

FRANKLIN COLLEGE

MAGAZINE | SPRING 2021

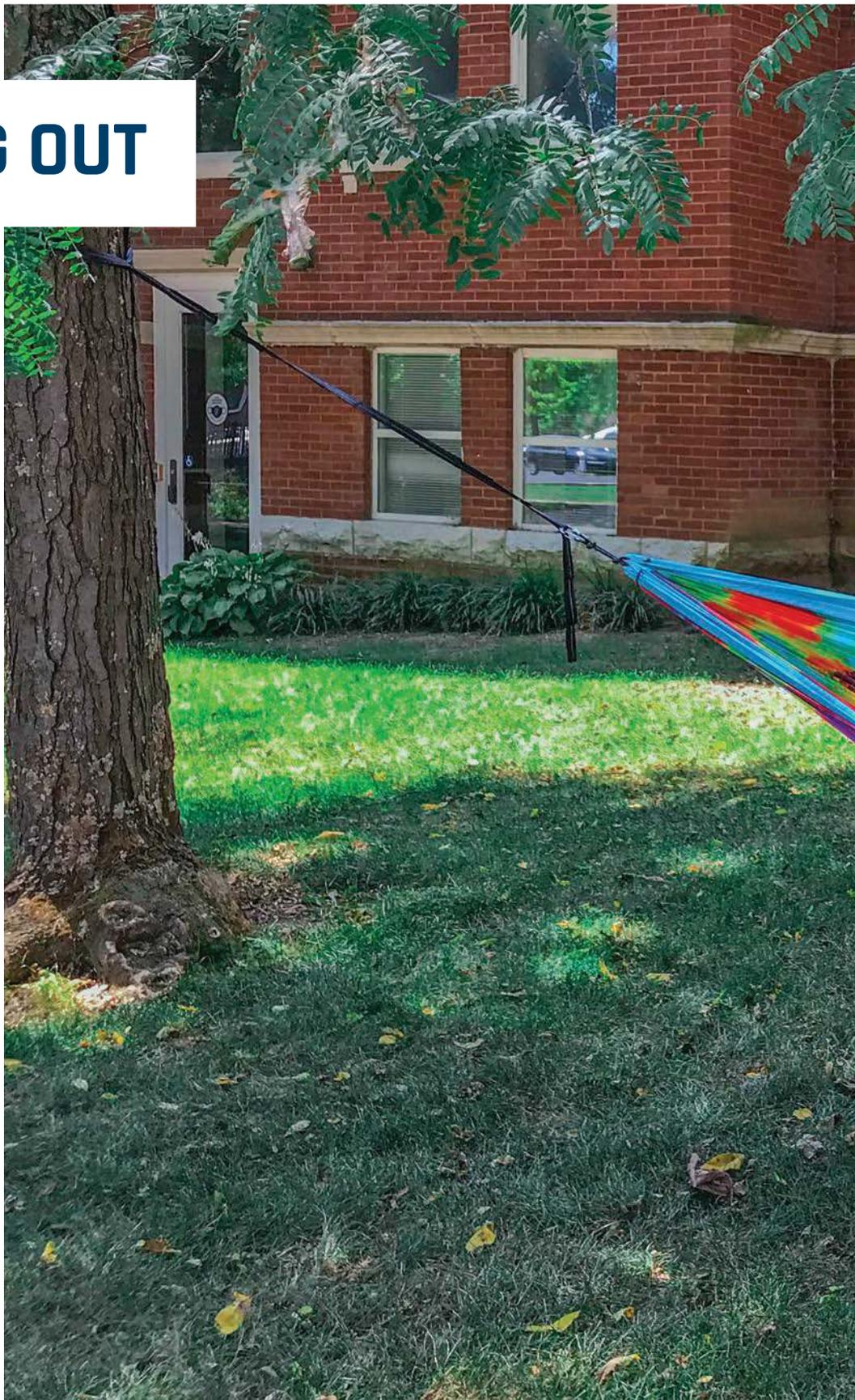


SHE'S GOT DRIVE

Yolanda (Smith) White '92 shares her career roadmap for success.

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HANGING OUT



TARA RICKE '19

Hammocks give new meaning to “hanging out” on campus. On a sunny day, you’re likely to see multiple hammocks suspended between the trees surrounding student residence halls and academic buildings. Some students hoist hammocks in groups to socialize or study, and others isolate to relax or sleep. Hammock devotees around the globe routinely document



their air-borne experiences on social media using the hashtag “hammocking,” and sporting goods stores offer a variety of resources to help beginners get into the swing. Here, **Alexa Shrake '23** studies on the Pulliam School of Journalism’s east side. “I love hammocking because it’s relaxing, and kind of a break from the world,” she said.



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Alumni and Friends,

As Cindy and I prepared for this spring's virtual President's Circle Celebration of philanthropy at Franklin College, we considered what musical number might be performed by our students to help set a theme for the evening. After discussing various possibilities, we decided on "A Million Dreams" from *The Greatest Showman*. The number was performed beautifully by **Jackie List '21** and her sister, **Jadyn List '24**. Both women are music majors involved in the FC Singers and Women's Chorus.

Their rendition of "A Million Dreams" certainly resonated with our guests for the event because it spoke to two aspects of the Franklin College experience that make it unique and impactful. Students arrive at Franklin College from different places and backgrounds, with different experiences and goals. What they share in common are dreams, of what they want to become — even if they cannot yet fully define it, what they hope to achieve, and how they hope to make a difference in the world.

When students bursting with such promise meet faculty dedicated to helping them achieve their potential, thus ensues the transformative experience that is the essence of Franklin College. The remarkably successful outcomes are reflected in the lives and accomplishments of our graduates throughout the world.

Similarly, incredibly generous alumni, friends and donors share a common dream of helping make opportunities possible for Franklin College students of today and tomorrow. They dream of making a difference in the lives of our students, knowing that will ultimately make a difference in the world they will impact. They recognize that others before them helped make their Franklin College experience possible. Philanthropy is where the dreams of two generations intersect, as one lives out its dream of giving back while enabling the other to watch its dreams begin to blossom.

Over the years at Franklin College, that certainly accounts for a million dreams and more. Included in these pages are impressive examples of such dreams and the role of this great institution in helping them come true. We have done that for nearly 187 years, and together we shall continue on that mission.

Sincerely,

KERRY PRATHER
FRANKLIN COLLEGE PRESIDENT

FRANKLIN COLLEGE

MAGAZINE | SPRING 2021

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Contributing Staff

Director of Communications
Deidra Baumgardner

Editor

Amy (Kean) VerSteeg '96

Director of Marketing

Ann Smith

Assistant Athletic Director for Communications

Ryan Thomas

Senior Leadership

Vice President for Development and Alumni Engagement

Dana Cummings

Submissions and Changes

For content submissions, email aversteeg@FranklinCollege.edu or call 317.738.8188. For address and phone changes, email recordupdates@FranklinCollege.edu or call 317.738.8052. Mail correspondence to *Franklin College Magazine*, Attn: Amy Kean VerSteeg, 101 Branigin Boulevard, Franklin, Indiana 46131-2623.

Franklin College Magazine

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Background

Founded in 1834, Franklin College is a residential liberal arts and sciences institution located 20 minutes south of Indianapolis. Franklin offers a wide array of undergraduate majors as well as master's degree programs in Physician Assistant Studies and Athletic Training. The unique curriculum merges classroom instruction with immersive experiences, research opportunities and study-away programs. Our goal is to prepare career-ready graduates for today's global professions and those of the future. Small classes enable students to thrive through personal peer interaction and mentorship from professors who challenge and inspire them to think critically and perform confidently. Students participate in a vibrant co-curriculum that includes 21 NCAA Division III sports, Greek life, musical and theatre productions, and more than 40 student organizations. As the first college in Indiana to become coeducational with the admission of women, Franklin welcomes diversity of thought, belief and person into a community that values equity and inclusion. Franklin College maintains a voluntary association with the American Baptist Churches USA.

Nondiscrimination Policy

Franklin College is committed to the principle and practice of equal opportunity for all its students, faculty, employees and applicants for admission and employment. For that reason, the College provides equal employment opportunities on the basis of merit and without regard to the individual's race, color, religion, gender, disability, age, national origin, marital status or sexual orientation, in accordance with state and federal laws and any other characteristic protected by law. The College prohibits, forbids and will not tolerate any verbal, physical or other conduct that belittles or demeans any individual on the basis of the above-listed statuses. All employees, managers, supervisors and job applicants are covered by this commitment. No person or employee, no matter his or her title or position, has the authority expressed, actual, apparent or implied to discriminate against any employee of the College. This policy applies to all terms and conditions of employment, admission to and enrollment in Franklin College, including, but not limited to, recruitment, selection, hiring, benefits, educational policies, admission policies, financial aid, scholarship and loan programs, housing, athletic and other College-administered programs and activities.

On the Cover

Yolanda (Smith) White '92 is a public relations pro.
PHOTO BY CHAD WILLIAMS



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SHE'S GOT DRIVE

Meet communications pro **Yolanda (Smith) White '92**, and learn how she combines passions for writing, advocating for diversity and serving in the community to live her best life.

PRATHER'S PRESIDENCY EXTENDED

In March, the Franklin College Board of Trustees announced President Kerry Prather will continue to lead the institution until at least July 1, 2024. Prather was appointed acting president in January 2020 and president one month later, with his term originally slated to end in June 2022.

"The trustees recognize that President Prather has provided unity and stability, transparent leadership, institutional vision and community collaboration during his presidential tenure, all of which are needed in today's challenging higher education environment," said board chair **James V. Due '82**. "He has done a remarkable job, including the navigation of COVID-19. The extension of his presidential term is a reflection of the board's

confidence in his continued leadership and commitment to advancing the College."

Prather's 39-year Franklin College career has included leadership roles in enrollment management and athletics, and involved him in Cabinet-level work through four administrations.

During Prather's tenure as the College's 17th president, he has led the way in establishing the Center for Tech Innovation and the Johnson Memorial Health Athletics

Annex (both on campus); launching a competitive esports program; and creating a digital fluency initiative that serves as the capstone to the already transformative education Franklin provides. Additionally, the College received a \$1 million grant from Lilly Endowment Inc., through its initiative, Charting the Future for Indiana's Colleges and Universities. Part of the initiative's phase two round of funding made in 2020, the grant is helping the College



strengthen technology integration and expand learning opportunities. He also led the College to its most successful fundraising year ever in 2020 in the midst of the pandemic.

Prather said, "I am honored and humbled by the confidence of the trustees, alumni, faculty, staff and

CHAD WILLIAMS



Cathy Dunn

NEW TRUSTEE ELECTED

Cathy Dunn of Columbus, Indiana, recently was elected to the Franklin College Board of Trustees.

She is the president of Dunn & Associates Benefit Administrators, a family-owned business founded in 1992.

She graduated from Purdue University with a bachelor's degree in health/physical education and mathematics, and from Indiana University with a master's degree in sports medicine.

"Each trustee brings unique experience, perspective and vision to the board, and

we're looking forward to the addition of Cathy's contributions. She has a passion for the Franklin College mission and will bring a great deal of care and business leadership experience to her trustee role," said board chair **James V. Due '82**.

A love of Franklin College was sparked in Cathy by her father, **Ken Dunn '51**. He is a former student-athlete and has remained active at the College through past participation on Alumni Council and ongoing financial support of the institution.

One of Cathy's daughters, **Lauren (Hawes) Timm '12**, her aunt, **Ila (Dunn) Olson '44**, and uncle, **Richard L. Dunn '50**, also are alumni.

Cathy said, "Franklin College has provided several generations of my family the opportunity of an outstanding education. I welcome the opportunity to work with the board to ensure the continued success and sustainability of Franklin's programs. In today's challenging environment, Franklin's creative and innovative partnerships with community and corporate entities will pave the way for future generations."

students, and I am excited to continue leading this great institution. Franklin College is a special place blessed with extraordinary people. I look forward to the exciting work ahead, as we continue to ensure a bright and promising future for the College and its students.”

Prather’s spouse, Cindy, also is an educator. She served with the Franklin College Education Department faculty for 23 years, including as chair, before transitioning to higher education consulting. Their children, **Katie Prather ’13** and **Robbie Prather ’17**, are alumni.

Read the full press release at FranklinCollege.edu. ■

The board’s primary roles include authority and responsibility for establishing the character, purpose and policies of the College, instituting and supporting fundraising efforts, establishing and reviewing educational programs, approving academic degrees and establishing the annual budget. The board also authorizes construction of new buildings and renovations on existing facilities, changes in tuition and fees, purchases of land, buildings and major equipment, and faculty-tenure appointments. ■

HERE FOR GRIZZLIES

New director of admissions Ryan McClarnon is eager to help prospective Grizzlies and their families learn more about Franklin College.

“I share a passion for the Franklin College mission of preparing students for purposeful lives and significant careers, and I am deeply committed to placing my experience, talents and skills in service at this institution,” McClarnon said.

McClarnon serves under the leadership of Vice President for Strategic Enrollment and Marketing Thanda Maceo, and has been deeply involved in helping strengthen recruitment strategies since joining the admissions staff in December 2020.

Though he is a fresh face at Franklin, he brings more than 15 years of prior experience, most recently having served as a director at the University of Indianapolis. There, he led his alma mater’s admissions team through several years of steady growth, nearly doubling the overall enrollment.

“I am energized by the Franklin College admissions team and campus community members, all of whom do transformational work,” McClarnon said. “I look forward to continued collaboration to achieve enrollment goals delivering on our promise to the hundreds of students and families we serve.”

McClarnon holds a bachelor’s degree in communications and public relations, and a master’s degree in applied sociology, community leadership and nonprofit management. ■



Ryan McClarnon



Rev. Rebecca Horstman May '81

BUILDING CONNECTIONS

A pastor with more than 30 years of ministry experience has been appointed the College’s American Baptist liaison assistant. In this role, the **Rev. Rebecca Horstman May ’81** assists the admissions team with new student outreach and works closely with the College’s director of religious life and chaplain to support current students, faculty and staff.

“Rebecca brings a tremendous knowledge of American Baptist Churches (ABC), relationships cemented over the years with church leadership and the ability to connect well with students and parents considering Franklin College,” said Thanda Maceo, vice president for strategic enrollment and marketing.

Horstman May earned a psychology and sociology bachelor’s degree from Franklin and a divinity master’s degree from the Christian Theological Seminary.

“I am excited and blessed to have the opportunity to further connect students from American Baptist Churches with the quality education of Franklin College,” she said.

Horstman May will continue to serve as pastor of Celebration Fellowship, a mission-focused house church in Noblesville, Indiana. She previously served as the president of regional boards for ABC of Indiana and Kentucky, and ABC of Greater Indianapolis. Her other prior positions include pastor at Elizaville Baptist Church, chaplain at Indiana University Health Medical Center and seminary intern at Indianapolis First Baptist Church, where she was ordained in 1992. ■

PERFECTING THE PANDEMIC PIVOT

At press time, Franklin College was a Mira Awards finalist, contending for “Pandemic Pivot of the Year.”

The annual awards competition run by TechPoint, Indiana’s nonprofit growth accelerator for the tech sector, recognizes and amplifies tech success stories. This year, Franklin College was one of a record-breaking 211 award applicants, ranging from Fortune 500 companies and startups to small organizations and individuals. Independent judging panels narrowed the applicants to 122 nominees vying among 15 categories.

“Pandemic Pivot” is a new category created to recognize those who excelled at adapting and problem-solving to meet pandemic-induced constituent needs, seizing market opportunities created by demand shifts and surviving amid difficult operational challenges throughout 2020. Franklin College was nominated in recognition of its swift and successful transition to fully online instruction last spring, and subsequent efforts to empower students, faculty and staff with digital fluency. College leaders had a chance to tell Mira Awards judges more of the story in March, during a virtual interview, the

final competition hurdle. President Kerry Prather, Vice President for Academic Affairs and Dean of the College Kristin Flora, Ph.D., Associate Vice President for Academic Affairs **Tim Garner ’79**, Ph.D., and Vice President for Development and Alumni Engagement Dana Cummings participated.

Flora shared, “We recognize many organizations had to pivot in response to the pandemic, and that alone does not make Franklin College unique. What does, is how we’ve leaned into it, and embraced the changes and opportunities it brought.”

The initial challenge was time. As COVID-19 concerns heightened, and Indiana’s restrictions on gatherings, work and travel tightened, the College’s temporary suspension of in-person classes was readjusted accordingly. There were only two days to fully prepare faculty to lead online instruction indefinitely, and simultaneously ensure all students had appropriate technology and WiFi access to learn at home.

As Garner explained, another challenge was only about 25 percent of faculty were using the College’s online teaching and learning system prior to the

pandemic. With the College’s long and proud history of providing a highly personal educational experience, emphasis always has been on meaningful, in-person interaction. The pandemic necessitated finding new ways to deliver the same quality experience. For starters, faculty had to undergo technology training themselves prior to leading virtual classes, and the College’s Information Technology Services (ITS) team led the process. The ITS team also provided ongoing support to Franklin students spread across the nation. Plus, the College had teams of faculty and staff volunteers who maintained personal contact with every enrolled student for several weeks to help navigate all the pandemic-induced changes and offer emotional support.

In the midst of the pandemic pivot, Lilly Endowment Inc. invited the College to apply for a Charting the Future for Indiana’s Colleges and Universities grant, designed to encourage higher-education institutions to strategize and collaborate broadly to keep their campuses and programs relevant for current and future students.

Prather said, “As we had discussion about an

appropriate direction for our grant application, digital fluency was the clear choice. We recognize that ensuring students have the digital skills needed to engage fluently in the world is critical to their personal and professional futures, and it is a direction commensurate with the Endowment’s initiative.”

The College successfully received a \$1 million grant from the Endowment as part of its initiative’s phase two round of funding in 2020. The grant is helping the College strengthen technology integration and expand learning opportunities. Four key pillars support the College’s digital fluency initiative: curricular activities, co-curricular and student-life activities, faculty and staff development and employer partnerships. Recent progress has included hiring a director of digital fluency, starting renovation on an existing campus facility to become home to the Center for Tech Innovation, and launching an esports program and soon-to-be gaming center in Spurlock Center. (*Find related press releases at [FranklinCollege.edu](https://www.franklincollege.edu).)*

Mira Awards winners will be announced April 22 during a virtual ceremony hosted by TechPoint. ■

RECENT COLLEGE STEPS SUPPORTING DIGITAL FLUENCY:



Appointed inaugural director of digital fluency. Andrew Rosner joined the College staff in February to lead strategic implementation efforts, including connecting students and faculty with people, places and experiences that will enable digital-skills building.

“I have long admired Franklin College’s commitment to a transformative liberal arts education. I look forward to helping build upon the Franklin experience by not only preparing students for the ever-evolving workforce of today, but by also challenging students to be the industry leaders of tomorrow.”

Rosner previously served more than five years as director of the Mark Cuban Center for Sports Media and Technology at Indiana University. He currently owns Everlong Digital, a firm specializing in digital marketing strategies and social media tools for small businesses. Rosner earned a bachelor’s degree in kinesiology from DePauw University and a master’s degree in sports marketing and management from Indiana University.



On track with esports program development. Esports is a form of sports competition using video games, and an exciting component of the College’s digital fluency initiative. Esports teams compete online against other colleges and universities across the country, with championship winners becoming eligible for national competitions.

Franklin College is a new member of the National Association of Collegiate Esports (NACE), which coordinates and facilitates competitions. Most esports athletes train and compete in only one or two games, similar to athletes in other collegiate sports. Franklin’s coed team, named GRIZGaming, will have six competition-game options, Legends, Fortnite, Rocket

League, Call of Duty, Overwatch and CS:GO. Team recruitment is underway, and coaching-staff selection will follow. The College will convert a space within Spurlock Center to become a custom esports gaming center.

Esports interest is building across campus. College Trustee Katie Kruse recently made a generous foundational investment toward the gaming center and equipment, and Trustee Cathy Dunn and her father, **Ken Dunn '52**, also showed program support with gifts. Only five years ago, few colleges and universities had esports programs. Today, there are more than 425 programs nationwide. GRIZGaming will begin competing in the 2021-22 academic year. ■

Computer-generated image of future esports gaming center.





In 2019, Richard "Dick" Park, Ph.D., (HD '02), a Franklin College mathematics professor emeritus, and his new acquaintance, Armani Christopher '23, gave their intergenerational conversation two thumbs up.

JASON JIMERSON

BRIDGING GENERATIONS

By Andy Bell-Beltaci, Reprinted with permission from the *Daily Journal*

When a resident at Morning Pointe Senior Living and Memory Care died in 2020 after a battle with COVID-19, a Franklin College student's photo was found on a table in his room.

The student had taken a 2019 College seminar called "Life Examined: In Pursuit of Your Best Self." The seminar paired students with residents at Morning Pointe's Franklin location to encourage visits and dialogue about the differences and similarities between generations. The student whose photo was found came back to the College the next semester with an interest in gerontology.

Associate professor of sociology Jason Jimerson, Ph.D., decided to continue the course in the fall of 2020, even though students could not visit the senior citizens in person due to the pandemic. Jimerson

"GORDON TAUGHT ME TO ALWAYS STAY ACTIVE . . . GORDON'S ADVICE WAS, 'TALK TO YOUR FAMILY MORE, AND KEEP IN CONTACT WITH PEOPLE FROM HOME,' WHICH I SHOULD DO MORE."

KOSMO WOJACK '24

and Mary Beth Piland, life enrichment director at Morning Pointe, encouraged correspondence via personal letters, and helped coordinate intergenerational video calls and Zoom chats.

Jimerson said, “My inspiration for this was that I was very close to my grandparents and my great-grandparents, but also my father and mother. They recently passed away, and I learned a great deal from them.”

Jimerson hoped his students also would benefit from socializing with elders. Conversations overheard included admiration and advice.

Gordon Dunn, 99, said, “The pre-World War II culture that I was born in and the culture we have today postwar are completely different in many ways. It’s difficult to understand and accept the culture of younger people. What they believe and do is different than the way I was raised. I appreciate the younger ones, I believe in the younger ones — they’re our future. Regardless of how I feel, they’re going to be all right.”

Kosmo Wojack ’24, from Hawaii, considered the importance of keeping in touch.

“Gordon taught me to always stay active,” Wojack said. “Gordon’s advice was, ‘Talk to your family more, and keep in contact with people from home,’ which I should do more.”

Other conversations led to insights about what life was like growing up in the first half of the 20th century. The new technology was exciting, recalled Virginia Tyte.

“We were one of the first houses to have TV,” Tyte said. “Every weekend, everyone in class would come to our house. We would put it in the window, and people outside and in the neighborhood would watch.”

In an effort to relate, **Ty Wright ’24** recalled a time when he didn’t have access to TV.

“I got in trouble when I was younger, and I couldn’t watch TV. It was the worst week of my life,” he joked.

Markiah Miller-Kees ’24 learned her Morning Pointe acquaintance died in October after contracting pneumonia. Miller-Kees never was able to meet her in person. Still, she gained a lot from the interaction.

Miller-Kees said, “She acknowledged stuff happening in my life, and how amazing it was I overcame it. I’ve been through a lot not many kids have, but she made me feel smart and strong. She always told me to live your best life because you don’t know when you’re going to be here, or not.”

In 2019, Jimerson had students conclude the course by telling the senior citizens what they learned from them.

“The Morning Pointe residents came to campus and watched the students give presentations,” Jimerson said. “They were almost like eulogies for the living.”

Students who took the 2020 course asked the senior citizens to reflect on when they were younger, and lessons they learned.

Joye Hardin, 94, said she would tell her younger self to enjoy life to the fullest.

“I remember going to a seminar years ago,” Hardin said. “One thing the speaker said was, ‘If you want to be successful in life, when you meet someone make them feel important, and you will be successful.’ I think I have been successful. Life is good. Life is fun. There are ups and downs. I’ve enjoyed life to the fullest. I’m happy with my life, and I’m happy with what I’ve done with it.” ■

MARY BETH PILAND



Haley Pritchett ’22 and **Mary Miler** began building a camaraderie in 2019.

FELLOWSHIP AWAITS

A competitive postgraduate fellowship program aimed at developing the next generation of business leaders and entrepreneurs, and supporting the talent pipeline for innovative Indianapolis-area companies, has selected **Erica Irish '21** for participation. Irish will begin her Orr Fellowship this June, after graduation.

With an average applicant pool of 1,200 and an acceptance rate of only 6%, the program primarily recruits from top seniors at universities in the Midwest. Fellows receive a full-time salaried position with a host company and ongoing opportunities for professional development, executive mentorship and civic engagement.

Irish's host will be Innovatemap, an agency north of downtown Indianapolis, specializing in digital

product research, branding, marketing and design. Irish will serve as a marketing partner during her two-year Fellowship.

"I couldn't be happier or more humbled to accept this incredible opportunity to serve my home city, Indianapolis, on teams as forward-thinking as Innovatemap and Orr Fellowship," Irish said. "Innovatemap is actively leaning into the work, strategy and bold thinking our digital



QUINN FITZGERALD '20

Erica Irish '21

world requires. I'm eager to be challenged and find countless chances to grow when I join the team in June."

Irish will graduate with a bachelor's degree in multimedia journalism and political science. Journalism professor emeritus Ray Begovich encouraged

PURPOSE-DRIVEN CAREERS

PHOTOS BY CHAD WILLIAMS



Stephanie Hautsch (MSPAS '24)



Rebecca Greiner (MSPAS '24)

Stephanie Hautsch (MSPAS '24) and **Rebecca Greiner (MSPAS '24)**, first-year students in the Master of Science in Physician Assistant (PA) Studies Program at Franklin College, were selected for health-care fellowships through the Indiana Area Health Education Center (AHEC) Scholars Program.

The program is part of a national initiative aimed at helping states recruit and specially train a workforce well-prepared to address regional health-care disparities and improve

patient outcomes in rural and other medically underserved communities. Fellowships are two-year commitments and supplement collegiate medical programs.

As Fellows, Hautsch and Greiner will undergo online, observational and experiential training to build skills supporting a holistic approach to patient care that takes social, cultural, behavioral and economic factors into consideration. They should complete the program well-prepared to help broaden health-care access and improve patient outcomes in underserved areas. Hautsch and Greiner are eager to learn and make an impact.

"Our PA program director informed us about the Fellowship program, and

RITE of PASSAGE

her to apply for a Fellowship. She also found inspiration in the example set by those previously in the program.

Brody Perrine '17 was Franklin's first-ever Orr Fellow.

Irish's collegiate professional development experiences have included staff positions with *The Franklin*, *Chalkbeat* and the *Indianapolis Business Journal*. Irish also worked for **TheStatehouseFile**, a news website powered by Pulliam School of Journalism students. In June 2020, she was part of a team that received an Emmy from the National Academy of Television Arts & Sciences Lower Great Lakes Chapter for "The Children's Crusade Revisited: Slaughterhouse-Five at 50," a documentary based on the book by Kurt Vonnegut. ■

I felt like it would be a great way to dive into the community. I am looking forward to the opportunities it opens," said Greiner, a native of Merrimack, New Hampshire. She earned an undergraduate degree in biomedical engineering from North Carolina State University prior to enrolling at Franklin. Hautsch earned a bio-chemistry degree at the University of Evansville and hails from Jasper, Indiana.

Hautsch said, "The program is a good opportunity to better understand the medical needs of the underserved populations surrounding Johnson County and similar counties in Indiana, like where I grew up, and where I hope to practice." ■

Twenty-four students in the Master of Science in Physician Assistant Studies (MSPAS) Program received white medical coats Dec. 18, 2020, symbolizing their halfway point of completion in the 25-month endeavor. White coats also mark the transition from classroom instruction to clinical rotations, the next step in their professional journey as health-care providers.

Due to the pandemic, the ceremony was conducted virtually, with congratulatory remarks from Franklin College President Kerry Prather, and with family members, rather than professors, enjoying the honor of presenting the MSPAS students with their white coats.

The MSPAS Program draws a diverse pool of applicants from across the country. The 2022 cohort includes students from New Hampshire to Oregon, as well as working professionals seeking career change.

One of them is Class President **Michelle Bartlett** (MSPAS '22), who has worked in special education for nine years, but also always had an interest in the medical field. Now she is combining her passions.

Bartlett said, "I always heard my students' parents remark that most medical professionals have a hard time understanding their children. I decided to pursue a degree to become a PA for this reason. I hope to work with families and children with special needs."

In her White Coat Ceremony address, Bartlett urged classmates to "keep pushing beyond what you think you can handle because uncertainty is the essence of life, and it fuels opportunity. This year, 2020, sure was an uncertain and difficult time in our lives, but we pushed on and persevered through all of the chaos."

The MSPAS Program is made possible by a nearly \$1 million grant from Lilly Endowment, as part of its Initiative to Promote Opportunities Through Educational Collaborations. Franklin's graduates are eligible to take the Physician Assistant National Certifying Examination and become licensed as a PA in any state.

Congratulations to the following white coat recipients, two of whom have Franklin College bachelor's degrees and are indicated with asterisks:

Madeline Atkinson
Michelle Bartlett
Chaz Casey
***Mallory Cast '19**
Tyler Cichowski
Sierra Corbin
Mercedes Cox
Josiah Dick
Rebecca Greiner

Stephanie Hautsch
Kaleb Johnson
Katelyn Bowman
Lacy
Cassidy Mull
Mohamad Nazari
Rachel Payne
Andrea Salemi
Elizabeth Severns

***Alexandra Short '19**
Brittany Spaulding
Jacob Stemper
Emma Stout
Quentin Tingle
Brittany Vandevander
Mackenzie Norder
Willman ■

EMPLOYEE APPRE



CHAD WILLIAMS

Jason McHenry



RENEE KEAN '06

Chris Shaff '96

It takes a community of dedicated employees to deliver the exceptional liberal arts experience and life-changing opportunities Franklin College students count on receiving when they enroll.

To recognize and thank employees for all the ways in which they deliver on the College promise, there has been an annual appreciation event for 27 years.

Traditionally, employees gather in December for a campus luncheon to acknowledge exceptional individual contributions and career milestones, as well as to celebrate the semester's end. As a COVID-19 precaution, the latest event was transitioned to a virtual gathering hosted by President Kerry Prather. He recognized three individuals with College awards of distinction and thanked 33 others for their significant service, ranging from five to 45 years of employment.

The Margaret A. Hommell Staff Service Excellence Award, named in memory of an employee deeply

valued for helping others, was a two-way tie, with **Jason McHenry** and **Chris Shaff '96**, receiving mutual honors. Both men received multiple nominations from colleagues who praised their work ethic and notable contributions amid unprecedented challenges created by the pandemic.

McHenry, currently the interim director of Information Technology Services (ITS), joined the staff in 2014, advancing rapidly from application developer to database administrator. His reputation is synonymous with excellent client service.

One nominator wrote: "He is the go-to person for all things in ITS, and is always willing to help. I have never seen him lose his patience, even when much is asked of him. It is always a pleasure to work with him on a

project because I know he will be patient, communicate effectively and execute with precision."

Another nominator appreciated McHenry's efforts to help secure laptops for all faculty and students as COVID-19 concerns and state restrictions heightened last spring, and the College transitioned to distance learning. "During that time, manufacturers were running short on laptops. Our classes could not have gone online as smoothly had we not switched over prior to the pandemic," wrote the nominator.

Shaff is the College's head athletic trainer. Prior to working at his alma mater, he earned a master's degree in athletic training from Valparaiso University. He also gained valuable career experience working with professional baseball

CIATION

players and high school athletes, and selling pharmaceuticals. Numerous nominators praised Shaff for his selfless-service and passion for helping student-athletes.

One nominator wrote: “Chris has a positive, upbeat attitude that helps any athlete work through an injury or ailment keeping them from the playing field/court. The athletic-training staff, under his leadership, consistently follows best practices.”

The nominator continued: “Chris and his colleagues have taken on a critical role in providing COVID-19 testing for student-athletes, staff and faculty. He has excelled in his efforts to become knowledgeable and well-trained in the areas necessary to take on these new tasks.”

Shaff also was praised for improving several processes in the athletic training department, including drug testing and appointment scheduling with trainers.

Further, he helped develop a new mental-health policy to help support student-athletes, coaches and staff. Nominators also noted Shaff’s commitment to professional development through his participation in conferences, webinars and independent reading of research. He also represented the College last year as a participant in Leadership Johnson County, and was involved in developing resources for men coping with grief.

Assistant professor of English **Katie Burpo** was the distinguished recipient of the Adjunct Faculty Excellence Award. Only non-tenure track professors who have taught two or more semesters and at least 12 credit hours at Franklin are eligible. Burpo has a bachelor’s degree in English/writing from DePauw University and a master’s degree in fine arts/creative writing from Western Michigan University.

One nominator wrote: “She is highly creative and strives to make learning interactive for students by using humor and visual components, like images and videos. As a result, students routinely praise her on their course evaluations, citing her dedication to their learning, and her approachability.”

One student said, “I don’t even have a good grade in her class, and it’s one of my favorites.”

Other nominators recognized Burpo for her enthusiastic engagement across campus, including outreach to first-year students and prospective students with interest in creative writing, and upper-class students seeking academic advice. Burpo also was involved in the creative writing department’s curriculum revision and helps manage its social media accounts.

View the full list of honorees in the news section at FranklinCollege.edu. ■



Katie Burpo

CHAD WILLIAMS

GIFTS OF GE

WOMEN IN SCIENCE

The **Dr. Barbara Hummel Weil '47** Memorial Scholarship is the result of a \$100,000 gift from Edward D. Weil, Ph.D., in remembrance of his spouse.

Barbara grew up in Marion, Indiana, and enrolled at Franklin College to pursue a degree in chemistry, a field few women explored at the time. She also faced physical and social challenges resulting from a childhood illness that caused blindness in one of her eyes, but she persevered. She earned a graduate fellowship with the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, where she also received a doctorate in organic chemistry.

While raising two children with Edward, Barbara built a successful scientific career that 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 Liphia, a French pharmaceutical company with an office in New York City, she produced the substantial documents used to gain the Food and Drug Administration's approval of Metformin, an oral diabetes medication. In Washington, D.C., her arguments advocating 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.

Barbara's namesake scholarship will be awarded annually, beginning in fall 2021. Recipients will be selected according to criteria established by her family, with first preference given to a female student demonstrating academic excellence and majoring in chemistry or other related field.

EMPOWERING EDUCATORS

An estate gift of \$100,000 from **Ted L. Marston '51** (HD '92) and spouse **Alma "Elaine" (Harrison) '52** has endowed the Ted Marston Teaching Fund.

The Marstons had a lifelong passion for education, and initially established a fund in 2011 to assist Franklin College students pursuing careers as educators. Their estate gift joins the fund to create a permanent endowment enabling greater impact through student financial assistance, virtual technology resources, department-related travel and the Marston Education Curriculum Resource Center.

The Marstons met at Franklin College, wed in 1950 and celebrated 65 anniversaries prior to Ted's death in 2016. Elaine died in 2020. Over his lifetime, Ted served in many College roles, including trustee for 20 years, with five years as board chair. He received an honorary doctorate in 1992 and was elected a lifelong Honorary Trustee in 2002. The couple are survived by their children, **Michael**

Marston '92 and Melissa (Marston) Schulz, as well as eight grandchildren.

"On behalf of my entire family, I am pleased and proud to be able to provide this type of support for deserving Franklin College students and members of the education department," said Michael. "My parents were very proud of their Franklin College history, and our entire family loves the institution as a result.

"They worked tirelessly in support of education, human rights and equality. The fact that we will be able to have an impact on future educators is particularly fitting, as those are the very people who will shape young minds, and ultimately, make the world a better place. I know my parents would be gratified to see this gift supporting Franklin College in this way."

INTERFAITH PROGRAMS

The Indianapolis-based Allen Whitehill Clowes Charitable Foundation awarded the College a \$15,000 grant to support "Interfaith Understanding Through the Arts and Humanities" program development, to highlight various faith traditions expressed through dance, visual arts, music, poetry and filmmaking.

Professor emeritus of philosophy and religion David Carlson, Ph.D.,



and director of religious life and chaplain Hannah Adams Ingram, Ph.D., developed the concept with creative guidance from assistant professor of fine arts and theatre Nick Crisafulli.

“We are extremely grateful for this grant because it allows us to plan a cohesive convocation series over the next three years,” Adams Ingram said.

Last fall, Franklin College Trustee Emeritus **Bill Brown '61** and his spouse, Sue Ann, along with **Sandra (Corbin) Hinshaw '66** and her spouse, Tom, and **Bob Epstein '67** and his spouse, Louise, generously underwrote the College’s debut event, “Interfaith Understanding Through the Art of Storytelling.” It was held virtually due to the pandemic, and was a featured presentation in Central Indiana’s distinguished Spirit & Place Festival.

Allen Whitehill Clowes (HD '64) was a longtime Franklin College friend and art program supporter. After receiving an honorary degree from Franklin, he was a periodic visitor, attended social functions and arranged for the display of artwork from his personal collection on campus. Upon his death in 2000, he bequeathed an endowed fund to assist promising art students who wanted to attend Franklin College.

TOWN-GOWN RELATIONS

When New Jersey-based Radwell® International established a branch in Franklin in 2014, the leadership team took note of the College, only two blocks away. The prospect of recruiting interns and graduates was encouraging, said general manager Robert Tiedeken.

With operations fully running by 2016, the branch welcomed two Franklin College interns, one in technical production and one in sales/marketing. For one student, the internship morphed into a part-time position while he finished his degree, then he joined the company full time.

“One of our takeaways was that Franklin students were unbelievably well prepared and able to apply themselves right out of the gate, which we didn’t typically experience recruiting from other colleges,” said Tiedeken. “While the students lacked some technical knowledge, they had the mindset to learn quickly.”

The same year the interns were hired, Radwell began offering a corporate scholarship to Franklin College students. When that four-year commitment ended in 2019, the company renewed its support with the promise of four future annual gifts to the Franklin Fund.

“The College has been a good avenue for us not only to make inroads with students but to get more involved in local programs, such as Leadership Johnson County, and to network with supporters of the Grizzlies’ athletic teams,” said Tiedeken.

Today, two alumni are on the Radwell sales team, **Beth Hurm-Hatchett '97** and **Bruce Kittle '81**. Radwell stocks and sells industrial automation, electronic, hydraulic, heating/ventilation/air conditioning and electrical control equipment that helps keep a variety of manufacturers running.

ADMISSIONS BOOST

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



MORE THAN WORDS

As work centered around diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI) continues at Franklin College, the community has taken time to acknowledge the importance of Black history and agents of change, from the past and present.

Recent opportunities to listen, learn, discuss and unite included virtual programs honoring the legacy of Martin Luther King Jr., Ph.D., on Jan. 18. A morning chapel service was followed by a guest-panel discussion on economic equality, and readings by spoken-word artist **Taylor McElwain '19**. The day concluded with the lecture, “No Man is an Island: Social Justice is Everyone’s Work” by Alexandria White, Ph.D., director of diversity for ReBoot Accel, a woman-owned consulting company in Silicon Valley. Concurrent with the MLK Day observance, the College hosted a children’s book drive.

DEI programming continued in February with the presentation “Inspired to Lead Through Uncertain Times,” by Terri M. Hurdle, Ed.D., executive director of TMarie Consulting and a featured writer in the book *Our Stories: The Experiences of Black Professionals on Predominately White Campuses*.

For more, visit FranklinCollege.edu, and search for “President’s Council on Diversity and Inclusion.” ■

PLANTING KNOWLEDGE

Franklin College’s beautiful park-like setting is often admired by campus guests, and broadly enjoyed by Grizzlies past and present. Maintaining the grounds and caring for the landscape and plantings take tremendous work year-round from the physical facilities team. For many years, biology professor Alice Heikens, Ph.D., also has played a role not only by sharing her botany expertise and counsel regarding native and invasive plants, but by involving science students in the College’s greening efforts. Students have previously conducted tree and plant inventories as well as planted saplings.

With Heikens’ guidance, Grizzly Park was envisioned not only as the athletic complex it is today but an urban forest, where a variety of trees provide shade and surround walking trails with beauty. More than seven years ago, Heikens began the tradition of engaging students in planting the young trees that continue to flourish. The efforts have enabled the College to qualify as a Tree Campus Higher Education designee of the Arbor Day Foundation for eight consecutive years.

Meeting the Arbor Day Foundation’s standards requires five criteria: a campus tree advisory committee, a tree-care plan, a tree program with dedicated annual expenditures, an annual Arbor Day observance and a student service-learning project. The COVID-19 pandemic presented some challenges that nearly thwarted the efforts in fall 2020, but Heikens, assistant professor of biology Amber Yount, Ph.D., and PE instructor emerita Doreen St. Clair rallied around the cause. St. Clair made a generous private gift, and Yount’s students did some additional fundraising. The collaborative effort enabled the purchase of six red maples for Grizzly Park.

Yount said, “The students involved in this project were enrolled in my first-year seminar course on climate change. There’s a lot of misinformation out there about the issue, and I saw this course as an opportunity to help students explore the facts and see how they could take an active role in their own communities to mitigate climate change.”

The students underwent training on proper tree planting procedures and participated in class discussion with Heikens about the connection to sustainability and conservation efforts. The culmination enabled students to dig into the process with their own hands. ■

AMBER YOUNT



Planting a tree in the foreground are **Sergio Aguilar Vargas '24**, **Robert “Tom” Shrader '24** and **Eddy Yousak '24**. **Emily Newton '24**, **Kara Woodard '24** and **Samantha Schick '24** are in the background.

NEW ATHLETIC FACILITY

The Johnson Memorial Health Athletics Annex at Franklin College is on the horizon thanks to a \$1 million commitment from the Franklin-based health-care network.

The indoor multiple-use annex will be located on the College campus, at the southwest corner of Park Ave. and Second St. Retractable batting cages, golfing surfaces, a weight room and ample indoor spaces will accommodate a variety of athletic practices to support skills development and conditioning year-round. Nearly 44% of the student body participates in the College's 21 men's and women's athletic programs.

"This generous gift is the latest endorsement of our wonderful working relationship with JMH," said Franklin College President Kerry Prather. "We partnered with JMH on the creation of our Graduate Health Sciences Center, and again with the employment of our campus nurse. The hospital and its staff have been incredible partners in hosting undergraduate interns and graduate-level physician assistant studies majors for clinical experiences. Athletically, our student-athletes are extremely well-served by JMH, as the preferred provider of health-care services for our athletic department."

JMH President and CEO **David Dunkle '94**, M.D., said, "Our intent is to always provide greater access to resources students can use to maintain and improve their physical health. The Johnson Memorial Health Athletics Annex is an example of our ongoing commitment to be invested in the well-being of not just the Franklin College community, but the surrounding community as a whole."

The College previously made athletic facility upgrades in 2011, when outdoor venues for tennis, softball and track and field were built in Grizzly Park, and Stewart "Red" Faught Stadium received turf and lights for football, soccer and lacrosse. ■



CHAD WILLIAMS

Franklin College President Kerry Prather and JMH President and CEO David Dunkle '94, M.D.

HOSTS OF CHAMPIONS

Franklin College and Indiana Sports Corp. will host the 2026 NCAA Division III Swimming and Diving National Championships, scheduled at the IU Natatorium in downtown Indianapolis.

Franklin College previously hosted in 2012 and 2018. The 2026 event is projected to bring more than 500 student-athletes from around the country to compete in 40 events over a four-day period.

Hosts were announced in October 2020, but bidding for 86 of the 90 NCAA championships began in August 2019. More than 3,000 bid applications were received. Each sport

committee, per division, selected the host sites it believed would provide the ultimate experience for the respective student-athletes, resulting in more than 450 championship sites selected. The four championships not included in the process due to preexisting arrangements were Division I baseball, football and softball, and Division III women's ice hockey.

Indiana Sports Corp. leads the statewide initiative Team Indiana, whose mission is to promote the state as a premier destination for sports-related events. Team Indiana also has involvement with past, present and future NCAA Championships. ■

RETURN TO PLAY



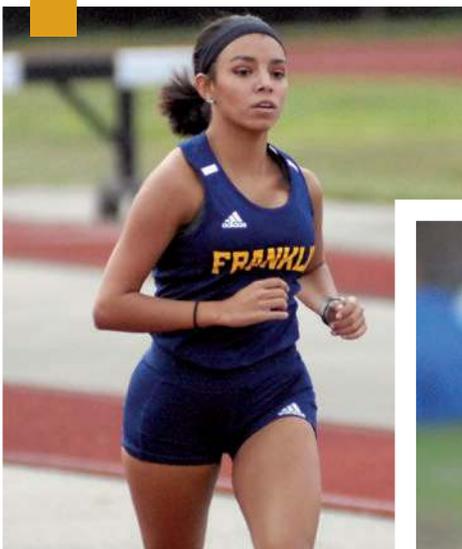
With the start of spring semester also came an unusual practice and game schedule resulting from postponed seasons caused by the pandemic. In addition to the traditional spring competitors, the football, soccer, tennis and volleyball teams are recouping their seasons, in accordance with Heartland Collegiate Athletic Conference guidelines.

“Grizzlies always display grit through adversity, and the early-season wins posted in basketball, swimming and diving, track and field, and volleyball indicate this year will be no exception. We are very proud of our student-athletes, coaches and athletic training staff for their adaptability,” said Andrew Hendricks, director of athletics, and head swimming and diving coach.

“The coaching staffs are fully committed to helping student-athletes stay focused on academics, as we continue to work on synchronizing the limited practice areas, playing spaces and locker rooms, and navigate the unpredictable weather.”

Hendricks wants to remind fans that live coverage of most home games is shared free on the GRIZTV streaming service. At present, coverage includes Grizzlies’ football, soccer, volleyball, lacrosse, basketball, baseball and softball. Additional team coverage is in the works.

To access GRIZTV, start at the athletic website, FranklinGrizzlies.com. Next, look for the Fan Zone in the menu across the top of your computer screen and select GRIZTV, or scroll to the bottom of the page on your smart phone and click the GRIZTV logo. Then, you should see a schedule of upcoming broadcasts, plus archives of previous games. ■



Angelina Gregory '23 and Wyatt McCullough '24 pace their respective teams.

PHOTOS BY RYAN THOMAS

ON THE RUN



The men's and women's cross-country teams had a memorable fall season in 2020.

To prioritize safety yet enable competition, the Heartland Collegiate Athletic Conference (HCAC) conducted a Virtual Racing Series. Teams competed independently at their respective campuses and recorded times that were reported to the HCAC and compiled to reveal the winners and leaders.

The first race in September was a 3200-meter run at Grizzly Park. Franklin's men placed second in the eight-team field with 84 points, while the women took fifth place with 116 points. Four additional races followed, with the season closing in November.

BIG HEART FOR GOOD CAUSE

The fifth annual Big Heart 5K run/walk founded by the Franklin College football team in memory of former player **Wes Shambaugh '15** was held in November 2020. Shambaugh died from an enlarged heart, at age 23, in March 2015.

Over the years, supporters of the fundraiser have enabled the College to purchase eight automated external defibrillators and install them in facilities across campus. The portable devices can help those experiencing sudden cardiac arrest by analyzing the heart's rhythm and, if necessary, delivering an electrical shock, to help re-establish an effective rhythm.

Due to the pandemic, the official 2020 event was virtual, but several participants showed up to "Walk for Wes" in person at Meadowood Park in Speedway, Indiana, where his mother resides. Pictured are **Jeremy Parker '15**, **Joey Pasquale '15**, **Jonny Hession '15**, **Joe Rush '14**, **Jonny West '14** and **Kyle Linville '13**. ■



SUPPORTING STUDENT-ATHLETES

For the second consecutive year, Niel Ellerbrook and his spouse, Karen, made a generous gift to the athletic department to provide charter bus transportation for coaches and student-athletes. Their support helps ensure safe and comfortable travel for Grizzlies competing away from home.

"We thank the Ellerbrooks for their philanthropic hearts and generosity," said Director of Athletics Andrew Hendricks, also the head swimming and diving coach.

"Athletics play a major part in shaping lives, and thanks to the Ellerbrooks we can offer students even greater life-changing experiences that build confidence, lead to success and create lasting memories." ■

In the final event, a 6K, the women's team racked up 106.5 points to take fifth-place overall. Two women cracked the top-15, **Angelina Gregory '23** and **Taylor Wooten '22**. Gregory earned sixth-place overall and set a new personal best of 24:52.0, and Wooten placed 12th while setting a new personal best of 25:24.0.

Other runners included **Jill Anspaugh '23**, **Bessie Kerr '24**, **Grace Esterline '21** and **Josie Lyons '24**.

In their final race, an 8K, the men collected third-place overall with 87 points. Matching the women's team, the men had two runners make the top-15, **Wyatt McCullough '24** and **Chris Graham '20**. For the fourth time in five races, McCullough paced the field. He finished ninth overall, with a

time of 26:20.0. In 14th place was **Chris Graham '20**, who clocked in with a time of 26:50.0.

In his inaugural 8K, **Jack Sells '24** earned 20th-place overall with a time of 27:22.0. **Jaycee Wilburn '23** and **Parker Mullins '24**, who claimed identical times of 27:52.0, shared 29th place. Other participants included **Drew Hargis '24**, **Jordan Johnson '22**, **Eli Cochrane '24**, **Henry Davidson '22**, **Ethan Bequeret '23**, **Matthew Lee '22**, **Brayden Devenport '24** and **Steve Bellamy '24**.

Watch video-recorded interviews with the runners and get more cross-country news at **Franklin-Grizzlies.com**. ■

TIMELESS TALE



The Edinburg cheerleaders, with Marilyn (Wertz) Lain '57 at middle.

By Gregg Doyel, *The Indianapolis Star* (Reprinted with permission.)

The scrapbook tells the story of love, war and basketball. Family photos and newspaper clippings of people who aren't around anymore, of a time that no longer exists, from a town that changed its name along the way but stayed true to itself.

There's a picture of the dog that disrupted the 1951 Indiana high school basketball tournament, and the cheerleading skirts that might've done the same if given a chance. There's a picture of a tall girl and shorter boy, and a picture of a tall man and shorter woman, photos of the same people taken 75 years apart. There's a picture of the big city — Franklin, population 7,500 — sending the boys of Edinburg on to Hinkle Fieldhouse in Indianapolis.

The scrapbook tells the story of families brought together and broken apart, of farms lost and love found. It tells the story of Pearl Harbor and World War II and a couple who met in second grade and are still married decades later.

It tells the story of **Joe Lain '57** and spouse **Marilyn (Wertz) '57**, and it's an Indiana story. Listen closely. Can you hear the ball bouncing in that shoebox they called a gym?

Big time

Tell me, I'm saying to Joe, about the loss to Batesville.

Silence. We're talking by speaker phone, Joe and Marilyn at their home in Edinburg. They're 85 years old, and no, they've never left, and after a second or two of silence I'm wondering if we've lost the connection.

"Sigh."

What was that?

"Well," Joe says, "you were asking about Batesville."

On the morning of the 1951 Sweet 16, Edinburg had one starter taking penicillin to fight a cold, and another starter looking for a whirlpool to work out the kinks in his neck. Like the deck wasn't already stacked against the Maroons, you know? The team eventually gets on a bus that winds through Franklin, where people are lining the streets to cheer a 200-car procession, led by the mayor and police chief, heading to Hinkle.

The Edinburg cheerleaders, a squad of three girls, are taken onto the court at Hinkle and shown where their fans will be sitting later, then led through a maze of corridors to the basement, where they are given a room to practice. It's all too much for the girls who made their cheerleading outfits with the longest skirts in Johnson County, then decided to trim the fabric a few inches above the knee. The principal caught wind of that, called them into

his office and told them to reattach the fabric, or they wouldn't cheer for the Maroons.

That was traumatic enough, but now they're being led through the cavernous Fieldhouse, sure they'll get lost and never be heard from again.

"We were scared to death," recalls Marilyn, then a sophomore. "It was the most awesome and upsetting time. It was such a huge place, and when we got onto the floor we couldn't find our crowd. They were all spread out."

While the cheerleaders stared into a faceless mass of 15,000, the Edinburg players were traumatized as well. Forward Gene Harrell had that cold, and forward **Curt Calvert '59** — a member of the Greensburg All-Regional team — had that stiff neck, and Batesville had all that size, and pretty soon the score was 15-2.

But Edinburg hadn't made it this far by giving up.

World affairs, local impact

Let's rewind a bit. Remind you of the events in Pearl Harbor, and what that meant more than 4,000 miles away in Edinburg. And, let's get to the spelling. Yes, the town is spelled Edinburgh, but it's gone back and forth over the years — named after Edinburgh, Scotland, in the early 1800s but shortened to Edinburg in 1899. The "h" was restored in 1977.

On Dec. 7, 1941, Edinburg was minding its own business, same as all those soldiers at Pearl Harbor, when the Japanese bombed the naval station. The U.S. government already had purchased more than 40,000 acres for a military training center in Central Indiana, land that included 15

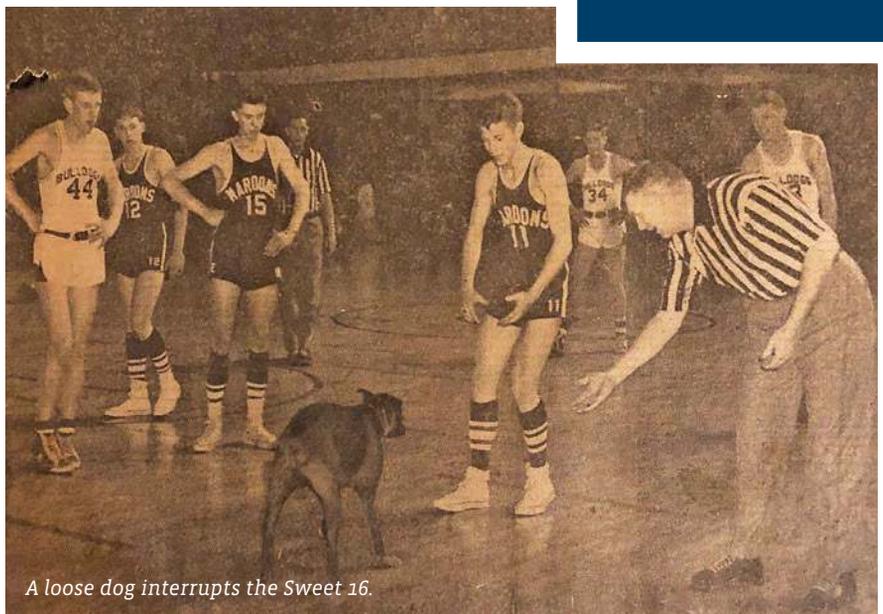
cemeteries, five schools and the town of Kansas, but the attack accelerated the timeline of the military training base they named Camp Atterbury.

"All my relatives on both sides were residents of the area, and they all had to go different directions. Everybody had to get out," Joe explains. That included his grandfather, Ed Neville, who lost 300 acres.

"My Grandpa Neville never did get over the fact he lost his farm," Joe says.

It also was a time of sacrifice for Marilyn's family, who had a two-bedroom home in Edinburg. They took in a displaced Camp Atterbury couple, renting them a bedroom and sharing the house's one bathroom, and made do. Marilyn and her sister (now **Phyllis (Wertz) Huckabone '54**) slept on a pull-out couch, their twin brothers in cribs in their parents' bedroom. The boys slept in those cribs until World War II ended; they were 6.

"My dad was superintendent of Amos Thompson woodworking," Marilyn



A loose dog interrupts the Sweet 16.

SUBMITTED PHOTO

"IT WAS THE MOST AWESOME AND UPSETTING TIME."

MARILYN (WERTZ) LAIN '57



"I THOUGHT, 'THIS IS GOING TO BE MY GIRLFRIEND.' BUT SHE WAS ALWAYS TALLER THAN I WAS UNTIL AFTER EIGHTH GRADE, WHEN I FINALLY HAD A GROWTH SPURT. THAT'S WHEN SHE SAID, 'OK, THIS COULD BE MY BOYFRIEND.'"

JOE LAIN '57

says. "He was frugal, and he could make a buck."

Joe's parents had lost their 80-acre farm to Camp Atterbury and moved four miles east to Edinburg, finding work at Cummins Engine Co., making parts for U.S. tanks. Joe started second grade at the one-room schoolhouse in Edinburg, where he noticed the tallest girl in class, Marilyn. He blew it right out of the gates, stuffing a Valentine's Day card

into the class box with her name on it, but misspelled as Marilyn Works, not Wertz. The teacher figured it out, but Marilyn was not amused.

"I let him know that wasn't right," she says, and I can hear Joe giggling.

Joe fancied himself an athlete, but he couldn't outrun Marilyn in the school races at recess. Nobody could, not until sixth grade, when Joe finally beat her.

"I thought, 'Boy, that's going to make her mad!'" Joe says. "But she came over and shook my hand, big smile on her face, and said: 'Congratulations.' From about that point, I thought, 'This is going to be my girlfriend.' But she was always taller than I was until after eighth grade, when I finally had a growth spurt. That's when she said, 'OK, this could be my boyfriend.'"

Now I can hear Marilyn giggling. In December, they will celebrate their 64th anniversary. *(Since the article's original publishing date, the couple have celebrated their milestone.)*

You've heard about the love and war. Let's get back to the basketball. And the dog.

Doggone Sweet 16

Behind one basket of that gym at Edinburg High, the stage was out of bounds. Behind the other? A wall. On the sides, a 6-foot wall was the boundary, with the bleachers above it.

"We were playing in a little box," Joe says.

Makes the story even better, and this story — that team in 1951 — seemed destined to make history. They'd just hired a new coach, **Harold Hickman '49**. He was 25, taking over a program that had never won regional, hadn't won sectional in 40 years, and with an enrollment of 138 kids didn't seem likely to change that in 1951. The Maroons started the season 1-3, but rallied behind five senior starters — 5'11" sophomore Joe was the sixth man — to finish the regular season 12-6.

For the school's first Sweet 16, Edinburg pretty much shut down on March 10, 1951. That included the town's afternoon newspaper, which published early that day so the entire staff could get to Hinkle. In those days, Edinburg was the country's smallest town with a Boys Club, and billed itself as the "Veneer Center of the U.S.," thanks to the Amos Lumber and Veneer Co. When the town needed a doctor, it organized the Edinburg Civic Corp. to raise money and attract one.

To get ready for that gigantic court at Hinkle, Hickman took his players to the gym at his alma mater, Franklin College.

"Kind of nice," Joe remembers. "Got out of school early, went up to Franklin to practice. But when we went to Butler, after playing in these small gyms, oh my gosh, that basket and backboard looked so small I was almost afraid to shoot it."

Edinburg started slow, trailing Batesville 15-2, as Marilyn and the two

other cheerleaders tried to encourage a cheering section they couldn't see.

"To this day," Joe says, "I don't know whether that was stage fright or what. I know Curt (Calvert) wasn't feeling good. But we did get within about three or four points at the start of the fourth quarter. But then the Butler Bulldog came out on the floor."

Hang on, I'm telling Joe. Butler's mascot in a costume walked onto the court?

"A real living dog!" he's saying, and I'm making a note to visit *The Indianapolis Star* archives later, because there's just no way . . .

I'll be darned. The newspaper on March 11, 1951, has a picture of the dog, and the details. It's a boxer, not a bulldog, owned by Municipal Court Judge Joseph J. Howard. What's a judge doing bringing his dog to the Sweet 16? Great question. But the dog is on the court, near the foul line, as the referee approaches with a smile and two Edinburg players glare in the background. Because they know: They'd had the momentum.

And sure enough, the momentum is gone. After the stoppage, Edinburg's run is over in the game, and the tournament. The final score, Batesville 45, Edinburg 37. Joe scored five points that day.

"I didn't know how that dog got loose on the floor," Joe says, 69 years later. "I still don't know."

The picture of the dog is in the scrapbook, whose red cardboard cover is scratched and stained, but lined with the purest gold trim. The book has survived seven decades and looks ready for seven more, and thank goodness for that. People don't last forever, but the story of Edinburg's 1951 regional champion — a story of love, war and basketball — is timeless. ■

. . . AND STILL TODAY

The Lains were elementary school sweethearts, who continued their courtship in high school and at Franklin College. He was in Sigma Alpha Epsilon fraternity and played on the basketball team for two years, as well as served as junior and senior class treasurer. She was in Delta Zeta sorority and fondly remembers sisterhood activities, including building floats for Homecoming parades. They married in December of their senior year.

The Lains built lifelong friendships with Franklin classmates, and have attended several Homecoming reunions during the years since their graduation. Today, they also enjoy rooting for the Grizzlies at home basketball and football games.

"It's one of the things we miss getting to do when we spend the winters in Florida," Joe said. He is retired from State Farm Insurance, and she is retired from teaching fourth grade at Edinburg's Eastside Elementary.

The Lains have made a series of generous financial gifts to the College over their lifetimes, earning distinction as Heritage Society members. The couple have taken advantage of a matching program from Joe's former employer to help maximize the impact of their gifts.

"State Farm's matching gifts have been a really good way for us to help the College," said Joe.

For them, College support is an investment in the community.

"What Franklin College does is not only important for students, but for the whole of Johnson County," Joe said. "We believe the community needs the College, and the College needs the community." ■

PHOTO BY MARLA RAMSEY

**Joe Lain '57 and spouse
Marilyn (Wertz) '57**



Your Franklin Fund gifts matter.

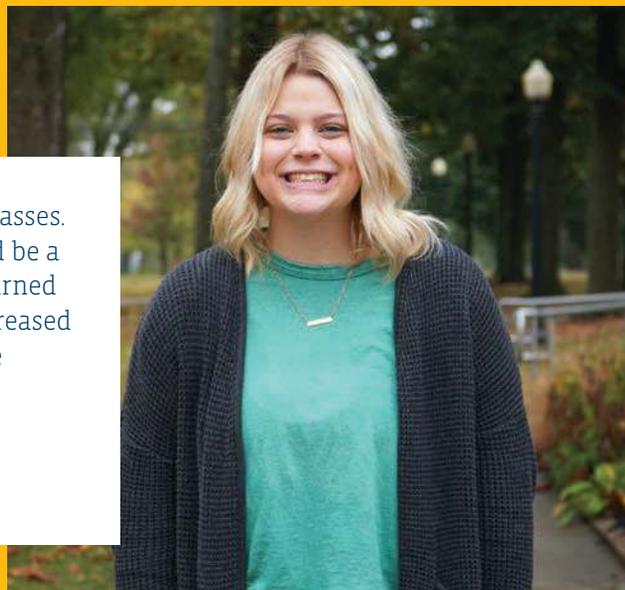


“I knew I wanted to work in health care, and the current pandemic has reinforced my decision. Franklin College is preparing me to help others by providing me with a challenging curriculum and opportunities to be involved in many different student groups.”

Armani Christopher '23, exercise science major
Serves as a resident assistant, involved in Black Student Union, Intersarsity, Student Athlete Advisory Committee and football.

“As a sociology major, I was encouraged to take a wide variety of classes. This semester I enrolled in Color and Design. What I thought would be a stress-reliever turned into so much more. Through this course, I learned more about my goals, my values and myself as a person. It also increased my confidence and helped shape me. It is a difficult course, but the professor inspires and motivates me.”

Ava Mayer '24, sociology major
Employed in a work-study program.



PHOTOS BY CHAD WILLIAMS

FRANKLIN FUND GIFTS

- Help students who need scholarships and other financial assistance during the ongoing pandemic.
- Advance the innovation, leadership and action students and graduates are demonstrating around the world.
- Demonstrate confidence in the College's reputation and value.



Make a gift at FranklinCollege.edu/give

SKY'S **NOT** THE LIMIT

SUBMITTED PHOTOS

By Alexa Shrake '23, Pulliam Fellow

Carley Campbell '16 is in the habit of aiming high in all she does, regardless of breaking with convention. From creating an individualized college major to joining the historically male-dominated U.S. Air Force, Campbell has taken risks to reach her goals.



Carley Campbell '16 walks with her father across base.

Campbell came to college with a passion for government and foreign affairs, but the traditional academic majors weren't an exact fit for the future she imagined.

"The idea of graduating and moving into a typical 9 to 5 desk job was my personal nightmare and, quite frankly, still is. I wanted a career that would challenge me," Campbell said.

Guided by her interests and aspirations, Campbell collaborated with associate professors of political science Allison Fetter-Harrott, Ph.D., J.D., and Randall Smith, Ph.D., to develop an individualized major in global security and international relations.

"They really went above and beyond to help me find internships and build the major I wanted; they made a lasting impact on me," Campbell said. "My Franklin College Model U.N. experience also played a huge factor in my career decision-making."

The Air Force, with its mission "to fly, fight and win in air, space and cyberspace" has presented Campbell with the career challenges she hoped, and then some. Like all recruits, Campbell went through eight weeks of Basic Military Training to build up physical and mental skills.

"I will admit, it blind sided me to look around the room and see that I

was maybe one of two women in a room full of airmen, but that feeling subsided over time. In my experience, everyone looked out for each other and worked as a team."

According to a May 2020 Brookings Institution report, across the four major U.S. Department of Defense services, women represent only one of every six Americans in uniform, and about 19% of the Air Force. In 2020, the Air Force appointed a woman for the first time to the senior enlisted role of Chief Master Sergeant, with JoAnne S. Bass making history.

Campbell also made military news last year. She was specially selected for Airman Leadership School and earned the coveted John Levitow Award. Recipients must rank in the top 1% of their class and excel in communication and collaboration throughout the 24-day program.

"It's an honor to be making these steps for those before us, and of course, all of those who will follow us in the future," Campbell said.

Recently, Campbell graduated from the Defense Language Institute Foreign Language Center (DLIFLC) in California. The center trains specially selected military personnel to become linguists, regionally-focused consultants with war-fighting competencies as well as cross-cultural language and

communication skills critical to U.S. efforts in multinational environments. The DLIFLC assigns the language that must be learned. Campbell received Russian.

"I was quite nervous having to learn it in about 18 months. The grammar for Russian is particularly intense, and becoming fluent that quickly was an experience," she said.

Next on Campbell's horizon is a transition to the Air Force Reserves, which will allow her to stay in the military and join the workforce; a return to active duty also remains on the table. For now, she lives on the Fort Meade military base in Maryland with her spouse, Colby Martin. They met at the DLIFLC. She also is launching an online graphic design business and drafting a novel. ■

SPREADING GOOD VIBES

By Alexa Shrake '23, Pulliam Fellow

Meet Macey Dickerson '15, full-time artist, eternal optimist, nature enthusiast and podcast fan. Here, Dickerson shares a glimpse of her recent works, the artistic process and the positive messages she's channeling through her creative impulses.

GBD IMAGES



GBD IMAGES

What is the significance of the mural you did for Wessels Co.?

“Wessels (worldwide manufacturer of water tanks for HVAC systems) was looking for a colorful mural with minimalist design to revitalize a wall, 108 feet by 20 feet, at their headquarters in Greenwood (Indiana). I worked with the marketing team to create a unique and timeless design that incorporated water motifs and some of their most popular products.

“I also recently painted a mural for Natura Wellness, a store on Water Street in Franklin (Indiana). This was a fun project because Kelly Doerr, the owner, gave me free rein on the design. After meeting Kelly and getting a sense of the space,

I painted a tree, 12 feet tall, with chakra centers on its trunk encircled by glowing orbs.

“I enjoyed how collaborative these projects were. It’s an honor to help a client transform their space so that it reflects their unique vision.”

What sparked your interest in art?

“I have enjoyed creating art since I was a child. I showed some talent from a young age and was privileged to refine my skill by enrolling in after-school art programs and taking lessons at local art centers as I grew up.”

What is your intent as an artist?

“I use paintings as a way to punctuate a period of inner transformation. After I

have undergone a personal realization, I feel compelled to express it visually. I find a lot of meaning in taking a new found internal truth and externalizing it.

“My aim with VibeHigh (herb-infused jewelry) is to create wearable pieces of art that help people to be intentional about their mood and mindset. I do this by using resin to inlay herbs and flowers in laser-cut wood. The herbs that I incorporate are ones that I have chosen for their symbolic meaning (rose for love, lavender for peace, mustard seed for faith, etc.). I think of these pieces as a visual reminder to bring peaceful loving energy to every moment of the day. By being intentional about our own



attitudes, we participate in manifesting a more kind and beautiful world.

“In both jewelry and painting, I like to explore mystical themes using an organic aesthetic. I’m in love with finding the divine in the ordinary and trying to reveal the intangible through the tangible.”

How did Franklin College help prepare you for a career as an artist?

“I majored in fine arts with a minor in psychology. Fine arts classes were very important to helping refine my artistic skills. David Cunningham (associate professor of art) set high expectations that pushed me out of my comfort zone and helped me develop the self-discipline needed to

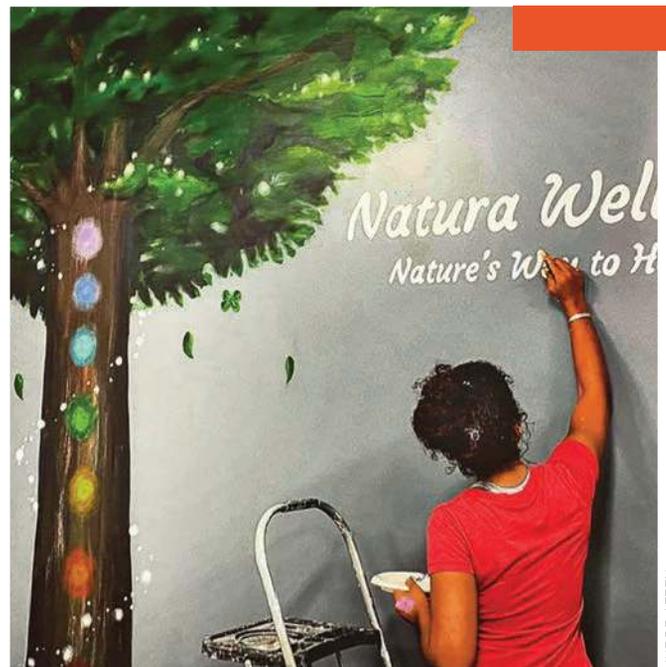
create art for a living. Dr. Svetlana Rakic’s (professor of art) course, The Spiritual in Art, was foundational for my spiritual growth, which fuels and sustains my creative impulse.”

What is your favorite form of artistic expression?

“The main mediums I work in are digital design, canvas art, murals and jewelry. Each has its unique challenges, and it’s hard to pick a favorite!”

What artwork has been the most inspirational for you?

“I have been really inspired by all of the public artwork since George Floyd’s murder (killed May 25, 2020, during an arrest for allegedly using a counterfeit bill). Artists have the opportu-



KELLY DOERR

nity and the obligation to contribute our talents for the greater good. It is so heartening to see creatives get involved and activated. All of these new murals across the country demonstrate the power of art to reflect and inspire social change.”

What are your hobbies/interests?

“One of my biggest hobbies is listening to podcasts and audiobooks while creating art. I also enjoy spending time in nature.” ■

Find Macey Dickerson Arts on Etsy. She's offering alumni and friends a 10% discount on VibeHigh jewelry in her Etsy store. Use the code GRIZGRAD at checkout.

VISUALIZING UNITY



TAYLOR DRANE '13

"I ALWAYS WANT VIEWERS TO BE MOVED AND INSPIRED, AND TO FEEL THAT THEY CAN RELATE THE ART TO THEIR OWN LIFE."

STACIE (TANKSLEY) DRANE '13

By Alexa Shrake '23, Pulliam Fellow

Stacie (Tanksley) Drane '13 prefers using a paintbrush rather than a microphone to amplify her voice. Drane's contest-winning outdoor mural speaks volumes about her love for the local community, gratitude for diversity and hope for the future.

Her 2020 design impressed judges in charge of the Johnson County Community Foundation's Color the County mural program last summer. Since 2016, the program has brought together local artists and residents through a collaborative process of making murals, transforming public spaces and expressing neighborhood identities. The program has funded 10 murals countywide. While Drane designed the winning mural, the public was invited to help paint it on a wall at Taxman Brewing Co.'s gastropub in Bargersville, Indiana, last August.

What is the meaning of the mural in Bargersville?

"I really wanted it to emphasize unity. The parent and child images just below the dove symbolize compassion and love, and their hands reaching for each other represent inclusivity, with all of humankind wanting to feel united. The sun shining on their faces, while setting and rising, represents the hope of a new day. The farming silos and city lights represent harmony between the agricultural and industrial areas of Bargersville, and also symbolize the small community's unity with the surrounding larger towns. All the plants are symbols of hope, rebirth and growth. I wanted to show that even in the darkest of times we can find light."

What sparked your interest in art?

I think art has always been my escape. For some people, it's books and writing, for me it's always been painting and drawing. I graduated from college with degrees in painting, design and art history."

What is your intent as an artist?

"I always want viewers to be moved and inspired, and to feel that they can relate the art to their own life."

How do you hope your artwork impacts the community?

"The community of Johnson County is so diverse. I wanted to be able to represent everyone who lives here, from the small towns to the bigger cities. I hope the mural brings light and color to our community, especially during this time of uncertainty, I want the community to feel united as we look to the future. It's also very important to me for my daughters, Haley, 2, and Alaina 10 months, to know their mom had a voice in the community, even though I'm not the most outspoken person. I want them to know and feel unity and inclusion as they grow up."

How did Franklin College help prepare you as an artist?

"I would say Art History with Dr. Svetlana Rakic (professor of art) really helped me understand how significantly the arts influenced society during different time periods. Since then, Cubism, Futurism and Abstract Art have fascinated me, and they influenced my mural design. My college classes also are where I refined the technical design skills I used working in the field prior to staying home with my children."

What are your hobbies/interests?

"As a stay-at-home mom with two daughters, my days tend to be filled with lots of Goldfish® crackers, juice boxes and snuggles. When I do get free time, I enjoy photography and traveling." ■



STACIE (TANKSLEY) DRANE '13

SHE'S GOT DRIVE

By Amy (Kean) VerSteeg '96, Editor

Yolanda (Smith) White '92 published her first story in fourth grade. With cardboard, notebook paper, a pencil, some crayons and a few staples, she turned an alligator tale into a book, and got hooked on storytelling.

Bound to be a writer, she majored in journalism and flourished as a newspaper reporter for five years after graduating college. At the point when daily deadlines, late nights and weekend editions were no longer a fit for the lifestyle she wanted, she figured out how to transfer journalism skills to other industries, including non-profit and agency work. Public relations (PR) is where she found her niche.

PR keeps White connected with her love of storytelling, and challenges her to reimagine the narrative in different ways. As she puts it, "There's never a dull moment. One day, I'm writing remarks for an executive, creating a communications plan or meeting with others to strategize. The next day, I'm standing in front of a community group talking about my company or answering media questions. That same week, I'm with a camera crew shooting a video. Then, I'm working behind the scenes ensuring a large-scale celebration for associates is executed according to the plan."

The variety keeps White professionally energized and driven to learn and adapt. It's no coincidence her role with Honda Manufacturing of Indiana accelerated from team leader in 2015 to corporate affairs

unit manager three years later. Today, she oversees Honda's Indiana communications team and the PR agencies they collaborate with on projects across North America. She also is the local point-person for executive, crisis and human resources communications. She continues to harness the power of storytelling for work and fun, such as making TikTok videos with her teenage son. Here, we share a glimpse of White's insights about mapping a successful career, being a good leader and adapting with the times.

What traits make someone a good professional communicator?

"Writing and speaking are among the fundamental skills, but a critical trait is being an active listener. Learning to focus on what others are saying as well as their tone and nonverbal cues, such as facial expressions and hand gestures, can provide insight that helps you do your job better."

And a good leader?

"A good leader helps others reach their goals and allows them to grow and shine. For me, it's important to have teammates who bring different skills and knowledge that I don't necessarily have. Diversity of thought and experience makes teams stronger. And most important on my list for a good leader

is someone who has a good sense of humor, especially when things go wrong."

What traits have helped you stand out and advance in the workplace?

"I've been fortunate to be presented with opportunities to take on different roles and advance, and I've always had the mentality of going for it. I've also been fortunate to have managers and leaders who see what I bring to the table, believe in my skills, value the work I do, appreciate my work ethic and results, and recognize how I can help the company meet its objectives. In terms of traits that have helped me stand out, I'm always willing to take on new assignments. I also ask questions and challenge the process when necessary, and I'm not afraid to admit when I don't know something or when I make a mistake. I see the latter as a chance to learn. Plus, I genuinely love what I do, and I think my enthusiasm for my role as a communicator comes through in every aspect of my work-life."

What professional skills have you added over the years to stay effective and marketable?

"Definitely, social media. I'm dating myself, but when I was in journalism school, Facebook, Twitter, Snapchat





"I BELIEVE IN MY HEART THAT I HAVE A RESPONSIBILITY TO GIVE BACK AND SHARE MY TALENTS WITH OTHERS."

YOLANDA (SMITH) WHITE '92

and TikTok didn't exist so I've had to get training. I've also had to continue to grow as a writer, learning diverse styles from executive communications to communications for a general associate audience, to messaging externally. Then, there's the very critical skill of executing strategic communications and measuring effectiveness. And I continuously strive to have awareness of the next 'thing' that will provide another way to communicate."

Prior to joining Honda, what did you know about car manufacturing? What have you learned since?

"Honestly, I didn't know anything about cars let alone what it takes to build them, but that was the most fascinating part about joining Honda. I saw it as a chance to learn something new. Five years later, I've learned about the tremendous amount of skill our associates have to build safe and quality products for Honda customers around the world. Every time I get to go onto the production floor, I'm

amazed by seeing the automobile manufacturing process firsthand."

What's your most proud professional achievement?

"Co-creating an internship boot camp targeting students of color that ended up earning an industry diversity award, the first for the PR agency I worked with at the time. That boot camp continued a short time after I'd moved on to another role. It felt good to provide the foundation for that program, which other teams expanded."

You are an active community volunteer, even beyond Honda-related initiatives. Why?

"I believe in my heart that I have a responsibility to give back and share my talents with others. My parents set the roadmap for volunteering at our church and schools. I've been the recipient of volunteers who took the time to speak with me about their career, offer advice and listen to me. And I've had volunteers who started out as role models and mentors who

are now good friends. It's always been important to me to do the same — to impact a young person the way others did for me."

What's an important lesson you learned as a Franklin College student?

"The value of internships. Before I graduated, I completed three, which were key in helping me confirm my love for and skill as a writer and communicator. Not only do internships provide valuable hands-on experience outside the classroom, internships can be life-changing. I'm a strong proponent of that kind of learning."

What do you like doing when you're not working?

"I have a close-knit family, and I like spending time with them. I have been married 22 years to James, and we have two sons, Jamison, 21, and Aury, 16."

Read the full interview at **FranklinCollege.edu**. ■

NAILING BUSINESS



By Amy (Kean) VerSteeg '96, Editor

Young professional couple seeking lifestyle change leave successful careers to buy historic hometown hardware store during pandemic.

No, this is not the backstory of a new HGTV series. This is the true tale of how **Samantha (Meyer) Giesting '13** and her spouse, Allen, became co-owners of Dunlap Supply in Batesville, Indiana.

Samantha, a former high school English teacher, said they never imagined becoming hardware store owners, but a series of unimaginable events brought them “the opportunity of a lifetime.” Now, they’re running the small business with big ambitions.

Their lives began to change in 2016 when Allen, then owner and operator of a thriving landscape business, was diagnosed with Lyme disease. He was 25 years old.

“Allen got very, very sick, but we found an amazing doctor that helped him with extensive treatment, that he’ll continue for at least two more years,” Samantha said.

With Allen’s progress came more unexpected news.

Allen Giesting holds daughter Calla. His spouse, Samantha (Meyer) '13, holds daughter Heidi. Daughter Emmy stands.

PHOTOS BY CRYSTAL LAWBURGH PHOTOGRAPHY

“The doctor suggested for his health’s sake that he consider another career, one that didn’t involve working long hours, outdoors.”

Around the same time, they learned of a hardware store in their hometown that was for sale. Allen jokingly asked if Samantha wanted to buy it.

“But, his landscape business was booming, and there was no slowing down in sight. We didn’t think we could walk away,” Samantha recalled.

She concurrently was facing career challenges as a teacher within a school system where administrators and parents were at odds. When Allen brought up the hardware store, again, a couple of months later, Samantha decided there’d be no harm in investigating.

“I loved, and I mean loved, teaching, but it was almost impossible for me to sleep at night with all the turmoil at work. For the sake of Allen’s health and mine, I thought it was worth meeting with the store owners to learn more.”

The couple met the owners in February 2020. They learned the store was built in 1873, one of six in the Dunlap chain that operated across Indiana until the

early 1900s. The stores catered to contractors and construction crews. After the original owners experienced a family tragedy in the 1950s, some legal issues ensued and the chain of stores was divided and sold.

The Batesville location was purchased by a local man who continued operating it until its 100th anniversary in 1973, when he sold it to the Fullenkamp family, also local. They continued operating the store until 2020, when Samantha and Allen became the new owners.

“We really hit it off with the Fullenkamps, and we loved learning their family history and the history of the store,” said Samantha. The former owner recently turned 90, and his children, now in their 50s and 60s, all worked in the store and helped run it, she added.

In March 2020, as the couple were in the throes of transitioning from their careers and stepping up to take the reins at the store, the pandemic erupted. Plans halted when several of the government offices they needed information from regarding the store were inaccessible or had limited staffing. On top of that, their full-time career obligations persisted.

“I resigned myself to accepting that owning the store was not a sealed deal, and I was scared,” Samantha said. “I was e-teaching from home while taking care of our three daughters (Emmy, 5, Calla, 3, and Heidi, 8 months) and trying to get my ducks in a row to buy the business. Allen had to keep mowing and landscaping, and working his long hours. We were burning the candle at both ends. It was wild, but we made it through!”

They officially became the owners of Dunlap Supply on July 1, 2020.

“We’re dealing with a business climate that none of the former owners or employees has ever seen. During the pandemic, we’ve witnessed sawmills shut down, and prices spike from \$7 a board to \$40 overnight. And we’ve seen lead times on a patio door go from 12 days to 12 weeks.”

The situation with suppliers is slowly improving as the grip of the pandemic loosens, she said.

“Our saving grace is our loyal base of customers. People tell us that coming to the store is like coming to Mayberry, and it really is. The store causes us to slow down, in a good way. Allen and I now work side

by side every day, and it has brought us so much closer.”

Allen is the store manager, and he oversees purchasing and special orders. Samantha is the bookkeeper and payroll manager.

“We are not too proud to sweep the floors and wash the windows, either,” she said.

With so many people isolating at home during the pandemic, the store has customers frequently shopping for DIY supplies, like paint. Plus, the store has approximately 200 contractors on account, and averages 2,000 transactions per month.

“We are moving so much product each day it’s almost unreal,” Samantha said. “We even added a couple new members to our team. Some of the Fullenkamp ‘kids’ are working with us until we reach our one-year anniversary as owners.”

Samantha misses the interaction with her former students, but she is grateful for the new venture.

“It has been one of the best decisions of our lives,” she said. “This store built Batesville, literally. Its history — knowing it, embracing it, preserving it — is really important to Allen and me.” ■

CLASS NOTES

SUBMITTED PHOTOS



1: **Marcus N. Mims '76**



2: **Michael Washington '87**

'50s

Rev. George Kimsey '52 celebrated his 90th birthday in October 2020. "I never dreamed I'd make it!" he said. George and spouse Joyce reside in Indianapolis.

'70s

Becky Fee '76 is an administrative assistant at the University of Indianapolis, where she earned a Master of Science in gerontology.

Marcus N. Mims '76 has published a nonfiction book, *The Indianapolis Recorder: The Stewart Family Era*. It covers the history of one of the oldest Black weekly newspapers in the United States and the family that owned it for more than 90 years. It also tells about historical events that the newspaper covered. Mims worked for the newspaper in the late '70s. His other nonfiction work includes *Finding Your Fit & Building The Relationship: Online Dating*. Read more at marcusnmims.com.

Joseph Lee '77 is an account executive for SpotOn Transact. He and spouse Yolondia Walters reside in Las Vegas.

'80s

Cindy King '80 led Franklin's Needham Elementary School Spell Bowl team to ninth place in their division during Indiana's state competition for the 2020-21 academic year. There were 553 teams and more than 5,800 students who competed in the virtual competition, across the elementary, junior and senior divisions.

Nancy Liston '82 became principal of North Central Jr./Sr. High School in Farmersburg, Indiana, in the fall of 2019. She has been employed with the school system for 38 years.

Michael Washington '87 has built a more than 30-year career as an electrician, and he enjoys working part time for Indy Parks & Recreation as an athletic director for children's leagues. "I love it! They keep me young," he said. He also is president of a men's emotional support and mentoring

group. He has a son, Michael Jr., a daughter, Chloe, a grandson, 5, and a granddaughter, 10 months. He resides on Indianapolis' northeast side. He attended Franklin College and participated in intramural baseball and football, prior to transferring.

Kevin Murphy '88 was named executive vice president and CEO of Indiana Farm Bureau Insurance on Jan. 1, 2021. He graduated from Franklin College with a bachelor's degree in mathematics/secondary education and earned a master's degree in mathematics from Miami University. He and spouse **Kathy (Bennett) '90** live in Indianapolis and have four children.

Lisa (Wilson) Arnold '89 was recognized in the fall of 2020 by her employer, Home Bank, in Martinsville, Indiana, for 35 years of dedicated service. She currently serves as president and CEO. She earned a bachelor's degree in English and elementary education from Franklin College and an MBA from Indiana Wesleyan University. She serves on the Franklin College Alumni Council.

'90s

Paula (Cook) Wales '90 is executive associate dean at Nova Southeastern University. She and spouse Jerry Polk reside in Miramar, Florida.

Charley Scarber '92 has accepted a new position with the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, as assistant country attaché to the Bahamas, Bermuda, and Turks and Caicos.

(Continued Page 38)



CURT CAVIN '87

DEANA (BAKER)
HAWORTH '99

JACK MESSER '13



OLIVIA COVINGTON '15



COLLEEN STEFFEN '94

TEACHING FROM EXPERIENCE

Since the fall, five Pulliam School of Journalism alumni have been involved in teaching and mentoring Franklin College students. With their backgrounds in newspaper reporting, public relations, digital media, motorsports coverage and corporate design, the alumni bring a wealth of industry expertise to the classrooms.

Thank you:

- **Curt Cavin '87**, senior writer, Indianapolis Motor Speedway/INDYCAR;
- **Olivia Covington '15**, managing editor at *The Indiana Lawyer*;
- **Deana (Baker) Haworth '99**, chief operating officer at Hiron and Franklin College Trustee;
- **Jack Messer '13**, brand and creative project manager at Ice Miller; and
- **Colleen Steffen '94**, executive editor at **TheStatehouseFile**.

Steffen taught at the College last fall, and this January transitioned to the role of executive editor at **TheStatehouseFile**, the award-winning news website powered by Franklin College journalism students. She previously worked 13 years as a writer and editor at newspapers in three states and five years as a university journalism instructor specializing in coordinating immersive newsroom experiences for undergraduates. She also has served as an independent social media management consultant and contracted writer for global textbook publisher Routledge, for whom she produced *Soft Skills for the New Journalist: Cultivating the Inner Resources You Need to Succeed*.

Steffen now oversees the staff of students who research and write content for **TheStatehouseFile** and its 35 partner news organizations. The nearly 10-year-old journalism program gives students the opportunity to work within the Indiana Statehouse and side by side with professional journalists and leaders in government and the community. **TheStatehouseFile** experience aims to prepare students for careers as reporters and develop their skills to thrive in the ever-changing media industry. **TheStatehouseFile** is supported by individual and media outlet subscriptions, donations, sponsorships, advertising and the Pulliam School of Journalism.

“**TheStatehouseFile** has produced so many talented young journalists while covering those important stories that might get overlooked in the legislature’s crowded schedule. I’m really looking forward to building on that legacy and expanding its audience and reach, particularly online,” said Steffen. ■

Pulliam School of
Journalism

RENEE KEAN '06



SMALL WORLD AFTER ALL

SUBMITTED PHOTOS



When the pandemic struck in early 2020, planners of the Presbyterian Church General Assembly's biennial national gathering had to regroup and reimagine their traditional event as a virtual activity.

The challenge brought together 28 committee moderators and vice moderators from across the

United States to strategize. During their meeting on Zoom, **Kathi (Park) Bubb '84** (pictured bottom) was surprised to hear the **Rev. Robert Winters Ater '98** (at top) tell the southern Indiana representatives, "I live in Milwaukee now, but I went to Franklin College, right up the road from you!"

Bubb soon messaged Ater that she also was an alumna, had four siblings graduate from Franklin College and a father, Richard "Dick"

Park, Ph.D., (HD '02), who worked at the College in various faculty, administrative and coaching roles for more than 50 years prior to retiring.

Ater wrote back, "Wow, I feel like we're almost family! I'm the ninth FC grad in my family. My mom, **Cynthia (Winters) Nowka '69**, was a student when your dad was a dean. I grew up with your dad coming to our house in Springfield, Ohio, with the men's golf team for tournaments at Wittenberg each spring."

And that was the start of unraveling their Franklin connections.

Bubb shared, "As soon as the planning meeting was over, we talked on the phone. Rob said that he has known my dad as long as he can remember. He would ask his family every spring when Coach Park was coming back.

"After Rob enrolled at FC he would go by dad's office regularly. Rob said he always thought of dad as 'Mr. Franklin College.' Rob also shared that his mom went to FC because her parents met there, and her grandparents lived in Franklin and attended the First Presbyterian Church. That's the same church I grew up attending, and many of my family members still attend!"

Today, Ater is an associate pastor at Immanuel Presbyterian Church in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, and Bubb is a dedicated volunteer at Mifflin Presbyterian Church in Gahanna, Ohio. They look forward to meeting in person, possibly at a future College event, post pandemic.

Ater said, "Becoming acquainted with Kathi and sharing our FC connections, especially memories of her dad, was really meaningful in the midst of these pandemic days." ■

He and spouse **Michelle (Alexander) '93** reside with their two children in Nassau, Bahamas.

John P. Greenwell '93 and **Claudia (Heritier) '94** married on Sept. 25, 2020, at the courthouse in Columbus, Indiana, where they reside. Their original plans were for a wedding and reception on the Franklin College campus in October, but the pandemic forced them to rethink the celebration. "We knew it was the right thing to do, although we sure regretted that we couldn't follow through with our original plans," said Claudia. She recently joined BrainCo as associate director of educational partnerships. John is the marketing officer for Jackson County Bank. The couple have a blended family, with son Ian serving in the U.S. Army, son Julian playing D1 baseball and majoring in business at Wright State University, and daughter Meredith majoring in political science at Indiana University.

Marvin Purdy '94 recently was named Jackson County Bank's assistant vice president, business banking relationship manager. The bank serves south central Indiana.

Shannon (Baunach) Anderson '95 made it to No. 1 on Amazon in the category of children's historical biographies with her latest work, *The Story of Benjamin Franklin*. She is an award-winning teacher and author who has been featured on the "Today Show" and "Good Morning America," and in *USA Today*. She loves to inspire young readers and writers.

Jason Fallon '96 has launched a YouTube channel, "Out in the Outdoors." Viewers can expect tours of outdoor points of interest nationwide, as well as his keen insights on trail systems, natural features, surrounding towns and lodging. Content is based largely on his more than 16 years of career experience with the parks and

recreation system, and his love of the outdoors. He also is chair of the Ohio Department of Natural Resources' new LGBT+Diversity Network.

'00s

Amanda (Strickland) Sterkenburg '02 was sworn in as the judge of Kentwood, Michigan's 62-B District Court in December 2020. She began official duties in January.

Geoff Zentz '06 was named to the Tech25 Class of 2020 by TechPoint, the nonprofit, industry-led growth accelerator for Indiana's tech ecosystem. Honorees are "critical and exceptional performers helping to grow Indiana's tech and tech-enabled companies," said a press release. "In addition to being star performers at their companies, winners are committed team players who build others up through mentoring, volunteering and positive example, and are committed to contributing to the broader community." Geoff currently serves as gener8tor's Indiana director. He has 14 years of previous experience in leading sales, service and client-success teams.

Bethany Odom '08 and Josh Waddell married on Dec. 31, 2019. They reside in Fishers, Indiana.

Rayelynn (Kreiger) Morgan '09 and spouse Dan have two daughters, Cecily and Felicity. The family resides in Indianapolis.

'10s

Kate (Stephens) Johnson '10 and spouse Nelson are the parents of a son, Isaiah Matthew, born Nov. 23, 2020. He is the couple's third child, preceded by sisters Halle, 3, and Noel, deceased. Kate is a vice president with Finn Partners, and Nelson is an analyst for Salesforce. The family resides in Avon, Indiana.



1: Jason Fallon '96 enjoys the view at Arches National Park.

2: Kate (Stephens) Johnson '10 and spouse Nelson with son Isaiah and daughter Halle

3: Evan James is the son of **Adam Mellencamp '10** and spouse Lauren.

4: Claudia (Heritier) Greenwell '94 and spouse **John P. '93**

SUBMITTED PHOTOS

Adam Mellencamp '10 recently accepted a new role with Sight Sciences, to help build and lead the hospital account management team. He previously worked for Alcon and Novartis in their eye-care divisions. His spouse, Lauren, is the human resources director for the O'Brien Automotive Family. The Mellencamps became first-time parents in November 2019 with the birth of son Evan James, and they are in the process of building their dream home on 10 acres in Westfield, Indiana.

New pursuits?

Share your milestones, experiences, travels and tales in the next magazine! Email submissions to aversteeg@FranklinCollege.edu. Photo attachments are welcome, but please be sure to ID everyone, from left to right.





SUBMITTED PHOTOS

Natasha (Wells) Merrick '10 and spouse Doug have been married 15 years, and have six children. She also was a surrogate mother and gave birth to the baby in April 2020. The family resides in Trafalgar, Indiana.

Abby (Yaden) Robertson '11 started making Christmas Eve activity boxes for her nieces and nephews five years ago, and recently began selling her invention online as The Kringle Krate™. She runs the growing side business out of her kitchen. She was featured on Indianapolis' WTHR-TV and in *Greenwood Magazine* in 2020.

Kevin Black '13 and spouse **Natalie (Snyder) '13** are the parents of a daughter, Ryann Marie, born Sept. 23,

2020. They are hopeful their Lil' Grizzly will continue the family tradition of attending Franklin College. Ryann's alumni relatives include married grandparents **Rodney Snyder '87** and **Jill (Carter) '87**; married uncle **Luke Snyder '15** and aunt **Emily (Thompson) '15**; and married uncle **Matthew Niehoff '16** and aunt **Marci (Black) '16**.

Dominique Boyd '14 and **Alicia Acuña '16** married on Oct. 17, 2020, in Greenwood, Indiana.

Leslie Johnson '14 and Leo Kidd married on Dec. 22, 2020, in Indianapolis.

Jess Darr '15 earned the Rookie of the Year award from the Probation

Officers Professional Association of Indiana in November 2020. She beat probation officers from around the state and was lauded for her "attitude, aptitude and desire to improve." The seed for her career was planted when probation officers visited one of her classes at Franklin College. Their work's mission resonated with her. One of the probation officers is now her boss and nominated her for the award. Jess was a social worker for five years prior to becoming a probation officer.

Anna Murdock '15 and Aaron Larson married on April 24, 2020, at the Garment Factory in Franklin, Indiana. They are planning a post-pandemic

WHOA, **BABY!**

By Leeann Doerflein, *The Daily Journal* (Reprinted with permission.)

After having three previous babies born on their expected due dates, a Franklin, Indiana, couple were surprised when contractions started more than a day early, leading up to their fourth baby's birth on New Year's Day.

Elizabeth (Kunstek) Senac '15 and spouse **Chris '15** welcomed son George Matthew into the world at 4:42 a.m., Friday, Jan. 1, 2021. He was Johnson County's first-born baby of the New Year.

George's early arrival was not the only unusual part of their pregnancy experience. Due to the pandemic, Elizabeth went to check ups and doctor's appointments alone, since health care facilities limited visitors for much of the year.

"Chris was only able to go to ultrasound appointments with me," Elizabeth said. "It was OK, though. If it would have been my first, it would have been a big deal."

Elizabeth stayed healthy throughout her pregnancy but was worried that COVID-19 could throw a wrench into the delivery plan. A positive COVID-19 test at the hospital would have meant an isolated delivery, with doctors and nurses in full personal protective equipment, she said. Luckily, that didn't happen.

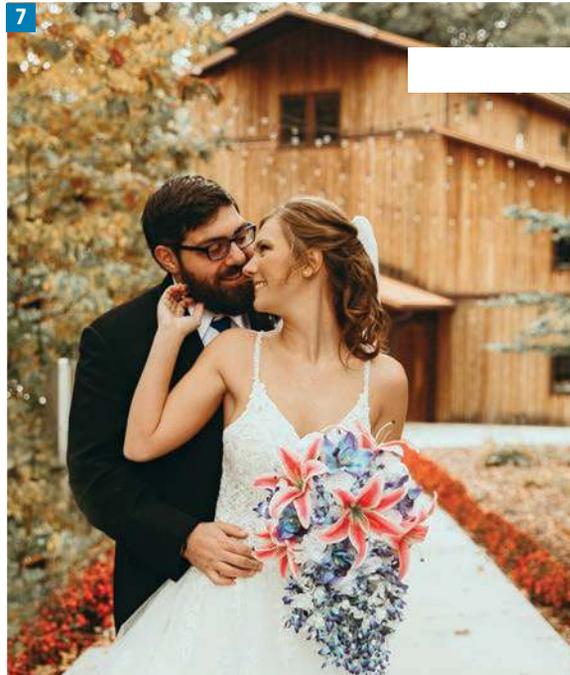
George joined three siblings, Juliette, 7, Audrey, 4, and Jacques, 2. Now, each birthday for George will be a reminder that they can survive anything as a family, Chris said.

"We will remind the family every year that we were in a pandemic, I kept my job and everything came out OK," he said. "We will be extra thankful later on down the road." ■

PHOTO BY JOHNSON MEMORIAL HEALTH



- 1: **Natasha (Wells) Merrick '10** with daughter Isla and spouse Doug stand behind their sons Ian, Christian, Bowen and Easton. Daughter Zeya stands in front.
- 2: **Dominique Boyd '14** and spouse **Alicia (Acuña) '16**
- 3: **Anna (Murdock) Larson '15** and spouse Aaron
- 4: Ryann Marie is the daughter of **Kevin Black '13** and spouse **Natalie (Snyder) '13**.
- 5: **Jess Darr '15**
- 6: **Leslie (Johnson) Kidd '14** and spouse Leo
- 7: **Jayson Rabideau '15** and spouse **Danielle (Faczan) '16**



honeymoon to Barbados. Anna is the communications manager for The Garrett Cos., a multifamily construction, development and management group. Aaron is the men's basketball assistant coach at Taylor University. They reside in Pendleton, Indiana.

Jayson Rabideau '15 and **Danielle Faczan '16** married on Oct. 4, 2020, at 3 Fat Labs Estate Wedding & Event Barn in Greencastle, Indiana. Jayson is a marine mammal trainer at the Indianapolis Zoo. Danielle is the campaigns and communications manager for the Children's Organ Transplant Association. They reside in Camby, Indiana, with several beloved pets.



1



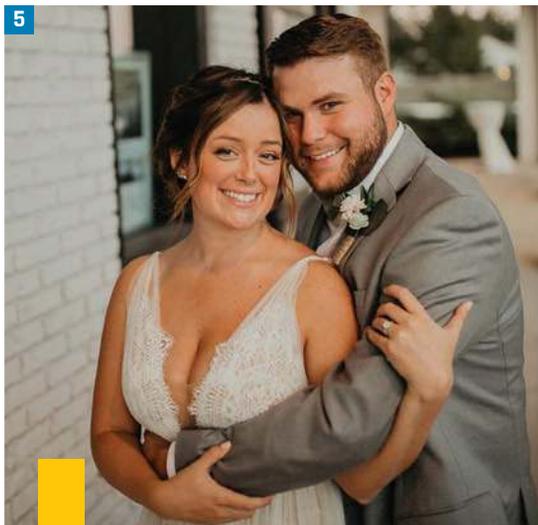
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4



5

- 1: Morgan (Whitaker) Haggard '15 and spouse Matt '16**
2: Piper Joyce is the daughter of KaLeigh (Hurley) Lee '16 and spouse Corbin.
3: Ian Jenks '20 and spouse Haleigh
4: J.T. Sargent '20 and spouse Meghan (Yencer) '19
5: Madyson (Elmore) Portish '18 and spouse Clayton '18

SUBMITTED PHOTOS

Morgan Whitaker '15 and Matt Haggard '16 married on June 20, 2020, in Orange County, Indiana. They reside in Indianapolis.

KaLeigh (Hurley) Lee '16 and her spouse Corbin are the parents of a daughter, Piper Joyce, born June 12, 2020. KaLeigh works at a health care nonprofit foundation, and Corbin is an engineer. They reside in Shelbyville, Indiana.

Madison Parker '16 married Thayer Hood in April of 2020. She is a chemist with Eli Lilly and Co. They reside in Columbus, Indiana.

Allyssa (Marlow) Starkweather '16 serves as the marketing and promotions coordinator for Mindful, a global seller of home environment products. She and spouse Jeremy reside in Osceola, Indiana.

Madyson Elmore '18 and Clayton Portish '18 married on Sept. 18, 2020. She is the office manager for Buy Rite Flooring Service. They reside in Lebanon, Indiana.

John Montgomery '18 earned a master's degree in Latin American and Caribbean Studies from Indiana University, and is pursuing a doctorate in history from Duke University.

Meghan Yencer '19 and J.T. Sargent '20 married on Sept. 5, 2020, in a small backyard ceremony at Meghan's parents' house. Meghan is an English and psychology teacher and cross-country coach at Daleville High School. J.T. is pursuing his master's degree in sports administration from Ball State University. They reside in Selma, Indiana.

'20s

Benjamin Fears '20 wrote and performed the musical score for "Jester," a short film named 2021 Best LGBT Production at the Barcelona

International Film Festival. Follow Ben Fears Music on social media.

Ian Jenks '20 and Haleigh Weidner married on Oct. 10, 2020. Ian has accepted a pharmaceutical sales position with Eli Lilly & Co. in Fort Worth, Texas.

C.J. Stewart '20 is a pricing analyst for Toyota Material Handling. "I love my job," he shared.

OBITUARIES

'30s

Beatrice (Bradley) Ferrell '37 of South Bend, Indiana, died Jan. 11, 2021. She attended Franklin College for three years, then graduated from Central Business College. She was a 75-year member of Pi Beta Phi, and a more than 50-year member of First United Methodist Church. She was preceded in death by spouse **Rupert "Duke" '39**. They were members of Franklin College's Horizon Society gift club. Survivors include two children, five grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

'40s

Myron C. Knauff '41 of Valparaiso, Indiana, died at the age of 101 on Nov. 21, 2020. He was a World War II Navy veteran. His career as a teacher and principal enabled him to work for six different Indiana schools, prior to serving as assistant superintendent and elementary principal in Valparaiso, 1968-85. His lifelong attendance at every type of school sporting event was legendary, and his commitment to civic engagement, especially in support of education, was strong. He was preceded in death by spouse Miriam and daughter Mary. Survivors include three children, eight grandchildren and 15 great-grandchildren.

'50s

William "Bill" B. Green '50 of Franklin, Indiana, died Dec. 25, 2020. He was preceded in death by spouse of 66 years, Joyce. He was a Marine Corps veteran of World War II, and retired from Arvin. Survivors include a son, six grandchildren, 11 great-grandchildren and one great-great grandchild.

Betty L. (Mathena) McKenzie '50 of Mission Viejo, California, died Sept. 8, 2020. She was a Delta Zeta member, and became an elementary teacher, as did her spouse, B.L. "Mac." The couple were avid travelers throughout their 46-year marriage. After she was widowed, Betty resumed working, did extensive volunteering and traveled to Europe. Survivors include two children.

Doris (Raymond) Sperry '50 of Memphis, Tennessee, died Nov. 13, 2020. She married her Franklin College sweetheart, **Lawrence (Larry) '51**, who preceded her in death. She majored in English and journalism in college, and maintained a lifelong love of reading, especially about American history, and writing stories. One of her other joys was serving as her church's librarian for more than 30 years. Survivors include four children, nine grandchildren and 15 great-grandchildren.

Martha "Jo" (Dimke) Winters '50 of Franklin, Indiana, died July 21, 2020, after a long battle with COPD and

upper-respiratory issues. She was a Tri Delta member and was among the first women at Franklin College to complete the premed program. She went on to earn a master's degree in education and spent nearly five decades as a teacher. Survivors include two children, four grandchildren and six great-grandchildren. Grandchildren **Ross Plotkin '14** and **Wynter (Plotkin) Royer '12** are alumni.

Paul B. Powell '51 of Salem, Indiana, died Oct. 12, 2020. He was an Army veteran, and a retired Humana senior vice president. His career was marked by innovations in sourcing and materials management. He was preceded in death by first spouse Mary Lou. Survivors include second spouse Joyce, three children, five grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren. Daughter **Sara J. Powell '77** is an alumna.

Joan (Mendell) Gates '52 died Oct. 10, 2020, in Maryville, Tennessee. She loved music and was a gifted pianist. She had an early career in elementary education, then transitioned to real estate. She also was involved in ministry work with her spouse, **G. Kenneth '53**, Ph.D. The couple married during college and celebrated 68 wedding anniversaries prior to her death. Her family encourages memorials be directed in support of music education at Franklin College, 800.852.0232.



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.

Alma “Elaine” (Harrison) Marston ’52 died Oct. 21, 2020, in Columbus, Indiana. She attended Franklin College and was a member of Tri Delta. She married her college sweetheart **Ted L. ’51**, and they celebrated 65 wedding anniversaries prior to his death. Ted chaired the Franklin College Board of Trustees 1987–92, and was an honorary degree recipient in 1992. Growing up, Elaine and her siblings had a brief career as the Harrison Sisters singing group, and performed at county fairs and regional events. She was a lifelong pianist and regularly shared her talents with residents at local retirement communities. She and Ted also were involved in helping disadvantaged youth in Indiana and Florida, where they spent winters. The Marstons were members of the Franklin College Heritage Society gift club, and they included the College in their estate planning. Survivors include two children, **Michael Marston ’82** and Melissa (Marston) Schulz, and eight grandchildren. Read about her estate gift on Page 16.

James “Jim” C. Sleighter ’52 of Franklin, Indiana, died Jan. 24, 2021. He had a long career in education, retiring from Whiteland (Ind.) High School, where he served 31 years. He was a Sagamore of the Wabash recipient, Indiana Basketball Hall of Fame commendatory brick honoree and past recipient of Indiana’s Distinguished School Administrator Award. First spouse Lois preceded him in death. Second spouse Verna survives, as do two children, six grandchildren, 10 great-grandchildren, two step-children and five step-grandchildren. Grandsons **Bryan ’93** and **Brad Epperson ’03** are alumni; Bryan also serves on Alumni Council.

Martha J. (Campbell) Teets ’52 of Franklin, Indiana, died Dec. 21, 2020. She was a clerk in accounting for Farm Bureau Insurance and later

worked for Ticor Title Co. She was very active in the First Baptist Church in Franklin, where she was a Sunday school teacher, board of education member and volunteer with the pastoral relations and hospitality committees. She also was a longtime food pantry volunteer and delivered Meals on Wheels. Spouse of 66 years **Eddy ’58** preceded her in death. The Teets were Franklin College Bell Tower Society members. Survivors include two children, six grandchildren, two step-grandchildren, one great-grandchild and three step-great-grandchildren.

John P. Morris ’55 died Oct. 3, 2020, in Monticello, Indiana. He attended Franklin College prior to joining the Navy. He flew seaplanes. After active duty, he remained in the reserves until his retirement, at which time he was ranked a captain. He made a career in finance and eventually created his own business, Merchants Network. Spouse Thelma preceded him in death. Survivors include three children, seven grandchildren and five great-grandchildren.

Harry H. Hoagland ’57 of Covington, Indiana, died Nov. 6, 2020. He played football at Franklin College for two years, and served in the Army Reserves. He had a 46-year career in insurance, and opened an antiques store after he retired. He also volunteered extensively. Spouse of 53 years Betty preceded him in death. Survivors include two daughters.

Robert G. Welmer ’57 of Indianapolis died Dec. 4, 2020. He was an Army veteran and worked as an industrial engineer for Indianapolis Chrysler Foundry. He loved taking cruises and photos. He was preceded in death by spouse Catherine, and daughter Jacqueline. Survivors include a son, two grandchildren and five great-grandchildren.

James “Jim” R. Templeton ’58 of Holland, Michigan, died Dec. 15, 2020. He and **Elizabeth “Tib” (Bales) ’60** were married for 58 years, prior to her death. He had a long career as a credit manager with Herff Jones. Survivors include two children and two grandchildren. In lieu of flowers, the family requested donations to Franklin College, 800.852.0232, or the Johnson County (Ind.) Historical Society.

Harold D. Mulholland ’59 of Hobart, Indiana, died July 13, 2020. He was an Army veteran of the Korean War, and a social worker for the state of Indiana for more than 30 years. He enjoyed coaching Little League and helped take two teams to the Hoosier state finals. Survivors include two children and two grandchildren.

'60s

Samuel S. Romine ’60 died Jan. 23, 2021, in Carrollton, Texas. He held a master’s degree in school administration from the University of Illinois, and remained in the state for most of his career as a teacher and principal. He also worked as an adjuster for Farmers Mutual Hail Insurance Co. of Iowa for more than 35 years. He and first spouse Beverly raised two daughters. Their daughters survive, as do a grandchild and three great-grandchildren. Second spouse Bobbi preceded him in death.

Robert “Bob” H. Bishop Jr. ’61 of Indianapolis died Dec. 22, 2020. He attended Franklin College, and built a more than 45-year retail career with G.C. Murphy Co. Spouse of 60 years **Norma Jean (Lee) ’67** survives, as do a son and a cousin, **Jane Betts ’62**.

Lorna (Britan) Arnot ’62 of Camarillo, California, died in September 2020. She braved pancreatic cancer for three years. She attended Franklin College and was initiated into Pi Beta Phi sorority, prior to marrying and moving

West, where she and spouse Jack operated Arnco Construction. Jack survives as do three children, five grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

Patricia “Pat” (Amour) Embling ’63 of Elkhorn, Wisconsin, died Oct. 4, 2020. For nearly all her adult life, she lived abroad and worked as a school teacher, primarily educating the children of U.S. military personnel, oil company employees and diplomatic corps staff. Her interest in working abroad grew from the foreign missionaries she heard speak at church when she was a child. In all, she visited more than 50 countries, and with spouse Jack, also a teacher, lived in Venezuela, The Sudan, Saudi Arabia, Pakistan and Poland. Jack preceded her in death. Survivors include three children and six grandchildren.

Richard “Dick” “Rich” E. Veleta ’64 of Franklin, Indiana, died Jan. 25, 2021. He was an Army Reserve veteran. He worked for the Bertelsmann Music Group for 35 years prior to retiring as vice president of national inventory management. Survivors include

spouse Betty, two children, five grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

John M. Chiarotti ’67 of Franklin, Indiana, died Nov. 30, 2020. A football scholarship brought him to Franklin, where he earned two varsity letters on the gridiron, plus two on the track. He served as football team captain for two years and was twice named First Team All-Conference as a linebacker. In 1965, he was named team MVP and received the Franklin Chamber of Commerce Outstanding Player Award. He earned the College’s Wil B. Nelp Award in 1967 as the Outstanding Senior Athlete. Upon graduating, he received the Wall Street Journal Award as the College’s top student in economics and business. He then completed a master’s degree at Indiana State University. He returned to Franklin College in 1968 as a coach and professor of business and economics. He also coached the men’s tennis and the track and field teams with great success. However, he is best remembered as the defensive coordinator of Stewart “Red” Faight’s 1968–79 football teams. During that

period, the Grizzlies enjoyed nine winning seasons and were twice selected for post-season games, winning the 1970 Mineral Water Bowl and reaching the final four of the NAIA playoffs in 1972. He also served as the College’s vice president of finance for nine years prior to joining Amos Hill Veneer as general manager in 1984. He retired there as president in 2007, and spent another 13 years as the company’s executive adviser. John also helped manage the Elba L. and Gene Portteus Branigin Foundation, serving at different times as president, vice president and treasurer of the board of directors; the foundation has awarded millions of dollars to nonprofit organizations throughout Johnson County. John racked up numerous Franklin College honors in his lifetime, including Athletic Hall of Fame inductee, Touchdown Club founding member, Alumni Citation for Lifetime Achievement honoree, College Trustee and Alumni Council member. He also was a Founders Society gift club member. Survivors include son **John M. Chiarotti II ’96** and his spouse,

READY OR NOT



CHAD WILLIAMS

April always seems to arrive sooner than expected. Planning ahead for tax year 2021 and strategizing with your financial adviser now can help make next April less stressful. Did you know including Franklin College in your tax plans might be a way to help reach your financial goals, and help others?

Consider talking to your financial adviser about:

- Making the College part of your will, trust and estate planning.
- Naming the College as beneficiary of a retirement account or life insurance policy.
- Making a qualified charitable distribution to the College from your IRA. Remember, there is no required minimum distribution holiday in 2021.

We invite you to confidentially discuss gift opportunities and program/areas(s) you would like to support. Please contact Director of Planned Giving **Nora (Lowe) Brems ’87** at 317.738.8864 or nbrems@FranklinCollege.edu to start the conversation. Also, find information at FranklinCollege.edu/giving/planned-giving.

Jody (Myers) '96; daughter **Kristen (Chiarotti) Prusiecki '93** and her spouse, Matt, and four grandchildren. The celebration of his life included a procession to Faught Stadium, where the public could pay their respects as he lay in repose. Memorial contributions can be made to the Franklin College Touchdown Club, 800.852.0232.

Connie (McAnally) Brenden '68 of Buffalo, Wyoming, died Jan. 4, 2021. She retired in 2007, after 30 years as an elementary teacher. Survivors include second spouse Brett, three sons, two stepsons and 13 grandchildren.

William "Luke" Williams '68 of Shelbyville, Indiana, died Dec. 20, 2020, after multiple battles with cancer. He attended Franklin College, then graduated from the University of Cincinnati. He built a long career with Williams Industries, working his way up from sales to president and chair of the board. Mary Pat, his wife of 51 years, survives. He was preceded in death by a son.

'80s

Tamara "Tammy" (Baker) Seifert '80 of North Manchester, Indiana, died Sept. 7, 2020. She built a 14-year career in auto and truck sales, prior to co-owning High 5 Sports, an apparel and promotional merchandising company, with spouse **Matthew W. '80**. Tammy was known in the community for her kind heart and generous merchandise donations to youth leagues lacking resources. Matthew and a daughter survive.

Kevin G. Dougherty '87 of Grand Rapids, Michigan, died Oct. 3, 2020, after an almost two-year battle with cancer. He played on the Grizzlies' golf team and was a founding member of the College's Tau Kappa Epsilon chapter. He graduated from law school at Indiana University, and moved to Grand Rapids, where he became a

partner at Warner, Norcross & Judd. He remained a litigator with the practice his entire 30-year career, and was recognized in *Best Lawyers in America and Michigan Super Lawyers*. Spouse Michelene and three children survive.

'90s

Edward "Ted" Mills '91, Ph.D., of Austin, Texas, died in October 2020. He taught at The University of Texas at Austin College for more than 16 years, and was an associate professor in the division of pharmacology and toxicology, as well as the Bergen Brunswig Corp. Centennial Fellow. He earned his doctorate in pharmacology and toxicology from Purdue University. He was internationally regarded for his impactful research exploring metabolism, and uncoupling proteins that have been associated with obesity and various diseases, stated a university press release.

Jason E. Martin '98 of Morgantown, Indiana, died Jan. 16, 2021. He attended Franklin College and played football for the Grizzlies. He worked at For Bare Feet sock-manufacturing factory prior to a multiple sclerosis diagnosis in 2002, which led him to becoming a stay-at-home parent. Survivors include spouse Kathy and three daughters.

Friends of Franklin College

Robert "Bob" H. Claxton of Franklin, Indiana, died Nov. 30, 2020. He was a Navy veteran and Franklin Community Schools employee for 37 years. His roles in education included teacher, basketball coach, junior high school principal and assistant high school principal. After his retirement, he joined the Franklin College staff as a basketball, golf and tennis coach. Survivors include spouse Theresa, five children, 12 grandchildren and 11 great-grandchildren. A grandson preceded him in death. Sons **Robert**

"Bob" H. '76 and **Michael "Mike" '87** are alumni.

H. Richard "Dick" Graham, Ph.D., of Asheville, North Carolina, died Jan. 15, 2021. He was an English professor at Franklin College, 1966–2001. He retired with faculty emeritus honor. Survivors include spouse Janet and three children.

Lee Ingles of Westfield, Indiana, died Oct. 19, 2020, as the result of an auto accident. He was the PE teacher and varsity basketball coach for Cowan Junior-Senior High School, where he was a mentor to countless students. Survivors include spouse Sally, Ed.D., Franklin College accreditation coordinator, and two sons.

Steve SeRine of Martinsville, Indiana, died Feb. 7, 2021. He was a sous chef at the College for 12 years. After his death, College community members hung a memorial banner in the dining hall. It was covered with handwritten messages of gratitude for the joy he brought to food preparation and customer service. His General Tso's chicken was a local legend.

Patricia "Pat" Stevens of Franklin, Indiana, died Dec. 25, 2020. She had an early career teaching mathematics, and later specialized in finance and insurance relations within the health care industry. She also was a long-time volunteer at several Johnson County organizations. Together with spouse John Stevens, Franklin College professor emeritus of economics, who survives, she was a member of the Heritage Society and Horizon Society gift clubs. The Franklin Symphonic Council has established a guest artist program at Franklin College in Pat's memory. The Patricia Stevens Distinguished Guest Artist Series will include master classes in music for students and a free concert for the public; the College anticipates starting the series in the spring of 2022. ■

#GRIZTUESDAY

THANK YOU

FOR SHOWING THE WORLD WHAT'S POSSIBLE WITH TEAMWORK.

Donors and sponsors, we are in awe of your Franklin College spirit and generosity. You stepped up in a big way to support our first-ever **#GRIZTuesday** on Dec. 1, 2020.

You raised **\$179,912 in 24 hours**, far surpassing our \$100,000 goal. Your outpouring of support showed tremendous pride and passion for Franklin College athletics and our mighty Grizzlies.

With 1,283 donors and 27 sponsors, **#GRIZTuesday** played an integral role in helping the athletic teams, cheer squad and athletic training staff overcome disruptions in their regular-season competitions and fundraising efforts due to the pandemic. As athletic activities resume this spring, your **#GRIZTuesday** gifts will help give student-athletes the best collegiate experiences – and lifetime memories – possible.

You are game changers. Thank you for making a difference at the College, across the playing fields, on the courts, at the pool and in many lives.

Our sincerest gratitude goes to Franklin College Trustee Rafael Sánchez '92 for hosting the virtual "power hour" programming that incentivized and entertained viewers throughout **#GRIZTuesday**, and our heartfelt thanks to Matt Taylor '08, voice of the Indianapolis Colts, for his special guest appearance.



Feel the Hamptonality™



Let's Bank Together!



Eric Carroll
Christine Fields '74 (HD '19)
Richard Flecker '67
James Potter '72



Derek Small '99 (Luson Bioventures)
J.R. Stocklin '00
Carol (Summers) Tumej '63
Robert Vodas

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Want to show Franklin College pride wherever you go? Roll up with our signature College license plate on your car, truck or motorcycle.

When you buy a plate, you also help students. Sales support the **Franklin Fund**, which helps provide student scholarships and other vital College resources.

When you order your first plate or renew an existing one, the BMV will collect and forward your \$25 contribution to the College. Standard plate registration and processing fees also will be applied to your purchase and paid to the BMV.

Start the process at

[FranklinCollege.edu/alumni/
fc-license-plate](http://FranklinCollege.edu/alumni/fc-license-plate)

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