



Nick Michael



Here at Harding, some of us like to consider this our home for four years, while others continue to stay and make it their home permanently. As the years go by and as people come and go, students at Harding are blessed with Christian leaders who promote growth on an intellectual, social, and, most importantly, a spiritual level. Not only do they make Harding a place that everyone, including their families, can consider home, but they create a place where God is glorified through all things.

Nicole Sullenger

leadership

They created degrees from the ground floor up, represented the eyes and ears of Harding nationally and even helped keep tuition dollars down, yet the majority of people on campus had never heard of the University Builders Circle (UBC), a smaller group that formed from the President's Council.

When Dr. Cliff Ganus was president in 1965, he realized very quickly that the leadership at Harding needed to be larger than just the president, vice presidents and faculty members. From that thought, the President's Council was born. Over the years, it continued to grow to more than 1,100 families.

Mike Williams, vice president of Advancement and member of the UBC, said that over the years, the President's Council brainstormed creating a new group in order to be more personal and helpful.

"In 1999, another smaller group started to be more intimate and defined," Williams said. "It started with 75 members for our 75th anniversary and had grown to 120 families, which are all over the country."

The members of the UBC gave at least \$5,000 a year towards different projects, including scholarships funds, capital projects and new buildings. Each member attended annual meetings to find out the latest opportunity or idea.

"These people that are the UBC are different kinds of people," Williams said. "They are not part of this group to get a tax break but because

they want to be part of something special and provide the best education to students [that] they possibly can."

They also carried this responsibility along with their real jobs. Several men who graduated from Harding and went on to Harvard Law School saw the importance of having a finance degree and created every aspect of it for the College of Business Administration. The men were regular business guys taking time from their busy lives to provide a greater opportunity for students.

"This group of individuals from the Harding Builder's Circle provided the challenge to build the finance program and then backed up this challenge with funding," Dean of COBA Dr. Bryan Burks said. "I can honestly say we would not have a finance degree today if it had not been for these men who love Harding and the College of Business. They wanted to ensure we continue to produce graduates who are well prepared and relevant for today's business global economy, who are character-based with a servant heart and who are purposeful in their career."

Williams said that he and the UBC acknowledged the change in accessibility to student loans and scholarships. The group was eager to provide what they could to keep as many dollars down as possible.

"The Advancement program is very sensitive to what goes on according to tuition revenue," Williams said.

Members of the UBC wanted to give in every way possible so that they could provide affordability to the students and help keep student rates down.

"This same group was the group that was paying for my scholarships in college," Williams said. "I was part of the UBC because I felt it is my responsibility to give back to Harding and provide scholarship opportunities to today's students."

Williams said he wished he had realized the number of people that were contributing to his education. He also wished today's students were able to realize the energy and time people had put into their education.

"People were out there dreaming for me, and now I'm 45 and I'm dreaming for students now," Williams said. "[UBC members] want to be part of that and pay for someone else's scholarship."

All the pieces were there to connect the UBC to the entire institution. The future dream was to provide an advisory board for every department. The boards would exceed expectations as far as accomplishing goals through relationships and creating opportunities for each department.

"Dr. Ganus was right when he said Harding would be a very complex institution," Williams said, "and that it would take a village bringing resources together to accomplish what we have over the years."

Allison Weaver

Giving





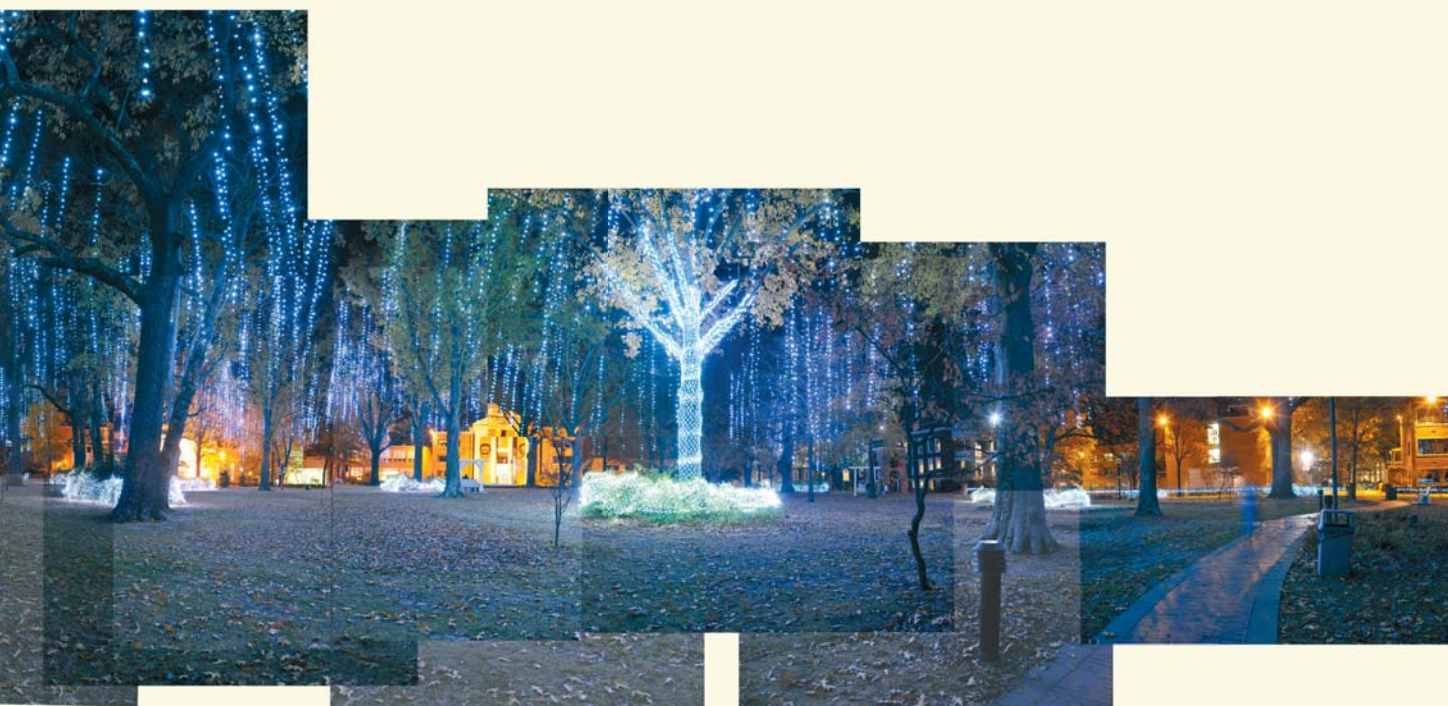
Dr. Julie Hixson-Wallace sits at her desk in the new Center for Health Sciences on Nov. 17. Hixson-Wallace was not only the founding dean of the College of Pharmacy, she was also a new member of the President's Council. *Nick Michael*

On Dec. 2, the Christmas lights illuminate campus for only the second time this semester. The lights were hung beginning in October, and it was only possible through generous donations that covered the cost. *Noah Darnell*



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| University Builders Circle contributes to students' education |





Creativity | *president finds outlet in the arts* |

From delivering bread to working for a photography studio in high school, President Dr. David Burks was not aware of his full passion for creative and liberal arts until he was a student at Harding. While Burks filled the traditional administrative tasks as president, many people did not realize his creative side and the artistic influence he had on campus.

"I love the arts, and I love going to drama productions and going to the musicals at Harding," Burks said. "I also enjoy going to the rehearsals for them. I really do enjoy going to Spring Sing, the [Homecoming] musical and the dramatic arts, and I think it's a marvelous part of the Harding environment."

When Burks started school at Harding in 1961, he was a personal photographer as well as a staff photographer for the Petit Jean. His passion for photography started before going to college. While in high school, he spent time developing his own film and processing it in his own dark room.

"When I came to Harding as a student, [photography] was an easy way for me to make some money," Burks said. "So I had a photography business on the side. I took club portraits, and then I took pictures for the

Petit Jean through a scholarship to help me pay my college expenses."

Burks continued to develop his creative spirit well into his adult life. A recent ambition he had that many did not realize was the interest to play the piano. He began taking lessons under the direction of Donna Jo Miller two years ago and devoted two hours daily to practice.

"I guess it was a desire to do something I've never been able to do before, so I bought a grand piano and try to practice for a couple hours a day," Burks said.

As if photography and piano were not enough to satisfy the right side of his brain, Burks also gained an interest in architecture.

"I have a great love for architecture," he said. "That's always been a secret ambition of mine."

As president, he became more involved with the design and building aspect of the university than some would have expected.

"Dr. Burks has a little draft table in his back room [of his office], and he will get the plans and sketch around on them," Assistant to the President Nathan Copeland said. "He is into it. He has got this architect

stuff figured out."

Burks said he worked with the Harding University architect, Mike Steelman, who had done most of the work on Harding's campus since Burks had been president. Burks spent a lot of time with Steelman to ensure that he had an input in terms of what they attempted to do with new building projects and renovations.

"It has been a favorite part of my job," Burks said. "It's great fun, and I thoroughly enjoy planning and working with committees on campus to plan buildings."

Copeland said that it seemed like Burks had done several different construction projects on campus, and as more buildings went up, he got more and more involved in the process and learned quite a bit about architecture.

Steelman told Copeland that once Burks retired, he could just go into architecture.

"He knows a lot about it now and has a great vision for things, and that's what he has done with all the new construction and remodeling," Copeland said. "He has this vision in his head of how things should be, and that's kind of how it plays out. We've seen that so far, and I think he has got a few more in the future."

Allison Weaver



President David Burks auctions off the first basket at the Basket Bid on Nov. 6 along with juniors Anna Reynolds and Alyssa Copeland. From the luau at his house during Student Impact to adding some light humor to chapel, Burks always found time to get involved with the students. *Noah Darnell*



On Nov. 6, President David Burks walks around campus taking advantage of the beautiful day. Burks always utilized his creativity, from his days as head photographer of the Petit Jean yearbook to his involvement with the architecture around campus. *Noah Darnell*

A sight many will never see, Dr. David Burks' presidential office resides in the Heritage Center Lobby. His office has a working fireplace and is always decorated for holidays. *Noah Darnell*

Legacy



Jim Carr, Ph. D., Executive VP
Keith Cronk, M.Litt., VP/Information
Technology Services
Floyd Daniel, B.S., Senior VP
Cliff Ganus, Ph.D., Chancellor



Larry Long, Ph.D., VP/Academic Affairs
Bruce McLarty, M.Th., VP/Spiritual Life
Mel Sansom, M.S., VP/Finance/CFO
Mike Williams, Ed.D., VP/Advancement

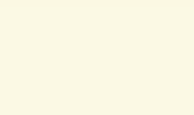
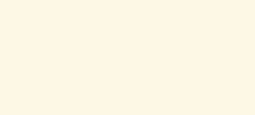
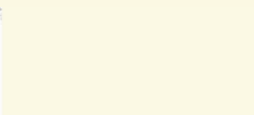
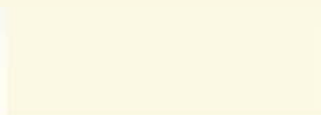




Chancellor Cliff Ganus looks out the same window he has looked out of for the past four decades on Sept. 22. Ganus had previously served as a department chair, vice president and president of Harding before taking his position as chancellor. *Noah Darnell*

Keith Cronk, vice president of Information Technology, spends time working at his desk in the Administration Building Sept. 18. When he was not working, Cronk said he enjoyed working on his golf game and reading. *Noah Darnell*

A landmark since 1934, the Harding University arch has been a part of the campus since it was Galloway Women's College. Though the campus changed constantly, the arch reminded the people on campus of its older, smaller roots. *Noah Darnell*



chancellor continues to work and lead at Harding

Dr. Cliff Ganus, Jr., leaned back in his desk chair and gazed out of the office window facing the front lawn onto a campus he had watched progress for much of his life.

For 62 of his 86 years of age, Ganus made Harding his life and passion. Having served as president of Harding from 1965 to 1987, he then became chancellor. In this role, Ganus performed a variety of tasks.

"I'm involved in public relations, fundraising, student recruitment and representing the school at various functions," he said.

Whether he was serving as a representative of Harding to receive a large donation, sitting in a meeting to discuss policies or simply visiting a notable alumnus, all these things he did for a school he loved. Few students realized how much he did to further Harding's stature in the world beyond Searcy.

For 43 years, from his corner office in the Administration Building, Ganus watched out the window as history went by as fast as students running to class. His office once belonged to the sitting president of the university, but when Dr. David Burks became president and the Heritage Building was constructed, Burks requested that his office be built in the new building. As a result, Ganus

kept his same office since he served as president.

Because he had been involved with Harding for so long, he had an abundance of stories concerning the history and development of the school.

"I remember the burning of the mortgage in 1939 on Thanksgiving Day out here on the front lawn," Ganus said referring to the celebration that took place when Harding no longer owed any money on the original land.

"It's a little thing — burning of a mortgage — but in the meaning of the history of the institution, it's something," Ganus said. "Harding has never been mortgaged since then."

When Harding made the transition from college to university in 1979, Ganus said he remembered that Dr. L.C. Sears was the one who unveiled the new arch sign reading 'Harding University', which was prominently displayed on campus since then.

Ganus also shared his memory of the laying of the time capsule between the Olen Hendrix Building and the Brackett Library.

"In 2024, when it is to be opened for Harding's 100th year anniversary, it will have to be removed from the ground with a crane," he said. "I poured 3 tons of concrete on it to prevent a few of the men's clubs from bothering it."

Ganus also remembered the day when the support beam for the roof of the Benson Auditorium arrived, and everyone on campus came out to sign it before it was raised into place.

"There's an I-beam 7 feet tall, 135 feet long that they brought in from Fort Smith [Ark.]. The whole school, faculty [and] students signed it," Ganus said. "You could still see it if you got up in the attic. It's there forever."

Ganus cherished all of these momentous occasions for the university, having been here the entire time to see and experience them all first-hand.

"When I came here, there were only 300 students, four buildings of any consequence and just a handful of faculty — often a couple teachers making up any one department," he said. "That was in 1937. Now there are over 6,000 students, 45 buildings on 275 acres and 220 faculty members; I've watched it all happen out this window."

But as for the generations who have attended Harding more recently and will become the deans and chancellors in 50 or 60 years, he had one piece of advice: "Early in your youth, seek the heart of God. Seek His will. Begin when you are young and for all the days of your life."

Noah Darnell and Emily Hauptli

While many girls grew up following the traditional plan of getting married and starting their own family, not all conformed to this pattern. Director of Student Technology Services Lora Fleener found her dream come true when she became a single mom to adopted daughter, Lydia, from Vietnam.

Growing up in a home with adopted and foster children, Fleener developed interest in adoption early on. There was hardly a moment growing up in her home that did not include additions to the family.

"It didn't matter what color you were or what size you were; you were always just part of the family," Fleener said.

Later, Fleener attended Harding, and after graduation, immediately began working for the university. With no husband or children occupying her focus at the time, Fleener had pushed the idea of adoption out of her mind. But that all changed in January 2000 when she took a trip to Vietnam.

"I did give some thought to single parent adoption but decided it would be too difficult," Fleener said. "Then I met a friend who adopted two little girls from Vietnam."

When Jessica Moore, who also worked for Harding as the women's intramural director, approached Fleener about traveling with her to Vietnam to pick up her newly-adopted daughters, Fleener readily joined her.

"I fell in love with Vietnam and more importantly with the beautiful children of Vietnam," Fleener said. "I knew then that I wanted to adopt from Vietnam."

In November of 2000, Fleener began the process of adopting her daughter, which took over two years to accomplish.

"I received the call the day before Thanksgiving 2002," Fleener said. "That phone call started a whirlwind that hasn't stopped."

Fleener's legal adoption of her daughter was finalized in Vietnam on January 22, 2003. After returning to the states, Fleener chose to re-adopt, which allowed her to change her daughter's name and obtain a U.S. birth certificate for Lydia listing Fleener as her legal mother.

Fleener's new life, while a blessing, also presented its own challenges. Balancing a job, raising a child and participating in community activities were hard enough for married couples, let alone a single mother of a 5 year old.

"Being a single mother is much more difficult than I ever could have imagined," Fleener said. "It is very rewarding, and I wouldn't change anything, but it can be difficult at times."

Despite these challenges, Fleener enjoyed sharing all aspects of her life with Lydia. As the manager of DormNet, a communication support program that employed students to help people on campus with Internet connection problems, Fleener often brought Lydia to come hang out with "the boys" at work. She got a big kick out of playing jokes on whomever sat at the Help Desk.

"We have adjustable chairs at the Help Desk, and one of them taught her to go up behind someone and pull the lever and lower the chair," Fleener said. "She thinks that's hysterically funny."

Though her life did not follow a traditional path, Fleener embraced every moment with her daughter, both the joys and the challenges.

"Nothing is more important to me than Lydia's happiness. Even when it gets hard to balance it all, she is my number one priority," Fleener said. "I wouldn't change a thing that has happened, and I know that God chose her for me. I thank Him for that every day."

Farron Martin and Emily Hauptli

Lydia Fleener, daughter of Lora Fleener, plays in the flowers on Harding's campus in April while wearing her DormNet T-shirt. Lydia said her favorite part of coming to work with her mom was being able to give her mom hugs. *Courtesy of Lora Fleener*

Lora Fleener, director of Student Technology Services, spends time on the front lawn with her daughter Lydia on Sept. 18. Fleener adopted her daughter from Vietnam in 2002, and since then, the DormNet staff grew to love spending time with her. *Noah Darnell*

Also known as the Lilly Pond, the fountain on the front lawn has been a part of campus from its beginning. More than just something to look at, students gather around the fountain frequently to watch baptisms or hold social club ring ceremonies. *Noah Darnell*



Adoption





Harold Alexander, M.S.E., Director/Academic Advising Center
 Mark Benton, Ed.D., Headmaster Harding Academy
 Nicky Boyd, Ed.D., Director/Walton Scholars, Career Center, International Students
 William Bridges, B.S., Manager/Bookstore
 Mike Chalenburg, B.A., Assistant VP IS&T



David Crouch, B.S., Director/Public Relations
 Danny DeRamus, B.A., Director/Physical Resources
 Glenn Dillard, B.B.A., Assistant VP/Enrollment Management
 Ann Dixon, M.L.S., Director/Brackett Library
 Tammy Hall, M.B.A., Assistant VP/Finance



Greg Harnden, M.A., Director/Athletics
 Janice Hurd, M.P.A., Registrar
 Donald Kee, J.D., General Counsel IS&T
 Paula Kirby, B.S., Director/Academic Info Systems
 John Nunnally, M.S., Mgr/Network Operation



Craig Russell, M.A., Director/Public Safety
 Marty Spears, Ph.D., Assistant VP/Academic Affairs
 Vickie Walton, Mgr/Heritage Inn

|director adopts daughter overseas|



Additions | *three new deans appointed* |



As Harding continued to grow in 2008, old administration positions were filled and new ones were created. Dr. Larry Long, Vice President of Academic Affairs, had a busy summer trying to define roles and meet the leadership needs of various departments on campus. A large part of that process was hiring a new dean to oversee the College of Bible, as well as two brand new dean positions in the College of Communication and Graduate Studies.

"The two new positions are a part of our overall plan to look at the growing areas of our university," Long said.

One of the new positions created was Dean of Graduate Studies, which was filled by Dr. Cheri Yecke. Long said with more than 20 graduate programs in place, there was a need for administrative leadership. Yecke brought a wealth of experience with her having served under the George W. Bush administration in the U.S. Department of Education, and she most recently worked for former Governor Jeb Bush in Florida as the Chancellor of K-12 Education.

"My first task is to bring consistency and coordination to graduate programs and make strong programs run more efficiently," Yecke said. "I love Harding and Searcy. It's a wonderful and warm atmosphere, and I'm delighted to be here."

Dr. Mike James moved from the Communication Department Chair to the Dean of the brand new College of Communication.

"It has been a multi-year project," James said. "It started when we began to realize we were larger in a lot of areas than some of the other departments. As a college, we will get the chance to spread our wings a little."

With more than 30 faculty and staff, the College of Communication had grown at a rapid pace. James said he expected more growth in the years to come and also mentioned he started investigating the development of new programs, which included a master's degree.

"Our biggest challenge will be space," James said. "Right now we just don't have the room."

The College of Bible and Religion saw

a familiar face fill the role of dean in 2008. Harding graduate Dr. Monte Cox moved from associate dean to dean. Cox said that though his duties had not drastically changed, he had a definite vision for the College of Bible and Religion.

"We have a major five-year strategy plan, which includes a complete overhaul of curriculum," Cox said. "We want to continue to teach knowledge but emphasize more than just knowledge."

Also among Cox's goals were a remodel and possible expansion of the McInteer Bible Building, as well as decreasing the size of freshmen Bible classes.

While the visions of the new Harding administrators varied, their one common goal was to focus their colleges around Harding's mission. Long said he was very pleased with the new selections.

"I have great confidence in these three individuals," Long said. "I see them as visionary leaders and people that can get things done."

Zach Welch



Dr. Mike James, Dean of the College of Communication, enjoys keeping up with the latest technology in his office on Sept. 23. In addition to being appointed as a new dean, James also made time for other things, like hosting a home Bible study on Wednesday nights.
Noah Darnell

In addition to serving as an elegant and relaxing sitting area for students and faculty alike, the Heritage Center is the home to the office of President David Burks. Since being renovated in 2006, visitors say the inside of this building is now one of the most beautiful places on campus. *Noah Darnell*



Bryan Burks, D.B.A., Dean/College of Business Administration
Monte Cox, Ph.D., Dean/College of Bible and Religion
Tony Finley, Ed.D., Dean/College of Education
Julie Hixson-Wallace, Pharm.D., Dean of Pharmacy



Jeff Hopper, Ph.D., Dean/Honors College & International Programs
Mike James, Ph.D., Dean/College of Communication
Dennis Organ, Ph.D., Dean/College of Arts and Humanities
Cathie Shultz, Ph.D., Dean/College of Nursing



Travis Thompson, Ph.D., Dean/College of Sciences
Cheri Yecke, Ph.D., Dean/Graduate Programs

In spite of all the technological advancements made to expand and improve ways of communication, some found it harder than ever to understand and relate to more technologically savvy groups. Parents and older generations had difficulty when it came to connecting with younger generations who had been saturated with improving technologies and media.

In an attempt to help bridge this cultural gap, The Institute of Church and Family and TC Magazine started a program called SYNC/SWIM, which was designed to inform and educate adults about the world that teenagers lived in.

The main purpose of the SYNC/SWIM program was to help adults get in tune with teens and in turn help them travel down the right path. Brandon Tittle, assistant director for The Institute of Church and Family and one of the three members that comprised the SYNC/SWIM team, recognized the need for better communication between older and younger generations.

"We just know that a lot of parents are disconnecting from their teens, so we try to help them connect," Tittle said.

The SYNC/SWIM group traveled to different churches and conventions to show movie clips, commercials, explain social networking and text messaging to help adults understand the teenage world. Laura Edwards, managing editor of TC Magazine, said that to prepare for each presentation, the group gathered information in advance from students in the area that they would be visiting. This ensured that the information they presented to adults would be relevant to their own kids.

"We use interviews and surveys from students and then [incorporate] that information [into the presentations]," Edwards said.

On the weekend of Sept. 19-21, the SYNC/SWIM team went to Hiram, Ga., for an international conference. These seminars typically lasted around six hours.

"Our weekend seminar with the SYNC/SWIM team was an eye opener for those generations removed from our teenagers," said Glenn Organ, a Nichols Street church of Christ elder from Bay City, Texas. "Their presentation depicting the world teenagers live in today was factual, revealing and even shocking to those who don't

live in their world. The challenges presented to parents, grandparents, elders and ministers were carefully and well documented."

The SYNC/SWIM group hoped that understanding the type of world that teenagers lived in would give parents and older generations an opportunity to help guide teens.

"Youth workers and parents want to build a wall around teens, but we're trying to help them understand pop culture so that they can help teens navigate it," Edwards said.

SYNC/SWIM sought to provide information for parents and older generations as they struggled to reach out and influence the younger people in their lives.

"They can't help if they're oblivious," Edwards said.

The feedback that SYNC/SWIM received indicated that they accomplished their mission to enable more effective communication across generations.

"Anyone raising teenagers or concerned with their survival in an alien world will profit from SYNC/SWIM," Organ said.

Katie Fittz and Emily Hauptli

Connecting





Director of the Institute of Church and Family Andrew Baker speaks at a SYNC/SWIM seminar in the Cone Chapel Sept. 29. SYNC/SWIM was a program that attempted to bridge the gap between younger and older generations. *Noah Darnell*

Junior Julia Bentley checks the student ID cards of sophomore Kelda Inness and freshmen Kevin McKee and Chase Gentry on the National Day of Encouragement Sept. 12 so they could get lunch tickets. The Institute of Church and Family had the cafeteria closed in order to have an all-day event and cookout on the front lawn. *Noah Darnell*

Part of campus since the '80s, the Benson steps are one of the most visited parts of Harding's campus. More than just a wonderful place to sit in between classes, there are student-led devotionals held there every Wednesday evening during the school year. *Noah Darnell*



| SYNC/SWIM helps adults understand teen culture |





Bill Richardson spends time in La Paz, Bolivia, during the summer of 2006 for a research trip. He spent seven years as a missionary after being influenced by his teachers in college. *Courtesy of Bill Richardson*

After his 8 a.m. World Christian class on Oct. 31, Bill Richardson talks to junior Alicia Bridges. Richardson began teaching at Harding in 1995, and in 2008 he began serving as the director of the Center for Advanced Ministry Training. *Nick Michael*

Bible professor Bill Richardson worships with the Hispanic community in Searcy on Nov. 2. As he and his wife, Holly, worshiped with them every other Sunday, he was able to continue his missionary work although residing in Searcy. *Noah Darnell*



Serving | *director reaches out to nonbelievers* |



Before coming on as a full-time teacher in 1995, Dr. Bill Richardson, the Director of the Center for Advanced Ministry Training, and his wife, Holly, were missionaries for seven years in several Latin America countries, such as Guatemala, Argentina and Chile. Richardson's dedication to sharing the Gospel through missions caused Dr. Shawn Daggett, Director of the Center for World Missions, to describe him as "a great leader, hard worker and man of vision."

As a faculty member, Richardson was not out in other countries doing mission work, but he was still very much a missionary in Searcy. Richardson worked closely with a Hispanic ministry, the "Casita," which was set-up by Downtown Church of Christ. During the summer, Richardson also led a group of students to Bolivia and Peru.

"Bill is one of the hardest working people that I know," Daggett said. "He also takes groups of students to Latin America on survey and research trips to target new mission points and form teams to return to the field."

Richardson was inspired to be a missionary by several people in his life. A visiting missionary and youth minister, Jerry Hill, was one of the first.

"[He] put a very human face viewpoint on missions," Richardson said. "He was very humble."

Richardson graduated from Abilene Christian University, which was where the teacher of his very first missions class impressed upon Richardson how many people were lost and needed God in their lives.

"They say missions are better caught than taught, and that was the case for me," Richardson said.

Having a Christian education, Richardson took several aspects to the mission field with him. He took all the Biblical knowledge and training he received, but Richardson thought he learned more in the first year as a missionary than he ever did in school. Richardson also believed that he mainly took "the love and support of others" from school to the mission field.

Through his extensive mission work, Richardson had many types of cultural experiences.

"To see the power of the Gospel penetrate hearts is an experience," Richardson said. "Just to see that and interact with people who are out there seeking to become brothers is an experience in and of itself. It's very gratifying."

While many good opportunities and experiences came from his time as a missionary, Richardson said that going to another country and presenting the Gospel was difficult at times.

"You want to take God and what you know about Him and present it in such a way that is divorced from our own culture," Richardson said.

Richardson went into the mission field thinking he would be teaching others, but he found that God taught him more than he ever imagined. He came away with more blessings than he knew.

"What Jesus said is so true," Richardson said. "If you leave your earthly homes, the blessings, even here [on] this earth, are so great."

Christie Cronk



Leading | *spreading God's love through teaching* |

Harding Bible professor Dr. Allen Diles had taught at Harding since 2005. Before coming to Searcy to teach, he was a missionary abroad in Prague, Czech Republic. Diles first went to the Czech Republic with Scott Karnses and Jason Locke from Abilene Christian University where the three were in graduate school together. After spending a year in the Czech Republic, they all returned to finish graduate school and to form a larger, stronger team to go back for long-term missions work in Prague.

Originally planning to travel to Australia, the team changed their minds when the Berlin wall came down in 1989 and Communism was falling. The group knew that the people in the Communist controlled areas needed the Gospel and that this was their chance to go in, now that it was no longer illegal to preach the Gospel. So they decided to go into the Czech Republic instead of Australia in 1990.

After this, the group returned to Abilene and Diles began building a team to go back and live in Prague. It was a ten-person team that packed their bags and left the U.S. for

mission work in the Czech Republic, including Diles and his wife, Laurie.

Although part of the group had already been to Prague, there were still many difficulties the members faced upon arrival. The language barrier proved to be the most imminent of struggles to get through. To overcome this, the team had their own language teacher who worked with them the whole time they were there.

"The language was a hard one to learn," Diles said. "It took over a year to learn how to speak it, and about three years to be comfortable with it."

Another difficulty the team faced was the harsh culture of the Czech Republic.

"It was a very closed and reserved culture there," he said.

Status and use of a person's official title was used very formally in all parts of society. How the team spoke, treated or interacted with anyone from the Czech Republic was influenced by the status that the group carried. This also made it more difficult in some circumstances to reach out to those in the community.

Along with the Czech Republic's strict for-

mality and history came their lack of faith and acceptance of religion.

"Between 60-70% of the people in that area were atheists, even some of which claim to be Christians," Diles said.

Some of the things that impacted Diles' life and the lives of their team in Prague were the few they did reach with the gospel and were able to baptize. One of Diles' favorite memories was converting their language teacher. She had been with them for over three years when she finally began going to church with them. Six months later they had the privilege of baptizing her into Christ. Before her conversion, the language teacher had also adhered to the strict code of conduct found in the country, asking the team to only call by her proper name. After her baptism, she told them that they were now her brothers and sisters and that they could call her by her first name, Vera.

"I have seen up close what society without God is like," Diles said. "Our society is becoming more like that. The richness of my experiences there influences my teaching here."

Joseph Dickerson and Katie Ramirez



Assistant Professor of Bible Allen Diles sits in his office Nov. 3 after a day of classes. Along with teaching, Diles got involved with students and held European Vision interest group meetings through the school year. *Noah Darnell*

On Oct. 31, Allen Diles teaches his missionary principles class before he heads to teach New Testament and church history. Diles also prepared for the campaign he was leading to the Czech Republic over the summer of 2009 and led meetings for the campaign each week. *Nick Michael*

On Nov. 3, Allen Diles cheers at his son's basketball game at Harding Academy. When he was not working, Diles enjoyed spending as much time as he could with his wife, Laurie, and children. *Nick Michael*

Heroes | *new teacher starts team racing to save lives*

New teacher and seasoned marathon runner Dr. Richard Brown added yet another dimension to the good work done at Harding. Brown, an associate professor of marketing, began teaching at Harding in the fall of 2008 after teaching marketing at Freed-Hardeman University in Henderson, Tennessee, for twelve years.

After teaching at Harding for only a couple of weeks, faculty, staff and students became impressed with Brown's initiative to take on leadership and show his desire to help the hurt.

"Harding says to me, 'educating for eternity,'" Brown said. "I do my job here. I teach marketing, but I also teach about being a good person and using your abilities to help in whatever way you can."

As if taking on a new job was not enough, assuming career responsibilities plus extra tasks did not seem like the lightest load. The additional workload did not seem to affect Brown as he began preparing a Harding team of runners, donors and supporters for the Dec. 6, St. Jude's Marathon in Memphis, Tennessee.

"To me, St. Jude's is a hospital that researches and [treats] childhood diseases," Brown said. "They take the hardest cases and do the best they can. They save a lot of people that would die otherwise."

The money raised from the marathon went toward research, expenses of low-income patients and the medical bills of uninsured children.

"The first year I ran in that marathon, I did not even know what I was running for," Brown said. "I was just looking for a marathon in a big city [that was] somewhat close to me."

After he found out that the marathon was to benefit St. Jude's, he recalled his first memory of the hospital, which was an interaction he had a couple years back on an airplane with a mother and a sick child on their way to St. Jude's.

After that first marathon, he became interested in St. Jude's and its mission.

"The year after that I raised \$6,000 easily; I just got the word out, and people were glad to help," Brown said. "It grew from there, and we began raising money on campus. Students, faculty and sponsors around town donated. Everyone that helped by giving felt good about it."

The next year at Freed-Hardeman, a 13-member team was formed and ran the marathon. The second year they had 30 runners; the third year, 40 runners; the fourth time, 60 runners and the fifth time, 80 runners. Each year they increased the money raised by \$10,000.

"The money raised went towards buildings, research, doctors' income and medical care," Brown said. "If a child can't afford it, [these funds] pay for it. They don't turn anyone away."

Brown introduced the idea of helping St. Jude's cause to Harding's campus early in the 2008 fall semester and formed "Harding's Heroes," which was a group of runners, donors and supporters

for St. Jude's.

"My long term goal, say five years from now, is to have a Freed team, Harding team, Oklahoma Christian University team and Abilene team," Brown said. "I'd like it to become something churches of Christ schools do – something we do together."

His hopes were that other schools would see that Freed-Hardeman and Harding had positive experiences, recognize that it was a good opportunity and be encouraged to form a team as well.

Brown became an even stronger supporter last year when one of his best friend's daughters was diagnosed with Hodgkin's disease and was treated at St. Jude's.

"Last year, I was running for one of my very best friend's daughters, and that made it more realistic for me," Brown said. "Before, I was just trying to raise money for what I thought was a good cause. Now, I know how good of a cause it is."

He gave an example of what the hospital looked like through a different light.

"If you had a globe with pieces of land that don't represent acreage but how much good there is in the world, St. Jude's would be a big chunk of land," Brown said. "You'd be able to see it from far, far away, showing how much good they're doing."

Allison Weaver



Dr. Richard Brown, associate professor of marketing, teaches his world of business class on Oct. 24. Brown was involved with various activities around campus, such as the St. Jude's Heroes at Harding, although this was the first year at Harding for both him and his daughter Bethany, who was a freshman this year. *Nick Michael*



Scott Adair, M.Div., Asst. Prof. Bible
 Daniel Adams, M.F.A., Prof. Art
 David Adams, M.A., Instr. History
 Glen Adams, Psy.D., Assoc. Prof. Psychology
 Usen Akpanudo, Ed.D., Asst. Prof. Edu
 Jenene Alexander, Ed.D., Assoc. Prof. Education/Director Counseling

Tom Alexander, Ph.D., Prof. Bible
 David Allen, M.B.A., Assoc. Prof. Accounting
 Dan Atchley, Ph.D., Assoc. Prof. Pharmacy
 Beverly Austin, M.A., Asst. Prof. Art
 Steve Baber, Ph.D., Prof. Math/Computer Science
 Tim Baird, Ph.D., Prof. Computer Science/Dept. Chair

Kim Baker-Abrams, M.S.W., Assoc. Prof. Social Work
 David Bangs, Ed.D., Assoc. Prof.
 Klay Bartee, M.F.T., Asst. Prof.
 Pat Bashaw, M.Ed., Asst. Prof. Education/Chair Graduate Studies
 Clay Beason, Ed.D., Asst. Prof./Asst. Football Coach
 Jeremy Beauchamp, M.S.E., Dir. Student Publications/Instr.

Jim Behel, Ph.D., Dir. Business Graduate Studies/Prof.
 Fleming Bell, Ph.D., Assoc. Prof. Foreign Language
 James Bengel, M.A., Instr. English
 Janice Bingham, M.S.N., Assoc. Prof. Nursing
 Nick Boone, Ph.D., Asst. Prof. English
 Cecil Boothe, Ed.S., Assoc. Prof./Dir. NWA Prof. Center

Jerry Bowling, Ph.D., Assoc. Prof. Bible/Youth & Family
 Steven Breezeel, Ph.D., Assoc. Prof. Political Science
 Tim Brinley, M.A., Dir. HUG
 Phil Brown, Ph.D., Assoc. Prof. Accounting/Dir. of Accounting
 Richard Brown, Ph.D., Assoc. Prof.
 Joe Brumfield, Ed.D., Prof. Bible/MFT

Ben Bruner, Ph.D., Asst. Prof. Biology
 Tara Bruner, M.S., Asst. Prof.
 Bryan Burks, D.B.A., Assoc. Prof./Dean Business
 Stephen Burks, Ed.D., Assoc. Prof. Kinesiology/Wellness Program
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 James Bury, M.R.E., Asst. Prof. Bible

Ken Cameron, Ph.D., Prof. Psychology
 Heath Carpenter, M.Ed., Instr.
 Cindy Carrell, D.M.A., Asst. Prof. Music
 Scott Carrell, D.M.A., Assoc. Prof. Music
 Clara Carroll, Ed.D., Assoc. Prof./Chair Professional Field Experiences/
 Dir. M.Ed. ASTL
 Warren Casey, Ph.D., Prof. Music/Dept. Chair

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 Gerald Cox, M.L.S., Interlib. Svcs. Librarian/Asst. Prof.
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 Patricia Cox, Ph.D., Prof. Music
 Scot Crenshaw, Ph.D., Assoc. Prof. Preaching/Church Missions
 Reet Cronk, Ph.D., Assoc. Prof. Business

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 Maribeth Downing, Ph.D., Prof. Edu
 Gene Dugger, M.S., Prof. Comp Sci/Math

Debbie Duke, Ed.D., Prof. Math
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 Wendy Ellis, M.Ed., Asst. Prof. Edu,
 Connie Elrod, Ed.D., Dir. NLR Prof. Ctr/Asst. Prof
 Lisa Engel, M.S.N., Asst. Prof. Nursing

Terry Engel, Ph.D., Assoc. Prof.
 Tony Finley, Ed.D., Prof./Dean Edu
 Denise Fisher, Ph.D., Instr. FCS
 Jennifer Fisher, M.S., Instr.
 Chaney Floyd, Ed.D., Assoc. Prof. Edu
 Debbie Ford, M.S.W., Assoc. Prof. Social Work

John Fortner, Ph.D., Prof. Bible
 Gabriel Foust, M.S., Instr. Comp. Science
 Al Frazier, Ph.D., Assoc. Prof. Business/Dept. Chair Mgmt
 Shane Fullerton, M.Ed., Asst. Prof./Asst. Womens BB Coach
 Pat Garner, Ph.D., Prof. Speech
 Zane Gastineau, Ph.D., Assoc. Prof./Chair Engineering

Lana Gettman, Pharm.D., Asst. Prof.
 Noble Goss, Ph.D., Assoc. Prof. Spanish/German
 Jim Gowen, M.A.T., Assoc. Prof./Dir. Mens Intramurals
 Kay Gowen, M.S., Assoc. Prof. Comm
 Joe Goy, M.S., Assoc. Prof. Biology
 Susan Grogan, M.A., Asst. Prof. Edu

Nathan Guy, M.Phil., Instr. Bible
 Shaya Hancock, M.S., Instr. Kines
 Jiukuan Hao, Ph.D., Asst. Prof. Pharmacy
 Ronnie Harlow, M.S.E., Asst. Prof./Head Athletic Trainer
 Greg Harris, Ph.D., Soccer Coach/Asst. Prof.





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 Julie Harris, Ph.D., Assoc Prof. History
 Kayla Haynie, M.A., Asst. Prof. English
 Paul Haynie, Ph.D., Prof. History
 Budd Hebert, Ph.D., Prof. Business/Dir Character Initiative
 Allen Henderson, M.Ed., Asst. Prof. Edu

Chuck Hicks, M.S.E., Asst. Prof. Music
 Gary Hill, M.P.A.S., Clint. Coord. PA Prog/Assoc. Prof.
 Julie Hixson-Wallace, Pharm.D., Dean Pharmacy
 Ann Hobby, M.L.I.S., Ref. Librarian/Assoc. Prof.
 Dutch Hoggatt, Ph.D., Assoc. Prof. Comm
 Burt Hollandsworth, Ph.D., Asst. Prof. Phys Sci

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 Kathy Howard, Ed.D., Prof. Psych/Dir. Psych Prog
 Dwight Ireland, Ed.D., Prof. Psychology/Counseling Ctr
 Mike Ireland, D.Min., Assoc. Prof. Bible
 Deveryle James, Ph.D., Asst. Prof. English

Mike James, Ph.D., Dist. Prof. Comm/Dept. Chair
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 Jim Johnston, Ed.D., Dir. Student Support Serv/Prof.
 Genevieve Jones, M.Ed., Asst. Prof.
 Liz Jones, M.M., Instr. Music

Michael Jones, M.A., Instr.
 John Keller, Ph.D., Prof. Art/Dept. Chair
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 Johnnetta Kelly, M.N.Sc., Asst. Prof. Nursing
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 Randy Lambeth, Ed.D., Assoc. Prof. Kines
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 Cheryl Lee, Ph.D., Assoc. Prof. Nursing
 Donny Lee, Ed.D., Prof. Edu/Asst. Dean Edu

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 Melanie Lowery, M.S.S.L.P., Instr.
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 Dale Manor, Ph.D., Prof. Bible/Archaeology
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 Robin Miller, M.F.A., Prof. Comm
 John Moon, Ph.D., Prof. Biology/Dept. Chair
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Jessica Moore, D.A., Assoc. Prof. Kines/Dir. Womens Intramurals
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 Lisa Ritchie, Ed.D., Assoc. Prof. FCS/Dir. Didactic Prog Diet
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 Devin Swindle, M.Div., Instr.
 Oneal Tankersley, B.A., Missionary-in-Residence
 Rebecca Teague, M.S.E., Instr. FCS
 Linda Thompson, Ed.D., Dir. McNair Project
 Phil Thompson, D.Min., Assoc. Prof. Bible

Travis Thompson, Ph.D., Prof. Math/Dean Coll Sciences
 Phil Tobin, M.P.A.S., Asst. Prof./Asst. Clinic Dir. PA
 Ken Turley, Ph.D., Assoc. Prof. Kines/Dir. Wellness
 Laurie Walker, M.S., Instr. Math
 Mark Wang, M.B.A., Instr./Asst. Dir. Chinese Student Life
 Betty Watson, Ed.D., Dist. Prof. Edu/Dir. Early Child

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 Shirley Williams, M.S.L.S., Tech Serv Librarian/ Prof.
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 Kwame Yeboah, Pharm.D., Asst. Prof. Pharm
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 J.D. Yingling, Ed.D., Assoc. Prof.

Dedication | *dean keeps harding in the family* |

While Assistant Dean of Students Sheri Shearin described herself as being “a pretty boring person,” anyone acquainted with her knew that statement could not be true. From being an elementary school principal at Harding Academy for 11 years to being regularly called to residence halls in the middle of the night, Shearin hardly lived a boring life.

One aspect that kept Shearin’s life interesting was her great love for Harding. Her ties with the university ran deep and went far back into her family.

“My grandmother went to Harding at Morrilton before it even moved [to Searcy],” Shearin said. “My father and mother came here and graduated in 1945, and then I came in 1965. When I graduated in ’69, I was one of the first, if not the first, third-generation student to graduate from Harding.”

Following graduation, Shearin taught public school music for two years in Nashville. In 1971, she married current professor of music Arthur Shearin, and the opportunity arose for her and her husband to come back to Harding. Arthur was to teach in the department of music, and Shearin was to be the music department secretary. She said they jumped at the idea of returning.

“We were so excited! We stayed here for two years,” Shearin said. “We covered a teacher who was on leave getting a doctorate.”

At the end of the two years, the couple moved to Boulder, Colorado, so that Arthur could work on his doctorate at the University of Colorado. In 1976, the Shearins went to Freed-Hardeman University in Henderson, Tennessee, for six years, where Arthur taught music and was the chair of the music department.

However in 1982, the couple once again found themselves back at Harding. Shearin’s husband was offered a faculty position, and he agreed to it, allowing the couple to return to Harding.

“This had just always been home,” Shearin said. “Harding is just part of our family.”

Because of her attachment to Harding, Shearin gladly accepted the offer to become Assistant Dean of Students in 2005.

“I just love working with women at the age of their life when they are making decisions that form what they’re going to be doing for the rest of their lives and trying to help them see that we all make mistakes,” Shearin said. “It’s what we do with the mistakes we made that makes a difference in life.”

While Shearin enjoyed working with students,

she said her job was stressful at times, and like any job, did not come without challenges.

“It’s not an eight to five job,” she said. “Rarely do I go through a week that I’m not called out in the night to a residence hall. I rarely have a week that I don’t go to the hospital, either to visit somebody or to be with somebody in the emergency room. And of course there’s the discipline aspect, and at times, it takes the majority of my job, and at times it doesn’t.”

These challenges did not outweigh Shearin’s love for the students and also for the other deans she worked closely with though.

“The four deans work very well together,” Shearin said. “We all are on the same page, so to speak. We support each other. We are in very much agreement on how things should be handled.”

Overall, Shearin felt blessed with the opportunities she received by being a dean and the relationships it allowed her to form.

“What a blessing to work in a place like that — where you know that you’re going to be supported by your fellow workers and that any of the four of us will handle something and that it will be handled in the same way with the same outcome,” she said. “That is just so wonderful!”

Rebecca Harrell





Secretary of Student Life Janie Shipman stands next to Dean Sheri Shearin in her office while they look over a paper on Nov. 6. Shearin was one of the first third-generation students to graduate from Harding.
Noah Darnell

Assistant Dean of Students Sheri Shearin, and Resident Life Coordinators Joetta Martin and Amy Baker laugh during a meeting with the RLCs in Searcy Hall on Nov. 4. As part of her job, Shearin had to be prepared to get called to a residence hall at any time during the day or night.
Noah Darnell

Dean Sheri Shearin observes club roll call during all-club devotional on Oct. 28 in the Ganus Athletic Center. Shearin actively attended club week activities and participated in the nightly devotionals.
Noah Darnell



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 Kimberly Atchley Administrative Asst Intl. Programs
 Patty Barrett Dir. Residence Life
 Lyn Blansett Database Administrator
 Dee Bost Coord. Tutor/Sl Acad. Res. Ctr.
 Virginia Bradley Postal Services Specialist Fed.

Claudette Bratcher Secretary to President
 Katie Briscoe Secretary Honors Coll.
 Laura Brown Admin. Asst. ASI
 Tammy Brukardt Accounting Asst.
 Tom Buterbaugh Asst. Dir. Public Relations
 Pam Celsor Administrative Secretary of Student Affairs/ Admis.
 Pharmacy

Robin Coker Secretary Advancement
 Jake Conley Assistant Director Admissions
 Nathan Copeland Asst. to President
 Penny Davis Admin. Asst. ASI/Conference Ctr.
 RuthAnn Dawson Ofc. Mgr. Counseling Ctr./MTY/MHC
 Courtney Eaken Secretary History/Soc. Sci.

Terry Figley Dir. Off Campus Prog./Grad. Education
 Billie Gibbins Postal Services Supervisor
 Tina Gould Accounts Payable
 Susan Grace Dir. Student Affairs
 Nathan Green Asst. Dir. Admissions
 Gary Gregg Assoc. Dir. CAMT

Karen Hadwin Secretary McNair Scholars Prog.
 Milo Hadwin Chinese Student Life Admin.
 Annette Hartsell Admin. Asst. Academic Advising Ctr.
 Alyssa Hepburn Secretary For Lang.
 Martha Hodges Lectureship Coordinator
 Dustin Howell Asst. Dir./Compliance Officer

Heather Huckeba Recep. Financial Aid Services
 Cindy Hunter Secretary Pres. Office
 Crystal Jackson Records Specialist
 Melinda Johnson Ofc. Mgr.
 Cassie Jones Admin. Asst. Exec. VP.
 Pamela Jones Admin. Asst. Music



Donald Kee Senior Plan Gifts Officer
 Steve Lake Advancement Reg. Dir.
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Joanna Lemmons Chapel Secretary
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Belinda Miller Admin. Assist. Edu.
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 Tom Parsons Advancement Reg. Dir.
 Sherry Pollard Counselor

Mark Pruitt Asst. Dir. Admissions
 Cheri Ramsey Purchasing Coordinator
 Camille Reeves Asst. to Dir. Alumni
 Jon Roberts Dir. Financial Aid
 Alyse Ross Admin. Asst. BMin. Deg. Prog.
 Morris Seawel Assoc. Dir. Admissions

Amy Sexson Admin. Asst. PA Prog.
 Gail Sexson Program Coord. Alumni
 Sheri Shearin Asst. Dean of Students
 Debra Shelton Admin. Asst. Dean Coll. Sci.
 Jay Simpson Asst. Dir. Financial Aid Services
 Katrina Smeltzer Dir. Upward Bound

Lynn Smeltzer Acad. Coord. Upward Bound
 Dirk Smith Advancement Reg. Dir.
 Bill Spear Dir. Travel Services
 LaNelle Stamps Services Coord. Upward Bound
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Martha Vendetti Secretary Comm. Sci & Disorders
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 Cheryl Walker Recep. Business
 Mark Wang Dir. Chinese Stu. Life
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Patti Jo White Info Asst. to Registrar
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