



# MU *today*

M A G A Z I N E

SUMMER 2016

**Check up on the  
School of Health Sciences**

# MU *today*

M A G A Z I N E  
SUMMER 2016

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**On the cover:** Midday clouds are reflected on the front entrance of the new Thomas R. McLean Health Sciences Building.

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*The morning sun is seen kissing the petals of the dogwood trees on the campus of Methodist University.*

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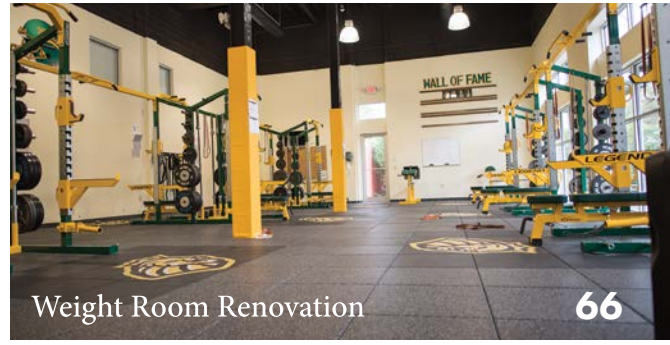
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## Dodworth chosen to present at 20<sup>th</sup> Lyceum

Assistant Professor of English Dr. Cameron Dodworth was chosen to present at this year's B.F. Stone Lyceum in February. The mission of the B.F. Stone Lyceum is to foster scholarly interaction among faculty, students, and community residents. The lecture series was endowed with a generous gift from the estate of Mr. B.F. ("Doc") Stone, a pharmacist from Elizabethtown, NC.

The Lyceum consists of a lecture, two responses, and a question and answer period. Dodworth's presentation, "Why are We Comfortable with a Serial Killer on Cereal Boxes?: Frankenstein in Pop Culture" was joined by responses from Professor of Philosophy Dr. Michael Potts and Professor Emeritus of English Dr. Bob Christian.



Dr. Bob Christian gives his response.



Dr. Michael Potts listens to a comment.



Above, Dr. Cameron Dodworth presents his paper at the Lyceum.



Dr. John Dembosky, kneeling, sets up a telescope before the sky gets dark.

## Monarchs party with the stars

The 2016 Statewide Star Party had a local celebration thanks to science faculty from Methodist University. On April 8, Dr. John Dembosky and others set up telescopes at the Jordan Soccer Complex for students and the community to enjoy. The Statewide Star Party is an initiative of the N.C. Science Festival.



Community members gather at the Jordan Soccer Complex for the Star Party.

## OFF to D.C.

Methodist University Political Science majors visited Washington, D.C. April 7-9. Students met with legislative analysts for North Carolina's members of the House and Senate and toured the Capitol.

The trip capped off with a visit to Oriole Park at Camden Yards to watch the Baltimore Orioles defeat the Tampa Bay Rays.



Methodist University students clockwise from top left: George Richards, Yasaman Bashir, Erica Nelson, Tripp Taylor, and Alexis Corke pose in front of the U.S. Supreme Court. Contributed photo.

## Spring Convocation focuses on Civil Rights Movement

The Spring 2016 Convocation, "Spoken Truth/ Spoken Word: Voices for Social Change," featured a conversation between Department of Social Work Chair Dr. Carla Fagan and Associate Professor of Education Dr. Jaunita Heyward. The two faculty spoke about recent issues in the news and related their own stories of student activism during the Civil Rights Movement.



Scan this QR code to see more pictures from this event.



Dr. Jaunita Heyward and Dr. Carla Fagan sit center stage in Huff Concert Hall.

# EXCELLENCE

# ON DISPLAY

At the Center for Undergraduate Research and Creativity Symposium week



Megan March presents "Plant Powers: The Antimicrobial Nature of Plant-based Cleaning Products."



Methodist University held its fifth annual Center for Undergraduate Research and Creativity Symposium the week of April 11-16. During Monday morning's Faculty Research Presentations, nine faculty members presented original research to the campus community. That evening, MBA, M.Ed., MJA, and Physician Assistant students presented at the Third Annual Graduate Research Symposium. The Tuesday evening of Symposium Week usually features creative writing, and this year was no exception. Students in Professor Robin Greene's Advanced Poetry course held a poetry reading entitled, "Five Poets, Ten Poems."

On Wednesday, the day of the Undergraduate Symposium, students held oral presentations of their research throughout campus in morning and afternoon sessions. Another group of students were available in the afternoon to answer questions about their poster presentations on display in the Union-Zukowski Lobby and Gallery. At the Awards Convocation that concluded Wednesday's events, faculty and students were presented annual awards, and Dr. Clay Britton, director of the Center for Undergraduate Research and Creativity, congratulated all of the students whose hard work culminated in their symposium presentations. The final event of Symposium week was "Breaking Barriers," a performance created by theatre major Teresa Hammonds, held Friday and Saturday evenings in Huff Concert Hall.



Connor Kingdom presents "The Benefits of Math Manipulatives on Children in Today's Schools."



Poet Chris Gogo recites his poem, "Ghost of MLK."

"I have to tell you this is one of my favorite days of the year, next to opening of the year and commencement, this is really a way to celebrate excellence. It's Methodist University at its best. It's our students at their best. It's our faculty at it's best. And that's why I've got the best job in America."

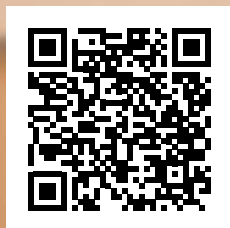
— Ben Hancock  
President, Methodist University



Rachel Krogstie presents "Aristotelian Nursing."



Scan this QR code to see video from this event.



Scan this QR code to see more pictures from this event.

**MU  
Parents,  
STAY  
CONNECTED!**

## PARENTS PROGRAM @ MU

As the parent of an MU student, you want to stay connected to the University and to your student. Signing up is easy. Email your contact information to [alumnioffice@methodist.edu](mailto:alumnioffice@methodist.edu) and you'll receive the university magazine, *MU Today*, and the newsletter, *Monarch Parents Stay Connected*, along with information about events, campus news, volunteer opportunities and important deadlines.

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For more information, contact Sandy Ammons, VP of Advancement, at [alumnioffice@methodist.edu](mailto:alumnioffice@methodist.edu) or 910.630.7609.

We welcome your questions and comments.



## PTM Monarch Summit matches fun and learning

The Professional Tennis Management (PTM) Program's 2015 PTM Monarch Summit was a three-day event for alumni and friends of the program. Held in November, the flagship event let attendees enjoy tennis education opportunities, tournament play, and talks from guest speakers including tennis industry leaders Jorge Andrew and Kelly Gaines; alumnus Kevin Criscoe '04, '09M; and nutritionist Ashley Carpenter.

Above, attendees of the PTM Program's Monarch Summit pose for a group photo following the event.

## 25<sup>th</sup> Southern Writers Symposium in the books

Exploring the visual impact of the written word was the theme of this fall's Southern Writers Symposium, now in its 25<sup>th</sup> year. Keynote speakers included emerging writer Nathan Poole, who read from his highly acclaimed short stories, and Madge McKeithen, who focused on the power of the visual to inspire the writer. Several pieces based off of visual works were read, and attendees also enjoyed a choice of workshops.

As a lead-in to the symposium, the "Land of Dreams" photography exhibit was installed in the Union-Zukowski Lobby earlier in the semester. Showing works by Duke University's Bryce Lankard, the exhibit was held in conjunction with this year's symposium and involved a writing contest based on the photos. Lankard was also on hand at the symposium, and answered questions regarding his photos.



Above, photographer Bryce Lankard and Madge McKeithen discuss Lankard's work.



Left, author Madge McKeithen listens during a workshop. Above, Nathan Poole answers questions after his reading.



Scan this QR code to see more pictures from this event.





David McCune International Art Gallery is packed for the opening reception on Feb. 11.



Scan this QR code to see more pictures from this event.

## Rodin exhibit visits Methodist University

From Feb. 11 to May 7, the David McCune International Art Gallery at Methodist University hosted the traveling exhibition, “Rodin: Portraits of a Lifetime, Selections from the Iris & B. Gerald Cantor Collections,” from the Iris & B. Gerald Cantor Foundation. Auguste Rodin was a French sculptor who lived from 1840 to 1917.

“Rodin’s most readily recognized work is “The Thinker,” and he is considered one of the world’s most important modern sculptors.” said McCune Gallery Executive Director Silvana Foti.

“The exhibit allows visitors to experience the works of a world-renowned artist in an intimate setting.”

The exhibition included Rodin’s depictions of writers Victor Hugo and Honore de Balzac, the musician Gustav Mahler; and the artist Claude Lorrain. Also included in the show was a photographic portrait of Rodin by Edward Steichen.

The free exhibit’s opening reception was on Feb. 11 and featured speaker Judith Sobol, executive director of the Iris & B. Gerald Cantor Foundation. The exhibit was educational and well-attended by viewers from Cumberland County and surrounding areas.

For more information on the David McCune International Art Gallery, visit [www.davidmccunegallery.org](http://www.davidmccunegallery.org).



“Art students everywhere study Rodin. I was fortunate to see Rodin sculptures in museums in Europe and large U.S. cities, and it’s nothing short of amazing that a gallery in Cumberland County had the opportunity to exhibit his work.”

— Silvana Foti  
Gallery Director



Above Inset: Judith Sobol, executive director of the Iris & B. Gerald Cantor Foundation with Gallery Director Silvana Foti at the opening reception.

Inset: Attendees enjoy the works of the exhibit during the gallery opening night.

Auguste Rodin:  
*Heroic Bust of Victor Hugo*,  
bronze, detail, 29 1/4 x 23 1/2 x 21 1/4 in.,  
Executed: 1890-97 or 1901-02;  
Cast: Musée Rodin  
7/12, 1981. Collection Iris Cantor.



# Reeves School of Business Symposium and Awards Dinner recognizes local business members

Seven awards were presented at the Inaugural Reeves School of Business Symposium and Awards Dinner this fall. The keynote speaker was Dan Roselli, who spoke on: "Building a Startup Ecosystem: Fostering Innovation and Entrepreneurship within Communities."

**The award winners were:**

**Alumni Business Person of the Year:** Gwen and Tim Holtsclaw, Cheer Limited and ScrubOaks Contemporary American Pub

**Business Person of the Year:** William Temple Allen, CPA

**Entrepreneur of the Year:** Dr. Brian Kent, K3 Enterprises

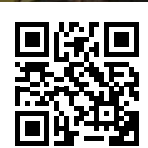
**Greater Good Award:** George Breece, National Association for the Advancement of Orthotics and Prosthetics

**Outstanding Woman Entrepreneur of the Year:** Susan Guy and Martha Owen, Home Instead Senior Care

**The Silver Spoon Award:** David Allred, Cunningham and Company

**Small Business Excellence Award:** Bob Bangs, Chick-fil-A

*Mark your calendar for the next symposium, which will be held Nov. 17. Nominations for the next awards are being accepted until Aug. 5.*



Scan this QR code to see videos from this event.



Scan this QR code to see more pictures from this event.

## Mission trips clean up after S.C. flooding, help out in Appalachia



Left to right, Jasmine Smith, Xinyue Li, Matt French, Sheryl Brock, Douah Coulibaly, and Lalisha Williams, carry furniture out of a flood damaged home near Charleston, S.C.



From left, students Lisa Kasamba, Sheryl Brock, Douah Coulibaly, Kayla Pless, Taylor Sluss, and Tripp Taylor, stop for a photo at a work site with Red Bird Mission staff member Tim Baugh, back.

Campus Minsitry's fall and spring break mission trips took students to help people from the coast to the mountains this school year. Over Fall Break, a group of students traveled to Pawleys Island, S.C., where they helped clean up a church and homes after storms caused flooding and damage throughout the region. In the spring, the office took students to Beverly, Ky., to work with Red Bird Mission on projects that included replacing flooring and a pump house.

Scan this QR code to see more pictures from this event.



Outstanding Woman Entrepreneurs of the Year Martha Owen and Susan Guy, center, pose with RSB Dean Dr. Kimberly Scruton, left, and Trustee Chair Dr. Mary Lynn Bryan.



Dr. Brian Kent takes the podium as Entrepreneur of the Year.



William Temple Allen speaks after receiving the Business Person of the Year Award.



From left, students Pless, Taylor, Chris Hankins, and Sluss show off a pump house they helped build.



Brock and Coulibaly remove damaged carpet at St. Paul's Waccamaw United Methodist Church in Pawleys Island S.C.



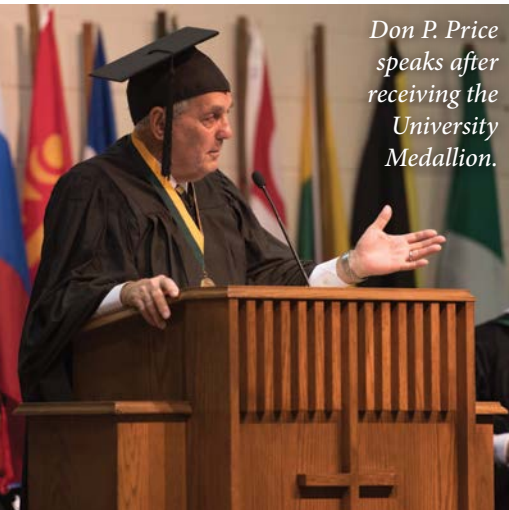
# 2015 WINTER COMMENCEMENT



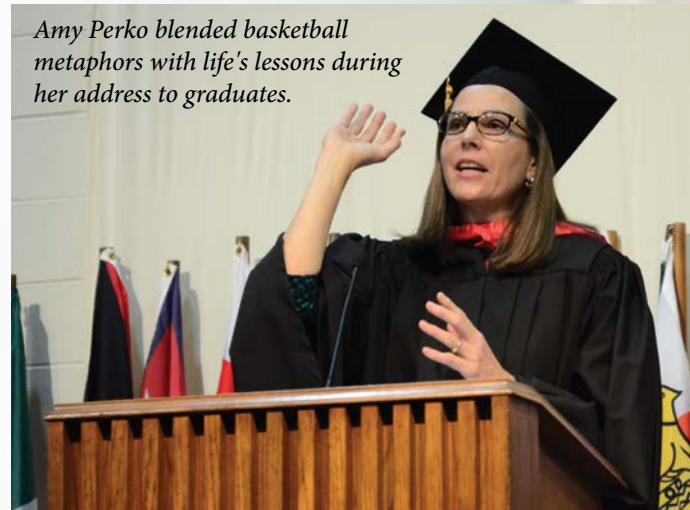
*Samuel Robinson is hooded by Rose Robinson, his mother.*

On Dec. 12, Methodist University celebrated its 43<sup>rd</sup> Winter Commencement Ceremony. Amy P. Perko, executive director of the Knight Commission on Intercollegiate Athletics, was the keynote speaker. Don Price was presented the University Medallion for his longtime support of Methodist University.

Samuel Robinson won the Sam Edwards Award as the outstanding MU at Night graduate, and Katherine Cadungog was recognized as the Distinguished Graduate.



*Don P. Price speaks after receiving the University Medallion.*



*Amy Perko blended basketball metaphors with life's lessons during her address to graduates.*



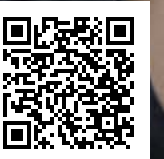
*Distinguished Graduate Katherine Cadungog speaks to her classmates.*



*Faculty member Dr. Warren McDonald hoods student Cindy Colon.*



*Master of Medical Science candidate Evanthia Lakis smiles for the camera.*



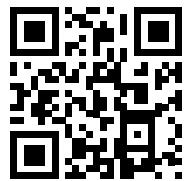
*Scan this QR code to see more pictures from this event.*

*Taylor Kahlman, candidate for a Bachelor of Science, shows his excitement before the ceremony starts.*

# 2016 SPRING COMMENCEMENT



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Scan this QR code to see video from this event.

MU Graduate Desmond Parker keeps his hat from blowing off. Winds were strong on graduation day.



On a beautiful yet windy day, Methodist University celebrated its 53rd annual Spring Commencement Ceremony on May 7.

Dr. Nancy J. Cable, president of The Arthur Vining Davis Foundations, delivered the commencement address. President Ben Hancock, presented Cable with an honorary Doctor of Humane Letters.

“Dr. Nancy Cable is an accomplished leader in higher education, and the Arthur Vining Davis Foundation is known for its support of innovation at universities,” said Hancock. “As we continue to grow

as a university, follow best practices, and seek new ways of facilitating excellent teaching and learning, her comments at commencement are very timely.”

Two graduates, Crystal Torre-Michel and Ryan Mendoza, received their commission as second lieutenants in the U.S. Army.

Olorato Condrad Mbi, a senior receiving his Bachelor of Science in Accounting, was selected by his fellow classmates as Distinguished Graduate, and Samantha Scoggins was presented with the L. Stacy Weaver Award.



Above, Dr. Nancy J. Cable receives an honorary Doctor of Humane Letters from President Hancock. Left, Distinguished Graduate Olorato Condrad Mbi addresses his classmates. Center, Samantha Scoggins receives the L. Stacy Weaver Award. Right, Volha Sviarkaltsava, left, Stacy Pifer, and Jeffery Oestereich are presented as candidates for Bachelor of Arts degrees.



Left, Crystal Torre-Michel and Ryan Mendoza are sworn in as second lieutenants. Right, fellow graduates receiving the Bachelor of Science in Nursing enjoy the moment.

## Methodist welcomes variety of guest speakers



### A few of this year's speakers were:

- ◆ Three World War II veterans spoke in November to Dr. Peter Murray's history class. Edward Buck talked about landing in Anzio, Italy, Maurice Braswell was a POW after his plane was shot down over Romania, and Al Alvarez landed in Normandy, France on D-Day.
- ◆ Vice President of the PGA Paul Levy spoke in February to PGA Golf Management Students about the PGA Centennial and took questions on the industry.
- ◆ Dr. Adele Reinhartz from the University of Ottawa was this year's speaker for the Department of Philosophy and Religion's Womack Lecture in Philosophy, Religion, and Ethics. Reinhartz spoke about "Scripture on the Silver Screen" in October, with two lectures, "Jesus of Hollywood" and "Mary Magdalene at the Movies."
- ◆ In April, the 16th Annual Bullard-Templeton Lecture featured Dr. Leslie Wickman, executive director of American Scientific Affiliation, with her talk "God and 'Big Bang' Cosmology: Scientific Evidence for the Existence of a Creator."
- ◆ The Center for Entrepreneurship (CFE) speaker series hosted Dr. Terry Stoops, director of Research and Education Studies for the John Locke Foundation in April for his lecture, "Higgledy-Piggledy Public Schools and the Enduring Promise of School Choice."
- ◆ The first speaker for this year's CFE speaker series was Marc Hackel, who spent two decades in Russia as an entrepreneur, recruiter and translator, who talked about "Corruption and Crony Capitalism: Stories from Russia."
- ◆ The CFE speaker series also included October guest Dr. James Bailey from Heider College of Business at Creighton University, who spoke on "Regulation vs. Entrepreneurship: Do Government Regulations Help or Hurt Entrepreneurs?"

## Rotary honors six with Lowdermilk awards



The 22nd annual Dr. William P. Lowdermilk Student Achievement Awards were given in April by the Fayetteville Rotary Club. Honored were: pictured above from left, Katherine Nation, Samantha Hill, Alyssa Like, Kyle Colborn, Jenny Bautista, Remilda De Sousa, Dedric Bowman, and (not shown) Danielle Burns.

The original award was established in 1995 by the Board of the Fayetteville Rotary Club to honor Dr. William P. Lowdermilk for his long and honorable service to Rotary and to Methodist University.

## Valentine recognized as Loyalty Campaign Supporter of the Year

Sharon Valentine was recognized at this year's Loyalty Campaign Supporter of the Year at the Loyalty Campaign celebration luncheon in February.

When presenting the award, President Ben Hancock said Valentine's love and involvement with Methodist University runs deep.

"Over the past 14 years, Sharon, personally and as a campaign team leader, has raised more than \$41,000 for this student scholarship fund," Hancock said.

Valentine is also a member of the Board of Visitors and a past member of the Center for Entrepreneurship Advisory Board and the Foundation Board.





# Gene Clayton retires after 53 years of service

Members of the Methodist University community, from faculty and staff, to alumni, filled the upper floor of Berns Student Center on March 30, coming together with a common purpose to hug Gene Clayton.

With more than 50 years of service to the university under his belt, Clayton announced his retirement earlier this year. Faculty, staff, and alumni were invited to join him for a retirement reception to celebrate his legacy and dedication to the University.

“If you want a monument to Gene Clayton that stretches back over the last 50 years, look around you,” said Dr. Elton Hendricks, president emeritus. “This campus bears the mark of his goodness, his character, and his wisdom. Truly, if you see the monument, look around you.”

Physical reminders of Clayton are everywhere on the campus. From the construction of the Riddle Center in the late 1980s, to the new McLean Health Sciences Building, his hand has been in each project. In addition, the development of Show You Care Days, often marked by photos of Clayton teaching students how to use basic garden equipment and surveying the work of those involved in the projects, and the general care and upkeep of the University grounds make it easy to see just how vital a role Clayton plays in the continued success of Methodist University.

“When Elton was giving his remarks, he spoke about looking around you. I know he was talking about facilities and beyond, but to give another illustration, the testimony of Gene’s good work is also the people who have worked with him, for him, and alongside him,” said President Ben Hancock. “There are so many people here today who are seeds Gene planted around this campus. The seeds are not just plants and buildings – they are people that Gene has inspired, and they are the stories that those people will tell in the future.”

While Clayton’s retirement reception did mark the end of an era, he agreed to continue his unparalleled record of service to the university by becoming the Assistant to the President for Special Projects, a title which will allow him to continue helping the University with its facilities planning and program development.

*Top, Dr. Gene Clayton shares stories from MU’s past. Middle, Clayton poses with his family. Left to right, wife Patricia, granddaughter Julia, sister-in-law Beverly, Gene Clayton, brother Joe Clayton, grandson Samuel, daughter Cathy, and granddaughter Annagrace. Below, Clayton talks with Loretta and Walt Swing.*



Scan this QR code to see more pictures from this event.



Scan this QR code to see video from this event.

*Dr. Gene Clayton poses with Vice President for Planning and Administration Sheila Carr Kinsey, and Vice President for Business Affairs and Controller Dawn Ausborn '89.*

## GENE CLAYTON 1963-2016

- 1963-1965:** Men’s Tennis Coach, Cross Country Coach, Assistant Basketball Coach
- 1965-1973:** Director of Athletics
- 1973-1974:** Dean of Students
- 1975-1985:** Director of Athletics
- 1985-1990:** Director of Development and Advancement
- 1990-2016:** Vice President for Business Affairs

# MU celebrates faculty and staff retirements

Several longtime faculty and staff retired this school year. Among the faculty, Associate Professor of Education Sue Godwin Baker retired after six years, Associate Director of PGA Golf Management – Internships Charles Koonce stepped down after 18 years, and Professor of Social Work Mary Deyampert-McCall retired after teaching at Methodist for 18 years, including several years as an adjunct in the MU@Night program.

Staff members retiring included Superintendent of Building and Grounds Tom Daughtrey, 20 years; Security Officer Lorenzo Joseph, 12 years; and Treasurer Rick Rode, 21 years.



The retiring faculty and staff were honored at several receptions. Clockwise from left: Retiring faculty Charles Koonce, Mary Deyampert-McCall, and Sue Godwin Baker with President Ben Hancock. Lorenzo Joseph is presented with a shadowbox by Staff Sergeant John Brown. Tom Daughtrey is given a token of appreciation. Bursar John Shaw, left talks about Rick Rode, right, and their time together at Methodist.





## Lew Tabackin headlines Jazz Festival



Lew Tabackin

Methodist University held its annual Jazz Festival March 19, in Huff Concert Hall. The featured guest artist was Philadelphia-born flutist and tenor saxophonist Lew Tabackin. Special guests included The Fayetteville Jazz Orchestra, Methodist University Jazz Monarchs, and Pembroke Jazz Ensemble.

Tabackin delighted jazz lovers with his mastery of the flute and tenor saxophone and was invited on stage to give other performers helpful tips and thoughtful insights.

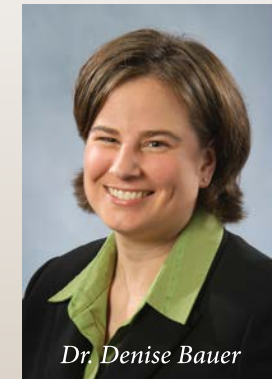
Tabackin majored in flute at the Philadelphia Conservatory of Music (B.M. 1962) and studied privately with composer Vincent Persichetti. His career has led him on a journey from New York to Los Angeles, and throughout Europe.

Tabackin currently has 22 recordings on his resume including the latest, Tanuki's Night Out, Live In Paris, and Quartet.



Methodist University Jazz Monarchs

## New Engineering Program names director



Dr. Denise Bauer

Dr. Denise Bauer has joined Methodist University as the new director of the Engineering Program. Bauer, who is also an associate professor of engineering at Methodist, developed the program, which will start in the fall.

Originally from Little Rock, Ark., Bauer was first introduced to engineering by her high school physics teacher. She specializes in human factors and ergonomics, as well as engineering education.

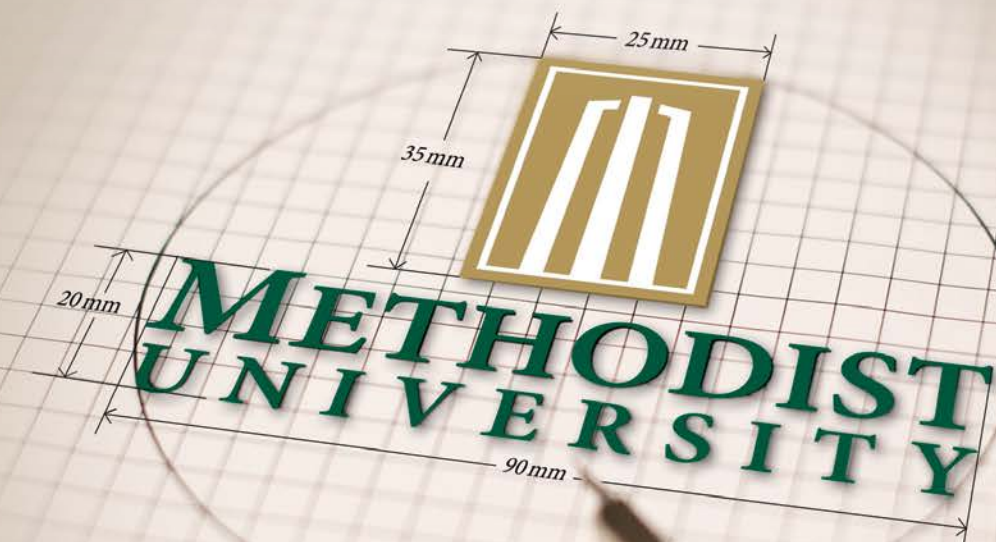
"The idea of integrating science and math to solve complex problems was intriguing," Bauer said. "That's what first drew me to engineering. Now, I love that engineering is a challenging yet flexible field where you can study a variety of topics, such as examining backpack safety for students, improving signals for the visually impaired at intersections, and even finding new ways to teach future engineers. The best reward of an engineering career is knowing that your work benefits others in their everyday lives."

Bauer received her Ph.D. in industrial engineering with a specialization in human factors from Pennsylvania State University. She also holds a master's degree in industrial engineering and a Bachelor of Science in engineering science from the University of Tennessee. She received a post-doctoral fellowship to study communication methods of students in online classes, and is a certified professional ergonomist. She has been published in the professional journal *WORK* and in a chapter of *Load Carriage in School Children*.

The Engineering Program at Methodist University will give students the opportunity to earn a Bachelor of Science (B.S.) degree in Engineering with a concentration in Industrial Engineering.

The goal is for each student to have his/her own real-world experience while obtaining the degree. Students in the Engineering Program will gain knowledge in the sciences, math, and engineering, as well as the liberal arts, while participating in many other enrichment activities such as service-learning projects, internships, and the MU Journey.

*"The Engineering Program is pending SACSCOC approval."*



For more information on Methodist University's Engineering Program contact, Dr. Denise H. Bauer  
Associate Professor of Engineering  
910.482.5607 | dbauer@methodist.edu

# Methodist University welcomes new Trustees



John W. Brown



James J. Townsend

Methodist University welcomed two new Trustees, The Honorable John W. Brown '71 and Mr. James J. Townsend '80 to the Board of Trustees in 2015.

Brown, a circuit court judge of the first judicial circuit of the Commonwealth of Virginia, graduated from Methodist College with his Bachelor of Arts in Political Science. He has served on the Virginia Supreme Court, the United States District Court in the eastern district of Virginia, the United States Supreme Court, the United States Tax Court, and the United States Court of Appeals, Fourth Circuit. In 2014, he was elected by the American Bar Association to the Executive Committee of the National Conference of State Trial Judges.

Townsend is the president, founder and CEO of InfoStrat, an IT Solutions company in Washington, D.C. He received his Bachelor of Arts in French and Spanish from Methodist College in 1980. Townsend is considered a leading expert on Microsoft solutions for government, and a pioneer of Microsoft Dynamics CRM as a development platform. He has published multiple articles and books on software development, and is the publisher of "The Townsend Report," a blog about Microsoft Dynamics, startup companies, customer service, and information technology in the public sector.

The Board of Trustees is responsible for the resource management of the university and helps determine the general, educational and financial policies of the university. It works with the University president and the Administrative Cabinet to promote the overall well-being and strength of the University.

# Miss Methodist 2016

Methodist University held its 10<sup>th</sup> annual Miss Methodist pageant in February. After a great competition, Tracie Taylor from Kinston, N.C. won the coveted crown.



Tracie Taylor, the newly crowned Miss Methodist, poses with President Hancock.



Scan to see more photos from the Miss Methodist competition.



## SAVE THE DATE

Board of Visitors Golf & Tennis Tournament  
Methodist University Golf Course "Downback"



**OCT. 26, 2016**

For more information call 910.630.7200, email [mduffield@methodist.edu](mailto:mduffield@methodist.edu), or visit [methodist.edu/bov-tournaments](http://methodist.edu/bov-tournaments)



## Let's Connect

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# Mr. Methodist 2016

Freshman Tevis Dasher from Folkston, Ga., was selected as the 2016 Mr. Methodist. The students who participate in Mr. Methodist must be active members of the campus community and commit to participate in off-campus commitments to represent the University, as well. The winner of the competition also receives a scholarship.



Scan this QR code to see more pictures from this event.



From left, Tameka Bright, Cody Webb, Tevis Dasher (Mr. Methodist 2016), Nicholas "Teddy" Wilkerson, Demetrius Washington, and host Abanob "Bebo" Salib take a group photo at the end of the night.

# TRANSFORMATION

The Methodist University Department of Art held its senior exhibiton, "Transformation," which featured works by student Loreto Oreckinto. The exhibition held its opening reception Thursday, Dec. 3, in the David McCune International Art Gallery. Oreckinto was on hand to discuss her work. The show ran until Dec. 12.

Oreckinto was born in Chile but lived in Canada for much of her childhood, and moved

to the United States when she was 16 years old. Having to move from one country to another inspired her to paint what she cherishes the most— her family. In 2007, Oreckinto graduated with an associate degree in fine arts from Hudson County Community College. Oreckinto graduated from Methodist University in 2015 with a bachelor's degree in art with a concentration in painting.



Scan to see more photos from this exhibit.



Fellow MU students admire Oreckinto's work.



Artist Loreto Oreckinto poses with her work titled, "My Life." Acrylic on canvas 25" x 35"







# Check up *on the* School *of* Health Sciences

**T**he mission of the School of Health Sciences at Methodist University is to prepare undergraduate and graduate students for careers as health professionals. Its programs support collaboration between the health disciplines. Each are committed to lifelong learning with critical thinking, compassionate and caring interactions, and the delivery of ethical and evidence-based health care services. The School also researches and promotes health and wellness locally, regionally, and globally.

The following stories in this issue's cover section ask the School of Health Sciences to open its mouth and say, "Ahh." ►



## Trio starts challenge for PA Technology Endowment

Three local alumni from the Physician Assistant Program are challenging fellow alumni to start an endowment to fund current and future technology needs in the program. Husband Thomas 'Bucky' Brown '13M and his wife Jordan Grady Brown '10, '13M, along with their sister-in-law, Rachel Branch Brown '14M, say the endowment is needed to keep the program and its graduates among the best in the country. The trio is starting their challenge with an initial gift to start the endowment and hopes that other alumni will contribute to the fund.

"The reason I went to Methodist was because they had cutting-edge technology," Rachel Brown said. "The faculty and the technology are going to be what sets Methodist apart. I want people to choose Methodist for the same reason I chose it, because it's a good program and they're keeping up with the times."

Things that might be on the wish list include upgrading the mock patient exam room with computer-controlled simulation technology like manikins, cameras, microphones, and headsets; or new software utilities used in medical documentation and record keeping.

"Everything's becoming electronic now," Bucky Brown said. "With medicine in particular, by the time you think you've caught up in technology and research, there's a new evolution in something else. Technology is not disappearing any time soon, and it's only going to get more advanced. We all came to the agreement that we want to keep Methodist competitive with the evolution of medicine."

Jordan Brown, who also holds a bachelor's degree from Methodist, said she can't believe how campus has changed since she started at the University.

"Now when I go back to campus I can't believe it," Jordan Brown said. "It's awesome. And just like I'm a reflection of Methodist, the students that come out of this will be a reflection of Methodist as well, so we want future generations of students to represent it well and be up to speed, if not better, than their colleagues they're going to be competing for jobs with."

With the significant number of MU PA alumni in the area, the three hope that their idea will continue to benefit the program and the local area.

"When you have an institution like Methodist that can continue to produce high-quality graduates, it really creates a sense of involvement," Bucky Brown said. "Even patients in the room will ask if you went to Methodist. It creates an automatic rapport with patients that's really unique. So I think a challenge like this creates a deeper sense of involvement. Even if you're a new graduate, you have a family, you're trying to pay off loans – you don't have to donate thousands, even a small donation makes a difference. With this, once something's started it's easy to pick up steam."

Jordan Brown agrees, pointing out how welcoming the Fayetteville and surrounding communities have been to graduates from the PA program.

"When we graduated, the first thing people wanted to know was 'Are you from Fayetteville? Are you staying in Fayetteville?'" she said. "There's a very tight-knit community here. I never realized what all Fayetteville had to offer until we started going on rotations and started meeting the medical community."

*Left to right, alumni and family Rachel Brown, Bucky Brown, and Jordan Brown stand together at Cape Fear Valley Medical Center.*

# Oxendine uses stories to spur healthy conversations in native communities

Associate Professor of Clinical Medicine Dr. Lisa Huggins Oxendine first wrote about American Indians dealing with health issues in a culturally relevant way in her 2006 novel, “The Pink Begonia Sister’s Caribbean Retreat.” The novel, which is about the impact of breast cancer, was distributed at a conference sponsored by the Mayo Clinic about cancer in native communities.

From there, Oxendine was later asked to write a similar vignette for an American Indian health guide published by the Maya Angelou Center for Health Equity at Wake Forest School of Medicine. The center has again asked her to write three more vignettes for a new publication out this summer which focuses on dementia, and is being developed as part of the Carolina Geriatric Workforce Enhancement Program based at UNC Chapel Hill.

“We were thrilled when Lisa agreed to work with us on this project,” said Dr. Ronny Bell, who is Lumbee himself and is a professor at Wake Forest School of Medicine and director of the Maya Angelou Center. “When we developed this partnership with UNC Chapel Hill to develop these educational materials, I immediately thought about bringing Lisa on board. We have had such a tremendous response to the first health guides that she helped us with, and I know we will with these new materials.”

“The vignettes will be tailored for American Indians in North Carolina,” Oxendine said. “It’s a way of using fiction to allow people to identify with the information, to say, ‘Oh, I understand that, that sounds familiar to myself or someone else.’ And so that identification then provides a vehicle for them to internalize the ideas and to understand how they should proceed, or consider how to change their lives.”

The vignettes will contain useful information and strategies, but most importantly, they will do so while portraying people, language patterns, activities, and motivations that are true and familiar to a native population. And while there is clearly not a one-size-

fits-all approach for different tribes in North Carolina, there are some commonalities that Oxendine and other writers can tap into.

“In one of my earlier vignettes, the setting was a few women at a quilting event, because that’s something that is important to American Indian women,” Oxendine said. “I tried to consider what is culturally important to these tribes and what would make them resonate with them, for example, making quilts, or something else for certain others.”

Small things like word choices can make a difference, as tribal members can have distinctive linguistic patterns, even while speaking English. Oxendine, who is a member of the Lumbee Tribe, said she also thinks about choosing common last names relative to certain tribes, as well as other details.

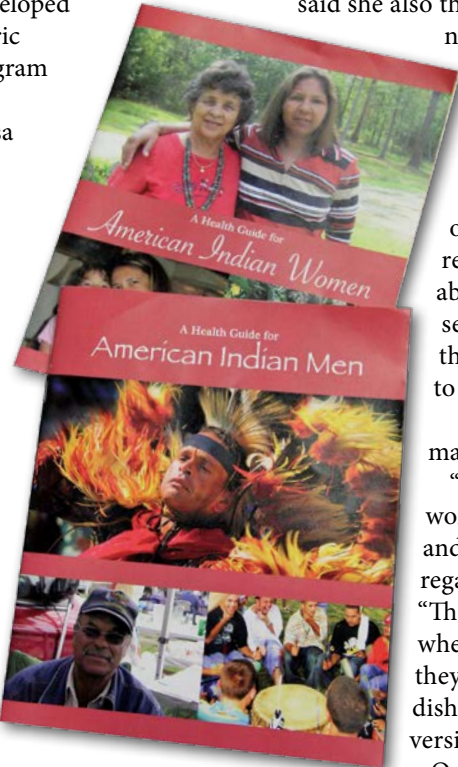
“I’m very fortunate in that I know people from various tribes in North Carolina, so that’s available to me,” she said. “I look at the groups of people who are intended as the recipients of these stories and talk about the information in a way that will seem familiar to them, as if someone they knew actually sat down and talked to them.”

As well as talking and writing, she makes sure to listen.

“I think I’m the first person in the world to sit down with Lumbee women and ask them, ‘What can we do to help?’ regarding nutrition information,” she said. “They’ve talked about using our language when talking about important topics, and they asked for help to take our cultural dishes and make them in a healthier version.”

Oxendine is also concerned with helping the larger community understand the economic causes and effects of health inequality.

“There are people who have access to healthy foods and others who don’t because of things such as no sidewalk, or no transportation from point A to point B,” she said. “There are people who would love to consume nutritious food, but they don’t know what it is because the literature isn’t written in a way that they understand it. There are a lot of reasons for health inequalities in North Carolina. To address them, we need to go back to some of the basic things such as effective communication.”



“There are people who would love to consume nutritious food, but they don’t know what it is because the literature isn’t written in a way that they understand it.”

— Dr. Lisa Huggins Oxendine  
Associate Professor of Clinical Medicine

Left, Dr. Ronny Bell, director of the Maya Angelou Center for Health Equity and MU’s Dr. Lisa Huggins Oxendine discuss American Indian health publications at the Lumbee Tribal Housing Office.

# PA graduates receive program's first international job placements



For 13 years, the Physician Assistant (PA) Program has sent students overseas to work rotations in Africa, Europe, Central and South America, but two recent graduates have the distinction of getting the program's first international job placements.

"Methodist University's PA Program is proud that our graduates are working to increase access to medical care internationally," said Program Director Christina Beard. ▶

*Cleatus Steele '14 and Lisa Frank '15 outside of Balloch Castle, at the southern tip of Loch Lomond in Scotland. Contributed photo.*

"For several years, the program has offered international rotations to broaden the clinical year experience and to demonstrate the importance of respecting all people, cultures, and beliefs," Beard said. "It is exciting that our program is taking part in building the PA profession in Scotland. Cleatus and Lisa were exceptional students, and I have no doubt they will provide exceptional care to their patients in the United Kingdom. We are proud to have graduates like them, who achieve great things locally, nationally, and internationally."

In January, Cleatus Steele '14 and Lisa Frank '15 took one-way tickets to Scotland in the U.K., where jobs were waiting for them in different departments at Hairmyres Hospital in East Kilbride. Steele works in the accident and emergency department (A&E) – that's the emergency room in the U.S. – and Frank is in orthopedics. The local term for PAs is "physician associate" and they are far less common in Scotland than in the U.S., Steele says.

"Best I can remember, there are about 300 to 400 PAs in all of the U.K., with around 100 of them being in Scotland," he said. "We are definitely the new kids on the block here, which is one of the reasons we were wanted. They are attempting to bring in some American PAs to help advocate for the profession until it is better established. Our hospital has had PAs for about the last six years, so they are fairly used to having PAs. Most of the patients and newer staff are still unfamiliar with us, however."

Since the U.K. recognizes the Physician Assistant National Certifying Exam (PANCE) that all PAs take in the U.S., the two were able to start work without extra certification or testing. Both Steele, who is from Arlington, Texas, and Frank, who is from Racine, Wis., had extensive travel experience and knew they wanted to take jobs that would allow them to continue to explore the world. Between the U.K. and Australia, the only English-speaking countries that recognize PAs, the U.K. was the obvious choice.

"Simply put, I got Cleatus the job, and he got me the job," Frank said. "During my second year of PA school, a group of my classmates and I went to the American Academy of Physician Assistants Conference (the national PA conference) in San Francisco. We were wandering through an area of booths with different PA groups when we came across the 'PAs for Global Health' stand. My now boss, Olivia Bockoff, was there trying to recruit people to move to Scotland."

Frank signed up Steele without his knowledge, since he had four months experience working as a PA. When he got an email asking if he'd like to interview, he asked if there were any positions available for Frank, too.

Bockoff, who is lead physician associate at Hairmyres A&E., said there is a shortage of health care providers in the U.K.

"One of the solutions being offered is to implement the versatile and flexible role of the physician assistant to help meet these needs, as PAs are highly skilled and can change specialty to meet the needs of the healthcare system," Bockoff said.

"Here at Hairmyres Hospital, we have decided to recruit U.S.-trained PAs to work alongside our U.K. graduates and help mentor

them so that all our PAs are providing high quality care along the U.S. standards."

Frank said it had always been a dream of hers and Steele's to work abroad.

"I had a crazy dream of working in the U.K. as a physician assistant/athletic trainer alongside the greatest football team, Chelsea Football Club, since college," said Frank, who graduated with her bachelor's in athletic training from Coe College in Cedar Rapids, Iowa. "When the opportunity to work in Scotland came up, I couldn't refuse! It's even more of a perfect fit than I could have imagined. What I loved about growing up in the Midwest was that small town/Midwest support that was everywhere. When I traveled halfway across the country for PA school, I found that same unconditional support and small town feel from everyone at Methodist. From my experience, everyone at Methodist was genuinely interested in you as a person and wanted to help in any way possible. They also stressed the importance of balance in life ... Now imagine all that as a country."

People here are incredibly curious about why an American decided to come to rainy Scotland. They want to know all about

PAs. They know the balance of having fun/making fun of yourself and being serious. The work-life balance that so many of us struggle with is a lot more achievable here."

The practice of PAs in Scotland is different than in the U.S. in several ways. Because they are a new concept there, they do not yet have a regulatory body to officially oversee the practitioners, which prevents them from prescribing medications or requesting certain tests

directly. Instead, each decision must be signed off on by a doctor.

"The Faculty of Physician Associates (the U.K. Physician Associate national group) has submitted proposals to be a part of two different regulating bodies, which if either is approved, would allow us full prescription rights," Steele said. "The thoughts are that this will likely to be approved within the next one to three years. We are very fortunate that both the head of the A&E and the head of orthopedics at Hairmyres are highly involved with the process of us becoming a regulated profession. Until then, we do everything to arrange for these things and then have a doctor sign off on the request/order."

There are also cultural differences the couple has come across that keep their practice interesting. The country's socialized health care system means patients get a lot of general practice and preventative care relatively easily, but also face a more economical approach to getting tests and prescriptions. Steele said the system balances out, with patients being seen more regularly before they can become seriously ill, and getting tests performed on a different time scale, often avoiding "emergency" costs.

"You don't realize how much you learn to 'read' a person when getting a history from them until you're in a different culture," Steele said. "Patients obviously have different accents but also use different words, and will stress entirely different parts of their stories here. I had a patient who was 'coughing up a wee bit of blood' and just before discharging him we noticed that it was in fact almost a cup of blood at a time. Needless to say, he was no longer allowed to go home."

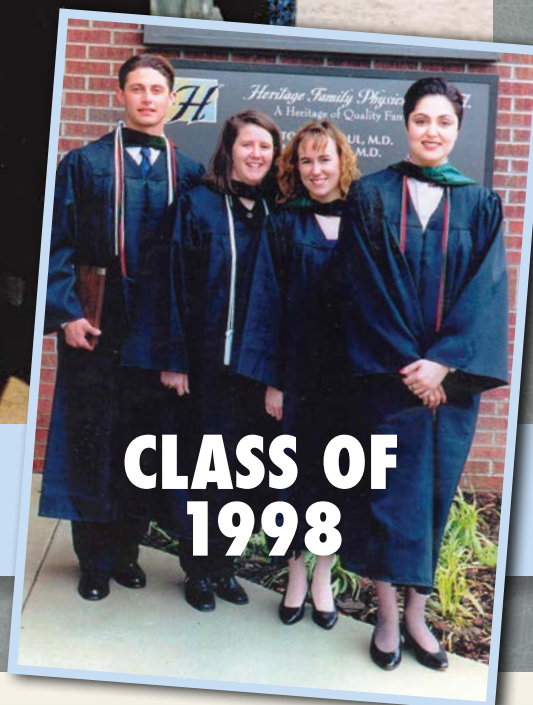
**"I had a patient who was 'coughing up a wee bit of blood' and just before discharging him we noticed that it was in fact almost a cup of blood at a time. Needless to say, he was no longer allowed to go home."**

**— Cleatus Steele**

# PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT PROGRAM CELEBRATES 20<sup>TH</sup> BIRTHDAY



Above, staff and students of Methodist's physician assistant program review plans for the Allied Health Building. Left to right, Ron Foster, director; Sayeh Araghi, student; Elmer Ray, foreman with Sigma Construction Co.; Peter Stanford, assistant director; Melissa Sherrod, student; Jason Williams, student; Robin Lincoln, student. Photo: Bill Billings



In 1996, Methodist University started a bachelor's degree program for physician assistants. That program became Methodist's first graduate-level program in 2000, with the first Master of Medical Science degrees handed out in 2003. More than 400 graduates later, the program is still going strong and has a sterling reputation and a first-time board certification pass rate that is the envy of its peers. The program estimates that MU PA graduates have treated an approximately 11 million patients since the Class of 1998 entered practice.

Before all that, however, four undergraduate students named Sayeh, Robin, Melissa, and Jason were MU's very first PA students. They didn't have a building, though they watched it being built. They didn't have other students to follow, so they blazed their own paths. Sometimes, they held class at a picnic table. Despite the challenges, they had the hope, goodwill, and attention of the community helping them along the way.

Sayeh Araghi '98 remembers everyone being excited about the new program. A Fayetteville native, she started at Methodist to study biology.

"It was the greatest thing in my life to be one of those four lucky students to be privileged to be in the program," she said. "We didn't have much computerized education, but I really liked it because all the people who taught us were really one-to-one, with eye-to-eye contact; We could just talk to them and ask them a question immediately."

Now practicing with her brother, Sasan, who is also an alumnus, at Northwood Medical Center in Fayetteville, she sees current PA students from Methodist all the time as they rotate through the family practice office, and sometimes hires them.

"The things I always wanted to have when I was a PA in my rotations, that's what I want to give them," she said. "I tell them, 'Don't be shy, ask questions.' I like helping the program like that, because they helped me a lot. That's the way to go, you have to help people because people helped you."

Robin Lincoln Elledge '98 jokes about the "tremendously large class sizes" today's PA students have compared to her time in the program. She described her class and faculty as a tight-knit group that supported each other.

"I enjoyed it, despite the challenge that PA school is, I think I got much better opportunities and teaching because of the small

size," she said. "The program has obviously come a tremendous way with the size and everything."

Elledge, who lives in Holly Springs, N.C., recently joined the surgical assistant group Elite Hands.

Melissa Martin Sherrod '98 said she remembers watching videos of cadaver dissections, since the cadaver lab wasn't built yet. None of the program's three facilities were built at the beginning.

"We never really had formal classes in the new buildings," she said. "But we watched the first one being built. We would just meet around a table in an office space. It was a really unique way to learn, but you always had to be prepared. You couldn't be absent."

Sherrod, who practices in the emergency room at Brunswick Novant Medical Center in Bolivia, N.C., says she stays in contact with her classmates and watches for news from the program.

"It's really exciting to see it grow and become one of the main programs in North Carolina," she said. "It's always fun to hear about alumni who have come from there."

Jason Williams '98 remembers those years as a sort of "family education" environment.

"Essentially, we sat there all day, just the four of us, with Ron Foster and Dr. Chris Aul and Peter Stanford," Williams said. "They were wonderful. But that was it, it was one room. It's amazing the facilities the PA Program has now."

Williams, who gained much notoriety for founding, growing and successfully exiting what is now the FastMed urgent care chain, recently switched gears and is now CEO of PRTI in Franklinton, N.C.

Now retired, Ron Foster is credited with starting the program. He said beginning small was all part of the plan. At the time, there were only two other PA programs in the state, and students in those programs typically didn't stay in the area after graduating. Foster hoped a local program would change that.

"It did start small and it did start low-key, because I wanted to make sure we started everything properly," Foster said. "And what has resulted from this is, I have spoken with physicians all over North Carolina who have had exposure to our students, either through clinical rotations or hiring them, and they talk about how there is no one in North Carolina who can compare

Left, the first graduates of MU's new Physician Assistant Program, Jason Williams, Robin Lincoln, Melissa Sherrod and Sayeh Araghi.

**Save the date!** All alumni from the Methodist University Physician Assistant Program are invited to attend a PA Reunion on campus, Oct. 8. Visit [methodist.edu/alumni-events](http://methodist.edu/alumni-events) for more information.

# Williams spinning old tires into new energy



After 14 years of innovating and disrupting the healthcare industry with FastMed, Jason Williams '98 has put down his stethoscope and picked up a hard hat. Now CEO of Product Recovery Technology International (PRTI), he's refocusing his entrepreneurial spirit and drive into a new company that looks to fundamentally change the waste industry.

"It was enormous, walking away from FastMed, the second largest urgent care company in the country, and scary at the same time," Williams said. "It was kind of life changing, and a huge success for so many people involved and a lot of the PA students I went to school with and met along the way who helped build that company. They all contributed and benefited from the success of all our hard work."

When it came time to take a new path, Williams had some choices, thanks to his work as an angel investor working with start-up companies in a variety of fields around the world. Among them was PRTI, where he'd worked with the founders and helped get it off the ground. PRTI takes tires and the waste products of tire manufacturing, puts them through a controlled, contained process involving heat and pressure, and deconstructs the tires into their base components – carbon, steel, gas, and oil – which can then be resold back into the market.

"I was very, very interested for a long time in energy and renewables, so I had been spending my own time learning about that space," Williams said. "I thought that we would go through an energy renaissance in the United States. We've kind of lost our industrial manufacturing chops. I thought it would be really cool to put together a manufacturing energy business, so I was on the lookout for that." Williams' former teachers at Methodist probably aren't surprised that he's moved in this new direction. Though he is known for his work in healthcare and the business structure behind it, the former Lucius Stacy Weaver Award award-winner was also a science devotee.

"I was a soccer player and I fell in love with science along the way, and I also got to be a better student along the way at Methodist," Williams said. "I would say I came to Methodist for the soccer, and I stayed for the science. Dr. Linda Barnes, Dr. Margaret Folsom, Dr. Narendra Singh, Dr. George Maguire, that whole group over in the Science Department, I just fell in love with everything about it. I loved working with them; loved the labs. I couldn't take enough science classes. All those people, they just mean everything to me and I've enjoyed relationships with them for 20 plus years." ▶

Methodist University Alumnus Jason Williams shows off some of the tanks at PRTI waiting to be moved into the facility that was under construction in the spring.



Dr. Singh said he will never forget where Williams always sat in his class, in the front row.

“His attentiveness and his constant focus towards my lecture and my writings on the board is a thing which will remain with me forever,” Singh said. “Very few students have left this kind of impact on their instructors. His respect for us and his eagerness to learn science have immensely helped him to succeed in life. He understood very well that to make his life bigger, he needed to work very hard. Every student in Methodist University should learn from him about his desire, his focus and his perseverance.”

MU Men’s Soccer Coach Justin Terranova ’97, who was Williams’ teammate, is also familiar with Williams’ concerns with the crumb rubber commonly used as padding in athletic fields.

“Recently, Jason and I were sitting on a turf soccer field at the halftime of our adult league game in Raleigh,” Terranova said. “It was 30 degrees and we both noticed heat rising from the field as the sun shined down on us. I looked at Jason and said, ‘I have some real concerns about turf fields since my 12-year-old son plays goalkeeper on this field every month.’ We both agreed it could be a very large problem waiting to surface with millions of children playing soccer on turf fields filled with tires. There are alternative fillers for this type of surface. We all need to decide that tires are not acceptable for this use and having Jason innovate a way to dispose of tires will eventually solve this issue, but that will take some time. I am 100-percent sure he will find a way to win that battle. That is what Monarchs do, we find a way to win.”

Today it’s a sunny afternoon at the Franklinton, N.C. site where PRTI’s first U.S. plant is under construction, and inside their offices Italian engineers are discussing ... something. It’s hard to tell if you’re a visitor, because the discussion is in Italian. The technology that makes PRTI possible was invented by a man from Italy, Franco Fini, and the original test plant ran for several years in Italy before being disassembled and moved to North Carolina, along with its engineers, where it’s now being unpacked and

reassembled for an early summer start.

Outside, Williams points at a small metal tank on short legs as he walks over to an area where several huge metal tanks are assembled, waiting to be moved into the unfinished building just down the hill. The little tank is about the size of a barbecue grill, a miniature version of the real technology, and it’s where he’s been doing a science experiment to explore more ways to use the technology. Despite being 41, he’s excited like a kid who just got his first junior chemistry set for Christmas, and he’s been reading about organic chemistry in his free time.

“I’m doing experiments! How great is that? I don’t know what else we will eventually put in this really cool reaction we can make.”

It does seem great. Almost too great. Visitors ask, “What’s the catch? Why hasn’t everyone been doing this with tires instead of pouring them in the ocean, burying them in landfills, or shredding them into possibly cancer-causing padding in athletic fields and playgrounds?”

“For 30 years, this technology has existed,” Williams said. “Essentially, it’s a mousetrap, we just made a better one. The inventor really looked at this differently and that’s usually what it takes. Before, it could be done, but financially, it wasn’t worth it. Medicine existed for thousands of years, and I said at 23, I’m going to change it.

And we did. We were really out in front of that whole industry, and I think we’re going to do the same thing here.”

Financially, it does still have one catch, but that’s something Williams seems to have figured out, too.

“It’s capital-intensive to start,” he said. “I have to build an industrial manufacturing plant, get permits ... it’s not an easy business to get into. But that’s not any different from medicine, there are so many barriers to entrance there, too. However, we’re going to close \$10 million in six months to get the start-up, which is unprecedented in North Carolina.”

When finished, Williams says the plant will de-manufacture almost two million tires a year, about 5,600 a day, and employ about 25 people. Located near several regional tire manufacturing companies, the company won’t be hurting for materials. He envisions more small-footprint plants like this one around the world, cleaning up the planet and creating a billion-dollar business at the same time.

**“I thought that we would go through an energy renaissance in the United States. We’ve kind of lost our industrial manufacturing chops. I thought it would be really cool to put together a manufacturing energy business, so I was on the lookout for that.”**

— Jason Williams



Dr. Miller poses with a family in Kathmandu. Contributed photos

## Dr. Miller takes firm foundation to earthquake relief work

In May of 2015, MU Trustee Dr. Mark Miller, who is a plastic surgeon, was invited by the Christian Broadcasting Network’s Operation Blessing to travel to Nepal and help provide medical services following the April 25, 2015 earthquake. For 10 days, Miller traveled to clinics in Kathmandu and remote villages with a team of 46 other doctors to see patients in need of care, all while frequent and large aftershocks still rumbled through the region.

Once Dr. Miller and his fellow volunteers were over the bureaucratic and organizational hurdles required to begin running medical relief clinics, their days were long, with each doctor often seeing more than 60 people in one day, patients whose conditions ranged from birth defects to severe earthquake-related trauma. At night they slept in tents without electricity, eating around campfires like the people they were serving. In addition to medical help, the team also brought supplies like tarps, blankets, and food, as well as water purification units for areas that had not yet received any disaster help.

For every day of his trip, Miller made a blog entry at wherearethemillers.com, with photos and notes on the day’s activities, trying to convey to the people back home the scope of the devastation and loss that he was witnessing.

“We held a medical clinic at a children’s school in the village of Goldhunga south of Kathmandu today,” he wrote on Day 6. “Emotional day for me as I treated a father whose daughter and grandchild were killed in the first earthquake. He and his son were also trapped in the rubble. I treated the son, too, who had facial fractures/lacerations and became blind in one eye.

My feelings could not be held back as I treated them medically, then embraced and prayed for them both during this devastating time. I cannot imagine the anguish they are experiencing.”

For all the destruction and loss of life he documented, there are also moments of happiness, pictures of smiling children and elders, humble moments of prayer and cross-cultural sharing, snapshots of communities trying to go on with the business of living, frequently against the breathtaking beauty of the Himalayas. ▶



“While I have tried to represent the hands and feet of Christ, we should all consider ‘To whom much is given, much is expected.’”  
— Dr. Mark Miller



“Experienced the sacred river cremations occurring 24/7 which is quite normal in Nepal, only not as frequent as post quakes,” he wrote on Day 7. “Each body is put on top of a platform of wood and dried grass and wood placed all around it and then, the body is set aflame until it becomes a small pile of ash. This is then swept off the platform and into the sacred river. Notice all the monkeys, seemingly oblivious to what has just taken place, chattering in the background and in the river. Continue to experience the love of the people of Nepal, despite their tragedies.”

One of the doctors from around the world whom Miller met and worked with was Shankar Man Rai, a world-famous reconstructive plastic surgeon from Nepal, a recipient of the Unsung Heroes of Compassion Award from the Dalai Lama. Miller also spent time in a burn center in Kathmandu, helping to treat patients who frequently had “horrendous” wounds.

“This is my last night in this country that has become a special place in my heart,” he wrote on Day 10. “I mourn for the people here who have endured not only difficult living conditions to begin with, but then have had unspeakable tragedy of multiple earthquake disasters thrust upon them. Many, if not most, are frightened, hungry, shelterless and disheartened.

I pray for them and for greater mankind to always reach out to those less fortunate than us with mercy and compassion. While I have tried to represent the hands and feet of Christ, we should all consider “To whom much is given, much is expected.”

Above left, Dr. Mark Miller provides medical relief to a disaster patient. Above right, Dr. Miller treats an earthquake victim. Right, The scene in a remote village in Thandidanda. Bottom, Rubble is all that remains of this collapsed hospital in Kathmandu.



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## Athletic Training majors and Monarch athletes learn and win together



Courtney Roach, left, and Tori Benson show off their skills on the softball field.



With 20 NCAA Division III varsity athletic programs on campus, the students in the Athletic Training Program don't have to go very far to get their first hands-on learning opportunities. Under the guidance of the University's six certified athletic trainers, students gain valuable experience working with Monarch athletes and coaches. Each student in the major is assigned to one of the trainers for individualized clinical education in a variety of athletic settings, attending practices and home events.

Monarch Sports Information Director Nate Jervy said athletic training students are a huge benefit to the athletic program.

"As much as I see our student-athletes in the daily course of my job, I may see the athletic training students even more," Jervy said. "Every time I stick my head in the dugout, locker room or training room, there is an athletic training student of a varying age either observing, evaluating or treating. The amount of time and effort I see these kids put in, some of them student-athletes themselves, is remarkable. And it's not as though they are strictly filling up water bottles and doing menial jobs, they are tasked with huge responsibilities, and as a result they are just as respected as the certified athletic trainer assigned to each sport."

Typically, freshmen start their observation hours during their first year of classes. Courtney Roach '16 was a transfer, so she started working with Methodist's student athletes in her junior year after completing observation hours as a sophomore. She plans to go on to study to be a physician assistant.

"I love athletic training because through this major there are so many job opportunities that are available to you," Roach said.

"I can go on to be a certified athletic trainer, physical therapist, occupational therapist, physician assistant, etc. It also is an amazing feeling to see an athlete that was injured finally get the chance

to step back on the field after working with them for weeks or even months or years. As an athletic trainer you get to see all of the hard work that they put in and see them overcome the troubles that they face while they progress back."

Tori Benson decided she wanted to be an athletic training major when she first heard about the program as a freshman. A former softball player, she liked the opportunity to stay connected to athletics. In the future, she'd like to be a pediatric occupational therapist.

"This major provides me with hands-on opportunities and also provides me with many internship opportunities here in Fayetteville," Benson said. "The athletic training major provides me with an anatomy based background for my future."

At a lot of other schools, Roach said, athletic training students are kept away from the athletes and not allowed to participate in sports themselves.

"We get experiential learning opportunities through working with at least four different sports teams," Roach said. "Each semester we get assigned to a team that we work with through their season. We create programs to help keep the athletes healthy; if an athlete gets injured, we perform an evaluation. After the evaluation we create a rehabilitation plan and tape or brace the athlete so that they can compete. If the injury needs further attention, we take the athletes to doctor appointments and even sit in on their surgeries."

Outside of the normal classroom instruction, the program gathers the students together at the beginning of every year for a review day that focuses on emergency procedures to refresh everyone's memories about what to do in certain situations.

"This major is very important to the athletes, because they depend on us when they are injured or they just simply need someone to talk to," Benson said.



Above, Masahiro Takahagi works with a Washington Redskins player during his internship with the team.

Contributed photos

## Athletic Training alum's international career includes NFL, MLB, NCAA Div. I

Masahiro "Hagi" Takahagi '08 is going into his fifth year as an assistant athletic trainer with Temple University's Sports Medicine staff, where he primarily works with the University's Division I football team. Originally from Japan, Takahagi also graduated from Musashi University in 2002 with a bachelor's degree in business economics. At Methodist, he graduated with a bachelor's degree in athletic training and sports management.

He went on to get his master's degree in administration of higher education with a concentration in sports management from Auburn University in 2011, while working as a graduate

assistant athletic trainer with that school's 2010 BCS National Champion football team.

After getting his business degree, Takahagi, who had a history of athletic competition as a professional fighter, decided he really wanted a career that kept him connected to sports. He turned down a waiting job offer in the business world and began volunteering as an athletic trainer/strength and conditioning coach after graduating. The volunteering led to a chance to do some athletic training work with the 2003 Under-19 Japan Lacrosse Men's National Team. After he came to Methodist to



Takahagi, top left, celebrates winning the National Championship with the Auburn Tigers.

pursue his degree in athletic training, he would continue to have experiential learning opportunities, first at the Global Junior Championship hosted by the National Football League (NFL), where he worked with the 2007 Under-19 Japan Football National Team, and next with the Texas Rangers spring training, thanks to a special spring break opportunity sponsored through the Professional Baseball Athletic Trainers Society and the Japan Baseball Athletic Trainers Society.

Dr. Hugh Harling, chair of the Department of Athletic Training and the program director, remembers Takahagi as an extraordinarily hardworking student and individual.

"He knew he had a potential language barrier as a Japanese student, but no one was going to be more dedicated or put in more time or work than he was, either clinically or in the classroom," Harling said. "One time, when he was working with the football team and they were on a road trip and (Head Athletic Trainer) Brandon Reynolds got up 'early' for breakfast the day of the Saturday game, he found Hagi already in the lobby, where he had been for several hours, translating his textbook into Japanese. His amazing work ethic made him special and got him the internship and experiential opportunities that he has achieved and no one who worked with him here has ever been surprised by his achievements."

From 2006 to 2008, Takahagi also worked as an intern with the NFL for the New Orleans Saints during their pre-season camps, after applying for one of the competitive spots his first year and then returning by invitation the following years.

His resume also includes working in 2008 with the Orlando Predators of the Arena Football League.

"Since MU's athletic training preceptors are also instructors and professors in the program, they know each athletic training student's knowledge, skills, and personality very well," Takahagi said. "They always trusted and encouraged us to get hands-on experience with an athlete, something that may not happen for athletic training students at a major Division I school. When I interned for professional teams during undergraduate, I realized I was comfortable with doing several things that peer interns from other colleges had very limited or zero experience with doing."

After graduating from Methodist, he received his certification as an athletic trainer and went on to work with Louisiana Tech University Football from 2008 to 2009 before heading to Auburn. He also worked with the USA Sevens Rugby Men's National Team in 2009.

Before joining the staff at Temple University in Philadelphia, Pa., Takahagi served as a seasonal intern with the Washington Redskins during the 2011-2012 NFL season.

Takahagi said that though the professional athletes and college athletes are playing the same sports on the same fields, the atmosphere for an athletic trainer is very different.

"In the professional sports, I helped players to perform at 100 percent by having them go through their established routines," he said. "On the other hand, educating and guiding athletes toward the right direction is the key to working in the college setting."



*MU Nursing student Courtney DeGarmo performs a respiratory examination on a patient.*

## VA PACT offers nursing students one-on-one opportunities

The longstanding connection between the Fayetteville Veterans Affairs (VA) Medical Center and Methodist University is more than just geography. The VA hospital on Ramsey Street still sits a couple of miles down the road from campus, but when the VA's new Health Care Center opened on the other side of Fayetteville last fall, MU nursing students were eager to make the extra trip down Raeford Road to continue clinical rotations with the VA's unique Patient Aligned Care Team (PACT) medical model.

The new VA Fayetteville Health Care Center, which opened in November, is a sterling example of the new VA care model. The 250,000-square-foot, full-service outpatient center specializes in primary care but includes ambulatory surgery, labs, radiology, pharmacy, cardiology, orthopedics, women's health, prosthetics, and other specializations, with many of the amenities of a modern hospital, designed with special touches with veterans in mind, such as extensive parking for handicapped access, plenty of natural lighting, wide open spaces, walking trails, and a healing garden.

In 2014, the nursing program expanded its clinical rotations with the VA by also having individual students embedded with different PACTs, getting special one-on-one experiences

through all aspects associated with primary care and building relationships with preceptors and patients. The Veterans Health Administration began using the PACT model in 2010, which ensures that patients see various specialists with the same ease that they access primary care.

"The new VA and the PACT teams are essentially medical homes," said Assistant Professor of Nursing Dr. Shelley Barry, who is also the on-site MU faculty when students are present at the VA. "So there's various health care teams, and each team contains a registered nurse (RN), licensed practical nurse (LPN), and a physician, and they also have access to things like social work, nutrition, and mental health resources. Patients get into their room, and then everybody comes to the patient, so they get comprehensive care on that one visit. Whatever they need is brought to them."

Because patients are seen by the same PACT on return visits, students can follow along as patients get care over a long period of time, rather than just seeing whatever patients pass through a specific department.

"One of the goals of our Dedicated Education Unit (DEU) partnership with the VA PACT teams is to have students think critically and see the whole system and the whole process that

patients go through," said Assistant Professor of Nursing Dr. Shannon Matthews, who spearheads the DEU. "With chronic care management, we hope they're not going to be simply task-focused. They're still getting some of that, but we're really stressing to them: 'Look at this whole comprehensive picture of this patient and how it all interacts.'"

In a traditional clinical experience, eight to 10 students are assigned to a single preceptor. Under the arrangement with the PACT model, each student gets a preceptor and is assigned to a different PACT.

"Each student in the group is paired with a different experienced clinician at the facility, who is working hand in hand with our clinical faculty," Matthews said. "This way, the students are more part of the unit and the premise is to make them have more ownership and be more part of the team."

Student Courtney DeGarmo, a junior in the nursing program, said her clinical rotation at the VA has been a "huge" learning experience. While shadowing the same RN preceptor, RN Care Manager Carol Bush, she has also given immunizations, done electrocardiograms (EKG), learned about fibro scans on patients with liver diseases, observed outpatient surgical procedures, learned about diabetes management with the nutrition clinic and diabetes specialist, and learned about the VA's mental health program.

"We get to be involved with all aspects of patient care," DeGarmo said. "The PACT allows the student nurse to follow up with the patient at his or her next appointment and evaluate whether treatments were effective. Later, this experience will help me in my career because every patient is seen at a primary care

clinic. It's the first line of defense for a patient needing treatment. This has also highlighted the importance of being the patient's advocate and never becoming complacent."

Primary Care Nurse Manager Katrina Canady, Barry's principal liaison at the VA, said preceptors also like the one-on-one experience with students.

"It's been a pleasure having the students here," Canady said. "Our staff enjoy teaching and making sure the students have a full understanding of the PACT model of care we do here. They find it very rewarding."

The idea to have MU students immersed with PACT teams started with Fayetteville VAMC Director Elizabeth Goolsby, who also sits on the advisory boards for the University's nursing and health care administration programs.

"We were talking about how health care has changed from

short episodes of care to more longitudinal care, particularly in primary care," Goolsby said. "Getting to really know your patient population and having your patients get to know you was a hallmark of primary care, but it's really the core of care now. We've had a long history with Methodist, a very good relationship, and when the conversation came around to this, it seemed a natural fit."

Goolsby said she's not aware of another program similar to this that pairs the VA PACT model with embedded nursing students.

"This also provides students an opportunity to take care of veterans and learn about the uniqueness of veterans and veteran care," Goolsby said.

Barry and Matthews also like that aspect of the PACT rotations, and say joining the VA is a desirable goal for many graduates. Learning the workings of the VA, which are different from other hospitals, provides an edge.

"A lot of our student nurses have ties to the military, and they are looking at this as a potential employment opportunity down the line," Matthews said.

DeGarmo is also an example of the connection between MU, the military, and the VA. She served more than nine years in the U.S. Army, deploying twice to Iraq, and her husband is still active duty.

"Veterans care will always hold a special place in my heart. It is an amazing feeling to get to care for America's greatest," DeGarmo said. "Some of my patients have been World War II veterans who fought in Iwo Jima and various European campaigns. We are literally providing care for a piece of our nation's history."

*Left, Linda Lawler, RN, specialty care nurse, watches student Courtney DeGarmo demonstrate the FibroScan, a liver scanning device.*

**"We've had a long history with Methodist, a very good relationship, and when the conversation came around to this, it seemed a natural fit."**

**— Elizabeth Goolsby  
Director of VAMC Fayetteville**



# From army officer to nursing faculty, Johnston brings unique experience to MU



*Kayley Oldham listens to Assistant Professor of Nursing Tom Johnston.*

*Tom Johnston teaches nursing students at MU's simulation hospital.*

Assistant Professor of Nursing Jarold “Tom” Johnston has been called a unicorn by his students. As the only man in the U.S.A. who is both a lactation consultant and a midwife, at least as far as he’s aware, Johnston is a bit of a rare and mystical creature.

“The last time I checked, there were eight male lactation consultants in America and there were 75 male midwives in America, and none of them were both,” he said.

Johnston, who retired after a 27-year career with the U.S. Army in 2015, can thank military policies on equal opportunity for much of his training. Prior to joining Methodist as a full-time faculty member, he was the chief of Midwifery Services for Womack Army Medical Center for three years before retiring at the rank of lieutenant colonel. It was the last of three stints at Womack over the past 16 years, where he was at other times a mother-baby nurse and a staff midwife.

“The MU Department of Nursing is very elated to have Mr. Johnston on the nursing faculty,” said Chair of Nursing Dr. Larry Goins. “It is very rare to recruit a midwife to leave full-time practice and join a traditional nursing education program. To recruit a male midwife and lactation consultant of his credentials and expertise is an even greater rarity.”

After joining the reserves at 17, Johnston served as a combat medic. When he switched to active duty, he wanted a change and took the offered job of “nutrition care specialist,” which turned out to be a fancy name for a hospital cook. But the position did lead him to meet his wife, Elizabeth, who was a nurse in neonatal intensive care. The Army then sent him to nursing school when he had hoped to study to teach history.

“I didn’t know what nurses do,” he said. “I had seen them on TV, and I went there because it was a way to get free education.” The move to obstetrics and maternal child nursing was something he says he “stumbled” into, but it led to the Army sending him to graduate school as his career progressed, after he became a labor and delivery nurse.

“I wanted to be a perinatal clinical nurse specialist, and the Army sent me to midwifery school,” he said. “When I asked why on earth they would send me to midwifery school, they said, ‘Your bosses have always said you make a great midwifery nurse, so go to midwifery school.’ It’s tradition in Army maternal child health, if you’ve got a decent labor and delivery nurse you say, ‘Send them to midwifery school immediately.’”

Despite embarking on his specialty “by accident,” Johnston found a career that he clearly loves, and coming to Methodist to instruct the next generation of nurses has also allowed him to

follow his original dream of teaching. When he returned to Fort Bragg for his last assignment, he was looking for a home where he could teach after retiring.

“Maternal child nursing is a beautiful specialty, and anything you do in maternal child health is rewarding and it’s fun,” Johnston said. “As a mother-baby nurse when I was a young lieutenant, I loved taking these new mums and dads and teaching them how to be parents. It was so much fun to watch them. They were brand new and so excited and I always enjoy working with them because you help them change from a couple to a family.”

In his current office right outside of the nursing program’s simulation hospital, Johnston enjoys the change from the federal to the private sector.

“About teaching, I absolutely love every day I get to come in,” he said. “Also, the skills lab is amazing. I brag every day to the groups that come through on tour. I’m so impressed with the simulation. Even in the military, they don’t have anything as sophisticated as what I’m seeing here. This building is high-tech. It’s fully wired; it has everything for a simulation of a fully functioning hospital!”

Johnston stopped counting after catching his 1,500<sup>th</sup> baby, but he estimates he’s probably caught close to 1,800 babies in his career as a midwife. Johnston and his wife also have eight children, so not all of his experience is clinical.

“Midwives never say they deliver babies. The mother delivers the baby, and we catch,” he said. “We try to help facilitate, because this is a developmental process. I’m involved at vulnerable times in someone’s life. Mothers are often forced to give up control when they go into labor. They really need somebody who loves and cares for them to do what’s right and advocate for them. Also, women remember everything that happened in the room during birth and that’s a powerful motivator to get it right.”

After delivery, Johnston’s specialty as a lactation consultant is at play.

“If I could do anything in the world besides teaching, I would be a lactation consultant,” he said. “I would like to see an undergraduate degree in human lactation. The field is expanding rapidly and they are, as a profession, trying to bring themselves to the level of nursing.”

While he’s heard his share of criticism for being a man in a “woman’s” field, Johnston hasn’t let it slow him down and has let his skills speak for themselves. He holds a bachelor’s degree in nursing from Austin Peay State University and his master’s in nurse-midwifery from University of Rhode Island, as well as his certification as a lactation consultant.

“I brag every day to the groups that come through on tour. I’m so impressed with the simulation. Even in the military, they don’t have anything as sophisticated as what I’m seeing here.”  
— Jarold “Tom” Johnston

# HCA student's research helps unravel Medicare changes

Not every health sciences professional wears a white coat. Health care administration (HCA) majors must learn to read a medical provider's financial records like a nurse reads a patient's chart, and where doctors consider complex drug interactions, HCA students learn how ever-changing government regulations effect billing and other policies.

Before graduating this spring, HCA student Anthony Fish completed a semester-long internship with Cape Fear Valley Health's (CFVH) Physician Financial Services (PFS) Office, where he researched new changes to Medicare and how they might affect CFVH. Specifically, a new health care reform law, Medicare Access and CHIP Reauthorization Act (MACRA) of 2015, which is set to take effect over the next several years. MACRA changes how Medicare reimburses doctors, and extends the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP).

"Anthony's internship started at a crucial time for us," said his internship supervisor, Director of PFS Spencer Cummings. "Cape Fear Valley Health System was in the beginning stages of getting an understanding of MACRA and its impact on how we do business. His research is helping us understand where the organization should focus its efforts so that we are successfully compliant under this legislation."

The health system's entire Physician Financial Services department is located in its new 41-bed hospital in Hoke County, where a staff of almost 50 people process claims from the system's 46 ambulatory clinic practices, a coverage area that includes Cumberland and surrounding counties.

Fish, who has also worked as a student tutor at Methodist, says he likes helping people. He chose HCA as a major because he specifically wanted to help improve the delivery of healthcare in the United States.

He should consider his career off to a good start in the community he calls home. Cummings, who is also the site director for Health Pavilion North, said Fish's research has potential impact across the entire CFVH system.

"I believe that access to quality, affordable health care is an important right that should be made available to everyone," Fish said. "Improving the delivery of healthcare would involve improving our health care system in a way that will enable patients to obtain the care they need while allowing health care organizations and providers to receive substantial reimbursements for the services they provide."

As MACRA shifts the focus of Medicare reimbursements from rewarding volume-based care to value-based care, Fish said the eventual goal of the legislation is that the cost of health care should go down.

"Hospitals will increasingly be required to show that they are doing their due diligence to keep their patients healthy," Fish said.

Cummings said understanding and meeting the expectations and milestones laid out by MACRA will help the system exceed quality outcome standards, which will mean the hospital doesn't lose Medicare reimbursements.

Fish's internship also helped him make decisions about his career, as he collaborated and networked with many people in the system.

"It has been a great experience for me," Fish said. "I would like to work in a hospital. During my internship, I was exposed to some of the financial issues that hospitals face and the actions they must take to keep the organization running. I really took a liking to finance, and I think I would like to work in that area in the future."

More HCA graduates like Fish are something the community could use, Cummings said.

"If Anthony is a representation of the caliber of students that Methodist produces, we will prosper if we can employ them in our community," Cummings said. "His skill set includes the ability to turn data into usable information. Moreover, he is able to communicate in a manner that inspires engagement. All these attributes are the tenets of success, from my perspective."

Fish said his HCA professors at Methodist had a big hand in preparing him for the workforce, using their extensive experiences in the health care industry to relate the program curriculum to real-world situations. His advisor, Dr. Warren McDonald, the department chair, taught his favorite class, Health Policy.

"We discussed healthcare issues that are currently affecting the United States, such as the Affordable Care Act," Fish said. "I also had the opportunity to lead a project that measured the attitudes of MU students regarding Methodist becoming a tobacco-free campus. It was a great learning opportunity that exposed our class to some of the challenges that surround controversial health policies, and it was a great leadership experience for me."

McDonald said Fish was an excellent student, with the potential to become an excellent health care administrator.

"He will be an asset to any organization he serves," McDonald said. "He has an outstanding personality and the ability to work well in groups, which fits perfectly in health care. I look for great things in his future career."



Left, Director of PFS Spencer Cummings and Anthony Fish walk through the lobby of the new Cape Fear Valley Hoke Hospital.



Lacey Truelove '14 left, and Ashlea Weems '14 sit in a study alcove in the new McLean Building after classes.

## Kinesiology graduates move into Doctor of Physical Therapy

The quick definition of kinesiology is it's the study of how the human body moves. For two undergraduate students, the program also taught them how to move their bodies into the inaugural class of Methodist's doctoral program, the Doctor of Physical Therapy.

Two students who recently graduated with degrees from the kinesiology program, Lacey Truelove '14 and Ashlea Weems '14, were among the 40 students accepted into the first DPT cohort, which started classes Fall 2015.

For Truelove, the DPT program was her goal from the start, even though the program was just an idea being discussed at the time.

"I began my undergraduate career in the Physical Education and Health Education Department, but soon recognized a tremendous passion within me to become a physical therapist," Truelove said. "My advisor gave me his wholehearted support and helped guide me in the direction of kinesiology to better prepare me to follow that dream."

Weems started as a biology major, trying to decide between physical therapist or physician assistant as a career path.

"I looked over the kinesiology curriculum and decided those types of classes were more interesting to me, so I switched," Weems said. "When I found out MU was getting a DPT program, I remember calling my mom and telling her it was fate and I was staying at MU for graduate school."

Weems graduated in May 2014, and Truelove in December 2014, so both were rested from a short academic break before the first DPT class started in Fall 2015. They also used their time off to work as physical therapy techs at a local clinic.

"Coming back to MU has been a wonderful experience, just like when I started here in undergrad," Weems said.

For Truelove, continuing at MU has also meant more than just knowing the campus.

"Most importantly, staying at MU has provided the opportunity for me to maintain many relationships with friends, faculty, and staff," Truelove said.

A year into their graduate careers, both say the undergraduate program gave them solid preparation for the DPT program.

"The Kinesiology Program prepared me for the DPT Program by encompassing a wide variety of coursework with opportunities to integrate biological and behavioral approaches using biomechanical, physiological, and psychological perspectives to better assimilate foundational concepts in physical activity and human movement," Truelove said. "In addition, the Kinesiology Program helped expand my understanding of the science behind nutrition, the proper care for and prevention of injuries, as well as first aid/safety procedures. The education I received through the Kinesiology Program has served me with many fundamentals that have since been built upon as I prepare to take on a lifelong role in the promotion of wellness and prevention, fitness, and rehabilitation as a physical therapist and autonomous practitioner."

With the new Thomas R. McLean Health Sciences Building, which houses Kinesiology as well as the DPT Program, the two students say future kinesiology majors will be even more prepared than they were.

"I am actually jealous of how it is set up now, since I have graduated undergrad," Weems said. "I think kinesiology students having classes in the new building will show them what a wonderful opportunity Methodist has for them to continue as physical therapy students."

The shared resources and opportunities for professional relationships between undergraduate and graduate students will also be a plus, Truelove said.

Looking forward, Truelove and Weems are very excited to be among MU's first home-grown doctors. Truelove is still deciding where she wants to specialize, and Weems is looking at perhaps a sports specialty.

"The thought of being MU's first doctorates gives me chills every time I think about it," Weems said. "President Hancock has preached since he came to MU to find your 'one thing' and I have now found mine here in the DPT program. It is so exciting to know that we are starting a legacy here and I can't wait to see how it continues to build amazing leaders and practitioners in the future."



Kinesiology Chair Dr. Trey Hoyt shows student Lacey Truelove '14 the new Bod Pod, one of the pieces of equipment that will be shared by Kinesiology and DPT students.

## Kinesiology gets new location to go with new name

Technically, the Kinesiology Program held its first classes in 2014, but the program has been at Methodist for much longer. Previously called Applied Exercise Science, the program was developed about 20 years ago. When MU created the School of Health Sciences in 2012, the program was moved and renamed.

"With MU now offering physical therapy, and with the proposed occupational therapy program, I think having a program such as kinesiology is a real benefit for undergraduate students looking for those graduate programs," said Kinesiology Chair Dr. Trey Hoyt. "The kinesiology program has the prerequisites required for physical therapy school built in to the coursework."

The coursework was also modified with the name change, adding four new kinesiology courses and adjusting other requirements to emphasize more on preparation for graduate school.

"Also, I added an observation class, which is a two-hour course that requires students to do on-site observation, such as at a physical therapy clinic or shadowing an occupational therapist," Hoyt said. "Most all of physical therapy graduate programs require that the students have some observation hours."

Traditionally, the program has always served as a stepping stone to studying physical therapy, regardless of the name.

"Kinesiology is a four-year degree that provides students with a good understanding of the human body," Hoyt said. "It's about how the body functions, how it responds to physical activity and exercise. With that knowledge, the students will be prepared for graduate work in fields like physical therapy and other allied health sciences."

For students not looking at graduate school, the degree can also help them work in facilities that focus on exercise prescription and exercise programming.

On campus, the program will hold its first classes in the new Thomas R. McLean Health Sciences building in Fall 2016.

"To be housed in that same building as some of the other programs in the School of Health Sciences will be good," Hoyt said. "There will be opportunities for interactions with the graduate students and faculty, and the possibility of collaborating on research."

The building's Human Performance Lab is stocked with equipment that kinesiology students will be able to use, such as a metabolic cart, treadmill, electronic cycle, and the Bod Pod.

"The Bod Pod is a tool we can use to assess body composition," Hoyt said. "It looks like an airtight egg. Having the ability to assess body composition using this technology is important as a learning tool for students, but also because body composition is a major component of health and physical fitness."

# Classes start in the new McLean Health Sciences Building

The Thomas R. McLean Health Sciences Building opened to students in early April, giving a state-of-the-art home to the Doctor of Physical Therapy Program (DPT), as well as several other programs in the School of Health Sciences. Methodist University broke ground on the project Oct. 16, 2014, marking the beginning of the most ambitious construction project ever undertaken on campus. There will be a formal grand opening and dedication ceremony held Oct. 20.

“As well as the first class of Physical Therapy students who started in the fall, the McLean Health Sciences Building is now the location for the undergraduate programs in Athletic Training, Health Care Administration, and Kinesiology and will also be home to the proposed doctoral program in Occupational Therapy, slated to begin in Fall 2018,” said Executive Vice President and Academic Dean of the University Dr. Delmas Crisp.

The \$5.5 million, 38,800-square-foot facility houses offices, classrooms, mock clinical areas, laboratories with state-of-the-art equipment, and an adaptive living apartment for training. The facility will also be used for research and to provide services that will optimize performance and reduce risks for athletes in the community, using some of the best motion capture technology available. Some of the building’s unique features are a mobility courtyard, rehabilitation pool, motor control pediatrics lab, and a motion analysis lab.

“We are excited to be in the Thomas R. McLean Health Sciences Building because the space has not only provided an outstanding educational venue for students, but it also has provided a catalyst for the faculty and students to begin development of scholarly works,” said Interim Dean of Health Sciences and DPT Program Director Dr. Todd Telemeco.

Students are possibly more excited than the faculty about the new building.

“Every time I walk into this huge, state-of-the-art facility, I think ‘What an awesome, resourceful, and beautiful building to be becoming educated in,’” said DPT Class President Travis Herald. “This place has everything you could think of that could enhance the doctoral-level education that a physical therapist receives. The Class of 2018 students are great, the faculty are top-notch, and this brand new amazing facility is icing on the cake.”

Among the building’s equipment Herald and others are excited about are force plates, gait analysis technology, the SwimEx pool with built-in treadmill, spinal traction tables, ultrasound/electrical stimulation units, high-low treatment tables, and the mock apartment.

At the groundbreaking, President Ben Hancock told the assembled crowd that the building represents a commitment that

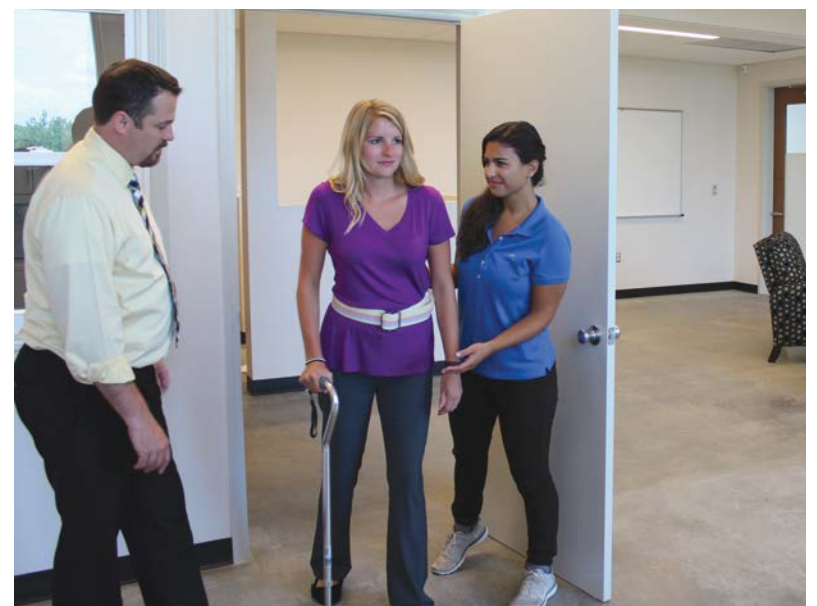
Methodist has to the greater community, health care professionals, and health care students. Standing in front of the construction site, Hancock said the real foundation of the new building was the students and faculty in the School of Health Sciences, many of whom were in attendance.

The building’s name is the result of a \$2.6 million naming gift from the Thomas R. and Elizabeth E. McLean Foundation in 2013. Thomas McLean was a major real estate developer in Fayetteville and Cumberland County during the 1960s and remained active in real estate until his death in 1998.

The Health Sciences Building is one of the main projects in the “Campaign for Methodist University – Building Excellence,” which has a campaign goal of \$35 million. The campaign is the largest fundraising initiative in Methodist University’s history.



THOMAS R. MCLEAN HEALTH SCIENCES BUILDING



Clockwise from top: Student Patrick Jacobs '14 demonstrates swimming against the current in the SwimEx pool. Students Evan Hairr and Sarah Crawford discuss wheelchair mobility training. Jacobs runs on the Cosmed treadmill while Dr. Julie Kresta collects metabolic data at a nearby station. Students Travis Herald and Cortney Webb demonstrate a water exercise. DPT students relax in the lobby of the Thomas R. McLean Health Sciences Building in between classes.

Clockwise from top: A double staircase connects the main lobby of the McLean Building. Dr. Matthew Kesic, Dr. John Fox, and student Travis Herald look over data in the Motion Analysis Lab. Students Caleen Hawkins, David Winston and Rachel Arthur watch as Dr. Larry Olver demonstrates C4-5 rotational mobilization on student Lauren Rutherford. Dr. Todd Telemeco instructs students Farrah Gainey and Alexa Gortian on proper assistance techniques inside the Adaptive Living Apartment.



# Accreditation update on the Doctor of Physical Therapy Program



Students in the Doctor of Physical Therapy Program now have one year under their belt, with two more to go. As is standard for such programs, the Commission on Accreditation of Physical Therapy will make its final decision on accreditation and licensure after the first class graduates. The process continues smoothly.

“The Doctor of Physical Therapy Program has received final approval as a Level 5 institution for SACS, The Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges,” said Dr. Todd Telemeco, director of the program.

“We will begin our second year this fall as candidates for accreditation through CAPTE, The Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education.”



DOCTOR OF PHYSICAL THERAPY PROGRAM

For more information on the Methodist University Doctor of Physical Therapy Program contact: Katie Novak 910.480.8493 knovak@methodist.edu

Please visit our website for official accreditation information.

# THE CAMPAIGN FOR METHODIST UNIVERSITY BUILDING EXCELLENCE

The Campaign for Methodist University – Building Excellence is the largest fundraising initiative in Methodist University’s history. It will fund scholarships, endowed faculty positions, academic programs, campus life enhancements, new and renovated academic buildings, and expanded athletic facilities.

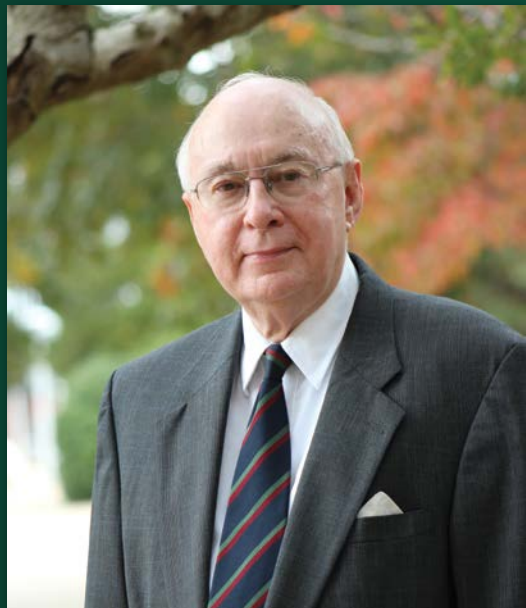


# The Thomas R. McLean Health Sciences Building

✓ – Completed April 1, 2016



Breaking ground on the Thomas R. McLean Health Sciences Building, Oct. 16, 2014.



"Tom McLean would be extremely proud to be associated with such a prominent and important building that is part of the health sciences program at Methodist University. Tom was a long-time friend of mine. He discussed supporting the university for some years before he passed away. He believed Methodist University was important to the community and wanted to see it prosper."

– Al Cleveland  
President of the McLean Foundation  
and a Trustees Emeritus

GRAND  
OPENING  
AND  
DEDICATION  
CEREMONY  
**OCT. 20**



# Armstrong Baseball Fieldhouse

✓ – Dedicated Nov. 14, 2015



Carolyn and George Armstrong cut the ribbon on the new baseball fieldhouse with President Ben Hancock, Trustee Howard Bullard, Trustee Chair Mary Lynn Bryan, Vice President and Director of Athletics Bob McEvoy, and Coach Tom Austin.



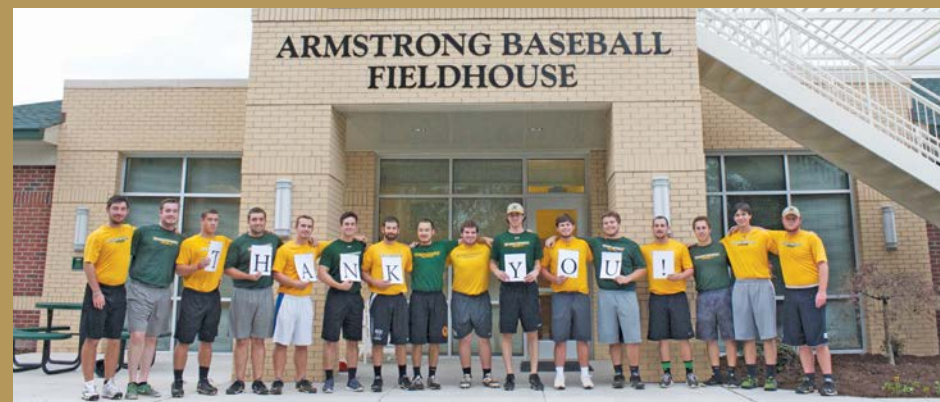
View from the fieldhouse terrace.



"The baseball program would not be where it is now without the contributions from George and Carolyn Armstrong. They have allowed our program to move to a higher level with these wonderful new facilities. We are so grateful for their friendship and generous support."

– Tom Austin  
Head Baseball Coach

The Armstrong Baseball Fieldhouse features a shaded rooftop viewing area.



Carolyn and George Armstrong

# COMING SOON

## FOOTBALL FACILITY



Phase I Weight Room Renovation  
Completed 2015

Phase II Renovated and Expanded Locker Room  
Summer 2016

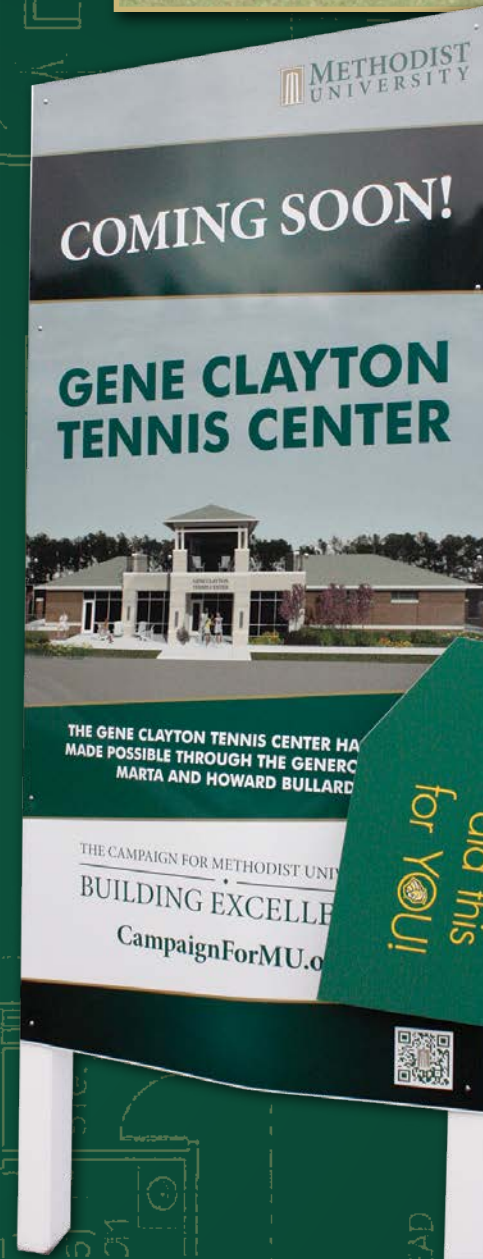


Phase III Football, Track and Field, and Lacrosse Facility and Stadium



SOCCER FACILITY  
Lights and Field Improvements  
Summer 2016

GENE CLAYTON TENNIS CENTER  
Fall 2016





Murray and Nancy Duggins in their home.

## Duggins gives back with scholarship, gift, and challenge

When Murray Duggins '66 was graduating from high school, he did not have a wealth of options for college. He was struggling financially and really questioned not where he would go to college, but if he could go to college. More than 50 years later, Duggins has built a company that has given him the opportunity to give back to the institution that gave so much to him.

In order to attend Methodist, Duggins took a job at Belk of Tallywood and worked 40 hours per week while taking a full course load year-round. Working throughout college, he did not have the typical college experience, but he worked hard to take advantage of the small school atmosphere at Methodist. He married Nancy Trogdon in 1965, and after graduating in 1966, Duggins took a job with the North Carolina Vocational Rehabilitation Agency.

Duggins moved into real estate in 1972 at United Realty. He became president in 1975 and bought the company in the early 1980s. The company has flourished with close to 200 employees today.

Part of Duggins' mission was not just to grow the company, but also to grow the company here in Fayetteville. He is a strong advocate for the city and has worked tirelessly for a number of community organizations hoping to improve the city and its perception.

"My mission has always been to get my children back to Fayetteville," Duggins said.

He has done just that with all three of his children involved in the business in one way or another. His daughter Denise Duggins Smith is a 1990 MU graduate and met her husband Jim Smith '91 while she was at Methodist. Jim now serves as president of United Developers, Inc. and United Management II. Duggins' son Wade is vice president of Operations for United Developers, United Management and Duggins Smith Builders. Murray Duggins, Jr. is a licensed securities broker/registered investment advisor for the business.

While Duggins has worked to build his company as part of Fayetteville's revitalization, Methodist has been working to do its part to improve the Fayetteville community as an institution

of higher education. When Duggins attended Methodist in the early 60s, it was a different time. Chartered in 1956 and opened in 1960, Methodist was still in its infancy with a lot to prove.

"I always wanted to pay back Methodist for the opportunity to earn a college degree," Duggins said. "Nancy and I created a scholarship with the hope it could give other students who thought it might not be an option a chance to attend college."

In addition to creating a scholarship, Nancy and Murray Duggins recently gave \$300,000 to the Reeves Fine Arts Building project to build the Nancy and Murray Duggins Theatre, which will be a venue for theatrical productions and performances.

"Methodist University has a special place in our hearts," said Murray Duggins. "It helped us get started in life and continues to be a beacon of hope for so many young people. We are proud to be part of the Methodist University family."

Since graduating, Duggins has been honored with a number of awards. In 1982 he received the Economics and Business Alumnus of the Year Award. In 2011, the Center for Entrepreneurship named him Business Person of the Year, and he earned the Silver Spoon Award in 2012. Most recently, Murray and Nancy were both recognized by the Boy Scouts last year for their significant contributions toward the betterment of the county.

Duggins is on the verge of celebrating his 50th reunion at Methodist and still remembers his experience fondly.

"Everyone should have pride in the school who gave us the foundation for our careers," Duggins added. "Methodist is truly a diamond in the rough for our community. It's growing and offering more opportunities in every way."

**60 Alumni**

Donors in a Day

**Unlocks \$6K**

THE DUGGINS CHALLENGE



Murray Duggins '66 with daughter Denise Duggins Smith '90.

To help celebrate Methodist University's 60th anniversary, Murray Duggins '66 and Denise Duggins Smith '90 created the Duggins Challenge by challenging 60 of their fellow alumni to donate to MU within a 24-hour period on June 6.

After 115 alumni donated to exceed the goal, the Duggins family donated \$6,000 to Methodist University.



Mary Deyampert-McCall sits surrounded by her friends, former students and coworkers at the recent Social Work reunion.

## Mary Deyampert-McCall creates endowed scholarship for Social Work students

When Mary Deyampert-McCall decided to retire in spring of 2016 from MU's Social Work Program, she considered what she wanted to leave behind at Methodist University. With the encouragement and support of her family and peers, she decided to create an endowed scholarship.

"I wanted to create the scholarship for social work students because I believe Methodist University is an awesome place," she said. "It is a family. Many students who study social work have families to support and work full-time. We wanted to have an opportunity for students in need to have access to an education. The endowed scholarship would be a way to support social work students. Scholarships are powerful."

The Mary Deyampert-McCall Endowed Scholarship was announced at her official retirement celebration on May 4 and on June 11 at a reunion of social work alumni who Deyampert-McCall taught at Methodist between 2005 and 2016. More than 75 alumni from around the country attended the reunion

## Methodist receives scholarship grant

Cumberland County Foundation board member Sandra Monroe, left, and President Jim Konneker, right, present a check for \$160,000 from the Robert H. Short/Cumberland Community Foundation Scholars Program to Executive Vice President and Academic Dean Delmas Crisp in February. The money was used to provide scholarships for 17 students.

Funding for this program was bestowed through the will of the late Robert H. Short, who was a Fayetteville businessman and investor. Through the Cumberland Community Foundation, this program has helped local high school students remain in the Fayetteville area when they attend college.

to honor Deyampert-McCall. She asked alumni to give to the scholarship in lieu of gifts for her.

Deyampert-McCall said she went into social work because she felt called to do so.

"It has been a high calling for me," she said. "Methodist is my love. It's in my DNA. I believe that everyone has a fundamental right to be free of suffering, oppression, hunger, homeless, and fear. I received my education in a one-room school with few resources in rural Alabama. I grew up poor and I've seen a lot of suffering, but I was raised with love and appreciation and the respect for all people. We all are God's children and need to work together to make the world a better place. I have been blessed and hope to pass the blessings on to others."

For more information on giving to the Mary Deyampert-McCall Endowed Scholarship for Social Work Students, contact the Advancement Office at 910.630.7200.



# University announces \$1 million scholarship endowment challenge



**YOUR GIFT  
\$12,500**



**TRUSTEES MATCH  
\$12,500**



**ENDOWED SCHOLARSHIP FUND  
\$25,000**



**ANNUAL STUDENT  
SCHOLARSHIP**

Methodist University recently announced a \$1 million scholarship endowment challenge established by the University Board of Trustees. Trustees created an endowment fund to match donor gifts to establish 40 new unrestricted endowed scholarships to help students with tuition costs.

"The way this will work is to match, dollar-for-dollar, the first \$12,500 from anyone who wants to set up a new, named, unrestricted, endowed scholarship at the University. It will be matched by the trustee scholarship endowment challenge," said President Ben Hancock.

The minimum to establish an endowed scholarship is \$25,000 and may be funded over one to five years. Once the scholarship reaches \$25,000, scholarships are awarded annually.

"This is a wonderful opportunity for donors who may have thought they could not afford to fund an endowed scholarship. Now they can at half the investment," said Vice President for Advancement Sandy Ammons. "Most donors continue to give to their scholarship annually and name their scholarship in their estate plans. This is a wonderful legacy that will help students now and in the future."

Endowed scholarships allow donors to set aside funds that are permanently invested and designated for tuition relief for qualified and deserving students. The principal is retained in perpetuity and cannot be spent. The revenue from the endowed scholarship provides annual scholarships. Scholarships may be named after the donor or a loved one.

For more information on the scholarship endowment challenge, contact the Advancement Office at 910.630.7200.

## Methodist University announces two major gifts



Sharon and Ron Matthews Ministry Center

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



Margaret Ann Player

Margaret Ann Player and her family have made a gift of \$100,000 to name the Ensemble Rehearsal Room in the Sharon and Ron Matthews Ministry Center in memory of her late husband Richard Player Jr. Mr. Player, who passed away in 2015, served as a trustee of the University for 16 years and built many of the buildings on campus through his company Player, Inc. Mrs. Player is a founding member of

the University's Friends of Music group and of the Fayetteville Symphony Orchestra.

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

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

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

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



Jurgen and Dee Dee Stanley



Olorato Condrad Mbi '16 rings the victory bell after graduating this spring.



## Grads Give Back builds philanthropy culture

The Grads Give Back program began in 2014 when a group of seniors met to determine the best way to leave a lasting legacy at Methodist University. The project was designed to instill a culture of philanthropy before students even leave campus. It is a lesson in giving back that focuses primarily on participation.

Aligned with the University's focus on global citizenship, the Class of 2014 decided to replace all of the international flags in the Berns Student Center. Nearly one third of the graduates donated to the project and raised money to purchase brand new flags.

The Class of 2015 took over the Grads Give Back campaign and chose to leave the University a victory bell in celebration of success in the classroom and in athletics. The class was able to raise donations from over 150 of their classmates and now every MU graduate rings the bell after the graduation ceremony.

This spring the Class of 2016 began collecting donations for a street clock. Fifty-five percent of the May graduates participated in Grads Give Back, setting the stage for a record year of participation.

## 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary class gifts unite alumni

While graduating classes are raising money for class gifts, the first graduates of Methodist are simultaneously collecting money toward a class gift in celebration of the 50th anniversary of their graduation. The Class of 1964 set up a scholarship in 2014 to recognize its 50th anniversary and the Class of 1965 solicited donations in honor of Gene Clayton to go to the new tennis center named for him over the past year.

This fall we will celebrate the Class of 1966 as we remember their graduation 50 years ago. The class will be recognized during the Homecoming football game Oct. 22 before capping off the weekend with a special reunion dinner at ScrubOaks. Members of the Class of 1966 are invited to contribute to the class gift project. More information will be coming soon in advance of the 50th anniversary events.



MU softball player Nicole Heinrich and baseball player Greg Johnson emceed the award ceremony.



Scan this QR code to see more pictures from this event.

## Student athletes and staff recognized at awards night

Roughly 400 student-athletes and staff were recognized April 26, when the Methodist University Department of Athletics held its annual awards ceremony in Huff Concert Hall. For the second consecutive year, the department's Student Athlete Advisory Committee (SAAC) planned and produced the event, which was emceed by baseball player Greg Johnson and softball player Nicole Heinrich, both members of SAAC. Each team chose a representative to come to the stage and briefly recap their season and share their most important moments from 2015 -16. Additionally, the department handed out its annual awards and recognized people who helped make the year a success, as the recently announced third straight win of the Overall Presidents Cup from the USA South showed. Students were also recognized for their academic achievements. The evening began with the presentation of the Honorary Monarchs. Given to people or departments who show a high level of dedication and support to particular teams, Honorary Monarchs are chosen by staff members as a way to say thank you. This year, seven were recognized for their contributions to Monarch Nation. Randy Nalls and Ray Leggett were nominated by the baseball team, the softball team recognized Shirley Newton, and women's basketball chose to honor Sharm Kuch and Bill McMillan. The football team recognized Billy Gonzalez and the department as a whole recognized Colonel Pete Edmonds. The Male and Female Outstanding Senior Athletes of the Year, men's soccer player Eirik Nordesth and volleyball player Karly Klimas, were honored again after being recognized earlier at MU's

Spring Convocation. Director of Athletics and Vice President Bob McEvoy awarded three members of the athletics staff for reaching milestones in their service: Assistant Athletic Trainer Nicole Yard (10 years), Head Volleyball Coach Eddie Matthews (15 years), and Head Men's Golf Coach Steve Conley (30 years). The Bobby Bell Good Works Award, given annually to the student or staff member who represents the work ethic and character of former staff member Bobby Bell, was given to men's tennis player Jonathan Fintak. Also given out was the Courageous Monarch award, given to the Monarch who demonstrates courageous actions in the face of adversity. The award, presented by former MU women's basketball coach and current USA South Commissioner Rita Wiggs, was given to women's basketball player Maria Jones. The final award of the evening, the M. Elton and Jerry Hendricks Athletic Alumni Award, was given to former men's basketball player Eugene Grant '06. The award is given to a graduate of Methodist who has made significant contributions to their community. A prominent teacher in Guilford County, Grant was named the Guilford County Teacher of the Year for 2013 -14 and was recently promoted to Mathematics Coordinator for all Guilford County Schools. SAAC also awarded a Community Outreach Award to the team who best exemplified the community service of a Methodist University student-athlete. The women's basketball team was honored for its civic works for the sixth consecutive year.

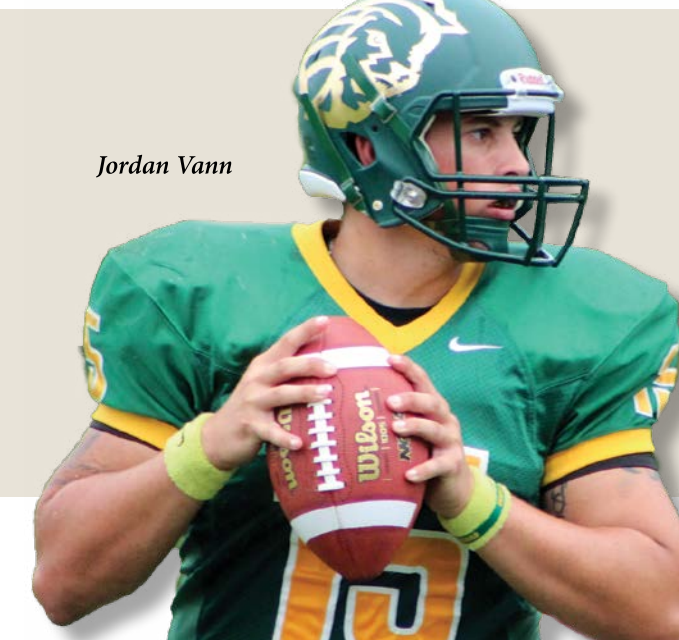


The Methodist University women's basketball team was recognized with the Community Outreach Award.

## Methodist wins Presidents Cup three years running

For the third time in as many years, Methodist University captured the Overall USA South Presidents Cup, awarded each year to the top athletic department in the USA South Athletic Conference. A strong spring bolstered MU's caused and lifted the Monarchs past Piedmont College for the 11<sup>th</sup> Overall Presidents Cup in program history. MU won conference championships in women's tennis (regular season and conference tournament) and men's golf, and finished as the runner up in men's tennis. The Overall Presidents Cup was first awarded in 1979. In 2005, the Conference presented separate Men's and Women's Presidents Cups, instead. In 2006, the Conference reinstated the Overall Cup along with the Men's and Women's Cups. The Presidents Cup is awarded by a points system where the first-place team in each sport is awarded the number of points that corresponds to the number of schools that sponsor teams in that sport. Second place receives one point less than first place and so on, down to one point for the last place team

that competes. Additionally, bonus points are up for grabs for postseason play. The team winning the USA South Tournament Championship receives two bonus points for that sport while the runner-up receives one bonus point. In golf and cross country, the athlete placing first earns two bonus points for his/her institution, while the runner-up earns one bonus point. If athletes from the same institution place first and second, the institution only earns the points for the first-place finish. The Monarchs captured just one regular season title all year (women's tennis), but saw four other teams finish in the top four, while men's golf captured its 30<sup>th</sup> USA South Conference Championship. The bonus point system proved critical, as the Monarchs won conference tournament titles in men's soccer and women's tennis, claimed the golf tournament's individual medalist, and saw women's soccer and men's tennis finish as conference tournament runners up. In addition to its 11 Overall Presidents Cups, the Monarchs have also won four Men's Presidents Cups, most recently in 2014-15.



Jordan Vann

## Senior Scholar Athletes

- Kaliah Pemberton (Athletic Training)
- Adam Gunn (Baseball)
- Jasmine Canady (Women's Basketball)
- Bryan Bing (Football)
- Jordan Vann (Football)
- Alex Michielini (Women's Golf)
- Haley Peters (Women's Lacrosse)
- Cassie Poindexter (Women's Soccer)
- Taylor Ross (Women's Soccer)
- Kelsey Harrington (Softball)







Breast cancer survivors and the Fayetteville Roller Derby team, Rogue Roller Girls, team up together for Play4Kay.



DeeDee Jarman

## Play4Kay surpasses \$10,000 goal for 10th anniversary

For the past 10 years, the Methodist women's basketball team and Head Coach DeeDee Jarman have taken part in a breast cancer awareness initiative in February of their season. While the initiative has undergone several changes the goal has always been the same: To raise funds and awareness for breast cancer research and prevention. Over the years, the Monarchs have become known for putting on a top-notch event and raising a significant amount of money, half of which stays local with the Cape Fear Valley Friends of the Cancer Center, and the other half going to the Kay Yow Cancer Fund.

With 2016 serving as the 10<sup>th</sup> year that Methodist has undertaken such a game, a goal of \$10,000 was set by the committee at the first meeting in September. Over the following months, volunteers were enlisted, local business partnered with, and plans were nailed down in an effort to put on what would be the most involved breast cancer awareness event to date. Feb. 20 was the home game for the Monarchs against long-time rival N.C. Wesleyan.

The Friday before the game, an army of students, many from the Student Nursing Association, transformed the Riddle Center into a pink shrine to breast cancer survivors. Saturday, people streamed into the gymnasium, browsed the silent auction items, visited the variety of vendors set up in the lobby and purchased t-shirts and other memorabilia while watching the Monarchs defeat the Battling Bishops by a final score of 71 - 48. Several weeks later, after the dust had settled the final total was announced. Methodist had surpassed its goal of \$10,000 and raised a whopping sum of \$11,108.93. Not easily satisfied, Coach Jarman is already planning for a bigger and better event in 2017.



Alexia Hines, guard for the Monarchs, works her way down court during the Play4Kay game at Methodist University.

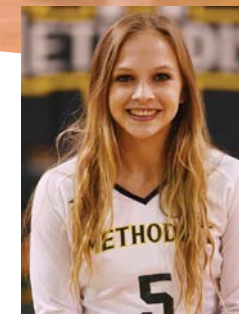
## Seniors Eirik Nordseth and Karly Klimas win Athlete of the Year



Above, Eirik Nordseth '15 keeps control of the ball.



Above, Karly Klimas, libero for the monarchs, keeps the ball in play.



While the Department of Athletics takes one night to recognize all of its outstanding student-athletes, there is one athletic award given out prior to the ceremony.

The Outstanding Male and Female Senior Athlete of the Year awards are bestowed annually at the University's Spring Convocation. This year, men's soccer player Eirik Nordseth '15 and volleyball player Karly Klimas were the recipients, as voted on by the coaches.

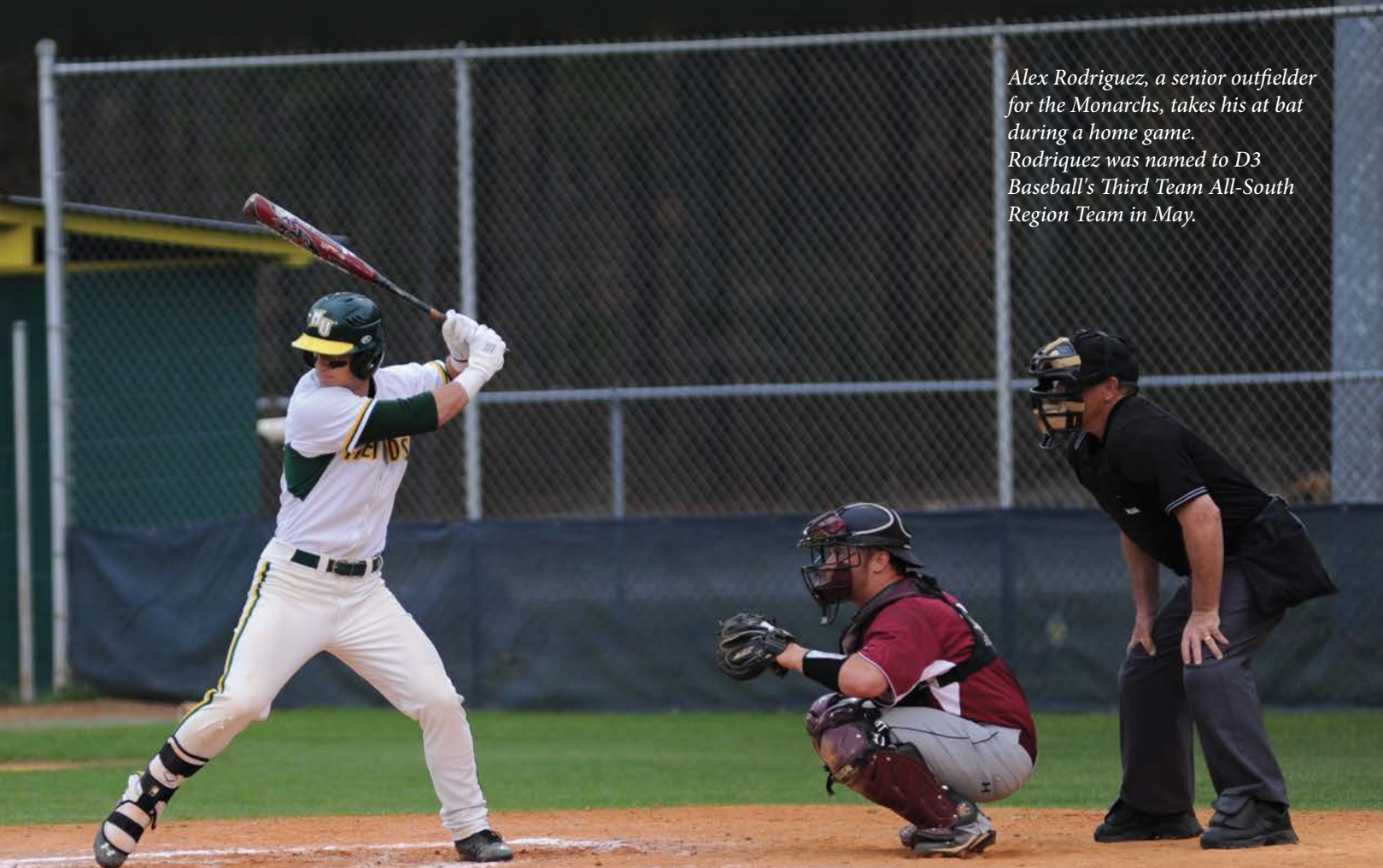
Nordseth wrapped up one of the most decorated careers in MU soccer history with a Third Team All-America nod from the (NSCAA) National Soccer Coaches Association of America following the 2015 season. Nordseth, who scored 16 goals during his senior season, finished his career as MU's all-time leader in both goals (62) and points (139), was a

four-time all-region and all-conference selection, earned USA South Rookie of the Year honors in 2011, and was twice named the USA South Conference Tournament MVP. A 2015 graduate, Nordseth is currently in his native Norway pursuing a professional soccer career.

Klimas capped an outstanding career of her own by being named the USA South Libero of the Year in 2015. She leaves the program as MU's all-time leader in digs (1,916), single-season digs leader (577 in 2014), and single-match digs leader (36). Twice she earned postseason recognition from the USA South and her selection as the Libero of the Year marked the first time in program history that a Monarch had earned a major award from the conference.

## SPRING SEASON WRAP-UP

The spring athletic season proved once again to be a successful time of the year for the Monarchs as MU claimed three conference titles, and used the strong finish to the year to capture its 11th USA South Presidents Cup. Here's a brief look at how MU fared this spring.



*Alex Rodriguez, a senior outfielder for the Monarchs, takes his at bat during a home game. Rodriguez was named to D3 Baseball's Third Team All-South Region Team in May.*

## Baseball Rodriguez's .398 (AVG) one of many season highlights

Make it 37 straight seasons with 20 or more wins as the Monarchs battled to a 20-18 record under Head Coach Tom Austin, who has yet to have a losing season at MU. Nationally ranked to start the season, the Monarchs knew that it would be an uphill battle following the loss of seven seniors a season ago.

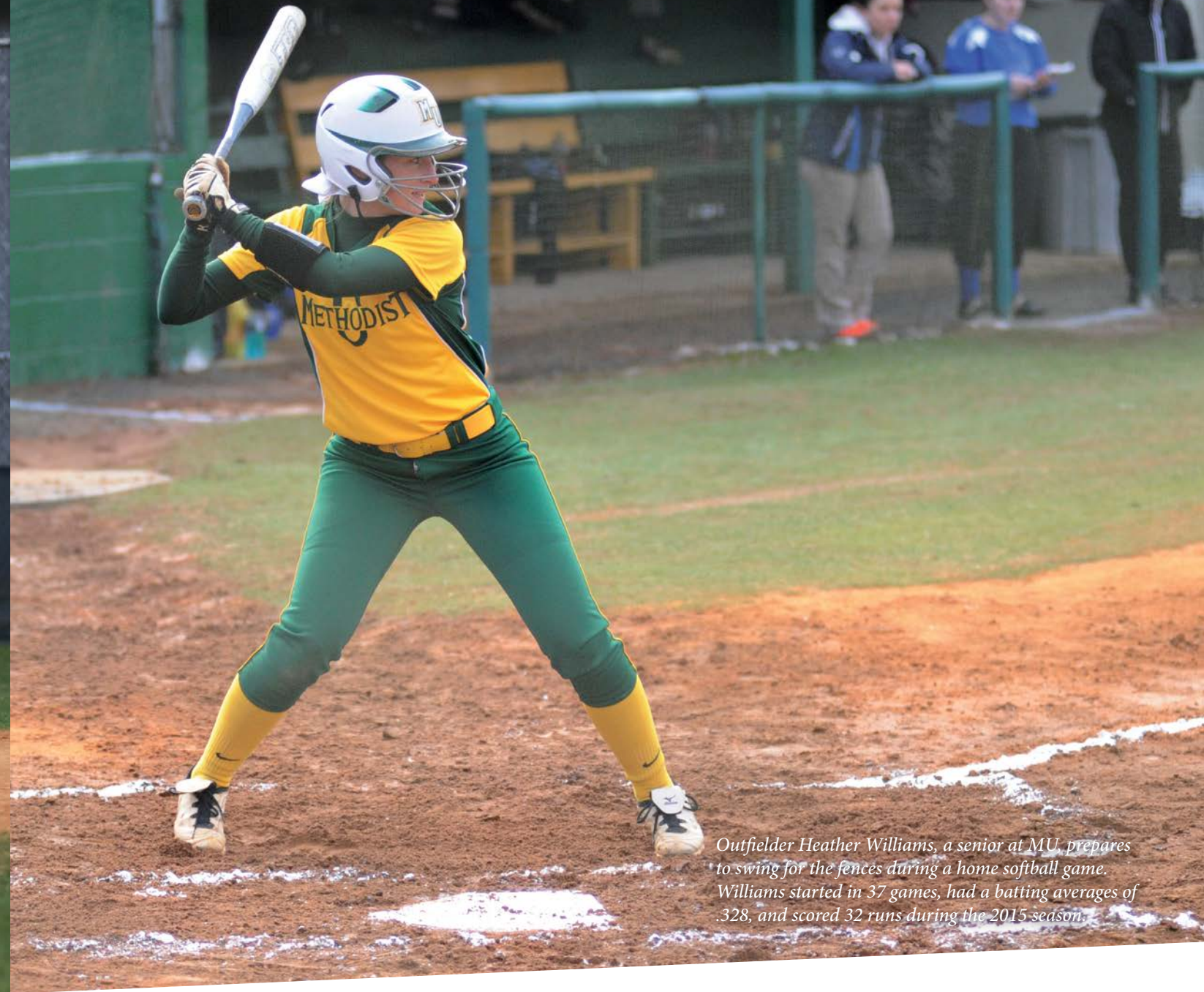
In addition to a plethora of new faces in the lineup, the schedule that MU had laid out for itself wasn't going to provide any relief. Early-season dates with preseason No. 1 and defending National Champions Cortland State, and nationally-ranked Marietta, would test the Monarchs' mettle early in the season. After a midweek loss at Virginia Wesleyan left MU at 6-7 overall, a 10-game winning streak for the Monarchs improved their record to 16-7 just past the midpoint of the season as MU seemed to be peaking at the right time. A tough stretch followed, including a heartbreaking 7-6 loss at fifth-ranked Randolph-Macon, but MU

rebounded once more and swept conference foe Huntingdon in a three-game set prior to the conference tournament.

MU's hopes of a third NCAA bid in the last four years were quickly quieted as the fifth-seeded Monarchs fell to Maryville in a one-run game to open the tournament, followed by a 6-3 loss to regular season champion Ferrum on the tournament's second day. Alex Rodriguez was a First Team All-USA South selection in his senior season, leading MU with a batting average of .398. He also led the team with 38 RBIs with 10 doubles, five triples and three home runs. Lucas Scott was a second team all-conference selection at third base, hitting .341 with 21 RBIs and 16 runs scored.

Davis Cass was an honorable mention pick, hitting .321 in his sophomore year. His 27 RBIs were second on the team and he led the squad with 11 stolen bases.

## Softball Monarchs finish season on high-note despite struggles



*Outfielder Heather Williams, a senior at MU, prepares to swing for the fences during a home softball game. Williams started in 37 games, had a batting averages of .328, and scored 32 runs during the 2015 season.*

The Monarchs struggled with a difficult schedule and finished the season 9-31. Several nationally-ranked opponents and traditional powers dotted MU's slate, including 2015 NCAA World Series participant Alma College. In that meeting with the Scots, played as part of the Leadoff Classic in Columbus, Ga., the Monarchs limited one of 2015's top eight teams to just five hits over 7.0 innings, with a single run in the second inning proving to be the game's lone run. Methodist closed out the season winning three of its final four games, including a doubleheader sweep of Mary Baldwin on Senior Day.

As MU said goodbye to its five seniors, it proved to be the senior class that led MU to victory. In the opener, a 10-2 win, Heather Williams and Kelsey Harrington combined to go 7 for 8 with five runs scored and a pair of RBIs. Natalie High drove in a pair of runs and Christine Bowman picked up the win in the circle, allowing one earned run in 6.0 innings with four strikeouts.

In the nightcap, a 3-1 MU win, it was the final senior, Nicole Heinrich, who led the Monarchs. She surrendered six hits and allowed one unearned run in 7.0 innings to pick up her fourth win of the season.



Above, the Men's Golf Team and coach Steve Conley pose with their trophy after winning the USA South Men's Golf 2016 Championship. Inset left, Larkin Gross, right, Peyton Durham, show off their swings.

## Men and Women's Golf keep on winning track

Expectations have always been high for the Methodist men's golf program. Coming off its 11th National Championship in 2015, the 2016 season carried heightened expectations as MU welcomed back four of the five golfers from a season ago.

The Monarchs, with the added weight of being the top-ranked team in Division III all season, did not disappoint. Methodist, playing its usual slate of top-notch competition, took second in three of the four events it played in the spring and that strong play carried over to the spring. MU opened with second-place finishes at Callaway Gardens and Jekyll Island before breaking through with a win at the Camp Lejeune Intercollegiate. In the NCAA Championship, the men tied for 5th, making the 28th time in 29 years that the team has finished in the top 5 or higher.

The win at Camp Lejeune preceded a runaway win in the USA South Conference Championships. The Monarchs seized control on the tournament's first day, carding a tournament-low 291 in wind conditions to open up a 14-stroke lead. A 298 on day two allowed MU's lead to grow to 23 strokes and the Monarchs closed out their 30th conference championship with a 296 on Sunday for a final score of 885. Huntingdon was a distant second place, 32 strokes behind the Green and Gold. All five golfers finished in the top 10, including individual medalist Larkin Gross and second-place finisher Jackson Collier. Gross was the lone player under

par as his score of 214 left him at -2 (71-72-71). A freshman from Center Cross, Va., he was playing in just his second career event. Collier was second at 220 (68-77-75), followed by Craig Decato in seventh (82-74-73--229), and Mason Stutler (78-75-77--230) and Davis Jensen (74-77-79--230) in a tie for eighth place.

Prior to the NCAA Championships beginning in May, Methodist took part in the Navy Spring Invite in Annapolis Maryland, and took second place in a largely Division I field. Stutler and Collier, who were each named semifinalists for the prestigious Jack Nicklaus Player of the Year Award, tied for third place with even par scores of 142. Stutler shot 68-74 over two days and Collier had back-to-back rounds of 71. Collier and Stutler were each First Team All-USA South selections, Decato was a second team pick and Jensen was an honorable mention selection.

## Methodist wins Invitational

The Methodist women's golf team featured a slew of young faces once again and showed improvement as it climbs back to the form that saw it win 15 straight national championships. Ranked in the top 25 for much of the season with only one upperclassmen playing over 12 rounds on the season bodes well for the program in the near future. The Monarchs finished in the top five in five different events, including winning their own Methodist Invitational to close out the season.

Peyton Durham, one of MU's talented freshmen, was the individual medalist at the Methodist Invitational, outpacing teammate Sydney Syster by 10 strokes for her first collegiate win. Durham shot 78-79--157 and was the only player to break 80 even once.

## Men's Lacrosse makes it to Championship Game

A second consecutive finish at .500 (9-9), including an appearance in SEILC title game has the third-year men's lacrosse program continuing to head in the right direction. The 2016 season saw MU knock off Bridgewater, Piedmont and Greensboro for the first time in school history and only a pair of one-goal losses (8-7 to Randolph and 14-13 to Wesley) denied MU of its first winning season.

The Monarchs qualified for the SEILC Tournament in its second year of existence and advanced to the championship game, falling to defending champion 16-13 on the Panthers' home field. Given that the USA South does not sponsor men's lacrosse, the five league schools that offer the sport formed the SEILC (Southeast Independent Lacrosse Championship) in an effort to generate excitement for the sport and offer student-athletes a chance to play for postseason accolades and a championship. After having just one player honored on the All-SEILC team a season ago, the Monarchs saw five players earn recognition in 2016.

Jake Smerka, last season's lone honoree, was selected as an attackman after leading the team with 60 points on 48 goals and 12 assists. Ty Haith was picked as a midfielder after a debut season that saw him notch 18 goals and 14 assists while picking up 37 ground balls. John Tartline, also a freshman, was tabbed as a defender. He caused 20 turnovers on the season and picked up 49 ground balls while drawing the assignment of defending the opposing team's most dangerous offensive player much of the season. Jordan DeSalvo was the league's top faceoff guy. He ranked among the national leaders much of the season with a faceoff winning percentage of .708 (243-343). His 147 ground balls lead the team and also ranked in the top 10 in the NCAA.

He added five goals and an assist for good measure. Finally, Kyle Clarkson was named the league's top newcomer. A junior transfer, Clarkson was second on the team in scoring with 32 goals and 16 assists as an attackman. He added 29 ground balls and scored a team-high six goals with a man advantage.

The 2017 season will prove to be an important one for MU as all five all-conference players return, and it will also mark the first senior class in program history as the fourth-year program looks to build on its early successes.



Bianca Terenzi, a midfielder for the women's lacrosse team, searches for teammates during a home game.



Attacker Kyle Clarkson readies himself to defend the Monarchs.

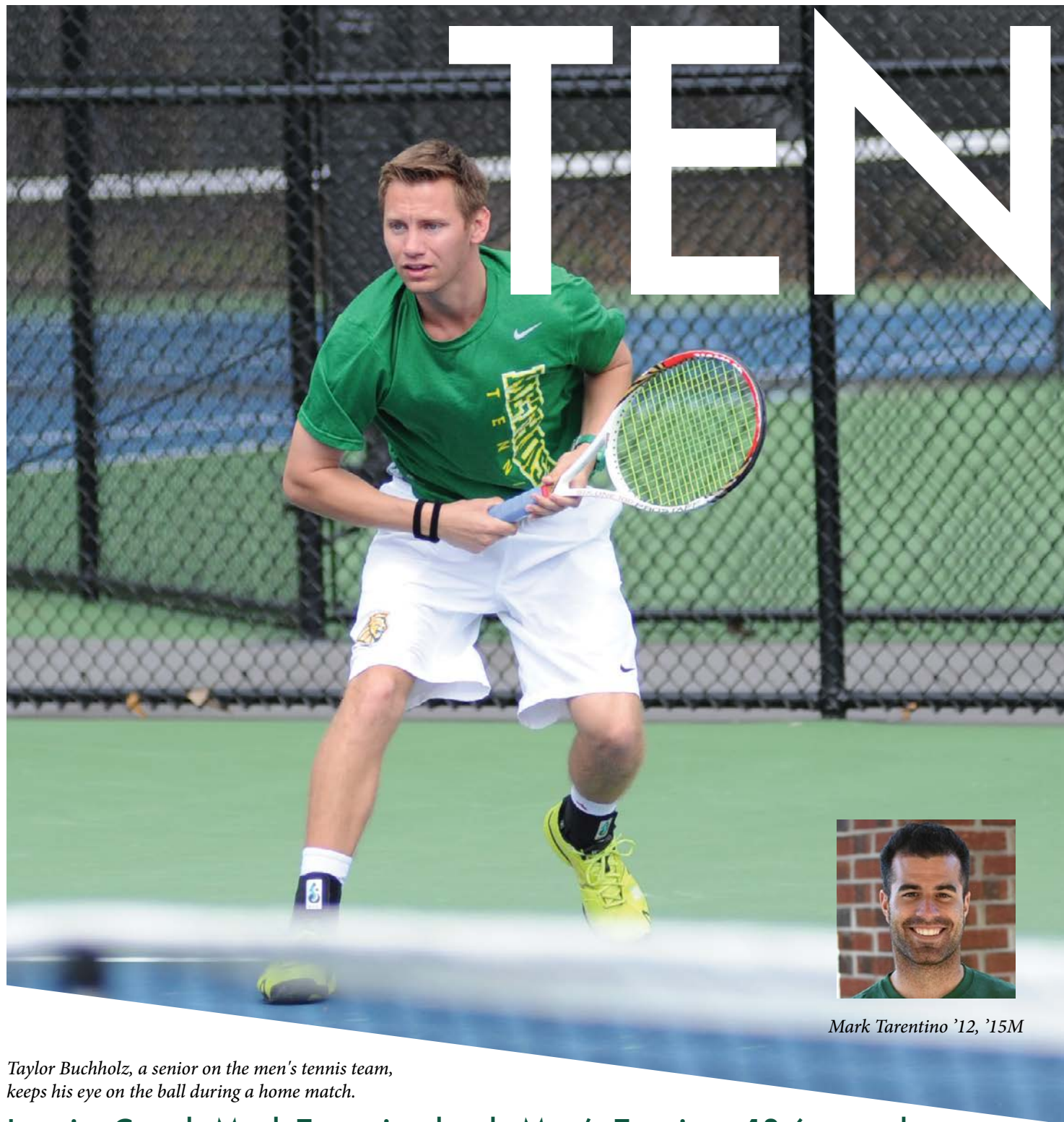
## Women's Lacrosse gains momentum

With an 8-8 showing in 2016, the Methodist women's lacrosse team did something no other MU team had ever done - finish .500 or better in back-to-back seasons. MU continued its ascent in recent years and qualified for the USA South Conference Tournament for the first time since 2009.

A loss in the semifinal round to the league's top team, Meredith, did nothing to diminish the recent success of the Monarchs. All nine of the Monarchs' top scorers figure to be back in 2017, including sophomores Madison Ronelli and Emily Brennen, who led MU in scoring with 43 and 42 points, respectively. Ronelli led the Monarchs with 38 goals and Brennen had a team-high 21 assists. The duo also finished 1-2 on the squad in ground balls, and Ronelli notched team-highs in draw controls (50) and caused turnovers (26).

Ronelli was a first team all-conference selection as a midfielder and Haley Peters picked up second team laurels as a defender.

# TENNIS



Taylor Buchholz, a senior on the men's tennis team, keeps his eye on the ball during a home match.



Mark Tarentino '12, '15M

## Interim Coach Mark Tarentino leads Men's Tennis to 13-6 record

The men's tennis team saw a last-minute change in leadership as Mike Bonnell resigned as the men's tennis head coach in January and was replaced by Mark Tarentino '12, '15M just weeks before the spring season began. The change at the top did little to derail the Monarchs as MU posted a 13-6 record on the season, finished as the USA South Tournament runners up to perennial power N.C. Wesleyan and saw its interim coach be named the USA South Coach of the Year. The Monarchs had a record of 9-1 in conference play, with no win coming any closer than 7-2. An 8-1 win over Averett in the semifinals of the conference tournament propelled the Monarchs into the title match where the nationally-ranked Battling Bishops ended MU's season with an 8-1 win.

Despite dealing with the last minute change at the helm, the Green and Gold had a great deal of individual success as well. MU's top two singles players, R.J. Clement and Taylor Buchholz, were each named to the USA South First Team, and Teal Howard was a second team pick.

# TENNIS

## Women's Tennis sweeps season and conference championship

Another season, another sweep of the USA South Regular Season and Conference Tournament Championships for the Methodist women's tennis team.

The sweep of the two titles is the seventh time MU has accomplished the feat since 2008, and was done in 2016 under first-year Head Coach John Blackburn. Blackburn's Monarchs wasted no time in picking up where teams before them had left off. After a pair of losses to open the season, MU reeled off 18 straight wins, never allowing more than three points to a single opponent, to roll through the regular season and earn the USA South Championships' top seed.

The Monarchs opened play in the tournament with a 6-3 win over Meredith. In a strange turn of events, MU did not even have to play the final match to earn the title as the other semifinal was won by Covenant - a school that does not play on Sundays.

Had Covenant been able to play, few would have given the Scots much of a chance in the finals as MU had previously defeated them by a score of 7-2. In any event, MU earned the program's 12th bid to the NCAA Tournament. Five Methodist players were recognized by the USA South as Isabella Graf and Sam Munze were each named First Team All-USA South. Jenna Landis and Ashton Walker, a pair of highly-talented freshmen, were each named to the second team, and Davi Barbour was an honorable mention selection.

In the NCAA Tournament, the Monarchs earned a thrilling 5-4 win over John Carroll in the first round before falling, 5-0, to top-ranked and eventual National Champion Emory University.



Freshman Ashton Walker makes contact with the ball.

## Both MU Men and Women set records in Track & Field



MU's Tony Taylor competes in the 400m hurdles.

The Methodist track and field team made multiple impacts in the MU record books during the 2015-16 season. In its opening indoor meet, the JDL College Kick-Off Classic, the rookie relay team made up of Shelbee Knopf, Camille Battle, Taylor Krips and Christina Cole posted a new school record in the 4x800m relay, breaking 17-year-old record of 12:52.50 by almost two minutes (10:52.69). At the Vince Brown Invitational, both the women and men's distance medley teams set school records as well.

The women's squad, comprised of all freshmen (Battle, London Colbert, Cole and Knopf) finished in 14:10.55, surpassing the old record of 14:19.35 set in 2011. The men's team of Jeremy Prichard, Tony Taylor, Shane Medlin and Same Maxfield crossed the line in 11:11.40, breaking the 14-year-old record of 11:15.73.

In addition to the three relay marks, one individual record was set as Daniel Fisher, also at the JDL College Kick-Off, covered the 300m in a time of 37.28 to break the old record of 37.49 set in 2011.

## Meet MU's Head Cross Country Coach Jack Brunecz



Coach Jack Brunecz

If you happened to be on the Methodist campus sometime this spring, you may have seen a slender man running around with what appeared to be a utility belt of some sort bouncing on his hips. That man is Head Cross Country Coach Jack Brunecz, who recently completed his first year as the man in charge of the MU men's and women's cross country programs, and that utility belt is equipped with his water supply for the avid runner to use on his daily sojourns.

Brought on in January of 2015 as the first full-time head coach of the cross country program, Brunecz hit the ground running, so to speak, in learning the ropes of working within a collegiate athletic department. A highly-successful high school track and cross country coach at nearby Pine Forest High School, Brunecz brought with him an eager attitude and jolt of energy to the Monarchs.

After diving into recruiting for the Fall 2015 season, Brunecz welcomed eight new faces to the women's program and nine newcomers to the men's program, helping to nearly double the numbers from the previous year.

"You know, I got here in January and really poured my heart and soul into just cross country," said Brunecz, who was accustomed to running both the track and cross country programs at the high school level. "Worked on recruiting non-stop, and the kids that we brought in did really well this season and really helped get the teams to where they are at. I'm sure many of the freshman didn't know what to expect."

With his kids on campus and getting acclimated to college life, both on the cross country course and in the classroom, Brunecz set to work on getting the kids to buy in to the culture that he wanted to see permeate the program — often easier said than done.

"What really helped everyone were the contributions of a few returning athletes. Katie Flournoy on the women's side and Paul Brown for the men," said Brunecz. "Katie is an excellent leader, she was the University's top scholar-athlete in the previous year, and Paul is one of the most involved kids on campus, so they were able to demonstrate to the newcomers how to strike that balancing act."

And while the Brown and Flournoy were helping Brunecz acclimate, the freshmen were pushing the returning runners in a way that hadn't really been seen in recent years.

"Even though they [Brown and Flournoy] have been around for a little while, they were definitely surpassed talent-wise by a lot of freshman," said Brunecz. "But they embraced the challenge and were pushed, and they continued to work hard which, I think, created a domino effect that carried us through the year."

The athletes were not the only ones getting adjusted. With the demands on a college student-athlete outpacing those of a high school student-athlete, and no two runners having the same schedule, Brunecz said that one of the most difficult things he encountered in his first year was working around the schedules of his athletes.

"That was tough, trying to work out who can be at this practice, and who is going to be at this one, and just trying to piece all that together," he said. "But something that I noticed was that the kids *want* to get better, they *want* to train, so if they're willing to go the extra mile, then so am I. If a kid needs to train in the morning, okay, I'll make myself available and at the very least match the effort being put in by the athletes."

Despite the challenges of being a new coach leading a team full of new athletes, the cross country teams exceeded the expectations placed on them in the preseason, so much so that Brunecz took his men's team to compete in the NCAA Southeast Regional for the first time in recent memory.



Katie Flournoy



## Paying it forward with America's heroes by Brock White '07, '14M

In the Fall of 2015, Methodist University paired up with the Salute Military Golf Association (SMGA) and the Fort Bragg Warrior Transition Battalion (WTB) to provide golf clinics for wounded war veterans. The Salute Military Golf Association (SMGA) is a 501(c) (3) non-profit corporation whose mission is to provide rehabilitative golf experiences and family-inclusive golf opportunities for post-9/11 wounded war veterans in an effort to improve the quality of life for these American heroes. The SMGA believes the rehabilitative benefits of golf can improve the mental and physical condition of each and every post-9/11 wounded warrior. The SMGA provides golf instruction, equipment, and playing opportunities for post-9/11 wounded veterans.

In conjunction with these two organizations, the adaptive golf program at Methodist brings the game of golf to even the most severely injured. The clinics form a true community, with each affiliate expressing their own unique personality and feel. These clinics promote camaraderie among warriors and encourage family centered activities. On occasion, clinics extend beyond the mechanics of the golf swing to include related topics such as golf-specific exercise training, nutrition, and community service.

This clinic program is structured to challenge any golfer, whether beginner or single-digit handicap. The social interaction and networking opportunities that exist through the game of golf are unmatched in any other sport, and provide a vehicle for integration back into the civilian community. The clinics held at Methodist were instructed by two PGA Professionals, Robbie Fritz '05, '12M and Brock White '07, '14M, with the help of Methodist University PGA Golf Management students, Ryan Zetterholm, Noah Miller, Jamey Magas, Zach Phillips, Philip Krause and Chad Adams. The clinics met every Monday for eight weeks starting in September.

At the completion of the clinic, each warrior who completed 6 or more sessions is awarded a free set of custom fitted golf clubs, which is comprised of 11 clubs (Driver, Fairway Wood, Hybrid, 5 iron through pitching wedge, sand wedge, and a putter) with a bag. These clubs are given to them by the SMGA in conjunction with Taylormade Golf. The Methodist University PGA Program is excited to continue working with the Salute Military Golf Association (SMGA) and the Fort Bragg Warrior Transition Battalion (WTB) to provide golf clinics for wounded war veterans. The next session will start in September with 10-15 new war heroes.





H&H Homes, owned by **Linda '74** and Ralph Huff, was named Builder of the Year by the Home Builders Association of Fayetteville.



**Randy Wall '74** recently received the Order of the Long Leaf Pine from Gov. Pat McCrory for outstanding service to the citizens of North Carolina. In May 2016 at the General Conference of the United Methodist Church in Portland, Ore., he was elected the national President of the United Methodist Rural Advocates, an advocacy group for UM churches and rural communities. Randy is semi-retired and serves as pastor at Ann Street United Methodist Church in Concord, N.C.



**Susan Yost Jaeger '81** and her husband Dr. Ted Jaeger, a former Methodist professor of psychology from 1978-1991, have moved from Fulton, Mo. to Gainesville, Ga. Ted retired after 24 years of teaching at Westminster College and spends time on the tennis court daily. The couple's son Chris, now 31, is married and has a 3-year-old daughter. They hope to make a visit to Fayetteville soon to see all of the changes on campus.



**Chef Richard Kugelmann '82** instructor at Fayetteville Technical Community College has been elected president of the American Culinary Federation's North Carolina State Chapter. The American Culinary Federation is the culinary leader in offering educational resources, training, apprenticeship and programmatic accreditation designed to enhance professional growth for current and future chefs.



**Renny Taylor '86** was selected North Carolina's History Teacher of the Year by N.C. Sons of the American Revolution. He previously won the Halifax County award and has become eligible to win the national award. Renny is currently a teacher and basketball coach at Nash Central High School.

**Jim Espinoza '89** has been promoted to Service Delivery Manager for the Customer Experience Department at DFW International Airport.



**Mike Krick '92** joined Ford's Colony Country Club in Williamsburg, Va. as the director of golf after serving 18 years as the head golf professional at Carolina Trace Country Club.



**Ryan Jenkins '95** was one of six inductees in the USA South Athletic Conference's 2016 Hall of Fame Class. Jenkins captured three NCAA Division III National Championships as a member and team captain of the Methodist University men's golf team from 1991-1995.



**Stephanie Nicholson '95** has joined the staff at Strayer University as an admissions officer.



**Joseph Ulatowski '98** has been appointed lecturer in philosophy at the University of Walkato in Hamilton, New Zealand.



**Felix Sarfo-Kantanka, Jr. '99** was appointed Deputy Secretary of Administration by Virginia governor Terry McAuliffe. Felix previously served as Legislative Director to Gov. McAuliffe. Prior to joining Gov. McAuliffe's Administration, Felix served on the Governor-elect's transition team. Felix has also served as a Special Assistant to Governor Tim Kaine specializing in public safety and Commonwealth preparedness issues.



Scott Halleran/Getty Images

**Chad Collins '01** birdied four of the last five holes at the Valero Texas Open in April to finish third at the tournament, his best finish on the PGA Tour to date.



**Patti Wisniewski '02** was chosen to decorate one of the 50 loggerhead sea turtles sculptures for the Collier County, Fla. community art event called Turtles on the Town. The sculptures recently went to auction to benefit local charities. Patti's turtle, "Breaking Light Swim", shares some pretty strong characteristics of her woodblock and linoleum prints she created while attending Methodist. For more information visit the website at: [www.turtlesonthetown.com](http://www.turtlesonthetown.com)

**Jasmine Coleman '05** was recently named the Coordinator for Military Outreach at UNC Pembroke.

**Andrew Ginther '08** recently published an article in the Military Police Professional Bulletin discussing unit history and the challenges facing small unit leadership past and present.



**Kimberly Sublett '11M** accepted an offer with SAS Institute in Cary, N.C. to serve as the implementation project manager.



**Jennifer Fincher '02** of Jennifer Kirby Fincher PLLC, was named winner of the annual President's Choice award from the Home Builders Association of Fayetteville.



**Virginia "Ginny" Harrington Johnson '09** was selected as town clerk by the Cary Town Council. Johnson, 28, was selected from 119 candidates from as far away as Nevada, Wisconsin and Missouri. She has been serving as interim town clerk since January.

**Christina Schrader Creech '13** was named Classified Employee of the Year. Creech is a teacher assistant at Bridges School. Bridges School is an alternative school on the campus of West Carteret High School. She has her bachelor's degree in criminal justice from Methodist University and is currently pursuing her teaching degree at ECU.



## SHARE YOUR NEWS

Did we miss something? We would like to hear about your personal and professional accomplishments. Send alumni announcements or corrections to Kirbie Dockery. Email: [alumnioffice@methodist.edu](mailto:alumnioffice@methodist.edu)



**Brandon '03 and Jennifer Neal Mish '02** welcomed twins Leighton and Grayson on Sept. 15, 2015.



**Kirbie Britt Dockery '03** and her husband Steve welcomed Steven "Britt" March 24, 2016. He weighed 9 lbs. 1 oz., and measured 20 inches.

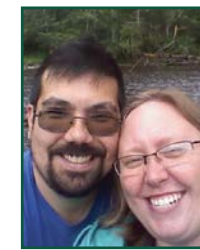


**Christen Snyder Bagwell '05** and her husband Alan are the proud parents of Paisley Addison, born Sept. 7, 2015. She weighed in at 7 lbs. 5 oz., and measured 19.5 inches. Paisley joins her big brother Aspen.



**William Helms '06** and his wife Rebecca celebrated the birth of their daughter, Madison Lee, on Aug. 6, 2015. She weighed 5 lbs. 12 oz., and measured 19 inches. Will is a teacher at College Lakes Elementary School and also serves as an assistant coach for cross country at Methodist University.

**Mary Scott '14** and her husband Steven welcomed their second child, Gracelynn Rose, Dec. 15, 2015. Gracelynn weighed 7 lbs. 14 oz. The Scott family is currently living in Eagle River, AK.



**Carol Brogan '01** is engaged and planning a Sept. 17, 2016 wedding to Alexander Keeton. Carol is the director of golf at Rainier Golf and Country Club in Seattle, Wash. and Alexander is a driver for King County Metro.



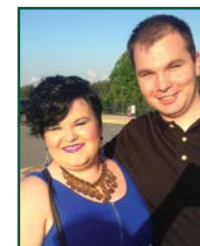
**Ernie Rushing '09M** announces his engagement to Meghan Balfrey. The couple is planning a Nov. 9, 2016 wedding. Ernie is the director of admissions and recruitment for the Duke University School of Nursing and Meghan is employed by Duke University Department of Anesthesiology.



**Dustin Autry '11** is engaged to Caitlin Hunt. They are planning a wedding for March 25, 2017. Dustin is currently working as a library assistant at Methodist University.



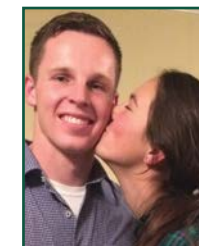
**James "Marcus" Faison '11** announces his engagement to **Christa Rhodes '13**. The couple is overwhelmed by the love and support of their engagement. Marcus and Christa will tie the knot on May 20, 2017 in Wilmington, N.C. Marcus is a residential coordinator and assistant men's basketball coach at Methodist, while Christa is a residential coordinator at the University of North Carolina at Wilmington.



**Charles Gault '13** is engaged to Kaylon Bennett and planning a Dec. 3, 2016 wedding.



**Andrew Poole '14** announces his engagement to Anna Boone. Andrew is a police officer for the Fayetteville Police Department and Anna teaches at Rivermill Academy. The couple is planning a June 17, 2016 wedding.



**Joshua Clarke '15** is engaged to **Katie Nation '16** and planning a July 1, 2016 wedding. Josh is an administrative assistant at Manna Church and Katie will graduate from MU in December. The couple met during Katie's recruiting visit and have been together since April 2014.



## SHARE YOUR NEWS

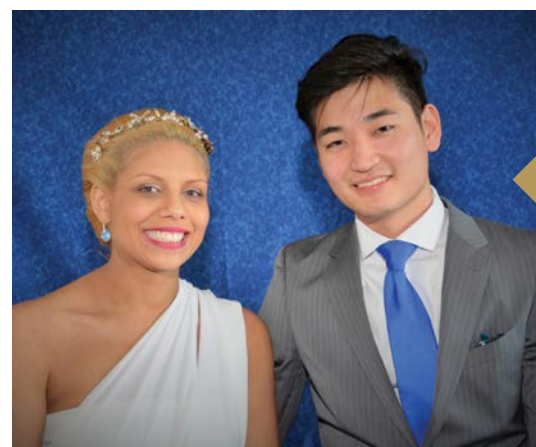
We want to hear about your new addition and engagements. Send alumni announcements or corrections to Kirbie Dockery. Email: [alumnioffice@methodist.edu](mailto:alumnioffice@methodist.edu)



**Kory Reitz '06** married Dana Northington Nov. 7, 2015 on Sea Island, Ga. **James Ondo '05** was a groomsman in the wedding. Kory is a golf professional at Ocean Forest Golf Club while Dana is the spa director at Sea Island Company.



**Will Coleman '11** married Lauren Huppe Nov. 7, 2015 in Loomis, Calif. **Greg Ciavarelli '08** and **Jeff Gentes '11** were groomsmen in the wedding. Will is a sales representative for Petersen Dean Roofing and Solar in Lynchburg, Va. while Lauren is a caterer for Gigi's Kitchen.



**Hiroki '14** and Keesha Kishi were married Jan. 16, 2016. The couple lives in Los Angeles, Calif. Hiroki works as a sales rep at Mutual Trading Co. Keesha attends school at SNHU and is a part-time manager at White House Black Market.



**Courtney Fernandez '11** married Brian Petty Oct. 24, 2015 in Columbiana, Ala. **Ashley Deese '11** and **Katherine Jade Lister '12** served as bridesmaids. Courtney is finishing her doctorate at the University of Alabama at Birmingham in biomedical research, focusing on cystic fibrosis. Brian is an aircraft mechanic in the United States Air Force.



**Jessie Heath '11** married **Nathan Bright '11** Feb. 13, 2016 in Wilmington, N.C. **Kaitlyn Leger '12**, '15M was a bridesmaid in the wedding. Jessie is working as a marketing assistant at Methodist, while Nathan is the faith and community relations director for Habitat for Humanity. Dr. Larry Wells, who introduced the couple in 2008, played during the ceremony and **Melissa Brown (Duffield) '13** sang.



**Bryant Wood '13** married Celeste Manning Dec. 12, 2015 in Erwin, N.C. **Stephanie Wood '13**, **Ryan Hengerer '14** and **Josh Shaffer '14** were in the wedding. Bryant current works as an asphalt manager at Johnson Brothers Utility & Paving while Celeste will graduate from Campbell University in December 2016 with a degree in graphic design.



**Devon Wilson '13** married Ian Burke Nov. 6, 2015 at Wallace Lodge in Marston, N.C. Devon is a self-employed graphic artist and Ian works in construction.





**Louise Freeman Council '64**, 92, of White Oak, passed away Jan. 29, 2016, surrounded by her family and friends. Council was a homemaker, teacher, guidance counselor, a devoted mother, grandmother, great grandmother and great-great grandmother.



**Betty Lee Mitchell Carden '65**, 73, of Richmond, died peacefully on April 2, 2016, surrounded by her family. Her favorite things were enjoying the arts, seeing new movies, having lively political conversations, going out to dinner, playing with her dogs, and spending time with her family and friends.



**Anne Holmes Topping Greene '71**, 66, of Fayetteville, passed away Dec. 10, 2015, at her residence, in the presence of her family. While earning her master's degree in psychology, she worked with the Cumberland County DSS for 28.5 years. She was an instructor and program coordinator for 16 years at Fayetteville Technical Community College.

**Frederic Koch '71**, passed away on Jan. 17, 2016. Frederic was a resident of Schuylkill Haven, Pa., at the time of his passing. He was a 1967 graduate of Schuylkill Haven High School and a 1971 graduate of Methodist College.



**Charlene Ann Navarra '73**, 65, of Lakewood, Colo., passed away peacefully, on Nov. 15, 2015, with her family by her side. She suffered a brief illness following a stroke. She was a graduate of Neshannock High School and a graduate of Methodist College. She lived most of her life in the Pittsburgh, Pa. area and moved to Lakewood, Colo. to be near her grandchildren in 2005. Charlene was a longtime employee of Moody Insurance Agency in Denver and formerly worked at Construction Insurance in Pittsburgh. She loved cooking, eating out, traveling with her family, the Pittsburgh Steelers, holidays and her crazy dog, Bailey.



**MSG Marshall "Pete" Arnold Ashworth '79**, 83, died on May 9, 2016 at his home. Pete retired from the U.S. Army in 1974 after 20 years honorable service. He served tours of duty with the 82nd Airborne Division and 18th ABN Corps at Ft. Bragg, NC. He attended Methodist University (1977-1979) and was awarded a BAS Degree. After retirement, Pete was employed as a contracting officer at Seymour Johnson and Pope Air Force Bases, N.C. and Langley AFB in Hampton, VA.



**Ruth Ellen Fowler Collier '82**, 82, of Linden, went to be with her Lord and Savior on Friday March 18, 2016 in south Florida surrounded by her son and family. Ruth was a devoted wife and mother. She was cherished by her family and friends and loved the Lord. Ruth was born on October 29, 1933 in Erwin, North Carolina to Charles (Charlie) D. and Noreen J. Fowler. She is preceded in death by her husband of sixty years, Clayton Jr.



**Catherine "Cathie" Ann McNeill (née Zoltack) '88**, 60, died Jan. 5, 2016 at FirstHealth Hospice House in Pinehurst. She was married to Darrell McNeill for 17 years. They lived happily and vivaciously together in Pinehurst. McNeill was a proud veteran of the U. S. Army, who served her country honorably overseas in Germany and later stationed in Fort Bragg, N.C. After retiring from the Army, she continued her life of service as a nurse and CRNA at FirstHealth Moore Regional for over 33 years.



**Randall C. Shaw '90**, of Orchard Park, N.Y., died Nov. 21, 2015 at Mercy Hospital of Buffalo, NY. Mr. Shaw was born in Belfast, Maine. He married **Celeste VanHaelst '90**. He graduated from Maine Central Institute in 1986 and Methodist College in 1990. Shaw worked as the assistant golf pro at the Baltimore Country Club from 1990 to 1991 and at the Saucon Valley Country Club in Pennsylvania from 1991 to 1996. He came to Orchard Park as the head golf professional in 1996 and made a home there. He was a member of the Professional Golfers' Association. He also was an NCAA All-American and a PGA Merchandiser of the Year, as well as a winner of the PGA Junior Golf Leader Award.



**Lauren Ashley Wood '11**, 28, passed gently out of this life and into the hands of God on Nov. 25, 2015. Wood had an amazing spirit. Her radiant smile and laughter was contagious. She embraced everyone she met. Lauren could be goofy and silly or very serious. She loved country music, road trips, the beach, watching Hallmark movies, and playing with her rescue dogs Dixie and Ranger.

# Remembering...



## GUY "BUD" BAKER BEATTIE JR. '64

Guy "Bud" Baker Beattie Jr. of Mechanicsville, Va., died peacefully on April 22, 2016. The first ever graduate of Methodist University, he was born on Aug. 21, 1942, to Guy Baker and Fay Carpenter Beattie in Atlanta, Ga., and grew up in Raleigh, N.C. After graduating college in 1964, he entered Officer Candidate School and joined the United States Navy as an ensign. He was stationed at the United States Naval Air Station Keflavik, Iceland. After his active duty, Beattie served in the United States Naval Reserve. He retired from the United States Navy in 1990 as a Lieutenant Commander.

Beattie spent 31 years of his civilian career as an Emergency Communications (E-911) Officer with the City of Richmond, VA., until he retired in 2002.

In 2014, Beattie and several of his fellow classmates returned to Methodist to take part in the university's 50th annual spring commencement exercises. Beattie was presented with his hood, which was not a university tradition during the earlier days, and witnessed the newest Methodist alumni receive their diplomas.



## THOMAS GARLAND KNOTT

Thomas Garland Knott, 89, of Durham N.C. and formerly of Fayetteville, died after a brief illness on April 13, 2016 at the Duke Medical Center. Knott served on the faculty of Methodist College as a professor of Religious Education, chair of the Department of Religion, and chaplain to the campus community from 1966-1994. He was a member of Hay Street United Methodist Church in Fayetteville and Trinity United Methodist Church in Durham, and of the North Carolina Conference of the United Methodist Church.

Prior to earning a Ph.D. in religious education from Boston University, Knott served as a Methodist minister in his native Mississippi. As a pastor, he often worked in numerous rural communities simultaneously, upholding the Methodist "Circuit-Rider" tradition and offering religious services, counseling, and solace throughout the week.

A graduate of New Albany High School, Knott received his undergraduate education at Mississippi State University and his pastoral training at the Candler School of Theology at Emory University. He was a veteran of the U.S. Army Air Corps.



## SID GAUTAM

Dr. Sid Gautam died April 28, 2016, at the age of 74. "Dr. G," as he was lovingly called by many who knew him, had been a resident of Fayetteville for nearly 48 years after leaving his native India. He was an integral part of the Fayetteville community through his longtime association with Methodist University, Cape Fear Valley Medical Center and many more organizations. His widely recognizable smile and jubilant demeanor brought joy to those who knew him in Fayetteville and beyond.

Dr. Gautam, who joined the Methodist College faculty in the fall of 1968 as an associate professor of economics and business, became full-time director of the Methodist College Center for Entrepreneurship in 1999, where he served until his retirement in June 2012. Since it was formed, the CFE has served as a resource for the community, providing educational experiences and networking opportunities, along with recognizing more than 300 entrepreneurs from all over North Carolina for their accomplishments.

He earned his Bachelor of Arts in economics, political science, and literature at Vikram University in Ujjain, India, followed by a master's and doctorate degree in economics, graduating top of his class with his Ph.D.

Dr. Gautam also promoted healthy living. About 2010, he began hosting free monthly programs at Kiwanis Recreation Center where people could learn and practice simple yoga moves and attend seminars on various health issues.

In addition to his work at Methodist and with the Center for Entrepreneurship, he served on the board of Cape Fear Valley Medical Center, founded the organization that is now the Cape Fear River Assembly and, in 1974, organized an event focused on Indian culture that helped spawn the International Folk Festival. He was also involved with numerous other organizations.

The family requests that in lieu of flowers, any contributions be made to the Dr. Sid Gautam Scholarship for Entrepreneurs at Methodist University, 5400 Ramsey Street Fayetteville, NC 28311.



## JIM BLEDSOE '67

Trustee Emeritus Jim Bledsoe, 71, of Raleigh, died June 10, 2016. Originally from Fayetteville, he graduated from Fayetteville Senior High School in 1962.

Bledsoe graduated from Methodist College in 1967 with a degree in business administration. He later served on the Board of Trustees at Methodist and was named Trustee Emeritus in 2015. He began his work career at IBM later working at Black & Decker, and then started his own marketing and sales company in 1976, OEM Component Sales, from which he retired in 1998.

In 1991, Bledsoe was named Economic and Business Alumnus of the Year, and was a past member of the Tally Leadership Board.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to the James A. Bledsoe Endowed Scholarship at Methodist University, 5400 Ramsey Street, Fayetteville NC 28311.



# FROM THE TAILGATE TO THE GAME



# CELEBRATE HOMECOMING 2016 METHODIST UNIVERSITY

## Friday Oct. 21

- 4:00 p.m. Welcome Party at the Fairfield
- 6:30 p.m. Hall of Fame Banquet

## Saturday Oct. 22

- |                                   |                             |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 9:00 a.m. Choral "Gathering"      | 1:00 p.m. Football Game     |
| 10:00 a.m. Alumni Awards Ceremony | 2:00 p.m. Men's Soccer Game |
| 10:00 a.m. Women's Basketball     | 4:00 p.m. MBA Reunion       |
| Alumni Game                       | 5:00 p.m. Volleyball Match  |
| 11:00 a.m. Men's Basketball       | 6:00 p.m. Class of '66 50th |
| Alumni Game                       | Reunion Dinner              |
| 11:00 a.m. Lunch                  |                             |



Interested in adding an event with your alumni or special interest group?  
Contact Kirbie Britt Dockery '03 at [kdockery@methodist.edu](mailto:kdockery@methodist.edu) or 910.630.7167.

# BRINGING MU TO YOU

Can't make it to campus? Don't worry, we are *Bringing MU To You*. Methodist University regional events bring alumni, parents, and friends of MU together for educational, social, and cultural opportunities. Attending a regional event is an excellent way to build and grow social and professional networks, remain informed about news from campus, and display pride in your alma mater. Whether you're new to an area or have been a long-time resident, it's never too late to start attending regional events.

## Schedule of upcoming events:

Greensboro, N.C. | August 2016

Richmond, Va. | August 2016

Raleigh, N.C. | September 2016

Fayetteville, N.C. | September 2016

Washington, D.C.

Swansboro, N.C. | Oct. 13, 2016

New York, N.Y. | Oct. 11, 2016

Charlotte, N.C. | Nov. 29, 2016

Atlanta, Ga. | Dec. 5, 2016



From left to right: Jim Townsend '80 and wife Marcella, Thomas Hutton '10 and wife Alex, Jansen Eveans '88 and his wife Felicia '87.



Jim Percherke '90 and head men's golf coach Steve Conley in Orlando, Fla.

## Miami, Fla.



Alumni and parents at Miami's Bringing MU To You event.

## Orlando, Fla.



Alumni, faculty and staff gather for a photo in Orlando.

## Philadelphia, Pa.



From left, BJ Simpson '07, Ryan Carfara '08, Mark Kirsch '98, Director of PGA Golf Management Jerry Hogge, Matthew Sullivan '00, Scott Reilly '06.



Alumni and staff pose with the Liberty Bell at Philadelphia's Bringing MU To You.

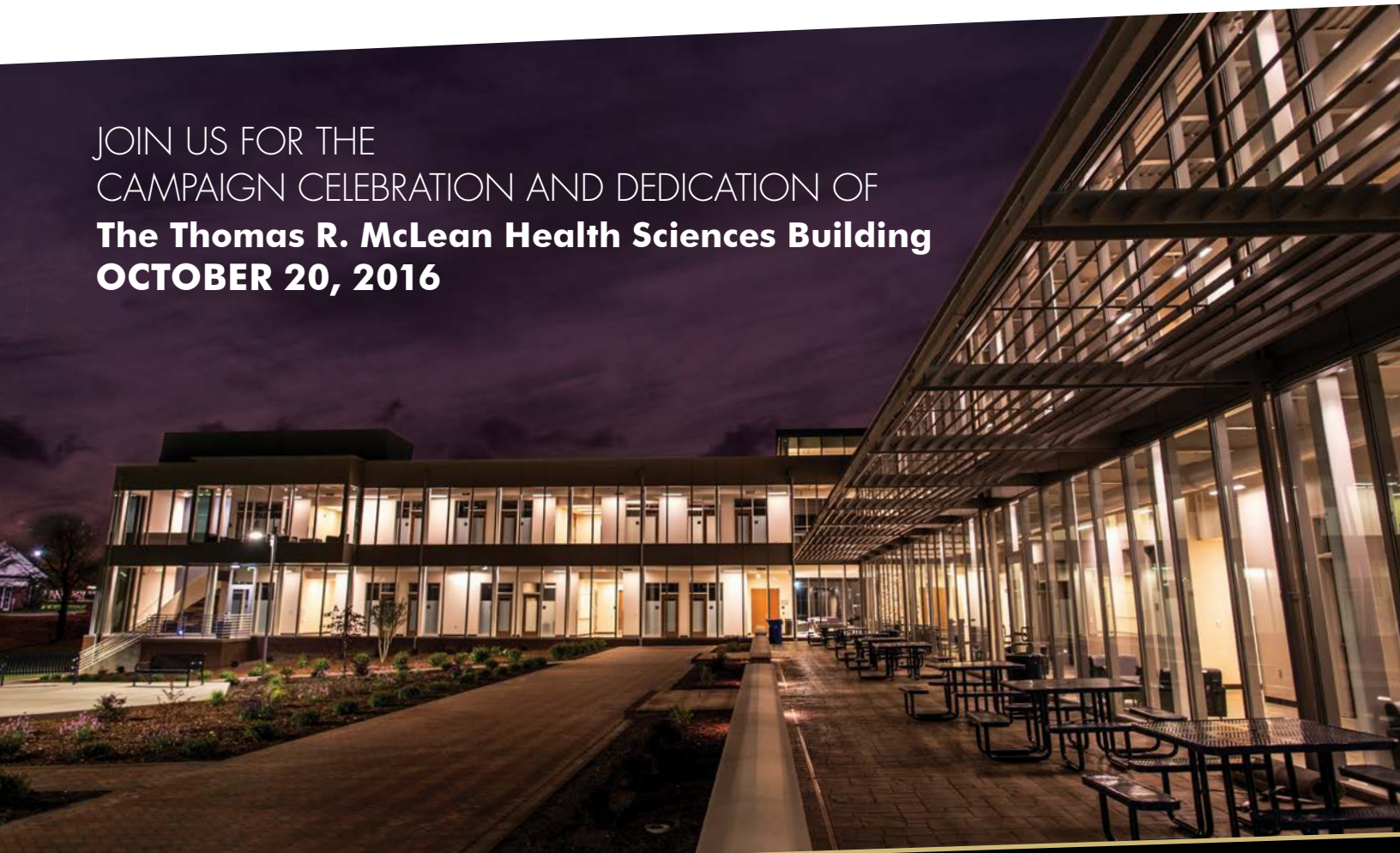
# MU

For more information about these alumni events or to host one in your area, please contact Kirbie Dockery, Director of Alumni Affairs, at 910.630.7167, 800.488.7110 ext. 7167, or [kdockery@methodist.edu](mailto:kdockery@methodist.edu).



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JOIN US FOR THE  
CAMPAIGN CELEBRATION AND DEDICATION OF  
**The Thomas R. McLean Health Sciences Building**  
**OCTOBER 20, 2016**



For more information, contact the  
Advancement Office at 910.630.7200.  
[www.methodist.edu](http://www.methodist.edu)

