

**From:** Roxana Ross  
**To:** Michael Molter; Arleen Fields  
**Date:** 1/8/2018 10:25 AM  
**Subject:** Fwd: PSA - MU chorale does singing valentines

>>> Roxana Ross 1/8/2018 10:15 AM >>>

Please see the below PSA from the Methodist University Chorale. This year, the sale of the singing valentines will help pay for an upcoming Chorale tour to Carnegie Hall. Please contact Dr. Martin if you are interested in photography opportunities, etc.  
~R

## PRESS RELEASE/PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT

### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

KILL DATE: FEBRUARY 13, 2018

Nothing tells someone you care like a Singing Valentine from the MU Chorale. For as little as \$30, we will serenade your loved one at home, at work, or anywhere you choose in the greater Fayetteville area. On February 14, 2018 between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m.

Your thoughtfulness will be remembered, too. Your special package of gifts will show you care long after the song has ended: A Valentine Serenade - a red rose - a personalized Valentine's Card...and the envy of their friends! People can choose from three delivery options:

**MY "PHONE-Y" VALENTINE-** \$10 – minus the rose and tuxedo, we will send a personalized, 4-part harmony, telephone greeting to that special someone!

**REGULAR DELIVERY-** \$30 – We will deliver your Singing Valentine anywhere in the greater Fayetteville Area sometime between 9 a.m.-5 p.m. If you request a time, we 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 the button! We guarantee we will be there within **ten minutes** of the target time!

All proceeds go to benefit the MU Chorale's concert tour to Carnegie Hall! All deliveries will be made on February 14, 2018 between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. Sale of Singing Valentines ends on February 13 at noon.

Call or email Dr. Michael Martin: mmartin@methodist.edu, (910) 630-7153, for more information.

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Engage. Enrich. *Empower.*

## NC CIVIL WAR & RECONSTRUCTION HISTORY CENTER'S LEADERSHIP PRESENTATION ON GETTYSBURG OFFICER TO BE HELD AT METHODIST UNIVERSITY

The **North Carolina Civil War & Reconstruction History Center** is sponsoring a presentation by retired Army Brigadier General Stephen R. Smith, who will speak on the topic “The Man Who Won a Battle, but Didn’t Lose the War: A Story of Leadership,” at 7 p.m. Monday, Jan. 22 in the Medical Lecture Hall on the campus of Methodist University.

The **History Department at Methodist University** is hosting the event, which is free and open to the public. Dr. Patrick O’Neil, chair of the History Department, said that Smith’s presentation will tie into two courses the Department is offering this semester: North Carolina History, taught by O’Neil, and American Civil War and Reconstruction, taught by Dr. Peter C. Murray.

Smith’s presentation will focus on U.S. Army Lt. Col. Joshua L. Chamberlain, a Union officer who fought at the Battle of Gettysburg. Though Chamberlain was more of an academic than a soldier, graduating from Bowdoin College in 1852 and serving on its faculty as Professor of Modern Languages from 1855-62, his actions commanding the 20th Maine Regimental Infantry at Gettysburg revealed that he possessed many of the leadership skills valued both in military command and in civilian leadership positions.

Gen. Smith, a Denver native, entered the Army in 1971 as an ROTC graduate of the University of Nebraska. He is a graduate of the National War College and holds a Bachelor of Science in zoology and a Master of Educational Administration from Colorado State University.

Smith served 27 years in the Army, attaining the rank of Brigadier General. His last active duty assignments included Commander of the 18th Personnel Group (Airborne), XVIII Airborne Corps, Fort Bragg; Director of Personnel for Joint Task Force Operation Restore Democracy in Haiti; the 58th Adjutant General of the Army; Director of Enlisted Management; and Deputy Commanding General of the United States Army Recruiting Command.

Since his retirement from the Army in 1998, Smith worked for Duke University and the Duke University Health System, where he rose through the ranks until his 2017 retirement as Chief Human Resources Officer for Duke Medicine.

## About the North Carolina Civil War & Reconstruction History Center



The North Carolina Civil War & Reconstruction History Center is affiliated with the Museum of the Cape Fear Historical Complex, a branch of the North Carolina Division of History Museums, and will be located at the site of the remains of the Fayetteville Arsenal, which was held by both Union and Confederate forces during the Civil War. Designed to be a “teaching” museum rather than a “collecting” museum, the Center will focus not on artifacts but on telling the stories of North Carolinians from all walks of life, be they men or women, slave or free, military or civilian, on both sides of the conflict. For more information, please visit [www.nccivilwarcenter.org](http://www.nccivilwarcenter.org) or call (336) 491-0602.

[Archivist’s note: From the MU website, no date but probably published around January 8.]

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**METHODIST UNIVERSITY PLANS EVENTS TO RECOGNIZE  
DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. DAY**

FAYETTEVILLE, N.C. – Methodist University has two events planned in recognition of Martin Luther King Jr. Day this year. Though the University is closed for the holiday, MU’s Center for Community Engagement and the Religious Life office will sponsor the MLK Day of Service on Monday, Jan. 15. This event is not open to the general public, though media are welcome to attend. On Thursday, Jan. 18, the Office of Multicultural Affairs will host “Martin Luther King, An Interpretation” at 7 p.m. in the Nursing Auditorium. This event, featuring playwright Ira Knight, is free and open to the public.

**Day of Service**

From 9:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Jan. 15, students, faculty, and staff volunteers will come together to spend a “day on” during their day off to serve with the United Methodist Disaster Relief, which is working in partnership with funding from the Cumberland County Foundation to repair homes damaged during Hurricane Matthew. Before departing, the Day of Service will kick off with a brief gathering in the Alumni Dining Room in the Berns Student Center from 8:30 to 9:15 a.m. There will be a viewing of a portion of Dr. King’s “I Have a Dream” speech, along with prayer and recognition of the first class of Community Engagement Fellows.

“We will work in Fayetteville,” said Vice President for Religious Life and Community Engagement Rev. Kelli W. Taylor. “There are still houses in Cumberland County that need to be gutted to prepare for rebuilding, and we will help do some of that work.”

For more information on this project, please contact Taylor at [910.630.7515](tel:910.630.7515).

**Ira Knight Presents: “Martin Luther King, An Interpretation”**

Playwright Ira Knight will present his one-man show about the human side of King at 7 p.m. Jan. 18 in the Nursing Auditorium. This event is free and open to the public. The show runs about 40 minutes, followed by a 30-minute audience engagement and discussion. Knight, who is described as a leader in the “Bridges and Mirrors” category of theater, wrote the play as a thought-provoking interpretation of the many facets of King.

“We often honor Dr. King as the symbol of the Civil Rights Movement,” said Dr. Antoinette Bellamy, interim director of the Office of Multicultural Affairs. “Our goal in having Mr. Knight’s show is that we gain a new perspective in which we humanize Dr. King and acknowledge him as a father, brother, husband and friend. The man behind the legend.”

For more information on this event, please contact Bellamy at [910.630.7257](tel:910.630.7257).

**About Methodist University**

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## **METHODIST UNIVERSITY'S MCCUNE GALLERY HOSTS CHAGALL EXHIBIT'S FIRST U.S. SHOW**

FAYETTEVILLE, N.C. – “The Story of The Exodus,” a series of 24 lithographs by Marc Chagall, will be on display at the David McCune International Art Gallery at Methodist University from Feb. 8 to April 6, 2018. There will be an opening reception for the show on Feb. 8 from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. at the gallery. This will be the first time the exhibit has traveled to the United States from a private collection in Italy. Admission is free, though donations are encouraged.

“I am excited about the Chagall show coming to the McCune,” said Naoma Ellison, a member of the gallery’s board of directors. “Not only is ‘The Story of The Exodus’ a beautiful show, this is the first time this collection of lithographs will be exhibited in the U.S. It offers an opportunity not to be missed!”

The gallery is open Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m., Thursdays from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m., and Saturdays from noon to 4. The gallery is closed Sundays and Mondays, as well as March 4-12, 30 and 31, when the campus will observe Spring Break and Easter Break.

Docents, trained by author, lecturer and Chagall historian Vivian R. Jacobson, will be available for group tours with arrangements at least one week in advance. Groups of more than ten people are asked to make advance arrangements, with or without a docent request. To arrange a group visit or a docent tour, contact Gallery Executive Director Silvana Foti at [910.630.7107](tel:910.630.7107).

The exhibit is organized by The Art Company of Pesaro, Italy, and sponsored in part by The Arts Council of Fayetteville/Cumberland County, the Cumberland Community Foundation: David and Helen Clark Art Museum Fund and Community Arts Endowment and the Union-Zukowski Endowment for Multi-Cultural Understanding.

Raised in a Russian Chassidic Jewish family, Chagall’s work often speaks to the influences of his religious upbringing, even though he chose not to practice his parents’ religion. Chagall illustrated several Biblical stories in his lifetime, but because he published this series in 1966, after World War II, the images also reflect his expressions about post-Holocaust life and the circumstances that led to the creation of the state of Israel, as well as the traditions of Chassidic lore.

In his commentary on the lithographs, Rabbi Robert C. Kline of the Temple Museum said, “Chagall’s Exodus does not concentrate on the direction of doctrine or institutional readings of the text. His Exodus centers on the story of people; the masses the artist seems to love and admire, and the story of their deeply human leaders; leaders inspired by a Divine light undertaking the task before them with desire and reverence while perhaps not fully comprehending the reasons why.”

At the heart of the Exodus is the figure of Moses, who is pictured by Chagall as a guide who is both omnipresent and compassionate, a father inspired by the divine light yet also a mortal father returning his people to a nation which is to be founded in the 20th Century. The artist portrays Moses with a thick white beard, his head lit by the divine light of God, shown by beams of light that at times take the shape of horns in a witty tribute to the Moses of Michelangelo in the church of San Pietro in Vinicoli.

Each work in the cycle of lithographs is accompanied by an extract taken from The Book of Exodus, freeing Chagall from faithfully representing the words and allowing him to work via a series of highly

evocative and forthright images. The extract texts are written with the archaic English spelling of the 1611 King James Bible.

It's worth noting that the series does not include Passover, a significant section of the Exodus story. Chagall chose not to include that imagery in order to temper the narration of both the pain inflicted by the oppressors and that of the key doctrine of the text, so that, in Chagall's eyes, the story is told less as a dramatic flight of people and more as the people's joyful path toward liberation.

While the lithographs' narrative cycle can be read on many different levels, the extraordinary mastery and quality of composition also owes a great deal to the artist's technical skill. For Meyer Schapiro, who wrote the introduction to Chagall's "Illustrations for the Bible," the figures by Chagall "possess a unique power of gesture that captivates us by the homely naturalness and sincerity of their movements."

### **Related events**

Methodist University has planned several related events during the run of the exhibit.

On Friday, Feb. 9, at 7 p.m. at the Cameo Art House Theatre in downtown Fayetteville, the gallery will host a lecture by Bella Meyer, who is Chagall's granddaughter. Advance tickets are required for this event, which has limited seating. Tickets are free with an MU ID, or \$50 to the public. For tickets, contact Gallery Executive Director Silvana Foti at [910.630.7107](tel:910.630.7107). Public tickets must be picked up by Feb. 1. Meyer, who is also the owner and creative director of floral design business FleursBELLA in New York City, writes and lectures on various aspects of her grandfather's work, sourcing from extensive research and her personal experiences. Meyer was born in Paris and raised in Switzerland, and received her doctorate in medieval art history from the Sorbonne in Paris. She formerly held a position with the Visual Arts at the Cultural Services of the French Embassy in New York.

One of the films in the Center for Global Education's Foreign Film Festival this year will be tied to the exhibit. On Friday, Feb. 23, at 7 p.m. in the Professional Nursing Studies Building Auditorium, "The Cabinet of Dr. Caligari" will be screened after a brief discussion on Expressionism and Modernism in relation to Chagall. The 1920 silent Gothic film is a German Expressionist work directed by Robert Wiene. The discussion will include MU professors Dr. Cristina Francescon, Dr. Cameron Dodworth and Dr. Carl Dyke. This event is free and open to the public, but seats are limited on a first-come basis. Doors open at 6:30 p.m.

Dodworth will also moderate an interdisciplinary panel discussion on Chagall Monday, Feb. 26, at 11 a.m. (Location TBA). Faculty participants Dr. Kelly Walter Carney, Dr. Peter Murray, Dr. Stephanie Hooper Marosek and Carrah Royal will discuss how their research and academic interests connect to the life and/or work of Chagall, including a question and answer period with attendees. This event is free and open to the public.

The next event will be "A Chagall Visual Prayer Book," led by Rabbi Eve Eichenholtz from Fayetteville's Beth Israel Congregation and MU Chaplain Rev. Kelli W. Taylor. At 11 a.m. Wednesday, Feb. 28, in Hensdale Chapel, the two will lead a guided meditation focused on the works in the exhibit. The service will include special music by the MU Chorale. This event is free and open to the public.

Lastly, this year's Womack Lecture Series, which will include lectures in Yarborough Auditorium at 11 a.m. and 7 p.m. on Wednesday, March 21, will feature Dr. Brian Britt of Virginia Tech. Britt will discuss the lithographs as part of the "reception" of the Book of Exodus. Britt, who holds a doctorate in Hebrew Bible, is the author of "Rewriting Moses: The Narrative Eclipse of the Text." Both of the Womack Lectures are free and open to the public.

### **About Chagall**

Chagall was born Moishe Segal in Vitebsk, Belarus in the Russian Empire in 1887 but later moved to Paris where he changed his name and took French citizenship. One of the greatest modern artists of his time, at his death in 1985 he left behind an immense body of work in virtually every artistic format, including painting, book illustrations, stained glass, stage sets, ceramic, tapestries and fine art prints. Chagall's works are known for depicting a highly subjective visual realm filled with his own dreamlike

poetic lyricism, subverting the laws of perspective and gravity, as well as those of time and space, a world where majestic colors were the result of intimate yet seemingly arbitrary decisions. His extraordinary imagination added a fantastical dimension to the small acts of everyday life while embracing his key themes of childhood, life in rural Russia, in Jewish communities, and in Paris at the beginning of the Twentieth Century.

#### **About the McCune Gallery**

The David McCune International Art Gallery is located in the William Bethune Center for Visual Arts on the campus of Methodist University. Its mission is to coordinate exhibitions of art by student, regional, national, and international artists, educating students and the public through a diverse representation of fine art. Since its opening in 2010, the McCune Gallery has been Fayetteville's premier art venue, where works from traveling exhibitions, fine art on loan from museum collections throughout the world, and works by Methodist University students are displayed. Recent shows at the gallery attracted significant crowds and critical attention. Three of the gallery's most successful exhibitions were the bronze sculptures of "Rodin: Portraits of a Lifetime, Selections from the Iris & B. Gerald Cantor Collections;" "Picasso: 25 Years of Edition Ceramics from the Rosenbaum Collection;" and "Igneous Expressions," a collection of glass art by 26 artists from western North Carolina that included work by Harvey Littleton, the father of American studio glass.

#### **About Methodist University**

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## **LOYALTY CAMPAIGN GOAL SET AT \$210,000**

**FAYETTEVILLE, NC**— Methodist University’s 63<sup>rd</sup> annual Loyalty Campaign will be celebrated on Tuesday, Feb. 27. The goal this year is to raise \$210,000 for student scholarships. Last year’s campaign raised a record amount of \$202,000.

In the month leading up to Feb. 27, 20 teams made of up of 140 community volunteers will personally reach out to more than 1,200 individuals and businesses in our community to ask them to make a gift to the Loyalty Campaign for Student Scholarships. More than 5,000 alumni and friends will also be solicited nationwide. A campaign kick-off luncheon and training for all volunteers will be held on Tuesday, Jan. 30 from noon to 1:30 p.m. at Haymount United Methodist Church in Fayetteville. The kickoff event is not open to the public, but media are welcome to attend.

The Loyalty Campaign Celebration will be held on Feb. 27 from 5:30 to 7 p.m. at Fairfield Inn & Suites, North Fayetteville on Ramsey Street. There will be hors d’oeuvres and networking during the first half hour, and the formal celebration ceremony will begin at 6 p.m. The 2018 Loyalty Supporter of the Year will be named at the celebration ceremony.

Though the main fundraising efforts for the Loyalty Campaign are conducted in the month leading up to and weeks following Feb. 27, a gift may be made year-round to the Loyalty Campaign.

This year’s Loyalty Campaign chair is Tim Price, vice president and co-owner of Lafayette Ford Lincoln. The Price family are long-time supporters of the Loyalty Campaign. Tim’s father, Don Price, served as the chair in 2012.

“I am honored to serve as the 2018 Chair of the Methodist University Loyalty Campaign for Student Scholarships. It is my pleasure to support the tradition of giving that Lafayette Ford Lincoln established more than 60 years ago and continues with my family,” said Tim Price.

“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.

Though the Loyalty Campaign was originally about raising funds to help the college operate, in 2005 the focus shifted to student scholarships, something that MU dedicates more than 26 percent of its budget to each year. With more than 95 percent of Methodist University students receiving financial aid, many students would not be able to attend the university without scholarships like the ones funded through the Loyalty Campaign. In the 2016-2017 academic year, MU awarded \$21.4 million in financial aid to students.

### **About the Loyalty Campaign for Student Scholarships**

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.

In 1956, the Fayetteville College Foundation, which has since been renamed the Methodist University Foundation Board, pledged to raise an annual contribution of \$50,000. The University celebrated its 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the signing of the University charter in 2016 and is now in its 62<sup>nd</sup> year of providing excellent education to students from all over the nation and world.

Like the original board, the current Foundation Board is made up of business owners and community leaders from all walks of life in Cumberland County. The Advancement 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.

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## **METHODIST UNIVERSITY TO HOST 12<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL MISS METHODIST PAGEANT**

FAYETTEVILLE, N.C. – The 12th annual Miss Methodist Pageant is scheduled for Friday, Feb. 2, 2018, 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 with a Methodist University ID.

“The pageant is planned, directed and produced by students in the Student Activities Committee,” said Doris Munoz, associate dean of students and director of the student involvement center. “This year, we have a diverse group of 12 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, in which 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, which will go to fund breast cancer research and mammograms for underserved women in the Fayetteville community.

“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 Orchestra and Miss Methodist 2017, Elizabeth Wise. At the end of the night, Wise will pass her title to the next Miss Methodist.

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## **DR. MARY M. ATWATER TO SPEAK AT 2018 SPRING CONVOCATION**

**FAYETTEVILLE, N.C.** — Dr. Mary M. Atwater, a University of Georgia professor in the Department of Mathematics and Science Education, will speak at Methodist University's 2018 Spring Convocation on Monday, Feb. 5 at 11 a.m. Convocation will be held in Huff Concert Hall in the Reeves Fine Arts Building. Traditionally, the spring convocation event is a celebration of Black History Month. The event is free and open to the public.

"Methodist University is delighted to have Dr. Atwater as our spring convocation speaker," said convocation organizer and McLean Professor of History Dr. Peter Murray. "She has established a distinguished academic record, recently heading an international organization for science education and also serving as a distinguished lecturer at Teachers College, Columbia University in New York. We are excited to have arguably the country's leading expert in multicultural science education on our campus."

Atwater's presentation will start Methodist University's observance of Black History Month. She will speak on "What Does Black History Month Mean to You?" This interactive presentation is designed to facilitate a discussion about the meaning of black history and introduce relevant research about the contributions black people have made in the United States, especially in science, technology and engineering.

For more information on this event, contact Murray at [910.630.7075](tel:910.630.7075).

### **About Atwater**

Atwater earned a bachelor's degree in chemistry from then-Methodist College in 1969. She went on to earn a master's degree in physical organic chemistry at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill in 1972. In 1980, she completed her doctorate in science education at North Carolina State University.

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## KIM HASTY NAMED DIRECTOR OF UNIVERSITY RELATIONS

Methodist University announces that Kim Hasty has been named Director of University Relations.

Hasty has 35 years of experience in journalism, having worked for *The Fayetteville Observer* as a columnist, community news editor and sportswriter.

She is a 1982 graduate of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and a 1978 graduate of Reid Ross High School.

She and her husband, David, have four children and two grandchildren.

[Archivist's note: From the MU website, no date but probably published around February 1.]

## MU TO HOST 12TH ANNUAL PLAY 4KAY BASKETBALL GAME

This year's Play4Kay women's basketball event will be held on Feb. 10 at 2 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 by pre-order through Deputy Director of Athletics 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. 9, when the restaurant will donate a percentage of all their sales between noon and midnight to the Play4Kay fundraiser. There will also be fundraisers at Buffalo Wild Wings on Skibo Rd. on Feb. 2 and 8 and at Chipotle on Feb. 10 from 4 to 8 p.m.

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 of 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.

[Archivist’s note: From the MU website, no date but probably published around February 1.]

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**STUDENTS TO PERFORM REVUE OF STEPHEN SONDHEIM'S  
WORK IN "SIDE BY SIDE BY SONDHEIM" AT METHODIST UNIVERSITY**

FAYETTEVILLE, N.C. – Musical-lovers have likely heard songs by Stephen Sondheim in showstoppers like "Sweeney Todd," "West Side Story," and "Into the Woods." But before Sweeney Todd teamed up with Mrs. Lovett to make meat pies, and even before the baker and his wife set off for an adventure into the woods, Sondheim was staging a musical warfare between the Sharks and the Jets in "West Side Story," and lending his craft to more than 20 other famous musicals.

Following the success of last year's performances of "The Great American Trailer Park Musical," the MU Department of Theatre will present "Side by Side by Sondheim," a musical revue of some of Sondheim's early work as a composer and lyricist, from Feb. 22 to 24 at 8 p.m., and on Feb. 25 at 2 p.m, on the Huff Concert Hall stage.

Tickets are free with the presentation of an Methodist University ID, and general admission tickets are \$5. Tickets are sold on a cash-only basis on the night of the performance. The decision to perform "Side by Side by Sondheim" was motivated, at least in part, by nostalgia.

"On a personal level, this was the first musical I ever saw firsthand," Dr. Evan Bridenstine, chair of the Department of Theatre said. "Like MU, my undergraduate program provided free tickets to students. I think I saw every performance. I knew some of the songs, but I didn't have a good sense of the variety of Sondheim's work."

Bridenstine said the musical features songs from "A Funny Thing Happened on The Way to the Forum," "Follies," "Pacific Overtures," "Gypsy," and many other Sondheim musicals. While Bridenstine is excited to add another musical to the list of performances at MU, he does say that this musical is unlike any performed at the University.

"It's good music, and the range of songs is impressive," he said. "Each number is its own little story. Some are comic, others very serious. Even the peppy stuff has a bite to it. This is far from the silliness and campy humor we had last year, with far more complex music."

The cast of the musical includes students Mary Allen, Amanda Allred, Emily Bledsoe, Ben Crews, Sarah Crews, Elizabeth Cox, Jordan Curry, Jack Holloway, and Davey Tucker. Bill Saunders, a Department of Theatre adjunct professor, created the set, and the performance is directed by Bridenstine.

For more information on MU's theatre performance of "Side by Side by Sondheim," call the MU Theatre information line at [910.630.7483](tel:910.630.7483) or email Bridenstine at [ebridens@methodist.edu](mailto:ebridens@methodist.edu).

**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, two doctoral level programs, 80 clubs and organizations, and 20 NCAA III intercollegiate sports. To learn more about Methodist University, please visit [methodist.edu](http://methodist.edu) or [facebook.com/MethodistUniversity](https://facebook.com/MethodistUniversity).

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## WELLS NAMED METHODIST UNIVERSITY LOYALTY CAMPAIGN SUPPORTER OF THE YEAR

Methodist University announced this evening that the 2018 Loyalty Campaign Supporter of the Year is Woodrow W. Wells, Jr., retired United Methodist Church minister. He was honored with a crystal plaque at the Loyalty Campaign Celebration held at 6 p.m. at the Fairfield Inn & Suites.

“Woody has a long history of service and support of Methodist University,” said Assistant Director of Annual Giving Stacey Prevette. “He and his wife, Carole, both graduated from Methodist. After being ordained as a pastor in 1970, Woody served the United Methodist Church for 42 years before retiring in 2012. He wrapped up his pastoral service right here in Fayetteville, at Haymount United Methodist Church. We are proud and honored to have Woody as a longstanding and involved member of our community, our Methodist University family, and as our 2018 Loyalty Campaign Supporter of the Year.”

Since retiring, Wells has been an active member of the Methodist University Alumni Association Board of Directors, and has served as a Loyalty Campaign volunteer the last two years. In 2015, Wells was honored with the Alumni Association’s Outstanding Alumni Service Award. He also serves on the advisory board of the Salvation Army of Fayetteville.

The goal of Methodist University’s 63rd annual Loyalty Campaign is to raise \$210,000 for student scholarships. Last year’s campaign raised a record \$202,000.

In the month leading up to Feb. 27, 20 teams made of up of 140 community volunteers personally reached out to more than 1,200 individuals and businesses in our community to ask them to make a gift to the Loyalty Campaign for Student Scholarships. More than 5,000 alumni and friends were also solicited nationwide.

Though the main fundraising efforts for the Loyalty Campaign are conducted in the month leading up to and weeks following Feb. 27, a gift may be made year-round to the Loyalty Campaign.

This year’s Loyalty Campaign chair is Tim Price, vice president and co-owner of Lafayette Ford Lincoln. Members of the Price family are long-time supporters of the Loyalty Campaign. Tim’s father, Don Price, served as the chair in 2012.

“I am honored to serve as the 2018 Chair of the Methodist University Loyalty Campaign for Student Scholarships. It is my pleasure to support the tradition of giving that Lafayette Ford Lincoln established more than 60 years ago and continues with my family,” said Tim Price.

“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.

Though the Loyalty Campaign was originally about raising funds to help the college operate, in 2005 the focus shifted to student scholarships, something that MU dedicates more than 26 percent of its budget to each year. With more than 95 percent of Methodist University students receiving financial aid, many students would not be able to attend the university without scholarships like the ones funded through the Loyalty Campaign. In the 2016-2017 academic year, MU awarded \$21.4 million in financial aid to students.

## About the Loyalty Campaign for Student Scholarships

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.

In 1956, the Fayetteville College Foundation, which has since been renamed the Methodist University Foundation Board, pledged to raise an annual contribution of \$50,000. The University celebrated its 60th anniversary of the signing of the University charter in 2016 and is now in its 62nd year of providing excellent education to students from all over the nation and world.

Like the original board, the current Foundation Board is made up of business owners and community leaders from all walks of life in Cumberland County. The Advancement 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.

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For Immediate Release  
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### **T-Pain, Hunter Hayes to perform at Methodist University**

FAYETTEVILLE, N.C. – Two-time Grammy Award winner and hip-hop artist T-Pain and country singer Hunter Hayes will perform at Methodist University on Thursday, March 22, in the March F. Riddle Center. Rock band We The Kings will open the concert.

The concert is sponsored by the Methodist University Student Involvement Center, and students of the University were given the opportunity to pick up free tickets. Tickets for faculty and staff of the University cost \$10, with a maximum of two tickets per person, and will go on sale Thursday, March 8. Tickets are not available to the public, but media passes may be arranged in advance.

T-Pain, whose real name is Faheem Rashad Najm, has been featured on more than 50 chart-topping singles, including on Flo Rida's debut single "Low." He's known for his trademark giant top hat and Oakley sunglasses and for popularizing the use of the Auto-Tune pitch correction effect.

Hayes, a five-time Grammy nominee and the CMA New Artist of the Year in 2012, is best-known for his hits "Wanted" and "I Want Crazy."

We The Kings' self-titled debut album, released in 2007, sold 250,000 copies in the U.S. and included the platinum single, "Check Yes Juliet."

For more information on tickets or the concert, visit [methodist.edu](http://methodist.edu) or contact the Methodist University Student Involvement Center at 910-630-7022.

#### **About Methodist University**

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## **METHODIST UNIVERSITY TO HOST 22ND ANNUAL B.F. STONE ENDOWED LYCEUM**

**FAYETTEVILLE, NC**—Methodist University announces the presenters of the 22nd annual B.F. Stone Endowed Lyceum, Dr. George Hendricks, Dr. Vijay Antharam, Tom Johnston, and Dr. Joel Sattgast. Every year, a scholarly project from Methodist University faculty is chosen to be presented at the Lyceum, a special lecture event. This year's presentation brings together several path-breaking presentations under the umbrella concept of "In Defense of the University."

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, March 15, 2018, in the Medical Lecture Hall in the Physician Assistant complex.

The presentation will showcase some of the roles the university and its graduates can play in a changing economy and society, as the economy shifts away from traditional forms of work. The presenters will offer visions of how higher education can offer Americans, and the world, more engaged citizenship, a more equitable society, and healthier and happier bodies and minds.

This year's event is organized by Dr. Carl Dyke, Dr. Peter Murray, and Dr. Patrick O'Neil, professors of history and recipients of last year's Lyceum honor. As is tradition, the previous year's recipients organize the next event and introduce the speakers.

As universities face increasing political pressure, this year's Lyceum offers a chance to reorient our ideas about education in America.

"One of the things a university education can be good for is getting a job," said Dyke. "Learning more about our intestinal biome, thinking about pain as a diverse and consequential experience, and understanding the dynamics of school segregation don't lead directly to jobs, yet through these and so many other pursuits, universities contribute to lives of meaning, purpose, and citizenship."

All the recipients of this year's annual B.F. Stone Lyceum honor are members of the Methodist University faculty and all demonstrate how the university can remain vital in the modern world.

### **About the presenters**

Hendricks received a Bachelor of Science and Master Social Work from East Carolina University and a doctorate from Walden University. His primary research interest deals with the educational achievement of homeless children. He is an active member of St. Andrews United Methodist Church and has previously served on numerous boards, including the local Department of Social Services. He is married to Kelly Hendricks, a registered nurse at the Cumberland County Health Department. George and Kelly have two children, Trevor and Tanner. His favorite quote is by Mahatma Gandhi, "Be the change you wish to see in the world."

Antharam received his Bachelor of Science in microbiology from the University of Florida. He obtained his doctorate from the University of Florida College of Medicine in biochemistry and molecular biology. In 2015, he joined the faculty at Methodist University. His research interests include the microbiome, metabolomics and structural biology. Vijay Antharam got married in 2015 to Madhuri Antharam and they have a 6-month-old son, Hansin.

Jarold "Tom" Johnston received his bachelor's degree in nursing at Austin Peay State University in Tennessee and his master's in nurse midwifery at the University of Rhode Island. Johnston is currently a doctoral student at the Francis Payne Bolton School of Nursing in Case Western Reserve University, in Cleveland, Ohio, and plans to graduate in 2019. He is married to Elizabeth Johnston and they have eight children. He came to MU in 2015 to teach nursing after 27 years in the U.S. Army. His research and publications interests are birth and breastfeeding, fatherhood, and the microbiome. If he had any spare time, he would play the bagpipes for fun.

Joel Sattgast received a Bachelor of Science degree from Concordia University, Nebraska, in cellular and molecular biology and chemistry. He then received his Doctor of Physical Therapy degree from Creighton University. He is a board certified Orthopedic Clinical Specialist and has advanced training in orthopedics, sports and performance, and pain management. In addition to maintaining clinical practice, his primary research interests relate to running performance, pain neuroscience, and the biopsychosocial interactions between patients and their health care providers. He is married to Laura Sattgast, and they have two daughters, Grace and Anna.

### **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.

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

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## **METHODIST UNIVERSITY TO OFFER A WIDE VARIETY OF SUMMER CAMPS FOR YOUTH IN THE COMMUNITY AND BEYOND**

FAYETTEVILLE, N.C. – As summer approaches, parents are likely looking for the perfect activity to keep their children’s minds and bodies active.

Methodist University offers a wide variety of summer academic, music, and athletic camps for students in kindergarten through 12<sup>th</sup> grade. For a complete listing of camps, visit [methodist.edu/summer](http://methodist.edu/summer) or call [910.630.7000](tel:910.630.7000). For more information on athletic summer camps, visit [mumonarchs.com](http://mumonarchs.com) or call [910.630.7175](tel:910.630.7175).

### **STEM Camp (Science Technology Education Mathematics) | June 11–15**

This is a half-day camp designed for middle school students. All camp sessions are facilitated by Methodist University faculty. There is a nonrefundable registration fee of \$175, which includes a camp T-shirt, daily snack, and Friday pizza party. For more information, contact Sheila Blue at [910.630.7125](tel:910.630.7125) or Dr. Scott Robertson at [910.630.5775](tel:910.630.5775).

### **CSI-MU Forensic Science Camp | Middle School: July 16-17, High School: Aug. 6-7**

Students will be exposed to crime scene processing principles in age-appropriate, fun, and exciting hands-on exercises. Students will have the opportunity to apply the principles of crime scene investigation with a mock crime scene at the end of the week. High school students will receive more advanced course work and deal with mature subject matter. Each camp will be taught by a graduate of the FBI National Academy and Fellow of the American Academy of Forensic Science. There is a nonrefundable registration fee of \$185, which includes a T-shirt, external “thumb” drive, lunch, snacks, and water. Classes are limited to 18 students per age group. For more information, contact Serena Hare at [910.630.7298](tel:910.630.7298) or [slhare@methodist.edu](mailto:slhare@methodist.edu) or visit [methodist.edu/summer](http://methodist.edu/summer).

### **PGA Summer Experience | Session 1: July 8-11, Session 2: July 11-14**

The Summer Experience is a four-day residential camp designed to give students insight into the world of PGA Golf Management degrees. Campers can attend either the first or second session. The first session isn’t required for the camper to attend the second. Students will have the opportunity to receive instruction from PGA Golf Management University Program staff, students, and alumni; live in residence halls; preview university life; and learn more about the enrollment process at Methodist University. The fee is \$450. For more information, contact Kyle Fera at [910.630.7278](tel:910.630.7278) or [kfera@methodist.edu](mailto:kfera@methodist.edu), or visit [methodist.edu/summer](http://methodist.edu/summer).

### SummerJam! Music Camp | July 9-14

The cost for all day campers is \$175, which includes all camp activities including lunch, daily classes, concerts, activities, insurance, and the SummerJam! T-shirt. The cost for the optional residential camp for campers from outside of Fayetteville is \$375, which includes all-day camp activities, plus breakfast and dinner for each day of the camp through the camp concert. The camp is designed for young musicians ages 11 to 18. For more information, call [910.630.7153](tel:910.630.7153), email [mmartin@methodist.edu](mailto:mmartin@methodist.edu), or visit [methodist.edu/summerjam](http://methodist.edu/summerjam). **The deadline to register for SummerJam! is June 25, but register before June 15 to avoid late registration fees.**

### General Shelton Leadership Challenge | July 15-20

The General Shelton Leadership Challenge is a one-week summer residential experience for rising freshmen, sophomores, juniors, and seniors in high school. The camp is designed to help students expand their knowledge and skills of what it takes to be an effective leader. The cost to attend is \$600. This includes the deposit, lodging, meals, curriculum materials, low and high ropes training, transportation, and evening activities. For more information, contact Suzanne Langley at [910.480.8474](tel:910.480.8474) or email [slangley@methodist.edu](mailto:slangley@methodist.edu). **The deadline to register and full payment is June 15.**

### Summer Athletic Camps

For more information on athletic summer camps, visit [mumonarchs.com](http://mumonarchs.com) or call [910.630.7175](tel:910.630.7175).

<b>SPORT</b>	<b>DATE</b>	<b>CAMP</b>
Baseball	June 11-12	Hitting Camp I
	June 18-20	Monarch Camp I
	June 25-26	Hitting Camp II
	July 16-17	Hitting Camp III
	August 3	Intro to College Baseball
Boys' Basketball	June 18-22	Day Camp I
	June 23	Elite Boys' Basketball Camp
	July 9-13	Day Camp II
Girls' Basketball	June 25-29	Girls' Basketball Camp
Girls' HS Basketball Jamboree	June 14	
Boys' HS Basketball Jamboree	June 15	
Cross Country	June 24-28	Co-Ed Cross Country Camp
Football	May 12	Elite Skills Camp
	July 9-13	Youth Football Camp
Golf (Co-Ed)	June 18-21	Junior Golf Camp
	June 25-28	Advanced Golf Camp
Boys' Soccer	June 11-15	Day Camp Session I
	Aug. 6-10	Day Camp Session II

Girls' Soccer	June 11-15	Day Camp Session I
	July 12-15	Overnight Camp
	Aug. 6-10	Day Camp Session II
Softball	June 12-16	Softball Camp
Tennis (Co-Ed)	June 25-28	Youth Skill Camp
	July 23-26	Day Training Camp
Volleyball	July 23-24	Beginners' Camp
	July 26-27	Advanced Camp
	July 30	Setters' Camp
	July 31	Hitters' Camp

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**ANNUAL WOMACK LECTURES AT METHODIST UNIVERSITY TO FEATURE DR. BRIAN BRITT FROM VIRGINIA TECH**

FAYETTEVILLE – Dr. Brian Britt, a professor in the Department of Religion and Culture at Virginia Tech, will be featured during the annual Womack Lectures at Methodist University March 21. Both lectures are free and open to the public.

The Womack Lectures will be held in Yarborough Auditorium in Clark Hall. There will be two presentations by Britt. One, titled “New Tablets for a New World: The Book of Exodus in Chagall’s Moses,” will begin at 11 a.m. and will take the place of the week’s chapel service. The other presentation is titled “New Tablets for a New World: The Jewish Modernism of Chagall’s Moses,” and will begin at 7 p.m.

The lectures are an effort to further explore the work of artist Marc Chagall. Methodist University is showcasing “The Story of Exodus,” a collection of lithographs that depict the Jewish departure from Egypt detailed in the book of Exodus. The gallery will exhibit the lithographs until April 6. Find more information on the exhibit at [davidmccunegallery.org](http://davidmccunegallery.org).

Britt received his doctorate at the University of Chicago in 1992. He was awarded the DAAD Fellowship for Research in 2012-2013; was a Fellow of the Zentrum für Literatur- und Kulturforschung, Berlin in 2008, 2012, and 2015; and is the 2007 recipient of the Phi Beta Kappa Sturm Award for Research.

Britt is the author of four books, including “Postsecular Benjamin: Agency and Tradition,” “Biblical Curses and the Displacement of Tradition,” “Rewriting Moses: The Narrative Eclipse of the Text,” and “Walter Benjamin and the Bible.” He has published several articles in publications like Benjamin-Studien, Religion Compass, Journal of the American Academy of Religion, and Critical Inquiry. For more information, contact Dr. Richard Walsh at [rwalsh@methodist.edu](mailto:rwalsh@methodist.edu) or at [910.630.7077](tel:910.630.7077).

## TRUSTEES NAME INTERIM MU PRESIDENT

The Methodist University Board of Trustees has named Dr. Delmas S. Crisp, Jr., as Interim President of the University. Board of Trustees Chairman Mac Healy made the announcement today, March 23, at the University's monthly faculty meeting. Crisp, the University's Provost, will assume the title of Interim President on June 1, following President Ben Hancock's retirement on May 31 after an eight-year tenure.

"Upon learning of Dr. Hancock's plan to retire, the Board of Trustees immediately went to work to begin the process of finding the next President of Methodist University," Healy said. "The search team is in place and is working with our consultant to refine the parameters of our search. The announcement of the search for our next President will go out in the next 30 days. We will begin to receive applications shortly after that. While we want to fill this very important position as soon as possible, we will take as long as we need to get the right person in place for Methodist's future."

Crisp previously served briefly as Interim President following the retirement of President Elton Hendricks in 2010. Upon his arrival in 2011, Hancock named Crisp Executive Vice President and then named him Provost in 2017.

[Archivist's note: From the MU website, no date but probably published around March 23.]

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For Immediate Release  
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**Methodist University Prepares to Celebrate Holy Week**

FAYETTEVILLE, N.C. – As Christians celebrate the death and resurrection of Jesus this week, Methodist University Campus Ministry has planned many activities and services for Holy Week. Some of the events are open to the public, but media are invited to attend activities throughout the week of March 26 to April 1.

Holy Week is celebrated the week before Easter, usually beginning on Palm Sunday. Methodist University is steeped in the rich culture and traditional practices of the United Methodist Church and has several events planned to celebrate the life, death, and resurrection of Christ throughout the week.

Students, faculty, staff, and community members are invited to “walk the labyrinth” on Monday, March 26 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. in Hensdale Chapel. During this time, attendees will be able to walk a path while praying and meditating.

From 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Tuesday, March 27, there will be a cross in The Quad where students, faculty, staff, and community members can hammer a nail into the cross as an act of repentance.

Wednesday’s traditional chapel service will feature guest speaker Lisa Lawrenz, a Campus Ministry intern from Duke Divinity School in Durham, N.C. Her topic is “Palms and Passion.” The service will be held at 11 a.m. in Hensdale Chapel.

On Thursday, March 29, there will be foot-washing stations set up across campus from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Maundy Thursday, the Thursday prior to Easter, is when Christians remember the Last Supper of Jesus Christ with the Apostles. The foot-washing stations are to commemorate Jesus’ act of washing the Apostles feet before dinner.

Methodist University is officially closed on Good Friday, March 30, in remembrance of the day Jesus was crucified. However, there will be a walk on the walking trail starting at Nimocks Fitness Center from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. where attendees can walk the Stations of the Cross and remember Jesus’ suffering and crucifixion.

On Easter Sunday, April 1, Methodist University Campus Ministry will host a sunrise service at 7 a.m. on The Quad outside of Hensdale Chapel. The community is invited to attend. Breakfast will also be served.

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For Immediate Release  
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### **METHODIST UNIVERSITY PA CLASS EARNS PERFECT PASSING RATE**

**FAYETTEVILLE, N.C.** - The Methodist University Physician Assistant Program Class of 2017 has earned a 100 percent pass rate on the Physician Assistant National Certifying Examination, according to results released by the National Commission on Certification of Physician Assistants.

That compares to the national pass rate of 97 percent and marks the second straight year Methodist has earned a perfect rate. Methodist University's five-year average pass rate for first-time test-takers is 98 percent, compared to the national five-year rate of 96 percent.

#### **About Methodist University**

Methodist University is an independent four-year institution of higher education with more than 2,200 students from 38 states, the District of Columbia, and 81 countries. Methodist University offers 80 majors and concentrations, four master's degree programs, two doctoral-level programs, numerous clubs and organizations, and 20 NCAA III intercollegiate sports. To learn more about Methodist University, please visit [methodist.edu](http://methodist.edu) or [facebook.com/MethodistUniversity](https://facebook.com/MethodistUniversity).

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For Immediate Release  
April 27, 2018

Media Contact:  
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## **METHODIST UNIVERSITY CELEBRATES LARGEST CLASS OF GRADUATES IN SCHOOL HISTORY**

FAYETTEVILLE, N.C. – Methodist University will celebrate the largest graduating class in school history at the 55th annual Spring Commencement Ceremony on Saturday, May 5 at 2 p.m. Since this year's class exceeds the capacity of any campus facility, the ceremony will take place off campus for the first time, in the Crown Coliseum in Fayetteville.

There are currently 241 undergraduate candidates for graduation.

Retiring Methodist University President Ben E. Hancock, Jr., who has been President since March, 2011, will deliver the undergraduate commencement address. As part of the ceremony, the University will confer an Honorary Doctor of Humane Letters degree to A. Howard Bullard, Jr., a member of the Methodist University Board of Trustees and long-time Methodist University supporter.

The ceremony also will include the commissioning of four ROTC cadets and speeches by this year's Distinguished Graduates, Brent Breedlove and Summer Combs, who were elected by the graduating seniors. One student also will be presented with the Lucius Stacy Weaver Award, which was established in 1964 in honor of the University's first President. The award recognizes academic excellence, spiritual development, leadership and service.

Following the MU tradition for a student who is the first MU graduate from his or her country, Douah Coulibaly will present the flag of Mali, and Dulcine Djetouan will present the flag of the Ivory Coast.

The graduate commencement ceremony will take place on Friday, May 4, at 2 p.m. in Huff Concert Hall. Dr. Dickson Schaefer, a Fayetteville orthopedic surgeon who serves as treasurer on the Methodist University Board of Trustees, will deliver the graduate commencement address. Schaefer is a 1996 graduate of the Wake Forest University School of Medicine and is a colonel in the United States Army Reserve. He and his wife Emily have four children.

The Rev. Dr. Jesse Brunson, a retired pastor with the North Carolina Conference of The United Methodist Church, will deliver the baccalaureate address at 4:30 p.m. on Friday, May 4, in Huff Concert Hall.

### **Commencement Speaker**

Dr. Hancock has led Methodist University's unprecedented growth in enrollment, programs, and facilities. During his tenure, a new School of Health Sciences has been established, which has led to the creation of the University's first two doctoral programs in Physical Therapy and Occupational Therapy. New programs or majors have been created in Engineering, Applied Forensic Science, Sport Management, Entrepreneurship, Digital Forensics and Cybersecurity.

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 in Education from James Madison University and his Ph.D. degree from the University of Virginia.

He and his wife Debbie, a retired teacher of exceptional children, have five children and eight grandchildren.

### **Howard Bullard**

Asa Howard Bullard, Jr. is the president of Bullard Furniture, Inc. Bullard Furniture has earned many awards, including Retailer of the Year; North Carolina Retailer of the Year; and Methodist University's Center for Entrepreneurship's Small Business Excellence Award.

Bullard has been a member of the Methodist University Board of Trustees since 1996 and has been a source of wise counsel for his fellow trustees and Methodist University presidents. He has served as the board's treasurer and secretary and is currently on the Board of Trustees Executive Committee. He also served on the Methodist University Board of Visitors.

He and his wife Marta have contributed to campaigns to fund the construction of several Methodist University facilities, including the Horner Administration Building, the Library Annex, and, most recently, the Gene Clayton Tennis Center. Bullard also helped to establish the Bullard-Templeton Lecture Series in 2000, which explores the relationship between science and religion.

The Bullards have four children and 15 grandchildren.

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For Immediate Release: May 15, 2018

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## **METHODIST UNIVERSITY ANNOUNCES WRIGHT SCHOLARS**

FAYETTEVILLE, N.C. – Five high school seniors have been selected as the recipients of Methodist University's four-year, full-tuition Wright Scholarship, the most prestigious academic honor for incoming Methodist University students. The students, who were selected on the basis of academic achievement, leadership qualities, commitment to community service and citizenship, are Ashlee Dudley of Western Harnett High School; Shannon Fogarty of Rocky Mount High School; Bertha Llamas of Franklinton High School; Henry Murray, a homeschooled student from Oklahoma City, Oklahoma; and Edward Samuelian of Massey Hill Classical High School.

"The pool of applicants this year was one of the largest in the history of this program, and the selected students are, by measure of average GPA, ACT and SAT, the most academically qualified we've ever enrolled," said Dean of Admissions Jamie Legg. "The average GPA and test scores are the highest ever in the history of this scholarship program."

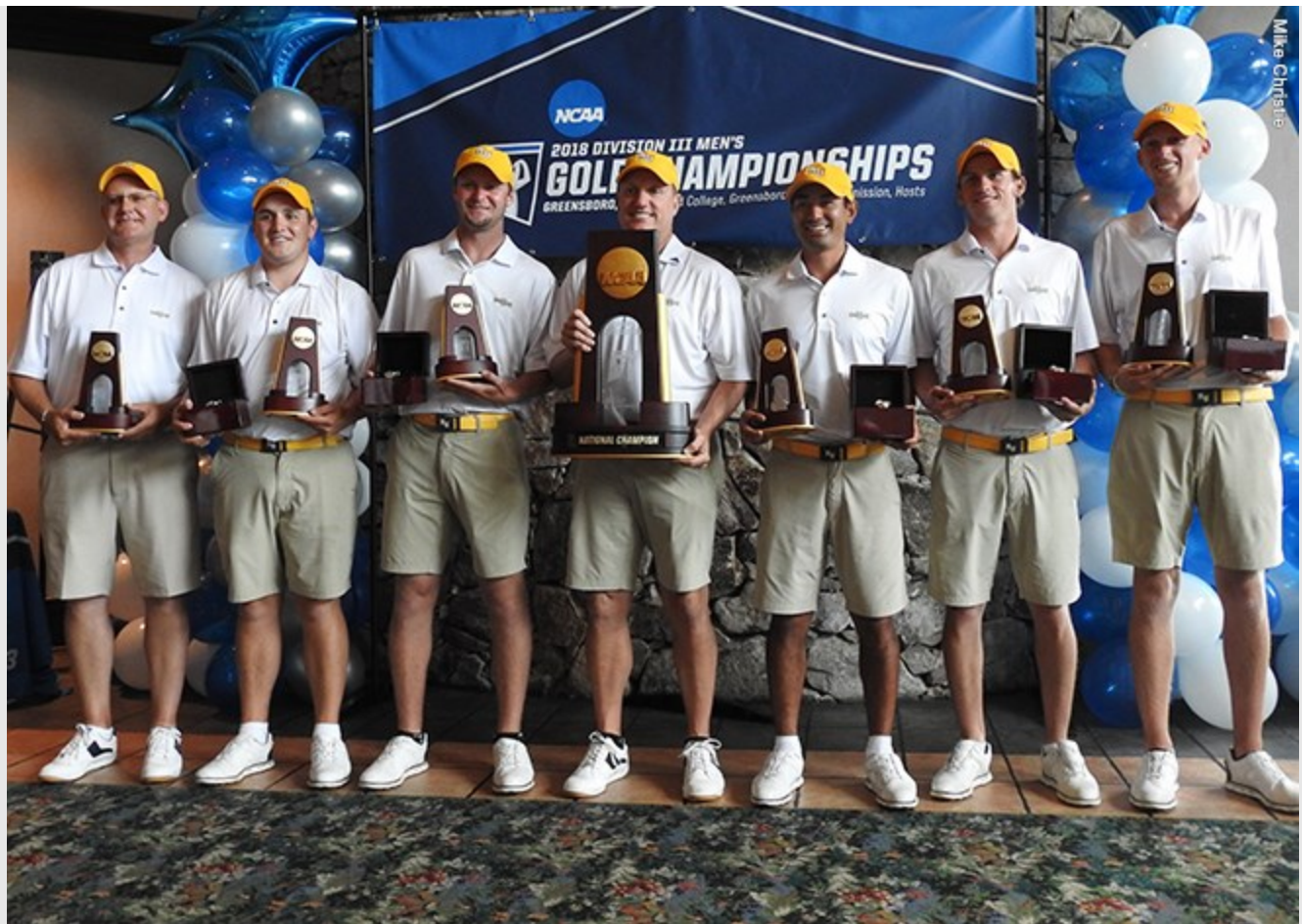
This year's Wright Scholars have an average cumulative weighted grade point average of 4.83, a 32.75 average ACT composite, and a 1488 SAT equivalent average.

The Wright Scholarship is funded by a \$5 million gift made to the University by Dr. Harvey T. Wright II (MU Class of 1970) and his wife, Mary Fermanides Wright (MU Class of 1968).

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Men's Golf | 5/18/2018 5:37:00 PM |

## MU Men's Golf Captures 12th National Championship

GREENSBORO, N.C. -- For the 12th time in program history and the second time in four years, the Methodist University men's golf team is the NCAA Division III National Champion.

The 12 national championships ties Cal State Stanislaus, which is now a Div. II program, for the most in Div. III history. Three of those championships have come since 2010, while no other school has won more than once in that span.

The Monarchs shot a 296 (+7) to finish with a score of 1,159 (294-287-282), which was 11 strokes better than second place Washington & Lee (292-289-292-297--1,170). Texas-Tyler (1,171), Concordia (1,173) and Guilford (1,174), who served as the host, rounded out the top five.

MU has now won the National Championship each of the last two times the event was played at the Grandover Resort in Greensboro, North Carolina. In 2015, the Monarchs erased a five-stroke deficit on the final day and walked away with a three-stroke win. This time, MU trailed by three strokes after the second round and used a third round of 282 (-6) to vault into first place by 10 strokes.

This is the ninth time the Monarchs have won a national championship by 10 strokes or more and this marks the largest margin of victory at the NCAA Championships since 2012 when Oglethorpe won by 20 strokes over second place, Transylvania.

<http://www.mumonarchs.com/news/2018/5/18/mu-mens-golf-captures-12th-national-championship.aspx>

Brian Peccie of Washington & Lee earned medalist honors after a three-hole playoff with Logan Young of Concordia. Peccie and Young both shot a three-under 285 for the tournament before heading to the playoff.

[Dan Shepherd](#) shot a one-over 73 to finish the week at a two-under 286 (72-72-69). He finished in a tie for third, just one stroke behind Logan Young of Concordia and Brian Peccie of Washington & Lee who went to a playoff. In the fourth round, Shepherd birdied No. 3 before bogeying two of the last three holes on the front nine and made the turn at one over (37). He birdied No. 11 and No. 12 to go to one-under for the day and parred the next two holes. He dropped a stroke on No. 15 and No. 17 before ending the day with par and shoot even on the back nine.

[Larkin Gross](#) finished in a tie for 12th (73-72-71-75--291). He parred the first three holes of the day and dropped a stroke on each of the next two. He put together three more pars and bogeyed No. 9 going out at 39 (+3). Gross sunk seven pars to go with a bogey and a birdie on 18 to finish the back nine at even par (36).

[Jared Chinn](#) shot the best round of the day for the Monarchs with a one-under 71 to finish in a tie for 29th (74-80-70-71--295). Chinn was one-under heading into the fifth hole, but a double bogey set him back to one-over. He birdied No. 8 but dropped a stroke on No. 9 to make the turn at 37 (+1). After parring 10, he birdied each of the next three holes to go to two-under. He parred four of the last five holes with one bogey on No. 16 to go in at 34 (-2).

[Aaron Purviance](#), who was part of the 2015 National Championship squad, finished in 34th place (75-70-72-79--296), which was one stroke back from Chinn. He totaled three birdies on the day. [Chris Drysdale](#) shot a five-over 77 to finish in a tie for 65th (76-73-78-77--304). He made the turn at one under after picking up two birdies, but shot a six-over (42) on the back nine to finish at +5.



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For Immediate Release  
Aug. 15, 2018

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## METHODIST UNIVERSITY WELCOMES NEW STUDENTS TO ORIENTATION

FAYETTEVILLE – Methodist University will welcome 566 new students, including 360 freshmen, when New Student Orientation begins on Thursday, Aug. 16. Move-in and registration open at 8 a.m. Orientation activities will run through Sunday, followed by the first day of classes on Monday, Aug. 20.

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.

Highlights of orientation include:

8 a.m.-1 p.m. Thursday	New student check-in, Berns Student Center
4-4:50 p.m. Thursday	“Welcome to MU” pep rally, Nimocks Fitness Center
6-7 p.m. Thursday	Family cookout on The Quad
7:30-9 p.m. Thursday	Mentalist Craig Karges, Nimocks Fitness Center
2:30-4 p.m. Friday	University Fair, March F. Riddle Athletic 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 fourth year, the freshman class will be participating in a group service project. This year’s class will be packing 55,000 meals in two hours for Rise Against Hunger, an international hunger relief organization.

The University also will welcome the first cohort of Doctor of Occupational Therapy students this semester. This year is also scheduled to mark the dedication of the Sharon and Ron Matthews Ministry Center and the Union-Zukowski Lobby and Gallery.

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For Immediate Release  
Aug. 29, 2018

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## **Panel discussion at Methodist University focuses on how to spot fake news**

The Writing Center at Methodist University will host its second annual panel discussion entitled #FakeNews on Sept. 5 at 7 p.m. in Yarborough Auditorium on campus. The public is invited. The panel will discuss how best to identify real news from reputable sources and will shine a light on the social and political costs of holding falsehood and fantasy as truth. The discussion will be moderated by Dr. Christopher Cronin, assistant professor of Political Science. The Hon. Margaret Highsmith Dickson, a Methodist University Trustee, will participate as a guest panelist. Sen. Dickson is a former member of the N.C. General Assembly and a former broadcast journalist. She will be joined by Dr. Kevin Swift, chair of the Mass Communications department; Dr. Patrick O'Neil, chair of the History department; and Arleen Fields, assistant director of Library Services.

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For Immediate Release  
Aug. 31, 2018

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**‘Fire from the Mountain: Glass and Steel’ opens Sept. 6 at Methodist University**

Kate Vogel fell in love long ago with the artistic possibilities that can result from working with the simple materials of glass and metal. She believes those who attend the exhibit “Fire from the Mountain: Glass and Steel” will feel the same.

“As you view the show you will see how each artist has harnessed the properties of glass or metal to create works of personal expression,” she said. “Hopefully, you will find a connection to a piece and see the beauty the artists reveal that is contained in each material.”

“Fire from the Mountain” opens Sept. 6 and will run through Nov. 10 at the David McCune International Art Gallery on the Methodist University campus. An opening reception is scheduled Sept. 6 from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Admission to the exhibit and the reception are free and open to the public.

Fire on the Mountain presents the works of 10 artists from western North Carolina, each of whom expresses a unique voice and approach to working in glass or steel or both. Among the works included in the exhibit are Shane Fero’s colorful flock of glass birds, a pair of high heels forged from steel by blacksmith Elizabeth Brim, the glass and steel collaborative works of Vogel and her husband John Littleton, and Rick Beck’s large-scale cast glass sculptures.

All of the artists have ties to Penland School of Craft in North Carolina’s Blue Ridge Mountains, where they have been residents, students, or teachers.

“The school and surrounding community of artists have created a place that supports and nurtures the creative fire,” Vogel said. “It is through this community that I have come to know and admire the artists in this show. They are masters of their material and some of the top in their field.”

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For Immediate Release

Sept. 10, 2018

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Due to the current forecasted track and intensity of Hurricane Florence, Methodist University will close Tuesday, Sept. 11, at 8 a.m. to allow students time to travel home to their families ahead of the storm. The University will remain closed until further notice, and beginning Tuesday, Sept. 11, all campus events and athletic events scheduled for the week are canceled.

For the latest updates, check the University's and social media sites.

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For Immediate Release

September 28, 2018

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**METHODIST UNIVERSITY SPEAKER TRIUMPHED OVER STRUGGLES**

Accomplished television and music composer LaToya Rene Robertson is the speaker for this year's Lura S. Tally Center for Leadership Development Speaker Series, Monday, Oct. 8 at 11 a.m. in Huff Concert Hall on the Methodist University campus.

Robertson, who earned an undergraduate degree in music from Methodist, survived the struggles of being raised in an impoverished and drug-infested neighborhood to become an accredited television and music composer, songwriter, property owner, author, world traveler and doctoral candidate. Her talk is entitled "The Student Leadership Formula."

Robertson played percussion and bass for the Fayetteville Symphony Orchestra, and percussion for the Fayetteville Symphonic Band.

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For Immediate Release

Oct. 3, 2018

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**METHODIST UNIVERSITY RECEIVES ARTS COUNCIL  
GRANTS**

FAYETTEVILLE, N.C. — Two grants from the Arts Council of Fayetteville/Cumberland County will help Methodist University bring musical magic and the genius of a pop art icon to the community.

The Council awarded a \$7,200 grant to the David McCune International Art Gallery to support marketing and banners for the scheduled exhibit of a series of Andy Warhol silkscreen print masterworks. A \$2,300 grant was awarded to the University's Friends of Music for this year's Guest Artist Series, which is an annual set of free elementary school workshops and evening concerts.

The Warhol exhibit is on loan from The Cochran Collection in Georgia and from the Ackland Art Museum on the campus of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. The exhibit opens with a reception on Feb. 7, 2019. A fundraiser for the exhibit is scheduled for Nov. 29 at Studio 215 in downtown Fayetteville.

The Guest Artist Series opened with a performance by pianist Lawrence Quinnett on Sept. 28. The series continues when Winifred Garrett, principal harpist for the Fayetteville Symphony Orchestra, performs Oct. 26 at 7:30 p.m. in Hensdale Chapel. Other performances will feature mezzo soprano Manna Knjoi on Feb. 1 at 7:30 p.m. and classical guitarist Carlos Castilla on March 15. The guest musicians also will hold educational workshops for students in kindergarten through eighth grade at Capitol Encore Academy in downtown Fayetteville.

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

Project Support Grants, such as 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 nonprofit 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](http://davidmccunegallery.org) or email Silvana Foti, executive director of the David McCune International Art Gallery, at [sfoti@methodist.edu](mailto: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. 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](mailto:lvolman@methodist.edu) or 910.630.7100.

### **About the Arts Council of Fayetteville/Cumberland County**

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

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For Immediate Release

Oct. 4, 2018

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**METHODIST UNIVERSITY TO ANNOUNCE NEW PRESIDENT**

FAYETTEVILLE, N.C. — Members of the Board of Trustees of Methodist University are pleased to announce they have selected their next President, who will be the fifth person to hold that office in the school's 62-year history. The Board will introduce the new President to students, faculty, and staff Wednesday, October 10, 2018 at 11:30 a.m. in Berns Student Center.

Members of the media are welcome to attend.

The new President was selected after a national search conducted by Haley Associates Higher Education Executive Search. The new President succeeds Ben Hancock, who retired May 31, 2018 after a seven-year tenure. Methodist University Provost Dr. Delmas S. Crisp has been serving as Interim President.

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For Immediate Release  
October 10, 2018

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FAYETTEVILLE, N.C. – Dr. Stanley T. Wearden, a visionary with a proven record of excellence in academics, communications and leadership, has been selected as Methodist University’s next president. Dr. Wearden takes office Jan. 1, 2019.

Mac Healy, Chairman of the University’s Board of Trustees, made the announcement during a ceremony at Berns Student Center attended by students, faculty, staff, and Trustees on Wednesday, October 10.

“The Board of Trustees is excited to have Dr. Wearden as Methodist’s fifth President,” Healy said. “His vision, experience and energy helped to convince us that Dr. Wearden is the right leader for this time in the life of Methodist University. We welcome Dr. Wearden and his wife to Methodist and the Fayetteville community.”

Wearden, 65, has been Senior Vice President and Provost of Columbia College Chicago since July, 2014, where he oversees nearly 300 faculty members and has been credited with leading the development and implementation of a highly inclusive and ambitious strategic plan.

“Thank you for this incredible honor - and responsibility - of leading Methodist University,” Wearden said. “I’m very excited about being here. I can’t wait for January 1.”

Wearden was chosen by Methodist University’s Board of Trustees after a competitive nationwide search by Haley Associates Higher Education Executive Search & Consulting. Wearden succeeds Dr. Ben Hancock, who retired in May after serving as Methodist University President since 2011.

Wearden previously served as Dean of the College of Communication and Information at Kent State University in Kent, Ohio from 2009 to 2014. He served as director of the Kent State University School of Communication Studies from 2004 to 2009, where he created a new major in Applied Communication, which helped increase the school’s undergraduate enrollment by 80 percent in four years.

For 20 years, Wearden taught Journalism and Mass Communication at Kent State University, and has held the rank of professor with tenure in Kent State’s School of Journalism and Mass Communication and School of Communication Studies, and in Columbia College Chicago’s Communication Department.

A native of West Virginia, Wearden’s extensive academic experience also includes earning a doctorate degree in Mass Communication Research from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill in 1987. His wife, Deborah Davis, is working

on a second master's degree, in religious studies. The family includes five children and two grandchildren.

Wearden's accomplishments at Columbia include leading the development and staffing of an Academic Services Office to centralize and improve advising and tutoring. Wearden also helped create the position of dean of academic diversity, equity, and inclusion and co-led the engagement of the entire college leadership and all faculty and staff in a year-long series of intensive, two-day Undoing Racism workshops.

"We are convinced that, under Dr. Wearden's leadership, Methodist will continue to grow our undergraduate and graduate programs," Healy said, "while staying true to the traditions that have made Methodist University what is today."

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For Immediate Release

October 16, 2018

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FAYETTEVILLE, N.C. – Methodist University will add an online Master of Health Administration program to its curriculum beginning in the fall of 2019.

“Our new MHA program will meet a true community need for advanced training in health care management,” said Dr. Warren G. McDonald, professor and chair of the Department of Health Care Administration. “The quality of clinical care provided to a community reflects the quality of the direct care staff and the support they receive from the administrators and managers. The MHA at Methodist will contribute to improved health care in our community.”

The Master of Health Administration will be the school’s fifth master’s program.

An MHA is the preferred graduate degree for those who hold senior positions in the health care field. Letters of support for the online MHA program were submitted by Cape Fear Valley Health System, Southern Regional AHEC, First Health of the Carolinas, Veterans Administration, and many individual leaders within the regional health care community.

Students in the new program will bring a wealth of experience to the classes.

“These are motivated people who want to learn, advance in their careers, and who share a commitment to providing better health services to the patients,” McDonald said.

The program consists of about 18 months of online courses, as well as three weekends on the Methodist University campus. The first on-campus weekend takes place before the start of the online courses and provides students an orientation to the online learning environment. The second weekend will feature seminar presentations by senior health executives from throughout the region who will speak on current health management issues.

“Health care – particularly health care management – is in a period of rapid change and there are new challenges each day,” said Dr. Don Brady, lead faculty for the MHA program. “Our goal with the second weekend is to bring in top health care executives who are addressing the challenging issues and allow them to interact with our students. We foresee a weekend of formal and informal interactions between the students and the senior executives examining topics that are pressing and current.”

The final on-campus weekend will allow students to present their research and participate in graduation activities.

Additional information on the program is available at <http://www.methodist.edu/graduate-programs>.

### **About Methodist University**

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**methodist.edu**

For Immediate Release

October 25, 2018

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FAYETTEVILLE, N.C. – Dr. Delmas S. Crisp Jr., who twice stepped in to serve as interim president for Methodist University, announced his retirement Wednesday. Crisp has served as provost for the University since 2007.

“I have truly enjoyed my 12 years at Methodist and in the Fayetteville community and am proud of the quality of our academic, extra-curricular, and athletic programs,” Crisp said. “Methodist has a bright future ahead with the coming of its new president.”

Crisp previously served briefly as interim president following the retirement of President Elton Hendricks in 2010. Upon his arrival in 2011, Dr. Ben Hancock named Crisp executive vice president and then named him provost in 2017. He has been serving in the dual role of interim president and provost since Dr. Hancock retired as president May 31.

“Since arriving on campus, Del Crisp has taken on many roles – he has excelled at each position,” said Mac Healy, chairman of the Methodist University Board of Trustees. “Del’s dedication and commitment to Methodist is unmatched. We are a better place having had his leadership and knowledge.

“Methodist will forever be indebted for his selfless leadership,” Healy said. “He will be missed.”

Before joining the Methodist University staff, Crisp served as vice president for academic affairs, dean, chair and professor of English at Wesleyan College in Macon, Georgia. He has also served as head of the English department, director of freshman English and professor at Southeastern Louisiana University, Hammond, Louisiana.

Crisp earned his Ph.D. in British medieval and renaissance literature and linguistics, a master’s in British literature with emphasis in medieval literature, and a bachelor’s in English from the University of Southern Mississippi in Hattiesburg, Mississippi.

Crisp’s retirement will be effective Dec. 31. Incoming president Stanley T. Wearden takes office Jan. 1, 2019.

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For Immediate Release

Nov. 1, 2018

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**ACUSHNET CEO TO SPEAK AT METHODIST UNIVERSITY'S ANNUAL REEVES SCHOOL OF BUSINESS SYMPOSIUM AND AWARDS DINNER**

FAYETTEVILLE, N.C. – David Maher, president and CEO of Acushnet, manufacturer of two of golf's leading brands – Titleist and Foot-Joy – will be the keynote speaker at Methodist University's fourth annual Reeves School of Business Symposium and Awards Dinner. The event is scheduled for Thursday, Nov. 15, from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. at Embassy Suites, at 4760 Lake Valley Dr.

Nine awards will be 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, The Silver Spoon Award, the Small Business Excellence Award, the University Service Award, and the Friend of the Program Award.

For more information or to purchase a ticket to this event, contact Krista Lee at 910.630.7048, or [klee@methodist.edu](mailto:klee@methodist.edu). Tickets can also be purchased online through [methodist.edu/](http://methodist.edu/).

**About the awards**

The Alumni Business Person of the Year is a graduate of Methodist University who has shown promise for a successful career. The Business Person of the Year an executive who makes great contributions, not only to the successful operation of local business and industry, but also to the civic and cultural life of the community. 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. The Greater Good Award is given to a professional who has shown kindness, charity, humanity, love, and friendship to his/her associates. Outstanding Woman Entrepreneur is a North Carolina resident who owns, has established, or manages a small business. The award committee will also consider the individual's creativity, innovativeness, and personal contributions to and involvement with the community. 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. 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.

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For Immediate Release

Nov. 8, 2018

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**BLACK PANTHER ACTOR TEAMS UP WITH METHODIST UNIVERSITY  
STUDENTS TO HELP SCHOOLCHILDREN**

Cyrus Birch III, who plays a Jabari warrior in the Marvel Studios blockbuster movie “Black Panther,” will visit Margaret Willis Elementary School at 8:30 a.m. Wednesday, Nov. 14 to encourage children to pursue their dreams through education. Birch, who will share the story of the challenges he faced growing up in Charleston, South Carolina, will accompany Methodist University’s Campus Ministry and Community Engagement students, who volunteer on a weekly basis at Margaret Willis.

Birch will spend time on the Methodist University campus later in the day. He and the Rev. Kelli Taylor, Methodist University’s Vice President of Religious Life and Community Engagement, first became friends when he was a student and she was Chaplain at Spartanburg Methodist College in South Carolina. He went on to earn a degree in computer science at the University of North Carolina-Pembroke.

He has spent the past 12 years as a dropout prevention coordinator, behavioral interventionist, and youth advocate, as well as embarking on an acting career. He is the president of the nonprofit “Roses In Concrete,” which focuses on helping underserved youth.

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For Immediate Release

Nov. 27, 2018

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**WILKIE TO SERVE AS SPEAKER FOR METHODIST  
UNIVERSITY'S WINTER COMMENCEMENT**

The Hon. Robert L. Wilkie, Secretary of the Department of Veterans Affairs, will present the commencement address for Methodist University's 46<sup>th</sup> annual Winter Commencement Ceremony Dec. 15 at 10 a.m. in the Crown Arena. The University will award 219 graduate and undergraduate degrees at the ceremony.

Wilkie, a 1980 graduate of Fayetteville's Reid Ross High School, was confirmed as head of the VA in July after earlier serving as the VA's acting Secretary. He has over 20 years of experience at the national and international levels, including serving as Undersecretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness.

Wilkie, 56, holds an honors degree from Wake Forest University; Juris Doctor from Loyola University College of Law; Master of Laws in International and Comparative Law from Georgetown University; and a Masters in Strategic Studies from the United States Army War College.

Methodist University's Winter Commencement Ceremony also will include a speech by Distinguished Graduate Ieshia West, who was chosen by the graduating seniors, and the presentation of the Sam Edwards Award. The award is given to an outstanding MU at Night student and is determined by a faculty vote.

Following the University's tradition for a student who is the first MU graduate from his or her country, Abdul Rahman Alloush will present the flag of Syria, and Adam Kurbansho will present the flag of Tajikistan.

Hope Morgan Ward, Bishop of the United Methodist Church's North Carolina Conference, will deliver the baccalaureate sermon at 4 p.m. Friday, Dec. 14 in Methodist University's new Matthews Ministry Center Chapel.

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