

FRANKLIN COLLEGE

MAGAZINE | SPRING 2022

SUITING UP

From broadcast journalist
to committed volunteer,
Rafael Sánchez '92
is always prepared.
Pg. 30

ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION





CHAD WILLIAMS

Franklin's sprawling mall, benches, patios and shade trees encourage spending time enjoying nature and learning outdoors. Here, **Taylor Tatlock '23** and **Dalen Williams '23** ditch their devices, swapping "screen time" for "green time."



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Alumni and Friends,

This issue of the alumni magazine is celebrating much of the good that exists in the world thanks, in part, to the impact of the Franklin College experience. As we emerge from the pandemic but witness other trauma throughout the world, it is inspiring to read about how our students, faculty, staff and especially our alumni are influencing the campus community and the wider world in such positive and inspiring ways.

There is also an exciting glimpse of the internships, xternships and study-away opportunities that are empowering Franklin students to connect their academic experience to their community, workplace and meaningful civic engagement.

Together, these stories show how Grizzlies are leading with competence and integrity to help create the kind of world they want to see. They embody the spirit of independent thinking, innovation and action at the heart of our mission, and it is rewarding to read about this level of commitment and success.

As Franklin College approaches two centuries of preparing graduates as successful professionals and engaged citizens, we recognize and recommit to the importance of that mission. Grizzlies everywhere inspire us to build on the College's strengths, adapt with the rapidly changing world and pursue the future of higher education with confidence. We know that Franklin College matters to the world in very significant ways.

Our work to continue enhancing the Franklin experience in the 21st century is a collaborative effort that requires the very best efforts of each of our constituencies. Faculty and staff must continue to innovate, students must continue to demand and produce excellence, and alumni and friends must continue to invest time, treasure and talent to ensure institutional growth and progress.

We have so much of which to be incredibly proud at Franklin College, and we must challenge ourselves to maintain an ambitious agenda that demands our best efforts and delivers the best results. Thank you for being such a critical component of this exciting journey.

Sincerely,

KERRY PRATHER
FRANKLIN COLLEGE PRESIDENT

FRANKLIN COLLEGE

MAGAZINE | SPRING 2022

Volume LVIII, No. 2

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Franklin College Magazine

Published three times annually. Copyright by Franklin College.

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

Rafael Sánchez '92 is the co-anchor of "Good Morning Indiana" and lead field anchor on breaking news and political coverage.

PHOTO BY CHAD WILLIAMS



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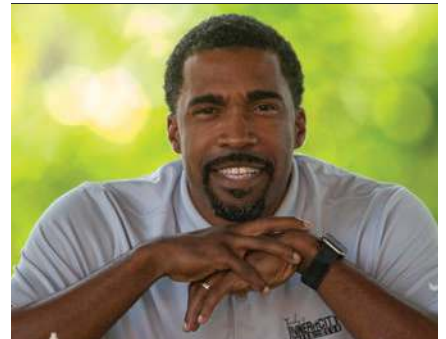
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Learn how the Leadership Johnson County Program at Franklin College helped inspire a team's service project honoring Black leaders who have impacted the city of Franklin.

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SUITING UP

Discover why WRTV newscaster and investigative reporter **Rafael Sánchez '92** owns a mobile wardrobe and calls volunteerism his main "hobby."

LEARNING by doing



The month of January, better known as Immersive Term at Franklin College, is a period between the fall and spring semester when students focus on special interests and personal goals, while earning academic credit and building career skills. Depending on where students are in their academic journey, they may be eligible for internships or study-away courses to domestic and international destinations, or they may take a single course that examines a contemporary issue through a combination of experiences including traditional classroom learning and off-campus collaborations such as volunteerism or visits to cultural sites and businesses. A sampling of recent opportunities is showcased here.

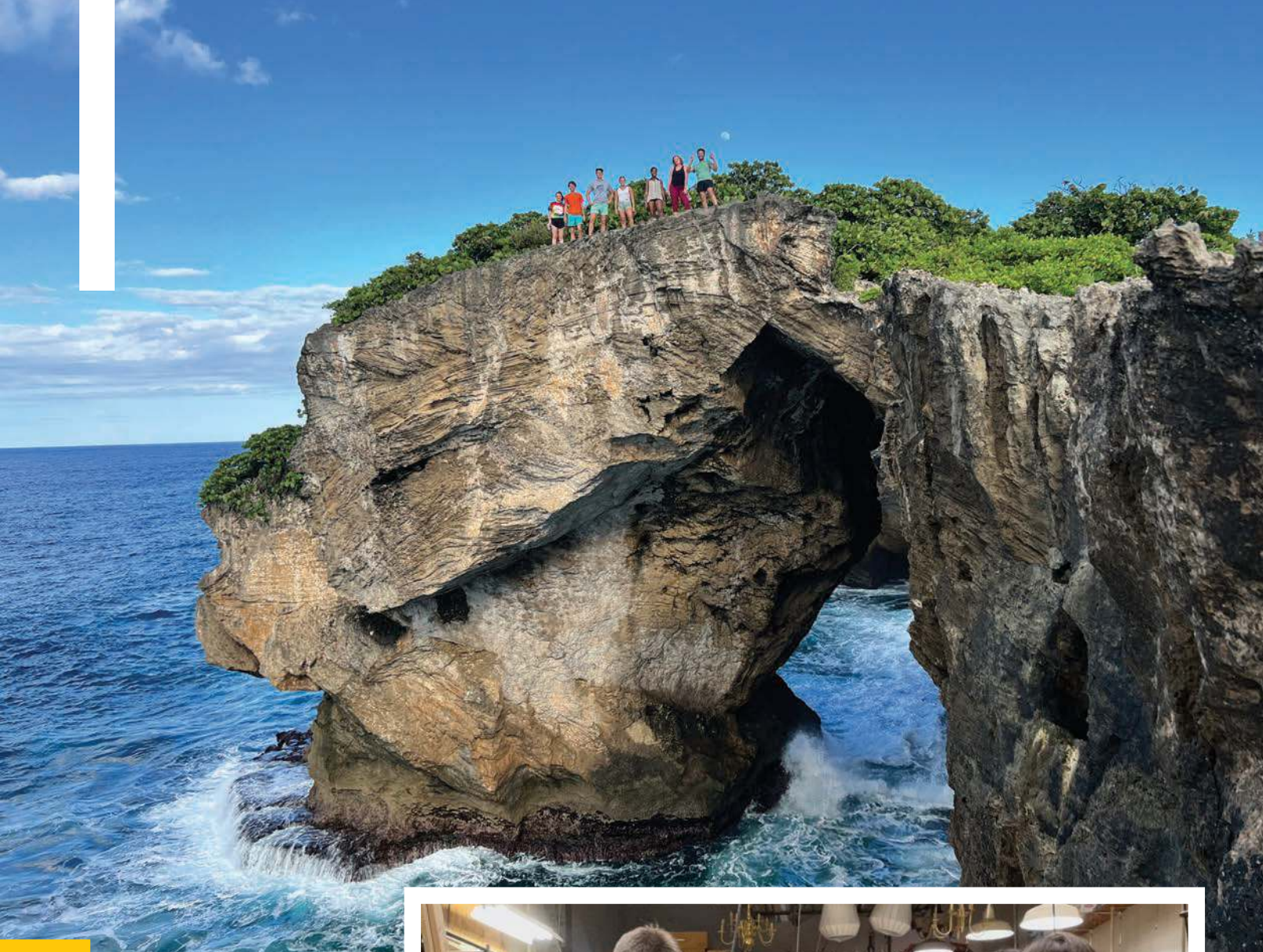
Taylor Tatlock '23 and seven Franklin College peers interned with Osprey Wilds Environmental Learning Center in Sandstone, Minnesota, and received training on tracking wolves and other Northwoods carnivores. From navigating the wilderness with map and compass and cross-country skiing to collect data, to riding in a small plane and using telemetry equipment to locate roaming wolves, Tatlock experienced life as a wildlife ecologist. She said, "My current plans are to be a secondary education biology teacher, and I want to pursue a master's degree in a branch of ecology. Having this experience and learning about wolves opened my eyes to options."

PHOTO BY SAMANTHA SCHICK '24



Approaches to Poverty in the U.S. is a course that took students to the Interchurch Food Pantry of Johnson County, where they gained insights about food insecurity and helped sort donations. Later, the pantry posted to Facebook: "We are grateful to professor **Angie (Hughes) Walls '88** for her commitment to teaching students about the most vulnerable in our communities and allowing them to bridge the gap between theory and practice. We are inspired by these young people who want to understand the big, complicated issues of our times and make the world a better place." Pictured are **Marcel Campbell '23** and **Shay McRath '24**.

PHOTO BY SCARLETT SYSE



Documenting Architecture, Culture and Landscape through Smart Phone Travel Photography was the theme of a study-away course in Puerto Rico. Students and their faculty/staff chaperones visited sites such as Old San Juan, El Yunque National Forest and Camuy River Cave Park. A highlight was their visit to Cueva del Indio, a cave surrounded by dramatic cliffs that face the Atlantic Ocean. Rock carvings on the cave walls predate the arrival of Christopher Columbus in 1493. Pictured are Brooke Madon '23, Eli Cochrane '24, Noah Harris '23, Maci French '22, Rutendo Nyamadzawo '22, Maggie McComas '22 and Andres Guerra '22.

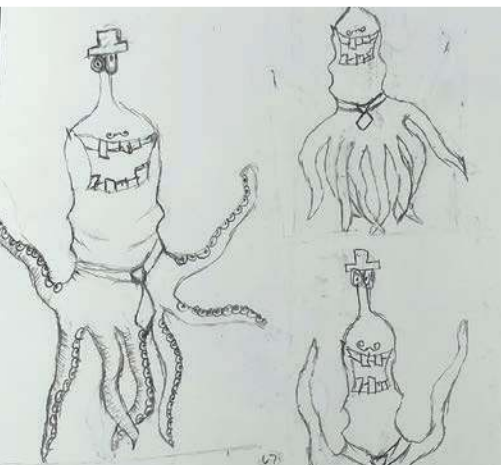
PHOTO BY RANDI FRYE



Students made wooden watercraft from scratch in the Build and Paddle Your Own Canoe course. Along the way, students navigated communication challenges, explored woodworking techniques and used their creativity and problem-solving skills. They also learned about the timber industry from foresters with the Indiana Department of Natural Resources and visited a Johnson County lumber mill to see an example of how timber finds its way into finished products around the world. Pictured clockwise around the table are Jason Mantooth '24, Jacob Hall '25, Sarah O'Day '24, Alex Cummings '25 and Brantley Wathen '24.

PHOTO BY JEREMY VANANDEL

Jaden Herbst '25 and Clowes Visiting Artist Chris Sickels (background)



Clowes Visiting Artist Chris Sickels and Sarah Mendoza '25

INTERSECTING ART + TECHNOLOGY

Immersive Term offered students a unique character-building opportunity, and the chance to learn from an award-winning 3D illustrator.

The Clowes Visiting Artist program at Franklin College brought illustrator Chris Sickels to campus to teach in January. His course involved students in designing and constructing a 3D character, then bringing it to life through the magic of stop-motion animation. The animation technique involves photographing static objects, repositioning them and capturing the incremental changes frame by frame. With computer software, the frames are edited together to create a short video in which the character illustrates a story.

Students had to conceive their character, sketch its image and then construct its 3D representation using modeling clay, wire, bits of plastic, fabric remnants and other “junk.” Having grown up on a farm, Sickels has a deep appreciation for resourcefulness and still today incorporates found objects in his own work.

The students’ whimsical 3D characters included a hybrid crab-octopus, face-snatching phantom and yoga guru, among others. After several days of fabrication, the students spent significant time photographing their characters and using editing software to create a short, looping animation. The class culminated with an art exhibit at the Johnson Center for Fine Arts. The students displayed their 3D characters, showed the animations on a large screen and gave a panel discussion about what they learned, enjoyed and even disliked about the creative process.

Sickels also exhibited some of his work at the College, and he participated in a Q&A session with attendees. He is the author and illustrator of *The Look Book*. His illustrations also appear in *New York Times* best-selling titles such as *Here Comes the Garbage Barge* and *The Beginners Guide to Running Away from Home*. He has worked with corporate clients, including *The New Yorker*, Target, Random House Books, Scholastic and Pepsi. The Society of Illustrators has awarded him three gold and one silver medal for his still- and animated-illustrations. His films have screened at the Los Angeles Shorts International Film Festival and the Montreal Stop-Motion Film Festival. Sickels owns and creates within Red Nose Studio, based in Greenfield, Indiana.

A \$50,000 grant from the Allen W. Clowes Foundation supports the Clowes Visiting Artist Endowment Fund and biennial visiting artist program at Franklin College. ■

COATS OF HONOR

Twenty-four students recently celebrated reaching the halfway point of completion in their graduate program, the Master of Science in Physician Assistant Studies. Students have come from as far as Oregon and Connecticut to be part of the program at Franklin.

A White Coat Ceremony in December 2021 marked their rite of passage. The white coat symbolizes professionalism and the humanism of balancing excellence in science with compassionate patient care. At Franklin, the white coat also marks the students' transition from didactic to clinical training.

Ceremony highlights included the students' recitation of a medical oath witnessed by their family and friends

inside the College's Richardson Chapel. Additionally, MSPAS Program Director and Assistant Professor of Physician Assistant Studies Jasmina Cheeseman gave remarks, and Franklin College President Kerry Prather recognized the students for their persistence toward realizing their health care career goal. Class President **Mackenzie Coleman '23** also addressed the room.

Rounding out the ceremony was the Preceptor of the Year Award

LeAndra Yates '23, Bailey Wulle '23 and Peyton Stewart '23



presentation to Johnson Memorial Health physician Christopher Zietlow, M.D., Ph.D. He is board-certified in internal medicine, holds a doctorate in biochemistry and has more than a decade of experience in patient medicine, including intensive care expertise. The Franklin faculty thanked Zietlow for his community partnership with the College, and students praised his excellence as a mentor and instructor.

FELLOWSHIP SHAPING THE FUTURE

A competitive postgraduate fellowship program aimed at developing the next generation of business leaders and entrepreneurs as well as supporting the talent pipeline for innovative Indianapolis-area companies has selected **Jarrett Dodson '21** for participation. Dodson began the Orr Fellowship program in December, after graduating.

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

executive mentorship and civic engagement.

"I look forward to growing personally and professionally alongside my new colleagues and Fellows here in the Hoosier state," said Dodson. "I am excited to learn and grow as I begin my career."

Dodson's host company is SupplyKick, a business-to-business consulting firm in Fishers. He will work as a marketing specialist at the firm through December 2023, fulfilling his two-year Orr Fellowship commitment.

"The economics, business and accounting department faculty at Franklin are very proud of Jarrett and

are eager to observe how he will make an impact at SupplyKick," said **Emily Jones '09**, assistant professor of accounting. "Jarrett was a pleasure to work with in the classroom and always was willing to share ideas and experiences, and be challenged. We know the business skills he developed through his liberal arts education and college experiences will transfer well into the business profession."



Jarrett Dodson '21

SUBMITTED



Congratulations, MSPAS Class of '23:

Andrea Alarcon
Clayton Anderson
Alyssa Andreis
Taylor Burgess
Emily Carder
Mackenzie Coleman
Austin Combs
Camrie Goodson
Samantha Horn
Darian Huff
Emily Ledford
Danica Luc
Joselyn Mercer
Kylee Moody
Taylor Moses
Adam Raschko
Abigail Rivas
Emily Roberts
Marissa Shoemaker
Peyton Stewart
Gabrielle Weaver
Taylor Weston
Bailey Wulle
LeAndra Yates

Upon program completion, some Fellows follow entrepreneurial dreams and start their own companies. Others negotiate new positions within their host company or find jobs with other hosts through Fellowship networking. And some Fellows choose graduate school to continue their education.

Dodson said he was encouraged to apply for the program by **Erica Irish '21**, current Fellow and better product company manager for Innovatemap. **Brody Perrine '17**, now a project manager at ADESA, was the first-ever Franklin College graduate to serve an Orr Fellowship. ■

SOMETHING TO **SING** ABOUT

Seven of 12 Franklin College students earned honors during the Fall 2021 vocal competition hosted by the Indiana Chapter of the National Association of Teachers of Singing (NATS). They competed against students representing Indiana, Butler, Ball State, Notre Dame and Indiana State universities, among others. Further, Franklin College produced the most winners among the institutions represented in the musical theatre category.

The annual contest, open to all students of NATS members, prompted assistant professor of music and voice director Eric DeForest, DMA, to encourage his students' participation in both the musical theatre and classical music categories. Students entered the virtual competition by submitting performance videos.

DeForest said, "I am so very proud of each and every one of my students who entered this competition. They worked so hard to hone their skills, and having results like this is a testament to how that hard work can pay off! It brings me so much joy to see them succeed!"

Along with an award certificate, students received a small cash prize. Winners included:

FIRST PLACE:

Nate Irskens '24, musical theatre adult tenor/baritone/bass category

SECOND PLACE:

Colleen Kincaid '23, third-year musical theatre treble
Rachel Krodell '22, fourth-year musical theatre treble
Elizabeth Sekhon '25, first-year musical theatre treble

THIRD PLACE:

Dylan Campbell '22, second/third/fourth-year musical theatre tenor/baritone/bass
Jadyn List '24, second-year musical theatre treble
Natalie Wilson '22, fourth-year musical theatre treble

View all the winning performances on YouTube, at tinyurl.com/2p93hjm3. ■

LEARNING THE LAND

Franklin Mayor
Steve Barnett,
Harry "Mac"
McNaught, spouse
Sarah McNaught,
Franklin
College President
Kerry Prather



PICTURING THE FUTURE

A \$500,000 estate commitment from a longtime Franklin resident and retired photography business owner will establish and endow the Phil Smith Engaged Learning Fund at Franklin College. The fund will provide students financial assistance for travel and immersive learning activities in pre-medical studies and field biology.

Plans for the fund were announced at a luncheon on March 9. Science students, faculty, members, institutional advancement staff and the college president attended to recognize and thank Smith. During the luncheon, examples of Smith's photography were shared for guests' enjoyment.

Smith's own education led to Ball State University, but he said Franklin College always has felt like "home." In part, because he once lived in a house where the Napolitan Student Center now stands, and because throughout his 31-year freelance photography career, he accepted many Franklin College assignments. His photos of commencement ceremonies, athletics, student activities and campus celebrations endure in the college archives.

Smith said, "Franklin College has been a meaningful and important part of my life and career. So for me to be able to give back to the College provides a deep sense of personal fulfillment."

A \$1.8 million gift of real estate from Southpoint Farm, LLC, will support academic program growth in natural sciences and environmental studies at Franklin College by providing a field station for botany and ecology studies and research. The property, of approximately 29 acres, is located on Forest Road in Franklin, near campus.

Southpoint Farm, formerly known as Franklin Tech Park Associates, LLC, also gifted the College 32 acres in 2008. That property, east of campus, is known as Hougham Woods Biological Field Station. Southpoint Farm President Harry “Mac” McNaught said the College’s commitment to responsible land stewardship and greater mission of furthering the education of young people prompted the latest gift.

“The College’s active and thoughtful use of Hougham Woods to expand undergraduate and faculty research initiatives is absolutely phenomenal,” said McNaught. “We know this new gift will play a significant role in further enhancing the educational experiences available to students.”

Professor of biology Alice Heikens, Ph.D., said, “We are excited

to receive another land donation from Mac to further our field biology classes. We would not be able to offer our students the incredible experiences we do without his generosity, commitment and support of our conservation efforts and field program.”

“The College is very grateful to Southpoint Farm and Mac for this generous gift,” said President Kerry

Prather. “This type of gift helps shape and enrich the immersive learning experiences that are at the heart of the Franklin College curriculum. Like Hougham Woods, this property will enhance the experience our science students and faculty enjoy for many years to come.” ■

Smith, an avid traveler, is eager to give others the opportunity to explore new places and discover different perspectives.

Smith said, “I want to provide an opportunity for students and faculty to learn more about their chosen profession, beyond the classroom. It gives me great pleasure knowing they will have the opportunity to learn from a variety of people, places and cultures in order to broaden their knowledge on the topics they are studying.”

Dana Cummings, vice president for institutional advancement, commended Smith for his foresight and generosity. She said, “Planned gifts are a critical piece of the puzzle toward maintaining the transformational experience students receive at the College. Donors like Phil have a very specific passion and vision about higher education opportunities, and we are extremely grateful for his generous support.” ■

CHAD WILLIAMS



*Biology/ecology major **Taylor Tatlock '23**, assistant professor of biology **Katharine Harris, Ph.D.**, Phil Smith, associate professor of biology **Ben O'Neal, Ph.D.**, professor of biology **Alice Heikens, Ph.D.**, and biology/premed major **Shelby Keith '24***

*Sandy (Mock) Napolitan '60, Ph.D.,
and spouse Jim (HD '12), Ph.D.,
a Franklin College Trustee*

ADVANCING PSYCHOLOGY



Franklin College Trustee Jim Napolitan (HD '12), Ph.D., and his spouse, Sandy (Mock) '60, Ph.D., have established an endowed departmental fund for psychology.

The Napolitan-Mock Endowed Fund in Psychology will help recognize and reward the student or team of students presenting the top undergraduate research project each year, and provide additional departmental funding to help sustain and expand the undergraduate research program well into the future.

"With this fund, we acknowledge the outstanding faculty work which undergirds student research in the psychology department," Jim said. "Further, one of our hopes in establishing this fund is that others will be encouraged to adopt a department and consider ways in which to support the academic enterprise."

The Napolitans' passion for psychology stems from their own professional

backgrounds. Jim has a bachelor's degree from Harvard University and a doctorate from the University of Illinois Chicago, both in psychology. Sandy has a doctorate in social service administration from the University of Chicago. It is important to the couple to help advance the psychology field by supporting research and discovery, and particularly by encouraging upcoming student researchers to lead the way.

Notably, the Napolitans are longtime generous Franklin College supporters. They are, in part, inspired by a legacy begun by Sandy's grandfather, **James Frank Mock 1895**. Sixteen family members have since attended the College, and four relatives/extended family members have served on the board of trustees.

**"WITH THIS FUND, WE
ACKNOWLEDGE THE
OUTSTANDING FACULTY
WORK WHICH UNDERGIRDS
STUDENT RESEARCH IN THE
PSYCHOLOGY DEPARTMENT."**

JIM NAPOLITAN (HD '12), PH.D.

Jim and Sandy's philanthropy includes gifting the College with the Napolitan Alumni House, and making a significant contribution toward the Napolitan Student Center construction. Additionally, they funded multiple rooms in the Johnson Center for Fine Arts, and supported the Von Boll Welcome Center construction, Richardson Chapel renovation and Branigin Athletic Field development. They also

created maintenance endowments to help ensure the Napolitan Alumni House and the Science Center endure for generations to come. Beyond their endowed psychology fund, the Napolitans fund two endowed scholarships, one for students majoring in education and the other in mathematics. Further, the couple have graciously hosted several alumni social events over the years. ■

CONNECTING KIDS TO COLLEGE

Franklin College has secured a \$50,000 planning grant from Lilly Endowment Inc. through the Indiana Youth Programs on Campus (IYPC) initiative. The grant will enable development of meaningful on-campus programming for underprivileged youth in Indiana, providing an opportunity to explore interests, learn new skills and envision a future for themselves in college, potentially at Franklin.

“IYPC is intended, among other things, to help address Indiana’s unacceptably low rankings in the percentage of its adult population with a bachelor’s degree or a meaningful postsecondary credential and to help increase

the higher education enrollment and success of traditionally underserved students,” states the Endowment website. “Recent declines in college enrollment of Indiana’s high school graduates, from 65% in 2015 to 59% in 2019, according to the Indiana Commission for Higher Education, make these challenges even more compelling.”

In a further effort to be part of the solution to Indiana’s looming higher-education challenges, Franklin College will apply to the Endowment for an IYPC implementation grant this May. ■

Your **Franklin Fund** gifts matter.



FRANKLIN FUND GIFTS

- Help students who need scholarships and other financial assistance during the ongoing pandemic
- Advance innovation, leadership and action opportunities for students and alumni
- Demonstrate confidence in the College’s reputation and value



Make a gift at **FranklinCollege.edu/give**

ALUMNI ON BOARD

The Franklin College Board of Trustees recently elected a new chair, **Pete Cangany '80**, and welcomed three new members, **Yolanda Askew '90**, **Amber (Robbins) Elwood '99** and **Yolanda (Smith) White '92**.

President Kerry Prather said, “The perspectives these alumni bring from their personal college experiences, professional expertise and leadership roles are tremendous assets for guiding policy at Franklin College. We are extremely proud and grateful to have them so actively engaged as we all work to ensure a bright and prosperous future for the institution and our students.”

Cangany holds a bachelor's degree in accounting and economics from Franklin College and a Master of Business Administration from Texas A&M University – Mays Business School. He is retired from EY (Ernst & Young), where he successfully built a nearly 40-year career focused on working with diversified financial services organizations. Cangany has served on the Franklin Board of Trustees since 2008, previously helping guide the finance, physical facilities and audit committees.

Cangany said, “It’s truly an honor to be elected as chair by my fellow trustees. These are interesting times for higher education, particularly for small, private institutions like Franklin College; however, collectively as trustees in support of the administration, faculty and staff, I believe we can make a difference in the personal lives and careers of our current and future students. Franklin College opened the doors to the unimaginable

for me, and it’s now my turn to pay it forward.”

Over the years, he and spouse Ann have provided generous philanthropic support for a variety of Franklin College initiatives, including student scholarships. They are funders of the Cangany Family Scholarship as well as the endowed Pete and Ann Cangany Leadership Award. College campaigns for the sciences and athletics also have benefited from their generosity. The Cangany currently reside in Bellevue, Washington, and are the parents of three married children and grandparents of two children.

Askew holds a bachelor's degree in journalism from Franklin College and a Master of Science in city and regional planning from the Pratt Institute. She is the director of sales fulfillment and special projects for NBCUniversal, where she is part of the sales and marketing team at WNBC. She also helps drive corporate philanthropy and community initiatives. Her advisory roles include vetting community organizations for grant funding as well as helping manage employee resource programs to grow, develop and retain the Black talent population within the corporation. Further, she is co-founder of NBCUniversal's Young Professional Academy, which pairs employee-mentors with young men of color who attend public boys' high schools serving the boroughs of New York City and Newark, New Jersey.

Franklin College presented Askew with a Distinguished Alumni Award in October 2021 in recognition of her professional achievements and community impact. She currently is working with Franklin College leaders on a new initiative to involve alumni in helping students prepare for and access internship opportunities. Askew resides in Jamaica, New York.

Askew said, “(At Franklin) I learned how to advocate not only for myself but for others and most importantly it helped lay the foundation for me to be able to confidently walk into places no matter who is at the table and take a seat, shine bright and never be intimidated about bringing my full authentic self.”

Elwood holds a bachelor's degree in elementary education from Franklin College and a master's degree in education from Olivet University. She is in her 23rd year as a teacher employed with the Bartholomew Consolidated School Corp. in Columbus, Indiana.

She indicated Franklin College was integral to her personal and professional development. “Having been a first-generation graduate and a small-town country girl, Franklin opened the doors to many academic and social opportunities. Through academics and internships, I was prepared to be a highly effective teacher.”

Elwood and spouse John are generous longtime supporters of the Franklin Fund and sponsors of the **#GRIZTuesday** annual campaigns supporting Franklin College athletics. The Elwoods have three children and reside in Columbus.

White holds a bachelor's degree in journalism from Franklin College. She is the corporate communications team lead for American Honda Motor Co. in Greensburg, Indiana. She oversees internal and external communications at Honda's Indiana Auto Plant.

Prior to joining Honda, White served as a senior account executive and the diversity manager for a public relations agency. There, her professional contributions included co-creating an internship boot camp targeting students of color. The program won an industry-diversity award, the first for the PR agency. As a Franklin College student, White also was involved in diversity initiatives, including co-founding the Student Association for the Support of Minorities (SASOM). Diversity and equality continue to be among her personal and professional priorities.

"I've benefited from an outstanding education that focused on real-world learning and work experiences through internships. I'm grateful to now be able to serve as a trustee, and to give back to an institution that means so much to me."

White and spouse James have one adult son and a teenage son, and reside in Indianapolis. ■



Pete Cangany '80



Yolanda Askew '90



Amber (Robbins) Elwood '99



Yolanda (Smith) White '92

**"WE ARE EXTREMELY PROUD
AND GRATEFUL TO HAVE THEM
SO ACTIVELY ENGAGED AS WE
ALL WORK TO ENSURE
A BRIGHT AND PROSPEROUS
FUTURE FOR THE INSTITUTION
AND OUR STUDENTS."**

PRESIDENT KERRY PRATHER

LANDMARK LEADERS

A name can be a powerful way to help make a first impression, tell a story and leave an impact. When that name is associated with an influential figure in U.S. history and a significant local landmark, it should be preserved for public record and education. Such was the impetus for a team project born from Leadership Johnson County (LJC) at Franklin College, class of 2021.

LJC offers the public a signature nine-month program plus one-day seminars and workshops to help support leadership skills development, community engagement and collaboration. Each year, a new class of participants is selected from a countywide applicant pool for the signature program. A key element in the program experience is community service, and each class divides into smaller teams to envision and enact a project of their choosing.

Last year's LJC class included a group who adopted the nickname DREAM Team, a reflection of their commitment to diversity in recreation for education, alliance and motivation. Their service project focused on the Booker T. Washington School, the only place Black students in Franklin, Indiana, could get their education from

1873-1951. The school's namesake, Washington, was born into slavery in Virginia. When emancipated after the Civil War, he overcame tremendous odds to secure an education. He later became an influential college teacher, political orator and published author, as well as founder of the educational institution known today as Tuskegee University. The school bearing his name on Madison St. in Franklin ceased operations in 1951, was razed 30 years later and then replaced by a community center.

The idea to reconnect Washington's name to the area the school once stood came from DREAM Team member the Rev. Douglas Gray, a current visiting lecturer of religion at Franklin College and formerly the pastor at Second Baptist Church in Franklin. That church, plus the nearby Bethel African

Methodist Episcopal Church, were once united with the Booker T. Washington School to form the nexus of the Black community in Franklin. Gray had given presentations on the school to the congregations of the two churches, as well as to patrons of the Johnson County Public Library branches. Those experiences convinced him of just how meaningful it would be to honor the original name.

Gray found enthusiastic partners in Jim Engmark, Shadi Lilly, Levi McNeely and Nicole Otte, and they formed the DREAM Team. Their work included gathering stories from former students and educators to help document the school's local and state historical significance. Further, the team appealed to Franklin Parks and Recreation and other community groups to support renaming the community center that

today stands on the former school's footprint, and to add educational components to help others understand the significance of it.

On May 6, 2021, the efforts concluded with rededication of the Booker T. Washington Community Center. On the facility's exterior, Franklin Parks and Recreation employees helped the DREAM Team build a walking trail memorializing local Black leaders such as Ethel Harnett, a longtime teacher who became principal of the Booker T. Washington School; Hattie Fossett-Caine, Franklin's first beautician, podiatrist and massage therapist; **Arthur Henry Wilson 1902**, M.D., Franklin College's first Black graduate;





The DREAM Team: Jim Engmark, Levi McNeely, Nicole Otte, Shadi Lilly and Doug Gray

and **George Marion Robinson 1911**, an educator, talented tenor and musical director for several churches.

Inside the center, more educational displays provide depth to the school's significance. The center's location on the grounds of Palmer Park also is noteworthy. The park is named for Herriott Palmer, who, prior to her death in 1951, stipulated that her estate be used to establish a playground for children of color in Franklin. Palmer was a prominent community figure, having been a teacher then principal at Franklin High School, prior to joining the Franklin College faculty.

The DREAM Team's efforts to bring greater attention to Black leaders who have

influenced the city of Franklin, as well as the team's success in documenting new information from individuals impacted by the former school, earned recognition from the Indiana Historical Society (IHS) last November. At that time, IHS named the LJC Program at Franklin College and the DREAM Team a 2021 Founders Day Award recipient. The award recognizes all the partnerships and efforts that culminated in the Booker T. Washington Community Center rededication, and carries the distinction "Outstanding Collaborative Project." ■

MARCHING ON

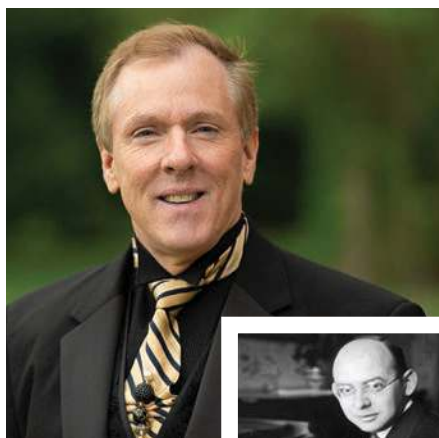
More than 54 years after his assassination, the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr., Ph.D., continues inspiring others to strive for social justice and equity. The Franklin College community has a tradition of celebrating King's legacy on the annual federal holiday. The 2022 day of celebration on campus included a voter registration event to raise awareness about legislation and voting rights, as well as encourage student engagement. The day also involved a march around campus, during which faculty, staff and students united in singing "We Shall Overcome" and "This Little Light of Mine." The day concluded with Convocation Lecture Series visiting speaker Shaun Harper, Ph.D., who presented "Modern-Day Applications to the Mission and Legacy of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr." Harper teaches at the University of Southern California in the Marshall School of Business and has worked with more than 400 businesses and educational institutions on diversity, equity and inclusion matters. ■



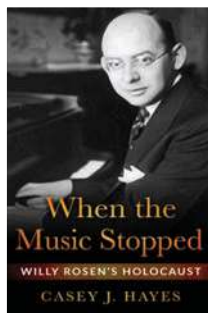
CHAD WILLIAMS

NOVEL IDEA

CHAD WILLIAMS



Casey J. Hayes, Ph.D.



A book release party on March 15 gave Music Department Chair and Director of Choral Activities Casey J. Hayes, Ph.D., the chance to share a reading from his original novel, *When the Music Stopped . . . Willy Rosen's Holocaust*. Hayes participated in a Q&A session and signed books for guests afterward.

The novel, printed by Amsterdam Publishers, The Netherlands, is Hayes' fictionalized historical account of Rosen's life, from his time as a celebrated German soldier in WWI, to a famous entertainer, and finally to a victim of Auschwitz's gas chambers. The heart-warming yet tragic story illustrates that beauty can exist amid horror.

Hayes, the A.J. Thurston Endowed Chair of Music at Franklin College, earned his doctorate in music education from the Steinhardt School of Education at New York University. An interest in Weimar Germany and its brief yet beautiful emergence of culture led to Hayes' discovery of Rosen's music and his fascinating but largely unknown life.

In 2021, Hayes was selected an Austrian Fulbright Scholar and named the Fulbright-Botstiber Visiting Professor of Austrian-American Studies at the University for Music and Performing Arts in Vienna. His research topic, *Rosa Wien; Gay Rights, Schlager and Self-Exile: 1918-1939*, focused upon the flight of Vienna's LGBTQI+ and Jewish cabaret communities during the Anschluss, and their recreation of Viennese cabaret in the United States. Hayes' original research fueled his newly released book. ■

PROFESSOR RECEIVES REGIONAL HONOR

The Great Lakes Athletic Trainers Association (GLATA) presented the Dedicated Service Award this spring to Jeff Williams, Ph.D., assistant professor of athletic training and coordinator of clinical education.

Williams joined the Franklin College faculty in 2016, bringing professional expertise and a passion for teaching that help distinguish the Master of Science in Athletic Training program.



Jeff Williams, Ph.D.

The GLATA Dedicated Service Award recognized Williams for demonstrating "a superior level of excellence in managing and completing projects with the goal and outcome of creating a positive image of GLATA and the athletic training profession."

In advance of the award presentation, Williams also received recognition in the magazine of the National Athletic Trainers' Association, *NATA News*. The

association commended Williams for his work "to push the profession forward through teaching future practioners and contributing to new knowledge through original research and service."

Additionally, the association praised Williams for his voluntary service to the district level as coordinator of the GLATA Diversity and Inclusion Committee and to the national level as a NATA Diversity Equity, Inclusion and Access Task Force member.

"I think that whether it's treating patients in the field, teaching pre-service ATs in the classroom or contributing to new knowledge in a research lab, when we collectively do these things — and a host of other things — with integrity and excellence the profession advances," Williams said in the *NATA News* article.

Williams earned his bachelor's degree from Olivet Nazarene University, and his master's and doctoral degrees from Illinois State University. His athletic training expertise includes clinical research topics surrounding the assessment and correction of movement and dysfunction, mainly in the upper limbs and spine. ■

Eric DeForest, DMA,
assistant professor of music



CAREER HIGH NOTE

Nominators sang the praises of 2022 Adjunct Faculty Excellence Award recipient Eric DeForest, DMA, assistant professor of music. DeForest received the award at a luncheon hosted by the board of trustees in February.

One nomination letter indicated, “He is a clear and effective communicator who is able to instill understanding of the nuance of singing to all his students, regardless of their previous experience. It is only through his constructive feedback and willingness on the part of the student to improve that the results could be what they are.”

As example, the letter cited significant attention DeForest and his students received last fall after the results of a statewide singing competition. Seven of the 12 Franklin students DeForest mentored placed in the competition, surpassing vocalists at IU Jacobs School of Music, Butler, Ball State, Notre Dame and Indiana State. Moreover, Franklin College had the most winners of any institution in the state in the musical theatre category. (See related story Page 11.)

The students’ success in the recent competition is only one of the dozens of positive outcomes credited to DeForest, an adjunct faculty member since 2012. He brings extensive professional music experience as a trained opera singer, who has performed nationally and internationally. He is also a longtime, accomplished studio-voice teacher.

In describing music’s importance to the liberal arts, DeForest said, “Whatever a student’s career goal is, be that a teacher, music therapist, Broadway star or CEO, singing will help them engage and develop confidence and communication skills, which are tools they will need in their chosen professions.”

Nominations were invited from faculty, staff and students of the College, and a group of former award winners chose the recipient. Criteria included mastery of subject, evidence of engaged learning and demonstrated respect for all students. ■

RECOGNITION AND RETIREMENT

Prior to her recent retirement, Barbara Chambers, administrative assistant for the finance division, was selected recipient of the Margaret Hommell Staff Service Excellence Award. She received the award at the 28th Annual Employee Appreciation and Holiday Celebration Luncheon in December 2021.



RENEE KEAN '06

Barbara Chambers

A nominator described Chambers as “one of the most courteous, respectful, helpful employees I have had the pleasure to work with.”

“In addition, she is patient and helpful while overseeing the payroll for students in the campus Work Study program,” the nominator added.

Other nominators praised Chambers for continually embracing and mastering new technologies to help the College streamline payroll and employment application processes over the years, and for routinely volunteering to help with academic ceremonies, food-drive campaigns and employee-search committees. Chambers began working at the College in 1995, initially in development, and then transitioned to business and finance, where she was secretary to the vice president the last 21 years.

In her free time, Chambers officiates swimming competitions, primarily at high schools and colleges, though she previously was selected a judge for the U.S. Olympic Swimming Trials. She holds officiating awards from the Indiana High School Athletic Association and National Federation of State High School Associations. She is sought as a professional evaluator to help other swimming officials improve their skills.

The Margaret Hommell Staff Service Excellence Award memorializes a staff member who exemplified college spirit and served on the Staff Service Award Committee for several years prior to her death in 2006. ■



REAL TALK

A former Microsoft, Yahoo and Amazon executive spoke at Franklin College on April 7, concluding the 2021-22 Convocation Lecture Series.

David Gerbitz presented “Decoding Digital Fluency,” a glimpse of his career journey through the evolving digital landscape, and his observation of how liberal arts graduates are essential to today’s workforce. The digital landscape demands a hyperdynamic workforce that is agile, collaborative and innovative, he said. Individuals with liberal arts backgrounds who are adept critical-thinkers and problem-solvers have the versatility to meet and change with industry demands, as well as to help advance business outcomes and societal changes.

Gerbitz today serves as the chief people officer at Qurate Retail Group, and he regularly consults on leadership and business performance in tech, retail and media environments. ■

AWARD FINALIST

For the second consecutive year, Franklin College is a nominee in the Mira Awards competition honoring “the best of tech in Indiana.”

The College is a contender in the Tech Education category of the 23rd annual competition hosted by TechPoint, Indiana’s growth accelerator for the tech sector. TechPoint will announce Mira Award recipients in 12 different categories at a gala the evening of April 23.

“Regardless of the results that night, it is a significant honor to be selected as a finalist in a category celebrating educators and education innovators who inspire and have a positive impact on student achievement,” said Franklin College President Kerry Prather.

Franklin College previously earned Honorable Mention in the Mira Awards Pandemic Pivot category for its successful transition to fully online instruction in spring 2020 due to Covid-19 precautions. ■

TECH BOOT CAMPS FOR ALUMNI

Franklin College and Eleven Fifty Academy are partnering to offer tech boot camps for alumni looking to grow their career skills and connections through short-term education and training, better known as upskilling.

Eleven Fifty Academy is a nonprofit training school offering coding courses and programs for career changers, professionals looking to add skills and job seekers newly launching their careers. The tech boot camps offered to Franklin graduates will help participants build upon their prior college course-content knowledge and skills while ramping up tech fundamentals.

News of the tech boot camps was shared on Zoom in January when the College and Eleven Fifty Academy co-hosted an information session for alumni.

Guest **Jacob Hash '19** highlighted how his liberal arts education in combination with his technical certificate from Eleven Fifty Academy has opened up new professional opportunities. The Academy has two Indiana locations, Indianapolis and Fishers. Courses are offered in-person and online.

For Franklin alumni interested in accelerating their career by earning a certificate or supplementing their degree, a tech boot camp can help. Further, scholarships are available to alumni through the Franklin College Digital Fluency Initiative. Learn more and apply for a scholarship at elevenfifty.org/admissions/franklin-college. ■

TALENT MEETS TECH

Three Franklin students stood out among more than 2,000 applicants vying for paid summer positions in the TechPoint Xtern program. **Kylee Gaskins '24, James Shelton '23 and Brooke Stephens '25** landed what the program marketers call “the ultimate tech internship experience.”

The TechPoint Xtern program takes place in Indianapolis and provides students the opportunity to work alongside industry leaders at some of the fastest growing tech companies, make friends with more than 100 other Xterns from around the country and experience all that Indianapolis has to offer professionally, recreationally and culturally.

TechPoint was formed in 2003, after the Indiana Software Association and the Indiana Information Technology Association merged. In 2006, TechPoint then became part of the Central Indiana Corporate Partnership, which brings together chief executives of prominent corporations, foundations and universities in a strategic and collaborative effort dedicated to the region’s continued prosperity and growth.

In total, 20 Franklin College students applied to the TechPoint Xtern program. A rigorous application review process narrowed the 2,000 initial candidates to 800 for interviews. Of those, only 147 were selected and matched with Indiana tech companies as Xterns.

Gaskins, a business management major, will be an Xtern with NextGear Capital. Shelton double majors in computer science and software engineering, and will spend his summer as a network operations Xtern with NineStar Connect. Stephens double majors in business and Spanish, and will be an Xtern with Stanley Security. ■

Dylan Campbell '23 concentrates at the keyboard.



MAJOR NEWS

A new data science major at Franklin provides a direct path for students seeking career opportunities in the rapidly growing field.

Data science is an interdisciplinary field in which mathematics and statistics, computer science and content-specific domain knowledge, such as business or political science, intersect.

“Many Franklin College graduates are already working in the data science field with companies such as Salesforce, Facebook and Eli Lilly and Company,” said Kristin Flora, Ph.D., vice president for academic affairs and dean of the college. “The goal of creating the new major is to make it easier for our graduates to make their way into the field without having to double major or attend graduate school for additional training.”

Flora said the new major reflects Franklin’s commitment to the liberal arts by retaining the core curriculum, while adding a carefully balanced selection of mathematics, statistics and computer science courses so students can learn the skills they need to be successful as data scientists.

“The new major has some unique features versus those offered at other colleges and universities, including a data ethics component, a data equity and bias course, and the ability for students to choose a related field of study that applies data science techniques,” said Flora.

The College has added three other new majors, neuroscience, sports communications and actuarial science, in recent years. ■

HARNESSING *life's* lessons

A survivor of the 9/11 terrorist attacks travels the globe today to share the story of escaping with his guide dog, Roselle, as an inspiring example of teamwork built on trust. Michael Hingson was working on the 78th floor of the World Trade Center's north tower when the first hijacked airplane hit. The descent to safety and subsequent getaway from the tower prior to its collapse were the backdrop of his recent lecture at Franklin College, "Labrador Lessons from a Canine Hero."

For Hingson, who was born blind, what he heard, sensed and felt that September morning is forever etched in his mind. From the odor of burning jet fuel in the stairway to the collapse of the first tower, which he likened to the sound of "metal flattening like a freight train as glass is tinkling and breaking" combined with the "white noise of a waterfall," he vividly recalls the details.

Hingson and his guide dog relied on each other for safety and comfort and helped many others stay focused during the escape that day. Now, the 9/11 experience coupled with a lifetime of overcoming

misconceptions about blindness gives him significant stories to tell, with the goal of giving others practical advice on working around challenges.

"The biggest problem I face in the world isn't that I'm blind. It's that because I'm blind, people don't think I can do stuff," Hingson said.

He has spent a lifetime demonstrating all the things he can do, from learning to ride a bicycle independently during childhood, to navigating public high school and transportation systems with a guide dog, to earning bachelor's and master's degrees in physics. Further, he built a nearly 30-year

career working for high-tech companies, primarily in management roles, and then he became CEO of an assistive technology manufacturer, which produced a revolutionary visual interpreter for blind people.

Today, he is chief vision officer of accessBe, and is helping advance the company goal of making the entire internet fully inclusive by 2025. His efforts include hosting the podcast "Unstoppable Mindset: where inclusion, diversity and the unexpected meet." He uses the podcast to interview persons who have inspiring stories to tell.

Beyond his career in tech, Hingson, with his current guide dog, Alamo, serves as a Council for Independent Colleges Visiting Fellow, enabling guest lectures about courage, heroism and teamwork at schools and other organizations across the nation. Hingson's week in Franklin included visiting with six classes of students at the College as well as engaging with several student organizations and campus leaders. He also spoke at a college alumni luncheon in Indianapolis, and made visits to a Franklin elementary school, book shop and service organization. During visits, Hingson signed copies of his *New York Times* best-





Franklin College President Kerry Prather, 9/11 survivor Michael Hingson and his guide dog, Alamo

selling book, *Thunder Dog: The True Story of a Blind Man, His Guide Dog and the Triumph of Trust*. His second book, *Running with Roselle*, sheds light on 9/11 for youth.

Hingson's lecture was part of the Franklin College Convocation Lecture Series, underwritten by the Tillman Lecture Fund and established by Trustee **Doug Tillman '70**. ■

ORAL HISTORY PRIMER

Indiana Campus Compact selected Franklin College for a High Impact Community Engagement Practices grant that will enable a team of students to collect oral histories from prominent college community members.

Meredith Clark-Wiltz, Ph.D., associate professor and Hon. Roger D. Branigin Chair in History, and David Pfeiffer, director of the Johnson County Museum of History, will co-lead the student team throughout the process of researching college history, interviewing college community members, presenting findings and preserving the work. Students will interview longtime trustees, past administrators, emeriti faculty and distinguished alumni to collect a variety of unique perspectives.

Inspiration for the project stems from the approaching bicentennial anniversaries of Johnson County and the city of Franklin in 2023, and is part of a larger countywide initiative to preserve significant historical records in the interest of the community. The Johnson County Museum of History and B.F. Hamilton Library at the College will catalog the work for future reference.

"This project provides valuable opportunities for our history students to apply academic concepts and methodological approaches to meaningful, community-facing projects," said Clark-Wiltz. "Through this experience, students will advance their academic understanding and digital fluency, while reflecting on their professional development and civic engagement." ■

Making Chamber inroads

Franklin College President Kerry Prather has gained a new leadership role since his election to the Indy Chamber Board of Directors in January 2022.

The Indy Chamber serves as a voice of progress and improvement in the region, uniting business and community to maintain a strong economy and quality of life. The board manages the full scope of the Indy Chamber's business, including the organizational budget. Board members include CEOs, presidents and executives in banking, education, health care and the legal field, among others.

"I am excited to engage more intensely in the work of the Indy Chamber and am proud to join its board of directors," said Prather. "The Chamber's work throughout the region is important and impactful, as is the involvement of Franklin College. We have enjoyed the opportunities afforded by our membership and look forward to continuing this mutually beneficial relationship."

Franklin College has been a member of the Indy Chamber since 2014. ■

PRIZE WRITERS

Franklin College journalism students claimed two of the top three awards in the 35th annual Thomas R. Keating Competition, sponsored by the Indianapolis Press Club Foundation.

The legendary competition attracts college and university students from across Indiana, and requires an application and published examples of original work for eligibility. Ultimately, only 10 finalists receive invitations to compete in the deadline-driven feature-writing contest. The winners earn cash prizes and bragging rights.

The 2021 contest centered around two days of events in Indianapolis in November. On the first day, students participated in a critiquing workshop and dinner with professional journalists. On the second day, students received their feature-writing

challenge: investigate and report on “Indianapolis in flux.” Further parameters indicated stories be completed in five hours or less and focus on the pandemic, racial tensions or construction in downtown Indianapolis.

Independently, the students searched to find inspiration and interview sources before returning to write their stories at the *Indianapolis Business Journal* headquarters. As contest judges reviewed their work, students received a tour of the facility. An evening awards banquet recognized all the finalists and honored the top three finishers with prizes.

Finishing second and earning \$1,750 was **Alexa Shrake '23**, who wrote about social justice through art. She is a multimedia journalism major and co-executive editor of the College's news magazine, *The Franklin*.

“This was a very vivid story that painted a picture beautifully,” said the three judges. “A smart way to keep a tight focus on the topic.”

Taylor Wooten '22 earned third place and \$1,250 for her story on social justice and COVID-19.

“A very descriptive and informative story that really made us feel the scene,” the judges said. “Strong reporting.”

Of this year's 10 finalists, six were Franklin College students. In addition to Shrake and Wooten, **Tabby Fitzgerald '23**, **Isaac Gleitz '22**, **Haley Pritchett '23** and **Carolina Puga Mendoza '22** received contest invitations. Other competitors represented Indiana University, Ball State and Goshen.

The 2021 contest marked the fourth consecutive year that Franklin College students were among the 10 finalists, as well as the fourth year Franklin students placed in the top three. A Franklin student took the top honor in 2019 and shared top honors in 2020.

Keating, a popular former *Indianapolis Star* columnist and Lilly Endowment Inc. executive, is the inspiration behind the contest. He died in 1985 at the age of 45. Lilly Endowment underwrites a portion of the competition each year. ■

Alexa Shrake '23 and
Taylor Wooten '22



Pulliam School of
Journalism Director **John
Krull '81** and “ABC News”
anchor and reporter
Linsey Davis

PHOTO BY TABBY FITZGERALD '23



QUALITY journalism is key

Did you know a century-long tradition of inspiring and celebrating high school journalism excellence began at Franklin College?

From the resourceful minds of **Ray Blackwell '24** (HD '72) and **William A. Bridges '23** (HD '52) came the idea for an association to help empower student journalists and to promote quality journalism among Indiana's high schools. They found an enthusiastic mentor in Eugene C. Pulliam, then publisher and co-owner of the local newspaper, *The Franklin Evening Star*. Through dedication and hard work, the men founded the Indiana High School Press Association (IHSPA) in 1922.

Today, the IHSPA has headquarters at the Pulliam School of Journalism on the Franklin College campus, and continues to provide resources for high school publication advisers and students in addition to signature events including an annual convention at the College and a yearly First Amendment Symposium at the Indiana Statehouse.

The 2022 state high school journalism convention at Franklin College took place Jan. 28, and featured “ABC News” anchor and reporter Linsey Davis as keynote speaker. Davis, who also is a correspondent for “Good Morning America,” “20/20” and “Nightline,” as well as a bestselling children’s book author, joined Pulliam School of Journalism Director **John Krull '81** on stage for a conversation about her professional path, the future of news media and what Hoosier scholastic journalists can do to better prepare for the career field.

Convention attendees then had the opportunity to ask Davis questions about her career, from co-anchoring presidential debates to interviewing significant public figures such as National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases Director Anthony Fauci, M.D., and former U.S. Vice President Mike Pence.

Franklin College President Kerry Prather, also a convention speaker, thanked educators in the room for playing a vital role in high school journalism students’ college and career readiness. Further, he encouraged the students to seek a well-rounded college education with internships and other hands-on learning opportunities to help hone their critical-thinking and problem-solving skills.

More than 400 guests attended the 2022 convention. ■

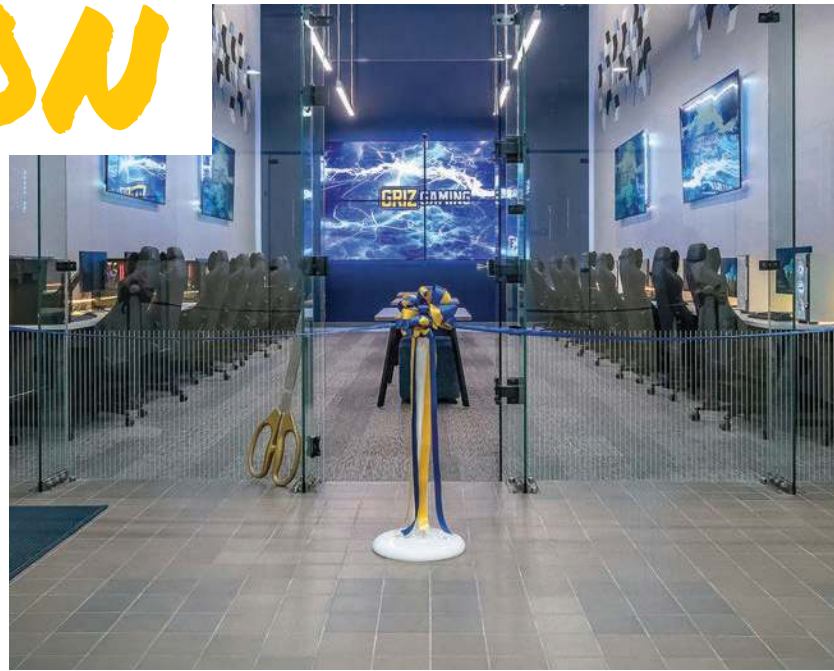
GAME ON

Franklin College formally unveiled its new esports arena with a ribbon-cutting ceremony on Dec. 9, 2021. The arena, on the first floor of Spurlock Center, is home to GRIZ Gaming, the esports program. Esports centers around video games. Team members compete online against other colleges and universities across the country, with championship winners becoming eligible for national competitions.

Franklin's program launched in March 2021, and a coed team of GRIZ Gamers was active in competitions by fall, but with the arena still under construction the team had to find temporary space on campus to practice. This spring, the finished arena ushered in a full season for the GRIZ Gamers, who had CS:GO, League of Legends, Super Smash Bros., Fortnite and Call of Duty competitions on their roster.

"The world of esports and competitive gaming is expanding very quickly," Director of Athletics Andrew Hendricks said. "Franklin College is proud to have entered this market early, and we are already seeing results. The program is appealing to prospective students, and our teams are being exposed to a wide breadth of opportunities that parallel the gaming industry."

Hendricks added, "The arena gives our teams a competitive advantage over many programs by providing a dedicated



Franklin's esports arena is on the first floor of Spurlock Center, where the coed team practices and competes.

space to compete, strategize and collaborate. We are grateful to those who helped dream this idea and provide the necessary funding to make it a reality."

Todd Burris is the head coach and program director for GRIZ Gaming. Franklin is a member of the National Association of Collegiate Esports (NACE), an association that organizes and facilitates competitions. Five years ago, few colleges had esports. Today, more than 400 programs exist nationwide. ■

DAY OF GIVING

Donors showed up in a big way to support #GRIZTuesday on Nov. 30, 2021.

A total of \$142,994 was raised during the 24-hour period, surpassing the \$100,000 goal by nearly 43%. The annual fundraiser supports athletic programs and is conducted primarily through social media and email.

"We are exceedingly grateful to the many donors and 19 sponsors who generously supported **#GRIZTuesday**," said Dana Cummings, vice president for institutional advancement. "The support given by our alumni, friends, faculty, staff, students, parents and community members was once again truly amazing."

Cummings praised Franklin College Trustee **Rafael Sánchez '92** for adding to the day's fun as volunteer host of the GRIZ Games, a virtual presentation featuring current and former student athletes. Sánchez is an anchor and reporter for WRTV in Indianapolis. Read more about him on Pages 30–32.

The **#GRIZTuesday** title sponsors were Indiana Members Credit Union, Miller Transportation Bus Service and Viaggio. Bischoff Wealth Management, Elwood Staffing and Timberland Lumber Co. were major sponsors of the day. ■

COACH NAMED NATIONAL FINALIST

Franklin College Director of Athletics and head swimming and diving coach Andrew Hendricks is one of three finalists for the 2022 National Scholastic Collegiate Trophy, the highest honor in intercollegiate and interscholastic swimming and diving. It recognizes “the individual who has made the greatest contribution to swimming as a competitive sport, and as a healthful, recreational activity in the province of undergraduate and scholastic education.”



The trophy comes from both the College Swimming and Diving Coaches Association of America (CSCAA) and National Interscholastic Swimming Coaches Association. Besides Hendricks, the other finalists work at North Carolina State and Howard universities. The finalists will go before a vote of CSCAA Member Coaches and be recognized at an awards ceremony this May.

Now in his 13th season at the helm, Hendricks has coached 11 different athletes to national prominence, 13 to Academic All-America honors and 19 to All-America honors. Since the Heartland Collegiate Athletic Conference (HCAC) instituted a league championship in 2017, Hendricks has guided the Franklin women to five consecutive titles, and the men's team to two titles. In all, Franklin has claimed 17 major awards from the HCAC, with Hendricks earning Coach of the Year five times.

Further, Hendricks has coached the Grizzlies to 228 all-conference honors, 128 individual conference championships and 63 conference relay titles. Prior to the HCAC establishing a conference championship, Hendricks guided the Grizzlies to seven Liberal Arts Conference championships. At press time, the women's team owned a 52-0 record, dating back five years. ■

SEASON ROUNDUP

Get a glimpse of the Grizzlies' winter athletic season:

Basketball: The men's team captured their second consecutive HCAC title, and made their first NCAA Tournament appearance since 2008. After toppling No.3-seed Defiance and No.2-seed Rose-Hulman, Franklin pulled off a 91-84 upset of No.1-seed Hanover to seal its sixth-ever HCAC title. HCAC Tournament MVP **Cody Samples '24** had 34 points in the clincher, and **Matt Krause '22** made the HCAC All-Tournament Team.

Women's teammates **Destinee Cross '22** and **Jessica Nix '22** gave stellar senior performances. Cross led in scoring with 13.5 points per game to collect Second Team All-HCAC honors, while Nix started all 24 games and finished with a career-best 9.8 points per game to earn a spot on the league's Honorable Mention Team.

Swimming and Diving: The men's team ended the regular season with a perfect 8-0 and collected a runner-up finish at the HCAC Championship. **Gauge Creech '23** earned the HCAC's inaugural Men's Swimming and Diving Athlete of the Year Award and advanced to the NCAA Championship, receiving Honorable Mention All-America.

The women's season was a flawless 9-0, capped by a fifth straight HCAC Championship win. Three women earned individual HCAC honors: **Samantha Phillips '24** - Swimmer of the Meet, **Faith Jackson '23** - Diver of the Meet and **Emme Egan '25** - Newcomer of the Year. **Caleigh McCafferty '23** later earned the HCAC's inaugural Women's Swimming and Diving Athlete of the Year Award. Jackson, **Carley Bond '23** and **Kamryn Elder '24** represented Franklin at the 2022 NCAA Diving Regional.

Indoor Track and Field: The men took fifth place at the HCAC Indoor Championship as a team and had five individual podium finishes. **Zak Wiley '22**, the HCAC Men's Most Outstanding Throws Athlete of the Year, also was a U.S. Track & Field and Cross Country Coaches Association All-Region selection.

The women finished fifth as a team at the HCAC Indoor Championship. They also earned four individual podium finishes and repeated a gold medal performance in the distance medley relay by **Angelina Gregory '22**, **Mallory Watson '23**, **Lex Desenberg '23** and **Taylor Wooten '22**. ■

SUITING UP

By Amy (Kean) VerSteeg '96, Editor

Central Indiana Hoosiers know him best as WRTV newscaster and investigative reporter Rafael Sánchez '92, but when the studio lights and cameras turn off he goes to work of another kind. He volunteers – a lot.



With approximately 50 calendar commitments a year, it is understandable that Sánchez calls volunteerism his main “hobby.” He does much more than make appearances. He hosts programs, conducts interviews, runs auctions, produces social media videos and dances, all to help raise awareness of issues and dollars for important causes. Volunteerism is serious business, but he works hard to bring fun to every occasion and help people feel good about their philanthropy.

“People want to be entertained and engaged. It’s why I have a whole collection of light-up shoes, blinking bow ties and colorful jackets,” Sánchez

said. He refers to a suitcase on wheels as his “mobile wardrobe.”

There are limits, though.

“I don’t do anything political, no fundraising. There are strict employer guidelines about that, and by extension of being a journalist there are some things that are off the table. Sometimes, turning down an invitation can be a difficult conversation, but volunteerism is really about finding that thing you are passionate about, and that will impact the greater good,” Sánchez said.

“I focus on things that matter to me on a global scale, such as access to

education, health care, domestic violence prevention and addiction recovery. So many organizations exist for the sole purpose of investing in human beings and helping them get through a process to sustain themselves; those are the ones I want to be involved in helping. It’s about helping individuals get a hand up, and get to a better place.”

Sánchez also is inclined to help organizations that host bilingual events; he speaks English and Spanish. His parents emigrated from the Dominican Republic to the United States, and he grew up in the Bronx, New York. He recalls his parents’ hardships and tenacity, and is

A suitcase serves as a mobile wardrobe for Rafael Sánchez '92.

motivated to help others achieve their American dream.

"What I appreciate about the immigrant experience is the values we all share as people who are dreaming to do better, and who work hard to get it done. Those are values we can all embrace because that helps all of our communities to succeed," Sánchez said.

Sánchez has not always been on the giving end of philanthropy. There was a short time after his parents divorced that his family needed food stamps.

"We always had food, but mom needed extra help to make the budget, and to stretch her work dollars. I don't remember much about the struggle, but I know what it's like to need a helping hand," he said. "If I can help organizations that make safety nets available to people when there's a struggle, then I'll be there. It's the right thing to do."

Along with spouse **Beth (Baker) '92**, he gives philanthropic support to various nonprofits in Johnson County, where they reside. "We have a responsibility to support those who have the skillsets and are going to move the needle," he said.

Career longevity in broadcast journalism is rare today, but Sánchez has succeeded in adapting with the ever-evolving industry. Now, embarking on his 25th year at WRTV, he humbly calls this stage of life and career the "halftime show," insisting there is always room for improvement.

"When we graduate, we study, we work hard and we want the outcome that goes with our skillsets. The



Rafael Sánchez '92 and Lauren (Casey) Bemis '14 co-anchor "Good Morning Indiana."

Rafael Sánchez '92 is the winner of multiple Emmy Awards.



Beth (Baker) Sánchez '92
and spouse **Rafael '92**

"I'M FOREVER GRATEFUL FOR GETTING THE CHANCE TO TRY. WE HAD JOURNALISM PROFESSORS WHO RECOGNIZED THERE WAS NOT A VEHICLE FOR US AT THE TIME, AND THEY WERE OPEN TO US GOING FOR IT."

RAFAEL SÁNCHEZ '92

journey is long. Mine isn't different than anyone else's," Sánchez said.

His resume illustrates a clearer picture, one that reflects a litany of achievements including multiple Emmy awards for journalism excellence and investigative reporting. As the co-anchor of "Good Morning Indiana" with **Lauren (Casey) Bemis '14** and the lead field anchor on breaking news and political coverage, Sánchez continues to better his career.

He credits significant career preparation to Franklin College, where he, the late **José Rodriguez '93** and **Michael Schug '92** founded the first-ever student-produced video broadcast program, "Inside Franklin."

"I'm forever grateful for getting the chance to try. We had journalism professors who recognized there was not a vehicle for us at the time, and they were open to us going for it. They said here are some boundaries, but

they really allowed us to explore and grow. That level of faculty support is distinctively FC," Sánchez said.

Sánchez is proud to see the work Pulliam School of Journalism students continue producing today. One example is The Statehouse File, which reports nonpartisan news that media outlets across Indiana re-share on their respective platforms. Further, as a Franklin College Trustee, Sánchez has the chance to engage closely with the college community on events such as **#GivetoGRIZ**, the annual 24-hour fundraising challenge. His social media segments during the challenge always spark alumni engagement and laughter. Another reason he enjoys coming to campus these days is to spend time with son **Antonio '23**, who also happens to be his Kappa Delta Rho fraternity brother. Daughter Sierra attends law school in New York.

Sánchez said, "Franklin College is the only board I serve. I certainly do what I can as a trustee, but when I'm in a room with the 30 others I sometimes have to sit back and take a deep breath. They're amazing people with resumes from here to the edge of the world, and they all bring something special to the table. It allows me to take stock, and ask am I doing all the things I should be? Do I have more work to do?"

Time will tell. One thing is certain, Sánchez will be ready to suit up for whatever opportunities life brings. ■

PRIDE

in progress

By Amy (Kean) VerSteeg '96, Editor

Developing a healthy, safe and vibrant community where all families and neighbors can thrive drives Mayor Tom DeBaun '86 to lead and serve his hometown, Shelbyville, Indiana. In the midst of his third mayoral term, DeBaun is proud of the city's progress the last 11 years but recognizes there is still significant work to do.

Shelbyville, Indiana, Mayor **Tom DeBaun '86**

"We've gone from a sleepy town that hoped something would change to a community that has taken some control of its destiny and is looking at growth in a more holistic manner," DeBaun said.

Beyond the flourishing downtown revitalization and promising business developments, DeBaun is committed to examining the human infrastructure in Shelbyville and Shelby County, to better understand how policies, systems and facilities affect the residents. Identifying the barriers to opportunities for education, job training, employment, mental health treatment, addiction recovery and stable housing is critical to furthering community progress, he explained.

"We recognize that change doesn't occur in a vacuum and, therefore, every policy has intended and unintended consequences. The key is reacting in a timely manner," DeBaun said.

It also takes a knowledgeable, experienced, collaborative team, and DeBaun has convened exactly that. Several passionate and engaged colleagues from across the government spectrum in Shelbyville are collaborating with DeBaun to confront social inequities,



to expand opportunities and to build individual and community capacity for future progress. That the team members also happen to be Franklin College alumni is serendipity.

"The funny thing is I didn't seek fellow FC grads; it's just that they are the best fit for the challenge," DeBaun said.

They include **Tony Collier '87**, regional one stop manager for WorkOne Central Indiana, **Michael Daniels '86**, behavioral health and justice equity director for the city of Shelbyville, **Melissa Gharst '87**, program services

director for Shelby County courts, and **Kim (White) Koehl '88**, executive director for Shelby Senior Services.

The alumni are authorities in their fields and bring experience-based perspectives to discussions about policies, procedures and solutions. Their collective knowledge from working in criminal justice, vocational training, educational services, health care, addiction recovery, homelessness prevention and senior services enables a holistic approach to some of the most complex challenges impacting residents.

“We’re always trying to improve our understanding of cause and effect,” DeBaun said. The critical-thinking and problem-solving skills the team members bring to the table are a testament to their liberal arts education. “I have an inherent confidence in these individuals because we have a common experience in Franklin College,” said DeBaun, an Alumni Council member.

It was Daniels who initially approached DeBaun a few years ago to pitch the idea of adding a social justice and equity component to Shelbyville’s government structure. At that time, Daniels was working for a county in metropolitan Ohio. His social justice and policy position involved coordination with police officers, the sheriff’s office, jails, first responders, judges, prosecuting attorneys and public defenders. One of their most effective strategies was connecting individuals to life-enhancing opportunities so they would be less likely to resort to criminal activity and be arrested.

During their first meeting, Daniels illustrated for DeBaun how preventing one individual’s arrest could, in turn, prevent a cascade of negative implications on that person’s significant other, children and other relatives. Daniels had the data to back his claim, and DeBaun was receptive to continuing talks about how Shelbyville could benefit from a similar model of collaboration across departments. Many more discussions followed over the next couple of years until timing and opportunity aligned to enable DeBaun to extend a job offer. Daniels was eager to return to Shelbyville, where he was born and raised.

Since last fall, Daniels has been deeply engaged. Though Shelby County is less populated and rural than where he previously worked, the challenges are

similar, he said. So is his boots-on-the-ground approach.

“As the primary liaison between Mayor DeBaun’s office and the Shelbyville neighborhoods who have historically been overlooked or whose opinions have not been directly solicited, I’m responsible for outreach, and on a much broader level for policy changes,” Daniels said.

Daniels’ position is distinct because he is the first ever to hold it, and because the objective is highly focused.

“Mayor DeBaun had the foresight and chutzpah to create a job where it’s my only job to go in every day, all day, and follow through on all these things that make a difference to individuals and families. These things have always been important but were only a fraction of other people’s various job responsibilities in the past. Now, they can get constant attention,” Daniels said.

As part of his work, Daniels seeks to bridge the gap of understanding between public perception of “how things should be” and how an individual’s values, needs, desires and responses to trauma all play roles in their wellbeing, and their neighborhood’s wellbeing. Strong listening skills and empathy are crucial, he said.

Based on what he learns from talking with individuals, Daniels then works through a checklist of questions. “First, what are the resources we have in place, or more importantly what are the resources we need in place to help the individual get to point A, so then they can get to point B? And how do we put systems in place to undergird and sustain their success?”

When Daniels does not know the answer or needs additional information to make a better-informed decision, he can count on his colleagues to help.

“Melissa Gharst, as a probation officer and the coordinator of a very effective recidivism prevention program within the jail, is an incredible resource. She sees what works, and what doesn’t,” Daniels said. “Likewise, Tony Collier is tremendously helpful. We recently worked together on coordinating a job fair specifically for individuals who were formerly incarcerated or are currently working through addiction recovery. Through Tony and his team’s efforts, we had every major employer in the county participate. And Kim Koehl is very helpful in addressing the variety of challenges affecting the elderly population, whether it’s a lack of transportation, a mental health issue or housing concern.”

By extension of his work for the Mayor’s Office, Daniels also collaborates with **Stephen Black ’99**, director of behavioral health/social determinants of health for Major Hospital in Shelbyville, and **Emily Larrison ’19**, community advocate navigator for the Shelbyville Fire Department.

Daniels said, “Stephen’s background in veteran affairs and mental health makes him a critical partner in the community, and he has become one of my biggest allies in the effort to remove barriers to treating mental illness. Then, there’s Emily, raising awareness throughout the community about all kinds of resources to help people meet basic needs like clothing and hygiene, as well as helping mitigate fire department runs to non-emergencies.”

For example, the fire department’s call records can help pinpoint what is called “911 dependency.” Someone may call for help because there are underlying circumstances such as a mental health issue that prompts them to pick up the phone. Reducing the instances of such non-emergency calls enables the department to redirect its resources

in a timely manner where they are needed most.

“The way that it works is if firefighters or medics get called out and notice any kind of social need at a home, then they can, with the person’s consent, share the contact info with me. I’ll follow up, usually by phone, but occasionally with a home visit to help connect the person with the appropriate community resource. If the person receives help, then they may not need to call the fire department so often in the future,” Larrison said.

As one example of the strategy’s effectiveness, Larrison shared that an individual who was struggling with substance abuse and calling the fire department excessively opted to seek treatment for the first time in 30 years, after she received some direct outreach. However, not everyone offered help wants it, and that also is important to document, Larrison said. Tracking the information over the long term can help reveal trends and patterns, and shed light on neighborhood challenges. She is in the process of conducting a gap analysis on the community. “It involves taking all the data collected over the last couple of years to see which resources aren’t as available as we think, and what we’re doing really well,” Larrison said.

Besides connecting individuals with resource organizations, Larrison is connecting the organizations to each other. “Sometimes, they’re doing similar work, and they don’t know about each other. When they connect, they can potentially enhance each other’s resources and impact,” she said.

DeBaun recognizes the success of some efforts is not measurable, but said the cost of doing nothing is clear.

“When I took office in 2012 and began working with colleagues to establish

Emily Larrison '19, community advocate navigator for the Shelbyville Fire Department



CHAD WILLIAMS

a path forward, we reached out to Ball State University and the Indiana University Public Policy Institute to help us look at demographics. We knew we needed ways to attract more young families and new talent to Shelbyville, to backfill those leaving. In reviewing the findings, we learned we needed educational programming to help with kindergarten readiness, job readiness and technical employee training. The paths to help people improve their lot in life through educational programming didn’t exist in our community, and the link between the lack of opportunities and the cycles of poverty were evident,” DeBaun said.

The demographic data helped lead to partnerships with Indiana colleges and universities who are assisting the city in enhancing educational opportunities for citizens of every age group. As the result of some programming, Shelbyville’s rate of postsecondary completion among citizens increased by 9% in six years, DeBaun indicated.

“I truly believe educational programs are the real chances to break the

generational impacts of poverty and other disadvantaged populations,” DeBaun said. Educational programming coupled with the efforts overseen by Black, Daniels, Collier, Gharst, Koehl and Larrison touch every facet of the community.

“These efforts can impact the lives of people who otherwise may be out of alternatives,” DeBaun said. He emphasized that careful planning and budgeting for the short- and long-term future guide these efforts, as they do every project and program overseen by the Shelbyville government.

Daniels added, “I’m really proud of our team and this community for not politicking this holistic approach, and for taking an everybody come to the table and let’s solve the problem attitude. That my little hometown is being led by people from my liberal arts college who are getting it right also makes me very proud.”

One thing is clear; the collaborative work across the government spectrum is challenging and complicated. It also is important for the greater good. ■

Yuri Smith '06 said he grew up surrounded by drugs and violence, and chess saved his life.



GAME *of* LIFE

Growing up in Indianapolis' Riverside neighborhood in the 1990s, Yuri Smith '06 knew he had to be home each night before the streetlights came on. While the rest of the kids on the 2100 block of Sugar Grove Ave. continued to play outside, he was in the kitchen with his uncle, sitting behind a chessboard.

By Brandon Drenon, *Indianapolis Star*
Edited for content and length.

"Chess saved my life," Smith said.

It kept him away from the drugs, alcohol and violence pervading his neighborhood and gave him critical-thinking and decision-making skills in return. As the founder of Indy Inner-City Chess, Smith hopes to impart the same skills upon youth today.

Smith considered himself fortunate growing up. "I was one of the few people in my entire neighborhood who had both my mother and my father in the house. We were poor, but I didn't feel like it because I was surrounded by so much love and support."

His mother worked as an administrative assistant while his dad cared for Smith and his two brothers, one of whom had disabilities and could not live independently.

Outside of Smith's home, however, he saw a once-thriving historically Black neighborhood on the decline. In the 1980s, factory jobs either left or downsized. After he became a teenager, Smith recalled kids dropping out of school to sell drugs and police "sweeping in and locking people up."

His uncle sat him down one evening and said, "Nephew, I'm going to teach you how to play chess." Smith was 8 years old. By the time he was 10, he could beat his uncle and, at 13, he won his first super national chess championship at a tournament in Knoxville, Tennessee. Brebeuf Jesuit High School offered Smith a scholarship to continue playing chess, but he turned it down, his only regret in life, he said.

He went to Emmerich Manuel High School to focus on sports instead, then with scholarships and other aid attended Franklin College, and played basketball for the Grizzlies. Chess took the background in Smith's life for almost two decades until he was hired as a program administrator at Indianapolis Metropolitan High School. While there, he ran into an old friend coaching the chess team, decided to help coach and won a trophy at the first tournament they entered together. That is when he realized the game is a tool that can reinforce life skills.

"Chess can save people's lives," Smith said. "It gives students some symbolism to life."

Learning to own the outcome of a chess play is a great tool for learning to own the consequences of decisions made in the real world, Smith said. It also forces players to think before they act, a skill that many people like the kids he grew up with did not have, he added.

"If they had played chess, would they be dead right now? Would they be locked up?" Smith asked. "Because everybody that played chess with us didn't die. They're not locked up."

**"CHESS CAN SAVE
PEOPLE'S LIVES.
IT GIVES STUDENTS
SOME SYMBOLISM
TO LIFE."**

YURI SMITH '06

In 2014, Smith founded Indy Inner-City Chess to expand his outreach. In 2019, other organizations approached him about spearheading a Chess in the Park series. The fall of 2021 marked the third time that Smith in conjunction with leaders of Aspire House, Northwest Community Resource District Council, Cleo's Bodega, Indianapolis Metropolitan Police Department and the Near Northwest Neighborhood hosted the eight-week public series, which routinely pairs chess lessons with food and music.

"It was meant to not only bring attention to the (Frank Young) park, but also to bring people from the community together," Smith said.

In addition to instructing chess, Smith works as the health center manager for Eskenazi Health in Indianapolis. To connect with Smith about ways to engage, go to innercitychess.com. ■

TRAIN OF THOUGHT

By Alexa Shrake '23, Pulliam Fellow

The daily trains that rattle along the tracks west of campus are as familiar a sight today as they were to Franklin College students 50 years ago. Back when Geoff Doughty '72 began watching trains pass by the College, he had no idea American railroads would become the center of his career and give steam to a prolific writing sideline.

Geoff Doughty '72

Doughty recalls that some students groaned about disruptions from the trains, but he was intrigued. He spent the occasional break between classes watching the trains go by, but keeping up with the rigorous course work in his majors, history and English, and working at the college radio station occupied most of his time.

"I received an excellent education at Franklin and had outstanding college teachers who prepared me for what was to come my way," Doughty said.

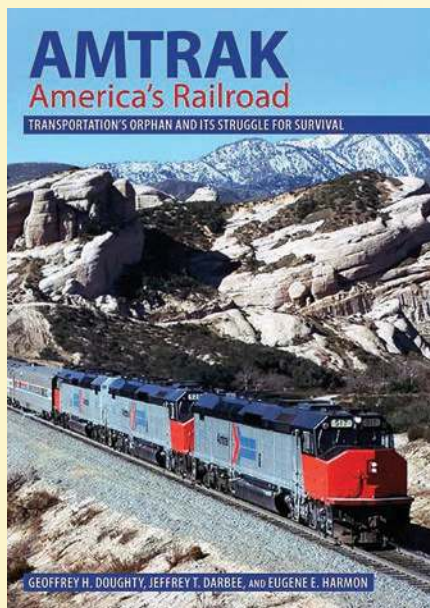
After earning his Franklin College degree, Doughty taught in private schools for two years, but the expectations placed upon teachers to also coach sports made him reconsider careers. The railroad was calling.

He had worked summer stints in college with the Chicago & North Western Railway so after teaching he found a full-time position with Maine Central Railroad, where he worked in the transportation, revenue accounting and engineering departments. Because of his familiarity with and knowledge of the railroad's operations, and his ability to write, he earned a promotion to safety director. In the role, he developed the company's drug and alcohol testing program, the first in the Northeast, and helped organize public/railroad-crossing safety programs in Maine, New Hampshire and Vermont. Safety consulting was his specialty for 20 years.

After his career was on the right track, Doughty revived a college dream. "I wished someone would write about passenger trains," he said.

To date, he has researched, written and published 30 books and numerous articles about railroads, passenger trains, and the history of transportation. The College's B.F. Hamilton Library offers the entire collection,





safety-oriented seminars for trucking and bus companies, he wrote and produced training videos in cooperation with the New Hampshire State Police. Because of his previous experience in developing drug and alcohol testing for the railroad, he was chosen to work alongside state and federal law enforcement officials in creating programs to educate trucking company officials in the recognition of drug and alcohol abuse in the workplace.

"My education in history and English was well suited for the safety director positions as I also had to wear many other hats, including writing for the

"I RECEIVED AN EXCELLENT EDUCATION AT FRANKLIN AND HAD OUTSTANDING COLLEGE TEACHERS WHO PREPARED ME FOR WHAT WAS TO COME MY WAY."

GEOFF DOUGHTY 72

gifted by Doughty over the years. His books are also available online.

His most recent book, *Amtrak, America's Railroad: Transportation's Orphan and Its Struggle for Survival*, is in its second printing with Indiana University Press. "The book details the history behind the creation of 'America's Railroad,' and how the failure of a national transportation policy and partisan politics have impaired its legitimacy as a necessary component of the nation's passenger transportation network," according to Doughty.

Doughty eventually became safety director for the New Hampshire Motor Transport Association and Vermont Truck & Bus Association where, in addition to creating

railroad's company magazine and the trucking associations' publications," Doughty said.

Doughty is now retired from the transportation industry, but continues serving as the voice of Portland Symphony Orchestra's broadcasts on Maine's Public Radio network; this is his 46th season. The years he spent as student manager of Franklin College's WFCI radio station were valuable preparation, he said.

He and spouse Pamela live in Lyman, Maine, and are looking forward to visiting Franklin College this fall for Homecoming and Alumni Weekend. Doughty is especially eager to see old friends and, of course, maybe the occasional train. ■



We're busy getting ready to welcome you back for

**Homecoming and
Alumni Weekend,
Oct. 4 - 9, 2022.**

Does your graduation year end in a "2" or "7"?

Then, it's also time to celebrate your class reunion!

Visit alumni.FranklinCollege.edu for more details this summer.

CLASS NOTES



1



2

'60s

Bob Kirlin '65, a broker associate with Carpenter Hills O'Brown Realty, in Nashville, Indiana, recently received the F.C. "Bud" Tucker Community Service Award from the MIBOR REALTOR® Association. The annual award recognizes a member for making an impact on the community outside of real estate and for helping to build a positive image for the realty industry. He received the award during an industry fundraiser to help address homelessness in Central Indiana.

Mike Hall '69 for the 12th consecutive season was color commentator for the Johnson County Basketball Game of the Week Program on KORN Country radio, 100.3 FM, in Franklin.

'70s

William "Bill" Lloyd '72 is an instructor for the adult education program at Manatee Technical College in Bradenton, Florida.

'80s

Jennifer St. Clair '84 officiates boys' and girls' basketball games, ranging from fourth grade to high school varsity. She recently was selected by her officiating peers to represent the Spokane region, and officiate a double-elimination state championship. Her full-time career is with Client Network Services Inc., where she is director of resource management



3

1: **Bob Kirlin '65**

2: **Tracey (Bennett) Collier '88** and spouse **Marc '87**

3: **Indianapolis Fire Department Battalion Chief Ron Marks Jr.** with significant other **Dena Mayes-Marietta '90** and her son, **Ayden**

SUBMITTED PHOTOS

What's new?

Share your milestones, experiences, travels and photos in the next magazine! Submit Class Notes at alumni.FranklinCollege.edu.



operations. She resides in Carson, Washington.

Tracey (Bennett) Collier '88 with her sister, Lisa, co-owns Josephine's in Irvington, a size-inclusive women's store, open since April 2021. The brick-and-mortar shop is near downtown Indianapolis. The store's name honors their maternal grandmother, and all the "strong, independent and fierce women in the family," they say.

'90s

Dena Mayes-Marietta '90 accepted a marketing and events manager position with Duke Cos. in April 2021. Her role includes media relations, social media management, sponsorships, community outreach and events marketing. She also recently completed a grant writing certification program at the University of Notre Dame, and succeeded in earning grants for the Indianapolis Black Firefighters Association and Indiana Children's Wish Fund. She resides in Bargersville, Indiana, where she is on the city's Main Street Board of Directors. She has an 18-year old son, Ayden.

Regina (Ongley) Miller '91 is a 2021 graduate of the Richard G. Lugar Excellence in Public Service Series. The political training program has a mission to "increase the number and influence of Republican women in elected and appointed governmental positions at the local, state and federal levels." She now is working toward completion of a juris doctorate at

IU McKinney School of Law. She resides in Franklin, Indiana.

Chris Cherry '92 recently earned an election to the Indiana Corn Growers Association (ICGA) board. He was originally appointed in 2021 to finish the term for a member who died. Cherry has been a full-time farmer since 1999 in rural Hancock County. He grows corn, wheat and soybeans, and he also operates Cherry Ag Service. "I want to help develop and work on the policies and legislation that will benefit Indiana's corn farmers," Cherry said of his goals with ICGA, reported *AgriNews*.

Michelle (Reardon) Hurst '92 is a development associate with Franciscan Health Foundation. She resides in Crown Point, Indiana.

Aaron Howald '93 was named vice president, investor relations and business development of LP Building Solutions, based in Nashville, Tennessee.

Matt Vance '95, Ed.D., has accepted the superintendent position with Shelbyville Central Schools in Indiana. He begins the role on July 1, 2022, and will transition from his current job as Rush County Schools superintendent, a position he has held for eight years.

Rebecca "Becky" (Rude) Ogle '96 was named a top honoree in the *Indianapolis Business Journal* (IBJ) Chief Financial Officer (CFO) of the Year recognition program in 2021. She stood out among other CFOs nominated in the category "private

companies with revenue under \$100 million." *IBJ* cited some of her major accomplishments as streamlining the payroll process, successfully completing a software conversion, leading her team's transition to working remotely during the early stages of the pandemic and helping execute sale of the company to a private equity investment firm.

Heather (Willis) Neal '97 has joined Deloitte LLP, as the client relationship executive, working with state, local and higher education clients in Indiana. She previously worked more than 20 years in and with Indiana state government.

'00s

Haley Glover '00 recently joined Amazon as senior program manager for career choice, after more than 11 years as strategy director for Lumina Foundation. At Lumina, she led the foundation's Racial Justice and Equity Fund, as well as portfolios designed to improve postsecondary outcomes for marginalized learners, including work with communities across the nation, historically Black colleges and universities student-success efforts and state policy reforms designed to improve opportunities for incarcerated and re-entering people. She also led research to understand the return-on-investment of tuition benefit programs for employers. In her new role, she is leading efforts to connect thousands of Amazon associates with high-quality college opportunities and credentials.



YESTERDAY'S NEWS

Ever wanted to revisit the news-making headlines from your college days? B.F. Hamilton Library's online database makes it easy to browse *The Franklin* student newspaper archives at your leisure. With content ranging from October 1908 to March 2020, you can rekindle great memories and make new discoveries. Start at library.FranklinCollege.edu to explore all the free resources curated for you, then select "Online Databases" and browse under the "F" category to dig into *The Franklin* archives, and more.

Ever wanted to revisit the news-making headlines from your college days? B.F. Hamilton Library's online database makes it easy to browse *The Franklin* student newspaper archives at your leisure. With content ranging from October 1908 to March 2020, you can rekindle great memories and make new discoveries. Start at library.FranklinCollege.edu to explore all the free resources curated for you, then select "Online Databases" and browse under the "F" category to dig into *The Franklin* archives, and more.

Jennifer (Armstrong) Barker '04 was promoted to director of membership and engagement at The Indianapolis Zoo in October 2021. She has been employed with the zoo more than 17 years, serving previously in guest services and membership.

Jamie (Bowen) Nieves '04 accepted a position as vice president of business relationships for Skender. She works in the Indianapolis office. She previously was the director of business development for Shrewsbury & Associates. Prior to moving back to her home state of Indiana, she was the business development manager at engineering firm ECS Southeast in North Carolina and held senior economic development roles at the Kentucky Association for Economic Development and Northern Kentucky Tri-ED.

Sara (Papas) Huckelberry '06 and spouse Jason are the parents of a son, Oliver, born Oct. 20, 2021. They reside in Fishers, Indiana.

LaKisha (Snyder) Jones '06 and spouse Kevin are the parents of a son, Kade Stetson, born April 12, 2021. They reside in Saint Paul, Indiana.

Laurie (Craig) Barnard '08 is the parent of a son, Maxwell Craig, born Nov. 2, 2021. The family resides in Port St. Lucie, Florida.

Luke Bosso '08, managing director of Katz, Sapper & Miller's Government Advisory Services Group, has been named to the *Indianapolis Business Journal's* Forty Under 40, Class of 2022. The class recognizes emerging leaders and entrepreneurs who are making Central Indiana a better place to live and work. Bosso also was named one of Indy's 100 Best and Brightest by Junior Achievement of Central Indiana. Bosso is a Franklin College Alumni Council member and a lecturer in the journalism department.

Rochelle Revor '08 is nearing her fourth year as campaign execution manager for Teradata in San Diego. Outside the office, she volunteers as a U.S. Figure Skating judge at tests and competitions. A competitor since age 12, she continued the sport throughout college and competed in her 14th U.S. Adult Figure Skating (National) Championships in April. She shares the following on her LinkedIn profile: "No, I cannot do a triple axel. Yes, I can concisely explain over a dozen nuances about a triple axel that we judges evaluate in a split-second in order to score that element!"

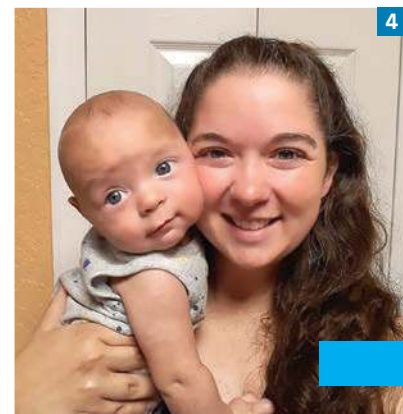
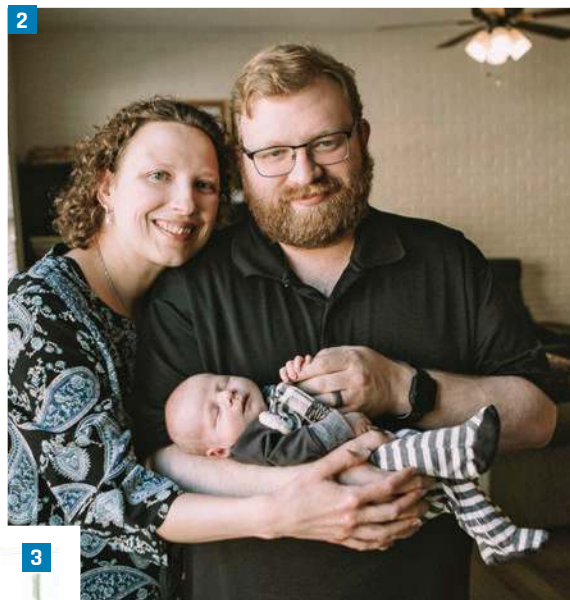
Andrea Heiden '09 and Brandon Russell are the parents of a daughter, Philippa Ruth. "Pippa" was born on Nov. 28, 2021. Andrea is a mental health therapist in private practice at Southside Counseling Associates in Greenwood. Brandon is employed by Helmer Scientific in Noblesville. The family resides in Indianapolis.

'10s

J.R. Fowler '10 and **Kelsey Whitson '12** married on Oct. 16, 2021. They reside in Fishers, Indiana.

Trent Whaley '10 has been named the new principal at Lydia Middleton Elementary for the 2022-23 school year. He is currently in his third year as principal of Jac-Cen-Del Elementary in Osgood, Indiana. He previously taught elementary school for eight years.

Kayla (Bachek) Blackburn '11 and spouse **Adam '10** are the parents of two daughters, Harper Rose, born March 18, 2018, and Hayden Reay, born June 11, 2021. The family resides in Brownsburg, Indiana.



1: Philippa Ruth, "Pippa," is the daughter of **Andrea Heiden '09** and Brandon Russell.

2: **Sara (Papás) Huckelberry '06**, spouse Jason and son Oliver

3: **Rochelle Revor '08**

4: **Laurie (Craig) Barnard '08** and son Maxwell

5: **Kelsey (Whitson) Fowler '12** and spouse **J.R. '10**

SUBMITTED PHOTOS



1: Cristy (Tucker) Williams '12 holds son Cameron next to spouse **Aaron '12** and eldest son Carson
2: Audrey Jensen and spouse Torie Zeiner '15
3: Jayson Rabideau '15 is a marine mammal keeper at the Indianapolis Zoo.

Aaron Williams '12 and spouse **Cristy (Tucker) '12** are the parents of a son, Cameron Tucker, born Jan. 6, 2022. He joins a big brother, Carson. Aaron is a partner at Market Street Wealth Management, and Cristy is a counselor at Franklin Community High School. The family resides in Indianapolis.

Alysa (Hopkins) Raleigh '13 made a career transition in her role with the Indiana Department of Natural Resources, shifting from environmental manager to fish and wildlife health biologist last summer.

Laurie Hargrove '14 has become assistant head of the Sankofa School of Success at Arlington Woods Elementary, a part of Indianapolis Public Schools. She previously taught fifth grade at Westlake Elementary School, and has spent most of her career in education teaching in districts with diverse populations significantly impacted by socio-economics disparities. She has extensive experience serving students with autism spectrum disorders and development disabilities. Sankofa focuses on creating safe, nurturing environments that meet students' academic, social and emotional needs using neuroscience, mindfulness and rigorous education. She is a member of the Franklin College Alumni Council.

Shelby Pierson '15 and Nicolas Barker married on June 11, 2021. She is employed with Damar ABA as a program manager and helps children with autism spectrum disorder. The couple reside in Plainfield, Indiana.

Jayson Rabideau '15, a marine mammal keeper for the Indianapolis Zoo, volunteered his time to present Franklin College biology students a private look at the dolphins who live at the zoo, and the special care and conservation surrounding their species.



4: Nicolas Barker and spouse Shelby (Pierson) '15
5: Mia Burton '18

SUBMITTED PHOTOS

Torie Zeiner '15 and Audrey Jensen married on May 15, 2021, during a creek-side ceremony in Lake Lure, North Carolina. Torie's mother, **Melanie (Parris) Zeiner '84**, and friends, **Brittany Harcourt '16** and **Austin Netherton '15**, were among those present. Afterward, the newlyweds moved cross-country with their pup, Theo, to Seattle, where Torie has begun a residency program at Harborview Medical Center.

Spencer Wesche '17, a conservation officer with Idaho Fish and Game, recently volunteered her time for a virtual class discussion with biology professor Alice Heikens, Ph.D., and students considering careers in wildlife law enforcement.

Mia Burton '18 is a sales representative for the Rogers Group, a corpora-

tion that operates 70 rock quarries and 40 asphalt plants. She resides in Bloomington, Indiana.

Ashley Shuler '18 has been promoted from senior account manager to director of accounts for Dittoe Public Relations in Indianapolis.

Jesse Street '18 recently secured a teaching position with LaPorte International School in Ichinomiya, Japan.

'20s

Mackenzie Taylor '20, a history and elementary education double major, was accepted into education policy and leadership graduate programs at both American and Johns Hopkins universities. She chose American University, and earned a merit scholarship.

Bridget Crews '21 is a study technician for Labcorp Drug Development (formerly named Covance).

Shelbi Robinson MSPAS '21 and spouse Jon are the parents of a daughter, Eden, born Dec. 25, 2020. Shelbi recently began working at Lucina Treatment Center LLC as an addiction medicine physician assistant. The family resides in Greenwood, Indiana.

Jaleby Schlosser '21 was accepted into the occupational therapy program at the University of Southern Indiana.

James Bailey-Smith '21 is an aquatic biologist with Aquatic Control, a lake and pond management company with offices throughout the Midwest ■

CONNECT WITH FRANKLIN COLLEGE, WHEREVER YOU ARE.

From the GrizReads alumni book club and travel opportunities, to job and internship openings, to specialty license plates and college transcripts, you can find the details at alumni.FranklinCollege.edu.

Create your Franklin College Connect account to gain full access to all things Griz:

- Register for alumni social and networking events in your region
- Search the alumni directory and publication archives
- Volunteer for opportunities in student engagement, admissions, career development, advancement and communications
- Submit Class Notes, career updates and address changes (for online sharing and publication)
- Join communities specific to your class and college interests



GrizReads

A book club for alumni and friends



May 2022 Selection:

The Reading List by Sara Nisha Adams

Previous Selections:

Enter by the Narrow Gate

by David Carlson, professor emeritus of
philosophy and religion

The Hollow Inside by Brooke Lauren Davis '15

Register on Franklin College Connect to
participate, alumni.FranklinCollege.edu.

IN MEMORIAM

With these obituaries, we
honor the memory of alumni
and friends who have helped
shape – and were shaped by –
Franklin College.

'30s

Annabelle (McAlpin)

Spencer '41

Nov. 30, 1920 – Jan. 15, 2022

Jackson, Mo.

'50s

Betty (Lyons) Drake '51

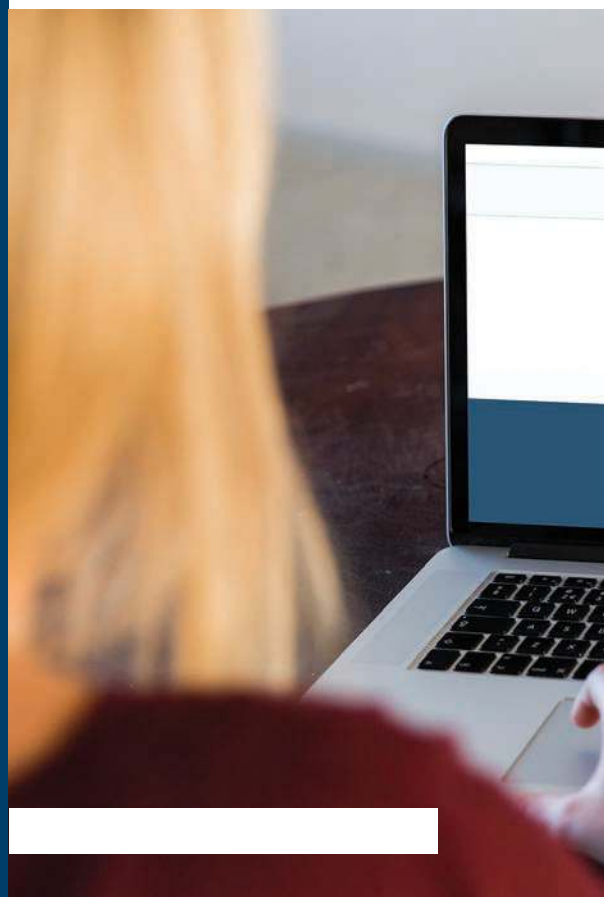
Aug. 29, 1925 – Dec. 26, 2021

Greenwood, Ind.

Joyce (Gordanier) Knight '55

Feb. 11, 1933 – May 21, 2021

Portland, Ore.



Charlene (Wheeler)

Legan '59

Nov. 16, 1936 – Jan. 20, 2022
Franklin, Ind.

'60s

Susan (Mills) England '64

July 18, 1942 – Aug. 10, 2021
Ypsilanti, Mich.

'70s

Philip K. Brown '71

Nov. 28, 1947 – Sept. 30, 2021
Lakewood Ranch, Fla.

Frank Cardinali '71

Sept. 26, 1949 – Feb. 17, 2022
Whiteland, Ind.

'80s

Robert "Jeff" Hicks '82

May 8, 1961 – Dec. 29, 2021
Hobart, Ind.

Andrew E. Stoner '86, Ph.D.

March 13, 1964 – Feb. 9, 2022
Sacramento, Calif.

Friends of Franklin College

Sheila Barr

Former art department
faculty member.
Dec. 21, 1943 – Dec. 30, 2021
Franklin, Ind.

Cynthia L. "Cindy" Beals

Former director of
student activities.
June 27, 1957 – Jan. 6, 2022
Yale, Mich.

William "Bill" Blackwell

Heritage and Horizon societies
member, creator of the
William Blackwell Endowment
Fund for Mathematics and
namesake of the William and
Marjorie Blackwell Scholar-in-
Residence Program.
Aug. 25, 1929 – Nov. 25, 2021
Piedmont, Calif.

**Dorothy L. "Dottie"
Dickinson**

Heritage Society member
April 12, 1932 – Jan. 14, 2021
Indianapolis

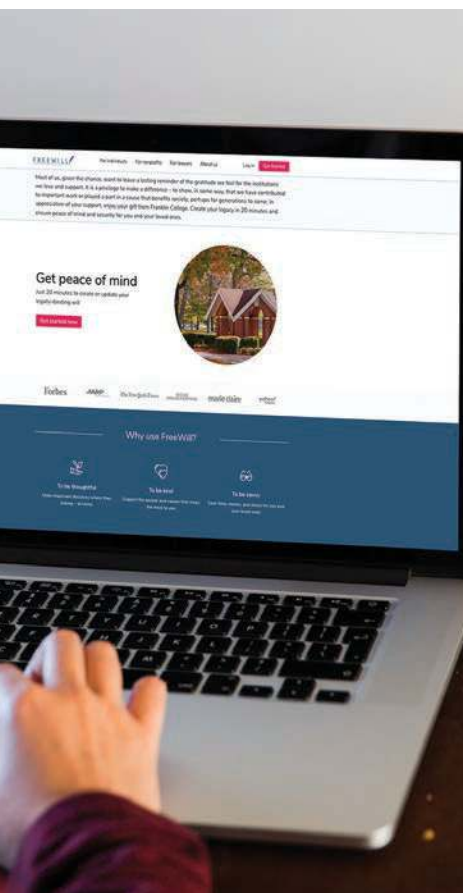
The Heritage Society recognizes individuals for extraordinary lifetime giving, both to the Franklin Fund and to specific projects that may include deferred gifts (appropriately documented) and gifts in kind. Lifetime giving also may include contributions made in the member's name through corporate gifts 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.

Paul Farmer, M.D., Ph.D.

Global health champion and
2018-19 Franklin College
Convocation Lecture
Series speaker.
Oct. 26, 1959 – Feb. 21, 2022
Butara, Rwanda

Jack E. Hutchison

Former maintenance technician.
Aug. 21, 1954 – Dec. 24, 2021
Shelbyville, Ind. ■



Timing is everything

Work obligations. Children's school activities. Errands. Volunteer commitments. As daily life presses us for time and money, we can feel overwhelmed and inclined to postpone any task that does not require our immediate attention. Creating a will – and gaining peace of mind – should not be one of them.

With the FreeWill service offered through Franklin College, a legally valid will can be created free of charge within minutes, from the convenience of your home, 24/7.

Your will puts a plan in place that will ensure loved ones are taken care of after you are gone, and assets are distributed in precisely the way you wish. Your will can help protect the future of the people and causes you care about most. If you choose, your will also can help further the Franklin College legacy of providing a distinctive and transformative educational experience for students.

This is your time. Find FreeWill under "resources:" at alumni.FranklinCollege.edu.

Awe. Wonder. Gratitude. Reverence.

*Which emotions will Alaska's
scenic wilderness and abundant wildlife inspire in you?*

Find out this summer.

The alumni and friends cruise, "Discover Southeast Alaska: Juneau to Sitka," takes place Aug. 12 – 19, 2022. With ice-capped mountains as the backdrop, a private ship will navigate pristine waters, putting you close to breathtaking peaks, fjords and ice-blue glaciers of unfathomable proportions. Your sensory experience will heighten during kayaking, hiking, walking and skiff excursions with expert naturalists guiding ample viewing of animal behavior, flora and fauna. Craft food and drinks will round out the ship's daily offerings.

Do not let the cruise depart without you! Reserve your room today at alumni.FranklinCollege.edu. Select the resources tab.