Faculty, staff, students and alumni make an impact by living out Southwest Baptist University’s mission statement.

ALSO INSIDE

Three outstanding athletes are the newest members of the SBU Athletics Hall of Fame

PAGE 18
IN THIS ISSUE

02
KIRKSEY MAKING AN IMPACT
SBU senior Evan Kirksey uses his persuasive speech to advocate for others

04
LETTER FROM THE ACTING PRESIDENT

05
PRESIDENT'S REPORT
SBU Facts & Figures
Honor Roll of Donors
2020 Mission Moments

15
A HEART FOR MISSIONS
Janice Sartin ’64 finds her mission field through daycare center

18
ATHLETICS HALL OF FAME
Three elite athletes are the newest members of the SBU Athletics Hall of Fame

21
SBU NEWS
I turned in my last paper, which means I am officially done with college! I know I sound like a dozen other posts when I say this, but I am truly grateful for the time I got to spend @sbuniv. The lessons I’ve learned and the times I’ve enjoyed both in and out of the classroom from professors and friends are invaluable to me.

Along with receiving a clinical excellence award at SBU, I have also accepted a nurse internship at Mercy Hospital for the summer! So excited and blessed to be given this amazing award and opportunity.

@bebravebren classes may be stressful, but I'm so grateful to be back together with my favorite community. love you, @SBUniv

@joelalexride22

@abigail___claire

@EthanBacker1 Signed with real pen instead of printer copy. That’s the #bradjohnson touch @SBUniv

@michaelfdeschenes

@madalyn.13

@aliyaht.xo

#SBUniv

Read what people are sharing about SBU.
SBU senior Evan Kirksey advocates for safety of special needs students

DENISE ELSON TUCKER ’89

When he was in high school, Evan Kirksey was shy – “kind of nerdy and kind of introverted,” he says.

To help him overcome his shyness, Evan’s father, Daren ’87, ’89, urged him to join speech and debate at Willard High School.

“It completely pushed me out of my comfort zone,” Evan said. “And I remember thinking, ‘I hate this. I’m never going to do it again.’ But the more I did it, the more I realized that I could be competitive and I could be good at something, too.”

Evan brought that competitive spirit and success to Southwest Baptist University, where he joined the nationally recognized Speaking Bearcats forensics team.

“Speech and debate kind of taught me to believe in myself in a whole new way,” Evan said. “So, whenever I came to SBU and I found out that we had a debate program and my major was an option, I decided that was the route I wanted to go.”

The Speech Communication and Theatre Education major has won many prestigious awards in both speech and debate at state, regional and national tournaments throughout his career. And when the COVID-19 pandemic forced the premature end to the Speaking Bearcats’ competitive season last March, Evan decided to continue competing and advocating for a cause he believes in – students with special needs.

SPEECH FOR COMPETITION SERVES TO ADVOCATE

Evan wrapped up his junior season with two state championships – one in persuasive speaking and one in communication analysis. But it was his persuasive speech that garnered success for Evan, as well as an invitation to be the keynote speaker at the National Summit on School Safety, which was hosted by “Safe and Sound Schools” in October 2020.

“The speech was Evan’s standard persuasive speech for the season,” said Dr. David Bailey ’00, director of forensics at SBU. “When the season ended so abruptly and Evan was offered the chance to record his speech and enter it into Pi Kappa Delta’s virtual ‘Persuasion Works’ national competition, he jumped at the chance.”

Evan wrote and delivered a 10-minute persuasive speech discussing the lack of effective emergency safety measures for members of differently abled communities. He used his speech to advocate for substantive policy changes to correct this injustice.

His performance earned him a tie for second place at nationals, and ultimately, the opportunity to get involved with “Safe and Sound Schools.”

“The speech was Evan’s standard persuasive speech for the season,” said Dr. David Bailey ’00, director of forensics at SBU. “When the season ended so abruptly and Evan was offered the chance to record his speech and enter it into Pi Kappa Delta’s virtual ‘Persuasion Works’ national competition, he jumped at the chance.”

Evan wrote and delivered a 10-minute persuasive speech discussing the lack of effective emergency safety measures for members of differently abled communities. He used his speech to advocate for substantive policy changes to correct this injustice.

His performance earned him a tie for second place at nationals, and ultimately, the opportunity to get involved with “Safe and Sound Schools.”

“During the beginning stages of my junior year, I found a topic for my persuasive speech where students with disabilities are not really able to run, hide or fight in active-shooter situations,” Evan said. “I just thought that there were a lot of red flags with that because not every special needs student can run, can hide and can fight. So, as I started researching, I found something called IELPs, which are individualized emergency and lockdown plans. The more I thought about that, the more I considered it and the more I realized, ‘Wow, this can be really beneficial.’

“I think a lot of schools probably haven’t really thought about their special needs students when it comes to their emergency plans, and that’s not really their fault. It’s just something that kind of gets overlooked. The goal of promoting these IELPs was to stop having that happen and to show the special needs students and the differently abled communities that they are worth protecting.”
PARTNERS WITH “SAFE AND SOUND SCHOOLS”
Evan reached out to the founder of IELPs, Michele Gay. Gay created IELPs after she lost her daughter, Joey, in the 2012 shooting at Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown, Conn. Joey was one of those students who was unable to run, hide or fight because of her disability. Soon after the creation of the IELPs, Gay and Alissa Parker, who lost her daughter, Emilie, in the shooting, founded “Safe and Sound Schools,” whose mission is to provide safe, secure schools for students and educators and to help other communities do the same.

“Whenever I stumbled upon IELPs and I stumbled upon Michele and ‘Safe and Sound Schools,’ I had put the story of her daughter in my speech,” Evan said. “The more I thought about it, the more I thought I could learn a lot of valuable information from her. So, I sent her a quick email and she responded almost immediately.”

The two talked and compared notes on the research Evan had gathered and the intel from Gay. Soon after their conversation, Gay said she and her organization wanted to partner with Evan.

“Most of the members are adults in their 30s or 40s, so they were excited to have someone who’s young, excited for the cause, going into education and wanting to make a difference,” Evan said.

PERSONAL CONNECTION
Evan had titled his speech “Plan, Prepare, Protect,” which also is the name of the campaign he launched along with “Safe and Sound Schools.” He was invited to be the keynote speaker at the national summit to not only share the message of his persuasive speech, but because of his personal connection.

Having been diagnosed with mild cerebral palsy when he was young, Evan had some mobility issues. He was taken out of class every day to go through physical therapy, an experience that allows him to identify with these students and to recognize their needs.

“I wasn’t the same as everybody else, and that was really hard,” Evan said. “I just wanted to be normal and I wanted to be liked and have friends, and there wasn’t very much of that whenever I was young. Because of that, I knew how it felt to not be included. And whenever it comes to something as big as emergency situations and lockdown procedures, that’s something that every person deserves to be included in.

“Since Columbine, there’s a long-standing history of special needs students who have lost their lives in school shootings. I didn’t think about it until I found this topic, but that’s exactly why it’s so important because people have to start thinking about it. Having lived it, I know that at one point in my life, I wouldn’t have been able to run. I had to work really hard to get to where I am today, and I think it’s really important that no matter someone’s ability, someone is planning for them.”

FOUNDER IMPRESSED WITH EVAN
Gay said Evan has been a tremendous addition to their team, both as a speaker and contributor.

“His work as an advocate, presenter and the creator of the ‘Plan, Prepare, Protect’ campaign resonated with us at ‘Safe and Sound Schools’ instantly,” Gay said. “Shortly after connecting, we invited Evan to join our National Summit on School Safety as a presenter to share his perspective as a leader and student with access and functional needs. Evan’s voice and lived experiences lend context and practical insight to our work to support the safety needs of students, staff and community members with special needs.”

Evan says that advocacy starts on the individual and local level, which is why he created a petition advocating for IELPs to be implemented nationally.

“My hope, especially as we figure out our footing a little bit more here in the world, is to be able to go around to local school boards and to be able to send the sample letters that I have written to the different school boards across the state of Missouri. As Missouri is hopefully receptive to that, we can branch out even further.”

At the National Summit on School Safety, which was held virtually, Evan was able to make even more connections. He said the goal, especially for the summit, was to present ideas on the national level.

“I was able to engage in several round-table discussions pertaining to disability inclusion and safety within schools,” Evan said. “I spoke with administrators, teachers, parents of special needs students, principals from past school shootings and more.”

Evan always wanted to go into education, following in the footsteps of his father, Daren, and his grandfather, Jerry, but said he never thought about the school safety aspect. Through his research, his message and his advocacy, Evan has been invited to join the “Safe and Sound Schools” team, where he will lead a group dedicated to disability planning and inclusion.

“The goal is to collaborate and create a template for Individualized Emergency and Lockdown Plans that can be attached to IEPs,” Evan said. “This is something that I plan to be a part of for a long time. I would love to make true, lasting change for the protection of American special needs students.”
Dear alumni and friends,

The past year has required each of us to be creative in everything we do – striking a balance between following appropriate COVID-19 protocols and not allowing fear to paralyze us into the inability to accomplish our collective mission. While the effects of COVID-19 vary among individuals, businesses and organizations, no one left 2020 unchanged.

SBU is no exception. At times, we had to make quick decisions based on the best information we had at the time. At other times, we paused to consider potential future ramifications of the global pandemic and make appropriate strategic adjustments.

Amidst all the changes, our hope remains in Christ. Another constant we have on our campus is our employees’ commitment to our mission. I am inspired by the efforts of our employees to serve the Lord in the midst of difficult circumstances. They persevered in a year like no other. They stayed the course and remained mission-focused. This was difficult, but thanks to our faculty and staff, we accomplished our mission in ways we might never have imagined. Future generations will remember our faculty and staff as the heroes and heroines who helped SBU navigate the challenges of a pandemic to triumph nonetheless!

The SBU mission remains vitally important, and we have much more to achieve and accomplish together. The world needs our faculty, staff and students pointing the way to a life-giving hope in Jesus Christ. As we begin a new year, we remember God’s faithfulness to us and celebrate our resiliency. As we turn our eyes to the future, we do so with hope, placing our trust in the Lord Jesus each day.

At SBU, we equip students academically, spiritually, and socially for a lifetime of leadership and service. The mission takes everyone – faculty, staff, students and support from our alumni and donors – and I am grateful for each of you!

Throughout this issue, you will read a few recent mission-fulfillment highlights from 2020. These represent only a sampling of our successes and moments of resiliency. God has much more for us to do to accomplish His purposes for SBU. “By the grace of God, we will succeed!”

I look forward to celebrating many more of these moments as we achieve our mission in 2021.

I want to leave you with two verses from Jeremiah and encourage you to make them your prayer as you put your hope and trust in the Lord each day in 2021.

With appreciation and admiration,

Brad Johnson, Ed.D.
Acting President

Blessed is the man who trusts in the Lord, And whose trust is the Lord. For he will be like a tree planted by the water That extends its roots by a stream, And does not fear when the heat comes; But its leaves will be green, And it will not be anxious in a year of drought, Nor cease to yield fruit. Jeremiah 17:7-8 (NASB)
2020 MISSION MOMENTS
Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, SBU’s faculty, staff and students continue to live out the University’s mission
2020-21 BUDGET FIGURES

Revenue Summary

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Source</th>
<th>Amount</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tuition &amp; Fees</td>
<td>$49,037,455</td>
<td>81.72%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Missouri Baptist Convention</td>
<td>1,215,000</td>
<td>2.02%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Investment Earnings</td>
<td>354,075</td>
<td>0.59%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Undesignated Gifting</td>
<td>625,800</td>
<td>1.04%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Financial Aid Revenue</td>
<td>1,154,811</td>
<td>1.92%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Miscellaneous Revenue</td>
<td>830,739</td>
<td>1.38%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Auxiliary Enterprise Revenue</td>
<td>6,791,120</td>
<td>11.32%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL REVENUE BUDGET</strong></td>
<td><strong>$60,009,000</strong></td>
<td><strong>100.00%</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Expense Summary

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Amount</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Educational &amp; General</td>
<td>$55,574,620</td>
<td>92.49%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Instructional and Departmental</td>
<td>$16,135,855</td>
<td>26.85%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Organized Activities</td>
<td>3,542,189</td>
<td>5.90%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Library</td>
<td>1,027,214</td>
<td>1.71%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Student Services</td>
<td>3,161,720</td>
<td>5.26%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Operation/Maintenance of Plant</td>
<td>3,678,619</td>
<td>6.12%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Administration</td>
<td>1,954,798</td>
<td>3.25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Staff Benefits</td>
<td>1,687,856</td>
<td>2.81%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General Institutional</td>
<td>3,461,755</td>
<td>5.76%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Student Aid</td>
<td>19,691,749</td>
<td>32.77%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Debt Retirement</td>
<td>1,232,865</td>
<td>2.05%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Educational and General</strong></td>
<td><strong>55,574,620</strong></td>
<td><strong>92.49%</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Auxiliary Enterprises</strong></td>
<td><strong>4,513,380</strong></td>
<td><strong>8.03%</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL EXPENSE BUDGET</strong></td>
<td><strong>$60,088,000</strong></td>
<td><strong>100.00%</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- **Average ACT for incoming freshmen:** $24,500
- **Total students:** 3,039
- **Female students:** 1,916
- **Male students:** 1,123
- **Average GPA for incoming freshman:** 3.59
- **Student-to-faculty ratio:** 12:1
- **Percentage of full-time Bolivar campus teaching faculty with doctorate or other terminal degree:** 66%
- **Total faculty:** 148
- **Total staff:** 168

---

WINTER 2021
Annual Gift Clubs

**Heritage Society**

$50,000 and Above
The Late Aletha Allen
The Late Vesta Blue
Dr. Kenneth E. Meyer
Mr. and Mrs. Wesley E. Myers

**Legacy Society**

$20,000 - $49,999
Drs. John and Judy Bryant
Dr. Ed Clark
Mr. and Mrs. Don B. Lott
Dr. and Mrs. Don E. Fahmi
Dr. and Mrs. Wayne M. Hutchings

$10,000 - $19,999
Mr. and Mrs. William R. Bolesjack
Mr. and Mrs. David T. Bunch
Mrs. Mary S. Sickafus

**President’s Council**

$5,000 - $9,999
Dr. and Mrs. Gary E. Black
Mr. and Mrs. Lorenzo and Hannah Bohl
Ms. Eldonna R. DeWeese
Mrs. Vera M. Fox
Mr. and Mrs. Jeffrey R. Jackson
Mr. and Mrs. Walker Miles
Mr. and Mrs. Julian Pace
Mr. and Mrs. Halleck W. Hrea
Mr. and Mrs. Doug Roller
Mr. and Mrs. Stanley D. Tippin
Dr. and Mrs. Aaron R. Wheeler

**Provost’s Club**

$1,000 - $4,999
Mr. and Mrs. Chuck Arbaugh
Ms. Nita J. Ayres
Mr. and Mrs. Kevin P. Bailey
Dr. Pat Baker
Mr. and Mrs. Herb Barritt
Mr. and Mrs. Nate A. Bethell
Mr. and Mrs. Jacob R. Biggs
Mr. and Mrs. Nate A. Bethall
The Late Laura Kirchner Brauer
Mr. and Mrs. Michael J. Bridge
Mr. and Mrs. Brad Brotherton

Drs. Bill and Kathy Brown
Mr. and Mrs. David A. Bryan
Mr. and Mrs. Jack H. Burrell
Mrs. Barbara Campbell
Mr. and Mrs. Wayne Clark
Mrs. Jim Cook
Mr. and Mrs. Jerry Corson
Mr. and Mrs. Mark Covell
Mr. and Mrs. Ray Cripps
Dr. and Mrs. Dennis Crowder
Mrs. Stella B. Cunningham
Dr. and Mrs. Joe Dillsaver
Dr. and Mrs. Chris Dinwiddie
Mrs. Joyce A. Dowdy
Mr. and Mrs. Howard Dressler
Dr. and Mrs. Gordon Dutile
Mr. and Mrs. Russ Emory
Mrs. Doreen P. Fishburn
Mr. and Mrs. James Flora
Ms. Sandra K. Fortner
Mr. Daniel J. Frazee
Dr. and Mrs. Harlie K. Gallatin
Ms. Hannah M. Gibbs
Col. and Mrs. Gary Gilmore
Ms. Keva Gorman
Dr. and Mrs. Robert Harris
Mr. and Mrs. Scott Hensley
Mr. and Mrs. Paul D. Hileman
Dr. Thomas W. Hilton
Mr. and Mrs. Bill Honeycutt
Drs. Doug and Jana Horner
Ms. Kacey J. Hottes
Ms. Nancy J. Hudson
Mr. and Mrs. Stanley Janss
Dr. and Mrs. Brad Johnson
Mr. and Mrs. Jim G. Jones
Dr. and Mrs. John D. Jones
Dr. and Mrs. Kevin J. Jones
Mr. and Mrs. Ronnie L. Jones
Rev. Howard E. Karr
Mr. Gary D. Kelb
Mr. and Mrs. Gary L. Klaassen
Mr. Daniel G. Klerkoper
Mr. Joe and Dr. Allison Langford
Mr. Brian Lewis
Mr. and Mrs. David Lo
Mr. and Mrs. Nick Lofaro
Mr. Dennis and Dr. Pat Long
Mr. Lee Manly
Ms. B. Joan Marsch
Mr. and Mrs. Donald Martens
Ms. Georgie F. Mathias
Lt. Cmdr. and Mrs. John L. McGaha
Mr. and Mrs. James McLaughlin
Drs. Scott and Beverly McNeall
Ms. Patricia A. Miller
Mr. Roger L. Mills
Mr. John O. Mitchell
Dr. and Mrs. Eric Moore
Mr. and Mrs. Loren J. Murray
Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth W. Murray
Mr. and Mrs. Lynn Nance
Mr. and Mrs. Thomas E. Neil
Mr. and Mrs. Steve Nicholson
Dr. and Mrs. Stanley K. Nickle
Mr. and Mrs. Remco M. Obertop
Mr. and Mrs. Dennis W. Owens
Ms. Karen Parsons
Mr. Calvin N. Pham
Dr. Marsha N. Powell
Mr. John B. Presley
Mr. Mr. and Mrs. Chris Radford
Dr. and Mrs. Charles M. Renno
Mr. Abe Rohrbach
Mr. and Mrs. Roderic C. Russell
Mrs. Gratia Sammons
Mr. and Mrs. Allan Schilfer
Mr. and Mrs. Clarke D. Scott
Mr. and Mrs. John Thevery
Dr. and Mrs. Joe B. Shelton
Mr. and Mrs. Charles Showers
Mrs. Katherine H. Shriner
Mr. Carl W. Singer
Mr. and Mrs. Tracy B. Sloan
Dr. and Mrs. James O. Smith
Mr. Michael R. Smith
Mr. Robert O. Smith
Mr. and Mrs. Noah A. Stotts
Mr. and Mrs. Jerry F. Stough
Dr. Gordon J. Strate
Dr. and Mrs. Cary Summers
Dr. C. Pat Taylor
Mr. and Mrs. James Thiessen
Mr. and Mrs. Dwayne G. Till
Mr. Sam L. Timbrook
Mr. and Mrs. Charles C. Torbit
Mr. and Mrs. Jason L. Vaughn
Mr. and Mrs. James E. Vermillion
Mr. and Mrs. David B. Walters
Mrs. Judith K. Warson
Mr. Whitney E. Watson
Mr. Buell F. Weathers
Mr. Rodney P. Welch
Dr. and Mrs. Thomas B. Welch
Mr. and Mrs. James H. Westbrooks
Mr. Kevin B. Wilson
Mr. and Mrs. Donald C. Woods
Dr. Sandra J. Woods
Ms. Baylie L. Woolsey
Ms. Kaitlyn R. Wright

**Founders’ Club**

$500-999
Mr. William Allen
Mr. and Mrs. Mike Anderson
Mrs. Lori Andrews
Mr. Mathew E. Baldinger
Mr. John Billharz

NEW STATE-OF-THE-ART SYNTHETIC CADAVER

SBU recently became the only university in the region to use a synthetic cadaver in the classroom to provide valuable, hands-on learning for students in majors such as biology, nursing and pre-physical therapy. Dr. Dennis Siegfried, professor of biology, and Dr. John Murphy, associate professor of biology, have led the effort to bring this state-of-the-art tool to campus. The new technology is made possible by generous gifts from friends of the University.

Watch a brief video about this interactive tool at SBUniv.info/cadaver.

STUDENTS HELP WITH DISASTER RELIEF DURING THANKSGIVING BREAK

Thanksgiving break was an opportunity for the SBU Disaster Relief Team to partner with Missouri Baptist Disaster Relief to help others in their time of need. A team led by Kelly Rehm, assistant director of the Center for Global Connections, traveled to Oklahoma City to help with ice storm cleanup.
Mr. and Mrs. Ronald M. Blount
Mr. and Mrs. Robert L. Boynton
Mr. and Mrs. Ben Brennecke
Mr. Andrew D. Brown
Ms. Maeanne Browning
Mrs. Marianne Bruce
Mr. Caleb M. Burnham
Mr. Jason L. Buschert
Mr. and Mrs. Lyle Catron
Ms. Morgan N. Chigas
Mr. and Mrs. Dana Daniel
Mr. and Mrs. Edward L. Del Bosque
Mr. Keith A. Dygert
Mr. David C. Fields
Mr. Thomas H. Fossum
Mr. Chris A. Garrett, CPA
Ms. Danielle L. Gillean
Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Goode
Mr. Donald R. Gowin
Mr. and Mrs. Mark Grabowski
Mr. Bill Gravely
Ms. Karen A. Greene
Mr. and Mrs. Scott Hammann
Dr. and Mrs. Robert E. Harris
Mr. Jimmie L. Hickman
Dr. and Mrs. Richard L. Hilderbrand
Mr. Jordan J. Hillenburg
Dr. and Mrs. Brian Hopwood
Dr. and Mrs. Carl Huser
Ms. Sara Hutchinson
Mr. and Mrs. Robert G. Ingold
Dr. and Mrs. Chuck Jansen
Mr. and Mrs. James R. Jones
Mr. and Mrs. Lee Jones
Ms. Pearl E. Karamitos
Mrs. Lou T. Kemp
Mrs. Barbara S. Kirksey
Dr. and Mrs. Bob Kitchin
Ms. Corynn D. Knight
Ms. Rebekah A. Kromie
Mrs. Marilyn E. Kulmus
Mr. Mark W. Lawson
Mr. and Mrs. Craig Lehman
Dr. and Mrs. Ray Leiningher
Mr. Gabriel A. Long
Ms. Katlin A. Mansfield
Mr. Jordan A. Martin
Mr. and Mrs. Bruce A. Matter
Mr. Richard McClure
Mrs. Elizabeth M. McDaniel
Mrs. June Middleton
Mr. and Mrs. Chris Miller
Mr. and Mrs. Kenton D. Miller
Mr. and Mrs. Martin V. Miller
Mrs. Susanne K. Miller
Mr. and Mrs. Richard H. Moore
Ms. Nancy R. Myers
Mr. Noel R. Nation
Dr. and Mrs. Gustavo Nix
Ms. Jayden L. Osborn
Mr. and Mrs. Rick Percival
Mr. and Mrs. David C. Pflasterer
Mr. and Mrs. Austin Pfrimmer
Mr. and Mrs. Mike Pitts
Rev. Paul E. Powell
Rev. Ron Pracht
Mr. and Mrs. Daniel J. Prier
Ms. Grace A. Reveille
Dr. and Mrs. Kenneth Roller
Mr. Luis D. Romero
Ms. Anna M. Saffels
Mr. and Mrs. Candido K. Sanchez
Mr. Tyler Schmitt
Mrs. Donna Segelberg
Lt. Col. and Mrs. Joel S. Severson
Mr. Henry and Dr. Colleen Shuler
Mr. and Mrs. Ronald E. Simpson
Mrs. C. B. Snowden
Mr. and Mrs. Chris Spencer
Mr. and Mrs. Joe Statton
Representative and Mrs. Michael J. Stephens
Mr. Lawrence Tally
Mr. and Mrs. Kevin C. Tom
Mr. Florian O. Toma
Mr. and Mrs. Henry Tummons
Dr. Betty A. Van Blair
Mrs. Helen M. Votaw
Mr. and Mrs. Gary G. Wallace
Ms. Grace E. Werner
Mr. and Mrs. Larry F. Whatley
Mr. and Mrs. Stephen M. Whisler
Mr. Robert L. Wilson
Ms. Rebekah L. Wingerd
Mrs. Ruth C. Worley
Mr. Lloyd L. Yohe

**Bearcat Club**

$250-$499

Mr. and Mrs. Michael Addie
Mr. and Mrs. Gary Alderson
Mr. David G. Alexander
Ms. Ashton K. Andrews
Mr. Randall S. Antle
Ms. Shelly Bailey
Mr. and Mrs. James R. Barnett
Mr. and Mrs. Roger Baxter
Mr. and Mrs. David Becket
Ms. Tatsumi M. Bell
Mr. Frederick D. Bishop
Mr. Jeremiah L. Bishop
Mr. and Mrs. Paul Black
Mr. and Mrs. Bill Breshares
Dr. and Mrs. Levi W. Bridge
Mr. and Mrs. Leland D. Brown
Mr. and Mrs. Timothy D. Brown
Dr. Dale E. Bruns
Mr. Joshua M. Burnham
Mr. and Mrs. Curtis L. Busch
Mr. Joe B. Callaway
Rev. and Mrs. Nolan D. Carrier
Mr. and Mrs. William Conley
Mr. Gabriel O. Craig
Ms. Sarah M. Creasy
Mr. and Mrs. Brendon Cummings
Mr. and Mrs. Richard Daum
Mr. and Mrs. Gordon Davis
Miss Betty A. Deen
Mr. and Mrs. Harold F. Deitz
Mr. Mark T. Delaney
Rev. and Mrs. Harold M. Dickerson
Mr. and Mrs. Roger Driskill
Kelli Ehlen
Mr. and Mrs. Cliff Eller
James R. Erickson
Mr. Dean Failor
Ms. Heather Farris
Mr. Harold Francis
Ms. Brittany N. Gilbert
Mr. Mark Glenn
Ms. Britney H. Gomas
Mr. Travis B. Gregory
Mr. R. G. Gump
Mrs. Gayle Hadley
Ms. Johanna L. Hains
Mr. Matthew J. Harris
Ms. Melissa R. Harris
Mr. and Mrs. Lowell Hartlzer
Dr. and Mrs. Dwight D. Haun
Rev. and Mrs. E. M. Hay
Ms. Haley R. Henke
Mr. and Mrs. Ryan P. Henry
Mr. Morgan B. Hixon
Mr. and Mrs. Jeff Hogan
Miss Hannah R. Hoflinger
Mr. and Mrs. Dennis A. Holmes
Mrs. Joyce A. Holmes
Dr. and Mrs. Kevin W. Hopkins
Mr. and Mrs. David L. Hurst
Mr. Michael S. Jackson
Mr. Terry W. Jeffries
Mrs. Cathie V. Jenkins
Mr. Ted A. Johnson
Mr. Evan M. Kirksey
Mr. and Mrs. Todd Kuykendall
Dr. and Mrs. Joshua C. Layman
Mr. Brett L. Lewis
Mr. Michael D. Linderman
Mr. Haden R. Liska
Mr. and Mrs. George W. Lunn
Mr. Owen J. Luscombe
Mr. and Mrs. Mark R. Mangels
Mr. and Mrs. Paul Masters
Mrs. Gilberta R. McCracken
Ms. Sarah L. McKenzie
Ms. Taylor M. McKown
Ms. Morgan T. McMullen
Mr. Harold E. Milford, Jr.
Mr. and Mrs. David A. Milligan
Ms. Kathleen Milligan
Mr. William C. Mills
Mr. Herbert M. Moore
Mr. Ellland A. Morris
Mrs. Sue Motley
Ms. Betty J. Mulberry
Ms. Kassidy N. Neu
Mrs. Pamela F. Nix
Mr. and Mrs. Reggie D. Noot
Mr. and Mrs. Tom Ogle

**STUDENTS LEAD REVIVAL ON CAMPUS**

SBU hosted a student-led revival called “The Awakening” for the sole purpose of asking God to bring revival within the University and the Bolivar community. Tyler Eads, a junior accounting and Christian Studies major, initiated and planned the event alongside several other students. SBU faculty and staff served as breakout session leaders.

**STUDENTS HELP LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT**

Bolivar R-1 Schools
Superintendent and SBU alumnus
Dr. Tony Berry ’91, ’93, ’99, ’10, ’15 and Assistant Superintendent
Dr. T.C. Wall asked us to consider ways we could help fill a great need for substitute teachers in the district due to the pandemic. Together, we brainstormed a plan to allow our students to become substitute teachers. The partnership proved to be another win-win for Southwest Baptist University and the Bolivar community. Our students gained valuable experience and were paid for their time, while the school district added reliable future teachers in its time of need.
Annual Corporate Foundation Gift Clubs

**Heritage Society**
$50,000 and Above
- Community Foundation of the Ozarks, Springfield, Mo.
- First Baptist Church, Bolivar, Mo.
- Fred C. & Katherine B. Andersen Foundation, Baysport, Minn.
- Mercy Accounts Payable Shared Services, Springfield, Mo.
- Missouri Baptist Convention, Jefferson City, Mo.
- Scholarship America Foundation, Saint Peter, Minn.
- The Sunderland Foundation, Overland Park, Kan.

**Legacy Society**
$20,000 - $49,999
- Fresh Ideas Food Service Management, Columbia, Mo.
- Hagan Scholarship Foundation, Columbia, Mo.
- Harmony Baptist Church, Leeton, Mo.
- Henry and Lucille Straus Scholarship, Springfield, Mo.
- Judson Young Memorial Education Foundation Inc., Salem, Mo.
- L. F. Richardson Foundation, Nevada, Mo.
- Musgrave Foundation, Springfield, Mo.
- Nicholas Scholarship Trust, Springfield, Mo.
- Rhodes Concrete and Construction, Bolivar, Mo.
- TUA Glenn Nursing Scholarship, Providence, R.I.

**Distinguished Leadership Council**
$10,000 - $19,999
- Arch W. Shaw Foundation, Birch Tree, Mo.
- Bank of America, Providence, R.I.
- Chickasaw Nation, Ada, Okla.
- Greater Kansas City Community Foundation, Kansas City, Mo.
- International Scholarship & Tuition Services Inc., Nashville, Tenn.
- Jack J. Isgru Foundation, Kansas City, Mo.
- Liberty Utilities, Joplin, Mo.

Office of the Adjutant General of Missouri, Jefferson City, Mo.
- Scholarship Foundation of Saint Louis, Saint Louis, Mo.
- TRA Division of Workforce Development, Springfield, Mo.
- Tulsa Community Foundation, Tulsa, Okla.
- Windstream Communications Inc., Little Rock, Ark.

**President’s Council**
$5,000 - $9,999
- Arkansas Baptist Foundation, Little Rock, Ark.
- Cherokee Nation of Oklahoma, Tahlequah, Okla.
- Children of Fallen Patriots Foundation, Sterling, Va.
- Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma, Durant, Okla.
- Citizens Memorial Hospital District, Bolivar, Mo.
- CMH Foundation, Bolivar, Mo.
- Country Fair White Elephant Scholarship Foundation, Green Valley, Ariz.
- First Baptist Church, Arnold, Mo.
- First Baptist Church, Richland, Mo.
- Gammill Family Foundation, West Plains, Mo.
- Grace Charitable Foundation, Scottsdale, Ariz.
- Hardin Scholarship Fund Trust, Chicago, Ill.
- Health Systems Inc., Sikeston, Mo.
- John Byron Corbin Charitable Trust, Nevada, Mo.
- Kaleidoscope Group, Minneapolis, Minn.
- Lebanon Area Foundation, Lebanon, Mo.
- MFA Foundation, Columbia, Mo.
- Miles Memorial Fund, Bolivar, Mo.
- Missouri Baptist Foundation, Jefferson City, Mo.
- Missouri Colleges Fund Inc., Jefferson City, Mo.
- Nabors Charitable Foundation, Houston, Texas
- Ozark Action Inc., West Plains, Mo.
- Salesforce.org, San Francisco, Calif.
- Second Baptist Church, Springfield, Mo.
- Shelter Insurance Foundation, Columbia, Mo.
- The Ellis Foundation, Fort Scott, Kan.
- The Scholarship Foundation of Saint Louis, Saint Louis, Mo.
- Wellspring Fellowship, Bolivar, Mo.
- White River Valley Electric Trust, Branson, Mo.

The SBU Speaking Bearcats, our nationally acclaimed forensics team, received top honors at the 2020 Simpson Storm virtual competition. Kadie Lauren Thomas was tournament champion in both impromptu and informative speaking. Breanna Prater ’20 was tournament champion in extemporaneous speaking. Samantha Baldus won second place in oral interpretation and third place in poetry. Samantha and her speaking partner, Mariah Barber, also won second place in duo improvisation.

NURSING PROGRAMS RECEIVE CONTINUED ACCREDITATION
SBU received the excellent news that our nursing programs have been granted continued accreditation by the Accreditation Commission for Education in Nursing. Accreditation for the Associate of Science in Nursing, Bachelor of Science in Nursing and Master of Science in Nursing will continue for eight years, with the next site visit planned for fall 2027.

TOP HONORS FOR THE SPEAKING BEARCATS
The SBU Speaking Bearcats, our nationally acclaimed forensics team, received top honors at the 2020 Simpson Storm virtual competition. Kadie Lauren Thomas was tournament champion in both impromptu and informative speaking. Breanna Prater ’20 was tournament champion in extemporaneous speaking. Samantha Baldus won second place in oral interpretation and third place in poetry. Samantha and her speaking partner, Mariah Barber, also won second place in duo improvisation.
2020 Mission Moments

GLVC CHAMPIONSHIP FOR WOMEN’S CROSS COUNTRY

The SBU Women’s Cross Country team captured its first-ever Great Lakes Valley Conference (GLVC) Championship in the Fall and claimed its first conference championship since 2016! Elysia Burgos, Tabitha Weber, and Tessa Valdivia earned All-GLVC honors by finishing in the top 15 of the championship held in Elsah, Ill. The Men’s Cross Country team finished in sixth place at the GLVC championship. Corey McElhaney ’06, ’12 was also named GLVC Women’s Cross Country Coach of the Year.

ALUMNI OFFICE LAUNCHES DIGITAL CHRISTMAS ADVENT CALENDAR

Our first-ever Countdown to Christmas Digital Advent Calendar for alumni went live in December. Each day, the virtual calendar featured something new, including devotionals written by SBU alumni, recipes provided by faculty and staff members, a festive SBU Christmas performance and an easy way to send students an encouraging note as they took finals.

PROVOST’S CLUB
$1,000 - $4,999

Adams Central Schools Foundation, Hastings, Neb.
American Kids Inc., Branson, Mo.
Andrew Range Foundation, Edwardsville, Ill.
Ash Grove R-IV School District, Ash Grove, Mo.
AstraZeneca Matching Gifts Program, Cambridge, England
Ava R-I School District, Ava, Mo.
Baptist Foundation of Illinois, Springfield, Ill.
Bee Payne-Stewart Foundation, Springfield, Mo.
Berkner High School Booster Club Inc., Richardson, Texas
BKD LLP, Springfield, Mo.
Blue Springs Christian Church, Blue Springs, Mo.
Bolivar Ready Mix and Materials Inc., Bolivar, Mo.
Bradleyville School R-1, Bradleyville, Mo.
Brandon Magalassi Memorial Scholarship Foundation, Owasso, Okla.
Business Women of Missouri Foundation Inc., St. Charles, Mo.
Calvary Baptist Church, Altion, Ill.
Calvary Missionary Baptist Church, Bolivar, Mo.
Camp P82, Holts Summit, Mo.
Capital Region Medical Foundation, Jefferson City, Mo.
Central Ozarks Private Industry Council Inc., Rolla, Mo.
Chaffee Public School Foundation, Cape Girardeau, Mo.
Chamber of Commerce, Rolla, Mo.
Cherry Hills Baptist Church, Springfield, Ill.
Christian Connector Inc., Grand Junction, Colo.
CIS Data Services LLC, Springfield, Mo.
Citizens Memorial Healthcare Foundation, Bolivar, Mo.
City of Springfield, Springfield, Mo.
Cole Camp R-1 Educational Foundation, Cole Camp, Mo.
Community of Christ Church, East Saint Louis, Ill.
ConocoPhillips Company, Houston, Texas
Court Street United Methodist Church, Fulton, Mo.
Crystal City School District, Crystal City, Mo.
Dallas County R-1 Alumni Association, Buffalo, Mo.
Davis County Dollars for Scholars, Bloomfield, Iowa
Degen Foundation, Fort Smith, Ark.
Douglas Dent Family Memorial Scholarship, Salem, Mo.
Edgewood Baptist Church, Bowling Green, Mo.
Education Foundation for Clinton Students, Clinton, Mo.
Edwin M Porter Educational Fund, Milwaukee, Wis.
El Dorado Springs R-2 Schools, El Dorado Springs, Mo.
Elks National Foundation, Chicago, Ill.
FCS Financial, Jefferson City, Mo.
Fee Fee Baptist Church, Bridgeton, Mo.
Fellowship of Wildwood, Wildwood, Mo.
Fellowship West Church, Bonner Springs, Kan.
Festus-Crystal City Elks #1721, Festus, Mo.
Finley Charitable Foundation, Lamar, Mo.
First Baptist Church, Hermitage, Mo.
First Baptist Church Memorial Scholarship Fund, Richland, Mo.
First Baptist Church of Manlius, Wyantet, Ill.
First Baptist Church, Silvis, Ill.
First Baptist Church, Branson, Mo.
First Baptist Church, Clinton, Mo.
First Baptist Church, Crystal City, Mo.
First Baptist Church, Harrison, Ark.
First Baptist Church, Lebanon, Mo.
First Baptist Church, Licking, Mo.
First Baptist Church, Marshallfield, Mo.
First Baptist Church, Neosho, Mo.
First Baptist Church, Rolla, Mo.
First Baptist Church, Salem, Mo.
First Baptist Church, Sedalia, Mo.
First Baptist Church, St. Charles, Mo.
Foresters Financial, Buffalo, N.Y.
Foster Care to Success, Cleveland, Ohio
Foundation for Missouri DECA, Jefferson City, Mo.
Foundation for Springfield Public Schools, Springfield, Mo.
Frank and Elizabeth Schafer Scholarship Fund, Owensville, Mo.
Gascosage Electric Cooperative, Dixon, Mo.
GFVC Utopia Club of Ozark, Ozark, Mo.
Gift of Hope Inc., Forsyth, Mo.
Grace Community Church, Riverton, Kan.
Grace Evangelical Church, Saint Joseph, Mo.
Grand River Post Secondary Education, Ontario, Canada
Greater Horizons, Kansas City, Mo.
Grundy R-V Alumni Scholarship Committee, Trenton, Mo.
Harrisonville Public School Foundation, Harrisonville, Mo.
Hartville R-II School District, Hartville, Mo.
Hawthorn Bank, Jefferson City, Mo.
Heart of America Council, Kansas City, Mo.
Helitech, Caseyville, Ill.
Home Court Advantage, Bolivar, Mo.
Hutchins Advertising LLC, Springfield, Mo.
Illinois Scottish Rite Scholarship Fund, Bloomingley, Ill.
Immanuel Lutheran Church, Perryville, Mo.
Independence Community College Foundation, Independence, Kan.
Integrity Squared, Bolivar, Mo.
Intel Foundation Matching Gifts, Princeton, N.J.
International Chapter P.E.O Sisterhood, Des Moines, Iowa
Jefferson City Public School District, Jefferson City, Mo.
Jera Foundation, Rosebud, Mo.
Kansas City Abundant Life Church, Lees Summit, Mo.
Kansas Hospital Education and Research Foundation, Topeka, Kan.
Kathryn and Maurice Cape Scholarship Fund, Brookfield, Conn.
Kids’ Chance Inc. of Missouri, Saint Louis, Mo.
Kids First Education Foundation of Wellington, Wellington, Mo.
Kiwanis Club of Ozark Coast Inc., Lake Ozark, Mo.
Knights of Columbus #13786, Pittsburg, Mo.
Knox County Foundation, Mount Vernon, Ohio
KPM CPAs, Springfield, Mo.
Laclede Electric Trust Inc., Lebanon, Mo.
Lake of the Ozarks Elks Lodge No.2517, Osage Beach, Mo.

WINTER 2021
New Bethel Baptist Church, Jackson, Mo.
New Hope Fellowship, Green Forest, Ark.
New Hope Methodist Church, Richmond, Mo.
New Life at Lakeside Baptist Church, Greenville, Texas
North Wood CTA, Salem, Mo.
O’Bannon Banking Company, Buffalo, Mo.
Odessa R-VII Public Foundation, Odessa, Mo.
OHS Tiger Tailgaters Booster Club, Saint Louis, Mo.
Olive Branch First Baptist Church, Olive Branch, Miss.
Osceola Public Schools, Osceola, Mo.
Ozark Baptist Church, Houston, Mo.
Ozark Youth Soccer Inc., Ozark, Mo.
Parkland Chapel, Farmington, Mo.
Parkview Baptist Church, Lake City, Fla.
Perryville Second Baptist Church, Perryville, Ark.
Polish American Citizen Club, South Deerfield, Mass.
Polk County Cattlemen’s Association Foundation, Springfield, Mo.
Polo Masonic Lodge #232, Polo, Mo.
Pomona Christian Church, Pomona, Mo.
Rising Sun Baptist Church, Auxvasse, Mo.
Riverbend Calvary Chapel, Washington, Mo.
Rocky Mount Baptist Church, Eldon, Mo.
Rolla Community Teachers Association, Rolla, Mo.
Rotary Club of Nevada, Nevada, Mo.
Sales Community Teachers Association, Salem, Mo.
Sayexco LLC, Tulsa, Okla.
Shannondale United Church of Christ, Salem, Mo.
South Haven Baptist Church, Springfield, Mo.
Southwest Independent School District, San Antonio, Texas
State Farm Companies Foundation, Princeton, N.J.
Stony Point Landmark Missionary Scholarship, Irondequoit, Mo.
Sullivan Bank, Sullivan, Mo.
Summit Community Church, O’Fallon, Mo.
Sunrise Optimist Youth Foundation, Clinton, Mo.
The Exciting Singing Hills Baptist Church, Dallas, Texas
The Redeemed Church of God, Fort Worth, Texas
Twain Harte Bible Church, Twain Harte, Calif.
Twin Rivers Baptist Association, Wright City, Mo.
Victor Baptist Church, Victor, Iowa
Vienna Chamber of Commerce, Vienna, Mo.
Vienna Lions Club #9967, Vienna, Mo.
Wayne City Baptist Church, Wayne City, Ill.
Waypoint Church, St. Charles, Mo.
Wheatland Alumni, Bolivar, Mo.
Wheatland PTSA, Wheatland, Mo.
WMU Foundation, Birmingham, Ala.

**Bearcat Club $250-$499**
Baptist General Convention of Missouri, Jefferson City, Mo.
Bates County Farm Bureau, Butler, Mo.
Bible Baptist Church, Maplewood, Mo.
Blue Valley Baptist Church, Overland Park, Kan.
Car and Anna Carson Memorial Scholarship, Bolivar, Mo.
Cedar Grove Baptist Church, Warsaw, Mo.
Citizens Bank, Rich Hill, Mo.
Closer Walk Church, Ridgedale, Mo.
CrossPoint Church, Moberly, Mo.
Dallas County R-1 School District, Buffalo, Mo.
Donna Jean and Elwood Liggitt Scholarship, Hume, Mo.
Dove Bible Church, Lebanon, Mo.
Evangel Temple Christian Center, Springfield, Mo.
Evergreen Baptist Church, Bixby, Okla.
Fellowship Baptist Church, Nevis, Minn.
First Baptist Church, Bartlesville, Okla.
First Baptist Church, Bentonville, Ark.
First Baptist Church, Creighton, Mo.
First Baptist Church, Edmond, Okla.
First Baptist Church, Eldon, Mo.
First Baptist Church, Marshall, Mo.
First Baptist Church, Nevada, Mo.
First Baptist Church, Polo, Mo.
First Baptist Church, Saint Anne, Ill.
First Southern Baptist Church, Stockton, Mo.
Flag Spring Baptist Church, California, Mo.
GBA Educational Trust, Springfield, Mo.
Harvest Assembly, Fair Play, Mo.
Houston Tiger Booster Club, Bucyrus, Mo.
Kings Point Baptist Church, Lockwood, Mo.
Kingston KPTO, Cadot, Mo.
Knights of Columbus #10381, Laurie, Mo.
Lincoln County Extension Council, Troy, Mo.
Lyric Opera of Kansas City, Kansas City, Mo.
Mid-Missouri Bank, Bolivar, Mo.
Moorhead Baptist Church, Moorhead, Miss.
New Life Baptist Church, Willard, Mo.
North Metro Baptist Church, Denver, Colo.
Perryville School District, Perryville, Ark.
Polo Community Teachers Association, Polo, Mo.
Printers Ink LLC, Springfield, Mo.
Providence Baptist Church, West Plains, Mo.
Rolla Public Schools, Rolla, Mo.
Russelleville Baptist Church, Russellville, Mo.
SBU Women’s Club, Bolivar, Mo.
Schreiber Foods, Green Bay, Wisc.
Sherwood Community Bank, Creighton, Mo.
Sims Scholarship, Versailles, Mo.
Smyrna Baptist Church, Rogersville, Mo.
South Creek Church, Springfield, Mo.
Stockton Christian Church, Stockton, Mo.
The Mike and Dee Berry Christian Fund, Shawnee Mission, Kan.
Vici First Baptist Church, Vici, Okla.
Word of Life Community Church, Peculiar, Mo.

---

**Let us know how you, or a fellow alumnus, are serving!**

Part of SBU’s mission calls us to be “servant leaders in a global society,” and we love hearing how our alumni are serving — whether it be at home, at work, or around the world.

Since March, we have featured SBU alumni on social media in our “Servant Leader Spotlight” to share how they are serving in their parts of the world.

**Servant Leader Spotlight**

Contact SBUcommunications@gmail.com to share your story of service or one of a fellow alumnus.
Board of Trustees

OFFICERS: Eddie Bumpers, chairman
Kyle Lee, vice chairman
Cheryl Mayfield ’80, secretary

Lance Adams
Physician Assistant, Durham, N.C.
Mark Berry ’02
Police detective, Fenton
Rev. Fred Broome
Pastor, Republic
Rev. David L. Brown ’88
Pastor, Lebanon
Dr. Eddie Bumpers
Pastor, Springfield
Tim Carter ’10
Businessman, Green Ridge
Syndee Chase
Businesswoman, Lebanon
Dr. Danny Decker
Pastor, Humansville
Dr. Todd Decker ’96
Pastor, Joplin
Rev. Terry Delaney ’83
Pastor, Tallahassee, Fla.
Dr. Don Fahrni ’68
Businessman, Russellville
Rev. Kevin Farr
Nonprofit Sector, Springfield
Susan C. Gilmore ’79
Retired Educator, Mt. Vernon

Dr. Jonathan Hayashi
Pastor, Holt
Dr. Wayne Hutchins ’51
Retired Businessman, Springfield
Bob Ingold ’72
Attorney, Springfield
Kyle Lee
Businessman, Bolivar
Linda L. Marshall
Attorney, Lee’s Summit
Cheryl Mayfield ’80
Retired Educator, Viburnum
Donna Neil
Businesswoman, Springfield
Rick Powell
Businessman, Lee’s Summit
Rebecca Randles ’85
Attorney, Kansas City
Dr. Michael Roy ’92
Pastor, Raymore
Mr. Josh L. Trimble ’08, ’11
Businessman, Shawnee, Okla.
Rev. David Van Bebber ’08
Pastor, Buffalo

Administration

Brad Johnson, Ed.D.
Acting President and Vice President for Institutional Advancement
Darren Crowder ’98, M.A.
Vice President for Enrollment Management
Allison Langford, Ed.D.
Vice President for Strategic Planning and Initiatives
Tara Parson ’03, C.P.A.
Chief Financial Officer and Vice President for Administration
J. Lee Skinkle, Ph.D.
Provost

Deans

Troy Bethards ’93, D.B.A.
Robert W. Plaster College of Business
College of Professional Programs
Brittany Hendrickson ’08, ’11, ’12, D.N.P.
College of Health Professions
Kevin Schriver ’83, Psy.D.
Geneva Casebolt College of Arts and Sciences
Ed Walton, Ed.D.
University Libraries

University Advancement

Holly Bridge ’08, ’20
Director of Alumni Engagement
Penny Marr
Assistant Director of Stewardship Services
Savannah Palmer ’16, ’20
Assistant Director of Philanthropic Support

Marketing and Communications

Alyssa Glasgow ’15
Graphic Designer
Charlotte Highsmith Marsch ’97
Director of Marketing and Communications
Denise Elson Tucker ’89
Assistant Director of Marketing and Communications
Paige Swearengin Williford ’18
Media Producer
Rebekah Wright ’10
Assistant Director for Digital Marketing
In each Winter issue of SBUlife magazine, we interview one of our staff members so you can meet the people who help make SBU a Christ-centered, caring academic community.

Last December, David Bolton ’79, SBU’s chief technology officer, received the SBU Life Beautiful Award, an honor given annually to employees – one faculty member and one staff member – who exemplify a “life beautiful.” David began his SBU career in 1980 as assistant controller before becoming the director of accounting services and administrative computing. While in that position, he was the lead on implementing the administrative information system that SBU still uses today. He eventually moved to the information technology services department around 2003.

What are your primary responsibilities as Chief Technology Officer? My primary responsibilities are to envision, plan and support the overall technology direction of the University and to provide leadership for the Information and Technology Services (ITS) team. The ITS team supports business systems, network infrastructure, wireless infrastructure, classroom technology, data reporting and analytics, and electronic communication for the University.

What motivates you during your workday? Knowing that the work and services that the ITS team provides to the University are critical to the overall success of our students, faculty and staff motivates me most. I also have a great team of co-workers and a supervisor that provides humor, encouragement, and challenges me to do my very best.

What were the biggest challenges in moving the University to remote learning and working when the pandemic hit in March 2020? Since becoming CTO in November 2014, we have worked hard to position the University to be able to survive a disaster by moving all critical systems off-campus to a remote data center, moving many systems to the cloud and by strengthening our internal network infrastructure.

When we thought of disaster preparedness, we thought more along the lines of a tornado or some type of natural disaster, so this pandemic posed some problems for us. Our employees were not used to working remotely. Quickly providing hardware for employees and students to use from their homes, remotely providing access to software that faculty use in instruction, providing telecommunication access for staff and training employees on such things as Virtual Private Networks (VPN) posed some of the greatest challenges. We are so fortunate to have a great team of people in our Center for Teaching and Learning (CTL) who immediately took on the challenges associated with remote learning. That area is not a part of the ITS team, but we worked very closely with them to provide any technical assistance needed. The CLT team and their senior director, Angela Carr ’99, did a phenomenal job in assisting students and faculty in the transition to online.

ITS provided a supporting role in a lot that occurred during the pandemic, but our faculty and staff rose to the challenge and did a tremendous job of adapting to a new work environment. My job was made so much easier by their patience, support and encouragement.

What are your hobbies – or something people might not know about you? I enjoy working with my hands. During this winter, I’ve been constructing a 3D puzzle of Big Ben. I’ve dabbled in woodworking and hope to develop my skills a little more in retirement. After a long day at work, I love to come home and cook a good meal. Cooking takes me away from all the stress and cares of the world. I like to create new things in the kitchen – open up the pantry and go to town with whatever we have available.

You have been part of the SBU family as a student or employee since 1975. What do you think makes SBU unique? Included in SBU’s mission statement is a commitment to prepare servant leaders. I think this makes SBU very unique. Any university can prepare a leader. However, the world is desperate for leaders who have integrity, are honest, show empathy and genuinely care about those they lead. SBU is preparing servant leaders who know and love Jesus Christ and that possess traits such as respect, honesty, integrity, love and compassion. That’s a unique type of leader, a “servant leader,” one who can bring real change to a lost world.
A life of service, mission and inspiration

DENISE ELSON TUCKER ’89

Janice Sartin ’64 always had a heart for foreign missions. In preparation for that field, she earned her associate of arts degree from Southwest Baptist College, a bachelor of science in elementary education from then-Southwest Missouri State University, a master’s in social work from Tulane University and a master’s in religious education from New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary.

But, God had other plans for “Ms. Janice.”

“I thought that I was going to be a foreign missionary,” Janice said. “I wanted to go to Africa and wanted to work in a children’s home; that’s why I went to seminary. So, I worked for the home mission board while I was in seminary because you had to have two years’ experience.

“I finished, but you had to have two references and you had to pass the psychological exam, and I passed all of that. But then, you had to have a physical. When I got the physical, I had histoplasmosis in my eyes. They wouldn’t approve me to go because of the humidity, which makes any eye problem worse.”

So, Janice worked as a missionary in the United States before eventually returning to her hometown of Springfield, Mo., to help care for her grandmother – and she never left.
“My mom heard about the kindergarten teaching job at Grant Avenue Baptist Daycare, so I applied and got the job,” Janice said. “That started the road to never leaving, but I tell people that God said to me, ‘My plan for you is to be a children’s minister.’ At that time, there was no such thing as a children’s minister. The thought of being a missionary to Africa – I was ready for that. You had to have the seminary experience. I would not have to have that here, but it’s invaluable.

Looking back, I can see that God knew my personality and knew he had to take it easy with me and lead me step by step so that I would follow, and I’ve never been sorry.”

THE DRIVING FORCE
That journey began in 1971 and ended Aug. 21, 2020, marking 50 years serving at Grant Avenue Baptist Daycare – 46 of those as director. Grant Avenue provided a kindergarten program before kindergarten was offered through Springfield Public Schools (SPS). The kindergarten program averaged about 35 students in Janice’s class before she became director of the daycare and then hired another teacher.

However, due to the decline in the number of students over the years, more childcare centers, free kindergarten and pre-K programs available through the public schools, the kindergarten program was dropped in 2010 and the daycare closed its doors in 2020, after 65 years of serving area families.

One of those families Ms. Janice and the daycare served was the Pence family.

“You can just mention the name ‘Grant Avenue Daycare’ and the response you will get is – ‘Ms. Janice,’” Sasha Pence said. “Her presence and leadership there are what set the tone as a welcoming, non-judgmental, safe place for everyone who walked in. I have never heard a harsh word about her, usually just stories of how amazing she is and how much she helped. If there was a picture of the ideal Christian woman in the dictionary, it would be of her.”

Pence’s two youngest children, Tavia and DeShon, attended Grant Avenue from the age of 2 until they started public school.

“They had both learned so much while attending there that they tested too high for ‘Wonder Years’ (a pre-K program for SPS),” Pence said. “Grant Avenue never had high-tech equipment or expensive toys; they had blocks, dolls, puzzles and used VHS tapes for the longest time. It wasn’t what they had, it was who was there. I felt like I was leaving my kids with their grandma or family every day.”

MINISTRY EXTENDS TO FAMILIES
Not only did Grant Avenue and “Ms. Janice” prepare students academically, but socially and spiritually, as well, which also extended to students’ families.

“This has been such a mission field to be able to share with children and families and parents,” Janice said. “I had one dad who accepted Christ in my office. I’ll never forget that. I’ve had several children, in teaching Sunday school and Bible school, who have accepted Christ, but for a grown man, a daddy...

“This daddy was pretty hard-hearted. His little boy was getting ready to go to kindergarten and leave daycare, and the daddy came in that morning and he said, ‘Ms. Janice, I need you to tell me something. How do you do morning worship?’

I asked, ‘What do you mean?’ He said, ‘Eric doesn’t want to leave daycare because he doesn’t want to leave morning worship. I told him, that I’d find out how to do morning worship, and we’d have it before he went to school.’

I told him, ‘Well, what I can tell you is that first of all, you have to know why you’re having morning worship and who it is that you’re worshipping – and that’s Jesus. If you don’t know Jesus as your personal Savior, you can’t lead morning worship.’

He said, ‘I don’t even know what you’re talking about.’

Janice invited him to her office to share Jesus with the dad, her personal testimony and how to become a Christian. “Eric’s dad” accepted Christ that morning.

“That was an experience,” Janice said. “Nobody could have set that up perfectly like that. But there are several families who go to church here now because of the daycare center. So, I’ve had a chance to share Christ with a lot of people – children and parents.”
SACRIFICING TO HELP OTHERS
As the number of children attending the daycare began to decline and the number of foster or adopted children in the majority, the daycare struggled due to state assistance not covering the full cost.

“You don’t ask foster parents or adoptive parents to pay that extra,” Janice said. “We were losing money on those kids, which we were glad to do because those kids needed security. I began to see budget-wise, that we were really at a crunch, so I quit taking pay three years ago.

“Some said, ‘You were determined that it was going to work.’ I said, ‘No, it really is because I saw it was necessary.’ My having a salary should never have prevented these kids from having a Christian daycare, where they could know that they were loved and that God loved them. When I quit taking a salary, that allowed there to be enough money to pay teachers.”

The single-parent households also were thankful and grateful for Janice’s sacrifice and support.

“If it wasn’t for Ms. Janice, my family wouldn’t be where we are and I may not be who I am,” Pence said. “I remember one conversation with her about my Daycare Assistance not in effect and my balance was adding up. I asked her what happens if the daycare didn’t get the money, and she said, ‘Well, I don’t get paid.’ Still, she was there every day. Most places would have told me to take my kids to another center, but that was not something I had to worry about with her. She never added to the other worries I had as a single mom.”

LIFETIME OF SERVICE CELEBRATED
To celebrate and show their support for all that Ms. Janice meant to them, about 200 people attended a come-and-go reception in her honor in September – and that number was just the tip of the iceberg of the lives Ms. Janice has impacted. Some former students who attended the reception are now teachers, principals, preachers or teach Sunday school.

Over the 50 years that Janice was involved with Grant Avenue Baptist Daycare, she estimates there were approximately 200 teachers and 1,000-1,500 children who were part of the program.

“My daughter was at Grant Avenue Daycare from early 1989 through the summer of 1992, then she stayed to go to school in the kindergarten class of 1993,” Connie Henson said. “In 1989, I found myself a single mom and needed reliable childcare.

“In my daughter’s first spring program, her 2-year-old class recited the 23rd Psalm. It was awesome. Janice’s leadership and teaching were always about the kids and God’s love for them. She was caring and compassionate with the parents, but the focus was the children.”

AN INSPIRATION TO OTHERS
While her service with the daycare may have come to a close, Janice continues to serve Grant Avenue Baptist Church as a Sunday school teacher, Vacation Bible School leader and education director.

Ms. Janice continues to be an inspiration to others, having battled cancer three times over the last 14 years.

“My favorite Bible verse is, ‘This is the day the Lord has made. I will rejoice and be glad in it (Psalm 118:24),” Janice said. “You do have a choice every day. You can either sit down and whine and moan and groan and complain, or you can get up and find something to be happy about. I choose to be happy.

“Life isn’t always a bowl of cherries, but you make a choice. That’s what I always tried to tell Sasha because Sasha had a really hard life. ‘You know, you’ve got a choice. You can let this get you and go down the wrong path, or you make a choice. Stand your ground. Do what you know is right and you’ll get through it.’

And, that is what Sasha Pence has done.

“While in nursing school, our family went through some traumatic times, and she supported me the whole time and not just caring for my son,” Pence said. “She looked out for me. She was there to listen about my days, she was there for me when I cried and she prayed for me. I could not have made it through that time of my life or finish nursing school without Ms. Janice.

“I have since been working in management and as the Director of Nursing and I love what I do – not just getting to care for the residents, but for getting to work with my staff. My ‘why’ for what I do is to be the ‘Ms. Janice’ for someone else. I want to be, for my staff, who I needed when I was struggling or having a bad day. I could only hope that someone someday would think of me the way I and so many others think of her.”

“Ms. Janice” visits with Sasha Pence (left) and her children, Tavia and DeShon, at a reception honoring her 50 years of service.
Jim Grabowski ’08 Basketball

As a senior at Bolivar High School, Jim Grabowski thought he wanted to go away to college to continue his academic and athletic career. But he soon discovered that everything he wanted was right in his own backyard.

“Growing up in Bolivar, like many high school students, there is a desire to move away from home to try something new,” Jim said. “In my freshman year of college, I came to realize how special Bolivar and SBU are.”

Once he returned to Bolivar, he quickly made his impact felt on the Southwest Baptist University men’s basketball program as one of the team’s most dominant forwards, earning him induction into the SBU Athletics Hall of Fame as a member of the Class of 2021.

During his first and final seasons at SBU, Jim helped the Bearcats to a 27-5 record in 2005-06 and to a 22-8 finish in 2007-08. Both of those seasons resulted in Mid-America Intercollegiate Athletics Association (MIAA) championships and NCAA Tournament appearances.

Jim earned NABC All-Region second-team honors during his senior season (2007-08) and was a first-team All-MIAA selection. He also ranks in the top 10 in five SBU career categories. For his career, Jim pulled down 536 rebounds, blocked 45 shots, scored 1,149 points on 434 field goals, averaged 12.8 points per game and shot 45.4 percent from the field.

After SBU, Jim took his skills overseas where he played professionally for three years – one year in Ireland and two in Portugal. His team won the championship his last year in Portugal.

“Coach Jeff Guiot challenged me as a basketball player to be more confident and assertive,” Jim said. “I would not have the honor of entering into the Athletics Hall of Fame if it were not for his help in my career. He also challenged me to become a better man and Christ follower.”

SBU Athletics Hall of Fame dates

Southwest Baptist University Athletics Hall of Fame banquet dates are changing for the next few induction classes as the University navigates the COVID-19 pandemic.

While the banquet is an invitation-only event, fans will still have the opportunity to celebrate the inductees when they are recognized at a designated athletic event.

• The Class of 2021 will be recognized at a basketball game in early December 2021
• The Class of 2022 will be honored in May 2022
• The Class of 2023 is slated to return to its normal schedule of January or February 2023
When talking about Southwest Baptist University track and field, if the last name Shell sounds familiar — it should.

Emma Shell joins her twin brother, Bill ’14, ’17 – a 2020 inductee – as a member of the SBU Athletics Hall of Fame.

But, Emma Shell almost did not continue her athletic career in college.

“Honestly, I chose to attend SBU because that was where my twin brother (Bill) was wanting to go, so I just followed him,” Emma said. “I hadn’t actually planned on running track at SBU, or any college for that matter, because I never felt good enough to be competitive at the collegiate level. But, Coach Mac (Corey McElhaney) offered me a scholarship, so I took it.”

Like her brother, Emma Shell was a highly decorated track and field athlete at SBU. She broke seven records in four seasons as a Bearcat and holds the second-best program times in the 200- and 400-meter dashes. Emma also was a three-time All-American, a five-time USTFCCCA Academic All-American and a seven-time All-Mid-America Intercollegiate Athletics Association (MIAA) honoree.

Emma credits coaches McElhaney and Andre English for her growth and success as an athlete.

“By far, my coaches were my biggest motivator in helping me navigate the student-athlete journey,” Emma said. “Coach McElhaney was always an encouragement to me and checked in often to make sure I was doing OK, whether that was with academics or athletics.

“But my biggest supporter and inspiration was my sprint coach, Coach English. He was somehow able to push me beyond anything I ever thought I was capable of. I owe him a lot for my success on the track.”

Bigger doesn’t always mean better.

A top pitching prospect coming out of nearby Humansville High School, Jack Burrell ’85 led the Tigers to a runner-up finish in the 1980 state championship. College programs that pursued Jack included NCAA Division-I schools such as Missouri State University, the University of Missouri, the University of Arkansas and Southern Illinois University.

But, Jack chose then-NAIA Southwest Baptist University, just 15 miles away.

“SBU was close to home and I was still able to play against high-level competition, including Oral Roberts University, Arkansas, MSU, Southern Mississippi and many other Division-I teams,” Jack said of his decision to play for and attend SBU. “I knew it was a very caring and Christian environment both at the University, within the community and the coaching staff. I wanted to be able to play in front of local fans.”

Jack was a hard-throwing right-hander who was a starting pitcher for the Bearcats for three seasons. An injury sent him to the bullpen, moving him into a relief role his senior season. More recently, Jack was honored by the Missouri Sports Hall of Fame in 2015 as a recipient of the Diamond 9 Award, which features the top baseball and softball players in Missouri.

“I remember the many hours of practice, games, and traveling together as a team and the long-term relationships that were built,” Jack said of his time at SBU, “as well as winning my first college start against Missouri Southern my freshman year.

“Coach Duane Trogdon ’73 stressed education and personal growth. He always fought for what was right and supported the members of our team in good and bad.”
Women’s Track and Field earns highest ranking in program history

After tying its highest ranking in program history at No. 7, the SBU Women’s Track & Field team moved up three spots in the USTFCCCA Ratings to No. 4, the highest in program history. The Bearcats are the only GLVC team in the top 25 and have the second-highest ranking in the Midwest Region. In their four meets this year, the women’s team has had 12 first-place finishes and 8 qualifiers for the national championships.

The Bearcats have five top-five marks in all of Division II. The distance medley relay team of Tabitha Weber, Britney Clark, Alexis Barber and Elysia Burgos have the best time in the nation; Tamia Rayford and Britney Clark rank second and third, respectively, in the 60 meters; and Meleah Ridenour has the second-longest jump in the long jump and the fifth-best score in the pentathlon.

Hicks, Parrish named GLVC Indoor Field Athletes of the Week:
SBU’s Indoor Track and Field program earned Great Lakes Valley Conference honors in back-to-back weeks during January, as Madison Hicks and Tahje Parrish were named the most recent GLVC Indoor Field Athletes of the Week.

At the UCM Invitational on Jan. 22, Hicks won the triple jump with a distance of 11.92 meters, and Parrish took second in the triple jump with a leap of 14.68 meters. That jump was a provisional mark and fourth-best in the nation, as of Jan. 29. The first honorees of the indoor season were Elysia Burgos (track) and Tamia Rayford (field).

SBU records set: The Bearcats’ indoor track and field athletes made their mark on the SBU record books this season, including Paden Lewis, weight throw, 16.61 meters; Tamia Rayford, 60-meter dash, 7.54 seconds; Meleah Ridenour, 60-meter hurdles, 8.92 seconds; and Aubrie Sorrell, shot put, 12.69 meters.

Basketball Bearcats ride hot streak into February

For the first time since 1987-88, the SBU men’s basketball team swept the Drury Panthers in the teams’ season series. The Bearcats’ 81-46 win on Jan. 26 also made it three wins in a row for SBU against Drury – their first three-game winning streak over Drury since 1992-93.

Quinn Nelson, a junior from Ozark, played just over 15 minutes and scored 17 points on a perfect 6-for-6 from the field, 5-for-5 from 3-point range.

The Jan. 26 victory was the largest margin of victory in matchup history, and the fewest points scored by the Panthers since the teams have competed against each other. With the win, the Bearcats completed the 8-0 sweep against teams in the GLVC West.

The Bearcats’ 8-2 start to the season [through Jan. 21] was the team’s best conference start in its first 10 games since the 2008-09 season. Heading into their Feb. 4 game against the University of Missouri-St. Louis, the Bearcats were 11-3.

SBU women turn the corner on season:
After starting the season 0-7, the Lady Bearcats won four of their last six games as of Jan. 31, including a 92-86 overtime win over Missouri S&T on Jan. 23 and a 100-97 double-overtime victory over Maryville on Jan. 28.

The Lady Bearcats were 4-9 heading into a Feb. 4 matchup with UMSL.

SBU games, matches available to watch on GLVC Sports Network

With the current Winter sports seasons in progress, Fall sports playing a spring schedule and Spring sports set to get going, the Great Lakes Valley Conference is making it possible for fans to see the action.

SBU fans have been able to watch the basketball teams’ home and road games, thanks to the GLVC Sports Network livestream of the games, and will have the opportunity to watch these sports this Spring:

- Football
- Volleyball
- Baseball
- Softball
- Men’s and Women’s Soccer

Visit glvcsn.com to catch the Bearcats in action!
SBU honors Bolton, McCarley with Life Beautiful Awards

David Bolton, chief technology officer of Information and Technology Services, and Dr. Renay McCarley, division head of Associate Level Nursing and Health Sciences, received the Staff and Faculty Life Beautiful Awards on Dec. 11 at Southwest Baptist University.

“The designation ‘life beautiful’ is the highest honor a person can receive at Southwest Baptist University,” said Dr. Brad Johnson, SBU’s acting president. “Each year during the Bolivar spring commencement, we honor two graduating seniors who are chosen by the faculty, who exemplify a ‘life beautiful.’

“The year 2020 has brought a myriad of changes, including SBU’s first-ever drive-through Christmas Celebration. As a result, we honor these individuals, who exemplify a ‘life beautiful,’ at our employee forum.”

The Faculty Life Beautiful Award was established in 1987, and the Staff Life Beautiful Award was established in 1992.

David Bolton ’79 began working at SBU in 1980 as assistant controller before becoming the director of accounting services and administrative computing. While in that position, he was the lead on implementing the administrative information system that SBU still uses today, before eventually moving to the information technology services department around 2003. Bolton became chief technology officer in 2015.

Dr. Renay McCarley has been a member of the SBU faculty since 2017 and currently is the division head of Associate Level Nursing and Health Sciences and assistant professor of nursing.

SBU celebrates employees for years of service

SBU honored employees with employment anniversary milestones, beginning with five years, and retirees with a virtual celebration earlier in the week. The employees recognized have given a total of 865 years of service to SBU.

5 YEARS: Terri Rogers, Rebecca Harrill, Colleen Shuler ’89, Prosperly Lyngdoh, John Zietlow, Bill DuVall, Sarah Jones, Phil Rohrer, Chris Welch, Alyssa Glasgow ’15, Amber Martino, Kevin Jones, Debbie Walker ’87, Dwayne Walker ’87, Marshall O’Brien, Britney Dukes ’13, Britney Hendrickson ’08, ’11

10 YEARS: David Bailey ’00, Dwain Conley, Angie Carr ’99, Courtney Toler ’10, Josh Layman ’00, ’07, Craig Masters, Dennis Siegfried, Robert Carney, Terry Cox, Stacy Soden ’12, Byron Stevens, Rebekah Wright ’10, Brian Netherton ’09

15 YEARS: Greg Stewart ’93, ’14, Kelly Rehm, Joe Wooderson ’75, Jeff Kimball ’92, Zach Manis, Dana Stewart ’95, ’03

20 YEARS: Troy Bethards ’93, Sarah Russback ’86, Deanna Robertson

30 YEARS: Linda Maberry ’73

35 YEARS: Tim DeClue

40 YEARS: Stella Cunningham ’59, David Bolton ’79, Coleen Rose

RETIREEs

Suzanne Powers 11 years
Ken Spurgeon 11 years
Donna Deppe ‘97 13 years
Brian Hopwood 14 years
Rebecca Greer 15 years
Greg Stewart ‘93, ’14 15 years
Joe Wooderson ’75 15 years
Pam Ferguson 16 years
Maggie Kluh ‘03 16 years
Donna Helton 17 years

Elaine Glor 21 years
Brenda McGill 23 years
Scott McNeal 25 years
Sharla Bailey ’81 26 years
Debbie Gamble ’85 28 years
Linda Maberry ’73 30 years
Tim DeClue 35 years
Brad Gamble ’82 37 years
Carrie Turpin 37 years
Overly receives Baptist Children’s Home scholarship

Southwest Baptist University senior Briana Overly is the first recipient of a $5,000 scholarship representing a partnership among three Missouri Baptist entities.

The Missouri Baptist Children’s Home Scholarship is funded by the Missouri Baptist Foundation and awarded annually to a social work major at SBU.

“We are delighted to partner with the Missouri Baptist Children’s Home and the Missouri Baptist Foundation to support many of the most vulnerable in our society,” said Dr. Brad Johnson, acting president at SBU. “The work of the Children’s Home is vital to the work of Missouri Baptists. Southwest Baptist University is pleased to connect talented, ministry-minded Social Work majors, like Briana, with opportunities to live out their God-given calling to serve and lead in this important arena.”

As the scholarship recipient, Overly is completing her field work at the MBCH’s Springfield office. After her graduation in May 2021, she will be prepared to work full time at the Children’s Home.

“Coming from a single parent household and not having any knowledge of scholarships and funding for school, it was an amazing blessing for us,” Overly said. “Through this scholarship I was able to get an apartment with my roommate to help lower school cost.”

After working with children in an orphanage in Thailand during a Center for Global Connections trip at SBU, Overly said she felt God’s call into social work as a career.

“Another sign God gave me was seeing my cousins and their stories with state care,” she said. “I was called to make a difference in the lives of kids and older youth.”

Overly is the daughter of Rebecca Overly of Kansas City, Kan., and a member of South Haven Baptist Church, Springfield.

SBU confers degrees upon 166 graduates in November commencement ceremonies

Southwest Baptist University graduated 166 students during commencement ceremonies on Nov. 20 in both the Jane and Ken Meyer Wellness and Sports Center and Pike Auditorium in Mabee Chapel on the Bolivar campus.

Five ceremonies were held beginning with the May 2020 graduates who registered for the opportunity to participate in an in-person ceremony. Because of the COVID-19 pandemic, the spring commencement was a virtual ceremony in order to follow county and state health guidelines.

The inspiration behind these words for Schriver came from the teachings of Jesus in Matthew 11:28-30: ‘Come to me, all ye who are weary and heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light.’

Dea Geujen, chief nursing officer of Mercy Springfield since 2017 and a nurse for 28 years, spoke to the Health Professions and Associate of Nursing graduates, encouraging the graduates to “embrace the challenges, get ahead of the change or change the game.”

“You will have to rigorously apply your critical-thinking skills that you have learned from your education, and the emotional competencies that you learned right here at Southwest Baptist University,” Geujen said. “Be part of the strategy, not just the solution. Find your purpose and take a share in shaping the world.”
SBU hosts Governor’s Inaugural Prayer Service

At the request of Mo. Gov. Mike Parson, SBU hosted the 2021 Bicentennial Inaugural Prayer Service on Jan. 9, two days before Gov. Parson’s inauguration ceremony in Jefferson City.

“We feel deeply fortunate for the opportunity to partner with the Governor and First Lady in prayer at such a significant moment in the life of our state and nation,” said Dr. Brad Johnson, SBU Acting President.

Many people within the SBU community spent countless hours making the event possible. Some of our music students and faculty were asked to be part of the service and were a tremendous representation of the quality academic programs at SBU. Missouri Baptist Convention leaders joined SBU trustees for a post-service event with a special visit from Gov. Parson.
1970s
Sandra (Yelton) Playter ’70 lives in Lee’s Summit, Mo., and can be reached at besplay@hotmail.com.

Jerry Palmer ’75 and his wife, Linda (Wilson) ’75, live in Marshfield, Mo. Jerry has retired as Director of Missions after 25 years with the Heartland Baptist Association. Jerry can be reached at ttr@thrutheroof.net.

Stan Sullinger ’76 has retired after 42 years of ministry at five churches in Missouri, Texas and Georgia, in recreation, education and discipleship.

1980s
Dr. Darrell Woods ’82 is the Director of Missions for the Barry County Southern Baptist Association in Cassville, Mo. He can be reached at brodee1949@yahoo.com.

Mike Hagen ’86 can be reached at michael.hagen@live.com.

Jeffrey Marquardt ’88 and his wife, Sue (Sanders) ’85, live in Brimfield, Ill. Jeff can be reached at jeffandsue87@gmail.com.

David Donahue ’89 and his wife, Veronica, live in Manassas, Va. David is entering his 27th year of pastoral ministry in Virginia. He can be reached at redbirds1985@gmail.com.

1990s
Bob Vermillion ’93 and his wife, Jeana (Richey) ’92, can be reached at rave5775@yahoo.com.

Neecia (Beckner) Eggar ’98 can be reached at neeciaeggar99@gmail.com.

Bradley Luzadder ’99 and his wife, Angie, live in Marion Ind. Bradley is a baritone for internation recording artist “The Northmen and Cathy” from Fort Wayne, Ind. Bradley can be reached at bluzadder@gmail.com.

2000s
Dr. Dusty Childress ’05 was named President for Education Centers for Ozarks Technical Community College, and began his duties on Jan. 7. He oversees OTC’s operations of the Lebanon, Republic, Waynesville and Fort Leonard Wood campuses. He can be reached at childred@otc.edu.

Sarah (Bartlett) McEnaney ’06 can be reached at prncspsyche@yahoo.com.

IN MEMORY

Twyla (Holcomb) Keuhn ’67 of Trenton, Mo., passed away from pancreatic cancer on Sept. 8, 2020. Twyla graduated from Mexico High School in 1963, then earned degrees in English and religion in 1967 from Southwest Baptist University. At SBU, she met her future husband Raymond (R.W.) Keuhn, and they were married on May 28, 1967. She taught middle school at Fair Play for a year while R.W. finished college. After four years at Mountain Home Air Force Base, Idaho, the Keuhn’s moved back to R.W.’s home town of Trenton where they owned and operated The Gift Nook for almost 37 years. Twyla enjoyed photography, sewing and cooking.

Curtis Hernandez ’78 of High Point, N.C., passed away on Dec. 10, 2020 at Wake Forest Baptist Medical Center at the age of 65. Curt earned his bachelor of science degree in church recreation from Southwest Baptist College (SWBC) in 1978. He served as a youth pastor for most of his life in West Virginia, Texas, Missouri and North Carolina. Curt had a passion for helping young people and assisted the High Point Central Bison football team. He later worked at Costco, where regular customers knew him by name. Curt was a lifelong St. Louis Cardinals baseball fan and loved all things history and sports related. His gregarious personality and generous, loving spirit will be deeply missed.

Timothy K. Riddle ’83 of Merriam, Kan., passed away on Jan. 16, 2020 at the age of 58. Timothy was a 1979 graduate of Penney High School in Hamilton, Mo., and 1983 graduate of Southwest Baptist University, where he received a BS in business administration. Timothy was a lifelong member of First Baptist Church of Hamilton, and is survived by his parents, Bill and Georgia Riddle, Hamilton, Mo.; sister Cheri (Riddle) Gossen and husband Monty, O’Fallon, Mo.; nephew Taylor Gossen ’18 and his wife Ashley (Bauer) Gossen ’17, Branson; and niece Tabitha Gossen, O’Fallon, Mo.

The Alumni Office is taking nominations for the Life Service Award and the Edwin Lightfoot Distinguished Alumni Award until March 12, 2021. Submit nominations at advance.SBUniv.edu/alumni-awards

*2020 Award Recipients have not yet been recognized, but will be recognized during 2021.
Guess Who?

The SBU Bearcats athletics department honors former athletes through its Hall of Fame. The SBU Athletics Hall of Fame exists to recognize teams and athletes for outstanding contributions during their collegiate student-athlete careers or for commendable service to intercollegiate athletics.

The SBU Athletics Hall of Fame 2021 inductees are recognized in this issue of SBUlife on page 18 and 19. Can you identify any of these previous SBU Athletics Hall of Fame inductees pictured below?

1. [Image of inductee]
2. [Image of inductee]
3. [Image of inductee]

Everyone who correctly identifies at least one of these inductees will be entered into a prize drawing. Submit your guesses by email to SBUcommunications@gmail.com or by mail to: Office of Marketing and Communications, 1600 University Ave., Bolivar MO 65613. Entries must be received by March 26.

Thank you to all who participated in the previous Guess Who contest. The pictured Distinguished Teacher award winners pictured were Joe Shelton, Rosalyn Snellen and John Wheeler.


Congratulations to Joy Thomas Kreisel who won the prize package!
SBU’s Day of Giving is coming soon! Don’t miss this opportunity to assist students through scholarships. Your gift will encourage and support Bearcats for years to come.