

# FRANKLIN COLLEGE

MAGAZINE | SUMMER 2021

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## PRESCRIPTION FOR SUCCESS

Johnson Memorial Health's President/CEO  
David H. "Dave" Dunkle '94, M.D., delivers  
a dose of caring leadership.

Pg. 34





*As the adage goes, “If you snooze, you lose!” That certainly is the case in bed racing. In 2018, the Student Entertainment Board adopted bed racing as a featured Grizzly Grand Prix (GGP) event. This spring, eight teams competed around the Dame Mall ellipse in a bracket-style elimination round, with the fastest four advancing and, ultimately, the final two in a showdown. Pictured here are the Tri Delta team members, in front, Chesney Loehr '25,*

# BEDTIME STORY



CLAIRE CASTILLO '21

*Madisyn Challis '25 (on bed) and Cambria Caldwell '22. In back are Abby O'Bryant '22 and Carly Morris '21. Vice President for Student Development and Dean of Students Andrew Jones, Ed.D, stands with the flag in the background. Other GGP events included a tricycle race, bungee hoops (a cross between basketball and tug-of-war), yard games and inflatable ax throwing.*



# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

## Dear Alumni and Friends,

How do you measure progress? As a parent, you may chart your child's height with a new mark on the wall. Athletes may track personal bests with an app. Teachers acknowledge those "aha" moments when students grasp a difficult concept or master a challenging skill. At Franklin College, we assess institutional progress in various ways depending on the circumstances, and we are always eager to celebrate it.

Such has been the case this summer, as signs of progress emerge across our campus. I am heartened and inspired by what I see from you, our alumni and friends. In a year characterized by continued pandemic-related anxiety and associated financial challenges, you expressed confidence in the mission and direction of Franklin College to an impressive degree, and you invested generously. We not only exceeded the \$675,000 Franklin Fund goal for the 2020-21 fiscal year, but for the second consecutive year also surpassed the \$700,000 mark. Our rate of alumni giving back to their alma mater increased again, continuing a trend that stands in contrast with all sectors of higher education.

We are extremely grateful for your passion for the College, and your interest in helping to provide a distinctive experience for current and future Grizzlies. That experience includes facilities to learn, develop and grow, and some of the most exciting progress on campus is about to be evident. Our Center for Tech Innovation will be undergoing a major facelift and, next to it, the Johnson Memorial Health Athletics Annex construction will commence soon. Inside Spurlock Center, the esports arena is nearing completion, creating an impressive space for this exciting new program. Those important projects convey progress and communicate to students our commitment to supporting them with the resources they want and need.

With immense gratitude, we recognize some of the individuals involved in these projects on the pages of this magazine. We also recognize students, faculty and staff directly impacted by these and related programs. Their stories provide insight and inspiration that reflect the progress being made in teaching, learning, collaborating and innovating on campus every day.

As we continue to build on our proud history of liberal arts excellence, I am excited to celebrate all this progress with you. Your partnership is vital to continuing our momentum and sustaining our shared mission for generations to come. Thank you for making great things happen at Franklin.

Sincerely,

**KERRY PRATHER**  
FRANKLIN COLLEGE PRESIDENT

# FRANKLIN COLLEGE

MAGAZINE | SUMMER 2021

## Volume LVII, No. 2

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### 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

Johnson Memorial Health President/CEO

David H. "Dave" Dunkle '94, M.D.

PHOTO SUBMITTED BY JMH

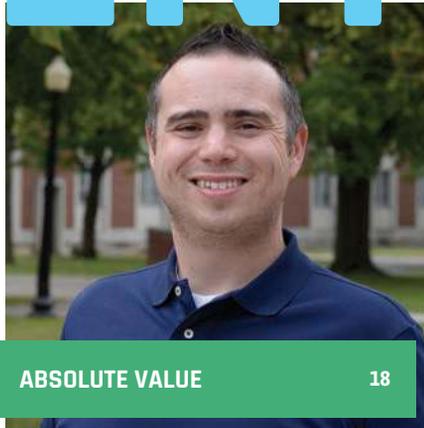


# CONTENTS



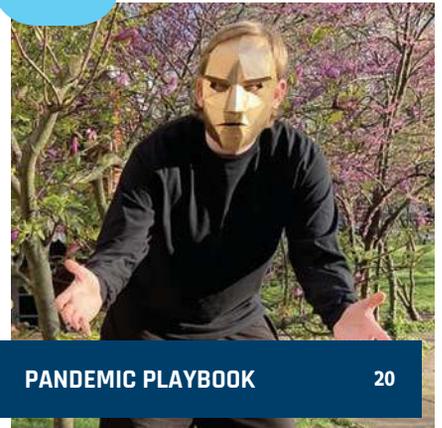
TOP-NOTCH RESEARCHER

10



ABSOLUTE VALUE

18



PANDEMIC PLAYBOOK

20



ON TRACK FOR RETIREMENT

26



FLAT-OUT FRANKLIN

30



BY THE BOOK

38

## Featured Stories

6

### A CLASS ACT

Get a glimpse of the 2021 commencement ceremony, and join our newest Griz Grads in celebration of earning their degrees.

19

### REDESIGNED FOR DIGITAL FLUENCY

Learn how gifts to the College are helping transform an existing campus facility into a hub for tech exploration, collaboration and innovation.

34

### PRESCRIPTION FOR SUCCESS

Meet the Johnson Memorial Health (JMH) President/CEO **David H. “Dave” Dunkle '94, M.D.** Dunkle also serves as vice president of medical affairs and vice president of the JMH Foundation.

# A CLASS ACT

On the summerlike Saturday of May 22, 2021, graduates, guests, trustees, faculty and staff gathered for commencement at Faught Stadium.

Adhering to the **#FortifyFranklin** Plan, seating accommodated social distancing for graduates and guests. The ceremony recognized the Class of 2021 for their collective success and persistence throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, and honored individual graduates for their achievements. A livestream of the ceremony enabled sharing with family and friends unable to attend.

Highlights included the commencement address, “And Yet, Here You Are,” by Billie Dragoo, RepuCare founder and CEO. She also received an honorary doctorate of humane letters. Her message to graduates focused on perseverance and integrity.

“Looking over this crowd, I see incredible strength,” Dragoo said. “You have endured one of the most difficult years in the history of our country: a year of nationwide protests to end racial injustice, a contentious presidential election that tested our democracy, a worldwide recession, a global pandemic and learning how to use this thing called Zoom, that no one had even heard of two years ago.”

Dragoo shared several pieces of life advice, placing emphasis on “how you play the game.”

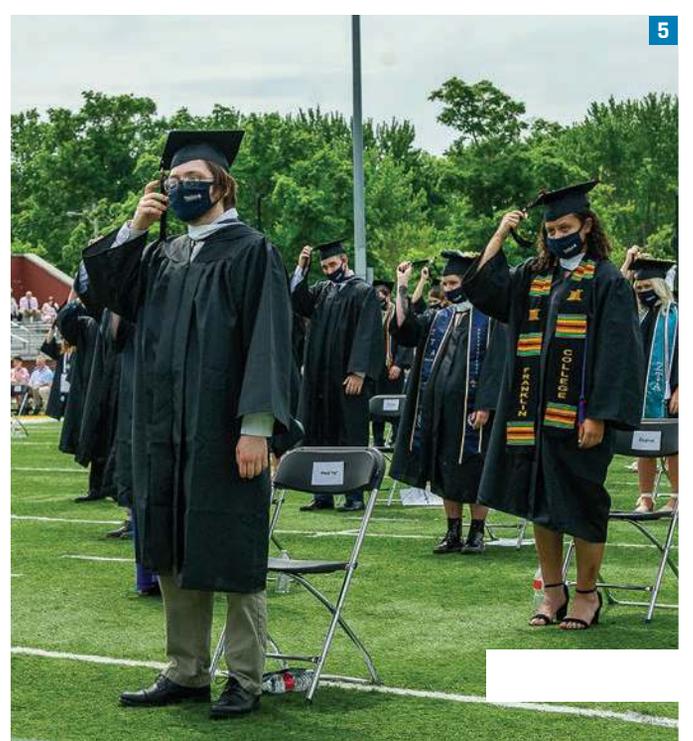
“We need you to act with courage and integrity, and to become known as a person who will never sacrifice their principles and values for short term gains. We need you to seek and discover the truth in every situation, and to act in ways that benefit us all. Finally, we need you to show humility.”

College President Kerry Prather also gave remarks.

“Wherever in the world your future may lie, I encourage you to be leaders. In a world fraught with conflict and division, be collaborators and unifiers. Lead with compassion. Create solutions. Share love and happiness,” Prather said.

Preceding commencement, on Friday, May 21, Leah Gunning Francis, Ph.D., gave the baccalaureate address and received an honorary doctorate of divinity. She serves as the vice president for academic affairs and dean of the faculty at Christian Theological Seminary in Indianapolis. She also is the author of two books about the racial justice movement and the roles of faith and leadership in helping the citizens of Ferguson, Missouri, after the violence of 2014. Her baccalaureate sermon, “Go and Grow,” encouraged working hard to continue flourishing mentally, spiritually and physically, leading to a more fulfilling life. ■

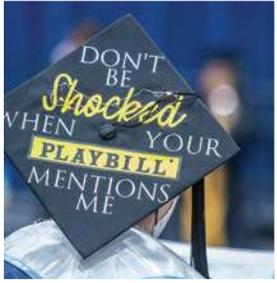




1. Christian Theological Seminary Vice President for Academic Affairs and Dean of Faculty Leah Gunning Francis, Ph.D., HD '21  
 2. An aerial view of Faught Stadium  
 3. RepuCare founder and CEO Billie Dragoo, HD '21  
 4. Franklin College President Kerry Prather, Gold Quill Trophy recipient **Kirsten Nielsen '21** and Vice President of Academic Affairs and Dean of the College **Kristin Flora, Ph.D.**  
 5. **Ashton Hoerner '21** and **Kaitlyn Kendrick '21** turn their tassels in the foreground, as **Jennifer Mangrum '21** (dark blue stole), **Connor Morton '21** and **Jade Murray '21** (turquoise stole) do so in the background.

PHOTOS BY TARA RICKE '19, MADELINE SMITH '21, CHAD WILLIAMS





6



8



3



7

- 1. **Ismail Jones '21**
- 2. **Mackenzie Waldran '21**
- 3. **Quenton Wellington '21**
- 4. **Breanna Shepherd '21** and **Kathryn Sanders '21**
- 5. **Brett Turner**, Franklin College Physical Plant grounds staff, and son **Tyler Turner '21**
- 6. **Reilly Jones '21**
- 7. **Olivia Inman '21** bumps fists with professor of English **Richard Erable, Ph.D.**
- 8. Assistant professor of Spanish **Dan Alsop, Ph.D.**, **Samar Akermawi**, **Mahmoud Akermawi**, **Tamer Akermawi '21**, professor of Spanish **Sara Colburn-Alsop, Ph.D.**, **Dyala Akermawi '16**, **Musa Akermawi** and **Mohanid Akermawi '19**

PHOTOS BY TARA RICKE '19, MADELINE SMITH '21, CHAD WILLIAMS

# GRIZ GRADS AT A GLIMPSE



# 194

Undergraduate Degrees



# 25

Graduate Degrees



# 2

Award Recipients

**Erica Irish '21**, Scholarship Cup for highest four-year G.P.A.  
**Kirsten Nielsen '21**, Gold Quill Trophy for academic excellence and community involvement.



# 1

Class Speaker

**Charles Hall '21**, majored in exercise science, double minored in fitness and chemistry and accepted at Kentucky College of Osteopathic Medicine.

# TOP-NOTCH RESEARCHER

By Brenda (Thom) Ferguson '95, staff writer

**With double majors in psychology and creative writing, Alexis Cheatham '21 honed her skills to stand out among peers vying for research funds this spring.**

Cheatham was one of four students from across the country to receive a Psychology Research Award from the Council on Undergraduate Research's Psychology Division. The recipients were all involved in conducting original research, and received awards of up to \$500 per project to assist in covering supplies, expenses and other presentation-related costs.

Cheatham's research project, "How Comfortable Are You? The Effects of Social Dominance and Race Biases," delved into participants' comfort

levels when in the presence of a racial slur. Franklin College associate professor of psychology Ryan Rush, Ph.D., advised Cheatham throughout the project.

"Dr. Rush helped me with many aspects of this project. We met weekly to discuss the project and brainstorm ideas," said Cheatham.

Cheatham presented her findings at the annual meeting of the Midwestern Psychological Association in April.

# ENTREPRENEURIAL SPIRIT

SUBMITTED



Madelyn Gary '21

By Brenda (Thom) Ferguson '95, staff writer

**Aspiring entrepreneur Madelyn Gary '21 pitched her business idea at an invitation-only regional competition this spring, culminating her participation in the Elevate Origins Pre-Seed Program by Indianapolis-based Elevate Ventures.**

Gary, who double majored in business management and finance, was one of 128 participants from colleges and universities across Indiana. The Pre-Seed Program is exclusively for aspiring entrepreneurs and startups that have not yet generated revenue, while the parallel Seed Program is reserved for revenue-generating startups and life-science companies that have completed pre-clinical trials. Both programs share the goal of helping participants develop investor-ready pitches and executive summaries, and encouraging entrepreneurs to start and grow their businesses in Indiana.

The Pre-Seed Program supplemented Gary's college coursework, and engaged her in virtual-group learning, professional networking and one-on-one business coaching.

"I really liked this program because it provided a ton of resources to help develop your entrepreneurial mindset. There also were people of all ages working with you so it was easy to get a variety of feedback," Gary said.

Gary received mentoring from Franklin College Director of Professional Development and Lecturer of

“Alexis is an outstanding student,” said Rush. “She worked incredibly hard on the development and execution of this timely project. Her dedication to research and issues of social action and justice will suit her well in her career as a social worker. The psychology department is excited to watch the next chapter of her life unfold.”

Cheatham was accepted into the University of Wisconsin – Milwaukee, where she will pursue a master’s degree in social work, then work

toward her counselor’s license. She looks forward to working primarily with underrepresented populations, and also wants to volunteer at non-profits that focus on policy change and social justice.

Her Franklin College experiences included serving as the Black Student Union president and Dance Team captain as well as a Student Ambassador for admissions and a Resident Assistant. She also was in the English and psychology academic honorary societies. ■



**Alexis Cheatham '21**

Business Jeremy VanAndel throughout her program experience.

“Madelyn began the program with just some rough ideas in a notebook and came away with a viable business concept,” VanAndel said. “Her success in the program is a testament both to her creativity and stick-to-itiveness, and to the kinds of open-ended, real-world challenges her Franklin College education has helped her to prepare for.”

The Pre-Seed Program led up to an invitation-only regional pitch competition in May. An application, including copies of one’s pitch deck and executive business summary, was required for competition consideration. Chosen applicants then vied for notes worth \$20,000 to help put their business plan into action. While Gary did not win at the Elevate Nexus Pitch Competition, she gained a lot from the experience, including contacts at venture capitalist firms who may have interest in

her business idea for a custom-product subscription service.

Gary also was among a select few who received an invitation to practice her business pitch in advance with Elevate Ventures’ Entrepreneurs-in-Residence (EIRs). The EIRs provide first-time entrepreneurs with business advisory services from launch to exit. Their collective industry experience includes semiconductors, agriculture, information technology, pharmaceuticals, medical devices and big data.

Gary said, “This program showed me the process of how to innovate and develop a business idea. I also learned how to assess markets to see the potential of a business. In all, the program really taught me how to think critically and research . . . great skills to have for any job.”

She hopes her beneficial experience inspires Franklin peers to pursue their own opportunity with the next

Pre-Seed Program cohort.

“Take a chance and enroll. Even if you do not have an (entrepreneurial) idea, the resources and knowledge you gain can help in any profession,” Gary encouraged.

Elevate Nexus launched in 2019 under Elevate Ventures to provide resources and thought leadership to Indiana higher-education institutions and the entrepreneurs they engage. Elevate Nexus Pitch Competitions offer promising startups, preferably engaged with Elevate Nexus-partnered colleges and universities, the opportunity to secure foundational capital needed to launch their businesses. Further goals include creating a stronger bond among higher-education institutions, community partners and entrepreneurs, and growing more high-quality startups in Indiana. ■

# FROM FACULTY TO ADMINISTRATION

In April, Kristin Flora, Ph.D., was appointed vice president for academic affairs and dean of the College. She had held the position on an acting basis since June 2020.

CHAD WILLIAMS



*Kristin Flora, Ph.D.*

“Beyond her capable leadership in executing the academic program within the unprecedented challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic, Dean Flora has created within the academic affairs division a culture of open communication, transparency and trust that has reassured and supported the faculty through this most difficult teaching environment,” said Franklin College President Kerry Prather. “I am heartened by the faculty endorsement of Dean Flora’s leadership and her personal impact on faculty morale.”

Flora earned her bachelor’s degree in chemistry and psychology from

Valparaiso University and her master’s and doctoral degrees in experimental psychology from the University of Wisconsin – Milwaukee.

Prior to her recent transition to administration at Franklin, she was a faculty member in the psychology department. She joined the faculty in 2007, and served as department chair from 2009-15, as well as the division head for social sciences. She holds the Roscoe W. Payne Endowed Chair in Philosophy and Psychology and is a former member of the Faculty Steering Committee.

## SUPPORTING HOLISTIC STUDENT DEVELOPMENT

In June, Maegan Pollonais, D.A., began her appointment as director of the Center for Diversity and Inclusion (CDI) at Franklin College.

“We are very pleased to welcome Dr. Pollonais to Franklin College,” said President Kerry Prather. “I am confident her leadership of the CDI will enhance the education of our students in the areas of diversity, equity and inclusion. Her support for our underrepresented student populations and continued education of all our students will affirm our commitment to make Franklin a welcoming and inclusive campus for all.”

Pollonais previously served as the Manchester University Director of Student Diversity and Inclusion. Her responsibilities included managing the Jean Childs Young Intercultural Center and overseeing Schwalm Hall for student residents.

Pollonais is originally from the Caribbean nation of Trinidad and Tobago.

Her educational background includes bachelor’s degrees in sociology and music from The State University of New York, and a master’s degree in music from Bowling Green State University in Ohio, where she was recipient of the Winifred O. Stone Presidential Scholarship, an initiative designed to recruit the best and brightest graduate students. Pollonais also earned a doctoral degree in music, with a concentration in educational psychology from Ball State University. There, she served as a graduate assistant for Pathways, a mentoring program that matches students from marginalized backgrounds with faculty, staff, community professionals and distinguished alumni.

Pollonais is eager to become better acquainted with the Franklin College community of Grizzlies near and far.

Flora is the past recipient of multiple Franklin College excellence awards, including the Academic Adviser of the Year and Faculty/Staff Service Award. She also previously received the Dietz Award for Faculty Excellence and the Faculty Steering Committee Distinguished Service Award. She is a member of the Alpha Society, Order of Omega, Psi Chi and Alpha Lambda Delta academic honoraries.

“I am honored to continue in this role, and thank President Prather, the board of trustees and the faculty for their confidence in my leadership,” said Flora. “The Franklin College faculty are both skilled teachers and accomplished scholars. It is my privilege to support their work and the overall academic experience of our students.” ■

RENEE KEAN '06



# EDUCATION PROGRAM UPDATE

The Indiana Department of Education gave its approval for the Franklin College Elementary Education Program as well as a new Secondary Education Transition to Teaching Program this spring. The approval came from the Indiana State Board of Education at its meeting, May 5, 2021.

Franklin College has a long history of producing successful elementary and secondary educators. Approximately 1,000 alumni are currently serving as P-12 teachers and administrators. Over the years, many alumni have been recognized for their outstanding work in the profession.

The longstanding distinctiveness of the Education Program’s clinical field-based curriculum is being enhanced with integrated innovations in technology focused on meeting the needs of future elementary and secondary teachers. The College is proud to continue its historic mission of preparing quality educators who will positively impact the lives of students throughout Indiana and the nation.

Read more about the Education Program at [FranklinCollege.edu/academics](https://FranklinCollege.edu/academics) or email questions to Director of Teacher Education Cindy Prather at [cprather@FranklinCollege.edu](mailto:cprather@FranklinCollege.edu). ■

“With a high level of gratitude and enthusiasm, I am excited to bring my diverse skills in promoting the successful holistic development of today’s students with their unique needs and experiences,” said Pollonais. “Empowerment and advocacy are crucial in the modern-day world, and I wish to lend to this perspective by creating a brave space and opportunities for the Franklin College community, and beyond, to excel as equity-minded individuals in this growing pluralistic world. I look forward to engaging with our dynamic student trailblazers, dedicated faculty and staff, and inspired leadership.” ■



TARA RICE '19

**Maegan Pollonais**

# GRIZZLIES FOR LIFE

By Brenda (Thom) Ferguson '95, staff writer

Eight employees who collectively gave more than 200 years of service recently retired from the College. With gratitude, we recognize them for their contributions and long-lasting impact.



ANN BARTON

**Ann Barton, Pulliam School of Journalism (PSJ) assistant director and assistant to the president for special projects:**

Barton's 38 years of service began in 1983, when she hired on as director of public affairs, a role that afforded opportunities to mentor journalism students serving as Pulliam Fellows. The satisfaction derived from supporting students' professional development compelled Barton to transition to a faculty role in 1998, as an acting professor of journalism. The one-year appointment helped prepare Barton for her subsequent role as PSJ assistant director. In 2002, Barton took on the simultaneous role of assistant to the president for special projects, and led coordination of countless guest lectures, ceremonies and other special events. At various times throughout her career at Franklin, Barton also served as acting vice president of development and public affairs, affirmative action/equal opportunity officer and chair of the Convocation Lecture Series Committee. In 2005, colleagues honored Barton with the Margaret A. Hommell Staff Service Excellence Award. She and spouse Kevin are the parents of two children. Son **J.T. Barton '14** is an alumnus.



GREG CATALDI '80

**Greg Cataldi '80, electrical and general trades supervisor for physical facilities:**

Cataldi transitioned directly from graduate to employee, working for the College more than 40 years. His supervisor, Tom Patz, assistant vice president for physical facilities, said, "Greg has been a great alumnus, electrician and friend to many of us. He also has mentored many students by providing physical facilities work opportunities, and I can't begin to describe the enormous role he has played in keeping electrical, mechanical and safety systems operating. He is and always will be a true Grizzly." Cataldi assisted on numerous College committees through the years, and he served as the cross-country coach in the 1980s.



PATTY DILLEY

Colleagues selected him for the Margaret A. Hommell Staff Service Excellence Award in 2001. He is the father of two sons and shares Grizzly pride with son **David Cataldi '04** and daughter-in-law **Jenny (Piland) Cataldi '05**, director of global education at the College.

**Patty Dilley, assistant for academic records:**

Dilley's 22-year career at Franklin College came full circle, with her retiring from the same position for which she was initially hired. However, she had a long stint as Education Program manager in between. Within the program, Dilley was involved in accreditation processes, teacher licensure and certification, student field experiences and administrative tasks. As part of the academic records team, she aided with student registration, transcripts and transfers. Her supervisor, **Lisa Mahan '88**, registrar, said, "Patty was the friendly face of the Academic Records Office for everyone calling or visiting, and provided exceptional customer service while maintaining the integrity of and adherence to all of the institution's academic policies." She and spouse Tony are the parents of four sons, three of whom are alumni, **Robert Dilley '03** (spouse **Shay Knecht '04**), **Nicholas Dilley '08** and **Nathan Dilley '09** (spouse **Casey Wells '07**).



TIM GARNER '79, PH.D.

**Tim Garner '79, Ph.D., associate vice president for academic affairs:**

Garner is the only recent retiree who can say he experienced the full spectrum of Franklin College, going from student, to graduate, to faculty, to staff. Garner earned both his master's and doctoral degrees from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. He began teaching sociology at Franklin in 1986, and eventually transitioned to a staff role with specialization in institutional research and analytics, serving under several

administrations. Garner's expertise in and passion for technology proved invaluable recently as he helped earn a \$1 million *Charting the Future* grant from Lilly Endowment Inc., to help fund the College's new digital fluency initiative. Prior to retiring, Garner served as interim vice president for the division of student affairs, then enrollment and marketing. He earned top awards at the College, including the Clifford and Paula Dietz Award for Faculty Excellence and the Faculty Excellence in Teaching Award. Garner and spouse Cheryl have two daughters.

**Joe Hornett, vice president for finance and chief financial officer:** During his three years of service, Hornett made a significant impact through his diligent efforts to ensure the current and future financial stability of the College. For example, Hornett was instrumental in identifying and accessing COVID-19-related funds made available by the federal government to assist students and help address institutional expenses. "I relied on Joe enormously after becoming President, and benefited greatly from his knowledge of our comprehensive financial picture and his creativity in addressing significant needs with limited resources," said Franklin College President Kerry Prather. Hornett and spouse Sally have three sons and several grandchildren.

**Mike Leonard, director of development:** After his retirement as head football coach for 17 years, Leonard served as the director of development for more than a year. His supervisor, Dana Cummings, vice president for development and alumni engagement, said, "Mike's caring and gentle approach to staying in touch with our supporters was so appreciated. Mike worked with countless alumni and donors to ensure their connection to the College remained strong, and that support continued. Mike's positivity and collegiality were a wonderful contribution to those around him. There is no doubt that he made a lasting impression and will certainly be missed." *Read more about his coaching career on Page 24.*

**Kevin Mitchell, superintendent of building services:** Mitchell oversaw the custodial staff for 14 years, ensuring needs were met at residence halls, employee offices, event sites and every place in between, day or night. He is credited

with taking initiative to make the College's custodial services "greener" by using recyclable products and eliminating the use of aerosols. His supervisor, Tom Patz, assistant vice president for physical facilities, said, "Kevin was an invaluable resource for our campus, especially during this challenging pandemic. He helped solidify supply chains of cleaning products and adapted delivery methods to the changing times." Mitchell also unfailingly answered the call for College volunteers, helping transport students and college guests to the airport and supporting community-driven causes. He and spouse Julie have five children, including son **Paul Mitchell '12**.

**John R. Shafer, Ph.D., director of counseling:** Shafer joined the staff in 1983, and over the course of his 38-year career made numerous positive contributions to the College community. "Doc Shafer," as he is widely known to students, holds a doctorate in clinical psychology from Concordia University, as well as a master's degree in counseling psychology and a bachelor's degree in music, theatre and psychology, from Ball State University. Shafer's notable contributions at Franklin included instrumental work to establish the campus counseling center, a haven for students coping with a variety of challenges and trauma. More recently, Shafer founded the Franklin College Pride Alliance, a student-run organization supporting acceptance, awareness and education for the LGBTQ+ community. Further, he began a Safe Zone program for students and employees to share and grow in their understanding about issues marginalized individuals face. Alumni also may recall Shafer's co-leadership of Immersive Term travel and his public speaking courses. His volunteerism at the College was strong, including the Student Veteran Support Team and Alcohol Programming Committee. He was the faculty adviser to Lambda Chi Alpha fraternity, and was involved in campus music and theatre productions. As a College representative, he routinely took programming to the local retirement communities, as well. Shafer volunteers extensively in the Greater Franklin community, where he resides with his two pet Boxers. ■



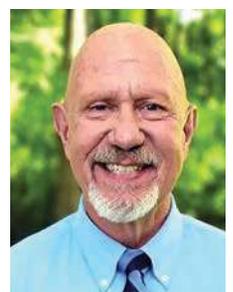
JOE HORNETT



MIKE LEONARD



KEVIN MITCHELL



JOHN SHAFER, PH.D.

PHOTOS BY TARA RICKE '19,  
MADELINE SMITH '21,  
CHAD WILLIAMS

# HARD WORK — ADDS UP

By Isaac Gleitz, *The Franklin*

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Few departments at small liberal arts colleges can say they have won a national award, but Franklin's mathematics and computing department is one. The department received the American Mathematical Society (AMS) Award for an Exemplary Program or Achievement in 2019. The Massachusetts Institute of Technology received the same award the following year.

In 2018, the Association of College and University Educators also chose the department and its statistical consulting project as national models for 21st century career preparation. And the department received widespread recognition for its minicourse, "Creating a Purposeful Student Learning Experience," presented at America's MathFest in 2016, 2017 and 2019.

"Other departments were like 'Wow, you guys have thought this stuff through,'" associate professor of mathematics Stacy Hoehn, Ph.D., said. "I think it was nominations from people who had done that minicourse that helped us get the AMS award, because it got our name out there."

"They (students) were super excited when they found out because they

knew they were part of it—part of what makes the program special."

In culmination of their recent successes and in recognition of a tradition of academic excellence, mathematics and computing students and faculty gathered to celebrate this spring. Individuals recognized for their accomplishments included **Nick Elmendorf '22**, who passed two preliminary exams on his path to becoming an actuary and received the department's Dwight Heath Memorial Mathematics Award.

"I'm very excited. It's a great way to recognize all the work we've put in together," Elmendorf said.

**Trey Jones '23** received the Bugeholl Family Award given to the student who best exemplifies departmental culture. Jones said he appreciates

his professors and the fact that they notice his effort.

Professor **Dan Callon '77**, Ph.D., was pleased to announce that **Dylan Harker '21** earned a graduate assistantship covering his living expenses plus tuition remission at Miami University, where his academic journey will continue.

Callon said the department at Franklin has long been thriving.

"I would stack us up against any school in Indiana," Callon said. "We have been ahead of the curve in a lot of ways as a department for decades, but it's culminating with what we're celebrating."

What makes the department particularly effective, Callon explained, is that the faculty have agreed to structure





Mathematics professor John Boardman, Ph.D., greets guests at the department's spring celebration of student and faculty accomplishments.

**"THEY (STUDENTS) ARE JUST AMAZING PEOPLE. WE HAVE PEOPLE COMPLIMENT US ON THE QUALITY OF OUR STUDENTS AND HOW WELL THEY REPRESENT FRANKLIN COLLEGE."**

**DAN CALLON '77, PH.D.**

LINDA STRIGGO

student learning in a way that promotes academic progression.

"We really have put together something quite special," Callon said. "It's not an individual accomplishment; we all work together."

Faculty devote a lot of time to establishing consistent relationships with students. The department also intentionally blends the curriculum with cocurricular activities, funds student-travel to national conferences and hosts mathematics events on campus. Franklin mathematics students are disciplined individuals who realize that hard work will pay off eventually, Callon said.

"They (students) are just amazing people. We have people compliment us on the quality of our students and how well they represent Franklin College."

Callon indicated alumni participation also is significant to the department's effectiveness and student success. Each year, students get the chance to visit alumni workplaces to explore career options. In some classes, students team with alumni "coaches" for projects.

"How much better real-life experience can you get without being in the workplace?" Callon said.

Hoehn said the department has a bright future and is continually expanding offerings. For example, courses are starting to incorporate big-data projects, as data science is an increasingly relevant field in the modern world. The department also added an actuarial science major in 2018, and the Society of Actuaries approved it for inclusion in a national

directory of programs for prospective students.

The relevant and comprehensive opportunities attract aspirational students like Jones.

"I started as a Running Start\* student, and I really enjoyed the way mathematics was taught," Jones said. "Seeing how approachable everybody was in the department was really what made my decision to come to Franklin College."

*\*Editor's note: Qualified high school students can take first-year-level college courses through the Running Start program. Participants can earn credits that may be applied toward a degree at Franklin or any other college or university that will accept the transfer credits. ■*

# ABSOLUTE VALUE

The Indiana Section of the Mathematical Association of America (MAA) presented Franklin College Assistant Dean for Academic Affairs and professor of mathematics Justin Gash, Ph.D., with the 2021 Distinguished Service Award in March. The award recognizes Section members for extraordinary contributions to the group, and outstanding efforts in promoting the interests of and improving education in the mathematical sciences in America, especially at the collegiate level.



RENEE KEAN '05

Gash's MAA leadership included serving in the elected position of student activities coordinator on the executive board of the Indiana Section for six years. He managed the Indiana Collegiate Mathematics Competition each spring and organized student workshops. In addition, Gash served as section coordinator for Indiana NExT. The program, associated with the national Project NExT, provides teaching-specific professional development to newly minted doctoral recipients. Gash's role also included supporting colleagues who work across Indiana, and helping organize panel discussions.

Gash received a bachelor's degree in mathematics and computer science from DePauw University and a master's degree in computer science and doctorate of philosophy in mathematics from Indiana University. His expertise is in computational algebra and cryptology.

He began working at Franklin College in 2008 and received the highest institutional faculty recognition offered in 2016, the Dietz Award for Faculty Excellence. It praised Gash for outstanding teaching, scholarship and service. The same year, Gash earned the distinction "Legend of Castle High School" from his alma mater in Newburgh, Indiana. Gash represented his Franklin colleagues as the Faculty Steering Committee Chairman from 2019–20. ■

**"FIREWORKS" IS ON PERMANENT DISPLAY OUTSIDE OF THE MATH STUDY CENTER IN B.F. HAMILTON LIBRARY.**



LINDA STRIGGO

## MATHEMATICAL MUSE

Associate professor of mathematics Stacy Hoehn, Ph.D., led the spring unveiling of "Fireworks," a commissioned sculpture that artist and mathematician George Hart created to honor Franklin's mathematics and computing department. Hart is a retired research professor of Stony Brook University in New York. He specializes in creating geometrically complex structures from a variety of media, including wood, plastic and household items. Pattern, balance and symmetry distinguish his coveted abstract works. "Fireworks" is on permanent display outside of the Math Study Center in B.F. Hamilton Library.

Mathematics faculty and staff pictured here are assistant dean for academic affairs and professor Justin Gash, Ph.D., academic administrative assistant Kristine Wood and assistant professor **Angie (Hughes) Walls '88**. Behind them are professor **Dan Callon '77**, Ph.D., professor John Boardman, Ph.D., Hoehn and associate professor Paul Fonstad, Ph.D. ■

# REDESIGNED FOR DIGITAL FLUENCY

Work is underway to transform a Franklin College facility into a hub for inquisitive learners, creative thinkers and tech explorers eager to engage in problem solving and catalyzing change. The emerging Center for Tech Innovation (CTI) gives greater visibility to the College's digital fluency initiative.



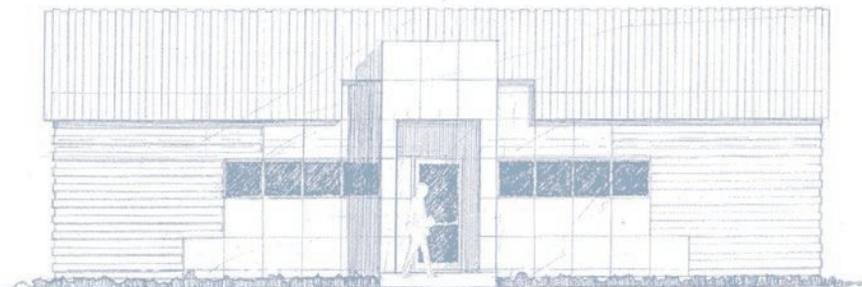
Robert B. "Rob" Brown

A recent \$200,000 gift from Franklin College Trustee Robert B. "Rob" Brown and his spouse, Ruth, plus generous support from other private donors, makes the CTI redesign possible.

"At one time, the building was used as a residence, and its current design suggests that," said Kristin Flora, Ph.D., vice president for academic affairs and dean of the College. "While the interior space is ready for use, the exterior of the building needs addressed, and Rob and Ruth's generous support will allow us to transform it into the modern, tech-oriented façade desired."

The CTI, located on Grizzly Drive, adjacent to Fought Stadium, will provide workspace for students, faculty and staff to investigate new technologies and participate in innovative projects and initiatives with industry partners.

Rob said, "Ruth and I are thrilled to assist bringing this digital fluency project to life. Sometimes technology can feel like the antithesis of a liberal arts education. This initiative bridges a gap that enables the critical-thinking skills developed in Franklin College classrooms to merge with the ever-changing digital landscape graduates will encounter."



Rendering of CTI west side after renovation.

Rob has deep family roots at Franklin College. His stepfather, the late Jim Hoover, was a trustee, and his mother, the late Carroll Brown Hoover, was a friend of the College. Rob has served on the Franklin College Board of Trustees since 2014. He is currently CEO and on the board of directors at Brickell Biotech Inc., in Boulder, Colorado. He previously worked more than 30 years at Eli Lilly and Co., where his roles included chief marketing officer and senior vice president of marketing.

## Why it matters

Franklin College recognizes digital fluency as the aptitude to effectively and ethically interpret information, discover meaning, design content, construct knowledge and communicate ideas in a digitally connected world. Being digital has become an imperative for workplace agility and, arguably, survival in modern society.

A \$1 million grant from Lilly Endowment Inc., through its *Charting the Future for Indiana's Colleges and Universities* initiative, has been helping the College grow its digital fluency by strengthening technology integration and expanding learning opportunities for students, faculty and staff. The grant is part of the initiative's phase two round of funding made in 2020.

Recent steps supporting digital fluency at the College have included appointing a director to lead strategic implementation efforts, including connecting students and faculty with people, places and experiences that will enable digital-skills building. Digital Fluency Director Andrew Rosner previously served more than five years as director of Indiana University's Mark Cuban Center for Sports Media and Technology.

The College also has become a member of the National Association of Collegiate Esports, which coordinates and facilitates online competitions for colleges and universities across the country. There are currently more than 425 collegiate esports programs nationwide. Franklin's coed student team, named GRIZGaming, had its first scrimmage this spring. Read more about GRIZGaming at [FranklinGrizzlies.com](http://FranklinGrizzlies.com). ■

Pandemic-driven pivoting transformed our traditional ways of teaching, learning, competing in athletics and socializing throughout the academic year. We modified virtually every aspect of the Franklin College experience to prioritize health and safety, and mitigate COVID-19.

Our **#FortifyFranklin** Plan, initiated in August 2020, in conjunction with ongoing advice from local professional health care partners, guided our daily activities and provided the road map for adapted experiences. Further, our yearlong series of **#FortifyFranklin** videos posted on social media helped re-enforce safety precautions and encourage solidarity. In true Griz spirit, we converted challenges into opportunities that made for a memorable year. These photos provide a glimpse of the pages from our pandemic playbook.



PA



# ENDEMIC PLAYBOOK

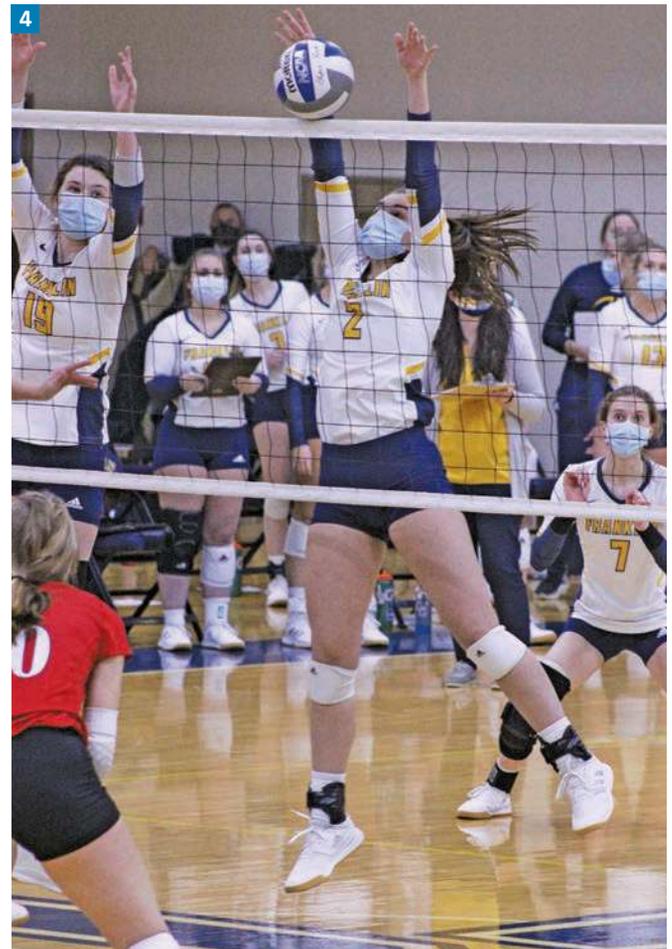


**1:** The Student Entertainment Board and Art Club co-hosted De-Stress Fest the week before finals to offer students opportunities to relax and practice self-care. The traditional event marks each semester's end. Activities included outdoor yoga, tie-dye and paint projects, and do-it-yourself stress ball-making stations.

**2:** An outdoor-only production of "Oedipus Rex" highlighted the spring theatre season. Staging included five locations around campus, and students taking independent studies directed at each one. In keeping with Greek theatre tradition and in adhering to safety protocol, the actors wore masks. Since different actors were at each location, their masks also provided character continuity throughout the production. Further, staggered start times helped keep the limited-size audiences socially distanced as they were chaperoned from scene to scene.

**3:** Tables separated by Plexiglas enabled students to pursue independent study or collaborate with classmates while shielded. Similar configurations in the student-dining hall enabled social distancing, and staggered dining times helped control crowd sizes.

**4:** The volleyball team masked up and gave a remarkably strong performance this season, and for the first time in College program history ranked in the American Volleyball Coaches Association Top-25 Poll, announced in February. The Grizzlies finished the regular season with a 10-5 record and a 7-2 mark in conference play. They also swept the third-ranked team in the nation, Transylvania University, in the regular season.



PHOTOS BY BRITANY APP '22, TABBY FITZGERALD '23, ROBIN ROBERTS, CHAD WILLIAMS

# NOTEWORTHY

## IMPACTFUL NEW ENDOWMENT

One of the greatest ways to make a lasting impact as a donor is by creating an endowed fund, such as the new Pete and Ann Cangany Leadership Award. An endowed fund has far-reaching impact because it is an investment, and the annual earnings support the donor's philanthropic aims in perpetuity. Endowed funds help strengthen the College's financial foundation by freeing up other unrestricted funds so that those dollars may be used where the needs have gone unmet.

With their recent \$300,000 endowed gift, Franklin College Trustee **Peter T. "Pete" Cangany Jr. '80** and his spouse, Ann, will assist incoming students who have financial need and proven leadership abilities. Students may maintain the award for the duration of their Franklin College career, provided they annually demonstrate scholastic success and personal responsibility as a member of the College community.

In essence, the Cangany Leadership Award connects the past, present and future.

"Ann and I believe the ability to graduate from college with little to no student-loan debt is a game changer," Pete explained. "We have had the fortune of experiencing the difference that a college education can make, and we would like to see that opportunity made available to others. Our hope is that our Leadership Award helps control student-loan debt for future graduates of Franklin College, and

encourages others to consider funding additional leadership awards, no matter how big or small."

Pete, a Franklin College trustee since 2009, built a nearly 40-year career with Ernst & Young, prior to retiring in 2017. He and Ann currently reside in Bellevue, Washington. With three happily married children, two grandchildren and numerous friendships built in the various places they have lived over the years, the couple say they are grateful for their many blessings, including Franklin College connections. Coincidentally, their niece, **Casey Cangany '23**, is a legacy student majoring in accounting.

Franklin College President Kerry Prather said, "Pete and Ann are lifelong, loyal supporters, having provided philanthropic support for a variety of College initiatives over the years. Their commitment has made a meaningful difference in the lives of many students, and we are very grateful to them for their support in helping to ensure the success of future Grizzlies."

## SISTER-CITIES RECOGNITION

"Bound by Friendship: The Sister Cities of Kuji and Franklin" is a current exhibit at the Johnson County Museum of History.

Kuji, Japan, and Franklin, Indiana, have been sister cities since 1960. The relationship is rooted in a mission of education and friendship, begun by **Thomasine Allen 1911**. She went to Japan as a missionary and eventually

settled in the city of Kuji, co-founding the Kuji Christian Center to provide education and religious instruction to children.

Allen laid the groundwork for cultural exchange and learning opportunities that continue to benefit Franklin College graduates today. One example is the Assistant Language Teachers Program that gives Franklin alumni the opportunity to live and work abroad as cultural ambassadors for two years under supervision of the Kuji mayor's office.

The exhibit runs through fall 2021. Part of the museum exhibit features information about Allen, and other parts highlight Japanese culture through artifacts and images. Get more details at [co.johnson.in.us/jcmuseum](http://co.johnson.in.us/jcmuseum).

## BUSINESS AWARDS AND HONORS

Franklin College received a 2021 Business Resilience Award from Aspire Johnson County in May. Aspire is an alliance between the area's economic development organizations and chambers of commerce; it leverages community development opportunities and provides services for owners of business from small to large.

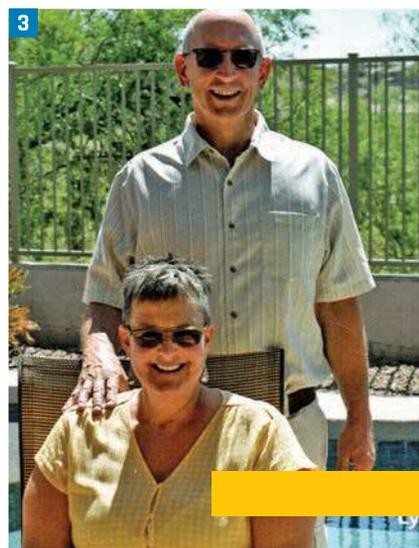
The Business Resilience Award recognizes employers with notable ability to adapt to the COVID-19 pandemic, innovate and forge a new path of resiliency. Organizations in Johnson County and southern Indianapolis were eligible for nomination.



1



2



3

Finalists advanced to five subcategories distinguished by employer size; Franklin College won in the “Large Nonprofits” category, a designation for more than 50 employees.

Factors included the College’s swift and successful transition to fully online instruction in the spring of 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic and subsequent efforts to empower students, faculty and staff with digital fluency. Other finalists in the category included Clark-Pleasant Community School Corp., Johnson County Public Library and Otterbein Franklin Senior Life Community.

One month prior to the award from Aspire, the College was a finalist in the 2021 TechPoint Mira Awards competition and earned an Honorable Mention during the virtual live broadcast of winners. The College vied in the “Pandemic Pivot of the Year” category against other finalists such as Eli Lilly, Genesys and Republic Airways. The Mira Awards competition is the state’s largest and longest-running technology excellence and innovation recognition program, and the annual gala celebrates the “The Best of Tech in Indiana.”

1: *Ann Cangany and spouse **Peter T. “Pete” Cangany Jr. ’80**, a Franklin College Trustee*  
 2: *Aspire Board Chair, Johnson County REMC CEO and JCFiber President **John Sturm**, Associate Vice President for Academic Affairs **Tim Garner ’79, Ph.D.**, Director of Communications **Deidra Baumgardner**, Vice President for Development and Alumni Engagement **Dana Cummings** and Aspire President and CEO **Christian Maslowski***  
 3: ***Melissa (Porter) Fast ’87** and spouse **Lyle***

## WAYS TO GIVE AND RECEIVE

“At Franklin, I found community, support and passion, and I learned to open my mind when faced with the dichotomy of the world around me,” said **Melissa (Porter) Fast ’87**. “Education doesn’t promise a conflict-free life, but it opens our minds to different perspectives and brings so much opportunity, which is why we made a planned gift to Franklin College. We want to help open the minds of future generations of FC students.”

To explore the ways you can meet personal goals and impact the Franklin College mission, please contact **Nora (Lowe) Brems ’87**, director of planned giving, at 317.738.8864 or [nbrems@FranklinCollege.edu](mailto:nbrems@FranklinCollege.edu).

**“ANN AND I BELIEVE THE ABILITY TO GRADUATE FROM COLLEGE WITH LITTLE TO NO STUDENT-LOAN DEBT IS A GAME CHANGER.”**

**PETER T. “PETE” CANGANY JR. ’80**

# IN HIS POST

The following are excerpts from a May 21 Facebook post by head athletic trainer **Chris Shaff '96**, who shares a glimpse of the pandemic's impact on Griz athletics this academic year. Shaff and his colleagues had critical roles in providing COVID-19 testing for student-athletes, staff and faculty, and they took on many new tasks to help implement safety policies and procedures in support of the College's **#FortifyFranklin** Plan.

"Wow . . . that's where I'm at right now, as I reflect on this year, riding back on

the bus from the baseball conference tournament. It's hard to believe this intercollegiate year is over. Somehow, somehow, we pulled it off! Twenty-one varsity seasons played at Franklin College, some at the same time! Unbelievable, considering how things looked in August 2020. Seasons were shifted, shortened and tweaked, time and time, again, but we got there. From virtual track and cross-country races back in September to today's final baseball game, there were 226 intercollegiate sporting events, countless practices and more than 5,000

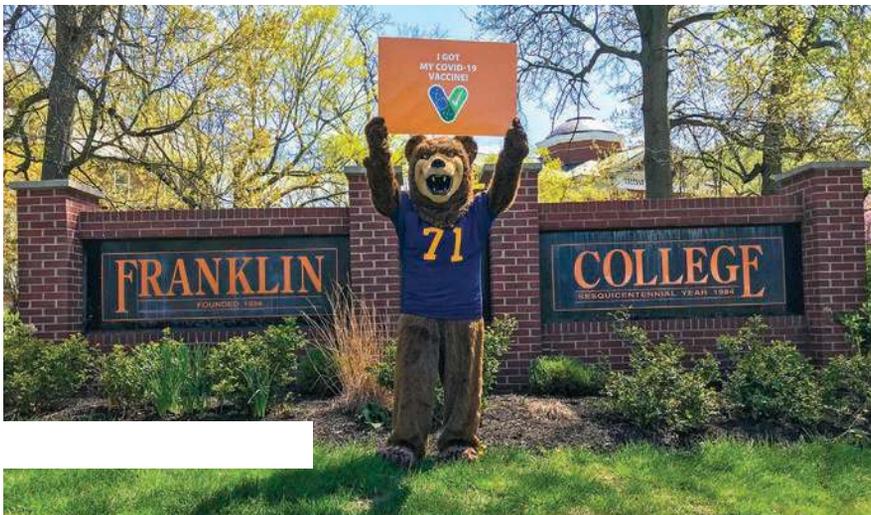
COVID-19 tests administered over the course of the 2020–21 academic year.

"I'd like to say I have no idea how we did it, but that's not true. We did it because of the amazing people at Franklin College, from the student-athletes who had to buy in to the Plan, to the faculty and staff who helped implement the policies and procedures that were put forth to **#FortifyFranklin**, to the general student body who helped protect campus by wearing masks and performing the necessary mitigation protocols, all so that we could get to this point. WE DID IT! It's still incredible to me that we did, but let's not have to do it again.

"Lastly, a special THANK YOU to my amazing co-workers who, when called upon to do things we as athletic trainers had never had to do before, stepped right in and got them done. Chelcee Hill, Kayla Stavnes, Allie Mahoney and Samantha Shruck (assistant athletic trainers), thank you for all the time you put in so that all of this could happen. Now, back to your originally scheduled programming (hopefully)!" ■

*Griz shared news of his vaccination on the College's social media platforms.*

TARA RICKE '19



## STILL WINNING

By Ryan Thomas, assistant athletic director for communications

The Grizzlies' former head football coach, Mike Leonard, was inducted into the Indiana Football Hall of Fame in July, and the Central Indiana Chapter of the National Football Foundation and College Football Hall of Fame recognized him with a Distinguished American Award in June.

Leonard remains Franklin's all-time leader in coaching wins. He joined the Grizzlies' program in 2003 and transformed the football program into a Division III powerhouse over his 17-year coaching tenure. Leonard and his teams compiled a 129-55 record, captured 11 outright or shared conference championships and made nine playoff appearances.

The Grizzlies also claimed five playoff victories, with their deepest playoff run in 2008, a national quarterfinals appearance, ending with an 11-2 record and a No. 8 ranking in the national polls. More than 200 student-athletes earned all-conference accolades during Leonard's time as the head coach, and 12 players earned league player-of-the-year honors. Eleven players collected All-American recognition. Leonard earned HCAC Coach of the Year recognition on seven different occasions.

# HOOPS CHAMPIONS

By Ryan Thomas, assistant athletic director for communications

For the first time since the 2007–08 season, the Franklin men’s basketball team claimed the Heartland Collegiate Athletic Conference (HCAC) tournament championship. The Grizzlies (9–6) capped off a stellar run through the conference tournament, winning three consecutive road games en route to the fifth conference tournament championship in program history.

After the game, head coach Brian Lebowitz said, “This league is full of good teams, and it’s hard to win on the road. We played three road games in this tournament, and we played three great games. That’s a credit to our players, and I’m excited to celebrate this win with our players and staff.”

## Game highlights

In the final match, Franklin led almost 35 minutes of game action in a 73–54 win over host Transylvania University (8–9). Franklin’s defense was the story of the opening half, holding the potent Pioneer offense to 25% (9-for-36) from the field over the first 20 minutes to take a 35–24 lead into the break.

Both sides sputtered offensive to open the second half, and the Pioneers clawed back within seven at 39–32, after a three-point play five minutes into the half. Franklin responded and stretched its lead to 16 points, but the Pioneers showed some fight and used an 11–2 run to get within 54–47, with five minutes to go. That proved to be as close as the hosts would come, as **Matt Krause ’23** buried a four-point play on Franklin’s next trip down the floor. The defense limited Transy to seven points thereafter.

Leonard retired from coaching after the Grizzlies 2019 season, and he transitioned to the Franklin College Office of Development and Alumni Engagement, where he was director of development for more than one year. He retired from that role in June 2021. Prior to Franklin, Leonard coached at DePauw, Wittenberg, Hanover, Holy Cross, Alabama and Butler, as well as for a professional team in Japan.

The Distinguished American Award is one of the National Football Foundation and College Football Hall of Fame’s most prestigious honors. Their website states, “The recipient must be an outstanding person who has maintained a lifetime of interest in the game and who, over a long period of time, has exhibited enviable leadership qualities and made a significant contribution to the betterment of amateur football in the United States.” Nominations are committee-reviewed and board-ratified. ■



TRANSYLVANIA ATHLETICS

Lebowitz said, “I’m most happy for our seniors. They’ve faced so much adversity during their careers, and they all willed us to this point. Their hard work and leadership were so valuable all year long, and their play on the floor set the tone for us every night.

“We’re disappointed we don’t have the chance to play in a national tournament, but how many players can say they had the chance to end their careers with a win? Our guys get to go out on a high note.”

## Special honors

After the HCAC win, forward Krause was named tournament MVP, and guard **Ismail Jones ’22** earned a place on the All-Tournament Team. The next day, the HCAC announced its post-season awards, with **Payton Mills ’21** earning First Team All-HCAC honors for the first time, Krause becoming a two-time Second Team selection and **Sam Gutierrez ’21** earning Honorable Mention for the second time in his career. ■

CHAD WILLIAMS



SCOTT ROBERSON



# ON TRACK FOR RETIREMENT

By Mike Beas, *Daily Journal*

Originally published May 19, 2021. Edited for content. Reprinted with permission.

**Mike Hall '69**, who grew up in the 1960s, can't completely let go of the music that helped shape the soundtrack of his youth. Songs played over the stadium speakers during today's Franklin Community High School boys' track and field practices lean toward the Beatles and Beach Boys – even if that means one of the student-athletes shooting him a glance of complete befuddlement.

**"COACHING IS A GRIND. IT'S DAY IN AND DAY OUT, AND MIKE HAS DONE IT VERY WELL FOR A LONG PERIOD OF TIME. HE HAS SET THE STANDARD FOR COACHES HERE AT FRANKLIN. IT'S HIS CONSISTENCY, HIS DEMEANOR."**

**BILL DOTY**  
ATHLETIC DIRECTOR

Hall recently announced he will retire as coach at the end of this season, his 36th at Franklin, a decision that literally changes the record for a program dating back more than a century.

No more "Twist and Shout." No more "Good Vibrations." Just a new and exciting turn on what's been a "Long and Winding Road."

"It just seemed like the right time," said Hall, who turns 74 on June 3. "I'm still in good health, but I'm not in the same kind of health I was 10 years ago, or five years ago, for that matter. I didn't ever want to get in a situation where the kids saw me where I wasn't in good health."

Hall begins his final postseason as coach today when the Cubs take part in the Columbus North Sectional. Fittingly, it's a return to Hall's alma mater; he graduated in 1965 when it was simply Columbus (Indiana) High School.

The Cubs have won seven Mid-State Conference championships, four Johnson County meets, four sectionals and two regionals under Hall. His lone individual state champion is **Brad Epperson '03** in the discus in 1994; the 2002 Grizzly Cubs, led by senior distance runners Ryan Warrenburg,

Colin Riessen and Jeffrey Powers, finished third in the team standings at state.

Epperson, now a Franklin firefighter, said his former coach is about much more than fast times, record jumps and precision relay handoffs.

"What I remember about coach is that he is very fair, but expects people to work hard. He was a great motivator and mentor," Epperson said. "Just one of those coaches you could count on in good or bad times. He has a way of getting through to his athletes and getting the most out of them."

The ongoing challenge during Hall's tenure is that as he got older, those he was mentoring were always going to be mostly 16- to 18-year olds. The coach had to make a concerted effort to make sure there was no gradual divide in communication.

"Coaching is a grind. It's day in and day out, and Mike has done it very well for a long period of time," Athletic Director Bill Doty said. "He has set the standard for coaches here at Franklin. It's his consistency, his demeanor. Mike is so even-keeled and so fair with the kids. And he's still able to relate to them. Even after 36 years, kids still want to come out and compete for

him. That's a true testament to his ability as a coach and educator. Mike knows what he's doing, and he's a professional at it. He's going to be hard to replace, for sure."

Hall's coaching background at Franklin includes leading boys' junior varsity basketball teams for 18 seasons, the final one in 2004-05. In 52 years of coaching, Hall has led a total of 94 different teams, seven times coaching three sports during the school year. He's coached cross-country, basketball, baseball and track and field, dating back to his days at North Daviess High School in southwestern Indiana, 1974-85.

Hall and his spouse, Jan, who will be married 50 years come June 13, plan to remain in Franklin. They will continue to contribute to Grizzly Cubs' athletic events, as spectators or, in Mike's case, remaining the public address announcer for home football games . . . "And that's a first down . . . Grrrrrrrizzly Cubs."

"My wife has been a rock for me all these years, and has been very, very patient. It wouldn't have been the same without her. I married above my league, without a doubt," Hall said. "I told my coaches the other day I didn't get into this to get wealthy. I got rich in other ways, and that's in terms of relationships with people, so many great kids and great parents.

"Those kinds of things they don't tell you about when you're training to be a teacher and coach. Those are the things I will miss the most."

Hall is a former Franklin College Alumni Council President and recipient of the 2008 Outstanding Volunteer Award. ■

# HEART of a champion

By Kyle Neddenriep, *Indianapolis Star*

Originally published May 21, 2021.

Reprinted with permission. Edited for content and length.

**"I THINK COACHING IS, TO ME, MY PASSION. I DON'T DO IT FOR MONEY. I DO IT FOR THE KIDS."**

**KATHY STRICKER '78**

**Kathy Stricker '78 loved sports growing up in Southern Indiana, but opportunities for girls to play were then scarce. That did not stop her.**

She played basketball with her older brother, Larry, coincidentally a player for Sellersburg's Sliver Creek High School in the 1969 Semi-State Championship, with his friends and at home in the barn hayloft.

"They didn't care if I was a girl," Stricker said. "They just wanted me to play, so I played with the guys a lot. We went to neighboring schools in the summer, in open gyms. There weren't many girls brave enough to do it, but I just wanted to play."

She also convinced her high school principal to put together an eight-game schedule for girls' basketball her senior year. When she graduated from high school in 1974, the Indiana High School Athletic Association was still two years away from offering a State Championship for girls' basketball.

Stricker's athletic career as a player, coach and advocate for girls' and women's sports now encompasses more than six decades. She is the only softball coach Franklin Central High School in Indianapolis has ever known, more than 40 years after then-athletic director Larry Hanni told Stricker there was a teaching job for her — and, oh yeah, they were planning to start a softball team. "Would you do it?" Hanni asked.

"I was a basketball player at heart," Stricker said. "But I agreed to do it, and I loved it."

She still loves coaching, even after four decades, and even — or, maybe, especially — after she was diagnosed with Stage IV lung cancer in the spring of 2019. Stricker was never a smoker. "A genetic thing," she called her diagnosis.

"At some point, some sort of cancer will probably take my life," said

MICHELLE PEMBERTON/INDY STAR



Stricker. "I don't know when. I don't know what. But nothing really changes for me. I'm as competitive as I was yesterday."

## Now and then

To say Stricker's fingerprints are on the Franklin Central softball program would be an understatement. The softball complex named for her in 2020 was dedicated in April 2021. The assistant coaches? They are all former students who played for "Coach Strick." And the players? They may not fully understand their coach has taken stances that set her at odds with her peers and bosses at times and cost her opportunities in the process, but they know for what she stands.

"We know she fights for us, which makes us appreciate her even more," senior third baseman Olivia Colip said.

Stricker wanted to play basketball at the University of Kentucky, but when she graduated from high school in 1974, there were no scholarships available there for women athletes. Her high school government teacher, **Butch Zike '72**, a former Grizzlies' baseball and basketball player, recommended Stricker check out Franklin College, where she could sample a variety of women's athletics.

"I got to play four sports," Stricker said. "That's what I wanted to do. I didn't want to give up anything, which is kind of how I ended up there."

Stricker was the first woman at Franklin College to receive an athletic scholarship. She participated in field hockey, basketball, softball and volleyball. Her coaches included **Ruth (Doub) Callon '52** (HD '11), who was later inducted into the Franklin College Athletic Hall of Fame and the Indiana Basketball Hall of Fame and is now deceased, and Doreen St. Clair, now a physical education (PE) instructor emerita. In them, Stricker found

role models who helped pave the way for women in college athletics.

"You earned everything you got," Stricker said. "We put up scaffolds and painted the gym at Franklin. Ruth and Doreen fought a lot of battles for us just to be in a position to be competitive. I don't think our kids today have any concept of what went on that long ago in getting things accepted. I had to have someone do that for me, and I wanted that to happen for my girls that I coached. Many of them have no clue how far we've come."

After graduating with her degree in PE from Franklin College, Stricker student-taught at Franklin Central for one year, then began teaching and coaching for Greenfield-Central Schools. When asked to return to Franklin Central to start the softball program in 1979, Stricker also became assistant volleyball coach to Alice Underwood and assistant girls' basketball coach to Marvin Knoop.

The idea, Stricker said, was for her to take over for Knoop when he retired. Stricker did not get the job, though. By that point, Stricker and Underwood, assistant athletic director in addition to head volleyball coach, had been fighting for equal opportunities in athletics, and they had ruffled some feathers.

"We wanted equality," Stricker said. "Coaches of girls' sports were teaching six or seven classes, and coaches of boys' sports were teaching four or five. Scheduling was the biggest thing for me. I didn't feel like we should have to come in early every morning or late at night to practice. That just wasn't right. We needed to be able to share facilities."

Eventually, those inequities were rectified. Coaches of equivalent sports were paid the same. Schedules were adjusted. Facilities were upgraded.

"There were good things that came out of it," Stricker said. "But there were girls' coaches who weren't very supportive at the beginning. They thought we were taking things away from the boys' programs. That wasn't what it was about. We didn't want to take anything away from them. We just wanted things to be equal."

Stricker's role as a pioneer for women's sports is not a topic that comes up often with the players or coaches. She does not bring it up, but those who played for her understand everything she has meant to the program.

"I'm forever grateful to her," said assistant coach Erica Miller-Glasener, a 2007 Franklin Central graduate. "She leads by example day in and day out, which is a big part of the reason I'm back here."

## Professional passion

Stricker retired from teaching in December 2020, but not coaching. Not yet. The Flashes have never won a State Championship, but have twice made runner-up. The program owns seven Regional Championships and 11 Sectional Titles, all under Stricker. The stats are great, but she is not chasing a trophy.

"I think coaching is, to me, my passion," she said. "I don't do it for money. I do it for the kids."

"I'll coach until I can't, or I decide it's time," Stricker said. "My health has to come first. I know that. As long as I can coach and be part of the program, I will. As soon as I can't, I'll step aside."

When that time comes, Stricker can rest assured her legacy and impact on the girls she coached will live on much longer. Stricker was inducted into the Franklin College Athletic Hall of Fame as a player in 1998. ■

Keven Crawford '75

By Amy (Kean) VerSteege '96, Editor

Many graduates have memorable stories about their college journey, but **Keven Crawford '75** may be the only one who can say a flat tire rerouted his, and gave him the chance to help recruit a future College Football Hall of Famer to play for the Grizzlies.

# FLAT-OUT FRA

Keven and his brother, **Brad Crawford '78**, D.D.S., grew up north of Indianapolis, in rural Winamac, Indiana, where they recollect being “surrounded by corn and soybeans in all directions.” Hunting and fishing were two of their favorite pastimes, and sports were a significant part of their lives. Keven lettered in five high school sports, and Brad lettered in four.

Winamac Community High School's first time fielding a varsity football team was coincidentally Keven's senior year. He played quarterback and defensive back, and the team enjoyed a winning season that left him wanting more time on the gridiron. When a friend attending college in Alabama on a basketball scholarship encouraged Keven to visit and check out the football program, the timing was perfect. Keven liked what he saw, and he succeeded in making the team and earning a college football scholarship.

MIKE LEONARD

**"FRANKLIN COLLEGE PROVIDED US WITH A SOLID EDUCATION THAT INCLUDED THE PERFECT COMBINATION OF ACADEMICS, ATHLETICS AND SOCIAL OPPORTUNITIES."**

**KEVEN CRAWFORD '75**

Back home in Indiana for the summer, he took a job with a mowing crew to make extra money before reporting to football camp. On a day he was dispatched to mow along Interstate Highway 65, south of Indianapolis, a flat tire tractor brought his work to a halt. He loaded the flat in his truck, headed down the interstate to find a repair shop and took the first exit he saw, No. 90, to Franklin. When the mechanic told Keven the wait would be a couple hours, he decided to go for a walk, and that led him to the Franklin College campus.

“I’d never been to Franklin College before, but I quickly found the football stadium and went in for a closer look. That’s where I made acquaintance with Coach Faught.”

# FRANKLIN

Stewart “Red” Faught, now deceased, was talking with a maintenance technician near the north end zone. When he spotted Keven, he came to offer assistance. After Keven discovered Faught was the head football coach, their conversation ignited.

“I learned he had played quarterback at Indiana State University, and I remember him talking that day about the ‘run and shoot offense’ he coached at Franklin, meaning they threw the ball about 40 times per game,” said Keven. “That was virtually unheard of back then, but Coach Faught’s philosophy was something like, ‘If you’re not supposed to throw the ball, then they would’ve put sand in it.’”

Time passed quickly as they talked, and it was soon time to retrieve the tire. They parted ways, and a couple of months later Keven headed south to football camp, where he learned the head coach who signed him was transitioning to another

college. A couple weeks later, another disappointment came for the defensive back who suffered a severe groin pull.

“I pushed myself to keep playing, but that only aggravated the injury. My injury also started affecting my relationship with the coaching staff. My instincts told me I needed to leave that college so I started to think about my options,” Keven recalled.

Finding a college closer to home and family was high on his list, and Keven’s thoughts kept circling back to Franklin College, more specifically Coach Faught.

“Even though we hadn’t talked for long the day I ran into him at the stadium, he came across as very genuine. We both obviously loved football, and there was just a strong connection,” Keven recalled.

Eventually, Keven wrote Faught a letter explaining his change in status. When Faught promptly wrote back, indicated he remembered the day they met and encouraged applying to Franklin College as soon as possible, Keven was “pleasantly surprised and encouraged.”

“He said if I made it into the football program and performed well that a scholarship\* would be available. I trained hard, and he came through with it a short time later. Coach Faught was a man of his word. His integrity and treatment of others are two of many reasons he’s deserving of having the Franklin College stadium named in his honor,” Keven said.

In 1999, the College renovated and named the athletic facility now known as Stewart “Red” Faught Stadium. In addition to coaching football 32 years at Franklin College, Faught had roles, sometimes simultaneously, as athletic



**Brad Crawford '78, D.D.S.**

director, head track coach and physical education department chair.

“He worked very hard at maintaining positive relationships with everyone around him, and observing how he conducted himself was truly a learning experience. I think many of us tried to emulate Coach Faught after we graduated and worked on advancing in our respective careers,” Keven said.

As Keven continued to have an overall positive Franklin College experience, his satisfaction caught Brad’s attention. Moreover, Keven made sure his younger brother’s athletic prowess caught Faught’s attention. Brad set records in his high school’s long jump competitions and qualified for the state track championship, where Faught went to watch him compete. Faught was so impressed he offered Brad a track scholarship. He also highly encouraged Brad to play football, even though he had some concerns about the lightweight.

Keven said, “I told Coach Faught he would have a different opinion after seeing Brad in a full-contact scrimmage, and he did. Brad’s quickness and his ability to break on the ball and close down on a receiver were amazing, and I remember getting a thumbs up from Coach Faught after he saw Brad play.”

Another example of mutual trust and respect between Coach Faught and the Crawford brothers traces back to a 1974 game against Georgetown College. After a knee injury in the previous season, running back **Steve DeVore '77** made his highly anticipated return to the field only to reinjure his knee. Faught needed a replacement immediately, and he delegated Keven.

“I was the strong safety on defense, and I’d never run an offensive play at Franklin so I didn’t know the plays. I told that to Coach Faught, and with

that self-confident smile that anyone who ever knew him will remember, he said to me, ‘Don’t you know I know that Crawford? You’ll be fine.’”

That game remains ingrained in Keven’s memory 45 years later.

“I remember lining up in my stance behind the quarterback, **Joe Bath '75**, and asking him which direction I was supposed to go for pass blocking. With every running call, Joe had to tell me in the huddle what I was supposed to do. I was on sensory overload from trying to absorb my new assignments, react in real time to the play call and take the handoff without fumbling. That game was very intense.”

Keven’s most vivid memory is of the confidence Faught showed in him.

“That exchange between us still gives me inspiration, especially when I’m not feeling very confident about a situation. It’s one of the things Coach Faught did as a mentor that I came to truly appreciate later in my life,” Keven said.

The Georgetown game also was significant to Brad’s football career. When starting cornerback **Larry Edmond '74** broke his hand, Brad, then a freshman, stepped up and executed masterfully. He was a starter in every game thereafter. Ask Brad about that game, though, and he’ll tell you about the three rushing touchdowns that landed Keven in the *Franklin College Football Record Book*.

“To make those plays and never have practiced in the running back position is truly an incredible accomplishment, and keep in mind that he also played on defense. As Keven’s younger brother, I also take pride in him being appointed team captain his senior year. Even with damaged cartilage and ligaments in his right foot, Keven helped lead our team to a winning record,” Brad said.

Keven added, “In full disclosure, I’m actually tied with two others in that single game touchdown record. **Ron Doyle '74** (now deceased) did it four times, and **Joey Pasquale '15** did once. Regardless, my record hardly stands up to Brad’s overall athletic accomplishments at Franklin.”

Brad is a member of the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics Hall of Fame ('86), Franklin College Athletic Hall of Fame ('89) and the College Football Hall of Fame ('00). According to the latter’s website, Brad’s “forte was speed, a talent he utilized to run back kickoffs and intercept passes.” He anchored the Grizzlies’ defense four consecutive years as a starter and set the College’s record for interceptions in a season with nine in 1975; **Mike Brouwer '97** tied in 1995. The Grizzlies also named Brad football MVP three times, and he graduated holding career records for interceptions, 25, and kickoff return average, 25.9 yards. He earned NAIA first-team All-America honors three times.

“It meant a lot having Coach Faught and Coach Chiarotti at my Franklin College Football Hall of Fame induction because they had a huge impact on my college experience,” Brad said.

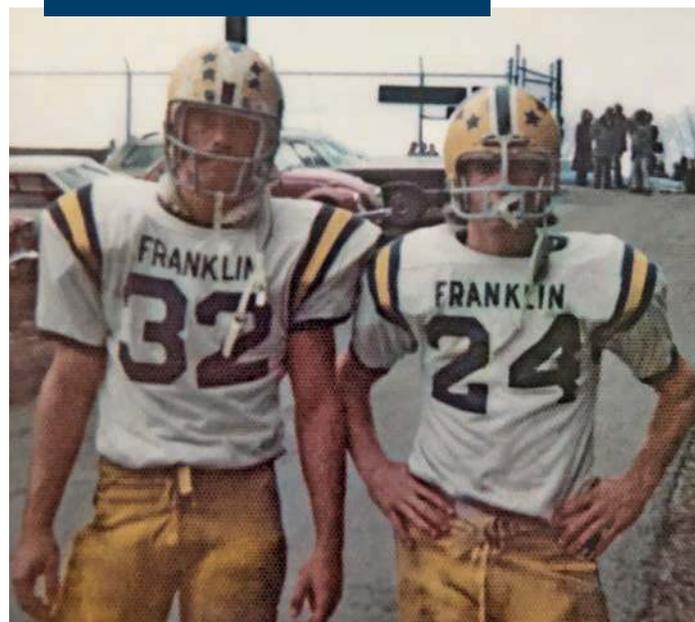
**John Chiarotti '67**, now deceased, was the Grizzlies’ defensive coordinator, as well as the track and field coach. The Crawford brothers also fondly recall offensive coordinator **Harold “Butch” Lawson '65**, now deceased.

Under Chiarotti’s leadership, Brad earned four letters in track and was selected team MVP three times. At 10.8 seconds, Brad remains the College’s co-record holder, along with **Mike McClure '75** and **Randy Duerksen '78**, in the 100-meter dash. At Faught’s request, Keven also participated in track his senior year, running the 440-yard dash and joining Brad on the 440-relay team.



At left, brothers **Keven Crawford '75** and **Brad Crawford '78**, now, and at right, then.

SUBMITTED PHOTOS



After Brad's senior football season, a scout for the Baltimore Colts visited Franklin to discuss a possible tryout. Brad respectfully declined because he had been accepted already to the Indiana University School of Dentistry. The choice has enabled Brad to run a successful dental practice in Winamac for more than 40 years.

Although Keven has lived in other states throughout his long career of providing transportation solutions for individuals with mobility challenges, he still calls Winamac "home base." In fact, a local company that employed Keven as a teenager to assemble wheelchair scooters and van lifts introduced him to the industry that launched his career.

Throughout college, Keven worked part time for the Winamac-based company, and he transitioned to full time after graduation. He helped the company grow in the mid-1970s by earning business from the Veterans Administration and Department of Vocational Rehabilitation, whose procurement processes included bid requests for customized mobility

products to help their clients.

"Their bid requests were like prescriptions, and I had taken kinesiology and related courses at Franklin so I understood the anatomical terminology. It enabled me to help put together bids that factored in all the special equipment and modifications required to fulfill a specific request. In retrospect, my Franklin College courses were very instrumental in my early career advancements."

Keven eventually rose to executive vice president of sales and marketing, and was involved in setting up divisions and dealerships across the United States and abroad. He also helped the company secure its first patents, of which he is a listed inventor. Today, Keven provides product design input and business development support to the Fenton Mobility Co., where he also is a listed inventor.

As the Crawford brothers ease down the road toward retirement, they are appreciative of all they learned and gained from the bumps in the road of

their life journeys and especially for the flat tire and detour that led them to Franklin College.

"Going to the same college as my brother and being close enough to Winamac that our parents and close friends could join in is something I'll always be grateful for," Brad said.

Keven added, "Absolutely! Franklin College provided us with a solid education that included the perfect combination of academics, athletics and social opportunities. The faculty, and particularly coaches Faught, Chiarotti and Lawson, all played key roles in helping us move our lives in the right direction."

*\*As a current member of the NCAA Division III, Franklin College is prohibited from awarding athletic scholarships, though student-athletes are eligible for need-based financial assistance and academic-merit awards. The Crawford brothers received athletic scholarships at a time when the College was in the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics. ■*



# PRESCRIPTION FOR SUCCESS

By Amy (Kean) VerSteeg '96, Editor

**Being the President/CEO of a health network means being part business leader and part politician, and it requires a precise dose of diplomacy, advocacy, business management and financial sense. It is a challenging, rewarding, tireless role, and one that David H. “Dave” Dunkle '94, M.D., is humbled and honored to have.**

The Johnson Memorial Health (JMH) Board of Trustees announced his appointment as President/CEO of the Franklin, Indiana-based health network in May 2019. Dunkle, a longtime family physician with JMH had been acting as interim CEO the previous three months. Prior to that, his patients and peers had named him JMH’s “2018 Physician of the Year.”

Over the last two years, Dunkle has been heavily involved in the planning and construction of JMH’s new emergency department and outpatient-services building, and he continues to serve as vice president for medical affairs, a role he had prior to taking the President/CEO reins. Additionally, he is vice president of the JMH Foundation, which helps provide scholarships for future health care professionals and support local access to mental health care services, among other outreach.

While keeping a finger on the pulse of JMH operations, Dunkle also engages frequently with external constituents. From speaking at chamber of commerce luncheons and attending county economic development discussions, to meeting with Franklin city leaders such as the mayor, community schools superintendent and Franklin College president throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, Dunkle ensures

JMH fulfills its promise of truly being part of the community, to help achieve great health outcomes.

One example is the forthcoming JMH Athletics Annex at Franklin College, made possible by a \$1 million commitment this spring. The indoor multiuse annex will accommodate a variety of athletic practices to support year-round conditioning, skills development and overall physical health. An investment in student health is, ultimately, an investment in the Franklin community since many students work and volunteer at local businesses, and choose to make the community their permanent residence upon graduation. Such was the case for Dunkle, who grew up in West Lafayette, Indiana, and came to Franklin for college.

Dunkle was a standout Grizzlies' basketball player and is distinguished as the College's first Academic All-American and NCAA Postgraduate Scholarship recipient. He went on to graduate from Indiana University School of Medicine and completed his residency at St. Francis Hospital in Indianapolis. Dunkle then returned to Franklin to practice medicine and reengage with his alma mater. He subsequently served for 16 years as the College Health Center's visiting physician and traveled with the men's basketball team for some time as well. Recognizing his passion for Franklin College and sound leadership in business and the community, the College Board of Trustees recently welcomed Dunkle as a new member.

Here, we share a glimpse of Dunkle's career insights, college memories and prescription for success.

**What motivated you to move from practicing medicine full time into health care administration?**

"It was a very difficult decision because I had worked really hard

**"ACCOUNTABILITY, COMPASSION, TEAMWORK AND TRANSPARENCY ARE ALL IMPORTANT TO ME AS A LEADER, AND AN IMPORTANT PART OF OUR JMH CULTURE AND VALUES. I ALSO PRACTICE BEING QUICK TO LISTEN AND SLOW TO SPEAK."**

**DAVID H. "DAVE" DUNKLE '94, M.D.**

to build a successful practice and take care of multiple generations of families over the years, but I discovered administration was my passion. I realized that in administration I could do even more to affect health outcomes in my community as a whole than I was able to as a physician caring for 4,000 to 5,000 patients.

"When I was first named interim CEO, I still saw patients a few days a week. After I became CEO full time, I transitioned to seeing patients one day a week. In addition to providing patient care, I looked at the visits as an opportunity to be a 'secret shopper.' I asked patients about their experiences going through registration, getting lab work done and visiting with specialists. It was a great way for me to learn more about JMH services from a patient's perspective.

"After COVID-19 hit, I could no longer see patients because it just became too much. I needed to focus my full efforts on being CEO. As I've continued in this role, listening is still very important to my job. I think listening — to patients, physicians, staff, directors, community partners and other constituents — has helped me do well in a lot of situations when rash responses would have been the wrong responses."

**What have you learned from listening to constituents?**

"That health care is important to everyone. Everyone wants good medical outcomes, and we all share concerns about accessibility and affordability. As JMH works to find that balance, we also must assess which new services and providers are needed in the community, and how to continuously try improving upon what we already do very well. We take great pride in JMH being the only full-service hospital in Johnson County and the largest employer in Franklin, and we recognize the responsibility that brings."

**What allowed you to start really learning the business of health care?**

"For one, a mentor. I'm very grateful to Dr. Michael Fletcher, vice president and chief medical officer of Hancock Health (Greenfield, Indiana). He took me under his wing and encouraged my involvement in the American Association for Physician Leadership. The Association offers professional development programs and continuing education courses, and they helped grow my excitement about opportunities in medical leadership.

"Another factor was earning my MBA. The Association has a relationship

Continued, Page 36 . . .

with the University of Massachusetts' MBA program, which enabled me to do prerequisite Continuing Medical Education work and earn my degree online, in just under four years. On top of a great curriculum, the program provided a great space for peer interaction. Since about 60% of people in the MBA program were physicians I had the chance to exchange ideas with people working all across the country in a variety of health care settings."

**What has been the greatest challenge facing JMH in response to COVID-19?**

"The greatest challenge throughout all of this continues to be staffing. We have a national shortage of nurses and respiratory therapists, and a lot of health care workers have left the field because of COVID-19. As other people sheltered and worked from home during the early part of the pandemic, health care workers didn't have that opportunity. Working throughout the pandemic has been emotionally draining on them and their families; this hasn't been a punch the time clock and leave it at work scenario.

"As I've said publicly before, the number of physical beds at JMH is not our greatest limitation; it's having enough people to staff the beds. There are a lot of important health care team members who go unnoticed until there's no one to fill their roles . . . ultrasound technicians, phlebotomists, environmental services staff, to name a few. Staffing is a current challenge that's not just systemwide or statewide, it's nationwide. Also, factor in that there's a lot of competition for startups, and the hiring and orientation processes require significant time, and you get a sense of what health care facilities are facing."

**Being a CEO in a smallish community means living in a fish bowl.**

**How do you deal with the scrutiny?**

"I have a lot of faith in our organization, in the staff and volunteers and in our product. They are what give me confidence in representing JMH.

"I'm also very proud of our awards for patient safety and outcomes, and of the work we continue to do in looking for different avenues to provide quality, affordable health care. I'm very enthusiastic about the future, and the services we provide. And I'm very confident we will continue to improve health care in Johnson County."

**What do you stand for as a leader?**

"Accountability, compassion, teamwork and transparency are all important to me as a leader, and an important part of our JMH culture and values. I also practice being quick to listen and slow to speak."

**What has been a moment of success or excitement for you as a leader?**

"A couple really stand out. One was when (Indiana) Gov. Eric Holcomb read a letter at one of his televised press conferences from a family with a father who received great care at JMH during the height of the pandemic. I could not have been more proud. So many people were involved in that man's care; I can't put into words how proud I was.

"Another point of pride was when JMH hosted a group of suburban hospital leaders. One of them said, 'I can't believe what you've done with this place.' I thought he was referring to the new construction, but he went on to say that on his walk over to the conference room, five people with smiling faces stopped and asked if he needed help. We've worked so hard as an organization to embrace a patient-first culture over the last two years that it was extremely rewarding to have a fellow CEO recognize it."

**Who were your College mentors?**

"My greatest mentor was Coach Kerry Prather (now Franklin College President, but then head men's basketball coach). He taught me lessons about leadership and life that were valuable beyond the basketball arena, and I know he's been an outstanding influence on many other young men he coached.

"I'm also grateful for Drs. Steve Browder and Sam Rhodes (now biology professors emeriti). They had a passion for teaching life sciences, and were always so encouraging of my career pursuit in medicine."

**How have you stayed engaged with the College since graduating?**

"I was a physician for the Student Health Center, and I used to travel with the men's basketball team. I also hosted several students for observational and clinical experiences in my family medical practice, and participated on panel discussions for pre-professional students. I've talked to student-athletes about the dangers of alcohol, and more recently been a resource on COVID-19 safety and mitigation. And I'm very proud to be a long-time donor to the College and member of the Goaltenders Club."

**What do you hope to contribute to the College as a trustee?**

"I look forward to helping the College fulfill its mission, and I'm ready to help recruit top student talent, become acquainted with more of the faculty and get involved in strategy. I'd like to see the College keep moving forward in establishing itself as a great leader among peers in education. I'd also like to see more involvement from my fellow alumni, not only financially but with their time."

*Dunkle resides in the Center Grove area with his spouse, Amy, and their two children, Evan and Reese. His brother, Rick Dunkle '01, also attended Franklin. ■*

# Your Franklin Fund gifts matter.



“My parents are in Vietnam and due to COVID-19, I haven’t been able to go home in quite a while. I love Franklin because our professors really care about us and are always there to help. A liberal arts education was important to me because I wanted professors that would interact with students, not just lecture. I am so glad I chose to come to Franklin College!”

**Nhi Tran '23**, chemistry major  
*Involved in Chemistry Club and Alpha Lambda Delta national honor society for first-year success.*

“I am thankful to donors who invest in Franklin College, which in turn allows professors to invest in their students. The mathematics and computing department, in particular, works to relate your passion to a career by connecting you with alumni who are in a similar field. In this way, I can invest in me, and truly focus on having a successful Franklin College experience.”

**Dylan Harker '21**, pure mathematics, applied mathematics and quantitative analysis majors  
*Involved in men’s swimming and diving, Math Club and peer tutoring in the Math Study Center.*



PHOTOS BY CHAD WILLIAMS

## FRANKLIN FUND GIFTS

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- Advance the innovation, leadership and action students and graduates are demonstrating around the world.
- Demonstrate confidence in the College’s reputation and value.



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# BY THE BOOK

By Sara McAninch, *SOUTH Magazine*

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## The teen and adult reference librarian at the Johnson County Public Library – Clark Pleasant Branch in New Whiteland, Indiana, is one busy bibliophile.

**Erin Cataldi '11**, the eldest of 12 children, moved from Northern Indiana to get her bachelor's degree in history from Franklin College. She stayed through a master's program in library science at Indiana University – Purdue University Indianapolis (IUPUI), and today she lives in downtown Franklin with John, her partner of five years, and their four cats.

"I came down to Franklin for college, and I never left," she said.

After more than eight years as a librarian, her love of and enthusiasm for books has not waned. If anything, it has increased, as she has taken on new roles in other literature-based areas, such as writing book reviews for local magazines and editorials for the news-

paper. She also blogs for JCPL on Facebook. Further, Cataldi is a part-time adjunct professor for the IUPUI library-science division. She has spent the past six years teaching students how to recommend books, write reviews and start book clubs. Here, Cataldi gives a glimpse of why she loves being a librarian:

### **What is most rewarding about your work as a librarian?**

"I get people all the time who come in and say, 'It's just books. Why do we need a library when we have Google?' In addition to books, our library system has a variety of programming and does a lot of community outreach. The scope is really impressive to me. We try to do a lot in the schools and community, like



promoting summer reading and participating in different fairs and festivals.

"I love the people who come in for the first time, in like a decade, and are in awe because they can sign up for after-school programs, and can even check out DVDs, sewing machines, board games, baking pans and science kits.

"In partnership with AARP, the library also offers annual tax preparation services. While I can't legally advise anyone on

their taxes, I can print the needed forms. I give a lot of book recommendations and answer reference questions, like when a house was built, how many food pantries are in the county and which indigenous tribes were from this area. I like it when I get a harder question, and I have to dig deeper to find an answer.

"I'm also proud of starting our Local Author Book Fair and Stout Stories Book Club. The fair happens every spring, except in 2020 when we had to cancel because



of the pandemic. It also launched our local-author book collection. Stout Stories was a collaborative idea between me and the children's librarian at the JCPL - Trafalgar Branch. A few years ago, we approached our branch managers with the idea of putting the 'pub' in public library. Now, our book club meets monthly at Johnson County-based breweries and wineries. Anyone 21 and over can join. There's no residency requirement; you don't even have to own a library card."

**You were featured in Kyle Cassidy's 2017 book, "This is What a Librarian Looks Like: A Celebration of Libraries, Communities and Access to Information." How did you get involved with that book?**

"That was a right place, right time situation. In 2014, I was lucky enough to get chosen to go to the American Library Association conference in Las Vegas. Kyle Cassidy had done a Kickstarter about the book, and he was going to be at the conference to take photos. There were

hundreds of librarians in line to get their photo taken, so I didn't know right away that I was going in there, let alone be on the cover. I didn't even see the cover until it hit the Amazon presale. The coolest moment of that experience was seeing that Carla Hayden, the current librarian of Congress, was photographed in her office at the Library of Congress holding the book."

**Almost everything is digital nowadays, including books, so why should people still go to the library?**

"In addition to the previously mentioned programming and community outreach the library offers, information literacy, like spotting fake news and learning what material to trust online, is a big reason why libraries are still relevant, especially for students. There's so much on the internet that it's hard to find reliable sources. The library really shines in this area because it has resources that can be trusted, and references to help people find the data they need. Also, a lot of e-books cost money, but the library has them to loan. I don't think print books are going anywhere, especially based on what I've seen over the past couple of years. There's a market for both print and e-books." ■



## Love to read?

Join the club! The Franklin College virtual book club for alumni, friends, faculty and staff provides a private discussion forum where participants can explore a wide range of topics and perspectives related to their shared reading experience. The book club discusses one book every two months so keeping up is manageable for most readers. Find a list of FAQs and previous book selections at [FranklinCollege.edu/alumni](https://FranklinCollege.edu/alumni).

# GAME ON

By Alexa Shrake '23, Pulliam Fellow

## After many years of playing along with TV game shows at home, Jasmin Hashi '09 got her “game on” in real life.

“It was like two dreams came true,” Hashi said. “One, I got to be on a game show. Two, I got to sit and be a part of the house where Alex Trebek filmed.”

Trebek, now deceased, was the longtime host of “Jeopardy,” which is filmed on the same studio lot as “Wheel of Fortune.” Hashi credits Trebek for teaching her a lifetime of trivia that has come in handy on countless occasions, including this spring when she excelled during the online audition process for “Wheel of Fortune.” Hashi’s trivia savvy helped her land a TV appearance in April. She competed on a special episode offering the chance to win a home in one of the Latitude Margaritaville communities which singer Jimmy Buffett, famous for the 1977 hit “Margaritaville,” helped develop.

Hashi came in second place and did not win the home, but she has some prized memories from the experience. The colorful custom set is one. Hashi played on a “Wheel of Fortune” set that included images and decor from Margaritaville-branded products and communities.

Another of her memories is the close bond the contestants formed. Due to COVID-19 safety restrictions,

there was not a live studio audience so when the final contestant advanced to the bonus round the others became the audience and cheered for her.

“In that moment when you would normally have a family member run down and celebrate winning with you, she couldn’t. So we all became her COVID-safe family and helped her celebrate,” Hashi said of the Margaritaville-home winner.

Although she wanted to share the game show results with family and friends right away, Hashi was contractually obligated to keep details about the winnings secret until after the show aired.

By profession, Hashi is working in physical production animation and features with Netflix. She enjoyed the new experience of witnessing behind the scenes of game show production.

“To be there on the set and see all the inner workings to make the TV magic happen was very enlightening,” Hashi said.

For example, there are crew members who change the wedges on the spinning wheel while others help get the contestants excited about the next round of

play. She also learned that since “Wheel of Fortune” and “Jeopardy” are filmed on neighboring stages, several of the crew members are involved in producing both shows.

“You can feel the pride of everyone on that stage,” Hashi said.

Hashi, a resident of Los Angeles, California, said she is proud to now be part of a “Wheel of Fortune” alumni group that keeps in touch. And she still loves playing along with current contestants from her living room. ■

*Jasmin Hashi '09*



# CLASS NOTES

## '60s

**James R. Beatty '65**, Ph.D., has been a professor at San Diego State University since 1973. He teaches statistics and psychology courses. He and spouse **Ann (Childs) '65**, married since 1963, have three children and 10 grandchildren. James shared the following message to alumni and friends, "I wish everyone happiness, peace and good fortune."

## '70s

**Michael Strzelecki '77**, M.D., recently retired from his internal medicine-geriatrics practice after 36 years with The South Bend (Indiana) Clinic. His spouse of 37 years, Gayle, is a registered nurse at Notre Dame. They have four children, three of whom work in health care. Michael shared, "I was best known at Franklin as a member of The Pigs intramural sports teams and the instigator of the infamous yearly "TV Smash."

## '80s

**E. Lynn Grayson '83**, a partner with the boutique environmental law firm Nijman-Franzetti LLP, began her term as the 2021-22 president of the Chicago Bar Association (CBA) in June. The CBA, founded in 1874, is the oldest and most active metropolitan bar association in the United States. Upon moving her law practice to Chicago from Springfield, Grayson joined the CBA. She first served on its Alliance for Women, which she co-chaired. CBA members later elected Grayson to the board of managers, the executive committee, and to the roles of secretary, second



1: **E. Lynn Grayson '83**  
2: **Daniel Markham '89**



SUBMITTED PHOTOS

vice president, first vice president and president. She also serves on the board of directors of the Chicago Bar Foundation, the CBA's charitable arm. Grayson is the 11th woman lawyer to serve as CBA's president.

**Debbie (Hill) Davis '86**, Ed.D., ABC, APR, Fellow PRSA, has added assistant dean for curriculum and instruction to her faculty role in the College of Media and Communication at Texas Tech University. She also is an assistant professor of practice in public relations and the adviser to RaiderComm, the student-run agency. Davis is a former Franklin College Trustee. She and spouse Mike live in Lubbock.

**Bob Satnan '86**, communication director for Sedalia School District 200, was named the Missouri School Public Relations Association's 2021 Professional of the Year. A press release indicated several themes were recurrent in his nomination letters, including "his vision, passion, empathy, dedication and genuine persona."

**Daniel Markham '89** recently made the first stop in his anticipated year-long journey to attend mass in all 50 states, the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico. The experiences will be chronicled in his forthcoming book, *52 Masses*. He shared the following preview on Facebook in June: "At each parish or place I worship, I will write about someone or something taking place there. For example, I will visit Saints Peter and Paul Catholic Church in St. Louis, where the church operates a 60-bed homeless shelter in the basement. In Alaska, I will join priest/pilot Father Scott as he flies across the southwestern corner of the state to serve his far-flung congregation. In Connecticut, I will talk with Monsignor Weiss and the parishioners of St. Rose, as they discuss how the parish has helped the Newtown community recover from the Sandy Hook shooting. I will profile truly wonderful people, doing inspiring things. I pray I am able to give these subjects the treatment they deserve." See [52Masses.com](http://52Masses.com) for more details.

## '90s

**Paul Thompson '94** was promoted to a new role as customer success account manager for Microsoft Healthcare. As a senior member of the account team in Indiana, he helps coordinate and facilitate programs for hospitals and health providers to ensure business outcomes are achieved leveraging Microsoft services.

**Melanie Padgett Powers '95** is the owner of MelEdits, a freelance writing and editing business based in the D.C. area. The AM&P Network's Associations Council recently honored her with two EXCEL Awards, recognizing excellence and leadership in association media, publishing, marketing and communication. She earned a Gold Award in the Magazine Feature Article (10,000 or fewer) category. Her article, "Gene Screen," was written for the *The Physiologist Magazine*. Further, she is the magazine's managing editor and received a Gold Award in the Magazine General Excellence (10,000 or fewer) category. She also is the creator and host of the "Deliberate Freelancer" podcast, which recently celebrated its 100th episode.



## Pack your bags!

We are heading to Alaska for a Grizzlies' getaway in 2022, and we are looking for alumni and friends to join in the adventure. Follow our Franklin College social media accounts and check your email for details soon.

## '00s

**Jen Pittman '00**, of Noblesville, Indiana, was recognized by OneAmerica® as an ASPIRE honoree, as a result of her outstanding service on behalf of the life insurance, retirement and employee benefits organization. She was one of 12 associates honored at the company's seventh annual ASPIRE awards banquet on Feb. 17. The ASPIRE principles, achievement, stewardship, partnership, integrity, responsiveness and excellence, guide OneAmerica associates in all work endeavors. A press release stated, "Pittman was a driving force in internal and external response to racial injustice. Colleagues lauded her for effectively leading the team that produced the myriad communications required for OneAmerica to function well during the pandemic." This year, 318 individuals were nominated by 243 peers, supervisors or project partners for the annual honor.

**Ray Watkins '03** became environmental office manager for the adjutant general's office at Camp Atterbury in Edinburgh, Indiana, in June 2021.

**Dave Cataldi '04** and spouse **Jenny (Piland) '05** are the parents of a son, Jack Cameron Kenton, born June 15, 2021. He joins a brother, Carter. Jenny is the director of global education at Franklin College. The family resides in Indianapolis.

**Joel Spriggs '04** published a new horror-comedy story, *The Headless FloridaMan*. Spriggs, inspired by a night of watching *The Legend of Sleepy Hollow* and the *Trailer Park Boys*, merged the two concepts to create his original story. He is currently seeking willing agents interested in making the story into a movie, show or musical.

**Melissa Russell-Plunkett '05** obtained her master's degree in mental health counseling and is now a licensed

counselor in the state of Indiana. Melissa and spouse **Chris '02** are owners of a private practice called Bespoke Counseling Services, with offices in Greenwood and Shelbyville.

**Holly (Essex) Marshall '07**, MSN, RN, recently transitioned to Indiana University Health to serve as the home health and hospice clinical operations manager.

**Lauren Oosterlinck '07** and spouse Ben Edwards celebrated their 10th wedding anniversary, May 22, 2021. They recently relocated from New York to Indiana. They reside in Indianapolis, where Lauren works as a copywriter.

**David Swinehamer '07** and spouse **Amber (Sandlin) '06** are the parents of a son, Aiden Drew, born Jan. 29, 2021. He joins a brother, Austin, 8. David recently was promoted to sergeant at the Beaufort County Sheriff's Office. The family resides in Bluffton, South Carolina.

**Andrea Heiden '09** and Brandon Russell married on Dec. 4, 2020, at the Gallery Pastry Shop in Indianapolis. Andrea is a licensed mental health therapist in private practice at Southside Counseling Associates in Greenwood. Brandon is employed in the marketing division of G&H Orthodontics in Franklin. They reside in Indianapolis.

**Amanda (Morris) Henry '09** recently joined the Franklin College staff as the education technology specialist.

**Adam Kloss '09** and spouse **Catherine (Lewinski) '09** welcomed their third child, Wesley, in February 2021. He joins siblings Melanie and Travis.

**Craig Parker '09** transitioned to the role of electrical and general trades supervisor at Franklin College this spring. He also completed a four-year electrical apprenticeship program through ABC Indiana Kentucky, and

earned his electrician journeyman's license in May. He holds a bachelor's degree in theatre from Franklin and master's degree in fine arts from Butler University.

## '10s

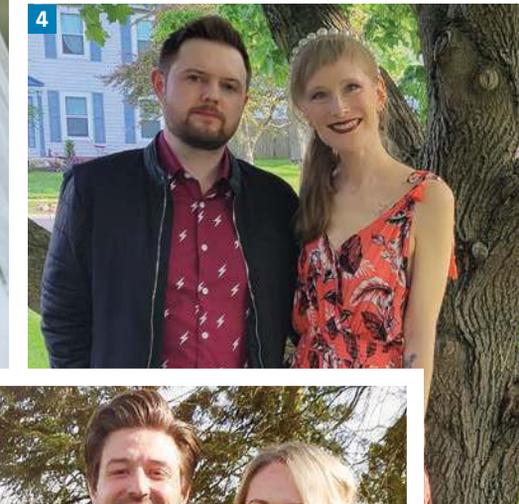
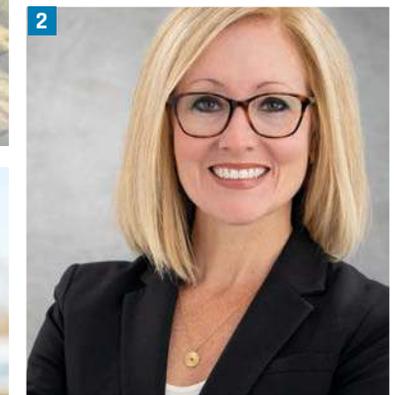
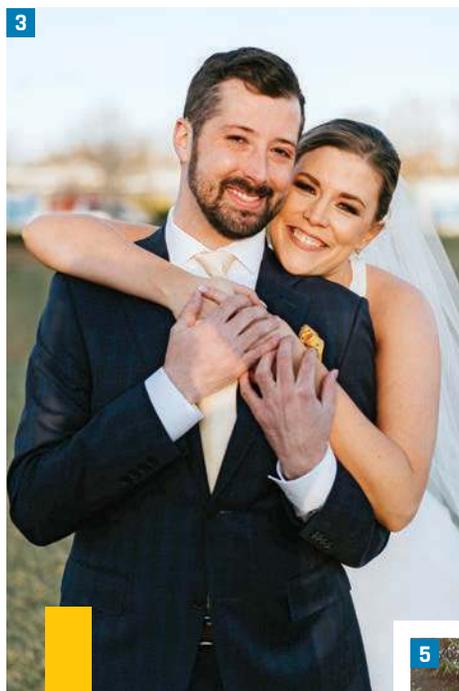
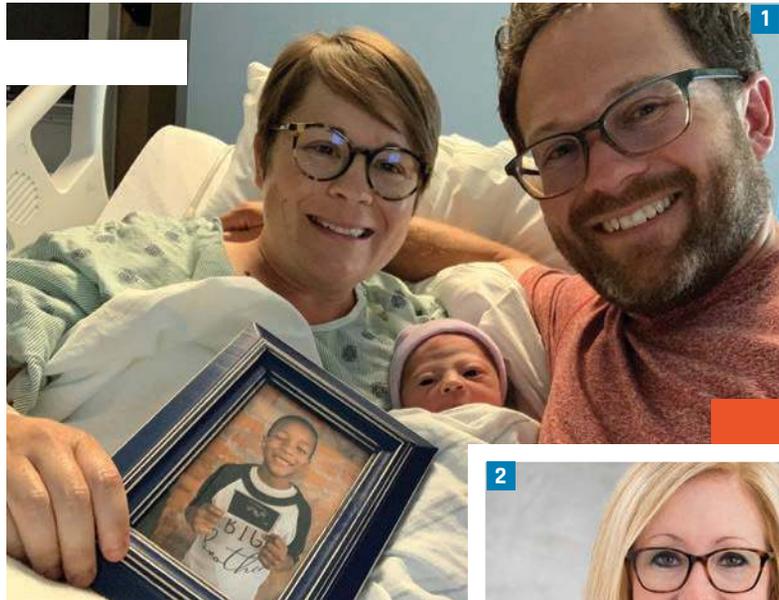
**Kristin (Howard) Clingaman '10** and spouse Jacob are the parents of a son, Evan Michael, born Jan. 22, 2021. They reside in Peru, Indiana.

**Amanda McIntosh '10** and Ashley Fox married on March 30, 2021. They reside in Dudley, England, his native country. Amanda works for Capgemini as a Salesforce functional consultant. Amanda shared, "When our original wedding date was canceled due to the United Kingdom's COVID-19 lockdown in January 2021, I volunteered with the National Health Service and Kinver High School, where Ashley is a history teacher and the head of sixth form (last two years of secondary education). I assisted students and staff with the COVID-19 testing process to ensure a safe environment as they returned to school."

**Summer (French) Havron '11** earned a promotion from marketing automation manager to senior manager—sales, data and analytics at dormakaba. She resides in Indianapolis with spouse Chris and their sons, Westen and Grayson.

**Justin Moran '11**, Franklin College head men's tennis coach, and spouse Brittany are the parents of a daughter, Everly Ann, born May 26, 2021.

**Natalie Robinson '12** was promoted in February 2021 to assistant director of student and faculty services for the Graduate College at Iowa State University. Her role includes training, supervising and leading a team of academic services staff, offering students guidance, enforcing policies, orchestrating awards programs and



**1: Jennifer (Pilard) Cataldi '05**, spouse **David '04**, infant son Jack and son Carter in framed photo

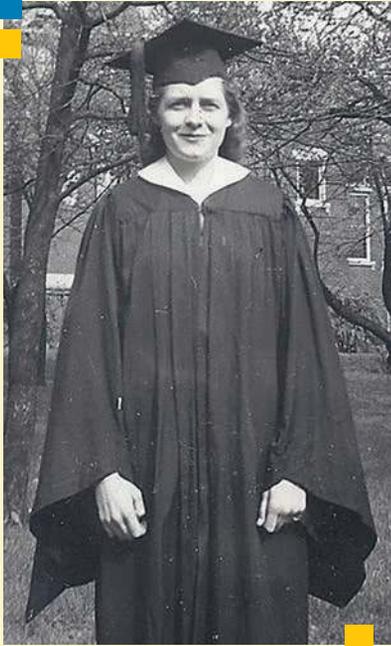
**2: Jen Pittman '00**

**3: Brandon Russell and spouse Andrea (Heiden) '09**

**4: Ben Edwards and spouse Lauren Oosterlinck '07**

**5: Ashley Fox and spouse Amanda (McIntosh) '10**

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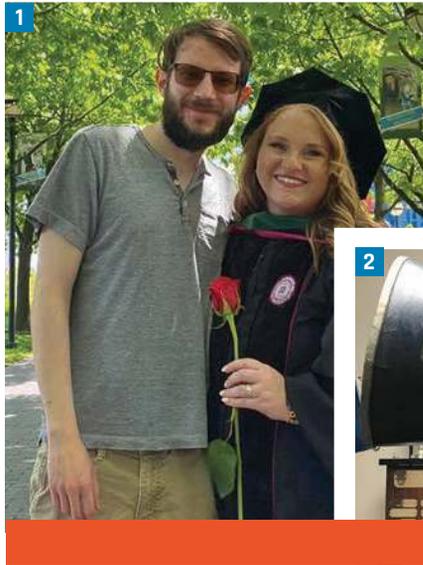


SUBMITTED

**Ila "Dee" (Dunn) Olson '44** dons her Franklin College graduation cap and gown.

## Birthday Cheer

**Ila "Dee" (Dunn) Olson '44** celebrated a milestone birthday in March 2021, when she turned 99! Dee, now a Maryland resident, shares many family ties to the College, including mother **Norris (Kerlin) 1918**, brothers **Ken Dunn '51** and **Dick Dunn '50**, sister-in-law **Marilyn (Brackman) Dunn '62**, niece **Lisa (Dunn) Brown '89** and great-nieces **Lauren (Hawes) Timm '12** and **McKenna Brown '18**. Niece Cathy Dunn is a current Franklin College Trustee. ■



SUBMITTED

**1: Jacob Huffman and spouse Kenzie (Glassburn) '17, M.D.**  
**2: Christian Bowling '19**



AMY (KEAN) VERSTEEG '96

analyzing data reports related to student enrollment, recruitment, retention and graduation rates. She volunteers with the Iowa Chapter of The Poor People's Campaign: A National Call for Moral Revival.

**Max Woodbury III '13**, president of Woodbury Group, in Franklin, Indiana, was a finalist in the 2021 Indy's Best and Brightest competition, created by Junior Achievement of Central Indiana to recognize the next generation of community leaders. The competition honors professionals age 40 and under.

**Erin Moll '16** and Jacob Brown married on Aug. 15, 2020, in Batesville, Indiana. She also graduated from Butler University in May 2021, with her master's degree in school counseling.

**Kenzie Glassburn '17**, M.D., married Jacob Huffman on March 8, 2021. She graduated from Indiana University School of Medicine this spring and is in residency at St. Luke's University Hospital in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania.

**Jordan Watson '17** is the owner of and an agent with American Family Insurance agency in Rushville, Indiana. He began his career in the insurance industry with Franklin's American Family.

**Christian Bowling '19** is completing his master's degree at the O'Neill School of Public and Environmental Affairs at Indiana University – Bloomington. This summer, he is a graduate student intern with the Franklin College Office of Development and Alumni Engagement. He has been involved in department projects focused on fundraising, alumni engagement, strategic planning, research and stewardship. He said, "A benefit of the internship is the exposure to each position within the office and to the variety of projects that contribute to helping the College reach its operational goals and create new opportunities." Bowling's career aspiration is to "lead for the greater good," fulfilling the charge set forth by the O'Neill School.

## '20s

**Kendall Hovis '20** is founder of Jolene's Boutique, an online Western, Boho-inspired clothier. She takes pride in the boutique's size-inclusive approach. She posted on Instagram, "I look forward to sharing my love of fashion with others, all while empowering those around me to step out of their comfort zones and dress in whatever they feel most confident and beautiful in." ■

# IN MEMORIAM

## '40s

### **Marian D. Callon '49**

Franklin College Heritage Society  
Whiteland, Indiana  
April 26, 2021

### **Basil W. Remley '49, D.D.S.**

Evansville, Wisconsin  
March 7, 2021

## '50s

### **Juanita N. "Netse" (Wuthrich) Williams '54**

Mequon, Wisconsin  
Jan. 31, 2021

### **Martha (Garner) Sass '56**

Valparaiso, Indiana  
Feb. 18, 2021

### **Donna (Mohr) Brown '57**

Brownstown, Indiana  
May 8, 2021

### **Henry F. Volk '59**

Pittsboro, Indiana  
April 9, 2021

## '60s

### **Burchard E. Wheatley '60**

Harvest, Alabama  
June 25, 2020

### **William M. "Bill" Wheeler '60**

Franklin, Indiana  
May 22, 2021

## '70s

### **Stephen P. Peck '70**

Ann Arbor, Michigan  
March 10, 2021

### **Roberta E. "Rusty" (Hanna) Van Sickle '73**

Palm Beach Gardens, Florida  
Jan. 25, 2021

## '80s

### **Gary D. Evans '83**

Indianapolis  
March 21, 2021

## Friends of Franklin College

### **Gilmore C. "Gil" Abplanalp**

Franklin College Heritage Society  
Franklin, Indiana  
May 26, 2021

### **\*Hester H. Coward**

former special collections curator for B.F. Hamilton Library at Franklin College  
Franklin, Indiana  
June 15, 2021

### **Rev. William J. Helm, Ph.D.**

Franklin College HD '80  
Indianapolis  
March 31, 2021

### **Nancy McCay**

former Franklin College admissions assistant  
Franklin, Indiana  
March 21, 2021

### **Jerry Miller**

Franklin College journalism professor emeritus  
Franklin, Indiana  
June 26, 2021

### **\*Betty C. Spears**

Franklin College Horizon Society  
Franklin, Indiana  
Jan. 6, 2021 ■

## Remembering a hero

SUBMITTED

Fifty years after the tragic death of **1st. Lt. Jim Harris '68**, a fighter pilot for the U.S. Air Force during the Vietnam War, the pain remains deep for his family and friends. Along with his parents and three sisters, Jim left behind a brother, **Don Harris '66**, to cherish his memory.



**1st. Lt. Jim Harris '68**

The brothers attended Franklin College concurrently and after graduating served in the military at the same time. Don was in the Army and stationed in Korea while Jim was in Vietnam. Jim perished on Feb. 1, 1971, while flying an A37 over Cambodia. As Don tried coming to grips with the devastating news, he also mustered the strength to escort Jim's body home for burial, a privilege the military granted.

Since that day, honoring Jim's memory and recognizing his ultimate sacrifice remains a significant part of Don's life purpose. Don helped facilitate a very special tribute this year, on the 50th anniversary of Jim's death. From the floor of the Virginia General Assembly, Del. Mark Sickles read a citation in recognition of Jim, his selfless service and his military honors, including the Distinguished Flying Cross and Air Medal, with the first through seventh Oak Leaf Clusters. Sickles also requested when the delegates adjourned that they do so in honor and memory of Jim.

The recorded tribute is available for viewing here, at the 4:18 mark, [VirginiaGeneralAssembly.gov/house/chamber/chamberstream.php](https://www.virginia.gov/house/chamber/chamberstream.php)

Friends wishing to reconnect may email [don.harris1@gmail.com](mailto:don.harris1@gmail.com). ■

*The Heritage Society recognizes individuals for extraordinary lifetime giving, both to the Franklin Fund and to specific projects that may include deferred gifts (appropriately documented) and gifts in kind. Lifetime giving also may include contributions made in the member's name through corporate gifts and matches and through private foundations, as well as by the member's spouse. The Horizon Society distinguishes individuals who have included the College in their estate planning.*

*HD indicates honorary degree.*

*\*Indicates request for memorial contributions to Franklin College, Office of Development and Alumni Engagement, 101 Branigin Boulevard, Franklin, Indiana 46131. For more information, call 317.738.8052.*

# GRIZ PRIDE

## BY THE NUMBERS

Our heartfelt thanks and congratulations for an incredible fiscal year! Your gifts between July 1, 2020 and June 30, 2021 totaled \$5,060,527, each one helping to ensure a distinctive and transformative Franklin College experience. Such a successful year in fundraising in the midst of a pandemic is possible only because of your generosity. Thank you — trustees, alumni, faculty, staff, parents, students, community friends and corporate partners — for your impact.

3,689 TOTAL DONORS



1,975 ALUMNI DONORS

838 FIRST-TIME DONORS



**\$1 MILLION** LARGEST SINGLE GIFT FROM AN ORGANIZATION

LARGEST SINGLE GIFT FROM AN INDIVIDUAL **\$500,000**

**22%** ALUMNI PARTICIPATION RATE (highest rate since 2012)

The Franklin Fund is a significant component of our annual fundraising efforts. It provides student financial aid, as well as support for ongoing learning opportunities. For the second consecutive time, with the previous fiscal year being the first ever in College history, your gifts to the Franklin Fund surpassed \$700,000. On behalf of current and future students, thank you!



**\$728,098** TOTAL RAISED (goal \$675,000)

2,244 GIFTS

**\$324** AVERAGE GIFT

THANK YOU!

## Hello, alumni and friends!

It's been an honor to serve as Alumni Council President, even if the first of the two-year term was during one of the most challenging years for Franklin College and the world. That's saying something, because I was a student when accidental fires burned three buildings on campus in the mid-1980s. And just like then, Franklin College has found a way to not only survive but thrive during troubling times.

This year's **#GivetoGRIZ** campaign is a perfect example. We alumni, along with employees, students, trustees and friends of the College, raised \$279,352. We absolutely crushed the \$175,000 goal, culminating in the most successful one-day giving event in the history of the College. Thank you for being part of the effort!

Another way Franklin College has thrived in the midst of chaos is the transformation of our Alumni Council. We spent months researching best practices, surveying our members and talking with other colleges and universities to learn how their alumni councils worked. With all that knowledge, we transformed the council from a primarily passive sounding board to an active working advisory group. We had been enthusiastic fans in the stands, for sure, but really wanted to become active players on the field to help our alma mater.

Borrowing a best practice we learned from other colleges, we formed four task forces aligned with the College's strategic priorities: diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI); health and wellness; digital fluency; and esports. Council members chose the task force they felt they could impact the most and got right to work, meeting with the faculty and staff members leading the area. College leaders shared challenges and opportunities, and the council members gathered to identify ways to galvanize our alumni network to help.

I'm so impressed by our council members and how they jumped at the opportunity to support the College in the priority areas. A prime example is when our DEI task force learned that students from underrepresented groups participate in clubs, join fraternities and sororities and study abroad at lower rates, often for financial reasons. The Alumni Council DEI task force came up with a solution, establishing a fund and quickly raising \$2,500 to provide financial assistance to students. If you would like to help support the fund, please contact Dana Cummings, vice president for development and alumni engagement, at 317.738.8235 or [dcummings@FranklinCollege.edu](mailto:dcummings@FranklinCollege.edu).

And please join me in standing up to cheer for our dedicated Alumni Council members for all they do to give back. As goes the FC fight song, we've got the steam, and we've got the team, but there's still plenty of work to do. If you're a Grizzly who's ready to engage in meaningful new ways with Franklin College, then Alumni Council may be right for you. Get in touch with me, and let's talk. Call 317.440.6733 or tweet me [@RobinsonSuzanne](https://twitter.com/RobinsonSuzanne).

Also, be sure to join us on campus for Homecoming and Alumni Weekend, Oct. 12 - 17. **GO GRIZ!**

**Suzanne (Nekvasil) Robinson '87**  
Alumni Council President



SUBMITTED PHOTO

# ALUMNI COUNCIL

Thank you for your volunteerism!

### Recently retired members:

Lisa Arnold '89  
Todd Bemis '84  
Arjun Bhalla '16  
Colin Brown '13  
Angela (Brown) Coy '97  
Erin (Esserman) Meek '04  
Aaron Williams '12  
Evan Wineland '06  
Jen (Rhorer) Zentz '07

### Current members:

Dave Abel '75  
Jon Almeras '92  
Leslie (Lux) Baute '98  
Kim Bereman-Hinz '77  
Luke Bosso '08  
Drew Bright '07  
Julianne Butler '88  
Kinsley Castro '20  
Natasha (Peterson) Clements '13  
Tom DeBaun '86  
Derek Doddridge '05  
Bryan Epperson '93  
Jacob Evans '14  
Laurie Hargrove '14  
Holly (Hardman) Johnston '93  
Anna (Murdock) Larson '15  
Aubrey Magodlyo '15  
Zeeshan Malik '06  
Mark McNeely '70  
Nadine (Poland) Melind '81  
Matt Niehoff '16  
Karoline Park '15  
Mark Susemichel '92  
Stephanie Wagner '05



**HOMECOMING**  
ALUMNI WEEKEND  
OCTOBER 12-17, 2021

**FRANKLIN  
COLLEGE**

[FranklinCollege.edu/Homecoming](http://FranklinCollege.edu/Homecoming)

**Don't miss these events:**

- Roy E. Tillotson Golf Outing
- Alumni tailgates in Cline Woods
- Football game
- Virtual 5K
- Alumni recognition awards
- Friday night alumni gathering
- Fine arts performance
- Professor emeritus David Carlson, Ph.D., book signing

**Did you graduate in a year ending in a "1" or a "6"?**

Help lead the excitement around a milestone reunion celebration for your class.  
Contact Lee Ann Jourdan at 317.738.8281 or [ljourdan@FranklinCollege.edu](mailto:ljourdan@FranklinCollege.edu).