

Methodist University
Office of University Relations & Advancement
5400 Ramsey Street • Fayetteville, North Carolina 28311-1498
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methodist.edu

For Immediate Release
Jan. 5, 2017

Media Contact:
Sandy Ammons
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DAVID MCCUNE INTERNATIONAL ART GALLERY ANNOUNCES UPCOMING EXHIBIT

FAYETTEVILLE, NC—The David McCune International Art Gallery at Methodist University will host a photography exhibit, “Impressionism to Modernism: Masterworks of Early Photography,” from Feb. 9 through April 8. There will be an opening reception for the show on Feb. 9 from 6 to 9 p.m. The exhibit is free and open to the public.

“Impressionism 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.

For this show, the gallery will be open Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Fridays, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Thursdays from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m.; and Saturdays, noon to 4 p.m. It will be closed Sundays, Mondays, and March 7 through March 11. Guests are advised that this exhibit contains some works that display the nude human figure.

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.

This event is made possible through a grant by the Cumberland County Tourism Development Authority.

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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From: Methodist University Mass Email
To: * * *
Date: 1/20/2017 1:03 PM
Subject: PA Program Announces 100% Pass Rate for Graduating Class

PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT PROGRAM ANNOUNCES 100 PERCENT PASS RATE FOR GRADUATING CLASS

FAYETTEVILLE, N.C. — In December, 37 Methodist University Physician Assistant (PA) Program graduates took the Physician Assistant National Certifying Exam (PANCE), resulting in a 100 percent pass rate for the graduating class.

“The PA program faculty and staff are proud of the hard work and dedication that the Class of 2016 has shown in their studies,” said PA Program Director Christina Beard, PA-C, MPAS. “These graduates will be excellent medical providers and representatives of the PA profession.”

“Once again Methodist University has demonstrated its commitment to excellence, especially in the health sciences,” said President Ben E. Hancock Jr. “Our students have earned the deserved reputation of being enrolled in one of the premier PA programs in America. We are committed to our students' success and this perfect pass rate validates these collective efforts by all who are associated with the program – faculty, staff, and students.”

“In 2016, we celebrated the 20th anniversary of the PA program,” Beard said. “The achievement of a 100 percent pass rate and a 5 year average pass rate of 98percent is yet another demonstration of the longstanding excellence of the program. We want to thank the physicians and PAs who train our students during the clinical year. Their dedication to the program over the years is one of the greatest factors for our success.”

MU’s PA graduates frequently have a pass rate on the PANCE above the national average. The computer-based, multiple-choice exam assesses basic medical and surgical knowledge. Passing the PANCE is required to become a certified PA.

Methodist University started the PA program as a bachelor’s level program in 1996 and transitioned to a Masters of Medical Science in Physician Assistant Studies in 2003. The program is accredited at the national level by the Accreditation Review Commission on Education for the Physician Assistants (ARC-PA). The program receives over 600 applications from across the country for admission to the 40 seats in the program each year. Graduates practice medicine in a variety of settings and specialties including family medicine, emergency medicine, surgery, orthopedics, and some re-enlist for military service as physician assistants. Seventy percent of the program's graduates currently practice in North Carolina.

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For Immediate Release
Jan. 24, 2016

Media Contact:
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**FRIENDS OF MUSIC AT METHODIST UNIVERSITY PRESENTS
DIDG REVOLUTION**

FAYETTEVILLE, N.C. — The Methodist University Friends of Music is bringing the Outback to Fayetteville with Didg Revolution, an aboriginal music and culture group.

The group will perform as a part of the Friends of Music Guest Artist Series on Friday, Feb. 3, at 7:30 p.m. in Hensdale Chapel. All of the Friends of Music Guest Artist Series concerts are free and open to the public.

Didg Revolution is a three-person musical group that has played and crafted didgeridoos, a wind instrument developed by indigenous Australians, for a collective of more than 20 years. They've performed throughout the country, recorded several CDs, and produced music for numerous films including the IMAX movie "Sacred Planet."

The group is composed of Darren Liebman, Rob Thomas and Tanya Gerard. Gerard grew up in Australia. She and Thomas have traveled extensively and lived in Santa Fe, N.M, for 22 years before moving to North Carolina in 2013 to work for "Didgeridoo Down Under," where they have worked to help children become better global citizens through motivational messages and didgeridoo performances.

Liebman learned about the didgeridoo when visiting relatives in Australia in 1999. He bought his first didgeridoo in 2000. He taught himself to play the instrument and founded Didg Revolution in 2001.

Since 2003, the group has presented more than 4,900 shows and workshops at venues around the country for well over 400,000 viewers and participants. For more information on Didg Revolution, visit the groups website at didgrevolution.com.

About Friends of Music

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.

The 2016-17 Friends of Music Guest Artist Series is made possible in part with a grant from the Arts Council of Fayetteville/Cumberland County.

About Methodist University

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For Immediate Release
Jan. 25, 2017

Media Contact:
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MISS METHODIST PAGEANT TAKE THE STAGE FEB. 3

FAYETTEVILLE, N.C. – The eleventh annual Miss Methodist Pageant will be held Friday, Feb. 3, 2017, in Huff Concert Hall at 7 p.m. The event is open to the public, and admission costs are \$5 for adults or \$3 for children under 12. Admission is free to Methodist University students, faculty, and staff.

“The pageant is planned, directed and produced by students in the Student Activities Committee,” said Doris Munoz, associate dean of students and director of student involvement. “This year, we have a diverse group of 14 amazing women participating.”

The contestants will be judged on their performance in the pageant’s opening number, talent, interview, and formal wear categories. There will also be a People’s Choice component, where the audience can vote for their favorites by making donations during intermission. All money raised through ticket sales and the People’s Choice contest will go to MU’s Play4Kay fundraiser.

“The great thing about our pageant is that it is open for all MU students to participate in,” Munoz said. “Our goal for the pageant is for everyone to have fun doing it.”

There will also be entertainment from MU’s Noblemen Choir and Miss Methodist 2016, Tracie Taylor. At the end of the night, Tracie will pass her title to another MU woman.

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For Immediate Release
Jan. 26, 2017

Media Contact:
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METHODIST UNIVERSITY CHORALE SELLING SINGING VALENTINES

FAYETTEVILLE – The Methodist University Chorale will spend Valentine’s Day serenading sweethearts in the greater Fayetteville area with Singing Valentines.

The Chorale is selling Singing Valentines until noon on Feb. 13. Proceeds from the Singing Valentines will go to benefit the MU Chorale’s concert tour to Carnegie Hall.

Most packages include a Valentine serenade, a red rose and a personalized Valentine’s Day card.

Three packages are available:

My “Phon-y” Valentine - \$10 – The Chorale will send a personalized, four-part harmony telephone greeting to that special someone. This package does not include a rose or personalized Valentine’s Day card.

Regular Delivery - \$30 – The Chorale will deliver a Singing Valentine anywhere in the greater Fayetteville area between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. If a time is requested, the Chorale can guarantee a four-hour window to meet any time frame requests.

“Straight to the Heart” - \$40 – Choose this premium service if the delivery has to be there right on time. The Chorale can guarantee delivery within 10 minutes of the target time.

For more information, or to purchase a Singing Valentine, contact Dr. Michael Martin at mmartin@methodist.edu or by phone at 910.630.7153.

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For Immediate Release
Jan. 27, 2017

Media Contact:
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SPRING 2017 UPCOMING EVENTS AT METHODIST UNIVERSITY

FAYETTEVILLE, N.C. —Methodist University offers many events in the areas of the arts, family entertainment, and speaking engagements. All events are free and open to the public unless otherwise noted. For more information, visit methodist.edu.

February 3 – Methodist University’s Friends of Music will present Didg Revolution, a group of musicians dedicated to playing, making and preserving the aboriginal didgeridoo. They will perform at 7:30 p.m. in Hensdale Chapel. For more information, contact Linda Volman Lane at lvolman@methodist.edu or by calling 910.630.7100.

Students will also compete on **Feb. 3** for the title of Miss Methodist 2017. Tickets are free with an MU ID, or \$5 for adults, and \$3 for children under 12. Proceeds from ticket sales and donation jars will go to Play4Kay at MU which divides the money it raises between the Friends of the Cancer Center of the Cape Fear Health Foundation and the Kay Yow Cancer Fund. These funds go toward women’s cancer research and to help underserved women afford mammograms. The competition will begin at 7 p.m. in Huff Concert Hall. For more information, contact Keenan Bailey at kbailey@methodist.edu.

February 6 – Gerhard Weinberg, an internationally recognized military and diplomatic historian, will present the inaugural Union-Zukowski Lecture. Weinberg, who narrowly escaped Nazi Germany, has dedicated his life to studying the moment in history. His lecture, titled “Adolf Hitler and the United States: Views, Plans, and Policies, and the Jewish Question in All Three,” will begin at 6:30 p.m. in the Physician Assistant Auditorium. The Union-Zukowski Lecture Series is supported by the Union-Zukowski Jewish Studies Endowment. For more information, contact Dr. Jeremy Hustwit at jhustwit@methodist.edu.

On the morning of **Feb. 6**, Dr. Eric Mansfield will speak on the “Challenges that African Americans Face in Education, Health, and Profession,” during Spring Convocation. His lecture will begin at 11 a.m. in Huff Concert Hall.

February 8 – The Methodist University English Department will present a work in progress screening of “Talking Black in America: The Story of African American Language” from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. in the Physician Assistant Auditorium. There will be a question and answer

session with executive producer Walt Wolfram. For more information, contact Shannon Ward at sward@methodist.edu or 910.630.7045.

February 9 – The David McCune International Art Gallery will have an opening reception for its newest exhibit, “Impressionism to Modernism: Masterworks of Early Photography,” at 6 p.m. The exhibit will run through April 8 and is sponsored in part by the Tourism Development Authority. For more information, contact Silvana Foti at sfoti@davidmccunegallery.org.

February 10 – The Methodist University Department of Foreign Languages will screen “Jack Strong” as a part of its Foreign Film Festival. The movie follows Colonel Ryszard Kuklinski, who informs Americans about the Communist Bloc’s top secrets in the face of upcoming martial law. The film will begin at 7 p.m. in Hendricks Science Complex room 122. For more information, contact Dr. Cristina Francescon at 910.630.7082 or by email at francesc@methodist.edu.

February 11 – The Methodist University Women’s Basketball team will host its annual Play4Kay game beginning at 4 p.m. There will be a silent auction, merchandise for sale and a special tribute to women’s cancer survivors and patients. All proceeds will be divided between the Friends of the Cancer Center of the Cape Fear Health Foundation and the Kay Yow Cancer Fund. These funds go toward women’s cancer research and to help underserved women afford mammograms. The game is free to attend, but donations are welcome. Attendees are encouraged to wear pink. For more information, contact Coach DeeDee Jarman at djarman@methodist.edu.

At 7 a.m. on **Feb. 11**, there will be a Play4Kay 5K Fun Run/Walk. Registration is \$20 for MU students, faculty and staff and \$25 for all other participants. To register, visit <http://bit.ly/2koftwF>.

February 16-19 – Methodist University will present “The Great American Trailer Park Musical” at 8 p.m. through Feb. 18 and at 2 p.m. on Feb. 19 on the Huff Concert Hall stage. Admission is \$10 or free for MU community members.

February 22 – Watch the world come together at PANGEA. PANGEA is a student showcase of international art, music and dance complete with a fashion show highlighting wardrobes from around the world. The show will begin at 6 p.m. in Huff Concert Hall.

February 23 – Methodist University’s recipients of the 21st annual B.F. Stone Endowed Lyceum honor, MU History faculty Dr. Carl Dyke, Dr. Peter Murray and Dr. Patrick W. O’Neil, will present a special lecture titled “Donald Trump’s Fayetteville” beginning at 7 p.m. in the Medical Lecture Hall in the Physician Assistant complex. Responding to the lecture will be Dr. Christopher Cronin (Political Science) and Dr. Karen Kletter (History). There will be a question and answer period and light refreshments will be served. For more information, contact Dr. Cameron Dodworth at cdodworth@methodist.edu.

February 24 – The Methodist University Foreign Film Festival continues with “Where Do We Go Now?” Women in a Lebanese village conspire to avert sectarian strife after mounting tensions between Christians and Muslims come to light. When tragedy strikes, the women find themselves driven to make a deeply personal sacrifice for the sake of peace. The screening will begin at 7 p.m. in Hendrix Science Complex room 122. For more information, contact Dr. Cristina Francescon at 910.630.7082 or by email at francesc@methodist.edu.

February 27 – The Davis Memorial Library will present its inaugural Black History Month Speaker series with Larry B. Perkins, author of “Buck Seventy-Two, A Destiny of Will.” Perkins is a commissioner on the North Carolina State Emergency Response Commission and is the author of numerous articles and books on safety. His lecture, which is not open to the public, will begin at 11 a.m. in the Yarborough Auditorium. **Media is invited to attend this event.**

February 28 – The Fayetteville Symphonic Band will present its show titled “Greatness!” beginning at 7:30 p.m. in Huff Concert Hall. For more information, contact Linda Volman Lane at lvolman@methodist.edu or by calling 910.630.7100.

March 17 – The Methodist University Foreign Film Festival continues with “Amour.” Georges and Anne are an octogenarian couple. They are cultivated, retired music teachers. Their daughter, also a musician, lives in Britain with her family. One day, Anne has a stroke, and the couple's bond of love is severely tested. The screening will begin at 3 p.m. in Hendricks Science Complex room 122. For more information, contact Dr. Cristina Francescon at 910.630.7082 or by email at francesc@methodist.edu.

March 17 – The Friends of Music Guest Artist Series continues with an Organ Trio featuring Organist Vicki Fey and Dr. Timothy Meyer Altman and Dr. Larry Wells on trumpet. The concert will begin at 7:30 p.m. at Hay Street United Methodist Church. For more information, contact Linda Volman Lane at lvolman@methodist.edu or by calling 910.630.7100.

March 31 – The Methodist University Foreign Film Festival continues with “Tangerines.” An Estonian man Ivo has stayed behind during war to harvest his crops of tangerines. In a bloody conflict at his door, a wounded man is left behind, and Ivo is forced to take him in. The screening will begin at 7 p.m. in Hendricks Science Complex room 122. For more information, contact Dr. Cristina Francescon at 910.630.7082 or by email at francesc@methodist.edu.

April 3-7 – Methodist University will host the Sixth Annual Center for Undergraduate Research and Creativity Symposium. More details will be available at a later date.

April 7 – The Methodist University Foreign Film Festival continues with “In the Times of the Butterflies.” It is inspired by the true story of the three Mirabal sisters who, in 1960, were murdered for their part in an underground plot to overthrow the government. The screening will begin at 7 p.m. in Hendricks Science Complex room 122. For more information, contact Dr. Cristina Francescon at 910.630.7082 or by email at francesc@methodist.edu.

April 11-12 – Students in the Congress and the Presidency and International Relations classes will participate in a scenario-driven simulation exercise called Join Simulation Exercise Imminent Peril III. The students will act as role players charged with various responsibilities. This year’s scenario involves a terrorist group that has released a video claiming to be in possession of a nuclear device they are prepared to detonate. The students will have to authenticate the video and pinpoint the location of the device before it detonates. **This event is not open to the public, but the media is invited to attend.**

April 12 – The MU Nursing Simulation Hospital will host an inter-professional experience from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. with the Physician Assistant, Doctor of Physical Therapy, Health Care Administration, Social Work, and Nursing departments. Students will be given a large-scale training scenario that will involve multiple disciplines. **This event is not open to the public, but the media is invited to attend.**

April 20 – The Fayetteville Symphonic Band will present its show titled “Around the World in 60 Minutes” beginning at 7:30 p.m. in Huff Concert Hall. For more information, contact Linda Volman Lane at lvolman@methodist.edu or by calling 910.630.7100.

April 27 – The Methodist University music department will present its spring MU All-Choirs Concert in which each of the University’s choirs led by a member of the music department staff will come together for a joint concert. The concert will begin at 7:30 p.m. in Huff Concert Hall. For more information, contact Linda Volman Lane at lvolman@methodist.edu or by calling 910.630.7100.

May 6 – Methodist University will celebrate its 54th annual Spring Commencement Ceremony beginning at 2 p.m. in the March F. Riddle Center. **General seating is limited to ticketholders, but the media is invited.** The Baccalaureate service will be held prior to the ceremony at 10:30 a.m. in Huff Concert Hall.

Monarch Athletics

Admission to Monarchs athletic events is free for most sports. For a complete list of athletic activities, visit mumonarchs.com. Athletic Department Contact: Nate Jervey, 910.630.7172 or sportsinfo@methodist.edu.

About Methodist University

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Jan. 30, 2017

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HISTORIAN GERHARD WEINBERG TO SPEAK AT UNION-ZUKOWSKI LECTURE SERIES

FAYETTEVILLE, N.C. — Methodist University will host internationally recognized military and diplomatic historian Gerhard Weinberg for its inaugural Union-Zukowski Lecture.

The Union-Zukowski Lecture Series is supported by the Union-Zukowski Jewish Studies Endowment. Weinberg's lecture is titled "Adolf Hitler and the United States: Views, Plans, and Policies, and the Jewish Question in All Three," and will begin at 6:30 p.m. on Feb. 6 in the Physician Assistant Auditorium on the campus of Methodist University. The event is free and open to the public.

"The resurgence of nationalist and populist movements in the United States and Europe today prompts reflection on similar movements in the past," said Dr. J.R. Hustwit, associate professor of philosophy and religion at Methodist University. "Weinberg's lecture on Hitler's views concerning the United States ought to provide valuable insight into the relation between American democracy and Nazi Germany."

Weinberg was born in Germany in 1928. His father lost his government job in 1934 because of his "Jewishness." Only a few years later, in 1938 when he was nine years old, Weinberg was kicked out of his school and his father was arrested. Narrowly escaping deportation to a concentration camp thanks to a former employer who demanded his release, Weinberg's family was able to escape Nazi Germany.

The family reunited in England and spent 1939 waiting to come to America. They eventually made it to America where they settled in Albany, N.Y.

After a short time in the military, Weinberg studied history at the University of Chicago, focusing on World War II. In the 1950s, he led the microfilming of confiscated German documents in Alexandria, Va. It was there where he found the arrest list with his father's name on it.

A former employee of the Nazi Party's publishing house recalled a book on foreign policies that Hitler dictated but did not publish. Weinberg found it in a batch of files in a folder that was mislabeled as a partial draft of "Mein Kampf."

In 1961, the Institute of Contemporary History in Munich published the "Zweites Buch," or Hitler's second book, which includes commentary by Weinberg.

Weinberg currently serves as the William Rand Kenan Jr. Professor Emeritus of History at The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

For more information on Weinberg's visit, contact Hustwit at jhustwit@methodist.edu.

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For Immediate Release
January 31, 2017

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**METHODIST UNIVERSITY TO HOST 11TH ANNUAL
PLAY4KAY BASKETBALL GAME**

FAYETTEVILLE – This year’s Play4Kay women’s basketball event will be held on Feb. 11 at 4 p.m. in the March F. Riddle Center on the campus of Methodist University. The event will feature a silent auction and special recognition for cancer patients and survivors during halftime. Merchandise is currently on sale in the Methodist University bookstore or by pre-order through Women’s Basketball Coach DeeDee Jarman’s office.

There will also be a 5K walk/run the morning of the game. The \$25 entrance fee will benefit Play4Kay fundraising at Methodist University. For information on the 5K, call 910.630.7615. During the week leading up to the game, TLC Auto Wash on Ramsey Street will donate \$1 from every car wash between Feb. 4 and 11 to Play4Kay at MU. ScrubOaks restaurant on Ramsey Street will also be hosting a spirit day on Feb. 10, when the restaurant will donate a percentage of all their sales between noon and midnight to the Play4Kay fundraiser.

Traditionally, the women’s basketball Play4Kay game is the culmination of the year’s fundraising efforts for Play4Kay at MU, with fundraising opportunities throughout the year at other activities and athletic events.

According to Jarman, Play4Kay at Methodist University has raised more than \$100,000 since it began. The proceeds have been divided between the Kay Yow Cancer Fund, where the funds are used to research all women’s cancers, and the Cape Fear Valley Health Foundation’s Friends of the Cancer Center, where the money is used to pay for mammograms for underprivileged women in the Fayetteville Community.

About Yow

Coach Jarman was still dribbling basketballs on her high school court when she met Sandra Kay Yow, the late N.C. State coach. Yow would become an inspiration to Jarman and other aspiring coaches and players, not only for how she battled on the court, but how she battled cancer. MU’s annual Play4Kay games are part of Yow’s legacy.

Yow served as a collegiate basketball coach for 38 years, with her longest stint at North Carolina State University. She had 700 career victories and was chosen as an Olympic coach among an elite group on nine picked to coach the U.S. Basketball Team during the 1988 Olympics in Seoul.

Yow first heard the words no woman wants to hear from her doctor in 1987: “You have breast cancer.”

The coach fought the disease three times.

“She was fighting a fight for everybody; it wasn’t just her fight,” Jarman said. “She was fighting for every woman who has battled cancer.”

Watching Yow support her team and players across the street humbled Jarman as their relationship progressed from mentorship to friendship. Jarman said Yow’s unwavering faith in God kept her vigilant and kind as she faced the fight of her life.

“Other people came before herself, even when she was battling cancer,” Jarman remembered. “Other people wanted to put her in the spotlight, but she didn’t want that.”

The Kay Yow Cancer Fund, and its fundraising initiative Play4Kay, began in December 2007 with the goal of raising funds for scientific research, assisting the underserved, and unifying people for a common cause.

Two years later, on Jan. 24, 2009, Yow succumbed to the disease. That day is one that Jarman will never forget.

“It was a Saturday, so we had a game,” Jarman remembered. “It was and still is an emotional day because she meant so much to women’s basketball. It is hard to understand why things like that happen to great people. She was an amazing, caring, genuine woman. She was an all-around amazing person.”

Jarman and her team had a moment of silence, during which she remembered the moment her daughter sat in the lap of the legend who she called a friend.

Although Jarman admits every Play4Kay event brings with it a roller coaster of emotions, she knows her basketball team and the several groups on Methodist University’s campus that raise money for the cause are doing what Yow would do.

“She would be helping others. The money we raise here goes toward research we hope can cure all women’s cancers,” Jarman said. “I believe Play4Kay has become one of the biggest events on campus. Everybody wants to get involved because they feel the passion and they want to help raise funds.”

For more information on Play4Kay at Methodist University, contact Jarman at 910.630.7283.

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**DR. ERIC MANSFIELD TO SPEAK AT METHODIST UNIVERSITY'S
SPRING CONVOCATION**

FAYETTEVILLE, N.C. – Methodist University will hold its annual 2017 Spring Convocation at 11 a.m. Monday, Feb. 6, in Huff Concert Hall in Reeves Fine Arts Building. This year's event will feature Dr. Eric Mansfield, who will speak on "Challenges That African Americans Face in Education, Health, and Profession." Traditionally, the spring convocation event is a celebration of Black History Month. The event is free and open to the public.

"We are excited to have Dr. Eric Mansfield speak at our Spring Convocation," said Executive Vice President and Academic Dean of the University Dr. Delmas Crisp. "Dr. Mansfield's experiences as a medical doctor, state senator, entrepreneur and businessman, minister, and retired military physician inform a personal story that will inspire students to work hard while in college and look for opportunities to better themselves and society."

About Mansfield

Mansfield is the founder of Cape Fear Otolaryngology in Fayetteville, which opened in 2001. Mansfield was born in Louisiana, but grew up in Columbus, Ga. He received his bachelor's degree in chemistry from Howard University in Washington, D.C., his M.D. from Morehouse School of Medicine, Atlanta and completed his residency at Tulane University School of Medicine in New Orleans. An ordained minister, Mansfield served as a N.C. State Senator and once ran for lieutenant governor. He is also a retired U.S. Army physician.

Mansfield was a member of the MU Board of Trustees from Oct. 2005-June 2014 and the Loyalty Campaign Chair in 2011. He has also served on the MU Health Care Administration Advisory Board.

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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For Immediate Release
Feb. 2, 2017

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METHODIST UNIVERSITY ANNOUNCES BLACK HISTORY MONTH EVENTS

FAYETTEVILLE – Several events will be held during the month of February in celebration of Black History Month. All events are free and open to the public unless otherwise noted.

February 6 – Methodist University’s Spring Convocation, which annually holds a Black History Month theme, will feature Dr. Eric Mansfield, founder of Cape Fear Otolaryngology in Fayetteville, who will speak on “Challenges That African Americans Face in Education, Health, and Profession.” His lecture will begin at 11 a.m. in Huff Concert Hall.

February 8 – The Methodist University English Department will present a work in progress screening of “Talking Black in America: The Story of African American Language.” The film’s executive producer, Walt Wolfram, will be in attendance for a question and answer period following the screening. The film will begin at 5:30 p.m. in the Physician Assistant Auditorium.

February 20 – The Department of Multicultural Affairs will host the African American Museum on Wheels in Berns Student Center from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. The museum includes a collection of photos, artifacts, and writings dating back to 1860.

February 27 – The Davis Memorial Library will present its inaugural Black History Month Speaker series. This year’s speaker will be Larry B. Perkins, author of “Buck Seventy-Two, A Destiny of Will.” Perkins is a commissioner on the North Carolina State Emergency Response Commission and has authored numerous books and articles on safety. His lecture, which is not open to the public, will begin at 11 a.m. in Yarborough Auditorium. **Media is invited to attend.**

Chapel Services – In addition to these events, all of February’s chapel services will focus on topics related to Black History Month. On Feb. 8, there will be a guest speaker, and the One Voice International Gospel Choir will perform. On Feb. 15, the service will focus on spirituals about liberation, empowerment, and celebration. Lastly, on Feb. 22, there will be a guest speaker from the United Methodist Committee on Race and Religion, whose sermon is titled “Lift Every Voice: Social Justice and the Black Church.” There will be a solo at this service by the student director of the One Voice International Gospel Choir, Ashley Matthews.

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For Immediate Release
Feb. 8, 2017

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**METHODIST UNIVERSITY TO PRESENT
“THE GREAT AMERICAN TRAILER PARK MUSICAL” THIS MONTH**

FAYETTEVILLE – This month, Methodist University will present “The Great American Trailer Park Musical,” featuring an all-student cast. The musical will run from Feb. 16 to 18 at 8 nightly and at 2 p.m. on Feb. 19. Tickets are \$10 for adults; \$7 for military, seniors, and students; and free for MU ID holders.

Set in Stark, Fla., the musical follows Norbert Garstecki (Benjamin Crews), a toll collector and former high school football star who’s found himself stuck in a rut, and a trailer park. Norbert’s hum-drum life is further damped by the extreme agoraphobia that keeps his wife Jeannie (Sarah Crews) stuck inside the walls of their trailer home.

By chance, Norbert meets Pippi (Ashley Matthews), a woman on the run from her former boyfriend Duke (David Tucker), and they continue to meet until word reaches Pippi that Duke has found her.

Other characters include Betty (Mary Allen) who runs the leasing office; Lin (Amanda Allred), whose husband has found himself on death row; and Pickles (Emily Bledsoe), who’s often pregnant, or wants to be.

“I’ve described the show as a Greek tragedy set in northern Florida and written as a musical comedy,” said Dr. Evan Bridenstine, associate professor of theatre. “There are adult situations and language, so it’s not for young children.”

For more information on “The Great Trailer Park Musical,” contact Bridenstine at 910.630.7104 or email ebridens@methodist.edu.

About Methodist University

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For Immediate Release
Feb. 11, 2015

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**METHODIST UNIVERSITY TO HOST 19TH ANNUAL
B.F. STONE ENDOWED LYCEUM**

FAYETTEVILLE, NC—Methodist University announces the presenters of the 21st annual B.F. Stone Endowed Lyceum, Dr. Carl Dyke, Dr. Peter Murray, and Dr. Patrick W. O’Neil. Every year, one scholarly project from Methodist University faculty is chosen to be presented at the Lyceum, a special lecture and response event. Dyke, Murray and O’Neil’s presentation is entitled, “Donald Trump’s Fayetteville.”

The B.F. Stone Endowed Lyceum was created to foster scholarly interaction among faculty, students, and the larger community. The event, which is free and open to the public, will begin at 7 p.m., Thursday, Feb. 23, 2017, in the Medical Lecture Hall in the Physician Assistant complex.

The presentation will focus on Donald Trump’s presidential campaign, which was unlike any other in American history. Fayetteville will be remembered in Trump’s history as one of two Trump rallies in the area that broke out in violence, as supporters clashed with protestors in the Crown Coliseum arena.

This year’s event is organized by Dr. Cameron Dodworth, assistant professor of English, who was the recipient of last year’s Lyceum honor. As is tradition, the previous year’s recipient organizes the next event and introduces the speakers.

“We are particularly excited about this year’s B.F. Stone Lyceum, because the topic is definitely one that is relevant not only to our community of Fayetteville, but also to our country as a whole,” Dodworth said. “Needless to say, the 2016 presidential election was a contentious one, and it will undoubtedly go down as one of the more significant presidential elections in our nation’s history, for many reasons, good and bad. The local, global, political and historical perspectives that this year’s Lyceum will place on the election and on our president will be very worthwhile to consider, regardless of one’s party affiliation and/or opinion on President Donald Trump.”

All three recipients of this year’s annual B.F. Stone Lyceum honor are members of the Methodist University Department of History and attended both rallies, where they interviewed Trump partisans and explored how members of the Fayetteville community responded and contributed to the Trump phenomenon. In their presentation, they consider how Trump supporters align with other historical moments and look forward to how they imagine Fayetteville and America under a Trump presidency.

About the presenters

Dyke teaches modern European history, world history, and sociological theory at Methodist University. He received his B.A. at Temple University and his Ph.D. at the University of California at San Diego. His research interests include identity formation and the history and theory of societies as complex, adaptive systems. He owns a farm with his wife, and spends a lot of time around pigs, goats, guinea fowl, other country folks, and heritage breed chickens.

Murray is a native of South Carolina and graduated from Wofford College before attending Indiana University-Bloomington, where he received his Ph.D. in 1985. After beginning his career at Indiana State University, he began teaching at Methodist College in 1988. The University of Missouri Press published his monograph, "Methodists and the Crucible of Race" in 2004. He is married to Mary Cathryn Murray and they have two grown sons.

O'Neil received a B.A. in history at Grinnell College and a Ph.D. at The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. He currently studies gender, culture, and politics in antebellum America. His research focuses on how Americans' ideas about rituals and cultural artifacts unite and divide them, and is currently working on a book titled "Inventing the American Wedding." He co-coordinates the Women's Studies minor at MU and runs the Methodist University Community Oral History Project.

About the Lyceum

The Lyceum was first held in 1997, and the event became known as the B.F. Stone Endowed Lyceum in 1998 with a generous gift from the estate of Mr. B.F. "Doc" Stone, a pharmacist from Elizabethtown, N.C. Stone was a respected and active member of the Methodist Church and a longtime supporter of the University.

Under the format of the Lyceum, Dyke, Murray, and O'Neil's lecture will be followed by responses from two experts. This year's respondents are Dr. Christopher Cronin and Dr. Karen Kletter.

Cronin is an associate professor of political science at Methodist University. He earned his Ph.D. from the University of Massachusetts, Amherst. At Methodist University, he is the Americanist and teaches most of the courses in American politics. His research focuses on religion and American politics. His published works are on the "Social Gospel Movement," "Party Politics," and "Mormons in American Politics." His most recent research deals with religious leaders as political leaders.

Kletter is a professor of history at Methodist University. She received bachelor's degrees in history and German literature from Hunter College, City University of New York; her Master's degree in medieval history from Columbia University; and her Ph.D. in medieval history with a minor in history of science, from The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Her published works treat the use of the first-century Jewish historian, Flavius Josephus, within the tradition of medieval Christian chronical and historical writing, the intellectual and cultural contexts of Jewish-Christian relations, and historiography and the construction of identity in medieval Europe.

After the responses, there will be a time for questions from the audience. Light refreshments will be served.

About Methodist University

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[Archivist's note: This release was written but not distributed to the media.]



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For Immediate Release
Feb. 24, 2017

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**METHODIST UNIVERSITY ANNOUNCES GRAHAM BLANTON
AS LOYALTY SUPPORTER OF THE YEAR**

FAYETTEVILLE, NC— Methodist University celebrated its 62nd annual Loyalty Campaign for Student Scholarships Feb. 28 at Fairfield Inn & Suites on Ramsey Street in Fayetteville.

The University honored Mr. Graham Blanton as the 2017 Loyalty Supporter of the Year. Blanton has supported Methodist University as a member of the Endowment Society and Board of Visitors, and as a faithful Loyalty Campaign Supporter for 28 straight years.

“For the past 30 years, along with you, I have seen Methodist College change to Methodist University and I’ve seen the growth,” Blanton said in his acceptance speech. “But what counts the most are the students and all of you that participate in the financial support of the University by participating in the Loyalty Campaign. The older you become, the more you believe that helping others is No. 1.”

The goal this year was to raise \$200,000 for student scholarships. Donations continue to roll in. At press time, the Loyalty Campaign for Student Scholarships had raised \$128,495.19, and that figure continues to grow. Supporters who have not given are encouraged to visit methodist.edu/giving to contribute to the campaign.

In the days leading up to Feb. 28, 20 teams made of up of 150 community volunteers personally reached 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 were solicited nationwide.

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.

The University is observing a year-long celebration the 60th anniversary of the signing of the University charter on Nov. 1, 1956 and the 62nd annual Loyalty Campaign.

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 Advancement and Alumni Affairs Office estimates that nearly 600 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 was William Brooks, BB&T market president. BB&T was one of the first supporters of the University and of the Loyalty Campaign and has contributed every year since.

"I am glad to support the Loyalty Campaign because of the great work Methodist University does to develop students for success and empower them to become leaders," said Brooks.

Though Loyalty Campaign was originally about raising funds to help the college operate; in 2005, the focus shifted to student scholarships, something to which MU dedicates more than 26 percent of its budget 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 2015-2016 academic year, MU awarded \$21.4 million in financial aid to students.

About Methodist University

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methodist.edu

For Immediate Release
Feb. 24, 2017

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LOYALTY CAMPAIGN GOAL SET AT \$200,000

FAYETTEVILLE, NC— Methodist University's 62nd annual Loyalty Campaign will be celebrated on Tuesday, Feb. 28. The goal this year is to raise \$200,000 for student scholarships.

In the days leading up to Feb. 28, 20 teams made of up of 150 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.

The Loyalty Campaign Celebration will be held on Feb. 28 from 4:30 to 7 p.m. at Fairfield Inn & Suites, North Fayetteville on Ramsey Street. The 2017 Loyalty Supporter of the Year will be named at the celebration.

Fundraising efforts for the Loyalty Campaign are conducted in the days leading up to and weeks following Feb. 28. 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.

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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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**METHODIST UNIVERSITY TO HOST 17TH ANNUAL BULLARD-TEMPLETON
LECTURE MARCH 13**

FAYETTEVILLE, N.C. – Methodist University’s 17th annual Bullard-Templeton Lecture on Science and Religion will feature Lawrence Principe, who will speak on “The Origin of Life and Evolution: Must Science and Religion Disagree?” The lecture will take place at 11 a.m. on March 13 in the Physician Assistant Auditorium in the Medical Lecture Hall. This event is free and open to the public.

Principe is the Drew Professor of Humanities in the Department of History of Science and Technology at Johns Hopkins University and the Department of Chemistry. He earned undergraduate degrees at the University of Delaware and did his graduate work at Indiana University and Johns Hopkins. He is the first recipient of the Francis Bacon Medal for significant contributions to the history of science.

“Professor Principe has been invited to Methodist University not only because of scholarly awards that he has received and praise as a speaker, but also because of his inclusion in the very popular and distinguished series entitled ‘The Great Courses,’ available on DVD,” said Professor of Religion Dr. Lloyd Bailey, the event organizer.

Professor Principe’s research focuses on the late medieval and early modern periods. He is the author of multiple volumes and scholarly articles, including “The Scientific Revolution,” and has co-authored a volume on alchemy that won the 2005 Pfizer Prize.

With an interest in the interactions of science and religion, Principe regularly teaches classes on this subject. His courses have received awards from the Templeton Foundation, and he has produced a 12-lecture DVD course titled, “Science and Religion.”

The Bullard-Templeton Lecture Series, which was originally established in 2000 under a Templeton grant, was renamed in 2006 after local businessman A. Howard Bullard, Jr. and his wife, Marta. The lectures are offered free to the public and are designed to explore the relationship between science and religion.

For more information on the lecture, contact Dr. Lloyd Bailey at 910.630.7118.

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For Immediate Release
March 31, 2017

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**“PRACTICING MEDICINE IN NC IN THE MIDST OF AN OPIOID EPIDEMIC” TO
INCLUDE DISCUSSION OF N.C. MEDICAL BOARD OPIOID PRESCRIBING
GUIDELINES**

FAYETTEVILLE, N.C. – The Methodist University Physician Assistant Program will host its first Opioid Conference on April 13, from 3-5 p.m. in the Medical Lecture Hall on the MU campus. This event is free and open to the public, though the discussion will be geared to health professions students, faculty, and practicing clinicians. There is no advance registration required.

Dr. Barbara Walker of the N.C. Medical Board will be the keynote speaker. She will talk about the issues and concerns surrounding practicing medicine while the state is suffering from an opioid epidemic.

“Castlight Health reported that four of the top 25 U.S. cities for opioid abuse are in North Carolina, with Wilmington as No. 1 and Fayetteville as 18th,” said event organizer Dr. Lisa Huggins Oxendine, associate professor of clinical medicine in the PA Program. “Their study also found that 32 percent of opioid prescriptions are abused. Thus, it’s imperative that healthcare professionals know and apply recommendations for opioid prescribing in North Carolina as a measure to reduce these statistics and hopefully to improve and lengthen lives.”

For more information on this event, contact Oxendine at loxendine@methodist.edu or [910.480.8525](tel:910.480.8525).

About the speaker

Dr. Walker completed her undergraduate studies at Santa Ana College in Santa Ana, Calif., and the University of California at Irvine. She earned her Doctor of Osteopathy (DO) at the College of Osteopathic Medicine of the Pacific in Pomona, Calif. She began active duty at William Beaumont Army Medical Center in El Paso, Texas. She completed a residency in Family Practice at Womack Army Community Hospital at Fort Bragg and a fellowship in Academic Family Medicine at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

Dr. Walker is certified by the American Board of Family Medicine and the American Osteopathic Board of Family Physicians. She has practiced full-scope family medicine, including maternal-child care, since 1989. She currently is a contracted family physician with New Hanover Regional Medical Center in Wilmington, N.C. She spent more than 14 years teaching medical students and performing various administrative roles at the Family Medicine Residency Program at New Hanover Regional Medical Center.

Dr. Walker had a distinguished military career spanning more than 20 years in the U.S. Army. She served active duty in Operation Desert Shield/Desert Storm, Saudi Arabia. She was attached to the 307th Medical Battalion, 82nd Airborne Division. Dr. Walker retired from the U.S. Army in 2006 with the rank of Colonel.

Dr. Walker began her term on the North Carolina Medical Board on Nov. 1, 2013.

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April 2017 (downloaded from MU website)

Methodist University Doctor of Occupational Therapy Program First of Its Kind in North Carolina

Methodist University's second doctoral program Occupational Therapy is the first doctorate-level Occupational Therapy program in North Carolina.

The program recently received regional accreditation from the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS) on March 24, and is currently pending accreditation by the Accreditation Council of Occupational Therapy Education (ACOTE).

Classes for this program are expected to begin in Fall 2018.

Dr. Meredith Gronski, chair of the Doctor of Occupational Therapy program at Methodist University, said that other occupational therapy programs exist at ECU, Lenoir Rhyne, WSSU, Cabarrus and UNC Chapel Hill. There are also occupational therapy assistant programs at Durham Tech and Rowan-Cabarrus Community College (Concord).

"We look forward to collaborating with them and fostering relationships with Carolina health care facilities, school districts and community service agencies through clinical education and research initiatives," she said.

Gronski joined Methodist University in 2015 as a consultant. She became full-time faculty in 2016 and is working to develop the program and guiding it through the remainder of the accreditation process.

She received her bachelor's degree and her Doctorate of Occupational Therapy from Washington University in St. Louis, Mo. Prior to joining the staff at Methodist, she was an assistant professor of occupational therapy and otolaryngology at Washington University as well as a lead therapist for children, youth and families in the Washington University School of Medicine, which is her area of specialization. Board certified and licensed to practice in North Carolina, she also serves on the American Occupational Therapy Association's Commission on Practice and is on the executive board of the North Carolina Occupational Therapy Association (NCOTA).

"Occupational therapy is an exciting profession that serves individuals and communities as a bridge between medical science and the social-cultural human arts," Gronski said. "Our students will launch their careers to address chronic disease, disability, and mental health conditions in a variety of clinics, schools, home-based care, and communities. Our goal is produce highly skilled, compassionate occupational therapists who are committed to bringing innovative care to our communities in North Carolina."

Provost Dr. Delmas Crisp said the program is a good fit for Methodist, which has a large network of clinical and community-based sites that offer expansive clinical fieldwork and service learning opportunities. On campus, the program will use custom-designed classrooms and labs in the Thomas R. McLean Health Sciences Building, which opened last year and also houses the Doctor of Physical Therapy (DPT) Program.

"Methodist University has a proven track record offering health science programming that highlights inter-professional collaboration, including the DPT, the Master of Medical Science in Physician

April 2017 (downloaded from MU website)

Assistant Studies program, and the Bachelor of Science in Nursing, Athletic Training, and Kinesiology programs,” Crisp said.

Accreditation

The Occupational Therapy Doctorate (OTD) Program aims to be accredited by the Accreditation Council of Occupational Therapy Education (ACOTE). Currently, the OTD Program is considered a “Developing Program” by ACOTE. There are several phases involved in the pre-accreditation process, with a final decision not expected until 2020, prior to the first cohort graduating from the three-year program.



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For Immediate Release
April 19, 2017

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SENIOR EXHIBITION, “UNTITLED NO. 5,” OPENS APRIL 21

FAYETTEVILLE, N.C. — Methodist University will host the spring 2017 senior art exhibition, “UNTITLED No. 5,” from April 21 to 28 in the David McCune International Art Gallery. There will be an opening reception from 6 to 8 p.m. on April 21. This event is free and open to the public.

The art show will feature the work of students Walter Barnett, Stephen Carroll, Deniel Cestero, Emily Brooke Highsmith, and Javahn Tyson.

About the artists

Walter Barnett was born in Indianapolis, Ind., son of Waltrina and Clifford Barnett. Walter spent all of his childhood in Portsmouth, Va., living there for 13 years. As a child, Walter found his passion for art inspired by his grandfather. At the age of 14, the Barnett family moved to Wilmington, N.C. Early in high school, Walter avoided all art classes because of his dislike to being directed “how to draw.” In his last semester of senior year, he signed up for an art class that restored his love and passion for art. Doing his senior project on the effects that graphic design has within culture, Walter became interested in the subject. Majoring in graphic design and with a minor in marketing, Walter was awarded the 2016 Jazz Festival Outstanding Graphic Design award and 2016 Anthony J. Delapa Art Achievement Award. A student athlete, he has also been named to the USA South Athletic Conference All-Academic Team, and USA South Athletic Conference All-Sportsmanship Team. After graduation, Walter hopes to work as a designer and in the future hopes to start his own business.

Emily Highsmith is a 23-year-old graphic design artist at Methodist University. She was born in Fayetteville, and she grew up with her brother, sister, and mother. Emily’s interest in art sparked in kindergarten art class, in which she won a poster contest involving all the kindergarteners at her school. Her passion to create leads her in many different directions in the

field of art. She loves learning new techniques and expanding her knowledge and expertise in the newest and latest in Graphic Design and art. Emily was on the dean's list in fall 2012, spring 2014, and spring 2016. She will earn her Bachelor of Fine Arts in Graphic Design in May 2017.

Javahn Tyson-Bryant was originally born in Hickory, N.C. and grew up in a small apartment with his mother and two little brothers, but due to unstable domestic living conditions, his mother was not able to take care of them. Soon after, he was adopted by his grandparents and his love for art began. His grandparents lived in a house in a small town of Lincolnton, N.C. The only contact he had with his biological mother were the letters and the drawings they had done during their few years together. Growing up away from his biological mom was hard, but through those struggles, he grew up quickly. His grandmother worked for the city of Newton and his grandfather was a janitor at the local high school. In the fifth grade, he found his liking for art. Being surrounded by open-minded people and an array of students opened his mind and thoughts to a whole new way of life. His love of design began when he helped his grandmother create color schemes for church programs and flyers for events and festivals. Javahn's art doesn't tell a story; his art tells the story of his family, the good the bad, the happy and the sad. It tells of his ups and downs and how they used each other to overcome adversity. Today he is a senior at Methodist University looking to be the first of his family to graduate from a university, which he hopes will set stepping stones for the others to follow.

Daniel Cestero is a graphic artist with a love for drawing, painting, and other traditional forms of art. As a child, he was heavily shaped by the dynamic creative changes of the 80's, with its vibrant colors and digital aesthetics, largely spearheaded by Saturday morning cartoons and the birth of MTV. Frequent visits to Florida to see his grandparents gave him access to venues such as Walt Disney World, Epcot Center, and MGM Studios. These magical places allowed him to envision a world of endless possibilities. He spent hours drawing the fantastic characters and landscapes that filled his dreams. These days, he is a little more grounded in reality having experienced more of life and of the world via his fine art studies for four years at Rice University in Houston, Texas; getting married; serving in the Army for over eight years; and being the proud parent and zoo keeper to his four-year-old daughter Isabella. He is currently working towards a bachelor's degree in graphic design with a minor in painting at Methodist University. One day he hopes to utilize the skills he's developed to work on projects within the video game industry with ultimate aspirations to one day start his own media company. Saturday morning cartoons are still a source of inspiration, one which he now enjoys sharing with another budding young artist, his daughter.

Stephen Carroll was born in 1981. He is a graphic artist and dad from Moss Point, Miss. At the age of 21, Stephen joined the United States Air Force as a C130 mechanic. This decision allowed him to travel the world, absorbing many different cultures in the process. His art is influenced by 1980s pop culture, horror movies, and video games. After graduation, Stephen plans to work as a freelance artist.

About Methodist University

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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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For Immediate Release
April 25, 2017

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METHODIST UNIVERSITY ANNOUNCES 54th ANNUAL SPRING COMMENCEMENT

FAYETTEVILLE, N.C. – Methodist University will celebrate its 54th annual Spring Commencement Ceremony Saturday, May 6, at 2 p.m. in the March F. Riddle Center. There are currently 285 candidates for graduation.

James Daniel “Danny” Highsmith, Sr., regional vice president and market manager at Beasley Broadcast Group in Fayetteville, will deliver the commencement address. The University will present the University Medallion to Mrs. Naoma W. and Dr. Gerald Ellison, longtime supporters of Methodist University.

The ceremony will also include the commissioning of four ROTC cadets and a speech by this year’s Distinguished Graduate, Peter Wildeboer, who was elected by the graduating seniors.

One student will also be presented with the Lucius Stacy Weaver Award. The award was established in 1964 by the family of Dr. L. Stacy Weaver to honor Methodist University’s first President. It is an engraved plaque presented to an outstanding member of each graduating class for academic excellence, spiritual development, leadership and service.

Following the MU tradition for students who are the first MU graduate from their country, there will be a presentation of the flags of Egypt by Abanob Salib, Hungary by Daniel Sasfy and Iraq by Raya Alher.

Prior to the commencement ceremony, the Rev. Tiffany Knowlin, an Elder in Full Connection in The United Methodist Church and pastor of Wesley United Methodist Church in Columbia, S.C, will deliver the baccalaureate sermon at 10:30 a.m. in Huff Concert Hall.

Commencement Speaker

Highsmith began as a sportscaster at Beasley in 1971. His role within the company has grown over the years and he now holds the title of regional vice president for Beasley’s Fayetteville cluster of stations. Highsmith is a graduate of Fayetteville Senior High School and received his bachelor’s degree from Campbell College in 1965.

Naoma W. and Dr. Gerald Ellison

Naoma W. and Dr. Gerald Ellison have supported the Methodist University and Fayetteville arts programs for several years. The couple has promoted the visual arts on the campus of Methodist University, beginning with a donation to the David McCune International Art Gallery's building fund. They continue to sponsor all of the major exhibitions showcased in the gallery. Mrs. Ellison earned a degree from Concord College and now serves on the gallery's board. Dr. Ellison earned degrees from American and George Washington Universities and retired from Carolina Regional Radiology in 2003.

Baccalaureate Service

Prior to graduation, a Baccalaureate Service will take place at 10:30 a.m. in Huff Concert Hall, where the Rev. Knowlin will deliver the baccalaureate sermon. Knowlin is an Elder in Full Connection in The United Methodist Church. She was the first African American and the first female to serve the historic College Place United Methodist Church in Columbia, S.C. She is a graduate of Candler School of theology at Emory University with degrees in Theology and Urban Policy.

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May 2017 (downloaded from MU website)

Mcevoy to Retire as Vice President and Director Of Athletics

Methodist University Vice President and Director of Athletics Bob McEvoy has announced his retirement from the University.

McEvoy has served Methodist for 25 years, including the last 19 as its director of athletics. Promoted to director of athletics in 1998, he was given the title of vice president in 2014. Prior to assuming the top position in the department, he served as the head men's basketball coach from 1992-1999, and as an assistant professor of physical education from 1995-2000.

"It has been an honor and pleasure to serve MU for the past 25 years during a period of the institution's unprecedented growth and success," McEvoy said. "Thank you to all the student-athletes, coaches, and faculty and staff that have taught me so much through the years as we pursued excellence both on and off the playing fields."

"Bob McEvoy epitomizes the best of Methodist University. He is student-centered and is committed to the holistic development of each and every student," said University President Dr. Ben Hancock Jr. "He has not only been an outstanding coach and administrator, but also a valued and thoughtful educator. He has led Methodist to national prominence in athletics, and what's more, he has made us a better University by example. On a personal level, I will miss him as a trusted colleague for his wise counsel and "can do attitude." The Board of Trustees and I wish him the very best as he embarks upon the next leg of his journey."

Rita Wiggs, who was the athletic director at Methodist when McEvoy was hired, and later served as the commissioner of the USA South Athletic Conference commented, "Bob led the Methodist University athletics program through a period of great growth and success. His leadership skills have been valuable not only on campus but within the Conference and NCAA committees' structure. He is a man of integrity and compassion. His legacy at the University will be his support and guidance for student-athletes and the opportunities provided to empower them. There is no better colleague and friend."

Under McEvoy's stewardship, Methodist captured 15 NCAA National Championships and 13 other top-5 finishes in NCAA Championship competition. The Monarchs brought home the Conference's Overall Presidents Cup for athletic excellence on five different occasions, including a run of three straight from 2013-2016. Methodist has won 100 conference championships since 1998, more than any other member of the conference.

McEvoy's leadership acumen was not limited to success on the playing field. His career was highlighted by an incredibly wide-ranging list of experiences, both administratively and coaching, across high school, junior college and NCAA Division I, II and III levels.

He helped with the expansion of the department, bringing in both men's and women's lacrosse and ensured the Monarchs maintained a national presence with the NCAA. During his time at MU, McEvoy served on the NCAA Division III Men's Basketball National Committee, the NCAA Division III Men's Golf National Committee, he served as the tournament director for such events as the Men's and Women's NCAA Division III Golf Championships (2009, 2013), NCAA Division III Softball South Regionals (2007, 2008), NCAA Division III Women's Golf Championship (2005), NCAA Division III Baseball South Regionals (2010) and served as a facilitator for the NCAA Division III National Regional Leadership Conferences from 2005-08. At the conference level, he served as the president of the conference from 2005-07, and again from 2016 until his retirement.

May 2017 (downloaded from MU website)

His involvement on campus was extensive. In addition to his teaching, he was a member of the Administrative Cabinet and assisted with the startup of the MU Journey program. In 2007, he was named the MU Staff Member of the Year by the MU Alumni Association.

In addition to adding two new sports in men's and women's lacrosse, McEvoy has helped usher in a new era at MU Athletics as the department has added to and improved upon its athletic facilities. The department has seen the construction of the football field house and the resurfacing of the track. Most recently, the department unveiled the Armstrong-Shelley Baseball Field House in November of 2015 and is nearing completion of the new tennis facility.

Before becoming the Director of Athletics, McEvoy was the men's basketball coach for seven seasons, compiling a record of 88-85. During the 1996-97 season, he led the Monarchs to a 22-8 record, conference regular season and tournament championships and a trip to the NCAA Elite Eight. That year, his team set an MU record with 20 consecutive wins, and he was named the National Association of Basketball Coaches South Region Coach of the Year for his efforts. Additionally, he was a two-time conference Coach of the Year in 1997 and 1999.

His time as the head basketball coach at Methodist followed stops at Cape Fear High School (1991-92) and the University of North Carolina at Greensboro (1984-1991), where he served time as both the men's basketball and men's tennis coach. Twice he was named the conference Coach of the Year in basketball as he accumulated the second-most wins of any coach at UNCG, and he was also named the conference Coach of the Year in men's tennis on one occasion.

McEvoy also served as basketball coach and director of athletics at then-Mount Olive College (1982-84), an assistant basketball coach at then-Pembroke State University (1980-82), basketball coach at Douglas Byrd High School (1976-80), graduate assistant coach at East Carolina University (1975-76) and a teacher and assistant coach at Zanesville High School in Zanesville, Ohio from 1973-75.

A 1973 graduate from Kent State University with a B.S. in secondary education, McEvoy was a four-year letterwinner on the Golden Flashes' basketball team. He served as a tri-captain during the 1972-73 season and was an honorable mention all-conference pick in 1971. He earned his M.A. in counselor education from East Carolina in 1976 and was a doctoral candidate in pupil personnel services at The University of Alabama in 1980.

"I especially thank former President Elton Hendricks and former Athletic Director Rita Wiggs for giving me the opportunity to call Methodist my home since 1992, and current President Dr. Hancock for his terrific support of MU athletics in recent years. It has been a good run for my family and me, and I look forward to supporting Monarch Nation in the years ahead," concluded McEvoy.

A search for McEvoy's replacement will be begin immediately, and Hancock stated, "Our first step will be to reach out to the various stakeholders in MU athletics and the University at large to secure their input as to what characteristics are desired for the next Director of Athletics. We are optimistic that given the high regard for Monarch Athletics, we will be successful in attracting a person worthy of continuing Bob McEvoy's legacy."



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**METHODIST UNIVERSITY OPENS NOMINATIONS FOR REEVES
SCHOOL OF BUSINESS AWARDS**

FAYETTEVILLE, N.C. – Nominations for the Third Annual Reeves School of Business Symposium and Awards Dinner are now open to the general public. Seven awards will be given at this year’s Symposium, which will be held Thursday, Nov. 16, 2017 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 at methodist.edu/rsb-award-nominations or by downloading the nomination form at methodist.edu/rsb-symposium and returning it by mail. The nomination deadline is Friday, August 4. 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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For Immediate Release
May 17, 2017

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**METHODIST UNIVERSITY ANNOUNCES
2017 FACULTY AWARD RECIPIENTS**

FAYETTEVILLE, N.C. – Four Methodist University faculty members recently received honors and awards. The award winners were recognized at the University’s annual commencement dinner on May 5 in Davis Memorial Library.

“I am proud of our accomplished faculty who are true scholars and teachers, who excel in the classroom, who care for our students, and who enjoy research and produce creative works,” said Dr. Delmas Crisp, University Provost. “Our students feel the same way about them, too.”

Dr. Kyrstin Krist, associate professor of physical education and exercise science, received the Exemplary Teacher Award from the General Board of Higher Education Ministry of the United Methodist Church. The award is given to a teacher or professor who exemplifies excellence in teaching, civility and concern for students and colleagues, commitment to values-centered education and service to students, the teacher’s institution, and the community.

Dr. Krist received her Bachelor of Science from Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, her master’s degree from Springfield College, and her doctoral degree from the University of South Carolina.

Dr. Scott Marosek, associate professor of music, was given the Methodist University Distinguished Professor of the Year Award. The winner is selected from full-time faculty members who have made a distinct difference in the teaching climate at the University.

Dr. Marosek received his bachelor’s and master’s degrees in music from the University of Missouri at Kansas City, and his doctoral degree from the University of North Texas.

Robin Greene, professor of English and writing, received the Alfred E. Cleveland Award for Excellence in Teaching. The award is the highest teaching award sponsored by Methodist University. The winner has to have completed three full academic years of full-time teaching at Methodist University and is awarded based on his or her knowledge, method of instruction, rapport with students and fellow instructors, teaching behavior and attitude, concern for teaching, a stimulating classroom environment, student achievements and loyalty to the University.

Greene received her Bachelor of Arts from the University of Bridgeport and master's degrees from State University of New York at Binghamton and Norwich University.

Lastly, Dr. Christopher Cronin, associate professor of political science, received the President's Award for Excellence in Research and Creative Expression. The award winner is chosen from a committee comprised of the University's president, provost, the associate vice president for academic affairs and the previous recipient. The winner is a faculty member who has excelled in any form of research or creativity.

Dr. Cronin received his Bachelor of Arts from Saint Michael's College and his master's and doctoral degrees from the University of Massachusetts.

About Methodist University

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For Immediate Release
June 6, 2017

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METHODIST UNIVERSITY STUDENTS TO HOST HEALTH AND WELLNESS EXPO

FAYETTEVILLE, N.C. – The students in the Doctor of Physical Therapy program at Methodist University are hosting a one-day health and wellness event.

The Methodist University Health and Wellness Expo will be held in the Thomas R. McLean Health Science Building on June 17 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Full day access passes are \$8; \$6 for military, first responders, and students with valid IDs; and free for children under 12. Tickets can be purchased online at healthwellness.eventgrid.com or on the day of the event.

Proceeds from the event will benefit Operation Enduring Warrior. The proceeds do not constitute a charitable contribution to MU.

The Health and Wellness Expo will include a wide variety of health and wellness classes and screenings including calisthenics, yoga, kinesio taping, strength and agility training, functional movement assessments, blood pressure assessments, and a kids zone.

For more information, visit Methodist.edu/dpt or call 910.480.8538.

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For Immediate Release
June 7, 2017

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Methodist University Announces Fifth Class of Wright Scholars

FAYETTEVILLE, N.C.—Methodist University announces the latest recipients of the Wright Scholarship, funded by a \$5 million endowment from Dr. Harvey T. Wright II '70 and his wife, Mary Fermanides Wright '68. The full-tuition scholarships provided by this fund benefit five new students each year.

The students selected for the fifth class of Wrights Scholars are:

- Maria Choi, Fayetteville, N.C. – Home School
- Kaitlin Coltharp, Fayetteville, N.C. – Jack Britt High School
- Macrae Conrad, New Holland, Ohio – Westfall High School
- Alisyn Keating, Mooresville, N.C. – Mooresville Senior High School
- Madeline Yeung, Garner, N.C. – Longleaf School of the Arts

“The Wright Scholars Program is a distinguished merit program for students who demonstrate high academic achievement, strong leadership qualities, commitment to community service, and good citizenship,” said Jamie Legg, Dean of Admissions at Methodist University. “This scholarship is the most prestigious academic honor for incoming Methodist University freshmen. Every student who applied for this scholarship is an outstanding example of the type of student that we hope to enroll at Methodist University, but these five students really embody the characteristics that the Wright Scholars Program strives to recognize.”

Ninety-eight students applied for these prestigious awards. The five Wright Scholars had an average GPA of 4.52, an average ACT score of 32, and an average Critical Reading and Math SAT score of 1350. Finalists received \$2,000 per year through the program. On top of these awards, the University also awarded each of the finalists and semifinalists a Presidential Scholarship worth between \$13,250 and \$23,250 per year.

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Caption: President Dr. Ben Hancock, Jr., left, poses with retiring faculty and staff members Dr. David Turner, professor Janet Turner, Dr. Deborah Branson, Dr. Joan Bitterman, professor Beth Copeland, Dr. Paul Wilson, and University Provost Dr. Delmas Crisp during a retirement reception in their honor. Not pictured is retiree Dr. Lloyd Bailey.



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Seven faculty members retire from MU

FAYETTEVILLE, N.C.— Methodist University recently celebrated the retirements of seven faculty members at a retirement celebration at the end of the school year.

Dr. Lloyd Bailey, Dr. Joan Bitterman, Dr. Deborah Branson, Professor Beth Copeland, Professor Janet Turner, Dr. David Turner and Dr. Paul Wilson each retired from Methodist University with a combined 122 years of service.

Dr. Bailey is retiring from Methodist University after 22 years of service, ending his career as a professor of religion. Bailey organized the Bullard-Templeton lectures, an annual event in which a guest speaker presents a lecture on the relationship between science and religion. He was published numerous times during his years at Methodist University and was even featured at Barnes & Noble during a book signing event in 1998. He contributed four years of research and preparation of Smyth & Helwys' *Leviticus-Numbers*, a 648-page series full of biblical commentary and illustrations.

Dr. Bitterman served Methodist University for 24 years and nine months as a professor of French and German. In 2005, Bitterman presented a paper at the annual meeting of the Foreign Language Association of North Carolina in Raleigh on Sept. 30 titled "Theodor Fontane als Gesellschaftskriter: Die allzu jungen Ehefrauen in *Effi Briest* und *Irrungen Wirrungen*."

Dr. Branson, director and associate professor of the environmental and occupational management program, is retiring after 10 years and six months of service.

Professor Copeland is retiring after nine years and nine months as an assistant professor of English at the University.

Professor Turner, assistant professor of ESL/TESL in the Modern Languages and Literature Department, is retiring after 15 years and nine months of service. During her time at Methodist University, Turner was the faculty advisor of the women's bible study group on campus.

Dr. Turner is retiring as a professor of speech after 15 years and nine months at Methodist University. In 2004, Turner published the second edition of “Speech Communication: Theories and Practices” with Dr. Willis Watt, C.B. Crawford, Mahboub Hashem, and Eric Krung. He was also a respondent for the 2006 B.F. Stone Lyceum during which Dr. John Fields, associate professor of chemistry, presented his paper titled “Lifting the Hydrogen Veil: An Alternative Approach to National Energy Security.”

Dr. Wilson is retiring as an associate professor of theatre after 27 years and nine months at the University. During his time, Wilson has directed and performed in many theatre productions.

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Methodist University graphic designer wins award for advertisement design

FAYETTEVILLE, N.C. – Doo Lee, a graphic designer at Methodist University, recently won an American Inhouse Design Award from Graphic Design USA.

Graphic Design USA's American Inhouse Design Awards is the original showcase for outstanding work by inhouse designers. This year, more than 5,000 entries were submitted.

The concept of the ad is an engineering drawing. The graphic shows the dimensions and measurements of the University's logo on graph paper with a compass. The engineering program at Methodist University welcomed its first class in the fall of 2016, so at the time Lee designed the ad, he had no images or graphics related to the program for the design.

"I was really happy with the ad concept since the graphic clearly implies that MU offers an engineering program," he said.

Lee was awarded with a certificate of excellence for his design. The award is the first print ad design awarded to Methodist University.

A 2014 graduate of Methodist University, Lee earned his Bachelor of Fine Arts in graphic design. He has worked at the University as a campus photographer and graphic designer since 2015.

"This award is very special to me," Lee said. "I am really proud of myself as one of the MU graphic design alumni because it is evidence that our graphic design program provided me a strong education in this field. I love working with our students, professors, and staff. I am also really appreciative of Roxana Ross, the director of Marketing and Communications, who supervised and fully supported me in the design concept."

June 16, 2017 (downloaded from MU website)

EAVENSON NAMED VICE PRESIDENT AND DIRECTOR OF ATHLETICS

Methodist University President Dr. Ben E. Hancock, Jr. announced the appointment of Dave Eavenson as the University's new Vice President and Director of Athletics on Friday afternoon.

A 1996 graduate of Methodist with a bachelor's degree in business administration with a concentration in professional golf management, Eavenson has served as the assistant director of athletics since 2013. He earned a master's in education/physical education with a concentration in athletic administration from Brockport State in 1999.



"Methodist University has been my home for 22 years. It is a very special place with special people," said Eavenson. "I would like to thank Dr. Hancock for affording me the opportunity to serve as the director of athletics and lead our great department. I'm really humbled and excited to have the opportunity to serve Methodist in this capacity."

"Methodist is very fortunate to have someone of Dave Eavenson's caliber to step into this leadership position and continue the tradition of excellence," said Hancock. "He will be a great successor to Bob McEvoy as he shares the same values, especially putting the students first and preparing them to be successful in every aspect of their University experience."

Eavenson assumes the position held for the last 19 years by Bob McEvoy, who announced his retirement earlier this year.

"Dave Eavenson is an outstanding individual and will do a great job of leading Monarch Nation in the years ahead," said McEvoy. "I look forward to following the progress and success of our teams and university under his leadership."

Since returning to his alma mater in 2000, Eavenson served as the associate head football coach for 12 years before assuming the head coaching position for the 2011 and 2012 seasons. Eavenson helped develop the Monarchs into one of the top offensive teams in the USA South Athletic Conference/Dixie Intercollegiate Athletic Conference over the years. In 2005, Methodist produced 2,000 yards rushing in a season for the third straight year, and the Monarchs set individual records for single-season yards rushing, passing completions and passing yards. Throughout Eavenson's tenure, the Monarch offense ranked consistently in the upper tier of the conference, and during the 2003 season it spent much of the season ranked in the Top 15 in the nation in rushing offense.

As Assistant Director of Athletics, Eavenson assisted with the management of the department's 20 NCAA Division III athletic teams. His responsibilities included the oversight of student-athlete recruitment and compliance duties, team travel, advisor for Student Athlete Advisory Committee, home event management, director of football operations, oversight of the athletic fields and other athletic affairs.

"During my time here, I've had the opportunity to work with, and for, tremendous people," added Eavenson. "The heart and soul of our athletic department is our student-athletes and coaches. We have a rich tradition of success and excellence, and it is a pleasure to be associated with such a fine group of

June 16, 2017 (downloaded from MU website)

people. We are all here to make a difference in the lives of young people. I'm 'All In' and am looking forward to working with the coaches and players every day.”

“These are exciting times for Monarch Athletics - new leadership, new facilities, and the same commitment to excellence. The best is yet to be for our students and entire campus community,” concluded Hancock.

June 16, 2017



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For Immediate Release
July 3, 2017

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Mary Lynn Bryan ends term as chair on the Methodist University Board of Trustees

FAYETTEVILLE, N.C. – Dr. Mary Lynn Bryan was recently honored by the Methodist University Board of Trustees for her long service and dedication to the University.

Bryan will officially step down as board chair on July 1 after serving an elected five-year term. She has been a member of the board since 1997.

“The great working relationship between a Board Chair and University President is critical to the success of a University,” said President Ben Hancock. “I feel very fortunate to have developed a strong partnership with Mary Lynn Bryan. Her commitment to the University students and faculty is an inspiration to us all and her legacy can be seen all around. Simply put, Mary Lynn Bryan has made Methodist a better University, and we will always be indebted to her for her many contributions.”

In recognition of Dr. Bryan’s service as chair of Board of Trustees, the trustees have established the Mary Lynn Bryan Endowed Professorship. This new fund not only honors a great leader who has contributed so much to the University, but also demonstrates the trustees’ commitment, and Dr. Bryan’s, to building the University’s endowment to benefit future generations of students and faculty. The Mary Lynn Bryan Endowed Professorship symbolizes this commitment and also recognizes Dr. Bryan’s love of education and her own background in academia as a nationally recognized scholar.

“What an extraordinary gift,” stated Bryan. “I am truly and deeply honored. The heart of any university is its faculty. Methodist University has an excellent faculty, and I respect them for their dedication, competence, and commitment. This endowment in my name helps honor them for the very important work that they do.”

An accomplished scholar, Bryan attended Auburn University, the University of Illinois and University of Chicago before she held a professorship at the University of Illinois in Chicago, where she became the editor of the Jane Addams Papers Project. Her first introduction to Methodist was as a visiting history professor at then Methodist College in the late 1990s.

Bryan has faithfully and diligently served the University in numerous capacities, including serving as the co-chair for the Building Excellence Capital Campaign (2011-2016), which raised a record-breaking \$42 million. She has also served on trustee committees including Executive and Finance, Development, Nominations, Academic

Affairs, and the Investment Committee. In 1988, she gave the commencement address and received an honorary doctorate degree.

Bryan and her husband Norwood have been tireless advocates for their community. Bryan served on the board of the Cumberland Community Foundation for 20 years, twice serving as their board chair, and has given of her time, talent, and treasure to countless other charitable organizations. The couple was recently honored as the 2017 Distinguished Citizens by the Occoneechee Council of the Boy Scouts of America. Mrs. Bryan also recently received the Realtor Cup from the Fayetteville Chamber of Commerce, their highest honor. The award is given to the businessperson who has made the most outstanding contribution to the civic, economic, and cultural growth of Fayetteville and Cumberland County.

Board chair-elect Mac Healy said Bryan's ability to keep the board focused is "amazing."

"I have watch her lead the Methodist board through many ground-breaking issues," said Mac Healy, board chair-elect. "She always operated with one thing in mind, the betterment of the University community. Every single member of the Board of Trustees is a better person because of her leadership."

About Methodist University

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From: Methodist University Mass Email
To: *
Date: 7/14/2017 3:26 PM
Subject: Athletic Department Changes News Release

FAYETTEVILLE, N.C. -- Methodist University Vice President and Director of Athletics Dave Eavenson announced the promotion of DeeDee Jarman from Senior Associate Director of Athletics to Deputy Director of Athletics on Friday afternoon. With the promotion, Jarman, who has served as the women's basketball coach at MU since 1997, will step away from the sidelines and long-time assistant Cheryl McNair will assume the head coaching position on an interim basis for the 2017-18 season. Jarman will also retain the Senior Women's Administrator role within the department. Her promotion is effective immediately.

"DeeDee Jarman is an outstanding person and it is a pleasure to work with her every day," said Eavenson. "She is an excellent administrator and is a tremendous asset to our athletic department. I am looking forward to the future with her in this expanded role."

"The Methodist University Athletic Department is making some very positive changes as we move forward," Jarman said. "After 22 years of coaching women's basketball here at Methodist University, I have been given the opportunity to work with athletic administration full time and I am very excited to contribute to the athletic department's vision and the entire Methodist Community moving forward."

In 20 seasons as the Head Women's Basketball Coach at MU, Jarman amassed a career record of 299-233 (.562) and steps down as the winningest coach in school history. Her teams won a total of five conference championships and advanced to the NCAA Tournament on two occasions. In addition to her coaching duties, Jarman has served as an administrator in the department for a number of years. She has been the SWA for over 15 years and added the title of associate athletic director in 2004. In 2013, Jarman was elevated to senior associate athletic director.

A graduate of UNC-Wilmington with a bachelor's degree in health and physical education, Jarman previously served as the head women's basketball coach at New Bern high school from 1993-95, followed by a two-year stint as the assistant women's basketball coach at Methodist under Rita Wiggs. Jarman attained a master's degree in administration from Central Michigan University in 2003.

Taking the reins of the Methodist women's basketball program will be McNair, who has served as an assistant under Jarman since 1997. She has been heavily involved in recruitment of student athletes, opponent scouting and implementation of the offensive attack since her arrival on campus. A 1994 graduate of then-St. Andrews College in Laurinburg, N.C., McNair was a four-year letterwinner for the Knights and has most recently worked as a physical therapist technician at Cape Fear Therapy Services.

"I am extremely honored and grateful for the opportunity to lead the women's basketball program," McNair said. "I have had the great pleasure of working with, and learning from, DeeDee Jarman for the past 20 years as her assistant coach. This experience has influenced me personally and professionally. My vision is to instill a culture in which our student-athletes don't just see themselves as a part of a team but a family; to encourage them that anything is possible if you are willing to put in the work and that they should enjoy this experience."

"Cheryl has done a great job in all areas of our women's basketball program over the past 20 years," commented Eavenson. "She has been a valuable and loyal assistant and we are excited about the upcoming 2017-2018 season under her stewardship."

McNair's appointment as head coach is effective August 1.

August 2018 (downloaded from MU website)

Mu Announces New Director of the MBA Program

Donna K. Pelham, J.D., CFE, CPA, was recently named the Master of Business Administration program director in the Reeves School of Business. She also serves as an associate professor of Accounting and Business Administration.

Pelham takes over for Dr. Pam Strickland, who was recently named the first Associate Dean of the Reeves School of Business.

Pelham is a Fayetteville native and has worked at Methodist University since 2008. She is a Florida-licensed attorney, a globally-licensed Certified Fraud Examiner, and a North Carolina Certified Public Accountant.

She received a B.A. and J.D. at Texas Lutheran College, and a CPA degree from the University of North Carolina School of Law. She is the senior articles editor for the Journal of Legal Studies in Business and an articles reviewer for the Journal of Legal Studies in Education.



In 2011, Pelham published a business law novel, “Twisted Links,” and is currently working on its sequel. She is active in the community through her work with Fayetteville's city government, most recently having served on the assessment team that helped select the city's first female police chief.



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For Immediate Release
August 16, 2017

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METHODIST UNIVERSITY WELCOMES NEW STUDENTS TO ORIENTATION

FAYETTEVILLE – New Student Orientation begins at Methodist University on Thursday, August 17, when freshman move-in and registration opens at 8 a.m. Orientation activities will run through Sunday, followed by the first day of classes on Monday, August 21.

“At Methodist University, we start a new year with a renewed commitment to our students and the greater community,” stated President Ben Hancock. “We expect nothing less than our best year ever, with our faculty leading the way to prepare our students to step into the world with the necessary skills, confidence, and a commitment to their local and global community. Such values-based education has never been more important or more relevant.”

Campus and community volunteers, many from area churches, will be on hand to greet the students and their families and help them move into their residence halls on Thursday.

Fun highlights of orientation include:

8 a.m.-1 p.m. Thursday	New student check-in in the March F. Riddle Center
6-7 p.m. Thursday	“Welcome to MU” family cookout on The Quad
9:30-10:30 p.m. Thursday	Hypnotist Christopher Carter in Huff Concert Hall
10:30 a.m. to noon Friday	University Fair in Nimocks Fitness Center
6:30-9 p.m. Friday	Rise Against Hunger meal packing in Nimocks Fitness Center
9-11 p.m. Friday	Monarch Madness (part 1) in Berns Student Center
7:30 -11:30 p.m. Saturday	Monarch Madness (part 2) on the outdoor basketball courts
9:30-10:30 a.m. Sunday	Orientation chapel service on The Quad

For the third year, the entire freshman class will be participating in a group service project. This year, they will be packing 55,000 meals in two hours for Rise Against Hunger, an international hunger relief organization. In March of 2018, as part of a spring break mission trip to Cap-Haitien, Haiti, students will have the opportunity to serve Rise Against Hunger meals to elementary students at College John Wesley.

“It is a powerful experience for students to pack meals during New Student Orientation and then to serve those same meals to children living in poverty,” said Vice

President for Religious Life and Campus Chaplain Rev. Kelli Taylor. “The awareness of how one act of compassion can change a life comes full circle.”

The university is seeing record enrollment in graduate programs. New programs this year include the Master of Education with concentrations in Physical Education and Coaching and Athletic Administration. The Health Care Administration Graduate Certificate will also begin this semester. The third cohort of Doctor of Physical Therapy student will begin this semester as the first students prepare to graduate from the program in May 2018.

The new Gene Clayton Tennis Center is complete and will welcome students from the Professional Tennis Management Program as well as the men’s and women’s tennis teams. Construction continues on the Matthews Ministry Center and Union-Zukowski Lobby and Gallery, and is expected to be completed in spring 2018.

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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For Immediate Release
Aug. 18, 2017

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2017/2018 UPCOMING EVENTS AT METHODIST UNIVERSITY

FAYETTEVILLE, N.C. — Methodist University holds several events throughout the semester focusing on topics like the arts, science, religion, sports, and international relations. These events, including family entertainment and speaking engagements, are free and open to the public unless otherwise noted. For more information, visit www.methodist.edu/mu-events.

September 7 – Methodist University will hold an opening night reception for the David McCune International Art Gallery’s fall exhibit “Kindred Materials: Glass and Clay” from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. The exhibit will include blown, carved, etched, and sculpted glass and clay by four artists: Jennifer Bueno, Thor Bueno, Jeannie Marchand, and Pablo Soto. This exhibit will be on display through Nov. 4. For more information, contact Silvana Foti at sfoti@davidmccunegallery.org.

September 8 – The Methodist University Department of Modern Languages and Literature’s Foreign Film Festival will kick off with “Theeb.” Set in 1916, Theeb is a boy living with his Bedouin tribe in a remote part of the Ottoman Empire. When his older brother has to escort a British officer across the desert, Theeb tags along for the adventure. The director of this 2014 Jordanian movie is Naj Abu Nowar. The film will be shown in its original language with English subtitles, and will be shown in Hendricks Science Complex room 122 at 7 p.m.

September 8 – Davis Memorial Library will celebrate the 50th anniversary of its Lafayette Collection by displaying letters, ceramics, medals, snuff boxes, and other items of LaFayette’s during this year’s Arias and Artifacts. A free catered reception will be held in the library at 5:30 p.m. and will be followed by a brief program presented by curator Arleen Fields who will discuss the collection’s history and the newest acquisitions. The arias segment of the evening, a concert featuring French vocal and instrumental music, will begin at 7:30 p.m. in Hensdale Chapel. The reception and collection display are free to attend, but tickets for the concert at \$10 at the door, or can be purchased in advanced by calling 910.678.8899. Students will be admitted for free with the MU ID. For more information on the full Fayetteville LaFayette celebration, visit www.lafayettesociety.org.

September 19 – The fall 2017 Presidential Lecture Series will feature Cal Ripken Jr., the former baseball shortstop and third baseman known as “The Iron Man” who played 21 seasons for the Baltimore Orioles in the Major Leagues. Ripken will give a lecture titled “Get in the Game” at 8 p.m. in Huff Concert Hall. For more information, or to reserve a seat, call 910.482.5362.

September 22 – The foreign film festival continues with “IDA.” The story follows Anna, who is about to take vows to become a nun when she learns from her only relative that she is Jewish. Set in 1962, Anna and her relative embark on a journey to discover their family story and where they belong. The film was made in Poland in 2014 and directed by Pawel Pawlikowski. It will begin at 7 p.m. in Hendricks Science Complex room 122. The film will be shown in its original language with English subtitles.

October 6 – Kicking off the Friends of Music Guest Artist Series, Alejandro Pinzon and Methodist University Music Department Chair Dr. Keith Dippre will teach the history of the tango. “From Church to Tango” will feature Pinzon on the bandoneon and Dippre on piano and accordion. The concert will begin at 7:30 p.m. in Hensdale Chapel.

October 6 – Join Methodist University in the next installment of the foreign film festival for a showing of “My Life as a Dog.” Follow a boy obsessed with comparing himself with those less fortunate as he experiences a different life at the home of his aunt and uncle in 1959 Sweden. This film was directed by Lasse Hallstrom and released in 1985. The film will be shown at 7 p.m. in Hendricks Science Complex room 122. The film will be shown in its original language with English subtitles.

October 9 – Come hear author and comedian James Robilotta as he speaks on “Leading Imperfectly: The Importance of Authentic Leadership.” The presentation, a part of this year’s Tally Leadership Speaker Series, will begin at 11 a.m. in Huff Concert Hall. For more information, call 910.630.7488 or email azeigler@methodist.edu.

October 10 – The Fayetteville Symphonic Band will put on a concert with the Methodist University Concert Band at 7:30 p.m. in Huff Concert Hall.

October 11 – The University’s Board of Visitors will host the annual Board of Visitors Golf and Tennis Tournaments. This is a once-a-year opportunity for the public to play on Methodist University’s distinguished, private tennis courts and golf course. The field is limited to 54 players for golf and 32 for tennis. Register online at methodist.edu/bov-tournaments.

October 20 – The Friends of Music Guest Artist Series continues with Duo Cintemani. This classical flute and guitar duo act will perform at 7:30 p.m. in Hensdale Chapel.

October 20 – The foreign film festival continues with “The Last Kiss,” an Italian movie following four friends who are about to turn 30. For one, Michael, the transition is difficult. Although he is in love with Jenna, the mother of his child, his panicked reaction to the onset of adult responsibilities sends him into the arms of another woman. The film will begin at 7 p.m.

in Hendricks Science Complex room 122. The film will be shown in its original language with English subtitles.

October 27 & 28 – Cheer on the Monarchs during Methodist University’s Homecoming and Family Weekend. Events will include a welcome party, alumni games, award ceremonies, a football game, and much more. For more information, call Kirbie Dockery, director of Alumni Affairs, at 910.630.7167. Find a full schedule of events online at methodist.edu/homecoming.

November 2-5 – The Methodist University Department of Theatre will present “Works in Progress.” The production will feature works developed in conjunction with TCG’s Veterans and Theatre Institute. Admission is free, and show times will be posted on the MU website.

November 3 – Watch “Like Water for Chocolate,” the last film in the fall 2017 Foreign Film Festival. The film follows the youngest daughter in her family, Tita, who is forbidden to marry her true love, Pedro. Since tradition dictates Tita must care for her mother, instead of marry. Pedro weds Rosaura, Tita’s older sister, though he still loves Tita, creating tension in the family. This 1994 Mexican film directed by Alfonso Arau will begin at 7 p.m. in Hendricks Science Complex room 122. The film will be shown in its original language with English subtitles.

November 16 – Methodist University will host the 3rd Annual Reeves School of Business Symposium and Awards Dinner at Embassy Suites in Fayetteville. The symposium will be held between 6:30 and 8:30 p.m. with time for networking, a speaker, and the presentation of seven awards that will be given to local business people for their contribution to the world of business. For more information, to purchase tickets, or to enquire about a sponsorship, visit methodist.edu/rsb-symposium.

November 17 – Visit Methodist University to hear a concert featuring the University’s collective music department vocal groups, including the all-women Treble Tones, all-men Noblemen, and the Chorale and Chamber Singers. The All-Choirs Concert will begin at 7:30 p.m. in Huff Concert Hall. For more information, contact Linda Volman Lane at lvolman@methodist.edu.

November 28 – The Fayetteville Symphonic Band will put on a concert with the Methodist University Concert Band at 7:30 p.m. in Huff Concert Hall.

December 1 & 2 – Sing along to Christmas tunes and travel back in time to Medieval Europe for a Yuletide Feaste with the queen. This event, which is a fundraiser for the Methodist University Chorale, is a dinner-theater style show that includes dinner and dessert. For more information, or to purchase tickets, contact Linda Volman Lane at lvolman@methodist.edu.

February 2 – Classical violinist and Methodist University alumnus Nyamsaikhan Odsuren will perform in this installment of the Methodist University Friends of Music Guest Artist Series. The concert will be held in Hensdale Chapel at 7:30 p.m. For more information, contact Linda Volman Lane at lvolman@methodist.edu.

February 2 – Join Methodist University as it crowns its next Miss Methodist. The Miss Methodist Pageant is an event where women at MU compete in categories such as interview, evening wear, and talent to be crowned the next Miss Methodist, who is considered one of the main student representatives of the University. The pageant also raises money for the University's annual Play4Kay which donates money to help with breast cancer research and mammograms for underserved women in the Fayetteville Community. The pageant will begin at 7 p.m. in Huff Concert Hall.

February 8 – Methodist University's spring gallery exhibit will feature lithographs that tell the story of "Exodus" by famed painter and illustrator Marc Chagall, a Russian-French artist of Belarusian-Jewish origin. An opening reception is planned for Feb. 8 at 6:30 p.m. The exhibit will run through April 21. For more information, contact Silvana Foti at sfoti@davidmccunegallery.org.

February 22-25 – The Department of Theatre at Methodist University will present "Side by Side by Sondheim." This is a musical featuring the songs of the Broadway and film composer Stephen Sondheim. The performances will begin at 8 p.m. from Feb. 22 to 25, and will take place at 2 p.m. on Feb. 25. General admission is \$5, but admission is free to members of the Methodist University community with ID.

February 27 – The Fayetteville Symphonic Band will put on a concert with the Methodist University Concert Band at 7:30 p.m. in Huff Concert Hall.

March 16 – Jeffrey Jones, baritone vocalist, will perform at the last concert in the Friends of Music Guest Artist Series. He will be accompanied by Philip Powell on piano. The concert will be held in Hensdale Chapel at 7:30 p.m. For more information, contact Linda Volman Lane at lvolman@methodist.edu.

April 17 – The Fayetteville Symphonic Band will put on a concert with the Methodist University Concert Band at 7:30 p.m. in Huff Concert Hall.

April 20 – Visit Methodist University to hear a concert featuring the University's collective music department vocal groups, including the all-women Treble Tones, all-men Noblemen, and the Chorale and Chamber Singers. The All-Choirs Concert will begin at 7:30 p.m. in Huff Concert Hall. For more information, contact Linda Volman Lane at lvolman@methodist.edu.

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PRESIDENT HANCOCK GIVES STATE OF THE UNIVERSITY ADDRESS

FAYETTEVILLE, N.C. – Methodist University celebrated its 61st year today with its Fall Opening Convocation. President Ben Hancock gave a “State of the University Address” at the event, addressing MU community members who filled Huff Concert Hall this morning. As part of his address, Hancock also presented the University Medallion to Student Health Services Director Sandy Combs, who has served Methodist University with distinction for 50 years. Methodist University Provost Delmas Crisp announced four new endowed professorships, and Vice President and Director of Athletics Dave Eavenson gave four athletic awards.

State of the University Address

As he began his seventh annual opening address to campus, Hancock compared Methodist University to the recent solar eclipse.

“Our star is shining so bright that it might require protective lenses,” Hancock said. “That’s the Methodist University I see. If we are to aspire, and continue to aspire, to eclipse our competition, to strive for excellence, then join me on that journey,” Hancock said. “Furthermore, we all exist under the same sun, we share the same earth, the same country and the same values. Together, we will make the University the one we dream it can be.”

Hancock said the University is moving forward boldly with its five-year Strategic Plan, Master Plan, and pillars of the MU Journey that provide immersive opportunities for students. He stressed that we are all on board and committed to being successful and making it “our best year ever.” He also stressed the importance of literacy as a key theme this year, the ability to communicate effectively as well as cultural, religious, financial, and generational literacy.

Citing recent records in fund raising, Hancock also predicted continued success and additional resources to fund the bold goals for the future, including current operations, facilities, and endowment.

This week, Methodist University was named the No. 1 “Best College or University” in the Fayetteville Observer’s Reader’s Choice Awards. Methodist has record enrollment in graduate programs this fall, and new programs this year include the Master of Education with concentrations in Physical Education and Coaching and Athletic Administration. The Health Care Administration Graduate Certificate also begins this semester. The third cohort of Doctor of

Physical Therapy students have now started as the program's first students prepare to graduate in May 2018.

The new Thomas R. McLean Health Sciences Building was recently awarded Best New Non-Residential Property by the City-County Joint Appearance Commission. The new Gene Clayton Tennis Center is complete and will welcome students from the Professional Tennis Management Program as well as the men's and women's tennis teams. Construction continues on the Matthews Ministry Center and Union-Zukowski Lobby and Gallery, expected to be complete in spring 2018.

Hancock said he sees the University through "green and gold colored glasses," and challenged everyone to do the same, whether this was their first or 50th year at the University. He then called Combs to the stage, where he presented her with the University Medallion.

"The University Medallion is presented to individuals on our campus and in our community who make this a great University," he said, "and I can't think of anyone more deserving than Sandy Combs who illustrates what it means to be a part of this University, to support this University and all of our students, faculty, and staff who have come through over the past 50 years."

Endowed Professorships

The new endowed professorships were awarded as follows: Dr. Richard Walsh, Samuel J. and Norma Womack Professorship in Religion and Philosophy; Dr. Andrew Ziegler, Lura S. Tally Endowment Professorship in Leadership; Dr. Stephanie Hooper Marosek, The John W. Wyatt, Jr. Endowed Professorship in the Sciences; and Dr. Larry Wells, the University's second Union-Zukowski Endowed Professorship in the Arts.

"Methodist University recognizes outstanding faculty in several ways, and one of those is by naming faculty to endowed professorships," Crisp said. "All of the nine professorships that Methodist currently has are discipline-specific, but the University anticipates developing some which will not carry any specific discipline."

The four new professorships join five others already established, which include the Col. (Ret.) David R. Nimocks Professorship in Business, currently held by Dr. Josiah Baker; Col. (Ret.) David R. Nimocks International Professorship in Business, currently held by Dr. Mary Kirchner; Elizabeth E. McLean Endowed Professorship in English, currently held by Dr. Michael Colonnese; Thomas R. McLean Endowed Professorship in History, currently held by Dr. Peter Murray; and the first Union-Zukowski Endowed Professorship in the Arts, currently held by Dr. Michael Martin.

"The success of Methodist University – past, present, and future – depends on our ability to attract and retain outstanding faculty," Hancock said. "Endowed professorships are but one way we recognize excellence in teaching, research, and community engagement. People are our most important resource and most distinctive trait, and these nine signature professors represent our very best."

All of the endowed professorships are designed to be awarded for multiple years at a time before rotating to another faculty recipient.

"To be eligible, faculty have to be outstanding teachers, working with students in and out of the classroom, and active scholars/performers," Crisp said. "They also have to offer exemplary service to the University and to Fayetteville/Cumberland County."

Athletic awards

The Scholar Athlete of the Year awards, which go to the female and male student athletes with the highest GPA, were awarded to Lindsey Pritchard and Nathan Billman. Pritchard, who is

from Strongville, Ohio, is majoring in environmental management and competes on the women's track and field team. This is the second year she has won this award. Billman, who is from Fayetteville, N.C., is majoring in kinesiology and is on the men's cross country and the track and field teams.

The 2016-2017 Sykes Cup Award was presented to Jacob Smerka, who plays on the men's lacrosse team. The award, named for former MU soccer coach Mason Sykes, is presented annually to the most outstanding athlete of the year as nominated and voted on by the head coaches.

Men's Lacrosse Coach Zach Nedbalski was recognized as the McLean Coach of the Year. The award is given in recognition of a head coach's service and performance during the past year.

About Methodist University

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September 2017 (downloaded from MU website)

Mu Mourns the Passing of William F. Bethune

The University flags were lowered and a wreath placed in The William F. Bethune Center for Visual Arts Thursday, Sept. 14 in memory of William “Bill” F. Bethune (Aug. 31, 1932 - September 9, 2017).

Mr. Bethune passed away Saturday in Southern Pines after a prolonged illness. He was a loyal supporter of the art program at Methodist University.

Mr. Bethune came from a family of artists. His grandmother and his father were painters, so Bethune took up oil painting and fell in love with the craft. Mr. Bethune took art courses at Methodist University (then Methodist College) to hone his painting skills. Along the way, he fell in love with the school.

“Bill was an enthusiastic friend and an extremely generous supporter of Methodist University and the art programs,” said Gene Clayton, former Methodist University administrator and friend and neighbor to Mr. Bethune. “He was a major contributor to the William Bethune Art Building. We will miss his kindness and graciousness.”

“I think a lot of this university,” said Mr. Bethune. “There is no place in North Carolina like it.” The staff members at Methodist University, he said, have made a lasting impact. “When you see dedicated staff members, you’ll find a dedicated program.”

Having worked inside the college’s cramped art studio, Mr. Bethune had a vision to help the school create the arts center he felt it deserved. His vision was to make it the most attractive building on campus.

Mr. Bethune’s dream became a reality April 27, 2010 when Methodist officials dedicated the William F. Bethune Center for the Visual Arts. The \$2.2 million building includes gallery space as well as classrooms for graphic design, photography, painting and printmaking.

Mr. Bethune donated the majority of the funds needed to build the art center because he believed in the university and in the staff, he said.

“I hope that there will be some outstanding artists and students here,” Mr. Bethune said. “And they’ll go on to make national headlines.”

The 8,844-square-foot building also contains the David McCune International Art Gallery. The works of Mr. McCune and Mr. Bethune are displayed inside the gallery.

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For Immediate Release
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ARIAS AND ARTIFACTS RETURNS TO METHODIST SEPTEMBER 8

FAYETTEVILLE, N.C. – Davis Memorial Library will celebrate the 50th anniversary of its Lafayette collection by displaying letters, ceramics, medals, snuff boxes and other items related to Lafayette during this year’s Arias and Artifacts event on Sept. 8. A new addition to the collection, a special letter written by Lafayette, will be unveiled.

The event, which is open to the public, begins with a free catered reception in the library at 5:30 p.m. and will be followed by a brief program presented by Archives Librarian Arleen Fields, who will discuss the collection’s history and the newest acquisitions. The arias segment of the evening, a concert featuring French vocal and instrumental music, will begin at 7:30 p.m. in Hensdale Chapel. There is a \$10 general admission to the concert, which is free for students with a Methodist ID. Tickets can be purchased at the door, or in advance by calling [910.678.8899](tel:910.678.8899).

“The purpose of the exhibition of the collection is to inform people about who Fayetteville is named after,” Fields said. “We encourage our staff and students to use these items in the collection for their own research purposes. That is what they are here for.”

The University’s collection of Lafayette material dates from 1967, when the school was persuaded through Margaret McMahan, a Lafayette scholar, to purchase a collection of letters, monographs and realia for \$3,800. The original Lafayette room was dedicated on Sept. 6, 1973, the 216th birthday of the Marquis. Throughout the decades, items from the Lafayette Collection were regularly featured in library displays. Fayetteville’s 2007 celebration of Lafayette’s 250th birthday provided an opportunity for the collection to shine. Since 2014, Methodist University alumnus Gene Dillman, a dealer in political memorabilia, has donated over 50 items, which Fields said has reenergized the collection.

Gilbert du Motier, the Marquis de Lafayette, better known as Lafayette, was a young French soldier who volunteered his services and family fortune in support of the American colonies during the Revolutionary War. After the war, the towns of Campbellton and Cross Creek merged, and chose the patriotic name “Fayetteville” in a bid to become the state capital. Lafayette remained a popular figure in both Europe and the United States, and on March 4-5, 1825, he visited Fayetteville as part of a grand tour of all the states. Fayetteville is the only city named after Lafayette that he also visited.

This event is part of Fayetteville’s 10th annual Lafayette Birthday Celebration. For more information on the weekend’s activities, visit www.lafayettesociety.org.

About Methodist University

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For Immediate Release
Oct. 5, 2017

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METHODIST UNIVERSITY RECEIVES GRANTS FROM ARTS COUNCIL

FAYETTEVILLE, N.C. — Methodist University recently received two Project Support grants from the Arts Council of Fayetteville/Cumberland County. The Council gave a \$7,500 grant to the David McCune International Art Gallery to support marketing and banners for the spring's Marc Chagall exhibit, "Chagall: The Story of Exodus." A \$2,300 grant was awarded to the Friends of Music for this year's Guest Artist Series, which is an annual set of free elementary school workshops and evening concerts.

The Chagall exhibit, which runs Feb. 8 to April 21, is an exhibition of lithographs that tell the story of the Exodus by famed painter and illustrator Marc Chagall, a Russian-French artist of Belarusian-Jewish origin. There will be an opening reception for this exhibition on Feb. 8 from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.

The first Guest Artist Series performance, scheduled for Oct. 6, will be "From Church to Tango," an educational tango history lesson with Alejandro Pinzón and featuring MU's Dr. Keith Dippre on piano. Other events include a flute and guitar performance by Duo Cintemani on Oct. 20, classical violinist Nyamsaikhan Odsuren on Feb. 2, 2018, and baritone vocalist Jeffrey Jones with pianist Philip Powell on March 16. All of the concerts will take place at 7:30 p.m. in Hensdale Chapel. The guest musicians will also hold educational workshops for K-8 students at The Capitol Encore Academy in downtown Fayetteville.

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

Project Support Grants, like the ones awarded to the David McCune International Art Gallery and 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 David McCune International Art Gallery, located on the campus of Methodist University, 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 on the gallery, visit davidmccunegallery.org or email Silvana Foti, executive director for the David McCune International Art Gallery, at sfoti@methodist.edu.

Friends of Music at Methodist 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](tel: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
Oct. 6, 2017

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METHODIST UNIVERSITY TO DEDICATE GENE CLAYTON TENNIS CENTER OCTOBER 19

FAYETTEVILLE, N.C. — Methodist University is proud to announce the dedication of the newly constructed Gene Clayton Tennis Center Thursday, Oct. 19, at 5 p.m. The reception and dedication will be followed by a tennis social for interested attendees of all skill levels. This event is not open to the public, but media is invited to attend.

The new facility gives the Professional Tennis Management Program (PTM) and Monarch Tennis a new courtside home and allows all of the tennis-related programs to have their own central space, with a classroom, tennis pro shop, offices, lobby, locker rooms, and laundry. The center will also be used for tennis seminars, certification events, and student association functions. The 3,000-square-foot building is next to the eight lighted tennis courts, which were renovated in 2013.

The center is named in honor of retired longtime MU administrator Dr. Gene Clayton, thanks to a \$500,000 gift from Marta and Howard Bullard. Howard Bullard, who is a member of the university's board of trustees, said he wanted to honor Clayton for his more than 50 years of service to Methodist University. The Tennis Center was selected as the beneficiary of Mr. and Mrs. Bullard's generosity due to Dr. Clayton's lifelong involvement with tennis, which began when he first came to Methodist in 1963 and served as tennis coach.

"Gene has given his whole life to Methodist University," said Howard Bullard. "So much of what is there now has his fingerprints on it in a very important way. We feel that he is deserving of having something significant named for him because of his many years of service to Methodist University."

Clayton came to Methodist after graduating from Catawba College with a bachelor's degree in physical education and from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill with a Master of Education. He was a coach for the Methodist men's and women's tennis, cross country, golf, and basketball teams, eventually spending 22 years in athletics from 1966 to 1985, during which he won nine conference championships. He was inducted into the Methodist University Athletics Hall of Fame in 1998. In 2015, he was inducted into the Fayetteville Sports Club Hall of Fame.

Clayton served the University for 53 years in numerous positions including tennis and basketball coach, the dean of students, director of Athletics, vice president for Advancement, and finally as the vice president for Business Affairs. He was fundamental to the University's growth and expansion, supervising with a strong guiding hand the construction of 27 buildings and 30 landscaping projects for campus beautification over his tenure.

"Gene Clayton has been central to the university's growth and expansion for over five decades," said Dr. Ben E. Hancock Jr., Methodist University president. "Marta and Howard Bullard's generous gift to honor Gene is a wonderful expression of philanthropy."

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METHODIST UNIVERSITY TO CELEBRATE 2017 HOMECOMING

FAYETTEVILLE, N.C. — Methodist University will celebrate its 2017 Homecoming and Family Weekend on Oct. 27 and 28. This is Methodist's 53rd 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 20th Hall of Fame class in addition to its fifth Teams of Distinction class. The induction banquet will begin at 6:30 p.m. in the Berns Student Center. The 2017 induction class includes former men's basketball player Montrell McNair '99, men's tennis player Keith Criscoe '06, women's lacrosse player Lauren McGonagle '07, women's golfer Katie (Dick) Pius '08 and track & field athlete Ashlynn (Chavis) Campbell '12, while the Teams of Distinction are the 1990 women's soccer team and the 1996-97 men's basketball team.

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

Saturday's main event is the football game, but there are many activities before and after for families and alumni. The MU Alumni Association Awards Ceremony will be held on Saturday at 10 a.m. in the Alumni Dining Room. Honorees are Rahila Muhibi '09, Distinguished Young Alumni Award; Sakun Gajurel '10, Distinguished Alumni Award; Richard "Bob" Allen, Philanthropist Award; and Dr. George Hendricks, Outstanding Faculty Award; Murray Duggins '61, Outstanding Alumni Service Award; and Rick Lowe, Outstanding Staff Award.

The Homecoming parade will begin at 12:15 p.m., before the football game at 1 p.m. The Monarchs play Ferrum, with a halftime recognition of alumni and members of the homecoming court. Depending on USA South Tournament play this week, there may also be a men's soccer game at home Saturday at 3 p.m.

Tailgating and food truck lunches will take place from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. outside the football stadium. There will also be 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. The third annual ceremonial tee shot will take place at 8 a.m. Saturday on the campus golf course to commemorate alumni of the PGA Golf Management Program.

Saturday evening, the Class of '67 will hold its 50th reunion dinner at ScrubOaks, though all alumni are welcome. Registration for the dinner is required by Thursday.

On Sunday, the PGA Professional Golf Management Program will hold an alumni golf tournament on the campus golf course, "Downback."

A full schedule of events and registration info 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](tel:910.630.7167).

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METHODIST UNIVERSITY PLANS VETERANS DAY ACTIVITIES

FAYETTEVILLE, N.C. – Methodist University has several events planned during the week of Nov. 6 in recognition of the Nov. 11 Veterans Day holiday. Highlights include a wreath-laying ceremony Nov. 8 and the home football game on Nov. 11, which has been designated as a military appreciation game.

On Wednesday, the campus chapter of the Student Veterans of America will conduct a wreath-laying ceremony at noon at the campus flag pole, located in front of the Horner Administration Building. Before that, the weekly 11 a.m. Wednesday chapel service in Hensdale Chapel will host guest speaker Chaplain LTC Wilbert Harrison (Ret.), now pastor of First Baptist Church in Hope Mills.

“It is important that we pause to honor and thank our veterans and their families for their service to our nation,” said Billy Buckner, director, MU at Fort Bragg. “Our veterans are a source of pride in our nation and we should honor them daily, especially on Veterans Day.”

Saturday, the football game will recognize an honorary guest, Maj. Gen. Clarence K.K. Chinn, who is the former commander of the U.S. Army South at Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston, Texas. Chinn previously served as the Chief of Staff and Deputy Commanding General (Support) for the 82nd Airborne Division.

Admission to the football game is free with a military ID, or \$6 for general admission, \$3 for visiting college students with ID and other school-aged students, or free for children under 6. Kickoff against N.C. Wesleyan in Monarch Stadium is at 1 p.m.

Other activities during the week include: The Student Veterans Association will paint the Spirit Rock for the holiday, and veterans are encouraged to add their signature to rock. The Quad will also host a flag display in the middle of campus all week. Chi Delta Chi, a veterans’ honor society, will sponsor and set up two Missing Man Tables from Nov. 1-13 in the McLean Health Sciences Building and Davis Memorial Library, as part of the City of Fayetteville’s effort to break the Missing Man Table record.

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PRESIDENT BEN HANCOCK ANNOUNCES RETIREMENT

FAYETTEVILLE, N.C. – Dr. Ben Hancock today announced that he will retire as President of Methodist University at the end of May 2018. The announcement was made via a personal email from Hancock to the campus community.

“With my current contract coming to an end in 2018, it seemed to be an appropriate time for Debbie and me to consider our future and that of the University,” Hancock wrote. “The best timing for the University to go through a transition in leadership was paramount in our discussions. After much thought and prayer, I have decided to retire as President of Methodist University, effective May 31, 2018.”

Hancock said he hoped that his early announcement would give the Board of Trustees sufficient time to complete a successful search for the next president. Hancock is the fourth president of Methodist University.

“I am so grateful to the Board of Trustees for giving me this opportunity to serve, and through the collaborative leadership of the Board and the University, I believe we have successfully moved Methodist forward in so many ways,” Hancock said. “This is clearly evident as we witness the success of our students as they pursue their MU Journey, and then graduate to pursue amazing careers and to live lives of meaning and purpose.”

Hancock also praised the leadership of the Board of Trustees, chaired by Mac Healy, and the members of the University’s Administrative Cabinet. Healy is expected to announce search plans for the position in the coming weeks, with the goal of having a successor in place as soon as possible following Dr. Hancock’s departure.

Healy said he has been impressed with Hancock’s unlimited energy and enthusiasm for the mission and goals of the University, and that the trustees were thankful for all of Hancock’s hard work and dedication.

“Since March 2011, Ben Hancock has guided Methodist University as our president,” Healy said. “He has given us seven years of exceptional service and leadership, and been a champion for students and alumni. Under Ben’s leadership, Methodist successfully conducted the largest fund-raising campaign in the school’s history. Along with the Board of Trustees, he has focused on a strategic plan that has seen Methodist grow our existing programs and add several new program opportunities for our students. Ben will always be part of the Methodist family and we wish him and Debbie a long and happy retirement.”

“I want to express how honored I have been to serve as President of this amazing institution and to serve alongside dedicated trustees and University colleagues who share a commitment to a culture of excellence, and most important, are so passionate about our students and their success,” Hancock said. “In retirement, the First Lady and I are looking forward to spending time with our family – which includes five children and seven grandchildren – to traveling, and to pursuing the next leg of our personal journey. In the meantime, we hope to be able to express our gratitude personally to the students, faculty, staff, alumni and friends who have touched our lives in so many ways.”

About President Hancock

Dr. Hancock has been the president of Methodist University since March 2011. He is currently leading the institution through a second five-year Strategic Plan, which has been highlighted by unprecedented growth in enrollment, programs, and facilities. Record numbers of students have been attained in U.S, international, undergraduate, graduate, and residential enrollments during his tenure. The School of Health Sciences was established, which has led to the creation of the University’s first two doctoral programs in physical therapy and occupational therapy. New majors have also been created in kinesiology, engineering, sport management, entrepreneurship, applied forensic science, digital forensics and cybersecurity, and health care administration.

The expansion of campus has included new facilities for Nursing, the Campus Services Building, McLean Health Sciences Building, Armstrong Baseball Fieldhouse, Clayton Tennis Center, a Football Locker Room addition, North Hall, and the expansion of the Greek Village housing. Projects presently under construction include the Matthews Ministry Center and the Price Softball Fieldhouse, which will break ground this coming spring. The Campus Master Plan launched in 2012 also led to new landscaping and improvements to the entrance to the University and updates to the Davis Memorial Library and Trustees Building. He has also placed increased emphasis on student retention, as evidenced by the creation of the Center for Student Success. His focus on student-centered initiatives features the MU Journey, which provides opportunities for students to participate in leadership, research, community engagement, and study abroad, and the MU Advantage, which provides opportunities for an internship or related experience for every Methodist student. The MU athletic program has also experienced success during his presidency, having won national championships in men’s and women’s golf and national cheer competitions, the USA South President’s Cup on three occasions, and a number of conference championships.

During his presidency the University has completed its largest ever fund-raising campaign, the “Building Excellence” campaign, which generated nearly \$42 million in support of new facilities, programs, and endowment. Other external initiatives have included expanding University communications, extending alumni events nationally and globally, and creating the Presidential Lecture Series that has brought such noted individuals as Sanjay Gupta, Doris Kearns Goodwin and Cal Ripken, Jr. to campus, along with expanding the Arts and Lecture Series available to the greater community.

President Hancock has been very involved professionally, currently serving as president of the National Association of Schools, Colleges, and Universities of the Methodist Church (NASCUMC). He is on the Executive Committee for the North Carolina Independent Colleges and Universities (NCICU) and the North Carolina Campus Compact, and serves on the Presidents Council for the USA South Athletic Conference. His community involvement has included church leadership, scouting, civic organizations, the United Way, and community leadership organizations. He presently serves on the First Citizens Bank Fayetteville Advisory Board and was the 2013 Chair of the March of Dimes March for Babies. Dr. Hancock received the Ronald E. Carrier Distinguished Alumni Achievement Award from James Madison University in 2011 and the Bravo! Award from Chesterfield Public Education Foundation (Va.) in 2012 as an outstanding alumnus of the school system.

Prior to assuming the presidency at Methodist University, Dr. Hancock served as vice president for University Advancement at Ball State University, vice president for Institutional Advancement at Albion College, and executive director of the Boise State University Foundation. He received his Bachelor of Arts degree in Russian Studies and master's in Education from James Madison University and his doctorate from the University of Virginia. Dr. Hancock has traveled extensively throughout the United States and abroad. He has served as a Fulbright Fellow at the University of Edinburgh, a Russell Mawby Fellow at Oxford University, a Visiting Fellow at the University of Auckland, and a Visiting Fellow at the University of Melbourne. He has led and attended conferences in the United States, the United Kingdom, Australia, and New Zealand.

He and his wife Debbie (a retired teacher of exceptional children) have five children: Jessie, Sarah, Ben, Matthew and Andrew; and seven grandchildren. They enjoy traveling as a family, having attended most of the Olympics, beginning with the games held in Barcelona in 1992, spending time with their family at their summer cottage in Michigan, and raising their two golden doodles.

About Methodist University

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For Immediate Release
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THIRD 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 Third Annual Reeves School of Business Symposium and Awards Dinner Thursday, Nov. 11 from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. at Embassy Suites in Fayetteville.

The event’s keynote speaker was Charlie Brock, serial entrepreneur and CEO of Launch Tennessee. He spoke about “Transforming Cities through Innovation and Leadership,” with advice for leaders, entrepreneurs, and university members who are looking to transform their communities.

Formerly part of the \$100 million, family-owned Brock Candy, Brock is recognized as a shining star in Southeastern entrepreneurship and ecosystem development. His was among the visions driving the transformation of Chattanooga, Tenn., turning the city into a hotbed of innovation which now boasts the nation’s fastest Internet and smartest electric grid. Early-stage investment in Tennessee has increased 100 percent during Brock’s leadership of its entrepreneurial ecosystem.

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 Methodist University graduate who makes great contributions not only to the successful operations of a local business and industry, but also to the civic and cultural life of the community in which they live. This year, the award was given to Regina McLaurin, who graduated from Methodist University in 1970. She is currently the Chairman of the Board of the Parking Industry Institute, a national Scholarship Foundation, and is a board member of BB&T in Cary, N.C. McLaurin recently retired as the Chief Financial Officer & Vice President of McLaurin Parking Company after the family sold the business to The Car Park of Boise, Idaho. McLaurin has received the 1993 Elected Official Planning Award for the State of North Carolina’s Planning Association. She has also served as President and Board member of the National Parking Association.

The Business Person of the Year is 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 Tommy Arnold, who has been a Chick-fil-A

franchisee for 41 years. He owns Chick-fil-As on Skibo Road and Raeford Road. Arnold operated the Cross Creek Mall location from 1976 to 2014. He opened the Skibo store in 1994 and the Raeford Road location in 2014. His daughter, Kelly McKeown, is the Chick-Fil-a franchisee in Sanford. Arnold is a native of Hope Mills and graduated from Western Carolina University where met his wife, Peggy.

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 Jim Pittman. In 1995, Pittman left the security of his professional 10-year career as a CPA and took a chance on opening a new type of sign franchise in Fayetteville. With very limited resources, he and his wife, Dellmarie opened FASTSIGNS in December 1995. He graduated from UNC-Chapel Hill with a business and accounting degree in 1984. Pittman is a past member of the MU Foundation Board. He is very involved in his church, civic clubs, and the Fayetteville community.

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 Rollin Walker Shaw. Shaw graduated from Wellesley College with a degree in Music and French and later received a master's degree from Harvard Graduate School. She taught Latin and French at Fayetteville Academy and in Cumberland County Schools. She served two terms on the Cumberland County Board of Commissioners and two years on the Fayetteville City Council. She is a former president of the Fayetteville Symphony Orchestra Association.

Outstanding Woman Entrepreneur of the Year is a North Carolina resident who owns, has established, or manages a small business. The award committee also considers the individual's creativity, innovativeness, and personal contributions to the community. This year, the award went to Molly Arnold, who sees herself as a reluctant entrepreneur because she started her coffee house, Rude Awakening, from a desire to renovate old buildings downtown. Along with Rude Awakening, she owns White Trash & Colorful Accessories in downtown Fayetteville. Arnold won the 2013 NAACP Nelson Mandela Award and the Fayetteville National Organization for Women's Susan B. Anthony Award in 2011. She has served on the board of directors of Linear Park since 2006 and served as a board member in the Greater Fayetteville Chamber, Fayetteville Downtown Alliance, and is currently a member of the National Organization of Women.

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 Terry Hutchens, who is the managing partner of the Hutchens Law Firm. Hutchens received his undergraduate degree from North Carolina State University and his M.B.A. and J.D. from Wake Forest University (Phi Delta Phi). Hutchens is a past member of the North Carolina Board of Transportation and the North Carolina Board of Economic Development. He is currently a member of the Cumberland County North Carolina Real Property Bankruptcy Sections and American Bar Association, as well as the North Carolina State Bar. Established in 1980, The Hutchens Law Firm includes civil practice, creditors' rights, real property (foreclosures), mediation, personal injury law, and workers' compensation.

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 the late David "Bud" Taylor, who passed away in May. Taylor was the owner of D.K. Taylor Oil Company, a business started by his father in 1932. He graduated from Methodist in 1968 with a degree in business administration. From 1993 to 2012, Taylor served on the Methodist Board of Trustees, after which he was given trustee emeritus status and continued to support the University. Taylor was a member of the board of directors for Branch Banking and Trust for 41 years and served as its advisory board chairman. He was an active member of Hay Street United Methodist Church in Fayetteville.

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Dec. 4, 2017 Roxana Ross
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METHODIST UNIVERSITY ANNOUNCES 45th ANNUAL WINTER COMMENCEMENT

FAYETTEVILLE, N.C. – Methodist University will celebrate its 45th annual Winter Commencement Ceremonies on Dec. 15 and 16. This year will mark the inaugural graduate commencement ceremony. Previously, graduate and undergraduate degrees were given at the same ceremony.

The graduate commencement ceremony will take place on Friday, Dec. 15 at 3 p.m. in Huff Concert Hall. There are currently 60 candidates for graduation: seven Master of Business Administration students, 14 Master of Justice Administration students, and 39 Master of Medical Science in Physician Assistant Studies students. Dr. Sammy Choi, chief of the department of research at Womack Army Medical Center on Ft. Bragg, will deliver the commencement address.

The undergraduate commencement ceremony will be held on Saturday, Dec. 16 at 2 p.m. in the March F. Riddle Center. There are currently 166 candidates for graduation.

U.S. Senator Richard Burr will present the commencement address. The ceremony will also include the commissioning of four ROTC cadets and a speech by this year's Distinguished Graduate, Nicholas Kress, who was elected by his fellow graduates.

One student will also be presented with the Sam Edwards Award. The award is given to an outstanding MU at Night student and is determined by a faculty vote.

Following the MU tradition for students who are the first MU graduate from their country, the flag of Tanzania will be presented by Jephther Kayila.

Prior to the undergraduate commencement ceremony, Dr. James Howell, senior pastor of Myers Park United Methodist Church in Charlotte, N.C., will deliver the baccalaureate sermon at 10:30 a.m. in Huff Concert Hall.

Graduate Commencement Speaker

Dr. Sammy Choi, the current chief of the department of research at Womack Army Medical Center on Ft. Bragg, received his degree from the University of Oklahoma School of Medicine, and completed his residencies in Pediatrics and Internal Medicine at William Beaumont Army Medical Center at Ft. Bliss, Texas.

He served in the U.S. Army for 12 years in multiple roles, including as a battalion surgeon with the 82nd Airborne Division during Operation Desert Shield/Desert Storm in 1990-1991.

He has worked at Womack Army Medical Center for 30 years. He founded the department of research at the medical center in 2008 to serve the needs of the growing professional and graduate medical education programs.

Undergraduate Commencement Speaker

Sen. Richard Burr was first elected to the U.S. House of Representatives in 1994. He served five terms in the House before being elected to the U.S. Senate. He is currently serving his third term.

Burr is an advocate for veterans, as well as those actively serving in the military. He serves as chairman of the U.S. Senate Select Committee on Intelligence. He also sits on the Finance, Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committees.

Baccalaureate Service

Prior to graduation, a Baccalaureate Service will take place at 10:30 a.m. in Huff Concert Hall, where Dr. James Howell will deliver the baccalaureate sermon. Howell is the senior pastor of Myers Park United Methodist Church in Charlotte, N.C. He has served on a number of councils and boards, including the Duke Divinity School Board of Visitors, the delegate to the World Methodist Council (1998-2011), and the Mecklenburg Ministries Interfaith Organization, where he serves as president. He has received education with honors from The University of South Carolina and Duke Divinity School, from which he earned a Doctor of Divinity in Old Testament Theology.

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, 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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