GLORY DAYS

The Franklin Firecracker Festival’s fireworks display, originating south of the courthouse square, illuminates the sky for miles. The annual Independence Day celebration attracts approximately 4,000 people to downtown Franklin for live music, food trucks and a variety of family entertainment. Views from the college campus are spectacular!
Dear Alumni and Friends,

In this issue, we share a glimpse of the transformative liberal arts and sciences at Franklin College, and how we launch students toward lives of meaning and careers of significance.

We are tremendously proud of our 2019 graduates, who included our second cohort of master’s degree recipients in athletic training. It is exciting to receive their updates about job offers and placements in advanced-study programs across the nation. Historically, 95 percent of Franklin students find jobs or begin graduate school within six months of graduating, and it appears this class will be no exception. You will see some of these thriving graduates in our commencement coverage.

Many of our students’ successes can be attributed to Franklin’s deeply dedicated faculty and staff. Each one wears many hats — simultaneously — to help teach, mentor and inspire those who come to Franklin for an exceptional educational experience.

Among these pages, you will meet alumni who attest to the significance of engagement with faculty and staff, and the enduring relevance of their Franklin College degree. Some of these alumni work in fields outside the scope of their college major, and others have succeeded in adapting their professional skillsets over time to keep up with the demands of evolving industries. All of their stories illustrate the intrinsic value of liberal arts learning, no matter the pursuit.

While people remain the foundation of the important work done daily at Franklin College, our facilities help reinforce and enrich our academic offerings. Be sure to read about the ribbon-cutting and dedication ceremony hosted in May to celebrate the opening of our campus Science Center, which advances opportunities for faculty and student research and broader collaboration. The business and civic communities around Indiana and nearby states are poised to work with us to provide engaged experiences and, ultimately, jobs. We are grateful to be recognized as meaningful leaders in the workforce and talent development conversations.

As you read through all the moving stories in this issue, I hope you will be inspired to consider joining us for Homecoming and Alumni Weekend, Oct. 9–13. It is a wonderful opportunity to reconnect with the Grizzlies of your generation and to become acquainted with the remarkable students following in your footsteps. We are better together.

Sincerely,

FRANKLIN COLLEGE PRESIDENT
Follow @PresFC on Twitter.
Featured Stories

12 AT THE CENTER
See photos from the Franklin College Science Center ribbon-cutting and dedication ceremony, and find out what makes the facility a hub for engaged learning and collaboration.

28 HONORING A WAR HERO
Learn how U.S. Navy dive bomber Norman Vandivier ’38 was honored posthumously at Franklin College for his heroic military service.

45 A CENTURY OF SERVICE
Catch up with five alumni using their journalism backgrounds to help the American Legion Auxiliary build on its 100-year service tradition of supporting veterans, active military personnel and families.
During his remarks, Pete Yonkman, the president of Indiana-based Cook Group and Cook Medical, challenged the new graduates to cultivate empathy and use it to help address social and political injustices for the betterment of humankind.

“Empathy must be earned, not by reading, not by talking and certainly not by tweeting. Empathy is earned out in the trenches of modern human existence,” said Yonkman.

“To truly have empathy you have to get down on your hands and knees and work alongside all of humanity, with those you love, and even those you loathe.”

Yonkman told the graduates that cultivating empathy can be “uncomfortable and unsettling” because it disrupts one’s assumptions and beliefs, but once experienced can provide the freedom to explore new ideas and the courage to question social conventions.

In conclusion, Yonkman encouraged the graduates to take risks in order to help others, and to discover new possibilities.

“Your intellectual soul will be better for it,” he said.

Prior to his remarks, the college awarded Yonkman an honorary doctorate of humane letters. Additionally, Jefferson W. Brougher ’58, founder of the Brougher Agency, Brougher Insurance Group and International Medical Group, received an honorary doctorate of humane letters, and former board of trustees chair and current board member Christine S. Fields ’74.
retired vice president and general counsel for Eli Lilly and Co.’s international operations, received an honorary doctorate of laws.

The nominated class speaker was Gabrielle Arthur ’19. Christian Bowling ’19 received the Gold Quill Trophy, and three graduates tied for the Scholarship Cup, Corey Bugelholl ’19, Zac Cleaver ’19 and Hannah Rollett ’19. Erin (Bracht) Clark ’06 delivered greetings on behalf of the Alumni Council.

Preceding commencement, on Friday, May 17, the Rev. Teresa “Terri” Hord Owens gave the baccalaureate address and received an honorary doctorate of divinity from the college. Hord Owens serves as general minister and president of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ).

Find more details about commencement, speakers and award winners online at www.FranklinCollege.edu. Go to the News and Events tab. Find photos on Facebook and Instagram; look for #GrizGrad.

PHOTOS BY GRADIMAGES AND LINDA STRIGGO

Top of page: Graduates, from front to back and left to right, are Brad Bonomini ’19, Taylor Bounin ’19, Kelsey Bowling ’19 and Jordan Brodner ’19.

Above: Pete Yonkman, Cook Group and Cook Medical president.
1: Raheim Whitlow '19 clenches hands with instructor of modern languages Kate Johnston. 2: Matt Brems ’13, Brianna Hutton ’19, Nick Brems ’19, Nora (Lowe) Brems ’87 and Bill Brems ’87 join in celebration. Nora and Bill are the parents of Matt and Nick. 3: Fourteen students earned their master’s degrees in athletic training. In the front row are Brooke Taylor (MSAT ’19), Kenzlie Westerfield (MSAT ’19), Lauryn Darnall (MSAT ’19), Cody Leffert (MSAT ’19), Megan Battles (MSAT ’19), Kimberley Firth (MSAT ’19) and Elexis Pitcher (MSAT ’19). In the back row are Ian Strauss (MSAT ’19), Rachel Bowden (MSAT ’19), Ariane Bell (MSAT ’19), Conrad Schumann (MSAT ’19), Hannah Hoyt (MSAT ’19), Nicholas Pearson (MSAT ’19) and Cameron Greene (MSAT ’19). 4: Franklin College President Thomas J. Minar, Ph.D., joins the graduates for a class photo. 5: Beaming with pride are Ashley Burns ’19, Danielle Pruitt ’19 and Priyam Patel ’19. 6: Elliot Parmer ’19 and David Masayile ’19 ham it up for the camera. 7: Dean of Student Success and Retention Keri Alioto Ellington hugs class speaker Gabrielle Arthur ’19. 8: Gold Quill Trophy recipient Christian Bowling ’19 receives congratulations from Franklin College President Thomas J. Minar, Ph.D. 9: Claudia Hoffman ’19 and Kia Hreno ’19 squeeze in a selfie before walking onto the stage for their degrees. 10: Graduates who majored in business included in the front row Tyler Hayes ’19, Logan Feigel ’19, Nawwaf Elayyan ’19, Marena Drake ’19, Gabrielle Arthur ’19, Megan Laugle ’19, Nicole Salowski ’19 and Hannah Sharkey ’19. In the second row are Austin Fleming ’19, Rob Warren ’19, Cory Bugelholl ’19, Matthew Powell ’19, Josh Holt ’19, Justice Carmichael ’19, Tara Ricke ’19, Madelyn Fleet ’19 and Mitch Tyler ’19. In the third row are Karen Dringenburg ’19, Nicholas Begovich ’19, Tyler Reed ’19, Paul Eisberg ’19, Michael Ladera ’19, Dean Elrod ’19, Blake Oakley ’19 and Jacob Hash ’19. In the fourth row is Devin Parrish ’19.

PHOTOS BY GRADMAGES, KAREN RUGGLES, ANN SMITH, LINDA STRIGGO AND AMY (KEAN) VERSTEEG ’96
CLASS OF 2019

219 Undergraduate Degrees
14 Master’s Degrees
60 Graduates with Honors
5 Top Majors
  Business  Psychology  Exercise Science  Education  Sociology/Criminology
David and Kathy Carlson spent this summer as they have dozens of times before, at their Wisconsin cabin on the lake.

They slipped comfortably back into a routine of long days outdoors, fishing, kayaking, reading and visiting with their children and grandchildren. The weeks passed, May lulled into August, and for the first time in decades there was no need to rush back to Franklin. Both professors are now retired from full-time teaching. Kathy retired from teaching English in 2015, after 36 years, and David retired in May 2019, after 41 years of teaching philosophy and religion.

While David won’t be at the head of the class this fall, he expects to be “wonderfully busy.” As an author, activist, speaker and advocate for world peace, he has no shortage of passion projects. His series of three published mystery novels soon will grow to five. The fictional detective series includes a religious dimension, intersecting David’s academic career with his creative outlet. He also has published non-fiction works on spirituality and religion, and he is an active member of several interfaith groups that promote understanding and support for one another.

The Carlsons, who have a permanent residence in Franklin, will continue frequenting campus for theatre performances, art exhibits and softball games, among other activities. Kathy also instructs meditation classes, periodically. The college community will always feel like home, David said.

“I came to FC to make a living, and I ended up making a life. Kathy and I, when we were getting started in our careers, thought we would be at Franklin for about three years, and then we’d go somewhere else. We hadn’t anticipated the quality of the relationships that we’d build with colleagues and students.”

Franklin College was the right fit for the couple.
“I really always felt I had the best job in the world, teaching philosophy and religion at a small liberal arts college. Over time, I realized every student I worked with was on a journey, and here I had this privilege of encouraging their journey,” David said.

“Students sometimes had tremendous anxiety about making it in their adult life. It was such a joy to look at them and say, ‘I totally believe you’re going to have a wonderful life.’ I meant it. It had nothing to do with grades. I had the privilege of getting to know their character.”

He admits even the world’s greatest job presented some challenges.

“Relationships can take time, and yet I didn’t have enough time in my day to relate to every student as fully as I would like. It’s difficult knowing you don’t have enough time for every student who’s walking down the hallway in the middle of a journey.”

“Any course where I could introduce students to faith development theory was particularly enjoyable. For the most part, students didn’t realize that people had actually studied the various phases of life’s journey, in terms of faith. It was enjoyable for me to show students that the struggling and the doubt were normal. They often would say, ‘I feel so relieved and encouraged.’”

Teaching was a reciprocal process through which David mutually benefited.

“Students make professors who we are. They change us.

“I learned that students were trying to help me become a better teacher, not consciously, but in their own way, whether it was a facial expression of confusion or body language expressing boredom. Their reactions were clues to me about what I could do to provide a more meaningful experience. That’s when I would say to students, ‘Let’s try to talk about what we’re doing here in a way that’s relatable to our lives.’ Their success was always what I was most interested in.”

Keep up with the professor emeritus on Facebook and at davidccarlson.net.
The ribbon-cutting ceremony participants included Susan Johnson DeVoss ’65 (HD ’14), board chair emerita; Susan Wohlmuth Williams ’67, science center steering committee chair; Jim Due ’82, board of trustees chair; Thomas J. Minar, Ph.D., college president; Kalevi Huotilainen, BSA LifeStructures principal-in-charge; Lori Schroeder, Ph.D., provost and dean of the college, Terry Greene, Hagerman Group executive vice president; Tom Patz, college assistant vice president of physical facilities; and Shawn Hitchcock, Hagerman group owner’s representative.
The Franklin College Science Center has literally changed the campus landscape. The center is not only a campus focal point, it is the epicenter for faculty-student mentoring and engaged learning in the sciences, both of which build on a long tradition of college excellence.

In celebration of the Science Center’s completion and its impact on student-learning opportunities, the college hosted a dedication and ribbon-cutting ceremony on May 16. Guests convened indoors for both activities, as spring thunderstorms raged outside.

The college broke ground on the Science Center in May 2017. Two phases of construction followed. First, was the addition of 21,000 square feet of new space to the existing science building, Barnes Hall. Next, was the renovation of Barnes, built in 1927 and previously renovated in 1987. The newly constructed portion of the Science Center opened for the college community’s use in May 2018, and the entire facility became usable in January 2019.

BSA LifeStructures architectural design firm provided the vision and earned the International Interior Design Association’s Indiana Chapter Award for Design Excellence in a Higher Education Remodel. The Hagerman Group took the design from concept to finish during construction. Both businesses sponsored the ribbon-cutting ceremony, attended by approximately 200 guests.

During his remarks, Thomas J. Minar, Ph.D., Franklin College president thanked the board of trustees, Science Center steering committee members, faculty, staff, alumni and donors for their encouragement and generous support of the Campaign for the Sciences, which raised more than $10 million to help finance the facility. The center’s significance will be far-reaching, Minar said.

“One hundred years from now, a new generation of Grizzlies will celebrate the centennial of this Science Center, and they will say we were insightful in understanding the role of the liberal arts and sciences in the Central United States. They will speak of Grizzlies who will have made new discoveries, helped change industries and cemented legacies. That is what the Franklin College president will be talking about 100 years from today. Mark my words: today, we make history!”

In recent years, the college has focused on pursuing innovation in science education, including reinventing the division’s curriculum in 2011 to align more closely with workforce needs expressed by Indiana business leaders; launching two master’s degree programs, one in athletic training and the other in physician assistant studies; and establishing a Graduate Health Science Center with classrooms and faculty offices for both master’s programs. The center is located off campus, on U.S. Highway 31 North, in a building owned by Johnson Memorial Health, a community partner of the college. •
A CLOSER LOOK
1: The Science Center’s lounges enable collaborative work or independent study.  
2: Sarah Mordan-McCombs, Ph.D., associate professor of biology, values the Science Center’s 12 teaching labs. “These spaces enable faculty to interact more closely with students, to blur the lines between lecture and lab and to incorporate undergraduate research opportunities into every course in our curriculum. The Science Center has breathed new life into our program, and into the college.”  
3: Three rectangular study tables and a round side table were harvested from a more than 100-year-old walnut tree removed from campus during the Science Center’s construction phase. College trustee Todd Bemis ’84 facilitated hiring Franklin-area artist Sean Fagan to upcycle the tree into beautiful furniture that honors the college’s history and commitment to sustainability. Pictured are Mike Ruszkowski ’69 and his spouse, Barbara.  
4: Massive limestone slabs provide ample seating for outdoor classes and add visual interest to the Science Center’s landscape. The Teaching Terrace was made possible by Thomas J. Minar, Ph.D., college president, and his spouse, Frank S. Becker, M.D. The Courtyard was made possible by college trustee Rob Brown and his spouse, Ruth.  
5: The greenhouse, funded by college trustee emeritus John Peterson (HD ’17) and his spouse, Nancy, provides year-round opportunities for engaged learning. A botany lab and herbarium complement the greenhouse.  
6: A two-story wood and moss wall-art installation echoes the center’s expansive views of campus green space and ensures natural beauty is visible year-round.  
7: Signage for Lacy Labs recognizes college trustee Margot Lacy Eccles (HD ’02) and her ancestors for their legacy of leadership at the college. Margot made a generous financial promise and matching commitment to the Campaign for the Sciences prior to her death in 2012.  
8: A collection of antique microscopes gifted from Douglas E. Kelly, M.D., of Clarksburg, Maryland, is a focal point on the first floor. The collection spans 300 years of scientific history, 1638–1930. Kelly donated the collection in memory of his parents, Raymond D. Kelly ’23 and Enid (McCaslin) ’23. His aunts, Mary J. Kelly ’33 and Esther Kelly ’27 also were alumnae. His daughter, Erin Conklin (pictured), set up the exhibit to Kelly’s specifications, as he gave instructions via FaceTime. After seeing the exhibit, biology professor emeritus Jim Curry also was inspired to gift the college an antique microscope from his personal collection.
Franklin College is among 25 Council of Independent Colleges (CIC) member institutions selected for the inaugural cohort of Humanities Research for the Public Good. It aims to promote student research at private colleges and universities, address issues of public significance and showcase the rich archival, library and museum collections held by participating institutions.

Colleges were selected through a competitive application process. Franklin’s winning proposal, “The Primary Pursuit,” furthers the college’s curricular aims by engaging students in research that directly benefits local and statewide partners, such as the Johnson County Museum of History, the Indiana Historical Society and statewide school districts. Franklin’s undergraduate students will conduct research in the college’s Honorable Roger Douglas Branigin Archives. Students will use their findings to construct lesson plans, compile associated educational resources and produce assessments to assist Indiana’s K-12 teachers in instructing U.S. history and civics education.

Branigin, the 42nd governor of Indiana, a 1923 alumnus of Franklin College and an honorary degree recipient in 1956, donated his political papers to the college’s B.F. Hamilton Library. They are distinguished as the only governor’s papers not housed at the Indiana Archives and Records Administration.

CIC hosted an opening workshop for participants in Washington, D.C., in June. Meredith Clark-Wiltz, Ph.D., associate professor of history and director of American studies, Jessica (Lillipop) Mahoney ’96, assistant director and information literacy librarian, and Betsy Schmidt ’85, director of academic partnerships, represented Franklin. A closing workshop in spring 2020 will include students and highlight the results of the funded projects. Humanities Research for the Public Good is generously supported by the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation.

**BUSINESS LEADERS**

The senior class of business students continued a long-standing tradition of excellence on the Major Field Test (MFT). Their cumulative class score ranked in the top 7 percent among the 496 U.S. colleges and universities that administered the test. More than 69,000 students tested nationwide.

As a requirement for their degree, business majors at Franklin have taken the MFT since 1992. The exam tests their ability to retain and apply the knowledge gained in business, economics and accounting classes. Franklin students have historically and collectively placed in the nation’s top 10 percent.

“Business students graduate from Franklin not only well trained in skill sets necessary for today’s marketplace, but just as importantly, prepared for tomorrow’s opportunities. The excellent exam score results are a testament to their skill and preparedness,” said Steven Scheer, associate professor of economics and business.

TOMORROW’S CONSERVATIONIST

Gunnar Dittrich ’20 spent two months this summer in Costa Rica, interning with the Macaw Recovery Network. Dittrich majors in ecology and conservation, and was involved in helping recover endangered neotropical parrot populations. The college’s Branigin Engaged Learning Fund helped cover Dittrich’s travel expenses.

While parrots are arguably the most charismatic, intelligent and recognizable of all birds, they face numerous threats to their survival. “Parrots inspire a sense of awe and wonder, making them ideal flagships for conservation. By saving parrots, we can save entire ecosystems,” proclaims the Macaw Recovery Network website.

Dittrich learned about opportunities to intern with the network after Franklin College hosted a speaker in the 2018 Indianapolis Prize Lecture Series last September. The Indianapolis Prize is the world’s leading animal conservation award, given every other year, to an individual who has made extraordinary contributions to wildlife conservation. Sam Williams, Ph.D., is director of the Macaw Recovery Network, and his mentor and the 2016 Indianapolis Prize winner is Carl Jones, Ph.D. Dittrich worked with Williams during his internship.

Franklin College biology professor Ben O’Neal, Ph.D., said, “Gunnar is a well-rounded ecologist, having done independent research in both birds and plants. He also has a minor in Spanish, which was a great asset to his work in Costa Rica. I am delighted to see him growing into one of tomorrow’s conservationists.”

MASTERFUL DIPLOMATS

Franklin College’s 13-member student team earned the Distinguished Delegation award at the 2019 National Model U.N. Conference in New York City this April. Several individual delegates earned additional honors. Franklin students competed against thousands of peers from more than 136 countries.

During the conference, the Franklin delegation represented the Republic of Kiribati, a sovereign state along the equator in the Central Pacific Ocean. The team designed and championed a communications and technological improvement program to foster adaptation to climate change. In addition to persuasively presenting their plan, the students had to impress the conference judges by staying in character while role playing as delegates, participating in committee work and following rules of procedure. Distinguished Delegation is the second-highest conference award.

The judges also acknowledged the exceptional contributions of Erica Irish ’21 and Blaine Conners ’21. They earned the Outstanding Position Paper award for their work on the U.N. General Assembly Second Committee. Students at the conference had an opportunity to recognize their peers for indispensable work by selecting Outstanding Delegate award winners. Kyle Harmening ’20 and Kirsten Nielsen ’21 both won for their performance on the U.N. General Assembly First Committee.

Two visionary alumni are the funders of an initiative that will help build ties between Franklin College and KIPP Indy Legacy High, a charter school for high school students from educationally underserved communities.

Trustee Robert (Bob) A. DeVoss ’69 and his spouse, Susan (Staab) ’69, made a $10,000 gift to the initiative, which involves the college in providing branded memorabilia for a classroom in the high school, giving an annual campus tour for the high school’s students, interested parents and teachers and participating in awareness events and activities aimed at building awareness of college choices.

The high school opened this fall and joins more than 220 schools across the country in the Knowledge is Power Program (KIPP), which has a 20-year track record of preparing students for success in college and life.

The KIPP nonprofit network currently educates nearly 100,000 students in 224 schools across the country.

KIPP began in Indianapolis in 2004 with one class of fifth-grade students and has grown to educate more than 800 students at two schools, KIPP Indy Unite Elementary and KIPP Indy College Prep Middle. KIPP Indy Legacy High launched most recently.

"Once introduced to KIPP, Susan and I were impressed with the way faculty and staff nurtured their students through their time in the elementary and middle schools and, in fact, followed them as they continued their education at many Marion County high schools," said Bob. "The attention to student needs seemed to match the college’s newly established curriculum, the Pursuit at Franklin College. It is our hope that through this partnership that KIPP students will be introduced to Franklin College and ultimately become students."

Bob is the retired president and partner of Retirement Management, Inc, and Susan is a retired occupational therapist. They reside in Carmel, Indiana. The school partnership will be under the direction of Kate Coffman, the college’s vice president and dean of admissions and financial aid.
Ready for IMPACT?

100% of students complete an internship or undergraduate research prior to graduation.

95% of students are employed or attending graduate school within six months of graduation.

Ranked #1 NATIONAL LIBERAL ARTS COLLEGE IN INDIANA by Washington Monthly

83% of admitted students need help paying for college.

Students give approximately 21,000 community-service hours annually.

Invest in the future.

Together, we achieve excellence. Gifts to the Franklin Fund honor our strong tradition of liberal arts learning and create opportunities for the future. Maximize your impact with a gift today at FranklinCollege.edu/giving or call 800.852.0232.

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A new professional development series engaging student leaders in meaningful discussions with influential business leaders made its debut during the 2018-19 academic year.

The Presidential Leadership Seminar series, conceived by Thomas J. Minar, Ph.D., Franklin College president, will resume this fall. In addition to enhancing student leadership competencies and professional preparedness, the series aims to connect the college community with business leaders throughout the state of Indiana. The inaugural seminars took place at lunchtime, in a private conference room, giving college guests an intimate forum to share insights about their niche industries, engage in Q&A moderated by Minar and address a wide range of topics raised by the students. Each seminar provided students with benchmarks for self-assessment, strategies for leadership and career growth, and networking opportunities.

“It made me realize that if someone is willing to work hard and put their mind to something, that it will benefit them not only in school, but in life.”

HOLLY SHORT ’19

At the head of the table, Scott McCorkle, MetaCX co-founder, responds to a question from Thomas J. Minar, Ph.D., college president. GrizPAC members and college staff sit around the table.
The series brought three distinguished guests to campus: Pete Yonkman, president of Cook Group and Cook Medical, provided advice on learning from mentors and maintaining upward mobility in an organization over time. Deana (Baker) Haworth ’99, chief operating officer of Hirons, an advertising, public relations and digital communications agency, discussed the importance of study-away experiences and internships during college as well as best practices for job seekers. Scott McCorkle, co-founder of Indianapolis-based MetaCX, gave tips on resume formatting, risk taking and learning from failures.

The Presidential Leadership Seminar series was created specifically for members of the Presidential Ambassador Corps, better known as the GrizPAC. The group included some of Franklin’s best and brightest student leaders, selected through a rigorous application process, and who personify the college’s mission and values. The students served as official ambassadors at college events and alumni gatherings. They also accompanied the president to special events off campus, periodically.

Previous GrizPAC member Christian Bowling ’19 was grateful for the series. “I believe experiences like this are important because they challenge students to look at leadership from a new perspective and to become self-aware enough to identify weaknesses for improvement.”

Holly Short ’19 found Haworth’s presentation particularly eye-opening. “It made me realize that if someone is willing to work hard and put their mind to something, that it will benefit them not only in school, but in life.”

Planning for the next seminar series is underway, and guests are to be determined.

The college offers an annual Convocation Lecture Series complementing the common set of values upheld on the campus: integrity, inclusivity, intellectual curiosity, drive for innovation and creativity, and spirit of community. Each lecture is free and open to the public, but seating is limited. Join us in October for the kickoff.

“How to Be an Adult”
Wed., Oct. 9, 2019
7 p.m., Branigin Room, Napolitan Student Center

Julie Lythcott-Haims, M.F.A., J.D., is a Woodrow Wilson Visiting Fellow, former Stanford University dean and New York Times best-selling author of the book How to Raise an Adult, an anti-helicopter parenting manifesto. Her second book, Real American, is an award-winning prose poetry memoir that illustrates her experience with racism and her journey toward self-acceptance. Her lecture kicks off the college's Homecoming and Alumni Weekend and previews her next book on adulting, which she says is “one part having to, one part wanting to and one part knowing how.” Join us for a frank, funny and compassionate conversation about supporting Millennials and Gen Z-ers in being the adults we all need them to be.

This lecture is generously underwritten by the Tillman Lecture Fund, established by college trustee Doug Tillman ’70.
STANDING FOR TREES

Franklin College earned the Tree Campus USA designation for the sixth consecutive year from the Arbor Day Foundation. The designation is part of a national program created in 2008 by the Arbor Day Foundation to honor colleges and universities for promoting healthy trees and engaging students in the spirit of conservation.

To earn the designation, Franklin College had to meet Tree Campus USA’s five standards: maintain a campus tree advisory committee, develop a campus tree-care plan, have a campus tree program with dedicated annual expenditures, plan an Arbor Day observance and conduct a student service-learning project.

LEGACY DOCUMENTED

The Franklin College community was saddened to learn of Sen. Richard G. Lugar’s death on April 28, 2019. The 87-year-old retired politician had visited Franklin College many times in his life, hired numerous Franklin students as interns during his career and employed alumni on staff.

Prior to his death, he participated in a documentary produced jointly by WFYI Public Media and Franklin College. “Richard Lugar: Reason’s Quiet Warrior” chronicles his life and times, as one of Indiana’s U.S. Senators from 1977 to 2013. The documentary highlights how he helped transform Indianapolis from ‘India-no-place” to a booming metropolitan community during his two terms as city mayor, and how later, as a senator, he helped make the world a safer place.

The documentary premiered at Franklin College in spring 2018. It featured the work of 13 students and recent alumni as well as Pulliam School of Journalism division head Joel Cramer, J.D., and broadcast journalism coordinator Aubrey Helms. The hour-long documentary was nominated for an Emmy this April. View it online, tinyurl.com/y5lpxbed.

NATIONAL FRATERNITY AWARD

Sigma Alpha Epsilon fraternity’s national headquarters recently announced Jon Ross ’20 was one of nine men nationwide named an Outstanding Eminent Archon for the 2018–19 academic year.

The award recognizes chapter and colony presidents who excel as leaders, possess dynamic personalities, demonstrate strong communication skills interacting with chapter members and external audiences, exceed core operational areas and meet goals. Ross served three terms as president of Franklin College's Indiana Alpha chapter. His fraternity award included a $1,500 scholarship.

Jon is the son of Mike Ross ’88 and his spouse, Shelley, and the grandson of Larry Ross ’65 and his spouse, Marilyn (Ruffalo) ’64. He is the great-nephew of Phil Ruffalo ’57, M.D., and his wife, Sammie.

FOUNDING DIRECTOR ON BOARD

Jeremy VanAndel was hired in June as founding director of the Hive at Franklin College and an instructor of business. He holds a Bachelor of Arts in hospitality and tourism management from Indiana University Purdue University – Fort Wayne and a Master of Business Administration from the University of Indianapolis.
He brings more than 10 years of previous senior leadership experience, including positions in development and marketing with IndyReads and its affiliate IndyReads Books, as well as with the Humane Society of Indianapolis. He contributed to significant fundraising successes for both nonprofits. He also brings experience in hotel management and human resources.

The Hive supports student consulting services, business and ideas incubation and creative play and experimentation. As the Hive director, VanAndel focuses on delivering community-connected, immersive and applied-learning experiences that are the hallmarks of the Pursuit at Franklin College curriculum. As an instructor of business, he also teaches courses in marketing and consumer behavior.

NEW ADMISSIONS DIRECTOR

Ashley B. Hardy joined the college in June as director of admissions.

Hardy brings a decade of experience in higher education to her role at Franklin. Most recently, she served as the associate director of admissions at Marian University.

Hardy earned a Bachelor of Arts in history and sociology from the University of Notre Dame and a master’s degree in organizational leadership, with a concentration in higher education from the University of Saint Francis. She holds professional affiliations with the Collegiate Information and Visitor Services Association, the Indiana Association for College Admissions Counseling, the National Association for College Admissions Counseling and the Starfish Initiative, which works to inspire, encourage and prepare promising, economically disadvantaged students for college and career success.
Regional championship play made for a long and memorable Grizzlies’ baseball season that ended May 19, the day after the college’s 2019 commencement exercises.

Seven seniors sacrificed donning graduation caps and gowns for the chance to travel with their teammates to Texas and play in the NCAA regional baseball championships, May 17–19. Upon the team’s return to campus, the college hosted a pep rally and improvised a ceremony to confer the seniors’ degrees.

GETTING THERE

The fourth seed in the four-team regional, the Grizzlies made their second consecutive regional appearance after winning the Heartland Collegiate Athletic Conference (HCAC) Tournament two years, back to back. The Grizzlies knocked off Anderson (Ind.) University and earned two wins over top seed Rose-Hulman to become back-to-back HCAC Tournament champions for the first time in baseball program history.
In the winner’s bracket, the Grizzlies faced the Concordia University (TX) Tornados, who dominated the battle, achieved a no-hitter and won 4–0. The loss put the Grizzlies in a rematch with the Trinity Tigers, and both teams fought for survival. Ultimately, a pair of strong pitching performances and a sterling defensive effort enabled Franklin to knock off Trinity, 6–3.

The win earned Franklin a rematch with Concordia in the regional championship final, where the Grizzlies needed to defeat the Tornados twice. In the opening contest, Franklin methodically racked up 16 hits and forced the winner-take-all game, with a 13–4 win. In the seventh and deciding game of the regional, Franklin held a late lead, but the Tornados rallied, taking the game 6–4, and ending the Grizzlies best-ever record in an NCAA regional tournament.

**BACK ON CAMPUS**

In a Facebook post the next day, head baseball coach Lance Marshal said, “Thanks to all for the support, love, texts, tweets, etc. Even though we were in Texas, we felt the support from back home, from our FC family, friends, alumni, the HCAC and beyond! It was quite a ride, and we are so happy to have shared it with ‘y’all.’

“I couldn’t be more proud of a group of young men. They handled themselves with class all the way, receiving compliments from random people at restaurants, in hotels and from the NCAA and TLU staff. They managed to balance finals, graduation, travel and baseball at the highest level.

“The hugs and tears are a great reminder that this meant something . . . that they worked tirelessly side by side to pursue excellence.”

Marshall, head baseball coach since 1997, picked up win No. 500 on March 24, 2019, when the Grizzlies bested Saint Joseph’s College of Maine. Marshall previously picked up a pair of Coach of the Year honors in 2018, which included his fourth HCAC Coach of the Year title and the Mid-East Coach of the Year distinction from D3Baseball.com.

Following the regional tournament, the American Baseball Coaches Association recognized shortstop Sam Claycamp ’19 with All-Region Second Team honors and outfielder Ryan Bixler ’19 and first baseman Drew Naumovich ’19 with Mideast All-Region Third Team honors. Additionally, Claycamp and Bixler were dubbed All-Mideast Region by D3Baseball.com.

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Far left: Teammates mob Quenton Wellington ’20 on the field after his game-winning hit in the HCAC championship game against Rose-Hulman.

Left: Krae Sparks ’21 helped keep the Grizzlies’ season going with 7 1/3 innings of work in a 6–3 elimination game win over Trinity University.

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**BATTLE ROUNDS**

The 28–13 Grizzlies moved on to regional championship play in Seguin, Texas, facing the 34–10 Trinity University (TX) Tigers, the fourth-ranked team in the nation and champion of the Southern Collegiate Athletic Conference. The Grizzlies fought hard during a nine-inning game, finally closing it out with perfect pitching by Nate Stonebraker ’19. The Grizzlies defeated the Tigers, 8–6, on Katt-Isbel Field at Texas Lutheran University (TLU).
Sports communication has joined the list of majors offered through the Pulliam School of Journalism (PSJ).

According to journalism professor and department chair Joel Cramer, J.D., the new major comes at an important time, given the U.S. Supreme Court’s recent decision allowing states to legalize commercial sports betting.

“That decision takes a billion-dollar industry and pulls it to the surface. We anticipate a growing demand for ethically sourced information about teams and players,” said Cramer.

PSJ faculty want students to be ready.

“With the skills they develop through the sports communication major, Franklin students will know how to cover the issues, whether they’re reporting stories from the sidelines, working on sports policies with government leaders or posting for a team on social media,” said Cramer.

Cramer added that the sports communication major is a logical progression in PSJ’s offerings given the significant number of people in the college community who are engaged in sports, as competitors and fans.

“In many ways, learning will be student-driven, as we collaborate to create new opportunities.”

JOEL CRAMER, J.D.

The sports communication major integrates several of the same fundamental courses offered to students majoring in multimedia journalism and public relations, such as communications law, photography and videography. Additional courses will address topics such as sports and society, economics and public policy in sports, game coverage, sports information and public relations, and coverage of lifestyle and outdoor sports.

“In many ways, learning will be student-driven, as we collaborate to create new opportunities,” said Cramer. “We want the sports communication major to be an all-access point for students to figure out what their dream career looks like and to invent it.”
Semper paratus is the U.S. Coast Guard’s motto meaning “always ready.” It resonates strongly with Jessica Ayer ’16, a lieutenant and the daughter of an active-duty U.S. Coast Guard member.

She prepared for a long time in anticipation of applying to the Coast Guard’s Judge Advocate General program, better known as JAG, and in the spring her goal was realized with an acceptance letter. Remarkably, she also was accepted to the Army, Air Force and Navy JAG programs. Annual acceptance rates vary by JAG branch, but generally hover in the teens.

Ayer is a 2019 graduate of the Indiana University Robert H. McKinney School of Law, which she attended on a full-tuition scholarship made possible through the Franklin College Law Scholar Program. A press release from the law school indicates three of her classmates also were accepted to JAG programs.

Four acceptances at the same institution is unusually high, according to IU McKinney adjunct professor Anthony Green, a decorated Air Force veteran.

“I’ve met with lots of students to lay out the route for applying to JAG, but nothing is ever guaranteed,” Green said. “It’s hard to point to any single factor among applicants, other than the determination to be more competitive, and the commitment to serve something bigger than themselves.”

You might say Ayer was always ready. Military service is a source of pride in her family. Besides her father, she has relatives whose military service is traceable back to the American Revolutionary War. Plus, she grew up in Fairfax, Virginia, near historical sites and was inspired by the ideals of American freedom they represented.

Ayer said, “As lawyers, we take an oath to support the Constitution. I wanted to take that a step further and serve my country, too.”

After following in another family tradition—earning her undergraduate degree at Franklin College—Ayer attended IU McKinney, where she was editor-in-chief of the Indiana International & Comparative Law Review, president of Federalist Society and vice president of the Christian Legal Society. The Franklin alumni in her family include her aunts, Cheryl (Richards) Bright ’81 and Cristi (Richards) Cherry ’93, and her cousins, Drew Bright ’07 and his spouse, Katie (Austen) ’07, Morgan (Bright) Benigni ’11, Caitlyn Cherry ’18, Cassidy Cherry ’18 and Maddie Bright ’22.

Ayer’s mentor, Col. Allison (Queener) Polchek ’81, (U.S. Army, ret.) attended both Franklin College and IU McKinney.

“She has helped me significantly ever since I interned for her at the U.S. Army Legal Services Agency at Ft. Belvoir,” Ayer said.

Over the summer of 2018, Ayer interned with the Coast Guard JAG, which helped solidify her career plans. She commissioned in June 2019 at Coast Guard headquarters in Washington, DC, as a lieutenant. She will attend a five-week officer training course in New London, Connecticut, followed by a 10-week lawyer course at the Naval Justice School in Newport, Rhode Island. Afterward, she will serve a four-year tour in Honolulu, Hawaii.

JAG’s mission is to provide high-quality legal advice and support to the people who carry out its varied functions and to ensure their missions, operations and activities can be achieved within the spirit, as well as the letter of the law.
Following the devastating attack on Pearl Harbor in 1941, American military forces found themselves pitted against Japanese forces intent on controlling the Pacific Ocean. The Japanese envisioned knocking the United States out entirely at the Battle of Midway, and it was up to the Navy’s wave of dive bombers to stop them in June of 1942.

Among those bombers was one of Franklin’s native sons, Norman Vandivier ’38.

Though he was born in Mississippi, Vandivier was Franklin through and through. His family moved to town when he was a child, and he attended Franklin High School and Franklin College.

While a college student, he played football and baseball, served in offices, was a member of Sigma Alpha Epsilon fraternity and was an excellent scholar. After graduating, he went to work for the U.S. Bureau of Mines.

Vandivier had only been at his job for a few months before he enlisted in the U.S. Navy. For more than two years, he trained to be a dive bomber and was assigned to a bombing squadron on the USS Enterprise. Once war was declared on Japan, he took part in the Battle of the Marshall Islands in early 1942, and he provided air support for the Doolittle Raiders as they bombed Japan in April 1942.

During the Battle of Midway on June 4, Vandivier and his squadron attacked the Japanese flagship carrier Akagi. They successfully completed their mission, and were returning from the run when Vandivier radioed that he was out of fuel. He was spotted making a successful water landing, and escaping with his gunner. They were last seen on a life raft. What happened after that, for certain, is unknown.

For his valor, Vandivier was posthumously awarded the Navy Cross, the country’s second-highest military decoration. He also earned a Purple Heart. In 1943, the Navy named a warship after him, the USS Vandivier. It served as a radar picket ship for the Atlantic Fleet in the 1950s.

But on Franklin College’s campus, nothing identified the sacrifice that Vandivier had made. That irked retired social studies teacher Lou Osterman ’58 of Greenwood, Indiana.

He had discovered Vandivier’s name in a history journal. The more he researched and learned about the man, the more he felt compelled to see him memorialized somewhere on campus.

All of the college’s athletic stars are recognized; someone of Vandivier’s status and record of service to his country deserved to be as well, Osterman told college representatives.
“You always hear stories about heroes like this. To actually hold papers he wrote on, and see his emotions that he was going through, it was very moving to feel the history, and to see the history.”

KAYLEE SEABOLT ’21
He contacted Tom Armor, senior director of development and planned giving at the college, and shared findings on Vandivier to help encourage some type of recognition.

Armor was on board, and he took the request to Meredith Clark-Wiltz, Ph.D., associate professor of history and director of American studies at the college. Franklin faculty routinely engage in collaborative research and develop independent-study projects for students. Previous partnerships have involved the Johnson County Museum of History and the Indiana Historical Society.

“We really try to embed public-facing, community projects done by students, so that our students’ work doesn’t just land on a desk; they actually have something tangible that helps the college and the community,” Clark-Wiltz said.

Clark-Wiltz had two students she thought would be ideal for the Vandivier research project. Noah Dahlquist ’19, a history major, had done work previously on The Honorable Roger Douglas Branigin Archives; Branigin was a 1923 Franklin College graduate and former Indiana governor. The college’s library has a permanent display of his archives. Dahlquist has been accepted into the public history program at Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis. Kaylee Seabolt ’21 also had previous experience with history projects, serving as a historical interpreter at an educational venue.

More than 75 years after his death, Franklin College took the opportunity to honor Vandivier as one of the institution’s most decorated alumni. On May 7, in conjunction with a Franklin Rotary Club luncheon, the college paid honor to Vandivier for his courage and sacrifice.

Dahlquist and Seabolt presented their research to the Rotarians and special guests from the community. The college’s assistant registrar, Jarrod Brett ’98, a former U.S. Marine captain, read a proclamation recognizing Vandivier for his courage and sacrifice, and members of the American Legion Post No. 205 Color Guard stood and saluted as Rotarian Steve Brown played “Taps.” After the luncheon, a few of Vandivier’s descendants convened in the college’s Grizzly Park for photos at the park bench memorializing him.

“It’s a perfect place. There is a concrete ellipse where there’s an American flag and surrounding signage that recognizes all branches of the military,” said Armor, senior director of development and planned giving.

Jerry and Kathy Johnson, the owners of Franklin-based Patriot Products LLC, generously funded the bench. In addition to the bench honoring Vandivier in perpetuity, the students took steps to facilitate further research in the future. They added a reference in Franklin College’s Vandivier collection to the file held by the Indiana Historical Society, so people would know where to look in the future for his letters and other personal items.
Though the two students didn't know each other well, Clark-Wiltz thought their skills complemented each other, she said. “It’s really fun to be at an institution where we have this kind of support for undergraduate research,” she said. “It’s nice being able to feel good asking students to do this kind of heavy-lifting work.”

The opportunity piqued the students’ intellectual curiosity. “As a sophomore, I didn’t expect something this amazing to be offered to me,” Seabolt said. “As someone who would like to work in a museum in the future, getting this kind of experience is massively beneficial.”

The research project took Dahlquist and Seabolt from the B F. Hamilton Library on campus, where they found newspaper clippings and yearbook photos, to the Johnson County Museum of History. They gathered public records, such as updates that had been published weekly during Vandivier’s service in the now defunct Franklin Evening Star newspaper.

The treasure trove of information came from the Indiana Historical Society in Indianapolis, where the students were able to read letters exchanged between Vandivier and his family. The students also held his dog tags and pilots’ wings, as well as the Navy Cross and Purple Heart he was awarded for bravery.

“You always hear stories about heroes like this. To actually hold papers he wrote on, and see his emotions that he was going through, it was very moving to feel the history, and to see the history,” Seabolt said.

Being able to bring such a dynamic and important figure in U.S. history into the light was rewarding for both students. “My interest in World War II made me want to do it even more. My grandfather fought in the war, and I felt like this guy needed to be recognized for all of his accolades,” said Dahlquist.

“He was just a really well-respected individual, who touched a lot of people in this community in his short life.”

Descendants of Norman Vandivier ’38 include second cousin Hugh Vandivier and niece Susan (Lagle) Cummings ’86, both seated. Standing are Susan’s spouse, Bill Cummings ’64, their granddaughter, Gabi Terhune ’20, and Thomas J. Minar, Ph.D., Franklin College president.
But, “Big Mike,” a hulking man at 6’6” and 260 pounds, by Treibic’s estimate, also had admirable qualities.

“Mike was good-hearted . . . would give you the shirt off his back.” Or, key to his car.

“I had my first job in Columbus, and no car. He had a little blue Volkswagen Bug he let me drive for three or four months, and he never asked me for a penny or complained about not having his car. He was a very good guy,” Treibic said.

Berkery was a fun-loving guy, too.

“Propose something outlandish at 4 a.m., and he would be the first in line to do it with you.”

When Berkery and his sweetheart, Mary (Esslinger) ’67, eloped in college, Treibic and his then-fiancée now spouse, Candy (Poindexter) ’65, stood with them at the ceremony. And when Don and Candy married, two weeks prior to graduating, the Berkerys were there.

They stayed in touch after college, all of them eventually moving away from Indiana to pursue graduate studies. Berkery had majored in chemistry and biology, and Treibic in English. The latter had no idea his
friend was considering enlisting.

“I was shocked when he told me he was going to Marine Officer Candidates School. He’d never mentioned that possibility before,” said Treibic. “Mike said he felt like he should do it for his country.”

The next time Treibic saw Berkery, he was a trim 190 pounds. He’d been forced to endure boot camp twice. “The transformation was unbelievable,” Treibic recalled.

It was the day after Thanksgiving in 1967, and the Berkerys and Treibics had met for dinner in Greenwood, not far from their college alma mater’s campus. They reminisced and laughed, not knowing it would be the last time they’d see each other.

A couple days later, Berkery relocated to San Francisco, then it was on to Vietnam. He wrote letters to Treibic once a month, expressing frustration that he hadn’t been assigned to combat. His job was getting supplies to the Marine combat units.

In January 1968, Berkery’s assignment changed, and one week later was the Tet Offensive, a series of attacks by the Vietcong and North Vietnamese forces.

Berkery was among those ambushed in an area of Vietnam known as Leatherneck Square, according to an account on the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund website. The platoon doctor, Larry Miller, who witnessed the ambush and treated the wounded called Berkery a hero. Miller’s firsthand account of the incident and a poem he wrote in tribute to all those who lost their lives is posted on the website’s Wall of Faces section, vmf.org.

Treibic wants to help make sure others know of Berkery’s selfless sacrifice, and to honor his memory when possible. “But, Mike’s not the only one,” he said.

In fact, Franklin College, over its 185-year history, has been impacted by the Civil War, World Wars I and II, Korean War, Vietnam War and wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. A precise total of all the casualties involving enlisted individuals with Franklin College ties is currently unknown, but a group of dedicated alumni, led by Dave Denslaw ’69, a Vietnam veteran, is working with college staff on identifying as many as possible.

Additionally, a military ellipse, made possible through a grant about 10 years ago, was built in Grizzly Park. It recognizes the five U.S. military branches, with their insignia embedded in concrete encircling an American flag. A park bench memorializing Battle of Midway fallen dive bomber Norman Vandivier ’38 was added recently. (Read more on pg. 28)

This autumn marks 53 years since Berkery graduated college. Another Homecoming reunion is on the horizon, and his memory is on Treibic’s mind.

“When you’re young, raising kids, struggling to support a family and fit comfortably into your profession, you might hear about people fighting in a war and not think it’s a big deal. It seems so far removed. Then, as you get older and start connecting the dots, you begin realizing freedom isn’t free.

“You come to realize the sacrifices military men and women make, the life and death decisions they have to make to keep us free, and that they do it willingly. That’s when you want them all to be honored, and never forgotten.”

Editor’s notes: Mike Berkery’s widow, Mary, remarried. Her second spouse was John Elkins. She died Feb. 17, 2011.

The Treibics gave their firstborn son, Adam ’96, the middle name Michael, after Berkery.

"YOU COME TO REALIZE THE SACRIFICES MILITARY MEN AND WOMEN MAKE, THE LIFE AND DEATH DECISIONS THEY HAVE TO MAKE TO KEEP US FREE, AND THAT THEY DO IT WILLINGLY."

DON TREIBIC ’65
It’s where she’s responsible for processing the 1,300 boxes of files that were created during Mikulski’s service with Congress, 1977–87, and with the Senate, 1987–2017.

“My job allows me to constantly be learning about societal issues of the past while organizing legislation and pairing them with connected files. There is always more to learn, more to discover and more to explore,” Hancock said.

Mikulski, now retired, is the longest-serving woman in the history of Congress and the longest-serving senator in Maryland’s state history.

“At its core, my job as an archivist — and in particular, a congressional papers archivist — is to ensure the preservation of democracy and its inner workings for current and future generations,” Hancock said.

In addition to her bachelor’s degree in studio art and art history from Franklin College, Hancock earned a master’s degree in library science with a specialization in archives and records management from Indiana University in 2015.

She was the first in her family to ever enroll in graduate school. For guidance, she relied heavily on Franklin College professors to help prepare her both academically and mentally for the master’s program.

As she advanced through the program, she repeatedly drew upon what she had learned at Franklin in professor of philosophy David Chandler’s capstone course, in which she had been challenged to push the limits of critical thinking. Hancock said Chandler, now retired, required his students to reference a variety of current news articles, pinpoint how the topics could be related and outline potential conversations the authors might have. Many of her master’s program courses were structured similarly.

Hancock also benefited from the mentorship of English professor Kathy Carlson, who she said is the model of what a “brilliant, powerful woman looks like in academia.”

“Insights from her professional journey as well as
her life lessons from being both a wife and a mother and an academic were stories that have stayed with me,” Hancock said. Carlson now is retired from Franklin College.

On top of having faculty mentors during her undergraduate experience, Hancock said her liberal arts background was an asset throughout graduate school.

“I felt confident as I approached topics outside my field of study,” she said. “Having a liberal arts background allowed me to rely on my experiences in biology classes and religion classes and more quickly get up to speed on new materials because I had done it many times before.”

After earning her master’s degree, Hancock worked as a librarian and archivist at Indiana University, specializing in modern political papers. In 2015, she archived a collection of materials gifted by former U.S. Sen. Richard G. Lugar, prior to his death on April 28, 2019. Coincidentally, a group of Franklin College journalism students produced a documentary about Lugar in 2018, and it was nominated for an Emmy this June.

Hancock’s move to Maryland for her current job also was intended to support her interest in enlisting with the Marine Officer Candidates School, but she is unable to continue further on that path.

“I have learned how to find the positives in even the most challenging situations. There is always a reason to keep going, no matter how impossible the circumstances may seem,” Hancock said.

“There is always more to learn, more to discover and more to explore.”

RACHEL HANCOCK ’13

RENEE KEAN ’06
“Truth, justice and the American way” is the mantra long associated with the comic book and movie hero Superman, a fictional protector of underdogs, but there happen to be real-life champions of justice among us. One of them is Michael W. Daniels ’86, director of justice policy and programs for Franklin County, Ohio. Here, he offers a glimpse of his job’s challenges and rewards.

Q: At a macro-level, what does your job entail?
A: “A great deal of coordination and interaction with police officers, the sheriff’s office, jails, first responders, judges, prosecuting attorneys and public defenders. They are my colleagues across the continuum, and we work together to reduce barriers to fairness and justice. Our work starts with trying to prevent an arrest, and includes determining and overseeing what happens to people at arraignment, at trial, during incarceration and throughout their transition and re-entry into the community.”

Q: What’s the most common misconception people have about your job?
A: “That my job is to help get everybody out of jail, and that I don’t think anybody should be incarcerated. Neither one is true. The issue is how to reconcile public safety with justice. Some people think the solution is just to ‘lock everybody up.’ The problem with a broad-brush approach is that it almost guarantees the system is going to create another victim.

“Jail should be a place for people of whom we’re truly afraid, not be a place we simply put people in whom we are disappointed, at whom we are mad or for whom we simply don’t have a better alternative. People who are, for example, mentally ill, addicted or homeless might be a bother or an annoyance to the public, but they need care and are worthy of justice.”

Q: What challenges do you face in your job?
A: “In almost every situation, I know there are going to be bureaucratic and systemic roadblocks or people are going to say ‘that’s too hard,’ or ‘we’ve never done it that way’ or ‘I don’t want to do that.’ It takes a lot of effort to be comfortable with having uncomfortable conversations, but they’re necessary for true justice reform.”

Q: What’s an example of a policy change you’ve helped implement?
A: “In Franklin County, we’ve really made a philosophical change to look at mental health and addiction for what they are — diseases — and not as character flaws. Once people are seen in that light, it’s much easier to garner support for diversion, treatment and recovery efforts and not rely merely on incarceration as a way to improve public safety and return these residents to a positive life.

“We’ve also implemented Ban the Box, which is part of a national effort to give formerly incarcerated individuals a fair chance at employment. The policy eliminates the question ‘Have you ever been convicted of a felony?’ from job applications. When some applicants see that question
they just quit the process because they think they won't be hired. In other cases, an application may not make it past the human resources office because a judgment call was made right there. Ban the Box increases the chance of an application receiving fair consideration.

“I’ve also helped create policies to keep individuals on consistent prescription medications when they go to jail, rather than switching them to lower-cost drugs. Switching meds based on dollars and cents can create a disastrous domino effect on someone’s health.”

Q: What makes for a “good” day at work?

A: “A good day is when I get a phone call, a letter, a visit or an email from someone who has been in previous contact with our office and benefited from our services. To learn someone is healing means everything.”

Q: Your background includes bachelor’s and master’s degrees in chemistry and previous work in pharmaceuticals and media. How are those experiences helpful in your current job?

A: “It all goes back to my liberal arts experience at Franklin College, and learning how language impacts culture, and science impacts language, and culture impacts religion, and religion impacts public policy. Franklin is where I began to understand that nothing happens in a vacuum. All of those influences and all of us are interconnected.

“My Franklin science training influences how I think in my job today. It makes me take a critical look at research and data, over anecdotal evidence or innuendo. It also helps me figure out how to ask the right kinds of questions to get the answers I need.

“Another beautiful thing about being trained as a scientist is that I know how to handle failure. From being in the lab, I know that 95 percent of scientific experiments won’t give me the results I predict with my hypothesis, and that I’ll very likely have to do a redesign and try again.

“It’s the same with many policies and programs; we have to float an idea out there for criticism so that we can make changes to get future buy-in.”

Q: How would you describe your current thinking about social justice and how would you say it has changed over time?

A: “I am personally 15 years in recovery, and I know for certain the cost of doing nothing, as related to the justice continuum, is far greater than the cost of thinking radically. The status quo simply isn’t sufficient or just.” •

Friends wishing to reconnect can email Michael.Daniels@FranklinCountyOhio.gov
'60s

Jerry D. Petro ’67 was elected chair of the board by the board of directors of Third Century Bancorp and Mutual Savings Bank. Petro has served as a director of Mutual Savings Bank since 1997 and Third Century Bancorp since 2004. The bank was founded in Franklin in 1890 and has five locations in Johnson County, Indiana.

'70s

Niki (Craig) Glover ’72, the founder and longtime coach of the Indy Air Bears coed youth and young adult jump rope team, celebrated two major wins in July, when team members were named World Jump Rope Champions in Double Dutch singles and Double Dutch triad competitions in Oslo, Norway. The Air Bears are a self-sustaining organization that competes, entertains and offers jump rope clinics. Check out the team on Facebook for a glimpse of their incredible athleticism.

'80s

Christopher Kehler ’84 was appointed judge for Kosciusko County Superior Court IV by Indiana Gov. Eric J. Holcomb on April 11, 2019. Holcomb signed a document last year, making possible a fifth court in the county. Kehler was one of four candidates who applied for the judgeship. He is a certified family law mediator.
Kathy Laskowski ’82 was one of a team of journalists that recently won a Pulitzer Prize for their work at the South Florida Sun-Sentinel in Fort Lauderdale. She is the newspaper’s content director. The prize recognized the newspaper’s 10-month effort to explain how murders happened in a school considered one of the safest in Florida. In a related newspaper article, Laskowski indicated the staff members are proud of their work but heartbroken by the subject matter.

Betsy Schmidt ’85 recently made a career transition from director of development services to the newly created role of director of academic partnerships at Franklin College. With academic grants as her primary focus, Schmidt collaborates with the academic affairs staff and individual faculty members to form and sustain external partnerships that build engaged-learning opportunities, which are central to the Pursuit at Franklin College, the new curriculum. She has worked for the college since 1999. She resides in Franklin.

Don Gilpin ’86 was named chief operating officer (COO) of the International Facility Management Association in September 2018. He had served as interim COO for six months prior. Gilpin has extensive experience in international association management, trade show production, education/certification programs, legislative advocacy and workforce development.

Kevin Winton ’87 and friend David Roth received Sagamore of the Wabash awards in March 2019 for their efforts supporting veterans. To raise money to purchase a retreat house for veterans with post-traumatic stress disorder and their families, Roth and Winton walked 3,091 miles over the course of four months in 2016. “The Route for the Brave” began in Atlantic City, New Jersey, and followed U.S. Route 40 to San Francisco. A Sagamore of the Wabash is one of the highest honors the governor of Indiana can bestow upon a Hoosier. Winton resides in Indianapolis and is a Beech Grove Middle School eighth-grade mathematics teacher. Roth is the past board chair for the nonprofit organization Helping Hands for Freedom.

Tyler Utterback ’89 was promoted to lieutenant in April to serve as the Field Commander of Enforcement and Investigations for the Indiana State Police (ISP) Commercial Vehicle Enforcement Division. Utterback began his law enforcement career as an ISP trooper in 1994. He received promotions in 2005, 2006, and 2010.

‘90s

Trena M. Paulus ’91, Ph.D., has accepted a new faculty position as a professor in the research division of the department of family medicine at East Tennessee State University (ETSU), where she works on research and professional development initiatives for the university and the Quillen College of Medicine. She also had a book, Looking for Insight, Transformation and Learning in Online Talk, published recently by Routledge. The book cover was designed by Tara (Molloy) Sears ’91. Trena and her spouse, David Atkins, reside in Johnson City, Tennessee. He also works for ETSU, as dean of the libraries.

Julie A. Eckerle ’93, Ph.D., a professor of English at the University of Minnesota, Morris, co-edited with Naomi McAreavey the book Women’s Life Writing & Early Modern Ireland, recently published by the University of Nebraska Press.

David H. Dunkle ’94 was named president and chief executive officer (CEO) of Johnson Memorial Health by the board of trustees in May. He had served as acting interim CEO since February. In addition to his role as a family physician, Dunkle has served as vice president of medical affairs at JMH and is vice president of the JMH Foundation Board. He was named JMH 2018 Physician of the Year by his patients and peers.

Ryan Sparrow ’94 was appointed to the Society for News Design’s (SND) Executive Committee as the programs representative. He is chair of SND’s Best of Digital Design competition. He is a lecturer at Ball State University, where he has been part of the Journalism Graphics program for 15 years. Before landing in academics, Sparrow was an award-winning newspaper designer and photojournalist at newspapers in Indiana, Kentucky and Florida. He still does freelance photography and drone piloting.

Emily (Habel) Wood ’95 recently made a career transition from associate director of alumni engagement and social media to director of alumni engagement and campus partnerships for Franklin College. She has worked for the college since 2013. She resides in Franklin.
Megan (Spurling) Thompson ’00 recently completed her Master of Arts in school administration and supervision from Ball State University. In May, she was appointed director of elementary curriculum, instruction and assessment for Indiana’s Greenfield-Central School Corp.

Amber Renee (Garrison) Cunningham ’07 and her spouse, David, are the parents of a daughter, Beatrice Fawn, born April 9, 2019. She joins siblings, Mary, William, Samson and Colette. Amber works for Digital Entourage and is the creator of Miseducated, a blog devoted to unconventional lifestyles and inspired designs. David is an associate professor of art at Franklin College. The family resides in Indianapolis.

Patrick Yokovich ’08 was promoted to patrol sergeant with Indiana’s Valparaiso Police Department this spring. He is an 11-year veteran of the department, spending his career as part of the patrol division. He is actively involved in training for the department, having served as a defensive tactics instructor and a field training officer. He is the current coordinator of the Junior Police Academy.

Hannah (Hickey) Abraham ’10 has made a career transition from coordinator of campus visits and special events for the office of admissions to assistant director of alumni communications and events for the office of development and alumni engagement at Franklin College. She has worked for the college since 2017. She resides in Morgantown, Indiana.

Colin Altevogt ’10 and his spouse, Cathleen (Nine) ’11, are the parents of a son, Solomon, born June 10, 2019. Colin is the head coach of the boys’ cross country team at Carmel High School. In 2018, he led the team to their third state championship in four years. Cathleen recently was elected vice president of the Indiana Medical History Museum Board of Directors. The family resides in Carmel, Indiana.

Andrew Hampton ’10 recently was named commercial lender for Mutual Bank’s Greenwood, Indiana location. He previously served as commercial portfolio manager at MainSource Bank (now First Financial).

Trent Whaley ’10 began serving as principal of Jac-Cen-Del Elementary School in Osgood, Indiana, in July. Whaley began his teaching career in Indiana at Southwest Elementary in Johnson County then relocated to Switzerland County where he taught second, third, and fifth grades for five years. He has a master’s degree with a concentration in school administration and supervision from Indiana State University.

Aaron Moore ’12 was promoted from fulfillment manager to director of operations for One Click Ventures in Greenwood, Indiana. Moore now oversees the fulfillment, inventory and customer happiness departments. He previously was an assistant store manager for Lowe’s. He has a bachelor’s degree in business management and industrial relations.

John Werbe III ’12, assistant football coach at Franklin College, and his spouse, Haley, are the parents of a son, John Frederick IV. The family resides in Shelbyville, Indiana.

Ashley Edlund ’13 was promoted from senior graphic designer to creative director for One Click Ventures in Greenwood, Indiana. Edlund joined the One Click team in 2016 as a graphic designer and has since led creative efforts for all brands. She will lead the team’s creative strategy and
oversee other members of the creative
team. She previously worked for
Progressive Design Apparel. She has
a bachelor’s degree in graphic design
and art history.

**Brooks Bemis ’13** and his spouse,
**Lauren (Casey) ’14**, are the parents of
a son, Archer Vincent, born April 12,
2019. Brooks recently was promoted
to division manager for Haggard &
Stocking Associates. Lauren is the
“Good Morning Indiana” anchor
for RTV 6. The family resides in
Greenwood, Indiana.

**Paige Elizabeth Hamilton ’14** and
**Alex Michael Devliegher ’16** married
on June 16, 2018, at Franklin College.
The ceremony was held outdoors on
Dame Mall, followed by a reception in
the Johnson Center for Fine Arts. The
couple reside in Indianapolis.

**Max Larreur ’15** has joined the Florida
Fish and Wildlife Conservation
Commission as a shorebird biologist.

**Arjun Bhalla ’16** and Erin Knight
married on May 26, 2019, in Fishers,
Indiana. **Cody Beeks ’16** was the Best
Man. The newlyweds honeymooned
in Maui. Arjun is a project manager
for IU Health, and he serves on the
Franklin College Alumni Council.
Erin is a research specialist for the
Regenstrief Institute. They reside in
Fishers.

**Haedyn Scgalski ’16** completed her
master’s degree in higher education
at Baldwin Wallace University and
joined the Franklin College staff as an
admissions counselor in April 2019.

**Shelby Mullis ’19** and **Matt Thomas ’19**
made on June 15, 2019, at The
Freedom Barn in Indianapolis. She
is a reporter for *The Republic*
newspaper in Columbus, Indiana, covering
education, city government, enter-
prise stories and general assignments.
Matt is a talent coordinator for
Conexus Indiana. The couple reside in
Franklin.
A daughter’s recent gift to the college honors her mother’s memory and will help students realize their college goals. Judy J. Webb’s $25,000 gift has established the Dr. Mary Margaret (Partenheimer) Webb ’59 Part-Time Student Endowed Award.

Mary Margaret worked in education for 32 years, primarily as a third-grade teacher and school principal. Her entire career was with Northwood Elementary in Franklin, Indiana. In her retirement, she continued teaching Indiana history on a volunteer basis at three schools. Her passion for teaching was matched only by her love of learning. As a child, she developed many of the skills it took to keep the family farm running. She also learned how to do beautiful quilting and needlepoint work, but learning to fly and land an airplane were two of her proudest accomplishments.

In celebration of her mother’s remarkable life, and in response to the personal challenges Judy faced in her own life, while a part-time student, she was inspired to create an endowed fund.

“As a full-time mother of three young children, I could only attend college part time, which eliminated my eligibility to receive any scholarships,” she explained. “I wanted to honor my mother’s commitment to education and assist students who, like me, are motivated to achieve their career dreams but need to do it on their own timetable.”

Mary Margaret received a Franklin College Alumni Citation in 2016. She died Jan. 11, 2018. She was a Franklin College lifetime gift club member and funder of three endowed scholarships. She and her spouse, Denzil, now deceased, also funded scholarships at three other universities. The couple were the parents of three children, grandparents of five children and great-grandparents of 10 children.

**OBITUARIES**

**’40s**

Rev. Raymond L. King ’48 died July 24, 2019. He attended Franklin College, where he was a Lambda Chi Alpha member. He graduated from Wabash College and Northern Baptist Theological Seminary. He served in the ministry for many American Baptist churches, but served the longest as pastor of the First Baptist Church in Lebanon, Indiana. He was preceded in death by his first spouse, Melba (Harlan) ’53. Survivors include second spouse, Luann, three children, four grandchildren, three stepchildren and four step-grandchildren. He was preceded in death by a son. He resided in Indianapolis.

Dallas W. Campbell ’49 died June 18, 2019. He was a veteran of World War II, having served with the U.S. Army in Europe. He retired from Von Duprin, a division of Ingersoll Rand Co. He had worked in capacities ranging from accountant to manufacturing manager. He was a member of Sigma Alpha Epsilon. He was preceded in death by his spouse, Barbara.
(Frellick) ‘49 Survivors include three children, four grandchildren and one great-grandchild. He resided in Franklin, Indiana.

‘50s

Anne (Norman) Byers ‘50 died Jan. 28, 2019. She attended Franklin College and Bridgewater State College. She was a member of Pi Beta Phi. She taught first and second grade for many years. She was an avid golfer. She was preceded in death by her spouse, Robert ‘49. Survivors include five children, 10 grandchildren, two great-grandchildren, a brother, Richard Norman ‘50, DDS, and sister-in-law, Joan (Roler) ‘50. She resided in Hingham, Massachusetts.

M. Jane (Dungan) Sohn ‘50 died March 20, 2019. She held a journalism degree from Franklin College, where she was a member of Pi Beta Phi and the Old Main giving society. She was preceded in death by her spouse, John. She resided in Columbus, Indiana. Memorial contributions may be made to Franklin College, Office of Development and Alumni Engagement, 101 Branigin Boulevard, Franklin, Indiana 46131.

Denver C. Taylor ‘51 died March 12, 2019. He was a World War II veteran, having served as a U.S. Merchant Marine and in the Army. He then worked as a Los Angeles County probation officer for more than 30 years. He was a member of Lambda Chi Alpha. Survivors include his spouse, Norene, two children, two grandchildren, four great-grandchildren and two step-grandchildren. He resided in Sarasota, Florida.

Robert L. Desatnick ‘54 died July 14, 2019. He held a Master of Business Administration from Washington University and had a long career in international corporate human resources. He then launched his own consulting practice, expanding into customer service and quality management. The author of nine books on human resources, training, and customer relations, he also taught graduate courses at seven major universities. He was proud to be part of the Whiting High School (Ind.) team that won the 1948 state football championship. Survivors include his spouse, Margo, two children and two grandchildren. He was preceded in death by a son. Desatnick resided in Chicago.

Lohman F. Atwood ‘56 died June 9, 2019. He was a U.S. Navy veteran and a retiree of the Ford Motor Co., where he worked for 39 years. He was a Franklin College Touchdown Club member, 50-year member of the Masonic Lodge and Elks member, among others. Survivors include five children, 12 grandchildren and nine great-grandchildren. He resided in Franklin, Indiana.

Lynette A. (Sanders) Wood ‘59 died May 1, 2019. She served 24 years as Needham Township (Ind.) deputy trustee and assessor and worked 40 years in manufacturing, governmental and general accounting. She was a past president of the Franklin Tri Kappa chapter and the Franklin College Tri Delta Alumnae Chapter, and a 50-year member of the Order of Eastern Star. She enjoyed playing bridge, growing tomatoes and following sports. Survivors include four children, 10 grandchildren and 13 great-grandchildren. She resided in Franklin, Indiana.

‘60s

Helen R. (List) Crawford ‘61 died April 24, 2019. She held bachelor’s and master’s degrees and worked as a school teacher, first in northern Indiana, then in the central region, joining Greenwood Community Schools. She was director of the gifted and talented program and went on to become the director of curriculum. She was active with the Greenwood Chamber of Commerce, United Way and Franklin College’s Delta Zeta alumnae chapter. Survivors include her spouse, George, one child, three grandchildren and two great-grandchildren. She resided in Indianapolis.


‘70s

James N. Kinnaman ‘70 died June 16, 2019. He attended Franklin College, played football for three seasons and was a member of Phi Delta Theta. He transferred to Indiana State University, where he earned both his bachelor’s and master’s degrees. He taught physical education at Muncie South High School (Ind.) from 1972–2004 and was an assistant football coach; he later was also the girls’ tennis coach. After retirement, he worked at the Muncie YMCA as a tennis instructor and played on and coached teams for United States Tennis Association competitions. His most treasured...
possession was his 15-year sobriety coin. He resided in Muncie, Indiana.

Michael “Mike” E. Cox ’71 died June 24, 2019. He attended Franklin College, where he was football team captain in 1970 and a member of Phi Delta Theta. He later transferred to Indiana University. He moved to Arizona in 1978 and achieved a long career in school administration, most recently as principal/superintendent for Alpine Elementary School. He loved golfing and fishing. Survivors include his spouse, Judy. He resided in Alpine, Arizona.

Victoria (McCord) Riley ’73 died May 5, 2019. She majored in psychology and was Franklin College homecoming queen her sophomore year. Her career included positions with the Marion County (Ind.) Guardian Home as the educational coordinator, the Marion County Probation Juvenile Division, Center Grove Community School Corp. and Faith Christian School. She loved and owned horses. She resided in Franklin with her spouse, Terry.

Raymond J. Matlosz ’74 died Dec. 29, 2018. He was a veteran of the Vietnam War, having served in the U.S. Coast Guard. He held a master’s degree in social work and was employed by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. Survivors include a daughter. He resided in Wyncocena, Wisconsin.

Jacqueline A. (Good) Hermance ’76 died Nov. 7, 2018. She was very active in the Gathering singing group at Franklin College, while pursuing her journalism degree. She later worked as a book processor for Purdue North Central (now Northwest), then retired to raise a family. She enjoyed sewing and quilting, playing piano and guitar, and crafting. Her spouse, Ronald, survives, as do their four children and nine grandchildren. She resided in Valparaiso, Indiana.

Friends of the College

Rita R. Curry died May 22, 2019. She worked for United Telephone Co., and served as a switchboard operator at Franklin College. She also worked as a certified nursing assistant for the Indiana Masonic Home (now Compass Park). She was a foster parent for many years and was recognized with a community award for fostering excellence. Survivors include 14 children, 15 grandchildren and 10 great-grandchildren. She resided in Franklin, Indiana.

Robert H. Foster died July 20, 2019. He was employed by Union Bank and Trust Co. as the controller. Later, he worked for Franklin College as the administrative controller. He retired in 1998 as vice president from National City Bank. Survivors include his spouse, Sue, two children, three stepchildren, one grandchild, seven step-grandchildren and four step-great-grandchildren. He was a resident of Franklin, Indiana.

Samuel B. Hicks died April 6, 2019. He served as professor of music at Franklin College from 1966 until his retirement in 2003. During that time, he directed several choral ensembles, including the FC Singers, Keys, Kites, Gathering and Madrigal Singers, who presented an annual Madrigal Dinner for 25 years. A popular soloist himself, Hicks also gave voice lessons to students and residents of the surrounding communities. He was a charter member and past director of the Voices of Franklin, member of the Johnson County Oratorio Society and a patron member of Matinee Musicale. Survivors include his spouse, Patti Campbell ’95, and a stepdaughter. He resided in Whiteland, Indiana.

Duane L. Repp died March 6, 2019. He was the spouse of Franklin College Trustee Emerita Jane (Hoffmeister) ’60. He was a veteran of the U.S. Air Force and enjoyed a long and successful career in management with Cummins. He later became an entrepreneur and was honored at the White House with the prestigious Small Business Administration’s Exporter of the Year Award. Survivors include three children, six grandchildren, four stepchildren, five step-grandchildren and six great-step-grandchildren. He resided in Naples, Florida.

What’s your legacy?

Most of us, given the chance, want to leave a lasting reminder of the gratitude we feel for the institutions we love and support. It is a privilege to make a difference – to show, in some way, that we have contributed to important work or played a part in a cause that benefits society, perhaps for generations to come.

There are many planned gift opportunities available. As you consider ways to support the Franklin College mission, please consider letting us help you find rewarding planning strategies that provide a combination of tax savings and personal satisfaction.

Contact: Thomas W. Armor, senior director of development and planned giving, 317.738.8045 or tarmor@FranklinCollege.edu
A CENTURY OF SERVICE

Advocate for veterans, educate citizens, mentor youth and promote patriotism, good citizenship, peace and security. These guiding principles have been the backbone of the American Legion Auxiliary’s mission for 100 years, and counting.

In this centennial year, the organization’s nearly 600,000 voluntary members, residing in every state and in some foreign countries, will renew their commitment to selfless service and look for new ways to enhance the lives of veterans, active military members and their families, both at home and abroad. Mobilizing these widespread members takes tremendous coordination, communication and resources, and it all

In front are Stephanie (Ayers) Abisi ’98 and Alexa Freeman ’18. Behind them are Landa (Fleming) Bagley ’92 and Jennifer (Marshall) Donovan ’96. In the back is Michael Butt ’79.
starts at the Auxiliary headquarters, located on the north side of Indianapolis.

The Auxiliary's staff administers hundreds of annual programs that provide tens of thousands of service hours to communities. Programs range in focus from veteran advocacy and youth leadership development to veteran outreach and support for military personnel and/or families. The Auxiliary staff also coordinates fundraising efforts, awards scholarships and provides educational and leadership opportunities that encourage upholding the ideals of freedom, democracy and engaged citizenship.

Five Franklin College alumni on the staff are using their professional skills to help support Auxiliary members and further their impact.

Prior to stepping into his current role as communications and development director, Michael Butt ’79 spent 30 years working in print and digital media. A former “newspaper guy,” he helped staff Franklin College’s student-run newspaper all four years of his college career. He also interned and later worked for Home News Enterprises, assisted with the launch of The Indianapolis Star’s commercial printing operation and directed the advertising department at Indianapolis Woman and St. Louis Woman magazines.

Butt had a rewarding journalism career that he enjoyed, for a long time. Then, about 10 years ago, he found himself wondering, “How am I affecting change? At the end of the day, how am I helping people?”

Sure, he made a publication better for subscribers. He launched new publications and helped bring significant revenue to the bottom line of several media operations. Yet, in reflecting, Butt said he couldn’t see how his career was affecting the greater good.

When a former coworker approached him about a vacant communications position at the Auxiliary, Butt discovered he shared a passion for the mission. Having never served in the military nor had a draft card, Butt felt as though he had missed a chance to be of service to the country. He thought working for the Auxiliary would give him an indirect way to fulfill that sense of duty. He has not looked back.

“I really do have that passion to help veterans and their families,” Butt said. “I don’t really ever have a workday that’s hard to get through because all I have to do is refocus on the mission. That wasn’t always quite as easy to do in pure media.”

Butt oversees strategic planning of internal and external communications and manages a team of 10. His focus is on building public awareness and loyalty to grow the Auxiliary’s membership and donors, both of which support life-changing programs for veterans, military personnel and families.

BIGGER PICTURE

Butt’s team includes Landa (Fleming) Bagley ’92, who set out to become a journalist starting at age 12. She dreamed of someday telling stories that would help people.

Pursuing that dream, she built a 25-year career in communications, mostly working as a full-time newspaper journalist. She also wrote a few years for public relations and marketing groups. Today, she is a senior writer with the Auxiliary. She produces content for the organization’s quarterly magazine and a variety of external and internal communications tools.

“When I feel that something I wrote, or crafted or helped someone else write made a difference — whether it educated someone, or inspired someone or helped give someone a voice to tell their story — that’s what’s so rewarding. The mission here is bigger than I am. It’s not about me,” said Bagley.

TELLING GOOD NEWS

Jennifer (Marshall) Donovan ’96 agrees with Bagley. Prior to discovering the Auxiliary, she devoted 20 years to a career in TV news and digital media.

Donovan stepped into the role of communications specialist in November 2018. She oversees the Auxiliary’s national social media accounts,
writes for the magazine and promotes programs through media and public relations.

Donovan said her current job is rewarding in a way that was missing from her previous career, which involved daily reporting of “bad news.” She now comes to work knowing that what she does every day is making a difference for someone, in some way. Many of the stories she has the privilege of helping tell are uplifting examples of leadership, volunteerism and compassion.

“Each of us on staff supports the mission through our communications role,” said Donovan. “We share information that helps educate our members about ways they can make an impact in their communities, and beyond, and we make media aware of their efforts and the outcomes. Getting all of those messages out to the public, in turn, helps veterans.”

**A PART OF HER**

**Stephanie (Ayers) Abisi ’98** knows firsthand that outreach makes a difference. She comes from a family with a long legacy of military service, including her grandfathers, grandmother, father and aunt. Through their support of Abisi’s loved ones over the years, the American Legion and Auxiliary members became extended family.

When Abisi learned of an opening at the Auxiliary shortly after graduating college with her bachelor’s degree in advertising and public relations, she was eager to get a foot in the door.

She accepted a temporary position as meeting planner to help the Auxiliary through its busy national convention season. Her position evolved into a full-time job as event manager. Then, she took on double duty overseeing events and strategic plan management, about four years ago. In November 2018, she transitioned into another new role as director of operations management. This marks her 19th year of employment.

The most rewarding part about working for the Auxiliary, regardless of the position, Abisi said, is working side by side with members and seeing veterans, military personnel and families benefit from the efforts. Members at the local level serve meals to families with deployed family members and lead art-therapy programs, among other activities, she said.

**CREDITING THE LIBERAL ARTS**

**Alexa Freeman ’18** joined the Auxiliary communications team in February 2019. She writes for the magazine, takes photos, creates ads and designs. She credits Franklin College for the well-rounded skillset she relies on every day, whether navigating graphic design software or socializing with colleagues. She feels confident in her first full-time position since graduating college.

“I learned even more than I realized,” Freeman said.

All five Grizzlies agreed that their Franklin College liberal arts background has been invaluable to their careers.

Adaptation has been key, said Abisi.

“You have to build on experiences. You learn how to do that through exposure to the liberal arts.”

The year ahead is another prime example of adapting to succeed. The Auxiliary’s historically women-only membership base has opened eligibility to male spouses of women veterans, launching another 100 years of service, and the Franklin alumni are ready to roll up their shirt sleeves and work side by side with them. Together, they will make history. •
Cheer

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