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# MU *today*

M A G A Z I N E

SUMMER 2017



*Celebrating*  
The Research and Creativity  
Symposium



**Katayoon Dowlatshahi**  
Senior, Methodist University

# Kindred Materials: *Glass & Clay*

Jennifer Bueno | Thor Bueno | Jeannine Marchand | Pablo Soto

Sept. 7 - Nov. 4, 2017

Opening reception | Sept. 7 | 6:30 - 8:30 p.m.

Artists' talk | 7 p.m.



(Clockwise from top left) Jennifer Bueno, *Shanghai at Night*, hot sculpted glass/mixed; Thor Bueno, *Optical Head Series #10*, blown and carved glass; Jeannine Marchand, *Ventana III*, clay; Jennifer & Thor Bueno, *River Stones*, etched blown glass; Pablo Soto, *Fitted Forms*, blown glass

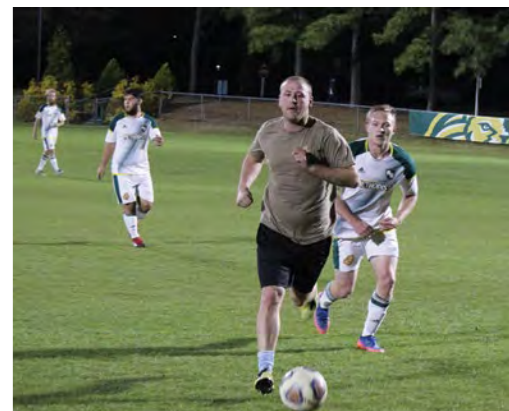
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Alumni and current players from both men's and women's soccer came together for Soccer Alumni Weekend, April 7-8.



Top left, Cassie Poindexter '16 takes off down the field. Top right, current women's soccer player Sara Snotherly and Faye Charles '11 battle for possession. Bottom right, Eric McGinniss dribbles down field while Trevor Hendricks defends. Bottom left, Sean Gregory '09 gets open for the alumni team with Pat Hamel '13 in goal.

## Methodist University celebrates 62nd Annual Loyalty Campaign



Methodist University celebrated its sixty-second annual Loyalty Campaign for Student Scholarships Feb. 28 at Fairfield Inn & Suites on Ramsey Street.

The University honored Graham Blanton as the 2017 Loyalty Supporter of the Year. Blanton has faithfully supported the Loyalty Campaign for 28 straight years.

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

Methodist University's Loyalty Campaign is rooted in a

tradition of local support older than the school itself. Before the then-named Methodist College opened to its first class in 1960, secular and religious community leaders gathered pledges and donations from the local community for a small, private, liberal arts college that would be built in Fayetteville.

This year's Loyalty Campaign chair was William Brooks, BB&T market president. BB&T was one of the first supporters of the University and of the Loyalty Campaign and has contributed every year since.

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

Supporters who would like to contribute to the campaign are encouraged to visit [methodist.edu/giving](http://methodist.edu/giving).

Left, Student President Jason Sparrow speaks on the importance of the Campaign. Center, Graham Blanton, named Loyalty Supporter of the Year, pictured with his family. Right, Loyalty Campaign volunteers Nick Capapas '13 and John Gillis help celebrate at the Fairfield Inn & Suites.

# MU *today*

M A G A Z I N E  
SUMMER 2017

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**On the cover:** MU student Katayoon Dowlatshahi, presents her research findings on "Separatory Analysis of Acetic Acid in Sports Drinks and Food Products and Its Role in Exercise-Associated Muscle Cramp Relief" during the Research and Creativity Symposium week.

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 **METHODIST  
UNIVERSITY**

A delight to all who saw them, the azalea bushes on the campus of Methodist University revealed their brilliant colors this spring.



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## TABLE OF CONTENTS

### Research & Creativity

- Welcome to CRC ..... 4
- MU student studies sloths ..... 16
- MU professor studies gut bacteria ..... 20

### News

- Interprofessional nursing simulations..... 42
- Phi Kappa Phi comes to MU ..... 54

### Campaign Update

- Dixons establish endowed scholarship ..... 70
- Construction update ..... 72

### Athletics

- Longtime A.D. McEvoy retires from MU..... 78
- Basketball goes from worst to first ..... 82

### Alumni News

- Class notes ..... 86
- Remembering ..... 94



8

PTSD research



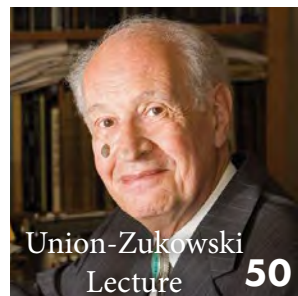
12

Institute for Sports Science and Wellness



34

Black History Month

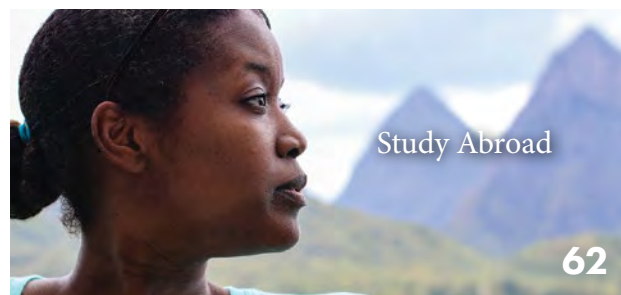


Union-Zukowski Lecture 50



54

Phi Kappa Phi



62

Study Abroad

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Record graduation class in May 48



Mission trips 56

### Digitizing history

McLean Professor of History Dr. Peter Murray is using modern technology to bring history to life.

**Page 28**

### Richard Small donation

MU receives additional geological samples from the collection of Richard Small. **Page 65**



### Board of Trustees chair steps down, is honored

Mary Lynn Bryan stepped down as the chair of the Board of Trustees July 1 and was honored for her long service with an endowed professorship.

**Page 68**



# Welcome to the Research and Creativity Issue

**M**ethodist University celebrates student and faculty collaboration and supports inquiry-based research that provides exploratory learning across the curriculum.

Faculty and students are engaged in research and creative projects year round, but many of their efforts are displayed and recognized every year at the annual Research and Creativity Symposium held in April.

Take a look in the following pages at some of the projects that were presented this year and some that are ongoing.

“This is Methodist University at its best.”  
— Dr. Ben E. Hancock Jr.,  
President, Methodist University



# Center for Research and Creativity officially expands beyond undergraduate focus

Founded as one of the original MU Journey Centers in 2012, the Center for Undergraduate Research and Creativity officially changed its name this year to reflect the inclusion of faculty and graduate research. Now the Center for Research and Creativity (CRC), its mission has expanded over the past several years to include more than just undergraduate research and creative projects. The name change was announced at the Sixth Annual Undergraduate Research and Creativity Symposium held in April.

“The students, faculty, and staff of the University have embraced the mission of the center, and have truly taken advantage of all the opportunities the center provides,” said Dr. Clay Britton, director of the CRC. “This summer, the center’s restructured advisory board will begin planning new opportunities to reflect its expanded mission. We’d like to thank all the members of the MU community who have helped make the center’s efforts a success.”

Since it was created, the center has seen an increase in the number of students participating in experiential learning opportunities funded by the CRC, such as travel to conferences or purchasing supplies for research and creativity projects. The CRC also started its own research publication, Monarch Review: Methodist University’s Journal of Undergraduate Research and Creativity. The third volume was released this year, and the fourth volume is expected to be released toward the end of the calendar year.



Dr. Clay Britton, CRC director, speaks during the introduction to the Symposium award ceremony.

## CRC Grant Spending

Since 2012, the Center for Research and Creativity (CRC) has provided more than \$35,000 in grants to help students perform and share their research. Students are encouraged to apply to the center for two grants, one that can fund travel and one that can fund supplies and equipment.

Some of the supplies CRC grants have funded include gas chromatograph columns, computer software, and stipends for participation in studies. The grant application process is competitive, and students can only apply for one of each type of grant each year.

This year's Center for Research and Creativity Symposium by the numbers

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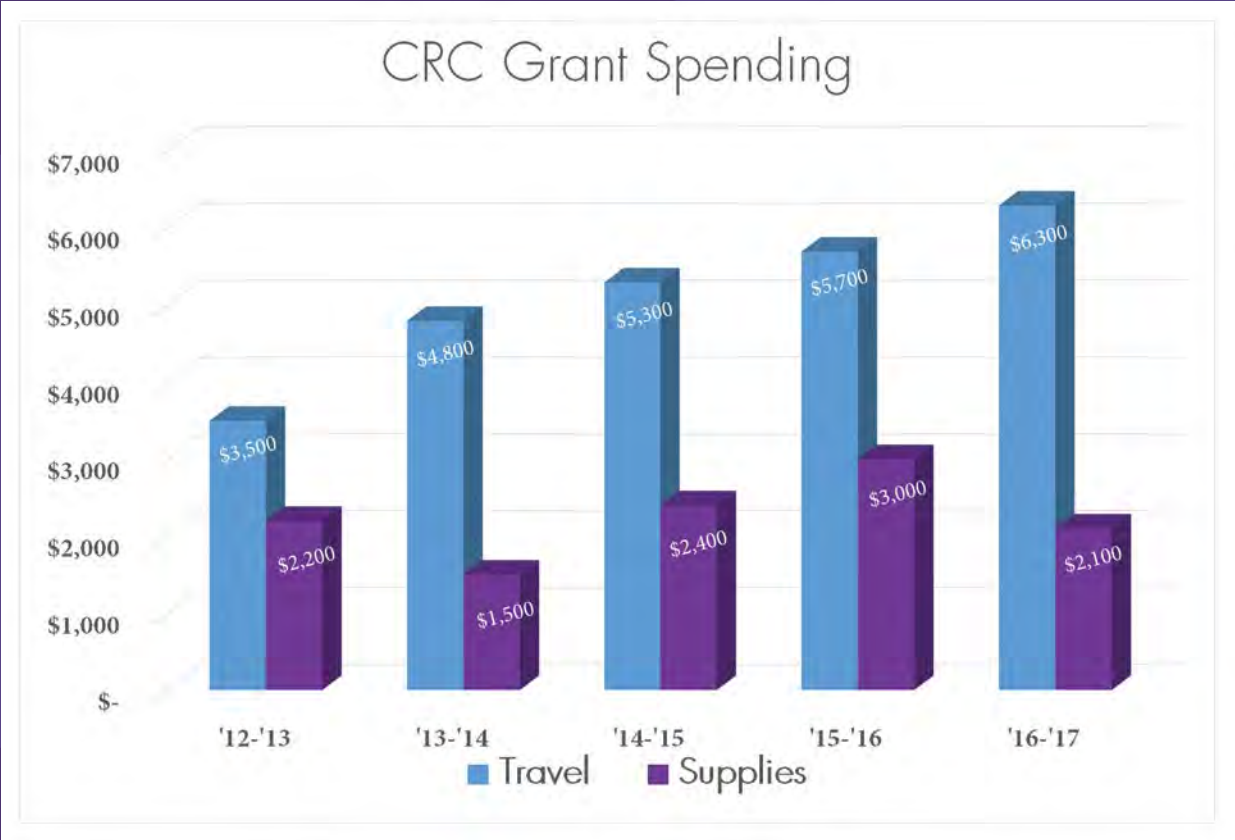
**8** faculty presentations
- 

**19** areas of study
- 

**82** student presenters
- 

**13** poster presentations

The chart below represents how the CRC has provided grants to students for research and creativity projects. Note that numbers have been rounded to the nearest hundred.



## BATI program trains students with PTSD to improve classroom performance



Dr. Mark Kline, chair of the Psychology Department, demonstrates part of the biofeedback monitor BATI+ uses for its research, while students David McNeil, left, and Richard Kurr view the results on a laptop.

Students with post-traumatic stress disorder can have symptoms that interfere with their ability to be successful in the classroom. An ongoing research project in the Psychology Department is working to change that “by addressing specific symptoms and training students with skills to overcome their symptoms in the classroom setting.”

Brief Academic Trauma Intervention (BATI) is a five-session seminar where students are taught stress reduction skills, cognitive restructuring skills, and emotional management in five 30-minute workshop sessions. An additional program, BATI+, adds a biofeedback component to the process to help learn the stress reduction skills. The training begins with Cognitive Behavior Therapy, where students discuss their traumatic experience and reactions, which are normalized.

Next, students are taught to recognize their emotional states, reactions, and accompanying thoughts. With this skill, students can identify and alter their negative thoughts to gain control over their emotional states.



“The third session addresses the avoidance symptoms of PTSD which are usually associated with not turning in assignments or preparing for exams,” said Psychology Department Chair Dr. Mark Kline. “We teach them skills for breaking the task into more emotionally manageable sub-tasks and to monitor their thoughts and emotions as they go through it.”

Students then begin to actively work with their traumatic memories, learning techniques for discussing the situations while creating emotional distance from the events. Last, the students work on general problem-solving strategies around social situations and problems.

“Each of these sessions deals with a particular symptom of PTSD that interferes with a student’s ability to be successful in the classroom,” Kline said. “By addressing these symptoms directly, without the prime focus on the traumatic events, the students are better able to learn new skills and to improve in the classroom.”

Kline calls project’s findings “impressive.”

“We see almost a two-point reduction in severity of classroom difficulty, as rated by the professor on a 10-point scale, for BATI participants versus a control group,” Kline said. “We’ve been serving veteran students, but the program could be used for anyone with PTSD, which can come from any traumatic experience.”

Kline developed the original BATI program, and student and veteran Richard Kurr worked on the BATI+ program for his senior seminar.

“The BATI and BATI+ studies were converging events where the theory we studied throughout the semesters became a practical experience with real results and repercussions,” Kurr said. “In my view, the active application of experimental concepts was a great and exciting opportunity to go beyond classroom lectures and learn from working through and overcoming the complications and challenges of planning and conducting an actual psychological study. I am extremely grateful for the opportunity and the support of my professors and the Psychology Department in encouraging us to pursue the areas of psychology we feel passionate about.”

Kurr and fellow student veteran David McNeil participated in running BATI groups in different semesters as part of their counseling psychology class. Next semester, Kline and McNeil are hoping to expand the research to see if it can also be used to impact alcohol use among people who have experienced trauma. As well as helping college students, the program could be used as a tool by school counselors in grade schools.

“The knowledge that we are providing other students with the tools to help them improve their academic careers is thrilling and extremely rewarding,” said McNeil, who is president of the Student Veterans of America chapter on campus as well as Psi Chi, the psychology honor society. “The results of the BATI study speak for themselves, and I look forward to working with Dr. Kline next semester to further the BATI program and its ability to deal with PTSD and addiction.”

# Business students get academic publishing byline

## “Publish or perish”

is a well-known phrase to professors, but it's very unusual for undergraduate students to be published in an academic journal. This year, two students in the Reeves School of Business (RSB) managed to do just that, with separate papers in the Journal of Interdisciplinary Business Studies and The American Journal of Social Issues and Humanities.

“We have had very few business students get published at Methodist University in the past, so this is a big deal,” said Nimocks Professor of Business Dr. Josiah Baker, who worked with the students, Daniel Gore '15 and Lauren Irby '16, on their papers. “This is the first time the RSB has had two students publish something in a given year. The students wrote their papers, and then collaborated with me in transforming them into something publishable. Doing that requires probably 20 to 30 hours of additional interactive work for a paper.”

Because there is usually a lag between submission and publication, both students graduated before their papers were published. The endowed chair that Baker holds is intended to provide financial support for undergraduate research.

Gore's paper, “Weaponized Interaction Theory: Using Propaganda as an Economic Weapon,” proposes a theory called Weaponized Interaction Theory, which Gore suggests

explains the process and use of weaponizing ideology via propaganda to initiate economic change.

Irby's paper, “Pseudo-marriages and Moral Hazards: Financial Incentives for a Military Marriage,” examines the concept and causes of military marriages along with their intended and unintended outcomes.

“The impact of research papers on society is indirect,” Baker said. “Papers can be read for many years and can influence and inspire others. In these cases, the students could continue their work in graduate school.”

Since graduating from Methodist, Gore has begun pursuing a doctorate in economics.

“Overall, the experience of doing undergraduate research and the honor of being published was great,” Gore said. “Lauren Irby and I had wonderful support from the faculty, and Dr. Baker in particular was overflowing with encouragement and counsel, plus his contributions to the work were invaluable. Also, Dr. Carl Dyke played an integral role in my ability to conduct research by mentoring me through the mental gymnastics of the topic and provided the foundational knowledge for my original paper. I cannot stress enough the impact and vital importance of having an involved and supportive faculty like MU offers its students.”

Gore said being published as an undergraduate made him stand out from others in his field and was a great addition to his resume.

## "Are You Booked For Lunch?" celebrates faculty



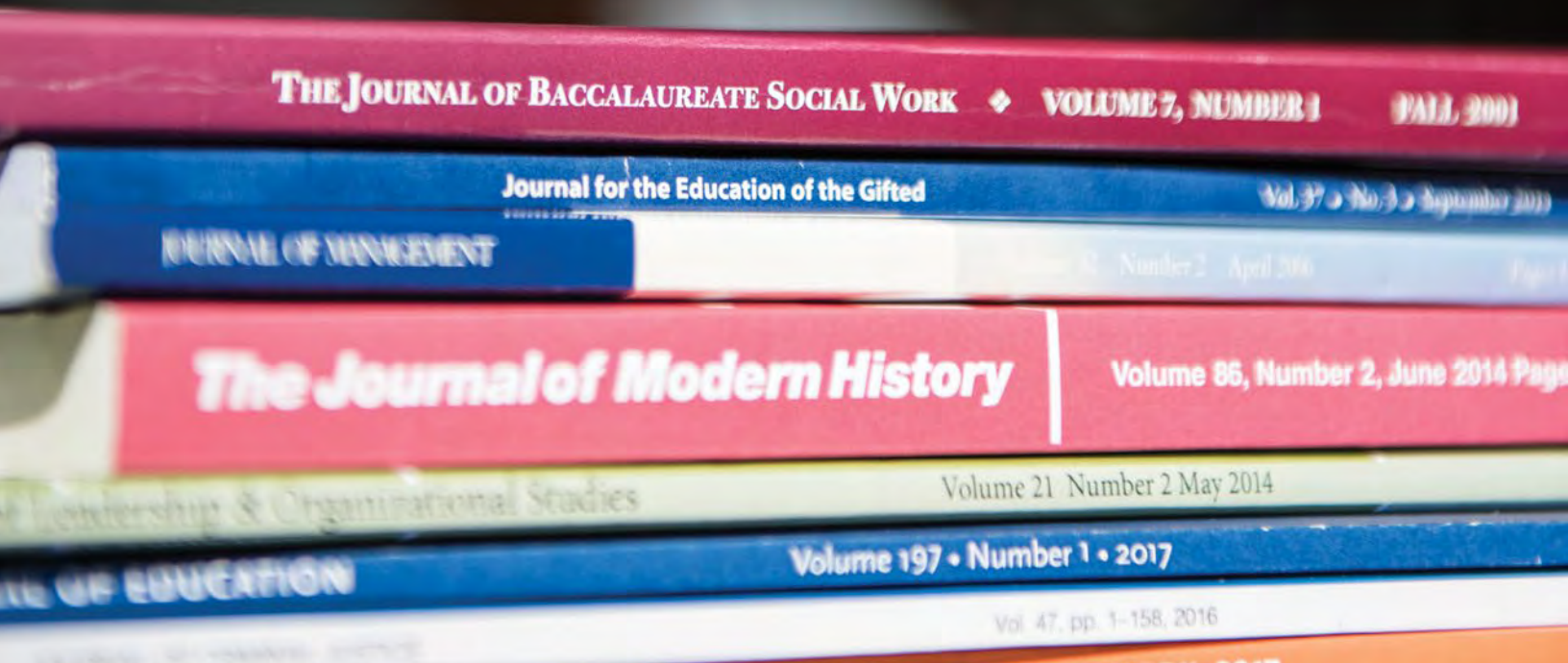
Above, Dr. J. R. Hustwit speaks about his book “Interreligious Hermeneutics and the Pursuit of Truth” during an “Are You Booked for Lunch?” event in 2016.

The Davis Memorial Library is always adding books to its collection, but the staff members take special pride when they add faculty publications. For the last five years, the library has sponsored the “Are You Booked For Lunch?” series, which features recent publications from Methodist University’s faculty. Each event includes lunch and a brief talk by the featured faculty author. The series has highlighted all types of publications, from novels and poetry to journal articles and academic non-fiction.

“We have a diverse faculty with a wide net of academic accomplishments,” said Library Services Director Tracey Pearson. “In 2012, I started this program to celebrate them. In 2016, we expanded the program to include faculty who authored articles. The luncheon has been an informal way for faculty to gather and support each other.”

The library typically hosts one or two events in the series each year. Below is a list of the past lunches.

- |             |  |
|-------------|--|
| Spring 2012 | Robin Greene, “Augustus”   |
| Fall 2012   | Dr. Michael Potts, “End of Summer”   |
| Spring 2013 | Megan Roberts, “Matters of Record”   |
| Spring 2014 | Dr. Emily Leverett, “The Big Bad”  |
| Spring 2015 | Donna Pelham, J.D., “Twisted Links”  |
| Spring 2016 | Dr. J. R. Hustwit, “Interreligious Hermeneutics and the Pursuit of Truth”  |
| Fall 2016   | Dr. Stephanie Hooper Marosek, “Quantitative Determination of Hemoglobin in Tooth and Bone by UV/Vis Spectroscopy and Cyclic Voltammetry,” and Dr. Pam Strickland, “Local Government Sustainable Development: A Theoretical Paradigm or a Plan for Action?” |
| Spring 2017 | Dr. Eric See, “So You Went on Sabbatical?” (highlights from his research on gun policy)  |





# Institute of Sports Science and Wellness fosters healthier MU community



Above, Dr. Jamie E. Robbins, associate professor of Physical Education and Exercise Science, directs the crowd in Berns Student Center as part of ISSW signing day, where students signed a banner pledging to pursue better health and wellness.

The newly formed Institute of Sports Science and Wellness (ISSW) was created to promote campus growth in sport science and wellness, in part by fostering research on the subject. The ISSW also aims to create facilities and programs to improve wellness and sport performance for all members of the campus community.

Wellness encompasses more than just the health of the physical body, it also addresses how a person experiences emotional, social, intellectual, environmental, and spiritual life. Sports Science is the study of the biopsychosocial variables that impact athletic performance. With so many athletes on campus, it was considered important to identify ways to best enhance their experience at Methodist University. Although two separate parts, the lessons from one can carry over to the other, so athletes can benefit from the findings and initiatives in the area of wellness, and the general campus community could also be helped by the programs addressing Sports Science.

“The Institute is in its infancy, but we are proud of our progress to date and look forward to more support in the years to come,” said Associate Professor of Physical Education and Exercise

Science Dr. Jamie E. Robbins. “Whether we are combining with Religious Life to promote Stations of the Cross for a Good Friday prayer walk, encouraging the campus to attend talks related to stress relief and nutrition, or just emboldening people to start walking or meet new people by attending an event with MUHikes, our mission is clear: We want to promote a healthy, happy, and knowledgeable campus in the ways of sport science and wellness.”

The ISSW held a “signing day” on campus in March, in which students, faculty, and staff signed a banner and a contract agreeing to support, promote, propose, and/or participate in Methodist University’s Healthy Campus initiatives. The event was followed by opportunities to improve physical wellness, with Yoga on the Quad and a campus run/walk on some of the newly developed trails on campus. The trails, which are open to the public, have also drawn some members of the local community to campus.

“The Institute of Sports Science and Wellness was proud to introduce the new walking and running routes to our community this past semester,” said Jack Brunecz, who is also head cross country coach. “There are three official routes that have been developed throughout our campus. One is strictly on sidewalks



Above, left to right, Head Athletic Trainer Brandon Reynolds, Mekides Tamerat, Cathy Brown, Associate Professor Dr. Jamie Robbins, Phavadee “Nook” Phasavath, and Coach Jack Brunecz. Right, Brunecz leads the crowd gathered to celebrate the opening of the routes.



or roads, and the other two include a mix of terrains throughout campus. We are also planning a 5k and 1-mile event on these trails in the fall.”

As well as trying to implement the latest research on wellness and performance, the ISSW is looking to add to the body of research by partnering with various campus organizations to conduct ongoing research to assess wellness-related factors in the campus community.

“It is through these partnerships that we hope to truly improve the overall physical, emotional, social, spiritual, intellectual and environmental wellness of our students, faculty and staff,” Robbins said. “It is critical that we identify where individuals’ needs are not being met if we want to see improvements in the future. Discussions with students, faculty and staff, and one small study assessing wellness among a group of traditional and non-traditional students have allowed us to start these programs in areas deemed important, but more empirical assessments will ensure a more directed focus moving forward.”

For athletes, the ISSW is also reaching out to share related research that can improve their performance and make their experiences more enjoyable.

“We would like to ensure our athletes and coaches have access to information related to nutrition, strength and conditioning, and sport psychology,” Robbins said. “Over the past year, sport psychology talks and sessions have been arranged for coaches, individual athletes, and teams.”

Men’s Basketball Coach David Smith said the ISSW sessions his players went through were extremely helpful, even if the students didn’t always realize it right away.

“The mental game was a huge factor in our success this year, and the players and coaches bought into what Dr. Robbins was trying to accomplish,” Smith said. “There was no eye-rolling or attitude; they were engaged. Adding to that, Dr. Robbins kept me involved and informed, and provided some valuable and consistent ideas on how to keep the team focused.”

# Dowlatshahi becomes first student to complete the Undergraduate Research and Creativity Fellowship



Left, Katayoon "Kate" Dowlatshahi, and her mentor Dr. Stephanie Hooper Marosek, stand in front of the ultraviolet-visible spectrophotometer.

Shortly after it was created, the Center for Undergraduate Research and Creativity developed its Fellowship Program. The prestigious multi-year fellowship program bore fruit this year, when Katayoon "Kate" Dowlatshahi became the center's first URC Fellow.

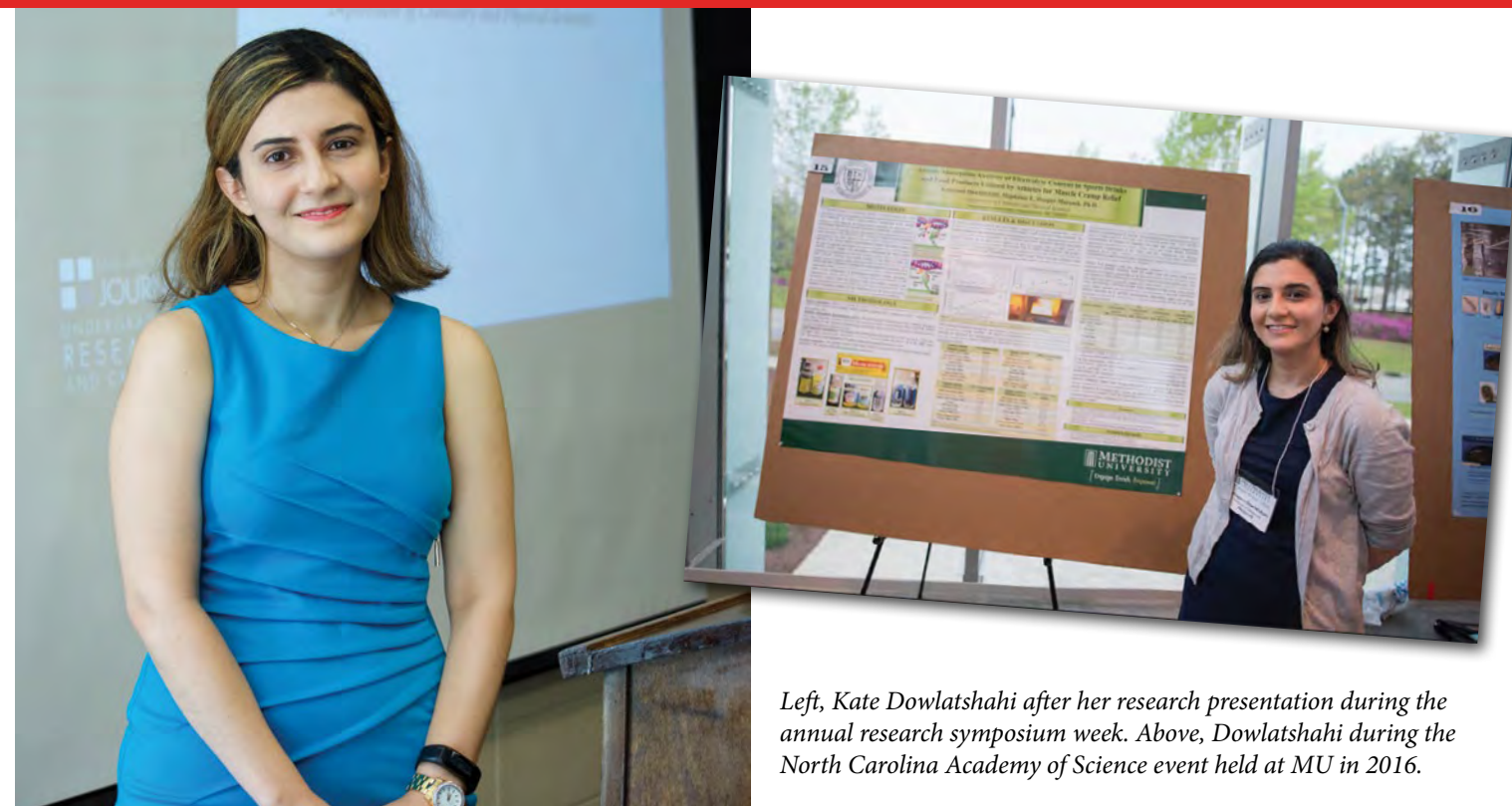
"Students who want to immerse themselves in a culture of research and creativity can become Methodist University URC Fellows," said Center Director Dr. Clay Britton. "The pathway to becoming a Methodist University Research Fellow is intended to be intense and rigorous. The goal is that when they complete the program, the successful students will be well-rounded and open-minded, and will have had an experience that sets them apart

from their peers at MU and other institutions."

Dowlatshahi, who is from Fayetteville, began her fellowship journey by speaking with her research advisor, Dr. Stephanie Hooper Marosek, an associate professor of chemistry.

"Kate is an extremely bright and motivated student, who began searching for research opportunities almost the instant she set foot on campus," Hooper Marosek said. "She is very intuitive and proficient in the laboratory, but she has also developed a knack for researching scientific and medical literature."

Dr. Hooper Marosek, who is researching muscle cramps, took Dowlatshahi on as mentee as well as being her academic advisor and professor.



Left, Kate Dowlatshahi after her research presentation during the annual research symposium week. Above, Dowlatshahi during the North Carolina Academy of Science event held at MU in 2016.

"Initially, we just wanted to see the different levels of electrolytes in different foods and drinks," Dowlatshahi said. "The next year, we looked at acetic acid, which has a neuromuscular attribute that relieves cramps, and is also a strong component in many high-electrolyte foods products, like apple cider vinegar."

Mustard, a long-time old-fashioned remedy for cramps, turned out to have the most electrolytes and acetic acid of their test materials, even more than sports drinks.

"We still don't know the exact cause of exercise-associated muscle cramps," Dowlatshahi said. "But this could help further research in that area. I think athletes may use certain food products and sports drinks just because of their popularity and the marketing tactics used; they probably aren't aware of the scientific research behind how these substances operate. They're often mostly sugar; they don't really function in relieving cramps."

Outside of her work with Hooper Marosek, in order to become a Research Fellow, Dowlatshahi had to attend a certain number of research presentations, lectures, performances, shows, and other events, and write essays about the events. The essays, along with research project information, went into a portfolio, which was assessed before her fellowship could be awarded.

"I also had to present our research in on-campus and off-campus venues," she said. "Last year, I presented at the North Carolina Academy of Science, which happened to be held here. It was my first presentation ever. I got to meet with a lot of other science majors, speak to others about their research, and get

feedback. Then I presented at the annual research symposium on campus, and this year I went to SERMACS, the Southeastern Regional Meeting of the American Chemical Society, which was held in Columbia, S.C."

Dowlatshahi said she expects to see more students working to put themselves ahead as Research Fellows as word spreads on the program's advantages.

"What many people don't realize is, when you're applying to graduate school, they're looking for more than just a year of research," she said. "The fellowship has allowed me to go deeper than I would have if I'd just done a senior seminar paper, and it was very hands-on. That will benefit you in the future. It allows for critical thinking, even makes you go research the instruments. It's much more intensive, but I believe the intensity will help you in the future."

Hooper Marosek is also sure Dowlatshahi's work will pay off.

"I am confident that with some more experimentation, we will be able to publish her findings in a peer-reviewed journal," she said. "I firmly believe that her experience as a CURC Research Fellow has given her more confidence, knowledge, independence, and critical thinking skills than any textbook could provide. I could not be more proud of her."

After graduating in May with her degree in chemistry, Dowlatshahi is spending part of the summer doing a future doctors program at East Carolina University, and she plans to attend medical school the following year.

# CRC funds student's research trip to study sloths



Stephanie Dewell '16 boards the plane for home.

Stephanie Dewell '16 went the extra mile for her senior project, about 1,800 miles technically, to study with the staff at The Sloth Institute (TSI) in Costa Rica. Dewell used a grant from the Center for Research and Creativity to fund a side trip to Costa Rica while she was in Nicaragua as part of a veterinary relief program. She and a local veterinarian met TSI's director, Sam Trull, who has dedicated herself to the research and rehabilitation of sloths back to the wild.

"I used the CRC money to help pay my travel expenses to the jungle, as it required an international flight to San Jose, Costa Rica, and then a separate flight on a small plane to Manuel Antonio, as well as paying for my stay in a female dormitory in a hostel for two weeks," Dewell said.

Dewell, who graduated magna cum laude with her degree in biology, used her time in Costa Rica to collect all the data from her sample populations for her senior project. She then analyzed her data and completed the paper when she returned home.

"While most of Sam's work focuses on the behavior of sloths in the wild, she also spoke briefly of common clinical ailments sloths experience in captivity," Dewell said. "Veterinary medicine is my career interest, so after my trip I delved deeply into scholarly articles published on the species thus far. I soon found out that research in regards to sloth species is scarce, which served as both a blessing and a curse. After months of hard work and deliberation, I decided I wanted to focus on differentiating the primary cause of skin disease in both captive and free-living sloths, and then compare the frequencies."

Her resulting research, "Ectoparasitic Skin Diseases of the Two-toed and Three-toed Sloths in Costa Rica," was also accepted for publication in the Monarch Review.

"My research revealed important data that will directly affect the health of the local sloth population, not only at the Institute, but at other research and rehabilitation facilities in Costa Rica," she said. "My research also gave the institute new and vital information regarding the dermatologic and systemic health of the local wild sloth population, which resulted in multiple protocol changes that will ultimately help prevent diseases in sloths during rehabilitation at the institute."

Looking back as a graduate, Dewell, who current works with a local veterinarian, said her time in Costa Rica was definitely the highlight of her MU Journey.

"I spent almost a year of my undergrad dedicated to my project," she said. "I'd like to think my tenacity and drive is what made it possible, but I really could have not done it without the help of the faculty of the Biology Department and the CRC. They truly were like a family to me, supportive as could be, yet willing to loosen the reins and let me learn that no matter how much you try to plan, things happen, especially in the jungle!"

Dewell said she also learned a lot about practicing responsible ecotourism from her trip. Tourists love to take photos with sloths, but the practice is harmful.

"One way you can do your part and be a better sloth tourist is say no to sloth selfies," she said. "Being touched by strange humans causes sloths extreme stress. People should never pay to touch, feed, or take a photo with a sloth. Their best angle is in the trees."

Stephanie Dewell '16 conducts microscopic examinations of skin scrapes and fungal culture samples taken from free and captive sloths in the Costa Rican jungle during part of her time at The Sloth Institute.



Dewell shot this photo while assisting with an examination of a juvenile sloth, who was suffering upper respiratory distress.



# Citizen Consulting

helps voters avoid manipulation

“The average citizen is at a strategic disadvantage and often manipulated in elections.”

— Dr. Christopher Cronin,  
Associate Professor of Political Science

The advent of big data has changed how elections function in the United States of America, and some would say it has changed in a way that doesn't put voters' interests first. Dr. Christopher Cronin, associate professor of political science, is hoping to help voters fight back against big data and avoid being manipulated by unscrupulous political marketing and messages.

“Political consulting is a billion-dollar industry that helps candidates maximize data and emotional appeal to win elections,” Cronin said. “The most effective campaigns create an emotional appeal through imagery and rhetoric. They seek to manipulate voters, because it is more effective than informing them of candidates' ideological positions, policy preferences, and voting records. All of that information is public record, but logically presenting that information is not seen as the best way to win by political consultants. Instead, they harness overwhelming amounts of data about individual voters and neighborhoods, and they use focus groups to develop the most emotionally appealing package.”

In response, Cronin is developing Citizen Consulting. The project is a development of his main area of interest, religion and politics. He said he's trying to undo the commercialization of the political process one voter at a time.

“Campaigning has become too micro-targeted,” Cronin said. “The average citizen is at a strategic disadvantage and often manipulated in elections. So, Citizen Consulting is one-on-one nonpartisan consultation

*Left, Dr. Christopher Cronin stands in front of the North Carolina State Capitol in Raleigh.*

for voters. An interview establishes political beliefs and partisanship, and a follow-up consult allows for a personalized understanding of candidates and electoral choice overall.”

Cronin's goal is to make the election process more transparent and improve democratic engagement. He envisions creating non-profit Citizen Consulting Centers (CCC) that would hold open sessions for the community during election years.

“As a free resource, available to the public, such a center would have democratic value as well as research value,” he said. “Scholarship on voting behavior and apathy is often linked to confusion, misunderstanding the candidate menu, and lack of political efficiency. The Citizen Consulting Centers would directly engage those who feel disconnected and those who seek basic ideological identity.”

Social media has attempted to play a similar role in recent elections, but has proven unreliable and, in fact, has become a tool of the very political consulting machinations that Cronin wants to avoid.

“Rather than leaving communities to rely on online political quizzes to figure out partisanship and what candidate best represents an individual's beliefs, the CCC would provide detailed connections and suggestions to individuals,” Cronin said. “The better informed citizens are and the more transparent the process, the more likely they are to vote and vote intelligently.”

## President's Award recognizes faculty work

Since 2013, the President's Award for Faculty Research and Creative Expression has been awarded each year to a member of the faculty. The award is chosen by a committee that includes President Ben Hancock, Provost Delmas Crisp, and others. Candidates are considered with regard to their present and past body of work. The award is presented as part of the Research and Creativity Symposium week.

This year's winner was Dr. Christopher Cronin. Previous winners are the following:

2016 – Dr. Matthew Kesic

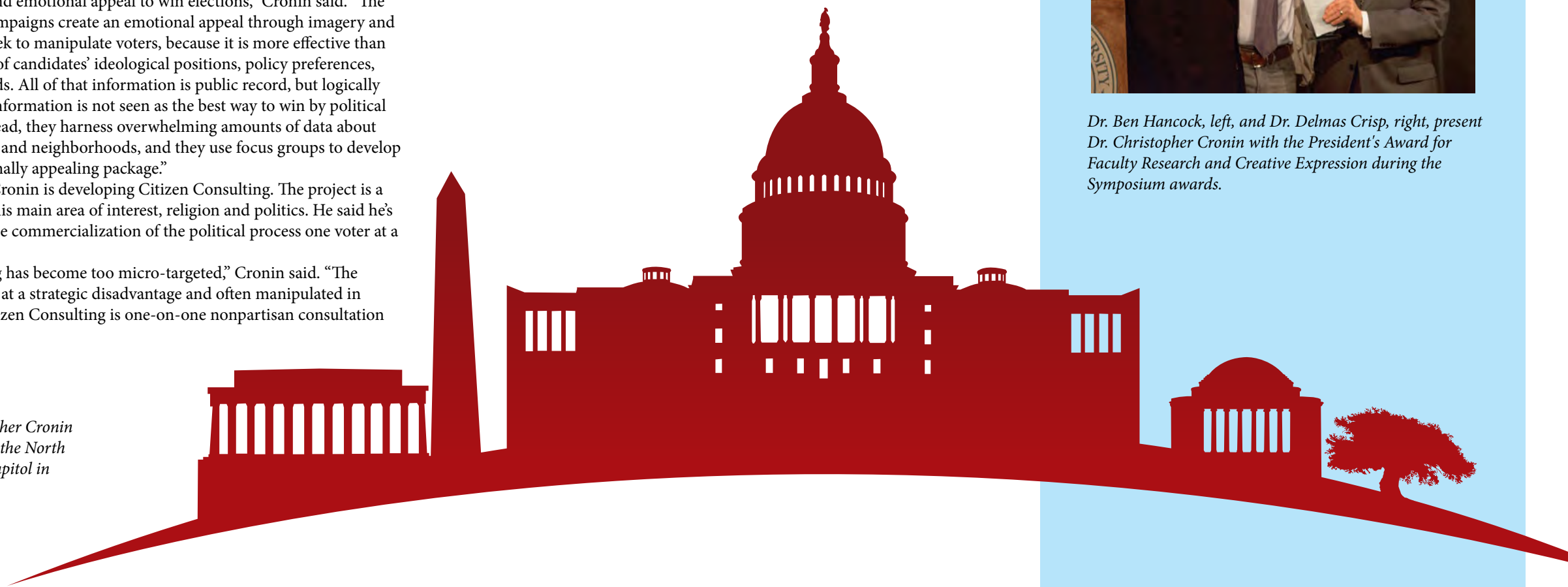
2015 – Dr. Stephanie Hooper Marosek

2014 – Dr. Keith Dippre

2013 – Dr. Richard Walsh

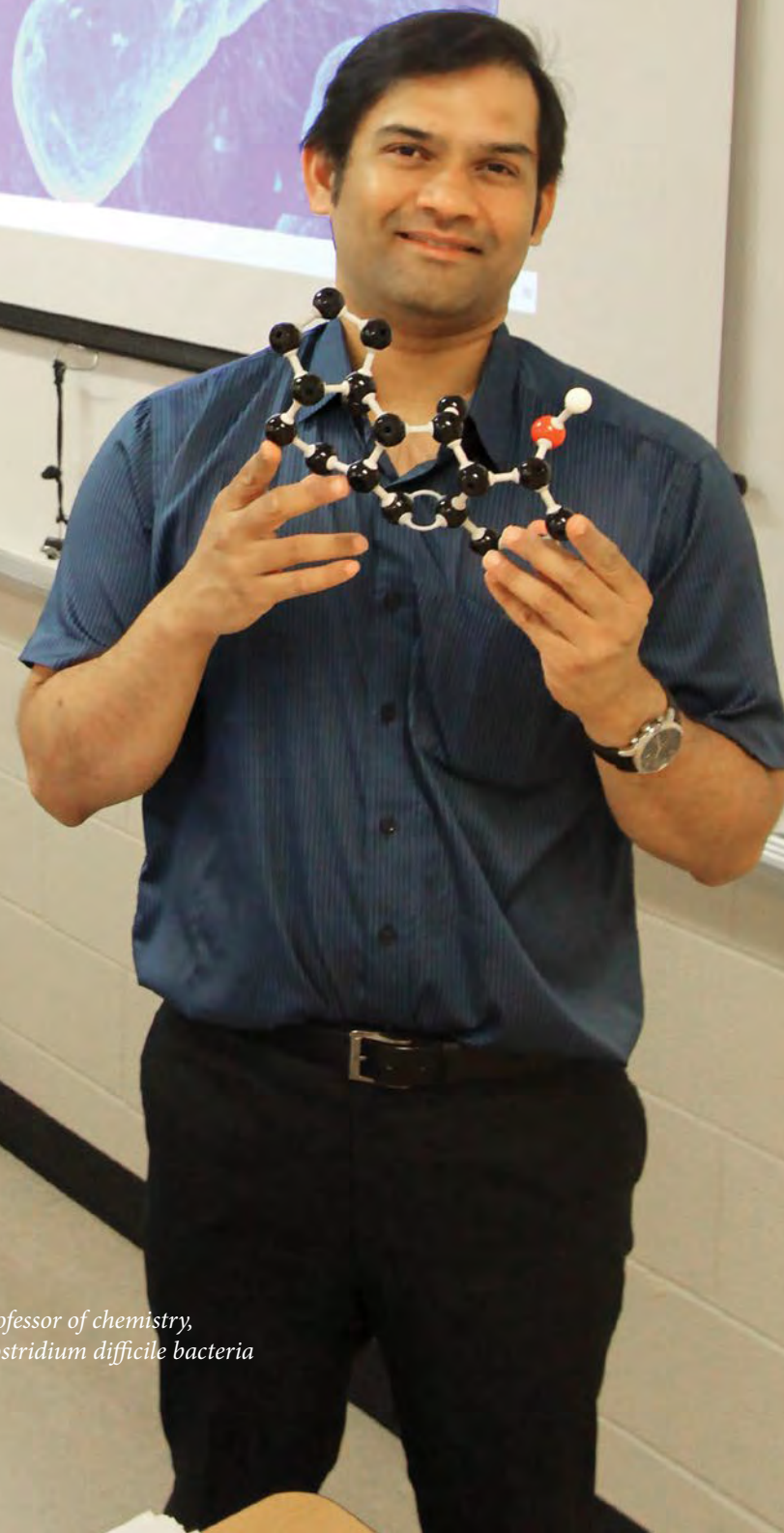


*Dr. Ben Hancock, left, and Dr. Delmas Crisp, right, present Dr. Christopher Cronin with the President's Award for Faculty Research and Creative Expression during the Symposium awards.*



# Antharam

## studies gut bacteria to solve *digestive disorders*



Dr. Vijay Antharam, assistant professor of chemistry, stands in front of an image of *Clostridium difficile* bacteria and holds a molecular model.

Scientists know that entire complicated micro-ecosystems exist in and on human bodies, microbial universes so complicated that the bacteria on a person's left hand can be completely different from the ones on the right hand. Some scientists estimate there could be 1 trillion different bacteria in the human digestive tract alone.

Dr. Vijay Antharam, assistant professor of chemistry, has been studying the microbiome since 2010, when he was doing his post-doctorate work with Dr. Eric Wang at the University of Florida's College of Medicine.

"Bacteria are everywhere and we usually have a negative connotation of them, but they are essential to our bodies," Antharam said. "We need bacteria for nutrients, and bacteria help our immune system function and help with chemical reactions in our bodies. They are very helpful, but there are also bad bacteria."

Specifically, Antharam is focusing on bacteria in the human gastrointestinal tract, where one of the bad bacteria, *Clostridium difficile*, often called *C. diff*, can cause infections that lead to crippling diarrhea and colitis.

With all the many different bacteria that can be found in the human gut, doctors don't know yet which ones are good and which ones are bad. Adding to the complication, outside factors like geography, diet, and other living conditions can greatly alter what bacteria are found in different people's bodies. Scientists are just beginning to decipher the roles all these different bacteria play in a person's health.

Last year, Antharam was invited to China, where he spoke at the 6th Annual International Congress of Medicines in Nanjing and presented his paper, "An Integrated Metabolomic and Microbiome Analysis Identified Specific Gut Microbiota Associated with Fecal Cholesterol and Coprostanol in *Clostridium difficile* Infection," which explores the possibility of using good bacteria found in the gut to reduce cholesterol in the body.

Antharam found the cholesterol-lowering bacteria while looking at ways to use bacteria to treat *C. diff* infections.

"Everyone has good bacteria in their gut that break down cholesterol," he said. "Our bodies themselves can't do it, but our gut can. The bacteria break the double bond, turning cholesterol into cholestanol. There are a few prescription drugs on the market that lower cholesterol, but they come with serious side effects, like liver damage. This good bacteria may help formulate a new medicine that would come with fewer side effects because it would be more natural."

One of the ways researchers like Antharam are trying to study bacteria is by using DNA sequencing to look for biomarkers that help them better understand how a specific bacteria functions. DNA sequencing can also lead to commercially producing a specific probiotic, which can then be patented and sold. Antharam is currently collaborating with scientists who have access to this type of equipment for his research.

"One thing I'd like to do is get a chemical instrument to do this stuff here," Antharam said. "Another challenge is probiotics are hard to culture because they're anaerobic; they don't grow in oxygen. You need an anaerobic chamber to study them."

Antharam said he hopes talking about his research makes people more aware of the relationships between bacteria and their health, and what happens when they take antibiotics, which can kill good bacteria while leaving behind stronger, more drug-resistant bad bacteria.

"We can either have better antibiotics or probiotics, but probiotics would be the better option," he said. "We want to restore the body's bacterial ecology, but we still need to isolate the most important good bacteria and we don't know who they are. But we are looking for them."



## History trio launch oral history project

When Donald Trump held Fayetteville rallies in March and August of 2016, hundreds of people turned out to hear the then-candidate speak. Three of MU's history professors also showed up, but they came to listen to the supporters, interviewing people who were waiting in line outside the Crown Coliseum, where the rallies were held.

Dr. Carl Dyke, Dr. Peter Murray, and Dr. Patrick O'Neil kicked off the Methodist University Community Oral History Project with a series of 14 interviews collected at the two rallies, using iPads and digital microphones purchased with a Title III grant. Their resulting project was chosen as the winner of this year's B.F. Stone Lyceum, where they presented their research on "Donald Trump's Fayetteville."

"We also would have gone to a Hillary Clinton rally if she had visited the city, but she went to other cities in North Carolina instead," said O'Neil, who is also coordinating the oral history project. "The point was not to deal in our politics, but rather to hear about and interrogate the politics of the people who were there. The people who attended the rallies were all along the ideological spectrum, but they were also generally rational and 'normal,' which, especially in March 2016, was not necessarily the popular perception."

The project also helped familiarize the professors with the equipment and the process of interviewing people for future oral

history projects. Aside from Dyke, the professors did not have much experience collecting oral histories.

"An oral history project was part of the curriculum when I taught at Cal State Hayward," Dyke said. "It was part of my program's systematic effort to orient students toward understanding perspectives other than their own. They often reported that it was a transformative experience, and I think it could be the same here."

The professors say Fayetteville is a fertile place for collecting more oral history interviews on a variety of topics.

"In the long term, the idea is for students to learn skills in the digital humanities, which is clearly where the humanities are headed, toward collecting, digitizing, and interpreting materials in an online format," O'Neil said. "All three of us are involved in making history more accessible in this way, either by tweeting, blogging, producing podcasts, etc., and it feels appropriate to teach students how to extend their uses of information outward into the world. So, training ourselves to do this work was meant to help our students."

Since the rallies, history students have begun collecting oral histories on other subjects, including personal experiences during the pre-Civil Rights movement, post-election interviews with Trump voters, and the history of Holy Trinity Episcopal Church. The resulting interviews, including the Trump rally interviews,

*Left to right, Dr. Peter Murray, Dr. Patrick O'Neil, and Dr. Carl Dyke, who presented their research at this year's B.F. Stone Lyceum.*

can be found online at [methodistcohp.org](http://methodistcohp.org).

"MU has a role to play in this community, and bringing community members' experiences to light in a scholarly, thoughtful way should be part of that," O'Neil said. "I think our interviews contribute to the national history of the Trump campaign, which seems likely to go down as a watershed in American history, but they also help tell the story of Fayetteville, of how people in Fayetteville engaged in national politics, what their hopes and fears were, and how they felt about things."

As the project grows, the professors say they hope to be able to pay for transcription services, and help in maintaining a growing catalog of digital humanities and human voices.

"Transcription is a major issue," Dyke said. "It should be done, and it should be done professionally. It takes up a lot of labor hours, but the difference between a transcribed interview and one that you can just listen to is enormous."

## B.F. Stone Lyceum showcases faculty research for 20 years

Every spring, one faculty research project is honored by a faculty committee by being chosen for presentation at the B.F. Stone Lyceum on campus. Named after the ancient grove near Athens where Aristotle and other philosophers taught, the B.F. Stone Lyceum is designed as a public exchange of ideas, like its namesake. It traditionally consists of a lecture and two responses, as well as a question and answer period. The lectures are chosen based on scholarship and appeal, and each year's winner is tasked with organizing the next year's event.



The mission of the B. F. Stone Lyceum is to foster scholarly interaction among faculty, students, and community residents. The lecture series was endowed in 1998 with a gift from the estate of B. F. "Doc" Stone, a pharmacist from Elizabethtown, N.C. He was a respected and active member of the Methodist Church and a long-time supporter of the University.

### Past Lyceum topics:

- 2017: "Donald Trump's Fayetteville" by Dr. Carl Dyke, Dr. Peter Murray, and Dr. Patrick O'Neil (History)
- 2016: "Why Are We Comfortable with a Serial Killer on Cereal Boxes?: Frankenstein in Pop Culture" by Dr. Cameron Dodworth (English)
- 2015: "Consequences of Introducing a New Pathogen into a Naïve Population" by Dr. Matthew Kesic (Physician Assistant Program)
- 2014: "Boundaries in Medicine and Art" by Dr. Deborah Morris (PA Program)
- 2013: "Between Cavalier and Cracker, Tara and Tobacco Road: The Marginalized Middle in Southern Literature of the 1930s" by Dr. Emily Wright (English)
- 2012: "Effects of Education Policy on Homeless Children" by Dr. George Hendricks (Social Work)
- 2011: "Sharing the Tomb of Christ: Conflict and Boundaries among Jerusalem's Christians" by Dr. Vida Bajc (Sociology)
- 2010: "Where's the Christian Left? The Social Gospel and the Democratic Party" by Dr. Chris Cronin (Political Science)
- 2009: "Happiness: Let's Stop Pursuing It" by Dr. Bob Ritzema (Psychology)
- 2008: "The North American Influence on Thomas Harriot's Studies" by Eleanor Ninestein (Mathematics)
- 2007: "The Intelligent Design Movement, Creationism, and Science" by Dr. Michael Potts (Philosophy & Religion)
- 2006: "Lifting the Hydrogen Veil: An Alternative Approach to National Energy Security" by Dr. John Fields (Chemistry)
- 2005: "A Buddhist Approach to Addiction" by Dr. Michelle Darnell (Philosophy)
- 2004: "Social Change Leadership Theory" by Dr. Bill Watt (Organizational Communication & Leadership)
- 2003: "Who Will Solve Our Water Problems?: A Case For Business" by Dr. Joe Doll and Dr. Theresa Clark (Business Administration)
- 2002: "An Economist's Argument for Voluntary Simplicity" by Dr. Spence Davis (Economics)
- 2000 (fall): "When You Talk to Yourself, Who Talks Back?: Complex Selves, Complex Identities" by Dr. Carl Dyke (History)
- 2000 (spring): "Should We Execute Children?" by Dr. Richard Hall (Philosophy)
- 1999: "Aging and Driving: The Need for Improved Driver's License Testing" by Dr. Don Lassiter (Psychology)
- 1998: "Brain-Dead Individuals Are Not Dead" by Dr. Michael Potts (Philosophy & Religion)
- 1997: "Mythic Narratives and Role Exit: Hamlet's Failure" by Jennifer Rohrer-Walsh (English)

# Cape Fear New Music Festival and presentations investigate improvisation

By Bryana Berry

Several presentations and performances at this year's Research and Creativity Symposium explored the theme of improvisation and discussed some of the limits and guidelines still in place while improvising in sports, poetry, and music. Dr. Kyrstin Krist, assistant professor of Physical Education and Exercise Science; and Shannon Ward, assistant professor of English, gave presentations on April 5, followed by a related concert the next day at the Cape Fear New Music Festival, "Improvisation: The Song Does Not Remain the Same."

Dr. Krist's research presentation, "Sport and Improvisation," explained how activities such as free play in sport and music can instill muscle movements that can be retrieved and reused in future performances and conclusively negate the possibility of improvisation. Concepts of free play, luck, and innovation were examined within her research.

"There is no complete improvisation in sports because there are too many rules within the game," Krist said. "I began my research believing this would be a simple topic, but there are always exceptions to the rule."

In her research on improvisation in poetry, Professor Ward drew on the actions of the Greek oracles and hip-hop/rap artists to determine the role of improvisation within poetry.

"Improvisation depends on the circumstance," Ward said.

Ward concentrated her research on those who speak on the fly versus using a mental ability similar to Dr. Krist's "muscle

memory" concept. Using the example of the ancient oracles, who historians now believe were put in a trance by toxic fumes, she hypothesized that modern day rappers and poets may also enter a similar trance that affects their cognitive function. While in this state, the brain has free access to work the artists may have previously written, along with new ideas. She also explored the concept of creativity in the process of writers and composers, dactylic hexameter, and conspiracy theories regarding the oracles and their alleged clairvoyance.

The next night, the Cape Fear New Music Festival presented "Music and Improvisation: The Song Does Not Remain the Same" in Hensdale Chapel. The concert included the debut of many compositions created by the musicians. Chair of the Music Department Dr. Keith Dippre introduced the program.

"My student asked me, 'Would you describe yourself as eclectic?' I said, 'If you mean I enjoy new ideas, yes.' This is the best way to describe tonight's entertainment," Dippre said.

The concert featured the works of composers Matthew Hazzard, director of Greene Central High School Varsity Singers; Dr. Daniel Pappas, Fayetteville Technical Community College's music program coordinator; Dr. Daniel McCloud, MU's director of university bands; Dippre; and Kevin Austin. The compositions featured different examples of improvisation as performed by a chorus, trumpets, a clarinet, an accordion, and a mix of electronic music and the piano.



Assistant Professor Shannon Ward, left, presented her research on improvisation in poetry, and Dr. Kyrstin Krist presented "Sport and Improvisation."



Fayetteville Technical Community College's Music Program Coordinator Daniel C. Pappas plays the clarinet.



Composer Matthew Hazzard, director of Greene Central High School Varsity Singers.



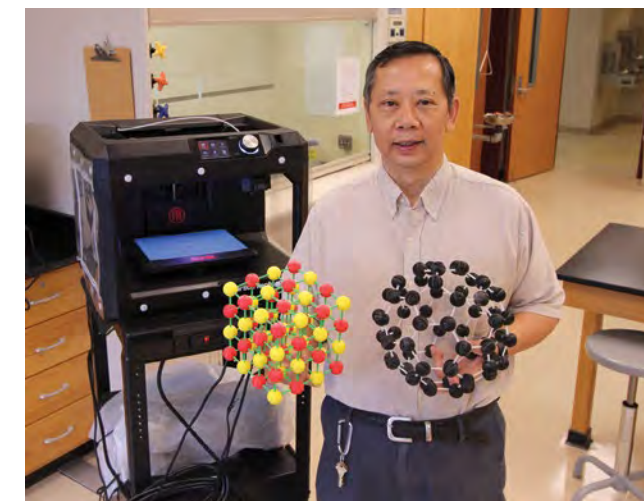
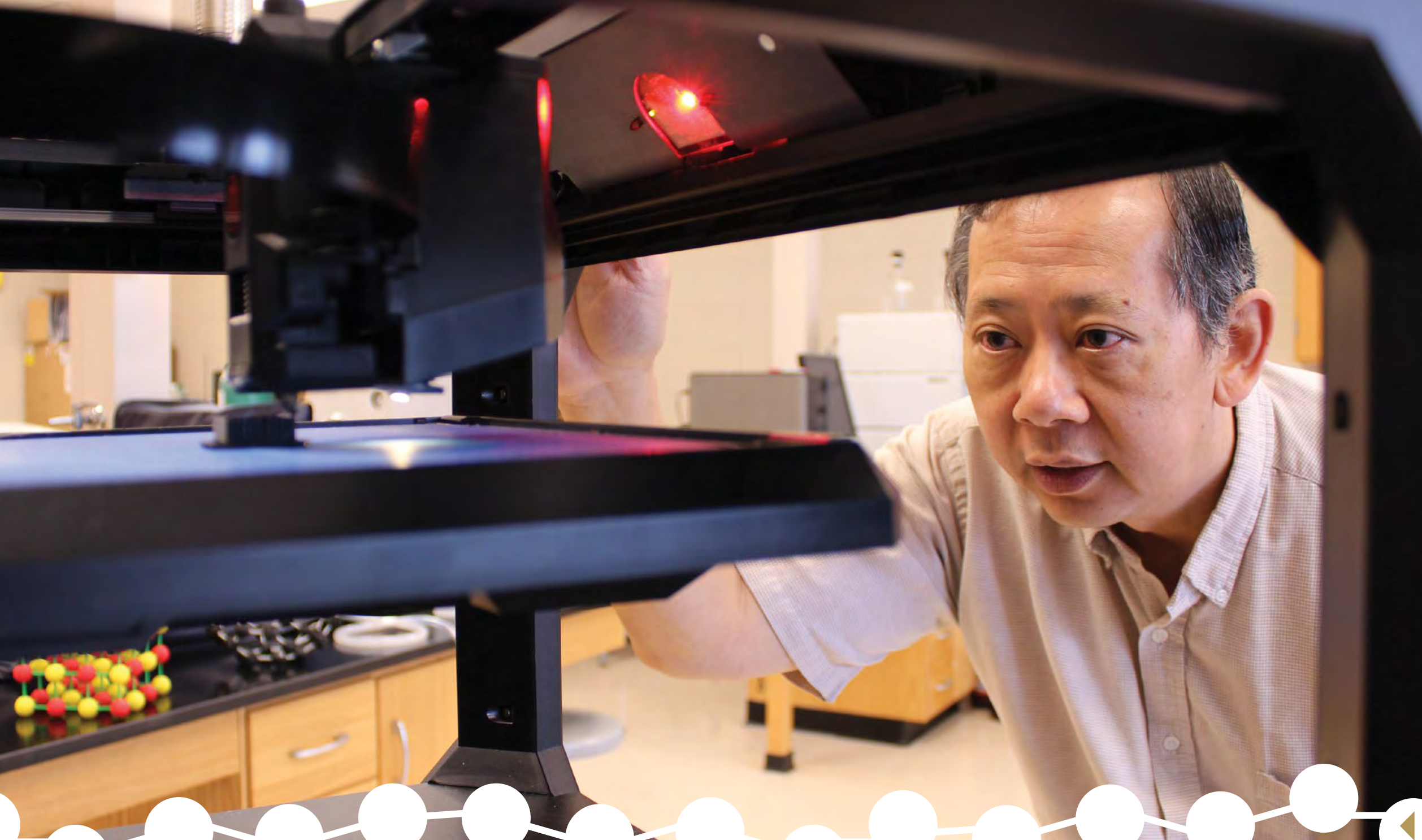
Dr. Keith Dippre, left, performing his work "Loop Gestures" with Dr. Scott Marosek, right.



Dr. Daniel McCloud, left, and Professor Julia Atkins performed McCloud's "Autumn Leaves."



Dr. Michael Martin leads the MU Chorale.



Above, Dr. Cu Phung displays the finished product and model capabilities of the MakerBot 3-D printer.

Left, Dr. Cu Phung demonstrates the 3-D printer.

## 3-D printing takes shape in Chemistry Department

Chemistry Professor Dr. Cu Phung believes that one of the most difficult aspects of chemistry for most students is visualizing submicroscopic concepts like orbitals, atoms, and molecules. One way to help students is through the use of model kits, which students can assemble in labs, but those can come with relatively high price tags. With 3-D printing, however, Phung has found a way to produce much cheaper models, and printing molecular models is just the beginning.

“The Department of Chemistry and Physical Science and the Department of Communications acquired two MakerBot 3-D printers from a Title III grant a few years back, and I have been learning how to make use of this technology,” Phung said. “Although there

are molecular model kits available commercially, they are in general expensive and incomplete for the laboratory exercises I wanted the students to explore. Instead of \$60 for a kit, I can print one that is better suited for my classes for \$10 using the 3-D printer.”

The first model Phung printed was used to explore how three-dimensional structures of atoms bonded together as molecules, designed as various spheres with holes where chemical bonds could form between atoms in different configurations according to the valence shell electron pair repulsion (VSEPR) model. He has also printed cubic unit cells, which is a basic building shape for crystals and minerals, a large VSEPR kit, and several specific molecules that have

special structures, like a Buckminsterfullerene, which is often called a “buckyball.”

“Students always have a hard time in visualizing the relationship of how atoms are stacked together to form crystals,” Phung said. “These models allow students to have a hands-on experience to explore how crystals are formed from atoms.”

Phung says the models help make a hard subject fun for many students.

“The students enjoy using these models because they look more like toys and the laboratory exercise is similar to putting Lego blocks together to make molecules,” Phung said. “I had fun making the

models and students had fun with them in the laboratory.”

Phung has learned a lot from his projects, too, and has more plans for 3-D printing. The current printer, which can only make plastic objects, is a start, but he says he also would love for the department to have one of the multi-material printers, which can make objects out of multiple types of materials.

“I want to design more educational models to help students understand different crystal structures, and how molecules come together in chemical reactions to form new molecules,” he said. “I’m learning more all the time about the capacity of this printer and the software and how to master its capabilities to the fullest.”





*Dr. Peter Murray stands on the porch of The Hart House, originally slave quarters that were later remodeled into a sharecropper's home, at Stagville. In the background is one of the slave quarters as it originally looked.*



# Murray using computer modeling to bring history to life

About 10 miles north of Durham lies a sprawling state historical site known as Stagville Plantation. It sits as the remains of one of the largest plantation complexes in the South, formerly covering 30,000 acres, though the historic site is now 71 acres. McLean Professor of History Dr. Peter Murray wants to digitize the site, past and present, into a 3-D computer reconstruction that could be used as an educational tool.

"This kind of computer modeling could be used to create a visualization of the plantation," Murray said. "You could enter a building as if you were entering the 1860s. The problem for visitors at the Stagville site is it's spread out; the state only owns two parts. It's hard to visualize the size of the entire place."

Murray's plan is to elaborately recreate a digital version, showing the scope of the plantation, from its monstrous size down to the up-close textures of the building materials. In 2012, Murray received a National Endowment for Humanities Summer Institute grant, and went to learn about the types of software needed to complete this project. Then, he got another grant, through the Title III project, to fund a computer and

Cinema 4D modeling software to start the project.

"We can go measure the dimensions, come back and put it into the software," Murray said. "I've taken hundreds of pictures, so we can get the textures to reconstruct the buildings."

The plantation is also unique in that its buildings were generally made with superior construction than other Antebellum examples, all likely done by the people who were enslaved there, and therefore are still standing as monuments to the plantation's history. A large barn with a roof designed like an upside down ship's hull is one architectural testament to the talents of their workmanship, as are slave quarters that were designed more like wood and brick apartment buildings, much larger in scale than others of the time.

The plantation has a lot of teaching potential, Murray said.

"The end goal is to create something that could be used in classrooms to help students visualize the space," Murray said. "It could also be an asset used on the site, or put up on the web down the road. I think that in our changing world, students will be fascinated by this medium and possibly be more driven to go back to historical documents."



*Left, Dr. Peter Murray stands outside one of the slave quarters at Stagville.*



*Above, renderings of the slave quarters Dr. Murray is currently working on in the Cinema 4D modeling software.*



*Inside one of the slave quarters are reconstructions of furnishings as part of the historical exhibit at Stagville.*

# DPT students target shooting speed and accuracy with holster research

For law enforcement officers and military personnel, speed and accuracy with a handgun are very important. However, there is a well-known trade-off between speed and accuracy. Students in the Doctor of Physical Therapy Program, working with Dr. John Fox, are trying to find how holster positions could create a balance point that allows for the maximum amount of both.

Using motion-capture technology in the Motion Analysis Lab in the McLean Health Sciences Building, students are researching how different holster positions influence having both a quick draw and an accurate shot. The software tracks speed and distance on specific points marked on the test subject's body as they go through the motions of drawing and aiming a mock pistol, allowing the students to measure the linear and angular speed at which a participant's hand moves through space.

"The mock pistol emits a laser when you pull the trigger," Fox said. "The timing and location of the laser beam impact with a target is registered on another computer."

The data provides an overall movement time relative to the sound of the buzzer which set off the draw and the accuracy of each shot. The students can then evaluate how increased speed of movement impairs accuracy. Once enough data is collected, it can be compared for various holster positions.

"For instance, if the holster is farther away from my shooting position, like on my leg, will I move faster to compensate for that

distance and decrease my accuracy?" said Fox, who is an assistant professor of physical therapy. "Or if the holster is closer to my shooting position, for instance placed on my hip, will I allow myself to move slower and increase my accuracy? Our current hypothesis is that holster positions that reduce the distance one has to move in order to aim require less movement time, reduce the need to move quickly, and increase accuracy."

The students' current study is examining how holster position affects the different variables, but the study will not stop there.

"Research is an unending cycle of refining your question and protocol," Fox said. "For example, the upper arm, forearm, and hand all play different roles in bringing the gun into position to fire, but which segment is the main contributor to loss of accuracy? For a given holster position, which movement path to and from the holster is the most economical in terms of

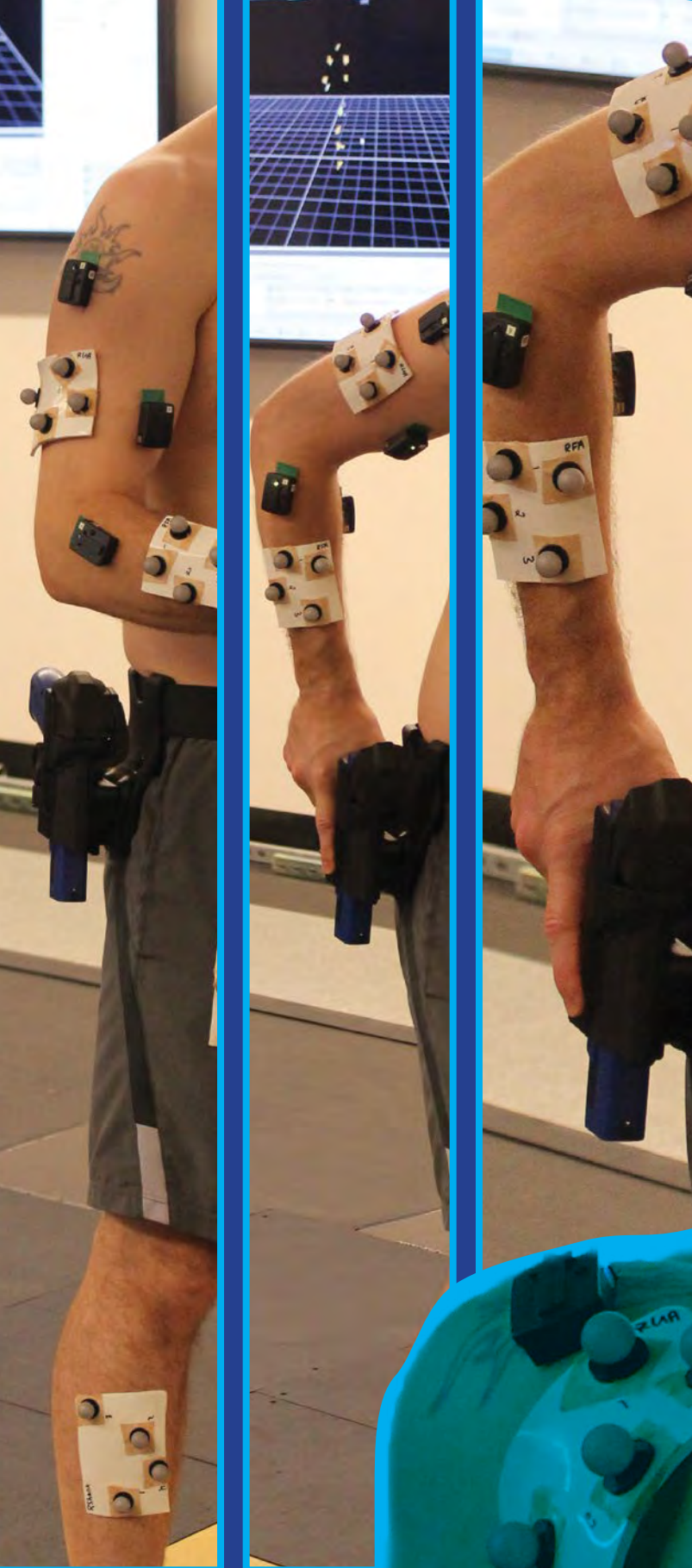
time and muscle activation? In the end, all of these questions aid us in our search for the optimal holster position. Clearly more questions need to be answered, and will be next year and the year after that."

Fox said he also hopes to recruit more participants for the study from various branches of law enforcement and military.

"It is our belief that this research provides information that is relevant to the safety of law enforcement officers and military personnel in the line of duty," he said.

"This research provides information that is relevant to the safety of law enforcement officers and military personnel in the line of duty."

— Dr. John Fox,  
Assistant Professor of Physical Therapy



Left, MU physical therapy student Erik Heitman provides a holster and gun-drawing demonstration using motion-capture technology in the McLean Health Sciences Building. The results are monitored by fellow students and Dr. John Fox.

# Prize-winning poems lead professor to Greece



*Left, Dr. Michael Colonnese on the oldest road in the western world, a stone-paved path that leads to the outdoor amphitheater at Konossos, the Minoan Palace, built about 2000 BC. Above, Colonnese stands outside the university library in Rethymnon, adjacent to the modern classroom complex where the conference was held.*

Last summer, McLean Professor of English Dr. Michael Colonnese was invited to read at the International Lawrence Durrell Society's conference at the University of Crete in Rethymnon, Greece. Colonnese's invitation came on the heels of winning a poetry contest sponsored by the literary journal "Deus Loci."

Colonnese's winning poem, "Stray Goats on a Barrier Island," was set on an island off the North Carolina coast. He also had a second poem in the journal, "After Demolishing a Beach House on Pine Island, MI," which was given an honorable mention.

"I was probably invited to read at the conference because I had two separate poems that each won a prize, and I'm very grateful that Methodist University provided faculty development funding that allowed me to attend," Colonnese said. "It was an experience I'll never forget."

Colonnese said he found university professors, educators, and artists are treated much more respectfully in Greece than in the United States.

"It's an over-simplification to say that specialized knowledge and intellectual and/or creative accomplishment are more valued in Europe, but in Greece – or at least at the University of Crete – the intellectual and creative life of the faculty was considered central to the university's purpose, its *raison d'être*," he said. "It was certainly a pleasure to be treated as a poet in a place where poetry and literature were so deeply honored."

When he returned home, Colonnese also wrote a poem about his time in Greece, called "After Crete."

"The two weeks I spent in Crete's dry and ancient landscape, in museums and Minoan ruins, also had strangely solidifying and sobering effect on my own thoroughly American sense of self," he said. "In that setting, the importance of my own individual past seemed to slowly recede into the recesses of memory and occupied a far less prominent place among the ruins of ancient history."

# Methodist University celebrates Black History Month with array of events

"Everybody wants to shine, but nobody wants to grind."

— Dr. Eric Mansfield, spring convocation address

Dr. Eric Mansfield during his speech at spring convocation.



Walt Wolfram, executive producer of "Talking Black in America," answers questions from the audience.



Tracey Pearson left, presents Larry B. Perkins with the first Black History Month speaker award.

Several events were held on campus this February in conjunction with Black History Month. The annual spring convocation on Feb. 6 started the month-long schedule by welcoming Dr. Eric Mansfield, founder of Cape Fear Otolaryngology in Fayetteville, who spoke on the "Challenges That African Americans Face in Education, Health, and Profession." In order to "rise above and overcome," Mansfield encouraged students to follow the ABCs: Always be prepared, Bounce back, and Complete the course.

"Your best plans will fail; yes, they did you wrong, the odds weren't in your favor, your shot will get blocked, you'll drop the ball at the five yard line," Mansfield said. "Now get back up. Embrace your failures. The things that make you bitter will make you better."

The Methodist University Department of English and Writing presented a screening of an early version of "Talking Black in America: The Story of African American Language" on Feb. 8. The showing of the film, which was a work in progress at the time, was accompanied by a visit from the film's executive producer,

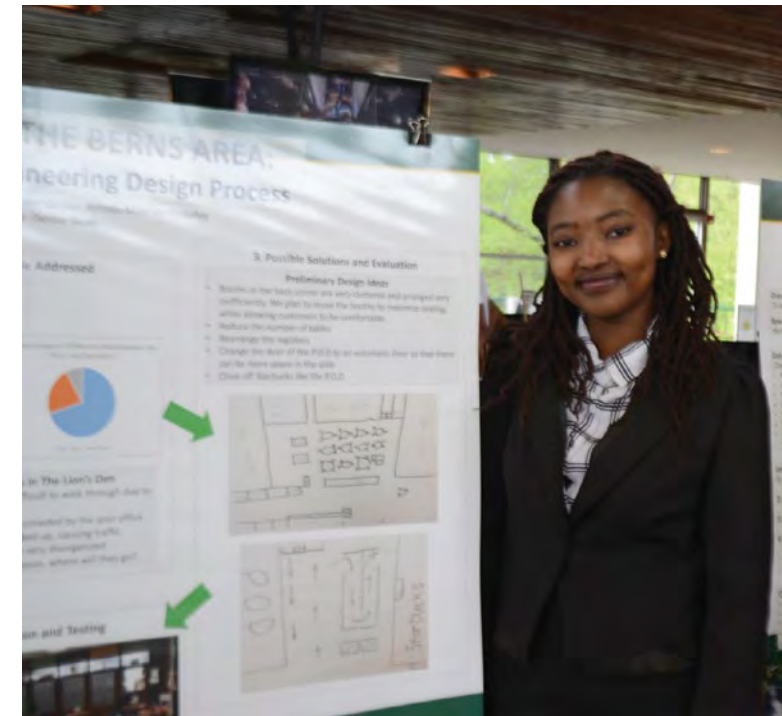
Walt Wolfram, who followed the screening with a question and answer period.

On Feb. 20, the Department of Multicultural Affairs hosted the Sankofa African American Museum on Wheels in the Berns Student Center. The traveling exhibit, designed by Angela Jennings, has been visiting college campuses to teach black history and culture for more than 20 years.

The Davis Memorial Library started a new tradition with its inaugural Black History Month Speaker Series. On Feb. 27, Larry B. Perkins, author of "Buck Seventy-Two, Destiny of Will," spoke on campus. Perkins is a commissioner on the North Carolina State Emergency Response Commission and has authored numerous books and articles on safety.

In addition to these events, all of February's chapel services focused on topics related to Black History Month, with guest speakers and performances by members of One Voice Gospel Choir. Services focused on subjects like social justice and included traditional spirituals about liberation, empowerment, and celebration.

# Engineering freshmen start long-term research on campus logistics



Eighteen students in the new Engineering Program took the first steps this year in a long-term community-based study involving traffic flow, logistics, and overall design issues in three areas on campus: parking, the Green and Gold Cafeteria's dining room, and the Lion's Den in upper Berns.

"The students applied the engineering design process to determine the specific problems they wanted to address," said Engineering Director Dr. Denise Bauer. "They started with observations, research, and customer feedback. After they brainstormed possible solutions, they evaluated those options and decided which one they wanted to implement and test. Some of the solutions they could suggest and implement immediately."

In April, the students presented their initial findings with poster presentations at the CRC Symposium. Long term, the students will continue to build on their research through various engineering class projects and could also select to analyze the problem further for their senior capstone design project, for which they will develop an engineering solution and submit a final report to their "client," President Ben Hancock.

The groups studying the cafeteria and the Lion's Den were able to turn parts of their research into real-world change relatively quickly. In the cafeteria, staff there used the students' research to rearrange part of the breakfast cereal area to be more user-friendly, and in the Lion's Den the staff accepted a new table arrangement to reduce congestion and improve flow through the high-traffic area.

Keith Hardie was one of students in the group who worked on the parking research.

"We discussed our research with the head of the Methodist University Parking Task Force and then we marketed our ideas to President Hancock," Hardie said. "Our research suggests that if something is not done to dramatically increase parking on campus, the student body will not be able to grow without major issues."

The students also got hands-on learning experiences with basic engineering principle while doing their research.

"We learned how to properly implement the engineering design process and also that there are many factors to consider when taking on a project in the real world, including cost, time, feasibility, aesthetic, drainage, environmental impact, and many others," Hardie said. "We also received experience presenting our plans in a formal setting to management."

Top left, engineering student Natasha Ng'ambi poses with her group's presentation poster.

Top right, Mohammed Mahdi explains his group's research while fellow engineering student Samson Demeke Gizaw looks on.

Bottom, Keith Hardie talks with attendees.

# Alumna shares biology research journey

Today, Erin Fegley '14 is fresh off of successfully defending her master's thesis and completing her master's in biology at East Carolina University. Her thesis focused on understanding how insects used to control invasive plant species in the upper Great Lakes have unintended consequences for native plants. Though her current research isn't directly tied to her undergraduate work at Methodist University, you can trace her research journey from her very first year at MU.

As a freshman, Erin Fegley started her MU Journey in research when one of her faculty mentors, Daniel Bennett, suggested that she try an experiment-based independent research project. Bennett, who is an assistant professor of mathematics, told Fegley he'd assist her in analyzing the data. Using her interest in plants, her first experiment tested the effects of three different water sources on plant growth. Her research showed that tap water, Cape Fear River water, and MiracleGro solution did not affect final plant growth in total, though it did affect the speed of growth.

"My drive to conduct independent research was fueled by curiosity and preparation for graduate school," Fegley said. "I knew that research was an important element of becoming a biologist and my experience at Methodist helped me to realize that research was something that I loved to do."

The next year, she started a new project with another mentor, Dr. Clay Britton, associate professor of biology, which looked at the distribution of mistletoe on campus.

"Mistletoe is a parasite of other tree species and is distributed by birds that eat the fruit from the mistletoe," she said. "My aim was to understand which tree species receive higher amounts of parasitism and if there was a pattern in the distribution of mistletoe."

She found that it only grew on hardwood trees, like oak, maple, and birch, and that trees closer to the buildings designed with the honeycomb sides had higher infestations of mistletoe, theoretically because the honeycomb provided more sites for bird nests.

By the time she graduated in 2014, Fegley had three years of research and presentations under her belt. An Honors Program student, she was also president of the Biology Club and involved in the Ecology Club. Though the Research Fellows program was created too late in her academic career for her to fully complete the program, Fegley was recognized as an honorary Research Fellow.

"My experience with undergraduate research at MU had many benefits," Fegley said. "First, I felt validated in that I had chosen the right major and the right school. The faculty members, who I had come to look up to, saw potential in me and wanted me to succeed. Additionally, I was able to present my results at the annual research symposium every year, which helped me to develop the necessary skill of science communication."

In the fall, Fegley begins a doctoral program at University of Virginia, where she will continue to perform plant-based research.

"I hope to answer questions that will address the effects of climate change," Fegley said. "After I obtain my Ph.D., I also hope to teach at a small university like Methodist, or become a director of education at a botanical garden or natural history museum. I taught several classes as a graduate student, and I absolutely fell in love with teaching. I've tried to emulate the faculty who inspired me so much during my time at Methodist, and I hope to one day inspire students to conduct research and further our understanding of the natural sciences."



Erin Fegley '14 takes measurements on a reproductive Pitcher's thistle plant in Sturgeon Bay, Wilderness State Park, Mich., in July 2016. The plant is a native thistle species that has received impacts from the biocontrol weevil.



Professor Robin Greene

## Greene teaches writers to find their voices in Oaxaca



For the past seven years, English and Writing Professor Robin Greene has spent each Spring Break as the writing instructor for the "Lift Your Creative Voices" program in Oaxaca, Mexico. The program is an annual women-only retreat hosted by Norma Schafer. For most years, the retreat has been held in the Zapotec tribal village of Teotitlan del Valle, but last year the retreat was held in a bed and breakfast in Oaxaca City.

The retreat includes yoga, food, meditation, and cultural experiences, as well as daily writing workshops and coaching that Greene provides.

"We get women from all over—Australia, New York, California, North Carolina, Colorado, Washington state, etc.—and they're writing in all genres and at all levels," Greene said. "These students are all inspiring—they come with open hearts and ready to grow as writers. We meet daily as a group, and I conference with each participant individually. Then, at the end of the retreat, we have a literary reading featuring pieces written during the week as well as an 'exquisite corpse poem,' which I read. We invite English-speaking guests from the village or city, and the reading is always an exciting end to the retreat."

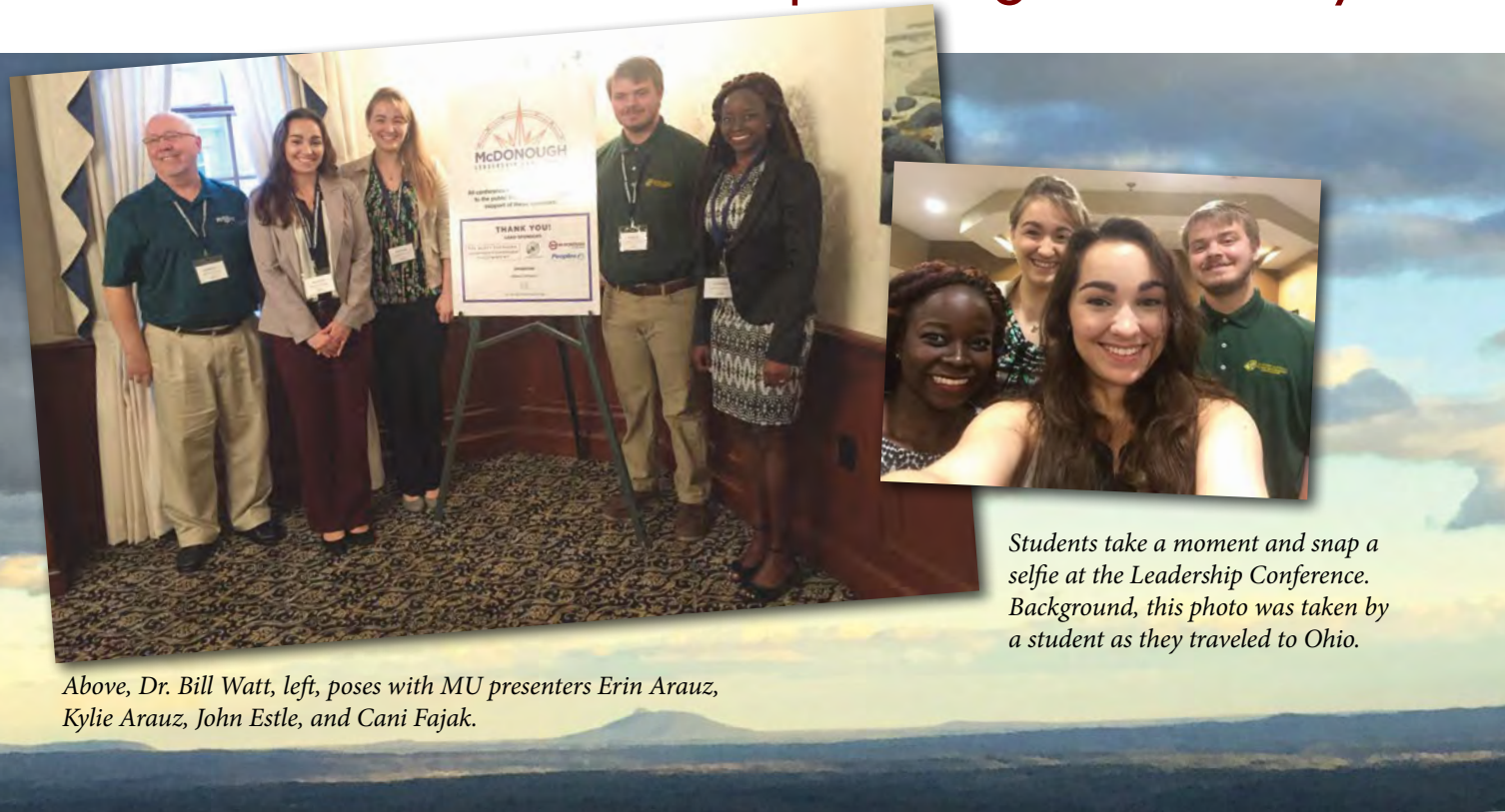
The "exquisite corpse poem" is an adaptation of a game developed by the Parisian Surrealists Movement. The poem is a collaboration, with each writer in the group contributing a random sentence or phrase that Greene then combines into a complete poem.

Greene says Oaxaca is a culturally rich and exciting setting for a retreat. Though the retreat is open to all women, several faculty, staff, and students from Methodist University have attended in the past. Students who attend can receive credit hours for a Study Abroad experience.

"As the writing instructor, I like to encourage women to find their voices so that the retreat experience is personally meaningful," Greene said. "The women connect and support each other, and everything in the program is designed to encourage the inward journey toward our authentic selves."

Top left, retreat participants gather for dinner at Norma Schafer's casita in Teotitlan del Valle. Bottom, student Cheri Molter '17 visits the Zapotec ruins at Yagul on the retreat in 2016. Photo credit: Norma Schafer

# Students examine leadership throughout history



Above, Dr. Bill Watt, left, poses with MU presenters Erin Arauz, Kylie Arauz, John Estle, and Cani Fajak.

Students take a moment and snap a selfie at the Leadership Conference. Background, this photo was taken by a student as they traveled to Ohio.

Four students from two classes taught by Applied Communication Department Chair Dr. Bill Watt wrote a panel of papers on the subject of leadership this year, which they then presented at the McDonough Leadership Conference at Marietta College in Ohio. The conference took place March 31 to April 2, and afterward they returned to campus to present again as part of the Research and Creativity Symposium.

“Leadership does not take place in a vacuum,” Watt said. “It is the result of numerous interactions and events coming together at a specific time in history which contribute to the complex human phenomenon called leadership. These students completed exhaustive research and hours of practice to present their papers.”

The McDonough Leadership Conference is a national conference focused on undergraduate research related to an understanding of effective leadership with an emphasis on leadership development. This year’s theme was “Leadership Through Time.”

The four students, Erin Arauz, Kylie Arauz, John Estle, and Cani Fajak, explored historical dynamics of leadership as well as what can be learned by examining various leaders over the generations to learn about leadership lessons from the past. In addition, they looked at ways leaders pass on effective leadership skills from one generation to the next.

Erin Arauz researched “The Psychology of Choosing a Leader” and discussed how people decide who or what ideologies to follow.

“Even though someone is in power or holds a high position, it doesn’t make them a good leader,” Erin Arauz said. “They may not be ready to be in that kind of leadership responsibility, but there are those who are ready, and they can be recognized by the way they act and react in leadership roles.”

Kylie Arauz wrote “Leadership Passed Down Through the Generations,” which focuses on how younger generations learn leadership from their precursors.

“Thanks to our research, we are able to recognize good leadership and how to try to be good leaders ourselves,” Kylie Arauz said. “Good leaders have vision but also listen to others and respect their followers.”

Estle reported on “The Shift of Leadership Skills from Generation to Generation,” which questioned how leadership has changed in the last century and identified aspects of the impact of modern technology on today’s leaders.

Fajak studied “The Need for Authentic Leadership: Sudan, United States, and Worldwide.” In the modern day, she wrote, there is a need for self-awareness, an internalized moral perspective, balanced processing skills, and relational transparency.

“In order for someone to be an authentic leader they must be authentic to themselves,” Fajak said. “To be authentic, or true-to-self, shows through every day actions and behaviors; therefore, in order for an average citizen to see good qualities in a leader, they must first observe the behavior of an individual.”

The WRI 3250 class gather for the question and answer session with the audience. They are, left to right, Darien Jones, Taylor Jones, Angel Brown, Christina Portee Jenkins, Victoria Page, Stacey Summers, and Jonathan Cooper.



## Poetry during CRC week is gaining attention and fans

Poetry has played a part in every MU Symposium Week since the CURC’s creation in 2012 and has become an event that has grown in stature and participation from audience size to number of presenters. The display of work from students’ creative muses paints a wonderful contrast when paired with the week of academic lectures and concerts.

Traditionally, the MU poets help kick off the Symposium week of insightful lectures.

“Though I’m not supposed to play favorites, I particularly look forward to the poetry reading, as it’s one of my favorite events of the week,” said Dr. Clay Britton, who directs the Symposium.

This year, Professor of English and Writing Robin Greene introduced seven students who read during the event, “Emerging Voices: A Poetry Reading by the students of WRI 3250.”

One by one they approached the podium, presenting two poems each, finished pieces they workshopped in class. Poet Victoria Page ’03 who also works in the Writing Center, read her poem “Natalie,” and Stacie Summers, a fine arts major who discovered poetry after taking a writing class, read “The Blood and the Bees.”

“I believe that our annual literary readings have become an important part of the symposium, and people tell me they look forward to attending them,” Greene said. “I always get positive feedback from faculty and students who attend. Usually, they’re surprised at the high quality of the work and often are moved by the emotional content. Many of our creative writing students aren’t English or Writing majors — and that surprises audiences.”



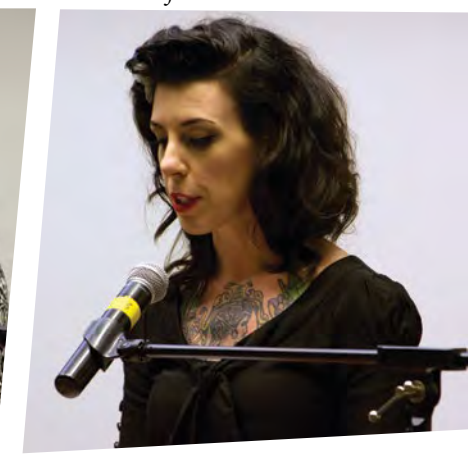
Jonathan Cooper



Christina Portee Jenkins



Professor Robin Greene



Above, Page reads “Natalie.” Right, Summers reads “The Blood and the Bees.”

# METHODIST CROWNS A NEW QUEEN

Fourteen students competed for the title of Miss Methodist University 2017 on Feb. 3. Last year's queen, Tracie Taylor, passed her crown to Elizabeth Wise, a rising senior from Godwin, N.C. who is majoring in biology and double minoring in chemistry and psychology.

Contestants in the Miss MU Pageant competed in talent, formal wear, and interview.

The pageant participants voted Faith Bowen as Miss Congeniality, and Jennifer Delaney won the People's Choice award, which was decided by which contestant had the most money in their collection jars. Brooke Coats won second alternate, and first alternate was Adrianna Roberts.

The evening included entertainment from MU's all-male chorus, the Noblemen.

"The pageant is planned, directed, and produced by students in the Student Activities Committee," said Doris Munoz, director of the student involvement center.

All of the money raised through the People's Choice contest went to MU's Play4Kay breast cancer awareness fundraiser. Wise presented the check during the annual Play4Kay basketball game in late February.



Miss Methodist 2017 Elizabeth Wise is greeted with applause from the crowd.

## Uniting the world in Huff Concert Hall



Methodist University is home to a diverse student body from different cultures and countries. On Feb. 22, these cultures collided during Methodist University's annual Pangea.

This annual event, named after the supercontinent that connected all landmasses on Earth before the continents drifted, aims to bring the cultures of every student at MU together for a night of dance, song, and special performances.

This year's theme was MUtopia, named after Disney's 2016 film Zootopia. In the movie, animals from different environments come together in the thriving metropolis of Zootopia. For many international students, Methodist University is their Zootopia, or rather their MUtopia.

Students from all over the world showcased songs and dances from their countries, poetry, and other talents. Students also modeled traditional and modern clothing from their countries.



Freshman Ailen Magali Pereira Gomez and senior Jordy Ranseth Farrier Mora, both from Paraguay, perform the bachata, a Latin dance from the Dominican Republic.

Doriane Dusabe, a junior from Burundi, East Africa, showcases her native wear during the fashion show portion of Pangea.



The MU Chorale performs at La Madeline in Paris in 2015.

## Give MU Chorale the Boot

### Group is fundraising for choir concert tour of Italy

The MU Chorale will visit Italy March 1-11, 2018 for a tour with scheduled performances at St. Peter's Basilica, the Pantheon, and St. Mark's Cathedral, as well as several impromptu public concerts along the way. The group will visit Rome, Assisi, Siena, Montecatini, Florence, Ferrara, and Venice.

The MU Chorale is looking to partner with businesses and individuals to help offset the costs of the tour. We have set a fundraising target of \$45,000 in order to help all students be a part of this very special concert tour. Donations of any size are welcome. By establishing a tradition of annual giving, you can

have pride in knowing your gift has helped promote the MU Chorale around the world. Their performances could make MU a leader as a performance and cultural institution.

All donors will be listed on our European Tour page and featured in our concert programs! Please visit our webpage, [www.methodist.edu/giving](http://www.methodist.edu/giving), to donate, or send your check to MU Chorale Special Tours (SP5316) c/o Methodist University Development Office, 5400 Ramsey Street, Fayetteville, N.C. 28311

For more information about donating to the Chorale tour, contact the Advancement Office at 910.630.7200.



# Students put their skills to the test during simulation



Nursing student Shawna Tyner asks Dr. Jennifer Hanley, who plays a patient, what brought her to the hospital.

Each year, the MU Simulation Hospital hosts three interprofessional nursing simulations in April, working with students in athletic training, health care administration, nursing, social work, physical therapy, and physician assistant programs in order to diagnose and treat “patients.”

The April 12 event began with a briefing, where students signed a confidentiality form to promise they will not share the details of cases. In real medical care situations, health care professionals would be instructed to do the same by keeping their patients’ records confidential.

The simulation began with an initial group comprised of a physician assistant and a nurse. Each group was given a case file containing their patient’s personal information and the reason he or she was admitted into the hospital. A charge nurse, or head nurse, as well as physical therapist and social worker, were required to learn the details of each case. The students in each

role were instructed to work together to diagnose and treat their patient’s illness.

Students from Pine Forest High School’s health science program joined one of the simulation rotations to assist the nurses.

“The use of simulation experiences allows students to apply what they have learned in the classroom in a safe, ‘real world’ situation,” said Dr. Shannon Matthews, associate dean of the School of Health Sciences, who is also simulation director. “We allow students to develop critical thinking and decision-making skills in a controlled environment that will better prepare them to perform safely and competently in the clinical setting.”

The students were monitored by Matthews and other faculty members. Assistant Professor of Physical Therapy Dr. Stacia Britton and Assistant Professors of Nursing Dr. Jennifer Hanley and Jarold Johnston played the patients.



MU Students Travis Herald, left, Cortney Webb, Noor Dabbagh, Kierra McNeill, and Reandy Hearn, are briefed on their patient’s condition before beginning the simulation.



Jarold Johnston, assistant professor of nursing, speaks to students who participated in the simulation. Each group received constructive criticism and praise on their actions during the simulation.



Tracey Hinds, instructor of social work, talks with a group about how they handled their case during a session following the simulation.



# MU Theatre Department presents first musical in four years

*The* **GREAT AMERICAN**  
*Trailer Park*  
**MUSICAL**  
Music and Lyrics by David Nehls  
Book by Betsy Kelso

**February 16-19**  
Huff Concert Hall  
Thursday-Saturday | 8 p.m.  
Sunday | 2 p.m.

**METHODIST UNIVERSITY**  
DEPARTMENT OF THEATRE

methodist.edu | 910.630.7000  
facebook.com/MethodistUniversity  
5400 Ramsey Street, Fayetteville, N.C. 28311

General Admission tickets \$10  
Military | Seniors | Students with ID \$7  
FREE to Methodist University students, faculty and staff with ID

Due to some content, this show is not recommended for young children.  
For more information, call 910.630.7483. Facebook.com/mutheatre2

The Theatre Department at Methodist University presented “The Great American Trailer Park Musical” in mid-February, featuring an all-student cast.

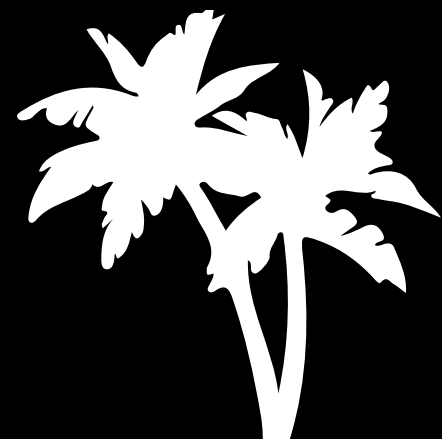
Set in Stark, Fla., the musical follows Norbert Garstecki (Benjamin Crews), a toll collector and former high school football star who finds himself stuck in a rut, and in a trailer park. Norbert’s humdrum life is further dampened by the extreme agoraphobia that keeps his wife Jeannie (Sarah Crews) stuck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

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

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

The actors in the musical were members of one of the University’s vocal groups. Matthews, who played a lead role in the musical, said she would love to do another musical.

“There are many things about the musical that I loved, but what I loved the most is how well everyone immersed themselves in their characters,” Matthews said. “We really put ourselves into the story and made it our own. It was fun to pull the characters off of the scripts and bring them to life.”



The cast of *The Great American Trailer Park Musical*, back row, left to right: Ashley Matthews, David Tucker, Benjamin Crews, and Sarah Crews. Front row, left to right: Emily Bledsoe, Mary Allen, and Amanda Allred.

## Dr. Crisp named first provost of Methodist University



In late April, Methodist University named Dr. Delmas S. Crisp Jr. its first provost. Previously, Crisp served as the executive vice president and academic dean. But now, as University provost, he will take on an increased role in the day-to-day management of the operations of the University.

Crisp will assume responsibilities in overseeing the University’s strategic plan implementation, providing leadership in the assessment of existing academic programs and the development of new programs, and supporting faculty development. He will also foster a culture of research and scholarly innovation, manage the University’s budget, collaborate with the vice president for planning and evaluation on accreditation issues, and serve on the senior management committee to strengthen administrative oversight and implement strategic finance initiatives.

“Dr. Crisp has been a faithful and effective leader and advocate for our University for more than a decade, and I know through his characteristic passion and commitment we will continue to benefit from his service,” said Dr. Ben Hancock Jr., president of Methodist University.

Crisp received his bachelor’s, master’s and doctoral degrees at the University of Southern Mississippi and has served Methodist University as a top academic administrator since 2007.

## SUMMER CAMPS

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Athletics | PGA Summer Experience  
Gen. Shelton Leadership Challenge



Visit [www.methodist.edu/summer](http://www.methodist.edu/summer) or call 800.488.7110 for more information. Contact individual camp organizers to check availability.

## MU student wins and coach places in Fayetteville races



Photo credit: Fort Bragg MWR marketing



Photo credit: Fayetteville Observer

Right, Peter Koskey crosses the finish line. Jack Brunecz receives his award for being the 2nd place finisher at the All American Marathon from Major General Paul J. LaCamera. With them on stage are Lou Guzman of The Runners Spot, left, and Jimmy Kendrick from USAA.

Methodist University claimed some of the top spots in the fourth annual All-American Marathon and Mike-to-Mike Half Marathon on March 26. MU at Night student Peter Koskey won the half marathon, and Head Cross Country Coach Jack Brunecz came in second in the marathon. The races, which start at Festival Park in downtown Fayetteville and finish at the Main Post Parade Field, drew more than 3,700 runners.

Koskey, who is pursuing a bachelor's degree in biology, is also an active duty soldier, like many of the runners. He is on the Army Ten Miler team and has hopes to get on the world class Army team to qualify for the Olympics. He has run the half marathon before and held the course record, 1:11:20, in 2016. He broke that record this year, coming in at 1:09:44.

During the summer, Brunecz trains alongside Koskey and the Army Ten Miler team.

"I've done the half marathon three other times, and then I finally told myself that as a local resident I needed to step up and try to represent my city as best I could and run in the All-American Marathon," Brunecz said. "Nobody from Fayetteville had won this yet, it was always somebody from out of town."

As it turned out, this year's winner was from Fayetteville, Stephen Marthy, who is also a member of the Ten Miler team. Marthy came in at 2:40:05, but Brunecz was behind him with a very respectable 2:51:38.

"Even though I wasn't the one to win the marathon for Fayetteville, I'm glad that someone from Fayetteville finally did, and it was great that it was a friend and training partner of mine," Brunecz said.

## Methodist University announces 2017 Faculty Award recipients

Four faculty members received awards and honors during the annual University awards on April 5. They were also honored during the annual spring commencement dinner.

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



Dr. Kyrstin Krist

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

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



Dr. Scott Marosek

Dr. Scott Marosek, associate professor of music, earned the Methodist University Distinguished Professor of the Year Award. The winner is selected from full-time faculty members who have made a distinct difference in the teaching climate at the University. Dr. Marosek received his bachelor's and master's degrees in music from the University of Missouri at Kansas City, and his doctoral degree from the University of North Texas.

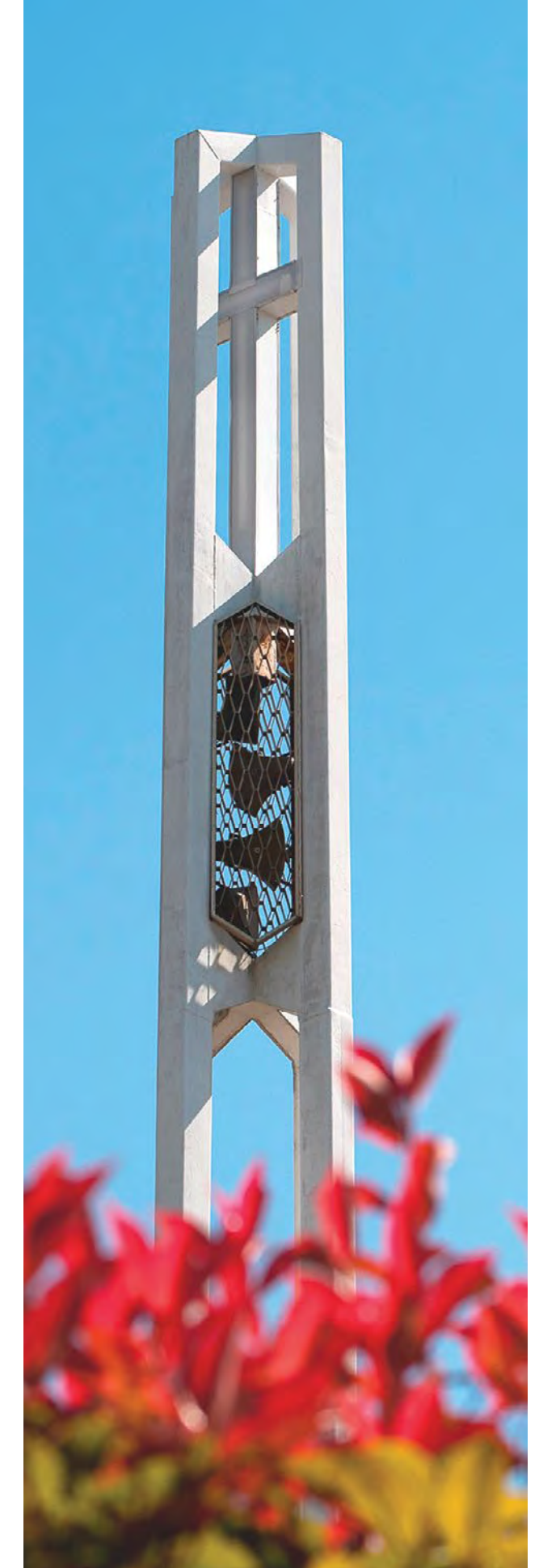


Robin Greene

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

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

Dr. Christopher Cronin, associate professor of political science, won the President's Award for Excellence in Research and Creative Expression. For more about Cronin and his award-winning research, see page 19.





# Methodist University holds 54<sup>th</sup> annual spring commencement ceremony



*James Daniel "Danny" Highsmith stresses the importance of attitude during his commencement address.*

The University granted diplomas to 254 students, the University's largest ever graduating class, on May 6 in the March F. Riddle Center.

Four ROTC cadets were commissioned during the ceremony, and Abanob Salib, Daniel Sasfy and Raya Alher presented the flags of Egypt, Hungary, and Iraq, respectively. The Distinguished Graduate, Peter Wildeboer, who was elected by his fellow graduating seniors, gave a speech during the ceremony.

The Lucius Stacy Weaver Award was presented to graduating senior Cheri Molter. University President Dr. Ben Hancock Jr. also presented the University Medallion to Mrs. Naoma and Dr. Gerald Ellison, longtime supporters of Methodist University.

The commencement speaker was James Daniel "Danny" Highsmith, Sr., the regional vice president and market manager at Beasley Broadcast Group in Fayetteville. He began his career as a sportscaster with Beasley in 1971.

Highsmith urged the graduates to practice integrity, honesty, an outstanding work ethic, giving back, humbleness, teamwork, and to pursue a career they love.

"They say if you love your career, you'll never work a day in your life. I hope that you will have a career that you really love. I

am fortunate to be in a business I love," Highsmith said. He also stressed the importance of having a good attitude, praising recently retired Officer Lorenzo Joseph.

"He had a tremendous attitude. He acted like he was happy to be there. I'm sure he had bad days, but you'd never know it," he said.

Building on this, Highsmith said just smiling can turn a bad day around, quoting the famous song "Smile" by Nat King Cole.

"Smile though your heart is aching. Smile even though it's breaking. When there are clouds in the sky, you'll get by. If you smile through your fear and sorrow, smile and maybe tomorrow you'll see the sun come shining through for you."

Concluding his address, Highsmith said "I hope you smile. Smiling is so easy. Someone told me it takes less face muscles to smile than it does to frown. I can't verify that, but it sure sounds good."

Highsmith's involvement in the commencement ceremonies was special, not only because of the ties he has to Methodist as a member of the board of trustees, but also because his granddaughter Emily Highsmith was a part of the graduating class.



*Left, graduate Cheri Molter accepts the 2017 Lucius Stacey Weaver award from Dr. Ben Hancock during commencement. Right, Ben Hancock presents Dr. Gerald Ellison and Naoma Ellison with the University Medallion. The Ellisons are long-time supporters of the University and its art program.*



*The 2017 graduates make their way to the March F. Riddle Center.*



## Weinberg shares insights on Hitler's plan for world domination during inaugural Union-Zukowski Lecture

Nearly 80 people gathered in the Physician Assistant Auditorium to hear from top World War II scholar Gerhard Weinberg on Feb. 6 at the inaugural Union-Zukowski Lecture, supported by the Union-Zukowski Jewish Studies Endowment.

Weinberg, 89, spent much of his life studying the war and Adolf Hitler. He currently serves as the William Rand Kenan Jr. Professor Emeritus of History at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

His lecture was titled "Adolf Hitler and the United States: Views, Plans, and Policies, and the Jewish Question in All Three." He discussed the views Hitler had on America and the Jewish people, and his plan for world domination.

"May I suggest that the easiest way to understand both the view and the implementing policy in this case is to think of reversing the way we eat an artichoke. We take one leaf away at a time until we get to the heart. Now reverse the process," he said. "Germans, like most Europeans, thought of Europe as the center of the globe and Germans were certain that Germany was the heart of Europe. So, you start at the heart and take one leaf away at a time until you get to the outermost. For Hitler that meant a series of four wars."

After the lecture concluded, there was a question and answer session and a small reception.

Weinberg began studying the second World War at the University of Chicago. In the 1950s, he led the microfilming of confiscated German documents in Alexandria, Va. During that project, Weinberg took a walk down memory lane.

Weinberg and his family lived in Germany during Hitler's time as chancellor of Germany. Born in 1928 to a Jewish family, Weinberg's family lived somewhat peacefully until 1934, when his father lost his government job because of his "Jewishness." When Weinberg was 9 years old, he was expelled from school and his father was arrested.

It was during the project in Alexandria that he found his father's arrest record.

Luckily, a former employer demanded his father's release, and the family was able to escape Nazi Germany, reunite in England, and move to Albany, N.Y., in 1939.

Shortly after his project in Virginia, Weinberg found a manuscript on foreign policies that Hitler dictated, but never published, in a folder that was mislabeled as a partial draft of "Mein Kampf." In 1961, the Institute of Contemporary History in Munich, Germany, published the "Zweites Buch," or Hitler's Second Book, which includes commentary by Weinberg.



*Gerhard Weinberg speaks about Hitler and his views on America and the Jewish people to a crowd of nearly 80 people on Feb. 6.*



Students attending the annual Womack Lectures discuss a point with Dr. Timothy Larsen after his presentation.



Dr. Timothy Larsen presents "The Bible and Western Civilization" during the annual Womack Lectures on March 17.

## Womack lecturer speaks on the Bible's role in Western culture

Dr. Timothy Larsen, the Carolyn and Fred McManis Professor of Christian Thought at Wheaton College and an Honorary Research Fellow at the University of Wales Trinity Saint David, was the featured speaker at this year's Womack Lectures.

The annual lectures always center around a religious thought or idea. This year, Larsen spoke on "Secularization and Religious Decline," as well as "The Bible and Western Civilization" at two talks on March 17.

Larsen has spent his career studying the Bible. His talk on the Bible and Western civilization focused on the many citizens around the world who consider themselves Christians but don't know the basics of Christianity.

"It has been demonstrated that biblical literacy has continued to decline," he said. "Gallup polls have tracked this descent to a current 'record low.'"

Larsen's lectures concluded with a short question and answer session.

Larsen received his doctorate in history from the University of Stirling, Scotland. He is a Fellow of both the Royal Historical Society and the Royal Anthropological Institute, and has been a Visiting Fellow in History at Trinity College, Cambridge; a Visiting Fellow in History at All Souls College, Oxford; and a Visiting Scholar at Northwestern University.

Larsen is the author of six monographs including "Crisis of Doubt," "A People of One Book," and "The Slain God," all printed by Oxford University Press. He is the general editor of Oxford University Press' "Spiritual Lives" series and is a contributing editor for "Books & Culture." Larsen has written for numerous other popular publications, including the Wall Street Journal, Inside Higher Ed, Chronicle of Higher Education, CNN.com, Christian Century, and the Times Literary Supplement.

## Gallery shows early photography during spring exhibit

Between Feb. 9 and April 8, the David McCune International Art Gallery showcased "Impressionism to Modernism: Masterworks of Early Photography."

The exhibit celebrated a group of photographers at the turn of the 20th century on both sides of the Atlantic who fought to establish photography as an art form.

One of those photographers was Alfred Stieglitz, a pioneer in this movement whose exhibition space, the "Little Galleries of the Photo-Secession," and exquisitely printed magazine, "Camera Work," advanced the vision of the most ambitious artist-photographers, including Heinrich Kühn, Gertrude Käsebier, Edward Steichen, and Clarence White.

The exhibit was drawn from the private collection of Michael Mattis and Judith Hochberg, and covered the explosive aftermath of the Photo-Secession when, starting with the work of Paul Strand in 1915-16, photography transitioned by fits and starts from Pictorialism to Modernism.

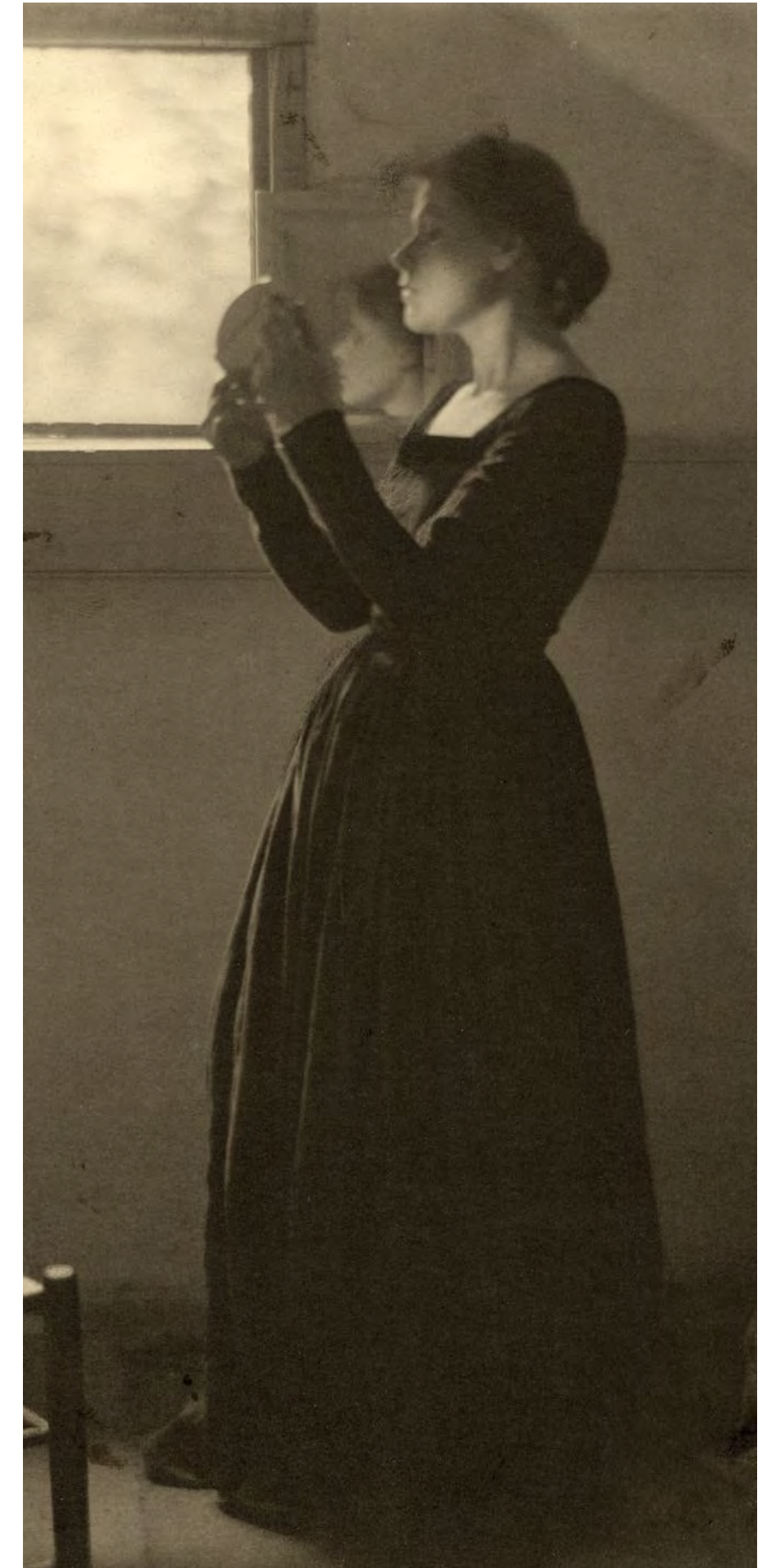
The exhibit was organized by art2art Circulating Exhibitions, LLC. This event was made possible through grants by the Cumberland County Tourism Development Authority, the David & Helen Clark Art Museum Fund of Cumberland Community Foundation, Inc., and the Community Arts Endowment of Cumberland Community Foundation, Inc.

### Fall 2017

The gallery will host its fall 2017 exhibit, "Kindred Materials: Glass and Clay," opening on Sept. 7 with a reception from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. The exhibit will feature work by Jennifer Bueno, Thor Bueno, Jeannine Marchand, and Pablo Soto.

The new exhibit will run through Nov. 4. The gallery will be open Tuesday to Friday from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. and is closed Sundays, Mondays, and Oct. 14 to 18. For more information on the exhibit, visit [davidmccunegallery.org](http://davidmccunegallery.org).

Right, detail of "The Mirror," ca. 1912, by Clarence H. White (1871-1925).





The first Phi Kappa Phi inductees come together for a group photo after their induction ceremony.

### The 2017 Phi Kappa Phi inductees

- |                        |                            |
|------------------------|----------------------------|
| Chantal Abbuhl         | Tina Joseph                |
| Morgan Albertson       | Rachael Kelly              |
| Raya Alher             | Adrienne Kovacic           |
| Allyson Aycock         | Cheryl Krupa               |
| Joseph Barron III      | Andrew Macks II            |
| David Benton           | Christopher Miller         |
| Sara Bladon            | Cheri Molter               |
| Vince Brackett         | Sharon Moran               |
| Brent Breedlove        | Emir Nazdrajic             |
| Tim Brooks             | Sonia Ohara                |
| Ashley Carroll         | Nathaly Padilla            |
| Kyle Colborn           | Tatum Price                |
| Summer Combs           | Lindsey Pritchard          |
| Kelcey Connolly        | Diane Proctor              |
| Brandi Curioz          | Elena Riggins              |
| John Daust             | Jocelyn Rosario            |
| Chanel Diaz-Woodall    | Rachel Ruch                |
| Dulcine-Reine Djetouan | Brooke Rutherford          |
| Katayoon Dowlatshahi   | Noah Sachs                 |
| Bianca Farmer          | Ayesha Qazi                |
| Katharine Flournoy     | Daniel Sasfy               |
| Paige Fournier         | Joseph Sepulveda Verdesoto |
| Joshua Freeman         | Jessica Strunks            |
| Warren Gilbertson      | Vic Ward                   |
| Andrew Good            | Courtney Watlington        |
| Kevin Hamilton         | Tammy Weaver               |
| Craig Harris           | Ieshia West                |
| Katlin Harris          | Peter Wildeboer            |
| Adam Hart              | Elizabeth Wise             |
| Jared Hopkins          | Jason Wittcop              |
|                        | Ryan Zetterholm            |

## The Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi comes to MU, inducts 61

Phi Kappa Phi was founded in 1897 and is the nation's oldest, most selective all-discipline collegiate honor society. One of its newest chapters was installed at Methodist University this February, with a ceremony in Hensdale Chapel. After the chartering, the society held another ceremony in April to induct the MU chapter's first members, with an impressive 61 students joining the society.

"The Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi is pleased to welcome Methodist University to its community of scholars," said Society Executive Director Dr. Mary Todd. "The University's motto — Engage. Enrich. Empower. — reflects Methodist's desire to offer its students a culture of excellence, community engagement and lifelong learning."

The faculty and staff officers elected by the chartering group to serve the newly installed chapter include President George

Hendricks, President-Elect Stacia Britton, Secretary Jasmin Brown, Treasurer Beth Carter, PR Officers Kerry S. Jenkins and Brenda Jernigan, Awards and Grants Coordinator Andrew Ziegler, and Administrative Assistant Charlene Covington.

"I am excited that Methodist has earned the 10th Phi Kappa Phi chapter in the State of North Carolina," said Hendricks, who is also dean of the School of Public Affairs. "Having a Phi Kappa Phi chapter will enable our best and brightest students to pursue national grants in support of graduate education. The chapter will further support the culture of excellence on campus in support of high academic achievement. Our 61 inaugural initiates are bright, motivated, and stand ready to engage, enrich and empower our world. Our chapter looks forward to supporting the national motto of 'let the love of learning rule humanity' at Methodist."

Phi Kappa Phi was founded in 1897 under the leadership of

Marcus L. Urann who had a desire to create a different kind of honor society — one that recognized excellence in all academic disciplines. Today, the Society has chapters on more than 300 campuses in the United States and the Philippines, and inducts approximately 30,000 new members each year. Membership is by invitation only to the top 7.5 percent of juniors and the top 10 percent of seniors and graduate students, along with faculty, professional staff and alumni who have achieved scholarly distinction.

"I am pleased that Phi Kappa Phi has approved our application for membership, which allows us to recognize our most outstanding students," said Provost Delmas Crisp. "Members can take advantage of outstanding opportunities, including applying for \$1,000 study abroad grants or for one of 51 fellowships, worth \$5,000 each, for the first year of graduate school."

### Faculty Charter Members

- Darl Champion
- Delmas Crisp
- Whitney Larrimore-Strickland
- Bruce Morgan
- Katharine Snyder

### Faculty and Honorary Members, Inaugural Class

- Lori Brookman, Faculty
- Mary Lynn Bryan, Honorary
- Beth Carter, Treasurer
- Margaret Highsmith Dickson, Honorary
- Ben Hancock Jr., Faculty
- J.R. Hustwit, Faculty
- Kimberly Scruton, Faculty
- Todd Telemeco, Faculty



*MU students and staff worked alongside members of Hay Street and St. Andrews UMC to brighten Señorita Graciela's home.*

## MU students give back during spring mission trips in the U.S. and abroad

Spring break is a time for students to unwind and relax before heading back to class to prepare for finals. But during this year's spring break, some students chose to help others in Peru and Kentucky.

From March 4 to 11, several students headed to Lima, Peru. The mission team partnered with the Wesley Heritage Foundation and the Theological Community of Peru, or Comunidad Teológica del Perú.

During their visit, the team spent the week repairing the home of Señorita Graciela, an elderly single woman without the resources to repair her home on her own. The group replaced her front windows, which were cracked and broken; painted the exterior of her home; sodded her front yard; poured a concrete patio; and constructed a small fence along the front sidewalk.

Additionally, the team was able to learn about the history of the Protestant Church in Peru from a member of the Peruvian Congress, visit villages outside Lima, and learn about the history and ecology of the area.

Between March 5 and 11, the Kentucky mission partnered with the Red Bird Mission team to replace windows and repair flooring in a mobile home owned by an elderly couple. The group shared the project with another team from Vermont that included students from Green Mountain College.

The trip included evening worship and education about the poverty in Appalachia.

"Students grow together as a community when they work side-by-side for a purpose that is bigger than themselves," said Dwayne Stinson, director of student religious involvement.

"The impact of this common experience of stepping into another culture, whether in rural Kentucky, downtown D.C., or Lima, Peru, is immeasurable."

"Mission trips remove students from their familiar contexts and confront them with new realities regarding systems of poverty and injustice. They invite relationships with persons of another culture and background, and help students develop empathy and respect for those different from themselves. They see that 'rich' and 'poor' are economic categories that do not describe one's character. Students learn the value of giving by experiencing the transformational joy of serving others in Christ's name, as a response to Christ's call to serve 'the least of these' (Matthew 25:40)."

### Upcoming Missions

Campus Ministry has planned three trips for the upcoming school year. The fall break mission trip from Oct. 13 to 17 will be in Washington, D.C., and will be a study and service trip focused on immigration. The estimated cost for the trip is \$300.

The spring break 2018 trips will include a service trip to Cap Haitian, Haiti, between March 3 and 10, and will cost up to \$1,500. The second trip will be in Beverly, Ky., from March 4 to 10, in which students will participate in a home repair project with Red Bird Mission. The cost is \$450.

For more information on Campus Ministry and upcoming mission trips, or to learn more about making a gift to support students for mission experiences, contact University Chaplain Rev. Kelli W. Taylor, at 910-630-7515, or Dwayne Stinson at 910.630.7214.



*Jiovana Concepcion, left, Angel Velazquez, Kaylee Carroll, and Dr. Blake Justice gather outside the Cardinal House after breakfast and daily devotions during the Kentucky mission trip.*



*The mission team places sod on Señorita Graciela's lawn.*



*The members of the Peru mission team stop for a photo in front of a monument during their trip. Left to right: Gabby Wentling, Lalisha Williams, retired professor Eleanor Ninestein, retired professor Dr. Dwight House, Hay Street UMC member Brandon McElroy, Dwayne Stinson, Tyler Ursuy, and Keenan Bailey.*

*Lalisha Williams paints the front door of Señorita Graciela's home.*



# Principe

## speaks at 17th annual Bullard-Templeton Lecture

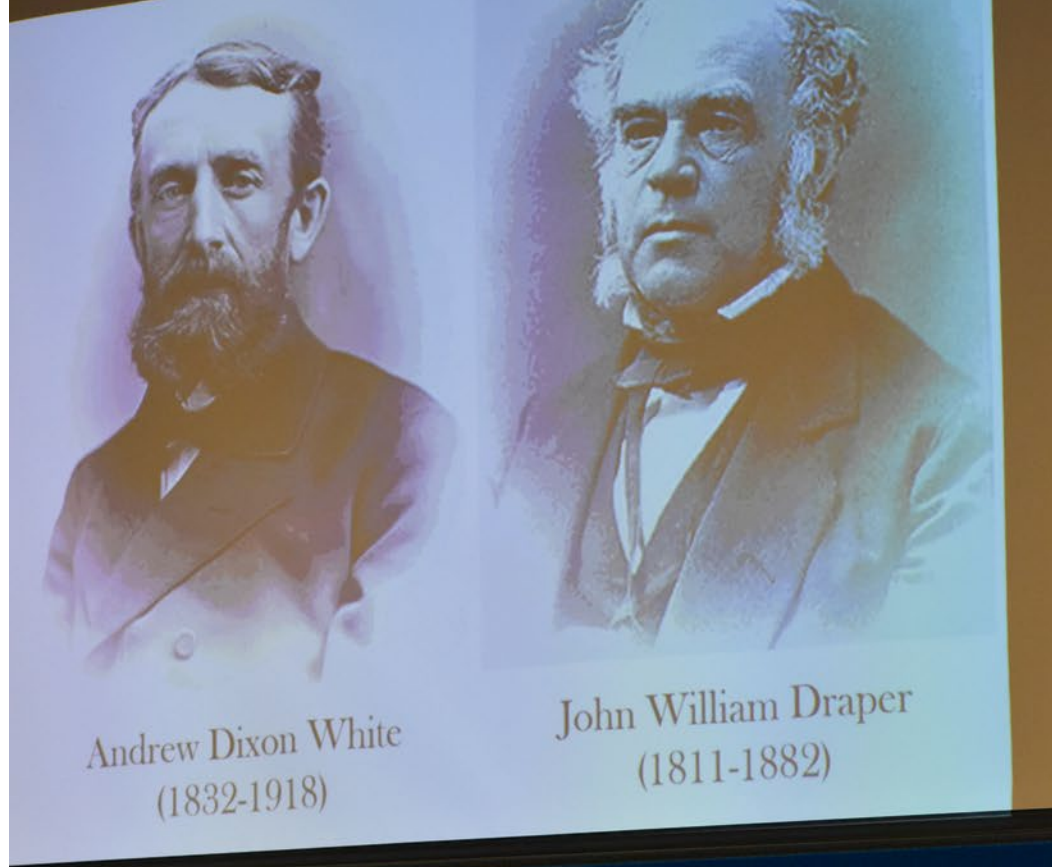
Methodist University's 17th annual Bullard-Templeton Lecture on Science and Religion featured Lawrence Principe, who spoke on "The Origin of Life and Evolution: Must Science and Religion Disagree?" on March 13.

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

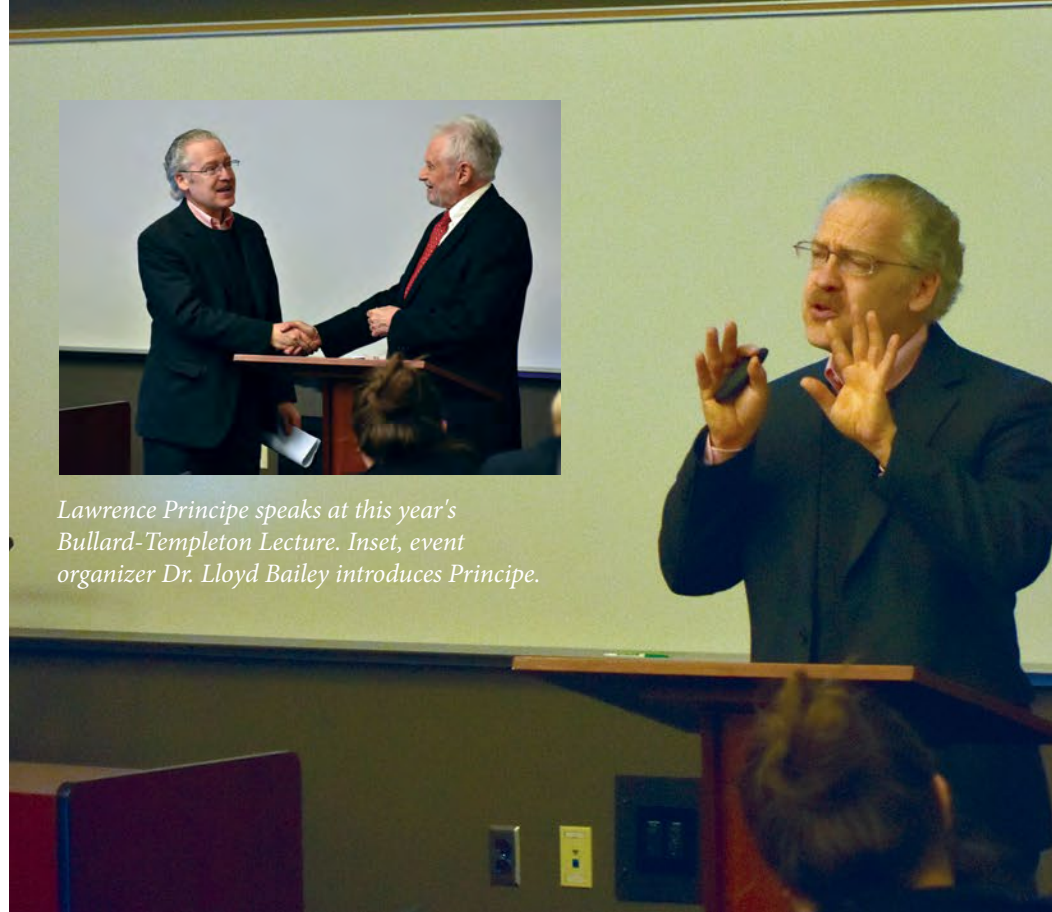
Principe, whose research focuses on the late medieval and early modern periods, discussed how the idea of religion and science being at odds with one another was largely a made-up conflict popularized by two authors in the later 1800s, John William Draper and Andrew Dixon White.

"You might well wonder what impact books — in fact, bad books — over a century old could have today," Principe said. "The answer is astonishing: These may be among the most influential books of the past 150 years. Although few people today have actually read either of them, or perhaps even heard of them or their authors, nevertheless the erroneous historical notions they invented or popularized have become naturalized as facts in contemporary culture."

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



Lawrence Principe speaks at this year's Bullard-Templeton Lecture. Inset, event organizer Dr. Lloyd Bailey introduces Principe.



**MONARCHS GO GREEN!**

**The recycle bin**  
is designed to suit most of your waste needs including paper, plastic, metal, and glass products. Items may be recycled as is.

**The landfill bin**  
is intended for non-recyclable products such as styrofoam, plastic bags, and food waste.

**METHODIST UNIVERSITY** [Engage. Enrich. Empower.]

Questions? Please contact Matthew K. Dempster, Director of Environmental Health and Safety, at mdempster@methodist.edu or 910.630.7558.

## Spring Show You Care Day kicks off campus-wide recycling project

Show You Care Day is a day when faculty, staff, and students come together to complete community service projects that help rejuvenate and improve the campus of Methodist University.

This spring's project was a trash can replacement program. Student leaders took groups of participants to all offices on campus and replaced existing trash cans with new cans that compartmentalize waste and recycling materials.

"The partnership with Student Life to change out old receptacles to the recycling cans in the offices was a big demonstration of our collaborative effort to ensure the implementation of a new process," said Connie Pratt, superintendent of custodial services, who helped with the replacement project. "It did not require members of the Custodial Department to attempt to visit over 100 offices on campus, but instead allowed the students on campus to participate in this phase of a culture change in how we collect and dispose of waste."

With the new disposal process, the University will recycle paper, plastic, metal, and glass products while only disposing of Styrofoam, plastic bags, and food waste, getting the Monarchs one step closer to going green.

## IPO hosts highschoolers from China and Norway

The International Programs Office hosted high school students from China through a partnership with the Global Classroom Alliance. Efforts to recruit Chinese students are in full force with regularly scheduled visits to high schools in China and reciprocating visits by prospective Chinese students and their parents.



Prospective international students from Norwegian Christian High school (KVT) visited MU March 16-26. The students were thoroughly immersed in MU's college life, meeting admissions staff and current students, and taking a campus tour. KVT is planning another visit to Methodist in 2018. The International Programs Office is looking forward to collaborations with institutions in Norway.



# Students role-play political reactions to nuclear terrorism at JSEIP

Left to right, Dwayne Green, Tomomi Shiotani, Vrushali Thombare, and Panashe Masoha play UN diplomats.



Scott Khimani, left, and Lauren Long argue their positions while Mohnnad Alshalalda, Summer Combs, Blake Halsey, and Katelyn Elmore listen.

Over two days in April, Trustees 105 was a center of international intrigue and drama as students from two political science classes, International Relations and Congress and the Presidency, grappled with an international crisis during Joint Simulation Exercise Imminent Peril (JSEIP) III.

The standard scene each day found the students in the room quietly focused, role-playing international diplomats, military officials, intelligence officers, and politicians. One minute they might be huddled at their tables, poring over and discussing the latest intelligence packet about a possible nuclear terrorism attack, but then there would be a new level of tension as the groups dispersed to share, bargain, and argue with each other. Fingers were pointed, deals were made, and the occasional argument was quashed before the students returned to their groups to formulate their next steps.

“Our department and Methodist University are always looking for ways to make learning more practical,” said Dr. Andrew Ziegler, chair of the Political Science Department. “We initially



John Tartline, left, and Seth Harrison examine a map during the simulation.

started this activity in hopes of promoting a fun and thorough application of lectures and readings. Students agree that their hands-on experiences in the simulation allow them to recall the information they learned in the classroom and apply it.”

“Imminent Peril III” was the third year for the joint simulation exercise, which this year involved a scenario in which a terrorist group released a video claiming they were in possession of a nuclear device they were prepared to detonate. The students had four rounds to authenticate the video and pinpoint the location of the device before it detonated. The Congress and the Presidency class took on responsibilities of the American teams, while the International Relations class filled the Middle Eastern and United Nations teams.

“Students were able to connect the intelligence dots and build international cooperation to prevent a nuclear incident this year,” Ziegler said after the event wrapped. “I wonder how they’ll perform next year with Imminent Peril IV?”



## Big Issue Series wraps up with two final talks

Dr. Spencer Davis, associate professor of financial economics, wrapped up the 2016-17 Big Issue Series with two more lectures. During the series, he invited his fellow colleagues to discuss some of the University's and the world's biggest issues with students, faculty and staff. In the fall, the series took on the topics of the drug war and the NCAA.

On Feb. 12, the talk centered on the legal, social, and economic issues related to human trafficking. Lisa Long, the coordinator for the Master of Justice Administration Program and as former criminal intelligence analyst for the Fayetteville Police Department, taught attendees how to spot a victim of human trafficking.

Dr. Carla Fagan, chair of the Social Work Department, discussed the many types of human trafficking and how social workers typically deal with cases of human trafficking. Davis completed the talk with information on the economics of human trafficking.

The final Big Issues talk was held on April 10. A largely faculty-based audience gathered to discuss assessment and accreditation, and its possible threat to academic freedom and creativity. Davis was joined by Dr. Carl Dyke, professor of history.

Above, Dr. Carla Fagan, left, Lisa Long, and Dr. Spencer Davis answer questions from students, faculty, and staff at the conclusion of their joint presentation on human trafficking.

Left, Davis speaks to students about the financial issues related to human trafficking.

# Monarchs pick up credits overseas with faculty-led study abroad classes over Spring Break

China, Dominican Republic, Guatemala, and St. Lucia all had one thing in common this Spring Break. They were all destinations for faculty-led study abroad classes, in which students experience different cultures, languages, and unique lessons while earning class credit.

## China

*The China study abroad class in Tiananmen Square, Beijing. Shown are (back row, from left) Jamie Ammons, Jason Pfannschmidt, Chris Naiberk, Dr. Kimberly Scruton, Nick Murn, and Carlos Gong. Front row, Dr. Pam Strickland, Laura Allred, Rachel Carlton, and Breanna Frazier.*



*Breanna Frazier, left, Rachel Carlton, Dr. Scruton, and Dr. Strickland at the Great Wall.*

Dean of the Reeves School of Business Dr. Kimberly Scruton and Professional MBA Program Director Dr. Pam Strickland led the International Business Experience – China and Study Abroad China joint program. Eight students visited Beijing and Chengdu, China, for 10 days, where they were immersed in Chinese business, culture, and customs.

The group also met with Chinese university students and corporate professionals, and visited famous landmarks like the Great Wall. When they returned, the students gave a presentation on their experience at the Center for Research and Creativity Symposium.

“When I signed up to study abroad, I never knew how big an impact it would have on my life,” said student Rachel Carlton. “The moment I stepped off that 13-hour flight into Beijing, I was instantly submerged into a very different culture, language, and way of life. Studying abroad has changed my perspective, showed me who I am, and pushed me out of my comfort zone. I encourage everyone to study abroad at least once. I promise it’ll be the best thing you do in your undergrad.”

## Dominican Republic



*Blake Moyer, left, Dr. Christopher Cronin, LaShonda Sloan, Jordan Ethington, Gabriella Mendez Heffley, and Jeremiah Wolbers, front, stand on the steps of Santa Maria la Menor, the oldest cathedral in the western hemisphere.*

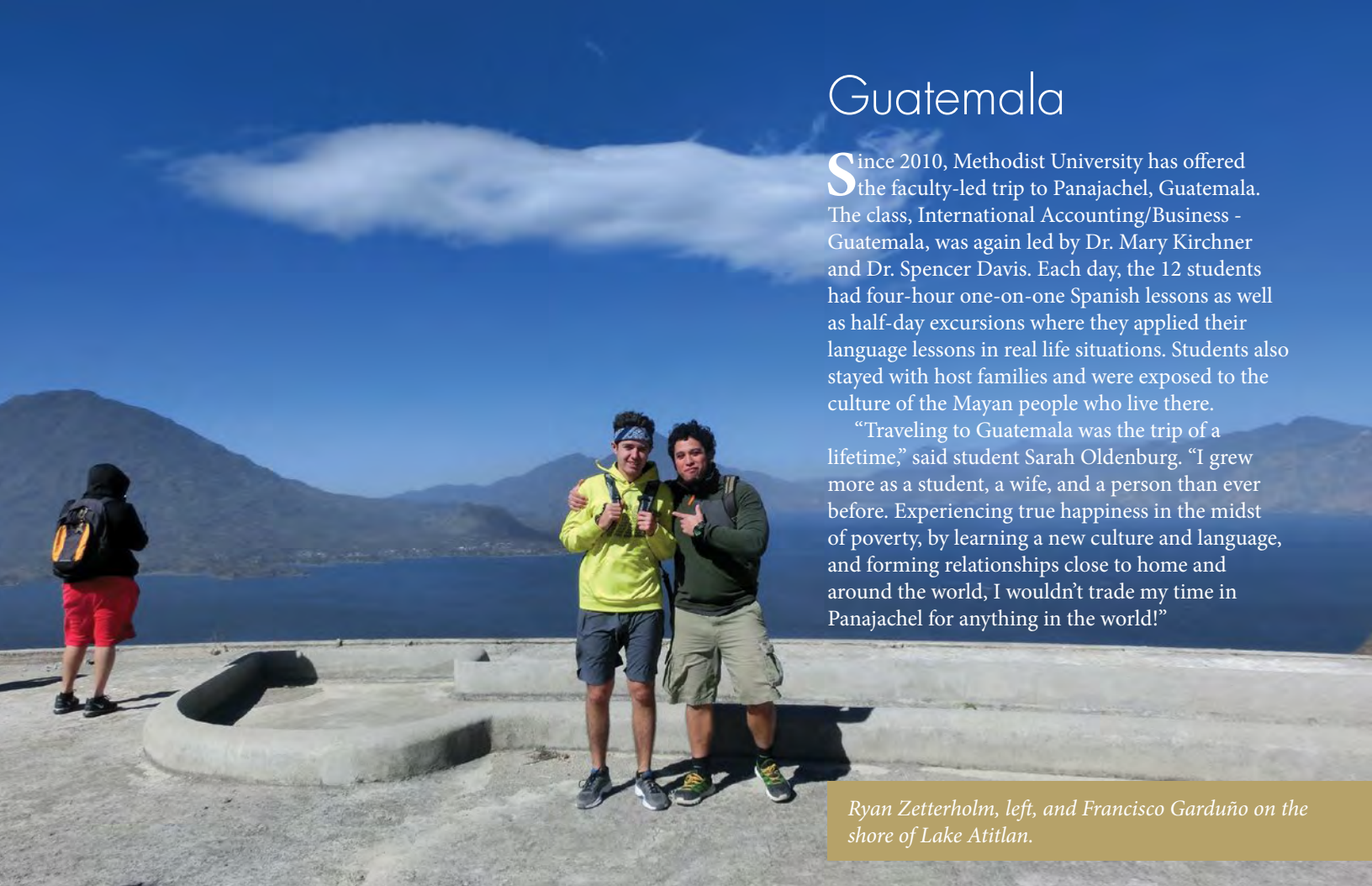
*Left, MU students and Dr. Cronin display the University flag with Ellie, one of the language school owners.*

Dr. Christopher Cronin took five students to the Dominican Republic for his Latin American Politics class. The students spent six nights in Santo Domingo living with host families and took language classes in the morning at the Hispaniola Language School. The group also stayed one night in a rural town, Guaite, which was very different from the urban setting of Santo Domingo.

“The families were very different and interesting – and much of the cultural learning happened in those homes for the students

living with non-native speakers,” Cronin said. “The directors of the language school then planned various cultural outings for us in the afternoons. They did a great job and we managed to squeeze in multiple museums, local attractions, tours, and even some chocolate making.”

Among their cultural excursions, the students visited the U.S. Embassy, where they talked with attachés in the new U.S. facility there, which is the third busiest in the world for visa requests.



## Guatemala

Since 2010, Methodist University has offered the faculty-led trip to Panajachel, Guatemala. The class, International Accounting/Business - Guatemala, was again led by Dr. Mary Kirchner and Dr. Spencer Davis. Each day, the 12 students had four-hour one-on-one Spanish lessons as well as half-day excursions where they applied their language lessons in real life situations. Students also stayed with host families and were exposed to the culture of the Mayan people who live there.

“Traveling to Guatemala was the trip of a lifetime,” said student Sarah Oldenburg. “I grew more as a student, a wife, and a person than ever before. Experiencing true happiness in the midst of poverty, by learning a new culture and language, and forming relationships close to home and around the world, I wouldn’t trade my time in Panajachel for anything in the world!”

Ryan Zetterholm, left, and Francisco Garduño on the shore of Lake Atitlan.

## St. Lucia

Seven students went with instructors Tracey Hinds and Sharry Malpass to St. Lucia for the Global Perspective Elective class. The students – who were all studying either health care administration, nursing, or social work – gained experience working interprofessionally with each other while providing services to students in an all-girl elementary school and residents of a nursing home in the fishing village of Laborie. At the school, the MU students talked to the girls about the nursing profession and about self-esteem skills.

“My study abroad trip changed my views on life because I took time to relax my mind, body, and soul, but moreover I learned to slow down,” said student Jaylynn Williams. “I liked that I immersed myself in the culture and took a chance in trying to fit in. Exposure to things outside of your own culture is very important, especially as a social worker. It allows you to develop an understanding of human relationships across cultural backgrounds.”



Ebony Hogan and Dana Killilea get hugs from students at Laborie R.C. Girls' Primary School.



Left, Instructor of Nursing Sharry Malpass, left, Amber Tobin, Deborah Ellison, Kimberly Del Mar, Dana Killilea, and Leandra Perez hold up the MU flag at Comfort Bay Senior Citizens' Home in Vieux Fort.

## Richard Small Collection gives students hands-on geology experience



Dr. John Dembosky examines a sample with Michael Bradley, left, Matthew French, Benjamin Brady, Chantal Abbuhl, and Diane Proctor. Left, amethyst and rhodochrosite.

The late Richard Small donated more than 100 geological samples more than a decade ago to science classes, and his widow, Betsy Small, has recently added more items from her husband’s collection.

“Mr. Small loved to collect geological samples,” said Associate Professor of Geology Dr. John Dembosky. “The collection, which now has over 150 samples with the recent addition, has been used in Earth Science and Physical Geology classes for years to introduce minerals, and any other time certain minerals were needed. The original university collections didn’t quite have all the variations of the minerals, which the Small Collection helps out with a lot.”

Most of the collection is permanently displayed in a classroom in the Hendricks Science Complex. The majority are minerals, but there are also rocks and fossils. Other significant samples include geodes, tiger eye, opal, agates, gypsum (including selenite and satin spar varieties), jasper, calcite, and fluorite.

“Richard would be thrilled to know his beloved collection is now being shared with the students at the University which was so welcoming to him,” Small said. “He enjoyed his daily interactions with the students. Our hope would be that this collection may inspire someone to pursue the love of nature’s beauty as an avocation or vocation, or both. I know all the people who helped us be ‘rock hounds’ over the years are smiling as the collection is being used as an educational tool.”

Richard Small worked with the Public Relations Office as Methodist’s photographer.



Left, Dembosky explains the copper minerals and turquoise. Turquoise is prized for its beauty and a popular gemstone for jewelry. Close up true turquoise has a solid color hue as shown here, rather than the color variations found in most synthetic copies.



## MU Rotaract wigs out on Hair for a Cause

Thirteen students volunteered to donate their hair at the Methodist University Rotaract chapter's Hair for a Cause event in April. Three professional hairdressers, Patty Garrett, Argie Rodriguez, and Dee Dee Stanley, also volunteered their time by coming to campus and making the event possible.

The hairdressers provided free haircuts to students who could donate 8 to 10 inches of their hair. The collected hair was sent to Pantene Beautiful Lengths, which partners with the American Cancer Society to make and distribute wigs.

"Rotaract is about engaging the community and showing what can be done when a determined group of people unite," said Rotaract President Noah Sachs. "Through the Hair for a Cause event, we were able to bring together our local community and provide students a platform to make a difference. This was just the start, as we plan to repeat this event next semester!"

The club, which is sponsored by the Fayetteville Rotary Club, also provided henna painting for a small donation, for those who wanted to support the event but could not donate their hair.

*Left, MU student, Elisabeth "Mila" de Sousa, left, shows off her donation of hair, along with hairstylist Dee Dee Stanley, at the Hair for a Cause event.*

## Methodist holds reception for seven retiring faculty



*President Dr. Ben Hancock, Jr., left, and Provost Dr. Delmas Crisp, right, pose with retiring faculty Dr. David Turner, Professor Janet Turner, Dr. Deborah Branson, Dr. Joan Bitterman, Professor Beth Copeland, and Dr. Paul Wilson during a retirement reception in their honor. Not pictured is Dr. Lloyd Bailey.*

Methodist University honored seven retiring faculty this April with a reception in Berns Student Center.

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

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

Dr. Deborah Branson, director and associate professor of the environmental and occupational management program, is retiring

after 10 years and six months of service.

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

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

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

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



Are you a retired employee of Methodist University? Please join us for the

### Retired Faculty and Staff Luncheon

Wednesday, Sept. 13, 2017

12:00 to 1:00 p.m.

Alumni Dining Room

Before lunch, join us for the worship service at 11 a.m. in Hensdale Chapel.

Following lunch, visit the new exhibit in the David McCune International Art Gallery, "Kindred Materials: Glass & Clay," which runs Sept. 7-Nov. 4. Gallery Director Silvana Foti will be on hand to discuss the exhibit and the artists.

RSVP by Sept. 6 to 910.630.7200  
\$10 per person  
events@methodist.edu

# Bryan recognized for term as board chair, honored with endowed professorship in her name



Mary Lynn Bryan poses with a steamroller at the groundbreaking ceremony for the Thomas R. McLean Health Sciences Building.

Dr. Mary Lynn Bryan was recently honored by the Methodist University Board of Trustees for her long service and dedication to the University. She will step down as board chair on July 1 after serving for five years. She has been a member of the board since 1997.

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

Bryan has faithfully and diligently served the University in numerous capacities, including serving as the co-chair for the Building Excellence Capital Campaign (2011-2016), which raised a record-breaking \$42 million. She has also served on trustee committees including Executive and Finance, Development, Nominations, Academic Affairs, and the Investment Committee. In 1988, she gave the commencement address and received an honorary doctorate degree.

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

Bryan and her husband Norwood have been tireless advocates for their community. Bryan served on the board of the Cumberland Community Foundation for 20 years, twice serving

as its board chair, and has given of her time, talent, and treasure to countless other charitable organizations.

“I have watched her lead the Methodist board through many ground-breaking issues,” said Mac Healy, board chair-elect. “Her ability to calmly keep the board focused and pushing forward is amazing. She always operated with one thing in mind, the betterment of the University community. Every single member of the Board of Trustees is a better person because of her leadership.”

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

Bryan was surprised with the announcement of the new endowed professorship at the recent trustees meeting.

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

“She has put her heart and soul into this university,” stated Dr. Harvey Wright, member of the Board of Trustees and Building Excellence Capital Campaign co-chair. “Her priority has always been investing in our students and faculty. That’s what makes this endowed professorship very important for us as trustees to do in her name. I have never met anyone

who is more philanthropically oriented than Mary Lynn. She sets the bar very high for all of us.”

“This endowed professorship will recognize faculty for their outstanding efforts by offering increased financial support. It is my hope that there will be other named professorships to continue to recognize faculty who excel on our campus,” said Bryan.

The Mary Lynn Bryan Endowed Professorship will help Methodist University attract and retain outstanding faculty, one of Methodist University’s most distinguishing features, providing recognition and an annual stipend to support their teaching and research. The endowment will be held in perpetuity as a permanent way to honor Dr. Bryan’s legacy and to remind all faculty of her support and that of the Board of Trustees for our faculty and their continued development.



Bryan was surprised with a collage and an endowed professorship in her honor at the Board of Trustees’ retreat in May.



“Mary Lynn Bryan’s calm, elegant leadership style has helped Methodist reach a new lofty status that we could only dream of before she took the reins.”

— Mac Healy,  
Board Chair-Elect

Trustee Bob Allen, top left, pats Bryan on the back at the groundbreaking ceremony for the Matthews Ministry Center. Bottom left, Bryan at the dedication of the McLean Health Sciences Building with Harvey Wright, left, Ramon Yarborough, and Dr. Ben Hancock.

# Union-Zukowski endowment supports professorships and Jewish studies



Terri Union

Terri Union has been a proponent of endowment since first serving on the Cumberland Community Foundation board in the early 1980s. She knows that an endowment can be created to support programs meaningful to the donor while making an impact on funding for those programs. The principle gift cannot be spent, but every year a percentage of the interest will benefit the desire of the donor, whether it be scholarships, programming, professorships, or other designated support.

“The endowment for Jewish Studies is to help promote world peace by sharing information and educating students, faculty, and community in order to create understanding and help eliminate prejudice,” Union said. “It seemed an important focus to Carlos and me because of the diverse population of students and professors on campus. We hoped this endowment would provide funding to bring students together to gain an understanding and appreciation of other cultures and beliefs, and in doing so, we might make some impact on world peace.”

The gift was split in three parts: The Union-Zukowski Jewish Studies Endowment; The Union-Zukowski Endowed Professorships in the Fine Arts, which supports three endowed professorships; and support for the renovation of the Reeves Fine Arts Building. Consequently, the University renamed the building’s main lobby the Union-Zukowski Lobby and Gallery.

Creation of endowments for the University help the financial strength of the institution while providing funding for important initiatives for students, faculty, and operations. Without a strong endowment, it is difficult for a school of higher education to maintain scholarship support for students, salaries for professors, or programming.

donor continues to accrue in value.

In 2014, Union and her husband, the late Carlos Zukowski, donated \$1 million to Methodist University in support of a Judaic studies endowment and the fine arts.

# Dixons establish endowed scholarship in honor of Matthews and Porter

Mrs. Margaret D. Dixon '81 and Mr. G. Gordon Dixon '66, who served as the Methodist College registrar from 1974 to 1983, have established an unrestricted endowed scholarship using the Trustees Endowment Challenge. The Dixon Endowed Elementary Education Scholarship was made in honor of Helen B. Matthews, who was chair of the Department of Education and Mrs. Dixon’s mentor and advisor, and in honor of J. Elaine Porter, who was a French professor at Methodist from 1963 to 2003. Porter was also chair of the Department of Education for many years.

Thanks to the Trustee Endowment Challenge, the Dixon’s gift of \$12,500 will be equally matched to create a \$25,000 endowment, which is the minimum needed to generate an annual scholarship.



Right, Margaret D. Dixon '81 and G. Gordon Dixon '66

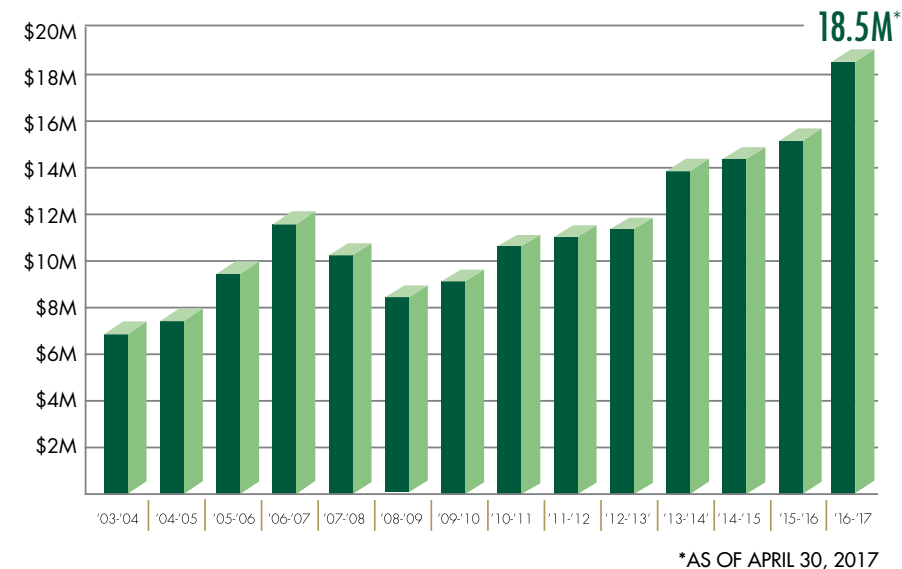
# Endowment by the Numbers

## ENDOWMENT GOALS BY 2020

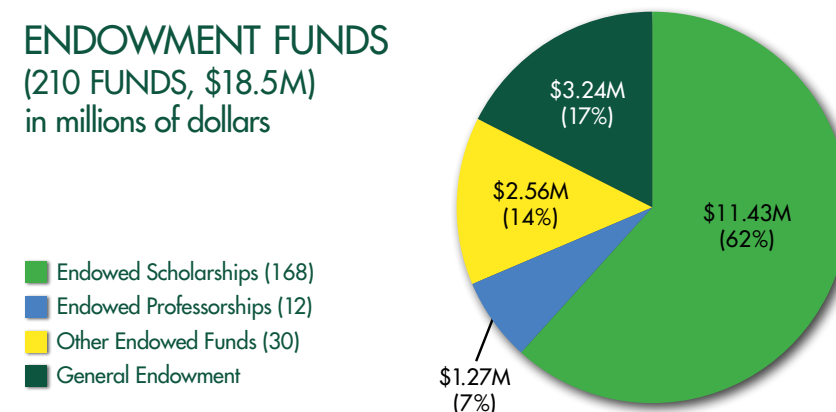
- \$30M | Increase MU’s Endowment to \$30 million
- 200 | Increase MU’s number of Endowed Scholarships from 168 to 200
- 200 | Increase the number of Planned Giving Society members from 106 to 200
- 20 | Increase the number of Endowed Professorships from 12 to 20

## ENDOWMENT HISTORY in millions of dollars

CURRENT ENDOWMENT \$18.5M



## ENDOWMENT FUNDS (210 FUNDS, \$18.5M) in millions of dollars



# Construction update

**SAVE THE DATE!**  
 The Gene Clayton Tennis Center  
 Dedication  
**Oct. 19, 2017**

The Gene Clayton Tennis Center is on schedule for completion in July with the dedication being held this fall.



The construction of the Matthews Ministry Center is in full swing. The project is on schedule for completion August 2018.

Right, the final rendering of the Matthews Ministry Center.



# Board elects new officers, trustees



John "Mac" Healy

At the May board meeting, the Board of Trustees elected their new officers, effective July 1.

John "Mac" Healy was elected chair. Healy is the president of Healy Wholesale Company and has lived in Fayetteville since 1978. He joined the board in 2012. Healy received a bachelor's degree in sociology from Wake Forest University. He is also president of the N.C. Civil War History Center Foundation, among many other civic engagements.



Dr. Rakesh Gupta

Dr. Rakesh Gupta was elected vice-chair. A resident of Fayetteville, Dr. Gupta is originally from India. Since 1990, he has been a gastroenterologist at Cape Fear Center for Digestive Diseases, where he is a partner of former MU Trustee Dr. Wes Jones. He joined the board in 2013.



Tim Richardson

Timothy Richardson was elected secretary. Richardson, who joined the board in 2014, is area vice president of operations for Cumberland, Moore, and Lee Counties for First Citizens Bank. Originally from Clinton, the Fayetteville resident was the 2014 and 2015 Loyalty Day Chair, and has been a member of Methodist University's Foundation Board since 2012.



Dr. Dickson Schaefer

Dr. William "Dickson" Schaefer, who joined the board in 2012, was elected treasurer. Originally from Fayetteville, Schaefer graduated from Wake Forest University School of Medicine. He joined Fayetteville Orthopaedics and Sports Medicine as an orthopedic surgeon in 2001.

## New trustees

There were also three new trustees elected, Robert Glaser, Andrew Shuck '95, and Ira Steingold. Glaser, who lives in Holly Springs, is president of the North Carolina Auto Dealers Association. He studied accounting at the University of Dayton. His daughter, Alison, is a student in the Methodist University Doctor of Physical Therapy Program.

Shuck, who lives in Charlotte, is head golf professional at Charlotte Country Club and a 1995 graduate of the PGM program. In 2016, he was inducted into the MU Athletic Hall of Fame.

Steingold, who lives in Suffolk, Va., is an attorney. He received his B.A. and J.D. from Emory University. He founded Steingold and Mendelson in 1998, a law firm that specializes in worker compensation cases. He has been a supporter of the MU Tennis Program and the Union-Zukowski Jewish Studies Endowment.



Dr. Mark Miller

## Trustee emeritus

Lastly, long-serving trustee Dr. Mark Miller of Blowing Rock was elected trustee emeritus. Miller is president and CEO of Dermasensa Laboratories, Inc., and president/owner of Blowing Rock Plastic Surgery.



# Mason Sykes, pioneer of Monarch soccer, is pleased with progress



“The soccer program has improved and has become a very important part of the overall education program. The facilities have improved at least 2,000 percent, maybe more, and the plans are to continue the improvement.”

— Mason Sykes, Methodist University's first head soccer coach

*Mason Sykes as he toured the soccer field.*



*Sykes coaching circa 1969.*

Former Men's Soccer Coach Mason Sykes says he is impressed and excited about the current and planned improvements to the soccer facilities on campus. Sykes, who first came to Methodist in 1966, started the men's soccer program shortly after arriving. It was the third athletic program for the young college, joining cross country and basketball.

“We were on what is now the football field, but it was just a field then,” Sykes said. “It was difficult to get mowed like it was supposed to, so the team took up mowing it. Not only that, I would take them out on the field and put them in position and say, ‘Alright, folks, this is where you’re going to play, so I would suggest you get all these sandspurs up, if you don’t want them on your knees and feet.’ So we got the field cleaned up pretty good.”

Sykes said the program he started is no comparison to today's program.

“In the first year, we had no chance to recruit, we just started the program,” he said. “It's not like now when you have a program two years before you ever put a team on the field. We decided we were going to have a soccer program, and we put a team on the field.”

On the first day of practice, Sykes brought his own experience of playing soccer for two years at Appalachian State University, but his group of players had almost no experience.

The international phenomenon that is today's soccer had not quite reached North Carolina.

“There were probably 20, 22 young men out there. One had seen a soccer game, and one had played when he was a junior in high school and he was a junior here and hadn't played since. So, we were deep in experience,” Sykes said jokingly. “That's the thing I remember.”

As the sport has grown, Sykes says the level of talent MU recruits has likewise grown. Like the talent on the field, the field itself has also improved. After the field was moved to its current position, Dr. William Jordan made the initial contribution that allowed the new field to be graded, planted, and irrigated, and the field house to be built in 1989.

“It didn't look exactly like it does now,” he said. “The soccer program has improved and has become a very important part of the overall education program. The facilities have improved at least 2,000 percent, maybe more, and the plans are to continue the improvement. Alumni who haven't visited in the last few years would be extremely pleased and impressed with what they see. I think the existing coaching staff has also done a great job in representing Methodist University and the soccer program.”

The recent addition of lights to the field has taken it another step up, Sykes said.

“It's amazing what these lights out here do; it's unbelievable,” he said. “It's just like playing in daylight, and that's unusual. Also, it's set up for soccer; whereas, in a lot of places it's a football field, so it's set up for football.”

Sykes was men's soccer coach from 1967 to 1985. His career at Methodist also included teaching physical education and health education for elementary education students, and coaching track and field, girls' basketball, men's tennis and wrestling. He also had stints as director of intramural sports and dean of men. He later transitioned to the Maintenance Department, where he retired as superintendent of buildings and grounds in 2011.



*Thanks to the generous support of donors, the University added lights to the field in January. The upcoming improvements include new seating, concessions, restrooms, fencing, and fieldhouse renovations. For more information on the soccer facility expansion and renovation, contact the Advancement Office at 910.630.7200.*

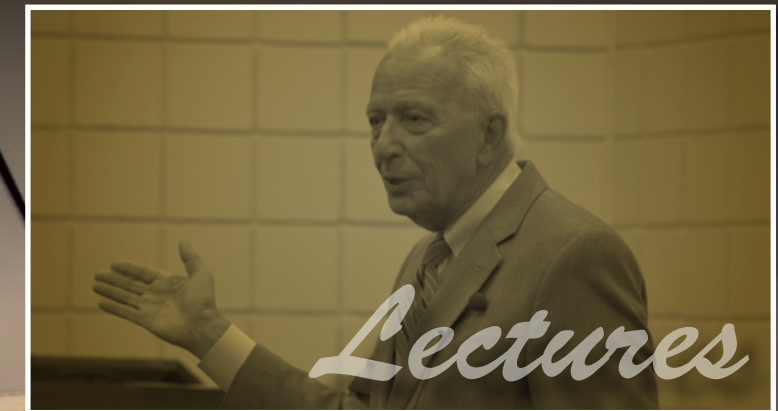


2017-2018 SEASON

# ARTS & LECTURE SERIES

The 2017-2018 Arts and Lecture Series includes expert lectures on a variety of subjects, fine arts events, foreign films, along with other educational and faith-based experiences. To learn more, sign up for the event e-newsletter by emailing [universityrelations@methodist.edu](mailto:universityrelations@methodist.edu).

- ◆ David McCune International Art Gallery exhibits
- ◆ Presidential Lecture Series
- ◆ Friends of Music performances
- ◆ Department of Theatre productions
- ◆ Reeves School of Business lectures
- ◆ Yuletide Feaste
- ◆ Tally Leadership Development Center speakers
- ◆ Department of Philosophy and Religion lectures
- ◆ The Department of Modern Languages and Literature's Foreign Film Festival
- ◆ Religious Life events
- ◆ Center for Research and Creativity Symposium
- ◆ Student concerts



All Choirs Concert



David McCune International Art Gallery exhibits



Yuletide Feaste



Presidential Lecture Series

## McEvoy retires as Methodist vice president and director of athletics



Bob McEvoy hoists the President's Cup to a cheering crowd during a half-time presentation in September 2015.

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

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

"It has been an honor and pleasure to serve MU for the past 25 years during a period of the institution's unprecedented growth

and success," McEvoy said. "Thank you to all the student-athletes, coaches, and faculty and staff that have taught me so much through the years as we pursued excellence both on and off the playing fields."

"Bob McEvoy epitomizes the best of Methodist University. He is student-centered and is committed to the holistic development of each and every student," said University President Dr. Ben Hancock Jr. "He has not only been an outstanding coach and administrator, but also a valued and thoughtful educator. He has led Methodist to national prominence in athletics, and what's more, he has made us a better University by example. On a



Bob McEvoy, back row second from right, and the MU Varsity Basketball team 1992-1993.

personal level, I will miss him as a trusted colleague for his wise counsel and 'can-do attitude.' The Board of Trustees and I wish him the very best as he embarks upon the next leg of his journey."

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

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

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

He helped with the expansion of the department, bringing in both men's and women's lacrosse, and ensured the Monarchs maintained a national presence with the NCAA. During his time at MU, McEvoy served on the NCAA Division III Men's Basketball National Committee and the NCAA Division III Men's Golf National Committee, served as the tournament director

for such events as the Men's and Women's NCAA Division III Golf Championships (2009, 2013), NCAA Division III Softball South Regionals (2007, 2008), NCAA Division III Women's Golf Championship (2005) and NCAA Division III Baseball South Regionals (2010), and served as a facilitator for the NCAA Division III National Regional Leadership Conferences from 2005-08. At the conference level, he served as the president of the conference from 2005-07, and again from 2016 until his retirement.

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

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

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

His time as the head basketball coach at Methodist followed



Above, McEvoy coaching the MU Varsity Basketball team during the 95-96 season.



McEvoy at the new Armstrong Baseball Field House dedication Nov. 14, 2015.

basketball coach at then-Pembroke State University (1980-82), basketball coach at Douglas Byrd High School (1976-80), graduate assistant coach at East Carolina University (1975-76), and a teacher and assistant coach at Zanesville High School in Zanesville, Ohio, from 1973-75.

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

McEvoy also served as basketball coach and director of athletics at then-Mount Olive College (1982-84), an assistant

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

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

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



MU's Daniel Richards was named all-conference.

## First men's lacrosse senior class leads MU to 15-3 record

The Methodist men's lacrosse team began play as an intercollegiate sport at MU in the spring of 2014, playing to a 3-10 record in its inaugural season. Following a pair of .500 seasons, that first class brought in by Head Coach Zach Nedbalski remained largely intact and played out its final season to a 15-3 overall record coming within a whisker of garnering an at-large bid to the NCAA Division III Men's Lacrosse Championships. The 15 wins were by far the most in a single season for the Monarchs, marking more than MU had won in its first two seasons combined, and Nedbalski's senior class was largely responsible for such a meteoric rise.

After opening the season with a 21-2 loss to reigning National Champion and top-ranked Salisbury, an unquestioned behemoth in the world of collegiate lacrosse, the Monarchs reeled off wins in each of their next seven games. The win streak, the longest in school history, featured a come-from-behind, 16-11 win over Brevard in which Kyle Clarkson set the program's single-game scoring record with 10 points on five goals and five assists. A 12-7 win over Marymount was followed by the largest win in terms of margin of victory (21) and goals scored (25) as MU dismantled Oglethorpe 25-4. Two more wins on its home turf preceded a pair of wins in Florida on the team's first spring break trip.

Methodist opened play in the Sunshine State with a 14-6 win over Alvernia before a thrilling 13-12 OT win over eventual NCAA qualifier Misericordia. Sophomore goalkeeper Jackson Bingham made a program-record 18 saves in the contest as MU won the first overtime game in program history, and it was Jake Smerka, one of Nedbalski's initial recruits and the program's all-time leading scorer (198 points), that provided the game-winning tally.

A shorthanded Monarch team dropped a hard-fought 9-5 contest before responding with four more wins in succession. Methodist's last loss of the season was an excruciating 11-10 loss

at future USA South Conference member Pfeiffer. Two more wins, including a 17-6 win over Piedmont, closed out the regular season prior to the Southeast Independent Lacrosse Conference (SEILC) tournament.

MU, by virtue of its 4-0 record against the rest of the SEILC, entered as the tournament's top seed and breezed past Piedmont, 21-2, in the tournament's semifinal round to set up a rematch of the 2016 title game against Ferrum.

The Panthers had won the two meetings between the teams in 2016, including the SEILC Championship, but Methodist has exacted some revenge with a 16-13 win in the 2017 regular season. In this year's title game, a 7-1 run by the Monarchs over the second and third quarters propelled MU to a 15-10 win and a final record of 15-3 on the season.

Needing an at-large bid to continue play in the NCAA Championships, MU had to wait nearly two weeks after its final contest for the NCAA selection process to be completed and the field revealed. One of five teams in the mix for just three possible at-large bids, the Monarchs were left out of the postseason field.

Despite not making the postseason field, the accomplishments of the team over the past four years cannot be diminished. Five players reached the 100-point threshold for their careers, including Smerka (198), Clarkson (108), and fellow seniors Jay Robinson (101) and Chris Lombardi (114), while junior Matt Layden closed out his third season with 100 points on the nose.

Nedbalski was named the SEILC Coach of the Year, Smerka was the Offensive Player of the Year, and Clarkson, Robinson, John Tartline, and Daniel Richards were also named all-conference. Despite the loss of such a large and impactful group of athletes, the Methodist men's lacrosse team has served notice that they aren't going away any time soon.



MU's Davion Ayabarreno

## Monarch men's basketball team climbs from worst to first

When the men's basketball preseason poll came out in late October, Methodist's team garnered little attention as the Monarchs were picked 11th out of 11 teams in the USA South Athletic Conference's annual survey of league coaches.

Following a slow start to the season, it appeared that the Monarchs had been selected appropriately as MU boasted a record of just 1-5 through six games. However, a 73-54 win at Washington and Lee was the start of a 9-1 stretch over its next 10 games, as MU improved to 10-6 overall and 4-1 in conference play following a 91-85 win over William Peace.

Junior Davion Ayabarreno ranked among the league's most dynamic scorers, scoring 20 or more points in a game five times, including a career-high 39 in a win over St. Andrews. Junior Jackson Whitley became a force to be reckoned within the paint, averaging a double-double of 12.3 points and 10.0 rebounds to that point while far and away leading the conference in blocks. Additionally, a pair of fresh faces, transfers Rae Hall and Bryan Rouse, had begun to mesh in their new surroundings and to inject a certain intensity into the program.

Hall ranked as the team's second-leading scorer and had eclipsed the 20-point mark on three occasions, while Rouse was also averaging double figures and had a pair of 20-point games to his credit.

After the 9-1 stretch, MU traded tough losses with tight wins as an 89-84 loss to Greensboro was followed by an 81-79 overtime win over Ferrum as Hall broke a 79-79 tie with nine seconds left in the extra session for a two-point win. A 79-74 loss at N.C. Wesleyan was then answered with a 75-63 win over LaGrange, which moved the Monarchs to 12-8 for the season and 6-3

in the conference. The Monarchs avenged their earlier loss to Greensboro with a 92-90 overtime win on the Pride's home court, getting 33 points from Ayabarreno and 23 points, 10 rebounds, and three blocks from Whitley to remain near the top of the USA South standings. A 79-71 win at Ferrum came next, but the Monarchs' hopes of playing host in the conference tournament as the league's top seed took a hit as road losses at William Peace and Piedmont, followed by a win at N.C. Wesleyan to close out the regular season, left the Monarchs in a three-way tie for first place in the regular season.

Despite getting picked last to start the season, and being written off by every coach in the league, the Monarchs had played to a record of 15-10 and a conference record of 9-5, earning a share of the conference's regular season title and the conference tournament's No. 3 seed.

The Monarchs dispatched Greensboro in the conference quarterfinals, taking the rubber match between the teams, 93-75, behind 26 points and 16 rebounds from Ayabarreno. In the semifinals, it was Ayabarreno leading the way once again as MU toppled Maryville, 83-73, to advance to the championship game with an automatic NCAA Tournament bid on the line. LaGrange proved to be too much for MU in finals, stifling the Monarchs in the second half and pulling away for a 75-56 win, denying MU its first NCAA appearance since 2005.

Four of MU's five starters return in 2017-18, including four of MU's top five scorers. With all-conference honorees Ayabarreno and Whitley leading the way, the odds of MU being picked to finish last in the coming season appear to be remote at best.

## Monarch track team fields national qualifiers



Erran Greene



Chelsea Johnson

The Methodist men's and women's track and field teams each made significant strides in 2017. Devoid of an All-American performance since 2012, the Monarchs hauled in three All-American awards this season, one during the indoor season and two during the outdoor campaign. And good things are still on the horizon as each All-American and NCAA qualifier the Monarchs boasted this year was a freshman.

Chelsea Johnson served notice in the indoor season. After transferring in at the semester, the freshman managed to qualify for the 60m at the NCAA Indoor Track and Field Championships with a time of 7.78. Seeded 12th in the prelims, Johnson improved her time with a mark of 7.70. In the finals, Johnson raced to a sixth-place finish with a time of 7.71 and became MU's first All-American of any gender since 2012.

The outdoor season yielded many of the same results as the indoor season, with three athletes qualifying for the National Championships and two bringing home All-American honors. An early-season time of 11.99 in the 100m held up as Jovani Culver qualified for the National Championships. Johnson, looking for

her second NCAA appearance, needed a late-season time of 11.98 to qualify in the same event, while Erran Greene posted a time of 47.90 in the men's 400m to qualify as the No. 12 seed for the championships.

Johnson and Greene each ran solid prelim times to qualify for the finals in their respective events. In the finals, Greene ran a time of 47.73 and finished in seventh place to earn All-American honors. Johnson managed to repeat her All-American performance from the indoor season by posting a time of 11.90 in the 100m and finishing in eighth place. Greene became MU's first male track & field All-American since 2011.

Culver and Johnson are freshman, while Greene is just a sophomore. Add in All-Region performances from junior Tony Taylor (400m hurdles/4x400m relay), sophomore Daniel Fisher (long jump/4x400m relay), and sophomore Kelsey Stonehocker (shot put), and the Monarchs have a core of athletes who have the potential to become mainstays at the NCAA Championship meets for years to come.

## Lacrosse and tennis spotlight senior athlete awards



Jake Smerka

Men's lacrosse player Jake Smerka and women's tennis player Sam Munze were named the University's top senior student-athletes at Methodist's annual Spring Convocation.

Smerka, a member of the first-ever senior class of the men's lacrosse team, leaves the program as the Monarchs' all-time leading

scorer and most decorated player. He wrapped up his career with a whopping 198 points on 139 goals and 59 assists as MU played to a 35-30 record in its first four seasons. He led the team in goals scored each of his last three years, including a career-best 49 as a junior. In 2017, he finished sixth nationally with 12 man-up goals and scored a total of 47 goals with a career-high 22 assists. He also added 104 ground balls in his career and was named the



Sam Munze

Southeast Independent Lacrosse Conference's Offensive Player of the Year in 2017 – his third all-conference nod from the league.

Munze helped lead the Monarchs to a trio of USA South Regular Season Conference Championships, Conference Tournament Championships and

NCAA appearances. In all, while Munze was a member of the team, MU posted a record of 76-19 in dual matches. She posted an overall singles record of 64-36 with a double mark of 68-34. Twice she was named to the All-USA South First Team; she was a one-time second team selection and a one-time third team pick. Additionally, she was a four-time Methodist Scholar-Athlete and a two-time USA Academic All-Conference honoree.

## Women's golf team gets back in the groove

The women's golf team, the most decorated women's golf team in collegiate history, has been absent from the NCAA National Championships since a fifth-place finish in 2014. That's not to say that MU hasn't been successful. Despite top-15 and top-20 rankings nationally, the lack of a conference in which to play, has made MU's path to the tournament fraught with obstacles.

While the MU team was not able to get back to the tournament this season, the Monarchs' top player did gain entry to compete as an individual in the four-day tournament held in Houston, Texas. Freshman Johnna Beehner, an Honorable Mention All-America pick in her debut season, had put together one of the best seasons in recent Methodist history. Her scoring average, her three tournament wins, her number of rounds of par or better, all ranked among the best ever for the best program, so it would stand to reason that she would be invited to play with the nation's best golfers.

Beehner's play did not disappoint. Despite opening with a

79 (+7) on Tuesday, Beehner played her final nine holes in 37 (+1) after a slow start and seemed to have found her groove. Wednesday's second round saw her fire an even-par round of 72, including birdies on her first two holes as the nerves from the opening round dissipated. Thursday's action saw Beehner climb into the top 10 as she shot 75 (+3), and sat just seven shots off the lead. A final-round 77 (+5) maintained her spot in the top 10, finishing in a tie for ninth place and becoming the first MU women's golfer to card four straight rounds in the 70s at the National Championships since Jenny Sullivan in 2012.

With Beehner at the helm, and a number of other underclassmen comprising next year's team, the Monarchs should once again be bringing a full contingent of players to the NCAA Championships.



*Freshman Johnna Beehner put together one of the best seasons in recent Monarch history.*



On April 24, the Methodist University Department of Athletics held its annual awards ceremony, recognizing roughly 400 student-athletes and staff for another successful year.

The event was emceed by volleyball player Alyssa Coffey and football player Will England, who are both members of SAAC.

Each team chose a representative to come to the stage to briefly recap their respective seasons and share their most important moments from 2016-17 with their peers. Additionally, the department handed out its annual awards and recognized those individuals who helped make the past athletic year a successful one.

The evening began with the presentation of the Honorary Monarchs, given to people who show a high level of dedication and support to particular teams, the department as a whole, or as fans, benefactors, aides, and advisors. The Honorary Monarchs are chosen by staff members as a way to say thank you. This year, five individuals were recognized for their contributions to Monarch Nation. Aly McKenna was honored by the women's basketball team and SAAC, Johnnie Hyde by the football team, the baseball team honored Ron Aman, and the men's basketball team honored Brent Breedlove. The volleyball, men's lacrosse and men's basketball teams each chose to honor Dr. Jamie Robbins.

Women's tennis player Sam Munze and men's lacrosse player Jake Smerka were honored once again as the Female and Male Outstanding Senior Athletes of the Year. The duo had previously been given their awards at MU's Spring Convocation.

Nine members of the athletics staff were honored for their years of service. The nine staff members were: Head Cheerleading Coach Tameka Bright (five years), Head Track & Field Coach Roland Whiting (five years), Sports Information Director Nate Jervey (five years), Assistant Athletic Trainer Ginna Lewis (five years), Assistant Athletic Trainer Stuart Schmidt (five years), Head Men's Lacrosse Coach Zach Nedbalski (five years), Head Men's Soccer Coach Justin Terranova (15 years), Assistant Women's Basketball Coach Cheryl McNair (20 years) and Vice President and Director of Athletics Bob McEvoy (25 years).

*Nine staff members were honored for their years of service. Left to right, Justin Terranova, Zach Nedbalski, Stuart Schmidt, Ginna Lewis, Bob McEvoy, Nate Jervey, Roland Whiting and Tameka Bright. Also honored was Cheryl McNair (not pictured).*

Head Women's Basketball Coach Dee Dee Jarman was recognized as the McLean Foundation Coach of the Year for the 2015-16 athletic season. The award, which recognizes the top head coach at the University as voted on by a committee of Methodist faculty and staff, marked the first time a basketball coach, men's or women's, was honored as the Coach of the Year.

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 Eric Wilkerson.

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 former USA South Commissioner Rita Wiggs, was given to women's lacrosse player Emily Brennen and men's golfer Tyler Vincent.

The final award of the evening, the M. Elton and Jerry Hendricks Athletic Alumni Award was given to former men's soccer player Dr. Christopher MacDonald. The award is given to a graduate of Methodist who has made significant contributions to their community. A 2007 graduate of Methodist, MacDonald is currently an assistant professor in exercise and sport science at Coastal Carolina and is a head consultant for "Fit 4 Everyone."

MacDonald earned a Master's of Science in Exercise Science from Mississippi in 2009 and a Ph.D. in sport physiology from East Tennessee State in 2013.

SAAC also awarded a Community Outreach Award for the team that best exemplified the community service of a Methodist University student-athlete. The women's basketball team was honored for its civic works for a seventh consecutive year.

At the end of the night, SAAC also chose to honor Brent Breedlove and all of the athletic trainers for their hard work and dedication to the athletic department. McEvoy closed the ceremony by taking a moment to honor Head Athletic Trainer Brandon Reynolds as he transitions away from the department and into strictly an academic role with the university.



**John Gray '67**, long-time Jordan High School (Durham, N.C.) cross country and track coach, has been recognized by the N.C. High School Athletic Association with the Toby Webb Coach of the Year Award. Gray has coached every season at Jordan for the last 50 years. He continued coaching at the school even though he retired from teaching in 1996.

**Ken Evans '72** retired after 34 years of active pastoral ministry. He plans to relocate to Myrtle Beach, S.C., with his wife **Catherine Prevatte Evans '75**.



**Reid Horne '73** retired after a 43-year banking career in the Fayetteville community. Banking has been a part of his life since joining then United Carolina Bank on Nov. 1, 1973, and ultimately finding his forte in commercial loan and Real Estate lending.



**Earl Choice '77** was elected to the Hampton School District 2 (South Carolina) Board of Trustees on Nov. 8, 2016. He will serve a four-year term.



**Jeff Coghill '83** has recently published "Developing Librarian Competencies for the Digital Age" edited by himself and Roger G. Russell. It is his first edited book on librarianship and what it means to be a librarian in the digital age. He is an Assistant Professor at East Carolina University and serves as Director of Eastern AHEC Library Services and Outreach Librarian for the William E. Laupus Health Sciences Library.



**Michael Jacobs '99** was honored as one of GOLF Magazine's Top 100 Teachers in America for 2017-2018. Since its inception in 1991, GOLF Magazine's Top Teachers in America ranking has become the industry standard for teaching excellence due to the diligent selection process that GOLF Magazine employs to assemble the list.



**Stephanie Oldham Mathis '00** started a new job with Alverno Clinical Laboratories in the lab of Franciscan St. Margaret Hospital in Dyer, Ind. She previously worked in this hospital's lab (2015) and that of the now closed Lafayette, Ind. Home Hospital (2007) as a traveling/temporary agency Medical Laboratory Scientist. Stephanie's work-related travels also brought her to Colorado, Texas, Virginia, West Virginia, and New Jersey.



**Sissy Rausch '01** was named girls' basketball coach at Oak Grove High School in Davidson County, N.C.

**Ryan Fontaine '02** was named Director of Golf at Baltusrol Golf Club. Fontaine returns to Baltusrol Golf Club from Arcola Country Club, a private, member-owned golf club in Paramus, N.J., where he has been the Head Golf Professional since 2014. Earlier in his career, he served as Assistant Golf Professional for Old Sandwich Golf Club in Plymouth, Mass., The Dye Preserve in Jupiter, Fla., Red Tail Golf Club in Devens, Mass., and Binghamton Country Club in Endwell, N.Y.

**JoLie Kurtz '91** was recently named Project Manager by the Air Force over the Integrated Aircrew Ensemble project being developed by Mustang Survival. In addition, she oversees the recently awarded military contract for the United States Coast Guard drysuit project.

**Jason Britt '93** was selected as the new Artistic Director of the Cumberland Oratorio Singers in March 2017.

**Jens Klemsche '94, '07M** has been named the Director of Golf Operations at MacGregor Downs Country Club in Cary, N.C.



**Kirbie Britt Dockery '03** has been named Director of Alumni Affairs and Annual Giving at Methodist University. Dockery has been with Methodist for eight years.



**Maj. Manny Menendez '04** took command of the 759th Forward Surgical Team at Fort Bragg in April.



**Erica Williams '14** has joined the advertising department of The Fayetteville Observer and GateHouse Media Digital as a digital sales specialist. She specializes in helping businesses reach customers using the latest in audience-based solutions around social media, search engines, online display and other digital-based solutions.



**T.J. Bates '15M** has been hired as police chief for Biltmore Forest. He has spent the last 12 years serving as the assistant police chief for Granite Falls, which is about an hour east of Asheville. He has been working in law enforcement since 1996.

**Floyd Goods '03** has been appointed corporate director of Care Transition at Cape Fear Valley Health. He joined the health system in 2006 as a social worker and previously served as corporate manager of Care Transition. In his new duties, Goods will help improve patient flow at Cape Fear Valley and its partner care providers. He will also supervise Coordination of Care social workers and discharge planners at Cape Fear Valley Medical Center, Highsmith-Rainey Specialty Hospital, Hoke Hospital and Bladen County Hospital.

**Micah Vugrinec '07** was named the new Director of Golf at Highland Country Club in Fayetteville, N.C.

## SHARE YOUR NEWS

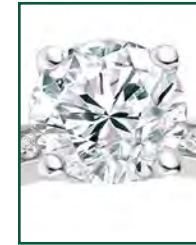
Did we miss something? We would like to hear about your personal and professional accomplishments. Send alumni announcements or corrections to Kirbie Dockery by emailing [alumnioffice@methodist.edu](mailto:alumnioffice@methodist.edu).



**Michael Mayhugh '03** announces his engagement to Cara Ratcliff. The couple is planning a June wedding in Columbus, Ohio. Michael is a PGA Professional and Cara is an intervention specialist.



**Jennifer Perez '13** is engaged to Nicholas Bagby and planning a June 30, 2018 wedding. Jennifer is an accountant for Sussman & Associates in Nashville and Nicholas is an environmental health and safety director at PTL Fabricators.



**Katie Foster '15** is engaged to **Joshua Tullege '15** and planning an Aug. 5, 2017 wedding. Katie is a teacher in Davidson County and Josh is an accountant.



**Brock White '07** announces his engagement to Natalie Cotterell. The couple is planning a Nov. 26, 2017 wedding. Brock is the PGA Golf Management Internship Director at MU and Natalie is an early childhood development teacher at Fayetteville Technical Community College.



**Krista Sweeten '13** is engaged to Jonathon Metz and planning a June 24, 2017 wedding. Krista is a teacher for the Haddonfield School District in New Jersey while Jonathon is an ABA specialist for Brancroft.



**Joseth "Joey" Horne '15** is engaged to **Kadejah Melvin '16** and planning a Dec. wedding in Harrells, N.C. Joey is a specialist in the United States Army and Kadejah is a Master of Social Work candidate at UNC-Charlotte.



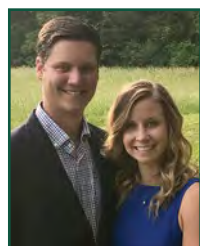
**Kaitlin Flaherty '11, '12M** is engaged to **Elliott Bisplinghoff '09** and planning an Oct. 14, 2017 wedding. Kaitlin is the head tennis professional at MacGregor Downs Country Club in Cary, N.C. and Elliott is an insurance agent at Farm Bureau in Raleigh, N.C.



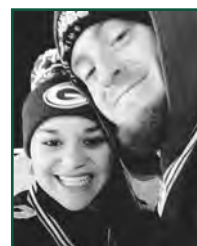
**Lacey Truelove '14** is engaged to **Christopher Carter '14**. Chris works for Carter Chevrolet in Shelby, N.C. and Lacey recently completed her second year in the MU Doctor of Physical Therapy program.



**Taylor Sluss '16** is engaged to **Jordan Vann '15** and planning a May 2018 wedding. Taylor is a graduate student at East Carolina University and Jordan is teaching at Cape Fear High School in Fayetteville.



**Robby Bruns '12** is engaged to **Emily Huneycutt '13** and planning a 2018 wedding. Robby is a PGA professional at Merion Golf Club. Emily recently graduated from Presbyterian College School of Pharmacy and is a resident at the Lebanon, Va. Medical Center.



**Aaron Fournier '14** announces his engagement to Mary Wittenburg. The couple is planning an Aug. 4, 2018 wedding. Aaron is a sales representative for Scott's Turf Equipment and Mary is a banker at Wells Fargo.

## SHARE YOUR NEWS

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





**Alison Friend Thibaut '03** and her husband Drew welcomed their daughter Lucy Alane Dec. 20, 2016. She weighed 7 lbs. 7 oz. and measured 20.5 inches. Alison is a national account manager for Illuminating Technologies.



**Tom '08** and **Zan Messer Burick '09, '11M** celebrated the birth of their daughter Dakota Ann on April 30, 2017. She weighed 6 lbs. 6 oz. and measured 21 inches. Zan is a physician assistant for Carolinas Healthcare System and Tom works for the State Employees Credit Union.



**Landon Bentham '08, '10M** and his wife Emma celebrated the birth of their son Sawyer Wesley, on Dec. 3, 2016. He weighed 8 lbs. 4 oz. and measured 21.5 inches. Landon is an insurance agent at Callahan and Rice Insurance Group.



**Caline Daun Long '09, '11M** and her husband Jeffrey welcomed their son, Brantley Joseph, Jan. 9, 2017. He weighed 6 lbs. 9 oz. and measured 20.5 inches. Caline is a physician assistant at Cape Fear Valley Medical Center in Fayetteville and Jeffrey is a current student in the MU Physician Assistant program.



**Mollie Jefferson Ferguson '08** and her husband Justin welcomed their son Justin "Gus" Wade Ferguson, Jr. Feb. 4, 2017. He weighed 8 lbs. 6 oz. and measured 20.5 inches. Mollie is a senior lease processor at First South Bank in Washington, N.C.



**Thomas Hutton '10** and his wife Alex celebrated the birth of their son Speith Anthony, on April 5, 2017. He weighed 7 lbs. 9 oz. and measured 21 inches. Thomas was recently named Executive Director of the Iowa PGA.



**Corey Johnson '08** and his wife **Leah Glazer Johnson** welcomed Josephine Claire Feb. 4, 2017. She weighed 6 lbs. 13 oz. and measured 19.25 inches. Josephine joins her big brother Jason.



**Ashley Evanich Zahn '12** and her husband Matthew welcomed their son Ryan Matthew Feb. 17, 2017. He weighed 6 lbs. 9 oz. and measured 18.5 inches. Ashley is an accountant for Evanich Accounting & Tax, LLC and serves as the girls golf coach at Minerva Local Schools.



**Barton '09** and **Kelsie Britt Bowser '09** welcomed their third child Anna Morgan March 4, 2017. She weighed 5 lbs. 7 oz. Kelsie is a teacher for Dorchester County Schools and Barton is the head golf professional at Hyatt River Marsh Golf Club in Cambridge, Md.



**Mary Scott '14** and her husband Steven celebrated the birth of their third child, Hadley Joy, April 1, 2017. Hadley weighed 7 lbs. 1 oz. and measured 21 inches. Mary is the Children's Director at ACF Church in Eagle River, Alaska.



**Michael Muldoon '00** and Lindsey Ervin were married Nov. 4, 2016 at Concord Country Club in West Chester, Pa. **Kevin Muldoon '03** and **Christopher Muldoon '03**, Michael's twin brothers, served as best men. **Terry Plank** was a groomsman. Michael is the PGA Head Golf Professional at Cavaliers Country Club and Lindsey is a teacher.



**Allie Jennings '12** married John David, Jr. Oct. 22, 2016 in Charlotte, N.C. Allie is employed by CEM Corporation in Stallings, N.C. and John works for InTown Suites.



**Jasmine Campbell '14** married **Ralph Chew '10** April 15, 2017 in Punta Cana, Dominican Republic. The wedding party included **Kenny Tien '02**. Jasmine is a bookkeeper for Hoke County Schools and Ralph is a school administrator intern for Hoke County Schools.



**Gabrielle Isaac '15** and Jonathan Allison were married March 18, 2017 at Harvest Baptist Church. **Jeremy York '13** and **Lauren Ball** and Paige Hearn were in the wedding party. Gabbie is currently the Graphic Designer and Marketing Assistant at MU and Jonathan is working for the City of Fayetteville.



**Nancy Fisher Ewing '64**, died Jan. 5, 2017. Nancy was born in 1940 in Beaver Dam Township. Her passions in life were gourmet cooking, flower and vegetable gardening, and genealogy research. She was a member, former president and newsletter editor for the Cumberland County Genealogical Society.



**Robert A. "Bob" Jones Jr. '69**, 70, passed away, Friday, Dec. 16, 2016 surrounded by his family after a brief unexpected illness. Bob was born November 7, 1946 and was a lifelong resident of Hillsborough. He retired from Orange County Government where he spent many years with the Recreation and Parks Department. Previous to his employment with the county, Bob was a volunteer coach for youth athletics, which led him to Parks and Recreation. Bob was a Mason, Shriner and a veteran of the United States Marine Corps.



**The Rev. Dr. William Arthur dePrater, III, '69** passed away Dec. 18, 2016. Born in Fayetteville, N.C. Dr. dePrater graduated from Methodist College B.A., Erskine Theological Seminary M.Div. and McCormick Theological Seminary D.Min. An 11th generation Presbyterian and descendant of Alexander MacAlister, he authored the book, "God Hovered Over the Waters, the Emergence of the Protestant Reformation." Prior to writing his book, Dr. dePrater served the Presbyterian Church, USA in multiple capacities, ranging from Minister of Word and Sacrament, executive leader, mentor, teacher, and contributing author to numerous publications. During his distinguished career, Dr. dePrater received the E.T. George Award at Union Presbyterian Seminary and an Honorary Life Membership to the Presbyterian Women organization. He was also proud to serve on multiple boards during his career including Hospice organizations and City Missions.

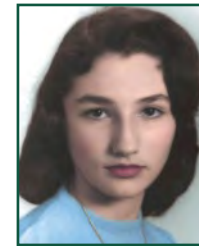
**Jeannie Cale Evans '72**, 69, of Raleigh passed away Friday, Feb. 3, 2017 at UNC Hospital in Chapel Hill. Jeannie was a teacher in Cumberland and Wake counties.



**Ann Vaughn Clark Crummie '73** passed away on May 14, 2017 at her home in Rutherfordton, N. C. Ann founded the Ann Clark School of Dance in Fayetteville where she taught, choreographed, and directed for many years. She earned a B.S. degree in Biology from Methodist College and Masters and Ph.D. degrees in psychology from North Carolina State University. She taught at several universities and was a practicing psychologist with her psychiatrist husband, Robert, before her retirement.



**Mildred Dexter-Rosell '76**, 84, died April 23, 2017. She fell in love with the piano as a girl growing up in Sampson County. She moved around as a military spouse before settling in Fayetteville. She taught piano lessons until suffering a stroke the day after her 84th birthday. Dexter-Rosell's presence in front of a piano is remembered throughout this city, from the old Officers Club on Fort Bragg to the Cape Fear Regional Theatre to The Fayetteville Symphony, The Shaminade Music Club and Community Concerts of Fayetteville, for whom she served seven years as president. She was enshrined as the 10th inductee into The Fayetteville Music Hall of Fame in 2011.



**Dolores Blanton Strickland '94**, 76, of Fayetteville, went home to be with the Lord, her mother, and older brother on Dec. 19, 2016. She was born in Winston-Salem, N.C. on August 25, 1940. She grew up in Fayetteville and graduated from Fayetteville High School in 1958. She was an inspiration to her entire family when she graduated from Methodist College with honors in 1994. Dolores worked with the Fayetteville City School System for many years and was a second grade teacher at Glendale Elementary and J.W. Seabrook Elementary.



**Adrienne Ezzell '09**, 29, of Maysville, died Dec. 10, 2016. Adrienne earned a Bachelor's degree in Sociology and a Master's degree in Higher Education.



**Dr. Janet M. Cavano**, devoted wife, mother, grandmother and great grandmother passed from this earth on Feb. 27, 2017 after a short, fierce battle with cancer. A Shakespearean scholar, Dr. Cavano devoted her life to learning, the arts, and cultivating beauty wherever she could. An English professor at Methodist College from 1966-1985, she also taught at Fayetteville High School, Fayetteville State, and North Carolina State Universities. An accomplished artist with deep ties to Fayetteville, she supported the Cape Fear Studio and the Army Daughters at Ft. Bragg. She is survived by her husband and five children including Methodist alumnus, **Jeffrey Cavano '80**.



**Dr. Elizabeth Belford Horan**, who retired from the Methodist University faculty as a professor of education in 2012, passed away May 18, 2017 at the age of 71 in Winter Haven, Fla. She began teaching at Methodist in 1994 as an associate professor of education, and was awarded tenure in 2000.

Belford Horan was the advisor for Kappa Delta Pi, the international honor society in education. She was also a Rotary Paul Harris Fellow, and was the first woman president of the Fayetteville Rotary Club.

Originally from Ohio, Belford Horan attended and taught at numerous colleges across the United States, including Ohio Northern, St. Mary of the Springs, Michigan, Ohio University, Memphis State, Coastal Carolina College, University of Arkansas, and St. Andrews Presbyterian College, and also taught at St. Dominic's School for Boys before coming to Methodist.



Parmigiano cheese maturing in warehouse  
Photo by Udo Schröter at Flickr.com



Duomo Cathedral  
Photo by Sergio Conti at Flickr.com



Photo credit: corporate.ferrari.com



#### DAVID "BUD" K. TAYLOR JR.

Longtime trustee and alumnus David "Bud" K. Taylor Jr. '68 passed away May 25 at the age of 72 in Fayetteville. In his honor, the University's flags were lowered to half-staff at news of his death.

Taylor was the owner of D.K. Taylor Oil Company, a business started by his father in 1932. He graduated from Methodist in 1968 with a bachelor's degree in business administration.

From 1993 to 2012, Taylor served on the Methodist Board of Trustees, after which he was given trustee emeritus status and continued to support the university. During his time on the board, he was active on a number of committees and

contributed generously to a number of University campaigns.

Taylor was also a member of the board of directors for Branch Banking and Trust for 41 years and served as its advisory board chairman. He was an active member of Hay Street United Methodist Church in Fayetteville and an honorary member of First United Methodist Church and regularly attended Ocean View Baptist Church, both in Myrtle Beach, S.C.

Taylor is survived by his wife of 29 years, Deborah Blackmon Taylor; two daughters, Jennie and Sally; and three grandchildren.

# Ferrari, Fellini, and Food

**Fast machines, fabulous film, and fine food**

**May 6-15, 2018 | Emilia-Romagna Region: Bologna, Dozza, Rimini, and Milan**

**Experience the food and culture of Italy with an MU program designed for alumni and friends!**

#### Bologna

Enjoy a guided tour of the gastronomic capital of Italy and one of the best-preserved medieval centers in Europe. Visit the Ducatti Museum, take an excursion to Modena, and tour a dairy that produces the local Parmigiano cheese. Enjoy samples from a pasta factory, and go through the Ferrari Museum. See the UNESCO World Heritage site of Ferrara, the Castello Estense, and a Romanesque cathedral.

#### Rimini

First, stop in the Republic of San Marino, then go on to the seaside resort at Rimini, the home of Italian film director Federico Fellini. Tour the historic old town that dates to Roman times and spend an afternoon enjoying the extensive beach area, which includes the Grand Hotel Rimini featured in many Fellini films.

#### Dozza Area

In the Emilia-Romagna region, view the Fortress of Dozza and taste some wine at the local Enoteca Regionale.

#### Milan

See the Duomo cathedral, shop in the Galleria, and tour the opera house La Scala. Wrap up your journey with a farewell dinner.

In addition, join us on campus prior to the trip for a lecture on the culture and history of the region, a Fellini film showing, and a dinner featuring foods of the area we will be touring.

For more information, contact Senior Director of Development Bill Dudley at 910.480.8519 or wdudley@methodist.edu.

*Trip package will include twin accommodations, round-trip air transportation, eight breakfasts, four dinners, and activities and transportation fee. Registration deposits are due by Sept. 1, 2017.*

# 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 longtime resident, it's never too late to start attending regional events.



Alumni and friends gather in Swansboro, N.C. for a Bringing MU to You event.



Joey and Doreen Saunders, parents of Austin Saunders '17, and Dr. Ben Hancock in Swansboro.



Left, Darrell Pinkney, father of freshman Bryson Pinkney, and Ed Williams '69 during the Swansboro event.

Bringing MU To You highlights soccer alumni games.



Brooke Corley '13 takes on two MU women's soccer players.

## Schedule of upcoming events:

**July 21 | Fayetteville, N.C.**

*SwampDogs Baseball*

**Aug. 15 | Greensboro, N.C.**

**Aug. 29 | Richmond, Va.**

**Sept. 14 | Fayetteville, N.C.**

**Sept. 21 | Raleigh, N.C.**

**Oct. 27-28 | Fayetteville, N.C.**

*Homecoming*

**Nov. 7 | Charlotte, N.C.**

**Nov. 8 | Atlanta, Ga.**

**2018**

**Jan. 24 | Orlando, Fla.**

*PGA Show*

**Feb. 5 | Washington, D.C.**

**Feb. 27 | Fayetteville, N.C.**

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).