

FRANKLIN COLLEGE

MAGAZINE | SUMMER 2023



VITAL SIGNS

High-performance habits help
Artur Schneider '17, D.O., crush his goals.

Pg. 30



Twin sisters **Sara Brown '23** (foreground) and **Alivia Brown '23** view the traveling art exhibit "August 15: A Mural for Afghanistan." Its story began when the government of Afghanistan fell to the Taliban on Aug. 15, 2021, and thousands of evacuees found haven at Camp Atterbury in Johnson County, Indiana. Art therapy became an important way for some of the displaced people to reflect on and process their emotions surrounding violence, loss, fear

CROSS-CULTURAL ENCOUNTER



AMY (KEAN) VERSTEEG '96

and starting over in a new culture. In collaboration with an established Indiana artist, more than 50 of the refugees painted a mural to record their collective experiences and share a message of hope with the world. A replica of their original mural on plywood has been traveling across the country since debuting at the Indianapolis International Airport in the spring of 2022. It came to Franklin College in April.



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Alumni and Friends,

As always, the stories included in this issue reflect excellence among our students and alumni, reminding us of the power of the Franklin College experience and the enduring importance of our mission. As we approach the institution's bicentennial, we must think strategically and collaboratively about how best to serve our current and future students, ensuring a prosperous and successful future for Franklin College.

After more than a year of broad engagement with constituents and comprehensive research and discussion, the Board of Trustees at their May meeting approved our ambitious strategic plan, **Franklin Forward: Bold Innovation for a Dynamic Future**.

The plan defines the qualities that make the Franklin College student experience distinctive: our comprehensive commitment to experiential learning, our inclusion of digital fluency as a critical component of the entire curriculum, our close-knit culture and community and our growing network of innovative partnerships. These will be our points of strategic focus for the next five years.

That focus will fuel our agenda for progress and growth — growth of the student body, growth of our resources and growth of our endowment. The work ahead to implement this plan will be exciting and inspiring for everyone who loves and values Franklin College.

These are challenging times for small, private colleges, but their importance to the world has never been more compelling. We embark upon this strategic plan confident in our mission, committed to our students of today and tomorrow and strengthened by the loyal support of our alumni and friends.

Please take a few minutes to review the plan online at **FranklinCollege.edu/franklin-forward**. Thank you for helping us move **Franklin Forward**.

Sincerely,

KERRY PRATHER
FRANKLIN COLLEGE PRESIDENT



ACCESS THE STRATEGIC PLAN WITH YOUR SMARTPHONE.

FRANKLIN COLLEGE

MAGAZINE | SUMMER 2023

Volume LIX, No. 2

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Franklin College Magazine

Published three times annually. Copyright by Franklin College.

Background

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

Nondiscrimination Policy

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

On the Cover

For Artur Schneider '17, D.O., goal achievement is an ongoing journey driven by vision, passion and hard work.

PHOTO BY AMANDA (FALES) SHAW '06



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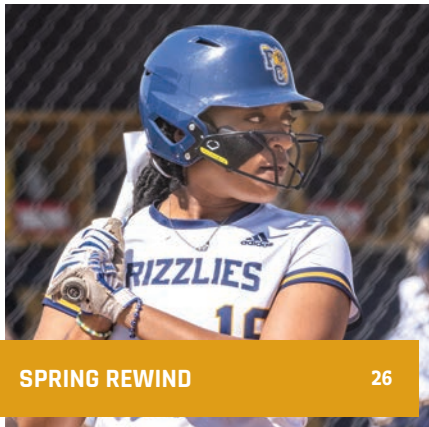
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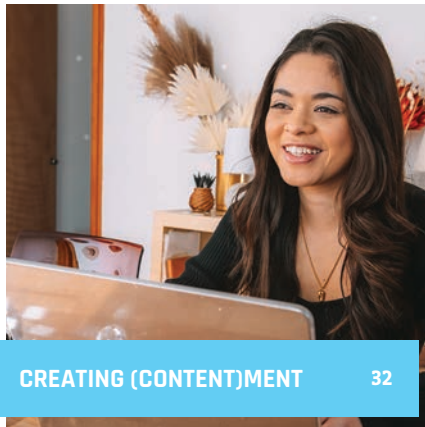
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Enjoy our selection of celebratory photos and memorable speeches recognizing the Class of '23 graduates and honorary degree recipients for their achievements.

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KEEP SWIMMING

Catch up with medical resident **Artur Schneider '17**, D.O., who reflects on the positive people and experiences who help motivate his successes.

PICTURE IT



Visiting the Royal Alcazar of Seville was a highlight of traveling across Spain. The foundation for this compound of palatial structures was established in the early Middle Ages. There now includes a variety of architectural features influenced by centuries of change in governance. Pictured are assistant registrar **Jarrod Brett '98**, **Nick Mock '23**, **Laura Sickmeier '26**, **Lily Benefiel '23**, professor of mathematics **Dan Callon '77**, Ph.D., and associate professor of history **Lourdes Hurtado**, Ph.D.



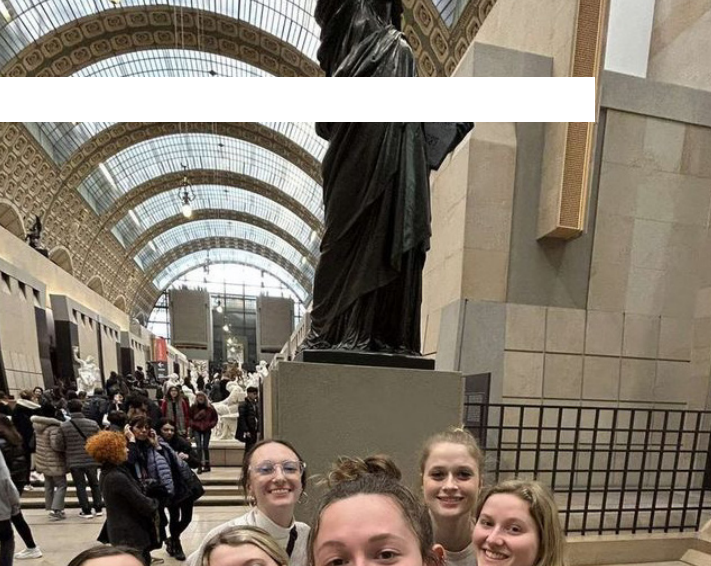
Each January, students are offered short-term immersive experiences between the fall and spring semesters that combine on-campus study with a trip to another city or country.

These trips led by the faculty and staff are an exciting part of the curriculum and center around subjects such as culture, cuisine, language, religion, architecture and sports. Students delve deeply into the subjects before departure and engage in further exploration upon arrival. The 2023 destinations included England, France, Guatemala, Italy, Morocco, New York City, South Africa, Spain and Orlando.

New this year was an opportunity for students to serve as Franklin College digital ambassadors. Chosen through an application process, the students committed to documenting their travel experiences for the College's social media platforms and website. Through the digital fluency initiative, students received stipends for their efforts and were loaned equipment including cameras, drones, tripods and battery chargers. In addition, the director of digital fluency provided students with equipment training and coordinated a workshop with an industry expert on creating digital content.

The digital ambassadors were **Britany App '23**, **Nick Mock '23**, **Cait Moore '25**, **Cara Mullen '25**, **Elaina Page '23**, **Emily Peters '24**, **Lola Reed '24** and **Madison VanGorden '23**. We share a selection of their work on these pages.

*Students and their chaperones made a memorable hike up the Platteklip Gorge Trail on Table Mountain in Cape Town, South Africa. The steep incline made the two-mile hike challenging and on average took individuals approximately two hours, reported Adam Heavrin, assistant professor of exercise science. Table Mountain is a culturally significant landmark in Cape Town and is featured on the official flag. In the first row are **Reanne Brinker '24**, **Elaina Page '23**, **Angelina Gregory '23**, **Karli Manship '24**, **Jill Anspaugh '23** and site director Nawall Nacerodien. In the second row are **Delany Cornn '25**, **Jada Tooley '24**, **Noah McCracken '25**, **Alivia Brown '23** and **Bayleigh Torrance '23**. In the third row are professor of sociology **Jason Jimerson**, Ph.D., instructor of exercise science **Adam Heavrin** and **Aaran Greenwell '24**.*



The Musée d'Orsay in France is well-known for its collection of artwork from the Impressionism Era, but it includes a variety of exhibits. A point of interest is this Statue of Liberty replica, created by the same French sculptor who made the iconic statue for New York Harbor. Holding the camera for a group selfie is **Victoria Simmons '25**. Behind her are **Colleen Kincaid '23**, **Mackenzie Riffey '23** and **Alyssa Zemlyak '24**. In the back are **Allison Dewitt '25** and **Lora Adkins '23**.



Students in Italy visited the Tower of Pisa, renowned for its gravity-defying tilt (approximately 16 feet). The leaning tower is one of the Seven Wonders of the World. In the first row are **Claire Sampson '23**, **Emma Eller '23** and **Kaitlyn Hewitt '23**. In the second row are **Hannah Watson '23**, **Brooke Stephens '24**, **Katie Brown '24** and **Tom Shrader '23**. In the third row are **Sophie Taylor '23**, **Devyn Kerr '23**, **Catie Moore '25**, **Maecee Terhune '23**, **Josie Lyons '23**, **Ava Mayer '23** and **Jovany Sebastian '24**. In the fourth row are **Robert Pollard '24**, **Spencer Downhour '23** and **Ian Rowe '23**.



During their stay in Guatemala, students learned about the history of weaving and its continuing importance to Mayan culture, society and ethnic identity. On the left, an artisan spins cotton fibers as **Elayna Mason '24** watches.

CENTERED ON DIGITAL FLUENCY

The new Center for Tech Innovation (CTI) is teeming with opportunities to do, make, innovate and collaborate. From specialized learning environments for mastery of career-specific skills to common areas for teamwork on interdisciplinary projects, the CTI is designed to help students graduate prepared for the future and inspired to accomplish great things.

“With the CTI, we are expanding the concept of engaged, immersive learning and opening the door to new synergy,” said Franklin College President Kerry Prather. “We welcome partners to collaborate with the faculty and staff and to provide our students with even further access to opportunities for hands-on learning and practice in the skills that will prepare them for careers.”

Prather indicated research has shown an education in the liberal arts and sciences is the most effective preparation for the rapidly changing economy. Moreover, coupling digital fluency with the foundational Franklin College experience best prepares graduates for their first jobs plus the many changes likely throughout their evolving professional careers.

“As I have said often since we began this, the digital fluency initiative is evidence that this is not your parents’ liberal arts college,” Prather said.

Franklin College defines digital fluency as the ability to effectively and ethically interpret information, discover meaning, design content, construct knowledge and communicate ideas in a digitally connected world. The digital fluency initiative serves as the capstone to the already transformative education offered at Franklin and helps to ensure students graduate with a comprehensive and transferable technological skillset.

The CTI, dedicated Feb. 10, 2023, includes a 3D printer, podcast studio and virtual reality space as well as other resources to support students in

building their skillset. Director of Digital Fluency Andrew Rosner emphasized that the CTI is a catalyst for student discovery.

“The tech that students are using today will be obsolete in a few short years. So, it is important that the center be a space where students can develop the confidence to learn new things. It needs to be a space where students are allowed to learn, grow and sometimes fail,” Rosner said. Such opportunities help promote critical thinking and an openness to adapt; such skills will serve students well beyond the classroom.

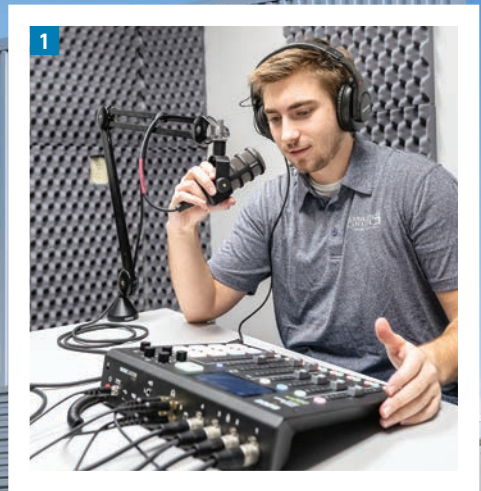
Generous support for the CTI was provided by Franklin College Trustee Rob Brown and his spouse, Ruth, and Trustee Emeritus John Peterson (HD ’17) and his spouse, Nancy. **Todd Bemis ’84**, of the Bemis Group, was the construction manager.

The College’s digital fluency efforts, including the CTI, are supported by a grant from Lilly Endowment Inc., as a part of its Charting the Future for Indiana’s Colleges and Universities initiative. Ball Venture Fund also provided support. ■

1. Collin Sanders ’25 prepares to record a podcast. Most podcasts are strictly audio programs, like talk radio, but some also incorporate video. Podcasts are made available for downloading to a computer or mobile device, and the topics addressed range from informative to entertaining.

2. Josh Folkestad ’23 demonstrates using a 3D printer. Such printers use computer-aided design to turn digital models into physical objects. Some 3D printers can produce consumer goods such as eyeglasses and footwear and industrial products like medical devices and aircraft components.

3. Taylor Campos ’25 uses a headset and controllers to immerse in a virtual reality (VR) experience. VR gear stimulates learning through a variety of senses, including sight, sound, touch and sometimes smell.



PHOTOS BY CHAD WILLIAMS

"... THE DIGITAL FLUENCY INITIATIVE IS EVIDENCE THAT THIS IS NOT YOUR PARENTS' LIBERAL ARTS COLLEGE."

FRANKLIN COLLEGE PRESIDENT KERRY PRATHER

Thank you, donors!



24
HOURS



9
CORPORATE
SPONSORS



33 STATES
2 COUNTRIES



11
YEARS
RUNNING



78,472

TOTAL
SOCIAL
MEDIA
IMPRESSIONS

69 ALUMNI CLASSES



2022 YOUNGEST CLASS

1951 OLDEST CLASS



77
STUDENT
DONORS

71
FIRST-TIME
DONORS



1,157
TOTAL DONORS

\$308,584



TOTAL RAISED

PRESIDENCY EXTENDED

The Franklin College Board of Trustees voted to extend Kerry Prather's contract as president through at least June 30, 2026.

The trustees cited strong satisfaction with Prather's leadership and progress in moving the College forward, enhancing the student experience and furthering the educational mission.

"The Franklin College community will continue to benefit from President Prather's leadership and willingness to implement bold changes in an ever-evolving and quickly changing higher education environment," said **Pete Cangany '80**, board chair. "The Board of Trustees is looking forward to continued engagement with President Prather in the many strategic discussions that will chart the future. Something special is happening at Franklin College."

Prather was appointed acting president in January 2020 and president one month later, with his term slated to end in June 2022. In March 2021, the Board announced Prather would continue as president until at least July 1, 2024.

Prather said, "I am humbled by the confidence of the Board of Trustees and excited to continue the momentum we have begun over the past three years." The work ahead includes implementing a new strategic plan that will provide a bold, ambitious vision for the institution's future.

Prather said, "Cindy and I look forward to continuing work with our colleagues on campus and our alumni, friends and corporate partners to further enhance the distinctive student experience at Franklin and position the institution for an even more successful and prosperous future."



The Prather Family: **Robbie '17**, **Cindy**, **Kerry** and **Katie '13**

CHAD WILLIAMS

Prather's presidency over the last three years has included creating a digital fluency program and a Center for Tech Innovation and adding the Johnson Memorial Health Athletic Annex and a competitive esports program. Further, the College earned a \$1 million grant in 2020 to help strengthen technology integration and expand learning opportunities as part of its digital fluency efforts. Prather also led the College to its most successful fundraising year ever in 2020 and welcomed the largest incoming class in five years, all amid the pandemic. Prather has expanded the College's diversity, equity and inclusion efforts, pledging to graduate leaders capable of and committed to making our communities, states and nation fairer, more just and compassionate.

Before he was appointed president, Prather served in several leadership roles throughout his 39-year career at the College, including assistant dean of students, associate director of admissions, acting vice president for enrollment management and acting vice president for administration. Notably, he served in Cabinet-level positions through four previous

administrations. Prather also had a 36-year tenure as head men's basketball coach. He was among the elite group of collegiate coaches with more than 500 career wins, and his teams made multiple appearances in national tournament competitions. He was named director of athletics in 1989 and led the expansion of athletic opportunities to 21 intercollegiate sports, plus upgraded and built new athletic facilities.

Prather is a graduate of Indiana University with a bachelor's degree in English and a master's degree in education. In 1999, he was named an associate alumnus of Franklin College in recognition of his longtime service and contributions.

Prather's spouse, Cindy, taught elementary school for 14 years before a 24-year career with the Franklin College Education Department. She was engaged in higher education consulting before returning to Franklin College, where she currently serves as director of teacher education. Cindy was named a Franklin associate alumna in 2022. Their two children, **Katie (Prather) Gillaspay '13** and **Robbie Prather '17**, are alumni. ■

CIRCLING around PHILANTHROPY

The recent President's Circle Celebration honored donors for the impact of their philanthropy.

Guests included those who gave \$1,000 or more during the previous fiscal year, those who have given \$10,000 or more during their lifetime and those who have documented Franklin College in their estate plans through the Horizon Society.

Held at the Napolitan Student Center in April, the celebration included a reception, dinner and performances by the Franklin College Singers. Student Foundation members oversaw guest check-ins and shared some of their meaningful college experiences with guests during dinner. Board of Trustees Chair **Pete Cangany '80** gave opening remarks highlighting fundraising achievements from the previous fiscal year and recognizing donors collectively for their generosity. President Kerry Prather gave keynote remarks.

"It has been a very successful year of philanthropy for Franklin College, and we

owe a huge debt of gratitude to you and to all our alumni and friends who supported our students in so many different ways. There is literally nothing we do on campus that does not in some way depend on your generosity to make it all that our students need it to be," Prather said.

As he continued remarks, Prather reflected on challenges the College has surmounted since he became President in 2020, including reputation management after an unexpected leadership transition and the pivot to a fully virtual teaching and learning environment during the pandemic. He also addressed current pressures facing all of higher education, such as population decline among traditional college-age students and cynicism about the value of a college degree. The President indicated that Franklin must be "realistic" and "ambitious" to thrive and prosper.

He shared examples of the College's recent steps to be more creative, nimble and innovative in response to the changing times. For one, the College has systematized a commitment to embedding engaged learning into every academic program across the curriculum. The faculty continue to iterate to help students apply their coursework in practical career-related scenarios. The College community also has been hard at work implementing the digital fluency initiative launched three years ago with support from Lilly Endowment's Charting the Future for Indiana's Colleges and Universities grant program. Franklin has since developed a comprehensive tech proficiency program across the curriculum.

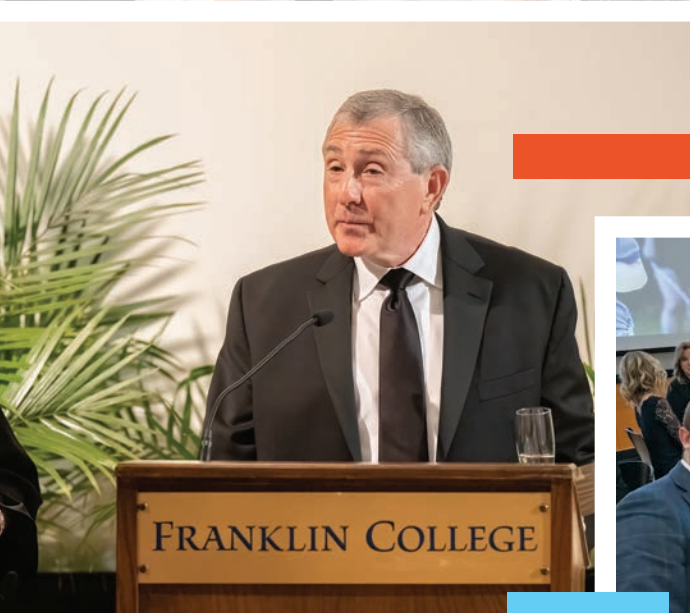
"We did so not by doing away with the liberal arts and sciences, but by leveraging the power of tech applications and platforms as the next logical layer of education essential for



1. Cindy Prather stands by to help President Kerry Prather, her spouse, lead the celebratory toast.
2. Seated clockwise are **Kathleen (Hodgen) Schutz '75**, Ron Schutz, Bob Zachidny, **Tricia (Auld) Zachidny '78**, **Nancy (White) Auld '53**, **John Auld '76**, Beth Auld, Lee Hodgen and Helen Hodgen.
3. Franklin College Singers in the foreground are **Devyn Kerr '23**, **Jadyn List '25** and **Robert Pollard '25**.
4. Seated clockwise are **Clay Black '23**, **Pat Collier '84**, Karen Cox, **Bill Cox '81**, **Corbin Lee '23** and **Samantha Schick '24**.



PHOTOS BY CHAD WILLIAMS



the success of liberal arts graduates in professional careers,” he said. He added that the College expanded extracurricular offerings two years ago with an esports program that has garnered wide student interest and proven to be another source of recruitment and retention.

In addition to grant support from Lilly Endowment, the College received a recent Branigin Foundation grant to help further engaged learning opportunities, and recognition has included a TechPoint Mira Award nomination for educational impact on Indiana’s workforce

pipeline. *U.S. News & World Report* also recognizes Franklin as the highest-ranked college in Indiana for enabling social mobility, literally changing the trajectory of students’ lives.

Prather indicated that while the progress and awards are noteworthy, much work remains. For one, the College has commissioned consultants in higher education to study the efficiency of every academic and administrative department. The results of that study are helping to identify where to reduce costs and maximize efficiency. Further, the College has a new partner-

ship with a national consulting firm specializing in government and foundation grant procurement and is exploring avenues of alternative revenue sourcing. “It is important to note that the first year of this agreement was made possible by support from a generous donor,” Prather said.

The College continues to look at market demand relative to current academic programs, instituting majors in data science and neuroscience, for example. Additionally, conversations about possible changes to the undergraduate and

graduate programs are ongoing, he said.

“All these efforts are proactive, aggressive and intentional. We will not sit back and allow external forces to determine our future. We are committed to charting that future ourselves,” Prather said.

He concluded with the promise that the College would soon roll out a “bold, ambitious and inspiring” strategic plan. ■

Editor’s note: See Page 4 for a strategic plan update.

NOTEWORTHY

BOOK CONTENT CONTRIBUTOR

Vice President for Academic Affairs and Dean of the College Kristin Flora, Ph.D., is a contributing author to the recently published book *Early Psychological Research Contributions From Women of Color, Vol. 1*.

On March 8, 2023, she shared excitement about the project on LinkedIn: “It is only fitting that my paperback copy arrived on International Women’s Day! This was one of the most satisfying projects I have had the privilege to be involved with, one because the topic is so important and two my co-author and the editorial team were top-notch. For too long, the field of psychology has not given these amazing women their due as true pioneers in the field. To share their stories and bring them to light has been a joy. If you teach in the

psychology field, I hope you will consider integrating this text. Particularly for colleagues at teaching institutions, each chapter has a section on classroom use to assist your preparation.”

Flora co-wrote Chapter 5 with Kirsten Li-Barber, Ph.D., an associate professor of psychology at High Point University. Flora holds a doctorate in experimental psychology from the University of Wisconsin – Milwaukee and a Bachelor of Science in psychology from Valparaiso University. She was part of Franklin’s psychology department faculty for nearly 13 years before transitioning into administration.

The book’s editorial team included Rihana (Williams) Mason, Ph.D., Jon Grahe, Ph.D., and Michelle Ceynar, Ph.D., and the publisher was Taylor & Francis Group.

offered suggestions for institutions that are interested in developing a culture where women not only survive but thrive.

Cummings joined Franklin College in 2018 and oversees institutional advancement and alumni engagement activities, along with oversight of the College’s communications functions. She represents these areas in her role on the President’s Cabinet, helping advise President Kerry Prather and others on the best course of action for a successful future for the College. Cummings has provided leadership and collaborative efforts resulting in numerous fundraising records at Franklin over the last five years. She also was the Aspire Johnson County Woman Leader of the Year Award recipient in 2022, in recognition of her accomplishments and positive influence on other women in all stages of their professional journey.

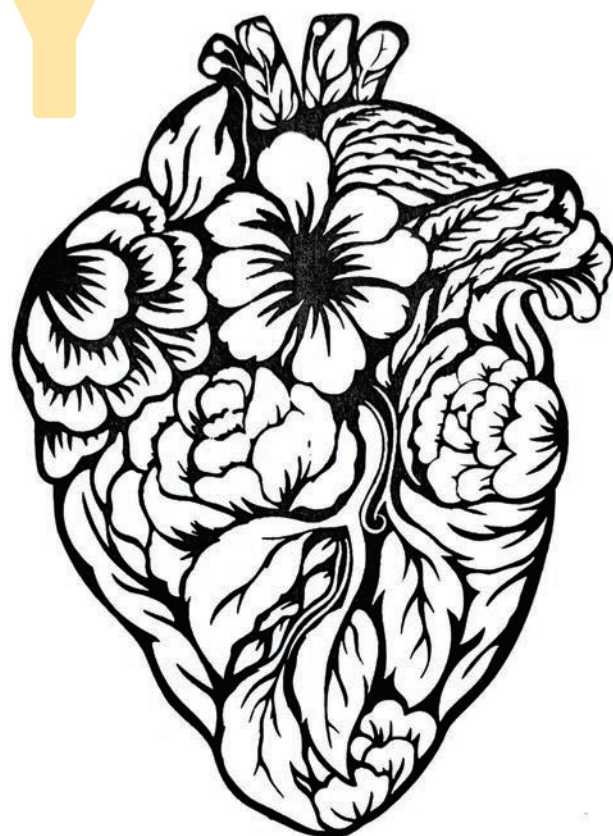


WOMEN'S LEADERSHIP SPEAKER

Vice President for Institutional Advancement Dana Cummings was a presenter at the Council for Advancement and Support of Education District V Annual Conference in Chicago last December and the Indiana Conference in Indianapolis this June. Her topic was “Lived Experiences of Women Working in Higher Ed: What Does the Research Tell Us?” Cummings, a current Creighton University doctoral student, shared findings from her research on reasons for so few women in leadership positions in higher education and

PANELIST ON DIGITAL FLUENCY

The Chronicle of Higher Education invited Director of Digital Fluency Andrew Rosner to be a panelist during its virtual forum on students as “digital natives.” The stereotype suggests all persons raised during the age of digital technology are familiar with computers and the internet from an early age, but it overlooks the socioeconomic factors that may limit one’s accessibility and, therefore, preparation, explained Rosner. The forum aimed to help administrators and faculty surmount the stereotype and explore what students want —



1/5

WIDOWMAKER

R. Frye '23



Watch the artwork transform into a video by pointing your smart-phone's camera here.

and genuinely need — and how colleges can best provide digital skills and literacy to all students. Rosner highlighted Franklin College's digital fluency initiative and the efforts to embed tech skills across the curriculum in addition to working with employers to understand what skills graduates need to have as they enter the workforce. Besides Rosner, the other panelists were from San Jose State University, Morehouse College and the University of Florida.

HEART FOR ART

Randi Frye, assistant professor of art and department chair, had work selected for a juried art exhibit at Gallery 924 in Indianapolis this

spring. The exhibit called **#KeepIt500** featured Central Indiana contemporary artists who were part of a previous art initiative welcoming visitors and auto racing fans to the Circle City during the month of May. Frye's screenprint, "Widowmaker," shown above, has an augmented reality component. Try it out by using your smartphone camera and scanning the QR code. Frye joined the Franklin faculty in 2020 and brings expertise in visual communication design, illustration and interdisciplinary art, including animation and digital work. She earned a Bachelor of Science from Indiana Wesleyan University and a Master of Fine Arts from Syracuse University. ■

FRANKLIN

Time and space sometimes prevent coverage of all the great news that emerges throughout the magazine production cycle, but you can always find more details in the Campus News section of [FranklinCollege.edu](https://franklincollege.edu). Here are five things you ought to check out!

1

Four Pulliam School of Journalism students were recognized by the Society of Professional Journalists as Mark of Excellence National Winners.

2

Eleven students on the Model U.N. Team earned the Outstanding Delegation Award at the National Model U.N. Conference in New York City.

3

Franklin's Master of Science in Physician Assistant Studies program was granted continued accreditation from the Accreditation Review Commission on Education for the Physician Assistant, Inc.

4

For the 10th consecutive year, Franklin College earned conservation recognition from the Arbor Day Foundation.

5

In June, the College rolled out an academic summer camp called CampGRIZ for youth entering sixth - ninth grade this fall.

A STORIED CAREER

By Ashlyn Myers '25, Pulliam Fellow

The campus looked much different in the fall of 1985 when Joel Cramer, J.D., visited Franklin College for the first time. The College was in the process of rebuilding after suffering three devastating fires in five months.

In each case, everyone made it out of the buildings safely, but the destruction and losses weighed heavily on the college community. It was a pivotal time at the College and in Cramer's career.

He was fresh out of graduate school and selected to build upon the journalism program with offerings in broadcast — radio and TV — while the College simultaneously rebuilt parts of the campus. He can recall having to walk across a piece of plywood the first time he entered Shirk Hall, due to the building being abandoned and in disrepair. While that alone might have scared away other job candidates, Cramer didn't budge. He was drawn to being part of the College's efforts to recover.

"There was something about the place, the people that I met on campus at that time and every part of the campus. I just knew the place was going to survive," Cramer said.

In fact, the College thrived thanks in large part to a highly successful fundraising campaign to rebuild, and Shirk Hall underwent a makeover and was rededicated in 1988 as the Pulliam School of Journalism (PSJ). The PSJ was a sort-of home to Cramer

for most of his 38-year career. He retired as a journalism professor and department chair in May.

When Cramer was hired, the College already had a reputation for producing great print journalists, but the industry was evolving with technology and there were emerging opportunities to help students enhance their storytelling skillsets for the jobs ahead. Cramer had the chance to help usher in multimedia journalism at Franklin.

"That was incredibly refreshing, and I saw it as a real challenge. That's the strongest reason why I took the job, just because I could see the school was gonna survive," Cramer said. "The people here loved this place. The students were great. But it was that idea I guess that I got to marry the two things [print and broadcast]."

Cramer spent his career helping students develop the skills and confidence to boost their storytelling abilities. His classes on videography, photography and media law were continuously adapted to integrate newer technology that would benefit students. He also advised the campus radio station. The greatest lesson Cramer learned during his teaching career was to never stop learning, he said.



"It's not always possible or even necessary that the professor be the expert in everything," Cramer said. "That took me a while to figure out."

Still, he made lifelong learning a habit and looked for new ways to challenge himself. For one, he earned a law degree over the course of five years while teaching at Franklin and raising a family with his spouse. He also went on to earn a third-degree black belt.

Alumni such as **Colleen Steffen '94** recount Cramer's classes with fondness. Today, Steffen is employed with Franklin College as the executive editor of **TheStatehouseFile.com**, a political news website powered by PSJ students. "I can definitely say he is the same as he ever was. He looks



"People like Joel helped shape my career and made Franklin College a family to me. I'm so grateful he was in my life during that time and still cheering me on to this day," Bemis said.

Bemis is a morning news anchor with **Rafael Sánchez '92**, who is the winner of multiple Emmy awards for investigative reporting and a Franklin College Trustee. With Cramer's guidance, Sánchez, the late **Jose Rodriguez '93** and **Michael Schug '92** co-created the weekly video-recorded news program "Inside Franklin" in the '90s. In 2006,

LEFT: This flashback photo shows journalism professor Joel Cramer, J.D., in the WFCI campus radio station approximately 25 years ago.

*Several alumni attended the annual PSJ Dinner to help pay tribute to Joel Cramer. Joining Cramer in the second photo are **Claudette Smith '95** from the Bronx, New York, **Melanie Padgett Powers '95** from Silver Spring, Maryland, and **Ryan Sparrow '94** from Muncie, Indiana.*



SUBMITTED

**"ULTIMATELY,
WHAT MADE
ME THE MOST
HAPPY WAS
SEEING STUDENTS
SUCCEED IN
DOING THE
THINGS THEY
WANTED TO DO."**

JOEL CRAMER, J.D.
PROFESSOR OF JOURNALISM
AND DEPARTMENT CHAIR

the same, which is weird. But he also treats the students the same, like he genuinely likes them, thinks they're hilarious and believes they can do more than they even know," Steffen said. "He made me feel like I belonged here when I was a student, and he made me feel the same as a new staff member."

Another alumna, **Lauren (Casey) Bemis '14**, said Cramer was a father figure during college. She'd stop by his office and talk about how things were going both professionally and personally. When Bemis received a job offer with WRTV, the ABC affiliate in Indianapolis, the first call she made was to Cramer.

the program was revamped as "Franklin TV," a web-based broadcast.

Dozens more stories like these appeared on Franklin College's social media platforms announcing Cramer's retirement. Many alumni attended the annual PSJ Dinner where he was recognized with distinction in May. Cramer leaves a legacy of profound impact on many lives.

"That's endlessly amazing to me, that I got that privilege," Cramer said. "Ultimately, what made me the most happy was seeing students succeed in doing the things they wanted to do." ■

CELEBRATING FIRSTS

Amy Garrido Portillo '25 was one of 29 students in Indiana selected to receive a “Realizing the Dream” scholarship from the Independent Colleges of Indiana (ICI). Only sophomores who attend ICI institutions were eligible; a grant from Lilly Endowment Inc. makes the scholarship program possible.

“Realizing the Dream” recognizes first-generation college students and pays tribute to their families and inspirational teachers. Franklin College nominated Garrido Portillo for the award based on the many achievements she has made since enrolling only two years ago. She serves as a Student Mentor and is active in the Art Club, FC Pride Alliance and Model U.N. She also was inducted into Tri-Alpha, a national honor society for first-generation college students, and earlier this academic year was one of two sophomores at Franklin to receive a Laurels and Lancers Award for first-year academics and community involvement.

The “Realizing the Dream” reception and awards dinner was held in Indianapolis, where students received plaques and \$4,000 checks to assist with college costs.

“When I think about what this scholarship will do for me, the words peace and balance come to mind,” said Garrido Portillo. “Seeing as though in the past year I’ve worked three jobs at once on top of extracurricular activities and classes, time management has become my best friend. But peace and balance are something I’m still struggling with because of having to work those jobs so this scholarship will ease my financial burden significantly and will help allow me to take a step back and just be a student.”

Garrido Portillo majors in political science with a pre-law focus.

She said, “In simple terms, my dream is to help people. My ultimate goal is to become a

LEGAL RESEARCH PUBLISHED



SUBMITTED

Corbin Lee '23

Undergraduate research is one of the cornerstones of the Franklin College experience, and **Corbin Lee '23** will have his examination of the Supreme Court Case *Mahanoy Area School District v. B.L. (2021)* published in *The Georgetown University Undergraduate Law Review (GUULR)*.

Lee researched the case as part of his coursework for American Constitutional Law II: Civil Rights and Liberties, taught by associate professor of political science Allison Fetter-Harrott, J.D., Ph.D.

“We spent the whole semester going over a variety of cases involving issues such as free speech and law enforcement. Our final assignment was to choose one from a selection of modern cases and analyze it in terms of how different populations would be impacted and the future implications on other cases,” Lee said.

With guidance from Fetter-Harrott, Lee continued refining and strengthening his original research

lawyer with a concentration in immigration law. Franklin College has allowed me to see various applications of helping people, whether it's giving back to the local community or proposing solutions to worldwide problems."

The "Realizing the Dream" program also provides a professional development grant to the teachers who inspired the scholarship recipients to pursue a college education. Garrido Portillo chose **Katie (Rice) DeArmist '01**, her former English teacher at Center Grove High School in Greenwood, Indiana. "She helped me so much in the four years I spent with her," said Garrido Portillo. "She pushed me out of my comfort zone and became a friend in the process. She made me feel safe and constantly reminded me of my worth and what value I have to give back to the world." ■



Amy Garrido Portillo '25 and Katie (Rice) DeArmist '01

paper after the course ended in the spring of 2022. "Corbin wrote a fantastic undergraduate legal research paper," Fetter-Harrott said. "I was excited to encourage him to share his work with others, as he had shown such initiative and skill in the writing process."

"Dr. Fetter-Harrott worked throughout the whole summer with me and gave a whole lot of time she didn't need to give, but I was so appreciative," Lee said. The hard work paid off at the Education Law Association Conference in Orlando, Florida, a learning experience supported by Franklin College travel grants and the Elmon & Lucile Williams Chair in Law and Public Service. Lee and his classmates, **Sierra Downey '23** and **Andrea Rahman '23**, were the first undergraduates ever to share their research in roundtable presentations at this national conference, and they earned high praise from many other guests, said Fetter-Harrott.

After the conference, Fetter-Harrott suggested Lee pursue publishing his work and gave him a list of journals to consider. Lee made three submissions, and the *GUULR* notified him with good news in February 2023, nearly one year after his initial project began.

"I was surprised and humbled," Lee said. "It just wouldn't have happened without Dr. Fetter-Harrott. Publishing would never have crossed my mind. She really tries and excels at creating special opportunities for students."

Lee soon leveraged his accomplishment. "I put it on my grad school application and brought it up during my oral interview. The interviewers seemed impressed, particularly since I'm not majoring in law." Lee majors in sociology and was accepted into the University of Indianapolis' graduate studies program. ■

PRIDE AND

Joy



Years of hard work and countless memories culminated on May 20 with the 2023 commencement ceremony. The college community and guests convened in the Spurlock Center Gymnasium to celebrate as the ceremony streamed online for those unable to attend.

President Kerry Prather's remarks expressed pride in the Class of '23 and confidence in their future. "Colleges are most accurately defined by the quality of their graduates. It is only through the successes of our graduates that we can confirm that we are who we say we are, and we do what we say we do. We now proudly point to you and your exciting futures as the most recent evidence of the exceptional results of a Franklin College education."

Prather told the graduates, "Wherever your future may lead, I hope you will carry forth the ideals and values learned or refined here. I hope you will think broadly and deeply; speak

knowledgeably, honestly and humbly; act decisively but thoughtfully; and lead confidently, ethically and fairly. I hope you also will carry forth a special love for this place that will grow stronger with each passing year. You are Grizzlies forever."



Lisa E. Harris, M.D., CEO of Eskenazi Health in Indianapolis, gave the keynote address and was awarded an honorary doctorate of humane letters. Her distinguished career includes making improvements to health care access and quality for vulnerable and underserved populations. Her keynote address, "Better Together," encouraged graduates never to lose sight of the importance of relationships in their lives



1. Franklin College's 17th President Kerry Prather, retired 15th President James G. "Jay" Moseley, Ph.D., and Board of Trustees Chair **Pete Cangany '80** join after the honorary degree presentation.
2. CEO of Eskenazi Health Lisa E. Harris, M.D., receives her doctoral hood from the Board of Trustees Chair **Pete Cangany '80**.
3. Senior speaker **Armani Christopher '23** begins his remarks.
4. Franklin College Director of Religious Life and Chaplain Hannah Adams Ingram, Ph.D., and baccalaureate speaker Rt. Rev. Jennifer Lynn Baskerville-Burrows exit the service. Board of Trustees Chair **Pete Cangany '80** and Vice President for Academic Affairs and Dean of the College Kristin Flora, Ph.D., follow the women.



and to always look for opportunities to help others. "You are ready not simply to contribute, but to lead. But, don't go it alone. When you need help, don't be afraid to reach out, but also reach across and compromise, reach back to help someone else along the way, and most importantly, reach high."

James G. "Jay" Moseley, Ph.D., retired 15th president of Franklin College, also received an honorary doctorate of humane letters. Moseley took the College to new heights during his 13-year presidency, seeding growth in enrollment and facilities as well as academic and athletic opportunities. Campus landmarks including but not limited to the Napolitan

Student Center, Branigin Boulevard, Von Boll Welcome Center and Grizzly Park are emblems of his service.

Senior speaker **Armani Christopher '23** was elected by class vote. The native of Gary, Indiana, majored in exercise science and minored in fitness.

He shared how his first-year college experience helped to change his mindset from focusing solely on the goal of graduation to appreciating the process of learning and growing along the way.

"As we move on from this chapter in our lives, things may change, mistakes will happen and people will come and go. But I encour-

age you to take a step back and value the importance of everyday routines, habits and mindsets," Christopher said. He then reminded the graduates of their fortitude during the pandemic, unexpected changes in college administration and other challenges over the last four years. "If your experience at Franklin College has taught you anything, hopefully, it has been to persevere and overcome."

Preceding commencement day, the Rt. Rev. Jennifer Lynn Baskerville-Burrows gave the baccalaureate address and received an honorary doctorate of divinity. She holds a distinction as the first Black woman elected a diocesan bishop in the Episcopal Church. Her address, "A Sending Forth to

Build a World of Belonging," encouraged the graduates to be self-aware and kind in a "world where people are hungry for connections." She indicated that honoring differences and sharing the gift of friendship can help make one's life more meaningful and help to ensure "no one stands alone." She also encouraged empathy, compassion, sacrifice and caring for something beyond oneself to help heal our broken humanity. ■



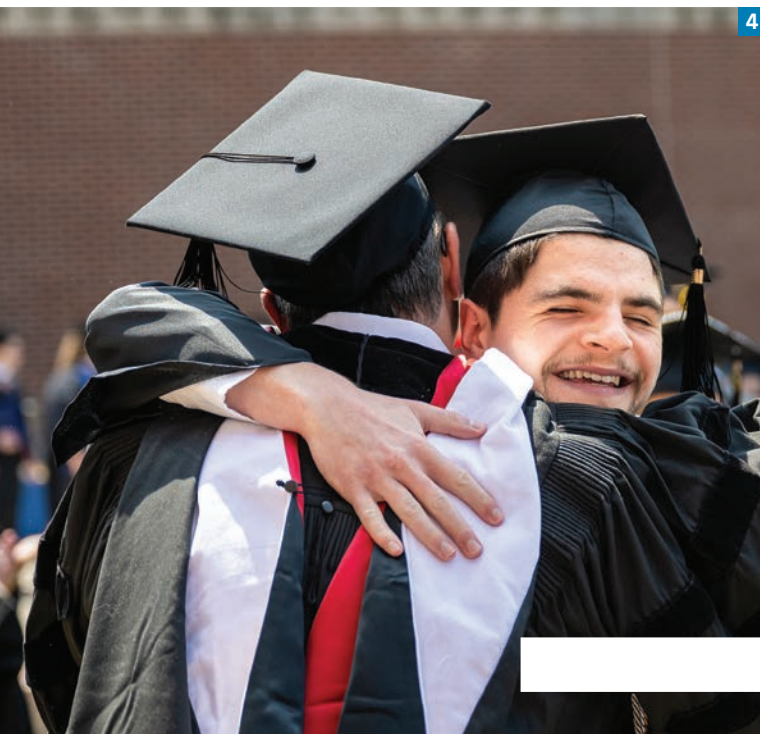
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1. **Tony Sánchez '23** (foreground) and **Sydney Rodeghier '23**.
2. **Claire Cherry '23** gathers at the Wellhouse with her sister, **Cassidy Cherry '18**, mother, **Cristi (Richards) Cherry '93**, father, **Chris Cherry '92**, sister, **Caitlyn (Cherry) Shepherd '18**, and brother-in-law, **Adam Shepherd '18**.
3. Seated at the Ben Franklin sculpture are siblings **Dustin Robertson '10** and **Isaac Gleitz '23** with their mother, **Karen Schwartz**. Standing behind them are Schwartz's other children, **Ben Robertson '08**, **Lydia Robertson '12** and **Gabriel Robertson '14**.
4. **Logan Parker '23** receives a congratulatory hug from a faculty member.
5. **Libby Baker '23** gives a thumbs up on the way to Spurlock Center. Behind her are **Victoria Barhydt '23** and **Collin Barton '23**.
6. **Irais Ramirez Torres '23** and **Adriana Lomeli '23** convene for a celebratory photo.
7. **Maddie Alexander '23** and **Emma Arcand '23** pose on the plaza.
8. **Dylan Boswell '23** signals "mission accomplished!"
9. **Chyna Jackson '23** makes a cheerful exit from the commencement ceremony. Behind her is **Claire Hurley '23**.
10. Sigma Alpha Epsilon members **Spencer Downhour '23**, **Will Hay '23**, **Austin Sewell '23**, **Chase Hartlage '23**, **Eagan Keever-Hill '23** and **Blaine Wentzell '23** smile with pride.

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



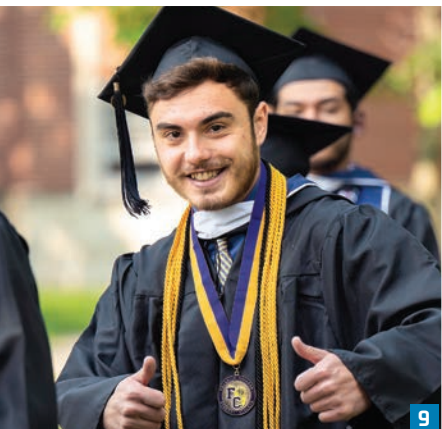
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10

GRIZ GRADS AT A GLIMPSE



175

Undergraduate Degrees



28

Graduate Degrees



5

Top Majors

EXERCISE SCIENCE
BUSINESS
PSYCHOLOGY
BIOLOGY
ELEMENTARY EDUCATION



4

Scholarship Cup Recipients

DYLAN BOSWELL '23
T.J. DEERE '23
CORBIN LEE '23
HANNAH WATSON '23

GRANT NEWS

Franklin College is grateful for the community partners and charitable organizations that make grants available for our distinctive teaching and learning experiences. Grants support faculty and students across the curriculum and help build capacity for future individual and institutional successes. Here, we recognize and thank some recent grant partners. Get full details at FranklinCollege.edu.

EXPANDING NEWS ACCESS

TheStatehouseFile.com, the Indiana news site powered by Franklin College Pulliam School of Journalism students, received a \$180,000 grant from Lumina Foundation. The grant enables

TheStatehouseFile.com to eliminate its paid subscription service and begin offering daily news coverage to readers and media outlets for free. The grant is part of a \$10 million fundraising effort to create the Indiana Local News Initiative, a multi-organization project to bring more news to more Hoosiers and make state government more accessible to citizens. The initiative will create newsrooms, fund existing ones and partner with outlets such as *The Indianapolis Star*, *Chalkbeat Indiana*, *Indiana Capital Chronicle*, *The Indiana Citizen* and WFYI, among others.

TheStatehouseFile.com maintains an office within the Indiana Statehouse, enabling students to work side by side with reporters from across the state in investigating and developing behind-the-scenes stories of Indiana government and public policy. In its 12 years of existence, **TheStatehouseFile.com** has earned many awards, including the best news website by the Indiana Professional Chapter of the Society of Professional Journalists. It also has produced a series of documentaries

focusing on Indiana history and culture, two of which have won Emmy Awards.

FURTHERING ENGAGED LEARNING

The Elba L. and Gene Portteus Branigin Foundation awarded \$50,000 to the Branigin Engaged Learning Program at Franklin College. The recent grant builds upon a \$100,000 grant awarded in 2016 to establish the Elba L. and Gene Portteus Branigin Engaged Learning Fund.

The continued support enables a variety of distinctive opportunities that connect liberal arts education with experiential, relevant learning. These regional and national opportunities include internships, research projects, conference presentations and academic/professional competitions, all of which promote career development and result in substantive learning and professional outcomes.

The Elba L. and Gene Portteus Branigin Foundation was created in 1986 to encourage and support civic, charitable, educational and public benefit organizations in Johnson County and throughout Central Indiana. The Foundation's past support at Franklin College includes the Elba L. and Gene Portteus Branigin Athletic

Field, the Branigin Room in the Napolitan Student Center and the Branigin Atrium in the Johnson Center for Fine Arts. Both Elba and Gene served on the Franklin College Board of Trustees prior to their deaths.

CONDUCTING HISTORICAL RESEARCH

The Council of Independent Colleges and the Mellon Foundation through the Humanities Research for the Public Good program granted \$10,000 to support the *Lasting Legacies: Franklin College Spirit of Community* undergraduate research project.

Franklin students are delving into the inspiring stories of individuals with ties to Franklin College. Their research includes conducting personal interviews as well as scouring historical documents to build a collection of stories that will highlight Franklin College history and help commemorate the local community's Johnson County Bicentennial Celebration.

Ultimately, the students will create a digital collection for the College's B.F. Hamilton Library and share a selection of their work with the Indiana Historical Society for a permanent collection of Hoosier heritage stories called Destination Indiana. Further, the Private Academic Library Network of Indiana will benefit from the students' work. Lastly, students will share their project with the campus community in the spring of 2024 during the annual Scholars' Day celebration of academic research.

GUIDING CAREER EXPLORATION

The Council of Independent Colleges (CIC) awarded Franklin a Network for Vocation in Undergraduate Education

(NetVUE) Program Development Grant of \$47,414. The grant supports the integration of engaged advising, a process complementing the College's commitment to engaged learning. Engaged advising deeply involves academic advisers in helping students understand their curricular and cocurricular experiences holistically to approach career and life preparation more thoughtfully. Franklin's NetVUE grant will enable programming to support vocational exploration and discernment, for example.

NetVUE is a nationwide network of colleges/universities formed to enrich the intellectual and theological exploration of vocation among undergraduate students. The initiative is administered by the CIC with generous support from Lilly Endowment Inc. and members' dues. NetVUE grants are intended to deepen, expand or strengthen programs that are already underway and supported by respective institutions. This is the second NetVUE grant the College has received in recent years and the second national CIC grant this academic year; see the related story, "Conducting Historical Research," on Page 24. ■

NEW DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR

Taylor Ogden recently joined Franklin College as the director of development. Ogden brings more than eight years of experience in institutional advancement, including five years in fundraising. Most recently, she worked at The Orchard School in Indianapolis. She earned a bachelor's degree in philosophy and philanthropic studies and a Master of Public Affairs in nonprofit management from Indiana University-Purdue University of Indianapolis.



Ogden resided on the south side of Indianapolis for 30 years before relocating to Franklin. She is excited to live and work in a community that has so much to offer.

"The city of Franklin always has boasted a special charm thanks to local restaurants, vendors and community members, but with Franklin College being at the heart of the city there are even more opportunities to bring alumni and donors back to this wonderful place to support students. I look forward to meeting all the generous families and community members that have made Franklin College bold, active and full of life." ■



REFER A GRIZZLY

Do you know a high school student who would be a good match for Franklin College? Let us know by filling out the referral form at bit.ly/FC-Referrals.

The admissions staff will follow up with your referrals and make sure that they begin receiving information related to the Franklin College experience, admissions deadlines and upcoming campus events.



SPRING REWIND

1. Eriana Wagner '25 had a breakout softball season with 12 home runs, becoming the first Grizzly to hit more than 10 in a year since 2017.

2. Braxton Christie '26 collected all-conference honors with a top-10 scoring average among all golfers in the league.

3. The baseball team surrounds the HCAC Championship banner after beating Anderson for the league tournament title.

CHAD WILLIAMS



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CHAD WILLIAMS

By Ryan Thomas, assistant athletic director
for communications

Fans had plenty to cheer about during the Grizzlies' spring sports season since multiple teams advanced to tournament play and several student-athletes achieved their personal bests while concurrently breaking college records.

The best way to keep up throughout the year is to follow the teams on social media. Also, find schedules, rosters and full-length stories at **FranklinGrizzlies.com**. Spring season highlights follow:



AARON SCHNIEDER 3

BASEBALL

The baseball team claimed the Heartland Collegiate Athletic Conference (HCAC) regular season and tournament championships, sweeping both for the first time since 2018 and advancing to the NCAA Tournament for the first time since 2019. The Grizzlies finished the year with 33 wins, the second-most victories in a season in program history. Head baseball coach Lance Marshall, in his 26th season, celebrated his 600th career win with the Grizzlies in April.

Jonathon LaGuire-Cruz '23 was named HCAC Player of the Year, and Franklin had eight players in total make the All-HCAC teams. **Jackson Young '23**, **Sean Sullivan '24**, **A.J. Sanders '24**, **Tysen Lipscomb '23** and **Maddox Manes '26** were First Team All-HCAC selections. **Matthew Johnson '25** was a Second Team All-HCAC pick, and **Noah Wood '25** was an Honorable Mention All-HCAC selection.

Lipscomb was named MVP of the HCAC Baseball Tournament and was one of three to earn College Sports Communicators (CSC) Academic All-District honors along with Young and **Matt Earley '25**.

SOFTBALL

The softball team set a new program record for wins with 31 and advanced to the semifinals of the HCAC Tournament. That earned Franklin the No. 3-seed, where they recorded wins over Defiance, Manchester and Hanover in the post-season.

Franklin had seven players named to the league's All-Conference teams. First Team All-HCAC selections were **Genesis Munoz '25**, **Eriana Wagner '25** and **Molly Wallace '25**, and Second Team All-HCAC picks included **Sydney Rodeghier '23**, **Sydney Bostic '23**, **Sydney Pitts '24** and **Stephanni Kleber '25**. Bostic, Pitts and Wallace were honored for their

work in the classroom as well as on the field with the first CSC Academic All-District honors of their respective careers.

MEN'S TENNIS

The men's tennis team saw plenty of growth this season finishing fourth in the HCAC and placing four players on the list of all-conference teams. **Nathan Jarboe '26** and **Dustin Garrison '26** were named First Team All-HCAC with **Owen Pickerill '26** and **Shay Kyser '27** collecting Honorable Mention All-HCAC. Additionally, both Garrison and Jarboe were selected as CSC Academic All-District honorees.

Former student-athlete turned head coach **Ryan Hammer '15** earned HCAC Coach of the Year making for an outstanding coaching debut. Rusty Hughes was the last Franklin tennis coach to earn the honor in 2005.

MEN'S GOLF

The men's golf team closed out the spring with a third-place finish at the HCAC Championships, with **Jacob Paine '26**, seventh place, and **Braxton Christie '26**, ninth place, cracking the top 10 in their first league championship tournament. Paine had a successful freshman campaign, medaling for the first time at the Earlham Spring Invitational, then picking up HCAC Player of the Week honors. Christie also had a solid first year on the course, earning a spot on the HCAC First Team All-Conference and ranking in the top 10 leaguewide in scoring average.

WOMEN'S GOLF

The Grizzlies finished up their spring with the HCAC championships in Ohio, where they placed seventh overall. **Sarah Cooper '25** topped the Grizzlies' leaderboard at the championships, and **Esther Etherington '26** finished the year as Franklin's leading scorer

with an average of 90 over the course of the 2022–23 year.

WOMEN'S LACROSSE

The women's lacrosse team finished with a 9–6 record, won the first playoff game in Franklin program history and advanced to the championship game of the HCLC Tournament. Their nine wins are the most in a season in Franklin College history, and the Grizzlies' 5–1 conference record earned them the highest league finish ever and second overall. The Grizzlies' first-ever post-season win occurred during the home playoff game against Anderson, ending 16–10, in front of a lively Faught Stadium crowd.

Franklin was represented on the league's all-conference teams by a program-record seven players.

Anya Glodowski '23, **Lora Adkins '23** and **Devyn Kerr '23** were First Team All-HCAC selections, and **Victoria Simmons '23**, **Baleigh Riddle '24**, **Bella Frye '24** and **Rutendo Nyamadzawo '23** picked up Second Team All-HCLC honors. Glodowski set the program record for points, 126, and assists, 72, in her final season while Frye became Franklin's all-time leader in draw controls with 126.



Kosmo Wojack '24 is the first Franklin College male swimmer to earn All-American honors at the NCAA championships.

WOMEN'S TRACK AND FIELD

The women's track and field team wrapped up their season by hosting the 2023 HCAC Championships at Grizzly Park. The team finished the event fourth overall, earning three event victories and six medalist finishes in total. It was their highest finish at the conference championships since 2016. **Alison Muck '26** was named the HCAC's Newcomer of the Year while **Sarah O'Day '24** won two gold medals at the conference championships and set new program records in the 100- and 200-meter dashes during the outdoor season. **Haley Makowski '25** earned a bronze medal in the 800-meter run, and **Taylor Tatlock '23** picked up bronze in the discus.

MEN'S TRACK AND FIELD

The men's track and field team collected three

podium finishes and a sixth-place finish as a team when they hosted the 2023 HCAC Outdoor Track Championships. **Chase Miles '23** earned the first medal of his career when he took gold in the javelin, and **Zach Roberts '23** placed third and earned bronze in the 100-meter dash. Franklin's 4x400-meter relay team of **Luke Paddock '25**, **Eli Cochrane '24**, **Logan McIntosh '26** and **Drew McGaha '25** took third place overall and earned bronze.

WOMEN'S SWIMMING AND DIVING

The women's swimming and diving team laid claim to their sixth consecutive HCAC Championship and collected 28 medals, finishing 115 points ahead of runner-up Transylvania. Franklin swept the HCAC's three major awards, with **Samantha Phillips '24** earning Swimmer of the Meet, **Faith Jackson '23** collecting Diver of the Meet

Anya Glodowski '23 takes a pass in the HCLC Tournament game against Anderson.



CHAD WILLIAMS

and **Jyllian Antle '26** earning Newcomer of the Year. Later, Phillips was named HCAC Swimmer of the Year.

Furthermore, five Franklin women were named individual conference champions: Jackson, Phillips, **Caileigh McCafferty '23**, **Kennedy Minter '24** and **Regan Hendricks '24**. Jackson, **Carley Bond '24** and **Kaleigh Schuler '26** also represented the Grizzlies at the NCAA Diving Regionals. Franklin College's director of athletics and head coach for the swimming program Andrew Hendricks earned double HCAC honors as the Women's and the Men's Coach of the Year. The respective titles were his fifth and seventh in 14 seasons.

MEN'S SWIMMING AND DIVING

The men's swimming and diving team closed their season at the HCAC Championships by collecting 24 medals and finishing in second place overall behind

Rose-Hulman. Standout diver **Gauge Creech '23** earned gold medals in the 1m- and 3m-springboards rounding out his undefeated HCAC career with golds on both boards all four years.

In addition to Creech, other gold medalists and individual conference champions included **Jack Burke '24** in the 100-yard butterfly and 100-backstroke, **Vincent Fletcher '23** in the 50-yard freestyle and **Kosmo Wojack '24** in the 400-individual medley and 200-butterfly.

Wojack's 200-butterfly set new Franklin College program and HCAC records, and he was later named HCAC Swimmer of the Year. He also advanced to the Division III NCAA Swimming and Diving Championships, where he finished 10th overall and recorded the sixth-fastest time among all competitors in the 200-butterfly. Wojack's time, 1:47.08, secured his status as the first male swimmer from Franklin College to claim All-American honors at nationals. Wojack also set the new Franklin program record of 49.01 in the 100-butterfly, breaking his own previous record. He placed 26th in the 200-breaststroke, with a time of 2:03.13, which beat his previous best. Wojack's teammates Creech and Baker represented the Grizzlies at the NCAA Diving Regionals this spring. ■



Taylor Henson, athletic facilities operations manager, and Dalton Roush '24, student-worker, helped load and deliver a donated mower to campus.

GRASS IS GREENER

To some, it might only look like a patch of grass or a pile of dirt, but to groundskeepers it's the backdrop to a story they're helping write. To help honor the unsung heroes who work day and night to produce an exceptional field for play, Pioneer Athletics, a maker of field paints and maintenance, bestows the annual Fields of Excellence awards.

Franklin College was one of only three schools in Indiana named among the 101 nationwide winners for 2022, with Behrens Softball Field taking the honor. Taylor Henson, athletic facilities operations manager, does an exceptional job of leading the groundskeeping team's efforts that provide the very best playing fields for the Grizzlies!

Another important factor in keeping the playing fields in top shape is having the proper equipment. In February, the College was the beneficiary of an anonymous gift-in-kind to help address that critical need: a gently-used John Deere mower. The equipment donation provided the College significant budget relief and a timely project management tool while also providing the donor with an opportunity for gift-tax credit, should they need or choose to do that. For more information on philanthropic gift options, including non-traditional ones like this that can bring value to the College and enhance the student experience, contact **Nora (Lowe) Brems '87**, director of planned giving, at 317.738.8864 or nbrems@FranklinCollege.edu. ■



By Amy (Kean) VerSteeg '96, Publications Editor

**Whatever the goal,
Artur Schneider '17, D.O.,
is willing to do the
work to reach it.
Then, he's motivated
to set another.**

"All my life I've enjoyed challenging myself and figuring out the steps I need to take to be good at something. It's not so much about the outcome as the process," Schneider said.

That relentless work ethic enabled him to graduate from Franklin College magna cum laude with a record-setting swimming career and motivates his career pursuits in cardiovascular medicine today. Creating the life he began to envision more than a decade ago would not have been possible without highly supportive parents, he said. After all, they helped instill the courage that led him to move more than 4,400 miles away from home in Zurich, Switzerland, to Franklin, Indiana.

KEEP SWIMMING

Back then, Schneider was dreaming of taking his high school academic and athletic accomplishments to the next level. Since colleges in Switzerland do not offer sports as part of the cocurricular experience, he looked for other options to be optimally challenged and supported as a college student. Finding Franklin College took a combination of solid family planning and strategic assistance from a

consulting company for international students seeking opportunities in the U.S. Head swimming coach Andrew Hendricks, now also the Franklin College athletic director, was the first person to contact Schneider after viewing his student profile.

Some lengthy phone conversations and emails with Hendricks led to a key campus visit. “Franklin was the only college I wanted to see. I liked Coach Hendricks and knew he was going to be a good person to have in my life,” Schneider recalled.

Hendricks and Franklin did not disappoint. “I remember pulling into the parking lot and seeing a spot reserved for me. I thought that was the coolest thing,” Schneider said. His father, a surgeon, was unable to make the trip, but his mother was by his side.

“Coach Hendricks was so kind when he showed us around campus, and we even met with President (Jay) Moseley. My mom doesn’t speak a lick of English, but she liked what she saw and on our way home she said, ‘This is the place for you.’ Looking back, especially now that I’m about to become a father, I can’t imagine how hard it was for my parents to let me go.”

To say that Schneider thrived at Franklin would be an understatement. He faithfully made the Dean’s List while majoring in biology and completing three medical internships, including one in Africa, where he helped deliver a baby.

“That was my junior year and such an incredible, humbling opportunity that I shared with **Sarah Hendricks ’17**. Franklin College oversaw the entire process that helped us get there and intern for a month,” he recalled. “As I’ve gone further in my medical

training and seen how many resources we have here (U.S.) it’s even more humbling to look back and see how differently health care worked in Ghana.”

His athletic experiences also were memorable. He was a three-time NCAA Division III national qualifier in swimming, and his Franklin College records in the 200m-individual medley, 50m- and 100m-freestyle as well as the 100m- and 200m-backstroke remain unbroken. He also co-holds records with teammates in the 200m-, 400m- and 800m-freestyle relay and 200m-medley relay.

“Swimming was a lot of hard work, but Coach Hendricks helped transform my mindset to think bigger and always try to improve. He had a very positive impact and tried to help all of us make the best of ourselves in the sport and life.”

Schneider’s support network was strong at Franklin thanks to coaches, faculty, staff and classmates.

“I instantly had 40 friends on the swim team and was always invited to someone’s home for the holidays. When I didn’t have a car at the start Coach Hendricks drove me around to get stuff for my dorm, and having my academic adviser, Edward Chikwana (former chemistry professor), be from Zimbabwe was helpful. He was a lively mentor who kept me on track academically and also understood what it meant to be far from home and family.”

Schneider’s work ethic hasn’t waned since his days at Franklin; it propelled him through medical school at Marian University, where he graduated in 2022. Now, he’s completing an internal medicine residency at the Mayo Clinic College of Medicine and Science in

Jacksonville, Florida. Several thousand applicants from around the world vie annually for the 16 available residency spots, indicates the Clinic’s website. Schneider recognizes how fortunate he is to have the opportunity.

“It certainly took a village to get me here,” he said. “My parents and my wife, Aubree, have all been so supportive and selfless over the years. They all deserve to win, too, and I want to be sure I make them proud.”

He also recognizes the huge impact his liberal arts education has had on his journey. “The structure at FC was set up very well to help us succeed in medical school and a career. Across the board, FC did a great job of preparing us for the next steps after graduation.”

Schneider wants to specialize in cardiology. “It’s a specialty that merges acute and long-term care. I like that it allows me to be part of the patient’s full journey and build strong relationships while still being involved in high-acuity procedures. It’s also a very innovative field that will allow me to further explore my interests in medical research.”

Although he’s traded Speedos® for stethoscopes, Schneider still enjoys recreational swimming. He wears goggles gifted by Hendricks. “Every time I put them on I’m thankful I’m not back at one of his morning practices,” Schneider said. Joking aside, the men remain great friends. “Whenever there’s a big life event, he’s one of my first calls. I wouldn’t be where I am today without help from Coach Hendricks and many other people at Franklin College.” ■

Editor’s Note: The Schneiders became first-time parents on June 17, 2023, when their son, Jude Harlow, was born.

CREATING (content)ment

By Ashlyn Myers '25, Pulliam Fellow

Original article published in The Franklin and edited here for content and length.

Nicole Hernandez '18 makes a career of showing and telling people about leisure experiences in Indianapolis.

Whether she's attending a festival, trying a new café or joining in a local tradition, she shares her adventures with thousands of people who subscribe to the digital newsletter and social media platforms featuring her content.

Hernandez is one of two city editors staffing the digital newsletter *INDYtoday*, a daily delivery of ideas to help people fully experience the city's entertainment options. The job is a great fit for the Central Indiana native whose appreciation for the area has deepened since helping parent company 6AM City launch the newsletter in 2021.

"When I was in high school and younger, I had the same mindset as a lot of people who think that there is nothing to do in Indy," Hernandez said. "As I got older and gained my independence, I began to explore Indy more."

Now, she spends every day searching for and experiencing the variety of resources Indianapolis has to offer.

"What I love about *INDYtoday* is that we focus on the 'good news.' We don't cover what traditional media would cover as far as crime, politics or COVID," Hernandez said. Instead, the

focus is on business openings, special exhibits and festivals, to name a few.

For Hernandez, each workday brings new explorations, and her followers get to see it all, whether they subscribe to the newsletter or its Instagram account, which she co-created with a colleague two years ago. Today, it has more than 14,000 followers.

Hernandez also works as a freelance event planner and portrait photographer and has gained a significant following on her personal social media accounts. Fortunately, she can use content from the events she goes to for both her work and personal accounts, which helps her engage broadly with followers and build name recognition.

"It's really cool that my current position has really kind of come hand-in-hand with what I do on the side. I just love getting out in Indy, going to events and showing people that Indy isn't boring. There are things to do!" Hernandez said.

One of Hernandez's favorite career experiences so far involved the Indianapolis Motor Speedway (IMS), which she partnered with to help promote the Indy 500.

"It was really cool getting to drive around one of their branded cars and show off the 500 and get people excited about it," she said. Hernandez also posted live videos throughout the race, highlighting exciting moments for those unable to attend. The day was most special because she was joined trackside by her father, and they experienced their first-ever Indy 500 together.

Days like that keep Hernandez excited about hitting her career stride and maximizing many of the skills she began honing at Franklin College. The recently retired Pulliam School of Journalism Director Joel Cramer, J.D., then her academic adviser and professor of photography courses, is proud of Hernandez for her work ethic and accomplishments.



**Nicole Hernandez '18**

"It's very exciting to watch what she's trying to do, trying to build an audience and trying to build a message," Cramer said.

"You don't get anywhere in social media without having some real drive. Creating content is not easy, and it's not quick. And to be able to engage an audience for long periods with new content, new creative ideas, new expressions, new approaches — that takes a really creative mind," Cramer said. "So, anybody who thinks it's easy, I would invite them to try it. It's a lot of work to create content."

For Hernandez, the key to creating good content is being authentic.

"It's about taking the things that you enjoy and running with that because if it's something that you like, there's going to be other people that like it, too." ■

MEET THE PARKS

Bob Park '80 grew up close to Franklin College in proximity and spirit. His father, Richard "Dick" Park, Ph.D. (HD '02), worked at the College for more than 50 years as a mathematics professor, academic dean, acting president and golf coach. **Kelli (DeMott) Park '81** also grew up in Johnson County. Her father, David DeMott, was a longtime truck driver who worked seven days a week for years to enable Kelli to go to college. Bob and Kelli met at Franklin College, made long-lasting friendships with classmates, faculty and staff, and had wonderful experiences. To this day, they both have deep affection and appreciation for Franklin College.



Bob Park '80 and spouse Kelli (DeMott) '81 stand behind Richard "Dick" Park, Ph.D. (HD '02)

In a co-written letter, Bob and Kelli recently shared, "We credit FC with preparing us well for our careers, service to God and contributions as citizens. For both of us, FC scholarships made college possible. In response, we have been delighted to give back to Franklin for nearly 40 years. Last fall, we were introduced by Lee Ann Jourdan, assistant vice president for alumni engagement and annual giving, to the possibility of funding an annual scholarship for a particular student. We combined that idea with our passion for art, and this combination became the framework for the Park Family Art Scholarship. We look forward to seeing how this latest adventure with Franklin College plays out — for us and for the recipient."

Scholarships change lives. You can, too. Annual Scholarships, like the one Bob and Kelli created, benefit current students from all walks of life with financial needs. You can establish an Annual Scholarship with a minimum gift of \$2,500/year for four years, and the scholarship may be designated with your name or in honor or memory of loved one(s). You also may establish criteria for the scholarship recipient, knowing that the office of financial aid will work to find the best possible match among deserving students. Take your first step toward creating an Annual Scholarship by calling 317.738.8755 or emailing FranklinFund@FranklinCollege.edu. ■

EDUCATION'S LEADERS

By Amy (Kean) VerSteeg '96, Publications Editor

Franklin College alumni are serving as principals at three of five elementaries in the Franklin Community Schools District of Indiana. They bring varied experiences and leadership styles to their respective roles but share in common a deep commitment to student empowerment and achievement. Each sees their transition from teacher to principal as a way to engage beyond more than one classroom and make greater impact on students' school experience.

A love for education is as fundamental to their work as principals as the practical skills that were honed throughout their Franklin College academic and cocurricular opportunities. Their grounding in liberal arts skills supports the dynamic nature of their daily work, from communicating effectively with students, staff and other stakeholders and finding solutions to complex problems, to balancing needs and interests of the school community and making data-informed decisions. These principals handle new issues every day while also addressing budgets, teaching evaluations, student-disciplinary actions, facility maintenance and more. They are in a word, adaptable. More importantly, they are dedicated.

Keep reading to learn what shaped their desire to transition from teachers to principals and about the college experiences and relationships significant to their success as leaders.

FOCUSING ON RELATIONSHIPS

Dylan Purlee '04 is heading into his eighth year as the principal of Needham Elementary. His path to the administrative role included serving as a teacher, varsity golf coach, instructional coach and assistant principal. He strives never to forget what it's like being in the classroom and to have meaningful interactions at the school every day.

"My goal is to be a servant leader, serving the needs of the school, the students and all the stakeholders. My leadership style focuses on developing and fostering opportunities for students and teachers to grow, and on helping remove obstacles that are distracting us from our job as educators," Purlee said. It's why he begins most conversations with the question, "How can I help you?"

"I probably use that phrase 100 times a day," he said. Extending the same level of courtesy through communications to those outside the school can be difficult in our digital era, though.

"Email was already a popular means of communication when I began teaching in 2004, but today 95% of the information we share is electronic, whether it's through an email, app or portal. The greatest pro is that as a school we can share important information rapidly, but the biggest challenge is ensuring that it stands out in the sea of communications in most people's inboxes," Purlee said.



Some might say that Purlee himself stands out. One of the lessons from the Franklin College Education Program that has guided Purlee since his student days is to “look and act the part.”

“I took that message to heart and decided education was such an important job that I would always be professional in appearance and attitude,” Purlee said. “I’ve been wearing a tie to school every day since I started working in education in 2004. I’ve only forgotten my tie once, and on that day someone on staff went and bought me one before the day was over! Ties are kind of my trademark.”

Franklin’s education program also gave Purlee great mentors, including his academic adviser Carole McKinney, now retired. “I probably wouldn’t have made it through without her caring for, guiding and advising me.” Another mentor was James Halik, Ph.D., then the superintendent of Franklin Community Schools and an adjunct instructor at the College. Halik showed Purlee an example of “passion and enthusiasm for education” to which he aspired. Furthermore, Purlee credits

Cindy Prather for setting the high expectations that kept him on track to become a competent, caring teacher and eventually principal. Today, she is the College’s director of teacher education and teacher licensing adviser.

“It’s been awesome to work with Mrs. Prather since graduating and build a relationship as colleagues. We share the goal of making sure as many good teachers are in our classrooms as possible,” Purlee said.

As principal, Purlee is dedicated to helping the students and teachers at Needham move forward, and he is proud to see Franklin Community Schools united in their commitment to making a positive impact. “My personal mission is to serve, encourage and support my family, my school and my friends to make today’s tomorrow better,” Purlee said.

Purlee and his spouse, Megan, an elementary teacher, have a son, Rilan. In addition to his bachelor’s degree from Franklin, Purlee earned a master’s degree from Indiana University. He is pursuing a doctorate from Indiana State University. ■

Needham Elementary educators include Melissa (Kaiser) Stewart '93, Emily (Rothkopf) Flack '10, Jill (Carter) Snyder '87, Dylan Purlee '04, Susan (Buerger) Buening '01, Erica (Moore) Freed '19 and Aly (Pinnick) Werner '04.

“MY GOAL IS TO BE A SERVANT LEADER, SERVING THE NEEDS OF THE SCHOOL, THE STUDENTS AND ALL THE STAKEHOLDERS.”

DYLAN PURLEE '04

NEEDHAM ELEMENTARY PRINCIPAL

SPREADING POSITIVITY

Cole Zook '10 served as a teacher, athletic coach and assistant principal before making the switch to principal at Webb Elementary four years ago. He brings a coaching mentality to his leadership role and looks to help students and teachers be the most awesome versions of themselves.

“Being awesome the ‘Webb Way’ means: Working hard. Encouraging others. Being safe. Being positive. That mindset drives everything we try to do for students every day and encourages students to be their most awesome selves by doing these things in school and public,” Zook explained.

He takes seriously the role that schools can play in helping children recognize their self-worth. “There are multiple avenues a student can take for success

in their life. It’s important to me to make sure they know what the awesome mindset means and what it can do for them lifelong. It’s about helping them make that connection and inspiring their desire to be their most awesome selves as students, family members and future employees.”

There’s an adage about parenting children that says, “The days are long, but the years are short.” Working in education has its parallels. For one, principals face making multiple key decisions in children’s best interests every day. As those decisions about academics, school programming, discipline and facility management intersect with the important work of supporting teachers in their classroom

efforts and caring for students, the pressures mount.

“You always question if you’re doing the right things and making an impact because you might not see the positive outcomes right away. I’ve been in education long enough now that students I taught 10 to 15 years ago are starting to graduate, join the workforce and raise families. They’re showing some growth and doing well as adults, and it’s affirming to see how far-reaching their early education was. That’s the part that makes me really proud and keeps me motivated,” Zook said.

When it comes to leading the teachers and students at Webb, Zook draws upon the experiences he had at Franklin College. “The education program at Franklin enabled me to get

BUILDING ON SUCCESSES

This spring, Franklin Community Schools announced that **Karle (Schaefer) Houglund '09** would be Northwood Elementary’s next principal at the start of the 2023–24 academic year. She is excited about

returning to the school that made a significant impact during several stages of her life, beginning with her time there as a pupil, continuing into college through her student-teaching experiences and growing into a

full-time teaching position after she earned her Franklin College degree.

“I’ve been really blessed in my lifetime to be surrounded by inspirational teachers and have wonderful experiences in education. That’s what guided me toward wanting to become an educator,” Houglund said.

The Franklin College Education Program was an easy choice for Houglund. “The program itself had a really strong reputation for training teachers well,” she said. “There are some college programs that wait until



AMY (KEAN) VERSTEEG '96

Karle (Schaefer) Houglund '09



AMY (KEAN) VERSTEEG '96

Kyah Shah high fives with Principal Cole Zook '10.

into actual classrooms starting in my sophomore year, and that was a huge advantage. By the time I graduated, I had field experiences in elementary, middle and high schools, and I was involved in their classes ranging from math and music to art and PE. I had the chance to see how education worked in a variety of school settings and learn from educators with diverse backgrounds. Before that, I didn't have

much beyond my own student experiences for reference."

Like many who attend Franklin College, Zook found mentors among the professors and athletic coaches. His four years playing football under then head coach Mike Leonard led to a yearlong assistant coaching appointment he relished. Zook admired Leonard's coaching philosophy for emphasizing playing to the best of

one's ability and treating others right. "To me, they were good guidelines for life. Beyond being a phenomenal coach, Mike is one of the best human beings I ever met, and it's why I keep in touch with him to this day. I try to bring that same type of positivity into Webb."

In addition to his bachelor's degree in elementary education including a middle school mathematics endorsement, Zook earned his master's degree in school administration from Indiana Wesleyan University. He and his spouse, **Jessica (Pinnick) '07**, have three children, Landon, Lincoln and Logan. ■

your senior year to give you field experiences, but that wasn't the case at FC. I had a number of different school placements and made connections with seasoned educators throughout my college experience. Those things were very helpful when it was to time to find a job."

Her background in education includes previous roles as an assistant administrator and instructional coach in addition to eight years combined teaching experience at two elementary schools. "It was hard to leave the classroom because I love teaching, but I got to a point where I knew I wanted to make a bigger impact," she said.

Transitioning from teacher to principal is not an overnight process. Hougland has served in a variety of

roles in recent years to gain perspectives on multiple aspects of the school experience for staff, students and families. For one, her time as an instructional coach included supporting teachers with professional development opportunities and the latest technologies for instruction. "That was a step toward seeing how I could help teachers and, thereby, have an effect on many more students than in one classroom," she said.

The chance to broaden that impact further still is a dream-come-true for Principal Hougland.

"I'm excited about leading the school forward. My vision is that we continue the great work that's already happened and build upon it so that Northwood is a school with high

achievement in the building, and a place where staff, families and children want to come," Hougland said.

Hougland's leadership style centers around two core values, service and lifelong learning. "My approach to servant leadership starts with teamwork and collaboration. It's really important to me that we value the input of everyone in the building, and also that I'm able to keep learning so that our school keeps moving forward and student success continues growing."

She holds a bachelor's degree from Franklin and a Master of Science in educational leadership from Butler University. She and her spouse, **Joe '02**, have two sons, Henry and Graham. ■

Tracy (Szerencse) Davis '04, pictured sixth from the left in a gold blazer, stands with a team of NBC news station colleagues who led the "Decision 2022: Connecticut Governor Candidates Forum."



SHE'S a NEWSMAKER

SUBMITTED

After graduating with a degree in broadcast journalism, Tracy (Szerencse) Davis '04 jump-started her career of working behind the scenes in TV news.

By Ashlyn Myers '25, Pulliam Fellow

She began at WLFI in West Lafayette, Indiana, as an overnight news producer and eventually took over producing the 6 and 11 p.m. news shows, which had the strongest viewership. As Davis was considering her next career move, she heard a tip about a producer's job in Vermont. It wasn't the move she imagined, but she took the chance to interview anyway. It turned out the interviewer was so impressed with Davis that it led to a better job offer — executive producer.

"My first day on the job was the first day we were on air," Davis said. "We had to adapt really quickly."

From there, Davis helped grow the station over the next five years and advanced to the role of news director.

"I never thought that was going to be my path, and it opened up so many doors for me because I just said yes to learning all the time," Davis said.

For example, in 2008, amid the troubling times brought on by the global recession, some job roles at the news station shifted and others were vacated. At 24 years old, Davis saw an opportunity to demonstrate her value as an employee and leader.

"I just kept asking to do more and gaining the trust of the GM (general manager) so he would allow me to take on more responsibility," Davis said. "I went from an executive producer role to a news manager role to a news director role. So, I grew a lot in Vermont. That's probably where I got the style of leadership that I have today."

She is a leader who embraces teamwork.

"It's a lot about collaboration and mentorship, and letting people have a voice but ultimately leading them in the right direction," Davis said.

"IT'S A LOT ABOUT COLLABORATION AND MENTORSHIP, AND LETTING PEOPLE HAVE A VOICE BUT ULTIMATELY LEADING THEM IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION."

TRACY (SZERENCSE) DAVIS '04

"When I was younger, my thinking was it's black or white. As a leader and a manager, you have to realize that there are many shades of gray."

The Franklin College undergraduate experience helped prepare Davis for the newsroom and as a leader. She honed skills in investigating, writing, reporting, photographing, editing and producing through coursework, internships and participation with "Inside Franklin," a video-recorded weekly news program founded by students in the '90s.

Joel Cramer, J.D., who recently retired as the Pulliam School of Journalism director, remembers seeing early glimpses of Davis' professionalism.

"She was always hard-working, always friendly, always doing something," Cramer shared. Those characteristics helped Davis flourish after college and have helped sustain her career.

After her stints in Vermont and three years of directing news for a Wisconsin TV station, Davis received what most people would consider their big break — a job offer in bustling downtown Chicago. She worked for four years in the Windy City, as an assistant news director for NBC. During that time, she helped provide in-depth news coverage surrounding the murder of George Floyd and the spread of COVID-19, as well as other distressing events. Similar, emotionally-challenging work has continued since she became vice

president of news for NBC Connecticut in 2021.

One example is Davis' involvement in producing "Just Yesterday: Sandy Hook 10 Years Later." The docuseries, available on NBC Connecticut's website and Peacock streaming service, focuses on survivors impacted by the mass shooting deaths at Sandy Hook Elementary in Newton, Connecticut, in 2012.

"We looked at the lives of people that were impacted that day by that terrible tragedy and told their stories about faith and loss of faith, and grieving and how they wanted to grow themselves," Davis said. She is proud of the empathy and integrity that guided the news team's work throughout the project, though she recognizes it took a toll.

"Journalists often push their emotions down, and they don't like to talk about it because the story is not about them," Davis said. "But, when you cover

negative stories over and over and over again, it really can eat away at you. In our newsroom, we talk a lot about mental health and being aware that it's OK to need help. It's OK to talk about something if you're stressed out."

Leading a resilient news team on top of all the other pressures impacting the industry can be challenging, but Davis said she stays in broadcast journalism because she has always loved it — even as a little girl.

"My sisters and I had a 'TV station' in our basement, and our call letters were LMNOP. And we played and practiced. I mean, it was what I was meant to do, right? I just love telling stories."

Tracy and her spouse, **Jason '05**, who also majored in journalism, have a son, Theo. They reside in Simsbury, Connecticut. ■

TACKLING TRAUMA TOGETHER

Back by demand, Franklin College will host the next Trust for Trauma Journalism Symposium on Sept. 21 and 22, 2023. Journalists in all stages of their careers as well as mental health specialists, law enforcement officials and educators are welcome. Attendees will be inspired and informed about the implications of trauma and how to better deal with it in their professional and personal lives. Panel discussions and workshops will center around trauma awareness, peer support, self-care, best practices and resilience. Networking and dining options will further community-building opportunities. Online registration will be available soon at FranklinCollege.edu. ■

CLASS NOTES

'50s

Dexter Cooley '57 and his spouse, **Rosemary (Thompson) '58**, are residents of Greenwood, Indiana, and the parents of three grown children, Brian, Barbara and Brent. They also have eight grandchildren and 12 great-grandchildren.

'70s

Mark McNeely '70 recently was named an emeritus member of the Indiana Continuing Legal Education Board of Directors. He previously was on the board for 12 years, including two years as president.

Margaret A. Height '72 recently was re-elected to serve a second three-year term on the Germans from Russia Heritage Society (GRHS) Board of Directors, which has headquarters in Bismarck, North Dakota. GRHS promotes and preserves the genealogy, culture and history of Germans from Russia and Ukraine. Her father, Joseph S. Height, Ph.D., a Franklin College professor emeritus of German and linguistics, was a founding member of GRHS in 1970, during his tenure. Margaret currently chairs the GRHS Joseph S. Height Literary Awards Committee, which, since 1979, has recognized excellence in four categories of writing which pertain to Germans from Russia.

Mark D. Elliott '79 is an instructor at D & D Driving School and helps the business serve numerous community groups by addressing topics of speed reduction, railroad safety

and underage drinking. He resides in Lebanon, Ohio.

'80s

Daniel Markham '85 had his book, *52 Masses*, published in 2022 by Peregrino Press. Over the course of two years, Markham attended Catholic Mass in the 50 United States, the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico to explore ways Catholics are living the faith. His book includes stories about someone or something at each parish he visited.

Dan Osborn '87, M.D., was recognized this May by the Missouri Eye Institute for the 37 corneal transplant surgeries he performed in partnership with Saving Sight last year. The nonprofit provides donor corneal tissue for a variety of procedures to help restore people's sight.

Wayne Wheatley '87 is an auto insurance underwriter at State Farm Mutual Automobile Insurance Co. and resides in Noblesville, Indiana.

Julia (Graham) Edwards '89 is the juvenile and family court reporter for the Johnson County, Indiana, government. She resides in Franklin.

Patty Converse Nowlin '89 and her spouse, Bruce, purchased Martha's Vineyard Bed & Breakfast in South Haven, Michigan, in 2021. She shared, "We live and work in our mission field, where we strive to provide extravagant hospitality and Jesus-like love to those who make our home theirs during getaways."

'90s

Rafael Sánchez '92, an Emmy-award-winning anchor and investigative reporter for WRTV Indianapolis and a Franklin College trustee, was recognized with the Leadership Award at Conexión Five for 500. The annual event, organized by the Indy Chamber's Hispanic Business Council, recognizes individuals who are paving the way for Hispanic progress in the community. Sánchez was applauded for his longtime broadcast journalism career and widespread volunteerism, typically helping at 50 community fundraisers annually.

Charley Scarber '92, assistant country attaché to The Bahamas, is part of a new Anti-Gang and Firearms Investigation Task Force aimed at tackling illegal weapons and gang violence.

Julie Eckerle '93 published a scholarly edition of two 17th-century manuscripts by Dorothy Calthorpe, "News from the Midell Regions" and "Calthorpe's Chapel," in 2022. Eckerle teaches English literature at the University of Minnesota, Morris.

Shannon (Baunach) Anderson '95, a longtime educator and award-winning children's book author, was a featured presenter during a TEDx event at Michigan State University. She presented on Ikigai, the Japanese concept of "reason for being," and shared ideas about aligning it with one's reticular activating system for maximum success in achieving goals.

1. **Brian Culp '99**, at his swearing-in ceremony for the Morgan County (Indiana) Council
2. **Kylie Weichman '05**
3. **Sara (Beeson) Smith '07** and spouse Brian with their son, Noah

SUBMITTED PHOTOS

Jessica (Lillpop) Mahoney '96, in February 2023, was named director of library services and assessment for B.F. Hamilton Library at Franklin College. She has worked there since 2011, serving first as instructional and reference librarian, then assuming the role of interim director of library services and information literacy in August 2022.

Shannon (Spears) Ison '98 is a social studies teacher at Landstown High School in Virginia Beach. She also is a Fellow of the Virginia Council for Economic Education and is working to help educate other teachers in Virginia.

Brian Culp '99 was sworn in as a Morgan County Council member for Dist. 3 on Jan. 1, 2023. He resides in Mooresville, Indiana.

Eric Richards '99 was named CEO of the Boys & Girls Club of Boone County. He has more than 23 years of previous nonprofit leadership experience, most recently as president and CEO of Cancer Support Community Indiana. Richards, his spouse, Kristin, and their three children reside in Zionsville, Indiana.

Wayne Zamora '99, O.D., was elected mayor of Vernon, Indiana, in the spring. He has owned Expert Eyecare Edinburgh since 2004, providing services to the Central Indiana community, including soldiers at nearby Camp Atterbury. Zamora participated in an alumni career panel at Franklin College in February 2023, sharing advice with science students.



'00s

Jennie Timar '00 is a digital marketing analyst at Aristotle Capital Management and resides in Houston, Texas, with her daughter, Harriette.

Angel Kimberlin '04 resides in Avon, Indiana, with her son, Isaiah, 5.

Brooke (Shouse) Shoup '04 is a Project Lead the Way teacher at Homecroft Elementary School in Indianapolis.

Kylie Weichman '05 is a regional director of implementation and delivery for Pearson Education and resides in Columbus, Indiana.

Jamie (Hadley) Yeadon '05 is the advanced molecular detection division director for the Indiana Department of Health Laboratory. She has a daughter, Annabelle.

Zee Malik '06 was appointed a partner for audit and assurance at Katz, Sapper & Miller at the start of 2023. He has worked at the Indianapolis firm since 2007. He is a past president of the Franklin College Alumni Council.

Charlee (Beasor) Mitchell '07 is the senior vice president at VOX Global. She previously held roles as associate commissioner for marketing and communications at the Indiana Commission for Higher Education and was the communications director there before that.

Sara (Beeson) Smith '07 is the accounts payable lead of treasury for Citizens Energy Group. She and her spouse, Brian, reside in Greenwood, Indiana, with their son, Noah, 10.



Luke Bosso '08, after a national search, was hired as athletic director for Indiana University–Purdue University Indianapolis. He was at the accounting firm Katz, Sapper & Miller, as managing director of government advisory services. He also held previous positions in state government. His community volunteerism includes chairing the Horizon League's men's and women's basketball tournament organizing committee and serving on the Indiana Chamber of Commerce board of directors and Indianapolis Zoological Society board of trustees. Bosso also is on the Franklin College Alumni Council and is an adjunct journalism instructor.

'10s

Rebeca (Lehfeldt) Dowden '10 is a teacher for the community school corporation in Brownsburg, Indiana, where she and her spouse, Jayson, reside with their daughters, Harper and Hadley.

Jimmy Durchholz '10 and his spouse, **Tracey (Smith) '10**, reside in Tell City, Indiana, with their children, Hunter, Isaac and Rylee.

Kira (Angle) Fledderman '10 and her spouse, Alex, are the parents of a daughter, Grace Avalon, born Nov. 8,

1. Savannah (Blevins) Maxwell '17 and her spouse, **Jacob '15**, kiss after their wedding. They are surrounded by alumni including **Aaron Hart '17**, **Matt Haggard '16**, **Joe Paszek '90**, **Ryan McDonald '04**, **Quinton Terrell '14**, **Butch Zike '72**, **Olivia Paszek '18**, **Taylor Johnson '17**, **Grace Paszek '18**, **Megan Ramsey '18**, **Bobb Dilley '03**, **Katie Burr '16**, **Shay (Knecht) Dilley '04**, **Rafael Sánchez '92**, **Beth (Baker) Sánchez '92**, **Tyler Gribbons '14**, **Morgan (Whitaker) Haggard '15**, **Ben Vandivier '14**, **Sarah (Neibold) Vandivier '14**, **Savannah (Blevins) Maxwell '17**, **Jacob Maxwell '15**, **McKensie Hurt '16** and **Michelle Green '16**.

2. Tracey (Smith) Durchholz '10 and spouse **Jimmy '10** with their children Isaac, Rylee and Hunter

3. Amber Viles '16

4. Kira (Angle) Fledderman '10 and spouse Alex with their children, Nathan, Grace, Benjamin and Matthew

SUBMITTED PHOTOS

2022. She joins three brothers, Matthew, Nathan and Benjamin. They reside in Westport, Indiana.

J.R. Fowler '10 and his spouse, **Kelsey (Whitson) '12**, are the parents of a son, Riley James, born Sept. 22, 2022. They reside in Fishers, Indiana.

Nate Blair '11 and his spouse, **Kati (Graber) '13**, welcomed their third son, Franklin Jay, on May 13, 2023. He joins brothers Hudson and Leighton. The family resides in Fort Wayne, Indiana.

Summer (French) Havron '11 is the business analytics manager for DHL Supply Chain. She resides in Whiteland, Indiana, with her spouse, Chris, and their two sons, Westen and Grayson.

Katie (Beck) Lee '11 is the director of communications for Mental Health America and resides in Arlington, Virginia.

Renee Bruck '12 is a digital communications strategist at the Indiana University School of Nursing and resides in Franklin, Indiana.

Sara (Chauvette) Wagner '12 and her spouse, Bryant, are the parents of a son, Benjamin Matthew, born Oct. 16, 2019. Sara is a senior associate for data analytics and AI at BDO Digital. The family resides in Indianapolis.

Derek Linn '13 and his spouse, Sarah, reside in Franklin, Indiana, with their sons, Leo and Parker. Derek is a business data analyst for Toyota Material Handling.

Allison (Bayley) Huenemann '14 is the general manager at Crawfordsville Electric Light & Power. She resides in Indianapolis.

Megan (Banta) Ogborn '14 is a data enterprise reporter for *The Salt Lake Tribune*. She and her spouse, Andrew, reside in Utah.

Elisia Ott '14 is a relative support specialist with the Indiana Department of Child Services.

Shaughn Harrigan '15 and his spouse, Shawnee, are the parents of two sons, Beckham and Dawson. They reside in Franklin, Indiana.

Anna (Murdock) Larson '15 received the Intern Supervisor of the Year award from Aspire Johnson County (Indiana), the economic development and chamber alliance. Larson is the corporate communications director for The Garrett Companies. She serves on the Franklin College Alumni Council.

Aubrey Magodlyo '15 has started a blog called **firstexperience.com**. It shares his experiences and insights on various topics, including choosing to enroll at Franklin College, navigating visa and work authorizations, applying for internships and full-time jobs, finding an apartment and buying a car, etc. He is a member of the Franklin College Alumni Council and hopes the blog can be a resource for the college community, particularly international students. He relocated from Zimbabwe to attend Franklin and now works for Facebook as a manager of product experience analytics.

Jacob Maxwell '15 and **Savannah Blevins '17** married on Oct. 22, 2022, at the Barn at Hamner Ridge in Edinburgh, Indiana.

Tanner May '15 is the patient care director of interventional cardiology at New York Presbyterian. He participated in an alumni career panel at Franklin College in February 2023, sharing advice with science students.

Luke Snyder '15 and his spouse, **Emily (Thompson) '15**, are the parents of twins, Mac Alan, and Mara James, born on Nov. 27, 2022. They reside in Franklin, Indiana.

Cody Foster '16 and **Rachel Bowden '18** (MSAT '19) married in June 2022 and bought their first home in Winston-Salem, North Carolina. Cody works for Atrium Health, and Rachel is an athletic trainer at Wake Forest University.

Levi Remley '16 is the director of pricing for Barnes & Thornburg in Indianapolis, where he resides with his spouse, Courtney.

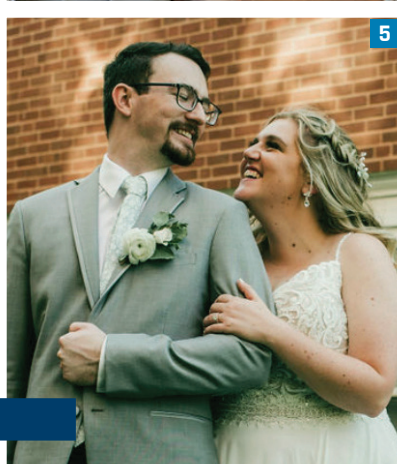
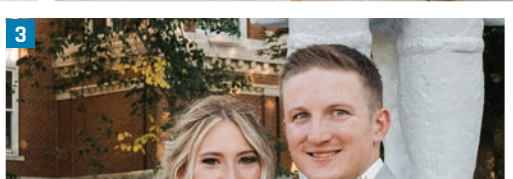
Jon Sommers '16 was promoted to the point-of-care coordinator at Franciscan Health Indianapolis. He was previously a medical technologist. He resides in Greenwood, Indiana, with his spouse, **Andi (TenBarge) '17**.

Connor Spencer '16 is a cardiac sonographer for IU Health and resides in Brownsburg, Indiana.

Amber Viles '16 earned her master's degree in communication studies with a concentration in organizational leadership from the University of Alabama in 2022. She shared, "Huge thanks to Franklin faculty David Cunningham (artist in residence) and Wendy Shapiro (former art and journalism instructor) for believing



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



1. Nicholas Etter and spouse **Emily (Fink) '19**
2. Gabrielle (Arthur) Giles '19 and spouse Caleb '18
3. Brianna (Hutton) Brems '19 and spouse Nick '19
4. Kyle Meyer '20 and spouse **Danielle (Nuckols) '19**
5. Jacob Smith and spouse **Alexis (Beed) '18**

in me and writing letters of recommendation to the board of admissions during the pandemic.”

Rev. Dorian Condre '17 is a project assistant for the Center for Interfaith Cooperation in Indianapolis and recently was ordained in the Disciples of Christ.

Shawn Fogleman '17 is a production manager at Pilkington NSG in Shelbyville, Indiana, and recently returned from an Army deployment to Kuwait in support of Operation Spartan Shield. He and his spouse, Alexandria, reside in Greenfield, Indiana.

Claire Meade '17 and Tyler Hamilton married on Nov. 19, 2022. She is the guest services manager for Ronald McDonald House Charities of Central Indiana. They reside in Franklin, Indiana.

Hannah Ross '17 is the coordinator for Jonathan Byrd's Events and Catering and resides in Carmel, Indiana.

Alexis Beed '18 and Jacob Smith married on Sept. 17, 2022. They reside in Plainfield, Indiana.

Mitchell Caster '18 and his spouse, Samantha, are the parents of a son, Camden Thomas, born Feb. 1, 2023. Mitchell is an actuarial analyst at Pinnacle Actuarial Resources. They reside in Indianapolis.

Caleb Giles '18 and **Gabrielle Arthur '19** married on May 20, 2023. They reside in Franklin, Indiana.

Katelyn (Pierce) Goodwin '18 and her spouse, William, are the parents of a daughter, Charlotte, 3. Katelyn is a study technician, level II, for Labcorp. They reside in New Castle, Indiana.

Bailee (Couch) Macaluso '18 resides in Russiaville, Indiana, and has a son, Lincoln Walker, born May 15, 2023.

Sadie Stokes '18 is The Hope Gallery director in Bargersville, Indiana. The gallery, associated with The Alex and Ali Foundation, helps empower young adults with autism and other developmental disabilities through meaningful employment opportunities and vocational training.

Nick Brems '19 and **Brianna (Hutton) '19** married on Sept. 24, 2022, at Garment Factory Events in Franklin, Indiana, where they also reside with their dog, Jagger.

Emily (Fink) Etter '19 is a counselor for Zionsville West Middle School. She resides in Whitestown, Indiana, with her spouse, Nicholas.

Megan Laugle '19, an Indianapolis Colts cheerleader since 2019, traveled with the squad to South Korea to spend Super Bowl 2023 with U.S. military service men and women at three bases.

Brianna (Gunning) Mason '19 is the social services coordinator for Charles Major Manor retirement community in Shelbyville, Indiana, where she also coaches diving for the middle and high schools. She volunteers with the national organization for Conquering Congenital Heart Disease and is helping establish a chapter in Indiana.

James Polston '19 and his spouse, Abegayle, bought their first home and reside in Shelbyville, Indiana.

'20s

Wes DeShon '20, Franklin College assistant director of admissions, and his spouse, Lexi, Franklin College event planning coordinator, are the parents of a son, Griffin, born on April 19, 2023. They reside in Morgantown, Indiana.

James Hone '20 is a senior data engineer for Cummins. He and his

spouse, **Emily (Pierce) '19**, reside in Franklin, Indiana.

Kyle Meyer '20 and **Danielle Nuckols '19** married on Oct. 1, 2022, in North Vernon, Indiana. The wedding party included **Anna King '20**, **Erica Freed '19**, **Jacob Laub '21** and **Payton Healy '20**. **Jackson Freed '18** officiated.

Katie (McHugh) Arnold '21 and her spouse, Sawyer, are the parents of a son, Colton, born June 27, 2021. Katie is a physician assistant at Putnam Prompt Care. They reside in Greencastle, Indiana.

Sydney Logsdon '21 received her white coat in the Physician Assistant Studies Master's Program at Franklin College in December 2022.

Krishna Retherford '21 is a physician assistant at Putnam Prompt Care in Greencastle, Indiana.

Madison Short '21 received her white coat in the Physician Assistant Studies Master's Program at Franklin College in December 2022.

Alex Smith '21 and his spouse, Jayden, are the parents of a son, Tucker. Alex is a teacher at South Dearborn High School. The family resides in Lawrenceburg, Indiana.

Addie Csikos '22 is a graphic artist for Herff Jones and resides in Indianapolis.

Matthew Leming '22 is the alumni and events coordinator at Secena Memorial High School in Indianapolis.

Carly Morris '22 is a chemist at Ricca Chemical Co. and resides in Batesville, Indiana.

Jacob Stemper '22 is a hospitalist physician assistant at Johnson Memorial Health in Franklin, Indiana. ■

REMEMBERING AN ICON

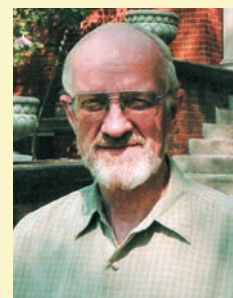
Military veteran. Professional newspaper reporter and editor. Journalism teacher and mentor. World traveler. Scrabble enthusiast. There were many dimensions to **William A. "Bill" Bridges '56**, who leaves behind a multitude of alumni and friends to cherish his memory.

Bridges, a Franklin College professor emeritus of journalism, died June 22, 2023, at Johnson Memorial Health in Franklin, Indiana, where he was a longtime resident. His roots run deep in the community and at the College, where his grandfather and father also attended. Bridges majored in journalism, joined Phi Delta Theta fraternity, served as Student Council president and edited the student newspaper. After his college graduation, he served in the U.S. Army in Germany, working on the 3rd Infantry Division's weekly newspaper. Following an honorable discharge, he stayed abroad reporting for the United Press International.

Upon returning to Indiana, he became a reporter for the *Vincennes Sun-Commercial*. Later, he was managing editor of *The Evening Tribune* in Hornell, New York, then assistant city editor at the *Courier-Journal* in Louisville, Kentucky. He also earned his master's degree from the University

of Missouri School of Journalism. In 1979, he returned to Franklin College as a full-time faculty member and chair of the journalism department. The Board of Trustees named him the Eugene C. and Nina Pulliam Endowed Chair in 1983. He was the Pulliam School of Journalism director and served many years as the staff director for the Indiana High School Press Association. Bridges helped place interns in newsrooms around the world and advocated for students to be Pulliam Fellows at newspapers in Indianapolis and Phoenix. He retired from Franklin College in 2003 but spent many subsequent semesters tutoring and mentoring students so they could achieve academic goals. Travel was an important part of his life; one example of how he shared that with students was an Immersive Term course he co-led to Australia in 2000 when Sydney hosted the Olympics.

Survivors include his spouse of 60 years, Karen, and their sons, **Karl '86**, **David '86**, **Mike '90** and **Colin '98**. One surviving granddaughter, **Rebecca '18**, also is an alumna. *Find more tributes to Bridges across social media platforms.* ■



SUBMITTED

IN MEMORIAM

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

'40s

Deloris (Vaught) Amick '43
3/5/1921 – 5/7/2023
Franklin, Ind.

'50s

Margaret M. (Church) Wheeler '50
9/27/1928 – 4/12/2023
Columbus, Ind.

Jean (Balfour) Stevenson '51
10/13/1926 – 1/4/2023
Angola, Ind.
Horizon Society

Lillian (Pomeroy) Bridenhager '52
5/2/1930 – 11/11/2022
Liberty, Ind.

Max Fitzpatrick '56
1/17/1954 – 6/24/2023
Greenwood, Ind.

P.S. Poffenberger '56
3/17/1931 – 3/26/2023
Columbus, Ind.

Loretta (Kellams) Gibbens '57
3/9/1935 – 2/19/2023
Nashville, Tenn.

David L. Riley '57
3/3/1935 – 2/9/2023
Federal Way, Wash.

Marshall E. Mitchell '58
1/24/1936 – 2/2/2023
Franklin, Ind.

George F. Anderson '59
4/24/1937 – 11/14/2022
Lebanon, Ind.
Heritage Society

Lauralee (Solomon) Matsey '59
8/14/1938 – 1/10/2023
Plymouth, Ind.

'60s

Wayne T. Dye '62
8/6/1939 – 9/1/2019
Charlottesville, Ind.

Richard D. Powell '63
10/3/1940 – 12/3/2022
Georgetown, Ill.

Sue (Thompson) Zajac '64
12/16/1942 – 6/20/2023
Anchorage, Alaska

Virgil A. Mills '66
10/19/1944 – 10/29/2022
San Francisco

Thomas L. Millican '67
10/14/1944 – 3/14/2022
Upper Arlington, Ohio

Sharon A. Powell '68
7/9/1946 – 2/15/2023
Merrillville, Ind.

John W. Spiker '68
10/12/1946 – 12/10/2022
Franklin, Ind.
Horizon Society

'70s

Rick Gedney '70
12/19/1948 – 1/14/2023
Cold Spring, N.Y.

Victoria S. (McCord) Riley '73
3/14/1951 – 5/5/2019
Indianapolis, Ind.

Thomas H. Wilson '74
6/12/1947 – 2/5/2023
Syracuse, N.Y.

Daniel R. Calkins '77
2/25/1955 – 3/23/2023
Lexington, KY.

Bradley N. Crawford '78, D.D.S.
12/13/1955 – 5/21/2023
Winamac, Ind.

'80s

Carole J. (Phelps) Tanner '86
10/28/1963 – 3/9/2023
Greenwood, Ind.

'90s

Chad E. Howerton '96
6/29/1974 – 5/18/2023
Kokomo, Ind.

WHY GRIZZLIES GIVE . . .

“George '59 and I met while attending Franklin. I don't think either of us could have imagined the legacy we would enjoy as a result of our shared college experience. I was an elementary education major and Tri Delta member, and George was a pre-law major and Lambda Chi Alpha member. I spent most of my teaching career working for Lebanon (Ind.) schools while George had his own real estate firm. All three of our daughters attended Franklin College, Pam (Anderson) Burpo '84, Kim (Anderson) Arrowood '87 and Amy (Anderson) Godby '89. We were also blessed to have four of our grandchildren attend Franklin, Elizabeth (Burpo) King '10, Laura (Burpo) O'Brien '12, Sam Godby '18 and Nate Arrowood '21.

“Attending Franklin College was one of the most cherished experiences George and I shared in life. Financially supporting the place where we learned and grew so much is an easy decision. Our family loves Franklin College, and we want to do our part to sustain a great place that impacts the lives of young people.”

Explore your philanthropic opportunities at FranklinCollege.edu/giving. For further assistance, contact Nora (Lowe) Brems '87 at 317.738.8864 or nbrems@FranklinCollege.edu.

Friends of Franklin College

Sharon Cataldi

11/7/1934 – 3/16/2023

Franklin, Ind.

Former adjunct instructor of art.

Ann E. Herron

4/14/1947 – 12/23/2022

Columbus, Ind.

Spouse of Howard "Bud" Herron,
former Franklin College Trustee.

He survives.

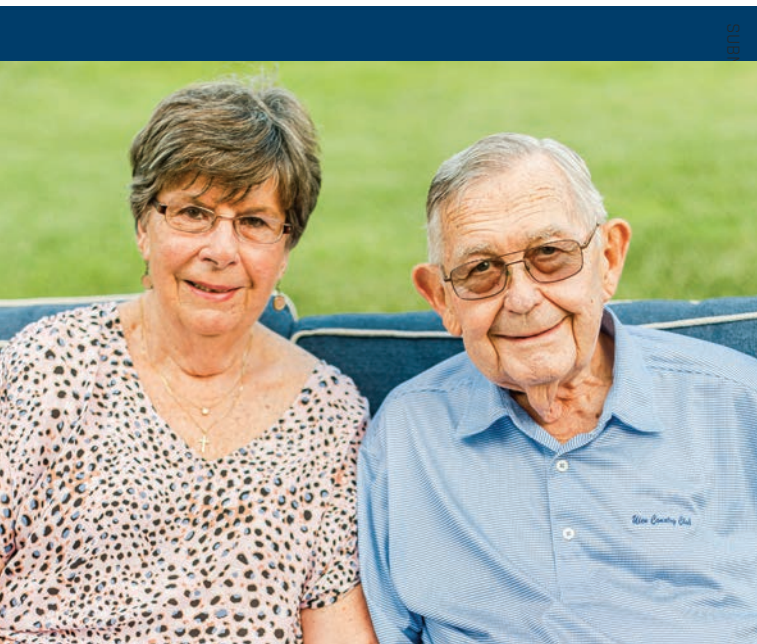
Pat K. Van Valer

4/1/1943 – 3/9/2023

Greenwood, Ind.

Chapel renovation supporter. ■

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.



Barbara (Gamble) Anderson '60 and spouse George '59, now deceased

TRUSTEE TRIBUTES

M.L. "Beezer" Johnson '52

4/3/1928 – 4/2/2023

Franklin, Ind.



SUBMITTED

Johnson held a bachelor's degree in biology and Spanish, and was a U.S. Navy veteran. His lifetime included occupations as far-ranging as ice and pizza delivery to leadership with Eli Lilly and Co. and the Franklin Chamber of Commerce. His memberships included Phi Delta Theta fraternity, Franklin Kiwanis Club and the First Presbyterian Church in Franklin. Further, he was a former Franklin College trustee, past president of the Alumni Council and faithful Franklin Fund supporter. He was preceded in death by his spouse, Mary Lou. Survivors include their daughter, three grandchildren and five great-grandchildren.

Yolanda M. Askew '90

9/11/1968 – 5/27/2023

Jamaica, N.Y.



CHAD WILLIAMS

Askew held a bachelor's degree in journalism and a Master of Science in city and regional planning from the Pratt Institute. She served as the director of sales fulfillment and special projects at NBCUniversal Media, a company she joined in 2007. Most recently, she was part of the sales and marketing team for WNBC, where she was entrenched in committee leadership and program advisory roles guiding corporate philanthropy and community initiatives. Further, she was co-founder of NBCUniversal's Young Professional Academy, which pairs employee-mentors with students of color who attend public boys' high schools serving the boroughs of New York City and Newark, New Jersey. It is noteworthy that Askew was a founding member and later president of the Student Association for Support of Minorities (SASOM) at Franklin College in the '90s. She also was a Resident Assistant and member of the Student Entertainment Board (SEB) and International Club, all experiences that helped shape the leadership skills instrumental throughout her career. In 2021, Askew received the Franklin College Distinguished Alumni Award for representing her career field and alma mater impeccably well. Later the same year, she was elected a Franklin College Trustee. Faith and family were central to her life. ■

**WE CAN'T BRING BACK TIME,
BUT WE CAN HELP YOU
RELIVE THE MEMORIES!**



Come and reconnect with the friends you learned, laughed and grew with at Franklin. You'll rediscover the meaning of Grizzlies Forever.

And if you graduated in a year ending in "3" or "8" you'll celebrate a milestone reunion with your classmates. Register for reunions and see the full list of Homecoming events at alumni.FranklinCollege.edu.