LEADING THROUGH CHANGE
A conversation with President Kerry Prather
Pg. 6
The COVID-19 pandemic limited how we played, exercised and relieved stress this spring, but this photo taken in 2019 is a reassuring reminder of the joy we can reclaim when it’s safe for our community members to rejoin on campus. “Gennis,” the hybrid sport requiring a golf club and a tennis ball, has entertained Grizzlies for generations. Some participants compete for distance, and others vie to land their shots closest to predetermined targets. Here, Noah Ryan ’21 demonstrates the key to any swing is precision, to avoid windows and passersby on Dame Mall.
Dear Alumni and Friends,

In these recent months of the international COVID-19 pandemic, one of the most frequently uttered phrases has been, “never in our lifetimes.” That is certainly true for almost all of us, but not as it applies to the lifetime of Franklin College.

As the academic year began in October of 1918, a similar pandemic ravaged the campus and the world. The Centennial History of Franklin College records, “Almost immediately a severe influenza epidemic descended upon ‘Camp Franklin,’ and the gymnasium barracks had to be transformed into a hospital. The college was obliged to close down completely for several weeks in October by order of the Board of Health, and the girls were all sent home.”

Franklin College survived the pandemic and flourished in the aftermath of World War I. And, thus, history confirms the message I am sharing with faculty, staff, students, alumni and friends: Franklin College is a strong, resilient institution which, through the ages, has endured hardship and emerged stronger for the challenge.

The source of Franklin’s strength and perseverance has always been its people, and that is certainly the case today. Our incredible students, faculty and staff have displayed impressive grace under pressure throughout these tumultuous weeks. The work of the institution has continued unabated because our people have remained focused on the mission.

Loyal alumni and friends have also stepped forward in a multitude of ways to affirm their support. We were awed by the loud vote of confidence in the future of Franklin College on our annual day of giving, #GivetoGRIZ. The 24-hour virtual campaign far surpassed our goal of $150,000 by raising $247,971 from 1,086 generous donors.

These are indeed unsettling times, but Franklin College remains steadfast. Thank you for contributing to its enduring strength, its important mission and its bright future.

Sincerely,

KERRY PRATHER
FRANKLIN COLLEGE PRESIDENT
Featured Stories

10  CLOAKED IN TRADITION
Learn about the rite of passage 18 students in the Master of Science in Physician Assistant Studies program recently completed in their journey to becoming health care professionals.

28  HOOPS HISTORY
See how Franklin College students and faculty helped the famed Wonder Five basketball team make history, again, 100 years after their first state high school basketball championship.

34  TACKLING POLICY AND PANDEMIC
Catch up with Chris Hickey ’92, and get a glimpse of the role he is playing in helping address the COVID-19 pandemic while living and working in China.
Men’s basketball players, past and present, know him as Coach. Friends in the community call him KP. And since his appointment in February, he’s known on campus as President Prather. It’s the latter role that Franklin College students, employees and alumni have come to count on for reassurance that better times are ahead.

When Kerry Prather accepted the Franklin College Board of Trustees’ appointment as acting president in January, Grizzlies were still reeling from the aftershock of the ousted 16th president’s arrest on sex-crime allegations. Prather, with his 37 years of executive leadership experience at the college, including advisory roles on four previous President’s Cabinets and management positions in admissions, student affairs and athletics, was primed for the role of acting president. Above all, he was eager to help restore leadership stability and promote healing within the college community he holds dear.

Prather promptly began meeting with faculty, staff and student groups to address fears and concerns, and he began routinely sending emails to the campus community and Franklin College family of alumni and friends. He pointed to the college’s historic strength in times of adversity, from devastating human loss during wartimes to debilitating disruptions caused by campus fires, and his uplifting messages about the institution’s resilience rekindled Grizzly pride that was becoming practically palpable.

Amidst the progress, the board of trustees suspended their external search for the college’s next president and by vote elected to promote Prather. On Feb. 22, he began a two-year appointment as college president.

Three weeks later, he had another crisis on his hands. COVID-19 was emerging in Indiana. Keeping the campus community safe and mitigating spread of the virus amid ever-changing guidelines from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the Indiana Department of Health brought a new litany of concerns. Among other difficult announcements, he had to inform students, faculty and staff that on-campus classes were suspended and
distance learning would continue through the remainder of the spring semester. He also announced cancellation of the Grizzlies’ spring athletics season, following the NCAA’s example, and postponement of commencement to Sunday, Oct. 11, coinciding with Homecoming and Alumni weekend.

At a time when Prather could understandably be wringing his hands, wondering what he has gotten into, he appears composed, confident and committed to helping Grizzlies march forward together. But, is he getting any sleep? We asked that question and many others during an interview on April 12. The full interview appears online, but here we share a glimpse . . .

What do you see as your primary role as Franklin College President?
“Technically, it’s to be the CEO, to provide direction and management for the entire enterprise based on the policies established by the board of trustees. At ground level, though, my role is to lead and to provide vision, direction and support for faculty and staff in the service of our students.”

What are some of the leadership principles most important to your management style?
“First and foremost, it’s the people. It’s always about the people. Give them direction, give them support, get out of their way and let them do their jobs. Carpenters say measure twice, cut once. My version of that is listen twice, talk once. I try to ask for plenty of ideas and perspectives before making decisions. Successful leaders share credit and shoulder responsibility. People who make decisions make mistakes. I take responsibility for them, do my best to fix them and try not to repeat them.”

How does your career history as a basketball coach inform your work as a college president?
“Coaching is leading, so that part is natural. Coaching is teaching, so I relate to the faculty because we’ve shared the same vocation. Coaching is results-oriented, and that’s a huge advantage. I learned long ago that you can’t stay too high with the wins nor too low with the losses.” (Read about his retirement from coaching on Page 29.)

How do you stay focused and prioritize tasks in the current environment?
“I keep reminding myself that everybody's life has been turned upside down. So, I’ve got plenty to do to keep the work of the institution in motion, but I try not to lose sight of how hard this is for our employees, and especially for our students.”

Do you ever sleep?
“I’ve always had a lot on my plate, and I enjoy that challenge. I’m an early riser, and I honestly don’t need lots of sleep. I work pretty efficiently and make good use of technology. I’m trying not to live on email, but I’m not having much luck.”

What are three of the biggest challenges Franklin College faces currently?
“Like all colleges, especially small ones, enrollment is an ongoing challenge. The demographic trend isn’t in our favor, so we have to be really good at what we do and really good at marketing the distinctive opportunities here and their value for students. Finances on small college campuses are always tight, and ours is no different. I’d like to do more, have more, provide more, but our budget model doesn’t include a lot of breathing room. We have to be really efficient in everything we do in order to do it well. We have some facility needs that are urgent. We have indoor athletic needs that we have to address because so many of our students are engaged in athletics. We have some technology needs as well that are critical to support the opportunities our students want and need.”

What are the takeaways you hope every student will gain from their Franklin College experience?
“I expect each student to receive help and encouragement in finding and clarifying their academic passion; to find here the resources—human and otherwise—to support their pursuit of excellence in and out of the classroom, and to have a successful, enjoyable and rewarding experience that inspires them to remain passionately attached to and supportive of Franklin College for life.”

What roles would you like to see alumni playing at the college?
“Nothing reflects the quality of what we do here more broadly and impressively than the success of our graduates. I hope our alumni will proudly share their college experience with others, remain engaged with us in as many ways as possible and support their alma mater financially.”

Talk to me about the importance of family in terms of your spouse and children, as well as your extended family of Franklin College Grizzlies.
“Franklin College has been our home. Cindy and I were married in the chapel 35 years ago, and we decided we would pursue our goals as a family. Cindy has been the key to making that happen. She somehow held it all together for all of us while pursuing her own successful career on the faculty here (23 years with the department of education). Our lives have been very busy, and most of it was focused on Franklin College. Our children, Katie ‘13 and Robbie ‘17, grew up on campus, then both had great experiences as students and are now proud alumni. With this change in roles, Cindy and I are still working at everything together as we always have, and Katie and Robbie are excited to help. We all have many dear friends because of various connections to Franklin College."
Franklin College has an annual tradition of honoring its most generous donors at the President’s Circle Celebration. Members of the President’s Circle change the lives of students by taking a leadership role in their future through unparalleled generosity. A cumulative gift to the college of at least $1,000 during a fiscal year qualifies donors for membership. In appreciation of their support, the college invites members to enjoy special events throughout the year, highlighted by the President’s Circle Celebration each February.

President’s Circle members helped make the 2018-19 fiscal year the most successful in recent college fundraising history, with gifts totaling $4.9 million. Highlights of the recent celebration included inspiring remarks by Board of Trustees Chair Jim Due ’82 and College President Kerry Prather. Additionally, the FC Singers gave moving performances to begin and end the night.

Excerpts from Prather’s speech follow:

“Since my appointment, I have spoken to students, faculty, staff and alumni about the responsibility I feel, having inherited and been entrusted with the legacy of Franklin College.

While we update our programs to stay relevant, and we refine our message to grab the attention of Gen Z, there remains in this place a soul that is the source of both its character and strength. My message to you tonight is that the soul of Franklin College burns bright. It is alive and well in every corner of our campus.

“Franklin College needs and is worthy of your continued support. You are making a difference in a place whose business is making a difference.

“This college values and teaches the roles of honor and integrity in one’s personal and professional life. No isolated instance of human frailty—not even a high profile one—and no momentary bad publicity can undo what generations of worthy character have built.

“I was here in the spring of 1985 when a large portion of the campus burned to the ground in two fires a month apart. That was a critical moment in the life of Franklin College.

The subsequent renaissance of the campus was a natural reflection of a resilient student body, a committed faculty, an ambitious administration, an unwavering board of trustees and an army of loyal and
generous alumni and friends whose faithful support of the college spoke volumes about their aspirations for its future.

“As surely as I will never forget watching Old Main burn to the ground, I will also never forget watching just a few years later as a giant crane hoisted the new bell tower atop Old Main, restoring both the iconic tower and our faith in the future of Franklin College.

“Today’s challenges dim by comparison, but we meet them with the same determination … Franklin College has always persevered in the face of challenge and emerged even stronger. Together, we will continue that legacy. Thank you.”

"Franklin college needs and is worthy of your continued support. You are making a difference in a place whose business is making a difference."

PRESIDENT KERRY PRATHER

"PHOTOS BY LINDA STRIGGO"
Eighteen students in the Master of Science in Physician Assistant Studies (MSPAS) program recently reached a milestone in their journey to becoming health care professionals. They received their white coats on Dec. 13, 2019, in the college’s Richardson Chapel, where their families, friends and faculty mentors were in attendance.

The White Coat Ceremony is a rite of passage for first-year students in American and European medical programs. Institutions typically customize the look of their ceremony but focus on the presentation of medical coats and recitation of an oath affirming the students’ professional commitment to providing patient-focused care. This was Franklin’s inaugural White Coat Ceremony for the MSPAS program.

“At Franklin College, the White Coat Ceremony marks a student’s transition from the didactic year to the clinical year, and the beginning of clinical rotations,” explained Thomas Meehan, Ph.D., PA-C, founding program director and assistant professor of physician assistant studies. “As students make the transition into professional settings, they can really begin to make their mark.”

Physician assistants, or PAs, are licensed medical providers authorized to provide patient-care services functioning under the direction and collaboration of an individual physician or group. According to the American Medical Association, they can order medical tests, prescribe medications (limitations vary by state), diagnose illnesses and develop and manage patient treatment plans. PAs are not as common in Indiana as in other parts of the country. In 2018, the national average was 40 PAs per 100,000 people, whereas Indiana’s rate is 23.4 PAs per 100,000 people, according to the National Commission on Certification of Physician Assistants.

In rural counties, PAs are more scarce; 66 percent of rural counties in Indiana have no or only one PA in service.

“Looking at the fabric of health care in the state and where practitioners are, there is a lack of PAs and access to care in many rural and underserved areas of the state,” Meehan said. “With where Franklin College is positioned in the state, I think we can produce graduates that
can go out and make the difference.”

A nearly $1 million grant awarded to Franklin College in 2014 from Lilly Endowment Inc., as part of its Initiative to Promote Opportunities Through Educational Collaborations, makes the MSPAS program possible. Franklin’s MSPAS program is a 25-month course of study. Graduates are eligible to take the Physician Assistant National Certifying Examination (PANCE) and become licensed as a PA in any state.

The Accreditation Review Commission on Education for the Physician Assistant granted Accreditation-Provisional status to Franklin College in the fall of 2018. Status is granted when the plans and resource allocation, if fully implemented as planned, of a proposed program that has not yet enrolled students appear to demonstrate the program’s ability to meet the ARC-PA standards or when a program holding Accreditation-Provisional status appears to demonstrate continued progress in complying with the standards as it prepares for the graduation of the first cohort of students.

Franklin admitted its inaugural cohort to the MSPAS program in January 2019 and its second in January 2020.

The inaugural group of white coat recipients will complete the MSPAS program in 2022. Students and faculty with Franklin College bachelor’s degrees are identified with their previous graduation years. In the front row are Thomas Meehan, Ph.D., PA-C, founding program director and assistant professor, Allison Lipetz, Noelle Scheuer, Mallori Wisuri, Paige Franke, Molly Lewis, Katherine Pak, Stephanie Scalf, Taylor Watkins and Jeana Gregory ’17. In the second row are Gregory Strock, M.D., program medical director and adjunct assistant professor, Michael Sever ’99, M.D., clinical coordinator and assistant professor, Katelyn Arnold, Michael Moore, PA-C, assistant professor, Janelle Bonitati, Sheli Robinson, Vanessa Janson, Samantha Morgan, Krisha Retherford, Ethan Bailey ’17, Jered Waggoner, Bethany Berhorst, Brittany LaBonte ’09, PA-C, assistant professor, Jasmina Cheeseman, PA-C, assistant professor, and Cyrus Cheeseman, Pharm. D., adjunct lecturer.

“With where Franklin College is positioned in the state, I think we can produce graduates that can go out and make the difference.”

THOMAS MEEHAN, Ph.D., PA-C
“These courses deepen student learning by connecting our Franklin College classrooms to the broader world.”

JENNY (PILAND) CATALDI ’05
Franklin College faculty go the distance to offer students distinctive learning opportunities.

Study-away courses during the Immersive Term each January are a prime example. While the course topics and itineraries vary by destination, faculty share the common goal of helping students learn to better understand the world’s interdependence and complexities.

“These courses deepen student learning by connecting our Franklin College classrooms to the broader world,” said Jenny (Piland) Cataldi ’05, director of global education. “When students immerse in a new culture and can connect with the people, the food and the traditions, they gain new perspectives that help put some of the world’s most challenging issues into clearer context.”

Some students return home indicating they feel better prepared for entry into the global workforce and competitive graduate school programs since they can include immersive study among their qualifications. Others return inspired to help bring about change through their future career or social activism. And, undoubtedly, all bring back priceless memories.

Sixty-two students participated in five study-away courses. Destinations included Japan, Greece, Costa Rica, England and Disney World in Florida. Here, we share a few photos reflecting student experiences.

Ian Jenks ’20 was captivated by this view of the Parthenon in Athens, Greece. The enduring symbol of Greek culture, built in the fifth century B.C., is battered but has withstood earthquakes, fire, wars, explosions and looting.

Isaac Gleitz ’23 toured La Fortuna, Costa Rica. He said, “I felt compelled to focus on small examples of natural beauty; one insect or a particular leaf was of more interest than a forest. I wanted this flower to have the spotlight, while the Church of San Juan Bosco held just a supporting role.”
Internships are a key part of the Franklin College liberal arts experience, and January — Immersive Term — is a prime opportunity for students to commit fully to exploring career options.

Internships can help students build skill sets, professional connections and a portfolio of work and experience that provide a springboard for entry into the workforce or graduate school. Data collected through the office of career development’s 2018-19 graduate survey indicated 97 percent of the senior class was employed or attending graduate school within six months of graduating.

For employers, hosting an intern is an optimal way to find promising new talent. Interns can help lighten employee workloads and bring new perspectives to problem solving. Here’s what some of the 2020 internship supervisors had to say:

“Jordy Jackson ’20 was impeccable. He displayed enthusiasm to learn, took notes, asked questions and completed every task asked to the best of his ability.”

Steve Kernode, Johnson County Adult Probation, officer

“I’ve had four previous interns, and Jayla Stigall ’20 was by far the best. She was focused, driven and skilled. She brought real knowledge to the table, needed very little guidance and was eager to learn.”

Liz Brownlee, Oak Heritage Society, executive director
They volunteered alongside Belizean veterinarians and learned from international faculty with expertise in animal care. They took courses on health issues confronting farm animals in Belize and on animal breeding so they would be better informed to help the veterinary team. In addition to caring for animals at farms and on working ranches, the students helped conduct free wellness and spay-neuter clinics for small animals in rural and urban areas.

“Being there influenced the lives of others as well as the lives of local animals, and that’s exactly what I want to do with my life. To see children smile as I let them listen to their beloved pet’s heartbeat and to comfort the grieving owner of six dogs that required euthanasia let me be part of something much bigger than myself,” said McAbee, who double majors in conservation biology and theatre.

Gaskin majors in biology through the Franklin College pre-veterinary medicine program. She did significant networking in Belize.

“I received an invite to come back and be a teaching assistant, and to work in a clinic,” Gaskin said. Additionally, two of the lead veterinarians offered to write her referrals for veterinary school, and a third veterinarian specializing in elephant care has become a mentor.

“I’m now in contact with her about work in Thailand, where she is based,” Gaskin said. “And I’m excited to say I have decided that I want to pursue veterinary medicine for large exotic animals, and specialize in reptiles.”

The CELA website indicates Belize is only a two-hour flight from Miami, but it faces different farming and environmental challenges than the United States. The nation is over 50 percent rainforest, which provides unique conservation opportunities and a chance for students to learn from the hard-working local veterinarians who help to sustain the agriculture industry in Belize by caring for the animals on farms and working ranches.
Grizzlies are marching forward together as COVID-19 continues to impact every aspect of daily college operations. Franklin College President Kerry Prather says unity and persistence are keys to mitigating the fluid circumstances the pandemic creates.

“From one end of campus to the other, our wonderful professional and support staffs have risen to the occasion, finding creative ways to continue the work of the college undaunted, remaining engaged with our students, and continuing to relentlessly pursue our future Grizzlies,” Prather wrote to faculty and staff in a March 17 email.

Prather also recognized the faculty for their swift transition to distance teaching and learning. “From attitude to aptitude to adaptability, you have all shown simply amazing receptivity to this dramatic change with so little advance notice,” he wrote. “Of course, this transition would have been impossible but for the imaginations and the patient, conscientious and tireless work of our colleagues in information technology services.”

As this publication headed to press in early May, the college’s task force continued to closely monitor news from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and Indiana State Department of Health (ISDH) in an effort to help keep the college community informed, safe and healthy.

Unfolding college initiatives will be highlighted in the next magazine. In the meantime, we offer a snapshot of what transpired in the state of Indiana and at the college as COVID-19 concerns grew. You also can get a glimpse of faculty and staff reactions during the early adoption of distance teaching and learning on Pages 18–19.

**MARCH 4** – Prather establishes an employee task force to monitor COVID-19 circumstances and mitigate risks. The task force develops protocol based on CDC and ISDH guidelines. Three college task force members are appointed liaisons to Johnson Memorial Health, Johnson County Health Department and Johnson County Emergency Management.

**MARCH 7** – The task force establishes a college website section dedicated to hosting COVID-19 updates from the administration and related resources for students, parents, alumni and friends. The content is publicly accessible at [www.FranklinCollege.edu/coronavirus](http://www.FranklinCollege.edu/coronavirus). Additionally, hand-sanitizing stations are set up across campus, and notices are posted on entrances to campus facilities to remind individuals if they have experienced possible COVID-19 symptoms to refrain from entering. The physical plant staff continues focusing special attention on the frequent cleaning of “high touch” areas around campus, and Parkhurst Dining institutes protocols for its staff, consistent with food service best-practice recommendations.

**MARCH 12** – Ind. Gov. Eric Holcomb gives a public address encouraging Hoosiers to practice social distancing.
He orders, effective immediately, nonessential gatherings in the state be limited to no more than 250 people, including in churches, conference rooms and auditoriums.

**MARCH 13** – Prather announces via email the college will temporarily suspend in-person classes and activities at the end of the day. He encourages students to make plans to return home as soon as it is safely possible. Students are asked to vacate the residence halls by end of day March 15. Residence life staff work on special arrangements for international students and others for whom moving is not an immediate option.

**MARCH 18** – The Franklin College community transitions solely to distance learning. Leading up to the transition, the college’s information technology services team conducts two days of training for faculty and staff in preparation of their transition. Additionally, college staff with non-teaching roles are expected to begin working remotely to the extent possible.

That same day, the Franklin College Director of Global Education updates the college community on three Grizzlies studying abroad; one has already returned safely to the United States, another is currently on a return flight. The third student, a Mexican citizen on a U.S. visa, plans to remain in England at university accommodations. Franklin’s global education director and the external study-abroad organizational partner commit to ongoing contact with the student to help ensure continued safety.

**MARCH 19** – The Heartland Collegiate Athletic Conference Council of Presidents, upon the recommendation of the league’s athletic directors, votes to cancel all spring athletic competition. The decision is consistent with the vast majority of NCAA Division III athletic conferences throughout the country and, with it, comes the cancellation of the spring athletic season at Franklin College. The NCAA announces that student-athletes who lose a spring season of participation as a result of the pandemic will automatically have the season restored, subject to meeting all other eligibility requirements.

**MARCH 23** – COVID-19 concerns heighten, and Holcomb issues a statewide stay-at-home order, limiting work and travel for Indiana residents in an effort to diminish virus spread. As the number of COVID-19 cases continue to rise in Indiana, the college announces extending distance learning through the remainder of the spring semester, including the week of final exams.

**MARCH 26** – Prather sends email notification that an employee in the Franklin College Graduate Health Science Center (GHSC) on north U.S. 31, approximately three miles from the main campus, has tested positive for COVID-19. It is the first confirmed case within the college community. In line with college policy and guidance from the CDC, the staff member begins self-isolation at home. A GHSC program director initiates communication to all students, faculty and staff who may have had direct contact with the employee the prior week. These individuals are instructed to self-isolate, according to college and CDC protocols for COVID-19. Those with any possible symptoms are advised to contact their primary health-care providers.

**MARCH 27** – Spring break begins. Prather sends email notification reminding all essential employees who are reporting to campus for work that social distancing along with handwashing and other precautions must be implemented while on site.

Follow the college’s social media accounts to see how daily operations continue during this challenging time. Support from alumni and friends is critical to supporting admissions and student recruitment efforts. Please see Page 43 for ways to help, and consider making a gift to the Franklin Fund, which helps sustain student programs and aid. ■
Initially, Franklin College suspended in-person classes and activities, aligning with the Indiana governor’s statewide policy, at that time, which recommended social distancing to help slow spread of the virus. After the suspension on Friday, March 13, students had 48 hours to vacate their residence halls, and faculty and staff had equal the time to prepare for a complete transition to teaching and engaging with students remotely. The college’s information technology services team led two days of intensive training to help everyone in preparation of the pivot.

From flexing their intellectual muscles to reinvent syllabi and lesson plans appropriate for distance learners to helping troubleshoot technology at their own homes as well as their students, faculty and staff faced a variety of new challenges, sometimes addressing several simultaneously. Patience, good humor and persistence predominantly prevailed, but there were also some reports of tears, understandably. March 23 was a particularly emotional day for many in the college community, after Franklin College President Kerry Prather announced in an email that the college would extend its transition to distance learning through the remainder of the spring semester, including the week of final exams. Earlier the same day, Indiana’s governor issued a statewide stay-at-home order, limiting work and travel to essential needs in an effort to diminish virus spread.

Through it all, faculty and staff have shown tremendous commitment to supporting students and setting an encouraging example. Here, we share a sampling of faculty and staff Facebook posts during the early adoption of distance learning and teaching.

March 14

Associate professor of political science Randy Smith, Ph.D.: “When globalization drives a new policy problem faster than prior pandemics, FC adapts and Poli Sci looks to explore the learning opportunities and lessons this new policy problem presents. Stay healthy out there.”

March 18

Dean of Student Success and Retention Keri Alioto: “To say FC staff and faculty have had a rough few months would be an understatement. But to watch everyone come together in support of students is truly amazing. It’s 8:30 p.m., after lots of long, long days (and nights), and I’m texting with two faculty members and am on four different email threads where every single person is working in real time to troubleshoot student needs, near and far. You all are amazing.”

March 18

Instructor of mathematics Angie (Hughes) Walls ’88: “First day of statistics class being online. My students are amazing!!! They were gracious and encouraging! I’m crying! Please keep praying friends. We are all overwhelmed, but I have a glimmer of hope that we can do this!”
The same premise helped shape a personal development summit the college began offering students in 2019. Now a key element of the Pursuit at Franklin College curriculum, Pivot made a return during the 2020 Immersive Term (January).

Through a holistic collection of workshops that cover professional development, wellness, inclusivity and life skills, Pivot aims to give students tips and techniques that will prove helpful well beyond their graduation from college. In addition to the college’s faculty and staff, alumni and community partners with industry-specific expertise co-taught some of the workshops.

“The more well-rounded students become, the more likely they are to succeed at adapting to changes and continuously thriving in their workplaces and at home. Giving students the best tools possible for lifelong success is always our priority,” said Keri Alioto, dean of student success and retention.

Recent Pivot workshops covered more than 50 topics, including mindful meditation, better baking through chemistry, budget traveling, crocheting for a cause, navigating conflict through discussion and getting started with zero-waste practices.
Schmidt knew it was important to find community partners whose perspectives could help enrich class discussions and make student learning relevant to real-world issues. She found the perfect partners in the Indianapolis-based Peace Learning Center, renowned for its programs on conflict resolution and social justice, and graphic artist Erin (Ashbrook) Davis ’04, an active Franklin community leader and volunteer. They helped engage Schmidt’s students in talks and exercises about privilege and how to be allies to those in underrepresented groups.

Davis, for example, was inspired to design a yard sign promoting love and positivity in response to divisive political signs and Confederate flags she saw in Johnson County in 2016. Initially, she printed 18 signs with the words “Love More” layered over a rainbow-colored sunburst and sold them at cost simply to help spread a positive message, but the demand quickly exceeded supply. That prompted Davis to consider how to further the community impact. She now sells a variety of merchandise to benefit charities that help people. Her efforts through LoveMoreSign.com have received national media attention.

“It’s really important to have empathy for the community at large.”

With guidance, Franklin students developed “art class in a box” prototypes for donation to second- and third-grade classes. Each included supplies a teacher would need to lead an art history lesson, including the biography of an underrepresented artist and a hands-on project for students. Franklin students also called IPS officials to voice the importance of an integrated arts curriculum.

“We wanted them to look outside of themselves and see how people are affected by inequality,” said Davis. “It’s a form of therapy, it’s been proven to improve behavior in class.”

Schmidt and Davis engaged Franklin students in discussion, then action, to advocate for art education in Indianapolis Public Schools (IPS), many of which have undergone budget cuts that eliminated art programs. The domino effect is problematic, said Davis. “Art is an outlet for kids. It’s a form of therapy, it’s been proven to improve behavior in class.”

“The power to make change rests with each of us, whether we are inspired by something we read or we write something that prompts action. That is one of the themes instructor of English Kellie (Chittick) Schmidt ’02 aimed to convey when she began formulating her Immersive Term course, “Help Increase the Peace: Exploring Prejudice, Privilege and Power.”
Hayes, also the A.J. Thurston Chair of Music, music department chair and director of choral activities, is the recipient of the Fulbright-Botstiber Award in Austrian/American Studies. It is offered annually to one American and one Austrian scholar, with the contingency that each has the opportunity to teach and learn in the other’s country. Cross-cultural engagement and goodwill are key components of the Fulbright program, which offers research, study and teaching opportunities in more than 160 countries, according to its website.

Fulbrighters are chosen based on their academic and professional achievements, as well as records of service and leadership. Hayes is only the fourth Franklin College faculty member on record as a Fulbright recipient.

Research throughout his academic career has been on historic LGBTQ rights, particularly during the Weimar Republic era of Germany, which lasted from 1919–33.

“For me, it (the Fulbright) is the validation of my research into the wildly creative cabaret scene and the incredible individuals within the LGBTQ community who had to endure extreme suffering upon the rise of the National Socialists. This isn’t an area that draws a lot of scholarly research, so I feel very fortunate to have such a spotlight placed upon my work,” Hayes said.

His future research will focus on the “Rosa Wien” or Pink Vienna, the period in which LGBTQ artists living in Germany were displaced and fled as the Nazi party rose to power. Hayes will tell that story through the eyes of Paul O’Montis, a cabaret performer who was renowned throughout Europe, and targeted by the Nazis because he was gay. Although he fled to Vienna, after the Anschluss in 1938, he was captured, imprisoned and beaten to death at Sachsenhausen.

O’Montis’ story, and those of countless other LGBTQ artists living in Germany at the time, has been buried by history. Hayes hopes to change that. He wants to use his research as the premise for his third book, and to share new perspectives with students.

Hayes’ Fulbright experience begins in February 2021 and continues through mid-July. He will do research at the Austrian Academy of Sciences in Vienna and teach a course on early LGBTQ civil rights in America and Austria. The Austrian National Library also has invited him to be a guest researcher with full access to music and other material written by LGBTQ refugees who coalesced in Vienna during the early 1900s. Hayes has taught at Franklin College since 2009.
They forge their own path ahead but make room for those who follow.

*THEY LIVE GENEROUSLY.*

When more Grizzlies give to the Franklin Fund, the college can:

- Increase scholarship resources and other student aid
- Invest strategically in facilities and technology that support engaged learning
- Multiply graduate success stories and grow in reputation

Grizzlies lead by giving back.

Make your Franklin Fund gift at FranklinCollege.edu/Giving
Michael W. O’Dell ’81, M.D., has designated a $1 million revocable estate gift to furthering the sciences at Franklin College. He is a current college trustee, who was elected to the board in 2009.

O’Dell serves as a professor of clinical rehabilitation medicine at Weill Cornell Medical College of Cornell University in New York. He is nationally recognized for his clinical expertise, education and research in the area of neurological rehabilitation in persons with stroke, multiple sclerosis, traumatic brain injury and neurological tumors, among others. He earned his medical degree in 1985 from Indiana University School of Medicine and prior to that his bachelor’s degree in biology and chemistry from Franklin College.

“The history of Franklin College is long and distinguished, and I am thrilled and honored to have been, at least, a small part of that proud tradition. It is greatly satisfying to have this opportunity to pay it forward for the future benefit of the liberal arts and sciences at my alma mater,” said O’Dell.

Franklin College President Kerry Prather said, “We are tremendously grateful for Dr. O’Dell’s generous future gift, which reflects genuine love and respect for his alma mater and honors the faculty and staff who work so diligently every day in support of our students and our distinctive liberal arts learning environment.”

Franklin College dedicated a new Science Center on its campus in May 2019, building upon a proud tradition in science education that traces back to 1852. In recent years, the college has focused on pursuing innovation in science education, including reinventing the curriculum in 2011 to align more closely with the workforce needs expressed by Indiana business leaders, launching two master 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 programs.

“Planned gifts are a critical part of funding the Franklin College student experience,” said Dana Cummings, vice president for development and alumni engagement. “Especially during these uncertain times, we appreciate Dr. O’Dell’s thoughtful planning in support of his alma mater. His generosity will help ensure future generations of Grizzlies have access to opportunities that will enrich their academic pursuits and best prepare them for successful careers in the sciences. His legacy will impact many lives.”

HOW WILL YOU BE REMEMBERED?

Most of us, given the chance, want to leave a legacy that shows, in some way, that we have contributed to important work or played a part in a cause that benefits society. Please consider strengthening Franklin College’s future and allowing us to help you find planning strategies that provide a rewarding combination of tax savings and personal satisfaction. Contact Dana Cummings, vice president for development and alumni engagement, at 800.852.0232 or dcummings@FranklinCollege.edu.
Franklin College received a $100,000 planning grant in December 2019 from Lilly Endowment Inc., as part of its Charting the Future for Indiana’s Colleges and Universities initiative. It aims to help leaders of Indiana’s 38 colleges and universities address their key challenges and take advantage of promising possibilities to enhance their relevance and sustainability. Lilly Endowment is urging higher-education leaders to explore opportunities with peer institutions in Indiana or around the country, and with business, governmental or charitable organizations.

“We are encouraging Indiana’s higher education leaders to be bold and imaginative in developing creative and collaborative strategies to strengthen their institutions and further their education missions more effectively,” said Ted Maple, Lilly Endowment’s vice president for education. “We are impressed with the dedication of Indiana’s higher education leaders to face head on their challenges and embrace their opportunities to build brighter futures for the students and colleges and universities.”

The initiative has three phases of grantmaking, a planning phase, an implementation phase and an invitational phase for large-scale proposals. A 14-member consulting committee of Franklin College faculty and staff is collaborating on each phase, with a focus on ways to strengthen digital fluency.

Following their generous $20,000 gift to the Dale G. and George W. Happe Academic Resource Center in December 2018, Gregg Happe ’73 and his spouse, Lynda, have pledged $125,000 of additional support. Their gift will support program and facility needs at the center, located on the first floor of the college’s B F. Hamilton Library, also known as HamiltonONE.

As the one-stop destination for all resources related to student success, HamiltonONE is one of the busiest places on campus. Here, a cross-functional team of faculty and staff focus on helping students overcome barriers to their personal success so they may thrive personally, academically and socially. Academic tutoring in mathematics and writing as well as supplemental instruction and library resources are offered, along with student mentoring to encourage development of a personalized action plan.

Gregg and Lynda are longtime college supporters, having previously facilitated out-of-state internships for Franklin students majoring in education and giving consideration to specializing in teaching individuals with learning disabilities. In 2013, the couple also made a gift enabling the renaming of the college’s former academic resource center to the current name honoring Gregg’s mother, Dale, and father, George. She was deceased prior to the gift, and he died March 28, 2019. In a 2013 interview, George gratefully acknowledged the naming gift, stating, “Dale was a dedicated teacher of children with special needs for over 20 years and would join me in applauding the college’s action in creating a ‘go to place’ for mentoring and tutoring students in need of assistance.”
Over the last seven years, the college has added staff, technology and programming to meet the demand of growing student needs for the resources offered at the center and at the other areas within HamiltonONE.

ADMISSIONS BOOST

A $10,000 gift from Franklin College Trustee John Auld ’76 and his spouse, Beth, is helping support the admission team’s efforts in Johnson County. The college has a long and successful history of providing a transformational liberal arts experience to industrious students recruited from within a 50-mile radius of campus. Historically, these students choose to build their homes and careers in Indiana after they graduate college, thereby helping strengthen the state’s talent pool and economy. The Aulds’ gift enables the college to offer one-time grants to current high school seniors in Johnson County who demonstrate financial need and the passion to be a Grizzly. For more information, call the admissions team at 888.852.6471.

FLEXIBLE SUPPORT

Unrestricted gifts from donors give the college means and opportunity to address important and time-sensitive needs such as student aid, faculty support, supply purchases and technological upgrades. Donors who make unrestricted gifts indicate trust in the institution to use their gift when and where it’s needed most, perhaps even combining their gift with others for greater impact. Such reasons were the impetus for Amber (Robbins) Elwood ’99, a teacher, and her spouse, John, an entrepreneur, to make a generous unrestricted gift to the Franklin Fund. “The Elwoods’ unrestricted gift is a very powerful form of support because it gives the college flexibility to address current needs. Mitigating the spread of COVID-19 while protecting the safety of students and employees is one example. Unrestricted gifts are helping provide technology and supplies to support the college’s transition to distance learning. We are incredibly grateful to the Elwoods for their foresight and gift, which is part of the effort,” said Dana Cummings, vice president for development and alumni engagement.

GOLFERS GIVE BACK

Two former student-athletes, Brian Murray ’98 and his spouse, Lis (Somer) ’99, remain grateful for all they gained through the Grizzlies’ golf program, from the technical instruction and leadership skills to the team travel opportunities and lifelong friendships. The couple want to help ensure today’s students can continue to benefit from a strong and enriching golf program so they have made a $20,000 gift, with half the funds equally designated between the men’s and women’s programs. “We are immensely grateful for the Murrays’ generous gift and what it will enable us to do for students,” said Curt Holcroft ’98, head men’s golf coach. “We are looking to expand our equipment with FlightScope technology, which offers golfers an app that records data for each session and allows swing video analysis. We live in a high-tech world, and incorporating technology into athletics is another way to further student learning while also improving game performance.”
What do a staircase, pool table and snake have in common? They all inspired a group of student-photojournalists who we challenged to capture new perspectives of familiar sights.

Guided by their individual imaginations, the students combed the Franklin College campus for common objects that could be photographed to represent letters of the alphabet. Here, we share the culmination of their efforts, from A to Z.

Can you name all 26 objects and locations represented in the photos? See our key for the answers.

Thank you to our photography contributors, the 2019-20 Pulliam Fellows, Quinn Fitzgerald ’20, Viktoria Rock ’20, Jessie McClain ’21 and Natalie Wilson ’21. Pulliam Fellows are selected through a competitive interview process conducted by the offices of marketing and communications. They hone their professional skill-sets and receive an hourly wage while photographing activities throughout the year for the college website, social media accounts and publications.

**PHOTO KEY**

DC = Dietz Center  
JCF A = Johnson Center for Fine Arts  
NSC = Napolitan Student Center  
PSJ = Pulliam School of Journalism  
SC = Science Center

A: Guest seating, DC  
B: Flower pot motif, PSJ exterior  
C: Pool table pocket, NSC first floor  
D: Chair, NSC basement  
E: Foosball table, NSC basement  
F: Door to painting studio, JCF A second floor  
G: Armrest on park bench, PSJ exterior  
H: Light fixture, SC exterior  
I: Pool stick, NSC  
J: Handrail, NSC  
K: Pool stick and triangle, NSC  
L: Door handle, NSC  
M: Walkway between NSC and B.F. Hamilton Library  
N: Bookshelves, B.F. Hamilton Library  
O: Pi Beta Phi Gazebo between B.F. Hamilton Library and Cline Hall  
P: French horn relic, JCF A  
Q: Student’s locker padlock, JCF A  
R: Outdoor sculpture, Transcendence, JCF A  
S: Coral snake in biology department, SC  
T: Bicycle on Dame Mall  
U: Staircase railing, B.F. Hamilton Library  
V: Painting in NSC  
W: Pre-molars belonging to a carnivorous mammal specimen in biology department, SC  
X: Vent cover, JCF A  
Y: Black Maple tree, Dame Mall  
Z: Staircase, SC
This calendar year marks the 100th anniversary of the Franklin Wonder Five basketball team’s inaugural high school state championship win, and Franklin College partnered with the Johnson County Museum of History to offer the public two commemorative events marking the occasion.

The highly successful team began playing together at Franklin High School (now FCHS), then followed their coach to Franklin College and continued their winning tradition. In all, the basketball team achieved three high school state championships, 1920–22, and two college state championships, 1923–24. Their athletic prowess brought tremendous pride to the city of Franklin, its high school, Franklin College and the state of Indiana, and their legacy endures through the spirit of today’s generations of loyal basketball fans.

The Franklin Wonder Five’s significant impact on local and state history was impetus for a collaborative research project initiated in 2018 by faculty and students at Franklin College and representatives of the Johnson County Museum of History. Community partners at Johnson County Historical Society and Franklin Community School Corp. also became involved. Their efforts culminated in the Indiana State Historical Bureau’s installation of a historical marker commemorating the Franklin Wonder Five. It is located on the east side of the college’s Fitness Center. Historical markers help communities promote, preserve and present their history for the public’s education and enjoyment. Since 1946, the bureau has installed more than 650 markers across Indiana; the marker at the college is only the fourth in Johnson County.

Coinciding with the marker’s unveiling at the college March 12, the Johnson County Museum of History opened a Franklin Wonder Five exhibit that can be viewed through early October.

*Descendants of the Wonder Five team gather in front of the historical marker.*

CHAD WILLIAMS
One day after Prather announced his retirement from the court, the HCAC revealed he was selected men’s basketball Coach of the Year, for the fourth time in his career. This season, Prather guided the Grizzlies to a 17–9 record and earned the team’s first league championship since 2007.

“It’s special to retire on the heels of a conference championship. The program is in great shape, and we have a good group of players coming back next year. The program will continue to be successful going forward,” said Prather.

Three individual Grizzlies also earned HCAC honors, Borden Kennedy ’20 was named First Team All-HCAC. He turned in 13.5 points per game while shooting 50.4 percent from the floor and racked up a team-best 88.7 percent from the line. He is the first Grizzly since 2014 to earn a spot on the HCAC’s first team, when Bailey Howard ’14 was selected. For the second consecutive year, Kennedy also was named to the HCAC’s all-tournament team.

Payton Mills ’21 and Matt Krause ’22 also picked up their first career all-conference nominations, with both landing on the HCAC’s second team. Mills was one of the top post players in the league, averaging 12.4 points and grabbing 7.3 rebounds per contest. Krause finished the year as the Grizzlies’ leading scorer at 14.5 points per game and his 8.2 rebounds per game led both the team and the HCAC.

The men’s basketball program’s all-time leader in wins, Prather closed his career with a 528-456 record. Under his leadership, the Grizzlies claimed six conference regular season championships and four Heartland Collegiate Athletic Conference (HCAC) tournament championships, and made six post-season appearances.

“Looking back on all this, it’s not just teams and seasons that come to mind as much as it is the individual players, assistant coaches and incredibly great kids that we have had come through here,” Prather said. “Championships and record-breaking seasons were special, but even years with fewer wins were great experiences for all of us, and great learning opportunities.”

The Grizzlies’ deepest post-season run was in 1992, when they entered the NAIA National Tournament as the No. 3-seed overall and were one of the final eight teams battling for a national championship. Seven Grizzlies were named conference Player of the Year under Prather’s tenure, with two players, Jason Sibley ’99 and John Holden ’92, going on to earn All-America honors.

“It sounds like a cliché to say that all the players are the real trophies, but it’s true. It has been an honor to have been part of their lives and shared some great times. The same is true for all the young assistant coaches. I hope I have helped them all grow and become better people. They have certainly done the same for me.”

In a profession where turnover is constant, Prather relished the chance to call Franklin home and build a program for nearly four decades.

“I’ve been blessed to stay in one place for so long because that is something that doesn’t happen in coaching much anymore,” Prather said. “Franklin College is a great school in a wonderful community. I’m very proud of having always done things the right way so the college and the community were proud of our teams.”

By Ryan Thomas, Assistant Athletic Director for Communications
The 2020 NCAA Division III National Swimming and Diving Championships were set to take place in Greensboro, North Carolina, March 18–21, and five Franklin College students were qualified for competition, Courtnee Coffman '21, Gauge Creech '23, Caileigh McCafferty '23, Jacqueline Richard '21 and Brynna Sentel '21.

With less than one week remaining until they could vie for their championship dreams, the NCAA announced all remaining winter and spring events were canceled because of the evolving COVID-19 threat. Following the announcement, the Division III Administrative Council granted an additional season/semester of eligibility for student-athletes participating in spring sports but did not grant such a waiver for athletes participating in winter sports like swimming and diving.

With all the Grizzlies who qualified for nationals returning to Franklin as underclassmen next season, head coach and acting vice president of admissions and financial aid Andrew...
Overall, it was another standout swimming and diving season for the Grizzlies, who won the Heartland Collegiate Athletic Conference (HCAC) Championships in February, in both the men’s and women’s divisions. It was the seventh consecutive conference championship for the men and the fourth for the women, taking into account their wins prior to the formation of swimming within the HCAC. Additionally, individual team members earned five of the HCAC’s major awards, with Brynna Sentel ’21 and Charlie Hall ’21 repeating as Swimmers of the Year, Gauge Creech ’23 and Faith Jackson ’23 earning Divers of the Year and Caileigh McCafferty ’23 bringing home Female Freshman of the Year. The women’s team now holds a 33-meet winning streak dating back four years.


On top of HCAC honors, five Grizzlies earned All-American accolades from the College Swimming and Diving Coaches Association of America (CSCAA) in April. Coffman, Sentel and Richard maintained their All-American status for the second consecutive year while their teammates McCafferty and Creech became the first freshmen in Franklin College swimming and diving program history to earn All-American honors.

Due to the cancellation of the NCAA Division III Swimming and Diving Championships, the CSCAA Board adjusted its selection criteria. “Despite the cancellation, Coach Hendricks did a remarkable job this season,” said Greg Earhart, executive director of the CSCAA. “These five student-athletes had the rug pulled out from them, so we are excited to recognize them.”

ANDREW HENDRICKS

Hendricks is eager to resume training and setting big goals.

“It was heartbreaking to share the cancellation news, especially after all of the hard work they had invested,” Hendricks said. “Our consolation is that we proved Franklin College Grizzlies belong among the nation’s elite, and we are all coming back next year to do it again. It’s not a matter of if we can do it, it’s a matter of how far we can take the team.”

Creech, who rivaled some of the nation’s best divers at the 2020 NCAA Diving Regionals in February, would have been the first-ever Grizzlies’ diver to compete at the national level and only the second male national qualifier in the program’s 10-year history. He was to compete in both the 1-meter and 3-meter springboard.

Hendricks said the women’s team of Coffman, McCafferty, Richard and Sentel was heading into nationals strong. Sentel, the highest seed among the quartet, was poised at seventh overall in the women’s 500-freestyle. In total, the women were scheduled to compete in 10 different national swimming contests.

Hendricks is proud of the Grizzlies’ previous national championship appearances. Swimmer Artur Schneider ’17 competed three consecutive years and earned Academic All-American honors each time. Last year, women’s swim team members Coffman, Jessica Halsmer ’21, Richard, Sentel and Ashley Snoke ’21 competed, and Regina Solik ’17 did in 2017.

SPRING 2020
Life has come full circle for former Grizzlies’ football player Alan Hensell ’05, who was named head football coach at his alma mater on Dec. 23, 2019. Franklin College President Kerry Prather, then serving as director of athletics and head basketball coach, made the announcement:

“Since his graduation from Franklin, Alan has prepared diligently and successfully to become a head football coach. Through every step in that journey, he has earned accolades from his superiors, his colleagues and his players for his integrity, his genuine care for the student-athletes, his relentless recruiting, his knowledge of the game and his skill as a teacher on the field. I am excited to entrust the future of our football program to such a first-class person who is so clearly ready for that opportunity.”

Hensell was offered the position after longtime head coach Mike Leonard transitioned from coaching to working as a director of development at Franklin in the 2019 post-season. Coincidentally, Hensell began his collegiate football coaching career while a student at Franklin College. When an injury in his sophomore year ended his playing career, he became an outside linebackers coach and video coordinator for Leonard. He also was a two-year student-coach for baseball. Upon his graduation, Hensell headed to the University of Wisconsin-River Falls, where he became the quarterbacks coach; stints at the universities of Mississippi and Tennessee followed. After that, he became the offensive line coach at Gardner-Webb University, then he joined the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater as the wide receivers coach.

Most recently, Hensell spent five years on the University at Buffalo coaching staff as the tight ends coach, assistant recruiting coordinator and NFL liaison. He assisted in turning around the football program and guiding the Bulls to three straight bowl appearances from 2017-19.

Hensell, a native Hoosier from New Carlisle, said returning to Indiana and his alma mater is a dream come true.

“Since I graduated from Franklin College, my goal has been to put myself in a position to come back and be the head coach one day, and I feel like the past 15 years have prepared me for the challenge. First and foremost, my goal is to help these young men to earn their degree and to provide them a first-class college football experience.

“I’m thrilled to come back to campus and continue the program’s winning tradition.”

Hensell holds a bachelor’s degree in physical education (K-12) with a minor in health education from Franklin and a master’s degree in science and education from University of Wisconsin-Whitewater.
As the Franklin College Magazine neared the press, assistant men’s basketball coach Brian Lebowitz was promoted to head coach. He’s been with the Grizzlies’ program for six years. Read the press release online, www.FranklinGrizzlies.com, and look for more details in the next issue.

Franklin College President Kerry Prather informed the college community via email on March 19 that the Heartland Collegiate Athletic Conference Council of Presidents, upon the recommendation of the league’s athletic directors, had voted the same day to cancel all spring athletic competition.

Excerpts from his message follow:

“This decision is consistent with the vast majority of NCAA Division III athletic conferences throughout the country and, with it, comes the cancellation of our spring athletic season at Franklin College. The NCAA has announced that student-athletes who lose a spring season of participation as a result of this health crisis will automatically have that season restored, subject to meeting all other eligibility requirements.

“My heart goes out to our student-athletes, especially our graduating seniors, as well as coaches and support staff, all of whom have worked so hard to prepare for this season. Of course, the health and safety of those same individuals is the focus of this decision, as it should be, and those concerns must take precedence. I want to say to all our Grizzlies that we remain extremely proud of your representation of Franklin College in athletic competition, and we look forward to cheering on our Franklin College teams again next fall.”

The college’s annual awards program, overseen by Alumni Council and coinciding with Homecoming and Alumni Weekend festivities, offers the opportunity to identify and thank our Grizzlies of distinction.

Now is the time to brag about all the outstanding Franklin College alumni and friends you know. To nominate a Grizzly for an alumni award or the athletic hall of fame, email ewood@FranklinCollege.edu or call 317.738.8283 to speak with Emily (Habel) Wood ’95, director of alumni engagement and campus partnerships, for details.
Since 2008, Chris Hickey ’92 has lived in China and held professional roles involving him deeply in the complexities of engaging with government officials, manufacturers, scientists and other stakeholders abroad and in the United States, to help shape and implement policies pertaining to food, drug and medical-device safety.

He is currently serving his fifth year as senior director for global policy/emerging markets, Asia Pacific, at Pfizer pharmaceutical company. He previously worked for the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services as office director of Asia and the Pacific.

During a U.S. business trip in January 2020, Hickey graciously made time to visit with Franklin College students enrolled in an Immersive Term course called Demystifying China. Hickey gave an overview of what he, his spouse, Paige, and their daughter, Stella, have experienced as Westerners living abroad, and he talked in depth about the modernization of China and the challenges of helping shape health-care policy and reform. The Franklin College Magazine followed up with Hickey for an interview about the impact of COVID-19 on his life and work in China. The April 2 email exchange follows.

Where do you live and work in contrast to where COVID-19 originated?
“I live in Beijing. The coronavirus originated in Wuhan, Hubei Province, which is about 750 miles south. China is about the same size as the continental United States, if you overlay those two maps. Beijing falls in about the same spot as Philadelphia, and Wuhan falls roughly where Atlanta is.”

What goods and services have become more difficult to access in your area during the pandemic?
“At the height of the outbreak, virtually all businesses other than grocery stores and pharmacies were closed. While a few food items, like oil and rice, which are central to Chinese cooking, ran short, most things stayed in stock. It became very difficult, however, to find face masks, which are required for moving around in public here in China.”
News reports frequently indicate an inadequate supply of masks, ventilators and gloves at U.S. hospitals. Are conditions similar in China?

“At the height of the outbreak in China, hospitals here faced the same shortages the United States is facing now.”

Through your role with Pfizer, can you help make an impact in terms of access to supplies or better preparation for the future?

“Early on, the Pfizer Foundation provided financial assistance to support the delivery of urgently needed aid and supplies to frontline health-care workers in China. This included grants to Direct Relief and Project HOPE, who worked with local partners on the ground in Wuhan and other affected areas. This funding helped to address immediate needs for delivery of supplies and to support longer term health-care goals.

“When the worst of the outbreak was over, a Chinese think tank that advises top government leadership in Beijing on China’s public policy approached Pfizer and other private-sector players for our input on how to improve China’s preparedness for future pandemics. This gave us the opportunity to make recommendations that we think will benefit China and the world in the future.”

How does a health crisis like the pandemic impact how you approach your work on behalf of Pfizer?

“It certainly puts a point on things. At Pfizer, our focus is on breakthroughs that change patients’ lives. There’s no mission more urgent than the present one of finding vaccines to prevent and antivirals to treat COVID-19. When you work on the government affairs side of things, that means shaping the environment so that researchers have their best possible chance to create these vital interventions, and on the other end, patients have access to these life-saving products.”

What skills from your liberal arts background are most valuable at this time?

“My liberal arts background serves me every day, in work and in life. During times of special duress and stress to the global system, what’s needed more than ever are leaders who connect the dots, who think in non-traditional ways across disciplines, and who can communicate in a way that connects with people across cultural lines. Those are all skills that I learned and honed at Franklin.”

During your visit to Franklin College, you mentioned that in spite of the many challenges in modern China there is a consistent, underlying spirit of pride and optimism. How has the pandemic affected that, based on your experiences at work and in your community?

“There’s a Chinese point of pride in being able to ‘eat bitterness’ and persevere through difficult times. The public outcry here to the missteps of the government in the early response to the outbreak has been well documented in the international media. But I think there’s also been a second parallel theme, as the control measures have had their effect, Chinese people have taken enormous pride in their resilience and in sacrifices individuals made for the common good, and the positive impact that those sacrifices made.”

What are some of the valuable takeaways the general public, in the United States and abroad, can gain from this pandemic experience?

“On the specific policy point, I think there are clear lessons that the global community will need to take about being prepared for the next pandemic. We’ll need to listen closely to the epidemiologists and public-health leaders to learn what we can do better. On the broader political and humanitarian point, I think this pandemic has been a painful reminder that in many cases, our safety as citizens of individual countries is best ensured through strategic global collaboration, not by going it alone as individual nations.”
Dr. Taylor Thompson ’15, DVM, rejoiced in the sweet sound of success when her name was announced at the 2019 Purdue University College of Veterinary Medicine graduation program. Passion and persistence had paid off, and she realized her goal of becoming a veterinarian.
Veterinary school is tough for anyone, but it was a seemingly impossible goal for Thompson, who has a hearing impairment. She was born deaf and underwent Cochlear™ implant surgery at age 3. The device implanted under the skin works in tandem with a piece worn behind the ear externally. They send impulses to a nerve that carries signals to the brain, which learns to associate the signals with sounds in an individual’s environment. The device plus professionally instructed listening exercises and speech therapy during early childhood development helped address Thompson’s hearing barrier, but related challenges emerged.

“Growing up, I struggled with my identity since I was born deaf, but also had a Cochlear™ implant that allowed me to hear. I was always an outsider among my peers, both hearing and deaf. It was also difficult for me to create meaningful relationships with my hearing peers since most were not patient enough to communicate with me.”

Thompson’s beloved pets helped fill the void.

“The more I interacted with animals, the more I began to appreciate the roles — big and small — that they play in our lives. I was compelled by their abilities to listen without judgment and love unconditionally.”

Her passion for pets manifested into a career dream.

“I was not going to allow anyone to tell me I could not become a veterinarian because of my deafness,” Thompson recalled. “I was determined to find a way. I knew I would not be able to do some things in the same manner as my hearing peers, such as using a traditional stethoscope. However, I also knew there were other possible methods I could use that were accessible to me because I knew deaf human medical doctors and veterinarians do exist.”

After Thompson earned her bachelor’s degree in biology at Franklin College, where she attended with her service dog, Zoë, she was admitted to the veterinary program at Purdue. It was a tough program, as she anticipated, but she was focused and thriving. Then, in the third year of the program, she faced a life-altering hurdle. The implant she had relied on since 1995 stopped working.

“Everything around me fell dead silent,” she recalled. In an instant, she lost the ability to communicate readily. “I’ve always been able to lip read to an extent, but my vocabulary in terms of sign language was very limited because I only needed to use it for a short time as a kid. The implant had single-handedly been responsible for my independence most of my life, and I didn’t have a good back-up communication method.”

To further complicate matters, the earliest possible surgery date for a new implant required a two-month wait. And after surgery there were new challenges to overcome because an implant does not restore hearing but instead helps a deaf person understand speech by providing a useful representation of sounds from their environment.

“Unfortunately, having an implant replaced is not simple like replacing eyeglasses,” Thompson explained. “After I received the replacement implant, it took me nearly another year before I was able to truly understand spoken language. My brain had to relearn what sounds were.”

Adapting to the new device took a toll.

“Everything took twice the effort and twice as long to communicate. It was an extremely isolating experience that I would never wish on my worst enemy,” Thompson said.

Throughout that time, Thompson’s dream of becoming a veterinarian persisted.

“Thanks to my husband, (Zacharia Hamm ’15), family, friends and, of course, my dogs, I remained resilient,” she said. Finally, graduation day at Purdue came.

“My diploma represents my journey. It really is a token of all my hard work,” she said.

Thompson is excited by the continuous rapid advancements in medical technology that she sees helping open doors of career opportunity for individuals with hearing impairment. She can easily list a variety of alternate methods and equipment she uses to do things differently, but just as effectively as her hearing colleagues.

“There’s now a stethoscope that converts the sound of the heart into visual waveforms I can interpret,” Thompson said. And with Doppler ultrasound she can listen to an animal’s heart without using a stethoscope. She can feel for vibrations on the machine “I’ve learned how to recognize an abnormal heartbeat and rhythm with my hands,” she said.

Today, Thompson is a team member at Meridian Veterinary Clinic and Hospital in her hometown, Greenwood, Indiana. She specializes in caring for small animals and is passionate about returning the kindness that they have so faithfully given during her lifetime.
Rick Gedney ’70 is meticulous about the details. Perhaps it’s why his paintings of Hudson Valley landscapes are easily mistaken for photographs.

His paintings are based on places he visits. He has an “affinity for rivers, streams and water,” which remind him of his early childhood visits to parks and beaches in Port Chester and Rye, New York, where he was raised.

“It’s about seeing the beauty in that one little moment, when the wind has come down and the water ripples, and the sky is illuminated. It’s about being observant, waiting. I look for those kinds of moments.”

After discovering art at Franklin College, Gedney planned to combine a career in painting with teaching guitar. He recalls two professors who “made art come alive.”

One, Thomas Locker, a traditionalist who painted in the Hudson River School style, “insisted we needed to learn to draw,” whereas the other, Luigi Crispino, an Italian abstract expressionist, “was all about color — how reds balance against greens, darks against lights.”

“I loved Locker’s drawing and his representational work, but I also loved Crispino’s colors and his brush work,” Gedney said.

After earning a bachelor’s degree in studio art, Gedney moved back to the New York area, where he soon found himself mired in a bad economy,
married and unable to find teaching jobs. He turned to banking, initially as a teller because “it was kind of easy, and I figured I would paint on the side.” But “kids came along, and I had to make a real living, so I didn’t stick with art. I lacked confidence. I’m still self-conscious that I didn’t follow my heart,” he said.

Nonetheless, even as he moved into real estate finance, Gedney never entirely stopped painting. “I set aside a little space for myself in a corner of our family room. Since I worked with oils, which needed to dry, I was able to do a bit, then stop, deal with family life or go to work, then return to it.”

Along with painting, Gedney loved playing guitar. “I didn’t play in bands anymore, but I always kept playing, privately.”

Then the 2008 economic crisis hit while he was a banking vice president. “I was carrying on this dual career, and I saw an opportunity to get out. I knew if I really wanted to paint, now was the time,” Gedney recalled.

“I was so unhappy, because I had gotten so far away from who I was and what I wanted to be doing, there was no choice. Everything was pulling me away from the arts, I reached a point where I could continue on that path or finally get back on the other one. It took a few years, but once I made the decision, everything opened up.”

Beyond painting, he performs with his spouse, Michele, in a musical duo known as Open Book. They have released three albums.

“The Chapel Restoration, Cold Spring

Art and music are central parts of the life he enjoys today in Philipstown, New York.

“I don’t do either to make a living. I pursue it because I have to; I can’t not do it,” he says. “It’s about listening to your heart, then following your thoughts and your heart when they’re aligned.” •
'40s

Myron C. Knauff ’41, who turned 100 years old in July 2019, was recognized in a recent issue of northwest Indiana's Post-Tribune. Knauff is a retired assistant superintendent of the Valparaiso (Ind.) school system, which he worked for from 1968–86. In addition to education, he is passionate about sports. Family members estimate he has been to 98 percent of the “Valpo” home basketball games since 1968. Knauff also is a former athlete; he played baseball at Franklin College. After his graduation, he taught and coached for a couple of years in Peru, Indiana, before he was drafted by the Navy in 1943. The Navy sent him to the University of California, Los Angeles for one year to learn to be a meteorologist, and he landed a spot on the baseball team, playing the outfield. After his military service, he returned to Indiana and began teaching and coaching. He earned a master’s degree in education administration from Ball State University and served as a principal multiple times. He also coached and led Monroe High School, now Adams Central, to its only boys’ basketball sectional title. And he helped usher in the girls’ basketball state tournament when he worked on the Indiana High School Athletic Association Board of Controls in the ’70s.

'50s

Jack Gipson ’53 shares that he was drafted into the U.S. Army after his graduation from Franklin College, where he was a member of the Independent Men. He served as a clerk typist at Fort Dix military base in New Jersey. Afterward, he taught high school for a few years, then transitioned to the insurance industry. He retired from State Farm Insurance in 1993. He married his first spouse, Becky, in 1958, and they have four children and six grandchildren, prior to her death in 1999. He remarried two years later, to Trudy Alt, and they have resided in Green Valley, Arizona, since 2004. They are avid travelers and campers, and have visited 49 states, as well as Canada, Mexico and several European countries. Jack also participates in two ukulele groups and plays for hospice patients, nursing home residents and nonprofit groups.

'60s

Philip North ’68 shares that he and spouse Marge “toiled all of 2019 downsizing from a big house in the mountains to a small senior living apartment on the edge of the city, still in the vicinity of Denver, Colorado.”

John Buerger ’69 has retired after working 50 years in education and athletics. Buerger was a high school social studies teacher for 43 years and taught for the majority of his career at New Albany High School in southern Indiana. He spent the last seven years of his career as the school’s international baccalaureate diploma coordinator. He also served as the school’s assistant football coach for 25 years and as a head baseball coach for 25 years at schools in Providence, Carmel and New Albany. In 1995, he was inducted into the Indiana High School Baseball Coaches Association Hall of Fame. While a student at Franklin College, Buerger was a starting quarterback for the football team, then coached by Stewart “Red” Faught. As one of Faught’s “run and shoot” quarterbacks, Buerger set several offensive records in Grizzlies’ football program history. He was also a four-year starter on the baseball team. He and his spouse, Mary Jane, have three daughters, the youngest, Katy Buerger ’04, is an alumna.

'70s

Donald Mullen ’70 is serving as a district governor for Lions Clubs. He oversees District 25 F, which includes 20 counties and 61 individual clubs in central and southeast Indiana.

Michael “Mike” Butt ’79 was promoted to director of communications and marketing at American Legion Auxiliary National Headquarters in Indianapolis, on Oct. 1, 2019. He had served as the organization’s communications and development director since 2009.

'80s

Thomas Hasewinkel ’80, D.D.S., is an adjunct clinical assistant professor for the Indiana University School of Dentistry. He and his spouse, Kaye, reside in Fishers, Indiana.

'90s

Larry D. Jenkins ’90 has been promoted to major with the Indiana State Police (ISP), and he serves as the assistant chief of staff for communications.
and information systems. He graduated from the Indiana Law Enforcement Recruit Academy in 1991 and was appointed a trooper and assigned to the ISP post in Indianapolis. In 1999, he transitioned to a post in Seymour. In 2004, he took on additional roles in information technology and criminal justice data, and he subsequently earned multiple promotions that prepared him for his current role.

Tracy (Lovins) Martin ’92 was hired by Hanover College as an adjunct instructor for the education department. She also continues to be employed by the Jennings County School Corp. as a Spanish/English/ESL teacher, and manages the school food pantry.

Kim Linkel ’96, director of the Coalition for a Drug-Free Batesville (Indiana), recently received the local chamber of commerce volunteer of the year award. Her volunteerism includes serving as the Batesville Mayor’s Youth Council adviser since 2007. She mentors middle and high school students, helping them focus on community volunteerism as a way to positively represent the area’s youth. Linkel’s volunteerism includes the Christmas Tree Lighting Planning Committee, Batesville Community School Corp. Wellness Council and Batesville Bash Planning Committee, among others.

David Edens ’98, who is in his eighth year as the athletic director at Clark-Pleasant Middle School in Whiteland, Indiana, was approved by the school board to take the reins as athletic director of Whiteland High School in June 2020, after the current employee retires.

Kellie (Buchta) Kramer ’98 recently debuted All the Good Men are Gay, at Noce, a jazz and cabaret club in Des Moines, Iowa, where she resides. The humorous and heartfelt cabaret shares

New pursuits?

Share your milestones, experiences, travels and tales in the next magazine! Email submissions to aversteeg@FranklinCollege.edu.
the personal story of her nine-year marriage to a gay man, including what she knew, when she knew it and how they tried to make it work. Kramer is host of the Emmy-nominated TV show “Iowa Outdoors” on PBS, and she is very active in productions at several local play-houses and theatre companies. She also works as a senior project manager for Accenture.

Brooke (Wagoner) Worland ’99 successfully defended her dissertation in February 2020, earning her doctorate in education from Indiana University–Bloomington. She also holds certifications in educational leadership and educational law. She currently serves as the assistant superintendent and executive director of curriculum, instruction and data at Franklin Community Schools in Indiana. She also is vice president of the Elba L. and Gene Portteus Branigin Foundation. She previously was a staff member at Franklin College, where she held numerous academic leadership positions over the course of her nearly 18-year career.

’00s

Kareenna Dickerson ’00, M.D., and her spouse, James Leckie, are the parents of twins, Arlo Grey, a son, and Esme James, a daughter, born Aug. 10, 2019. They reside in San Juan Capistrano, California.

Marcus Baeder ’01 has been appointed SIM International’s regional director for Europe. The organization has more than 4,000 workers serving in more than 70 countries. Baeder began at SIM in 2011 and spent several years deeply involved in HIV and AIDS education and ministry. In recent years, his professional focus has been on training and mentoring SIM’s regional directors and project coordinators. He, his spouse, Jen, and their children, Silas and Elias, relocated from South Africa to Lausanne, Switzerland, in March 2020. He is a native of Switzerland and a graduate of Franklin College’s premedical program.

Andrew Stahly ’07 serves as a manager of enterprise business applications for IU Health Network. He resides in Indianapolis with his spouse, Tasha (Moores) ’06, and their three children.

Robert Adams ’08 was promoted after four years as assistant principal to principal of Southwestern Elementary
Krista (Warner) Chatham ’08 accepted a new role as assistant principal at Southwestern Elementary School in Hanover, Indiana, last year. She has a bachelor’s degree in elementary education from Franklin College, as well as a master’s degree in instructional leadership from Northern Kentucky University and a master’s degree in curriculum and instruction from Western Governors University. She spent six years as a classroom teacher, three years as an instructional coach and two years as assistant principal, all with Carroll County, Kentucky, schools.

Mike James ’08, a filmmaker, won the award for Best Writing at the 2018 Nightmares Film Festival for his...
horror-comedy, *Smiley’s*. The film is based on a rural legend about a cursed vending machine and an obsessed college student played by Wilson Mack ’06, also a real-life filmmaker. *Smiley’s* was shot on location in Franklin, Indiana, and around Johnson County. *Smiley’s* has been screened at more than 20 film festivals and is available on streaming services. James’ previous projects include the feature length documentary *Open Mic Night After The Apocalypse*, in 2012. He also co-wrote and co-starred in 5second-films’ Kickstarter-backed feature debut, *Dude Bro Party Massacre 3*

**Tina Renick ’08** works in public radio and has been the director of programming for WAMC since March 2019. She resides in Troy, New York.

**Jacob Keeton ’09** is working as the director of education for the Maritime Museum of San Diego in California.

**’10s**

**Nick Cochran ’11** is a licensing manager for Hooey Brands. He resides in Plainfield, Indiana.

**Trung “Jack” Le ’11** and his spouse, Van Nguyen, in collaboration with a team of individuals dedicated to helping bring their idea to fruition, have produced an audio Bible app that is available for free on both iOS and Android. The app is called Lói Chúa, which means “God’s Words” in Vietnamese. Le asks alumni and friends to “please share it with your Vietnamese friends who you think would benefit from listening to God’s words in their mother tongue.” Beyond the app, Le has been busy as founder and senior partner of Blue Falcon Consultancy, a U.S.-based sales representative company that sells American hardwood products in Vietnam. He was born in Vietnam and lived there until he was 16. He then spent 11 years studying and working in the United States.
Mason Edlund ’12 and his spouse, Ashley (Konsdorf) ’13, are the parents of a daughter, Quinn Alice, born Sept. 23, 2019, and a son, Nash Carter, born May 22, 2017. The family resides in Indianapolis.

Natalie Robinson ’12 recently accepted a new position as the executive assistant to the dean of the graduate college at Iowa State University. She oversees student awards and events programming, manages student and faculty data records and coordinates logistics for programs and meetings.

Kati (Graber) Blair ’13 is a senior account executive for Burkhart, a marketing and brand-building agency. She and her spouse, Nate ’11, reside with their two sons, Leighton and Hudson, in Fort Wayne, Indiana.

Roger Cochrane ’13 accepted a position as director of feed mills for Pipestone Nutrition. He resides in Sioux Falls, South Dakota.

Lindsay Rich ’13 recently passed the net revenue analyst certification exam and was promoted to net revenue manager for Ascension. She resides in Indianapolis.

Johnny Bretz ’14 is a managing consultant and senior software engineer for Digital Management, LLC. He resides in Carmel, Indiana.

Allison (Brown) Rissler ’14 and her spouse, Tim, married in July 2016. They are the parents of two sons, Cooper, born in August 2017, and Miles, born in May 2019. They reside in Brazil, Indiana.

Ryan M. Baker ’16, J.D., graduated from Columbia Law School, where he was a Harlan Fiske Stone Scholar, and joined the New York City office of Paul, Weiss, Rifkind, Wharton & Garrison LLP. He recently accepted an invitation to volunteer on the Franklin College advisory board to the Williams Chair in Law and Public Service. Along with local advisory board colleagues Audra Ferguson-Allen ’04 and college trustee Stephen L. Huddleston (HD ’06), Baker advises Franklin College on student preparation for success in today’s legal landscape. Baker received the Williams Pre-Law Study Award scholarship from Franklin College in 2016.

Kylee (Townsend) Martin ’17 and her spouse, Kody, are the parents of a son, Harrison Scott, born April 3, 2019.

Jackson Shepherd ’18 was sworn in as a police officer for the city of Columbus, Indiana, in December 2019. He earned his bachelor’s degree in sociology/criminal justice.

J.T. Sargent ’19 has accepted a position as a Franklin College admissions counselor. While pursuing his bachelor’s degree in political science, he was a student ambassador with the admissions team. He also was active on the cross-country and track teams.

Shelby (Mullis) Thomas ’19 has accepted a position as communications coordinator with the office of Ind. Gov. Eric Holcomb. She previously was a reporter for The Republic newspaper in Columbus. She and her spouse, Matt ’19, reside in Franklin, Indiana.
OBITUARIES

'50s

Elisabeth (Braker) Brown Mann ’50 died Feb. 12, 2020. She graduated from Franklin College with a bachelor’s degree in premed biology and later earned her master’s degree in elementary education from the University of South Florida. She was a member of Tri Delta sorority. She was preceded in death by her first husband, James R. Brown. She later married Jack Mann. From her first marriage, she is survived by two children, three grandchildren and one great-grandchild. From her second marriage, she is survived by two stepchildren, three grandchildren and five great-grandchildren. She resided in Lakeland, Florida.

Jack D. Weil ’51 died Feb. 8, 2020. He was a World War II veteran who served in the U.S. Army. He built a career in business and retired from John Hancock. He then worked part time as a medical foundation courier. During college, he was active in Kappa Delta Rho fraternity. He and his spouse, Joan Mary, were married 63 years. She survives, as do five children, 16 grandchildren and six great-grandchildren. He resided in South Bend, Indiana.

Ruskin (Joe) C. Bunnell ’53 died Dec. 7, 2019. He was a veteran of the Korean War who served in the U.S. Marines. He also was a member of Phi Delta Theta fraternity. Survivors include two children, four grandchildren and three great-grandchildren. He resided in St. Petersburg, Florida.

Evelyn Joan (McCaw) Linville ’54 died Feb. 16, 2020. She was married to her college sweetheart, James ’52, and they celebrated their 68th wedding anniversary two weeks prior to his death on Jan. 11, 2020. Linville’s family cited there were three pillars in her life, faith which led her to become a Bible-study teacher and serve for the Gideons ministry, fellowship which she used as an opportunity to improve the life of every person she came into contact with, and her family which she cherished and instilled with faith and strong values. Survivors include six sons, 11 grandchildren and five great-grandchildren. She resided in North Canton, Ohio.

'60s

Beulah Mae (Deppert) Schrader ’60 died Feb. 4, 2020. She held a bachelor’s degree in elementary education from Franklin College and a master’s degree in education from Indiana University. She worked as a first-grade teacher for 25 years in the Franklin (Ind.) Community School Corp, prior to her retirement. She also owned and operated the Nashville (Ind.) General Store with her spouse for many years. She was very active in church and volunteerism, especially in support of adult and child literacy. She was preceded in death by her spouse, LaVerne. Survivors include a son, a grandchild and two great-grandchildren. She resided in Columbus, Indiana.

Rebecca “Becky” C. (Redmon) Irvin ’63 died Jan. 29, 2020. She held a bachelor’s degree in education from Franklin College, where she was active in Pi Beta Phi sorority, and a master’s degree in education from Spalding University. She worked as a counselor at Jeffersonville (Ind.) High School from 1979–97. She loved rooting for the Louisville Cardinals, reading a good crime novel or Western, spending quality time with her grandkids and drinking a good glass of wine. She was preceded in death by her spouse, Frank, and two stepchildren. Survivors include two children, seven grandchildren and one great-grandchild as well as four stepchildren, 12 step-grandchildren and 20 step-great-grandchildren.

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Francis D. “Fran” Schill ’67 died Dec. 23, 2019. He resided in Seymour, Indiana. He worked in education for 30 years, served in Crothersville, Indiana, for 24 of those years, and the last nine years he was a principal. He also served on the board of trustees at Crothersville Community Schools and was an inductee of the Crothersville Athletic Hall of Fame. Survivors include his spouse, Caroline Sue, two children, two grandchildren, five step-grandchildren, three great-grandchildren and 17 step-great-grandchildren. He resided in Crothersville, Indiana.

Beverly A (Velleco) Goldschmidt ’69 died Jan. 9, 2020. She earned her bachelor’s degree in education and was employed for 34 years with the Providence, Rhode Island, school district. She taught first grade and kindergarten, prior to retiring in 2003. She enjoyed time with family and traveling. Survivors include her spouse of 50 years, Raymond F. ’69, two sons and two grandchildren. She resided in West Warwick, Rhode Island.

‘70s

Thomas E. Gloeckler ’73 died Dec. 10, 2019, after a six-month illness. He worked for IBM at AK Steel in telecommunications for 40 years before retiring in 2013. He was active in his community as a youth basketball and baseball coach, softball player and high school marching band booster. He resided in Springboro, Ohio. Survivors include his spouse of 44 years, Cathy, two children and two grandchildren.

Victoria (Ford) Haley ’75 died Feb. 4, 2020. She was active in Pi Beta Phi sorority at Franklin College and majored in journalism. She resided in Indianapolis.

‘90s

James “Jim” M. Raines ’93 died Jan. 19, 2020. He attended Franklin College and was a member of Lambda Chi Alpha fraternity. He loved camping, fishing and hunting. Survivors include his spouse, Kimiko, and four children. He resided in Greenwood, Indiana.

Jose M. Rodriguez ’93 died March 1, 2020, after an 11-month battle with esophageal cancer. He majored in broadcast journalism at Franklin College and was a co-founder of the “Inside Franklin” video-recorded campus news program. He also was active in Kappa Delta Rho fraternity, Student Entertainment Board, baseball, soccer and WFCI radio station. He was honored at commencement with the Gold Quill Trophy for excelling in academics, campus leadership and community service. He built a 27-year career in mortgage and finance, and was active in his church and community as a volunteer. Survivors include his spouse, Katherine, and four children. He resided in Greenwood, Indiana.

Rev. Dr. L. Eugene Ton (HD ’83) died Dec. 16, 2019. He served the American Baptist Churches during his ministry of four decades. He and spouse Mary Ellen also performed missionary work in Central America, and he spent time with the Baptist Churches in Russia. Together they volunteered for many years at Wisconsin’s Green Lake Conference Center (formerly the American Baptist Assembly). He graduated from Northern Baptist Theological Seminary and earned his Master of Sacred Theology and doctorate of ministry from Christian Theological Seminary. He was an active member of the Franklin College Board of Trustees from 1986-95, and he received an honorary doctorate of divinity from the college in 1983. Survivors include four children, five grandchildren and six great-grandchildren.

CORRECTION

Phillip G. Hontz ’69 is alive and well in Garland, Texas. The winter 2020 magazine issue erroneously included an obituary for Philip W. Hontz who is not an alumnus.
We call ourselves Grizzlies for good reasons. As the eighth annual #GivetoGRIZ campaign results show, we’re fierce in the face of challenges and virtually unstoppable together!

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