On the journey together

SBU’s story continues to be told through service and a shared vision of its future.
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@wheelerwc93  It’s always a privilege to return home to @SBUniv and visit one of Missouri’s truly beautiful campuses. Congratulations Dr. Turner on your inauguration, SBU is blessed for your leadership, integrity, and passion. #BearcatRoar

being able to go sit outside and freely worship our Savior with some great pals is one of the many reasons why I love #SBUniv

@hannahlutz  I just want everyone to know that President Turner called the girl in line in front of me BY NAME and then questioned my intelligence when I asked for no gravy tonight at breakfast. I chose that line for YOU, Dr. Turner. At least he has a sense of humor #SBUniv @SBUniv

I love going to a school where professors and students come together to pray for people going out on missions! We are all children of God! @SBUniv

I’m very excited to have started my first year of college at the same time as our new president! I look forward to my time at SBU with Dr. Turner as my President!!! #sbuniv
Dear Alumni and Friends,

We have accomplished a great deal together during my first year at Southwest Baptist University, but there is still much work to be done as we shape our story together.

First, thank you for welcoming our family into the SBU family with open arms. We are indeed grateful for the Lord bringing us to this special place. The Presidential Inauguration on April 26 was undoubtedly a special time for my family and me. The most significant part, however, of the ceremony is the reminder of our strength as an academic community and the continuity of our enduring values.

Southwest Baptist University has all the ingredients for continued success and growth: a strong legacy of Christ-centered education, a compelling mission, robust and distinctive academic programs, the identity of a Southern Baptist university, and a talented faculty and staff who model a Christlike commitment to our students and our world. We live like we believe.

In my inauguration address, I asked the entire SBU community to work together in shaping new stories for the SBU narrative. This narrative is becoming a fairly large volume rich with 141 years of stories, opportunities and challenges.

During the past 14 decades, SBU alumni have used their biblical worldview education to make a difference around the world. Missionaries, pastors, nurses, doctors, social workers, accountants, physical therapists, business leaders, church musicians, coaches, teachers – caring Bearcats changing the world.

The SBU story is enhanced through the partnership of thousands of alumni, donors and friends like you who have faithfully supported this University for decades, and in whose confidence and trust we rely upon as we engage the next chapter of SBU.

As we write our new chapter, we will build upon our vibrant faith community expressed in prayer and practice. Our identity as a Southern Baptist university calls us to educate the whole person and to remember the tending of our spirit is part of personal development.

We are a dynamic learning community, embracing new opportunities and challenges as we prepare students and the University for the future, and it is imperative we conserve the core values that have sustained this University for generations.

I ask you to join me on the journey. To work together. To dream together. To ask the Lord together. To ask and pray expectantly and be energized by our vision to achieve the transformation our mission promises. Thank you for your continued support of SBU.

Shaping our story together,

Eric A. Turner
President | ROMANS 10:15
Southwest Baptist University celebrated the inauguration of Eric A. Turner, Ed.D., as its 25th president in a ceremony Friday, April 26, in Mabee Chapel on the Bolivar campus.
“I know that SBU is a place of Kingdom focus. What I know about Eric Turner is that he, too, is Christ-centered; that he, too, is deeply caring; that he is a man of rich compassion and exemplifies the spirit of a servant leader. For years, the undeniable call in his life has been to lead in Christian higher education.

And so, it is no mistake that today you formalize what God has delegated.”

ERIC MOFFETT
pastor of First Baptist Church, Pocahontas, Ark.
“As your president, I commit to you today and every day, to serve our mission with all I have to offer: faith, integrity and love. You have my fearless and faithful promise of resolve to all SBU is today and all she will be in the future. I ask you to join me on the journey—

to work together—
to dream together—
to ask the Lord together

rooted in our core values, energized by our vision to achieve the transformation our mission promises.”

DR. ERIC A. TURNER
president of Southwest Baptist University
Art always had been a hobby for Lexi Haley, but in high school she realized that art could be her full-time job.

She was commissioned to paint six murals for local schools and businesses around Lebanon, Mo., and was hired to do speed paintings for parties. Haley knew she wanted to have a full-time career in art, so she began looking into different colleges. She was drawn to SBU for its Christian atmosphere and great art program.

In September 2018, Haley, a general art and psychology major from Lebanon, placed second in SBU’s Variety Show with her speed painting of Jesus. This event launched Haley as an artist at SBU.

Around the time of Haley’s speed painting, Grant Teichmeier, Student Association Campus Improvement Chair at SBU, visited Kansas City and was inspired by the iconic murals. He dreamed of creating a mural for students to enjoy, take selfies with, and be seen for years to come.

He proposed the idea of an SBU mural in a Student Association (SA) meeting with the purposes of showcasing an SBU artist, marketing promotion, and to have an iconic spot on campus. The idea moved from Student Association to the Marketing Department and Student Life where the idea also was widely accepted.

Haley was proposed as the artist and was unanimously selected to paint SBU’s mural.

Student Association created a list of major components that needed to be included in the mural: faith, the bell tower, the globe and athletics. Over the course of a month, SA voiced its vision to Haley, who would bring their ideas to life through sketches. The sketches
traveled through SA, Student Life, Admissions and SBU President Dr. Eric A. Turner, for the seal of approval. The sketches were narrowed down before Easter break, so Haley could begin painting immediately upon returning from break.

SA set the unveiling date for April 23, 2019, the week of Dr. Turner’s inauguration. This deadline gave Haley three weeks to complete the mural; however, her timeline was shortened due to rain. Many nights, Haley could be found under a tarp, shielding her work from the rain, with a flashlight and paintbrush in hand.

Prior to the ribbon cutting, Haley revealed the mural to the Turner family. Haley reflected on what it was like showing the mural to Dr. Turner and his family.

“It’s always nice seeing other people enjoy what I’ve made and created,” Haley said.

Teichmeier believes that the ribbon-cutting event set the tone for the inauguration week.

“The turnout was amazing,” Techmeier said of the event, which hosted more than 100 students, faculty, staff and community members for the ribbon-cutting and reception. “That really set in the students’ minds that this was a big event on campus.”

Teichmeier hopes to work with Haley in the future, whether that be in SBU projects or in personal projects. (He has asked Haley to paint a mural in his family’s home.)

“Lexi is so talented in her ability to take the words we are speaking and interpret, visualize and make it into a medium,” he said.

Haley’s favorite thing about the mural is that “people come and take pictures in front of it and post on social media,” fulfilling Teichmeier’s ultimate goal for the mural.

Haley said, “I love SBU because it is a Christian environment where I can be myself.”
Last October, SBU embarked on a new strategic planning process. Our current plan, the Pathways for Success, has been guiding the University for the last decade. As we approach the institution’s sesquicentennial celebration in 2028, it is time for us to further cast the SBU vision.

Hundreds of employees, students, alumni, trustees, and friends of the University participated in listening sessions, providing ideas and insight on what should change about SBU and what should never change about SBU. Thank you for caring for SBU and sharing your thoughts! Your voice helped us to identify the most significant messages: the mission, vision, core values, and goals.

In April, the Strategic Planning Team presented the initial draft of the strategic plan to the Board of Trustees. This included the following:

- Reaffirm our mission: Southwest Baptist University is a Christ-centered, caring academic community preparing students to be servant leaders in a global society.

- Revise our vision statement: Southwest Baptist University will be the exemplar Christian university, providing a transformative and holistic educational experience.

- Reaffirm our six core values: Christian Distinctiveness, Baptist Heritage, Compassion and Care for the SBU Family, Academic Excellence, Social and Spiritual Development, and Personal Wellness.

- Establish new strategic goals.

The mission, vision, core values, and goals that emerged from the first half of the strategic planning process will inform the next half – as they are applied across the expanse of the University. Each individual, department, and unit across the University is working together to collectively fulfill the mission, vision, and goals, in a way that reflects our core values. Through this, we are writing strategic objectives, creating action plans, and establishing measurements and benchmarks for success. This involves everyone in the University and is really the heart of the process.

Since Dr. Turner launched the Strategic Planning Team last October, we have led SBU through the first half of the planning process. As the “real” work of the plan spreads across the University, we are excited to see the vision unfold. From expanding our global impact to creating a culture of excellence, we look forward to fulfilling the vision of providing a transformative and holistic educational experience.

Sincerely,

Allison Langford  
Vice President for Strategic Planning and Initiatives
CONSTRUCTION AHEAD: Facilities master plan will guide updates to the campus presence

BY CHARLOTTE HIGHSMITH MARSCH ’97

Southwest Baptist University is planning for the future, and a facilities master plan will help the University to update its physical presence through a strategic process.

The plan will provide long-range planning for architecture, land use, space use, landscape, parking and utilities.

“As the strategic plan builds out objectives for new programs or growth in student numbers, the facilities master plan can address the physical needs to support the planned programs or growth,” said Tara Parson ’03, SBU’s vice president of administration and chief financial officer. “It’s my goal that the process helps us create a campus presence that reflects the high quality of our academic programs. I believe matching the two will help recruitment. It also will help us better define the SBU brand or look.”

SBU sent out a Request for Qualifications early this year for a qualified full-service architectural and engineering firm. After considering several firms, SBU chose N-Form Architecture in Springfield. N-Form will develop a master plan for all campuses and provide comprehensive professional architectural and engineering services for future projects and on-call needs.

“N-Form proposed ways to enhance the exterior of our buildings and campus grounds that resonated with us,” Parson said. “The look of the enhancements elevated our existing style. They seemed relatively affordable yet impactful and included changes that we were surprised we hadn’t already thought of making.”

N-Form also is the architectural firm for College of the Ozarks, having completed a facilities master planning project for C of O in 2015, as well as a dormitory study.

“Those were significant selling points since they’ve done for another university the work that we need,” Parson said.

Robbie Bryant, SBU physical plant director, added that N-Form believes in SBU’s mission and vision.

“I believe that this will be reflected in the service that they will provide,” he said.

A campus walkthrough in May kicked off the project, with the priority being recommendations for low-cost, high-impact renovations. However, upcoming projects won’t be determined until the University-wide strategic plan is completed this fall.

“We want to use the strategic plan as a tool to guide the facilities master planning process,” Bryant said. “This is to ensure a pragmatic, forward-focused, mission-minded approach to future facilities projects.”

Facilities master planning was one of the initiatives presented by SBU President Dr. Eric A. Turner in his inauguration address in April.

“This is an outgrowth of our broader planning effort,” he said. “It is important for our physical space to reflect the transformational and holistic educational experiences realized here.”
The life of a college student-athlete is nothing short of challenging. There is the academic schedule – classes, studying, papers, assignments, tests, projects – and the athletic schedule – offseason workouts, in-season workouts, practices, games and travel.

And, somewhere in the midst of that schedule, sleeping and eating must be worked in.

But that is the life that both Morgan (Henderson) ’19 and Andy Campbell ’19 chose early on.

**AN EARLY LOVE FOR SPORTS**

Morgan grew up with two older brothers who were involved in sports and an aunt who was a basketball coach. Andy’s dad played college football, and his older brother and sister played multiple sports, “so I spent my childhood traveling around to watch them play,” he said.

Growing up in sports-crazy households, Morgan and Andy each knew they wanted to continue to compete in sports on the college level.

“It’s easy in southwest Missouri as you watch great basketball growing up,” said Morgan, who decided in middle school that she wanted to play in college.

“I’ve wanted to play college sports for as long as I can remember, but I didn’t think I was going to play basketball,” Andy said. “Baseball was my best and favorite sport for most of my life. Basketball was just a sport I played until high school when my coach took a real interest in developing me as both a player and a person.”
THE ROAD TO SBU

Their basketball paths, and the desire to grow in their faith, led both Morgan and Andy to Southwest Baptist University in Bolivar.

“The coaching staff is great,” Morgan said. “I love the color purple, it’s close to home [Buffalo] and it’s a small school with great professors. I wanted to learn how to grow as a servant of Christ.”

“Coach Clark Sheehy was really good to me during the recruiting process and made me feel right at home at SBU,” Andy said. “I knew this school was a place I could grow spiritually, and that meant a lot to me.”

THE BALANCING ACT

Trying to balance the responsibilities in the classroom and on the court (or field) is a daily grind for college student-athletes; it takes a lot of discipline and cooperation.

“I like to think I excel at time management, but I still had many late nights, studying on the bus, and early mornings,” Morgan said.

“Thankfully, I had great professors and coaches who both understood and supported the opposite field.”

“College athletics is very demanding and so is school,” Andy said. “I’ve spent many sleepless nights bouncing back and forth between study hall and the gym trying to make sure I get my shots up while also being prepared for big tests.

“SBU is a unique place, though, and I’m extremely thankful for my teachers and coaches who encouraged me to excel in both areas of my life.”

Both Morgan and Andy have excelled in the classroom and on the basketball court, while also serving on the mission field.

They each graduated in May 2019 with bachelor of science degrees in biology – one week after getting married! – and will be attending medical school in the fall at the University of Arkansas Medical Sciences in Little Rock. Before that, they will be leading a mission trip to the Ukraine this summer. Over Spring Break, they served with a mission team that traveled to Colombia.

“Colombia was great,” Morgan said. “We worked with missionaries to help jump-start their ministries by sharing the good news of Christ in the community. We also spent a lot of time at the elementary schools loving on the kids and teaching them English via Bible stories, and even helped the local church with some painting and maintenance projects.

“We’re going to be helping with an English camp and sharing the Gospel with that platform in the Ukraine. We are so excited.”

REX BROWN AWARD RECIPIENTS

With a commitment to excellence in academics and athletics, and hearts to serve, Morgan and Andy were named the 2019 Rex Brown Award recipients.

The Rex Brown Award is the highest award given to SBU’s student-athletes. Each year, the award is presented to one female and one male senior student-athlete, who has exhibited strong Christian character, academic achievement, leadership qualities, and has had a major impact on their sport.

“Andy and Morgan represented the Bearcats well during their careers,” said SBU Athletic Director Mike Pitts ’85, ’10. “They were...
leaders as they played, as they studied, and as they impacted our community. I remember listening to both of them speak at our 6th Man Club Luncheons – they really represent everything we want to see in the lives of our student-athletes.”

The award is named in honor of Dr. Rex Brown, who served as AD at SBU for more than 25 years, leading Bearcat Athletics from the junior college ranks to the NAIA and into NCAA Division II competition. Dr. Brown was the baseball coach from 1970-75 and chair of SBU’s health and physical education department.

SBU men’s basketball coach Clark Sheehy said he was thrilled that Andy was named a Rex Brown Award recipient.

“He has been a really good example in his four years of a committed student-athlete,” Sheehy said. “His involvement in spiritual growth on campus and in our community has been so positive for our program and school. We are very happy for him and excited about his future.”

And, women’s basketball coach Kelsey Keizer ’13 expressed her admiration for the example Morgan is to everyone around her.

“I feel so blessed to have coached Morgan during her four-year career at SBU,” Keizer said. “Her work ethic was always excellent, but what stood out more to me was the joy she brought to our team. I have never experienced a player who had so much respect and admiration from her teammates.

“Morgan exemplified what we define as true success within SBU Athletics. I have always been impressed with her commitment to sharing the joy of Jesus with anyone she comes across. Her personality is radiant, and I know it will continue to shine in her medical career. I am so excited to continue to cheer her and Andy on in their journey through life.”

Morgan and Andy acknowledge that they have not achieved the honors they have received on their own.

“I’m so grateful,” Morgan said. “Being a collegiate athlete was difficult, but the Lord gave me the strength to persevere when I wanted to quit. This award reminds me of His faithfulness in all the little moments and now I look back and realize for four years He carried me. My time at SBU was so sweet, and this award is so appreciated.”

“It’s really humble to say the least,” Andy said. “Morgan and I worked really hard to be the best we could be on the court and in the classroom, while also trying to live in a way that glorifies the Lord. We were so blessed to meet each other and to challenge each other in every aspect of our life, but especially in our walks with the Lord. We’ve had many long talks trying to encourage one another to keep pushing, keep fighting, or keep leaning on the Lord, and now to receive an award for staying the course is a huge honor.”

2018-19 ATHLETIC HONORS

BASEBALL HONORS
Caleb Sneed ’18 – ABCA/Rawlings 1st team; ABCA/Rawlings 3rd team All-American; NCBWA 1st team; D2CCA 1st team All-Region; All-MIAA 1st team; broke SBU career hits record with his 240th hit on April 12; Hunter Hisky – ABCA 2nd team; NCBWA 2nd team; D2CCA 2nd team All-Region; All-MIAA 1st team; Dalton Morrow – Threw first no-hitter in SBU program history; All-MIAA 2nd team; MIAA Pitcher of the Week (April 2 and Feb. 13); Sam Avila – All-MIAA 3rd team; Kyle Smith – All-MIAA Honorable Mention; Jackson Soule – All-MIAA Honorable Mention

TENNIS HONORS
Adham Gaber – ITA All-American, ranked 11th in the nation in singles, MIAA Freshman of the Year, All-MIAA 1st Team No. 2 Singles and 2nd Team No. 1 Doubles, ITA Central Region Rookie of the Year; Jill Van den Dungen – ITA All-American, ranked third in the nation in singles, ranked 11th in doubles, All-MIAA Honorable Mention, ITA Central Region Arthur Ashe Leadership & Sportsmanship Award, ITA Central Region Player to Watch; Constanza Crespo – ITA All-American; Marcel Castello Monsech ’19 – ITA Central Region Arthur Ashe Leadership & Sportsmanship Award; Raul Caballero Rodriguez ’19 – ITA Central Region Most-Improved Senior, All-MIAA 2nd Team No. 1 Doubles and Honorable Mention No. 1 Singles; Gyorgy Agoston ’19 – ITA Central Region Senior Player of the Year, All-MIAA 1st Team No. 3 Singles and No. 2 Doubles; David Szeri – All-MIAA 1st Team No. 4 Singles and No. 3 Doubles; Carlos Corser – All-MIAA 1st Team No. 5 Singles and No. 3 Doubles; Ferenc Agoston – All-MIAA 1st Team No. 2 Doubles; Omar El Kheshen – Wilson/ITA Men’s Coach of the Year [Central Region]; Fanni Varga ’15, ’17 – MIAA Coach of the Year

WOMEN’S BASKETBALL HONORS
Caylee Richardson ’19 – All-MIAA 3rd Team; Laura Vierkant ’19 – All-MIAA Honorable Mention

ACADEMIC HONORS
Bearcats receive academic awards: The MIAA office announced on June 14 the Academic Honors for the Spring of 2019. Southwest Baptist had 85 athletes receive those honors. In addition, 45 SBU freshmen and transfer student-athlete newcomers received MIAA academic awards.

The Great Lakes Valley Conference announced the 2018-19 Academic Award recipients, with the SBU football team claiming 24 individual honors.
ANDRAS BORI ’04 / TENNIS

ITA NCAA D-II National Champion in doubles in 2002 (with fellow SBU Hall of Famer Mark Eori)

Finished top four in 2003

Received All-American honors in 2002 and 2003

All-MIAA all three years in both singles and doubles

Received ITA Scholar Athlete honors all three years

Named 2002 Division II North Central Region ITA Rookie of the Year


Bori’s doubles partner, Mark Eori ’04, also is a member of the SBU Athletics Hall of Fame

Andras is currently working in a program management career, including stops with Yahoo, Citrix and Adobe

TINA (RUBLE) HELM ’91 / SOFTBALL

SBU softball record holder for career batting average and slugging percentage

Won 1989 MIAA MVP Award after hitting an all-time SBU season record .419 batting average

Only softball player in SBU history to be named to the All-MIAA First Team three times in their career

Ranks in the top 10 all time in school history in nine different statistical categories

Honored in 2018 as part of the Missouri Sports Hall of Fame’s Diamond 9, which recognizes top baseball and softball players at all levels for positive impacts on the game

A multi-sport athlete for Lebanon High School

Retired as a principal for Waynesville School District after working in education for 25 years

GLENN STANLEY ’87-92 / BASKETBALL

SBU career record holder in field goal percentage and rebounds

Second all-time at SBU in scoring and field goals made

Shares SBU’s single game scoring record with two others at 40 points

Also holds SBU career and season records for free throw attempts

MIAA Newcomer of the Year in 1989

NCAA First Team All-Region in 1990

Two-time member of All-MIAA First Team

Key starting member of Bearcat men’s basketball’s only appearance in NCAA D-II Elite Eight, alongside fellow SBU Athletics Hall of Fame members Ernest ‘Mudo’ Hall and coach Jerry Kirksey

Had tryout with the NBA’s Atlanta Hawks and later played professionally overseas for several seasons.
IT’S JUST A JOY TO SERVE THE LORD
Duckworths serve through food ministry, pay it forward to SBU students

BY CHARLOTTE HIGHSMITH MARSCH ’97

Dan ’78 and Marylin Duckworth saw a need to help feed people in the community where Dan has pastored since 1977 at Rocky Mount Baptist Church in rural Eldon, Mo. A food pantry that began in the basement of the small rural church 22 years ago now has its own 6,400-square-foot facility. Visions Unlimited Food Pantry works with the Food Bank for Northeast and Central Missouri in Columbia to distribute food within a four-county area to about 1,000 people each month.

“The Lord has opened the door for us to have quite a ministry,” said Dan, who was a 2018 recipient of SBU’s Life Service Award.

Perhaps what brings them the greatest joy is sharing the story of God’s faithfulness that is evident in nearly every inch of the food pantry facility:

• A grant paid for the building, concrete and pipes for the floor heat.
• A crane service company provided volunteer labor.
• A cement finisher volunteered his crew’s labor.
• Many of the kitchen fixtures and equipment were donated, including a refurbished double oven that was exactly what Marylin had dreamed of having for the kitchen space that is used for preparing meals for volunteers.

And the list goes on.

“Most of the stuff we have has been donated to us,” Dan said. “We make use of everything we have.”

And they often wonder what the Lord has in store next for Visions Unlimited.

“He said I’m going to give you everything. The building. Food. Volunteers,” Marylin said. “All you have to do is put it all together.”

They also take any opportunity they can to visit with people and share the Gospel with them while they are waiting to receive their food. On Wednesday nights, church members pray over the prayer requests that are left in a box at the food pantry.

Proverbs 29:18 – “Where there is no vision, the people perish” – is the inspiration for the Visions Unlimited Food Pantry and for the Proverbs 29:18 Scholarship the church established at Southwest Baptist University.

Dan began pastoring the church before graduating from Southwest Baptist College, one of four generations to attend SWBC/SBU. He wanted to establish the scholarship fund to help students who are entering the ministry graduate with a stronger financial footing.

“I remember what it was like when Marylin and I first went to Bolivar,” he said. “When we crossed the city limit sign, Marylin said, ‘I have never felt such peace in all my life.’”

“We had no home and no job, and we had two little girls,” Marylin added. “We didn’t want to leave Bolivar. We were where we needed to be.”

Marylin worked for 32 ½ years as a school secretary, and Dan has been self-employed in construction – skills that have come in very handy for the many construction projects he has completed inside the Visions Unlimited building.

“We do it because we love the Lord,” Dan said. “It’s just a joy to serve the Lord.”
Southwest Baptist University will offer two new chemistry majors starting with the Fall 2019 semester. Bachelor’s degrees in biochemistry and forensic chemistry provide more options for students.

“We are always exploring new majors that are market relevant and will give students more options after graduation,” said SBU Provost Dr. Lee Skinkle. “Students pursuing majors that prepare them for advanced professional degrees in a variety of medical fields are a significant portion of our student population, and now they have another great undergraduate option to help them pursue their ambition.”

Biochemistry focuses on the chemistry of biological reactions. It is the most-recommended major for students wanting to attend medical school. Further education in biochemistry on the graduate level would prepare a student for research careers, such as pharmaceutical or cancer research.

Forensic chemistry is a combination of chemistry and criminal justice classes that teach how to apply chemistry principles to crime scene evidence testing. Hands-on laboratory training in includes instrumental analysis and analysis of evidence. A criminal justice minor also can be added to the major. According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, jobs as forensic science technicians are expected to grow at a rate of 17 percent from 2016-2026, much faster than average for all occupations.

“Both of these majors are rigorous academic programs,” said Dr. John Patton ’99, chair of the Department of Chemistry and Physics. “Biochemistry will prepare students very well for further education, and the forensic chemistry degree will prepare students to pursue their dream of analyzing crime scene evidence.”

SBU is home to the Darrell R. Strait Center for the Integration of Science and Christian Faith. The Center focuses on equipping students to study the history and philosophy of science, Biblical hermeneutics, and the integration of science and faith. SBU believes strongly that science and Christian faith can be integrated and support each other. Students in either of these majors will take the course Chemistry Through the Eyes of Faith.

For more information about these new majors, go to SBUniv.edu or call the SBU Admissions Office at (800) 526-5859.
SBU signs agreement with OTC for transfer opportunities; partners with Culver-Stockton, Truman State for master in athletic training degree

Southwest Baptist University and Ozarks Technical Community College signed an articulation agreement to allow students to seamlessly transfer from OTC into SBU’s bachelor degree programs. The agreement was signed at the OTC Springfield Campus on June 6.

“Southwest Missouri is fortunate to have an abundance of higher education opportunities for students,” said Dr. Hal Higdon, OTC Chancellor. “Many of our students have transferred to SBU in the past to pursue bachelor’s degrees. By formalizing the relationship, we are making it a smooth transition for our students, and they can be confident that their credits will transfer.”

Southwest Baptist University in Bolivar is consistently one of the top transfer destinations for OTC students. SBU President Dr. Eric A. Turner understands the importance of making it easy for community college students to transfer into his institution.

“We know that nationally a little more than a third of all undergraduates are enrolled at community colleges, and, locally, OTC is home to thousands of students,” Dr. Turner said. “We hope that many of them become Bearcats, and we’re going to make sure it is an easy transition for them.”

This agreement will impact students pursuing an Associate of Arts at OTC. The A.A. is often referred to as a “transfer degree” because it is designed for students who plan to pursue education beyond the associate degree level.

In addition, future Southwest Baptist University sports medicine graduates will have the opportunity to pursue a master of athletic training degree, thanks to partnerships developed with both Culver-Stockton College in Canton and Truman State University in Kirksville.

“Our partnerships with both Culver-Stockton College and Truman State University give our students an avenue to a quality educational experience and preparation toward being a well-prepared Certified Athletic Trainer,” said TJ John (MA LAT CSCS TSAC-F), department chair and athletic training professor at SBU.

Beginning in the fall of 2019, SBU will offer a bachelor of science degree in sports medicine, as the university phases out its athletic training undergraduate degree. This comes as the result of a graduate degree mandate from the Commission on Accreditation of Athletic Training Education (CAATE), which is transitioning all accredited athletic training programs from the undergraduate to the graduate level across the country, starting in 2022.

Upon completion of the sports medicine degree, SBU graduates will be able to seamlessly enroll in the Culver-Stockton or Truman State master of athletic training program, as well as receive priority consideration upon application.

SBU, Culver-Stockton and Truman State have 100 percent first-time pass rates on the national Board of Certification exam for athletic trainers. Students in the Culver-Stockton or Truman State master of athletic training program will complete two years of graduate study, including a variety of clinical experiences in both athletic and hospital/clinical settings, that will hone their knowledge and skills within the Canton, Hannibal, Quincy, Ill., and Kirksville medical communities.

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SBU Department of Education hosts inaugural Literature Bowl

Southwest Baptist University’s Department of Education hosted its first SBU Literature Bowl for fourth- through sixth-grade readers in the Goodson Student Union and Gott Education Building on the Bolivar campus.

Schools and/or districts which participated in the inaugural event included: Bolivar Area Homeschool, Bolivar Intermediate School, Dallas County R-I, Polk County Christian School, Marion C. Early R-V, Weaubleau R-III and Wheatland R-II.

Once hosted by a local reading association, SBU’s Department of Education decided to keep the event going after the association disbanded.

“This was one event that I wanted to see continue, since I felt it truly encouraged students to love reading,” said Dr. Colleen Shuler ’89, instructor of education at SBU. “When I approached my colleagues, they willingly jumped on board with full support.”

SBU’s Dr. Julie Bryant ’97 [professor], Dr. Jennifer Fox ’07 [assistant professor], Dr. Tamara Samek ’04 [assistant professor] and Shuler, who prepared and organized the event, were assisted by several education students and Joy Brown ’87, secretary of the department. They plan to host the event again in 2020 with 10 new books.
During the Spring semester, Southwest Baptist University dedicated two recently renovated areas on the Bolivar campus.

**DON AND CARRIE BABB DEPARTMENT OF NURSING**

On April 4, SBU officially dedicated the Don and Carrie Babb Department of Nursing and the associated training facilities. In preparation for the pre-licensure nursing program, a capital fundraising campaign raised more than $1.1 million for renovation of the 5,372-square-foot, state-of-the-art Simulation Lab and Learning Resource Center on the Bolivar campus. SBU now has nursing programs on three of its four campuses: Bolivar, Salem and Springfield.

Citizens Memorial Hospital/Citizens Memorial Health Care Foundation contributed the lead gift of $600,000 toward funding startup costs for the program. At that time, the University named the pre-licensure Bachelor of Science in Nursing program on the Bolivar campus the Don and Carrie Babb Department of Nursing. Dr. Don Babb, who has served as CMH’s only chief executive officer, is a nationally recognized healthcare leader dedicated to improving the availability of quality healthcare in rural areas.

**RANDOLPH MEDITATION CHAPEL**

SBU celebrated the renovated Lloyd & Frances Randolph Meditation Chapel (built in 1988) and Clement Amphitheatre & Prayer Garden on May 9.

The renovation was made possible due to successfully meeting a Mabee Foundation grant challenge, and the generosity of a number of faithful donors, including a gift from Liberty Utilities – Empire District. An endowment was established, which will fund the maintenance of the facility in the future.

Renovations included new outdoor seating, replacement of concrete, a new roof, new interior paint, new exterior and interior lighting, new and refurbished landscaping, new technology and a new cross outside of the chapel, which was the inspiration of SBU alumnus Charles “Chuck” Wright ’64, and designed by Robbie Bryant, director of SBU’s physical plant.
SPEAKING BEARCATS FINISH FOURTH AT NATIONAL TOURNAMENT: Southwest Baptist University’s Speaking Bearcats finished fourth at the Pi Kappa Delta National Tournament and Convention held March 20-24, 2019, at Hofstra University, in Hempstead, N.Y.

The Speaking Bearcats proved to be among the best speech and debate programs in the nation finishing with superior awards in all sweepstakes categories – second place in individual event sweepstakes, fifth place in debate sweepstakes and fourth place in overall (combined) sweepstakes. SBU faced off against competition from 72 other colleges and universities.

The team placed first in the Bob R. Derrberry Traveling Comprehensive Sweepstakes Award. This award [named after SBU’s legendary former director of forensics, the late Dr. Bob R. Derrberry] is a cumulative traveling award comprised of points earned from the past several national tournaments.

In addition, Evan Kirksey and Marisa Mayo ’18 competed in the Interstate Oratorical competition April 26-27 at West Chester University in West Chester, Penn. Each year at the Missouri Association Forensics Activities State Championship, the original oratory competition takes place to determine Missouri’s two representatives for the Interstate Oratorical competition. For each of the past 11 years, SBU has had at least one of the two potential Interstate Oratorical qualifiers from Missouri.

ENACTUS COMPETES AT NATIONAL EXPOSITION: Southwest Baptist University Enactus recently competed in the Enactus U.S. National Exposition, finishing in the top 32 at the Kansas City Convention Center.

SBU Enactus presented on three projects it has worked on during the 2018-2019 academic year: Sentrepact – Enables high school students to engage and empower local businesses in their communities; Jumpstart – Entrepreneurship competition for SBU students; Sling N Stones – Rehabilitation center and ministry.

The presentation team included: Samantha Masters ’19, a senior marketing major from O’Fallon, Mo.; Stephen Pierce, a senior marketing major from Lee’s Summit, Mo.; Ashley Bell, a senior computer information science major from Dodgeville, Wis.; Jordan Martin, a junior international business and Christian studies major from Blue Springs, Mo.; Alexis Stout, a freshman management major from Lee’s Summit, Mo.; and Tyler Burnett, a freshman computational finance major from Wildwood, Mo.

The 2019 Enactus officers include: Jordan Martin, president; Colton Masters ’19, a senior marketing and management major from Troy, Ill., vice president of projects; and Ashley Bell ’19, vice president of operations and competition.

Project leaders are: Tyler Burnett, who leads COM; Tennessee Ervin, a freshman economics and finance major from Festus, Mo.; Sentrepact; Samantha Masters – Jumpstart; and Tyler Eads, a freshman international business and Christian studies major from Neosho, Mo. – Sling N Stones.

SBU students excel at competitions

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CIS COMPETITIVE COMPUTING TEAM: Southwest Baptist University’s top competitive programming team received a second-place ranking in Central Plains Region Programming Contest on April 6 at St. Charles Community College in Cottleville.

Twenty-eight teams from 12 universities and one community college competed at the contest. SBU’s top team – Allison Hawkins [senior from St. Joseph], Grant Jennings ’19 [senior from Joplin] and Stephen Leskowat [senior from Tulsa, Okla.] – came within 16 minutes of winning the five-hour competition, but was edged out by a team from the University of Central Missouri.

SBU’s second team – consisting of Michelle Chen [junior from Lebanon], Anna Miller [freshman from Downers Grove, Ill.] and Mathew Baldinger [freshman from Sedalia] – finished sixth place overall; SBU’s third team – Mitchell Northern [junior from Bolivar], Trey Rhodes [sophomore from Neosho] and Ben Schulz [sophomore from Omaha, Neb.] placed ninth overall.

DUTILE HONORS PROGRAM: Seven Southwest Baptist University students in the Gordon and Judy Dutile Honors Program presented at Ozarks Technical Community College’s eighth annual Honors Research Conference at OTC in Springfield.

Ilene Adair ’19, a general music major from Overland Park, Kan.; Isabela Schwarz, a biblical studies major from Bolts Summit, Mo.; Sarah Kate Fortna, an interdisciplinary studies major from Macon, Mo.; Lauren Wineinger, a cybersecurity major from Topeka, Kan.; Breanna Prater, a communication arts major from Abilene, Kan.; Shelby Kurz ’19, a biology [environmental] major from Basehor, Kan.; and Emma Hale, a psychology major from Springfield, Mo., joined more than 100 students at the conference for college honors programs in southwest Missouri. This year, the conference included attendees and participants from Ozarks Technical Community College, Missouri State University-West Plains, Missouri Southern State University, Drury University, Missouri State University, University of Missouri-Kansas City and SBU.
2019 GRADUATION
344 undergraduate. 269 graduate. 613 graduates.
1. **LIFE BEAUTIFUL AWARDS**: The award is given annually to an exceptional man and woman in SBU’s spring graduating class whose outstanding scholarship and character demonstrates that they live a “life beautiful.”

   Tyler Dickenson ’19, an exercise science major, is the son of Eric and Mistie Dickenson of Bolivar.

2. **Sylvia Ofori-Yeboah ’19** (Life Beautiful recipient), a social work major, is the daughter of Kwasi and Janet Ofori-Yeboah ’00, ’02 of Bolivar.

3. Graduate, Phoebe Finley ’19, shakes Dr. Turner’s hand as she receives diploma.

4. **BOB R. DERRYBERRY SENIOR ADDRESS SPEAKER**: Mikayla Throne ’19, who graduated with a degree in marketing, welcomed her fellow graduates to “the title page of a new chapter.”

5. **COMMENCEMENT SPEAKER**: Dr. Gary Longenecker ’71, retired minister and founder and director of Kingdom Sports Products, delivered the commencement address at the undergraduate ceremony. Thousands of people have received Jesus Christ as Savior after hearing the Gospel message through the “Ball of Many Colors.”

6. Graduates celebrate outside after ceremony.

7. **ORIEN B. HENDREX AWARD RECIPIENT**: Joe Wooderson ’75, assistant professor of kinesiology, received the Orien B. Hendrex Distinguished Teacher Award.

   The award is presented annually to a faculty member who has been judged by the previous three years’ graduating classes to be outstanding in both teaching ability and personal guidance. The SBU Board of Trustees designated this award in memory of Hendrex, a former academic dean.

8. DPT Graduates process into the Ken and Jane Meyer Wellness and Sports Center.
Another school year has come and gone at SBU, and what a great one it was. The Office of Alumni Engagement hosted so many events this year.

In conjunction with the presidential tour, alumni events were hosted in Bentonville, Ark.; West Plains, Mo.; St. Louis, Mo.; Jefferson City, Mo.; Liberty, Mo.; Bolivar, Mo.; Branson, Mo.; Springfield, Mo.; and most recently Birmingham, Ala. All of that was in addition to Homecoming, the Missouri Baptist Convention in Springfield, and the Southern Baptist Convention in Birmingham, Ala.

At each of these events, I had the opportunity to meet wonderful alumni who are still connected with and eagerly supporting SBU. Thank you for your commitment to staying involved with our alma mater!

The most special event held this year was the Presidential Inauguration of Dr. Eric Turner. This much-anticipated event was such a special time for the university. The Presidential Inauguration was a ceremony that allowed the SBU family to come together to worship together, pray over the future of SBU and establish a vision for the university. I am excited for the alumni body of SBU to continue to get to know and build a relationship with Dr. Turner, or as the students like to refer to him, “ET.”

While one school year closes, a new school year is just beginning. Preparations for Homecoming are always overwhelming but are certainly under way. I hope you will make an extra special effort to join us this year on Oct. 18 and 19. Online Homecoming registration and a hardcopy Homecoming registration form will be released in August. Highlights of Homecoming 2019 include: Honors Chapel, the 50-Year Club Luncheon, the Alumni Banquet, the annual Homecoming Parade, and the football game.

If you graduated in 1959, 1969, 1979, 1989, 1999 or 2009, this is your reunion class year! Please remember to return your reunion class questionnaire (or complete it online) for the booklet by Sept. 30. This year, we also are creating a Golden Bearcat Booklet. Please remember to submit your update for the Golden Bearcat Booklet (if you graduated from SWBC 50+ years ago) by Aug. 15. Many of us developed lifelong friendships while at SBU, so contact your friends and make sure they plan to return home to SBU the weekend of Oct. 18 and 19. The Homecoming 2019 website is advance.SBUniv.edu/Homecoming.

Let me remind you that we continue to do more and more communication online and via email, so please make sure we have your current email address. New offerings include apparel options and the Future Bearcats Club! Visit the alumni website to find out more and update your contact information: advance.SBUniv.edu.

As always, if there is ever any way the Office of Alumni Engagement can serve or assist you, please don’t hesitate to contact me.

Blessings,

Holly Bridge ’08
Director of Alumni Engagement
Alumni@SBUniv.edu
(800) 526-5859, ext. 1806
Dr. Alvin Rohrs ‘79, widely recognized as a leading expert on entrepreneurship, social impact, free enterprise and acceleration leadership, has announced the release of his book “Become an Accelerator Leader: Accelerate Yourself, Others and Your Organization to Maximize Impact.” Rohrs guides how to achieve clarity of goals, shape a vision and chart a path to achieve the greatest positive impact. He shares captivating stories of personal triumph and loss, some shared for the first time, featuring many of our country’s most renowned leaders.

“People hold the power to make positive change,” Rohrs said. “My primary goal is to help them learn how to leverage it to accelerate progress for themselves, for others and their organizations. These are practical principles that apply to life at home and at the office.”

Published by Gatekeeper Press, “Become an Accelerator Leader,” is available in hardback, paperback and e-book, and available at the Walmart Museum, bookstores and online everywhere including Walmart.com and Barnesandnoble.com.

For more than 30 years, Dr. Rohrs served as the architect of growth for Springfield-based Enactus, one of the world’s leading educational nonprofits that has activated more than 800,000 students at more than 1700 universities in 36 countries to make...
KEEPING IN TOUCH

Dr. Rohrs has appeared in Entrepreneur, Forbes, Fortune, HuffingtonPost.com, Inc., Time magazine, and The Wall Street Journal. An honoree in The Congressional Record three times for leadership, Dr. Rohrs was named National “Entrepreneur of the Year, Supporter of Entrepreneurship” in 1995 by Inc. magazine. He earned a Juris Doctorate at the University of Missouri Columbia Law School and a bachelor’s degree in business from Southwest Baptist University. He and his wife, Elizabeth ’80, live in Missouri and have two grown children.

3. Niki (Brummett) Lenz ’02 recently had her middle-grade novel “Bernice Buttman, Model Citizen” published by Random House Books for Young Readers, which is on sale at Amazon, Barnes & Noble, and Walmart eBooks, among others. The book tells the story of Bernice Buttman, her dream of becoming a Hollywood stuntwoman, and her life as a bully, although what she really wants is a true friend. Reviews for the book say to be ready to laugh and maybe shed a tear. Niki, who earned her bachelor of science degree in elementary education at SBU and taught kindergarten for six years, lives in Kansas City with her husband, Caleb ’02, and their two children.

In Memory

Dr. Paul D. Simmons ’56 of Louisville, Ky., passed away on March 17 at the age of 82. He founded the Baptist Seminary of Kentucky, served on the Council on Peacemaking and Religion, the Advisory Board for the Religious Council on Population, Reproductive Health and Ethics and as President of Americans United for Separation of Church and State, both in Washington D.C. Paul is survived by his wife Betty, son Brent and daughter Catherine.

Jerry Ward Webb ’57 of Bolivar passed away on June 13 at the age of 83. He served churches in Knoxville, Tenn., St. Louis, Liberty, Mo., Ringgold, Ga., and Forsyth, Ga., until his retirement from First Baptist Church of Calhoun, Ga. He sang with the Music Men in Missouri, Tennessee and Georgia, as well as traveling and spending time with his children and grandchildren. Jerry is survived by his wife, Paula ’58; his children: Pamela Webb, Rhonda Lewandowski, Rick Webb and Jay Webb; and 13 grandchildren.

Joe Lloyd Dunham ’59 of Aurora, Ill., passed away on April 13 at the age of 80. He taught philosophy at Aurora University from 1964 until his retirement in 2010. He also was a part-time pastor at New England Congregational Church in Aurora, Ill., through 2018. Joe is survived by his wife Ida (Muskrat) [A.A. ’59], and his children Melanie Greenberg, Elizabeth Slotnick, Phillip and Richard Dunham, and eight grandchildren. Ida can be reached at idadunham@gmail.com, (630) 896-8135 or 414 S Gladstone Ave., Aurora, Ill., 60506.

Dr. Robert “Bob” Barker ’68, passed away on April 10 in Republic, Mo., at the age of 71. Robert served as a foreign missionary in Venezuela, as pastor of Calvary Baptist Church, Odessa, Mo., and as hospital chaplain at Integris Baptist Medical Center, Miami, Okla. He retired from full-time ministry in 2010, but continued to find ways to serve with various volunteer positions. He is survived by his high-school sweetheart, Joyce ’68, and children Blenda, Brent, Amy and Aaron ’04.

Bill R. LaMar ’69, passed away Jan. 1 at the age of 71 from complications of Parkinson’s disease. He met LaRee Remington ’68-’69 on a blind date two weeks prior to graduation, and they were married on Dec. 28, 1969, six days after being sworn into the United States Air Force as a second lieutenant. Shortly thereafter, he went to pilot training, eventually becoming an instructor pilot. Bill is survived by LaRee Remington and his two children, Phebe LaMar-Emig and Daniel LaMar; seven grandchildren; sister Cheryl Parks; cousins, nieces, nephews, other family, and many friends.
Retirement

Bob Glidwell ’86, who served as Southwest Baptist University’s physical plant director, retired in January 2019, after 37 years of employment at SBU.

Glidwell began working at SBU as the game room manager in 1982, as well as bowling coach, before graduating with his bachelor of science degree in music in 1986.

He then became the director of SBU’s physical plant, a position he held for 33 years.

Glidwell is enjoying spending time with his new grandson, Bentley, as well as his other two grandchildren, Cohen and Emma. He also is playing more golf in his spare time. He can be reached at bglidwell@SBUniv.edu.

SBU’s ITS department presents Bob Glidwell with his repaired concrete rabbit at his retirement party. The one-time yard ornament had been damaged, and then repaired by Rhodes Concrete and Construction during the renovation of the Taylor building. The rabbit continued to show up at each concrete renovation on campus – and one day, disappeared – until its re-gifting by ITS.

Kevin Ridgell ’93 passed away on June 19 at the age of 48. At a young age, he was diagnosed with a debilitating disease, but never let that slow him down. Kevin is survived by his parents, Bob and Ann Ridgell, his sister, Krista Crenshaw ’95, a niece and nephew, aunts, cousins, and a host of friends and relatives.

Tyler Hampton ’16, passed away May 30 at the age of 25 at Cox South Hospital. Tyler attended Willard High School, earned his bachelor of science degree in exercise science from Southwest Baptist University, and was a student in SBU’s doctor of physical therapy program. His dream was to help others heal as a physical therapist. Tyler is survived by his parents, Bobby and Tammy Hampton ’00; brothers Bobby Gene Hampton III and Cooper Ray Hampton; grandparents Charles and Connie Morrill, Bobby and Sue Hampton and Linda Ellison-Adams.

Margaret Goss, wife of former assistant professor of Spanish at SBU, Curtis Goss, passed away on May 30 at the age of 74. Margaret also served on the SBU adjunct faculty in the Department of Language and Literature. She was a librarian at University of Central Florida for 22 years before retiring. Margaret was a longtime member of the Daughters of the American Revolution, as well as a founding member of the Bolivar Lions Club. She is survived by her husband, Curtis of Bolivar; four daughters, Virginia White, Dialith Urista, Suzannah Herczeg ’99, and Adriana Herrera; 10 grandchildren; sisters Lucille and Barbara and brother Ralph.
Save the Date

HOMECOMING 2019

OCTOBER 18-19, 2019