RAISING THE BAR

Public relations pro makes Indy’s Forty Under 40 list.
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FORTIFY FRANKLIN

College life looks different this semester, but Grizzlies are adapting. Over the summer, College administrators collaborated with local health officials on developing COVID-19 mitigation protocols and strategies to help keep students, employees and the surrounding Franklin community safe. The resulting Return to Campus Plan, subtitled “Fortify Franklin,” includes a Community Responsibility Pledge to wear masks and practice physical
distancing during classes and extracurricular activities. Compliance ensures the College can continue providing the best possible residential, liberal arts experience to students. Together, Grizzlies are helping Fortify Franklin. Learn more at FranklinCollege.edu/coronavirus, and look for #FortifyFranklin videos on social media. Pictured are Kosmo Wojack '24 (foreground), Jovany Sebastian '24 and Ellie Lammert '24.
Dear Alumni and Friends,

Among the many challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic has come another round of cautionary tales about the future of liberal arts education. While many small colleges struggle with enrollment and financial pressures, I am pleased to share that Franklin College has embarked on a path to ensure continued relevance of the liberal arts experience within the postgraduate marketplace.

Our recent $1 million Charting the Future grant from Lilly Endowment Inc. for the digital fluency initiative reflects our continued recognition of market-sensitive educational imperatives (related story on Pages 14–15). The next logical step in equipping Franklin College graduates with a value-added distinction is exposing them to the various tech applications being leveraged daily in their respective professions. That tech proficiency, coupled with the breadth of preparation enabled by a liberal arts foundation and discipline-specific knowledge and experience, will make FC graduates uniquely attractive to employers.

As we staff and equip the new Center for Tech Innovation and begin our esports program, we enter an exciting new phase of excellence at Franklin College. Already, our elementary education students are practicing teaching and classroom management skills through Mursion before a virtual room of student avatars. Exercise science students have made use of HTC Vive to study the effects of virtual reality on cognitive functioning and also engaged in the use of wearables that rely on muscle-activation technology.

Students in other majors will soon have the opportunity to explore similar cutting-edge digital technologies. For example, journalism students could use automated data-sifting technology for investigation and development of story ideas. English majors interested in technical writing could learn Whatfix, enabling them to create web-enabled pictorial guides complete with interactive walkthroughs. Plotly, a graphing library used for the visual display of statistical analyses, could be leveraged by students in a wide variety of majors.

The list goes on and on as tech applications multiply by the day in every academic discipline and each associated professional career. Our goal is to provide Franklin College students with cutting-edge tech skills to complete their preparation for the best employment opportunities and, ultimately, for leadership positions in their chosen professions.

The digital fluency initiative reflects the latest iteration of the truly transformational experience that is a Franklin College education. We are so proud to have earned the confidence of Lilly Endowment Inc. and excited to embark on this next level of academic distinction for current and future Grizzlies.

Sincerely,

KERRY PRATHER
FRANKLIN COLLEGE PRESIDENT
Featured Stories

6 POMP, CIRCUMSTANCE AND PANDEMIC
See how the Class of 2020 reunited for a traditional in-person Commencement ceremony while following pandemic safety precautions.

14 MILLION DOLLAR GRANT
Learn how a $1 million grant from Lilly Endowment Inc.’s Charting the Future for Indiana’s Colleges and Universities initiative is helping strengthen technology integration and expand learning opportunities at Franklin College.

32 RAISING THE BAR
Meet public relations pro Brad Rateike ’02, and learn why he was named an Indianapolis Business Journal Forty Under 40 honoree earlier this year.
Tremendous thought and preparation preceded the hosting of an in-person Commencement ceremony for the Class of 2020, whose traditional rite of passage was postponed in May, while the College implemented distance education amid pandemic concerns.

With health and safety as top priorities, Commencement was reimagined and hosted at Faught Stadium on Sunday, Oct. 11. Admission was limited to four guests per student, seating was distanced and face masks were required. With picture-perfect fall weather as the backdrop, there were 181 students recognized for earning bachelor’s or master’s degrees. Some were recognized in absentia, due to personal health restrictions or relocation to other parts of the country for grad school or career since the spring.

The class of 2020 selected Melissa Beer ’20, who double majored in applied mathematics and quantitative analysis and now works for Lincoln Financial Group, as their speaker.

“I am so extremely grateful to Franklin for giving us the opportunity that many graduates of 2020 did not have. We get that walk across the stage that brings closure to the four years of hard work during our collegiate careers,” Beer said in her address. “As graduates, we can vouch for the fact that one of the biggest lessons Franklin engrains in us as students is to be adaptable and resilient in an ever-changing society, and boy is our world ever-changing right now. But today is not about the challenges we faced. Instead, today is about celebrating all we accomplished. Because we did it. We made it to graduation!”

The College recognized three honorary degree recipients. First, was Michael Gilligan, president emeritus of the Henry Luce Foundation in New York, who received an honorary doctor of humane letters. He was keynote speaker of a virtual baccalaureate service the college streamed for the Class of 2020 on May 23. Second, was Franklin College Trustee Douglas L. Tillman ’70, retired associate general counsel for Eli Lilly and Co., who received an honorary doctor of laws, in absentia. Lastly, was Richard DiMarchi, Ph.D., a Distinguished Professor of Chemistry and the Gill Chair in Biomolecular Sciences at Indiana University, who received an honorary doctor of science. DiMarchi, also a widely known researcher and entrepreneur in biosciences, was the keynote speaker. He encouraged graduates to address life’s challenges in a civilized manner.

“When you see yellow, I hope you see the sun and the hope it represents for a better day. Let us figuratively tie a yellow ribbon around this Franklin College campus in the hope that we might not just survive this pandemic, but that we might emerge stronger and better prepared for whatever lies ahead.”
View the Commencement ceremony video at FranklinCollege.edu, and find many more photos on social media.

PHOTOS BY CHAD WILLIAMS
Thank you, donors!

It has been an unprecedented year in many ways, and one that has proven the resilience of the entire Franklin College family. Through it all, generous philanthropy has enabled continuous delivery of the distinctive, transformational liberal arts experience that is vital to our students. We are immensely grateful to donors whose collective efforts set new records in college giving, including more than $700,000 to the Franklin Fund.

For more examples of donor impact, watch the thank-you video from Franklin College President Kerry Prather at FranklinCollege.edu/giving/honor-roll-of-donors.

Then, look for your name in the 2019-20 Honor Roll of Donors shared below the video.

And read additional articles about donor generosity on Pages 16–17.

Homecoming with a twist

The COVID-19 pandemic and restrictions on gathering in person had most alumni wondering, “What’s Homecoming without coming home to campus?”

The office of development and alumni engagement had the answer, an entirely virtual Homecoming and Alumni Weekend. Through a variety of creative programming, the staff found ways to bring the Homecoming tradition into Grizzlies’ homes, no matter where they live.

From an invitation-only donor gathering on Zoom with Franklin College President Kerry Prather and a reading by former poet laureate of Indiana and award-winning writer Adrian Matejka, to an all-alumni trivia night with prizes and an interactive financial planning session, the College offered a variety of virtual programming. Oct. 6–11. Virtual reunions for classes ending in “5” and “0” were tremendously popular among Grizzlies wishing to reconnect and reminisce. Find photos and videos from the Franklin College Alumni Association on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram.

The Athletic Hall of Fame awards banquet and the Hail to Franklin alumni awards program will be moved to spring, subject to the environment allowing them to be held in person. Information will be shared as details are confirmed.

We can’t convince the squirrels on campus to practice social distancing, but they are endorsing face masks! Campus-wide compliance with pandemic safety precautions helps ensure we can continue providing the best possible residential, liberal arts experience to students. Learn more about our comprehensive Return to Campus Plan, “Fortify Franklin,” at FranklinCollege.edu.
With gratitude, we recognize 12 faculty and staff members who have recently transitioned into retirement and are beginning a new chapter in life.

Together, they invested nearly 190 years of career service and community involvement at Franklin College, and they touched hundreds of lives through their inspiring leadership, scholarship and friendship. Due to the pandemic, the College was unable to recognize these employees with a celebration in May, when the 2019–20 academic year concluded. However, we would like to offer a glimpse of their careers and contributions here, and with a press release at FranklinCollege.edu.

We also encourage you to reach out via social media to share your well-wishes.

Retiring faculty included:

Ray Begovich, Ed.D., professor emeritus of public relations (PR)
Begovich joined the faculty in 1999, bringing his extensive PR agency experience in health care, higher education, economic development and tourism. During summer breaks from teaching, he enjoyed finding new ways to hone his professional skills, such as aiding the Indiana Department of Homeland Security. Begovich masterfully involved his PR students in community collaborations with nonprofits needing communications strategy and content assistance. He also coordinated his students’ participation in crisis management scenarios such as school-shooter drills. A milestone in his career occurred in 2013, when he discovered the first known film footage of former U.S. President Franklin D. Roosevelt using a wheelchair. The clip circulated worldwide and earned Begovich international attention. He used the opportunity to deliver strategic messaging about media portrayals of people with disabilities. In 2019, Franklin College peers voted to award Begovich the Faculty Excellence in Scholarship Award.

Ralph Guentzel, Ph.D., professor emeritus of history
Guentzel, a native of Kassel, Germany, joined the faculty in 1999. For most of his career, he served as the history department chair and the Centre for Canadian Studies director. An avid traveler, he specialized in teaching modern and contemporary history, and enjoyed exploring political ideologies with his students. Guentzel has published more than 12 articles in international anthologies and scholarly journals. He also is the author of four books, including The Demigod’s City: A Short History of Kassel, which recounts how the medieval town became a thriving metropolis in the center of Germany and Europe. Kassel is well-known for its baroque castles, as well as being home to the Brothers Grimm, legendary for their collection of fairytales produced during the 1800s.

Hank Nuwer, professor emeritus of journalism
Nuwer joined the faculty in 2002. He is a renowned authority on the topic of hazing and has made numerous guest appearances on national TV networks and other media outlets seeking his insights. He has written more than...
2,200 hazing-related articles and published 26 books, both fiction and non-fiction. One book was adapted into an NBC-TV movie called Moment of Truth: Broken Pledges. For his lengthy research and writing on hazing prevention, The State University College of New York awarded him an honorary doctorate and named him a Distinguished Alumnus. The Ball State University (BSU) Journalism Hall of Fame also inducted him and devoted a section of the university library to his manuscripts, housed in the Hank Nuwer Hazing Collection. Nuwer is a founding board member of HazingPrevention.com, which named its top award in his honor. He twice earned the Franklin College Faculty Excellence in Scholarship Award during his career. He continues to lecture on hazing topics, as well as work on several books in progress.

Sally Eck, enrollment assistant

Eck joined the staff in 2007, to assist the office of admissions with student application intakes and to help provide a welcoming first impression of Franklin College for prospective Grizzlies and their families. She shared that her favorite memories of working at the College include collaborating with admissions colleagues to recruit new students every year and assisting those students on move-in day, when their college journey as a Grizzly officially began. Eck has two Grizzlies in her own family, a son, Dustin Eck ’07, and a daughter-in-law, Lindsey (Cheatham) ’07.

Wendy Shuler ’86, director of church relations and strategic partnerships

Shuler joined the staff in 1986, as a research associate for the office of development. She was involved in supporting the highly successful Design the Future Campaign, which replaced campus buildings lost to a series of accidental fires in the mid-’80s, and helped transform the College to better meet students’ needs. Shuler left Franklin to pursue other career opportunities for several years but returned to the college in 2004, to serve as director of alumni relations, a post she held for four years. She later was promoted to director of church relations within the office of development and alumni relations. In 2012, she transitioned to the office of admissions, where she continued church relations work while also recruiting first-year students, assisting transfer-students and working with alumni volunteers in recruiting students. Shuler was instrumental in maintaining the College’s long-time voluntary affiliation with the American Baptist Churches (ABC), often representing the college at regional and national church events and helping coordinate ABC activities on campus.

Kelli Jones, associate registrar

Jones joined the staff in 2007, and served in several different roles over the years. Her most recent position as associate registrar involved assisting students with academic planning and course selection. Additionally, Jones served as an LA 100 instructor and as a Launch Lab advocate.

Retiring staff members included:

Tom Armor, senior director of development and planned giving

Read about Armor’s retirement and other staffing updates on Pages 22–23.

Catherine DeCleene, student health center coordinator

DeCleene joined the staff in 2012, and took on the task of keeping students and employees informed of trending health issues, healthy habits and preventive measures. Student journalists often interviewed DeCleene for health-related news articles, including flu prevention, tobacco use and substance abuse. While DeCleene originally retired from the college in December 2019, she returned to assist in the health center in late January 2020 until the next coordinator was hired.

Wendy Shuler ’86
for first-year students. She also volunteered as a team coordinator for Habitat for Humanity of Johnson County and recruited college colleagues to participate in the Women Build program. Jones advocated for the College's Center for Diversity and Inclusion and twice coordinated international study-away courses for students during Immersive Term. One course was in Europe, where the focus was on the Holocaust, and another course was in Greece, where students learned about the Olympics, past and present. Jones was nominated twice for the College's Woman of Distinction award and the Academic Adviser of the Year award. She is an avid supporter of the Grizzlies’ athletic teams, earning recognition twice by the volleyball team during Faculty/Staff Appreciation Night.

**Julie Leeth, lead administrative assistant**

Leeth joined the staff in 2009, and served in numerous roles over the years. She began as an assistant to career services and professional development, transitioned to executive secretary for the division of social sciences and then became lead administrative assistant to the provost and academic affairs office. She was instrumental in organizing the College’s formal academic and awards ceremonies, such as Commencement. She is the proud parent of a current Grizzly, Spencer Downhour ’23.

**Christina Lucas ’90, associate director of financial aid**

Lucas joined the staff in 1995, as an accountant. Over the years, her roles and responsibilities grew. At various times, she held positions as acting controller and assistant director of financial aid. She also had four stints as the acting director of financial aid. Lucas earned a master’s degree in student affairs administration from Indiana State University in 2007. Franklin College recognized her dedication to lifelong learning and commitment to improving student support with a promotion to associate director of financial aid. In retirement, she is enjoying more time with family, and staying active advocating for persons with mental and physical disabilities, an issue close to her heart.

**Vicki Mast, technology integration facilitator**

Mast joined the staff in 2000, as a temporary employee. She transitioned to a full-time role two years later. She was central to providing software support and training to faculty, staff and students, and was an expert resource on the College’s learning-management systems, as well as other education tools. Throughout her career, she participated on numerous committees, employee-search teams and grant-writing groups. Mast also served as an adjunct instructor in the education department for six years, and devoted time to the Independent Colleges of Indiana and the Private Academic Library Network of Indiana to help support statewide collaboration. Further, she led lunchtime workouts and crafting hours for the campus community.

**David Piland, general trades technician**

Piland joined the staff in 2009, as a general trades technician for the physical plant, and it didn’t take long for the campus community to notice his skillful craftsmanship and his kindness. Four years after his hiring, Piland was recognized with the Margaret Hommell Staff Service Excellence Award. Nomination letters praised Piland for creating remarkable sets for theatre productions and for mentoring students with a desire to learn carpentry and woodworking skills. Piland also was instrumental in transforming a city-owned building in downtown Franklin into an attractive and functional space the College used for a few years as a café and art studio, then as a teaching facility for athletic training. During his career, Piland participated in a spring break mission trip with the Religious Life team, serving as both a chaperone and a volunteer. He also worked on the movie set of a major motion picture, The Good Catholic, which was filmed in Bloomington, Indiana, and included contributions from several Franklin College employees and students.
Nine Franklin College journalism students recently added “Emmy winner” to their résumés.

They and two of their Pulliam School of Journalism (PSJ) professors earned the accolade during the National Academy of Television Arts & Sciences Lower Great Lakes Chapter awards program in June.

The College team collaborated with staff at WFYI Public Media to produce a documentary on famed fiction writer and Indiana native Kurt Vonnegut. The Emmy-winning program, nominated in two categories and told through the voices of Vonnegut’s family members, friends and dedicated scholars, provides intimate perspectives on the author and his 1969 novel, *Slaughterhouse-Five*.

PSJ chair Joel Cramer was a field producer. He and John Krull ’81, the producer and liaison between Franklin College and WFYI, guided a team of student videographers on a three-day, round-trip quest to gather footage and

Emily Ketterer ’21, assistant producer of “The Children’s Crusade Revisited: Slaughterhouse-Five at 50,” holds her Emmy for the first time.
Winning an Emmy shows that the journalism program at Franklin College is a force to be reckoned with. We are much smaller than other journalism schools, and we’ve proved time and time again that we can compete on their level.”

EMILY KETTERER ’21

Information from the East Coast. The team interviewed Kurt’s son, Mark Vonnegut, in Boston, then traveled to Manhattan to speak with a scholar, Marc Leeds, and an author and friend of Kurt’s, Sidney Offit. The team also filmed supplemental footage in New York City.

The team included Emily Ketterer ’21 and Erica Irish ’21, assistant producers, videographers and researchers; Carolina Puga Mendoza ’22, Haley Pritchett ’23, Zach Roberts ’23, Hope Shrum ’22 and Taylor Wooten ’21, videographers; Arianna Lovitt ’22 and Victoria Ratliff ’21, researchers. In addition to their primary roles, Puga Mendoza, Pritchett, Shrum and Wooten collaborated with the researchers.

“Winning an Emmy shows that the journalism program at Franklin College is a force to be reckoned with,” said Ketterer, who recently landed a part-time position with The Daily Journal of Johnson County and is working as a professional reporter as she completes her senior year of college.

“We are much smaller than other journalism schools, and we’ve proved time and time again that we can compete on their level. The partnership with WFYI shows future students that they can gain a unique experience producing documentaries where you can tell amazing stories and also learn so much about journalism and video production along the way.”

Due to COVID-19, the traditional Emmy Gala was postponed, but the awards program was streamed live online. Krull hosted a virtual watch party on Zoom so the College team could await the results together.

Ketterer said, “It was surreal watching our documentary show up when they announced the winner. Our faces just erupted in pure joy and excitement during that moment, and it was great to experience that together.”

“The Children’s Crusade Revisited: Slaughterhouse-Five at 50” won an Emmy in the Nostalgia - Program Series/Special category, and began airing on PBS stations around the country this summer. The College and WFYI previously co-produced documentaries about two of Indiana’s notable, retired government leaders, both now deceased. “Bill Hudnut: Twilight Reflections, Evening Meditations” won an Emmy in the Interview/Discussion – Program Series/Special category in 2016, and “Richard Lugar: Reason’s Quiet Warrior” was nominated for an Emmy in the Nostalgia Program – Program Series/Special category in 2019.

IN MAY, FRANKLIN COLLEGE STUDENTS AND FACULTY ALSO WON NUMEROUS WRITING AND REPORTING AWARDS FROM THE INDIANA SOCIETY OF PROFESSIONAL JOURNALISTS FOR THEIR WORK ON THESTATEHOUSEFILE.COM, A STUDENT-POWERED NEWS WEBSITE THAT PROVIDES STORIES AND CONTENT FOR APPROXIMATELY 35 NEWSPAPERS, TV NEWSCASTS, RADIO STATIONS AND DIGITAL NEWS OPERATIONS THROUGHOUT THE STATE OF INDIANA. READ THE AWARDS PRESS RELEASE AT FRANKLINCOLLEGE.EDU, IN THE CAMPUS NEWS SECTION.
With a recent $1 million grant from Lilly Endowment Inc., through its Charting the Future for Indiana's Colleges and Universities initiative (CTF), Franklin College is digging deeper into technology integration to enhance digital fluency campuswide.

Digital fluency refers to one’s ability to understand technological tools and concepts, and the capacity to use them for creating, innovating and problem-solving. Since technology is increasingly intertwined with nearly every facet of life, digital fluency is a prerequisite for learning, participating in society and getting a job. Consistent with our mission, the digital fluency initiative at Franklin College will better train students for today’s workforce, and more fully prepare them for tomorrow’s opportunities.

“We are enormously grateful to Lilly Endowment for supporting our initiative with this generous investment to ignite it,” said Franklin College President Kerry Prather. “This initiative merges the applications of technology in each academic discipline with the content knowledge and the liberal arts foundation that together form our distinctive academic experience.”

Prather added, “The digital fluency initiative is the next logical step in providing cutting-edge tools for our students across the curriculum, preparing them for the high-tech world they will encounter upon graduation. We are confident that digitally fluent, liberally educated graduates will have the comprehensive skill set to be leaders in the exploding tech sector of the economy.”

Lilly Endowment launched CTF in October 2019 to help leaders of Indiana’s 38 colleges and universities address their key challenges and take advantage of promising opportunities to enhance their relevance and sustainability. Lilly Endowment is encouraging higher-education leaders to explore collaborative strategies with businesses, governmental or charitable agencies and peer institutions.

“High-touch, immersive-learning experiences will always be the hallmark of the Franklin College experience. We recognize this opportunity to expand the expertise and preparation of our students to meet 21st century challenges for jobs yet to be created, for crises yet to arise and for problems yet to be solved,” said Kristin Flora, Ph.D., acting vice president of academic affairs and dean of the College.

CTF has three phases of grantmaking: Phase one, planning, during which the college was awarded $100,000 in December 2019; phase two, implementation, and phase three, an invitational for large-scale proposals. The college has submitted a concept paper for phase three.

“These are challenging times for colleges and universities, made more so because of the COVID-19 pandemic,” said Ted Maple, Lilly Endowment’s vice president for education.

“Higher education leaders recognize that they have to adapt to the changing demographics of undergraduate students, the importance of technology in education and the ever-growing need for students to be career-ready upon graduation. Leaders in Indiana are responding to these and other challenges with thoughtful, strategic and collaborative approaches that we believe can improve the financial sustainability of the institutions and the educational experiences of their students.”
RECENT COLLEGE STEPS SUPPORTING DIGITAL FLUENCY:

- **Gained a seat at the table with Indiana tech leaders.** Tim Garner ’79, Ph.D., associate vice president for academic affairs, has been appointed to the TechPoint board of directors. TechPoint is the nonprofit, industry-led growth accelerator for Indiana’s tech ecosystem. (Read more on Page 23.)

- **Established the Center for Tech Innovation on campus.** The center, neighboring Faught Stadium, gives new purpose to a facility formerly used as the College annex. The center currently houses a podcast production studio and soon will become home to the College’s esports program and a host of curricular and co-curricular activities associated with the digital fluency initiative.

- **Initiated plans to launch an esports program in 2021.** The term esports describes the world of competitive, organized multiplayer video gaming. Competitors from different leagues or teams battle in the same games that are popular with at-home gamers, such as Fortnite, League of Legends and Madden NFL. Collegiate esports programs are burgeoning nationwide; Anderson, Butler, Manchester and Trine universities are among the teams in Indiana.

  In addition to the thrill of competition and lessons in strategy and ethics, esports programs provide opportunities to engage students in building career competencies such as digital content creation, business marketing, sponsorship development and team management. A December 2019 *Forbes* article indicated commercial esports revenues exceeded $1 billion, and audiences grew to more than 443 million globally. The same article cited, “esports has burst into the mainstream, with its own superstars and leagues, celebrity-athlete owners and tournaments that sell out stadiums and award prizes worth millions of dollars.”•
FUNDS OF PANDEMIC PROPORTIONS

While most U.S. institutions of higher learning have emergency plans for hurricanes, floods and other disasters, the COVID-19 pandemic brought unforeseen challenges to the educational landscape. When Franklin College shifted solely to distance education in mid-March, a host of technological and other issues had to be resolved quickly. Additionally, some students needed a greater level of support from the College than ever before as the pandemic drastically impacted them and their families.

As numerous alumni and friends began contacting the College to ask how they could help, the development and alumni engagement team came up with a plan to incentivize fiscal year-end giving and provide students relief.

The team created two new giving options, the Student Support Fund and the Student Emergency Fund. The former addressed student financial burdens ranging from food insecurity and medical bills, to technology and housing assistance. The latter was directed to the urgent hurdles that could prevent students from completing their Franklin College education and successfully transitioning into the workforce and beyond.

“Gifts to these relief funds were a critical lifeline for the students who faced seemingly insurmountable barriers and grappled with uncertainties surrounding their future at Franklin College,” said Dana Cummings, vice president for development and alumni engagement. “We are incredibly thankful for the donors who joined in this timely outreach and, once again, showed students the true meaning of Grizzly pride and generosity.”

The donors included college trustee Rob Brown and his spouse, Ruth, who gave $15,000 to the Student Emergency Fund. Brown said, “During these unprecedented times, Ruth and I felt it was important to help students in need stay on track to attain their academic goals. If we could play a small part in helping someone through this crisis, we were happy to help.”

HEALTH AND SAFETY FIRST

Cook Medical generously donated face masks and hand sanitizer to Franklin College in early August, prior to the return of students and faculty to campus.

The College publicly released its Return to Campus Plan, subtitled “Fortify Franklin,” on Aug. 3. The document remains on the College website and offers a summary of COVID-19 mitigation, safety and sanitization protocols. Cook Medical’s hand sanitizer was placed in the college’s computer labs, and masks were placed at sanitization stations throughout campus buildings.

“Wearing masks, maintaining hand hygiene and practicing social distancing are foundational to our Fortify Franklin plan. We truly appreciate Cook Medical’s generosity and are grateful for all the supplies that support our implementation efforts,” said Tom Patz, assistant vice president of physical facilities.

Since 1963, Cook Medical, based in Bloomington, Indiana, has been reinventing, manufacturing and delivering a unique portfolio of medical devices to health care systems around the world. The company works closely with physicians to develop technologies that improve patients’ lives.
Pete Yonkman (HD ’19), president of Cook Group and Cook Medical, was the 2019 Commencement speaker at Franklin College, which awarded him an honorary doctorate of humane letters.

“Cook Medical is happy to assist Franklin College with this donation,” said Yonkman. “It benefits everyone in the state, and beyond, to keep the students and their instructors safe and healthy so they can dedicate their efforts to their studies.”

SUPPORTING GREEK LIFE

Greek life was a significant part of the Franklin College experience for Mike Phillips ’96, a Kappa Delta Rho member, and his spouse, Mary (Helton) ’97, a Zeta Tau Alpha member. Their two children, Jimmy Phillips ’18 and Rebecca Phillips ’21, also found a home away from home at Franklin, and a sense of belonging with the members of Lambda Chi Alpha and Zeta Tau Alpha, respectively. The Phillips family recognizes that while Greek membership can be very rewarding, it also can be costly to sustain. To help students involved in the Greek system who have experienced financial hardships, they have established the Phillips Family Greek Student Emergency Fund Award. Funds are allocated at the discretion of the College’s director of student involvement and Greek life.

Mary said, “Involvement in FC Greek life contributed much to who we are today. As our children became involved, we saw firsthand that no matter how well prepared a student is for the financial obligation, challenges still happen. We took the opportunity to help individual Greek members as often as possible but wanted to do more. Establishing the fund is our way of providing the Greek community with support to overcome unexpected obstacles. We hope they find it a help and comfort when those times arise.”

This non-endowed fund can continue to grow with additional support from donors who share the same enthusiasm as the Phillips family. Please contact Vice President for Development and Alumni Engagement Dana Cummings at 800.852.0232 for details.

Mike Phillips ’96 stands with son Jimmy ’18, spouse Mary (Helton) ’97 and daughter Rebecca ’21.
George Floyd’s death on May 25, 2020, after a Minneapolis police officer pinned him to the ground and held a knee on his neck for more than eight minutes, sparked calls for social justice around the globe. It was a turning point that led many to reflect more deeply on personal beliefs about race and to seek a better understanding of Black people’s experiences living in America today.

The trauma and unrest that followed Floyd’s death have amplified efforts to address diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI) in the city of Franklin, its public school system and at Franklin College. Mayor Steve Barnett, Superintendent David Clendening and President Kerry Prather began collaborating over the summer on ways to promote community healing and make Franklin more inviting and inclusive for everyone.

“We are taking steps toward improvement within our organizations and are optimistic about opportunities to partner in ways that can help move the greater Franklin community forward. However, this is a marathon, not a sprint.”

Barnett is energized by the collaboration.

“We need to work together because we all have different leadership responsibilities, but they have intersecting impact,” he said. “We all want Franklin to be a community where people want to live, work, learn, play and stay. It starts with the way we educate and support kids in grades K-12 because those experiences help build up to how they view this community by the time they get to be of college age and then eventually how they engage in government, the workforce and the local economy as adults.”

Barnett and Prather recognize that DEI advocacy requires more than good intentions. For assistance, they have called upon Franklin resident Ontay Johnson, executive director at EmpowerED Families in Indianapolis and former executive director of 100 Black Men of Indianapolis. Johnson has a nearly 30-year career history of developing programs to help empower minority youth and their families.

At Barnett’s request, Johnson led a workshop this summer for Franklin’s
shops, trainings, celebrations and level. As the nucleus for DEI work-
Inclusion (CDI) operates at the micro-
administration at the macro-level, 

While Johnson works with the College 
and post-graduation, and talking about 
students and faculty of color. We've 
to examine retaining and attracting 
work together for that to happen.

Essentially, my role is to provide 
objective thoughts and strategies 
around how the College can ensure 
students of color are seen, heard and 
celebrated. It's critical for people 
to feel like their voice is welcome, 
that what they bring to the table is 
celebrated, and that things begin to 
happen as a result of them sharing 
their truths. I believe we all need to 
work together for that to happen.

I'm also working with the College 
to examine retaining and attracting 
students and faculty of color. We've 
been having conversations with 
alumni about their experiences, pre-
and post-graduation, and talking about 
how the College can do a better job 
with that engagement.

As an extension of the CDI, the College 
in recent years has introduced living-
learning communities on campus. One 
is the Building Our Leaders through 
Diversity (BOLD) community within 
Johnson Memorial Hall, where the 
focus is on multicultural enrichment. 
Another is the Arthur Wilson House, 
named for the college’s first Black 
graduate. Arthur Wilson 1902 built a 
distinguished career as a physician. 
The house residents share the 
common experience of being Black, 
and seek meaningful connections 
with each other through service 
projects and engagement in DEI work. 

Roberts-Leonard credits students past 
and present for their influence. 

“We've had and continue to have top-
notch students who can think beyond 
themselves and the present time to 
consider the impact of practices on 
future students. The students who 
write emails to the College administra-
tion and vocalize concerns, who ask 
questions and serve on committees, 
and who recommend changes 
and keep following up are essential.”

Student engagement is one of 
the areas where Roberts-Leonard, 
Johnson and Prather are simultane-
ously focused and recognize there is 
much work to do. Johnson indicated 
Franklin College is not unique in the 
DEI challenges it faces.

He said, “This is happening in board-
rooms and on college campuses all 
across the nation. We wouldn’t keep 
having these moments and this 
reckoning if racism wasn’t happening.

“I appreciate that three of our Franklin 
community leaders, three white men 
with power in their own right who 
could have said, ‘I’m fine with the way 
things are,’ instead said, ‘We want to 
do even more for everyone, and 
we want to help move the needle 
and change minds.’ I appreciate that 
they’re wanting to change culture 
and systems. They’re willing to dig in 
deep to the roots of these issues. We 
can’t necessarily change the hearts of 
people, but we know that just talking 
and sharing information can lead to 
change. It’s slow, but we have to be 
patient.”

Prather indicated the DEI work cur-
cently underway is only the beginning.

He said, “We resolve to keep the con-
versations going with our students, 
alumni and employees to understand 
the differences in experiences and to 
approach the culture of the College and 
its ability to deliver a welcoming, enjoyable and successful 
experience for everyone who chooses 
Franklin College”.

The Black Student Union coordinated a 
march for social justice in September. 
Students and employees marched from 
campus to downtown Franklin.
POET NAMED AWARD FINALIST

Poet Callista Buchen, Ph.D., assistant professor of English and creative writing, was a finalist for the 2020 Eugene and Marilyn Glick Indiana Authors Awards. The biannual awards program, established in 2009, amplifies the Hoosier state’s literary community and seeks to deepen the connections between Indiana writers and readers across the nation. Buchen’s collection, Look, Look, Look, was one of six nominations in the poetry category. Other categories included fiction, nonfiction, children’s, young adult, drama, genre and emerging.

Buchen previously published two chapbooks, Double-Mouthed and The Bloody Planet. Numerous literary journals have published her poetry, and one poem, “Taking Care,” was nominated for inclusion in the Orison Anthology in 2019.

ARTIST’S WORK EXHIBITED AT MUSEUM

The Hoosier Art Salon selected associate professor of art David Cunningham for participation in its 96th annual juried showcase at the Indiana State Museum in Indianapolis, Aug. 29–Oct. 25.

Since its founding in 1925, the Salon has remained dedicated to promoting Indiana artists and their work. Each year, independent jurors select works from hundreds of submissions in the genres of portrait, landscape, still life, abstract and 3D art.

This year marked Cunningham’s eighth consecutive qualifying entry into a Salon juried exhibition. He has won three previous Salon awards of excellence for still-life paintings, and one award of excellence for drawing. Cunningham’s 2020 entry was an oil painting on a panel. It depicts his spouse, Amber (Garrison) ’07, and is titled “Gaia.” (Pictured right)

“In Greek mythology, Gaia is the personification of earth, and refers to the mother goddess of all life,” said Cunningham. “Amber, nine months pregnant at the time, was the ultimate muse.” Her crown of antlers and flowing dress represent elements of nature, and the sphere she holds symbolizes an art studio, he explained. Cunningham’s reflection, depicted as a giant cyclops, shines from the sphere.

Cunningham joined the Franklin College faculty in 2003. While teaching full time, he continues to work as an artist. He specializes in representational oil painting, figure drawing and wheel-thrown ceramics. His paintings have been exhibited in galleries across the United States, commissioned for corporate and personal purchases and featured at the Indianapolis International Airport.

CONNECTING CAMPUS AND COMMUNITY

Professor of English Susan Crisafulli, Ph.D., has been selected a member of the Indiana Campus Compact (ICC) 25th Class of Faculty Fellows.

The Fellows program supports faculty professional development by bringing together representatives from ICC partner campuses for social and intellectual collaboration, and providing grants to help support high-impact teaching and engagement practices. Faculty Fellows must commit to addressing a significant social, economic or environmental issue and collaborating on solutions with a community organization. Each Fellow’s employer also must provide some funding for the work.

Crisafulli was selected for the Fellows program and a $3,800 grant based on her proposal, “Communications Consulting Project: A Partnership between Poverty-Focused Nonprofits and Franklin College.” She is integrating her Fellowship with a course she teaches for students majoring in English and creative writing.

“The idea for this course came from conversations with directors of local nonprofits,” said Crisafulli. “Many of these organizations operate with only a handful of full-time staff members, and even if those members have training and experience with professional writing, they do not necessarily have the time and energy to pursue all the strategic projects that could help further their operations and mission.”
Crisafulli’s students are working in teams to assist two nonprofits with writing projects that include content for their websites, social media, brochures and grant proposals. Concurrently, the students are growing in their understanding of nonprofit management and building upon their professional development skills. The organizations, Michelle’s Little Free Pantry and Bridges Alliance of Johnson County, are both working to address poverty issues.

Beyond the student engagement component of her Fellowship, Crisafulli will pursue ways to make the experience relevant to her faculty colleagues on and off campus, as well as to partners in the community. She intends to lead grant-writing workshops in the spring of 2021 and wants to facilitate customized training for faculty seeking inspiration and guidance on creating their own community-engagement courses. Crisafulli began teaching at Franklin College in 2008.

IMPACTING HOOSIER HEALTH CARE

The Franklin College Master of Science in Physician Assistant Studies (MSPAS) Program recently received a $5,000 grant from the Metropolitan Indianapolis-Central Indiana Area Health Education Center (MICI-AHEC).

MICI-AHEC aims to improve Hoosiers’ health by recruiting, educating and retaining health care professionals for underserved communities in Indiana. The grant to Franklin College will support student clinical rotations at Windrose Health Network, a federally qualified health center committed to helping the poor, the medically underserved and other vulnerable residents.

“MICI-AHEC, with its generosity, and Windrose, with its trust in our community partnership, is giving Franklin College students an opportunity to gain valuable patient-care experience, and to grow in their understanding of the unique challenges underserved populations face. Both are vitally important skill sets, particularly for the graduates who will go on to help fill the voids in health care across Indiana’s rural counties and beyond,” said Thomas Meehan, Ph.D., PA-C, MSPAS founding program director and an assistant professor of PA studies.

PAs are licensed medical providers authorized to provide patient-care services functioning under the direction and supervision of an individual physician or group. According to the American Academy of PAs, 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 PAs. In rural counties, PAs are more scarce, 66 percent of rural counties in Indiana have no or only one PA in service. ★
VICE-PRESIDENTIAL PICK ANNOUNCED

Thandabantu B. “Thanda” Maceo joined the College in September, as vice president for strategic enrollment management and marketing. He over-sees the admissions, financial aid and marketing staffs, and serves on the President’s Cabinet.

He brings more than 29 years of higher-education experience, including his previous role with Ruffalo Noel Levitz, as vice president and consultant for the enrollment marketing services division, serving more than 45 campuses. His other prior roles were with the University of Cincinnati, Ursuline College, Heidelberg University and Bethany College, where he had responsibilities in marketing and recruiting, retention planning, strategic enrollment-management planning, and building and leading high-performance enrollment teams. Maceo also is co-founder and principal of TBM Consultants LLC in Ohio.

Franklin College President Kerry Prather said, “Beyond expertise, Thanda strengthens our leadership team with a positive, collaborative style and a genuine love for and commitment to the mission of the liberal arts. I am confident he will help us continue our positive enrollment direction and enhance our overall strategy in many ways.”

Maceo earned a Bachelor of Science in economics from Xavier University and a Master of Business Administration from Heidelberg University.

He completed graduate courses in educational foundations at the University of Cincinnati.

Maceo said, “I am deeply committed to placing my skills, talents and experience in service to Franklin College. I look forward to working with all members of the campus community to achieve enrollment and net-tuition revenue goals delivering on our promise to the hundreds of students and families we serve.”

A RETIREMENT WELL DESERVED

Tom Armor, a familiar face to many alumni and friends, retired in June as the College’s senior director of development and planned giving. Armor spent 10 years as a public school teacher in Franklin before transitioning to higher education at Franklin College in 1981. For eight years, he served as the College’s director of career planning and placement while also serving as a lecturer in the department of education. From there, he moved into the role of director of planned giving, a post he held until 1996 when he left the College to become a financial adviser. Fifteen years later, he retired from the investment industry, and returned to the College as the senior director of development and planned giving.

Armor indicated his favorite memories are of relationships with students, colleagues and supporters of Franklin College. He said, “All of these relationships were individually developed and cultivated, and have been an important part of a very fulfilling life for me.” Armor also said he was humbled by the donor generosity he witnessed, and the tangible impact that philanthropy made on individual students’ lives.

“I’m very proud of Franklin College’s history and its time-tested resiliency. I was at the College during the accidental but devastating campus fires of 1985, and I was there at the start of the pandemic. The events are eerily similar, and my confidence in the College’s future is unwavering.”

Armor’s role at the College has been assumed by Nora (Lowe) Brems ’87.

Armor said, “I'm very pleased to see Nora as director of planned giving. Her love and pride for Franklin College are paralleled only by her integrity and competency. Donors will find her to be a tremendous resource.”

LONGTIME FUNDRAISER PROMOTED

In July, Nora (Lowe) Brems ’87 stepped into a new role at the College, as director of planned giving for the office of development and alumni engagement. The role was previously held by Tom Armor, who retired.

Brems has worked for Franklin College during two stints over her professional career. Prior to graduating, she was hired as an admissions counselor, a position she continued for two years. She then was promoted to assistant director of admissions/Ohio Valley regional representative. She held the role for more than a decade, eventually
taking on added duties as associate director of admissions in 2000.

Brems, a resident of Ohio, left Franklin for a brief time to serve as the senior admissions counselor/transcript analyst at the College of Mount St. Joseph. When her Grizzly ties drew her back to Indiana, it was to serve as Franklin’s director of development. Brems held the position from 2004 until her recent promotion to director of planned giving. In addition to her bachelor’s degree in journalism, Brems holds a Certificate in Fund Raising Management from the Indiana University Lilly Family School of Philanthropy.

Brems said, “I’ve been blessed to spend the majority of my career at Franklin, and this new role allows me to expand upon the deep relationships I’ve built over nearly three decades at my alma mater. The long-term success of any institution is rooted in its people, pure and simple.

“The people with whom I’ve built trust, and friendships, through my work in development are key to the future of the College. I look forward to serving our alumni and friends in this capacity and further delivering upon our student-focused mission. Everyone has the opportunity to leave a legacy somewhere. I am honored to have these conversations with our donors at Franklin College.”

Her spouse, Bill Brems ’87, and two of their three sons, Matt ’13 and Nick ’19, are alumni.

1: Nora (Lowe) Brems ’87
2: Tim Garner ’79, Ph.D
3: Tom Armor
4: Thandabantu B. “Thanda” Maceo

**TALKING TECH WITH STATE LEADERS**

Tim Garner ’79, Ph.D, associate vice president for Academic Affairs, has been appointed to TechPoint’s board of directors.

TechPoint is the nonprofit, industry-led growth accelerator for Indiana’s tech ecosystem. TechPoint was established in 2003 when the Indiana Software Association and the Indiana Information Technology Association merged. TechPoint’s objective is to bring together Indiana’s tech companies, philanthropies, government, universities and talent to create opportunities throughout the state.

Garner oversees the Franklin College Information Technology Services Department. His role with TechPoint helps further the College’s efforts to enhance digital fluency across the curriculum and provide innovative co-curricular experiences that integrate technological opportunities. These efforts are supported by a recent grant from Lilly Endowment Inc., and its Charting the Future for Indiana’s Colleges and Universities initiative. (See related story on Pages 14–15) •
They forge their own path ahead but make room for those who follow.

THEY LIVE GENEROUSLY.

GRIZZLIES LEAD BY GIVING BACK

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

MAKE YOUR FRANKLIN FUND GIFT AT FranklinCollege.edu/giving/give-now
The Heartland Collegiate Athletic Conference (HCAC) named swimmer Brynna Sentel ’21 the 2019-20 Female Athlete of the Year in June, following a vote of league officials.

She earned the award after a dominating season in the pool for the Grizzlies. For the second consecutive season, Sentel also earned the HCAC Female Swimmer of the Year title and was recognized as an NCAA All-American, after qualifying for the 2020 NCAA Division III National Championship in the 200-, 500- and 1650-freestyle events, as well as the 200- and 400-freestyle relays. Ultimately, neither Sentel nor her qualifying swim teammates, Courtnee Coffman ’21, Jacqueline Richard ’21, Caileigh McCafferty ’23 and male diver Gauge Creech ’23, had the chance to compete at the national level in March because all events were canceled due to the pandemic.

In spite of the season’s unpredictable ending, Sentel was named the HCAC Swimmer of the Week an impressive five times throughout the year. According to the HCAC website, “She was a key cog in the Franklin swimming machine that claimed a third-straight HCAC women’s swimming and diving title and remained unbeaten in the regular season in dual-competition.”

Sentel owns the most All-American honors in Franklin College Swimming and Diving Program history (five) and holds a program record in the 1650-freestyle. In the 2019–20 season, she finished with the top time among all Grizzlies’ swimmers in five different events, the 200-, 500-, 1000- and 1650-freestyle, and the 100-backstroke.

Sentel is the second Franklin College female athlete to earn the HCAC’s top individual honor, joining 2015 winner Anna (Murdock) Larson ’15, a four-year standout in track and cross-country. The HCAC Athlete of the Year award program was started seven years ago.

Sentel majors in multimedia journalism and is a native of Sullivan, Illinois.
Life has come full circle for a Grizzly grad now back at her alma mater and leading career preparation for students in athletic training. Tiffany (Henderson) Franklin ’07, Ed.D., LAT, ATC, was named director of the Franklin College Master of Science in Athletic Training (MSAT) program in June.

“I am very honored and humbled for the opportunity,” said Franklin. “I have always hoped to come back to Franklin College in some capacity. Because this program provided opportunities for me to grow as a person and a professional, I feel like I now have the opportunity and a calling to give back to the College, and to future athletic-training students. I truly believe I would not be where I am today without the experience I had as a student many years ago.”

After earning her bachelor’s degree in athletic training from Franklin College, she completed a master’s degree program in exercise science and sport performance at Ball State University. She also served there as a graduate assistant athletic trainer for the women’s volleyball, and track and field teams. Her other previous experience in academic settings includes serving as an assistant athletic trainer at Butler University and an athletic trainer at Lawrence North High School in Indianapolis.
As the former sports medicine coordinator and physician extender for Community Health Network Sports Medicine in Indianapolis, she received the organization’s Employee of the Year award in 2013. During that same period, she assisted two professional teams, Indy Eleven soccer and Indy Fuel hockey, with sports medicine services.

Most recently, Franklin earned her doctorate of education in leadership from Spalding University, where she also served as the clinical education coordinator and assistant professor for the Master of Science in Athletic Training (MSAT) program. She received the District 9 Chuck and Patty Kimmel Research Scholarship Award for her doctorate studies, and she received a grant from the National Athletic Trainers' Association Ethnic Diversity Advisory Committee to focus on improving diversity in the athletic training profession. She received the Spalding University MSAT Teaching Excellence Award in 2018.

Kristin Flora, Ph.D., acting vice president for academic affairs and dean of the College, said, “Dr. Franklin returns to her alma mater with a wealth of knowledge and experience, as well as a passion for diversifying the field of athletic training. We are confident she will take our MSAT program to the next level.”

The MSAT program holds distinction as Franklin College’s first-ever graduate degree program, founded in 2015. It is accredited by the Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association, the largest regional accreditor of higher education in the country, and the Commission on Accreditation of Athletic Training Education (CAATE). A degree from a CAATE-accredited program is necessary for students to be eligible for board certification.

“**My intent is to expand our Franklin College athletic brand, reputation and winning culture.**”

**ANDREW “ANDY” HENDRICKS**
Amid the pandemic, Mollo wore a protective mask bearing the words “peace,” “love” and “justice,” as she greeted friends and guests. Columbus Mayor Jim Lienhoop read a proclamation in Mollo’s honor and presented her a framed copy.

Since March 2018, Mollo had presided over the county’s Family Recovery Court, a problem-solving court that attempts reunification of families. It was created at a time when more than 80 percent of Children in Need of Services (CHINS) cases in the county involved a parent dealing with drug addiction.

Mollo said, “By the time a child or family comes before the court, they are in a crisis. The cases were, as with all families, complex and multidimensional. The underlying issues for the child or family often ranged from poverty, past trauma, unmet mental-health needs, substance dependence and domestic violence.

“The juvenile court is given the opportunity to help resolve the concerns. A juvenile judge collaborating with a committed team of treatment providers, family case managers, Court-Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) volunteers and other community agencies working with the family can change lives for the better.”

Life has been very busy since Mollo earned her undergraduate degree in psychology from Franklin College. Her first job was counseling economically disadvantaged individuals. When she discovered that legal issues often became barriers for people needing help, she chose to become part of the solution. She earned her law degree from Indiana University, and found ways to help people.

In Nashville, Indiana, where she still lives, Mollo served as a public defender, part-time deputy prosecutor and referee presiding over juvenile cases. She also was appointed counsel to the Department of Welfare, where she handled cases of abuse and neglect.

Mollo’s legal authority, as well as her salary, received a prominent boost in 1993 when she was appointed by then-Ind. Gov. Evan Bayh to serve the remaining term of a former Circuit Court Judge. One year later, Mollo won a six-year appointment during the 1994 election. But then, something unusual happened in 1999.

That was when Mollo asked her husband, Steve ‘78, how he would feel if she cut her salary in half and relinquished most of her employee benefits by resigning from the bench in Nashville to work with children in Columbus. Steve told his wife to do what was right for her.

Circuit Court Judge Stephen Heimann, who worked with Mollo for 16 years, said, “She resigned as a judge making a very good salary to take this job as a part-time juvenile referee. Why? Because she recognized she could make a big difference in kids’ lives. And that’s what she valued.”

To further illustrate his point, Heimann said that in 1991, Mollo learned that a boy appearing before her in her court was going to play in an eighth-grade basketball tournament. However, the boy didn’t have any relatives or friends who were going to attend.

“So Heather drove to Terre Haute to watch the game because she just wanted to make sure this boy knew there was someone who cared about him,” Heimann said.

As Mollo put it, working with kids has always been where her heart, passion and talents aligned.

“In being on the bench for close to 34 years, it is still easy to recall certain
youth, even after thousands of cases. But you often never know what impact the court experience will have on a child or how it will affect the child’s future. I tried to approach each day with the goal that my favorite success story would be the next youth or child I would see in my court.”

Circuit Court Judge Kelly Benjamin, who has direct supervision over the juvenile court, shared that Mollo is a steadfast community volunteer, having formerly served as a chair of the Child Welfare Improvement Committee and a member of the Legal Aid District Board. She remains a member of the state’s CASA Advisory Board and the Juvenile Benchbook Committee.

“Heather is absolutely an amazing person who has a heart of gold, and who has done anything and everything — not only within this community but throughout the state — to try and promote the best interests and the best welfare of all our kids,” Benjamin said.

Mollo hopes to use her retirement to restore some balance in life, and to spend more time with her 98-year-old mother, two adult sons and four grandchildren. She also is planning to volunteer with the Coalition for a Drug-Free Brown County to help individuals battling addiction. •
Teaching with HEART

"I WANT KIDS TO FEEL LIKE THEY MATTER, LIKE THEY HAVE A VOICE, AND I THINK EDUCATION IS THE KEY TO THEIR EMPOWERMENT."

LAURIE HARGROVE ’14

By Amy (Kean) VerSteeg ’96, Editor

The days of giving high-fives and hugs to students are on hiatus during the current pandemic, but Laurie Hargrove ’14 continues to teach with heart. In addition to teaching fifth grade full time at Westlake Elementary School in Indianapolis, she heads up a virtual classroom in the evenings.

She is the founder of Learn with Laurie (LWL), a private business dedicated to easing the burden on families continuing to navigate educational hurdles in a pandemic world.

The quick switch to virtual learning in early spring when COVID-19 started spreading was tough on educators, students and families across the country. Hargrove witnessed it in her own community. While many districts, like hers, are offering hybrid in-person learning and virtual classroom options, some families struggle to find and sustain the right fit for their children while also
meeting their own job and other obligations. For those already marginalized due to low income or limited English language ability, the addition of the pandemic is pushing the limit, said Hargrove.

“This process has been a huge learning curve for everyone. Most families really just want what’s best for their children, and that’s what teachers want, too,” said Hargrove. “My philosophy is you are either part of the problem or part of the solution. I want to be a problem-solver.”

She wants to help families ensure their children do not regress in their learning, which may have been impacted by loose academic structures and other variables in the spring of 2020, and she wants students to stay motivated not only to complete elementary school, but to graduate high school. It’s a concern she had long before there was a pandemic, but the health crisis gives her a stronger sense of urgency.

She has spent most of her career teaching in districts with diverse populations significantly impacted by socioeconomic disparities, and challenged to serve students with autism spectrum disorders and developmental disabilities. Hargrove said they are the schools where she has felt most strongly drawn.

“I get invested in my students and their families because they’re part of my community, I see them at the grocery store, the park and lots of places other than school, and I care. I often think about the school-to-prison pipeline, and that there are people in this world counting on some of these kids to fail, and I can’t have that.

“I want kids to feel like they matter, like they have a voice, and I think education is the key to their empowerment,” said Hargrove.

As the pandemic raged on from spring through summer, Hargrove regularly shared her personal phone number with families when she sensed distress. As she heard more frequently from panicked parents and guardians, she realized it was time to take a leap of faith.

“Honestly, I prayed about it. I had been reflecting on how to be a resource for these struggling families, and then I got a call from this mom who asked if I could start private tutoring, and I thought it was my sign.”

Initially, Hargrove only accepted personal referrals, but when a couple of her colleagues expressed interest in joining forces, she made a website and began advertising to the public. The LWL team offers subject tutoring and reading labs, as well as assistance to reinforce lessons for children with special needs. Hargrove conducts an on-boarding session and inventory with each family to assess their educational needs and goals.

“I want learning to be very personal for the child. I don’t want it to be like, you signed up, now here’s how it works. I want to know what the child needs so I can be of the best help,” Hargrove said.

The value of a personal approach to education was instilled at Franklin College.

“One of my greatest takeaways from the Teacher Education Program was the emphasis my professors put on becoming a competent and caring teacher. Every year that I teach I advance in my professional skills, but also in how I build connections with students and families, and keep those lines of communication open. I truly believe education is a partnership.”

Besides teaching and tutoring, Hargrove also is on her school leadership team, and presents professional development seminars for staff.

“Everything I was involved in during college, from cheerleading and Student Congress, to being president of Black Student Union and staffing the work-study help desk, all helped give me the confidence to be the leader I am today,” she said.

Her College mentors also made a huge impact.

“I had amazing advisers in the education department and all across campus, who reinforced ‘you’re not just a student, I care about you.’ It’s one of the values I truly believe is essential to a solid education, and to my business, LWL. I really would like LWL to become a brand, and to go beyond tutoring on subjects, to fostering lifelong learning.”

She has a business vision.

“My long-term goal is to get grant funding to offer educational services for free because our most marginalized families don’t always have the money to pay for extras, but that doesn’t mean they don’t want help for their children.”

Find Learn with Laurie on Facebook. •
Among the honorees announced in February was Brad Rateike ’02, founding principal of BAR Communications. He directs public relations strategy and message development for corporate, government and nonprofit clients in the Midwest and Washington, D.C. He also manages public affairs campaigns for Fortune 50 companies, and directs media relations and grassroots outreach for small businesses and startup companies. Since 2010, Rateike has worked primarily in Indianapolis, but added a D.C. office in 2018 following an 18-month stint in the White House Office of Communications, and he enjoys cooking and boating in his spare time. Here is a glimpse of what else we learned about the public relations pro; read the full interview at FranklinCollege.edu.

When you land on an IBJ list it shows the community is taking note of your professional achievements and volunteerism, but what matters to you?

“I think the IBJ has a steady finger on the pulse of what goes on in Central Indiana business so I am flattered to be included among so many smart, talented professionals. My wife, Lawren Mills, made the list several years ago, so being in the same alumni group as she is the true mark of achievement. I would add I am blessed to have been raised by two parents who taught my two siblings and me to do the right things for the right reasons. They never had artificial benchmarks of success, so we were never pressured to pursue accolades. Obviously, recognition feels good, but it is not my primary motivation to work hard, or volunteer.”

You are a poster child for the liberal arts, with your English major, which you have parlayed into a professional communications career. Is giving communications advice what you always thought you would be doing?

“I became an English major because I hoped that if I could learn how to speak, write, read and listen for context, I might be able to convince someone to hire me. While I did build the foundation to my professional skill set in college, I continued to polish those skills in each of my subsequent job roles. Now I use my skills to help clients...
get the recognition that I believe they have earned, whether it is in the media, from elected officials or in professional circles.”

When is your work most challenging?
“When I am trying to develop messaging that is much more complex than the intended audience cares to know. The challenge is to find a common denominator that explains the message, and why it matters. I have worked on some public-policy issues which mattered significantly but did not sound or appear ‘sexy’ so they did not receive the attention they deserved. My work can also be very challenging when a client is in a crisis situation. Those situations are complicated, time-sensitive and require me to ask my client direct and pointed questions to quickly put together an accurate and concise account of what happened so I can give them the best advice.”

You and your sister, Jill (Rateike) Curry ’03, both served in the Peace Corps after college. How did the experience impact you?
“I think of my Peace Corps time in Uzbekistan every day, even if only for a second. Many of the people I met there were kind, generous and compassionate, but it was a tough place to live. Trying to quickly overcome the language barrier yet teach English-language classes, assimilate to the culture and live on $140 per month in 2004-05 gave me triage training. I learned how to prioritize what was most important each day, and today that enables me to help clients address their communications needs efficiently and effectively.”

You have spent significant time working in politics. What drives your passion there?
“When I started my first job in government/politics, it was not because I had a passion for it. I needed a part-time job, and that is where I found one. I worked for the Johnson County Commissioners when I was in college and did odd jobs around the courthouse in Franklin. I later worked part-time for the former mayor of Franklin, Norm Blankenship (now deceased). I learned a lot in both jobs, and I came to realize politics is rarely as glamorous as appears.

“After I graduated college, I was hired onto a Congressional campaign in Indianapolis at the recommendation of Cam Savage ’99 (now principal at Limestone Strategies). I was the side-kick-scheduler-driver for the candidate, and I learned on the job. I also made mistakes on the job, but I always learned. We were beaten by a large margin in the campaign, but the relationships I developed and lessons I learned are still important.

“Later, when I was in the Peace Corps, my mom began sending me articles about Mitch Daniels, then a gubernatorial candidate riding around in an RV talking about what needed to be done to make Indiana a better place. I was fascinated, and loved his creative approach to running for office.

“Coincidentally, I had met one of the senior campaign aides, Eric Holcomb (now Ind. Gov.), just prior to leaving for the Peace Corps. We stayed in touch, and he later found a position for me in Governor Daniels’ office, on the communications team, because he liked my writing.

“In that role, I learned about media relations from my direct boss during the day, and I learned about public outreach in the evenings and on the weekends from Eric, as we traveled across the state and talked to supporters, surrogates and third-party groups. When I saw Mitch deliver a powerful message, again, and again, and again, it got me excited about politics. I joke that I do not possess the piece of DNA that I think makes someone want to run for elected office, but I have many friends who do. I have always appreciated the people who understand the need for timing and preparation to align in politics.”

What is the meaning of your business name, BAR Communications?
“I was offered a communications contract while I was already employed so when I left my job to take the contract and start a business, I needed an official name for the paperwork. My ‘creativity’ was inspired by a monogrammed item in my apartment which corresponded with an available URL. It works for now.”

Tell us about your volunteerism.
“I volunteer as a communications adviser to the Global War on Terrorism Memorial Foundation My brother is a U.S. Marine helicopter pilot in his 14th year of service, so I feel a natural connection to the organization and its mission. To think that there will one day be a permanent memorial in Washington, D.C., and I will be able to drive by it and say, ‘I remember when that project was in its infancy’ is a great feeling.

“I also have a standing offer with the journalism, political science and English departments that I will do whatever is in my power to help Franklin College students land internships, or help recent graduates get jobs. On top of great academic preparation, they need a professional network to help them make contacts and to gain a better understanding of the range of jobs, even beyond their conceivable dream job, that is available or coming down the pipeline. I always emphasize to them the importance of ‘being hungry’ for opportunity.”
With her signature poetic style, host McElwain delivers a hybrid religious sermon and pep talk while tackling topics such as racial inequality, sex shaming, anxiety and jealousy. The podcast is geared toward women and conveys McElwain’s personal belief system founded on Christianity, but she strives to give encouragement and inspiration to everyone, no exceptions. She begins each show with a welcome to “the broken, the healers and the overcomers, and those who need a little bit of faith, inspiration or sometimes both.”

Her inspiration for the podcast series came at the height of the U.S. COVID-19 pandemic outbreak.

“In April, I was feeling like the world had become a wild space filled with chaos and anxiety. With everything from being quarantined and fed scare tactics by the media, to seeing more examples of police brutality and hearing so much criticism of Black Lives Matter, it was a time of misery. I was at my worst,” McElwain said.

“I told God I didn’t want to spend another month feeling like that. I kept praying about how to make May a month of fruitfulness, and I wrote a list of intentions that I made myself work through.”

And she listened.

“God kept telling me to use my voice,” McElwain said.

The message resonated with McElwain, who gained significant confidence from speaking at Franklin College events, where she often helped represent the Black Student Union and the Office of Diversity and Inclusion, and occasionally helped lead chapel.

“College is when I began recognizing the power in my voice,” she said.

Still, there was one problem with launching her own podcast.
“I was obsessed with listening to podcasts, but I had no idea how to make one! I definitely questioned God and my ability, at times, but you really can learn how to do anything from YouTube.”

Naming the podcast was much simpler. Since her days at Franklin, McElwain has maintained a dedicated wall space for Post-it® Notes, which she uses as daily reminders to PRAY. To her, the letters represent “peace, repent, ask and yield,” and they help guide her spiritual journey. She looks at her prayer wall of joys, worries and goals for inspiration when she wakes, and for reflection before she goes to sleep.

“I’m singlehandedly keeping the Post-it® Notes company in business,” she quipped.

In conjunction with her 23rd birthday in July, McElwain released her first Prayer Wall Podcast, and has continued producing one every first and third Monday of the month.

Her podcast studio is her dorm room at Baldwin Wallace University in Ohio, where she is a second-year master’s degree student in the higher-education program. She is planning to pursue her doctorate in sociology and has long-term goals of specializing in working with lower-income and first-generation students, like herself. McElwain already is involved in launching a free pantry on her campus for students impacted by food insecurity, she is collaborating with members of Ohio Campus Compact, AmeriCorps and the university’s Center for Community Engagement to implement plans.

Besides McElwain’s campus activism, the podcast is furthering her life’s mission of helping people.

“I didn’t have an easy start in life; I’m an overcomer,” McElwain said. “By sharing experiences, whether my own or those of friends in my circle, I’m uplifting other women and supporting them in their journey. For some, the podcast is the push they need to get counseling and continue healing from whatever they’ve had to overcome.”

McElwain was overjoyed when her podcast series gained international subscribers within the first month.

“I’ve had people reaching out after a podcast to tell me the topic was something they’ve been struggling with, and that they were positively impacted by the content, and that’s my confirmation that God is using me in an incredible way to preach, teach and reach. I feel so honored to know he’s using my voice.”

Taylor McElwain ‘19
’50s

Dr. G. Kenneth Gates ’53 recently produced a paper for sharing with an academic group in his hometown, Maryville, Tenn. “The Amazing Ben Franklin” intertwines biographical information about the American inventor and political ambassador with Gates’ recollections of Franklin College experiences. An excerpt reads, “It was precisely 9 a.m., on the day after Labor Day in 1949, that John Hinton ’53 pulled up in front of our house in an old coupe. I hefted my one suitcase into the rumble seat, and we were off on a 632-mile drive to the future . . . and the past.” Another passage says, “In Indianapolis, we decided to split the total (travel) cost; it cost me $16.05 to go to Franklin College.” Gates vividly recalls the bronze bust of Benjamin Franklin, which was housed in Old Main and remains there today, miraculously having withstood the building fire in 1985. Old Main is where Gates asked Joan (Mendell) ’52 on a first date; they became college sweethearts, then married.

’60s

Lee Ryker ’63, Ph.D., is teaching biology for the fifth year at Pacific Bible College in Medford, Ore. He writes, “I turned 80 in July, but the students don’t seem to mind.” His career in education spans more than 55 years, including teaching biology at public high schools and multiple universities, and working as a scientific researcher in entomology. He earned a doctorate in 1975, based on his research of underwater sound communication of aquatic beetles. His research and published work on destructive bark beetles followed, as did collaborative research and publications on forest warbler songbirds. He subsequently has produced numerous personal works for his children’s and grandchildren’s enjoyment.

’80s

Cindy King ’80 is in her 30th year as an elementary teacher with Franklin Community Schools in Indiana.

Don Bell ’81 retired from his job with the Indiana Department of Child Services in May 2020, and began a new journey in September. As he had planned and trained for, Bell set out on a bicycle trip from his home in Fort Wayne, Ind., to Clearwater Beach, Fla., where he met up with his spouse for a vacation. The bike ride was approximately 1,200 miles, and he made the journey in 12 days. Bell used his bike ride as a platform to raise money for the Boys and Girls Club. Find more of his story on Facebook.

Steve Corya ’81 was selected one of two 2020 Women’s Center Circle Officials Award winners by the Indiana Basketball Hall of Fame. Licensed for 40 seasons, he has worked 30 sectionals, 21 regionals, six semistates, two state finals and three Hall of Fame Classics. He is a past recipient of the Indiana High School Athletic Association Distinguished Service Award. A past president of the Mid Hoosier Officials Association, he has twice served as vice president, board member and basketball chair, and has worked six years in rules interpretation and 12 years as a clinician in high school and college. His 20-year college-officiating career includes working five NCAA Division III national tournaments, the 2012 NAIA national tournament and 10 NCCAA national tournaments, including two national title games. He was a three-year varsity baseball player at Franklin College. He resides in Scipio, Ind.

Ann Hammons ’85 was recognized by the Indiana Association of School Principals as one of the state’s most influential educators. She teaches at William Henry Harrison High School in West Lafayette, Ind.

’90s

Tammie (Werne) Smith ’95, CRCE CHFP, accepted a position as director of managed care and reimbursement at Memorial Hospital and Health Care Center in Jasper, Ind.

Leslie Saunders ’97 accepted a position as general counsel for the Kentucky Registry of Election Finance. She manages the legal department, which provides interpretation of campaign finance law for members and staff, and represents the agency in all legal proceedings in state and federal courts. Saunders previously was a deputy inspector general for Kentucky’s Finance and Administration Cabinet, and prior to that director of the division of special investigations for the state department of revenue.
Jennifer Smith ’98, Ph.D., earned tenure and was promoted to associate professor of gender, sexuality and race studies at Pacific Lutheran University in Tacoma, Wash. She also serves the provost’s office as dean of inclusive excellence.

Jeff Huxford ’99 shared that his book, Finding Normal: An Uninvited Change, An Unexpected Outcome, is being made into a film. Both tell the story of the near fatal truck accident that left him with traumatic brain injury (TBI), and ended his career as a family physician. His family’s spiritual journey and healing continue, and making connections with other TBI survivors and families is one of their missions. Huxford is a blogger, author and speaker. He received a Franklin College Alumni Citation for Lifetime Achievement in 2019 in recognition of his tenacity.

’00s

Jeff Pipkin ’01 has been named economic development manager for Hoosier Energy, based in Bloomington, Ind. He previously served as executive director of the Hendricks County Economic Development Partnership. Pipkin also has served as an economic development representative for the Central Indiana Regional Workforce Board and a regional strategic committee member for Indy Partnership.

Mike Harvey ’02 and spouse Sheila are the parents of twins, George and Margaret, born May 28, 2020. The family resides in Chesterton, Ind.

Sarah Jean Rosenbaum ’03 has written the personal account “Boundless Love: Acceptance of my Transgender Father,” as a way to reconcile her emotions, honor her deceased parent and advocate for the LGBTQ community. One excerpt reads, “Though I felt fine with transgender people in general, when I found out about my father, well, then, it felt more complicated. I felt my tolerance was being tested. Real life acceptance was about more than ideology. It was an emotional journey when dealing with a loved one. I knew meeting ‘Her’ would be awkward.” Another excerpt reads, “Deep down, I came to a realization. This precious soul was the same person that had loved, protected and supported me throughout my childhood, and now was happier. Why shouldn’t I show my father the same unconditional love as the love I had received?” One of the many lessons Rosenbaum said she learned from her father was, “It’s never too late to be happy, and to be your own authentic self.” To request the full article or connect with Rosenbaum, email plato753@yahoo.com.

Katy (Whitpan) Buerger ’04 recently began a new position as director of enrollment and marketing at Holy Cross High School in Louisville, Ky.

Matt McCutcheon ’04, an Emmy award-winning reporter with WTHR 13 TV station in Indianapolis, interviewed Franklin College President Kerry Prather over the summer. They discussed the 35-year anniversary of accidental fires that devastated the campus in 1985 and the rebirth that followed, as well as the challenges the college has faced throughout 2020. Find the video on the Franklin College Facebook and Twitter accounts, posted June 29.

Joel Spriggs ’04 published his first nonfiction work in June 2020. The Hitchhiker’s Guide to Coding is a manual on how to start or transition into a software engineering career, with or without a college degree. Spriggs also wrapped up audiobook editions of his novels and fictional works, Over a God’s Dead Body, Another Dead Intern, Little Drummer Boy and The Bear Was Not There.
He works as a consultant for Fusion Alliance, and resides in Indianapolis.

Terry Gibbs ’05 and spouse Danielle (Kinnett) ’06 are the parents of a daughter, Zoey Rose, born Oct. 3, 2019. She joins a brother, Austin, and a sister, Ellie.

Colleen Merkel ’07 married Bobby Torres on Sept. 21, 2019, at St. Mary’s Catholic Church in Indianapolis.

Tiffany (Henderson) Franklin ’07, Ed. D., LAT, ATC, has joined the Franklin College faculty as program director for the Master of Science in Athletic Training program. Read more on Page 26.

Laura (Smith) Abbott ’08 and spouse Jared welcomed a daughter, Elinor Kate, born April 29, 2020. She joins a brother, Owen, and sister, Olivia.

New pursuits?
Share your milestones, experiences, travels and tales in the next magazine! Email submissions to aversteeg@FranklinCollege.edu.
Andy Mapes ’08 was named chief of staff for the Office of the Secretary of Defense Chief Management Officer and a member of the senior executive service. He is third in command, after the Secretary of Defense and Deputy Secretary of Defense. Mapes manages reducing department costs and streamlining business operations. He and spouse Kate reside in Alexandria, Va.

Magen (Kritsch) Pillar ’08 recently became the communications manager for United Way of Bartholomew County. She previously was a reporter for The Daily Journal of Johnson County. She resides in Columbus, Ind., with spouse Matthew.

’10s

Hannah (Hickey) Abraham ’10, Franklin College assistant director of alumni communications and events, and spouse Jeremy are the parents of a daughter, Adley Kate, born Aug. 20, 2020. They have a sister, Ainsley.

Adam Mellencamp ’10 and spouse Lauren are the parents of a son, Evan James, born Nov. 19, 2019.

Aaron Sparks ’10 and spouse Samantha (Marshal) ’11 are the parents of a daughter, Rowan Michelle, born July 16, 2020.

Cody Nees ’11 and spouse Chelsy (Gott) ’11 are the parents of a daughter, Braelyn LeeAnn, born July 19, 2020.

Sam Parker ’11 welcomed son Timothy Samuel into the world July 12, 2020. Sam emailed, “Tim joined a sibling, George, the dog, who loves being a protective and cuddly big brother.” Sam is a freelance writer, project manager and marketing consultant based in Dayton, Ohio.

Tiffany Tibbott-Talbert ’11 and spouse Sara Talbert ’13 are the parents of a son, Gabriel Jude, born March 7, 2020.

Ashley (Burton) Wilcoxen ’11 earned a full scholarship from the Woodrow Wilson Foundation, and she graduated in May 2020 from Indiana State University, where she earned her Master of Business Administration with a focus in educational leadership.

Roger “Andy” Cochrane ’13, Ph.D., was recognized in June 2020 for his expertise in feed mill biosecurity by National Hog Farmer, the industry magazine for professional pork producers. During his senior year at Franklin, Cochrane participated in a 10-week research experience for undergraduates at Kansas State University. There, he discovered a passion for feed science, and he applied to the master’s program.

Later, came his doctorate. Cochrane is now director of feed mills for Pipestone. He is involved in helping independent and commercial farmers take science-based approaches to animal-food nutrition, safety and disease mitigation.

Lindsay Rich ’13 was promoted to net revenue manager for Ascension Medical Group this spring. She married Audree Shaw on July 18, 2020. They reside in Indianapolis.

Jacie (Shoaf) Farris ’14 and spouse Dustin are the parents of fraternal twin sons, Carson and Jensen, born July 2, 2020. The family resides in Des Moines, Iowa, where she works in nonprofit communications, and he is working toward becoming a licensed physical therapist.

Morgan McClellan ’14 and Stephen Andreanopoulos married on May 17, 2020. In the midst of the pandemic, they had an intimate ceremony attended by 10 loved ones in Lizton, Ind. They have plans for a larger celebration at the mark of their first anniversary next spring. They reside near Speedway, Ind.

Valerie Jacobson ’16 married Timothy Stultz on April 21, 2018, in Anderson, Ind. She shared in an email some of the details that made the day special.
We got married in Timothy’s dad’s barn, and I got to wear my maternal grandmother’s 60-year-old wedding dress. Also, my father and stepfather walked me down the aisle together. Another neat thing is that Timothy had proposed to me during the total solar eclipse on Aug. 21, 2017!” They now reside in Indianapolis.

Deron Molen ’16 and Adrianna Pitrelli ’18 married on April 4, 2020. She is a senior writer for the Illinois Senate Democrats Office of Communications. He is a morning news anchor for WAND-TV, the NBC affiliate in Decatur, Ill. He also was named best TV reporter by the Illinois Associated Press in the spring.

Robbie Prather ’17 earned his doctor of jurisprudence degree in May from the Indiana University Robert H. McKinney School of Law and was admitted to the Indiana State Bar Association in September. He is an associate with Wormser Legal in Indianapolis.

Meg West-Hensley ’18 was promoted to dispatcher at the San Diego Humane Society. She and spouse Andrew reside in California.

Jim Phillips ’18 accepted a position as director of growth and expansion for Triangle Fraternity, and relocated to Greenville, N.C.

Christian Bowling ’19 accepted a development assistant position at Shalom Community Center in Bloomington, Ind. The center’s mission is to aid and empower people experiencing homelessness and poverty.

’20s

LauraJane Skillern ’20 and Brady Hale ’20 married on May 30, 2020. They work in Indianapolis. She is a pricing analyst for Barnes and Thornburg law firm, and he is an account manager for Hometown Logistics.

OBITUARIES

’40s

Constance E. “Connie” (Andrews) Eggers ’45 of Franklin, Ind., died June 6, 2020. After earning her bachelor’s degree in biology and chemistry, she completed Methodist Hospital’s Program for Medical Technology. She was a lifetime member of the First Presbyterian Church of Franklin, where she volunteered as a Sunday school teacher and youth group leader, and sang in the choir. She was a Pi Beta Phi member and served as vice president and president of the alumnae chapter. Several Pi Phi alumnae stood outside Eggers’ residence this spring and serenaded her prior to her 95th birthday on May 25, 2020. One participant shared, “The highlight was watching Connie sing along to ‘Picture a Girl.’” Eggers served as a Franklin College Trustee from 1990–94 and was a Heritage Society member. Survivors include three children, seven grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren. She was preceded in death by a daughter and a stepson.
Stay connected

Share email, phone and address updates with the office of development and alumni engagement to help ensure you continue receiving the college magazine, special invitations and timely announcements. Send updates to recordupdates@FranklinCollege.edu or call 317.738.8040.

Ruth E. (McCallie) Hamilton ’46 of Columbus, Ind., died June 23, 2020. She retired from the Bartholomew (Ind.) Consolidated School Corp., where she taught for 40 years. She enjoyed reading, Bible study and traveling. Survivors include four children, seven grandchildren and several great-grandchildren and great-great-grandchildren. She was preceded in death by spouse Bryan.

Barbara (Hummel) Weil ’47 of Copley, Ohio, died Aug. 16, 2018. She was an excellent student, despite having lost most vision in one eye due to an infection in early childhood. She earned a scholarship to Franklin College, where she majored in chemistry. She then won a scholarship to the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, where she earned a doctorate in organic chemistry. Her scientific career included material research for Bell Aircraft and pioneering work for Union Carbide on one of the earliest systems for computerized information retrieval. Later, as director of clinical affairs for Lipha, a French pharmaceutical company, she advocated in Washington, D.C., for the Food and Drug Administration’s approval of Metformin, an oral diabetes medication. Her arguments for the drug’s safety diminished the objections of those unable to back their opinions with proven science. The drug continues to save countless lives today. Survivors include her spouse, Ed, two children and two grandchildren.

Joan (Tash) Henning ’48 of Kingwood, Texas, died April 26, 2020. She taught French and retired from Indiana’s South Bend Community School Corp. She and spouse Charles, now deceased, enjoyed hosting foreign-exchange students in their home, and traveling around the world. Survivors include two children and two grandchildren.

’50s

Wil B. Nelp ’51 (HD ’67), M.D., of Seattle, Wash., died March 14, 2020. He earned his medical degree from John Hopkins University. After postgraduate work in internal medicine and radiology, he was appointed as acting chief at Moffett Air Force Base. He later created and oversaw the division of nuclear medicine at the University of Washington Medical Center, where he worked for more than 30 years. He became known nationally and internationally for his pioneering work in nuclear medicine, and he was recognized for his accomplishments with an honorary doctorate of science from Franklin College in 1967. He also received the College’s Alumni Citation for Lifetime Achievement in 1991. He served as a Franklin College Trustee from 1999–2012, and was elected a trustee emeritus in 2013. His significant contributions to the College include The Nelp House and the named atrium in the College’s welcome center. He was a member of the College’s Honor and Heritage societies. His father, Wil Nelp Sr. 1918, was also a trustee. Survivors include his spouse, Barbi, her two children and four grandchildren, and his four children and seven grandchildren.

Max L. Friedersdorf ’52 (HD ’75) of Sanibel, Fla., died May 31, 2020. He had an extensive career in Washington, D.C., first as chief of staff for Congressman Richard Roudebush, then in the White House as the lead congressional liaison and assistant to former presidents Richard M. Nixon, Gerald R. Ford and Ronald Reagan. He served in other appointed positions as chairman of the federal election commission under former president Jimmy Carter, director of the Senate Policy Committee, consul general to Bermuda and ambassador to the Conference on Disarmament in Geneva, Switzerland. He concluded his career as vice president of Pepsico, and later worked as a sports writer and columnist for the Sanibel Island Sun. Franklin College and American University awarded him honorary degrees. Spouse Priscilla survives, as do two children and two grandchildren.

Frank K. Martin ’52 of Franklin, Ind., died March 4, 2020. He was an Army veteran of the Korean War. He retired as an area financial manager for The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Welfare Services Department. He was a Kappa Delta Rho member. Survivors include two children, six grandchildren and three great-grandchildren. He was preceded in death by spouse Willu (Wise) ’54.

Nelson E. Chambers ’53 of Greenwood, Ind., died May 6, 2020. He attended Franklin College and was a Lambda Chi Alpha member. He was awarded a Purple Heart for his service with the U.S. Marines during the Korean War.
Eleanor D. (Kinzie) Pasotti ’54 of Indianapolis died April 5, 2020, of pneumonia, and her spouse of 65 years, Peter, died May 1, 2020, after a stroke. She attended Franklin College and joined Zeta Tau Alpha prior to transferring schools. She was a collector, buyer and seller of books, specializing in rare children’s books, for more than 40 years. Survivors include two children, four grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

Edward A. Siegel ’54 of Indianapolis died April 22, 2020. He was a Sigma Alpha Epsilon member and played Grizzlies’ basketball. He was a starter for three years, earned four varsity letters and served as team captain. Additionally, he earned three letters as captain of the cross-country team and three letters as captain of the track team. Later, he served on the Alumni Council and was inducted into the Franklin College Athletic Hall of Fame. He enjoyed a 28-year career teaching and coaching men’s basketball at Pike High School in Indianapolis. He was inducted into the Indiana Basketball Hall of Fame in 1997, and he served multiple terms on the board. He also was a past president and board member of the Indiana Basketball Coaches Association. He received a Sagamore of the Wabash for his dedication to serving the youth of Indiana. Survivors include spouse Carmen, three children and five grandchildren. He was preceded in death by a son.

Charlotte (Main) Chadwick ’55 of Indianapolis died July 15, 2020. She attended Franklin College but graduated from Indiana University School of Nursing. Survivors include two children and three grandchildren.

Billie D. (Snowball) Lebrock ’55 of Louisville, Ky., died May 4, 2019. She had been a longtime resident of Beech Grove, Indiana, and a member of the Southport Presbyterian Church. She majored in elementary education and was a Delta Zeta member. Survivors include spouse Robert, two children, two great-grandchildren and several great-grandchildren. Two sisters, including Beverly (Snowball) Bryant-Ulrey ’60, also survive.

William C. “Bill” Legan ’57 of New Albany, Ind., died June 5, 2020. He had a master’s degree in education and enjoyed a more than 40-year teaching career at middle and high schools in Indiana and West Virginia. He also volunteered as an adult-education teacher and received an award from the state of West Virginia for his service. He was preceded in death by his first spouse, Zana L. (McKeny) ’59. He was a Horizon Society member. Survivors include his second spouse, Mary Bill and Mary donated a park bench to the College in Zana’s memory in 2018. Other survivors include four children, six grandchildren, two great-grandchildren, three step-grandchildren and six step-grandchildren.

Shirley (White) Mills ’57 of Greenfield, Mass., died May 23, 2020. She practiced as a social worker in a variety of schools and hospitals. She was very active in the churches she attended and enjoyed singing in the choirs. Her volunteerism included the American Baptist Churches (ABC) of Massachusetts Board. She also represented Western Massachusetts on the ABC USA Board and World Missions Support Committee. Survivors include a son. She was preceded in death by spouse Don and a son.

Joe R. “Dick” Combs ’58 of Bargersville, Ind., died March 26, 2020. He was an Army veteran and a retired science teacher, having worked at Perry Township middle schools in Indianapolis for 30 years. He was active in his local community as a member of the town council, planning commission and First Christian Church. Survivors include...
spouse Carolyn (McCoughan) ‘58, four children, five grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

Eddy M. Teets ’58 of Franklin, Ind., died Aug. 1, 2020. He was an Army veteran of the Korean War and gave more than 20 years in active and reserve service combined. He later worked for Arvin Industries, then for Franklin College. Over 13 years, he held various college roles, including admissions counselor, assistant to the president, vice president for admissions and financial aid, and vice president for development and alumni affairs. He then worked for Union Bank and Trust Co. in Franklin as vice president for marketing, and branch manager for the main office. He took a leave to serve as Franklin Mayor from 1988–91. After retirement, he took a part-time job as chief doorkeeper for the Indiana House of Representatives. He was a very active community volunteer and a recipient of Sagamore of the Wabash and Kentucky Colonel awards. He was a Heritage Society member. Survivors include spouse Donna, one child and three step-great-grandchildren. He was preceded in death by a son. His mother, Joyce (Vinson) T. Hutcheon ’36, now deceased, served on the Alumni Council and received an Alumni Citation and honorary degree from Franklin College.

Caryol F. (McColley) Ribble ’59 of Sarasota, Fla., died July 31, 2020. She was a retired elementary teacher for Franklin (Ind.) Community Schools. She also was a Delta Zeta member and held alumnae officer positions. Survivors include three stepchildren, seven stepgrandchildren and three step-great-grandchildren.

‘60s

Phyllis (Beaman) Baker ’60 of Columbus, Ind., died May 19, 2020. She majored in elementary education and was active in Delta Zeta and the choir during college. Survivors include spouse Jack, one child, two stepchildren, two grandchildren, three stepgrandchildren and three step-great-grandchildren. Her sister, Marilyn (Beaman) Kerner ’52, and brother, Marvin Beaman ’58, also survive.

James S. Conway ’61 of Elizabethtown, Ind., died Aug. 7, 2020. He was an Army veteran and Phi Delta Theta member. He earned certification in physical therapy from the Mayo Clinic and founded a department of care at the Jackson County (Ind.) Hospital, where he became director of rehabilitation. Survivors include two children and four grandchildren. He was preceded in death by spouse Aurelia.

Ann (Heminger) Allen ’62 of Franklin, Ind., died Nov. 13, 2019. She held a master’s degree in education and taught in Indiana for 28 years. She was a Delta Zeta member and co-president of the alumnae chapter. She also was a member of the First Baptist Church of Franklin for more than 50 years, and she enjoyed singing with the choir and volunteering on church boards. Survivors include spouse John, two children and four grandchildren.

Walter E. “Gene” Henry ’63 of Aurora, Ind., died July 16, 2020. He was a teacher and music director for Aurora High School. He also directed the Dearborn County Community Choir and local Barbershop Chorus, and he sang in several quartets and performed at many weddings. He was inducted into the Southeastern Indiana Music Hall of Fame. Survivors include spouse Nancy, five children, eight grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

Harold K. “Butch” Lawson ’65 of Shelbyville, Ind., died Aug. 18, 2020. He held a master’s degree in educational psychology and taught English and literature at Greenwood High School (Ind.) for more than 20 years. He also owned and operated Yager Bowling Service. For a time, he coached football and wrestling at Franklin College, where he was inducted into the Athletic Hall of Fame in 1989. The College also recognized him with the Outstanding Admissions Recruitment Award in 1987. He was a member of Phi Delta Theta and the Heritage Society. Spouse Ann survives, as do two children and two grandchildren.

Charles J. Myers ’66 of Kokomo, Ind., died July 5, 2020. He earned his doctorate from Indiana University School of Law and practiced in Kokomo for more than 40 years. He served as the city’s prosecutor for one term. He and spouse Norma enjoyed traveling and visiting 50 countries together. She survives as do three children, six grandchildren and four great-grandchildren. He was preceded in death by a son.

Ronald L. Cole ’67 of Greensboro, Ga., died May 14, 2020. He attended Franklin College on an academic scholarship, majored in mathematics and served as president of Lambda Chi Alpha. He married his college sweetheart, Lynda (Esposito) ’70, and he built a long career with Reader’s Digest. He joined the company by
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Tomorrow’s gifts

Franklin College MAGAZINE

Linda J. Naile ’74 of New Braunfels, Texas, died Dec. 31, 2019. She was a retired U.S. Navy Nurse Corps commander. She had served in staff, critical care, ambulatory care and health-services positions at multiple naval hospitals stateside. She also was deployed with a fleet hospital during Operation Desert Storm and twice with fleets for humanitarian operations. She earned numerous honors, including two Meritorious Service Medals and two Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medals.

'80s

Timothy L. Murphy ’87 of Minneapolis, Minn., died April 9, 2020. He was active in the Student Entertainment Board and Sigma Alpha Epsilon during college. He enjoyed playing bridge, traveling and skiing.

'90s

Jeffrey R. Jackson ’90 died June 17, 2020. He was a member of Lambda Chi Alpha and the Franklin Church of the Nazarene. He was self-employed and an avid auction goer. Survivors include spouse Sara and a daughter.

Robert K. “Bob” Mitchell ’91 of Greenwood, Ind., died May 16, 2020. He was an Army veteran of the Vietnam War. He also was a national officer for The Order of the Purple Heart and a veterans benefits advocate. Survivors include spouse Brenda, one child, two grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

Frederick J. Johnson ’93 of Fort Mitchell, Ky., died July 3, 2020. He was a Sigma Alpha Epsilon member and Northern Kentucky University-Chase Law School graduate. He owned a private law practice. Survivors include spouse Heather and two children.


'70s

George C. Ludwig II ’71 of Vestal, NY, died Aug. 21, 2020. He worked for various companies prior to returning to college in 1989 and obtaining a master’s degree in audiology. For 17 years, he owned and operated Audiology Associates, where he cared deeply for patients and took great pride in bringing sound back into their lives.

Gary W. Lewis ’72 of Fort Myers, Fla., died Aug. 10, 2020. He was a former longtime resident of Greenwood and Unionville, Ind. He had a more than 16-year career as a realtor with F.C. Tucker Co., then he transitioned professions to pursue his lifelong passion, investments. As senior vice president of Raymond James’ Greenwood (Ind.) office, he achieved recognition as a Multiyear Leaders Club member. Later, he co-operated the private investment firm of Stewart, Lewis and Evans. He was a member of the Murat Shrine, serving as an elected officer and member of multiple committees. As part of the Shrine’s clown unit, he helped entertain hospitalized children. Survivors include spouse Barbara, two children and three grandchildren.

Boro Lalich ’73 of Greenwood, Ind., died April 20, 2020. He majored in PE and excelled in football. He was a member of the Grizzlies’ team that advanced to the NAIA Division II semifinals round in 1972 and the 1970 team that won the Mineral Water Bowl championship. He then played three years for the Indianapolis Hawks and later played for the Indianapolis Capitals. He was inducted in the Franklin College Athletic Hall of Fame in 2004 for his past performance as an offensive lineman. Survivors include spouse Kay and a daughter.

John R. Bonham ’74 of West Des Moines, Iowa, died July 25, 2020. After earning his degree in Spanish from Franklin College, he earned degrees in music and education from Drake University. There, he made a 20-plus year career of assisting students with career placement services. He also was an accomplished singer and pianist.

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'90s

Jeffrey R. Jackson ’90 died June 17, 2020. He was a member of Lambda Chi Alpha and the Franklin Church of the Nazarene. He was self-employed and an avid auction goer. Survivors include spouse Sara and a daughter.

Robert K. “Bob” Mitchell ’91 of Greenwood, Ind., died May 16, 2020. He was an Army veteran of the Vietnam War. He also was a national officer for The Order of the Purple Heart and a veterans benefits advocate. Survivors include spouse Brenda, one child, two grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

Frederick J. Johnson ’93 of Fort Mitchell, Ky., died July 3, 2020. He was a Sigma Alpha Epsilon member and Northern Kentucky University-Chase Law School graduate. He owned a private law practice. Survivors include spouse Heather and two children.

She majored in sociology and was a Delta Gamma member. Her daughter survives.

'00s

Karon L. (Jordan) Cheek ’03 of Franklin, Ind., died May 8, 2020. She worked for Franklin Community Schools for 16 years. She especially enjoyed teaching middle school drama classes and hosting foreign exchange students. Survivors include spouse Bobby, five children and six grandchildren.

'Dorrel Schrock ’93, executive secretary for the student development department, and a granddaughter.

James M. “Jim” Frische of Trafalgar, Ind., died May 3, 2020. He served as a Franklin College Trustee from 2000–14. He was an Army veteran of the Vietnam War. He built a long career with Sony Digital Audio Disc Corp., where he was hired as vice president and general manager to oversee production of the first U.S. compact disc plant. Promoted then to chairman and CEO, he oversaw all manufacturing plants in the Western Hemisphere. His spouse, Dorcas, survives, as do four children, 14 grandchildren and two great-grandchildren. Son Dan Frische ’04 and his spouse, Molly (Crone) ’04, are alumni.

Mark M. Holman of Indianapolis died May 3, 2020. In 1965, he founded the landscape and construction firm that bears his name. He was a Franklin College trustee from 1990–2000, serving in memory of his parents, Mark H. Holman 1918 and Amy E. (Sutton) 1917. While a trustee, he helped choose the sculpture gracing the Johnson Center for Fine Arts entrance. He was a member of the Heritage and Horizon societies. He and surviving spouse Carmen also gifted the College with three 18th century imported tapestries.

Douglas E. Kelly, M.D., of Clarksburg, Md., died Sept. 17, 2020. He spent most of his professional life teaching Microscopic Anatomy to medical students. He served as associate vice president for biomedical research at the Association of American Medical Colleges for the last eight years of his career. In 2019, he gifted an expansive collection of antique microscopes to Franklin College for display in the Science Center. Kelly was proud of his family’s Franklin College legacy and made the gift in memory of his parents, Raymond D. Kelly 1923 and Enid (McCaslin) 1923, and aunts, Mary J. Kelly 1933 and Esther Kelly 1927. He was a member of the College’s Heritage Society.

Walter G. Krumwiede Jr. of Elkhart, Ind., died July 2, 2020. He was a World War II Navy veteran. He worked for Ziesel Brothers Department Store until his retirement as president and CEO in 1986. Throughout his distinguished career he held leadership positions in local, state and national retail associations. He was a member of the Heritage Society. Survivors include spouse Margery, four children, nine grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren.

Albert E. Mitchler Jr. of Washington, D.C., died July 30, 2019. He was a philanthropic businessman who gifted a massive high-powered Meade telescope and observatory from his private collection to the College in 2017. The equipment greatly enhanced teaching and learning opportunities at the Franklin College Science Center. He was a Heritage Society member. Survivors include spouse Linda, three children and three grandchildren.


Rosemary Ribelin of Franklin, Ind., died June 28, 2020. She was the longtime manager of the bookstore on Franklin College’s campus and administrative assistant to the president prior to that. She was preceded in death by spouse Richard. Survivors include two daughters, three grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

Friends of Franklin College

Ruth Dorrel of Franklin, Ind., died Sept. 15, 2020. She was indispensable as the Franklin College archivist from 2003–17. She loyally attended Grizzlies’ home basketball, volleyball and softball games. For many years, she traveled with the softball team and kept stats. She was a Heritage Society member. Her spouse, Warren, survives, as do a daughter, Marti (Crone) ’04, and great-grandchildren. Survivors include spouse Bobby, five children and six grandchildren.

Erin K. Edwards ’23 died Oct. 7, 2020. She was a graduate of Argos High School, where she participated in service projects with the Leos Club, played on the softball team and was the 2018 Homecoming Queen. Her college major was elementary education. Survivors include her mother, Karen DeMont, stepfather, Dan, father Thomas Edwards, stepmother, Natasha, and four siblings.

Daniel W. Gates ’11, M.D., of Greenwood, Ind., died Sept. 8, 2020. He served in the Army as a medic for five years, including 26 months in Iraq. After his discharge, he graduated from Franklin College and Indiana University School of Medicine. He was a Phi Delta Theta member.

'10s

Rosemary Weddle of Franklin, Ind., died June 28, 2020. She was a journalism major at Saginaw, Mich., and made the gift in memory of his family’s Franklin College legacy and made the gift in memory of his parents, Raymond D. Kelly 1923 and Enid (McCaslin) 1923, and aunts, Mary J. Kelly 1933 and Esther Kelly 1927. He was a member of the College’s Heritage Society.

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Ann Rittenhouse of Saginaw, Mich., died Jan. 10, 2020. She was a journalism department faculty member in the mid- to late-‘80s.

Rosemary Weddle of Franklin, Ind., died July 21, 2020. She was a former cook in the College dining hall. •
This map shows our alumni population by state, and the text below it recognizes those living abroad. No matter how near — or far — you live from Franklin College, you can always be active in our community. On the right, we offer 15 ways to stay connected and express your Grizzly pride.
Engage with your Franklin College Alumni Association on social media, and find event invitations, contests and throwback photos.

Join the College’s virtual book club, and be part of thought-provoking discussions with a broad circle of alumni and friends. See more details on Page 42.

Be part of #GivetoGRIZ, the annual 24-hour giving campaign devoted to enriching College resources for today’s students. Our next one takes place April 14, 2021.

Drive with pride. Buy a Franklin College license plate at Indiana.gov or purchase auto accessories at FranklinCollegeShop.com.

Share your career success story, or tell us about a classmate or friend with an unusual hobby or long record of volunteerism. We are always on the lookout for potential magazine stories!

Speak with a planned giving officer at the College about options that align with your financial goals and passions.

Volunteer for College career panels, mock interviews and classroom projects. Virtual opportunities are available.

Nominate someone for a Hail to Franklin or Athletic Hall of Fame award.

Network with other alumni and current students virtually via LinkedIn and Handshake. You may find interns or recent grads ready for hire!

Refer a prospective student to Franklin College at FranklinCollege.edu/admissions/referrals.

Make sure the Office of Development and Alumni Engagement has your most up-to-date contact information.

Shop for athletic fan apparel and other College swag at FCGrizGear.com.

Be part of the tradition by registering for Homecoming and Alumni Weekend events each year.

Explore Alumni Council volunteer opportunities.

Watch the Grizzlies play football, soccer, volleyball, basketball, baseball, softball and lacrosse live on GrizTV this spring, when NCAA and HCAC athletic competition is expected to resume. Access GrizTV through the Fan Zone at FranklinGrizzlies.com.

Ready to pursue one or more of these ideas? Start the conversation with Emily S. (Habel) Wood ’95, director of alumni engagement and campus partnerships. Email ewood@FranklinCollege.edu or call 317.738.8283.
The challenging circumstances we have faced this year have been unprecedented and, at times, overwhelming. Thank you for standing with us during the dark days, and for giving generously to help ensure the future of Franklin College will be bright.

Your encouraging words and philanthropic support continue to be tremendous sources of strength and encouragement for Franklin College students, faculty and staff. We are ever grateful for all that you give and do in support of our Grizzlies. Thank you.

“AT TIMES OUR OWN LIGHT GOES OUT AND IS REKINDLED BY A SPARK FROM ANOTHER PERSON. EACH OF US HAS CAUSE TO THINK WITH DEEP GRATITUDE OF THOSE WHO HAVE LIGHTED THE FLAME WITHIN US.”

ALBERT SCHWEITZER, M.D., 1952 NOBEL PEACE PRIZE-WINNER

Make another impact with your year-end gift at FranklinCollege.edu/giving or call 800.852.0232.