



Office of University Relations

5400 Ramsey Street • Fayetteville, North Carolina 28311-1498

800.488.7110 ext. 7609 • 910.630.7609 • FAX 910.630.7683

methodist.edu

For Immediate Release

January 18, 2019

Media Contact:

Kim Hasty

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**METHODIST UNIVERSITY WELCOMES FEMALE
SWORDFISHING CAPTAIN FEATURED IN ‘PERFECT STORM’**

FAYETTEVILLE, N.C. — Best-selling author and female swordfishing captain Linda Greenlaw will be on the Methodist University campus the week of January 28 as a Woodrow Wilson Visiting Fellow. Greenlaw’s visit will include a Presidential Lecture Series talk, “Lessons From the Sea,” on Tuesday, January 29 at 7 p.m. in the Matthews Ministry Center. The lecture is free and open to the public. No tickets are required, but seating is on a first-come, first-served basis. A reception will follow.

The Presidential Lecture Series is one of the highlights of the Arts & Lecture Series, which is made possible through the generosity of community partners and individuals who have underwritten this program. The series welcomes accomplished artists, performers, authors and experts in a variety of subjects to the Methodist University campus. The series enriches the educational and cultural experience for students, faculty, staff, alumni and friends in the community and throughout the region. More events in the series can be found online at www.methodist.edu/arts-lectures.

Greenlaw was among those portrayed in the New York Times best-seller, “The Perfect Storm,” by Sebastian Junger, and in the subsequent movie that starred George Clooney, Mark Wahlberg, and Mary Elizabeth Mastrantonio as Greenlaw herself. As skipper of the Hannah Boden, she was the last person to communicate with companion ship the Andrea Gail, which was lost at sea during the massive 1991 storm.

“Not only is Greenlaw one of the only women in the business, she’s one of the best captains, period, on the entire East Coast,” Junger said.

Junger’s depiction of Greenlaw in “The Perfect Storm” led to invitations from major publishers that she write a book on her experiences. The result was her first best-seller, “The Hungry Ocean,” in 1999. She would go on to write four other best-selling nonfiction books about life as a commercial fisherman: “The Lobster Chronicles,” “All Fishermen Are Liars,” “Seaworthy,” and “Lifesaving Lessons,” as well as a series of mysteries: “Slipknot,” “Fisherman’s Bend,” “Shiver Hitch,” and her latest, “Bimini Twist.” She has also authored two cookbooks with her mother, Martha Greenlaw: “Recipes from a Very Small Island” and “The Maine Summers Cookbook.”

She was the winner of the U.S. Maritime Literature Award in 2003, and the New England Book Award for nonfiction in 2004. Greenlaw also has been featured in the Discovery Channel series *Swords: Life on the Line*.

She splits her time between Isle au Haut, Maine, and Surry, Maine, with her husband, boat builder Steve Wessel.

Besides the lecture, Greenlaw's schedule will consist of activities for the campus community, including classroom visits.

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

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 or facebook.com/MethodistUniversity.

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For Immediate Release

January 24, 2019

Media Contact:

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**METHODIST UNIVERSITY'S MCCUNE GALLERY HOSTS
WARHOL EXHIBIT**

FAYETTEVILLE, N.C. — The David McCune International Art Gallery at Methodist University will bring the genius of an icon to campus with “gallery goes POP: Warhol,” an exhibit of Andy Warhol silkscreen print masterworks, Feb. 7 through April 12.

The exhibit opens with a reception on Feb. 7 from 6:30 p.m. to 9 p.m. that is free and open to the public, though a \$10 donation is suggested. Nicole Dezelon, Assistant Director of Learning at The Andy Warhol Museum in Pittsburgh, will highlight the reception with a gallery talk at 7:15 p.m.

The Warhol exhibit is made possible in part by grants from the Cumberland County Tourism Development Authority and the Arts Council of Fayetteville/Cumberland County and through the sponsorship of the Methodist University Arts & Lecture Series, Wells Fargo, Bryan Honda, William Gillis, Janet Parks, and Terri S. Union. The 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 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 and March 4-11. Docents will be available for group tours with arrangements at least one week in advance. To arrange a group visit or a docent tour, contact Gallery Executive Director Silvana Foti at 910-630-7107.

About the McCune Gallery

The David McCune International Art Gallery is 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 have included Chagall’s “The Story of Exodus,” as well as the bronze sculptures of “Rodin: Portraits of a Lifetime, and “Picasso: 25 Years of Edition Ceramics from the Rosenbaum Collection.”

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For Immediate Release

January 25, 2019

Media Contact:

Kim Hasty

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910.630.7609

**METHODIST UNIVERSITY KICKS OFF 2019 LOYALTY
CAMPAIGN**

FAYETTEVILLE, N.C. - Devan Cox was a freshman at Methodist University when his mother was diagnosed with cancer four years ago. He was afraid he might have to put his college career on hold, but funds raised through the school's annual Loyalty Campaign for Student Scholarships proved instrumental.

"She wasn't able to work," Cox said of his mother. "So the scholarships have meant the world to me."

The 64th annual campaign begins Tuesday, Jan. 29, with a goal of raising \$210,000 to help students such as Devan, who's now a senior serving as the school's student body president and set to graduate in May. The campaign culminates with a celebration that will be held on Feb. 26 on the Methodist University campus. In the month leading up to the celebration, 120 community volunteers will personally reach out to more than 1,500 individuals and businesses in our community to ask them to make a gift to the Loyalty Campaign for Student Scholarships.

Though the main fundraising efforts for the Loyalty Campaign are conducted in the month leading up to and weeks following Feb. 26, a gift may be made year-round to the Loyalty Campaign.

This year's Loyalty Campaign chair is George Breece, executive director of the National Association for Advancement of Orthotics and Prosthetics. His wife, Dr. Dena Breece, is a Methodist University alumna and professor in the Reeves School of Business. The Breeces are longtime Methodist University supporters; George Breece remembers seeing his dad write checks to Methodist. He has continued to support the school both as a way to honor his father and to help the university in its mission.

"I am honored to serve as the 2019 Loyalty Campaign Chair and to promote the importance of making an excellent education attainable for deserving students," George Breece said. "Contributing to the Loyalty Campaign is a sound investment to make in the lives of these talented young people who represent our future."

The the Loyalty Campaign was originally about raising funds to help the college operate, but 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 such as the ones funded through the Loyalty

Campaign. In the 2017-2018 academic year, the university awarded \$24 million in scholarships and financial aid to students.

Donations to the Loyalty Campaign can be made at <https://www.methodist.edu/giving> or by phone at 910-630-7200 or 800-488-7100, ext.7200 or by mail to Office of Advancement and Alumni Affairs, Methodist University, 5400 Ramsey Street, Fayetteville, NC 28311-1498.

About Methodist University

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For Immediate Release

Jan. 30, 2019

Media Contact:

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**CIVIL RIGHTS ICON RUBY BRIDGES TO SPEAK AT METHODIST
UNIVERSITY'S SPRING CONVOCATION**

FAYETTEVILLE, N.C. — Wearing a white cardigan, ruffled socks and carrying a plaid satchel at her side, 6-year-old Ruby Bridges walked past an angry crowd and into history on the morning of Nov. 14, 1960.

Six years after *Brown v. Board of Education* had mandated school desegregation, Ruby Bridges would become the first African-American child to break the school color barrier in the South. Accompanied by her mother and four federal marshals, she made her way up the steps of New Orleans' William Franz Elementary School to pave the way for lasting change and become an icon of the civil rights movement.

Bridges, now 64 and the mother of four, will deliver this year's Spring Convocation address to the student body at Methodist University. The event is scheduled for 11 a.m. on Feb. 11 in Huff Concert Hall in the Reeves Fine Arts Complex.

"We are honored that Ruby Bridges will be speaking on our campus," said Methodist University President Dr. Stanley T. Wearden. "Her moral courage and clarity as a leader in the struggle to ensure equal civil rights for all Americans extends back to her childhood and serves as an inspiration and a call to action for us all."

Bridges, a lifelong activist for racial equality, spent most of her first-grade year at William Frantz Elementary without the company of other children, as many parents refused to allow their children to attend school with her. Only one person, Barbara Henry, would agree to be her teacher.

As an adult, Bridges established The Ruby Bridges Foundation to promote tolerance and create change through education. She was depicted in a 1964 Norman Rockwell painting entitled "The Problem We All Live With," that was inspired by her pioneering role in achieving social justice. She was invited to the White House in 2011, where she met with President Barack Obama. A copy of the Rockwell painting was displayed for several months in the West Wing of the White House, just outside the Oval Office.

Bridges is the subject of the song "Ruby's Shoes," by folk singer Lori McKenna, and her childhood struggle at William Frantz Elementary School was portrayed in the 1998 made-for-TV movie "Ruby Bridges" and in the children's book "The Story of Ruby Bridges."

About The Event

Methodist University is pleased to invite members of the press to convocation. Per Ruby Bridges' contract, press will not be allowed to record or take photos during the event. The event will be followed by a book signing, where members of the press are free to interview students and take photos.

Media representatives should bring their press badges to present upon entry to campus, and are required to RSVP to Kim Hasty at khasty@methodist.edu.

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For Immediate Release

March 12, 2019

Media Contact:

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**METHODIST UNIVERSITY TO DEDICATE UNION-ZUKOWSKI LOBBY;
HOSTS INTERNATIONALLY RECOGNIZED SPEAKER**

FAYETTEVILLE, NC — Methodist University will host a ribbon-cutting and dedication ceremony Wednesday, March 13, 2019 at 5:30 p.m. for the Union-Zukowski Lobby and Gallery. The Union-Zukowski Lobby and Gallery, made possible by a gift from Terri Union and the late Carlos Zukowski, connects Huff Concert Hall with Matthews Ministry Center in the Reeves Fine Arts Complex. The Union-Zukowski Lobby and Gallery will be used as a site for meetings, receptions, dinners, and gatherings.

The evening also will include a guest speaker brought to the campus through the Union-Zukowski Endowment for Multicultural Understanding. Internationally recognized human rights leader Arn Chorn-Pond, founder of Cambodian Living Arts, will speak at 7 p.m. in the Physician Assistant Medical Lecture Hall on the subject “Child of War, Man of Peace.”

Chorn-Pond is a Cambodian-American refugee and is the subject of the critically acclaimed book, “Never Fall Down.” Chorn-Pond also was featured in the Emmy-nominated documentary, “The Flute Player.” He lives in Cambodia, where he continues to be chief advocate of Cambodian Living Arts, supporting elder Cambodian musicians and artists to pass on their invaluable practices to the younger generation.

Admission is free and open to the public. A light reception will follow.

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For Immediate Release

March 22, 2019

Media Contact:

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**METHODIST UNIVERSITY TO HOST 23RD ANNUAL
B.F. STONE ENDOWED LYCEUM**

Methodist University announces that Dr. Scott Robertson, professor of biology, will present “The Biology of Monogamy” during the 23rd annual B.F. Stone Endowed Lyceum Thursday, March 28 at 7 p.m. in the Medical Lecture Hall in the Physician Assistant complex. The event is free and open to the public.

Every spring, a scholarly project from Methodist University’s faculty is chosen to be presented at the Lyceum, a special lecture event. The B.F. Stone Lyceum consists of a lecture, two responses, and a question-and-answer period. Its mission is to foster scholarly interaction among faculty, students, and the community.

Dr. Matt Dobra, associate professor of financial economics, and Dr. Kevin Hoffman, assistant professor of philosophy and religion will present this year’s response.

The B.F. Stone Endowed Lyceum was created to foster scholarly interaction among faculty, students, and the larger community.

In this talk, Robertson will detail what we know to be the driving factors behind romantic love and attachment and provide evidence that reproductive strategy is highly plastic in individual mammals.

“Moreover, I will show that individuals change their reproductive strategy based on the resource landscape in which they exist,” he said. “Taken together, my data provides empirical evidence that resources drive monogamous behavior in mammals.”

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For Immediate Release

March 26, 2019

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**‘INCREDIBLE ACT OF GENEROSITY’: \$100,000 DONATION
FOR METHODIST UNIVERSITY ENDOWED SCHOLARSHIP HONORS
LOUISE AND JIM WILKINS**

FAYETTEVILLE — More than six decades ago, even before a single brick was placed toward the construction of a college in the midst of the cotton fields along Ramsey Street, Louise and Jim Wilkins could envision the future significance of Methodist University.

He was a hard-working farmer, and she was a dedicated schoolteacher. They wrote a check to help with the fledgling building fund for the school that was chartered in 1956.

Heriot Wilkins, a longtime banker and real estate developer, honored his parents’ legacy and their belief in the importance of education with a \$100,000 donation to Methodist University on March 15. The donation will go toward an endowed scholarship in their names.

“They were among the first to help in the construction of Methodist College,” Heriot Wilkins said. “I’m just really proud of the school and what it’s become.”

Heriot Wilkins graduated from Linden School in 1953, about 5 miles from the Methodist University campus. He attended North Carolina State University, where he majored in agricultural education. He remembers the difficulties of balancing his education with trying to make ends meet.

“I worked in the cafeteria making a dollar an hour,” he said. “I hope this donation will help students who couldn’t otherwise afford to go to college.”

His son, Meredith, a 1993 Methodist University graduate who is also a banker, accompanied his father to campus to present the check to President Stan Wearden.

“This is an incredible act of generosity,” Wearden said. “It will keep your parents’ memory alive for years to come.”

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From: Kimberlee Hasty
To: Kimberlee Hasty
BC Arleen Fields
Date: 3/27/2019 11:02 AM
Subject: \$100,000 donation to Methodist University
Attachments: wilkins donation.jpeg; Wilkins donation.docx

Please see attached for release and photo regarding a donation made to Methodist University.

Caption:

Methodist University President Stan Wearden thanks Heriot Wilkins for his \$100,000 donation to the school on March 15. The donation will go toward an endowed scholarship in the name of Wilkins' parents, Louise and Jim Wilkins. (Methodist University/Jason Canady)

Kim Hasty

Director of University Relations
Methodist University
910-630-7609





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For Immediate Release

March 28, 2019

Media Contact:

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**METHODIST UNIVERSITY OFFERS LIFE-SAVING STOP THE BLEED
TRAINING**

FAYETTEVILLE — According to the American College of Surgeons Committee on Trauma, the general public can be as instrumental as professional first responders in preventing death from uncontrollable bleeding.

On Friday, March 29, Methodist University will offer four workshops through the national Stop the Bleed initiative. The program is intended to cultivate grassroots efforts that encourage bystanders to become trained and equipped to help in a bleeding emergency before professional help arrives. The sessions, which are free and open to the public, are scheduled for 8 a.m., 10 a.m., noon and 2 p.m. in the PA Auditorium in the Medical Lecture Hall on campus. Those interested in learning the lifesaving techniques — which include learning to control bleeding with your hands, dressings, and tourniquets — only need to attend one of the sessions to become certified. Each session also will include active shooter training, as well as a realistic, simulated emergency.

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For Immediate Release

April 10, 2019

Media Contact:

Kim Hasty

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METHODIST UNIVERSITY'S WRITING CENTER PRESENTS 'EXPLORING YOUR ERRONEOUS ZONES: WHY FACT-CHECKING MATTERS'

At a time when misinformation seems to be bombarding us from all directions, Methodist University's Writing Center presents "Exploring Your Erroneous Zones: Why Fact-Checking Matters," Thursday, April 11 at 6:30 p.m. in the Physician Assistant Medical Lecture Hall. The presentation is free and open to the public. A reception will follow.

Dr. Mark Kline, chair of the psychology department; Dr. Kevin Swift, chair of the mass communications department; Archives Librarian Arleen Fields; and Director of University Relations Kim Hasty will discuss the topics of confirmation bias and the danger of failing to check the facts before we buy into today's headlines.

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For Immediate Release

April 25, 2019

Media Contact:

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Methodist University Senior Lindsey Pritchard Is One of Top Two Female Army ROTC Cadets in the Country

Methodist University senior Lindsey Pritchard has been selected as one of two recipients of the Women's Army Corps Veterans Association's Pallas Athene Award. The award is given annually to the top two outstanding female senior Army ROTC Cadets in the country. Pritchard was selected from over 6,000 seniors nationwide.

"She's a fantastic cadet," said Kyle Daniels, an assistant professor of military science at Methodist University. "She never backs down from a challenge, and it's fun to watch her work. I'm excited to see where she goes in the future. She has served her school and the ROTC program with distinction throughout the past four years."

Pritchard leads a formation of approximately 250 cadets as the Cadet Battalion Commander for the Campbell Battalion ROTC program, which consists of Methodist University, Fayetteville State University, Campbell University, and the University of North Carolina at Pembroke.

Pritchard consistently excels academically, athletically, and in leadership positions, serving as a role model to cadets and students alike. She will graduate Methodist University summa cum laude May 4 with a bachelor of arts in Spanish, a bachelor of science in environmental and occupational management, and a minor in military science with a 4.0 GPA. As a member of the varsity cross country and track and field teams, she was named the MU Female Scholar Athlete of the Year award for three consecutive years. Ranking among the top 10 percent of cadets in the nation, she was also designated a Distinguished Military Graduate. She also participates in a variety of other extracurricular and volunteer activities, serving in many leadership roles.

Pritchard will continue to serve her nation and demonstrate her varied talents and humble servant leadership as an active duty Army officer in the engineer branch upon graduation and commissioning.

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methodist.edu

For Immediate Release
April 26, 2019

Media Contact:
Kim Hasty
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**U.S. COURT OF APPEALS JUDGE TO ADDRESS METHODIST UNIVERSITY
GRADUATES AT 56TH ANNUAL COMMENCEMENT**

United States Court of Appeals Judge Robert B. King will address this year's graduates at Methodist University's 56th annual Spring Commencement Ceremony on Saturday, May 4 at 10 a.m. in the Crown Coliseum. There are currently 283 candidates for graduation.

As part of the ceremony, the University will confer an honorary Doctor of Humane Letters degree to Judge King, who was appointed by President Bill Clinton in 1998. King sits on the Fourth Circuit in Richmond, Virginia. In his 21 years on the court, he has authored hundreds of opinions, many of which address complex constitutional and criminal law issues.

The ceremony also will include the commissioning of ROTC cadets and a speech by this year's Distinguished Graduate, Lindsey Pritchard, who was 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, Safar "Adam" Kurbansho will present the flag of Tajikistan, Tehillah Chinunga will present the flag of Malawi, and Oxie Itoua will present the flag of the Republic of Congo.

The Rev. Dr. Judy Chung, executive director of missionary service of the General Board of Global Ministries of The United Methodist Church, will deliver the Baccalaureate address at 4 p.m. on Friday, May 3, in Matthews Chapel in the Matthews Ministry Center.

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MU Men Take Top Honor, Methodist Second Overall in USA South's President's Cup

May 1, 2019

The USA South Athletic Conference announced May 1 that Methodist University is the winner for the second consecutive year of the men's President Cup, awarded to the league's top program. The men's and women's teams also combined to finish second overall for the second straight year, and the Monarch women's teams finished third in their conference Cup standings.

Monarch women's teams finished third in their conference Cup standings. Including the 2000-01 Cup results, Methodist has finished no lower than second place, leading the pack in 2013-14, 2014-15 and 2015-16. There was no combined men's and women's Cup in 2004-05 when Methodist finished atop the men's standings.

In the 2018-19 overall Cup race the Monarchs accumulated 111 points, trailing only the 133 points accrued by Cup champion Piedmont College.

Maryville (Tenn.) College and North Carolina Wesleyan College tied for third place with 88 points. Buoyed by second-place regular-season finishes from baseball, men's basketball (East Division) golf, lacrosse, and tennis (East), the Monarch men tallied 60.0 points to finish ahead of runner-up Piedmont (56.5) and third-place N.C. Wesleyan (50.0).

Methodist captured the men's Cup in 2017-18 after a two-year hiatus from the top rung of the ladder, winning the men's Cup in 2014-15 and 2013-14. It also claimed the men's Cup in 2004-05 and 2005-06. Piedmont earned top honors in the women's Cup race, garnering 76.5 points to out-pace runner-up Meredith College (56.6 points) and the Methodist women (51.0).

Monarch women's teams qualified four programs — lacrosse, soccer, tennis and volleyball — for USA South conference tournaments after earning a regular-season second-place (East) finish in tennis and third-place finishes in cross country and outdoor track & field.

Makayla Lawler of women's cross country added individual champion points to the women's Cup totals.

[Archivist's note: From the MU website.]

Dancy Chosen to Participate in Seminar on Ancient Greece

May 8, 2019



Methodist University is pleased to announce that Morgan Dancy, Instructor of English, is one of a select group of faculty members nationwide chosen by the Council of Independent Colleges (CIC) and Harvard University's Center for Hellenic Studies to participate in an Ancient Greece in the Modern Classroom seminar, "The Ancient Greek Hero."

CIC and the Center for Hellenic Studies recently selected 20 faculty members out of 42 highly competitive nominations to participate in the seminar, which will take place July 25–29, 2019, at Harvard University's Center for Hellenic Studies campus in Washington, DC. Gregory Nagy, Francis Jones Professor of Classical Greek Literature and professor of comparative literature at Harvard University, and Kenneth Scott Morrell, associate professor of Greek and Roman studies at Rhodes College, will lead the seminar. The program is generously funded by the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation.

"Strengthening the teaching of the classics at colleges and universities is of critical importance. This seminar series addresses the challenge of keeping alive in undergraduate education classical texts that generations ago were read and understood by every college graduate," said CIC President Richard Ekman. "We believe that Morgan Dancy will contribute to the seminar in meaningful ways and learn much that will energize teaching when she returns home."

Designed primarily for non-specialists, the seminar will explore what it means to be human. The organizing principle will be the study of a model of humanity, the *hērōs* (hero), as it can be reconstructed by way of textual evidence attesting to myths and rituals from throughout the ancient Greek-speaking world. Beginning with the Homeric poems, the seminar also will engage with works of Sappho, Herodotus, Hesiod, Aeschylus, Sophocles, Euripides, and Plato, providing participants who teach in a variety of disciplines with approaches to integrate the literature of ancient Greece into a wide range of courses.

For more than ten years, CIC has collaborated with the Center for Hellenic Studies to provide seminars on teaching the classics for small and mid-sized independent colleges that have a limited number of faculty members or courses in the classics. The seminar is ideal for faculty members who have been trained in other disciplines and who seek opportunities to explore major classical texts and learn new ways to teach these texts to undergraduates.

For more information, visit the CIC website at www.cic.edu/AncientGreece.



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For Immediate Release

June 6, 2019

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NOVEL BY METHODIST UNIVERSITY PROFESSOR RELEASED

Light Messages Publishing recently released “The Shelf Life of Fire,” a novel by Methodist University English and writing professor Robin Greene. The novel, the first in a planned trilogy, explores gender identity, female sexuality, and the courage required to examine one’s life. The novel takes place in present-day North Carolina but looks back to the turbulent 60s and early 70s of New York City.

Greene, who is also director of the Methodist University Writing Center, publishes regularly in literary journals, and her collection of birthing narratives, “Real Birth: Women Share Their Stories,” is available on Amazon. Greene teaches yoga and offers an annual women’s writing, meditation, and yoga retreat in Mexico. She has presented over a hundred workshops, readings, and presentations. Greene is available for author visits, book club discussions, readings, and workshops.

About Methodist University

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For Immediate Release

June 17, 2019

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**METHODIST UNIVERSITY'S HOGGE AWARDED DIRECTOR EMERITUS
STATUS AS HE MOVES INTO NEW ROLE**

FAYETTEVILLE – With a paper roadmap folded on the dashboard of a rental car, Jerry Hogge logged hundreds of miles in a three-week span up and down the East Coast to spread the word about Methodist University’s emergent professional golf management program.

That was in 1988, more than 30 summers ago.

“I went from here to Portland, Maine,” he said. “I was on Long Island, in New Jersey, in Delaware, and Virginia. I visited just about every kid we had that summer doing internships. I knew that if I kept going, those professionals at those clubs would tell other people about Methodist. And they did.”

Since then, the program has graduated more than 1,100 students, each of whom has landed a job in the industry. Methodist University alumni now lead some of the most prestigious courses in the world, from Baltusrol Golf Club in New York, site of the 2016 PGA Championship, to Oakmont Country Club in Pittsburgh, site of the 2016 U.S. Open. In 1999, the program earned accreditation from the PGA of America, meaning that each graduate who accepts a position in the golf industry is awarded PGA membership.

After 32 years as the program’s director, Hogge is stepping aside to take on a new role for the school. Methodist’s Board of Trustees named him Director Emeritus at its May meeting. For Hogge, the board voted to waive the stipulation that the emeritus designation be awarded only upon retirement.

“The Director Emeritus title is awarded in gratitude for Jerry's many years of dedicated and excellent work,” said Methodist University President Stan Wearden. “Jerry and the team of faculty and staff he assembled have elevated the program to national prominence as one of the country's most respected PGM programs. Graduates for decades have worked at many of the top golf clubs and courses in the United States.”

Bob Bruns, associate director of the program, will take over as director. Bruns has been with the program since 2005.

Hogge, 72, will continue to advise students and teach classes, but he will turn his focus to fundraising to support facility enhancements for the program. Hogge also plans to support recruiting, development, and alumni relations.

“During his tenure, Jerry has added immeasurable value to the PGM program and the University,” said Dena Breece, interim dean and associate dean of the Reeves School of Business, who wrote the nomination. “He has led our students through the academic aspects, as well as the practical experiences that make our PGM program so successful.

“Jerry has fostered relationships with countless golf clubs throughout the United States, as well as Mexico and Canada,” Breece said. “As a result, our students have guaranteed success in the industry as evidenced by the program’s 100 percent internship and job placement statistics.”

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For Immediate Release

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**RETIRED METHODIST UNIVERSITY PROFESSOR AWARDED FACULTY
EMERITUS STATUS**

Methodist University's Board of Trustees recently awarded Darl H. Champion Sr. Faculty Emeritus status. Champion, who helped establish the University's Criminal Justice Program and Masters of Justice Administration, retired in December, 2018 as a tenured professor within the School of Public Affairs.

"It is only fitting to honor Dr. Champion with the Faculty Emeritus distinction, the pinnacle of faculty service at Methodist University," said George Hendricks, Dean of Methodist University's School of Public Affairs. "Darl is true green and gold. He devoted the last 26 years in selfless service to Methodist University. Darl is a skilled and caring teacher, an active community and campus leader, and a Criminal Justice scholar."

Champion earned his master's degree in criminal justice from the University of South Carolina and a doctorate in adult education with a minor in public administration from North Carolina State University. In 2004 he was named Professor of the Year at Methodist University. He served 10 years as a member of the North Carolina Criminal Justice Education and Training Standards Commission.

"Dr. Champion leaves a lasting legacy of service to Methodist University that will remain strong for many years to come," Hendricks said. "I am honored to call Darl a colleague and friend. I have the highest admiration for his work and his commitment to our institution."

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For Immediate Release

June 24, 2019

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**CUMBERLAND COMMUNITY FOUNDATION AWARDS GRANT
FOR METHODIST UNIVERSITY'S SHELTON LEADERSHIP CHALLENGE**

FAYETTEVILLE, N.C. - Methodist University has been awarded a \$2,030 grant from the Brownie Dickson Schaefer Memorial Fund for Youth of Cumberland Community Foundation, Inc. in support of the Shelton Leadership Challenge. The grant will go to help with tuition for the camp for at least three 2019 Shelton Leadership Challenge participants and to support an intensive leadership development field trip during the camp. This year's camp is scheduled July 14-19.

The Shelton Leadership Challenge is a one-week summer residential experience for high school students hosted on the Methodist University campus. The Shelton Challenge is designed to help students expand their knowledge of the skills needed to be an effective leader. Gen. Hugh Shelton's cornerstones of values-based leadership – honesty, integrity, compassion, diversity, and social responsibility – are the foundations of the experience.

Campers are assigned to one of three teams for the week in which they gain experience in leadership exercises, team building, leadership styles and situations, social responsibility, integrity as a leader, public speaking, changing behaviors, and goal setting.

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Aug. 1, 2019

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**ARTS COUNCIL GRANT HELPS BRING WORLD-CLASS
MUSICIANS TO METHODIST UNIVERSITY**

FAYETTEVILLE, N.C. — Methodist University recently received a Project Support grant from the Arts Council of Fayetteville/Cumberland County. The Arts Council awarded a \$3,850 grant for the 11th annual Friends of Music Guest Artist Series, a series of evening concerts and free school workshops.

The 2019-2020 Guest Artists visits are:

- Friday, Sept. 13 – Violinist Arta Prekadini, a native of Kosovo, performs internationally as well as locally with the Fayetteville Symphony Orchestra, Carolina Philharmonic, and Union Symphony Orchestra. Prekadini will perform at 7:30 p.m. in Hensdale Chapel on campus.

- Friday, Oct. 25 – Flutist Krizstina Dér is an award-winning musician and music teacher, a product of UNC institutions, and current member of Fayetteville Symphony Orchestra. Dér will perform at 7:30 p.m. in Linda and Ralph Huff Concert Hall.

- Friday, Feb. 7, 2020 – Mezzo-soprano Taylor Raven, currently with the LA Opera and Los Angeles Philharmonic, is a graduate of UNC Chapel Hill. She will perform at 7:30 p.m. in the Matthews Ministry Center.

- Friday, March 13, 2020 – Flower City Brass, a brass chamber quintet out of New York, includes Brett Copeland (tuba), Steve Felix (trumpet), Dean Oaks (trumpet and Fayetteville native), Sara Petokas (horn), and Tyler Simms (trombone). The quintet will perform at 7:30 p.m. in Matthews Ministry Center.

All the performers will offer a free workshop, open to the public, in Hensdale Chapel on campus at 11 a.m. on the day of their concert, as well as a free workshop for students in kindergarten through eighth grade who attend The Capitol Encore Academy in downtown Fayetteville.

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

Project Support Grants, like the one awarded to the Methodist University Friends of Music, aim to increase opportunities for access to arts and science, as well as cultural and historical programming in the Cumberland County area. Project Support Grants may be

awarded to non-profit agencies in Cumberland County that demonstrate financial and administrative stability.

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For Immediate Release

Aug. 2, 2019

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**METHODIST UNIVERSITY, UNCP PARTNERSHIP WILL ENCOURAGE
DIVERSITY IN HEALTH PROFESSION PROGRAMS**

FAYETTEVILLE – Methodist University’s Physician Assistant Program announces that it has entered into an articulation agreement with The University of North Carolina at Pembroke designed to strengthen the program’s goal of encouraging diversity in the health professions programs.

“This agreement that promotes American Indians to pursue a PA degree couldn’t come at a better time for UNC Pembroke and Robeson County,” said UNCP Chancellor Robin Gary Cummings. “Partnering with Methodist is an innovative approach to addressing longstanding health care challenges in southeastern North Carolina by educating more in-demand providers. This highly competitive program will create an important pathway for our students to make a difference right here at home.”

Christina Perry, director of Methodist University’s PA program, said the school, through the agreement, will reserve a maximum of two seats in the program for qualified UNCP graduates who are identified as American Indians, beginning with the Class of 2023.

“We are excited and honored to be affiliated with UNCP,” Perry said. “We have actively recruited students from Robeson County and UNCP for many years. Students from UNCP have been outstanding and well-prepared for our rigorous program, then have returned to their community after graduation to fill the needs of the medically underserved. We look forward to the many positive outcomes that this partnership will provide for students and the local community.”

The agreement stems from Methodist University PA Program’s efforts to increase diversity in recruiting and to support a Health Resources and Services Administration grant the program received in 2016. Throughout the funding period, which ends this year, the grant has provided \$1.59 million toward 32 scholarships for accepted PA students from underrepresented backgrounds and who have demonstrated financial need.

Leslie Lovette was the single mother of a toddler when she entered Methodist University’s Physician Assistant program in 2012. She graduated in 2014 and returned to Robeson County, where she works with Robeson Health Care Corp.

Perry said the program often credits Lovette with inspiring the other American Indian students who followed her.

"I think the partnership between the Methodist University PA Program and UNCP is awesome," Lovette said. "Thanks to both of these institutions, I was able to become a physician assistant without relocating from my home in Robeson County. Both schools are passionate about improving healthcare resources around this area as well as increasing availability of higher education to native students."

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About UNC Pembroke

Established in 1887 as a normal school to train American Indian teachers, UNC Pembroke today has an enrollment of more than 7,100 in 41 undergraduate and 17 graduate programs. UNCP is a constituent institution of the University of North Carolina System. For more information, contact Mark Locklear, Public Communications Specialist with University Communications and Marketing, at mark.locklear@uncp.edu or at 910-521-6351. Connect with UNC Pembroke on social media or online at uncp.edu to learn how the university is changing lives through education.

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SWANSON JOINS METHODIST UNIVERSITY AS VICE PRESIDENT FOR INSTITUTIONAL ADVANCEMENT

FAYETTEVILLE, N.C. – Methodist University announces that it has named Greg Swanson as Vice President for Institutional Advancement and Senior Counsel. Swanson, who was selected after a national search, earned a Juris Doctor from Creighton University School of Law and a bachelor's degree from Creighton University. He has two decades of experience in higher education and most recently served as Vice President for College Relations and General Counsel at Belmont Abbey College in Belmont.

“We are delighted that Greg Swanson is joining our leadership team,” Methodist University President Dr. Stan Wearden said. “Greg brings to us a wealth of experience and deep expertise in university advancement and philanthropy. He has a reputation for collegiality and a high level of professionalism and ethical practice. We look forward to his transformative leadership as we continue our efforts to help Methodist University thrive now and in the future.”

At Belmont Abbey, Swanson served as chief development officer since 2012, overseeing all giving programs and successfully launching a \$27 million capital campaign. He helped the school exceed the record for leadership level gifts. He also served as chief institutional legal officer, providing oversight, direction, and counsel to the governing board and the administration regarding compliance issues and external litigation.

“I look forward to working with Dr. Wearden to continue building a culture of philanthropy in support of the mission of Methodist University,” Swanson said. “It is a privilege to join an outstanding team dedicated to making the University a place for students to experience an exceptional liberal arts education.”

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For Immediate Release
Aug. 9, 2019

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**METHODIST UNIVERSITY WELCOMES NEW STUDENTS
TO ORIENTATION**

FAYETTEVILLE – Methodist University will welcome 550 new students, including 373 freshmen, when New Student Orientation begins on Thursday, Aug. 15. 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. 19.

Among those on hand to greet the students and their families Thursday will be first-year president Dr. Stan Wearden. Campus and community volunteers, many from area churches, will be available to help students move into their residence halls.

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, Huff Concert Hall
8:30-10 p.m. Thursday	Mentalist Craig Karges, Huff Concert Hall
2:30-4 p.m. Friday	University Fair, March F. Riddle Athletic Center
8-10:30 p.m. Friday	Monarch Madness (part 1), Berns Student Center
7 -10:30 p.m. Saturday	Monarch Madness (part 2), outdoor basketball court
9:30-10:30 a.m. Sunday	Orientation chapel service, Matthews Ministry Center

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For Immediate Release

Sept. 4, 2019

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**METHODIST UNIVERSITY TO INAUGURATE ITS FIFTH
PRESIDENT, DR. STANLEY T. WEARDEN**

FAYETTEVILLE, N.C. — Methodist University will host the Inauguration Ceremony of its fifth President, Dr. Stanley T. Wearden, Saturday, Sept. 14 at 10 a.m. in Huff Concert Hall. The event will be the culmination of a week-long celebration of Dr. Wearden's arrival on the Methodist University campus and in the community.

The ceremony will include performances by the Methodist University Chorale, conducted by Dr. Michael Martin; as well as performances by the 82nd Airborne Division All-American Chorus, and a combined performance by the Methodist University Band, under the direction of Dr. Daniel McCloud, and the 82nd Airborne Division All American Band, directed by Capt. Darrin Thiriot.

Dr. Wearden will also be on hand to greet those attending Saturday's 1 p.m. home football game against Guilford College. The pre-game festivities will feature a performance by the All Veteran Parachute Demonstration Team.

Dr. Wearden will open the week by reading from the children's favorite "Flat Stanley" to students at Margaret Willis Elementary School. The week also will include a student-led celebration dubbed "Stan Fest" Thursday evening and the opening reception of "12 Women Twelve Voices" at the David McCune International Art Gallery on the Methodist University campus.

Wearden assumed his duties Jan. 1, 2019, marking his return to North Carolina, where he earned a doctorate in Mass Communication Research from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill in 1987. He previously served as Senior Vice President and Provost of Columbia College Chicago from 2014-2018.

He 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. He holds the rank of professor emeritus at Kent State.

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.

Wearden earned a bachelor's degree in English from Wheeling Jesuit University in West Virginia in 1975 and a Master of Science in Journalism from West Virginia University in 1981. His wife, Deborah Davis, is working on a second master's degree, this one a Master of Divinity at Chicago Theological Seminary. The family includes five children and two grandchildren.

Inauguration Week activities open to the public include:

- Wednesday, 11 a.m., Matthews Chapel: A sermon entitled "Finding (and Keeping) the Good Life" by Dr. Elton Hendricks. Dr. Hendricks retired in 2010 after 27 years as Methodist University's president.
- Wednesday, 6 p.m., Matthews Chapel: "Methodist Talks: Faculty Voices," followed by a reception.
- Thursday, 6:30 p.m., David McCune International Art Gallery: "12 Women Twelve Voices" Opening Reception and Gallery Talk.

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Sept. 10, 2019

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**METHODIST UNIVERSITY'S DAVIS MEMORIAL LIBRARY PRESENTS
"LETTERS FROM THE BATTLEFIELD"**

FAYETTEVILLE, N.C. - As part of Fayetteville's annual Lafayette Birthday Celebration, Davis Memorial Library at Methodist University presents "Letters from the Battlefield" on Friday, Sept. 13. The event will feature the hand-written correspondence of two young men who fought for liberty in wars 200 years apart, including Fayetteville's namesake, The Marquis de Lafayette.

A reception begins at 5:30 p.m. with the program following at 6 p.m. The event is free of charge and open to the public. It will highlight de Lafayette, who risked his life to fight for the cause of American freedom during the Revolutionary War, as well as Fayetteville native William "Bill" Mitchell Shaw III, who made the ultimate sacrifice on a battlefield in France.

The program will narrate the lives of both young men through the letters they wrote home. Shaw's sister, Gillie Shaw Revelle, will talk about the importance of the letters he wrote to his family back home.

Note: This program was originally scheduled for Sept. 6 as part of the "Arias & Artifacts" program and concert. The concert was held as scheduled; the library program was rescheduled due to Methodist University's closure during Hurricane Dorian.

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For Immediate Release

Sept. 19, 2019

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**METHODIST UNIVERSITY WELCOMES ‘PHANTOM OF THE OPERA’
ACTRESS**

FAYETTEVILLE – Methodist University invites the public to “, Wednesday, Sept. 25 at 7 p.m. on campus in Matthews Chapel. There is no admission charge.

Bryant, a native of South Carolina, has performed the role of Christine Daae in Andrew Lloyd Webber’s “The Phantom of the Opera” on Broadway, and in Switzerland and Toronto, and on the U.S. National Tour. She is the only actress to have returned to Broadway to play all three leading roles - Christine, Carlotta, and Madame Giry – in the award-winning musical. Bryant, who grew up singing in church, is expected to perform Broadway numbers as well as favorite hymns.

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Oct. 2, 2019

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TALLY LEADERSHIP CENTER HOSTS GEN. RODNEY ANDERSON

FAYETTEVILLE, N.C. – Methodist University’s Lura S. Tally Center for Leadership Development and the MU Journey will host retired Army Maj. Gen. Rodney Anderson Monday, Oct. 7 at 11 a.m. in Huff Concert Hall. Anderson, who retired in 2012 after 33 years of service, will speak on the topic of “Values-Based Leadership.” The event is free and open to the public.

Anderson is a native of Elloree, S.C., whose military career included combat deployments to Grenada, the Gulf War and Afghanistan. He served as deputy commander of the 18th Airborne Corps and Fort Bragg, director of Army force management at the Pentagon, deputy commander of the 82nd Airborne Division, executive assistant to the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, and commander of the 25th Division Artillery.

Methodist University’s Lura S. Tally Center for Leadership Development was founded in 1995 to provide leadership training for students of the University. The Tally Center focuses on helping students develop their leadership potential so they can lead lives of purpose and contribution.

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METHODIST UNIVERSITY HOSTS RACISM AWARENESS WORKSHOP

FAYETTEVILLE, N.C. – “Organizing Against Racism Groundwater Training,” a workshop designed to address the often subtle, yet harmful patterns of behavior that lead to disparity and disproportionality, is scheduled Oct. 19 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. in the Matthews Ministry Center on the Methodist University campus. Registration and continental breakfast begin at 8:15 a.m.

The event, the first of its kind in Fayetteville, is open to the public. To register, contact Dr. Carla Fagan at cfagan@methodist.edu, at 910-630-7699, or at 347-452-8678. The \$25 registration fee includes lunch and training materials.

Gregory Weeks, who served as a Superior Court Judge in Cumberland County for 24 years and now works with various boards and causes dedicated to addressing racial and ethnic disparities, said the workshop may spark difficult, but important conversations.

“The goal is to educate people so we don’t get caught up in that racial divide,” said Weeks, who is among those helping to bring the workshop to Fayetteville. “Let’s get out of our silos, our safe places, and understand that at our core, we are all human beings with the same goals and aspirations.”

The event is sponsored by Methodist University, the Fayetteville Alumni Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., Cape Fear Eye Associates, Fayetteville PACT, Holy Trinity Episcopal Church, Lewis Chapel Missionary Baptist Church, National Organization for Women, the NAACP, and the N.C. Conference of the United Methodist Church.

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khasty@methodist.edu

910.630.7609

**METHODIST UNIVERSITY INVITES FAMILIES TO FREE
EDUCATION EXTRAVAGANZA**

FAYETTEVILLE, N.C. – The Methodist University Education Department will host an Education Extravaganza from 1 to 4 p.m. on Saturday, October 19 on campus at 5400 Ramsey Street. The event will feature activities for children of all ages, including hands-on displays, terrarium building, bracelet making, animal exhibits, bouncy houses, and patrol cars and fire trucks on display.

The event is free and open to the public. For more information, call 910-630-7057 or email mhickson@methodist.edu.

About Methodist University

Methodist University is an independent four-year institution of higher education with more than 2,300 students from 40 states, the District of Columbia, and 77 countries. Methodist University offers 80 majors and concentrations, two 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 or facebook.com/MethodistUniversity.

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Office of University Relations

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For Immediate Release

Oct. 31, 2019

Media Contact:

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METHODIST UNIVERSITY ANNOUNCES NEW PROVOST

FAYETTEVILLE, N.C. – Methodist University President Stanley T. Wearden is pleased to announce that he has named Dr. Suzanne Blum Malley as provost, effective Jan. 15, 2020. Dr. Blum Malley is senior associate provost and a member of the English faculty at Columbia College Chicago.

“Dr. Blum Malley brings to us a strong track record of academic and scholarly success, and she is a seasoned and highly capable academic leader,” Wearden said. “I had the privilege of being Dr. Blum Malley’s colleague at Columbia, where I was able to witness firsthand her excellent work building and maintaining collaborative rapport with the faculty. She and the faculty have transformed the curriculum there, leading to significant improvements in both the graduation rate and the retention rate.”

Dr. Blum Malley holds a doctorate in English: Rhetoric and Composition Studies from Northern Illinois University, a Master of Spanish Applied Linguistics and Hispanic Literatures, and a Bachelor of Arts in Spanish, both from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

“I am deeply honored to be appointed to the provost position at Methodist University,” Blum Malley said. “I am energized by Methodist’s mission and commitment to providing transformative educational experiences that prepare students to go out into the world as principled leaders and ethical decision makers. I am also inspired by President Wearden’s vision for Methodist University’s next chapter, and I look forward to supporting faculty and students in their pursuit of excellence as we build that future together.”

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For Immediate Release

Nov. 13, 2019

Media Contact:

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METHODIST UNIVERSITY EARNS BEST FOR VETS DESIGNATION

FAYETTEVILLE, N.C. – *Military Times* has named Methodist University to its Best for Vets: Colleges 2020 list for four-year institutions. For 10 years, *Military Times* has conducted an extensive, editorially independent, objective study evaluating the many factors that help make colleges and universities a good fit for service members, military veterans and their families.

The study factors in data from the Veterans Affairs and Defense departments, as well as three Education Department sources: the IPEDS Data Center, College Scorecard data and the Cohort Default Rate Database. Winning schools must document services, special rules, accommodations and financial incentives offered to students with military ties and describe many aspects of veteran culture on campus.

Methodist University's Office of Veteran Services is ready to assist with questions regarding financial aid, transfer credits, class registration and academic advising. The Office of Veteran Services is on campus in Joe W. Stout Hall. Go to

<https://www.methodist.edu/veteran-services/> for more information.

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From: Kimberlee Hasty
To: Kimberlee Hasty
Date: 11/21/2019 3:43 PM
Subject: Lessons and Carols service at Methodist University

For calendars, faith calendars, Christmas event listings, possible coverage:

Methodist University will present "A Festival of Lessons and Carols," Friday, Dec. 13, at 4:30 p.m. in Huff Concert Hall. Based on the annual Christmas Eve service at King's College, Cambridge, this service will feature the Methodist University Chorale, organ, soloists, jazz, harp and readers from the winter graduating class leading the congregation in seasonal prayers, carols and hymns. The service is free of charge, and the public is invited to attend. A reception will follow in the adjacent Union-Zukowski Lobby.

Kim Hasty

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For Immediate Release

Nov. 22, 2019

Media Contact:

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METHODIST UNIVERSITY'S FORT BRAGG CAMPUS HOSTS OPEN HOUSE

FAYETTEVILLE – Methodist University's Fort Bragg Campus will host an open house on Dec. 4 from 6 to 7:30 p.m. Prospective students are invited to drop by anytime within that timeframe to learn about the school's expanding programs offered on Fort Bragg, including business administration, entrepreneurship, health care administration, leadership communication, political science, and environmental and occupational management. The Fort Bragg campus is located at the Bragg Training and Education Center, 4520 Knox Street, B Wing, Room 103.

"We continue to expand Methodist University degree programs at Fort Bragg and look forward to sharing this information with the community," said Billy J. Buckner, director of MU at Fort Bragg. "This is a great opportunity to talk with department chairs and faculty about their programs and to submit applications and register for spring classes that begin in January 2020."

Admissions counselors will be on hand to process applications, evaluate transfer credits, and register students for classes. Refreshments will be served and drawings will be held for giveaways. Day, evening, and online classes are enrolling now for the spring semester, which begins Jan. 6.

Military Times has awarded Methodist University its 2020 Best for Vets designation. The school has been named by G.I. Jobs magazine as a Military Friendly School, and has been recognized by Military Advanced Education & Transition as one of the Top Colleges & Universities.

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For Immediate Release

Dec. 6, 2019

Media Contact:

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Retired Army Major Ivan Castro, author of “Fighting Blind: A Green Beret’s Story of Extraordinary Courage,” will present the commencement address for Methodist University’s 47th annual Winter Commencement Ceremony Saturday, Dec. 14 at 10 a.m. in the Crown Arena. The University will award 180 graduate and undergraduate degrees at the ceremony.

Castro, who was blinded when he took the brunt of a devastating mortar blast in Iraq in September 2006, overcame life-threatening injuries and went on to not only continue his military career, but also to complete over 60 marathons, cycle across America, summit Mount Kilimanjaro, and trek 221 miles across Antarctica to become the only blind American to ski to the South Pole.

Methodist University’s Winter Commencement Ceremony also will include a speech by Distinguished Graduate Alyssa Thomas, 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.

A baccalaureate service, “A Festival of Lessons and Carols,” will signal the start of Commencement weekend on Friday, Dec. 13, at 4:30 p.m. in Huff Concert Hall. Based on the annual Christmas Eve service at King’s College, Cambridge, this service will feature the Methodist University Chorale, organ, soloists, jazz, harp and readers from the winter graduating class leading the congregation in seasonal prayers, carols and hymns. The service is free of charge, and the public is invited to attend. A reception will follow in the adjacent Union-Zukowski Lobby.

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