

From: Kimberlee Hasty
To: Kimberlee Hasty
Date: 1/6/2020 12:15 PM
Subject: Methodist University hosts Collegiate Recovery Support Group
Attachments: Recovery Campus meeting.docx

Please note that students from any educational institution are welcome to attend these meetings.

Kim Hasty

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Methodist University
5400 Ramsey Street
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Office of University Relations

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For Immediate Release
Jan. 3, 2020

Media Contact:
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METHODIST UNIVERSITY HOSTS COLLEGIATE RECOVERY GROUP

FAYETTEVILLE – Juggling the pressures of college life can be challenging for anyone, but are even more difficult for those in addiction recovery. Methodist University will serve as host for a Collegiate Recovery Group that will meet weekly on Mondays beginning Jan. 13 at 4:30 p.m. in Room 104 of the Nursing Studies Building. The meetings, which are designed to provide fellowship and support, are open to anyone connected to any educational institution.

The program will be one of more than a hundred such programs at colleges and universities across the country, but will be the first of its kind in Cumberland County. The initiative is part of a growing effort in higher education to help students with drug or alcohol problems. Studies have shown that students who are involved in campus recovery programs have better academic outcomes, including improved retention and graduation rates.

If you or anyone you know is working on recovery while also working to further their education and would like more information on the Collegiate Recovery Group at MU, contact Mitzi Averette, assistant professor of nursing, at maverette@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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For Immediate Release

Jan. 15, 2020

Media Contact:

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Methodist University Chorale Will Sing For Your Sweetheart

Nothing tells someone you care like a singing valentine from the MU Chorale. For as little as \$30, the group will serenade your loved one at home, at work, or anywhere in the Greater Fayetteville area on Feb. 14, 2020 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, because some packages include not only a serenade, but also a red rose and a personalized card. The delivery options include:

My “Phone-y Valentine” (\$10): Minus the rose and tuxedo, the Chorale will send a personalized, four-part harmony telephone greeting to that special someone.

Regular delivery (\$30): The Chorale will deliver your singing valentine anywhere in the Greater Fayetteville area sometime between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. If you request a time, the Chorale can guarantee a four-hour window to meet time frame requests.

“Straight to the Heart” (\$40): This premium package offers the same thing as the Regular delivery, but your time will be guaranteed. The Chorale will arrive within 10 minutes of your selected time.

All proceeds from the sale of singing valentines will benefit the MU Chorale’s concert tour to Pittsburgh, Penn. And area concert efforts. All deliveries will be made on Feb. 14, 2020 between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. Sale of singing valentines will end Feb. 13, 2020 at noon.

For more information, contact Dr. Michael Martin at mmartin@methodist.edu or 910.630.7153.

About Methodist University

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For Immediate Release

Jan. 21, 2020

Media Contact:

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Methodist University to Host Martin Luther King III

Following in the legacy left behind by his parents, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and Coretta Scott King, Martin Luther King III serves as an advocate for nonviolent social change, which he will discuss during his speech at Methodist University's annual spring convocation.

Students, faculty, staff, and select media are invited to attend his talk on Feb. 3 at 11 a.m. in Huff Concert Hall, but the event is closed to the public.

About the Speaker

A graduate of Morehouse College, King has devoted his life to working in the non-profit sector to promote civil rights and global human rights and to eradicate the "triple evils" of racism, militarism, and poverty, which his father identified as the scourges of humankind. He was later elected as a member of the Fulton County, Ga., Board of Commissioners, representing 700,000 residents.

As the elected president of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, the organization co-founded by his father, King re-invigorated the SCLC by stabilizing the governance, program and development components. As founder and president of Realizing the Dream, Inc., he took his father's message to a global audience, spearheading nonviolence training in Bosnia-Herzegovina, India, Israel and Palestine, Kenya, Sri Lanka, and the United States.

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For Immediate Release

January 29, 2020

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**METHODIST UNIVERSITY KICKS OFF
2020 LOYALTY CAMPAIGN**

FAYETTEVILLE, N.C. – Katie Strain, a junior Elementary Education major, believes the generosity of donors helps her and many other students at Methodist University earn their education and realize their dreams.

“Your generous gifts empower us as students to fulfill our lifelong dreams,” she said in a message to donors. “Having someone who believes we will excel and supports our journey is unbelievable. Because of you, opportunity starts here. They say MU is home, but MU wouldn’t be home to us if it weren’t for people like you. Thank you!”

Strain spoke to a group of 112 community volunteers during the 65th annual Loyalty Campaign kickoff on Tuesday, Jan. 28 at Haymount United Methodist Church. Her story undoubtedly sparked inspiration that will help the volunteers reach out to more than 1,000 individuals and businesses within the next month.

The total goal for the Loyalty Campaign is set at \$175,000. Volunteers hope to hit the \$125,000 mark by their campaign celebration on Feb. 25. A gift may be made year-round to the Loyalty Campaign for Student Scholarships.

About the Loyalty Campaign

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 29 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.

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.

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For Immediate Release
Jan. 29, 2020

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Methodist University Play4Kay Events to Raise Money for Women's Cancer

FAYETTEVILLE – Methodist University and its Athletics department are partnering with local businesses and the Fayetteville community to raise money to pay for mammograms for underserved women in the area, and to fund research opportunities around the state and nation.

The following events are being held between Jan. 27 to Feb. 5 in conjunction with the 14th Annual Play4Kay basketball game, which will be held Feb. 1 at 2 p.m. in the March F. Riddle Center:

- **5 Star Express Car Wash on Ramsey Street** will be donating \$1 from every car wash between **Jan. 29 and Feb. 2**.
- **ScrubOaks Contemporary American Pub** will donate a portion of the proceeds of lunch and dinner sales on **Jan. 30 from noon to 10 p.m.**
- **The Miss Methodist pageant on Jan. 31 at 6:30 p.m.** will feature a people's choice award, which will be given to the contestant who earns the most donations. Donations can be made in Berns Student Center during the week or at the event.
- **A 5K Walk/Run hosted by the PA Program will take place Feb. 1 at 9 a.m.** beginning at Monarch Stadium. Register here: <https://bit.ly/2RWoScY>.

The basketball game will feature informational tables, food sales, merchandise sales, a silent auction, and performances honoring breast cancer survivors and fighters. All proceeds from the events will go to the Cape Fear Valley Health Foundation's Friends of the Cancer Center and the Kay Yow Cancer Fund.

About Play4Kay

Play4Kay began at Methodist University 14 years ago to raise money for a foundation set up by Kay Yow, a prominent women's basketball coach for N.C. State University. Yow battled against breast cancer on and off for 22 years before passing away from the disease in 2009.

"She was fighting a fight for everybody; it wasn't just her fight," DeeDee Jarman, MU's deputy athletic director and former women's basketball coach, said. "She was fighting for every woman who has battled cancer."

Jarman was still playing high school basketball when she first met Yow, someone who would become one of her lifelong inspirations. Jarman morphed from Yow's pupil, to her friend.

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

Jarman witness Yow's support for her team as well as her unwavering faith in God, despite her years-long battle with the disease. "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."

For more information on Play4Kay at MU or any of the events held in conjunction with it, contact Dee Dee Jarman at djarman@methodist.edu

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For Immediate Release

Feb. 11, 2020

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Methodist University Awarded Military Friendly School Designation

Methodist University has earned a place on the 2020-21 Military Friendly® Schools list, receiving the Silver Award for its performance in serving active duty military, veterans, and dependents. Methodist University had earned the Bronze designation in 2018-19.

Now in its 10th year, the Military Friendly® Schools list has come to set the standard for higher education institutions to provide the best opportunities for veterans and their spouses. This prestigious list provides a comprehensive guide for veterans and their families using data sources from federal agencies and proprietary survey information from participating organizations.

Institutions earning the Military Friendly® School designation were evaluated using both public data sources and responses from a proprietary survey completed by the school. More than 1,000 schools participated in the 2020-2021 survey, with 625 schools earning the designation from every state in the country.

The 2020-2021 Military Friendly® Schools list will be published in the May issue of G.I. Jobs magazine. The list can also be found at www.militaryfriendly.com.

Methodology, criteria, and weightings were determined by VIQTORY, a service-disabled, veteran-owned small business (SDVOSB) that connects the military community to civilian employment, educational and entrepreneurial opportunities through its G.I. Jobs®, Military Spouse, and Military Friendly® brands. Final ratings were determined by combining the institution's survey scores with the assessment of the institution's ability to meet thresholds for student retention, graduation, job placement, loan repayment, persistence (degree advancement or transfer) and loan default rates for all students and, specifically, for student veterans. For the first time, the methodology included a new measure - the 90/10 Rule and Loophole. Military Friendly® has closed the loophole on our survey and is eager for Congress to follow as it deliberates closing the loophole legislatively.

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For Immediate Release

Feb. 13, 2020

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MU Art and Writing Students Open Unique Exhibit

Art often imitates life, but a special exhibition by five Methodist University student poets and eight student artists will exhibit how art can imitate art. The first-of-its-kind exhibition features reciprocal work based the creative expressions of poets and visual artists.

Methodist University invites the community to attend an opening reception for the exhibition, titled “Reciprocal Ekphrasis: Images and Poems, Poems and Images,” on Feb. 20 from 5 to 7 p.m. in the university’s Union-Zukowski Lobby and Gallery.

“Ekphrasis” comes from Greek and refers to a literary response to a work of art.

“Reciprocal” was added to the title, so students would respond not only with literature, but also with art.

“This is the first time that the MU Art Department and the Writing program have collaborated,” said Writing Professor Robin Greene. “Also, this is the first time (of which I’m aware) that students responded creatively to each other’s work—”

“— works that were distinctly different in their form, creation, and vocabulary,” added Art Professor Vilas Tonape.

Greene and Tonape organized the creative collaboration in which students responded anonymously and creatively to each other’s work with either a poem or an image.

Students in Greene’s poetry class interpreted and internalized images from Tonape’s students to respond emotionally and intellectually to the images.

“This process of responding requires that our students bring to bear technical knowledge of poetics – such as how to control their lines, how to allow verbal images do ‘effective work’ and how to edit so as to distill the essence of their responses,” said Greene.

Tonape’s students did the same with the poems, forming images from what they could feel when reading the poems.

He believes that anonymity was key during the process. Knowing nothing about the writers of the poems helped the students focus on the real feelings within the lines of poetry rather than the person who wrote it.

“That feel for a visual artist is in images, sometimes vague, sometimes otherworldly,” he said. “Plus, as per the grammar of painting, the images had to manifest on canvas in their own style. So, the entire process was quite palpable for painters.”

The exhibition will be on display until Dec. 14, 2020. For more information, contact Tonape at 910.630.7106 or vtonape@methodist.edu

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For Immediate Release

Feb. 14, 2020

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David McCune Regional Artistry Exhibition Reception Scheduled for Feb. 20

The David McCune International Art Gallery's reception for its invitational exhibition, "Regional Artistry: A Unified Vision," has been re-scheduled for Feb. 20 from 7 to 9 p.m.

The opening reception was rescheduled after bad weather cancelled the original Feb. 6 date. The exhibition is now open, but the community is encouraged to join us for the opening reception. The show will run through April 9.

Ranging from paintings and drawings, to pottery and sculpture, the featured artists' works are as varied as they themselves are as individuals – and yet they share a unified vision in elevating the arts culture in Fayetteville while calling attention to the McCune International Art Gallery, a local gem with exhibits of international import and a caliber of visitor experiences that is on par with some of the world's best art galleries.

This exhibit features the works of 14 local and regional artists, including seven who are not only visual artists, but who also serve as members of the Gallery's Advisory Board. These include Stephanie Bostock, Manisha Devasthali, Guy Jencks, Sandi McFarlane, Beth Williams Pryor, Muriel Roux, and Skylor Swann.

The exhibit is free and open to the public; however, there is a suggested donation of \$10 per visitor. All works exhibited are for sale, with proceeds to benefit the McCune Gallery in support of operational funding for future exhibits. Upcoming premier gallery exhibits include etchings by *Rembrandt: The Sign and the Light* (Fall 2020) and *Salvador Dali's "Stairway to Heaven"* (Fall 2021).

About the David McCune Gallery

The David McCune Gallery is located on the campus of Methodist University. The gallery is open Tuesday to Friday from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Saturdays from noon to 4 p.m. The gallery is closed Sundays, Mondays, and March 2-9, 2020.

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For Immediate Release
Feb. 20, 2020

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Campaign to Help Students Attend MU

Methodist University sophomore Olivia Cramer, from Clayton, N.C., was overjoyed when she learned she was accepted into Methodist University. She was even more surprised at how much financial aid support she received.

The financial assistance that Cramer and 95 percent of all MU students receive is partially funded through the Loyalty Campaign for Student Scholarships. This year's campaign kicked off on Jan. 28. The volunteer-led portion of the campaign will end with a celebration that will be held Feb. 25 at 11:30 a.m. at Methodist University.

Cramer, who is majoring in kinesiology and minoring in health care administration, was planning to attend community college to keep her education affordable. Her financial aid package was a welcome surprise, and it didn't take long for her to open the email that would change her life for the better.

"I was at work," she remembered. "I ran to the bathroom to go look at my financial aid package. I remember being in shock of how much I received. I didn't think it was possible for me to attend a four-year university until I got that email."

As one of five children and the sole financier for her own education, she understood that affordability was a major factor in her decision to attend community college. But something was missing. She wanted a more traditional college experience, including the opportunity to continue her 10-year competitive cheerleading streak.

After she learned of the scholarships and financial aid she would be receiving from Methodist University, she talked with her parents about attending.

"It took my parents several weeks of convincing, but they knew it was an amazing opportunity and agreed to go on a tour with me to see the campus," she said.

During her visit, she met the MU head cheerleading coach, which made her fall more in love with the campus. Her parents saw how the University affected their daughter and agreed that attending MU would be beneficial for her

But, without scholarships, Cramer would miss out on the experience she longed for, and she certainly wouldn't have the opportunity to be the first person in her family to attend a four-year university.

"I can't be any more grateful for this chance to get a higher education to better my future," she said. "By having these scholarships, I am motivated to graduate not only for myself, but for my family."

The campaign celebration on Feb. 25 is one way that Methodist University thanks volunteers and community donors who give to the Loyalty Campaign for Student Scholarships.

During the event, a student scholarship recipient will speak to the attendees about how scholarships have helped them in their pursuit of a degree. The Loyalty Campaign Supporter of the Year Award will be given to a local business owner who is an avid supporter of the campaign.

"The Fayetteville community started Methodist University and helped build it to what it is today," said Stacey Prevette, assistant director of annual giving. "When community members give to help students through scholarships, the whole community wins. Successful graduates become productive members of society who help shape the future for us all."

Donors who wish to make it possible for students like Cramer to achieve success as a college graduate can still give to the campaign through June 30 at Methodist.edu/giving. For more information on giving at Methodist University, call 910.630.7200 or email Prevette at sprevette@methodist.edu.

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For Immediate Release

Feb. 25, 2020

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MU Loyalty Campaign Volunteers Raise \$20,000 by Campaign Celebration

After about a month of calls, visits and conversations, volunteers helped to raise \$20,000 for Methodist University's students in just one month.

On Feb. 25, Methodist University hosted its Loyalty Campaign for Student Scholarships celebration luncheon that celebrated the many volunteers and community donors who gave time and money to the volunteer-led portion of the campaign, which kicked off on Jan. 28.

The financial assistance that 95 percent of all MU students receive is partially funded through the Loyalty Campaign for Student Scholarships.

Dr. Ken Lewis, owner and practitioner at Lewis Family Dentistry on Ramsey Street, received the 20th annual Loyalty Campaign Supporter of the Year Award. The award recognizes an individual or business that consistently supports the university's campaign.

"Fayetteville, Cumberland County and especially Methodist University are proud and honored to have Dr. Ken Lewis as a long-standing and involved member of our community, our Methodist University family, and as our 2020 Loyalty Campaign Supporter of the Year," said Dr. Stanley Wearden, president of MU. "We hope that this award will show our gratitude for the part you have played in having the futures of so many young people."

One of those young people impacted by the campaign, Khalil Khatib, spoke during the event to help volunteers and donors understand the importance of the gift they give.

Khatib, a football player and business administration major, is the son of immigrants. His mother, who lived in Jordan, fell in love with his father, from Palestine. The two married and moved to Raleigh, N.C., in search of a better life for themselves and their future family.

Because they wanted the best for their children, Khatib says his parents were “extremely high believers in going to college.” So, when the time came to look for a university, he knew what he was looking for.

“I wanted to go someplace where I could feel at home and be a positive face around campus, yet a place where college wouldn’t be a big financial burden on my family and I, given four other kids would have to go to college too,” Khatib said.

He visited many colleges on the East Coast, but ultimately found Methodist University was his best choice.

“The diversity of the great people on campus, the faculty and business administration program and the football team all tied in to make it ‘the one.’”

After applying, Khatib received his financial aid package.

He, like many college-bound students today, was worried he wouldn’t be able to afford college. But, the Loyalty Campaign for Student Scholarships helped him realize his dream of attending a college where he could make his mark.

“Scholarships are the glue that make my college dream a reality,” he said. “Without those helpful scholarships, I probably wouldn’t be standing here in front of you today. I thank you all for your generosity, helping me pursue a dream of success and letting me stand here and share my MU Journey.”

Donors who wish to make it possible for students like Khatib to achieve success as a college graduate can still give to the campaign through June 30 at Methodist.edu/giving. For more information on giving at Methodist University, call 910.630.7200 or email Prevette at sprevette@methodist.edu.

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For Immediate Release

April 22, 2020

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Methodist University Cancels 2020 Summer Camps

Due to the impact of COVID-19, and for the health and safety of the Fayetteville community and our participants, Methodist University has cancelled its summer camps.

Those who have already registered for a camp will receive a refund or can inquire about rollover options for Summer 2021. The camps included:

- STEM Camp, June 15-19, 2020
- PGA Golf Management Summer Experience, June 28 to July 1, 2020
- SummerJam! Music Camp, July 6-11, 2020
- General Shelton Leadership Camp, July 12-17
- CSI-MU Forensic Science Camp, July 13-14
- All athletic camps

For more information, contact Kensley Edge at kedge@methodist.edu.

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For Immediate Release

April 23, 2020

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MU May 2020 Graphic Design Graduates to Host Virtual Senior Exhibition

Art has few limitations, and COVID-19 is not one of them. That is why five Methodist University seniors in the Graphic Design program will be hosting a virtual Senior Exhibition on April 24, 2020, to show off their projects.

The exhibition, titled “The Value of Value,” will feature work from Jason Aguilar, DeeOnna Denton, Kylen Dooley, Kristen Oliva and Joshua Ryan. A trailer for the show can be found at <https://youtu.be/R7973Bwo0Kk>.

Methodist University encourages the public as well as the Fayetteville community to visit TheValueOfValue.art on April 24, 2020, to learn more about the artists and view their work.

For more information, or to contact the artists, visit TheValueOfValue.art/contact.

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For Immediate Release

May 18, 2020

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Methodist University PA Program Grad Helps Tackle COVID-19 in NYC

Following her graduation from Methodist University's Physician Assistant Program (MUPAP) in 2019, Madeline Monday made the decision to be voluntarily assigned to work in a New York hospital in the beginning stages of the COVID-19 pandemic.

"I decided to sign up because I saw the greatest health crisis of my lifetime unfolding in front of me, and I knew I couldn't sit on the sidelines," she said. "I knew the experience I would gain would be priceless. I wanted to go to frontlines to learn all I could about COVID-19, that way if it came to our community, I would have the experience and skill to help."

The Army veteran works 12-hour shifts in the Intensive Care Unit at Elmhurst Hospital in New York, a state that has more than 319,000 confirmed cases and nearly 20,000 deaths from the disease.

Because of the high volume of visits, Monday says she has become proficient in changing her personal protective equipment, including a gown, gloves, an N95 mask, scrub cap and face shield.

The job, however, comes with risks. Monday contracted COVID-19 and was quarantined in her hotel room with mild symptoms, like a sore throat and a night of nausea.

After a week of rest, Monday headed back to the hospital to help patients suffering from COVID-19. She is thankful for her clinical hours and the experience she gained while in the MU PA Program.

"MUPAP prepared me by allowing me to take an elective in the ICU so I feel more comfortable with the vents and drips than if I had not," she said. "My inpatient experience prepared me for long hours in the hospital."

According to Dr. Christina Perry, the director of the MUPAP, the program is structured in a way that helps its students learn more about several different areas of medicine.

"Students like Madeline attend Methodist's PA program for 27 months and, in that time, we provide a rigorous and comprehensive education in the classroom and in the clinical setting with our local community partners. The entire experience prepares them to practice medicine in many specialties including family practice, emergency medicine, pediatrics surgery and critical care," Perry said. "One of the outstanding reasons to become a PA is that, in our profession, we can change specialties. This flexibility has allowed the profession to demonstrate this flexibility for PA's to essentially 'pivot' to provide health care where it is most needed."

Monday urges everyone to wash their hands and stay away from the emergency room unless there is an absolute emergency.

“Find something you can do, even if it’s small, to remind each other what a strong and loving community we have. Adopt a puppy, order from a local restaurant, call your friends, write to someone in a nursing home. Anything that makes this a little better for someone will ultimately make it a lot better for all of us.”

“Our students and graduates are such amazing people to work with and know,” Perry said. “There are many instances of MUPAP graduates going to areas where the need for health care providers is critical. I am proud of each one of them for their bravery, sacrifice and hard work. They make our program, Methodist University and the world a better place.”

About Methodist University

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For Immediate Release

May 22, 2020

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Deutsch and Holloway Named Wilson PTM Award Winners

The Methodist University Professional Tennis Management Program announced that Seniors Josh Deutsch (Alexandria, Ind.) and Jack Holloway (Moultrie, Ga.) are the inaugural recipients of the Wilson Senior PTM Student of the Year Award for 2019-20.

The awards are part of the new long-term agreement between the Methodist Professional Tennis Management Program and Wilson Sporting Goods that was approved in the Fall of 2019.

Each award recipient will receive a package of items from Wilson and will be listed on a plaque to be displayed in the university's Clayton Tennis Center.

Deutsch is spending the summer after graduation working for a second season at the Biltmore Country Club in Maryland as the summer camp coordinator. He will then return to North Carolina to pursue an MBA at The University of Mount Olive while serving as the assistant tennis coach for the men's and women's programs. During his time at Methodist, he majored in Business Administration with a concentration in PTM and completed an internship at the Winston-Salem Open ATP men's professional tournament in 2019.

"I have had a great experience in the Methodist PTM program and the business school," stated Deutsch. "I have learned so many important qualities and tools that will help me to be successful in the working world. I am so grateful for everyone who has helped me."

Holloway also graduated with a degree in Business Administration with a concentration in PTM. He also minored in Music and Accounting. This summer, Holloway will return to Shore & Country Club in Connecticut to work for fellow Methodist Alumna Carla McKenzie, who was a 2003 graduate of the PTM Program. He intends to stay in the New York area while his fiancée completes her graduate degree at New York University.

About the Methodist University PTM Program

The Professional Tennis Management (PTM) Program at Methodist University is one of the largest programs in the country and has a history of producing leaders within the tennis industry. The program offers a concentration and minor in PTM as well as a

Professional and Instructor Certificate Program for those who already have an undergraduate degree.

For more information, contact the Methodist University Director of Professional Tennis Management Lawrence Handback at lhandback@methodist.edu.

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For Immediate Release

May 29, 2020

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**Cumberland Community Foundation Grant Supports Literacy Mentorship Between
Methodist University and Margaret Willis Elementary School Students**

FAYETTEVILLE, NC – Cumberland Community Foundation, Inc. awarded an \$8,335 grant to Methodist University for expansion of the Methodist Kids Association at Margaret Willis Elementary School.

Cumberland Community Foundation, Inc. awards more than \$5 million in grants annually. About 75 percent is from restricted funds. The rest is awarded through the competitive grant application program called "Community Grants." The literacy grant is made possible by the Cornelia "Neill" Bullock Wilkins Charitable Endowment Fund of Cumberland Community Foundation, Inc.

The Methodist Kids Association began as a community engagement initiative among Hay Street United Methodist Church, Methodist University and Margaret Willis Elementary School to provide mentoring and tutoring for older elementary students. As the program grew in scope and participation, the need to expand the existing program, serving grades third through fifth, to grades K-2 became clear. The expanded program will serve up to 40 Margaret Willis Elementary students each year.

“This partnership among university, community, public school and foundation, is a vibrant model of community engagement. Through a new academic course titled, ‘Community Outreach: Literacy,’ college students learn active listening and literacy-mentoring skills in the classroom and then apply those skills weekly as one-on-one mentors with young elementary students. The experience is transformative for college students, elementary students, volunteers and, consequently, for the greater community,” said Kelli Taylor, director of the Center for Community Engagement at Methodist University.

The new class and expansion began in January 2020, but the project was unfortunately halted temporarily due to COVID-19 restrictions which forced the university and Cumberland County Schools to switch to remote learning.

Methodist University provides transformative educational experiences by integrating a liberal arts foundation and spiritual and moral heritage with innovative student-centered programs to produce successful graduates who are dedicated to achievement and committed to making positive contributions to a global society.

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For Immediate Release
June 9, 2020

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**Methodist University Community Gathers for
“A Prayer Gathering of Lament and Hope”**

FAYETTEVILLE, N.C. – On June 9, The Methodist University community gathered on campus at noon for a prayer service to recognize the grief and suffering of the 100,000 lives lost in the U.S. alone to the global coronavirus pandemic and to mourn the death of George Floyd and all those who have died under the sin of systemic racism.

A crowd of more than 30 students, faculty and staff – including its president and vice presidents – donning masks and practicing social distancing, participated in the prayers.

Leading the service was University Chaplain Rev. Kelli W. Taylor. “We acknowledge the sufferings of these persons and families and whole communities whose lives have been touched by this unfathomable virus and those lives shattered by racial disparities, of looting and violence, of hatred or murder. We come together to offer prayers of lament and grief,” said Taylor, who also serves as the university’s vice president for Religious Life. “We also come together to offer words of hope. We are a people of faith, based in the virtues of love, justice and truth.”

MU Police Officer Lester Lowe read words of lament from Psalm 42 and Lynetta Allen-Geddie, director of Health Services, offered words of reflection.

Rev. Dr. William Walker, vice president for Student Affairs and dean of students, read through a recent list of victims who suffered at the hands of systemic racism and offered up a prayer of lament and hope for racial justice asking, “to allow thoughts of reconciliation to permeate through our tactics and strategies to bring about a change. Give us the passion,” he continued, “and most of all the will to bring about true change, so systemic racism can be eradicated on every level.”

“It was an honor to offer prayer at Methodist University's Prayer Gathering of Lament and Hope today,” said Walker. “The service signifies the University's commitment to racial dialogue, understanding and healing. I look forward to our future work in this area.”

Professor of music Dr. Larry Wells led the service in song. He performed songs such as “O Day of Peace,” and “Amazing Grace” on the trumpet. MU student Nicholas Roberts sang and the director of Campus Recreation and Intramural Programs, Dr. Clifton Bobbitt, read Psalm 56 followed by words of hope read by Taylor from Romans 8:31.

Wells concluded the service with a rendition of “When the Saints Go Marching In.”

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For Immediate Release
June 11, 2020

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**Johnson Named Director of Marketing and
Communications at Methodist University**

FAYETTEVILLE, N.C. – Dr. Stanley T. Wearden, president of Methodist University, recently announced the hiring of Brad Johnson as the University’s new Director of Marketing & Communications.

Johnson, who has nearly two decades of management experience in university marketing, publishing and public relations, will help lead Methodist’s strategies and initiatives in relation to internal and outward messaging. His key areas of focus include, but are not limited to, enrollment, advancement, alumni, and academic departments; also management of web, social media, video/photography, print, writing, design, brand, vendors, media/public relations, advertising and other constituent communications.

“I am pleased to welcome Brad to the Institutional Advancement team at Methodist,” said Greg Swanson, vice president for Institutional Advancement and senior counsel. “He deeply resonates with our mission and has a wealth of marketing experience in higher education. I have worked with Brad previously and believe he has the leadership and skills necessary to create and implement an effective integrated marketing effort across the University. These efforts are particularly important in the evolving marketplace facing universities today.”

Johnson is passionate about higher education and spent the past decade as director and assistant vice president in charge of all marketing and messaging for Asbury University in Kentucky, helping set record numbers in enrollment (undergrad, grad and degree-completion), development (capital campaigns and events) and marketing strategies (new web site, social media/digital marketing campaigns, media relations, etc.).

“The ‘whole-person,’ liberal arts approach that Methodist offers is unlike any I’ve seen and I’m blessed to now be a part of it,” Johnson said. “Intellectual values, innovative programming and ethical principles aren’t just part of a mission statement that remains within institutional boundaries. At Methodist, excellence (in the classroom and out), inclusivity and diversity are grounded in truth, virtue, justice and love. Those qualities are evident each day and shared in the communities, cities, states and more than 100 countries that Methodist students, faculty, staff and alumni call home.”

Community is of great value to Johnson. He has spent the past decade-plus as a board member (chair) with an inner-city ministry for the homeless and has led numerous university-student mission trips (focusing on homelessness and social justice) to underserved communities in Chicago, Jacksonville (Fla.), New York City and abroad. He's also been a board member and coach with the Miracle League (baseball, basketball and football programs for children and adults with special needs) for more than a decade.

"My passions for service – on and off campus - align perfectly with Methodist," Johnson said.

Johnson's experience includes time as the Director of Publishing for IMG College, the world's premier sports marketing company, and Content Director for TeamTalk (an international marketing agency). His journalism/marketing career began as a writer/editor/designer at The Charlotte Observer and has included state and national recognition/awards. Prior to that, he was a two-sport collegiate athlete (soccer and baseball) who earned two degrees (double-majoring in journalism and history) from Indiana University.

Married to DeAnna for nearly 30 years, the Johnsons have two children (Matthew and Niklas).

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For Immediate Release
July 23, 2020
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**Methodist University Moves Forward Together with Steps
For a Successful In-Person Fall 2020 Semester**

FAYETTEVILLE, N.C. – Methodist University has adopted the theme “Forward Together” for its fall 2020 semester as students, faculty and staff return for in-person classes and hybrid education options Aug. 10.

A website, www.methodist.edu/forward, was created to not only encompass this theme, but provide information on how aspects of campus life will change to meet the safety standards set forth by the Center for Disease Control, expert opinion and Methodist University’s Epidemic Response Team.

“We created an Epidemic Response Team that has been working diligently for months to set up a unique student experience for the fall,” said Dr. Stanley Wearden, the university’s president. “The team has remained up to date on research and expertise concerning all facets of COVID-19. This research has informed the operational decisions that we’re excited to share with you.”

Some of these operational decisions include changes to food service on campus, the establishment of set entrances and exits to campus facilities, policies on socializing on campus and more.

For more information, visit www.methodist.edu/forward.

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For Immediate Release

Aug. 1, 2020

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**ARTS COUNCIL GRANTS HELP BRING WORLD-CLASS
ARTWORK AND 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 \$3,435 grant for the 12th Annual Friends of Music Guest Artist Series, a series of evening concerts and free school workshops. In addition, Methodist was awarded a \$7,125 grant for the upcoming David McCune International Art Gallery's 2020 Rembrandt Exhibition, "Rembrandt: The Sign and the Light."

The Guest Artist Series began as a master-class opportunity for MU music majors, and is now an annual series of public school visits, University master classes and professional recitals attended by hundreds of young students and adults in Cumberland County. Each year brings a new combination of professional performers in voice, woodwinds, brass, strings or percussion. Recent guests have included a duo of didgeridoo players, a harpist, classical guitarist, baritone vocalist, and bandoneon player.

These intimate presentations promote spontaneous banter among performers and audience members. Topics range from the instruments themselves, musical composition and arrangement to cultural traditions and careers in music.

The 2020-21 Guest Artists visits are:

- Friday, Sept. 18 – Gospel vocalist Walter Johnson is a recording artist and actor. Johnson is a native of Greensboro and graduate of North Carolina A&T.
- Friday, Oct. 30 – Jazz vocalist Marcelle Gauvin is a recording artist and associate professor of voice at Berklee College of Music in Boston.
- Friday, Jan. 22, 2021 – Jesse Rackley is a trombonist, euphoniumist, director and music educator. He is based in Raleigh and performs with multiple symphony and orchestra groups throughout the state.
- Friday, Feb. 19, 2021 – Nathan Leyland is principal cellist of the Fayetteville Symphony Orchestra and performs across the nation as a chamber musician and

recitalist.

The musical and cultural breadth of these musicians gives local audiences rich, intimate and accessible musical engagement at no cost. Furthermore, local professional artists appreciate the opportunity for a paid gig in which they can build their solo and chamber performance experience in a range of settings. Artist visits include: a daytime demonstration for up to 25 students at The Capitol Encore Academy (TCEA) in downtown Fayetteville, a daytime master-class demonstration for up to 30 undergraduate students at Methodist University and a public evening recital at Methodist University attended by up to 100 guests.

The David McCune International Art Gallery will feature “Rembrandt: The Sign and the Light,” an exceptional selection of 59 etchings, offering a variety of subjects detailing the panorama of Rembrandt’s etching activity over his 35-year career. Some of them include religious figures and scenes, genre scenes, portraits, figure studies and the famous beggars. The exhibit is free and open to the public and runs Sept. 11 through Nov. 18, 2020. The Gallery hours are Tuesdays to Fridays: 11 a.m.-5 p.m., Saturdays and Sundays: Noon-4 p.m. The gallery will be closed Mondays and Nov. 11 (Veterans Day)

These events would not be possible without assistance from the Arts Council. Project Support Grants, like the ones awarded to the Methodist University Friends of Music and David McCune International Art Gallery, 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.

About Methodist University

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For Immediate Release
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**METHODIST UNIVERSITY'S MCCUNE GALLERY HOSTS EXHIBIT
REMBRANDT: "THE SIGN AND THE LIGHT"**

FAYETTEVILLE, N.C. – “Rembrandt: The Sign and the Light,” a series of 59 exceptional etchings by Rembrandt, will be on display at the David McCune International Art Gallery at Methodist University from Sept. 13 to Nov. 18, 2020. The etchings offer a variety of subjects detailing a panorama of Rembrandt’s etching activity during his 35-year career. Some include religious figures and scenes, genre scenes, portraits, figure studies and famous beggars. The exhibit is part of the gallery’s 10th anniversary celebration.

The gallery is open Tuesdays to Fridays from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m., Saturdays and Sundays from noon to 4 p.m. The gallery is closed Mondays and Nov. 11 for Veterans Day.

Admission is free. Due to Covid-19 restrictions, the exhibit has limited public access with reserved days and times. Visit Davidmccunegallery.org for a free virtual ticket and to reserve a date and time to visit.

The exhibit is made possible with a grant from an Anonymous Fund of The Cumberland Community Foundation, Inc., is organized by The Art Company of Pesaro, Italy, and sponsored in part by The Arts Council of Fayetteville/Cumberland County, and Friends of the Gallery.

Covid-19 Protocols will be observed

For viewer safety, visitor capacity will be limited and face coverings approved by the CDC are required for all visitors over the age of two. Methodist University and the David McCune International Art Gallery are following the guidelines issued by the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and state officials for increased health and safety procedures. Social distancing guidelines will be observed and hand sanitizer stations will be available.

About Rembrandt

Rembrandt Harmenszoon van Rijn (1606-69) was born in Leiden, Netherlands. His father was a miller and his mother was the daughter of a baker. As a boy, Rembrandt was sent to Leiden Latin school in 1615, but quit his studies in 1619 to follow his artistic

ambitions. This Dutch painter quickly established himself as one of the greatest storytellers in the history of art, with an unbelievable ability to render people in his work.

Rembrandt approaches “real life” through its theatrical transposition. The idea of the works’ theatricality can be perceived in the different way of using models in the studio. Rembrandt relied on his observation of the attitudes and poses assumed by his models, almost as if they were on a stage.

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 and included bronze sculptures of “Rodin: Portraits of a Lifetime, Selections from the Iris & B. Gerald Cantor Collections;” “The Story of The Exodus,” a series of lithographs by Marc Chagall, and “Gallery goes POP: Warhol,” an exhibit of Andy Warhol silkscreen masterworks.

These events would not be possible without assistance from the Arts Council. Project Support Grants, like the ones awarded to the Methodist University’s David McCune International Art Gallery, 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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Methodist University Launches Three Online Programs in Health Care Administration

November 23, 2020



Methodist University will launch three online programs in Health Care Administration this spring: a Bachelor of Science in Health Care Administration (B.S.), a certificate program in Health Care Administration, and a Master of Health Administration (MHA).

Methodist University's online **B.S. in Health Care Administration** prepares students to balance health care theory and practice. Through this approach, students are given the opportunity to explore critical thinking processes that will have tangible benefits as they enter the field. Specifically, the coursework focuses on giving students the tools to respond to real-world challenges with modern, innovative health care solutions.

Designed for bachelor's degree holders interested in pursuing jobs in health care administration fields, the 15-credit **Health Care Administration Certificate** encompasses policy issues, finance and economics, and organization and leadership topics.

The online **Master of Health Administration (MHA)** responds to the need for highly qualified HCO executives by preparing graduates for leadership across the health care continuum, including health systems/hospitals, medical practices, consulting, long term care facilities, and others.

Interested applicants should visit one of the programs above or the **Methodist University Online** Web site for more information and to complete an application.

<https://www.methodist.edu/methodist-university-hca-programs/>

Methodist University Completes New “Nancy and Murray Duggins Soccer Stadium”

December 18, 2020



Methodist University has a long-standing tradition of excellence on and off its athletic fields, as well as a tradition of strong alumni support. So, it's little wonder that the top-tier, independent institution in Fayetteville is unveiling its latest facility as “The Nancy and Murray Duggins Soccer Stadium.”

“The Duggins have a long history of supporting not only Methodist University, but the entire Cumberland County community, and we are very grateful for their generosity,” said Dr. Stanley T. Wearden, President at Methodist. “A top-of-the-line stadium that will offer students the opportunity to compete and succeed is perfectly in line with what the Duggins have done for years.”

Murray Duggins '66 has been working in real estate in North and South Carolina for 50 years. With one of the largest and most successful apartment portfolios in the region, the Duggins' family of companies expanded into daycare, commercial construction and land development. A project close to the Duggins' hearts is the \$110-million Hope VI affordable housing apartments in Fayetteville.

“I was in the third class to graduate at Methodist and I have watched the school grow into an amazing educational institution,” said Murray Duggins. “Methodist gave me the foundation to succeed in the business world. For that I am eternally grateful. Methodist University is one of Fayetteville's greatest assets. Nancy and I have been honored to help advance the MU environment in the past and look forward to seeing our student-athletes excel in this stadium.”



Even though it won't host its first matches until sometime in 2021, Duggins Stadium is already being lauded as not only one of the best NCAA Division III soccer facilities in the region, but as one of the best in the country.

"This gift will help us to recruit and retain top student-athletes who are strong both athletically and academically," said Wearden. "The Duggins' gift also helped MU to take another giant step in creating a beautiful entrance to the university. We look forward to our first soccer match in 2021, and we hope Murray and Nancy Duggins will be able to attend so that our student-athletes can thank them in person."

The Duggins Soccer Stadium features the addition of 200 permanent seats, a concession stand, ticket office for tournament matches, and restrooms. These improvements add to the two-story soccer fieldhouse and new stadium lights, which were installed in 2017.



"These stadium additions are a historical moment for our program," said Justin Terranova '97, who is in his 19th season as head coach of MU's men's soccer team. "We have been working toward this for many years and are eager to host our first match in this great facility."

Bryan Madej '08, the women's soccer coach at MU, shared additional appreciation: "We are fortunate to have long-standing supporters of the soccer programs," he said. "Alumni, former

players... there are just so many people to thank for what they've done for our student-athletes, this program and this university."

The soccer stadium updates are just the latest in an ever-growing list of additions to MU athletic facilities. The university recently installed new stadium lights on the football field and renovated several holes at the Downback Golf Course, a full 18-hole course for students on the MU campus.

“These projects and others were completely funded by gifts and donations,” said Vice President and Director of Athletics Dave Eavenson '96. “First and foremost, we would like to thank all of the people whose gracious donations made these projects a reality. All of these improvements will serve our students well and go a long way to help us continue the tradition of excellence that MU athletics has established over the years.”

Though COVID restrictions eliminated fall intercollegiate play, the MU soccer teams donned masks and followed all university and NCAA guidelines for practices and social distancing. If those restrictions are lifted in the spring, they will have the opportunity to host matches for the first time in their new stadium.

“As this year has brought many challenges, it has opened our eyes to all that there is to be thankful for,” said Daniel Magen '22, a co-captain on the men's soccer team. “We're proud to be playing on this beautiful field and stadium, and can't wait until the first match.”