

Icy branches glisten in the glowing light pouring from Old Main's east side on an unseasonably cold October night. Old Main is busiest in the daytime, but some classes are held at night, and Custer Theatre is a venue for evening concerts and other cultural events.



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Alumni and Friends,

The first opportunity I had after assuming the presidency in January of 2020, I told an assembly of faculty and staff that I had long held and still believed that the strength of Franklin College was its people. I meant that in the broadest definition—our students, faculty, staff, alumni, trustees and friends. Underlying my sentiment were countless examples of people who made a significant impact at the College throughout my previous three-plus decades here. It is remarkable and humbling to realize how dramatically the list has continued growing during these last three years. This magazine issue is packed with examples of the people who help keep Franklin moving forward.

The cover story examines the amazing career of **Stephanie (Mayes) Cox '03**, CEO of Lumavate, and explains how her company is partnering with our digital fluency initiative to provide students with an innovative platform to enhance their application of tech skills. Similar impressive alumni success stories span the Class Notes and other features throughout this issue.

We also are proud to celebrate the accomplishments of students, faculty members and honorees recognized over Homecoming and Alumni Weekend. The vital role of college trustees is reflected in a series of stories. We commemorate the passing of two board icons, **Gene Henderson '50** (HD '74) and **Rob Schafstall '65**, and the retirement of two extraordinary veteran board members, Steve Huddleston (AA '97) (HD '06) and **Mike O'Dell '81**, M.D. We also profile our four newest trustees, Ron Bowsher, Ph.D, Kevin Crowe, Billie Dragoo (HD '21) and David Wantz, Ed.D.

One message will resonate loudly and clearly from this publication: Franklin may be a small college, but the impact of our alumni and extended family on this institution, their professions and their communities is huge. It remains clear that the distinctive experience here at Franklin consistently and dramatically changes the trajectory of student lives.

As we prepare today's students, we are inspired by the incredible accomplishments of the alumni, trustees and friends who have helped shape — and been shaped by — Franklin College. Innovative programs like digital fluency may not be familiar to many of you, but the way it is being delivered and received certainly would be. It's unique, distinctive and successful. It's the Franklin way. Because of the Franklin people. Thank you for supporting and being part of the many shared successes we celebrate as Grizzlies.

Sincerely,

KERRY PRATHER
FRANKLIN COLLEGE PRESIDENT

FRANKLIN COLLEGE

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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

On the Cover

Stephanie (Mayes) Cox '03 is passionate about leading and shaping the tech industry.

PHOTO BY CHAD WILLIAMS









CONTENIS













Featured Stories

RAMPING UP DIGITAL FLUENCY
Chack out the package of stories highlight

Check out the package of stories highlighting our digital fluency initiative, including the resources for students and the collaborative partners engaged in helping further college efforts.

- 28 CELEBRATING THE AWARD WINNERS

 Meet the nine distinguished award winners recognized at the Hail to Franklin reception during Homecoming and Alumni Weekend 2022.
- SCALING UP IN TECH LEADERSHIP

 Gain insight into the work ethic that propels Stephanie (Mayes) Cox '03 and keeps her growing as a tech industry leader.



WELCOME WEEK starts to envelop students in the quintessential Franklin College experience the day they arrive for check-in. Each activity from day one to seven is thoughtfully designed to help new and transfer students build meaningful relationships and develop core skills for academic and personal success.

"Transitioning to college for new and transfer students is an exciting experience but can also be stressful and overwhelming. We want Welcome Week to help students feel like they are prepared for the challenges ahead and that they are not alone on this journey. In addition to introducing students to the existing Franklin College

community, we are also intentional about helping them build connections with each other," said Director of First-Year Engagement Sonnie Terrell '02.

Highlights of Welcome Week include the Opening Convocation and Bell Ceremony that bookends the traditions students will relive at Commencement, movie night with President and Mrs. Prather at the Historic Artcraft Theatre in downtown Franklin, tailgating at Faught Stadium, playing festival games on Dame Mall and attending the college organization fair. The weeklong programming culminates with the Belltower Tradition, a candlelight ceremony highlighting the College's remarkable history of perseverance



THE STATEHOUSE FILE

Isaac Gleitz '23 and Sydney Byerly '24 attend the Keating Competition awards at the Skyline Club in Indianapolis.

WRITEON

Originally published as a staff report by The Statehouse File.

Isaac Gleitz '23 claimed the top prize and \$3,000 at the 36th annual Thomas R. Keating Feature Writing Competition hosted by the Indianapolis Press Club Foundation in November 2022. Named for the late *Indianapolis Star* reporter, it invites 10 college journalists to Indianapolis each fall and gives them only a few hours to find inspiration and write a feature.

The theme was "everyone has a story," and the competition sent students to search the snowy streets around Monument Circle in downtown Indianapolis for the perfect subject. Gleitz found a construction worker endeavoring to overcome his past mistakes, and wrote what he learned as the compelling portrait of a man remaking himself.

The judges' critique of Gleitz's award-winning story said, "This journalist used vivid descriptions to set the scene and tell a sobriety story with sophisticated structure."

In addition to winning the Keating Competition, Gleitz was a top-10 finalist for the 2022 Associated College Press' national in-depth news story of the year.

Sydney Byerly '24 also was invited to the Keating Competition. Byerly wrote about a downtown Santa lookalike delighting passersby as he worked on hanging holiday lights.

Gleitz and Byerly co-edit *The Franklin*, the College's award-winning student newspaper, and have written extensively for **TheStatehouseFile.com**, a news site powered by Pulliam School of lournalism students.

MAKING MOVIES

By Alexa Shrake '22, Pulliam Fellow

His first year at Franklin College **Spencer Downhour '23** took a class that inspired his career aspirations. Stagecraft with artist-in-residence Gordon Strain was a hands-on course in creativity that involved scene painting and construction, lighting and sound technology and mechanical drafting. All of it left Downhour wanting to learn more, and he made sure to let Strain know.

Downhour had no idea the amazing opportunity ahead, an internship as a production assistant on the film *Runner*, produced by Pigasus Pictures which Strain co-owns. *Runner*, written and directed by Marian Mathius, is the sixth Pigasus film produced in Indiana. *Runner* depicts a young woman's emotional journey as she deals with the unexpected death of her father, encounters small acts of kindness and navigates how to move forward after the tragic loss.

Strain describes the film as "a visual poem," adding that "it does not have a lot of dialogue." He said, "It's a lot of sweeping landscapes."

The landscapes are a big part of Downhour's internship memories.

"... I would help them set up cameras and help them tear down cameras and stuff like that, which happens pretty frequently because they're constantly moving around getting different shots and whatnot," Downhour said.

One of Downhour's favorite memories involves a scene in which the female lead had to run directly toward the camera narrowly missing him as he stood near it.



CHAD WILLIAMS

Amy Garrido Portillo '25 and Phebe Wolf '25 were Laurels and Lancers Award winners at the Opening Convocation and Bell Ceremony in August. Each year, two sophomores are selected by faculty vote for recognition of their outstanding achievements and contributions as first-year students. The honorees are intended to set an example of excellence for the newest members of the college community. Along with their awards, they receive the privilege of ringing the ceremonial college bell to signal the start of the academic year.

"I could tell the importance of the shot while it was happening, but then once I saw it in theatres it was, arguably, the most important scene of the film," Downhour said.

Thanks to generous financial assistance from a Franklin College donor who covered his travel expenses, Downhour had the once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to see *Runner* debut at the Toronto International Film Festival in September 2022. He saw it again at the Chicago International Film Festival in October.

Since its 2022 release, *Runner* has received widespread recognition, including the second top award at the San Sebastian International Film Festival in Spain.

"... So, for me to be able to be a part of that is pretty wild. I think it's pretty crazy," Downhour said. The internship was a great start to the career he wants to build in the film industry. •



Spencer Downhour '23 (center) joins Zachary Spicer (left), founder and CEO of Pigasus Pictures, and co-owner Gordon Strain (right) in downtown Toronto, where their joint-film project, Runner, debuted.

MOVERS+SHAKERS

What does it mean to be a mover and shaker? For these faculty and staff, it means many things: teaching and inspiring students, fundraising, leading initiatives and collaborating with community partners on meaningful work, to name a few. But no matter their job titles, they all have one thing in common, a shared commitment to Franklin's educational mission.

NOTABLE NEWCOMER

The Independent College Advancement Associates (ICAA) recognized Jill Bode with the Newcomer Award at their annual conference. Bode, who served as the assistant director of alumni communications and events at that time, has since been promoted to director of annual giving and stewardship at Franklin College. She joined the staff in September 2021.

The ICAA Newcomer Award recognizes a new advancement professional who has made a significant contribution within a specific functional area. Nominations are judged on new initiatives, successful events or improvements to existing programs.

A LEADING WOMAN

Vice President for Institutional Advancement Dana Cummings received the inaugural Woman Leader of the Year Award from Aspire Johnson County in September 2022. Nomination letters for Cummings included high praise from her peers on the Franklin College President's Cabinet, Institutional Advancement team members whom she oversees and others in her professional network. Cummings began her position with Franklin College in 2018 and has been instrumental in leading and collaborating to accomplish many milestones.

Highlights include a very successful 2021-22 fiscal year, with a total of \$9,081,085 in total progress from 3,322 donors. The \$700,000 goal for the Franklin Fund also was exceeded by \$50,015. It is noteworthy that prior to 2019-20 the College had never surpassed raising \$700,000 for the Franklin Fund. The College has done so for three consecutive years now. Such an achievement bears directly upon the financial equilibrium of the institution. During the 2021–22 fiscal year, the College also received a \$3.9 million bequest, the largest ever in its history.

Cummings' Franklin colleague Kristin Flora, Ph.D., vice president for academic affairs and dean of the college, also was nominated for the Woman Leader of the Year Award.

GLOBAL LEADER

The International Center selected **Jennifer (Piland) Cataldi '05**, director of the office of global education, to participate in the third annual James T. Morris Global Leadership Series from August to December 2022.

The series is the first and only in Indiana focused on global leadership development and convenes individuals from around the Hoosier state who are involved in corporate, humanitarian, higher education or government work with a global component. Participants share an interest in networking, collaborating, growing in cultural competency and becoming better global leaders. Cataldi's cohort included 19 participants.

"The opportunity to connect with other professionals focused on supporting international opportunities in Indiana can help provide richer learning experiences for our students both on campus and overseas," Cataldi said.

Morris (HD '87) for whom the leadership series is named is a former Franklin College commencement speaker and currently serves as vice chair of Pacers Sports & Entertainment.

OUTSTANDING LEADER

Peg Dispenzieri, Ph.D., director of the transition-to-teaching program – secondary level, received the 2022 Outstanding Leadership Award from the Indiana Non-Public Education Association (INPEA) in September 2022. In a social media tribute, INPEA recognized Dispenzieri as a "passionate supporter of non-public education for 35 years." INPEA also cited her exemplary longtime volunteerism with their conferences, committees and board.

Dispenzieri brings extensive experience as an educator and administrator to her role at Franklin College. Her background includes previous leadership roles with elementary and high schools as well as higher education. Over her career, she has served as a teacher, principal, superintendent, director of academics and adjunct professor for graduate studies.

PRESIDENTIAL PICK

The Independent College Advancement Associates (ICAA) elected Lee Ann Jourdan president in September 2022. Jourdan, the assistant vice president for alumni engagement and annual giving, began working at Franklin College in 2018. She brings more than 15 years of nonprofit management and higher education fundraising experience to the role.

As ICAA President, Jourdan and the executive committee have three strategic priorities: increasing membership growth, defining and implementing an annual sponsorship program and creating an intentional communications plan. Jourdan gained valuable experience for her current position by serving as president-elect during the 2021–22 academic year.

RISING FILMMAKER

Franklin College artist-in-residence and Pigasus Pictures co-owner Gordon Strain was on a team that received global attention at the 70th annual San Sebastian International Film Festival in Spain. Strain's collaborative film project, Runner, earned the Festival's Special Jury Prize, the second-largest award.

Pigasus Pictures is a Bloomington-based film company devoted to encouraging filmmaking in Indiana. Pigasus Pictures previously released *The Good Catholic, Ms. White Light, The Miseducation of Bindu* and *So Cold the River.* Each film provided opportunities for interns from Franklin College. Strain has taught at the College since 2006.

INNOVATIVE EDUCATOR

Arbin Thapaliya, Ph.D., associate professor of physics, was one of 10 recipients of the Private Academic Library Network of Indiana (PALNI) PALSave Open Educator Award for the 2021-22 academic year. The award recognizes educators for their innovation and excellence in support of higher education, textbook affordability and student success.

Thapaliya was applauded for his work supporting Open Educational Resources (OERs) — a move that reduces costs for students, improves access to required texts and increases student success and retention, according to PALNI.

"Dr. Thapaliya's involvement with the PALSave initiative shows a

sensitivity to and recognition of the cost barriers that many students face when pursuing a college degree," said Kristin Flora, Ph.D., vice president for academic affairs and dean of the college. "At Franklin, our faculty and staff collaboratively work to minimize those barriers, and his implementation of OERs is a concrete example of our commitment to this work."

Thapaliya has taught general and ultrasound physics, astronomy, radiation and health, and biomedical optics at Franklin since 2016.

TEACHER OF THE YEAR

Kristin Wasielewski, Ph.D., assistant professor of modern languages, received the Indiana French Teacher of the Year — Collegiate Level — Award from the American Association of Teachers of French at the Indiana Foreign Language Teachers Association in November 2022. The award is a tribute to the dedication and knowledge she provides to her students.

Wasielewski joined the Franklin faculty in 2003. She teaches French from elementary to advanced-level courses in grammar and composition, history and civilization, and African, Canadian and Caribbean culture. Her expertise centers on using the communicative method with students, helping them to gain confidence in using the language and quickly acquire proficiency.

Full details of these accomplishments are available in the news section of **FranklinCollege.edu**.

cal

The faculty at Franklin College have long succeeded in building meaningful connections with students and inspiring the learning critical to their personal growth and professional development.

On top of the care faculty show in delivering a distinctive educational experience, they bring a breadth of knowledge and skills that help to enrich the entire college community. In gratitude and celebration of their many contributions, the board of trustees hosted the second annual Faculty Recognition Luncheon during Homecoming and Alumni Weekend 2022.

Nominations for the College's four annual faculty awards were invited from employees, students and alumni, and the award recipients were chosen by a group of former winners. A fifth award, founded by a late college trustee and his spouse, was presented to a faculty member chosen by the college president and the vice president for academic affairs and voted on by the trustees. We are

pleased to recognize the honorees and share what some of their nominators had to say:

Clark Hadley, lecturer of earth science, received the Adjunct Faculty Excellence in Teaching Award. One colleague shared, "His previous years of teaching experience and outstanding pedagogical skills culminate masterfully in the ways he engages with Franklin students and relates to each individual. His enthusiasm shows every day when he comes to class wearing wild and crazy lab coats, primed to tell corny jokes the students love and ready to help them make connections to the natural world while having fun."

Another of Hadley's colleagues wrote, "He has been a very devoted and enthusiastic educator and a great role

Clark Hadley (left), lecturer of earth science, wears whimsical lab coats to help students see the fun in learning.



CHAD WILLIAMS

Left: Joel Cramer, J.D., journalism department chair and professor, has been inspiring and mentoring Franklin students since 1985.

Below: Meredith Clark-Wiltz, Ph.D., the Hon. Roger D. Branigin Endowed Chair in History, as well as the department chair and an associate professor, co-led efforts with Johnson County Museum of History Director David Pfeiffer (left) that resulted in an official state historical marker at Franklin College.

FRANKLIN WONDER FIVE The Franklin Wonder Five dominated Indiana basketball in the 1920s as the sport's popularity grew dramatically. The team won an unprecedented three

consecutive state championships at the high school level from 1920-1922. After

graduating, many players followed Coach Ernest "Griz" Wagner to Franklin College, where they won state collegiate

championships in 1923 and 1924

BAUMGARDNE

model for me. I have observed his course, and he is very enthusiastic about science. He explains scientific principles in a crystal-clear way, and he is very skilled at using multimedia to illustrate points."

Joel Cramer, J.D., journalism department chair and professor, received the Faculty Excellence in Teaching Award. A current student had this to say about her first visit to campus and one of Cramer's classes, "The way he interacted with me and the other students gave me confirmation that the Franklin College experience was right for me. Every class and advising meeting I've had with him since has only further secured that I made the right choice three years ago."

A second student wrote, "He loves to have a 'liberal arts moment.' Anytime something from another class overlaps with what he's teaching, he'll say, 'Here's your liberal arts moment of the day,' and he'll connect the two subjects." A third student said, "He's extremely generous with his time, inside and outside of class. He ensures we understand the concepts he's teaching, why they exist and how to accomplish them."

Meredith Clark-Wiltz, Ph.D., the Hon. Roger D. Branigin Endowed Chair in History, as well as the department chair and an associate professor, also directs the Women's Studies Program. She received the Faculty Excellence in Scholarship Award. One colleague wrote, "Her scholarship includes receiving prestigious grants and providing exceptional experiences for her students both in the classroom and as interns and research assistants on important projects such as the Branigin Archives at Hamilton Library and the Wonder Five Historical Marker at the Fitness Center"

Another nominator said, "Ultimately, her grants have not only elevated the name recognition of Franklin College and blazed a path forward for more funding but also facilitated greater bonds with community partners and supported student-led scholarship for the benefit of the broader community."

Lastly, a Franklin College graduate working as a public historian for the U.S. Strategic Command Center wrote, "I had read about the Branigin Archives, and I went to view the exhibit during Homecoming 2016. I was impressed with the work her students had done, and I began a discussion with her about public history and its challenges. She then invited me to speak with her public history class, which I have done three times since. Having engagement with the public history community as an undergraduate provides students with an incredibly important opportunity to explore a career field that has often not been given as much weight as traditional history."

Clark-Wiltz recently was selected through a competitive application process for the Community-Engaged Alliance 2022–23 Faculty Fellows Program. As part of the program's 27th cohort, Clark-Wiltz will collaborate

SUBMITTED



Left: Ben O'Neal (foreground), Ph.D., biology department chair and associate professor, collaborates with partners from Hoosier Riverwatch and the Soil and Water Conservation Districts of Southwest Indiana.

Below: Richard Erable, Ph.D., professor of English, chats with students at the Modern Languages House during a celebration of French culture.

with scholars from partner campuses around Indiana on a scholarly project, while individually incorporating community engagement into her teaching, research and service. She received a \$5,000 grant to connect and engage history interns with Johnson County's upcoming bicentennial commemoration. The students will collaborate with the Johnson County Museum of History staff to record and transcribe oral histories from college representatives.

Richard Erable, Ph.D., professor of English, received the Faculty Steering Committee Distinguished Service Award. One nominator wrote, "An accomplished faculty member for more than two decades, he is a model for campus engagement and community-building. In addition to being among the first facultyadmissions liaisons and a two-time interim division head, he also has been a member of multiple facultysearch committees, including one that yielded hundreds of applications. As a Faculty Curriculum Committee member, he helped shape important discussions around the graduate programs' integration with the rest of campus."

The nominator added, "... He chaired the Faculty Steering Committee for two consecutive years, helping faculty navigate high-profile changes in the college administration and the onset and persistence of COVID. The depth of his

commitment to shared governance and his promotion of the welfare of the entire College is undeniable."

Ben O'Neal, Ph.D., biology department chair and associate professor, received the fifth and final honor of the day, the Clifford and Paula Dietz Award for Faculty Excellence. The Dietzes, now deceased, were Franklin College honorary degree recipients who left many legacies that reflect their own commitment to education.

During the award presentation, President Kerry Prather shared, "Dr. O'Neal joined the Franklin faculty in 2010, bringing his remarkable expertise in wildlife conservation, avian ecology, waterfowl biology, migratory behavior and radar science. Over the last five years, he has earned numerous research grants and collaborated on studies with state and federal conservation program partners, as well as private business owners and Franklin College alumni. From deer at Muscatatuck National Wildlife Refuge and loons in Minnesota, to ducks in Illinois and sheep in Johnson County, he has engaged students in designing studies, conducting fieldwork and presenting their findings in papers and at conferences. Most significant is that their findings have helped officials address real-world environ-

"Beyond his exceptional skills as a teacher, researcher and mentor, Dr. O'Neal is an enthusiastic relationship builder and ambassador for Franklin College."

mental and biological issues.

Learn more about the awards criteria and honorees at **FranklinCollege.edu**. •





Franklin College has sold WFCI (89.5 FM) radio station to Inter Mirifica Inc., a Christian broadcast service.

"In the recent past, WFCI has been used to broad-cast Franklin College athletic events and provide public broadcasting to Johnson County through a partnership with WFYI Indianapolis," said President Kerry Prather. "Now our athletic events are broadcast via digital live stream as a component of our sports communication major, also making them accessible to our alumni across the nation. Additionally, with public broadcasting now reaching the county directly from WFYI, we realized the continuation of the radio station had become duplicative."

Other higher education institutions in Indiana that have recently sold their radio stations include Purdue and Evansville.

"We are grateful for all the opportunities the radio station and its partners have provided for the College, our students and the community, but streamlining our operation will allow us to focus on our primary mission, which is preparing young people to meet their promising futures," Prather added. •

EVENTS AND LECTURES

The College's 2022–23 Convocation Lecture Series opened with a community conversation about free speech. Guest Nadine Strossen, J.D., a New York Law School professor emerita, past president of the American Civil Liberties Union and frequent speaker/media commentator on constitutional law and civil liberties took the stage, and Franklin College Pulliam School of Journalism Director John Krull '81 moderated. Strossen shared perspectives from her 2018 book, HATE: Why We Should Resist It with Free Speech, Not Censorship, and her other work to help preserve free speech in America, including testifying before Congress.

Fall events also included "The Rhythm of Us: Interfaith Understanding Through the Art of Music," a part of the 2022 Spirit & Place Festival. Songs, chants, instrumental presentations and performers' personal stories about their faith traditions made the evening memorable. Performers included Franklin College Center for Diversity and Inclusion Director/vocalist Maegan Pollonais, D.A., piano accompanist Chang Shen, Hindu-faith chanter Vasanthi (Indu) Vasudevan and Greek Orthodox-faith chanter Constantine (Dean) Maniakas.

The Interfaith Understanding Through the Arts series began at Franklin in 2020. Generous sponsors of the 2022 program were the Allen Whitehill Clowes Charitable Foundation, Franklin Symphonic Council, **Bill '61** and Sue Ann Brown, David and Kathy Carlson, **Sandi (Corbin) '66** and Tom Hinshaw, **Bob '67** and Louise Epstein and the Franklin College English Department's Carlson-Stauffer Visiting Writers Series.

RISE IN **RANKINGS**

Franklin College continues to climb in the U.S. News and World Report Best College Rankings.

The 2022–23 report indicates Franklin tied for 44th place among the 196 colleges listed in the Top Performers for Social Mobility category. The placement is 13 positions above last year's ranking, and Franklin is Indiana's only institution in the top 25%. The Top Performers for Social Mobility category is an indicator of how well institutions graduated the students who received federal Pell Grants. President Kerry Prather indicated the *U.S. News and World Report* recognition reflects both strategy and commitment from Franklin's faculty and staff.

"We continue to develop innovative strategies to help meet the needs of all our students, with a particular focus on helping first-generation students achieve success. The social mobility enabled by those efforts and reflected in this ranking is a real source of pride as we see the incredible impact our graduates make on the world as they rise in many different roles and professions," Prather said. Franklin also advanced in the Best National Liberal Arts Colleges category. •

PARTNERS IN **DIGITAL FLUENCY**

In December 2022, Franklin College and Lumavate announced their partnership to help prepare students for the digital workforce. As part of the College's digital fluency initiative, students will use the Lumavate Platform to gain next-generation expertise in building highly-personalized digital experiences, and they will develop critical skills in preparation for the workforce.

"Our partnership with Lumavate will help students across the curriculum learn the vital digital skills they need to be leaders in the modern economy," said Andrew Rosner, Franklin College director of digital fluency. "No-code platforms like Lumavate provide opportunities for students of all technical and academic backgrounds to hone their creativity, entrepreneurial spirit and design skills. I can't wait to see what students will create with Lumavate."

The digital fluency initiative merges the applications of technology in each academic discipline with content knowledge and the liberal arts foundation to form Franklin's distinctive academic experience. In addition to developing technical skills as part of their core and major classes, students have access to more classes specifically focused on the development of digital fluency. The initia-

tive also provides relevant tools for students to use in their studies and preparation for life after graduation.

Students will use the Lumavate Platform in select business courses and have the opportunity to become certified users. Additionally, students will use the platform to build digital experiences on behalf of the College and student organizations. These digital experiences can be added to students' career portfolios.

"In today's workforce, every employee needs to be extremely well-versed digitally to be successful, and Franklin College's digital fluency initiative is ensuring students have this level of digital expertise," said **Stephanie** (Mayes) Cox '03, CEO of Lumavate. "We're excited to partner with Franklin College and have students use the Lumavate Platform to further their digital skills. Franklin College students have an incredible educational opportunity to elevate their digital expertise well ahead of peers at other colleges and train on a digital experience platform that is shaping the future of business through no-code."

The Lumavate Platform empowers some of the world's most well-known brands, including Cummins, Herff Jones, IU Health and Roche. See related article on Page 34.

FURTHERING OUR STUDENTS

A new Digital Fluency Advisory Council will help provide a stronger pipeline for students to the jobs that best utilize the training and education they receive at Franklin College. Director of Digital Fluency Andrew Rosner will provide Council oversight.

Council members will work with and advise faculty and staff on the digital and tech landscape in the Indianapolis region and beyond, regularly participate in mock interviews in partnership with career services and professional development staff, serve as guest speakers and co-teachers in collaboration with faculty members who might call on their real-world experience and

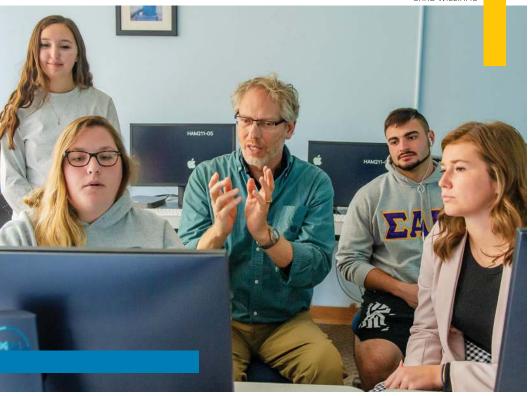
expertise to complement students' classroom experiences.

Further, the Council members will host students as interns in their own companies and organizations and facilitate introductions to others, screen and evaluate student applicants to the digital internship stipend program, help identify sources of financial support for

programs related to digital fluency and tech, and lastly, organize and implement educational opportunities in collaboration with relevant staff to introduce students to the Indianapolis tech ecosystem in meaningful ways.

Council members will serve two-year terms and are limited to two consecutive terms.





The digital fluency initiative merges the applications of technology in each academic discipline with content knowledge and the liberal arts foundation to form Franklin's distinctive academic experience. Here, Denis Kelly, lecturer of art, leads a class.

Fast glance @ Franklin's Digital Fluency Advisory Council:

Linda Calvin, J.D., chief impact officer at Reboot Representation. Former vice president for the School of IT at Ivy Tech Community College and global IT digital leader for Stanley Black & Decker.

Brad Callen '01, president of Teamly, LLC. Former president of Bryxen.

Stephanie (Mayes) Cox '03, CEO of Lumavate. Current CEO member of Pavilion, former vice president of marketing at Project Lead The Way and previous marketing leader at Salesforce. (Cox, featured on this magazine's cover, shares her career story on Page 34.)

Jennifer Merrell, vice president of engagement at TechPoint.

Munashe Mugonda '18, senior data engineer and Digital Organization Employee Engagement Committee member at Cummins.

Brandon Platt '10, owner and CEO of 4D Digital Media.

Randy Stocklin '00, founding partner of Zeal holding company and a Franklin College Trustee.

Co-founder and former CEO of One Click Ventures.

TechPoint trifecta

Since his
February 2021
appointment as
the director of
digital fluency,
Andrew Rosner
has engaged
intensely in
networking and
collaborating
to strengthen
connections that



Andrew Rosner

will help Franklin College students, alumni and employees thrive in the tech industry. Rosner's engagement with TechPoint, a nonprofit that brings together Indiana's tech companies, philanthropies, government, colleges/universities and talent to create opportunities throughout the state, is central to the effort.

First, Rosner represents Franklin College on the TechPoint Board, and second, he leads a new subcommittee, the Tech Talent Council. Its purpose is to lift industry voices and help identify industry priorities for the ecosystem. Tech ecosystems need resources like talent, innovation, companies, capital, community, promotion, research and policy, and attracting, harnessing and coordinating these resources is critical for success, says the TechPoint website. Rosner's leadership involves convening the Council members for formal meetings, facilitating conversations between the Council and TechPoint Board and helping champion ideas and initiatives born from the Council.

Rosner added a third level of engagement to his association when he was selected for the inaugural TechPoint Leadership Academy, an initiative launched in October 2022. The academy's cohort-based learning program will aim to address needs specific to Indiana's tech industry.

TRAUMA awareness

Last fall, a first-of-its-kind event convened professional journalists, students, teachers, law enforcement authorities and mental health specialists for conversations about the challenges and responsibilities of covering traumatic events, and the implications of that trauma long term.

The National Trauma Journalism Symposium was a collaboration between the Franklin College Pulliam School of Journalism and Trust for Trauma Journalism (TTJ).

Frank Ochberg, M.D., a psychiatrist and pioneer in the treatment of traumatic stress who helped develop the TTJ, gave opening remarks. He emphasized the significance of people with different perspectives on trauma sharing their experiences. "We need each other. We shrinks, cops and scribes, we teachers and students may have a lot to learn from one another and with one another," Ochberg said. He added that candid talks about trauma can help individuals learn to take better care of themselves and to act with appropriate sensitivity around others.

Journalists who have confronted trauma or its aftermath shared their

1 lik

challenges, coping methods and storytelling strategies throughout the symposium. Keynote speakers included David Cullen, bestselling author of Columbine and Parkland, Birth of a Movement. Cullen shared how reporting on the mass shootings at two high schools deeply affected him and influenced his professional ethics. Linsey Davis, "ABC World News Tonight" weekend anchor/ABC News Live Prime, joined John Krull '81, Pulliam School of Journalism director, for a Q-and-A about the challenges and responsibilities of covering traumatic stories. Davis told about the time she traveled to Haiti after a devastating earthquake in 2010 and saw dead bodies decaying in the streets and children cupping their hands to beg for drinking water. Bearing witness to the magnitude of losses took a toll she didn't fully realize until she returned home.

Nick Schifrin, "PBS NewsHour" foreign affairs and defense correspondent, and Peter Copeland, journalist, author, consultant to media companies and former Washington bureau chief for the E.W. Scripps Co., also made special presentations. Other participants included **Rafael Sánchez '92**, a Franklin College Trustee and WRTV newscaster and investigative reporter, and **Emily Ketterer '20**, the *Daily Journal* multimedia news editor. Both were panelists for a workshop on covering crime and violence



in communities, and another on emotional wounds.

Though journalists throughout the symposium expressed varying levels of trauma exposure, they seemed to share in common a high level of resilience and commitment to quality storytelling. Further, the positive feedback Franklin College received from its survey after the symposium indicates the conversations surrounding trauma need to continue, said Krull. The second National Trauma Journalism Symposium takes place Sept. 21–22, 2023. Watch for details on the College's social media platforms and in future emails.

Donors to the inaugural symposium included Ball Brothers Foundation, Franklin College Trustee Sean Thomasson, Scot Thomasson and the TTJ. •





1: (Standing) Journalist Nick Schifrin and Bill Bridges '56, Franklin College journalism professor emeritus 2: Journalist Peter Copeland 3: Journalist Linsey Davis and John Krull '81, Pulliam School of Journalism director 4: Sports communication major Bennie Patterson '23 (left) and journalist Nick Schifrin

PHOTOS BY CHAD WILLIAMS

TRUSTEE **RETIREMENTS**

Two long-serving trustees retired from the college board in October 2022. With continued gratitude, we share a glimpse of their contributions.

Stephen L. Huddleston (AA '97) (HD '06) served as a trustee from 1992–2022, including a decade as the board chair. The College achieved many milestones during that period; 10 highlights include:

- Renovation of Elsey Hall
- · Dedication of Stewart "Red" Faught Stadium and Von Boll Press Box
- · Start-to-finish of the Investing in Leaders for Life capital campaign; exceeding the goal with more than \$48 million raised in three years
- Record student enrollment (then) of 1,020 during the 2000-01 academic year
- Construction of Johnson Center for Fine Arts
- Host site for Indiana gubernatorial debate in 2004
- Implementation of a campus-energy savings initiative that improved lighting efficiency and reduced water usage across campus
- Unveiling of the Indiana-issued license plate program as a college fundraiser
- Renovation and naming of the college chapel in memory of 10th President Harold W. Richardson
- Authorization of a fundraising campaign to realize the development of Grizzly Park athletic complex, now home to the baseball and softball fields, tennis courts and outdoor track and field

After Huddleston's service as board chair, he engaged in board committees related to physical facilities, gift acceptance and property acquisition, and presidential searches. More recently, he served nine years as the board secretary.

Also noteworthy is that Huddleston, an attorney with a practice in Franklin, provided the College legal counsel and taught business law courses as an adjunct faculty member during his time as a trustee. Further, he and spouse Sandi (AA '22) are longtime donors to the Franklin Fund, athletics and the Leadership Johnson County Program at Franklin College. The College named Huddleston an associate alumnus in 1997 and awarded him an honorary doctorate of laws in 2006.



Stephen L. Huddleston (AA '97) (HD '06)

Continued, Page 21

Ronald Bowsher, Ph.D.

Kevin D. Crowe '90



Billie Dragoo (HD '21)



David Wantz, Ed.D.

INTRODUCING NEW TRUSTEES

Four individuals were newly appointed to the Franklin College Board of Trustees, effective Oct. 7, 2022. They bring a wealth of experience and knowledge from their respective industries and share a passion for the distinctive educational experience offered at Franklin. Here's more about the new trustees:

Ronald Bowsher, Ph.D., FAAPS, is a partner and chief science officer at B2S Life Sciences, a biotherapeutic enablement company. B2S provides a range of laboratory, data analytic and consultative services to global clients, including pharma, biotech, CROs/CMOs and diagnostic companies to help ensure successful regulatory submissions of modern biotherapeutic drugs. Prior to launching B2S, Bowsher was senior adviser at AIT Bioscience (Indianapolis), chief scientist at LINCO/Millipore (St. Charles, MO) and a senior research scientist at Lilly Research Labs. Bowsher is a Fellow of the American Association of Pharmaceutical Sciences, has 250 scientific publications, is a recipient of the Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis School of Science Distinguished Alumni Award and has served on science career panels at Franklin College, as well as helped facilitate guest speaker visits and team-taught courses with the faculty. B2S, located in one of downtown Franklin's

historic buildings since

2015, is a valued community partner and host site for Franklin College student internships.

Kevin D. Crowe '90 is in his 28th year with State Farm Insurance, where he is a business lines underwriting team manager. In this role, he primarily conducts risk assessment and product services for businesses including retail, contractors, trades and specialized professions. Crowe brings broad industry experience to his current role, having begun as a claims representative and advanced to leadership positions within claims, worker's compensation, estimatics and auto underwriting. Crowe's Franklin College experiences included playing on the men's basketball team and participating in the Student Association for the Support of Minorities. He also was a work-study student with the admissions office, where he accepted a full-time position as an admissions counselor upon graduation. He specialized in recruiting students from Indianapolis, Northwest Indiana, Chicago and the East Coast.

Billie Dragoo (HD '21) is the founder and CEO of RepuCare, a proven workforce solutions provider to Fortune 500 clients and managed health-care providers. RepuCare has been ranked one of the fastest-growing companies in the United States. Dragoo, named by Fortune Magazine as one of the top 10 women entrepreneurs in the United States, also was one of 720 entrepreneurs from throughout the world invited by the President of the United States to attend the 2016 Global Entrepreneurship Summit at Stanford in California.

Ranked by the Indianapolis Business lournal as the No. 3 Women-Owned Business and long recognized for her entrepreneurial impact in the state of Indiana, Dragoo was named the 2014 Central Indiana Business Hall of Fame Laureate, which honors outstanding men and women who epitomize success in the business world. She is the co-founder of the Indiana Conference for Women, now in its 11th year and the largest one-day professional development

conference for women in the Midwest.

Dragoo remains highly engaged in a wide variety of community, civic and professional organizations and is nationally recognized for her mentoring, leadership and philanthropy efforts. Franklin College awarded her an honorary doctorate of humane letters in 2021, and she was the keynote speaker at commencement.

David Wantz, Ed.D., has more than 40 years of experience in private higher education. In June 2022, he retired after five years as president and CEO of the Independent Colleges of Indiana (ICI). His role at ICI, the association of Indiana's 30 private colleges and universities, included advocacy work on behalf of member colleges. Prior to

ICI, Wantz worked 35 years at the University of Indianapolis, where he retired as executive vice president and provost. He is professor emeritus of psychology and served at various times as dean of students and special assistant to the president for community and government relations. He has twice been named a Sagamore of the Wabash. Ind. Gov. Eric Holcomb re-appointed Wantz to the Law Enforcement Training Board in September 2022. Wantz holds a doctor of education in counseling psychology from Indiana University and a doctor of humane letters from Holy Cross College. Wantz's spouse is Franklin College journalism professor emerita Susie Fleck, and daughter **Annie** (Wantz) Mack 'o6 is an alumna •



Give your children or grandchildren the chance to have fun, make friends and learn from faculty who share in their excitement about dinosaurs, creative writing, catapults, digital photography and computers/data.

Our **CampGRIZ** offerings center around science, technology, engineering, mathematics and the arts to help inspire children about their future opportunities. With ample hands-on learning, plus guided campus exploration, meals on campus and meaningful interactions with Franklin undergraduates and alumni, **CampGRIZ** will give children a sense of belonging and the benefits of attending college.

When: June 12 - 16, 2023 (9 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.)

Who: Children entering grades 6 – 9 in fall 2023

Cost: \$275

Corporate sponsorships are available to help **CampGRIZ** give children the best experiences possible. Contact Andrew Cohee, youth program coordinator, at 317.738.8861 or via email at **acohee@FranklinCollege.edu**. Register at **FranklinCollege.edu/CampGRIZ**. •

TRUSTEE RETIREMENTS, continued from Page 19

Michael W. O'Dell '81, M.D., is a professor of clinical rehabilitation medicine at Weill Cornell Medical College of Cornell University in New York. He is nationally recognized for his clinical expertise, education and research in the area of neurological rehabilitation in persons with stroke, multiple sclerosis, traumatic brain injury

DADGETT'S PHOTOGRAPHICS

Michael W. O'Dell '81, M.D.

and neurological tumors, among others. The University presented him the Dean's Award for Excellence in Mentorship in 2022.

O'Dell served as a Franklin College Trustee from 2009–22. Over that time, he engaged in committee work related to academic and student affairs, honorary degrees and presidential searches.

In 2020, O'Dell generously designated a \$1 million estate gift to express his genuine love and gratitude for Franklin College, to honor the faculty who profoundly impacted his undergraduate experiences in biology and chemistry and to further the opportunities in science at his alma mater. O'Dell's estate commitment followed his generous support of the Campaign for the Sciences and dedication of the Franklin College Science Center in 2019.

O'Dell also is a longtime Franklin Fund supporter and has made several gifts to programs in music and athletics over the years.



PHOTOS BY CHAD WILLIAMS

FIT FOR THE **FUTURE**



Franklin Mayor Steve Barnett, JMH President and CEO **David H. Dunkle '94,** M.D., Trustee **Susan (Wohlmuth) Williams '67,** Franklin College President Kerry Prather, **Tom Allen Sr. '61,** Janet Allen and Director of Athletics and Head Swimming Coach Andrew Hendricks

Members of the Franklin College community, leaders of Johnson Memorial Health (JMH) and officials from the City of Franklin gathered to dedicate the Johnson Memorial Health Athletic Annex (JMHAA) on Oct. 25, 2022.

Franklin College President Kerry
Prather welcomed guests and thanked
donors. "Franklin College continues
to thrive because so many alumni and
friends support the important work
that goes on here to ensure that our
students enjoy the unique and transformational experience that helps
shape them personally and professionally. The addition of the Johnson
Memorial Health Athletic Annex
impressively reflects that support and
that commitment to our students."

Prather indicated that Franklin College will continue to make progress expanding opportunities and resources to keep at the forefront of Indiana liberal arts colleges. "Intercollegiate athletics have long been a driver of our enrollment, a critical educational experience beyond the classroom and an exciting aspect of our campus culture. It is with those realities in mind, along with the increasing attention of

all our students to their health and wellness needs and activities, that we pursued the construction of this facility," he said.

In December 2020, the College announced a \$1 million commitment from JMH to construct the indoor multi-use facility. The next year, the College received a gift commitment from Indiana University Head Football Coach Tom Allen for a weight room in honor of his father, **Tom Allen Sr. '61**. The College then broke ground for the JMHAA in October 2021.

Other speakers at the dedication included Franklin College Trustee, Physical Facilities Committee Chair and JMHAA Steering Committee Chair **Susan (Wohlmuth) Williams '67**, Director of Athletics and Head Swimming Coach Andrew Hendricks, Franklin City Mayor Steve Barnett and JMH President and CEO **David H**. **Dunkle '94**, M.D.

Dunkle said, "My hope is this collaboration will result in generations of young adults that are physically and mentally healthy, sharply focused and ready to become leaders in the professions that they choose." Since 2018, JMH has provided space for the Franklin College Graduate Health Science Center on Acorn Blvd., approximately three miles from the primary college campus.

The JMHAA features retractable batting cages for baseball and softball practices, along with similar areas for men's and women's golf. With the hitting cages retracted, the indoor space with turf provides opportunities for a variety of sports activities. The Allen Weight Room within the JMHAA doubles the previous weight training space available on campus. Allen Sr. and his spouse, Janet, attended the dedication and participated in the ribbon-cutting. •

GRIZZLIES GIVE 3

Donors once again showed up in a big way to support Franklin College's **#GRIZTuesday** on Nov. 29, 2022. The College raised \$178,037 during the 24-hour day of giving, surpassing the \$100,000 goal by 78%. Sponsorship funds and donations raised during the initiative will support athletic programs.

"The generous support of our donors confirms their faith in our mission and confidence in our future," said Kerry Prather, Franklin College president. "Due to their generous support, our student-athletes will enjoy a well-rounded college experience that includes unique leadership opportunities, valuable lessons in teamwork and priceless memories."

"We are extremely grateful to the many donors and sponsors who generously supported **#GRIZTuesday**," said Dana Cummings, vice president for institutional advancement. "The support given by our alumni, friends, faculty, staff, students, parents and community members was once again truly amazing. We are also very thankful to **Rafael Sánchez '92** for hosting the special **#GRIZTuesday** event at The Artcraft Theatre."

Sánchez is a Franklin College trustee and WRTV newscaster and investigative reporter, and the event was based on the popular TV show, "Shark Tank." Franklin College students, including some student-athletes, enrolled in the "Entrepreneurial Mindset" course presented their capstone projects to a panel of judges. Further, the students were available before and after the event to share more details about their business ideas with the guests, who cast their votes for the

THE GENEROUS SUPPORT
OF OUR DONORS CONFIRMS
THEIR FAITH IN OUR
MISSION AND CONFIDENCE
IN OUR FUTURE."

KERRY PRATHER

FRANKLIN COLLEGE PRESIDENT

Audience Choice Award. Team NIL Marketplace was the winner and included **Brooke Stephens '25**, **Kai Ross '25**, **Jenna Louden '25** and **Jimmy Wolff '24**.

"#GRIZTuesday is a critical component in providing our student-athletes with a truly memorable college experience," said Andrew Hendricks, director of athletics and head swimming coach. "While academics are at the center of the Franklin College experience, athletics enhance the student experience, and our donors continue to provide incredible support in true Grizzly fashion."

While **#GRIZTuesday** is over, those wishing to support athletics can visit **FranklinGrizzlies.com** or contact Dana Cummings at **dcummings@FranklinCollege.edu** or (317) 738-8235.

HALL OF FAME UPDATE

The Athletic Hall of Fame induction ceremony and banquet set to honor Dan Fell '73, Dawn (Privette) McNew '87 and Mike Hall '69 during Homecoming and Alumni Weekend was canceled when news of Fell's death was received. An obituary published by *The Indianapolis Star* indicates Fell died Oct. 5, 2022, after a brief illness. With heavy hearts and out of respect for Fell and his family members, the college community canceled the event, scheduled for Oct. 6. Please watch the College's social media platforms and website for the new event date and make plans to join us in honoring these three incredible Grizzlies.

FALL SEASON COLOR





1: Eddy Yousak '24 drives home one of his team-leading nine goals of the season. 2: Franklin celebrates a touchdown by No. 7 Spencer Wright '24 in the homecoming win

over Anderson.

3: Billie Jarrett '23
joined the list of
players to reach 2,000
career assists this
season for the volleyball team.

4: Haley Makowski '25 became a two-time all-conference selection with another top-12 finish at the HCAC Championships in November.



By Ryan Thomas, assistant athletic director for communications

In addition to this glimpse of the Grizzlies' fall athletic season, you can find full-season coverage at **FranklinGrizzlies.com**. Keep up with your favorite GRIZ teams all year long on social media and GRIZTV.

FOOTBALL

The Grizzlies football team recorded a 4-3 record in Heartland Collegiate Athletic Conference (HCAC) play and collected several post-season honors. Franklin



placed 15 players on the HCAC's all-conference teams, with four players picking up First Team honors. Justin Case '23 earned the first all-region selection of his career when he was named Third Team All-Region by D3football.com. Additionally, Dylan Boswell '23 was named Academic All-District by the College Sports Communicators for the first time in his career.

MEN'S CROSS-COUNTRY

The men's cross-country team turned in their best showing at the HCAC Championships since 2010, placing five on the list of all-conference runners on their way to a runner-up finish at the championship. **John Asplund '25** moved into the top spot in program

history in the 8K with a time of 25:24.6, finishing fifth overall and earning his second all-conference honor.

Jack Sells '24, Elliott Gough '25, Riley Devening '26 and Samuel Wilson '26

WOMEN'S CROSS-COUNTRY

were also all-conference honorees.

The women's cross-country team also turned in their best showing in a long while at the HCAC Championships, taking third place and earning their highest finish since 2014. Haley Makowski '25 and Ella Bashor '25 made First Team All-HCAC for finishing inside the top 12, and top 20-finisher Mallory Watson '24 earned honorable mention all-conference.

VOLLEYBALL

The volleyball team had two players, Chloe Holder '24 and Miranda Wilson '25, pick up Second Team All-HCAC honors, for the second time in their respective careers. Billie Jarrett '23 became the first Franklin College player in six seasons to reach the 2,000 career-assists mark.

MEN'S SOCCER

Two players were named to the HCAC's all-conference lists for the first time in their careers. **Eddy Yousak '24** became a First Team All-HCAC pick, and **Htoo Ray Moo '24** was named honorable mention all-conference after the two led the Grizzlies in scoring.

WOMEN'S SOCCER

Elaina Page '23 and Makenna Mundy '25 represented Franklin on this year's list of all-conference recipients, with both earning honorable mention all-conference accolades. Page led the Grizzlies in scoring, and Mundy started in goal for all 17 contests of the year.

WOMEN'S TENNIS

Three women's tennis team members picked up all-league honors for their fall campaign, Claire Cherry '23, Maecee Terhune '24 and Emma Back '26. Cherry earned First Team All-HCAC honors for the first time in her career, and Back became an honorable mention all-conference pick as a rookie. Terhune earned honorable mention status for the third straight year.

ACADEMIC ALL-HCAC

A total of 40 Grizzlies were named to the HCAC's list of Academic All-Conference recipients. •

GROWING GAMING THROUGH GAMING

By Ashlyn Myers '25, Pulliam Fellow

It was October 2013 when life took a drastic change for 11-year-old **Preston Bertram '24**. While playing at a friend's house, he was shot in the eye with a plastic pellet from an airsoft gun.

Lisa Vest, Bertram's mother, received a call at work from her screaming and crying son. He was taken to Indianapolis' Riley Hospital for Children by ambulance and rushed into emergency surgery.

"I just remember him crying and saying, 'Mommy, I can't see you.' I was like, 'It's OK, buddy. I'm here, just hold my hand. We can use our voice and our sense of touch so that you know I'm here. It's OK if you can't see me right now, but you will."

And that he did. Today, Bertram has nearly perfect vision, at 20/25, but in the years right after his accident, he went through many procedures and treatments that imposed limits on his physical activity level and made it difficult to participate in sports and extracurriculars

"I was a really athletic kid for a while up until that, and then it all got taken away from me," Bertram said.

Needing a new hobby, Bertram got serious about video games — an activity allowing him to go at his own pace while still being social.

"All kids play video games, but he really got into them. You know, that was his out," Vest said. "It was some-

thing he could enjoy. He could be on his headset talking to friends while they played their games."

Despite the negative stigma sometimes surrounding video games, Vest wasn't worried.

"I wasn't really concerned with him playing video games so much because he couldn't do physical activities,"

Vest said.

With practice, Bertram's gaming skills flourished, and he brought his passion to the college scene. His game of choice, Counter-Strike: Global Offensive, or CS:GO, has a team within Franklin College's esports program, GrizGaming.

Bertram said he never expected competitive gaming to be offered as part of his college experience.

"It was a complete surprise to me, but I'm happy I'm doing it," Bertram said.

Bertram said being part of GrizGaming has taught him a lot, but most of all teamwork.

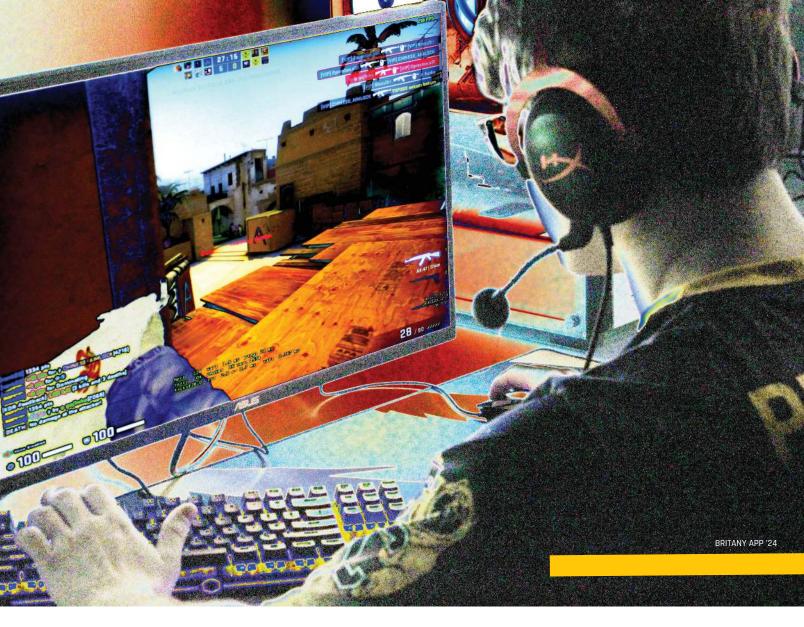
"The team play is the biggest thing. If you can't play as a team, then it's going to be a rough time. With everybody's actions, there's going to be an outcome for it," Bertram said.



"You do one small, little thing, and that's a loss. Just like in football where somebody doesn't block good enough, and then everything else crumbles. It's the same case."

Vest has witnessed the camaraderie and teamwork that take place in the GrizGaming arena.

"In my opinion, it helps their future growth for when they go out into the workforce and have an actual career," Vest said. "I think it helps to build the team-building skills that they need, you know, the coping with winning and losing and how to handle both types of situations."



Vest said she is glad her son has the chance to be back on a team and do what he loves. "I'm just so grateful that he's had this opportunity at Franklin College, to be part of the esports team and be able to be there, too."

Esports head coach Todd Burris said he values Bertram's role on the team.

"First of all, for the people that don't know him, his attitude toward esports is contagious," Burris said. "He's always excited about it. He's always a good leader when it comes to the whole group."

Though some people struggle to understand the athletic side of esports, Burris said it deserves recognition as a multibillion-dollar industry. Esports also is growing in visibility because it fosters inclusive communities. As one example, adaptive resources make gaming possible for individuals with a variety of physical disabilities, and gaming technology enables teamwork even if the participants live in different time zones.

"I think it's the future of competition," Burris said. "Not everybody has the skill set to play football or tennis. With video games and collegiate-video gaming, you are opening up competitive sports to such a huge group of people that you probably could never have reached in the past."

There is a common misconception that esports is just "play," but the mental

and physical aspects are similar to traditional sports, Burris explained. Structured team practices and strategies for wellness are as fundamental to esports as any other. "The amount of time and level of commitment you have to put into prep is the same," he said.

Burris' commitment to an esports program that is holistic and supports each student's individual growth reassures Vest that her son found the right fit at Franklin.

"This whole program has been something that I'm just very grateful for," Vest said. •

AND THE CONTROLL AND TH

By Amy (Kean) VerSteeg '96, Editor

The Alumni Council recognizes Grizzlies of distinction with an annual program known as the Hail to Franklin Awards, presented during Homecoming and Alumni Weekend.

The program, created 68 years ago, enables alumni to nominate their classmates and friends for the honors they so richly deserve. A selection committee convened by the Franklin College Alumni Council reviews all nominations, helping to ensure that each honoree exemplifies the best of Franklin College and demonstrates a history of excellence, leadership and service.

The 2022 honorees included Erin (Ashbrook) Davis '04, the late Christopher T. Gonzalez '86 and the Phillips Family, Mike '96, his spouse, Mary (Helton) '97, and their children, Jim '18 and Becca '21.

In addition, three friends of Franklin College who are not alumni but have demonstrated outstanding loyalty and service to the institution were awarded Associate Alumni status. They were Jack Borgerding Sandi Huddleston and Cindy Prather. Associate Alumni awards are only presented in a year when there are nominees whose contributions befit the honor.

Please join Franklin College in extending congratulations, again, to all the winners, and learn more about their impact through the story collection that follows.

To view the full awards criteria or nominate 2023 Hail to Franklin Awards candidates, visit alumni.FranklinCollege.edu. Nominations are due prior to June 30.



The Phillips Family shares a passion for Greek life and philanthropy.

Mike Phillips '96, a Kappa Delta Rho member, his spouse,

Mary (Helton) '97, a Zeta Tau Alpha member, and their children,

Jim '18, a Lambda Chi Alpha member, and Becca '21, a Zeta Tau Alpha member, cherish their Franklin College experiences and the sense of belonging they found within the Greek community.

The Phillips Family recognizes that while Greek membership can be very rewarding, it also can be costly for students to sustain. To help those involved in the Greek system who have experienced financial hardships, they established the Phillips Family Greek Student Emergency Fund Award in 2019. Funds are allocated at the discretion of the college's director of student involvement and Greek life to assist students overcome unexpected obstacles. The non-endowed fund continues to grow with additional support from donors who share the same enthusiasm as the Phillips Family. In addition to being founders of the fund, Mary and Jim

are recent recipients of Franklin College Greek Life Alumni Volunteer of the Year awards for their continuing contributions to programming and activities.

On behalf of the family, Jim, who recently relocated from Indiana to North Carolina, shared, "... All the time I get asked, 'Where did you go to college, NC State, UNC, Duke?' I always crack a smile and say, no, Franklin College in Indiana. When they ask me 'What is Frankin College?' I never say a small DIII private liberal arts college. I smile and say, home.

"When I think of home I think of a place where you grow up and find out who

you really are as a person. That is what Franklin is to me. Just like a home, my fraternity surrounded me with brothers, some of my friends were like siblings to me, and some professors and faculty became like parents. Franklin College is my home away from home. Just like any home, you want it to feel warm and inviting for future guests and family members to step in and feel like they have their chances to grow. With Greek life and our family fund to help students, we found a path to continue to make Franklin feel like a home to others as it has for us. Thank you for this recognition." •



Erin (Ashbrook) Davis '04 has been leading the Love More community-building effort since 2016 to help bring people together through positivity, peace, kindness and justice. Besides uplifting spirits, the effort raises funds through the sales of Love More merchandise.

The proceeds are generously redistributed to love-assisting organizations to help further their good work throughout the community. Proceeds and donations also have enabled The Love More-Youth Empowerment Fund in collaboration with the Johnson County Community Foundation. The fund aims to help deserving youth who otherwise do not have opportunities for extra classes or camps that can help to realize their potential and worth.

The late **Christopher T. Gonzalez** '86 was recognized posthumously for his leadership and advocacy on behalf of LGBTQ+ youth. As a counselor for the Gay and Lesbian Switchboard in Indianapolis in the 1980s, Gonzalez became aware of an alarming number of teens who were suicidal and/or homeless due to circumstances surrounding their gender identity and/or sexual orientation.

Their stories weighed heavily on his heart and inspired the idea of giving LGBTQ+ youth a gathering place where they could be authentic without risk of harm or judgment. That place materialized in 1987 as the Indiana Youth Group (IYG), which Gonzalez co-founded with his partner, Jeff Werner '87.

IYG still offers youth a safe gathering space and also provides a pathway to housing, medical/mental health, education and legal assistance. IYG exists today because Gonzalez raised a hand to help LGBTQ+ youth at a time when few others would. In recognition of the positive, lasting impact he made in the Indianapolis community through IYG, United Way of Central Indiana named Gonzalez one

of its centennial celebration heroes in 2018. Additionally, the Chris Gonzalez Collection, a permanent display in the Simon Reading Room at the Central Library in downtown Indianapolis, furthers his legacy of care with a curation of more than 7,000 books and other items illuminating LGBTQ+ history, culture and people of interest.

Gonzalez's sister, Leisa Mohr (pictured right), accepted the Distinguished Alumni Award in his honor. She along with a sister, **Amy Gonzalez '92**, shared the following sentiment in a handwritten note: "Our family is so humbled and honored that Franklin College would honor Chris. We are full of pride and happiness. Thank you from the bottom of our hearts; we are so very grateful."

In addition to overseeing daily operations for Love More, Davis works with her parents at their family-owned graphics and printing business. Further, she volunteers widely for such organizations as Johnson County Public Library, Johnson County Community Foundation and Franklin Education Connection. She also mentors Franklin Community High School students involved in senior projects and has team-taught Franklin College courses on social justice. Davis has hosted several Franklin College interns through the Love More effort, and she was named a Woman of Distinction by the college community in 2020.

Davis' acceptance remarks included the following: "I truly am honored; thank you so much! This experience has been overwhelming. I guess we don't always know what kind of impact we're making. Half the time I'm scratching my

head wondering what I'm even doing, but I'm here today because I've shown you my heart, who I am, and what I want for us.

"You trust me and believe in me. You push me and inspire me. Even when I'm tiptoeing on the edge, you know I'm coming with honey, not vinegar, and you all show up over and over again. That's what a community does, shows up for each other. There's power in numbers, and we've accomplished some magical things that way.

"We have to keep asking each other, 'What do you need?' Then, actually, listen, seek out inequity and act. That is community. That is love. I never know what is next with our Love More mission. I just keep my ear on the ground, always listening for someone to tell me or show me. And then know I can trust you to show up, on time, again and again."



2022 ASSOCIATE ALUMNI HONOREES

Jack Borgerding is a steadfast Franklin College friend and donor. Retired from a finance career with Eli Lilly and Co., he gives generously of his time, talent and treasure to a variety of community organizations in Indianapolis. Over the years, he also has supported programs in music, mathematics and computing, swimming and diving, and football at Franklin College. He championed the Campaign for the Sciences and the renovation and expansion of the Science Center, which was dedicated in 2019. His support also helped enable completion of the Napolitan Student Center and improvements to the Napolitan Alumni House. Together with his spouse, Christine Fields '74 (HD '19), he is a member of the Franklin College President's Circle giving society.

His acceptance remarks included these sentiments, "... I have met many amazing folks through my association with Franklin College. The faculty have put up with me for years. For you who are not aware, the College allows the spouses of trustees to sit in on classes during the times the board of trustees meets on campus. So, there I often was sitting in the rear of classrooms from 8 a.m. to mid-afternoon. Thankfully, the faculty did not embarrass me with any difficult questions! But I would not be here if it were not for my beautiful wife, Christi. Her enthusiasm for this institution is absolutely infectious. Again, I want to thank all of you who made this award possible."

Sandi Huddleston is an educator at heart, having earned her bachelor's degree in elementary education and taught fifth and sixth grade. Over the years, her passion for teaching

extended to Franklin College, where she was highly involved in coordinating political debates which brought late Ind. Sen. Richard G. Lugar and former Ind. Gov. Mitch Daniels to campus. Their visits enabled students pursuing majors in journalism, political science and history to be involved in significant engaged-learning opportunities.

Notably, Huddleston served 12 years as executive director for Richard G. Lugar Excellence in Public Service, Inc., and today is an honorary governor on the board. Her involvement in the Republican party at the local, state and national levels has been extensive over the last 30 years, including numerous leadership and committee roles. Within the greater Franklin community, she serves on the Johnson Memorial Health Board of Trustees, including 10 years as the past chair, and the Johnson Memorial Hospital Foundation. For her many civic efforts, she has amassed such honors as the Indiana Sagamore of the Wabash and the Distinguished Hoosier Award. Together, with her spouse, Stephen (AA '97) (HD '06), she is a member of the Franklin College President's Circle giving society.

Huddleston's thank-you remarks included the following, "Relationships garnered along one's life journey are fulfilling to each of us. I have had the privilege in the leadership of the Lugar Excellence in Public Service Series to have met and worked with leaders in government and public service. Those connections allowed me to help persons gain education and knowledge of opportunities to further their goals whether in school

or careers. I thank the Alumni Council for acknowledging the role I have played in the lives of FC students and alumni."

Cindy Prather has demonstrated unwavering support for the Franklin College community for four decades. Beginning as a public-school cooperating teacher who helped mentor elementary education interns and student teachers, Prather then taught on a part-time basis, then full time in the College's elementary education department. Her 23-year commitment to that work culminated in being department chair and licensing adviser. She was instrumental in building and sustaining an elementary education program at Franklin College that was widely regarded as the "gold standard" among small private colleges in Indiana.

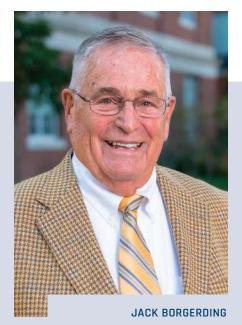
She left Franklin College in 2018 to pursue independent consulting in college education program accreditation. She graciously returned to Franklin to help address an accreditation crisis and successfully coordinated the effort which restored the program's Indiana state recognition and allowed the proud legacy of excellence in teacher education to continue. She continues to serve on a special assignment basis as director of teacher education and teacher licensing adviser while also fulfilling her role as the first lady of Franklin College. Often described as a "teacher of teachers," Prather was an Indiana elementary teacher for 14 years before beginning her career at Franklin College, which has now spanned more than 25 years. Her teaching expertise is in undergraduate elementary

education pedagogical skill and content knowledge areas with specialization in children's literacy, reading instruction and professional development. She holds a bachelor of arts from DePauw University and a Master of Science from Purdue University.

Excerpts from her thank-you speech follow, "Franklin College and its people have held a very special place in my heart for a long, long time. My family is here tonight, my husband, Kerry, our daughter, Katie '13, who epitomizes the long-standing motto of the education department as a competent, caring decision-maker in her current role as a fourth-grade teacher; Katie's husband, Nick Gillaspy, our son, **Robbie '17**, and his girlfriend, Cami Mohler. No one achieves anything alone. Without their support, my career would never have been possible. They were willing to let me multitask as a wife and mother so I could further my knowledge in education and have a career, all while attending many, many basketball games and being a team mom while my husband was coach of the Grizzlies.

"As you know, I was asked two years ago to return to the College and lead the Education Department's re-accreditation initiative. That was my area of consulting work. But I pondered, did I want to do the work? I knew it would take hours and hours. I struggled with the question; how will I get everything done? My life was already full.

"Unable to sleep, I recounted the alumni who have touched my life. Many were my students. Many were



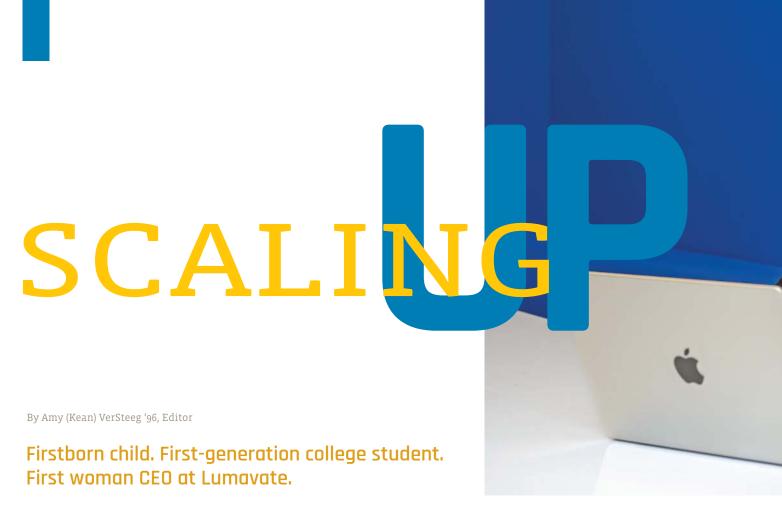
my advisees. Many were athletes. They are successful teachers and administrators, and parents and coaches. They represent Franklin College so well and in so many ways across the state and around the country.

"I thought of the pride in being a competent caring decision-maker and of how wonderful it is to walk into a school and see a classroom decorated in Grizzly gold and blue for college and career days. I thought of former students who come up to me on Homecoming weekends and ask, 'Do you remember me?' before excitedly sharing about their current lives.

"I reflected on the numerous years my former colleagues, such as Carole McKinney, and I invested in making the Franklin College Education Program enviable in Indiana. So many worked for so much for so long! How could I say no? As anticipated, the nights were short and the days were very long, but the task was accomplished. Long live the competent caring decision-makers of Franklin College! Long live Franklin College!"







Stephanie (Mayes) Cox '03 is hardwired to do things first and move fast. She doesn't find herself unique in that matter, but she recognizes that being the leader of a tech startup provides unmatched opportunities to capitalize on her strengths.

At Lumavate, she is emboldened to build the type of company she wants to work for; it's one of the reasons she prioritized revising the core values after becoming CEO in 2021. Since then, Cox has focused on building a great team and trusting the team to do great work. They share a commitment to "move fast, deliver results; be bold in thinking; be amazing to work with and prioritize personal life."

Cox is pleased that employees have leaned into the core values, in personal practices, and in collabora-

tions with customers, partners and vendors. The Lumavate culture enables Cox to be, in her words, a "leader of leaders."

"My success is based solely on how successful I can help team members become," she said.

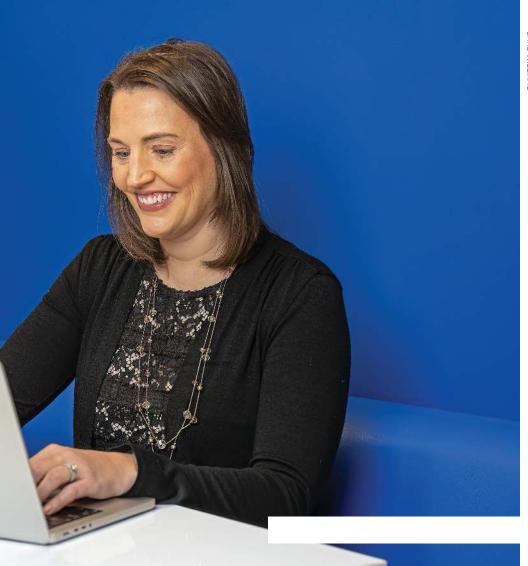
As rewarding as she finds mentoring, managing operations and fundraising to scale the business, Cox always looks for more ways to contribute. "I like to be challenged in life, especially in my career. I also like solving really complex problems," Cox said.

Confidence is one of the qualities that makes her an effective decision-maker.

"When you're a CEO in tech, and it's a startup, people don't talk about how often you're failing. The reality is you fail a lot more in a month than you are successful. I like to be transparent about failures because there's always something to learn from, and when you fail fast there's an opportunity to iterate."

Thinking like a CEO may come naturally to Cox, but she didn't always think about becoming one. The career journey up to now wasn't so much intentional as the result of hard work and luck, she said.

Cox's strong work ethic developed during childhood when she showed the first signs of being an over-achiever, by her own account. "If the 'Book It' goal was 100 books for a pizza, I wanted to be the one kid who read 200. It was always about more than the pizza!" she recalled.



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STEPHANIE (MAYES) COX '03

That was in elementary school. In college, she maximized her academic opportunities because "taking extra courses didn't cost extra." As a result, Cox graduated from Franklin College with a minor in rhetoric and a triple major in English, journalism/public relations and political science, in four years, without taking summer classes.

"I was the first person in my family to go to college. I really didn't even know what a corporate job looked like. My biggest aspiration after college was to become a VP of marketing or CMO (chief marketing officer). I didn't know anyone like me could be a CEO. I didn't see many women being CEOs."

Cox, in fact, contemplated going to law school, but decided to pursue a career in marketing instead and had two job offers to choose from after graduation. She chose a marketing role at a "mid-sized" company that won her over due to its company culture and casual-dress policy that allowed jeans, which was a rarity 20 years ago, she said.

The company was a great fit for the new grad.

"My first boss out of a college taught me what a leader should look like, and taught me to recognize my own potential and successes," Cox said. After only 18 months on the job, Cox was chosen to lead the company's rebranding efforts, which led to a marketing leadership position at her next employer.

"The opportunities I had there have influenced every job choice I've made

since. One important thing I learned was how to take my experience and apply it to any industry."

That philosophy is the premise of her self-imposed "70-30 Rule," meaning she seeks job roles that include a majority of familiar challenges but at least 30% new learning opportunities. Following the rule throughout her career has enabled Cox to launch brands, new products and geographic expansion, as well as speak at conferences around the world, all while driving phenomenal growth for her employers.

She was only getting started when a business consultant told her over breakfast that she would make a good CEO; that was seven years ago.

"I laughed because it seemed ridiculous," Cox said. "I didn't know anyone

like me could be a CEO. I didn't see many women being CEOs in tech, and I didn't see it for myself."

When she mentioned the conversation later to her spouse, Josh, he whole-heartedly agreed with the consultant, who noted that Stephanie was keen on foreseeing and solving future business challenges while others were distracted by the present and their competitors.

"I wouldn't tell you from that moment on I started trying to become a CEO, but it led to some reflection. I really believe if you work hard, and you do great work, good things will come to you."

When she went to Lumavate as vice president of marketing in 2017, she sought ways to engage throughout the company. "I did great work, and I kept getting more responsibilities," Cox said. After five years at Lumavate, she began the transition process to president and ultimately the CEO role, which she's held for more than a year now.

"I love what I do, and I'm fortunate to get paid for something I'm so passionate about," Cox said. She also loves to cook for her family. She and Josh have 16-year-old twins, Grayson and Olivia, and their youngest child, Grace, is 13.

But, it's at the head of Lumavate where she thrives and has the potential to make the broadest impact since technology influences virtually every facet of our daily lives. The reality makes Cox passionate about "democratizing tech" and working to ensure career opportunities, qualifications and certifications are accessible to anyone interested in having a part. That's the significance of Lumavate.

According to Cox, anyone who knows how to use a computer can use Lumavate to build a digital experience; previous experience in information technology and coding isn't required. Most exciting is that the digital experience can market a product or service.

"You just need to have the idea; tech should be the easy part," Cox said.
"Lumavate wants to remove the barriers and perception that you have to have a certain level of education or skill to enter into tech. Lumavate can empower everyone to do more."

Lumavate clients span manufacturing, consumer goods and life sciences, with notable names such as Cummins, Herff Jones, Roche and Delta Faucet.

Franklin College joined the list in December 2022, after announcing its new partnership with Lumavate (Related articles on Page 16).

"Being able to give back and participate in helping students grow is really important to me," Cox said.

Through the partnership, she and the vice president of customer experience at Lumavate are collaborating with Franklin College Director of Digital Fluency Andrew Rosner to develop a syllabus for a course this spring. Students also will have the chance to earn certification on the Lumavate Platform and other digital tools. Plus, Cox will be a guest speaker in classes.

"When we started talking to Andrew I was impressed because he understood there's often a gap between what students — anywhere — learn during college and what's expected on the job. He wants to help better prepare Franklin students to help accelerate their marketability, and that is very exciting to me!" Cox said.

"The opportunity for students to build a portfolio of work with Lumavate in addition to their critical-thinking and writing skills from college courses is going to help set them apart to employers."

Cox is pleased that Lumavate hired **Nick Brems '19** as a product enablement manager and hopes current students will take full advantage of opportunities to strengthen their digital fluency, no matter their major.

"We need diverse talent in the tech ecosystem," Cox said.

Lumavate has 20 employees throughout North America and has sustained a remote work model since the pandemic's onset in 2020. Cox works from her home in Westfield, Indiana.



CHAD WILLIAMS

Nick Gillaspy and **Katie** (**Prather**) **Gillaspy '13** exit the chapel as newlyweds.

NATALIE HUGIE/NOEL PHOTOS





Two weddings for members of the same family at the same small college campus, 37 years apart, is notable. When the weddings happen to involve the first family the occasion is historic.

Richardson Chapel at Franklin College is the special place where President Kerry Prather married the love of his life, Cindy, on May 18, 1985, as well as where he accompanied daughter Katie '13 down the aisle on Sept. 3, 2022. That day, Katie married her beloved Nick Gillaspy. It appears from the college archives that it was the first wedding on campus with a president's daughter as the bride.

While each wedding was unique, there are similarities that intertwine the ceremonies. The Rev.
Dr. Clifford Cain, Franklin
College professor emeritus of philosophy and religious studies, was the officiant at both. Further, a focal point at the altar was a wooden cross with pottery inlays, a gift that Kerry and Cindy made to the College in

recognition of the chapel's 20th anniversary in 1996.

An article published in The Reporter, Winter 1997, includes this excerpt from Kerry, "Look at the campus; it is like a small community. You can live here, work here, eat here and also worship here. It was the perfect place to have our wedding. We would never trade that day for one in a big chapel. My daughter sees the chapel as the church where Mommy and Daddy were married."

As it turned out, Katie and her brother, **Robbie '17**, spent ample time on campus throughout their childhood, from riding bicycles and playing tag to rooting for the basketball teams and helping at summer camps. Both then chose Franklin College for their undergraduate experiences.

The chance to make a new memory on campus as a newlywed with Nick was a dream come true for Katie. "There was never any doubt that Richardson Chapel was the most perfect place to get married, especially with my family's history at the College. It was very special to have the Rev. Dr. Cliff Cain officiate and incorporate the same vows that my parents shared with each other at their wedding, and to have the Peeler cross that they donated at the altar."

Along with Robbie, other Franklin alumni in the wedding party included Adrian Gillaspy '13, Heather Pasek-Delaney '13 and Mitch Oard '12. Additionally, two Franklin College faculty members helped make the ceremony special. Casey J. Hayes, Ph.D., the A.J. Thurston Endowed Chair of Music, music department

Franklin College President Kerry Prather, Katie (Prather) Gillaspy '13, Nick Gillaspy, Cindy Prather and Robbie Prather '17 gather for a celebratory family photo.

chair and director of choral activities, played piano, and Eric DeForest, Ph.D., assistant professor of music, sang. In sync with the newlyweds' exit from Richardson Chapel, the college chimes, an inauguration gift from the Prathers, rang from Old Main.

Every wedding detail elevated the sentimental occasion, giving the Prathers and Gillaspys dozens more reasons to hold the chapel dear. •

MURAL with a



Reprinted with permission from The Herald Times, Aug. 23, 2022. Edited for content and length.

Adam Long '01 misses his father and is proud to honor him and a lot of other people affected by cancer with an outdoor mural at 106 N. Rogers St., in Bloomington, Indiana.

The first thing about the mural that might catch your eye is a father holding his child; the two images represent Long's father, J.D., and himself as a 1-year-old. They face the word "hope" on the mural's right side. The imagery depicts the start of a lifelong bond between father and son and is deeply personal for Long. He had the chance to visit his father and mother, Claudia, one last time at their Florida home prior to J.D.'s death on July 24, 2022. Long sensed he should say all the things weighing on his mind.

"The last thing I said before I left the room was that I was the happiest man that I could be and that I was following my dream. The next step was to make it a reality to put art in front of people touched by cancer to give them comfort when they are in need of healing and hope," Long said.

Help came from Long's college friend **Eric Richards '99**, president and CEO of Cancer Support Community South Central Indiana, which has a Bloomington office.

Richards kept in touch and followed Long's Facebook page, where, four years ago, he saw his friend's venture into painting murals begin. In fact, Richards' first request was to create a mural inside the cancer support office.

"I wanted a mural that kind of hit you in the face when you walked in," Richards said. Richards also requested the mural include scenery familiar to local residents. He's happy with Long's creation, which depicts the falls at McCormick's Creek State Park.



While Long was working on the first mural indoors, Richards said he was thinking of how to have another mural in a more public location to highlight local people who have dealt with cancer and let them know about the Cancer Support Community.

"The idea that popped into my head was I wanted it to be a hope mural," Richards said. "Adam came up with the idea to use real people and their arms to spell the word 'hope."

Long posted the mural idea on his Facebook page, and the owners of My Sports Locker were among the first to respond with an offer of space. Once he had a location, Long reached out again on social media to find



Adam Long '01 and **Eric Richards '99** join at the Hope Mural.

pursue additional mural opportunities that would enable broader representation of people's cancer experiences.

"It was overwhelming the number of stories I received," Long said, adding they were pouring in at the same time he was dealing with the fact his father's cancer was terminal.

"My heart couldn't handle it. I asked Cancer Support Community to help. That made a massive difference to me. I just couldn't hold all those feelings," Long said.

people who have been affected by cancer. He gave specific instructions on how to submit photos and personal stories. Twenty-seven of the respondents now have their hands and forearms painted on the white exterior of the cement block building. Some of the people are local and were part of a ribbon-cutting celebration on Aug. 5, 2022, at the site. While not every person represented in the mural is still living, Long said the three children he painted are all alive.

At the time of the ribbon-cutting, the mural wasn't yet complete.

Long estimated he had another 40 hours of painting to do; he already had put 40-60 hours of work into the piece. He indicated the arms and hands of each person represented

would remain in black and white, but the rings, sleeves, necklaces and other objects they are holding or wearing that mean something special to them would be in color. Long wanted to have the mural completed by November.*

"The hope is that people learn about the free service in their community for people who have cancer and their families and friends," Richards said. "We want people to know it's all about serving the people." The Cancer Support Community sunburst logo is part of the mural to help spread that message.

Not everyone who submitted a photo and a personal story could be depicted in the outdoor mural, but Long plans to

"THE HOPE IS
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FOR PEOPLE WHO
HAVE CANCER AND
THEIR FAMILIES
AND FRIENDS."

ERIC RICHARDS '99

Richards is eager to continue working with Long on murals, both because of his talent and his understanding. "Adam knows what it's like firsthand to be a caregiver. He's just an inspiring guy, and we're fortunate to be working with him."

* Editor's note: Long finished the mural on Oct. 29, 2022, putting in 19 hours of work to meet his original goal of completion by November.

CLASS NOTES

'50s

Rev. **George B. Kimsey '52** and spouse Joyce celebrated their 65th wedding anniversary on June 16, 2022.

'60s

Betty (McKinley) Bourquein '67 is a retired teacher and serves as director of the Dearborn County Retired Teachers Foundation. She maintains residences in Batesville, Indiana, and Englewood, Florida.

Mike Hall '69 is in his 12th consecutive year as an analyst on the radio broadcasts of basketball games at Johnson County (Indiana) schools, on station 100.3 FM.

'70s

James "Jim" Pease '72, M.D., retired in June 2022, after 46 years of practicing family medicine in Franklin, Indiana.

Karen (Esposito) Greenslade '76 retired from Glenview Park District in 2019. She resides in Glenview, Illinois.

'80s

Paula French '82 retired in 2022, after 40 years of teaching physical education and health, and coaching. She resides in Beech Grove, Indiana.

Patrick Collier '84 was named to the University of Alabama Student Life Leadership Council, an advisory board that partners with university leaders and staff to help students with internship and career development opportunities, scholarships and other

initiatives. He previously served on the university's parent advisory council. Prior to his involvement at Alabama, Collier was a member and past president of Franklin College's Alumni Council and a member of the Roncalli High School Board of Directors. He works as a research adviser at Eli Lilly and Co. in Indianapolis.

Lisa (Wilson) Arnold '89, president and CEO of Home Bank in Martinsville, Indiana, was recognized with the 2022 Indiana Bankers Association Woman of the Year award. The annual award recognizes a woman in banking who is community-active, achievement-oriented and team-focused for success.

'90s

J.D. Lux '90 began serving as counsel at Auburn University in the fall of 2022. He previously served 13 years as counsel for Ivy Tech Community College of Indiana. He has a law degree from Ohio Northern University.

Janet (Straughn) Hill '92 was featured as part of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum's "Tumultuous 2020" oral history project. Hill resides in Illinois, where she has dual roles as the Rock Island County Health Department's chief operating and public information officer. For the history project, Hill discussed pandemic-related challenges that health department staff and leaders worked through in addition to providing the usual daily services. She also shared her vision of how public health must not be forgotten as the pandemic is ebbing. The interview is archived at the Lincoln Presidential

Library in Springfield, Illinois, and is available online. Hill was a newspaper editor before earning her Master of Public Health from the University of Illinois-Chicago. Hill shared that she "leans heavily today on communication skills first honed at the Pulliam School of Journalism and as a staff member and editor of *The Franklin*."

Rafael Sánchez '92, WRTV 6 newscaster/investigative reporter and Franklin College Trustee, was recognized by the Indiana Latino Institute with a Legacy Award in October 2022. The award was part of the inaugural program launched to recognize Latino talent in three different stages of their careers: rising stars in their 20s, elevated professionals under 40 and legacies. Sánchez was one of 13 Latinos honored for his professional accomplishments and for impacting the lives of Hoosiers and their communities.

Shannon (Baunach) Anderson '95,

children's book author and educator, was an honoree in the inaugural *Good Housekeeping* Kids' Book Awards.
Anderson's *I Love Strawberries!* was named the top-rated picture book for 2022. More than 125 children and their families were involved in reviewing and choosing the 21 winning books from more than 200 selections nominated by a panel of librarians and literacy experts.

Adrienne (McGee) Sterrett '97 became managing editor of Country Sampler magazine in 2021. She works out of the Berne, Indiana, office. She was employed by The Lima News in Ohio for more than 20 years, writing and editing daily lifestyle content as well



as the regional magazine, *Salt*. She and spouse Jeff reside in Van Wert, Ohio.

Karyn (Howell) Kissling '98 owns Chef Karyn, a business offering meals, catering, classes and events. She graduated from Le Cordon Bleu College of Culinary Arts-Scottsdale, formerly the Scottsdale Culinary Institute, in 2005. A native Hoosier, Kissling runs her business from Sheridan, Indiana.

Amanda (Croucher) Parkhurst '98

is an HR business partner at Endress+Hauser Temperature and System Products. She is the parent of twins, Landon and Annie, 9. The family resides in Franklin, Indiana.

Libby (Patton) Roberts '98 ran her 50th state marathon in Maine on Oct. 16, 2022. She was joined by two relatives, her sister, who completed her first marathon, and her father, who ran his first mini-marathon the same day.

Deana (Baker) Haworth '99 received the 2022 Outstanding Journalism Alumna Award from Ball State University's School of Journalism and Strategic Communication; from which she holds a master's degree. The award cited Haworth's "continuous expressions of beneficence and devotion to exceptional communication and public relations practices." Notably, she has thrived at the Indianapolisbased Hirons for 22 years, working her way from public relations specialist to







1: Shannon (Baunach)
Anderson '95
2: Patrick Collier '84
3: J.D. Lux '90
4: Nikki (Osmanski)
Goedeker '04 and spouse
Jeff '02 (back left) stand with
their four children and their
business partners, Brad
Goedeker '03 and spouse
Marissa (Knecht) '02 (back
right), and their three children.
5: Lisa (Wilson) Arnold '89

SUBMITTED PHOTOS



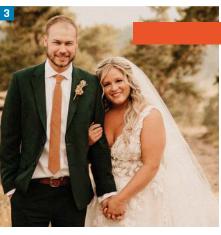
chief operating officer. She also serves on five distinct boards, including the Franklin College Board of Trustees. Plus, she is an adjunct faculty member at the Pulliam School of Journalism.

'00s

Karl Schulz 'oo and Amy (Kuechenmeister) 'o2, instructor of education at Franklin College, are the parents of a son, Owen Andrew. He joins a brother, Evan. Brad Goedeker '03 and spouse Marissa (Knecht) '02, along with his brother, Jeff Goedeker '01, DDS, and sister-inlaw, Nikki (Osmanski) '04, have purchased the Whiteland, Indiana, family entertainment center Rascal's Fun Zone. Brad left his role with UnitedHealth Group last summer to take on the new opportunity. He shared, "The Goedeker families are eager to revive this community landmark and impact people of all ages."























- 1: Tim Cooper '04, spouse Lindsay (Baker) '05 and their children Xander (standing) and Zoey
- 2: Kyle Johannigman and spouse Tara (Ricke) '19
- 3: Garrett Day '15 and spouse Kahlie (Cannon) '15
- 4: Beth Teeters '03 (left) and spouse Lyndsey kneel with
- their children, Hayden (left) and Tanner, by their sides
 5: Joshua Mengle and spouse Adeline Bowman-Mengle '19
 6: Alison (West) Thompson '08 and spouse Logan
 7: Thomas Parkhurst '18 and spouse Emily (Eveland) '19

- 8: Nicole (Buckel) Reid '21 and spouse Griffin '19
- 9: Banner Sparks, spouse **Krae '21** and daughter Harli
- 10: Aigul (Wilson) Miller '19 and spouse David
- 11: Ian Mullen '16 and spouse Megan

Beth (Huber) Hoeing '03, principal of Southwestern Elementary in Shelbyville, Indiana, dressed as the "Elf on the Shelf" throughout the holiday season to bring joy to students. Videos of Hoeing posing around the school went viral, with one post gaining nearly 8 million views. Hoeing also received national media attention for helping make the holidays magical for children.

Beth Teeters '03 married Lyndsey Kinser on Feb. 14, 2022. They are the parents of Hayden Bannick, 7, and Tanner Bannick, 5. The family resides in Columbus. Indiana.

Tim Cooper '04 was named the inaugural principal of Crossroads Elementary in Brownsburg, Indiana. Crossroads is the town's eighth elementary school and will open for the 2023-24 academic year. Tim and spouse Lindsay (Baker) '05 are the parents of Xander, 7, and Zoey, 5.

Jason Clagg '06 is the director of finance at Indiana Donor Network. He resides in Shelbyville, Indiana.

Alison West '08 married Logan Thompson on June 4, 2022, at First Baptist Church in Terre Haute, Indiana. Alison's father, **Doug West '75**, walked her down the aisle, and several of her Franklin College classmates attended.

Jenna Yarnell '09, a certified child life specialist, recently was promoted to manager of the Child Life Department at Riley Hospital for Children in Indianapolis. Yarnell leads a skilled team of specialists who share the goal of helping make children's hospital experiences the best possible by creating coping plans, providing child and family support during procedures or new diagnoses and creating opportunities for play during a hospital stay. Jenna and daughter Jorgia reside in Franklin, Indiana.

'10s

Katie (Beck) Lee '11 is the deputy director of communications for Mental Health America.

Melissa (Eades) Betustak '13 and spouse Jacob are the parents of a daughter, Zoey, born July 11, 2019. Melissa is a teacher of science, physical education and health for the Zionsville (Indiana) Community School Corp.

Travis Handak '14 married Heather Frodge on Sept. 4, 2021. The couple reside in Greenwood, Indiana.

Kahlie Cannon '15 and Garrett Day '15 married on Sept. 6, 2022, at Rocky Mountain National Park in Estes Park, Colorado. The couple exchanged private vows in a meadow and then had a traditional ceremony with close friends and family in the park.

Ian Mullen '16 married Megan Jacobs at the Dayton Arcade in Ohio on Nov. 6, 2021. Franklin College English professor emerita Kathy Carlson was the officiant. The wedding party included Bryce Woodall '17, Robbie Prather '17, Taylor Ferguson '14 and Alex Bird '18.

Bailey (Lindamood) Barnes '17 is a regional care team manager for Marathon Health. She and spouse Alex reside in McCordsville, Indiana.

Robbie Prather '17 accepted an associate attorney position with the business services and real estate divisions of Bose, McKinney & Evans in Indianapolis.

Thomas Parkhurst '18 and Emily
Eveland '19 married on June 18, 2022,
in Plymouth, Indiana. The wedding
party included Anastasia (Gentry)
Hall '17, Marissa (Schnell) Wehr '19,
Emily Day '17, Caroline Russell '20,
Dean Elrod '19, Sam Pollock '17, Caleb
Giles '18, Sam Godby '18, Jack Knue '17,
Blake Oakley '19 and Mitch Caster '18.

Adeline Bowman '19 married Joshua Mengle in Indianapolis on Sept. 17, 2022. She is the manager at Wild Geese Bookshop in Franklin, Indiana.

Aigul (Wilson) Miller '19 and spouse David purchased a new home in Lexington, Kentucky, in 2021.

Griffin Reid '19 married **Nicole Buckel '21** on March 12, 2022. He is pursuing a doctorate in political science at Indiana University-Bloomington, and she is an elementary teacher. They reside in Franklin, Indiana.

Tara Ricke '19 married Kyle Johannigman on Sept. 10, 2022, in Greensburg, Indiana, where they also built and reside in their "forever home."

Krae Sparks '21 and spouse Banner are the parents of a daughter, Harli, born April 4, 2022. Krae is the creative director of Call 4 Creative and the assistant coach of varsity baseball at Greenwood Christian Academy, his high school alma mater. The family resides in Bargersville, Indiana.



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



GO GRIZ!

Class reunions, Greek gatherings and tailgates gave Grizzlies dozens of great reasons to gather in Franklin for Homecoming and Alumni Weekend, Oct. 4 – 9. Other highlights included:

- A 54–14 football win over the Anderson Ravens.
- The Hail to Franklin Awards program; also see Page 28.
- The traditional privy burning, alumni golf tournament, student theatre production, faculty book signing and esports arena tailgate.



IN MEMORIAM

'40s

Betty L. (Kahl) Hennon '48 Sept. 17, 1926 - July 1, 2022 Los Angeles, Calif.

Marianne (Duckworth) Garrett '49

Nov. 2, 1926 - Oct. 1, 2022 Franklin, Ind.

Pauline "Polly" (Helt) Hackett '49

June 3, 1927 – Oct. 14, 2022 Frankfort, Ind.

Milton H. Zoschke '49 July 10, 1925 - Aug. 4, 2022 Benton Harbor, Mich.

'50s

Owen "Bud" M. Field Jr. '51 May 29, 1925 - Nov. 2, 2022 Shelbyville, Ind.



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

Marilyn (Beaman) Kerner '52

Sept. 10, 1930 - May 21, 2022 Fort Wayne, Ind.

Frank L. Braman Jr. '52

April 13, 1931 - Aug. 7, 2022 Mitchell. Ind.

Arthur "Art" N. Sanders '57

Dec. 27, 1934 - Oct. 8, 2022 Bedford, Ind.

'60s

Karen L. (Hibner) Colgrove '61

April 13, 1939 - July 3, 2022 Roanoke, Va.

Carl R. Richardson '62

June 4, 1940 - Aug. 1, 2022 Fort Mill, SC

Doris E. (Snyder) Vandine '63

Aug. 21, 1929 - Nov. 18, 2022 Franklin, Ind.

Paul R. Hayes '64

April 30, 1939 - Aug. 16, 2022 Green Valley, AZ

William A. Mahanna '65

May 4, 1938 – Aug. 19, 2022 Bradenton, Fla.

Sandra "Sandi" (Corbin) Hinshaw '66

May 16, 1942 – April 30, 2022 Columbus, Ind.

Sarah "Sally" (Killen) May '68

Aug. 12, 1946 - Aug. 20, 2022 West Harford, Conn.

John W. Spiker '68

Oct 12, 1946 - Dec 10, 2022 Franklin, Ind. Heritage and Horizon societies

Margie (McCoy) Dubes '69

Feb. 25, 1947 - Sept. 18, 2022 Monticello, Ind.

'70s

Charles E. Moser '74

June 13, 1951 – June 14, 2022 Franklin, Ind.

Judy J. Webb '75

March 6, 1953 – Oct. 21, 2022 Yorkville, Ill. Heritage Society

'80s

Amy Kitchen '88

Aug. 24, 1966 – Oct. 16, 2022 Franklin, Ind.

'90s

Reece Alan Mann '91

Jan. 24, 1969 - Oct. 28, 2022 Montpelier, Ind.

Friends of Franklin College

Christopher L. Fleming

Aug. 13, 1976 – Oct. 20, 2022 Bargersville, Ind. Professor of business and leadership curriculum facilitator for the Leadership Johnson County Program at Franklin College.

The Horizon Society recognizes individuals for including Franklin College in their documented estate plans. 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 through the individual's name through corporate gifts and matches and through private foundations, as well as by the individual's spouse.



I was orphaned at age 5 when my father died, three years after my mother was institutionalized in a mental hospital. As a result, I grew up poor and moved frequently among relatives' homes. I was a strong academic student and was encouraged by teachers and relatives. I was fortunate to receive a full academic scholarship to Franklin College. I met my future husband, Mike Ehringer '69, at FC. We both began careers as math teachers; Mike eventually became an administrator, and I taught for more than 30 years at Indiana University Southeast. My college education changed my life. I would like to help students in the future obtain a college degree.

— Margaret (Knight) Ehringer '68

(pictured with spouse Mike '69, now deceased)

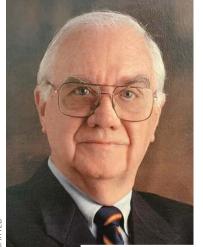
Explore your philanthropic opportunities at FranklinCollege.edu/giving.

For further assistance, contact Nora (Lowe) Brems '87 at 317.738.8864 or
nbrems@FranklinCollege.edu. The College also offers a free online resource to
help you create a legal will. Use the QR code provided here to learn more.



REMEMBERING BOARD LEGENDS

The Franklin College community was saddened by the deaths of two trustee emeriti in 2022, **Eugene "Gene" L. Henderson '50** (HD '74) and **Judge Robert "Rob" D. Schafstall '65.** Both men believed intensely in their alma mater, gave generously of their time and treasure and inspired others to do the same. With fond remembrance, we share a glimpse of their lives and accomplishments.



Gene Henderson

July 21, 1925 - July 31, 2022

During World War II, Henderson served in the Merchant Marines and the U.S. Army. He earned a bachelor's degree in political science from Franklin College and was a graduate of Harvard Law School. A founding partner of Henderson Daily Withrow & DeVoe in Indianapolis, he distinguished himself as a

highly respected attorney on local, state, national and international levels.

Henderson also was widely respected for his support and leadership in the arts communities of Indianapolis, and particularly the Hoosier Art Salon. Over his lifetime, he earned many honors and

distinctions, including Sagamore of the Wabash awards from three different Indiana governors. He also was an Indiana Academy 2017 inductee in recognition of his lifelong contributions, achievements and leadership to advance the state of Indiana.

He was named to Who's Who in American Colleges and Universities and served as president of Phi Delta Theta, Student Council and Pied Type. He also was on The Franklin staff and played

varsity tennis for three years. Later, he served on the Alumni Council, then on the board of trustees for 25 years, including five years as the chair. He was enormously successful as the national chair for the College's sesquicentennial campaign and as national chair for two alumni fundraising campaigns. He was a member of the President's Circle giving society and a loyal Franklin Fund supporter. His gifts to the Campaign for the Sciences, athletic programs and campus art funds were significant. For his numerous contributions to Franklin College and in recognition of his exemplary professional career. Henderson received an honorary doctorate of civil law in 1974. Further, the Henderson Conference Room in the College's Johnson Center for Fine Arts is named for him.

Henderson's beloved spouse of 74 years, **Mary Lou (Beatty) '52**, survives along with their daughter, Carrie, seven grandchildren and 10 great-grandchildren. He was preceded in death by sons **Andy '76** and Joe.

When word of Henderson's death was received by the Franklin College administration, President Kerry Prather relayed the sad news to the

Gene Henderson '50 (HD '74), from Franklin College senior

to trustee emeritus

faculty and staff. In part, Prather wrote, "Gene's love for and devotion to Franklin College was returned in kind by the generations of Grizzlies who were beneficiaries of his spirit, wisdom and kindness. The College is a stronger institution today because of Gene's loyal support, steadfast leadership and generous philanthropy."

Later, Indianapolis Business Journal contributing writer Brad Rateike '02, founder and owner of BAR Communications, shared a glimpse of what he learned from Henderson during a Franklin College leadership internship 20 years ago. Rateike wrote that Henderson "forever altered my life by showing me what it meant to be a professional."

Rateike also wrote, "Gene taught me that having your name on the building or stationery does not mean you need to have the corner office. He was in his late-70s when I met him. He came into work every day, but he did not just occupy a chair.

He had built a firm (along with the help of many others, he would note), but, though it was flourishing on its own, he still felt responsible for contributing to its daily success."

Rateike observed Henderson's genuine kindness throughout the internship. "We had lunch together most days, usually in the break room, where Gene would tuck his tie into his shirt (I followed suit) and chat with whomever else was in there, too, regardless of their position. They all respected him. They all liked him."

"I realize now that I hit the lottery when it came to internships. He made me want to be part of the Indianapolis business community, he inspired me to be successful, he motivated me to become an entrepreneur and maybe one day receive a similar phone call from Franklin College to mentor a young student. Rest in peace, Gene. I will think of you when I tuck in my tie the next time I eat a sandwich in the break room " •

Rob Schafstall

Oct. 27, 1943 - April 14, 2022

Schafstall held a Franklin College bachelor's degree in economics and a law degree from Indiana University. He was a partner at Cutsinger and Schafstall in Franklin, Indiana. After he was elected Franklin City Judge in 1971, he held the office uninterrupted until his retirement in 2012, at which time the City Court chamber was named the "Judge Robert D. Schafstall Courtroom."

Schafstall was a Franklin College Alumni Council member, then was elected to the board of trustees in 1994. He served as treasurer for eight years and engaged in committee work prior to his 2020 retirement.

The College honored Schafstall with a Hail to Franklin Award in 1991 and an induction into the Athletic Hall of Fame in 2018. For more than 45 years, he served as the official timer for men's basketball games, and he was a charter member of the Goaltenders Club.

He was married for 52 years to Janet (Edmondson) Schafstall '66, who died Nov, 29, 2017. They were the parents of three children, Robert H., Joseph and Sarah Elizabeth (Libby).



Rob Schafstall '65, from Franklin College senior to trustee emeritus





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