark, Linda Gothard and Dr. Tim DeClue.

The following all submitted correct responses: Sara (Smith) Alstadt, Roger and Janice Baxter, Leslie Burnett, Steve Carpenter, Daniel Chang, Jennett Downey, Roger Driskill, Mark Ester, Dave Farnham, Audra Flett, R.D. Flint, Penny (Gardner) Grecni, Judy Griffin, Jerry Hammons, Jennifer Marshall-Hoggart, Marcus Holden, Mick Hood, Brian Jackson, Jamie Jacob, Patricia Jameson, Nancy Johnson, Cordell Kirk, Mary Barrett Little, Diane Miller, Kelly (Hahn) Miller, Janic Navratil, Tammy (McClerren) Parkhill, Derek Payne, Dani Sue Peterson, Verla Pringle, Connie Puls, Linda (Kirkman) Roberts, Jim Shrimpton, Elaine Simpson, Jennifer Smith, Jeanne Stehr, Susan Strait, Stan Sullinger, Marvel Surrette, Mary Thiessen, Jacquelyn Till, Leslie Tucking, Rick Vance, Sarah (Skinner) Van Devender, Robert Varner, Diane Walker, Judi Wall, George Williams, Sandy (Taylor) Williams, Lynne (Baurichter) Wilson, Nick Wilson, Louise Wimberly, Laurel Zuber

Congratulations to Jennett Downey who won the prize package!

SBU breaks ground on project to renovate, expand Taylor Center

Southwest Baptist University broke ground Friday, Dec. 18, on the project to expand and renovate the Bolivar campus' Gene Taylor National Free Enterprise Center, which houses the Robert W. Plaster College of Business and Computer Science and the department of history and political science.

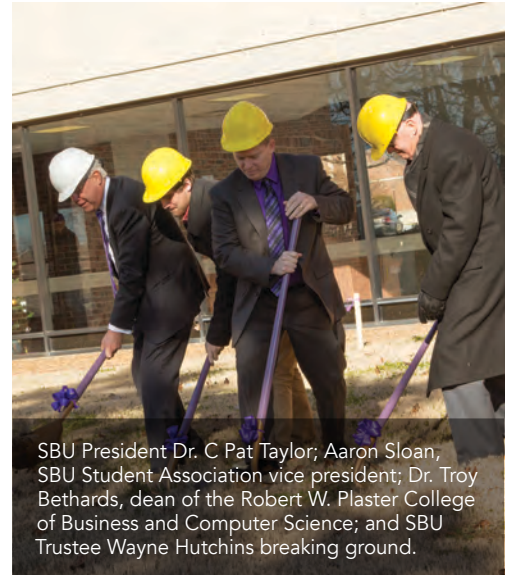
The project is expected to cost about \$2.7 million and is necessitated by steady enrollment growth in business, accounting and computer science and the reinstatement of the master of business administration program.

The project was made possible in part by a seven-figure gift from the Robert W. Plaster Foundation in Lebanon, Mo. The J. E. and L. E. Mabee Foundation of Tulsa, Okla., also issued a challenge grant supplying the remaining \$500,000 of the total project costs when gifts and pledges were secured by SBU totaling

\$2.2 million. Numerous other corporations, foundations and individuals also gave significantly to the project.

Named for donors Jill and the late Tom McCloud, a more than 11,000-square-foot addition to the existing building will house new classrooms, a student lounge, study areas, team presentation rooms, seminar rooms, and computer labs for accounting and computer science. Renovations to the existing facility will include remodeling Woody Auditorium and the current first-floor office suite.

GHN Architects & Engineers in Springfield, Mo., are the architects and construction managers of the project. The first phase of the project is the new addition to the existing building. The project is expected to be completed during the fall semester.



SBU President Dr. C Pat Taylor; Aaron Sloan, SBU Student Association vice president; Dr. Troy Bethards, dean of the Robert W. Plaster College of Business and Computer Science; and SBU Trustee Wayne Hutchins breaking ground.

SBU awards Life Beautiful Awards to Gallamore, Bethards

Diana Gallamore '91, director of the Center for Global Connections, and Dr. Troy Bethards '93, dean of the Robert W. Plaster College of Business and Computer Science, received the Staff and Faculty Life Beautiful Awards during the annual employee Christmas banquet in December.

Staff Life Beautiful

Diana Gallamore has worked in the University Ministries area of SBU for 15 years and currently serves as the director of the Center for Global Connections. She attended Poplar Bluff High School, Three Rivers Community College and SBU, where she received her bachelor of science degree in religious education. She attends Livingstones Baptist Fellowship, is a member of a family group within Alliance Christian Fellowship, and leads a noon Bible study on campus.

"Diana has a genuine interest in the welfare of her University colleagues,

students and all the nations," said Dr. Rob Harris, vice president for student development. "Her love for the Lord is demonstrated by the way she cultivates relationships, affirms community, inspires hope, and equips individuals to share the Gospel."

While in Poplar Bluff, she was an active member of First Baptist Church Poplar Bluff, where she met her husband, Rick, whom she married in 1981. Rick passed away in 2011. They have two children, Amanda and Lance, and one grandchild, Hayden. Read more about Diana in the "5 Questions" feature on page 4.

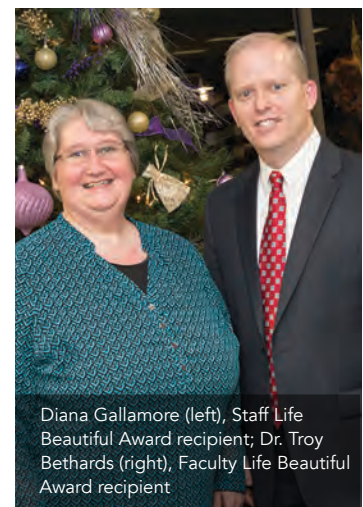
Faculty Life Beautiful

Dr. Troy Bethards has been a member of the SBU faculty since 1996. Before coming to SBU, he was owner and investment advisor of Preferred Asset Management. He is currently associate professor of business administration and dean of the Robert

W. Plaster College of Business and Computer Science. He also serves as the Ruby Letsch-Roderique Chair of Finance. He is a Sam Walton Fellow and received the Orien B. Hendrex Distinguished Teacher Award in 2008.

"It is a true joy to serve SBU with him," said Dr. Tim DeClue, professor and chair of the department of computer and information sciences. "He is a first-rate scholar who supports faculty and students in their academic pursuits, yet his leadership exhibits the selflessness of one who delights in Christ's model of love and service. I can think of no one better to recognize as living a life beautiful."

He is a member of Wellspring Baptist Fellowship in Bolivar. He and his wife, Monica, also an SBU graduate, have two children, Alyssa and Mason.



Diana Gallamore (left), Staff Life Beautiful Award recipient; Dr. Troy Bethards (right), Faculty Life Beautiful Award recipient

1950s

Don Hilton '55 received his associate degree from SWBC. He was the starting center on the Bearcat Basketball team for two years. He received his bachelor of sacred music at Oklahoma Baptist University after attending SWBC. He then attended Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary for three years. He left seminary just five hours short of his master's degree to sing with the Broadman Choral in Nashville, while also serving churches in the area. He then moved back to Missouri and served three churches, including First Baptist Church in Monett, Mo. Then he was called to First Baptist Church in McGehee, Ark., where he served for 25 years in music, education and senior adults. He retired and moved back to Aurora, Mo., and has been serving part time at Southside Baptist Church for 15 years. He may be reached at don.hilton76@yahoo.com.

1960s

Dr. Charles D. Anderson '60 and his wife, Jan, have moved to San Jacinto, Calif. Charles helps with music ministry. They are in choir each week and now live near their son and four grandchildren in Murrieta, Calif.

1970s

Steve Whisler '71 was the 2015 recipient of the Certificate of Merit, Fellowship of Christian Stewards, awarded annually by the Missouri Baptist Foundation. On October 1 Steve retired as the Minister of Senior Adults, Second Baptist Church, Springfield, Mo.

Dr. Wayne Norton '77 and his wife, Gail (Elsheimer) Norton '78, now live in Claremore, Okla. After pastoring churches since 1970, Dr. Norton is now executive director of Hope for Your Day Ministries, Inc., more information about which is available at www.hopeforyourday.com. He also has recently published his first book, "Norton's Nuggets from the New Testament" (Westbow Press). He is available for revivals, Bible studies and seminars. He and Gail also present seminars together on grief recovery. He may be reached at dr.cwn66@gmail.com.

1980s

Chuck S. "Chuck" Baker '80, who earned his B.S. in physical education with a minor in science from SBU, celebrated 25 years of ministry as pastor of Cornerstone Baptist Church in Richland, Mo., on Sunday, July 26, 2015. His church family honored him with a special celebration. Chuck is the only pastor Cornerstone has ever had, and jokingly says that "so many problems can be blamed on me." He can be reached at cbcpastorchuck@embarqmail.com.

Leta (Floyd) Malott '82 married Tom Malott in 1991. They have four grown children, three grandchildren and another on the way. She retired Dec. 1, 2015,

after 31 years of employment with the Missouri Department of Social Services Children's Division. She attends Round Pond Baptist Church in rural Dent County and is a member of the Praise and Worship team. She is grateful for God's abundant blessings.

Michael Castrodale '89 retired from Springfield Police Department February 2014. He recently started a new job as an investigator with the Missouri Department of Health Division of Senior and Disability Services. He and his wife, Barbara, recently moved to the country on acreage and are enjoying living in the woods. He may be reached at immikeyl@juno.com.

1990s

Steve Atwood '93 recently published "The Beauty of the End-Time Bride: Brokenness," a book of practical Bible teaching calling for Christians to embrace the godly broken lifestyle of Psalm 51:17. Atwood wrote the book hoping to encourage Christians to become the without-blemish-or-wrinkle church that Paul describes in Ephesians 5. More information about the book is at steveatwoodauthor.com.

Kevin King '99 earned his Ph.D. in Kinesiology from the University of Arkansas. He graduated in May 2014. He is an assistant professor at Evangel University. He and his wife, **Kimbe (Gibson) King '00**, and their three kids, Kayleigh, Kannon, and Kambell, live in Springfield, Mo and are pictured below. He can be reached at kingskastle@hotmail.com.



2000s

Curtis Cunningham '01 recently completed his Ph.D. in Curriculum and Instruction from the University of Arkansas. He is currently an Assistant Professor of Education at John Brown University. He and his wife, **Amanda (Wedgeworth) Cunningham '99**, have three children and live in Siloam Springs, Ark.

Kyle Schwemmer '02 was selected to attend Syracuse University in the Defense Comptrollership Program sponsored by the Office of the Under Secretary of Defense (Comptroller). The program starts May 2016. In 14 months, he will receive dual master degrees, Master of Business Administration and Executive Master of

Public Administration, before being assigned to a 42-month utilization assignment.



Brandon Taylor '06 received the 2015 Young Bankers Leadership Award from the Missouri Bankers Association (MBA). He is the chief financial officer and chief operating officer of Legacy Bank and Trust in Rogersville, Mo. This

award from the MBA recognizes the outstanding achievement of a banker, age 45 or younger, employed by an MBA-member bank. He was also selected by an independent panel of judges to be included in the *Springfield Business Journal's* 2016 class of "40 Under 40," which highlights 40 up-and-coming professionals. He graduated from the Graduate of the School of Banking in Madison, Wis. A certified public accountant, Taylor is a 2014 graduate of the MBA Banking Leadership Missouri program. He is active in his church and community. He serves on the board for the Rogersville Chamber of Commerce and recently began teaching business law and ethics as an adjunct professor for a local college.

In Memory

Kathryn (Smart) Hymer '65, '68 passed away October 5, 2015.

Lora Elaine Simpson passed away Friday, Nov. 13, 2015. She taught in the business department at SBU from 1957-63.

David Kenneth Edmondson '50 died January 1, 2016. He served in a variety of fundraising roles at SBU from 1959 to 1979 and 1990 to 1994, when he retired as vice president for university advancement. He also worked in fundraising at Oklahoma Baptist University, Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary and Cargill Associates.

He received the Life Service Award from SBU in 1988 and Profile in Excellence Award from Oklahoma Baptist University in 1993. Survivors include his wife, Mary Lou; daughter Cathy Cole and husband Rick; sons, Mark Edmondson and wife Cathy and Michael Edmondson; 10 grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions are suggested to the William C. and Clara Edmondson Endowed Scholarship Fund at Southwest Baptist University, 1600 University Ave., Bolivar MO 65613.

Let's Keep in Touch!

Please submit your news for publication in the next issue of SBULife.

Online: www.SBUniv.edu/alumni/keeping-in-touch.php

Mail: Southwest Baptist University • Office of Alumni Engagement • 1600 University Avenue • Bolivar, MO 65613



THE *Judy Taylor* PHYSICAL THERAPY GARDEN

A TRIBUTE IN HONOR OF SOUTHWEST BAPTIST UNIVERSITY'S FIRST LADY

During her 19 years of service, First Lady Judy Taylor has diligently attended to the needs of students, faculty, and staff while also contributing countless hours of her time to the beautification of the SBU campus. This year, SBU is moving forward with the development of a special project honoring Judy: the Judy Taylor Physical Therapy Garden outside of SBU's Warren B. Davis Physical Therapy Center.

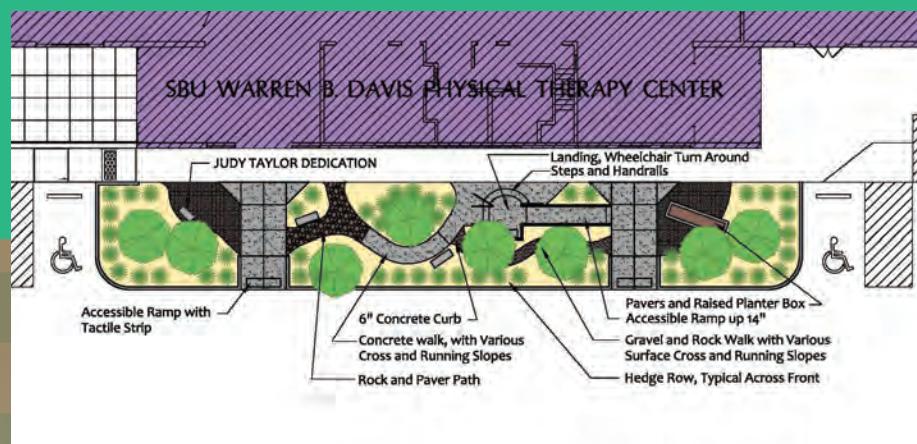
The new garden will serve as a tribute to Judy as well as meet a need of SBU Physical Therapy students, who will benefit from having a place to practice true-to-life therapy experiences. Within the garden, a variety of walking surfaces and functional seating areas are planned that will be utilized to aid student learning while also assisting clients of the faculty-led physical therapy clinic that is coming this year.

The fundraising goal for this project is \$85,000 and will include:

- Accessible ramps with tactile strip
- Concrete walks with various cross and running slopes
- Landing, wheelchair turnaround
- Steps and handrails
- Picnic tables for lunch breaks and study areas

If you have any questions or would like to participate in honoring Judy in this very special way, please contact Dr. Brad Johnson, Vice President of University Relations, at (417) 328-1805 or bjohnson@SBUuniv.edu.

To learn more about the project or make an online donation, please go to www.SBUuniv.edu/PTgarden.



SBUlife

Southwest Baptist University
1600 University Avenue
Bolivar, MO 65613

ANSWER THE CALL, *so you can help Josie follow hers*

An investment in SBU's Annual Scholarship Fund helps to equip students like Josie, and many others, with the toolkit necessary to leave this community and make a difference in the world. SBU students will join a network of Bearcats boldly following Christ as they live out His love in their workplaces, neighborhoods and communities.

Will you consider donating to the Annual Scholarship Fund this year? An SBU student will be calling you during our annual Phonathon to tell you more about how your gift can make a difference in the lives of many SBU students.

WAYS TO GIVE TODAY:

Online: giveto.SBUuniv.edu
Phone: 1.800.526.5859 x 1801
Mail: Attn: University Relations,
1600 University Avenue
Bolivar, MO 65613

MEET JOSIE

MUSIC AND MATH
EDUCATION
FRESHMAN, MACON, MO

I am exceedingly thankful to all SBU donors. It is a dream to be able to attend this great University. I am a first-generation college student and that is something that my parents and I can be proud of. This is exactly where Christ wants me to be and your donations make this dream possible.



I want to donate to SBU's Annual Scholarship Fund:

Enclosed is my one time gift of _____, payable to Southwest Baptist University.

I pledge _____, to be paid over _____ months.

Name: _____ Phone: _____ Email: _____

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

Signature: _____ Date: _____

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