



Office of University Relations & Advancement

5400 Ramsey Street • Fayetteville, North Carolina 28311-1498

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methodist.edu

For Immediate Release
Jan. 8, 2016

Media Contact:
Sandy Ammons
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METHODIST UNIVERSITY TO HOST RODIN EXHIBITION

FAYETTEVILLE, N.C. – From Feb. 11th, 2016 to May 7th, The David McCune International Art Gallery at Methodist University will host a traveling exhibition: “Rodin: Portraits of a Lifetime, Selections from the Iris & B. Gerald Cantor Collections” on loan from the Iris & B. Gerald Cantor Foundation which provides philanthropic leadership in two principal arenas, medicine and the arts.

In the medical arena, the Foundation supports institutions at the forefront of biomedical research and clinical care, with an emphasis on healthcare for women. In the arts, the Foundation supports exhibitions and other programs that encourage recognition and appreciation of the visual and performing arts.

An opening reception at the gallery is scheduled for 6 to 9 PM on Feb. 7th. At 7 PM, Judith Sobol, Executive Director of the Iris & B. Gerald Cantor Foundation, will be the featured speaker. Both the reception and the exhibition are open to the public. After the opening, the exhibition will be available for viewing on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Fridays from 11 AM to 5 PM, on Thursdays from 11 AM to 7 PM, and on Saturdays from noon to 4 PM. The gallery can arrange “touch tours” for groups of visually impaired visitors. Admission is free.

Auguste Rodin was a French sculptor who lived from 1840 to 1917. His most readily recognized work is “The Thinker,” and he is considered one of the world’s most important modern sculptors. David McCune International Art Gallery Director Silvana Foti said visitors will be amazed by Rodin’s ability to use bronze to express human emotion.

“I am confident that viewers will find this show’s 17 bronze Rodin sculptures to be a stunning installation featuring works that span the artist’s long career,” Foti explained. “The exhibition includes Rodin’s famous depictions of writers Victor Hugo and Honore de Balzac; of the musician Gustav Mahler; and of the artist Claude Lorrain. Also included in the show is a photographic portrait of Rodin by Edward Steichen.”

Foti said the exhibit will allow visitors to experience the works of a world-renowned artist in an intimate setting. “Art students everywhere study Rodin,” Foti said. “I was fortunate to see Rodin sculptures in museums in Europe and large U.S. cities, and it’s nothing short of amazing that a gallery in Cumberland County will have the opportunity to exhibit his work.”

The David McCune International Art Gallery is rapidly becoming a nationally recognized and locally valued art gallery through its diverse, dynamic, and high-quality programming. Recent shows have included works by nationally-recognized artists with local connections, invitational exhibits showcasing North Carolina-based artists who work in clay and glass, and artists who work with textiles.

Last spring, the gallery hosted "Picasso: 25 Years of Edition Ceramics from the Rosenbaum Collection." In fall 2013, the featured exhibit was "Igneous Expressions." It included works by contemporary glass artists including Harvey Littleton, John Littleton, Kate Vogel, and Mark Peiser.

This exhibition has been organized and made possible by the Iris & B. Gerald Cantor Foundation. In addition, the exhibition also received local financial assistance from the Cumberland County Tourism Development Authority (TDA), and sponsorship from Bryan Honda.

For more information on the David McCune International Art Gallery, visit www.davidmccunegallery.org. For more information on this upcoming exhibit, or to schedule a group visit, contact Silvana Foti at 910.425.5379, or sfoti@davidmccunegallery.org.

About Methodist University

The Campaign for Methodist University – Building Excellence is the largest fundraising initiative in Methodist University's history. It will fund scholarships, endowed faculty positions, academic programs, campus life enhancements, new and renovated academic buildings, and expanded athletic facilities. For more information on the Campaign for Methodist University, contact the Office of Institutional Advancement at 910.630.7200 or visit the campaign website at www.CampaignForMU.org.

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###

From: Roxana Ross
To: Roxana Ross
BC Arleen Fields
Date: 1/8/2016 11:10 AM
Subject: press release - Rodin exhibit at Methodist University
Attachments: Rodin at McCune.docx

Hello,

Attached and below, please find a press release about an upcoming art exhibit at Methodist University. Also below is a dropbox link to download a photo of one of the pieces in the exhibit. The foundation which has loaned us the exhibit asks that the image be used with its proper title and information, listed below the link. Please let me know if you have any problems with the image.

~R

<https://www.dropbox.com/s/nedab54mjlovsz/%231181-Heroic-Bust-of-Victor-Hugo-14-600DPI.jpg?oref=e&n=204363673>

Auguste Rodin: Heroic Bust of Victor Hugo, bronze, detail, 29 ¼ x 23 ½ x 21 ¼ in., Executed: 1890-97 or 1901-02; cast: Musée Rodin 7/12, 1981. Collection Iris Cantor.

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writers Victor Hugo and Honore de Balzac; of the musician Gustav Mahler; and of the artist Claude Lorrain. Also included in the show is a photographic portrait of Rodin by Edward Steichen.”

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Roxana Ross
Director of Marketing and Communications
Methodist University
910.480.8408

Engage. Enrich. *Empower.*



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For Immediate Release
Jan. 11, 2016

Media Contact:
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SECOND MARINE AIRCRAFT WING BAND TO PERFORM AT METHODIST UNIVERSITY FEB 2

FAYETTEVILLE, N.C. – The Second Marine Aircraft Wing Band will perform Tuesday, Feb. 2, at Methodist University. The patriotic program will begin at 8 p.m. in Huff Concert Hall. This event is free and open to the public.

The Second Marine Aircraft Wing was commissioned in 1941 at Naval Air Station, San Diego, Calif. In 1946, the wing was relocated to Marine Corps Air Station, Cherry Point, N.C., where it remains. Since 1941, the Second Marine Aircraft Wing Band has performed in more than 50,000 ceremonies, concerts, parades, and other events. The musicians of this Marine Corps Band entertain audiences at more than 225 performances each year.

“This 50-piece band has received numerous accolades during its 70-year history,” said Dr. Keith Dippre, chair of Methodist’s Music Department. “The concert will feature a variety of musical styles, including familiar marches, jazz, and popular contemporary music.”

Dippre said he is particularly proud to have this group perform at Methodist, because his son is a member.

“I hope the community will come out in healthy numbers to support our men and women in uniform,” Dippre said.

For more information on this event, please contact the Music Department at 910.630.7100.

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Jan. 19, 2016

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GENERAL SHELTON LEADERSHIP CHALLENGE COMES TO METHODIST UNIVERSITY

FAYETTEVILLE, NC— Methodist University and the Lura S. Tally Center for Leadership Development announce that the university will be a host for the General Shelton Leadership Challenge, July 17-22.

The General Shelton Leadership Challenge is a one-week summer residential experience for rising freshmen, sophomores, juniors, and seniors in high school. The camp will take place on the campus of Methodist University, and is designed to help students expand their knowledge and skills of what it takes to be an effective leader. The cornerstones of values-based leadership – such as honesty, integrity, compassion, diversity, and social responsibility – are the foundations of the experience.

“The Tally Center is excited to provide this new opportunity for young people,” said Dr. Andrew Ziegler, director of the Tally Center for Leadership Development. “The General Shelton Leadership Challenge will be a wonderful experience for those high school students who want to learn how to lead others.”

The challenge’s core curriculum focuses on leadership roles and accountability, team building, leadership styles and situations, social responsibility, integrity as a leader, public speaking, changing behaviors, and goal setting.

“We are excited to bring the General Shelton Challenge to Methodist University and to the Fayetteville community,” said Doris Munoz, director of the Shelton Challenge at Methodist University. “General Shelton is one of the most successful leaders in our country’s history. The Shelton Challenge is designed to educate and empower youth who aspire to be leaders through General Shelton’s cornerstones of leadership.”

The cost to attend the General Shelton Leadership Challenge is \$500, and includes deposit, lodging, meals, all curriculum materials, low and high ropes training, transportation during the week, and evening activities. Applications for the camp program are available. For an application and reference form, please visit methodist.edu/Shelton or contact Munoz at dmunoz@methodist.edu or 910.630.7022. All applications, references, and full payment for the camp are due by June 17.

The General Shelton Leadership Challenge at Methodist University is sponsored in part by H&H Homes.

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For Immediate Release
Jan. 21, 2016

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METHODIST UNIVERSITY ANNOUNCES SPRING CONVOCATION

FAYETTEVILLE, N.C. – Methodist University announces its 2016 Spring Convocation, which will be held 11 a.m. Monday, Feb. 1, in Huff Concert Hall. The event is free and open to the public.

Traditionally, the spring convocation event is a celebration of Black History Month. This year's event, "Spoken Truth/Spoken Word: Voices for Social Change," will integrate recent issues in the news with stories of student activism during the Civil Rights Movement. Two faculty members, Dr. Carla Fagan and Dr. Jaunita Heyward, will speak of their experiences as children during the Jim Crow era and as student and adult activists for civil rights.

"People need to hear this so that they can see history is repeating itself," said Fagan, who is chair of MU's Department of Social Work. "We are fighting the same battle that we fought 50 years ago for voting rights, civil rights, and the right to life."

Fagan, who spent much of her youth in Harlem in New York City, saw firsthand the different ways race was dealt with in the South when she came to visit family in North Carolina. As a student at City College in New York City, she was an organizing member of the college's first black student organization, the Onyx Society. Later, she would go on to work with the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee and the Black Panther Party.

"The voices of those of us who lived during the Jim Crow era and the Civil Rights Movement must continue to be heard so we don't forget," said Heyward, who is the coordinator for elementary education and art education at MU. "Things sometime remain the same, just the locations change. We must learn from the past."

Heyward also lived in New York City as a child, before moving to Mt. Pleasant, S.C., where she encountered things like segregated water fountains. She attended Bennett College in Greensboro, N.C., the town that sparked the department store sit-in protests in 1960. As a student, she participated in a solidarity march to support the voting rights march led by Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. from Selma to Montgomery, Ala.

History professor Dr. Peter Murray, one of the event organizers, said he hopes this year's convocation gets students and community visitors excited about the social issues in today's news.

“As well as having Dr. Fagan and Dr. Heyward talking about their stories, we will also have students reading poetry related to civil rights,” Murray said.

For more information on this event, please contact Murray at 910.630.7075, or pcmurray@methodist.edu.

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For Immediate Release
January 25, 2016

Media Contact:
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**METHODIST UNIVERSITY CHORALE PRESENTS
SINGING VALENTINES**

FAYETTEVILLE, N.C. – The Methodist University Chorale will present singing valentines in the greater Fayetteville area on Feb. 12, 2015 between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. Each singing valentine will be presented with a special package of gifts, including a red rose and personalized Valentine’s Day card.

“The singing valentines fundraiser that the MU Chorale does is an adaptation of a similar fundraiser used by the Barbershop Harmony Society,” said Dr. Michael Martin, director of chorale activities and Music Education. “It is really something to see the expressions on the faces who are remembered by their loved ones. It’s a happy day and well-worth the joy it brings to people.”

The Chorale will offer three options for singing valentines. The “My Phone-y Valentine” costs \$10, and will include a personalized four-part harmony telephone greeting to the recipient. The “Regular Delivery” valentine, \$25, will deliver your singing valentine anywhere in the greater Fayetteville area, within a four-hour window of the time frame you request. The “Straight to the Heart” singing valentine, which costs \$35, will ensure your valentine is delivered within 10 minutes of the requested time. Both “Regular Delivery” and “Straight to the Heart” valentines will be delivered in person with a red rose and a personalized Valentine’s Day card. All proceeds go to benefit the MU Chorale’s upcoming concert tour to Philadelphia.

Singing Valentines can be ordered any time until Feb. 11 at noon. For more information, or to order your singing valentine, contact Martin at mmartin@methodist.edu or 910.630.7153.

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From: Methodist University Mass Email
To: *
Date: 1/29/2016 7:22 PM
Subject: Methodist University Head Football Coach C.J. Goss has resigned his position the University announced on Friday

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

January 29, 2016

Contact: Nate Jervey, Sports Information Director

Cell: (540) 460-9560

Office: (910) 630-7172

Email: sportsinfo@methodist.edu

Goss Resigns as Methodist Football Coach

FAYETTEVILLE, N.C. -- Methodist University Head Football Coach C.J. Goss has resigned his position the University announced on Friday.

Goss served as an assistant coach with the Monarchs from 2005 to 2012 and was promoted to head coach in the spring of 2013. In three seasons at the helm, Goss led MU to an 18-12 record, including a share of the USA South Championship in 2013. Offensive Coordinator Keven Williams will take over as acting head coach for the 2016 season.

"We wish C.J. Goss well in his future endeavors and thank him for his service to the MU football program," said Dr. Ben Hancock, president of Methodist University. "We also welcome Keven Williams to his new role as acting head coach of this historic and winning program."

"I echo Dr. Hancock's sentiment regarding Coach Goss and I appreciate his hard work over the years on behalf of the football program," said Vice President and Director of Athletics Bob McEvoy. "Coach Williams has done a fine job as our offensive coordinator in recent years and I look forward to working with him to continue to move our program forward."

Williams has served as an assistant with the Monarchs since 2009 and has served as the team's offensive coordinator since 2011.

A national search for a permanent replacement will take place following the upcoming 2016 season.

Nate Jervey
Sports Information Director
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For Immediate Release
Feb. 19, 2016

Media Contact:
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LOYALTY CAMPAIGN GOAL SET AT \$200,000

FAYETTEVILLE, NC— Methodist University's Loyalty Campaign will be celebrated on Tuesday, Feb. 23. The goal this year is to raise \$200,000 for student scholarships.

On Tuesday, 22 teams made of up of 245 community volunteers will personally reach out to more than 2,000 individuals off campus to ask them to make a gift to the Loyalty Campaign for Student Scholarships. More than 10,000 alumni and friends will also be solicited nationwide.

Even though Loyalty Campaign fundraising efforts continue throughout the day, there will be a celebration luncheon on Feb. 23 from noon to 1 p.m. at Haymount United Methodist Church, located at 1700 Fort Bragg Road in Fayetteville. The luncheon is a time for volunteers and donors to celebrate the success of the campaign and energize the volunteers to reach the finish line. The Loyalty Campaign Supporter of the Year will be announced at the luncheon.

Fundraising efforts for the Loyalty Campaign are conducted in the days leading up to and weeks following Feb. 23. A gift may be made year-round to the Loyalty Campaign.

Methodist University's Loyalty Campaign is rooted in a tradition of local support older than the school itself. Before the then-named Methodist College opened to its first class in 1960, secular and religious community leaders gathered pledges and donations from the local community for a small, private, liberal arts college that would be built in Fayetteville.

"The institution owes its very founding to community leaders who believed in the philosophy of university-community partnerships," said Methodist University President Dr. Ben Hancock.

In 1956, the Fayetteville College Foundation, which has since been renamed the Methodist University Foundation, pledged to raise an annual contribution of \$50,000. For most years as far back as 1968, the fourth Tuesday in February has served as the Loyalty Campaign celebration day, a community fundraising event.

Like the original board, the current Foundation is made up of business owners and community leaders from all walks of life in Cumberland County. The Office of Institutional Advancement estimates that more than 550 local leaders have served on the Foundation since it formed, with thousands more community members serving over the years as Loyalty Campaign volunteers, making phone calls, personal visits, and other efforts to appeal to residents and businesses for the fundraising event.

This year's Loyalty Campaign chair is Randy Bullard '76, a local financial advisor. He says he is deeply humbled and honored to serve as the chair of the 60th annual Loyalty Campaign for student scholarships.

"I know enough about the school's leadership that I can say with confidence; the best is yet to come. As a financial advisor, I truly appreciate the many ways MU contributes to the

community's well-being and enhances the quality of life. The positive community impact made by graduates is immeasurable," Bullard said.

Though Loyalty Campaign was originally about raising funds to help the college operate; in 2005, the focus shifted to student scholarships, something that MU dedicates more than 26 percent of its budget to each year. With more than 95 percent of Methodist University students receiving financial aid, many students would not be able to attend the university without scholarships like the ones funded through the Loyalty Campaign. In the 2014-2015 academic year, MU awarded \$21.9 million in financial aid to students.

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For Immediate Release
March 3, 2016

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**METHODIST UNIVERSITY JAZZ FESTIVAL MARCH 19, FEATURING
GUEST ARTIST LEW TABACKIN**

FAYETTEVILLE, N.C. – The Methodist University Jazz Festival, featuring special guest artist Lew Tabackin, will be held Saturday, March 19, in Hensdale Chapel. The event, which starts at 1 p.m., also includes concerts from the Fayetteville Jazz Orchestra, the Methodist University Jazz Monarchs, and the Pembroke Jazz Ensemble.

Admission is \$10 for the general public, \$5 with a student or military ID, or free for children 5 and younger. Tickets are available at the door. Before the festival, Tabackin will teach a private masterclass and workshop with Methodist students.

“I am so thrilled to have the opportunity for my students to hear and learn from a true jazz master,” said Director of MU Bands Daniel McCloud, who is also an event organizer. “Lew Tabackin has been around a long time, performing with some of the most significant names in recent jazz history, and it’ll be great to have him here in Fayetteville.”

To close the event, Lew Tabackin will give the capstone concert at 4 p.m. Tabackin, a flute and tenor saxophonist, was born in Philadelphia and graduated from the Philadelphia Conservatory of Music. After serving three years in the U.S. Army, he played jazz in New York City, including with the big bands led by the likes of Cab Calloway, Maynard Ferguson, Thad Jones and Mel Lewis. Tabackin also worked with Doc Severinsen and the studio band for Dick Cavett’s television show. In his early years as a performer, he also spent time in Europe as a soloist with various orchestras, including the Danish Radio Orchestra and the Hamburg Jazz Workshop.

In 1968, Tabackin met fellow musician Toshiko Akiyoshi, and the two married and moved to Los Angeles, where they formed the award-winning big band known as the Toshiko Akiyoshi Jazz Orchestra. As well as playing in L.A., he toured Japan with his wife’s orchestra and his own trio.

Tabackin returned to New York in 1982 with Akiyoshi, and re-entered the Manhattan jazz scene. Since then, he has solidified his position as a major tenor saxophone and flute artist, both live and in recordings.

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For Immediate Release
March 3, 2016

Media Contact:
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METHODIST UNIVERSITY AWARDED STRATEGIC HIGHWAY RESEARCH PROGRAM EDUCATION CONNECTION INITIATIVE

FAYETTEVILLE, N.C. — Methodist University has been announced as a recipient of the Strategic Highway Research Program (SHRP2) Education Connection cooperative agreement, a grant designed to help academia incorporate solutions into existing transportation curriculum. The grant was awarded to just 10 universities in the country, each of which will incorporate one or more SHRP2 themes into its current academic curriculum.

“We are very excited to be a part of this Strategic Highway Research Program,” said Dr. George Hendricks, dean of the School of Public Affairs. “Methodist University’s proximity to the I-295 loop construction in Fayetteville and our faculty expertise gives us the unique ability to develop and evaluate innovative curricula that address ecological concerns in our nation’s roads and highways. This curriculum will help professionals in the transportation industry meet environmental, economic, and community requirements on highway development and maintenance projects.”

With the grant money provided, Methodist will use the theme “Implementing Eco-Logical,” which covers planning and environmental risk management, to help develop a curriculum to help students address ecological and environmental planning challenges. The project will be led by Dr. Deborah Branson, the department chair of the university’s Environmental and Occupational Management Program and director of the MU Southeastern Center for Environmental Excellent (SECEE). Using an “Eco-Logical” approach for classes in SECEE, the theme will develop a curriculum for 20 undergraduate students, and included in a certificate course for 60 professional certificate seekers.

“Eco-Logical is an initiative that incorporates a broader perspective into the planning process for the Department of Transportation, incorporating the elements of the environment. It has been taught as part of an Environmental Assessment class at Methodist,” said Dr. Branson. “In this course, students learn how the National Environmental Policy Act process for Environmental Assessments is conducted. ‘Eco-Logical’ is a structured planning tool that can be used in any environmental assessment and gives the students a framework.”

Materials developed from the project will include four case studies with live virtual teleconferencing with project managers from different regions and climates in the country, site visits to multiple stages of Interstate 295 to document and analyze in an eco-logical approach, and a 3-D planning exercise to aid in the development of virtual planning in geographically accurate environments. The project will also help develop a pre-test at the start of the class, one new exam on the material presented, and a post-test at the conclusion of the class, as well as a course survey.

The Strategic Highway Research Program is a large-scale cooperative research program funded by Congress and administered by the U.S. Department of Transportation's Federal Highway Administration. To learn more about SHRP2 Solutions, visit <http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/goshrp2/>. For more information on SECEEE, visit <http://www.methodist.edu/environmental-health>.

About Methodist University

The Campaign for Methodist University – Building Excellence is the largest fundraising initiative in Methodist University's history. It will fund scholarships, endowed faculty positions, academic programs, campus life enhancements, new and renovated academic buildings, and expanded athletic facilities. For more information on the Campaign for Methodist University, contact the Office of Institutional Advancement at 910.630.7200 or visit the campaign website at www.CampaignForMU.org.

Methodist University is an independent four-year institution of higher education with more than 2,400 students from 41 states and 53 countries. Methodist University offers 80 majors and concentrations, four master's degree programs, one doctoral level program, 100 clubs and organizations, and 20 NCAA III intercollegiate sports. To learn more about Methodist University, please visit methodist.edu or facebook.com/MethodistUniversity.

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For Immediate Release
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Methodist University holds 5th Undergraduate Symposium

FAYETTEVILLE, N.C. — The 5th Undergraduate Research Symposium will take place on the campus of Methodist University April 11-13. The event is free to attend, and open to the public. MU students, faculty, and staff members will be sharing their research and creativity throughout the symposium.

“One of the highlights of the academic year is the Undergraduate Research Symposium and related activities that involve our undergraduate students, graduate students, and faculty,” said Dr. Ben Hancock, President. “It places emphasis on scholarly endeavors, and showcases the collaborative work within our University community.”

The Symposium will begin Monday, April 11, with various faculty presentations at 11 a.m. Students from the university’s four graduate programs will present their research in the PA Auditorium from 5:30 – 8 p.m.

Advanced poetry students will present “Five Poets, Ten Poems: The Voices of ENG/WRI 4850” on Tuesday, April 12, at 7 p.m. in the PA Auditorium. A reception will follow the poetry readings.

Symposium day will be held Wednesday, April 13, 8:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. The main event of the week, the symposium will begin with a reception at 8:30 a.m., followed by morning lecture sessions by research scholars from various majors and disciplines across the campus. At 1 p.m., a special presentation, “Cape Fear New Music Festival Concert” will take place in Reeves Fine Arts Building, room G5. The presentation will feature three MU faculty members, Dr. Michael Potts, Dr. Keith Dippre, and Professor Kerry Jenkins. Following the conclusion of the presentation, afternoon lectures and poster presentations will take place from 2 – 3:30 p.m. A university awards ceremony will take place at 3:30 p.m. in Huff Concert Hall.

For a full list of events taking place during Symposium Week, please visit methodist.edu/curc-symposium-5.

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**THE PROFESSIONAL MBA PROGRAM
AT METHODIST UNIVERSITY HOSTS TWO OPEN HOUSE SESSIONS ON
APRIL 29 AND MAY 14**

FAYETTEVILLE, NC—Methodist University will host two open house sessions for the Professional Master of Business Administration (MBA) degree program. The open house sessions will be held in Yarborough Auditorium of Clark Hall at 6:00 p.m. on Friday, April 29 at 6 p.m. and Saturday, May 14 at 10 a.m.

The face-to-face open house format will give prospective students the opportunity to ask questions, apply for the Fall 2016 semester, and schedule a tour of the campus. The MBA focus is in organizational management and leadership. The program blends online coursework with two weekend class sessions per eight-week term. The Professional MBA program at Methodist University is designed to allow students to continue their full-time careers while earning their degree in less than 18 months.

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For Immediate Release
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**“NEW HORIZONS” STUDENT EXHIBIT OPENS APRIL 28
AT METHODIST UNIVERSITY**

FAYETTEVILLE, N.C. — The Methodist University Department of Art announces “New Horizons,” a senior exhibition by Methodist University students Chase Counts, Jorge Rivera, and Dylan Teal. The show will hold its opening reception from 6 to 8 p.m., Thursday, April. 28, in the Union-Zukowski Lobby and Gallery, where the artists will be on hand to discuss their work, along with faculty from the Department of Art. The show will run until May. 5

Chase Counts, a Fayetteville native, took an interest in art at an early age. During his senior year at Village Christian Academy, he decided he wanted to pursue a career in graphic design. When Counts began studying art history and read about different art movements, it helped him to develop his style. Counts is a fan of Pop Art, Art Deco, and Russian Constructivism. He creates artwork using retro styles and combining it with modern techniques. After graduation, Counts wants to work in advertising and company branding.

“I feel that by working with future businesses and helping them develop their brand identity, I will have left a little piece of myself with the company,” Counts said.

Jorge Luis Rivera is a graphic artist educated in both traditional and digital design media. Rivera was born in Heidelberg, Germany and moved with his family across the United States before settling in Fayetteville in 1996. From elementary through high school, Rivera took art classes and competed in regional and national competitions. During his senior year in high school, Rivera submitted the winning design for the school’s senior hoodies. This moment helped him realize that he wanted to make art his career. Rivera is interested in taking different approaches to art making as a way to increase his range and flexibility as an artist. He creates works of art that derive from both traditional and digital design media.

“My artworks are a reflection of my curiosity to learn more about the mediums I’m using while remaining focused on developing my digital art,” Rivera said. Rivera will graduate from Methodist University on May 7 and plans to advance his education in graphic design in a graduate program outside of North Carolina.

Dylan Teal is a graphic designer born and raised in Washington, D.C. Graduating from Methodist University, Teal has found love and passion for his two undergraduate degrees in graphic design and marketing. Teal will be attending the University of Alabama for his master’s in advertising and public relations while also working for the school. He says he is considered an excellent worker who is proficient in completing projects at a fast pace while keeping an eye on detail and professional work.

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For Immediate Release
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METHODIST UNIVERSITY ANNOUNCES SPRING COMMENCEMENT

FAYETTEVILLE, N.C. – Methodist University will celebrate its 53rd annual Spring Commencement Ceremony Saturday, May 7, at 2 p.m. in the March F. Riddle Center on the University’s campus. There are currently 223 candidates for graduation.

The 2016 Spring Commencement Distinguished Graduate is Olorato Condrad Mbi. He was among the top students in the graduating class and was chosen for this honor by his fellow graduates. He is receiving his Bachelor of Science in Accounting and will give remarks at the Commencement Ceremony.

There will be two graduates receiving their commission as second lieutenants in the U.S. Army.

Dr. Nancy J. Cable, president of The Arthur Vining Davis Foundations, will deliver the commencement address. During the ceremony, the University will present Cable with an honorary Doctor of Humane Letters.

“Dr. Nancy Cable is an accomplished leader in higher education, and the Arthur Vining Davis Foundation is known for its support of innovation at universities,” said MU President Ben Hancock. “As we continue to grow as a university, follow best practices, and seek new ways of facilitating excellent teaching and learning, her visit to campus and anticipated comments at commencement are very timely.”

Prior to the commencement ceremony, the Rev. Neal Christie will deliver the baccalaureate sermon at 10:30 a.m. in Huff Concert Hall.

About the Speaker

Cable was appointed as president of the Arthur Vining Davis Foundations in 2012. The Foundations, organized in 1962 by the founder of the Alcoa Company, work to strengthen America through national-reaching philanthropic support and partnerships in private higher education, public educational media in history and children’s programs, religious literacy and interfaith understanding, and medicine and health.

She is a nationally recognized leader in higher education, educational access, finance and affordability, and liberal arts curricula. She served as faculty member and dean at Denison University from 1977 to 1986, Guilford College from 1986 to 1991, and was vice president and dean of Admission and Financial Aid at Davidson College from 1991 to 2005, where she led a college-wide effort to advance selectivity, diversity, financial capacity, and strategic planning. From 2005 to 2009, she served as vice president for Development in the College of Engineering and later with the Semester at Sea Program at the University of Virginia. Following service as

Bates College's vice president, the Bates Board of Trustees elected Cable as interim president, a position that allowed her to help lead college-wide efforts on governance, faculty and curricular issues, and matters of diversity and inclusion.

Cable is a member of Phi Beta Kappa, earned her bachelor's degree in history from Marietta College, a master's degree from the University of Vermont, and her doctorate in educational history from the University of Virginia. She is also a graduate of the Harvard University Institute for Educational Leadership.

Baccalaureate Service

Rev. Christie is assistant general secretary of the United Methodist Board of Church and Society for Education and Leadership Formation, a position he assumed in 2001. He lives in the Mt. Pleasant neighborhood of Washington, D.C. with his family, where he is active in Dumbarton UMC and an ecumenical faith community that is part of the Church of the Savior, Festival Church.

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CALL FOR NOMINATIONS FOR SECOND ANNUAL REEVES SCHOOL OF BUSINESS SYMPOSIUM AND AWARDS DINNER

FAYETTEVILLE, NC—Nominations for the Second Annual Reeves School of Business Symposium and Awards Dinner have been opened to the general public. Seven awards will be given at this year's Symposium, which will be held on Thursday, Nov. 17, at 6:30 p.m. at Embassy Suites Fayetteville/Fort Bragg.

“We are excited to recognize the outstanding leadership in our business community at this year's symposium,” said Dr. Kimberly Scruton, dean of the Reeves School of Business. “Our goal through this event is to inspire, appreciate the forward-thinking leadership making a positive impact on our community, and to unite the Methodist University and business community through innovative and thoughtful discussion. We look forward to an evening filled with celebration, education, and fun.”

The public is encouraged to submit nominations for the following awards, which will be presented at the symposium in November:

- Alumni Business Person of the Year – given to a graduate of Methodist University who has shown promise for a successful career.
- Entrepreneur of the Year – a risk-taker in the free enterprise system; a person who sees opportunity and devises strategies to achieve specific objectives.
- Business Person of the Year – presented to an executive who makes great contributions, not only to the successful operation of local business and industry, but also to the civic and cultural life of the community.
- Greater Good Award – a professional who shows kindness, charity, humanity, love, and friendship to his or her associates.
- Small Business Excellence Award – a business that employs less than 300 people and generates revenue of less than \$15 million per year. The award committee also considers the creativity of the business, the uniqueness of its product or services, the employees' welfare, and the contributions of the business to its community.
- Silver Spoon Award – a person who, though not born with the proverbial spoon in his or her mouth, has originated and built a successful business recognized for its uniqueness in planning, production, or some other aspect of its operation. This business can be located anywhere in the United States.

- Outstanding Woman Entrepreneur of the Year – must be a North Carolina resident who owns, has established, or manages a small business. The committee for this award will also consider the individual’s creativity, innovativeness, and personal contributions to and involvement with the community.

Nominations may be submitted online by visiting www.methodist.edu/rsb-symposium, or by downloading the application and returning it by mail. The nomination deadline is Friday, August 5. For more assistance or information, contact Pam Biermann at 910.630.7496.

About the Reeves School of Business

The Charles M. Reeves School of Business and Economics was founded in 1986. It offers accredited bachelor’s and master’s degree programs across a wide range of business disciplines, all designed to fashion and nurture the spirit of entrepreneurship and creative economic endeavors. By developing an understanding of the modern American economy, an appreciation of its power and institutional structure, and an ability to function effectively in it, students graduate with the knowledge needed to succeed in the business world. The Reeves School of Business is nationally accredited by the Accreditation Council for Business Schools and Programs.

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METHODIST UNIVERSITY ANNOUNCES TWO MAJOR GIFTS

FAYETTEVILLE, N.C. – Methodist University is pleased to announce two recent major gifts to the Campaign for Methodist University – Building Excellence.

Margaret Ann Player and her family have made a gift of \$100,000 to name the Ensemble Rehearsal Room in the Sharon and Ron Matthews Ministry Center in memory of her late husband Richard Player Jr. Mr. Player, who passed away in 2015, served as a trustee of the university for 16 years and built many of the buildings on campus through his company Player, Inc. Mrs. Player is a founding member of the university’s Friends of Music group and of the Fayetteville Symphony Orchestra. Mr. and Mrs. Player were awarded the University Medallion in 2014 for their long and distinguished service to Methodist University.

“I am pleased to give this gift in memory of my husband and to fund a project that will help support the students and the music program at Methodist,” said Margaret Ann Player. “This new facility will benefit the campus and the entire community through music.”

Richard Player III, a graduate of the Class of 1991, stated “I’m happy that our family has made this gift in honor of my mother and father. It’s good to give back to my alma mater and to the community where we live and do business.”

Alumnus Jurgen Stanley and his wife Dee Dee have made a \$100,000 gift to name the conference room in the Matthews Ministry Center in their honor. Stanley, a graduate of the Class of 1977, is the owner of J&S Holdings. Mr. Stanley was named the Alumni Business Person of the Year in 1998 by the university’s Reeves School of Business.

“Methodist University provided me with the foundation I needed to become successful in business,” said Jurgen Stanley. “It was the place where I began to fulfill my goals and dreams. For that I am very grateful and happy to give back.”

“These two significant gifts are the most recent examples of contributions built on relationships that span decades,” said university president Ben Hancock. “Methodist University is fortunate to have friends and alumni who are appreciative of the university’s role in the community and in shaping their personal lives, thus leading to their commitment to serving others.”

The Campaign for Methodist University – Building Excellence is the largest fundraising initiative in Methodist University’s history. It will fund scholarships, endowed faculty positions, academic programs, campus life enhancements, new and renovated academic buildings, and expanded athletic facilities. Numerous naming opportunities are available within each of the facilities as well as named endowment opportunities. The capital projects in the campaign include:

- The Thomas R. McLean Health Sciences Building
- John M. Reeves Fine Arts Building Renovation
- Sharon and Ron Matthews Ministry Center
- Linda and Ralph Huff Concert Hall
- Student Union and Berns Center Renovation and Expansion
- Improved athletic facilities, including golf, baseball, softball, soccer, football, track and field, and lacrosse

For more information on the Campaign for Methodist University, contact the Office of Institutional Advancement at 910.630.7200 or visit the campaign website at www.CampaignForMU.org.

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DAVID MCCUNE INTERNATIONAL ART GALLERY ANNOUNCES UPCOMING EXHIBITS

FAYETTEVILLE, NC—The David McCune International Art Gallery at Methodist University will host “Elemental,” a showcase featuring ceramic artist Akira Satake and painter Victoria Pinney. The showcase will open Sept. 22 and run through Nov. 17. In the spring, the gallery will host a photography exhibit, “Impressions to Modernism: Masterworks of Early Photography.” Both exhibits are free and open to the public.

“We look forward to having ‘Elemental: Ceramics and Abstract Paintings’ in the gallery this autumn,” said Silvana Foti, executive director of the gallery. “It is a privilege to have Satake and Pinney’s work on display on our campus.”

“We are excited to continue our tradition of first-class art exhibitions for our campus and greater community,” said Dr. Ben Hancock, president of Methodist University. “And the future holds so many possibilities to showcase artistic excellence.”

The opening reception for “Elemental” will begin in the gallery at 6:30 p.m. on Sept. 22. The gallery will be open Tuesday-Friday, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Saturdays, noon to 4 p.m. It will be closed Sundays, Mondays, Oct. 17-18, and Nov. 11.

About the fall exhibit artists

Akira Satake was born in Osaka, Japan, and has been living in the United States since 1983. Satake has been awarded the National Award for Excellence in Contemporary Clay by the Philadelphia Museum. “A Craftsman’s Legacy,” a national weekly television series on PBS, has featured his life and work.

“For me, the act of creation is collaboration between the clay, the fire, and myself,” said Satake. “Collaboration means finding out what the clay wants to be and bringing out its beauty in the way that the beauty of our surroundings is created through natural resources. Undulations in sand that has been moved by the wind, rock formations caused by landslides, the crackle and patina in the wall of an old house; all these owe their special beauty to the random hand of Nature. The fire is the ultimate random part of the collaborative equation. I hope the fire will be my ally, but I know it will always transform the clay in ways I cannot anticipate.”

In 2003, Satake relocated from Brooklyn, N.Y. to Swannona, N.C. He is widely sought after for workshops and lectures, and has been invited to give classes in France, Belgium, Israel, Australia, Bali, England, Portugal, and Scotland.

Victoria Pinney is a largely self-taught artist who works in an open studio in Asheville, N.C.'s River Arts District. She uses a mixture of oil paint and elemental substances, such as wax and sand, to give her art a historic feel.

"I find that things like rusted rail cars, crumbling stone walls, the mottled bark of a sycamore tree – even peeling paint – become microcosms of beauty that inspire my paintings," said Pinney. "The textured surface is as essential to the painting as color or shape."

Pinney is one of a select group of curated artists included in the Western North Carolina Design Guide. In 2015, she was featured in "American Art Collector." In January 2016, she was recognized as an Emerging Artist in "Art Galleries and Artists of the South."

Spring exhibit

"Impressions to Modernism: Masterworks of Early Photography" celebrates an intrepid group of photographers at the turn of the 20th century on both sides of the Atlantic who fought to establish photography as a full-fledged art form. Their leader was Alfred Stieglitz, whose exhibition space, the "Little Galleries of the Photo-Secession," and exquisitely printed magazine, "Camera Work," advanced the vision of the most ambitious artist-photographers, including Heinrich Kühn, Gertrude Käsebier, Edward Steichen, and Clarence White, as well as Stieglitz himself.

This exhibit is drawn from the private collection of Michael Mattis and Judith Hochberg. The exhibit also covers the explosive aftermath of the Photo-Secession, when, starting with the work of Paul Strand in 1915-16, photography transitioned by fits and starts from Pictorialism to Modernism. The spring's photography exhibit will run at McCune Gallery from Feb. 9 to April 8. More information about this show and the opening reception will be announced closer to the semester.

The David McCune International Art Gallery coordinates exhibitions of art by student, regional, national, and international artists, educating students and the public through a diverse representation of fine art. For more information about the gallery, please visit davidmccunegallery.org.

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**LAFAYETTE COLLECTION AT METHODIST UNIVERSITY TO RECEIVE
SIGNIFICANT DONATION FROM ALUMNUS**

FAYETTEVILLE, N.C. — On Monday, Aug. 15, Methodist University alumnus Gene Dillman will deliver more than \$40,000 worth of artifacts to the Lafayette Collection at Methodist University. These Lafayette items date from 1792 to 1834, and a significant number relate to his 1824-1825 tour of the United States.

Gilbert du Motier Lafayette, better known as the Marquis de La Fayette or General Lafayette, arrived on American shores in 1777 as a 19-year-old French idealist eager to join the cause of liberty. He became a Revolutionary War hero as a major general and was like an adopted son to George Washington. Forty years later, President Monroe invited him to return as a “Guest of the Nation” and he was heartily welcomed on his Grand Tour of all the states in 1824-1825.

To capitalize on his American visit, craftsmen and manufacturers sold ceramic bowls and pitchers, cups, scarves, ribbons, and many other items bearing Lafayette’s image, much like the “merchandizing” of sports heroes and rock stars today. Having some of these items in the Lafayette Collection at Methodist University creates a tangible link from Lafayette to the city of Fayetteville – the first town in the United States named for him and the only namesake city that he ever visited.

Dillman, a dealer in political memorabilia, has been scouring the market for Lafayette items for years.

“Lafayette is an important personality in both American and French history,” he said. “Methodist University decided long ago to create an environment to tell the Lafayette story. I knew I could help tell this story by finding and acquiring Lafayette artifacts made and used during his lifetime...(and) I found myself in an ideal position to acquire these artifacts. As a member of the ninth graduating class of Methodist University, I’m gratified to be able to give back in such a unique way.”

This current donation follows Dillman’s 2014 gift of a smaller collection of period snuff boxes, tableware, and hat ribbons. Methodist University’s Lafayette Collection dates to 1967, when Margaret McMahan, a local Lafayette scholar, persuaded the school to purchase a collection of letters, monographs, and realia related to Lafayette.

“Methodist University is extremely excited about this most recent gift to the Lafayette Collection,” said University President Dr. Ben Hancock. “This collection has grown into a significant resource for our campus and community, and it is through the generosity of Gene and other donors that we have developed this center of excellence.”

This year’s donations from Dillman will be unveiled at the “Arias and Artifacts” program at Methodist University’s Davis Memorial Library as part of the annual Lafayette Birthday

Celebration on Friday, Sept. 9, 2016, starting at 5:30 p.m. This will be followed at 7 p.m. by a short concert of French music at Hensdale Chapel. The complete Lafayette collection is also open to the public by appointment. For more information contact Arleen Fields, Archives Librarian, at 910.630.7412 or afields@methodist.edu.

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METHODIST UNIVERSITY PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT PROGRAM AWARDED GRANT

FAYETTEVILLE, NC— The Methodist University Physician Assistant program was awarded a Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) grant of \$1.59 million over a four-year period. The grant program provides funds to eligible accredited U.S. health professions schools to make scholarships for students from disadvantaged backgrounds who have financial need and are enrolled or accepted for enrollment as full time students.

“Graduate school is an investment, and funding can be a limiting factor for some,” said Christina Beard, Director of the Methodist University PA Program. “The PA Programs thanks HRSA for the opportunity to make PA school an option for more underrepresented minorities and/or students who are from an economically or environmentally disadvantaged background. We are looking forward to working with all scholarship recipients to educate them on becoming excellent PAs so that they may expand healthcare offerings in their communities and beyond.”

Methodist University is one of five North Carolina schools to be awarded the HRSA grant. Scholarship recipients selected by the PA Program will receive a total of \$60,000.

“This major grant is just the latest indication of the level of support Methodist University is receiving in support of our Health Science initiatives,” said Dr. Ben Hancock, Methodist University President. “It will enable us to attract the most talented students and prepare them to meet the health care needs of all citizens of North Carolina, especially the underserved population that has always been a priority of our PA program.”

The Physician Assistant Program will begin awarding grants to students who are part of the incoming Fall 2016 class.

For more information about the Methodist University Physician Assistant Program, visit methodist.edu/paprogram.

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For Immediate Release
Aug. 18, 2016

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**METHODIST UNIVERSITY ANNOUNCES UPCOMING EVENTS
OPEN TO THE COMMUNITY**

FAYETTEVILLE, N.C. — The fall semester is underway at Methodist University, and classes will begin August 22. Many events in the areas of the arts, family entertainment, and speaking engagements are open to the community. All events are free and open to the public unless otherwise noted.

For the most up-to-date listing of events happening on campus, please check our master calendar of events, which can be found here: www.methodist.edu/mu-events.

MU also has many athletic events which are open to the public. Admission to Monarchs athletic events is free for most sports. Admission to football games is free for children under 6 or with a Methodist University ID, and \$4 for adults and children over 6. For a complete list of athletic activities, visit mumonarchs.com.

Aug. 26 – Opening Convocation, 11 a.m., Huff Concert Hall.

Aug. 26 – Professional MBA Open House session, 6 p.m., Yarborough Auditorium in Clark Hall. There will also be open houses at 10 a.m. Oct. 8, 6 p.m. Oct. 28, and 2 p.m. Dec. 11. For more information, visit www.methodist.edu/mba.

Sept. 9 – Arias and Artifacts, part of the Lafayette Birthday Celebration, 6:30 p.m., Davis Memorial Library. For more information, please contact Arleen Fields, 910.630.7412, or afields@methodist.edu.

Sept. 22 – Opening reception, “Elemental: Ceramics and Abstract Paintings,” 6:30 p.m., David McCune International Art Gallery. The exhibit runs through Nov. 17. For this and all other McCune Gallery events, contact Silvana Foti for more information at 910.425.5379 or visit davidmccunegallery.org.

Sept. 27 – Presidential Lecture Series, former White House Correspondent and Woodrow Wilson Visiting Fellow Richard Benedetto will speak, followed by a Q&A hosted by President Ben Hancock. The event starts at 7 p.m. in the Physician Assistant Medical Lecture Hall. For more information, please contact Jessica Wanger at 910.630.7005 or events@methodist.edu.

Sept. 29-Oct. 2 – “Much Ado About Romeo and Juliet,” presented by the MU Theatre Department in collaboration with Sweet Tea Shakespeare. Times are 8 p.m. Sept. 29-Oct 1, and 2

p.m. Oct. 2. For more information on this and other theatre events, please contact Evan Bridenstine at 910.630.7104, or ebridens@methodist.edu.

Note: Tickets are required for this event. Admission is \$5, or free with an MU ID.

Oct. 6 – Fayetteville Symphonic Band in collaboration with MU Concert Band, 7:30 p.m., Huff Concert Hall. For more information, please contact Linda Volman at 910.630.7100 or lvolman@methodist.edu.

Oct. 7 – Friends of Music Guest Artist Series presents Piano Trio (Fabian Lopez, violin; Nathan Leyland, cello; and Scott Marosek, piano), 7:30 p.m., Hensdale Chapel. For more information, please contact Linda Volman at 910.630.7100 or lvolman@methodist.edu.

Oct. 21 – Join the Methodist University family as we celebrate Homecoming and Family Weekend 2016. For tickets and more information, contact the Office of Alumni Affairs at 910.630.7167 or visit methodist.edu/alumni.

Oct. 26 – Board of Visitors Golf and Tennis Tournament, on the MU campus. To register, call 910.630.7200 or visit www.methodist.edu/bov-tournaments.

Nov. 4 – Friends of Music Guest Artist Series presents Joshua Conyers, baritone, 7:30 p.m., Huff Concert Hall. For more information, please contact Linda Volman at 910.630.7100 or lvolman@methodist.edu.

Nov. 10-13 – Department of Theatre presents Directing Class Projects, Huff Concert Hall. Times are 8 p.m. Nov. 10-12, 2 p.m. Nov. 13. For more information on this and other theatre events, please contact Evan Bridenstine at 910.630.7104, or ebridens@methodist.edu.

Nov. 17 – Reeves School of Business Symposium and Awards Dinner, 6:30 p.m., Embassy Suites. For more information, please visit www.methodist.edu/rsb-symposium.

Note: Tickets must be purchased to this event in advance.

Nov. 17 – MU Jazz Concert, 7:30 p.m., Huff Concert Hall. For more information, please contact Linda Volman at 910.630.7100 or lvolman@methodist.edu.

Nov. 18 – All-Choirs Concert, 7:30 p.m., Huff Concert Hall. For more information, please contact Linda Volman at 910.630.7100 or lvolman@methodist.edu.

Nov. 29 – Fayetteville Symphonic Band in collaboration with MU Concert Band, 7:30 p.m., Huff Concert Hall. For more information, please contact Linda Volman at 910.630.7100 or lvolman@methodist.edu.

Dec. 2 & 3 – Yuletide Feaste, Hay Street United Methodist Church. For more information, please contact Linda Volman at 910.630.7100 or lvolman@methodist.edu.

Note: Tickets to this event must be purchased in advance.

Dec. 17 – Winter Commencement. Baccalaureate Service at 10:30 a.m. in Huff Concert Hall and Commencement at 2 p.m. in Riddle Athletics Center.

Note: Tickets are required to attend the formal Commencement ceremony in Riddle.

Jan. 9, 2017 – Spring semester classes begin

Jan. 24 – Faculty recital, 7:30 p.m., Hensdale Chapel. For more information, please contact Linda Volman at 910.630.7100 or lvolman@methodist.edu.

Feb. 3 – Friends of Music Guest Artist Series presents Didge Revolution, 7:30 p.m., Hensdale Chapel. For more information, please contact Linda Volman at 910.630.7100 or lvolman@methodist.edu.

Feb. 6 – Spring Convocation, 11 a.m., Huff Concert Hall

Feb. 9 – Opening reception, “Impressionism to Modernism: Masterworks of Early Photography,” 6:30 p.m., David McCune International Art Gallery. The exhibit runs through April 8. For this and all other McCune Gallery events, contact Silvana Foti for more information at 910.425.5379 or visit davidmccunegallery.org.

Feb. 11 – Play4Kay Basketball game, 4 p.m., Riddle Athletics Center. For more information, please contact DeeDee Jarman at djarman@methodist.edu.

Feb. 16-19 – “The Great American Trailer Park Musical” presented by the MU Theatre Department. Times are 8 p.m. Feb. 16-18, and 2 p.m. Feb. 19. For more information on this and other theatre events, please contact Evan Bridenstine at 910.630.7104, or ebridens@methodist.edu.

Note: Tickets are required for this event. Admission is \$10, or free with an MU ID.

Feb. 22 – Pangea, a celebration of international culture, music, and dance, 6 p.m., Huff Concert Hall. For more information, please contact Alina Payankova at apayankova@methodist.edu.

Feb. 28 – Fayetteville Symphonic Band in collaboration with MU Concert Band, 7:30 p.m., Huff Concert Hall. For more information, please contact Linda Volman at 910.630.7100 or lvolman@methodist.edu.

March 17 – Friends of Music Guest Artist Series presents Organ Trio (Vicki Fey, organ; Tim Altman, trumpet; Larry Wells, trumpet), 7:30 p.m., Hay Street United Methodist Church. For more information, please contact Linda Volman at 910.630.7100 or lvolman@methodist.edu.

April 3-7 – Undergraduate Research Symposium. For more information, please visit www.methodist.edu/curc.

April 6 – Cape Fear New Music Festival. For more information, please contact Linda Volman at 910.630.7100 or lvolman@methodist.edu.

April 20 – Fayetteville Symphonic Band in collaboration with MU Concert Band, 7:30 p.m., Huff Concert Hall. For more information, please contact Linda Volman at 910.630.7100 or lvolman@methodist.edu.

April 21 – All-Choirs Concert, 7:30 p.m., Huff Concert Hall. For more information, please contact Linda Volman at 910.630.7100 or lvolman@methodist.edu.

May 6 – Spring Commencement. Baccalaureate Service at 10:30 a.m. in Huff Concert Hall and Commencement at 2 p.m. in Riddle Athletics Center.

Note: Tickets are required to attend the formal Commencement ceremony in Riddle.

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For Immediate Release
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METHODIST UNIVERSITY WELCOMES RECORD GRADUATE ENROLLMENT

FAYETTEVILLE, N.C. — Methodist University announced it welcomed one of the largest student enrollments in University history today at its Fall Opening Convocation. President Ben Hancock Jr. also announced that the Campaign for Methodist University – Building Excellence has almost reached \$39 million, surpassing its \$35 million goal. The final campaign figure will be announced in October, when the University celebrates the official end of the largest capital campaign in its history.

“Methodist University has a total enrollment of 2,499 students this semester,” Hancock said. “That is almost a record total enrollment, and it includes a record number of graduate students and a record number of international students, with 205 undergraduate students coming from 68 different countries. Thanks to our new Doctor of Physical Therapy Program welcoming its second cohort of students this year, our graduate student enrollment has grown to 280 students.”

New students began classes Monday after a four-day orientation, which also included a group service project. On Saturday, Aug. 20, the incoming freshmen packed 100,000 meals for nonprofit international aid organization Stop Hunger Now. Orientation wrapped up Sunday evening with the New Monarchs Banquet, where students were formally introduced to the University Honor Code and received pins or bracelets with the University Seal.

“Methodist continues to benefit from its signature people, programs and facilities,” Hancock said. “Our culture of excellence is defined by the outstanding faculty and staff who put students first while delivering a relevant and distinctive education. The record numbers again this year are evidence that Methodist continues to get it right.”

In his State of the University address, Hancock also spoke about initiatives and celebrations that will be underway this year, like the 60th anniversary of the University’s charter. He announced the creation of a task force to formalize the Institute for Sport Science and Wellness, chaired by associate professor of physical education and exercise science Dr. Jamie Robbins and assistant professor of athletic training Brandon Reynolds.

Methodist was founded Nov. 1, 1956, when then-named Methodist College was chartered by the state of North Carolina as a senior, coeducational, residential college of liberal arts and sciences. The University will be marking this anniversary all year, but especially during the days surrounding MU’s Homecoming weekend, Oct. 21-22. This year, the University is also celebrating its newest program, engineering, which recently received its formal approval from the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges.

The University has seen success in fundraising over the past year with record numbers of overall donors, record alumni giving, and faculty and staff giving. The University continues to build new facilities funded by the Campaign for Methodist University – Building Excellence. The University will break ground on the Gene Clayton Tennis Center in September and on the Sharon and Ron Matthews Ministry Center in December.

This October, the University will also mark the 20th anniversary of the Physician Assistant (PA) Program, with a special PA alumni event on Oct. 8. The PA Program received 623 applications* for admission this year for the 40 available slots offered in each new cohort.

The DPT and PA programs are two of several programs in the School of Health Sciences, which is also enjoying record enrollment. Another example is the Professional Nursing Studies Program, which was established in 2010 with its own facility and simulation hospital, and which this year accepted a record number of 46 upperclassmen into its nursing program. Students must apply to the program during their freshmen and sophomore years, when they are considered pre-nursing.

The Thomas R. McLean Health Sciences Building, home to the DPT program, was opened on April 1 and will be dedicated on Oct. 20 at the celebration of the Campaign for Methodist University – Building Excellence.

The newest School of Health Sciences program is the proposed Occupational Therapy (OT) doctorate, slated to begin in Fall 2018. MU recently hired the program's inaugural director and chair, Dr. Meredith Gronski, who comes to Methodist from Washington University in St. Louis, Mo., where she was an assistant professor of occupational therapy and otolaryngology.

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* The University received a record number of inquiries for the P.A. program (1,106 inquiries). The number of verified applications is 623.

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MU Mourns the Passing of Former President Dr. Richard Pearce

Methodist University mourns the passing of its second president, Dr. Richard W. Pearce, who died peacefully in his home in DeLand, Fla. on Thursday, Sept. 15. The MU flag has been lowered to fly at half-staff in his honor through Monday.

The Methodist College Board of Trustees elected Pearce president of Methodist College April 3, 1973, to succeed Dr. L. Stacy Weaver. A graduate of Hendersonville High School in Hendersonville, N.C., Dr. Pearce was the vice president and dean at Florida Southern College in Lakeland, Fla., before coming to Methodist. A U.S. Navy veteran, he also held J.D., M.A., and B.A. degrees from Stetson University, where he had taught business and chaired the Business Department. Prior to joining Stetson, Pearce was in private law practice for 10 years in Pierson, Fla. Dr. Pearce announced his retirement to the Methodist College Board of Trustees on April 14, 1983.

Dr. Pearce guided Methodist through a tough time with financial skill and by standing by tough and unpopular decisions. During his tenure the operating deficit was cleared and the college experienced an operating surplus. His acute business knowledge and experiences enabled the college to survive during this very difficult time. Pearce Hall is named in his honor.

A memorial service will be held on Monday, September 19 in DeLand. He is survived by his daughter, Karen Pearce, and his son, Richard Pearce.

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**WOODROW WILSON VISITING FELLOW AND JOURNALIST
RICHARD BENEDETTO TO SPEAK AT METHODIST UNIVERSITY**

FAYETTEVILLE, N.C. — Former White House Correspondent Richard Benedetto will visit Methodist University the week of Sept. 26 as a Woodrow Wilson Visiting Fellow. His visit will include a Presidential Lecture Series talk, which will be free and open to the public at 7 p.m. Tuesday, Sept. 27, in the Physician Assistant Medical Lecture Hall. The rest of his schedule will consist of activities only for the campus community, including classroom visits, a viewing party of the first presidential debate, and an interview on MU's Internet-broadcast radio station.

For more than 35 years, the Woodrow Wilson Visiting Fellows program has brought prominent artists, diplomats, journalists, business leaders, and other nonacademic professionals to campuses across the United States for substantive dialogue with students and faculty members. Through a week-long residential program of classes, seminars, workshops, lectures, and informal discussions, the Fellows create better understanding and new connections between the academic and nonacademic worlds.

"We are fortunate to have someone of Mr. Benedetto's credentials on our campus at such an opportune time," said President Ben Hancock. "His lectures and interactions with the greater University community will help us appreciate the key issues in the national election."

On Monday, Sept. 26, there will be a welcome event for Benedetto at 11 a.m. in Yarborough Auditorium in Clark Hall to open the week. In the evening, there will be a campus viewing party in Berns Student Center for the first U.S. presidential debate of the election, beginning with a short introduction to the debate at 8:45 p.m., hosted by Associate Professor of Political Science Christopher Cronin. Afterward, there will be a question and answer session with Benedetto, moderated by Dr. Cronin.

"This is a rare opportunity to experience and discuss the presidential debate alongside a well-known Washington insider," Cronin said.

On Tuesday, Sept. 27, the Presidential Lecture Series event will begin at 7 p.m. in the Physician Assistant Medical Lecture Hall, with a reception following. Benedetto will speak on "Politics and the Media," followed by a question and answer session moderated by Dr. Hancock. This event is open to the public, but with limited seating. Guests are asked to RSVP to events@methodist.edu.

On Wednesday, Sept. 28, at 3:30 p.m., Benedetto will be interviewed on MU Radio by Mass Communications Chair Dr. Kevin Swift and students in the program. MU Radio is broadcast online, and listeners can tune in through methodist.edu/radio.

Monday through Thursday, Benedetto will also be visiting a variety of classes to speak on various related topics.

“We are pleased Mr. Benedetto will be visiting Methodist University and speaking to students in a number of business, mass communications, and political science courses about his experiences as a journalist, how political campaigns have changed, and the ethics of mass communication and journalism,” said Associate Vice President for Academic Affairs Beth Carter.

About Benedetto

Richard Benedetto is a retired White House Correspondent/columnist for “USA TODAY” and former political columnist for the Gannett News Service. He reported on government and politics on the local, state, and national levels for nearly 40 years. He continues his involvement in journalism as a consultant for C-SPAN, writing political commentary for various publications and teaching journalism in Washington, D.C.

Benedetto is a founding staff member of “USA TODAY,” joining the newspaper in 1982 prior to its debut. He wrote the national newspaper’s first Page One cover story. In addition to reporting on the White House and national politics, he wrote a weekly political column for the Gannett News Service, which serves Gannett Co. Inc.'s 89 daily newspapers and the USATODAY.com website. He covered the presidencies of Ronald Reagan, George H.W. Bush, Bill Clinton and George W. Bush. He also covered every presidential campaign from 1984-2004 and every national political convention since 1976.

University Press of America published Benedetto’s memoir of his long reporting career, “Politicians Are People, Too,” in May 2006. Benedetto received numerous journalism awards and was honored in 1998 with the National Italian American Foundation Media Award for his projection of a positive image for Italian Americans.

About Methodist University

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DRUG WAR LECTURE SEPT. 20 AT METHODIST UNIVERSITY

FAYETTEVILLE, N.C. — The Methodist University Reeves School of Business will present a “Big Issue Series” lecture at 7 p.m. Tuesday, Sept. 20, in Yarborough Auditorium in Clark Hall. The event is free and open to the public.

The lecture, “End the Drug War Now: It’s Time for a New Approach,” will feature MU faculty members Dr. David Rogoff, assistant professor of sociology; and Dr. Spence Davis, associate professor of financial economics. The two will speak on the history of the America’s war on drugs with an economic analysis, and discuss alternatives such as decriminalization and legalization.

“All the craziness and all the violence that is happening now on our streets is, by and large, not caused by drugs but by the war on drugs,” Davis said. “Someday, we will look back in total amazement at the stupidity and futility of this nation’s very long war on drugs.”

Davis received his bachelor’s and master’s degrees from New Mexico State University, and his doctorate from Colorado State University. He has been a professor at Methodist for 15 years. With strong Libertarian leanings, Davis believes strongly in freedom of choice and open and free markets.

Rogoff, who joined MU last year, holds a bachelor’s degree from Kenyon College and a doctorate from the University of Pennsylvania.

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MU THEATRE AND SWEET TEA SHAKESPEARE PRESENT
“MUCH ADO ABOUT ROMEO AND JULIET”

FAYETTEVILLE, N.C. — Methodist University and Sweet Tea Shakespeare will present a new take on two classic Shakespeare plays Sept. 29 through Oct. 2 at Methodist University. “Much Ado About Romeo & Juliet” (“MAARJ”) is part of a collaborative project, “MU/ST,” that pairs MU and Sweet Tea Shakespeare actors. Performances will be on the stage in Huff Concert Hall in The Reeves Fine Arts Building at 8 p.m. on Sept. 29, 30, and Oct. 1 and at 2 p.m. on Oct. 2. Tickets are \$5 for the general public, or free with a Methodist University ID.

“MAARJ” is an unconventional twist to two of Shakespeare’s most famous plays. Part scripted, part improvised, full of music, audience interaction, and surprises, “MAARJ” is a unique take on the play that stresses and explores the connections between the plays, from balcony scenes to dance parties, from the virtues of honor to the hot tempers of passion. Audiences can expect a preshow performance of live music and a lot of adventuresome approaches to the making of a play, from puppet work to dance to mime.

The cast features MU students Taj Allen, Darien Jones, Skylar Wood, Erin Arauz, Elizabeth Dowden, MU alumna Teresa Hammonds, Fayetteville State University and Sweet Tea Shakespeare student actor, Traycie Zapata, and Sweet Tea Shakespeare actors Tohry Petty, Nic Fulton, and Jessica Osnoe. The project is directed by MU Theatre Department Chair, Dr. Evan Bridenstine, and FSU Associate Professor and Sweet Tea Shakespeare Artistic Director, Jeremy Fiebig.

"We are thrilled to be partnering with Methodist University on this project. It's wonderful to work with such energetic and capable MU students and alums on these classic texts," says Fiebig, "We hope the bridges we're building with MU will serve us for years to come."

About Sweet Tea Shakespeare

Sweet Tea Shakespeare, a function of Fayetteville State University, seeks to celebrate the wonder of Shakespeare by providing simple, elemental, magical theatre experiences in an atmosphere of beauty and community. Contact Sweet Tea Shakespeare contact at artistic@sweetteashakespeare.com or call [\(910\) 420-4383](tel:9104204383).

About MU Theatre

Theatre at Methodist University is designed for self-motivated individuals who seek a theatre education firmly grounded in the liberal arts, preparing them for further study. We encourage students to take advantage of the many local professional, college and community theatre

productions. Contact the Methodist University Theatre Department at ebridens@methodist.edu or call [\(910\) 630-7104](tel:9106307104).

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METHODIST UNIVERSITY HOMECOMING THIS WEEKEND INCLUDES HURRICANE DISASTER RELIEF PROJECT

FAYETTEVILLE, N.C. — Methodist University will celebrate its 2016 Homecoming and Family Weekend on Oct. 21 and 22. This is Methodist's 52nd annual Homecoming. The celebration will include athletic events, alumni reunions, awards ceremonies, and events for families.

On Friday night, the Methodist University Department of Athletics will induct its 19th Hall of Fame class in addition to its fourth Teams of Distinction class. The induction banquet will be at 6:30 p.m. in the Berns Student Center. The 2016 induction class includes women's golfer Carol Brogan '01, men's golfer Hank Klein '91, softball player Rebekah (Kelly) Quinn '08, men's track and field athlete Tazz Petty '09, and women's soccer player Lori (Silvasy) Stephenson '88. The Teams of Distinction for 2016 are the 1986 volleyball team, the 1994-95 men's golf teams and the 2001-02 women's tennis teams.

A Homecoming Bonfire and Pep Rally will begin at 8 p.m. Friday behind the Riddle Center.

The MU Alumni Association Awards Ceremony will be held on Saturday at 10 a.m. in the Alumni Dining Room. Honorees will be Rhyan Breen '07, Distinguished Young Alumni Award; Johnny Wilson '99, Distinguished Alumni Award; Marta Bullard and Howard Bullard Jr., Philanthropist Award; Wendy Vonnegut, Outstanding Faculty/Staff Award; and Dena Breece '00, Outstanding Alumni Service Award.

One new feature this year is a candlelight memorial service at 11:30 a.m. Saturday in Hensdale Chapel to remember alumni and friends of the university who passed away this year. Rev. Kelli W. Taylor will lead the service. There will also be the second annual ceremonial tee shot at 8 a.m. Saturday on the campus golf course to commemorate alumni of the PGA Golf Management Program who passed away this year.

“We come together to remember those members of the Monarch family who have passed away this year, and to celebrate their contributions that live on today in the present MU community,” Taylor said. “We hope that this will be a time for all those who share a connection to Methodist to relive fond memories, to give thanks, and to strengthen the tie that binds our hearts as Monarchs.”

Another special event is a service project to help relief efforts following Hurricane Matthew. During the week, the campus community donated pairs of work gloves that alumni and student volunteers will then be combining with other items donated from area churches. United Methodist congregations and the Gateway District are assisting in this part of the North Carolina Annual Conference and United Methodist Committee on Relief. From 10 a.m. to noon on

Saturday, volunteers will assemble 100 “flood buckets” in Berns Student Center. The buckets, which will be stocked with about \$65 worth of supplies, will later be donated to local families in need.

“This effort of packing flood buckets grew out of students' volunteering on the Thursday after the hurricane, helping families in the Arran Lakes community to clean their flooded homes,” Taylor said. “They worked in conjunction with 10 United Methodist churches, led by Hay Street and Haymount UMCs.”

The Homecoming parade will begin at 12:15 p.m., before the football game at 1 p.m. The Monarchs play Huntingdon, with a halftime recognition of alumni and members of the homecoming court. The men’s soccer team will also be at home Saturday, with a 3 p.m. game against Piedmont.

Saturday evening, the Class of '66 will hold its 50th reunion dinner at ScrubOaks, though all alumni are welcome. Registration for the dinner is required by Thursday.

A full schedule of events for the weekend can be found online at methodist.edu/homecoming. For more information, please contact the Office of Alumni Affairs at 910.630.7167.

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METHODIST UNIVERSITY FACULTY TO SPEAK AT CONFERENCE IN CHINA

FAYETTEVILLE, N.C. — Dr. Vijay Antharam, an assistant professor of chemistry at Methodist University, was recently invited to speak at BIT's 6th Annual International Congress of Medicchem in Nanjing, China in November.

The congress attracts hundreds of scientists from around the world annually. This year, Antharam will have the opportunity to present one of his published papers to more than 300 scientists and professors, including three Nobel Prize Laureates.

"I published a paper after I began working here that correlated bacteria in the gut to cholesterol," he said. "I was humbled when I read the email in July inviting me to speak because we had just published that paper in February."

Antharam presented the paper, "An Integrated Metabolomic and Microbiome Analysis Identified Specific Gut Microbiota Associated with Fecal Cholesterol and Coprostanol in *Clostridium difficile* Infection," during Methodist University's Spring Faculty Research Symposium, which was part of a week-long event hosted by the University's Center for Undergraduate Research and Creativity.

His paper explores the possibility of using good bacteria found in the gut to reduce cholesterol in the body.

"Everyone has good bacteria in their gut that break down cholesterol," Antharam said. "Our bodies themselves can't do it, but our gut can. The bacteria break the double bond turning cholesterol into cholestanol. There are a few prescription drugs on the market that lower cholesterol, but they come with serious side effects, like liver damage. This good bacteria may help formulate a new medicine that would come with fewer side effects because it would be more natural."

High cholesterol levels are associated with several chronic illnesses including high blood pressure, diabetes, and heart disease – the leading cause of death in Americans today. If Antharam can isolate these good bacteria and put his theory to the test in a lab, his study could help cure or significantly lower the number of people who suffer from these diseases.

Antharam did much of the research for his paper while pursuing his doctorate degree at the University of Florida. He took a position in the Chemistry Department at Methodist University in 2015, the same year he published his paper in PlosOne, a public library of science.

Antharam is excited to show his fellow scientists the correlations he's discovered. He hopes interacting with scientists at the conference will aid in his search for grants that will help him put his theory to the test.

“Microbiome is a new frontier, and a lot of scientists are interested in it,” he said. “There are new developments every day, so I’m excited to share what I’ve learned.”

About Methodist University

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For Immediate Release
Sept. 22, 2016

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**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF ART GALLERY AT METHODIST UNIVERSITY
SELECTED AS PEER REVIEWER FOR AMERICAN ALLIANCE OF MUSEUMS**

FAYETTEVILLE, N.C. — Silvana Foti, executive director for the David McCune International Art Gallery at Methodist University, recently accepted an invitation to become a peer reviewer for the Accreditation Program and Continuum of Excellence Team for the American Alliance of Museums (AAM).

As a peer reviewer, Foti will support the accreditation and Museum Assessment Program by conducting site visits, facilitating institutional planning processes and reviewing museum self-assessment materials. In particular, Foti will focus on assessing a museum's community engagement and leadership skills.

"Needless to say, I am absolutely delighted to be chosen to be a part of this museum organization," Foti said.

The Museum Assessment Program began in 1981 and has helped more than 4,600 small and mid-sized museums meet their needs while also helping them strengthen their operations and discuss plans for the future.

The museum assessment process takes about a year and consists of self-assessments, institutional activities and conductive peer reviews, in which Foti will participate. AAM has been bringing museums together since 1906 with the goal of uniting organizations like art museums, botanical gardens, zoos and historical sites, among others.

About Silvana Foti:

Silvana Foti is an accomplished artist and professor who served as the chair of Methodist University's Department of Art for 29 years. She received her bachelor's degree from St. Mary's College, her master's degree from the University of Notre Dame and Meredith College, and other degrees from the School of the Art Institute of Chicago and Youngstown State University. She is affiliated with the Association of Academic Museums and Galleries, the American Association of Museums, the Association of Art Museum Curators, the College Arts Association of America, the North Carolina Art Education Association and Kappa Delta Pi, an education honor society.

Foti is a practicing artist best known for her expertise in printmaking. Her personal works are on display in 34 public collections and 45 private collections. She has served as the executive director of the David McCune International Art Gallery since 2012 and has organized nine unique art exhibitions at Methodist University since the gallery's inception.

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For Immediate Release
Sept. 28, 2016

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METHODIST UNIVERSITY'S FRIENDS OF MUSIC RECEIVES GRANT FROM ARTS COUNCIL

FAYETTEVILLE, N.C. — Methodist University's Friends of Music recently received a \$2,300 Project Support Grant from the Arts Council of Fayetteville/Cumberland County.

The grant will be used to present a Guest Artist Series, a set of free concerts held on campus. The guest musicians also hold educational workshops with students from the MU Department of Music. The workshops are open to the public.

The first Guest Artist Series performance, scheduled for Oct. 7, will feature a piano trio with Scott Marosek on piano, Fabian Lopez on violin, and Nathan Leyland on cello. Other events include a concert from baritone vocalist Joshua Conyers on Nov. 4, a performance by aboriginal music and culture group Didge Revolution on Feb. 3, 2017, and an organ trio featuring Vicki Fey on organ and Tim Altman and Larry Wells on trumpet on March 17, 2017.

These events would not be possible without assistance from the Arts Council.

Project Support Grants, like the one awarded to the Methodist University Friends of Music, aim to increase opportunities for access to arts and science, as well as cultural and historical programming in the Cumberland County area. Project Support Grants may be awarded to non-profit agencies in Cumberland County that demonstrate financial and administrative stability.

"The Arts Council is proud to partner with Friends of Music in support of its Guest Artist Series," said Deborah Martin Mintz, Arts Council executive director. "Project Support Grants for 2016-2017 will help fund 30 projects facilitated by 19 non-profit organizations in our community. These projects help strengthen our community through festivals and concerts, youth education programs, art exhibitions, art workshops, and so much more."

Friends of Music at Methodist (FOM) was founded in the 1999-2000 academic year with the purpose of engaging members of the community and providing assistance to the Music Department. Friends of Music provides funding for the basic needs of the department and hosts several performances each year. For more information about Friends of Music and upcoming events, including the Guest Artist Series, please contact Fine Arts Coordinator Linda Volman Lane at lvolman@methodist.edu or 910.630.7100.

About the Arts Council of Fayetteville/Cumberland County

The Arts Council of Fayetteville/Cumberland County serves more than 300,000 residents of Fayetteville and Cumberland County. For more than 40 years, the Arts Council has ensured growth in our children's education, our community's cultural identity and our economic progress. The Arts Council's grants, programs and services are funded in part by contributions from businesses and individuals and through grants from the City of Fayetteville, Cumberland County and the

North Carolina Arts Council, with funding from the North Carolina Arts Council, a division of the Department of Natural & Cultural Resources.

About Methodist University

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For Immediate Release
Sept. 28, 2016

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METHODIST ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR WINS GRAPHIC DESIGN AWARD

FAYETTEVILLE, N.C. — Kerry Scott Jenkins, associate professor of graphic design at Methodist University, recently won a design award from the Graphic Design USA American Graphic Design Awards.

Jenkins won the award for a poster created for the fourth annual Cape Fear New Music Festival, which was held April 6, hosted by the Methodist University Department of Music.

The design addressed the event's theme of "Music, Myth, and Legend." It features a photo of Emily Highsmith, a graphic design student at the University, with ear buds flowing through her hair to give a contemporary twist to the Greek goddess Medusa.

Monarch Press, Methodist University's in-house printing press, produced the posters for the festival.

"When I had my own design studio, prior to teaching at Methodist, awards from design publications like this were a regular, annual thing for me as it was a way to showcase my work and promote my services to new clients," Jenkins said. "Now, with much less time available for real projects outside of my teaching responsibilities, recognition is not as frequent. This makes each award more special."

The award was given by Graphic Design USA, a magazine that has more than 100,000 subscribers worldwide. This year's competition had about 10,000 entries, and only 15 percent of those were recognized with certificates. The magazine recognizes the entire creative community of design, including ad agencies, freelancers, and institutions like Methodist University.

About Kerry Scott Jenkins

Kerry Scott Jenkins received an Associate of Applied Science in Commercial Graphics from McDowell Technical Community College in 1983. He received his Bachelor of Fine Arts in Graphic Design from Western Carolina University in 1985 and a Master of Fine Arts degree in Graphic Design in 2006 from East Tennessee State University.

Jenkins began teaching graphic design courses at Methodist University in 2007. Prior to that, he worked at The Print Show, Arthur Anderson & Co., I.C.C.A., Computer Graphics Group, Inc., East Tennessee State University, and owned his own graphic design firm called Great Scott Design. He is a member of the American Institute of Graphic Arts, Tri-City Metro Advertising Federation, and Charlotte Society of Communicating Arts, and has won more than 15 awards for his designs.

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For Immediate Release
Sept. 30, 2016

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TWO MONARCH PLAY4KAY GAMES THIS SATURDAY

FAYETTEVILLE, N.C. — Methodist University’s football and women’s soccer teams will honor breast cancer survivors during their Play4Kay games on Saturday.

The Play4Kay games kick off Breast Cancer Awareness month, which is celebrated each year in October. Breast cancer affects both men and women. While one in every 1,000 men are at risk for developing breast cancer, 1 in 8 women will develop the disease over the course of her lifetime. The disease is the second most common cancer diagnosis behind skin cancer.

Play4Kay is a national fundraising event held in remembrance of Sandra Kay Yow, a North Carolina basketball coach who succumbed to the disease in 2009. She was the head coach for North Carolina State University women’s basketball team. She was first diagnosed with breast cancer in 1987 and fought the disease three times.

“This event is very special to me because of Kay Yow. She had a huge impact on my life as a player and as a coach,” said DeeDee Jarman, women’s basketball coach at Methodist University and event organizer. “I strive to live my life the way Kay would want me to. Educating people about cancer prevention will hopefully save lives.”

The football team will match up against Maryville College beginning at 1 p.m., and the soccer team will play William Peace University at 2 p.m. General admission tickets to the football game are \$6, or free with an MU ID, and admission into the soccer game is free.

The public is invited to attend these games and wear pink in support of breast cancer awareness. Methodist University players with family members who are breast cancer survivors will be honored in a short ceremony during halftime at each game.

Merchandise such as t-shirts, wristbands, socks, shorts, long-sleeved pullovers, and more will be sold at the games. All proceeds will go to the Kay Yow Cancer Fund and the Cape Fear Valley Health Foundation – Friends of the Cancer Center.

Fundraising for the Kay Yow Cancer Fund and the Cape Fear Valley Health Foundation – Friends of the Cancer Center will continue Tuesday, Oct. 4 at Chick-fil-A on Ramsey Street. Customers visiting the restaurant simply have to say, “MU Play4Kay” at the register or drive-thru, and the proceeds from their meal will also go toward cancer research and prevention.

Another Play4Kay event is planned for February during basketball season.

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For Immediate Release
Oct. 19, 2016

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METHODIST UNIVERSITY TO HOLD CAMPAIGN CELEBRATION OCT. 20

FAYETTEVILLE, N.C. — Methodist University will celebrate the official end of the Campaign for Methodist University – Building Excellence from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m., Oct. 20, 2016. The celebration will be held in the new Thomas R. McLean Health Sciences Building.

The largest fundraising initiative in the University's history, the campaign surpassed its \$35 million goal. President Ben Hancock will announce the final campaign total at the celebration.

The campaign raised money for scholarships, endowed faculty positions, academic programs, campus life enhancements, new and renovated academic buildings, and expanded athletic facilities. The capital projects in the campaign include:

- The Professional Nursing Building (*Dedicated Dec. 6, 2012*)
- Armstrong Baseball Fieldhouse (*Dedicated Nov. 14, 2015*)
- The Thomas R. McLean Health Sciences Building (*Dedicated Oct. 20, 2016*)
- Sharon and Ron Matthews Ministry Center (*Groundbreaking 2016*)
- Gene Clayton Tennis Center (*Groundbreaking 2016*)
- John M. Reeves Fine Arts Building Renovation
- Linda and Ralph Huff Concert Hall
- Nancy and Murray Duggins Theatre
- Union-Zukowski Lobby and Gallery
- Student Union and Berns Center Renovation and Expansion
- New Football, Track and Field, and Lacrosse Stadium
- Soccer Facility Renovation and Expansion
- Golf Facilities Expansion and the Golf Education Center
- Price Softball Fieldhouse

The Thomas R. McLean Health Sciences Building will also be formally dedicated at the event. The event will include remarks from University trustees and administrators, Student Government Association President Jason Sparrow, and Thomas R. and Elizabeth E. McLean Foundation President Jennifer Cleveland Elam. The McLean Foundation provided the naming gift for the Health Sciences Building.

The McLean Building is home to the Doctor of Physical Therapy program, which admitted the first students in the fall of 2015 and is the first doctoral-level program for the University. The Doctor of Occupational Therapy program is slated to begin in fall of 2018 and will also be located in the Health Sciences Building.

The campaign broke many University records, with 4,467 individual donors contributing 19,199 donations.

Other completed projects include the Armstrong Baseball Fieldhouse, which was dedicated on Nov. 14, 2015. Phase 1 of the football campaign was completed in 2015 with the renovation of the weight room and Phase 2 was recently completed over the summer with the locker room addition.

The next projects to begin will be the Gene Clayton Tennis Center, the Sharon and Ron Matthews Ministry Center, the Union Zukowski Lobby and Gallery, and Phase 1 of the Soccer Complex. The University plans to break ground on these projects this year.

In addition to bricks and mortar, the campaign also raised money for endowment and operating funds. Many of the goals included in the campaign were related to the Master Plan, a comprehensive 20-year guide for campus growth and development approved in 2012, the first of its kind for the University.

For more information on the Campaign for Methodist University – Building Excellence, contact the Advancement Office at 910.630.7609 and visit <http://www.campaignformu.org>.

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For Immediate Release
Oct. 27, 2016

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**METHODIST UNIVERSITY CELEBRATES \$41.2 MILLION RAISED FOR
CAMPAIGN FOR METHODIST UNIVERSITY – BUILDING EXCELLENCE**

FAYETTEVILLE, N.C. — Methodist University celebrated the official end of the Campaign for Methodist University – Building Excellence Oct. 20, 2016. The largest fundraising initiative in the University’s history, the campaign surpassed its \$35 million goal and raised a University-record \$41,266,820. The final campaign total was announced at the celebration.

“This is a celebration of excellence,” said President Ben Hancock. “If you look at the support that’s come to this campaign, a record number of support, record number of donors, record participation from alumni, faculty and staff, and so many, and then you look at the leadership of this campaign ... In part we celebrate the impact that philanthropy has on a culture of excellence. Philanthropy is just a vehicle to be successful to those three platforms of a culture of excellence: people, programs, and facilities.”

Campaign and Board of Trustees Chair Mary Lynn Bryan called the close of the campaign a “wonderful 60th birthday gift” for Methodist.

“We could do this because there was a wonderful opportunity and a very special convergence of need, energy, vision, experience, dedication, and just plain moxie,” she said. “Our University president gave us a lot of it. He is a spectacular leader, visionary, and a terrific fundraiser.”

The campaign raised money for scholarships, endowed faculty positions, academic programs, campus life enhancements, new and renovated academic buildings, and expanded athletic facilities. The capital projects in the campaign include:

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- Student Union and Berns Center Renovation and Expansion
- New Football, Track and Field, and Lacrosse Stadium
- Soccer Facility Renovation and Expansion
- Golf Facilities Expansion and the Golf Education Center
- Price Softball Fieldhouse

The celebration was held in the new Thomas R. McLean Health Sciences Building, one of several construction projects included in the campaign. The building was also formally dedicated at the event. The event included remarks from University trustees and administrators, Student Government Association President Jason Sparrow, and Thomas R. and Elizabeth E. McLean Foundation representative Jennifer Cleveland Elam. The McLean Foundation provided the naming gift for the Health Sciences Building.

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For Immediate Release
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NCAA MONOPOLY LECTURE NOV. 3 AT METHODIST UNIVERSITY

FAYETTEVILLE, N.C. — The Methodist University Reeves School of Business will present a “Big Issue Series” lecture at 7 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 3, in Yarborough Auditorium in Clark Hall. The event is free and open to the public.

The lecture, “The NCAA; An Examination of Monopoly Power,” will feature MU faculty members Dr. Bill Kuchler, associate professor of sport management and director of the Sport Management Program, and Dr. Spence Davis, associate professor of financial economics. The two will speak on the history of the sports powerhouse and address the current issues and controversy surrounding it.

“The NCAA is genius,” Davis said. “They exercise raw monopoly power and exploit labor all under the banner of protecting the sanctity of the student-athlete.”

“We are not trying to downplay the social and psychological value gained from participation in ‘college sports,’” Kuchler added, “but, instead, we want to challenge the economic fairness of the NCAA Division I entertainment sport enterprise.”

Davis received his bachelor’s and master’s degrees from New Mexico State University, and his doctorate from Colorado State University. He has been a professor at Methodist for 15 years. With strong Libertarian leanings, Davis believes strongly in freedom of choice and open and free markets.

Kuchler holds a bachelor’s degree from Carroll College, a master’s from the University of Wisconsin at Milwaukee, and a doctorate from the United States Sports Academy.

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Methodist University Named Military Friendly School for Fifth Consecutive Year

Methodist University has been named a 2016 Military Friendly School by Victoria Media. The university's recognition on the Military Friendly School list cited the university's support for student veterans on campus, graduation and employment outcomes for student veterans, and opportunities offered to military spouses. The 2016 list highlights more than 1,400 Military Friendly Schools. 2016 marks the fifth year in a row that Methodist University has received the Military Friendly designation.

"Methodist University is extremely honored to serve our military community and to be recognized nationally as a military-friendly school," said Billy Buckner, director of Methodist University at Fort Bragg. "We are encouraged by our selection and pledge to our service members that we remain committed to serving and meeting their education goals."

Methodist University was recognized for its extensive array of tuition assistance, scholarships, and grants geared toward veterans and their families. The university was also recognized for its participation in the Yellow Ribbon Program and the Veterans Writing Collective, a creative writing outlet for all veterans, service members, and their families on campus. Additionally, the university has been named a Military Friendly School by GI Jobs for four consecutive years, and is home to a local chapter of Chi Delta Chi, an honor society for veterans and their family members. The university rated 28th on the list of Military Friendly Schools on bestcolleges.com.

As well as offering on-campus classes to military students, Methodist University also offers classes at Fort Bragg. For information about Methodist University at Fort Bragg, call 910.436.3624, visit www.methodist.edu/bragg, or email bragg@methodist.edu. The Fort Bragg Office, which is located at the Base Training Education Center on Fort Bragg (4520 Knox St.), is open from 11 a.m. to 8:30 p.m. Monday through Thursday, and 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Friday.

NCAA Chief Medical Officer to Speak at Methodist University

Methodist University's Institute for Sport Science and Wellness will host Dr. Brian Hainline, chief medical officer of the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA), Monday, Nov. 9. Hainline will speak on "Health and Medical Issues in Sports" at 7:30 p.m. in the Medical Lecture Hall in the Physician Assistant Building on campus. The event is free and open to the public.

As the NCAA's first chief medical officer, Hainline oversees the NCAA Sport Science Institute, a national center of excellence, whose mission is to promote and develop safety, excellence, and wellness in college student-athletes, and to foster lifelong physical and mental development. His recent studies have been featured in the national media and range in topics from concussion detection to the mental health of athletes. He joined the NCAA in this position in 2013. In the Sept. 28 issue of *Sports Illustrated*, Hainline discussed one of his upcoming studies, due to be released in January, about athletes' mental health and best practices in that field.

"As the Chief Medical Officer of the NCAA, Dr. Hainline brings a wealth of knowledge and experience on a variety of topics regarding student-athlete welfare and innovative thoughts on the future of sports in America," stated Vice President and Director of Athletics Bob McEvoy.

Dr. Hainline has been actively involved in sports medicine for more than 20 years. He co-authored the book "Drugs and the Athlete," and has served on the New York State Athletic Commission, the USOC Sports Medicine Committee, and was a founding member of the Executive Committee of the American Academy of Neurology, Sports Neurology Section. Currently, he is the clinical professor of neurology at New York University Langone Medical Center. He also is on the board of directors for the Professional Association of Athlete Development Specialists and the National Council on Youth Sports Safety, and sits on the Pop Warner Football Medical research Subcommittee. He is a founding member of the International Tennis Performance Association Certification Commission.

Methodist University Senior Exhibition "Transformation" Runs Dec. 3-12 at the McCune Gallery

The Methodist University Department of Art announces "Transformation," a senior exhibition by Methodist University student Loreto Oreckinto. The exhibition will hold its opening reception from 6 to 8 p.m., Thursday, Dec. 3, in the David McCune International Art Gallery, where the artist will be on hand to discuss her work.

The show will run until Dec. 12 during normal gallery hours, which are Tuesday through Fridays from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. The gallery is closed weekends, Mondays, and school breaks.

Oreckinto was born in Chile but lived in Canada for much of her childhood, and moved to the United States when she was 16 years old. Having to move from one country to another has inspired her to paint what she cherishes the most, her family. In 2007, she graduated with an associate degree in fine arts from Hudson County Community College. This winter, she will graduate from Methodist University with a bachelor's degree in art with a concentration in painting in 2015.

"My nomadic childhood gave me an appreciation for stability, which is reflected in my highly structured compositions," Oreckinto said. "When I start a painting, rather than being spontaneous, I tend to follow a set of rules. In addition, I appreciate the principles of classical style of painting and I tried to apply these rules to my own work. My goal is to be able to combine reality with surrealism because that is what I see. Additionally, I want to be able to project my life experiences through art and would like to connect with those people who have had to leave their home in order to reach their goals and dreams."

At Methodist, Oreckinto received the Anthony J. Delapa Art Achievement Award and the Lois Ferrari Memorial Art Scholarship. During her path as an art major, she worked with acrylic and oil on canvas, pencil and charcoal on paper, a few printmaking techniques on paper, ceramics, and black and white photography. After graduation, she plans to move to New York and seek a teaching certificate.

"My work is very personal at this point in my artistic career; my focus is on myself and the people who matter to me," Oreckinto said. "I also feel there is a connection between people and nature. For example, trees can represent the family tree and butterflies symbolize my mother's free spirit. I primarily work in acrylics, although I enjoy experimenting new media as the opportunities presents itself."

Methodist University Theatre to Perform "Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde"

The Methodist University Department of Theatre will present "Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde" on the stage of Huff Concert Hall Nov. 12-14 at 8 p.m. and Nov. 15 at 2 p.m. Admission is \$10 for adults, \$7 for students/seniors/military, and \$4 for children. Because the production contains language some may find offensive, the production is not recommended for children.

Adapted by Jeffrey Hatcher, this production of the classic novella by Robert Louis Stevenson features most of the major characters telling the story from their points of view. Henry Jekyll experiments with isolating the human impulse toward evil, which inadvertently unleashes Edward Hyde, the very embodiment of evil.

"To show the pervasiveness of evil, this adaptation splits Hyde into multiple roles, so that anyone at any time may step into the shoes of the villain," said Theater Chair Evan Bridenstine.

The cast includes Brandon Torres as Dr. Henry Jekyll, Will Billingsley as Gabriel Utterson, Darien Jones as Sir Danvers Carew, Taj Allen as Dr. H.K. Lanyon, Erin Arauz as Poole, Samantha Hill as Elizabeth Jelks, and Kristee Emmons and Dain Thomas as orderlies.

For more information, contact Dr. Evan Bridenstine, Chair of the Department of Theatre at ebridens@methodist.edu or 910.630.7483.

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Nov. 18, 2016

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SECOND ANNUAL REEVES SCHOOL OF BUSINESS SYMPOSIUM AND AWARDS DINNER RECOGNIZES LOCAL BUSINESS MEMBERS

FAYETTEVILLE, N.C. – The Reeves School of Business (RSB) at Methodist University held the Second Annual Reeves School of Business Symposium and Awards Dinner Thursday evening at Embassy Suites, 4760 Lake Valley Dr., Fayetteville.

The event's keynote speaker was Jeremy Miller, who will spoke on: "Sticky Branding." Miller is a brand builder, speaker, and bestselling author of "Sticky Branding." He works with companies to develop branding and marketing strategies that make them stand out and drive sales.

Seven awards were also presented at the event: Alumni Business Person of the Year, Business Person of the Year, Entrepreneur of the Year, Greater Good Award, Outstanding Woman Entrepreneur of the Year, Silver Spoon Award, and Small Business Excellence Award.

About the awards

The Alumni Business Person of the Year is a graduate of Methodist University who has shown promise for a successful career. This year, the award was given to Charles A. Allen V, who received his MBA from Methodist in 2011. Allen is vice president of his family's business, Green Biz Nursery and Landscaping, and co-owner of the local Two Men and a Truck franchise, which he started in 2008. With the knowledge he gained pursuing his MBA, Allen implemented a successful reorganization of Green Biz's financials and set up new systems for equipment maintenance and controls, customer care, billing, transportation logistics and labor rate calculations.

The Business Person of the Year an executive who makes great contributions, not only to the successful operation of local business and industry, but also to the civic and cultural life of the community. This year's award went to Stewart Bell, the third-generation owner of Bell's Seed Store, which has been located in downtown Fayetteville since 1919. Bell graduated from Campbell University with his degree in business before joining his father, William Bell Jr., at the store. He has kept the business in touch with the next generation of customers by supporting local high schools through Future Farmers of America and school greenhouse programs. A proud member of the downtown community, the business also supports the Downtown Alliance, CARE Clinic, and Bell is on the board of the Salvation Army of Fayetteville.

Entrepreneur of the Year is awarded to a risk-taker in the free enterprise system: a person who sees an opportunity and then devises strategies to achieve specific objectives. This year's winner was John S. Calhoun, who started Cape Fear Discount Drugs in 2003. After working for chain pharmacy stores for a number of years, Calhoun realized that stores in the Fayetteville area

weren't providing the best service possible to their customers. His son, Jeremy, convinced him to open Cape Fear Discount Drugs to better meet the needs of the Fayetteville community. Calhoun opened Cape Fear Discount Drugs on Raeford Road in 2003 with Jeremy and one employee. Five years ago, he opened his second location on Ramsey Street.

The Greater Good Award is given to a professional who has given exemplary service to society and/or has provided extraordinary charity or leadership in serving his/her community. This year's recipient was Mary M. Holmes, executive director of the Cumberland Community Foundation (CCF). Under her leadership, the Foundation has grown from \$7 million to \$70 million in assets, which are mostly endowed unrestricted, designated, and scholarship funds. Before joining the CCF, Holmes worked as a commercial banking executive. She has served on numerous local and statewide boards of directors, including the Cape Fear Regional Theatre, Fayetteville Chamber of Commerce, Fayetteville State Foundation, N.C. Center for Nonprofits, Community Foundations Serving N.C., and the N.C. Network of Grantmakers.

Outstanding Woman Entrepreneur is a North Carolina resident who owns, has established, or manages a small business. The award committee will also consider the individual's creativity, innovativeness, and personal contributions to and involvement with the community. This year the award went to Lisa Saleeby-Powell, president of Future Unlimited, which owns five McDonald's restaurants in Cumberland County. Saleeby-Powell has won numerous civic and business awards, including the Regional People Award from McDonald's for "developing people and leveraging their strengths." In the community, she currently serves as the chair of the Methodist University Board of Visitors and has also been involved with the Kiwanis Club, Operation Insasmuch, Village Baptist Church, The American Red Cross, Patriot Hut, and the Ronald McDonald House.

The Silver Spoon Award is given to a person who, though not born with the proverbial spoon in his/her mouth, has originated and built a successful business recognized for its uniqueness in planning, production, or some other aspect of its operation. This year's winner was James J. Townsend '80, president and founder of InfoStrat, an IT Solutions company in Washington, D.C. He is considered a leading expert on Microsoft solutions for government, and a pioneer of Microsoft Dynamics CRM as a development platform. He has published multiple articles and books on software development, and is the publisher of "The Townsend Report," a blog about Microsoft Dynamics, startup companies, customer service, and information technology in the public sector.

The Small-Business Excellence Award goes to a business that employs fewer than 300 persons and generates revenue of less than \$15 million per annum. The award committee will also consider the creativity of the business, the uniqueness of the product, the employees' welfare and the contributions of the business to its community. This year, the award went to Zan Monroe, owner of The Monroe Company and CEO of The Fayetteville Regional Association of REALTORS. Monroe began taking public speaking engagements for the state REALTOR® organization. The experience reminded him of how much he enjoyed teaching others and led him to start his speaking and consulting company in 1995, as well as go on to publish books and audio presentations.

About the speaker

After watching his family's business nearly hit rock bottom, Jeremy Miller was forced to take a hard look at the way the company was run and at their industry as a whole. Miller realized it wasn't his company's sales people or marketing processes that were failing, it was the brand.

This insight caused him to regroup, revamp, and rebrand the business. Within a year, the company turned the corner and rocketed into growth mode and in 2013 he sold the business.

It was this experience that compelled Miller to embark on a decade-long study of how companies grow recognizable, memorable brands — what he calls Sticky Brands. Since 2005, Miller and his team have interviewed and profiled hundreds of companies across dozens of industries.

About Methodist University

Methodist University is an independent four-year institution of higher education with more than 2,400 students from 41 states and 69 countries. Methodist University offers 80 majors and concentrations, four master's degree programs, one doctoral level program, 80 clubs and organizations, and 20 NCAA III intercollegiate sports. To learn more about Methodist University, please visit methodist.edu or facebook.com/MethodistUniversity.

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METHODIST UNIVERSITY'S LONGLEAF PRESS RELEASES FIRST NOVEL

FAYETTEVILLE, N.C. — Methodist University's literary press will kick off the release of its first novel, "The Catalog of Crooked Thoughts," on Wednesday, Nov. 30, with a visit from the author, Robert McKean, who will give a special reading and book signing. The reading will start at 7 p.m. in Room 122 of the Hendricks Science Building and will be followed by a question and answer session. This event is free and open to the public.

McKean's novel was the winner of the 2016 Longleaf Press Novel Contest.

"Longleaf Press has published original literary works at Methodist University since 1998 and currently has over 30 poetry titles in print," said Dr. Michael Colonnese, managing editor of the press and director of MU's creative writing program. "McKean's novel is not only Longleaf's 2016 contest winner but also its first book of fiction."

Recipient of a Massachusetts Cultural Council grant for his fiction, McLean has published in *The Kenyon Review*, *The Chicago Review*, *Dublin Quarterly*, *Armchair/Shotgun*, *34th Parallel*, and many other journals. His short story collection was a finalist in the Flannery O'Connor Award, and the Mary McCarthy Prize competitions.

"Robert McKean's 'The Catalog of Crooked Thoughts' offers a moving depiction of grief's unraveling of the self and relationships after the death of an only child," said MU Professor Michael Potts, who reviewed the book. "This profound and beautifully written work deserves a place in the canon of contemporary literature."

About Longleaf Press

Longleaf Press is the literary press at Methodist University. Each year, its writers are featured guests at Methodist University's Southern Writers Symposium. The non-profit press depends upon grants, book sales, and its annual contests to support its publishing efforts.

Each year, Longleaf Press sponsors a poetry chapbook contest open to writers from the southeastern United States who have not yet published a full-length poetry collection. This year, the press also sponsored a novel competition.

Since 2007, Longleaf has also accepted submissions from writers throughout the world and now publishes both full-length and chapbook length manuscripts. For more information, visit www.methodist.edu/longleaf/publications.htm.

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METHODIST UNIVERSITY ANNOUNCES 44th ANNUAL WINTER COMMENCEMENT

FAYETTEVILLE, N.C. – Methodist University will celebrate its 44th annual Winter Commencement Ceremony Saturday, December 17, at 2 p.m. in the March F. Riddle Center. There are currently 198 candidates for graduation.

Lieutenant General Nadja Y. West, 44th surgeon general of the U.S. Army and commanding general, U.S. Army Medical Command, will deliver the commencement address. The University will present honorary degrees to Sharon and Ron Matthews, longtime supporters of Methodist University.

The ceremony will also include the commissioning of one ROTC cadet, the presentation of the Sam R. Edwards Award, and a speech by this year's Distinguished Graduate, who will be elected by the graduating seniors. The Sam R. Edwards Award is given each winter to a graduating evening student in recognition of his/her academic excellence, spiritual development, and community service. Following the MU tradition for a student who is the first MU graduate from his or her country, there will be a presentation of the flag of Angola from student Joao Graciano.

Prior to the commencement ceremony, the Rev. Dr. Matthew W. Charlton, assistant general secretary of The United Methodist Church's General Board of Higher Education and Ministry, will deliver the baccalaureate sermon at 10:30 a.m. in Huff Concert Hall.

Commencement Speaker

Lt. Gen. West previously served in numerous positions in the Army's healthcare systems, in stations all over the world including Fort Campbell, Ky.; Heidelberg, Germany; the former Yugoslavian Republic of Macedonia and Kosovo; and Seoul, Republic of Korea. She has also been the joint staff surgeon at the Pentagon in Washington, D.C., and the commander of Womack Army Medical Center on Fort Bragg.

West graduated from the United States Military Academy at West Point with a Bachelor of Science in engineering, and is the institution's highest ranking female general. She later earned a Master of Science in national security strategy from the National War College in Washington, D.C., and a Doctor of Medicine from the George Washington School of Medicine in Washington, D.C.

She is a member of the Order of Military Medical Merit and has earned more than 11 individual awards and various campaign medals.

Sharon and Ron Matthews

The Matthews have been strong supporters of Methodist University for many years. The two previously owned Family Foods, Inc., which operated a number of Taco Bell franchises, and now own Family Futures, Inc., a development real estate company. Ron Matthews is an active member of the Methodist University Board of Trustees who has served as a member of the National Campaign Committee and the Executive Committee and as chair of the Development and Church Relations Committees.

The Matthews recently made a transformative gift to the University that provided the naming gift for the Sharon and Ron Matthews Ministry Center. There will be a formal groundbreaking for this project on Friday, Dec. 16, at 4 p.m. on the plaza of the Reeves Fine Arts Building.

Baccalaureate Service

Prior to graduation, a Baccalaureate Service will take place at 10:30 a.m. in Huff Concert Hall, where the Rev. Charlton will deliver the baccalaureate sermon. Charlton is the assistant general secretary for Collegiate Ministries for The United Methodist Church's General Board of Higher Education and Ministry in Nashville, Tenn. He holds a bachelor's degree from Middle Tennessee State University, a Master of Divinity and a Master of Arts in Religion from Vanderbilt University, and a doctorate from Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary.

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