

# FRANKLIN COLLEGE

MAGAZINE | FALL 2022



## CHANGE LEADER

Helping others thrive  
is more than a job to  
Jen Pittman '00,  
it's a passion.  
Pg. 32



# CARPE DIEM



*Lauren Spina '22 gets a congratulatory high five from Jeremy VanAndel, director of professional development and instructor of business. Spina majored in business with concentrations in marketing and management. She took full advantage of the*





CHAD WILLIAMS

*Franklin College experience, securing an internship in her junior year. That led to a full-time position with the Indianapolis Zoo, where she now manages events and coordinates volunteers.*





# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

## Dear Alumni and Friends,

As the new academic year gets underway, our campus is once again alive with the sights and sounds of exciting activity. Summer flew by in a much quieter but still busy and productive environment, with our work finishing as students unpacked and settled in. Only the excitement of commencement rivals that of new student orientation and the return of upperclassmen.

Throughout the campus, students are engaged in the many activities that contribute to the incredible learning and growth which will define their experience here. Those students ignite the community with their enthusiasm and passion which, in turn, reminds us all why the work we do at Franklin is so important and rewarding. That inspiration creates among the faculty and staff a real sense of shared mission that belongs also to our alumni. You will find in this issue of the magazine wonderful examples of how our collective efforts enhance the quality of the student experience and the impact of our mission on the world through the achievements of our alumni.

At the President's Circle Celebration in April, I shared how donor support is the catalyst for each of our many distinctive student opportunities, and gave examples of the academic and athletic successes that reflect our commitment to excellence. We offer highlights of that event on Page 22 and share a closer look at our incredibly successful philanthropy results on Page 24. The generous support of alumni and friends confirms your faith in our mission and your confidence in our future. In June, we celebrated more than \$9.1 million in total fundraising progress for the fiscal year and a balanced operating budget.

This issue also celebrates some of the impressive student achievements from the spring semester. The Top Seniors article on Page 10 provides a snapshot of 2022 graduates, highlighting their achievements and career plans. In the article starting on page 12, we recognize students for their award-winning participation on the moot court and Model U.N. teams.

Our new and returning students enjoy not only the support of faculty and staff, but also that of the nearly 10,000 living alumni who comprise the greater Franklin College family. The Alumni Council feature story on Page 38 provides an example of how graduates can maintain a connection with their alma mater, enhance the experience of current students and help further our mission. I hope you will consider using the Franklin College Connect website to find meaningful engagement opportunities; start at [alumni.FranklinCollege.edu](http://alumni.FranklinCollege.edu).

I also hope you will make plans to come back to campus for Homecoming and Alumni Weekend, Oct. 4-9. I am anxious for you to see the exciting progress along Grizzly Drive south of Spurlock Center, where the Johnson Memorial Health Athletic Annex and the Center for Tech Innovation will greatly enhance the experience of our students as they reflect our commitment to excellence. We will share more coverage on these facilities in our next magazine issue. Thank you for all you have done and continue to do on behalf of Franklin College. I look forward to seeing you on campus soon.

Sincerely,

**KERRY PRATHER**  
FRANKLIN COLLEGE PRESIDENT

# FRANKLIN COLLEGE

MAGAZINE | FALL 2022

## Volume LVIII, No. 3

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### Franklin College Magazine

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### Background

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

### Nondiscrimination Policy

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

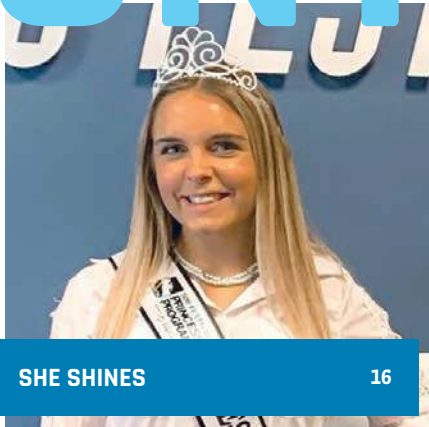
### On the Cover

Jen Pittman '00 is vice president for community affairs at OneAmerica® in Indianapolis.

PHOTO BY CHAD WILLIAMS



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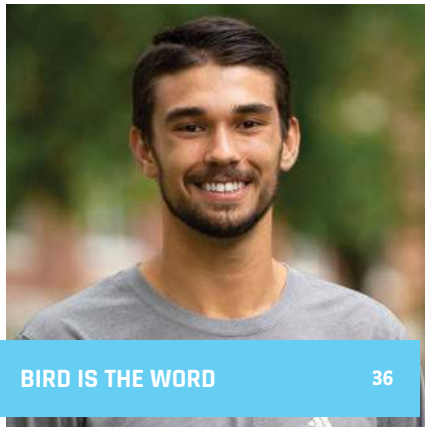
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### CHANGE LEADER

Get to know **Jen Pittman '00**, vice president for community affairs at OneAmerica® in Indianapolis. Read how she leads efforts to help individuals and communities thrive.

# A CLASS ACT

Franklin College hosted commencement on Saturday, May 21, 2022, in the Spurlock Center Gymnasium, and livestreamed the program for home-viewers.

The College awarded three honorary degrees: Jamie P. Merisotis, president and CEO of Lumina Foundation, received an honorary doctorate of humane letters in recognition of his global leadership in philanthropy, public policy and education. Trustee **James V. “Jim” Due ’82**, senior vice president of Northern Trust in Chicago, also received an honorary doctorate of humane letters. His career accomplishments in the finance industry over the last four decades, as well as the service, leadership and philanthropy demonstrated throughout his journey from Franklin College student, to graduate, to trustee, to board chair

were noted. The **Rev. Troy Jackson ’91**, Ph.D., co-founder of UNDIVIDED and the state strategies director for Faith in Action, received an honorary doctorate of divinity. His conviction and constructive leadership supporting the movement for racial and economic justice have helped bring significant changes to policies and programs over the last 30 years. Jackson was the baccalaureate speaker on Friday, May 20, and received his honorary degree during that service.

Merisotis delivered an inspirational commencement address that focused on “The Humanities and the

Human Work of the Future.” He told the graduates, “Beyond congratulations, I want to thank you. That’s because the power of learning will not only continue to change your life for the better, it will also help ensure our collective success. A better-educated nation is a healthier nation. It’s a nation where people are eager to contribute to their communities. It’s a nation where people can tell the difference between what’s real and what’s fake. The future of America depends on people like you — today, more than ever.”

Merisotis also emphasized the lifelong value of a liberal arts education. “The skills for human work are sometimes referred to somewhat dismissively as ‘soft skills,’ but I think of them as ‘durable skills.’ They are durable because of their lasting value. And we know that because in survey after survey, employers tell us they are looking for these very things. They need what you have developed here at Franklin, durable skills like communication, problem-solving, teamwork, genuine curiosity and humility, and a strong work ethic.”

**1.** The Scholarship Cup is presented annually to the graduate having the best scholastic record for his or her four years at Franklin College. Three recipients tied for this year’s honor: **Landon Tak ’22**, **Thomas Witham ’22** and **Andrew Montgomery ’22**.







**2.** Franklin College Board of Trustees Chair **Pete Cangany '80**, Vice President for Academic Affairs and Dean of the College **Kristin Flora, Ph.D.**, trustee and honorary doctorate recipient **James V. "Jim" Due '82**, honorary degree recipient and baccalaureate speaker the **Rev. Troy Jackson '91, Ph.D.**, commencement speaker and honorary degree recipient **Jamie P. Merisotis** and College President **Kerry Prather**.  
**3.** Senior class speaker **Brynne Newland '22**

"When I talk to CEOs from places like Cummins, Salesforce and Eli Lilly, I'm struck by how many of the leaders throughout the companies have backgrounds not in tech, but in the liberal arts."

Kerry Prather, Franklin College president, also gave remarks to the Class of 2022. "Wherever your future may lead, I hope you will carry forth the ideals and values learned or refined here. I hope you will think broadly and deeply; speak knowledgeably, honestly and humbly; act decisively but thoughtfully; and lead confidently, ethically and fairly. I hope you will also carry forth a special love for this place that will only

grow stronger in the years to come. You are Grizzlies forever. Congratulations."

The senior class speaker was **Brynne Newland '22**, a resident of Bloomington, Indiana, who majored in elementary education and minored in Spanish and English as a new language. Newland told classmates, "As we sit in our caps and gowns, it's natural to reflect on the things we leave behind us, or the things that lie before us. But above all else, today, we celebrate the things we hold within us. Those strengths, hopes and values, many of them cultivated on this very campus, will carry us far. Grizzlies, you're gonna do great things." ■

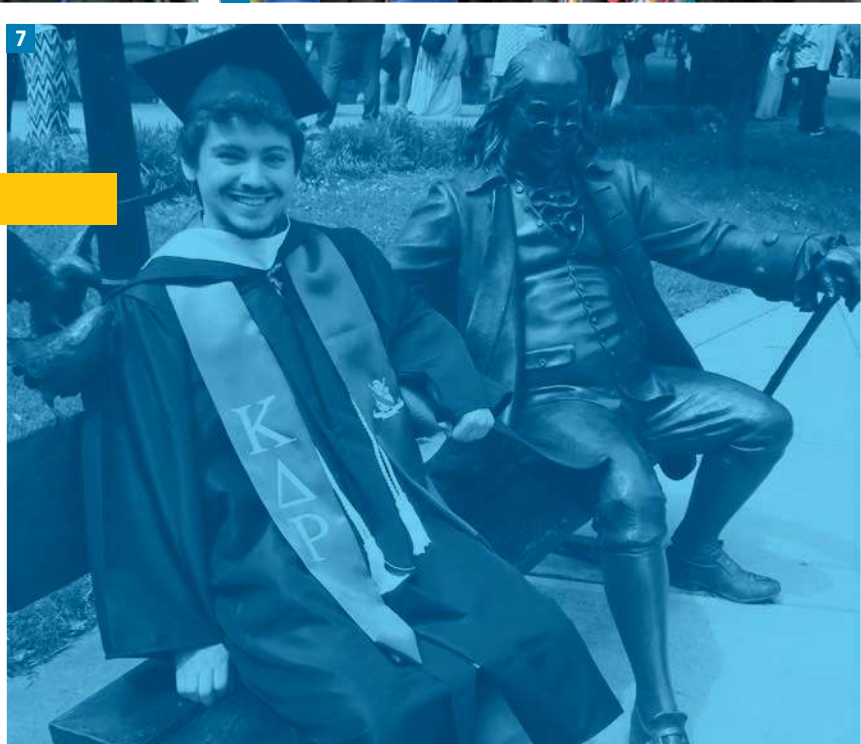


PHOTOS BY CHAD WILLIAMS

**"GRIZZLIES,  
YOU'RE GONNA DO  
GREAT THINGS."**

**BRYNNE NEWLAND '22**









## GRIZ GRADS AT A GLIMPSE



# 172

Undergraduate Degrees



# 31

Graduate Degrees



# 5

Top Majors

BUSINESS  
EXERCISE SCIENCE  
BIOLOGY  
PSYCHOLOGY  
HISTORY



# 1

Class Speaker

Brynne Newland '22

1. **Madison Short '22** gets a high five from a faculty member. During the commencement ceremony, Short was presented the Gold Quill Trophy in recognition of her academic excellence and community involvement.
2. **Abigail Davis '22**, **Allison Davis '22** and **Rhegan Day '22** march in procession.
3. **Tiffany Franklin '07**, Ed.D., LAT, ATC, director of the Master of Science in Athletic Training Program and assistant professor, **Logan Wynn '22**, Kathy Remsburg, LAT, ATC, director of Graduate Health Sciences and professor of athletic training, **Katymae Swan '22**, **Tyrlee Frye '22** and Jeff Williams, Ph.D., LAT, ATC, assistant professor of athletic training and coordinator of clinical education, pose on Dame Mall.
4. **Chelsie Whorton '22** heads to Spurlock Center to receive her bachelor's degree in exercise science.
5. **Matt Crandley '22** gives a thumbs up to the camera.
6. Soccer teammates **Elijah McDonald '22** and **Angel Tapia '22** join for a celebratory picture.
7. **Qasim Elhabrushi '22** follows tradition and settles in for a picture with Ben Franklin.
8. **Garett Hill '22** revels in earning his bachelor's degree in finance and business management.
9. **Garrett House '22**, **Evan Hosea '22** and **Samantha Hinkleman '22** exit Spurlock Center with their tassels turned.
10. **Jordan Johnson '22** shakes hands with Justin P'Pool, assistant professor of chemistry. **Samantha Hinkleman '22** and **Garett Hill '22** follow.
11. Sports communications major **Destinee Cross '22** waves to the camera as **Dante Darden '22** follows. Darden is now a safeties coach for the Grizzlies' football team.

PHOTOS BY AMY (KEAN) VERSTEEG '96 AND CHAD WILLIAMS





# SENIOR SNAPSHOT

*Class of 2022, Top Seniors in row one: Annie Coy, Brynne Newland, Lauren Spina, Abby Scheumann, Abigail Davis and Avery Auton. Row two: Kameron Buennagel, Henry Davidson, Michael Knecht, Nick Elmendorf, Maggie McComas and Garrett Hill.*

The College's Center for Student Involvement hosts an annual Top 10 Seniors awards program that gives graduating class members an opportunity to recognize their peers for excellence.

Eligible seniors must be nominated by a member of the faculty or staff, have at least a 3.0 GPA, embody the values of Franklin College and provide leadership both inside and outside the classroom. From the pool of nominations, senior class members select the Top 10. Results this year ended in a tie, with 12 seniors earning recognition. We are proud to recognize them here:



**AVERY AUTON '22**, of Franklin, Indiana, double-majored in business – nonprofit administration and political science. Graduated cum laude. Activities included Pi Beta Phi sorority, Riley Dance Marathon and national academic honorary societies for political science and business. Plans to attend the University of Cincinnati College of Law.

**KAMERON BUENNAGEL '22**, of Greenwood, Indiana, majored in business management and marketing. Activities included Resident Assistant, Economic, Business and Accounting Club and the academic honorary society for business. Plans to work as a market analyst, and pursue a Master of Business Administration and a law degree.

**ANNIE COY '22**, of Shelbyville, Indiana, majored in exercise science. Graduated cum laude. Activities included Student Entertainment Board, Intervarsity Christian Fellowship and Resident Assistant. Plans include pursuing a doctorate of physical therapy.

**HENRY DAVIDSON '22**, of Zionsville, Indiana, majored in mathematics-quantitative analysis. Graduated magna cum laude. Athletic involvement

included cross-country and track, with Academic All-Conference honors. Activities included Lambda Chi Alpha fraternity, Interfraternity Council, EARTH Club, student mentor and athletic honorary society. Plans to be a business intelligence analyst.

**ABIGAIL DAVIS '22**, of Seymour, Indiana, majored in education. Activities included Student Entertainment Board, Intervarsity Christian Fellowship and Resident Assistant. Plans to teach elementary school.

**NICK ELMENDORF '22**, of Indianapolis, majored in actuarial science. Graduated magna cum laude. Activities included baseball, with Academic All-Conference honors. Plans include working as an actuarial analyst at Blue Cross Blue Shield in Chicago.

**GARETT HILL '22**, of Greenwood, Indiana, graduated magna cum laude with a degree in business management and finance. Activities included baseball, with Academic All-Conference honors, Economic, Business and Accounting Club and Intervarsity Christian Fellowship. Interned with First National Bank.

**MICHAEL KNECHT '22**, of Seymour, Indiana, majored in history with a secondary education endorsement. Graduated cum laude. Activities included Resident Assistant, Student Entertainment Board and baseball. Plans to teach high school history.

**MAGGIE McCOMAS '22**, of Grundy, Virginia, double-majored in English and global studies, with a minor in French. Graduated cum laude. Activities included Student Foundation, moot court, peer mentoring for writers and academic honorary societies for English, modern languages and political science. Plans to attend Indiana University Maurer School of Law.

**BRYNNE NEWLAND '22**, of Bloomington, Indiana, majored in elementary education. Graduated summa cum laude. Activities included Pi Beta Phi sorority, Panhellenic Council, Delight Ministries, student mentor, Resident Assistant and Alpha Society. Previously named a Woman of Distinction by the Franklin College Center for Diversity and Inclusion, and elected 2022 Sorority Woman of the Year. Elected class commencement speaker. Plans include teaching elementary school.

**ABBY SCHEUMANN '22**, of Greensburg, Indiana, majored in business management, with a minor in accounting. Activities included Pi Beta Phi sorority, Panhellenic Council, Economic, Business and Accounting Club, Bold + Blue Studio and academic honorary society for business. Plans include working at SlyFox Creative in Greenwood, Indiana.

**LAUREN SPINA '22**, of Martinsville, Indiana, graduated with a degree in business management and marketing. Activities included Zeta Tau Alpha sorority, Panhellenic Council, Riley Dance Marathon, the cheerleading team and Alpha Lambda Delta, first-year honor society. Interned as a marketing event specialist with the Indianapolis Zoo and accepted a full-time job offer prior to graduation. ■



# CAUSES FOR GREAT DEBATE

By Alexa Shrake '23, Pulliam Fellow

Prominent intercollegiate competitions involving debate resulted in several student successes to celebrate at Franklin College. First, two students advanced to national moot court competition during the 2021-22 season. Second, the Model U.N. team's 13 members earned joint and individual honors during international competition this spring.

SUBMITTED



Here, **Clay Black '23**, of Kappa Delta Rho, holds the Franklin College Fraternity Man of the Year Award, one of the two top honors given annually to individuals in the Greek community.

Moot court requires students to analyze and argue in a simulated legal case. Students must review evidence, research the relevant law and present an oral argument before a panel of judges. The American Moot Court Association (AMCA) establishes the rules of intercollegiate competitions and supervises regional and national tournaments. Last season, approximately 500 student-teams competed in 15 qualifying tournaments in an attempt to win an AMCA National Tournament bid. A team from Franklin College did just that.

Teammates **Clay Black '23**, a political science and history double major, and **Maggie McComas '22**, an English and global studies double major, spent weeks preparing oral arguments in constitutional law. McComas and Black each won a Top 10 Orator award during competition. Of the more than a dozen schools competing at regionals, only two — Franklin College and University of Chicago — placed more than one student competitor in the top 10. McComas and Black earned a

spot in the top four teams at regionals, narrowly falling to a team from Duke.

"Success in moot court starts with student dedication, and Maggie and Clay made extraordinary efforts to prepare for every level of competition. I'm very proud of their legal arguments, their poise, and the professionalism they demonstrated throughout the experience," said team adviser and associate professor of political science Allison Fetter-Harrott, Ph.D., J.D.

McComas and Black placed in the top 20% of all AMCA teams this year, a feat more notable since this was only Franklin College's second year ever participating in AMCA competition, and the first year for McComas and Black. Fetter-Harrott added that having Franklin College alumni volunteers, including judges and attorneys, to help coach and critique the students in the last two years has been immensely helpful. "Students always benefit from the wisdom and perspective of attorney alumni and friends of Franklin College," she said.



Overall, students gain valuable professional development experience from moot court, which helps hone their persuasive writing and communication skills. Additionally, moot court stands out to prospective law schools and employers, showing a student's commitment to developing litigation skills.

For McComas, moot court built stronger time-management skills. As a member of three academic honorary societies, the Student Foundation and the Student Ambassador team for college admissions, her schedule was already tight, but she worked on moot court preparation every day.

She said, "Practicing for moot court gave me the stamina I needed to study for the LSAT. It helped me be more confident."

McComas was accepted into the Indiana University Maurer School of Law in Bloomington, where she will begin this fall. Prior to graduating cum laude from Franklin, she studied away three times in Italy, Japan and Puerto Rico, in addition to playing on the golf team for one year and providing peer-tutoring in The Write Place.

Black said representing Franklin College in competition against much larger institutions, such as University of Chicago and University of California, Berkeley, was a point of pride.

"It was a great experience and a lot of hard work. There were many nights I was up until 1 a.m. practicing my arguments, but it all paid off," Black said.

For only the second time in AMCA history, the regional and national competitions were held virtually.

After moot court season, COVID precautions changed and enabled

Black, 12 of his Franklin College peers and their two advisers to attend a Model U.N. competition in New York City. The recurring competition is a simulation of the U.N. General Assembly and engages students in an ambassador role while debating topics such as gender equality, climate action and global health.

In advance of the April 2022 competition, participating teams were invited to choose a country to represent. Franklin's team chose Tajikistan, a country in Central Asia, north of Afghanistan. Team members spent months researching the country and preparing for competition. They also created an acronym to represent their agenda: GREEN UNITED, or Glacial Restoration, Education and Employment Network for Uniting Nations to Impede Terror and Extend Democracy.

The team's diligence led to winning the Distinguished Delegation title, the second-highest honor given at the competition. To claim the title, Franklin beat Syracuse University and tied with Loyola University, Chicago.

**"SUCCESS IN MOOT COURT STARTS WITH STUDENT DEDICATION, AND MAGGIE AND CLAY MADE EXTRAORDINARY EFFORTS TO PREPARE FOR EVERY LEVEL OF COMPETITION. I'M VERY PROUD OF THEIR LEGAL ARGUMENTS, THEIR POISE, AND THE PROFESSIONALISM THEY DEMONSTRATED THROUGHOUT THE EXPERIENCE."**

**ALLISON FETTER-HARROTT, PH.D., J.D.**  
TEAM ADVISER AND ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF POLITICAL SCIENCE

TARA RICHKE '19



*Maggie McComas '22 will attend the Indiana University Maurer School of Law in Bloomington this fall.*





Model U.N. team members in the front row are **Andrea Rahman '23**, **Cara Mullen '25** and **Carolina Puga Mendoza '22**. In the middle are **Amy Garrido Portillo '23**, **Maggie Jagers '22**, **Isaac Gleitz '23**, **Annah Elliott '23** and **Bennett Hanson '24**. In the back are **Paige Hedger '24**, **Paul Klaeren '25**, **Shea Reynolds '23**, **Clay Black '23** and **Noah Childers '24**.

Judges also recognized the excellent effort of Franklin students who worked in pairs, including **Annah Elliott '23** and **Bennett Hanson '24** for their Outstanding Position Paper addressing economic and financial concerns. Additionally, the collective Model U.N. participants voted to honor **Carolina Puga Mendoza '22** and **Isaac Gleitz '23** with the Outstanding Delegation title for their leadership and committee work on migration.

Black's Model U.N. experience involved working on two committee issues, nuclear disarmament and improvised explosive devices. He said, "Moot court and Model U.N. have been eye-opening experiences." He cited the first for offering exposure to the legal profession and courtroom culture, and the second for challenging his communication skills and broadening his global perspective.

"When it came to the (Model U.N.) conference, there was a large number of international students. Many were from Germany and France, in particular, but there were at least one or two delegations from every part of the globe, and we were able to talk to all of them," he said.

Puga Mendoza also valued becoming acquainted with diverse peers.

Even though the 14-hour competition was grueling, it was invigorating, she said. "I could keep going since I was so driven by our sharing of ideas and the dramatic turn of events in our groups."

Due to COVID-related travel risks, Franklin had not sent a Model U.N. team to New York since 2019, and every member of the 2022 team was new to the competition. The circumstances further distinguish the recent accolades. Randall Smith,

Ph.D., professor of political science and Model U.N. team adviser, said, "Franklin's team of first-time Model U.N.ers went up against students with years of experience from some of the best programs in the world, and brought home one of the top awards. I am really proud of their success."

Smith has advised and traveled to competitions with Franklin Model U.N. teams since 2011. He is continually impressed by their achievements.

"I'm throwing the students in the lion's den. They're doing stuff you see on the legislative floor," Smith said.

To help provide future moot court and Model U.N. experiences for Franklin students, please contact Vice President for Institutional Advancement Dana Cummings at 317.738.8040. ■



# KEEP THAT FRANKLIN FEELING

Chances are your years at Franklin College were some of the best in your life. One way to extend the experience is through support of the Franklin Fund. An outright, cash gift can help connect your past to the present, and create a stronger, long-lasting Franklin College community.

With a minimum gift of \$2,500 per year for four years to the Franklin Fund, you can name an Annual Scholarship and help current students with financial need. The Annual Scholarship may be designated in your name or in memory/honor of a loved one(s). An Annual Scholarship will be awarded in the same year it is received by the College; therefore, it will make an immediate impact.

An Annual Scholarship will enable you to establish criteria for the student recipient(s). Plus, you will receive biographical information about those who receive your Annual Scholarship, and they will be informed of the named scholarship reflecting your generosity. Please note, if there is not a student who meets your criteria in a given year, then it will be awarded to a deserving student identified by the financial aid office.

When you support scholarships at Franklin College, you help provide essential financial aid packages that may be the determining factor in a student's ability to attend, and to persist to graduation. Further, an Annual Scholarship enables you to personally invest in our collective future. Thanks to the meaningful Franklin College experiences like you recall from your college days, today's graduates go forth ready to make significant contributions to society.

To help extend the Franklin College experience to deserving students from all backgrounds, regardless of their ability to pay, please contact the Division of Institutional Advancement at 317.738.8040 or [FranklinFund@FranklinCollege.edu](mailto:FranklinFund@FranklinCollege.edu).

## By the numbers



**99% of all Franklin College students receive financial aid.**



**First-year students on average receive \$21,976 in Franklin College scholarships and grants.**



**Franklin budgeted nearly \$17.6 million in financial aid last year to assist more than 900 students; only \$1.6 million of that total was funded by donations to the endowment.**

The gap between financial aid and tuition is on the rise as state and federal support shrinks. The need for scholarships has never been greater. Your Annual Scholarship support can change lives.



# SHE SHINES

When children grow up watching Disney movies about princesses it makes sense that they would want to become one. Princesses are revered for their kindness, invited to spectacular social events and distinguished by shiny tiaras, after all. But, unlike the fairytale princesses who might gain their tiaras by magic, 500 Festival Princesses earn the privilege on merit.

In the spring, **Lexi Giddens '23** was one of 33 college-age women selected a 500 Festival Princess. The princess program, presented by The National Bank of Indianapolis, celebrates Indiana's most civic-minded, academically driven young women. Hundreds of contestants statewide are evaluated for their communication skills, academic performance,

community involvement and commitment to service and leadership. Applications, resumes and interviews are all part of the extensive process. Once chosen, princesses serve as ambassadors of the 500 Festival, participating in statewide outreach to spread excitement about the legacy and promise of the Indianapolis 500.

Giddens said, "I decided to apply to be a 500 Festival Princess because I had heard about the opportunity through past princesses, and loved the idea of being able to represent my state, my community and my college through the program."

She added, "The program also entails leadership opportunities and professional development, which interested

me. I really enjoy giving back to my community and thought there was no better way than to apply to this program, and get to spread excitement for the greatest spectacle in racing!"

Giddens majors in biology with a focus in pre-veterinary studies and maintains a cumulative GPA of 3.98. She has made her mark at the College through leadership and participation in numerous organizations. In addition to serving on Student Foundation, she is active in Zeta Tau Alpha, cheerleading, Passion 4 Paws and the annual Riley Dance Marathon. She also is a member of the Pre-Vet and Chemistry clubs, as well as the chemistry honorary society, Chi Beta Phi. Giddens currently is applying

DEIDRA BAUMGARDNER



**Elaina Connell '25 and Samantha Schick '24** hold lambs involved in a collaborative research project between the College and a Franklin farm.

## COUNTING SHEEP

The mental exercise of counting imaginary sheep may help put you to sleep, but a scientific study launched this spring had students highly energized. Along with keeping track of births, students monitored a flock of sheep for changes in health, parasite infestations and forage consumption, all while recording their findings.

The sheep and solar energy are at the center of an ongoing collaborative research project between Franklin College and a local farm. The project aims to grow the collective expertise and interest in sheep care among future veterinary practitioners in Indiana, and to support the emerging

needs of the solar energy sector for grazing-based management plans. A grant from the Indiana Sheep and Wool Market Development Program helps make the research project possible.

Biology Department Chair and professor of biology Ben O'Neal, Ph.D., serves as the principal investigator, with assistance from Sunovis Ranch owner and solar energy professional Paul Cummings. To date, 10 students have been part of the research project, observing and helping care for more than 25 Katahdin sheep.

"The grant enables our pre-veterinary students to experience immersive,



# 500 FESTIVAL



**Lexi Giddens '23, 500 Festival Princess**

not far from campus. She also works part time at a Franklin veterinary clinic. Prior to college, she graduated from Whiteland (Ind.) High School and completed 10 years in 4H, showing horses, swine, goats, dogs and cats. She served on the 2020 Johnson County Fair Queen's Court, and now volunteers with the fair board.

In addition to the numerous Franklin College women selected princesses over the years, two alumnae are on record as 500 Festival Queens. **Karle (Schaefer) Houglan**d '09 was crowned in 2008, and **Misty Livengood** '96 had the honor in 1995. ■

to graduate schools, with the goal of earning her doctorate in veterinary medicine.

Beyond her college endeavors, Giddens is a dance instructor at a local academy and trail guide for a horse-riding venue

mentored research in the context of a working farm," O'Neal said.

"They're gaining working knowledge of sheep husbandry and science, and building important skills related to critical thinking, quantitative analysis, data management, team dynamics and science communications."

The research also has potential to help make a much broader impact by helping solar energy specialists, farmers and agricultural industries build cooperative relationships and make well-informed choices for the environment. In 2021, the National Center for Appropriate Technology, a nonprofit focused on sustainable energy and agriculture solutions, estimated solar installations will cover more than 3 million U.S. acres

over the next 10 years. Opportunities to pair solar power with agricultural land to produce food, conserve ecosystems, create renewable energy, increase pollinator habitat and maximize farm revenue could flourish.

The research experience may help students stand out to future employers.

O'Neal said, "Our pre-vet students not only can talk about their undergrad classes and internships during interviews, they can also say they helped develop a study where they investigated the health of sheep as part of a system that is addressing a global energy need. It is a unique, engaged learning experience with results that could impact farming

and alternative energy for decades to come."

Research methods and analyses are refined each term as the project builds and evolves. The project is expected to continue indefinitely with new students grafted to the team.

The Indiana Sheep and Wool Market Development Program, a checkoff, was created to support educational, promotional and research efforts involving sheep in Indiana. One-half of 1% of the net-market price of all sheep and wool sold in Indiana is collected to support the program, overseen by the Sheep and Wool Market Development Council, whose members are elected to represent the nine county-based districts in the state. ■



# NOTEWORTHY

## INTERFAITH UNDERSTANDING

**Jim Alexander '06**, department chair of philosophy and religious studies and an assistant professor, was one of 25 individuals selected from hundreds of applicants across the United States to participate in the summer seminar "Teaching Interfaith Understanding."

The Council of Independent Colleges and the Interfaith America organization offered the seminar in Chicago, to help faculty broaden their interfaith knowledge and perspective, and to strengthen their teaching and course development. The seminar, supported by a grant from Lilly Endowment Inc., also involved professional networking.

Alexander said, "As a professor, I pride myself on designing engaging activities and discussions that are accessible and culturally relevant; the more I can help students learn how dynamic and diverse the practice of religion is around the world, the better suited they will be to understand and collaborate with people from a variety of cultural backgrounds throughout their life."

## COMPELLING PAINTING

Franklin College Artist-in-Residence David Cunningham won Best in Show during the Indiana Artists Club 90th Annual Juried Exhibit at Newfields, an interactive museum, in Indianapolis. His oil painting, "I Can See Your Heart in Everything You Do,"

depicts stones so detailed viewers might mistake them for a photograph.

Cunningham's artistic expertise encompasses representational oil painting, figure drawing and wheel-thrown ceramics. A variety of his work has been shown over the years at the Indianapolis International Airport and museums across the United States and abroad. His other previous awards include Outstanding Still-Life at the 90th Annual Hoosier Salon Juried Exhibition at the Indiana History Museum and Best in Show at the Annual Wabash Valley Juried Exhibition at the Swope Art Museum, among others.

## ADVANCING SCIENCE

Alice Heikens, Ph.D., professor of biology, received the Distinguished Service Award from the Indiana Academy of Science (IAS) in March. She picked up the award during the 137th Annual Academy Meeting in Indianapolis.

Since its founding in 1885, the IAS has remained dedicated to promoting scientific research, diffusing scientific information, improving education in the sciences and encouraging communication and cooperation among scientists. Heikens' award recognizes her for having supported the IAS through service exceeding normal expectation.

"It is such an honor to be recognized by IAS," Heikens said. "This was the first organization I joined when I

came to Franklin College in 1991. My students and I have learned much by presenting research at these meetings over the past three decades, and I have enjoyed serving IAS in various capacities. When I served as president in 2018, I was only the 11th woman to serve in the role. It is an honor to model leadership for our students and encourage them to be leaders."

## MAKING MOVIES

*So Cold the River*, a mystery-thriller by *New York Times* best-selling author Michael Koryta, who was raised in Bloomington, Indiana, inspired the making of a film by the same name. The film debuted in limited theatre release earlier this year and remains available on streaming services. Franklin College Artist-in-Residence Gordon Strain, a co-owner of Indiana-based Pigasus Pictures, is one of the filmmakers.

Like the novel, the film centers around fictional characters, primarily a struggling documentary filmmaker and a dying billionaire with a dark past linked to the West Baden Springs Hotel and its surrounding region in southern Indiana. The actual hotel is historic and operational, captivating visitors today as it did in the mid-1800s when the region's famed sulfur springs lured people from thousands of miles to come drink or soak in the therapeutic waters. Its noteworthy dome is fashioned after European castles, a stark contrast to the farmland predominant to the area.

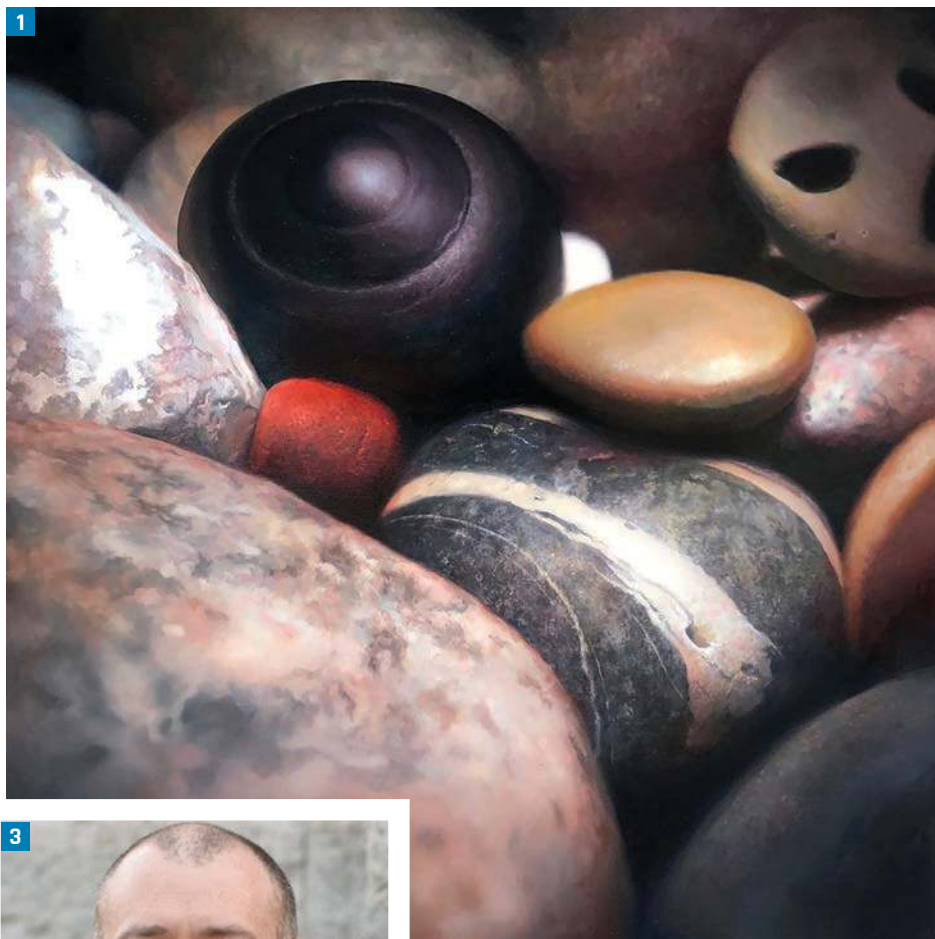


**1:** *"I Can See Your Heart in Everything You Do"*

**2:** *Alice Heikens, Ph.D., professor of biology*

Strain said, "It was great to partner with Cook Group (current owners of French Lick Resort) and be able to use West Baden, and to have such a great story going into it. My hope is it brings more people not only to Indiana, but to West Baden to see the hotel."

Pegasus Pictures hosted a screening of *So Cold the River* at the Artcraft Theatre in Franklin, in March. The Q&A session afterward enabled the audience to gain insights about filmmaking in Indiana, and distinctions between the book and film. Pegasus Pictures previously released *The Good Catholic*, *Ms. White Light* and *The Miseducation of Bindu*. Each film provided opportunities for interns from Franklin College. ■



**3:** *Jim Alexander '06, department chair of philosophy and religious studies and assistant professor*

**4:** *A film released by Pegasus Pictures*





# **JOBS** *well done*

By Brenda (Thom) Ferguson '95, staff writer

Two Franklin College staff members who gave a combined 68 years of service retired this summer, **Cheryl Stewart** and **Ginger George-Nelis**. Along with retirement, they share the distinction of having received, at different stages of their careers, the highest recognition bestowed upon college staff, the Margaret A. Hommell Staff Service Excellence Award. The award recognizes recipients for exceptional job performance, service to the college community and embodiment of the mission and values of the College. With immense gratitude, the College thanks and recognizes Stewart and George-Nelis for their many professional contributions.

SUBMITTED



**Cheryl Stewart**

**Stewart** retired as an accounting assistant to the office of business operations, in which she worked more than 51 years. She began as a book-keeper and maintained similar job responsibilities for the duration of her career, but the changes to her work environment during that time were vast. Each academic year brought new students and employees into the college community, and with the business office serving all of campus Stewart had the opportunity to become acquainted with thousands of individuals over the decades.

Stewart also had the remarkable opportunity to observe a change in presidential leadership at the College six times during her career. Another moment in college history she witnessed was the Old Main fire in 1985. She lived in a home on the perimeter of campus at that time. After the fire, she, like many employees, had to relocate to temporary offices until the facility was restored in 1987. The most impactful changes she

experienced during her career may have been in technology. She began her job needing only a calculator but as the demands of business operations changed she, too, adapted. The calculator was traded for a computer, and prior to retiring she had learned to use various software platforms throughout her career.

Stewart's professionalism led the College to recognizing her as the inaugural staff service award recipient in 2000. She set the bar high for all recipients who followed. In 2001, Stewart was the subject of a feature article in the student-run newspaper highlighting her 30 years of career service.

"I would probably stay another 30 years," the article quoted her. It turns out she nearly did, with a career capping at 51 years and four months.

"Cheryl's work ethic, knowledge and institutional memory cannot be matched," said **Brad Jones '88**, business office manager. "We have been blessed

to call Cheryl a co-worker and friend, and she will certainly be missed. She will no longer be the first person in the office or the last to leave, but the impression she has made on Franklin College will be here forever.”

Stewart has three grown daughters, three grandchildren and two great-grandchildren. Her daughter, **Mary Stewart '10**, and son-in-law, **Patrick Hillenburg '09**, are alumni.

**George-Nelis** retired as the academic technology coordinator for information technology services (ITS). She joined the college staff in 2005, beginning as the academic support administrator. Prior to that, she worked for Franklin Community Schools, giving teachers technology training and resolving classroom technology issues. She also was an assistant cheerleading coach at the high school during that time, and continued in that role until 2012.

Shortly after joining the College, George-Nelis made an impact through her attitude and aptitude. With positivity and efficiency, she helped the faculty integrate a variety of technology into classrooms to support and enhance the student experience over the years.

In 2017, George-Nelis received the College's staff service excellence award; more than one nominator cited her “unparalleled work ethic” as a reason she was deserving. More recently, George-Nelis was recognized



*Ginger George-Nelis*

for her significant involvement in the College's successful transition to fully online learning during the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020.

Jason McHenry, director of ITS, said, “Ginger put every ounce of effort into her role on campus. With thousands of steps a day registered on her pedometer; she embodied the relentless pursuit of the highest level of customer service.

“She would come in early and stay late, and she would even come in on the weekend to ensure that a class or event went smoothly. The work-ethic standard she set is unmatched and a benchmark for all Franklin College ITS teams that follow.”

George-Nelis and her spouse, Mick, have five grown children, all of whom graduated from college, with two earning degrees from Franklin, **Janelle George '11** and **Andrew George '15**. ■



DEIDRA BAUMGARDNER

**Ann Barton**, Pulliam School of Journalism assistant director and assistant to the president for special projects, retired from full-time service at the College in June 2021, and was recognized in the *Franklin College Magazine* summer issue, available online. She resumed part-time teaching, advising and special events planning roles, giving her 39th year of outstanding service to the college community during the 2021-22 academic year, through June 30, 2022. ■



# CELEBRATION of PHILANTHROPY

President's Circle members – donors who make gifts of \$1,000 or more every fiscal year – were special guests at an invitation-only recognition event in April. The hosts were Franklin College President Kerry Prather and his spouse, Cindy.

The President began formal remarks by thanking donors for their generous philanthropy and sharing the vision of a college future focused on growth and innovation. He also elaborated on why the College is distinctive and fully worthy of support.

"The fact is, this is an institution of excellence," Prather said. "What we do here is done uniquely and exceptionally well. While holding true to our commitment to a liberal arts foundation, we have embraced innovation across the campus to ensure our students have the cutting-edge knowledge and skills necessary to succeed."

He recounted how the faculty successfully revised the entire academic program a few years ago to enable engaged, immersive learning in every course of study offered. Additionally, new majors in data science, neuroscience and sports communication are offered. "In listening to the demands of the ever-evolving economy, the College has responded with areas of study that meet the needs and interests of today's students for tomorrow's professions," he said.

The President also cited how the digital fluency initiative, which emanated from a challenge-grant provided by Lilly Endowment, Inc., is helping connect students with

critical resources for professional development. Along with the latest digital applications, the College offers a Center for Tech Innovation, also a product of philanthropy, he explained.

Athletics at Franklin continue to evolve with the recent addition of esports, competitive gaming and an esports arena constructed within Spurlock Center, thanks to philanthropic support. The President emphasized that the way in which faculty and staff support the efforts of student-athletes to excel both in the classroom and in competition creates a college experience that is unrivaled.

"Nothing we do here with and for our students can be done without generous support. From the scholarships that ignite their dreams, to the program support that fuels their experiences, philanthropy is the catalyst for each distinctive student opportunity on this campus."

In conclusion, Prather told guests, "I am proud to speak for the entire institution when I say we are eternally grateful for your partnership in the very special mission of pursuing a future of growth, innovation and greatness for Franklin College."

Want to be a future guest and join the distinguished donors who represent the pinnacle of commitment to Franklin College? Contact Lee Ann

Jourdan, assistant vice president for alumni engagement and annual giving, at 317.738.8755. View the full Honor Roll of Donors recognizing everyone who made a gift of any size last fiscal year at [FranklinCollege.edu/giving/honor-roll-of-donors](https://FranklinCollege.edu/giving/honor-roll-of-donors). ■

1. Cindy Prather, Kerry Prather, Franklin College president, Susie Fleck, journalism professor emerita, and David Wantz, Independent Colleges of Indiana president  
2. Sue Brown, **Bill Brown '61**, trustee emeritus, **Todd Bemis '84**, trustee, and **Kim (La Fary) Bemis '84**  
3. **Rebecca (Rude) Ogle '96**, **Kelli (DeMott) Park '81**, Lee Hodgen, **Nancy (White) Auld '53**, Helen Hodgen, **Kathleen (Hodgen) Schutz '75** and Kate Fisher. In back are **John Auld '76**, trustee, and Beth Auld.





1



2



4



5



6

4. Michael Roman and Deana (Baker) Haworth '99, trustee and adjunct journalism instructor  
5. Megan Savage and Cam Savage '99

6. Forest Daugherty '53, M.D., and Marsha (Neal) Daugherty '56





# PHILANTHROPY

## BY THE NUMBERS

Grizzlies, we extend our heartfelt gratitude and congratulations for an incredible fiscal year! Your gifts between July 1, 2021 and June 30, 2022 totaled \$9,101,575, the second highest recorded in college history. The total includes pledges, planned gifts, cash and real estate. Thank you — trustees, alumni, faculty, staff, parents, students, community friends and corporate partners — for your generosity.



To watch a special thank-you video from President Kerry Prather and find your name in the annual Honor Roll of Donors, visit [FranklinCollege.edu/giving/honor-roll-of-donors](https://FranklinCollege.edu/giving/honor-roll-of-donors).

3,340 TOTAL DONORS



1,775 ALUMNI DONORS

326 GRADUATES OF THE LAST DECADE (GOLD) DONORS



**\$3.9 MILLION** LARGEST SINGLE GIFT (AN INDIVIDUAL ESTATE COMMITMENT)

**\$142,994** **#GRIZTuesday** VIRTUAL CAMPAIGN FOR ATHLETICS  
(2022 CIRCLE OF EXCELLENCE AWARD RECIPIENT FROM CASE,  
THE COUNCIL FOR THE ADVANCEMENT AND SUPPORT OF EDUCATION)

**\$298,840** 10TH ANNUAL **#GivetoGRIZ** VIRTUAL CAMPAIGN FOR THE FRANKLIN FUND

The Franklin Fund is a significant component of our annual fundraising efforts. This is the third consecutive year gifts to the fund crossed the \$700,000 mark, and only the third time in college history. Gifts to the Franklin Fund provide student financial aid, as well as support ongoing student-learning opportunities.



**\$758,946** Franklin Fund total (SECOND HIGHEST IN COLLEGE HISTORY)

**THANK YOU!** 4,187 TOTAL GIFTS

# GENEROSITY'S GLOBAL REACH

A gift expressing gratitude is growing in impact thanks to Edward Chikwana, Ph.D., former Franklin College chemistry professor, and **Aubrey Magodlyo '15**, manager of product experience analytics at Facebook and a Franklin College Alumni Council member.

The two are co-creators of the Tapiwa International Student Award. Tapiwa means “we have been given” in Shona, one of the major languages spoken in Zimbabwe, their native country. The award’s name reflects an appreciation for the blessings in their lives and gratitude for the opportunity to help support others during their educational journey.

Recently endowed at the award level, \$25,000, with the potential to grow to scholarship level, \$50,000, the Tapiwa Award assists international students at Franklin College with expenses such as tuition, housing, books, technology and academic supplies.

Chikwana said, “A lot of international students who are attracted to a small school like Franklin have access to very limited financial resources from

home, to the extent that when they end up with a shortfall there is really nowhere else for them to turn.

“Our hope is that the Tapiwa Award will help provide a financial buffer so that international students can experience FC to its fullest and be the best versions of themselves because they are free from financial worries that could disrupt completion of their degree.”

In his 10 years of teaching at Franklin, Chikwana mentored many international students, including Magodlyo, and he was inspired by numerous college colleagues who also helped students emotionally and financially. That kindness, coupled with the success graduates have achieved professionally beyond Franklin College, galvanized the Tapiwa Award.

Funding for the Tapiwa Award also is made possible through generous donations from several Franklin College alumni, Chikwana’s and Magodlyo’s friends who came to the U.S. to study and who fully understand the financial challenges faced by international students at small colleges and other well-wishers who have worked with international students and alumni and value their contributions to enriching the lives of those around them.

**Rutendo Nyamadzawo '23** of Zimbabwe was the first Tapiwa Award recipient. She majors in chemistry, minors in biomedical physics, serves as a Student Ambassador for admissions and plays women’s lacrosse for the Grizzlies. In 2020, she was one of two outstanding sophomore students recognized for academic achievements and college community involvement with the Franklin College Laurels and Lancers Award. ■

RENEE KEAN '06



*Edward Chikwana, Ph.D., and Aubrey Magodlyo '15*



CHAD WILLIAMS

*Rutendo Nyamadzawo '23*

Your gift can help grow the Tapiwa Award endowment for future students; learn more from the Division of Institutional Advancement at [800.852.0232](tel:800.852.0232).



# CARING FOR JOURNALISTS

By Amy (Kean) VerSteeg '96, Editor

**Natural disasters. Transportation accidents. Acts of terrorism. Pandemic cases. When emergencies happen, first responders are there to assist. Besides law enforcement, medical care and fire rescue, there is another profession that sends individuals to the same distressing events – journalism.**



*Professor of journalism Joel Cramer, J.D., leads class as Jarrett Dodson '21 applies the information.*

While journalists are not part of the tactical response, they endure many of the same sights, sounds and threats as those with specialized training. Over time, that exposure to trauma can lead to mental health problems. Additionally, journalists who lack appropriate training may unintentionally inflict further trauma upon their sources.

As greater awareness of trauma and its effects grows, Franklin College is proud to partner with those at the forefront of helping support journalists before, during and after they go into harm's way. The College in collaboration with the Trust for Trauma Journalism (TTJ) will offer the Inaugural National Trauma Journalism Symposium on campus, Oct. 20–21, 2022. The first of its kind in the nation, the symposium centers around trauma journalism and the effects it has on those in the crossfire while reporting the news.

"Trauma is not new, but understanding what it does to journalists, as well as what it does to many other professions is new," said **John Krull '81**, Pulliam School of Journalism director. "Back at the time when I entered the profession, if you reported on

something disturbing — shootings, sex crimes, things awful to contemplate — there was an expectation to 'rub dirt on it.' There was no real appreciation of how that could affect the journalists involved, just as it did those with other high-stress and high-trauma occupations. But there was a reason newsrooms tend to breed dysfunctional relationships, problems with substance abuse and other forms of self-destructive behavior; there was pain journalists weren't dealing with.

"Because we understand much better now what trauma is and what it does to people, communicating that understanding will allow journalists to better and more sensitively tell the stories of people who have been involved in traumatic events."

Krull indicated the upcoming symposium is relevant to both practicing and aspiring journalists, as well as individuals who teach journalism in high school and university environments. Students pursuing careers in psychology, social work, law enforcement or health care might also benefit from attending.



PHOTOS BY STEFAN BORG AND KATE PENN



*Journalists and their sources may experience trauma before, during and after a news-making event.*

The symposium is made possible through philanthropic support from the TTJ, a foundation that supports journalists as first responders and provides funding for initiatives that prepare journalists for the impact of covering traumatic events.

“TTJ is proud to partner with Franklin College on this important topic,” said Frank Ochberg, M.D., co-founder and board trustee at TTJ. “Franklin College and its Pulliam School of Journalism understand the need to report accurately, compassionately and wisely when our people suffer heart-breaking loss. TTJ is fortunate to be working together with Franklin College to launch this vital program in America’s heartland.”

Additional funding comes from a Ball Brothers Foundation grant and generous philanthropic support from Sean Thomasson, a Franklin College trustee, and his brother, Scot Thomasson. Their support honors their late father, Dan Thomasson, a longtime Franklin College trustee and legendary Washington journalist, who also facilitated significant internship experiences for Franklin students.

“My father loved all aspects of journalism and respected the profession. He respected the power and influence that it held throughout history, and the insights it provided of various events and information. Journalism wasn’t a job for him, it was a calling,” Scot said.

Sean echoed Scot’s sentiments.

“Journalism, the way my father practiced it, is an honorable profession that keeps everybody honest. Without quality and professional journalists, society as a whole would be in trouble. We owe it to everybody to do everything we can to ensure that reporters and journalists are taken care of, just as they are doing for us.”

The lengths journalists go to report on sensitive and controversial issues in the public interest and the stresses they endure to deliver stories fairly from multiple points of view take a toll that many of us might never understand.

The symposium will be a safe space for broad and candid conversation, as well as a venue for camaraderie.

“It’s OK to be affected by seeing awful things. It’s OK to ask for help. And in terms of approaching people who’ve experienced traumatic events, it’s both professional and the right thing to do, to be aware of the ways those events may have affected them,” Krull said. “Journalists are doing work that makes us proud, the least we can do is provide the support they need.”

Symposium presenters will include veteran storytellers such as “ABC News” anchor and reporter Linsey Davis, who recently covered the refugee crisis in Ukraine and the school shooting in Uvalde, Texas. Other featured presenters have deep experience in trauma therapy and fields of psychology. ■

Find the symposium agenda and registration link at **FranklinCollege.edu**. Direct additional questions to Vice President for Institutional Advancement Dana Cummings at 317.738.8235 or **dcummings@FranklinCollege.edu**.



# SEASON ROUNDUP



CHAD WILLIAMS



Top: **Baleigh Riddle '24** matched the single-season record for lacrosse goals with 42.

Left: **Logan Demkovich '21** hits a home run during a game against Bluffton University.

BRITANY APP



*Alan Showalter '22 hits a tee shot at the Heartland Collegiate Athletic Conference Championships (HCAC).*

PHOTO BY HCAC

By Ryan Thomas, assistant athletic director for communications

## The Grizzlies' spring athletic season was a celebration of Franklin College firsts with student-athletes earning unprecedented individual honors and setting college records. Multiple teams also advanced to championships.

Read highlights below, and follow **#TeamGRIZ** on social media for real-time updates on all your favorite athletic teams. Find in-depth coverage at **FranklinGrizzlies.com**.

The baseball team won their fifth Heartland Collegiate Athletic Conference (HCAC) regular-season baseball championship, and earned the top seed in the HCAC tournament. Several Grizzlies collected post-season honors, including catcher **Logan Demkovich '21**, the first-ever ABCA/Rawlings First Team All-American in Franklin College baseball program history. In addition, Demkovich was named a Second Team All-American by **D3baseball.com**, ABCA Region Player of the Year by **D3baseball.com**, and First Team All-Region and First

Team All-HCAC. Demkovich also set new Franklin College records with 19 home runs and 63 RBI in his final season with the Grizzlies.

Other award winners were new single-season stolen base king **A.J. Sanders '24**, who picked up ABCA First Team All-Region, **D3baseball.com** Second Team All-Region and First Team All-HCAC honors. **Nick McClanahan '22** was named ABCA First Team All-Region, **D3baseball.com** Third Team All-Region, and became the second player in Franklin College baseball program

history to earn HCAC Pitcher of the Year.

**Alex Reinoehl '21** set the new single season saves record with 10 and earned ABCA Third Team All-Region honors as well as First Team All-HCAC accolades. **Tysen Lipscomb '23** and **Sean Sullivan '24** were both First Team All-HCAC selections, and **Matt Earley '25** earned HCAC honorable mention.

Lastly, head baseball coach Lance Marshall earned HCAC Coach of the Year for the fifth time in his career.



The softball team made a successive sixth appearance in the HCAC Tournament, reaching the 20th-win mark for the second straight season and finishing with at least a .500 record for the eighth consecutive campaign. Franklin collected a slew of post-season honors starting with **Molly Wallace '25** picking up NFCA Third Team All-Region honors. Wallace also was named First Team All-HCAC along with her teammates **Genesis Munoz '25**, **Makayla Plymale '22** and **Sydney Pitts '24**. **Sydney Bostic '23** and **Sydney Rodeghier '23** were Second Team All-HCAC selections, and **Annie Kluemper '24** was an honorable mention selection.

The women's lacrosse team qualified for the post-season for the second straight year and saw five players pick up all-conference honors. **Victoria Simmons '23** was named First Team All-HCLC, with **Baleigh Riddle '24**, **Lora Adkins '23**, **Kara Woodard '24** and **Mia Turnbaugh '24** all picking up Second Team All-HCLC honors. Riddle matched

the Franklin College program single-season record for goals with 42, while Simmons broke program records for career and single-season assists.

The men's and women's track and field teams won a combined seven medals at the HCAC Outdoor Championships, with the men picking up three and the women earning four. **Zak Wiley '22** capped his season with silver medals in the discus and hammer throw while **Noah Sigler '24** earned his first outdoor medal with a bronze in the hammer throw. The women's team saw **Haley Makowski '24** and **Taylor Tatlock '23** claim silver medals, and **Sarah O'Day '24** win two bronze medals in sprint events.

The men's tennis team clinched their first winning record since 2015, collecting nine wins during their 2021-22 campaign and finishing fourth in the HCAC. At the end of the year, **Ty McCory '22** and **Dustin Garrison '25** were named First Team All-HCAC with **Matt Leming '22** and **Nathan**

**Jarboe '25** picking up honorable mention all-conference accolades. Additionally, the Grizzlies earned All-Academic Team honors from the Intercollegiate Tennis Association (ITA), with Garrison and Jarboe picking up ITA Scholar Athlete honors.

The men's golf team earned their best finish at the HCAC Championships since 2010, improving their standing on each day of the tournament to earn a runner-up finish. Four Grizzlies placed in the top-20 at the event, with **Alan Showalter '22** topping the Franklin leaderboard and earning all-conference honors for the first time with a third-place finish.

The women's golf team saw a program record with four players named Women's Golf Coaches Association (WGCA) Scholar All-Americans, **Maci French '22**, **Taylor Dixon '22**, **Mara Wilson '23** and **Claire Sampson '25**. Wilson earned the honor for the third straight year. ■



# #GRIZTUESDAY

**Coming Nov. 29, 2022!**

Join us on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram in support of our 21 men's and women's NCAA Division III sports, athletic training, cheerleading and esports!

Find event details at [alumni.FranklinCollege.edu](https://alumni.FranklinCollege.edu).

# READY TO RUN

By Sara Brown '23, Staff Writer

**Chad McCullough '96** has spent most of his life on the run. He took up running cross-country in middle school, and he continued the sport through high school and college. He remains an avid runner today for health benefits, but the sport has taken on deeper meaning since he co-founded a community event in 2015.

The Memorial Day Mile is a 1-mile run/walk held in downtown Franklin, Indiana, centered around the Johnson County Courthouse. McCullough helped conceive the event as a way to connect and engage grateful citizens in Memorial Day observance and commemorate those who have perished during military service. The run/walk event coincides with a longstanding Memorial Day service conducted annually on the courthouse lawn.

McCullough said, "Personally, to me, it's a holiday that's important because it really gives us time to stop and remember the fallen soldiers who have given us our freedom."

The 2022 Memorial Day Mile drew more than 1,000 participants. Each received a medal for finishing and a T-shirt with artwork showing the names of 165 soldiers from Johnson County who lost their lives during service in World Wars I and II, Korea, Vietnam, Iraq and Afghanistan.

Public participation in the Memorial Day Mile has grown every year since the launch, thanks to the many committed volunteers involved in the coordination and execution, said McCullough. Founders and those who still work together

to put on the race today include McCullough's spouse, Emily, and their son, **Wyatt '24**, brother Todd McCullough and his spouse, Kellie, and friends from college including **Brad Coy '95**, his spouse, **Angela (Brown) '97**, and their son, **Nicholas '26**, **Chris Shaff '96** and his spouse, Megan, and **Tyler Knight '94**, his spouse, Winn, and their son, **Robbie '25**.

McCullough said, "One of my favorite parts of the race is that it brings together three and even four generations of families in a single event they all do together. Our youngest participant each year is usually under 1, and we've had several over age 90 participate with their children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren."

Memorial Day Mile, Inc. is a tax-exempt 501c(3) charity. Entry fees for the race do not cover the cost of putting on the event so individuals in the community cover the shortfall in funding each year through donations. "The support from the City of Franklin and the community has been fantastic," McCullough said.

To learn more or get involved, visit **MemorialDayMile.org**. ■



**Chad McCullough '96** and son **Wyatt '24** are avid runners. Like his father was, Wyatt is a member of the Franklin College men's cross-country team.





# CHANGE LEADER



By Amy (Kean) VerSteeg '96, Editor

**Helping individuals and communities thrive is more than a job to Jen Pittman '00, it's a passion. Throughout her career journey, from government to nonprofit to corporate sectors, she has engaged in dialogue and action to help create frameworks for change for the greater good. She specializes in helping people connect across aisles and collaborate around ideas to make positive, lasting impact.**

Today, she lends her experience and expertise to Indianapolis-based OneAmerica®, where she is vice president for community affairs. She joined the company nearly seven years ago, and has since held four leadership positions. A proven change leader, she continually looks for ways to help produce positive, people-focused outcomes. In the following Q&A, she shares insights about her career preparation, purpose and values, as well as a glimpse of family life.

**Your bachelor's degree is in journalism. How has that foundation influenced your career trajectory?**

"While my career path didn't lead to a newsroom, I have used my journalism degree every day of my professional life. The education I received in Shirk Hall (Pulliam School of Journalism) taught me how to be a lifelong learner, how to nurture natural curiosity for all kinds of topics, how to engage people in conversation in a way that makes them want to share their stories, how to always think critically — and on a very practical level — my journalism professors taught me how to produce pristine copy. The ability to translate complex subject matter into digestible

information is essential for just about every job, regardless of the industry.

"As the mass media landscape transforms around us, I also have come to rely on my journalism education to help me sort through the barrage of content. It's easy to read clips or watch news broadcasts and feel spun around by the world. Doing some of my own digging and knowing how to quickly separate fact from commentary helps me stay grounded in reality and focused on outcomes that matter."

**Your early career was a progression in government and nonprofit communications roles. How did the skill set you developed in those areas help prepare you for the transition to corporate work?**

"Government and nonprofit roles are often underrated in terms of transferable skills and knowledge. And at the time I worked in those roles, I didn't fully appreciate the real-world education I was receiving. In most government agencies and nonprofits, the impact of the work directly affects the quality of life for people in the local community. It's a heavy thing to consider, but it gives meaning to every project — even the work that

CHAD WILLIAMS



might otherwise seem mundane or boring. And then there's the reality of thin budgets and scarce resources. The work is vital, and the funding is insufficient. I've been fortunate to work for leaders — especially (former Indianapolis) Mayor (Greg) Ballard—who taught me how to drive results with available resources."

**Give us a big picture view of your current role and responsibilities at OneAmerica®. How do they connect to internal and external constituents?**

"I lead community affairs and workforce innovation at OneAmerica®. It's a role that encompasses corporate charitable giving, sponsorships, grantmaking from the OneAmerica® Foundation, leadership of our award-winning Pathways Program and employee volunteer engagement.

"Most companies in our industry participate in corporate social responsibility or corporate philanthropy, and that's a great thing. I'm very proud that at OneAmerica®, our approach is unique. We anchor all our community investment work in people, relationships and making a positive impact on individuals. We begin conversations with community organizations by asking 'how can we elevate this beyond something transactional?' And we build from there. Friendships form along the way, as well as mentorships and community leadership roles. It's a great moment when we're able to onboard a new associate at OneAmerica® who was introduced to us by a community partner.

"Of course, we're driven to serve as many people as possible, and we celebrate our big wins. Annually, we invest more than \$4 million in community causes, and our associates volunteer more than 5,000 total hours each year. I'm proud of that broad impact, and I'm also proud that we get to know the individuals we serve."

**You were recognized recently as a OneAmerica® ASPIRE Outstanding Team Impact honoree. What is the significance of that award to company culture, and why is it meaningful to you?**

"At OneAmerica®, an ASPIRE award is a top honor. It means the work produced was outstanding, and more importantly, HOW the work was produced aligns with our values.

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

"I think my superpower is recognizing talent and skill in others and bringing people together for maximum impact. I'm a convener. It's not uncommon for me to be the least qualified person at the table when there's a big problem to solve. But I believe I have an eye for talent and a knack for engaging people in ways that bring their talent to the surface."

**"... I WOULD LIKE TO ACKNOWLEDGE THE INCREDIBLE LIBERAL ARTS EDUCATION I RECEIVED FROM EVERY ACADEMIC DEPARTMENT AT FC. I'M GRATEFUL THAT MY EDUCATION INSTILLED CRITICAL THINKING AND AN OVERALL LEADERSHIP ACUMEN."**

**JEN PITTMAN '00**

"I felt so honored to receive the ASPIRE award in 2021. At that time, I was also leading our communications team, and the award signified the value of our entire team's impact during the worst months of the pandemic. Most communications teams during that timeframe experienced significant strain, as companies shifted to virtual environments. Ours did as well, but the way the team pulled together to deliver top-notch work and keep our associate satisfaction in the 90th percentile was extraordinary. I'm also proud of the way our community affairs team stretched to support their communications colleagues. Everyone elevated their communications game!"

**What's your most proud professional achievement so far?**

"Seeing the OneAmerica® Pathways Program come to life has been so rewarding. What started as a (workforce talent development) idea in 2018 is now producing positive, life-changing outcomes for high school students, college students and career professionals. It's phenomenal to watch participants grow from their first day at OneAmerica® — when most of them know very little about financial services — to their capstone presentations, when they describe the roles they want to hold and map out their paths to get there. They build skills, confidence and social capital, and I love being able to play a small role in that transformation."



**Tony Sánchez '23 and Jen Pittman '00**

**Technology's impact on the workforce is a hot news topic. How has technology impacted your own career?**

"When I worked for the City of Indianapolis, we were focused on transforming Central Indiana into a tech hub. Through that effort, I began to see technology and the entire tech industry through a different lens. It no longer seemed like something far away and theoretical that only existed in Silicon Valley. I saw real people starting successful companies, and they were using tech to solve everyday challenges.

"I embrace technology when it can help deliver positive, people-centered outcomes. In my career, I've been a part of project teams that have delivered tech solutions to create a single, statewide voter registration system, report and fill potholes faster, connect Super Bowl XLVI fans with local guides to answer their questions, match volunteers with nonprofits and deliver personalized financial wellness education. Tech has enabled

some big career wins, and I'm hopeful there will be more on the horizon."

**Who were your Franklin College mentors? How did they impact you?**

"Journalism professors Susie Fleck, **Bill Bridges '56**, Jerry Miller, Dennis Cripe, Joel Cramer and Ann Barton all played important roles in shaping me and influencing my path after graduation.\* They had vastly different teaching and coaching styles, but they all shared the ability to push me out of my comfort zone and help me succeed at the next level. They built my confidence by challenging me, and that collective experience instilled in me the desire to run toward challenges with enthusiasm."

**Which Franklin College courses or student organizations were most transformative for you?**

"Working on *The Franklin* (student newspaper) was one of my most impactful experiences. Friendships formed in the newsroom at 2 a.m. may be among the strongest bonds on earth. We worked like crazy, produced

something outstanding every week and had a ridiculous amount of fun."

**What would you like to share about your family?**

"My husband, **Al Ensley '03**, and I have a daughter, Maddie, 17, and a son, John, 11. We enjoy camping, hiking and paddle boarding together."

**What else would you like readers to know?**

"Beyond journalism, I would like to acknowledge the incredible liberal arts education I received from every academic department at FC. I'm grateful that my education instilled critical thinking and an overall leadership acumen.

"Throughout the 2022 summer, my team at OneAmerica® has included a Franklin College intern, **Tony Sánchez '23**, and I have observed firsthand that the liberal arts tradition continues. From social impact program development to lean six sigma yellow belt classes, Tony has demonstrated mental agility and foundational knowledge in a wide array of subject matter. Our team is stronger because he has been part of it, and our Pathways students have gained an inspirational mentor in Tony." ■

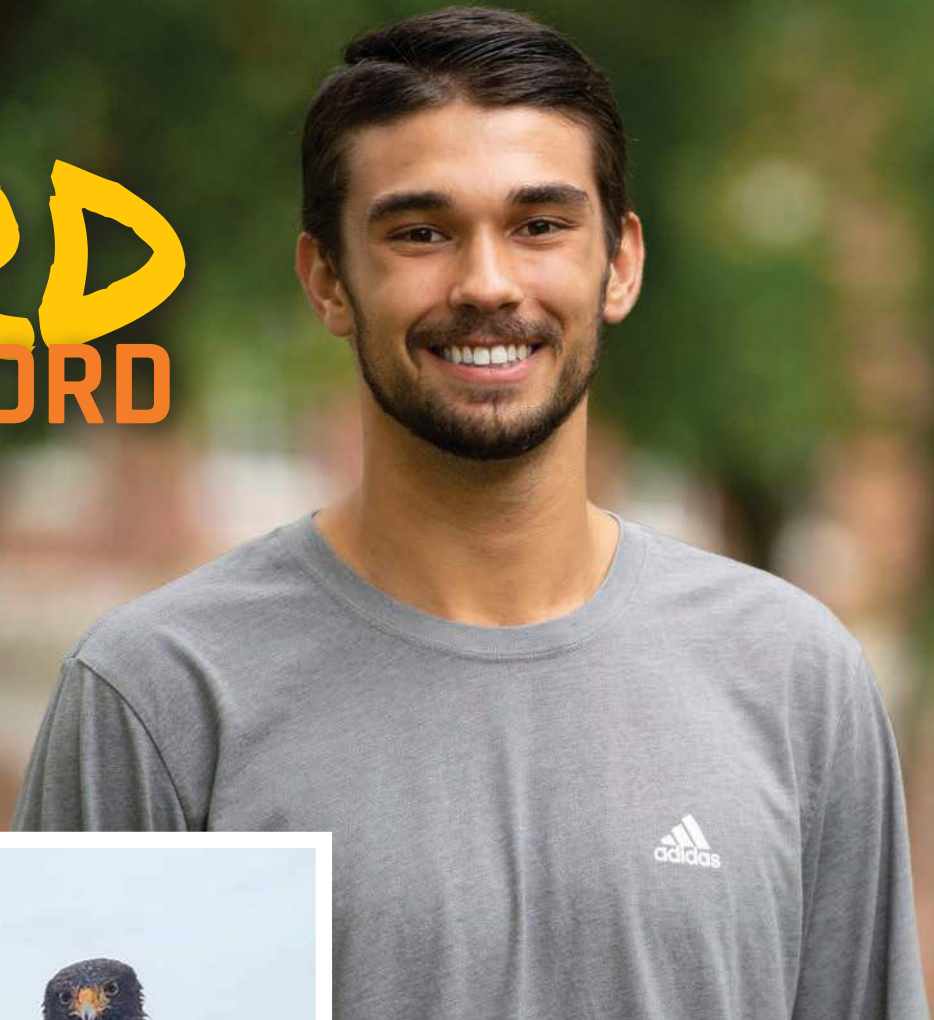
**Editor's note:**

\*Fleck, Bridges, Cripe and Barton are retired. Miller is deceased. Cramer continues to teach.



# BIRD is the WORD


By Alexa Shrake '23, Pulliam Fellow



**Gunnar Dittrich '20** trains birds of prey to help clients address unwanted wildlife that can disrupt industries, spread diseases and create environmental havoc.

**Gunnar Dittrich '20** did not realize birds were his calling until he came to Franklin College.

Today, he specializes in using trained birds of prey to help clients address unwanted wildlife that can disrupt airplane flights, spread disease from landfills and create environmental havoc at industrial sites and other places. It is a unique line of work that he never knew existed until he began job searching. His main goals were to secure a biology-related position and to relocate from his hometown of



**"FRANKLIN DEFINITELY  
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**GUNNAR DITTRICH '20**

*Gunnar Dittrich '20 participated with the biology faculty in collaborative research studies related to birds during college, and interned twice prior to his graduation.*

on ways to better understand animal behavior and become a stronger communicator and teacher. His focus is on helping the birds he trains be efficient in their abatement roles.

"There's always room for improvement, no matter what aspect we're talking about with the job," he said.

He added that working with birds is more than a job, it is an adventure. His favorite type of bird to work with is the Harris's hawk, also known as a "wolf hawk" because it will hunt cooperatively in packs, unlike other raptors. With an average body length of 18 to 24 inches and a wingspan of 3 to 4 feet, these hawks could intimidate an unsuspecting human in their domain, but their daunting appearance is deceiving, according to Dittrich.

"They're so fun to work with, and they've got such goofy personalities," he said.

While Dittrich never imagined that majoring in ecology and conservation would lead to his current niche, his career is taking flight.

"Franklin definitely helped me expand my horizons and chase after what I wanted in life," Dittrich said. "I'm happy doing what I'm doing." ■

South Bend, Indiana, to Florida. He managed to do both concurrently.

"If it weren't for all the bird experience that Dr. O'Neal allowed me to have I definitely wouldn't have been able to land this position," Dittrich said.

As a student, Dittrich collaborated with Biology Department Chair and professor of biology Ben O'Neal, Ph.D., on bird research projects funded by various grants. He also was a member of the College's Earth Club, and had internships with the Muscatatuck National

Wildlife Refuge in southern Indiana and the Macaw Recovery Network in Costa Rica. At the latter, he was involved in helping recover endangered neotropical parrot populations. All the hands-on experiences were solid training for his current job with Predator Bird Services.

"My favorite thing about this job, honestly, is just being out in the field every day and getting to work with the birds," Dittrich said. Although his job is to train the birds, Dittrich said he is the one always learning something new. He continuously works



# INSIDE ALUMNI COUNCIL

If you ever have wondered what the Franklin College Alumni Council does or why it matters, join us for a look. At a glimpse, the Council is a diverse group of passionate graduates who care about maintaining a connection with their alma mater and helping the institution become stronger.

A closer look reveals that Council members show up in big ways for the college community through their volunteerism and infuse Grizzly pride throughout the entire Franklin College Alumni Association. For a better perspective, we invited immediate past president **Suzanne (Nekvasil) Robinson '87** and current president **Jon Almeras '92**, also a college trustee, to share their points of view on Alumni Council participation, accountability and action.

Robinson began serving on the Council in 2015, and became president in 2020. Her professional background includes more than 22 years as a corporate communications leader at Crowe in Indianapolis. Here is what she said:

## **What is the Alumni Council's purpose?**

"The Council is an advisory body of alumni. We leverage our professional and personal experiences and relationships to engage fellow alums in the life of the College, and support the Franklin College Board of Trustees and leaders in achieving their strategic goals. At the same time, we work to encourage lifelong connections between the College, alumni and current students. That includes reaching out to galvanize the alumni in our networks to find ways to engage in the college community."

## **You began serving on the Alumni Council in 2015.**

### **What motivated you to then accept the elected position of president in 2020?**

"I was a first-generation college student who stepped onto campus as a freshman knowing no one. The FC community supported and guided me, and for that I am grateful. Also, I would have never been able to afford college if it weren't for the generosity of alumni before me who donated support for scholarships. Serving as Alumni Council president is one way I can give back to the college that gave so much to me."

## **What were the Alumni Council's primary areas of focus during your presidency?**

"The main objective was to restructure the Council to align with the College's strategic priorities while, at the same time, engaging council members to really help create change and improvement, rather than serve as primarily a listening group. We implemented task forces related to diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI), digital fluency, esports and health and wellness. Then, our task force co-chairs met with the college faculty and staff who lead in those areas to determine challenges that alumni could help them overcome,

and goals that alumni could help them achieve. I was so impressed with how our council members really dug into issues by brainstorming ways to make a difference, and making things happen!"

## **What are you most proud of the Alumni Council accomplishing during your presidency?**

"I think the most significant achievement was the Council's evolution from a sounding board to an action-oriented body. One example of that is the Alumni Council DEI Fund. Our DEI task force listened carefully when several underrepresented students shared that a lack of funds prevents them from participating in some campus activities, such as Greek life or study abroad. Our task force brainstormed ideas to help and quickly established the Alumni Council DEI Fund. Within a month, alumni donated \$2,500 to the fund to help students with demonstrated need, and to help provide for a robust Franklin College student experience. The fund is still growing, and I really encourage alumni who would like to make a difference in the lives of students to make a gift at [FranklinCollege.edu/give](https://FranklinCollege.edu/give)."

## **What is something you have learned from serving on Alumni Council?**

"I've learned more about esports than most 50-something-year-olds would ever know! Honestly, at first, I probably rolled my eyes at the notion of video game

playing being recognized as a college sport. But, Program Director and Head Coach Todd Burris is so passionate about esports that he made a believer out of me. During our task force meetings, I learned esports provides a sense of community for some students in the same way that a fraternity, sorority or traditional sports team does for others. And students who develop stronger friendships and feel a sense of belonging are more likely to do well in class, persist, graduate and have positive feelings about their alma mater. We want that for all Franklin College students!”

**What is the best way any graduate can engage with Franklin College?**

“Think about how others helped you when you were in college, and then do the same for current students. It may be a matter of donating to the Franklin Fund toward scholarships, or offering to share your experiences by speaking to a class. It may be telling a high school student about the great experience you had at FC and referring him/her to the college, or attending Homecoming to strengthen connections. The best ‘product’ of — or Return on Investment for — a Franklin College education is the alumni who have gone on to achieve great things. The more alumni who engage with FC, tell their stories and connect with students, the more successful the College will be.”

**What advice would you offer Jon to help ensure a smooth transition to his new role?**

“Jon is amazing; I don’t think he needs any advice. Being active with the Council has broadened my network significantly, and my relationship with Jon is a great example of that! He lives in Washington, D.C., and is quite a bit younger than me, and if weren’t for the Council we likely never would have crossed paths, but I’m so glad we did! I was in his area on business recently, and we got together for a long, laughter-filled lunch that included talking about all things FC. Franklin alumni support each other like no other alumni I know.”

Almeras began serving on the Council in 2019. His professional background includes nearly seven years as a tax attorney and managing director of taxes at Airlines for America.

Here’s what he said:

**In 2019, you were elected the Alumni Trustee, meaning you serve on the College’s Board of Trustees as well as Alumni Council. How does it work?**

“The positions mesh well. While many trustees are alumni, I’m in the unique position to serve as the Board’s connection to almost the entire alumni base through the Council. The graduation years for current Council members

span from 1970 to 2021, and their personal connections give us access to an enormous network of alumni. Our alumni have a deep bond to Franklin College and really care about it as an institution and all its facets – from sports, to academic departments, to student organizations. And I am proud to represent all of us on the Board.”

**What motivated you to accept the new leadership role of Alumni Council President?**

“It is a fantastic opportunity to give back to a place that I love, and a way to repay the investment the College made in me when I was a student.”

*Franklin College Trustee and Alumni Council President Jon Almeras ’92 and immediate past president Suzanne (Nekvasil) Robinson ’87*



SUBMITTED



# ALUMNI COUNCIL

Thank you for your volunteerism!

## Recently retired members:

Kim Bereman-Hinz '77

Drew Bright '07

Natasha Clements '13

Zeeshan Malik '06

Mark Susemichel '92

## Current members:

Dave Abel '75

Jon Almeras '92

\*Rob Ater '98

Luke Bosso '08

Julianne Butler '88

Kinsley Castro '20

Tom DeBaun '86

Derek Doddridge '05

Bryan Epperson '93

Jacob Evans '14

\*Danny Goggans '21

Laurie Hargrove '14

\*Aaron Hommell '11

\*Lora (Todd) Hoover '00

Holly (Hardman) Johnston '93

Anna (Murdock) Larson '15

Leslie Lux-Baute '98

Aubrey Magodlyo '15

\*Joe McGuinness '00

Mark McNeely '70

Nadine (Poland) Melind '81

\*Heather (Willis) Neal '97

Matt Niehoff '16

\*Roxanne (Addis) Olson '82

Karoline Park '15

Suzanne (Nekvasil) Robinson '87

Stephanie Wagner '05

\*Ashley (Burton) Wilcoxon '12

*\*Indicates the newest members who began a three-year term on July 1, 2022.*

## What opportunities are ahead for Alumni Council to help make an impact?

"I am looking forward to continuing the great work Suzanne began through the creation of task forces that align with the College's strategic goals. Task forces help the College identify and match alumni talent to support specific goals, and give alumni more opportunities to engage with the College to help make it a stronger institution."

## What is something you have learned from serving on Alumni Council?

"The Franklin College experience doesn't end with graduation."

## What is the best way any graduate can engage with Franklin College?

"Today's technology makes it easier to engage more meaningfully from a distance, and I urge alumni who don't live near Franklin or in Indiana to take advantage of the opportunities. Start by registering on the Franklin College Connect website, [alumni.FranklinCollege.edu](http://alumni.FranklinCollege.edu). It will keep you up to date on events, and allow you to connect with other alumni. And volunteer what you can, whether it's money, time or talent. The College always has a need, and by volunteering you are enhancing Franklin's reputation and your degree."

## What are the benefits of staying connected to the College?

"Franklin is all about personal connections, and for me, the biggest benefit has been reconnecting with old friends and making new ones from different eras."

**"THE FRANKLIN COLLEGE EXPERIENCE DOESN'T END WITH GRADUATION."**

**JON ALMERAS '92**

**COLLEGE TRUSTEE AND ALUMNI COUNCIL PRESIDENT**

## What makes you excited about the College's future?

"My first visit to Franklin was in the fall of 1987. Old Main had just reopened after the (accidental) fires, and there was so much pride about the College rising from the ashes and so much optimism about the future. I don't think that resiliency and optimism have ever left us. We've had serious challenges in the last few years, but we have weathered them successfully, learned from them and become stronger. Although other challenges are on the horizon, we are in a good position to continue to grow and thrive, and I am excited to be part of that." ■

# CLASS NOTES

## '70s

**Joseph Lee '77** is a senior associate consultant for PPLSI, a provider of justice and security tools and services. He resides in Las Vegas, Nevada.

## '80s

**Cindy King '80** retired after 31 years with the Franklin Community School Corp. in Indiana. She taught second through fourth grades, coached the girls' elementary basketball team, served as an elementary athletic director and coached the Spell Bowl team. She also served on the Parent Teacher Organization as a teacher representative for more than 20 years.

**Brian Meeke '81** is a property manager for Parkside. He resides in Greensburg, Indiana.

**Michael W. O'Dell '81**, M.D., a Franklin College Trustee, received the Weill Cornell University Dean's Award for Excellence in Mentorship during the 2022 commencement program. He is a professor of clinical rehabilitation medicine at Weill Cornell Medicine, where he joined the faculty in 2001. He has served in multiple leadership roles within the department of rehabilitation medicine, and has mentored more than 150 faculty and residents. Through his teaching in neurological rehabilitation, he has inspired multiple medical students to pursue careers in physiatry. On a national level, he is the inaugural director of the Program of Academic Leadership through the Association of Academic Physiatrists.

**Kevin O'Shea '88**, head football coach and director of sports performance at North Central High School in Indianapolis, was inducted into the Indiana Football Hall of Fame, June 12, 2022. He began serving as president of the Indiana Football Coaches Association three months prior. His coaching excellence impacted programs at Central Catholic, Delta and Crown Point, prior to his current position with North Central, where he led the team to an 11-3 finish in his first season. He also gave stellar performances as a past player. While attending Franklin College he led the nation in passing, and at McCutcheon High School he was an All-State quarterback.

## '90s

**Trena Paulus '91**, Ph.D., has been selected as a Fulbright Distinguished Scholar in Humanities and Social Sciences for 2022-23. She is a professor at East Tennessee State University, working in the research division of the Quillen College of Medicine. She also is the director of undergraduate research and creative activities in the department of family medicine at the Honors College, and an affiliate faculty member of the university's Applied Social Research Laboratory. As a



1: Trustee **Michael W. O'Dell '81**, M.D.



## What's new?

Share your milestones, experiences, travels and photos in the next magazine! Submit Class Notes at [alumni.FranklinCollege.edu](https://alumni.FranklinCollege.edu).





ROLL  
WITH IT



Want to show Franklin College pride wherever you go?  
Roll up with our signature college license plate  
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When you buy a plate, you also help students.  
Sales support the **Franklin Fund**, which helps provide  
student scholarships and other vital college  
resources. When you order your first plate or renew an  
existing one, the BMV will collect and forward your  
\$25 contribution to the College. Standard plate  
registration and processing fees also will be applied  
to your purchase and paid to the BMV.

Start the process at  
[alumni.FranklinCollege.edu](http://alumni.FranklinCollege.edu).

Franklin College license plates are available to  
Indiana residents only, but the bookstore offers a variety  
of license plate frames and other  
college merchandise. Shop at [bkstr.com](http://bkstr.com).

Fulbright Scholar, she will head to Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznan, Poland, for a six-month appointment. She will work with the faculty to identify qualitative research methods relevant to that community, and determine which methodological and technology innovations may still be needed. She also will be involved in designing, developing and co-teaching a baccalaureate-level course in qualitative research methods in language and linguistics. In addition, she will provide mentoring and workshops on using qualitative data analysis software.

**Heather Patterson-King '94** has more than 25 years of experience in performing arts education and college placement. She has coached students currently on Broadway, in national tours, at regional theatres and in numerous college and university programs. One of her students is Ariana Debose, recent Oscar winner for *West Side Story*. Patterson-King's own accolades include the Best Actress Award from Broadway World for her performance as "Donna" in *Mamma Mia!* She also appeared in the fourth season of the CBS hit "Bull" and in the premier season of "Harlem" on Amazon. Patrons of the Beef and Boards Dinner Theatre in Indianapolis this summer may have seen her portraying Winifred Banks in *Mary Poppins — The Broadway Musical*.

**Shannon (Baunach) Anderson '95**, an author, educator and national speaker, has published her 11th children's book, *I Love Strawberries*. The book aims to inspire children to try growing their own food. "There is so much to learn from planting seeds or seedlings and caring for them. From the challenges to the joys of harvest, kids learn about science, patience and life," Anderson said in an online interview posted by blogger Deborah Kalb.

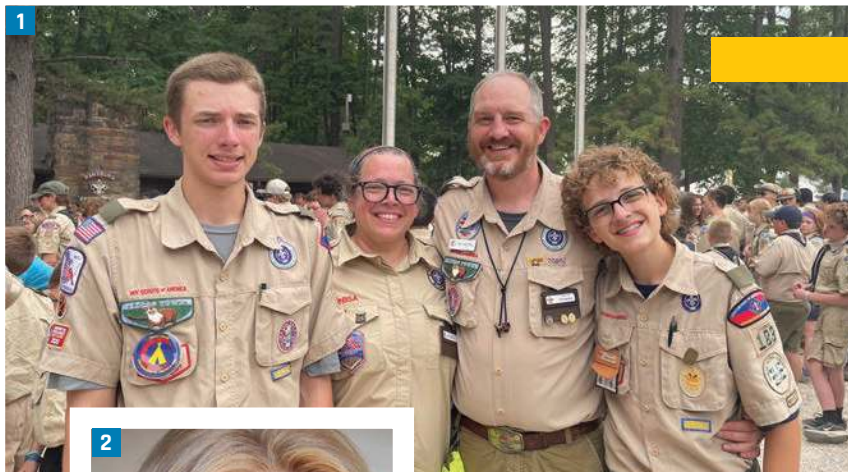
**Patti Campbell '95** has accepted a merchandiser position with Always Fresh Baked Goods and Lewis Bakeries. She resides in Franklin, Indiana.

**Jenny "J.R." (Vinson) Sherrill '95** is the founder and scoutmaster of a Scouts BSA (formerly Boy Scouts) troop for girls. She also recently served as assistant scoutmaster for the Cross-roads of America Girls' contingent to the National Scout Jamboree. Scouting is a family activity in which her spouse, Tim, an Eagle Scout and district commissioner, and sons Mark, an Eagle Scout, and Adam, a soon-to-be Life Scout, also participate. The family resides in Noblesville, Indiana.

**Emily (Habel) Wood '95** and Edward Olibo married on July 8, 2022, in Naples, Florida. Emily is director of alumni engagement and campus partnerships at Franklin College, and Edward works for the Indiana State Police.

**Joe Hoage '97** was appointed by Gov. Eric Holcomb to commissioner of the Indiana Bureau of Motor Vehicles in May 2022. He previously was commissioner of the Indiana Department of Labor.

**Shaun Mahoney '97** was named associate head coach of men's soccer at Xavier University in Cincinnati this May. He was previously associate head coach at the University of Indianapolis. In five seasons there, he helped lead the team to two conference titles and advance to three NCAA Tournaments, including two NCAA National Semifinal Appearances. Prior to that, he was the head men's soccer coach at Franklin College, from 2006–16. He finished his career as the program's leader in wins, taking the team to the Heartland Collegiate Athletic Conference Championship Semifinals on three occasions.



**Kelly Sutton '97** was featured in Tennessee's *Franklin Lifestyle* magazine in December 2021. The article recognizes her as an entertainment host and "mainstay in the country music world." She hosts several programs, including "Connected with Kelly" on YouTube, "Y'all Access with Kelly Sutton" on radio and "Country Heat Weekly" on podcast.

## '00s

**Jeff McGuinness '06** is the manager of sales and customer relations for North Texas Natural Select Materials, a supplier to the construction and landscaping industries. He resides in McKinney, Texas.

**1:** Mark Sherrill stands next to his mother, Jenny "J.R." (Vinson) '95, his father, Tim, and brother, Adam.

**2:** Heather Patterson-King '94

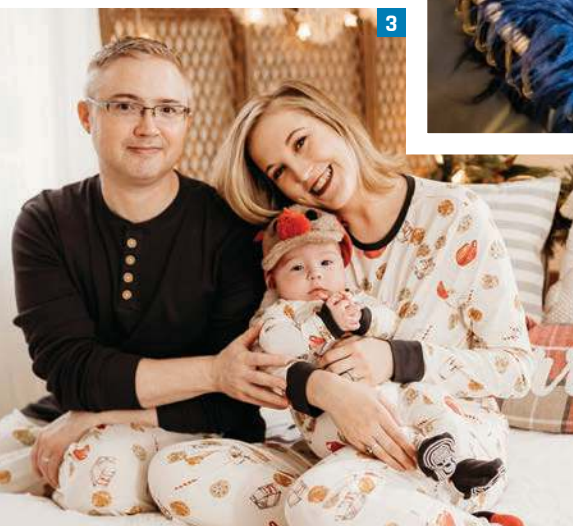
**3:** Emily (Habel) Olibo '95 and spouse Edward

SUBMITTED PHOTOS





**1:** Sara (Banta) Galbraith '09, daughter Nora, son Martin and spouse Jonathan '10  
**2:** Sutton Elijah Stanik is the son of Heather (Coddington) '06 and spouse Steve



**3:** Timothy Stultz, spouse Valerie (Jacobson) '16 and son Sterling Jeffrey  
**4:** Pia Kelly Reynolds is the daughter of Erin Cataldi '11.  
**5:** Michelle (Rojas) Altamirano '16 and spouse Franklin



SUBMITTED PHOTOS

Heather (Coddington) Stanik '06 and spouse Steve are the parents of a son, Sutton Elijah, born May 25, 2022. He joins stepsiblings, Michaela, 18, and Sean, 15. The family resides in Madison, Alabama.

Geoff Zentz '06 has accepted a position as senior director of innovation at AgriNovus. He most recently was the gBETA managing director at gener8tor in Indianapolis.

Amy Hamilton '07 is the access services coordinator for B.F. Hamilton Library at Franklin College, where she was a student assistant throughout her undergraduate career. She has a master's degree in library and information science from Indiana University, and previously was the adult teen librarian for Johnson County Public Library – White River Branch.

Craig Shouse '07, DPM PC, and spouse Chastity are the parents of a daughter, Sophie, born Oct. 1, 2020. The family resides in Plainfield, Indiana.

Sara (Banta) Galbraith '09 and spouse Jonathan '10 are the parents of a son, Martin, born April 21, 2022. He joins a sister, Nora, 4. The family resides in Greensburg, Indiana.

Alex Perdue '09 recently accepted the position of senior associate, design hub data insights at Eli Lilly and Co. He is involved in critical activities supporting budgeting processes. He joined the company in 2018 and previously was a senior associate for global business operations. Alex holds a bachelor's degree in American Studies from Franklin College and a Master of Business Administration from Indiana Wesleyan University.

## '10s

Colin Altevogt '10 and spouse Cathleen Nine-Altevogt '11 are the parents of a daughter, Caroline, born June 14, 2022. She joins a brother,

Solomon, 3. The family resides in Carmel, Indiana.

**Brandon Platt '10**, DAT, is founder and owner of 4D Digital Media, a marketing and social media management agency specializing in services for dentists and dental specialists. He also holds a master of science in kinesiology and exercise science from the University of Georgia, and a doctorate in athletic training from A.T. Still University. He and spouse Danielle are the parents of a daughter, Logan, born May 22, 2021. They reside in Zephyrhills, Florida.

**Erin Cataldi '11** welcomed the birth of daughter Pia Kelly Reynolds on May 5, 2022. They reside in Franklin, Indiana.

**Kristy (Meyer) Andrews '13** is a staff accountant with Circle K. She resides in Westport, Indiana.

**Kaylea Gibson '13** is an associate product manager for the ecommerce team at Shoe Carnival's corporate office headquarters in Evansville, Indiana.

**Kayla (Keith) Jolliff '14** and spouse Brandon are the parents of a daughter, Ella, born Aug. 11, 2021. The family resides in Marysville, Ohio.

**Abby Toole '15** and **Dave McAfee '15** married on June 18, 2022, in Greenwood, Indiana.

**Jacob Collins '16**, M.D., graduated from Ross University School of Medicine in November 2021. He began a family medicine residency at Community Hospital East in Indianapolis in June 2022.

**Madison Hood '16** and spouse Thayer are the parents of a son, Cooper Lee, born Dec. 19, 2021. The family resides in Columbus, Indiana.

**Michelle Rojas '16** married Franklin Altamirano on May 1, 2022, at West Chase Golf Club in Brownsburg, Indiana.

**Valerie (Jacobson) Stultz '16** and spouse Timothy are the parents of a son, Sterling Jeffry, born Aug. 6, 2021. Valerie works as a nurse in the emergency room and in the post-

partum unit at Ascension St Vincent Women's Hospital. The family resides in Indianapolis.

**Nick Allen '17** and **Ariel Halstead '19** married on May 28, 2022, in Mooresville, Indiana.

**Haley Blaich '17** and Andrew McElyea married on April 30, 2022. Haley works for Indiana University Health as a portfolio manager, capital contracts. The couple reside in Danville, Indiana.

**Sunday Okello '17** is a senior materials science chemist with Cummins. He recently transferred from the company's Columbus, Indiana, location to its Charleston, South Carolina, facility. He interned with Cummins during college, and participated in the company's year-long school to work program, enabling him to work part time while completing his bachelor's degree at Franklin.

**Brittney Balog '17** and **Matthew Western '17** married on June 25, 2022, at The Mill Top in Noblesville, Indiana.

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**1:** The wedding day of **Zach Rayce '20** and **August (Hartzell) Rayce '21** reunited members of the Grizzlies' swimming and diving team. In the front row are **Mitch Western '17**, **James Hone '20**, **Jacqueline Richard '21**, Franklin College Director of Athletics and Swimming and Diving Coach **Andrew Hendricks**, **Zach Rayce '20**, **August (Hartzell) Rayce '21**, **Samantha Phillips '24**, **Kennedy Minter '24**, **Allyson Carroll '21**, **Liz Colliver '21** and **Ashley Summers '24**. In the middle row are **Cameron Culp '19**, **Rob Warren '19**, **Jack Heim '20**, **Sarah (Taylor) Warren '17**, **Alex Bowers '21**, **Sam Hall '18**, **Brooke Haflich '22**, **Caileigh McCafferty '23**, **Matt Western '17**, **Savannah Howerton '21**, **Ben Doss '20** and **Karlee (Demsey) Doss '18**. In the back row is **Jacob Weir '20**. In attendance but not pictured are **Mac Howard '20** and **Dylan Harker '21**.

**2:** **Kohl Coryell** and spouse **Zoie (Richey) '18**

SUBMITTED PHOTOS



**Zoie Richey '18** married **Kohl Coryell** on March 19, 2022. Zoie is a digital media specialist at Gene B. Glick Co. in Indianapolis.

**Zachary Turner '18** and spouse **Allison (Amato) '16** are the parents of a son, **Ford James**, born April 6, 2022. They reside in Fairland, Indiana.

**Christian Bowling '19** is a donor relations associate with the Indiana University Foundation. He completed a master of arts administration degree at the university's O'Neill School of Public and Environmental Affairs in December 2021.

## '20s

**Sam Claycamp '20** was signed to the Schaumburg Boomers for the 2022 season. In 2021, he played for the

Lexington Legends. While on the Franklin College Grizzlies' baseball team, he batted .350 with a .464 on-base percentage in 136 games. He also was named HCAC All-Conference three times, 2017–19, and All-Region, twice, 2018–19.

**Emily Ketterer '20** recently rejoined the *Daily Journal* newspaper in Franklin, Indiana, as the news editor. She wrote for the newspaper throughout her college years, and also worked at The Statehouse File, an Indiana news site powered by Pulliam School of Journalism students. She previously was the *Indianapolis Business Journal* statehouse and economic development reporter and co-author of "The Rundown" newsletter.

**Zach Rayce '20** and **August Hartzell '21** married on June 11, 2022, in Goshen, Indiana. Both were on the Franklin College swimming and diving team, and happy to be joined by many teammates on their wedding day.

**Josh Steward '20** recently graduated from Indiana State University with a master of education degree in school counseling. He is a middle school counselor for Cloverdale Community Schools in Indiana.

**Julian Wilburn '20** is a skills specialist working for Earlywood Educational Services. She resides in Franklin, Indiana.

**Andrew Burkner '21** is working as a portfolio analyst for TRIMEDX, a clinical assets management company for health care providers, in Indianapolis. ■

# IN MEMORIAM

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

## '50s

**Eugene L. “Gene” Henderson '50 (HD '74)**  
July 21, 1925 - July 31, 2022  
Indianapolis  
Franklin College Trustee  
Emeritus and Heritage  
Society

**Eugene M. Gurthet '51**  
March 28, 1926 - June 1, 2022  
Columbus, Ind.

**Margaret (Novikoff) Cox '52**  
Feb. 21, 1931 - May 11, 2022  
Greenwood, Ind.

## '60s

**Edward L. Runyan '60**  
Feb. 14, 1938 - April 21, 2022  
Zionsville, Ind.

**J.R. Bishop '61**  
March 22, 1938 - June 21, 2022  
St. Charles, Ill.  
Franklin College Heritage  
Society

**John W. Spicer '61**  
Sept. 18, 1934 - May 29, 2022  
Macon, Ga.

**Judge Robert D. Schafstall '65**  
Oct. 27, 1943 - April 14, 2022  
Franklin, Ind.  
Franklin College Trustee  
Emeritus

**G. Michael Loveall '68**  
Dec. 3, 1946 - June 28, 2022  
Terre Haute, Ind.  
Franklin College Heritage  
Society

## '70s

**Dale K. Duckwall '72**  
Dec. 9, 1949 - March 20, 2022  
Midway, Ga.

**Stephen C. Kane '73**  
April 12, 1949 - Jan. 30, 2022  
Newton, N.H.

## Friends of Franklin College

**Jane A. Dean**  
Oct. 13, 1944 - May 11, 2022  
Franklin, Ind.  
Franklin College development  
office staff

**Stephen “Steve” McClure**  
June 19, 1945 - July 25, 2022  
Franklin, Ind.  
Public announcer for Grizzlies'  
football and basketball

**Bill Russell (HD '03)**  
Feb. 12, 1934 - July 31, 2022  
11-time NBA champion and  
2003 commencement  
speaker ■

*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.*

## WHY GRIZZLIES GIVE . . .



In choosing Franklin College, I made one of the best decisions of my life. I found just what I wanted at the time, a small school in a faraway place with a new-to-me culture, on a campus where I could be highly involved and excel, and where I did not feel alone.

“Decades later, Franklin, the place, is one of my ‘homes’ in this world, and Franklin, the experience, evokes deep gratitude and joy. Among my best-ever friends are those I met at Franklin College, and a profound point of pride has been an unlikely family legacy of graduates furthered by both my niece, **Taylor Heideman '17**, and nephew, **A.J. Barner '17**.

“Ultimately, Franklin College is among those things most important to me. A strong and enduring emotional connection actually makes it easy to contribute financially. Giving is a way to continue my involvement, and I am fortunate to have the opportunity. It is my hope and prayer that I have a part in sustaining Franklin College so those who follow will find what they seek, have great fun and be enriched, empowered and energized to face all that life will bring their way.”

— **Illene (Jaynes) Roggensack '82**

Explore your philanthropic opportunities at [FranklinCollege.edu/giving](https://franklincollege.edu/giving). Here, you also will find a free, online resource to create a legally valid will that ensures your legacy of care for loved ones, and a charitable impact at the College.



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