

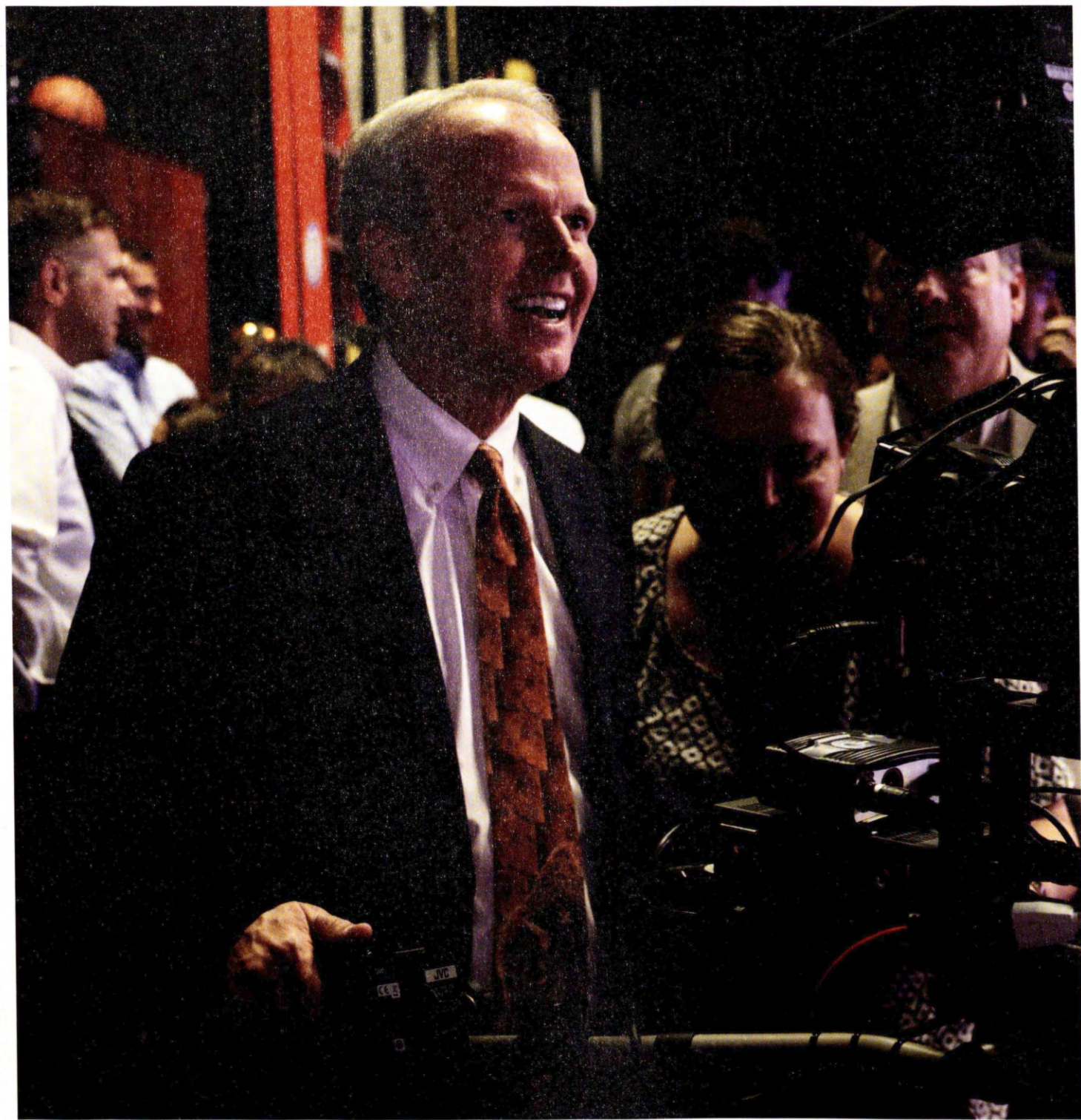
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# EMICS

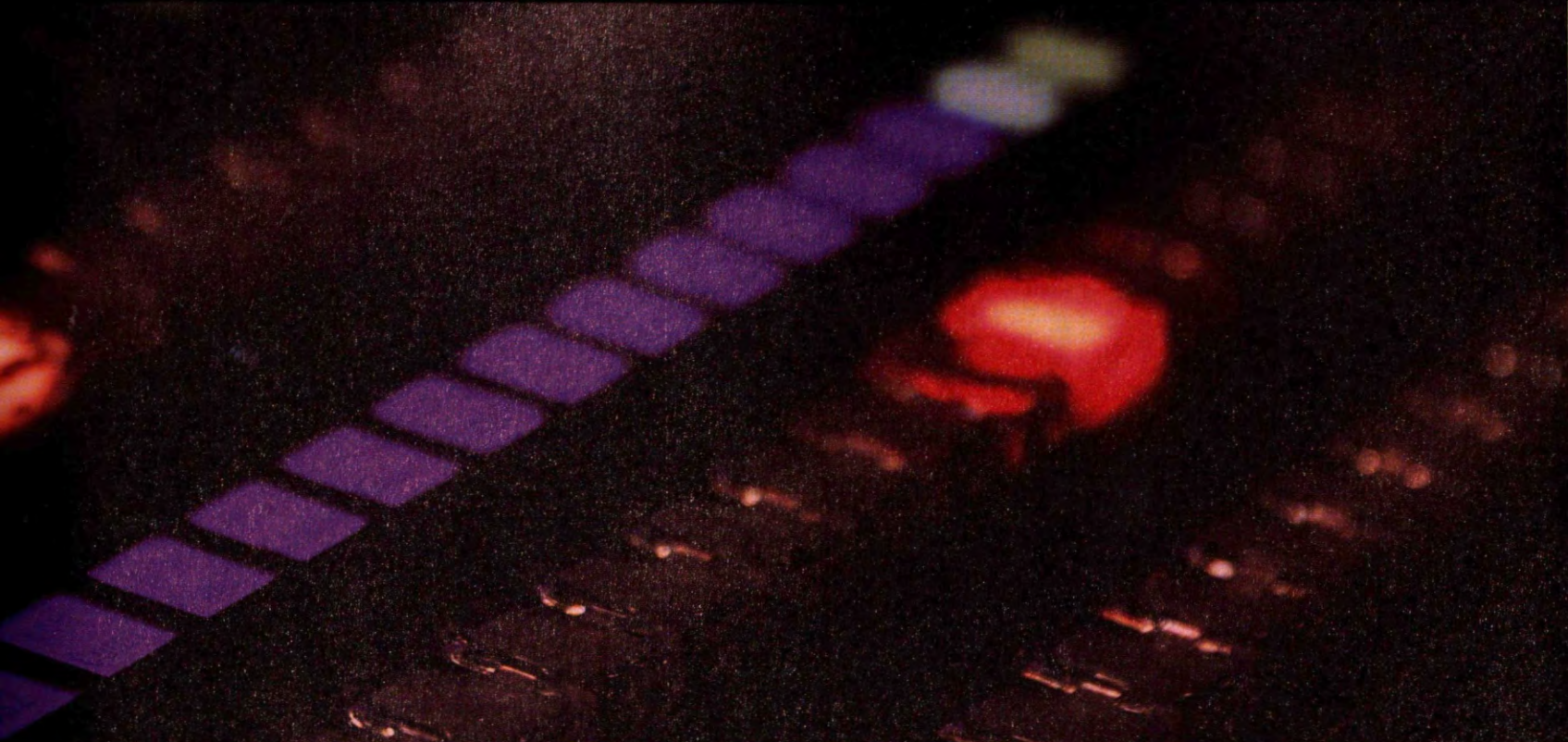
**WORDS** *Sam Aly* // **SECTION** *Raneisha Stassin*

Our time was filled with studying, reading, learning and writing; we came to Harding to acquire the skills, knowledge and perspectives to improve in our fields of study. Deep periods of academic labor only emphasized the moments of peace that followed a job well done. We learned to rejoice with like-minded colleagues as we forged ourselves into stronger, more creative, more compassionate human beings. Yet for all the time we spent in our respective departments, it was the interdisciplinary work and completed projects, with the help of people from diverse backgrounds, which illuminated our hope for making the world a better place.









# HU16 GETS A FACELIFT

## COMMUNICATION DEPARTMENT'S NEWS STUDIO ON DISPLAY

WORDS *Alex Petty* // PHOTOS *Kazu Fujisawa*

**H**U16, Harding's student-run television station, received a massive overhaul in 2017 following fundraising efforts from the department of communication and the advancement office.

The year-long fundraiser called upon alumni from the department of communication as well as current faculty and parents of current students to donate for the renovation of the HU16 studio. Amy Sewell, an alumna of the department, and her husband Scott Sewell matched the donations received by the department. The new studio was named in honor of the Sewells for their dedication to the growth of HU16 productions.

The renovation to the studio included all-new video and audio production equipment, as well as access to technology that allowed HU16 to be broadcasted in HD for the first time. The total studio upgrade cost about \$160,000, which Mark Prior, director of HU16 and HU Videoworks, knew would prove helpful for students' education.

"With this upgrade, it will benefit our students because the equipment that we have installed is [what they'll] find in the industry," Prior said.

In addition to the impact the renovated studio had on students' ability to work with up-to-date production equipment, Dr. Ginger Blackstone, assistant professor of communication and news director for HU16, believed that the new studio helped

make HU16 more prestigious among collegiate broadcasts.

"HU16 is a reflection of who we are beyond this campus," Blackstone said. "With this new setup, we are showing people that we are playing for real."

Senior public relations major Dorothee Garcia was one of two studio managers for HU16, and she agreed that the new studio helped HU16 garner national attention.

"Last year, we entered several newscasts to the South Central Broadcasting Society's annual competition and [qualified] for the semifinals," Garcia said. "If we can advance in regional and national competitions with our old equipment, imagine what we can do after this upgrade."

Garcia also believed that the upgraded studio created a surge of interest in HU16 across campus.

"I've noticed that everyone is just getting so invested with everything, from students to professors," Garcia said. "Students stay back after classes to help with the construction of graphics and are already trying to use the set for projects in classes."

With all the new possibilities for experimenting with broadcasts, the HU16 team looked forward to learning about more opportunities the remodeled studio presented them.

Dr. Ginger Blackstone, assistant professor of communication and news director for HU16, shows President Bruce McLarty how to use the new cameras during the TV studio unveiling on Aug. 30, 2017 in the Reynolds Center for Music and Communication. The new TV studio was home to HU16's Live at Five broadcast, which were live newscasts hosted by communication students. // Photo by Kazu Fujisawa

The new TV studio, located in the Reynolds Center for Music and Communication, includes a new robotic camera revealed during the unveiling. The TV studio garnered interest from students and faculty all over campus who hoped to view and use it for school projects. // Photo by Kazu Fujisawa



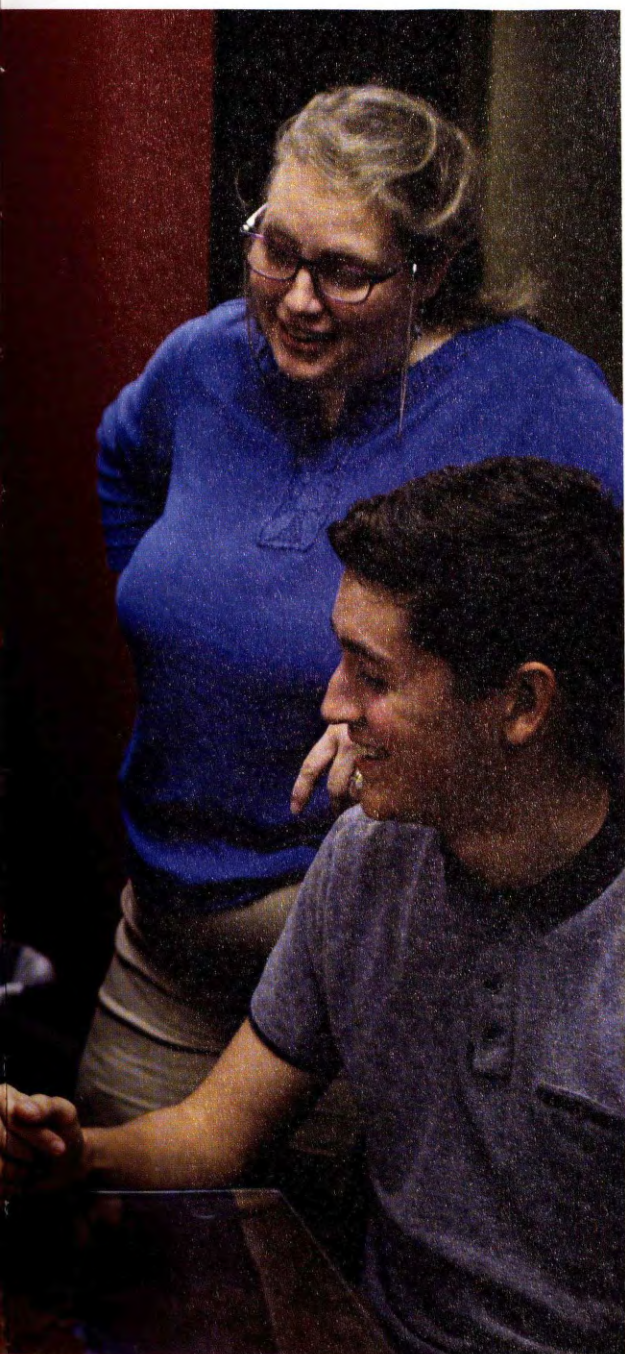




# TENOR OF OUR TIMES

HISTORICAL HONORS SOCIETY WINS NATIONAL AWARD

WORDS Presley Nixon // PHOTOS Kazu Fujisawa



**H**istorical honors society Phi Alpha Theta placed first in the national Nash History Journal Prize for division two in the print and online category with its annual journal, “Tenor of Our Times.”

The sixth volume of “Tenor of Our Times,” published in 2017, was the third consecutive publication that won the Nash History Journal Prize in print.

Sam Aly, senior history major and head editor for “Tenor of Our Times,” had an article published in the 2017 publication.

The journal, managed by students and a faculty advisor, contained eight to 12 articles written by students and alumni on topics of history and social science.

The sixth volume was the first to be published online thanks to the help of Brenda Breezeel, system librarian at the Brackett Library, according to Aly.

“It was a really interesting process last year getting everything online for the first time and going through that process as a trial run,” Aly said. “It ended up turning out really well.”

Nathan Harkey, senior history and Spanish major who served on the student review board and had published work in the award, believed that the editing was what made this publication stand apart from the rest.

“Everything is very meticulous,” Harkey said. “We spend hours and hours reading other people’s papers. We’d have five or six people reading the same person’s paper and leaving loads of comments.”

The journal was also edited by a faculty review board, composed of professors from other universities. Dr. Julie Harris, professor of history, was the faculty advisor for the journal and according to Harkey, she led the journal well.

“She pushed everyone and had great motivational strategies to really get things going,” Harkey said.

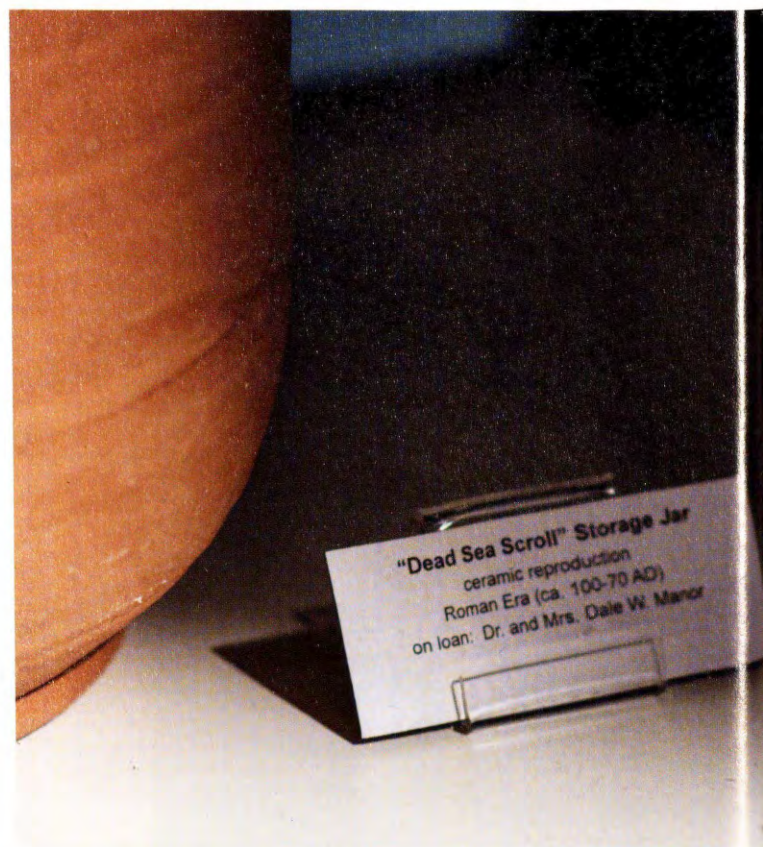
Curt Baker, senior Spanish major and history minor, served as the managing editor over the student editorial board and had a paper published in the past two publications. Baker believed that this win was a huge vote of confidence for the history department and for individual writers.

“Getting my paper into the publication was significant and validating in and of itself, but the journal winning the award is a huge deal,” Baker said. “It affirms us, not only as [writers] but as [editors], that what we’re putting out is good work.”

Junior Matthew Frye and senior Mary Goode, senior Curt Baker look through copies of their journals during a meeting in the Ganus Building on Nov. 16, 2017. Editors spent hours reading each paper which contributed to their journal’s success. // Photo by Kazu Fujisawa



# LINDA BYRD SMITH MUSEUM *of* BIBLICAL ARCHAEOLOGY





# UNEARTHED

## COLLEGE OF BIBLE & MINISTRY OPENS THE LINDA BYRD SMITH MUSEUM OF BIBLICAL ARCHAEOLOGY

WORDS *Presley Nixon* // PHOTOS *Evan Swearingen*

**T**he Linda Byrd Smith Museum of Biblical Archaeology opened April 13, 2017, during Spring Sing weekend on Harding's campus. Dr. Dale Manor, professor of Bible and archaeology, supplied the majority of artifacts for the museum.

The initial preparations for the museum began years prior with display cases featuring some of Manor's artifacts in the McInteer Rotunda, according to Dr. Monte Cox, dean of the College of Bible and ministry.

"He has a stash of artifacts," Cox said. "So of course not everything that he owns is on display there. We also took some artifacts from other collectors of ancient Near Eastern artifacts who also had had no place to display them, so they put them in the museum."

According to Cox, planning for the museum began in 2005. They started by deciding to place the museum on the east wing of the first floor of the McInteer for the sake of visibility. Mike Steelman, designer of the McInteer building, and alumna Megan Valentine helped Manor with the design of the room.

The museum was made possible because of Linda Byrd Smith's generosity. The Smith family graduated from Harding and had been significant benefactors of the university.

After gaining funding, Manor had to decide what to display in the museum. According to Manor, the process of deciding which artifacts to showcase was a difficult one.

"I wanted to put artifacts in there that told a contextual story," Manor said.

Manor hoped through this museum students would be able to better understand what life was like in biblical times.

While taking one of Manor's classes, senior Drew Ericson learned about the museum and the purpose behind the exhibit.

"The items that are sometimes over 2,000 years old provide historical context that a textbook cannot and enable students to see authentic examples [covered] in class," Ericson said.

Overall, the goal of the museum had to help put the Bible in historical terms, which could then help build faith.

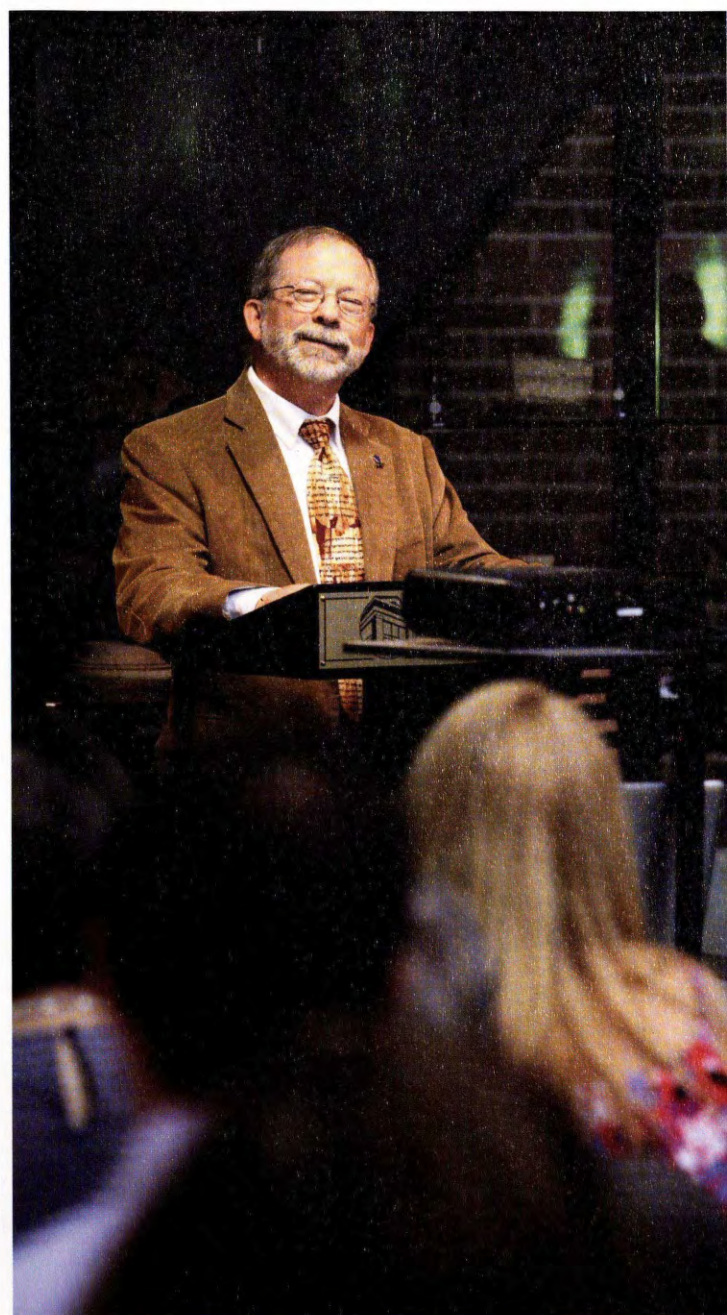
"One of the unique features of the Christian faith is that it's grounded in history," Cox said. "Here's a museum that helps illustrate that."

Homecoming visitors gaze at the biblical artifacts inside the Linda Byrd Smith Museum of Biblical Archaeology in the McInteer Bible and World Missions building on Oct. 19, 2017. The majority of the artifacts were supplied by Dr. Dale Manor, professor of Bible and archaeology, and remaining artifacts were supplied by other collectors. // Photo by Evan Swearingen

A Homecoming visitor views one of the many artifacts displayed in the museum on Oct. 19, 2017. Manor hoped the artifacts in this museum would show students and visitors what life was like during biblical times. // Photo by Evan Swearingen

The museum is home to several replicated artifacts from the Roman Era like this ceramic storage jar from 100-70 AD. The museum had 10 sections that showcased items such as storage jars, perfume bottles, coins, weapons, wine skins and other artifacts from daily life in the ancient world. // Photo by Evan Swearingen

Manor speaks during the museum's unveiling event on April 15, 2017. The museum opened to the public during Spring Sing weekend when visitors were able to see the artifacts for the first time. // Photo courtesy of Jeff Montgomery







**T**he Center for Professional Excellence (CPE) hosted a Dress for Success event on Oct. 16, 2017, which was designed to give business students a look into what business professionals expect of their employees and potential hires.

CPE partnered with Dillard's who, according to CPE Director Harrington, Dillard's donated 30 suits to the College of Business Administration students. A Dillard's consultant came with male and female suits and outfits as examples of proper attire. They informed students what colors went together and which colors did not.

"Do not wear bright colors to an interview, because that is what they will remember you by," Harrington said. "You do not want to be remembered for what you wore to an interview."

Senior business major Alicia Mejia talked about how the event discussed things she had never thought about.

"Sometimes men and women buy suits and do not get them tailored," Mejia said. "They even talked about fabrics that are more casual and fabrics that are used for more formal events."

The CPE hosted many events like this before, and students found them

helpful on learning the subtleties of business. This included an etiquette dinner that helped students know what discussion topics were appropriate at business dinners, including small details like which cup and fork to use. Students were able to RSVP for the event and other networking opportunities via the new Handshake app, a business networking tool.

Harrington loved helping students and enjoyed giving them the connections and resources to succeed.

Senior Michelle Troeglen, president of the International Business Society and business major, said the CPE helped with resumes and job connections, including internship opportunities and mock interview practice.

"They supplement our education really well," Troeglen said. "Going to a business communication class and then going to a mock interview or hearing a speaker is useful information for the future. I like that they teach us the hard [and] soft skills that come with a job."

Harrington said graduates from the College of Business Administration had a 90 percent placement rate, meaning the majority had a job within six months. Students left the program prepared to both blend in and stand out in the professional work force.



# A LESSON IN STYLE

COLLEGE OF BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION  
TAKES JOB PREPARATION TO THE NEXT LEVEL

WORDS *Abby Kilgore* // PHOTOS *Brian Harrington*



The Center for Professional Excellence handshake chair sits in front of the Administration Building on Aug. 15, 2017. The College of Business Administration was able to utilize the new Handshake app as a business networking tool for business students. // Photo courtesy of Brian Harrington

Business students speak to professionals during the Meet the Firms event on Sept. 7, 2017, in the Founders Room in the David B. Burks American Heritage Building. College of Business Administration events like Dress for Success and Meet the Firms allowed business students to prepare for their professional careers. // Photo courtesy of Brian Harrington



# A DEDICATION TO REMEMBER

## HARDING DEDICATES EDUCATION RESOURCE CENTER TO BETTY WATSON

**WORDS** *Jessie Smith* // **PHOTOS** *Kazu Fujisawa & Evan Swearingen*

**T**he Cannon-Clary College of Education dedicated the Education Resource Center (ERC) in the Thornton Education Center to Dr. Betty Watson on Oct. 20, 2017, renaming it the Watson Center. Watson taught at Harding for 47 years and started the first ERC with only two bookshelves. She passed away in spring 2017, but her love of children's literature and young teachers left a legacy in the college of education.

According to Allison Parker, ERC director who took over the center in May 2017, the ERC offered services such as binding, hot and cold lamination, copying and printing. A coffee station sold hot beverages, and comfortable chairs provided places to read or study. Assistant director McKenna Crabtree started working in the ERC in August 2017 and appreciated its learning-centered environment.

"It's just a Christ-like atmosphere," Crabtree said. "It's a peaceful place to be, and I like the pace."

Watson taught Parker during her years as a student at Harding, and Parker considered anyone who sat in Watson's classroom to be very lucky.

"She made you love reading, and she made you love [to teach] reading," Parker said. "I don't know a lot of people that I've encountered that haven't been touched by her in some way. She's inspired a lot of people."

President Bruce McLarty and Dean of Education Raymond Lee both spoke at the dedication, and Watson's husband, children and grandchildren attended as well.

"She was an outstanding teacher, and I think she's just touched so many lives," Parker said. "It's a timeless impact that she's made. I feel like it's very fitting for this center, which is lively and fun, to be named in her honor."

Cheri Smith, chair of the teacher preparation program and associate professor of education, and the College of Education Leadership Team decided to dedicate the ERC to Watson. Smith took Watson's children's literature class, and now Smith has taught children's literature at Harding.

"She was really a legend in her own time," Smith said. "Following her has been a real joy for me."

Smith viewed Watson as a Harding icon for her faith and her devotion to her work.

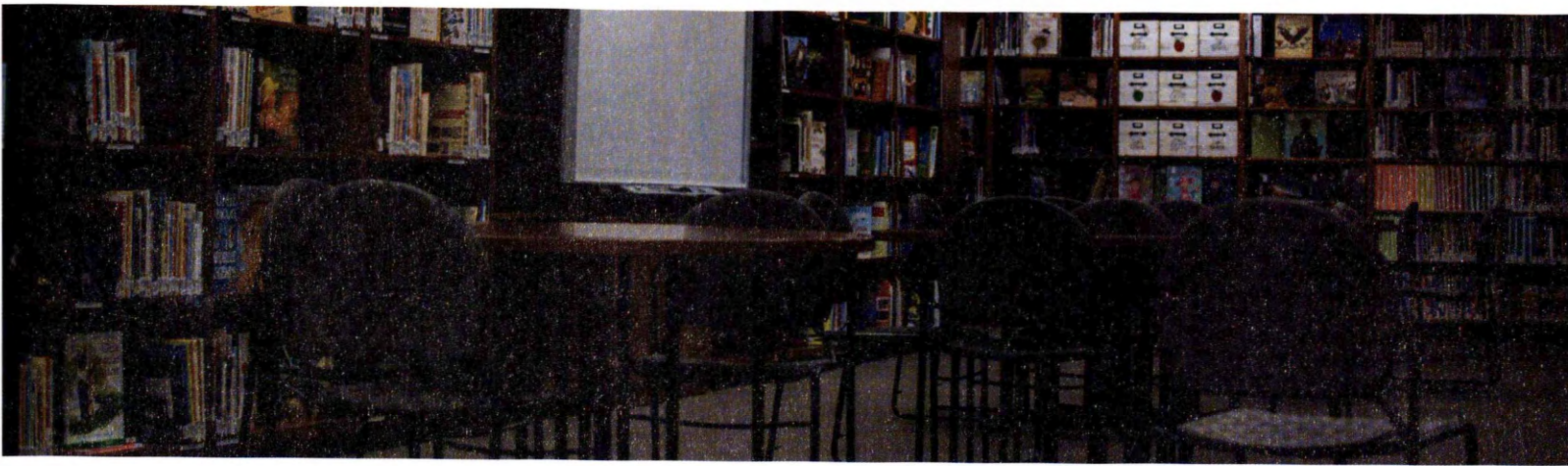
"She loved that she was able to reach so many children because she had taught so many teachers," Smith said. "I think her legacy was definitely related to the love of children's literature and blessing the lives of children through that. I think it was a generational legacy of love for literature."

The Watson Center is stocked with shelves full of children's literature. Dr. Betty Watson, the dedication recipient, taught children's literature for 47 years at Harding. // Photo by Evan Swearingen

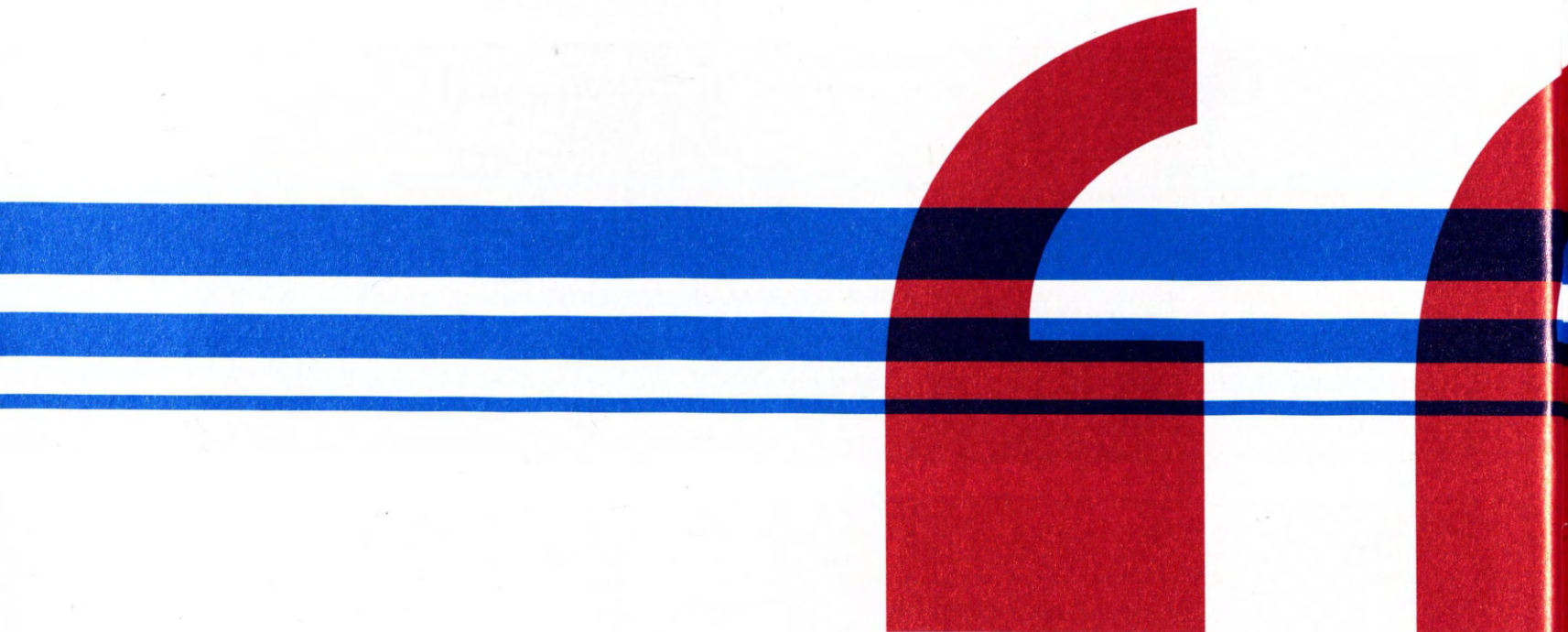
President Bruce McLarty speaks during the Watson Center dedication on Oct. 20, 2017 in the Thornton Education Center. Harding dedicated the center to Watson who passed away spring 2017. // Photo by Kazu Fujisawa

Students have the opportunity to study quietly in the Watson Center. With many books available, the center was a peaceful place to read and learn. // Photo by Evan Swearingen















**WE THANK YOU,  
FATHER, FOR  
MAKING US A  
KALEIDOSCOPE  
OF PEOPLE.**

- Dr. Bill Richardson, professor of Bible







# 'VISION FOR THE VULNERABLE'

## HARDING TO HOST FIRST TED TALK EVENT

WORDS *Caitlin Denton* // PHOTOS *Emily Griffin*

**O**n Nov. 14, 2017, Harding hosted its first ever TEDx event.

The event promoted an open-minded speaking arrangement where beliefs and ideas could be presented in order to help the success of the community as a whole. TED was a nonprofit organization that began in 1984 as a conference where Technology, Entertainment and Design converged and has since served to spread ideas all over the world.

The idea for Harding to host a TEDx Talk event began in spring 2017 when Dr. Mike James, dean of the honors college, taught a class and wanted his students to present their projects in a similar format to how TED Talks were presented.

"The end goal is learning and presenting new ideas that are worth listening to and being a part of the TED community," James said.

This idea led James to wonder whether Harding could host a TEDx Talk. After researching, he realized it was possible, as a TEDx event, the "x" denoting the fact that it was an independently organized event. Once the licensing process was finished, TEDx HardingU was born, along with the theme "Vision for the Vulnerable."

The list of speakers consisted of students, faculty, alumni and guests who were impactful to the Harding community.

A speaker at the event, alumnus B. Chris Simpson, spoke about making people feel more united in a time where nobody seemed to be. His topic title was

"From Ferguson to Memphis: Reversing Separatism to Improve Social Justice."

"If we can, in some way, be less separate in our society, while still acknowledging and celebrating our differences, we'd be so much better off," Simpson said.

Senior Raneisha Stassin was also a speaker at the event. She spoke about her inspiring personal story and the people who helped her. Her speech title was "A Little Help."

"My story [focused] on how I was able to overcome adversity with the help of others and how it's important to remember that we are all a part of someone else's success story, whether we know it or not," Stassin said.

Stassin felt encouraged that the event would help people connect more to each other.

"As the only student speaking at this event, I hope I can provide unique perspectives that inspire people," Stassin said. "I hope that this event is a catalyst for more conversations [that] broadens [worldviews] and perspectives."

According to Simpson, Harding's partnership with TED was a great opportunity for Harding to connect to the outside community as well.

"[The event] will encourage people on a personal level," Simpson said. "[As] a university, it is important for our ministry [to] expand into things like TEDx. The greater we can cast our net into the world the more impact Christian education and values can be spread."

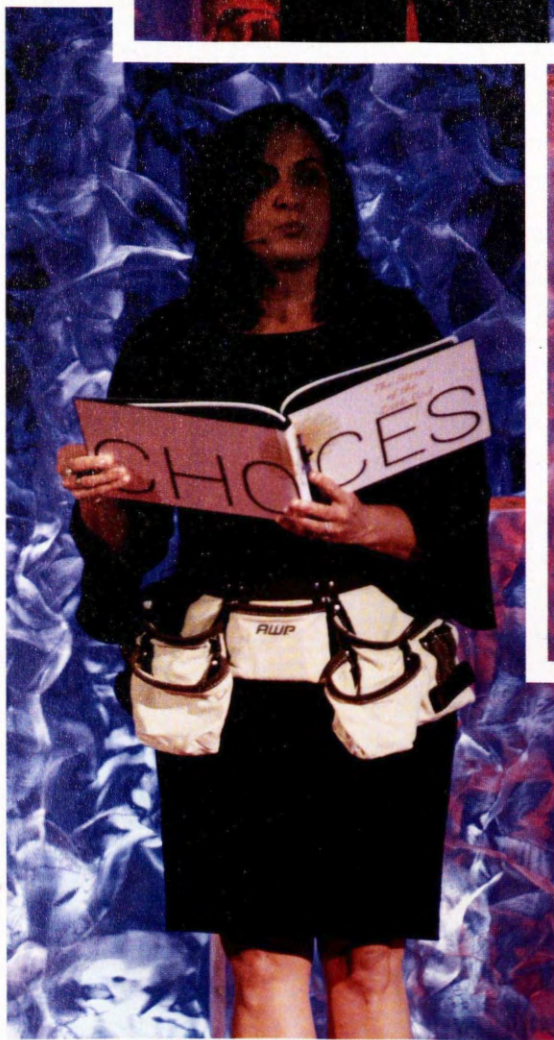
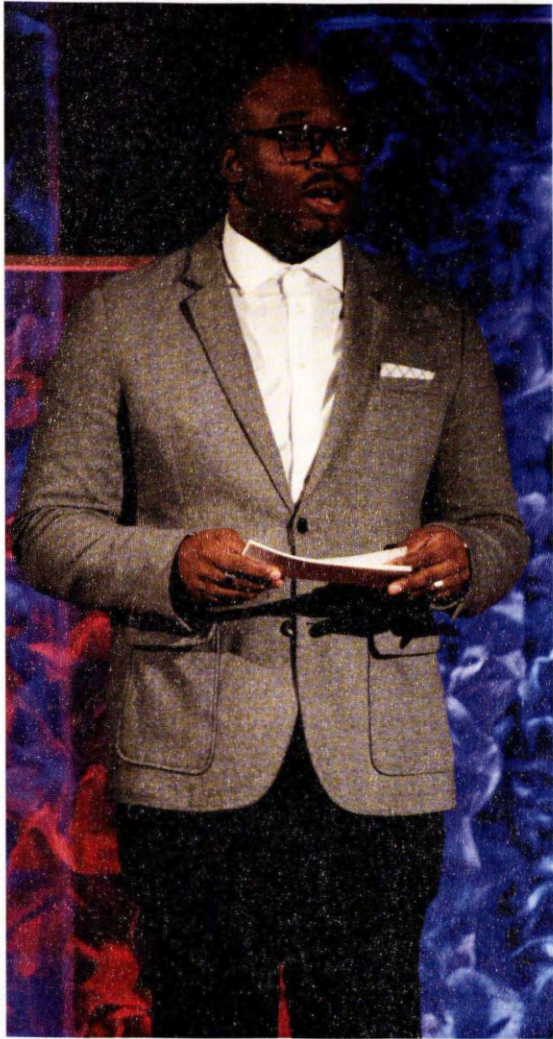
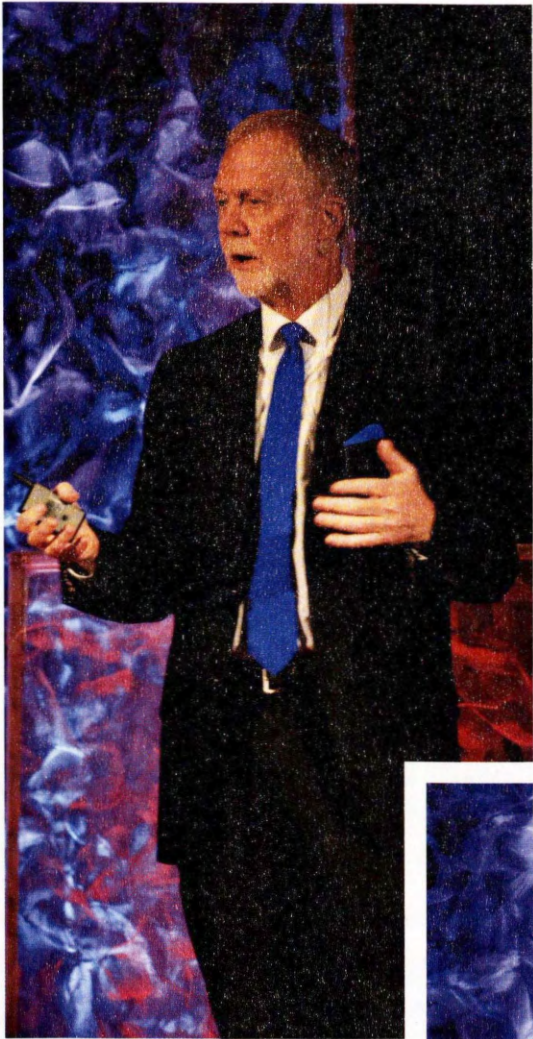
Investigative reporter Jerry Mitchell presents his speech "Living Fearlessly" during the Tedx event on Nov. 14, 2017. Mitchell shared his story of years working to indict men who committed hate crimes in the early 1900's but were never convicted. // Photo by Emily Griffin

Minister Chris Simpson shares a powerful message about fear and division in his speech "Reversing Separatism to Improve Social Injustice," on Nov. 14, 2017. Simpson shared his passion for ending division through understanding and has served a multicultural congregation in Memphis, Tennessee. // Photo by Emily Griffin

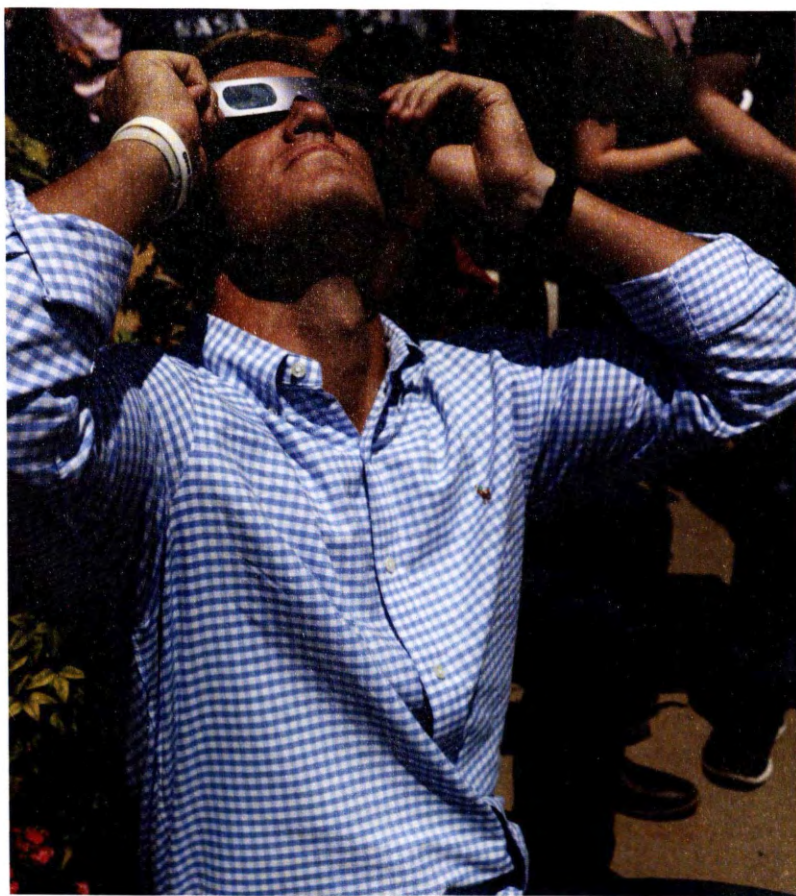
Senior public relations major, Raneisha Stassin talks about the people who impacted her life during her speech "A Little Help," on Nov 14, 2017. Stassin was the only student to speak at the event and graduated in December with her Bachelor of Art in public relations. // Photo by Emily Griffin

Phyllis Bell, child welfare senior advisor, shares a bit of her powerful life story during her speech "Life is the Sum of Our Choices," on Nov. 14, 2017. Bell began working to help at-risk youth after growing up in an abusive home herself and has worked with much of Cental Arkansas's youth. // Photo by Emily Griffin











# TOTAL ECLIPSE OF THE ART

STUDENTS GATHER TO SEE TOTAL SOLAR ECLIPSE

WORDS *Audra Shumaker* // PHOTOS *Evan Swearingen & Joseph Berryman*

**H**arding's Department of Art and Design held their annual back-to-school event on Aug. 21, 2017. This year, however, the event was unique because it fell on the same day as the historic solar eclipse.

According to Daniel Adams, chair of the department of art and design, the department did not want the students to miss the back-to-school function or the eclipse, so they combined them. Many of the department's students and faculty came together for the event outside the art building and marveled at the solar eclipse. Senior graphic design major Sierra Cash was one of the students who attended the event.

"What I thought was so unique about the event was that it brought us all together to watch this really cool phenomenon," Cash said.

According to Cash, the event and the solar eclipse helped her see a spiritual aspect to art.

"As an artist, my favorite part was seeing the crescent shadows on the ground because it showed how God is the ultimate artist," Cash said.

Another student at the event was senior graphic design major Cecilia Nutt. Nutt appreciated the event because her fellow students and teachers, along with the natural event, helped to inspire her.

"I loved being a part of a group that was collectively making an effort to evaluate the event and find inspiration within it," Nutt said.

Adams agreed with Nutt, mentioning how inspiration behind artwork could be found anywhere, but especially when sharing the event with others.

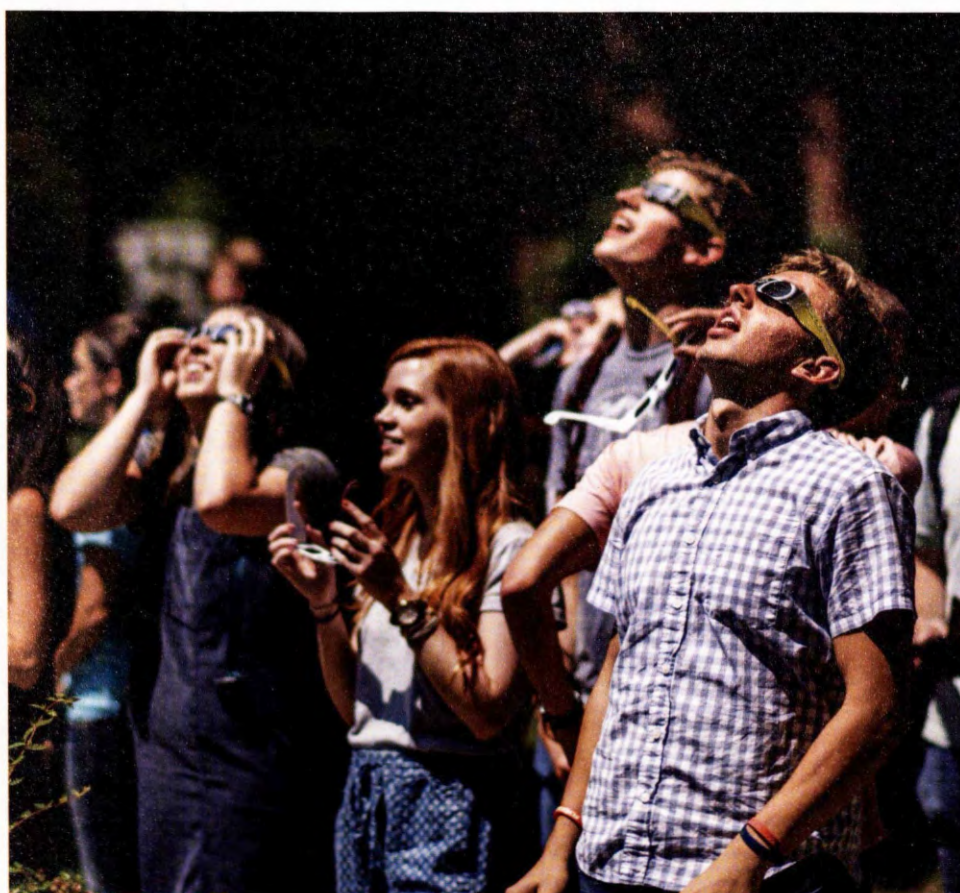
"Anything can be taken to further one's creativity, and this was such a unique [opportunity]," Adams said. "You can't have earth without having art."

A stunning view of the solar eclipse created excitement during the first day of fall classes on Aug. 21, 2017. Junior Joseph Berryman won Student Publications' photo contest with his image, which was taken in Carbondale, Illinois, at eclipse totality, and was one of several students to submit photos for the contest. // Photo courtesy of Joseph Berryman

Senior Kohl Blickenstaff enjoys the solar eclipse through his eclipse glasses on the Front Lawn. Several professors on campus provided students with eclipse glasses to protect their vision during the event. // Photo by Kazu Fujisawa

Students stand on the roof of the Administration Building for a better view of the solar eclipse. A number of professors allowed students to leave class early to enjoy the eclipse with friends. // Photo by Evan Swearingen

Junior Lindsey Webb, senior Caitlin Denton, junior Parker Samuel and sophomore Braden Snyder stand mesmerized by the total eclipse. Students and faculty from every department on campus to came together to appreciate the total eclipse. // Photo by Evan Swearingen





# MEDICAL HUMANITIES

VARIOUS DEPARTMENTS COME TOGETHER  
TO FORM NEW CROSS-COLLEGE MAJOR

WORDS Taryn Brown // PHOTOS Kazu Fujisawa

**I**n search of a way to join science and humanity classes, Harding brought together the College of Allied Health and the College of Arts & Humanities to create the new Medical Humanities major.

Medical Humanities included the study of science and medicine as well as courses in humanities centered on literature, psychology and more. One of its purposes was to help humanize the study of medicine and better understand the patient or client. In May 2016, the university declared Medical Humanities as a major. At least 25 students announced this major for the next semester and professors predicted that number would grow in the future.

The Medical Humanities major was founded by a committee including Dr. Debbie Duke, professor of mathematics, and Dr. Kathy Dillion, associate professor of English.

Duke thought the major provided an opportunity for diverse interests and scholarship to merge.

"We don't see this just for people who want to go to [medical] school, [physician assistant] school or pharmacy school," Duke said. "We think it would be great for people who want to go into public policy, law or public health."

The Medical Humanities major included about five core classes, and electives were added from eight different departments to round out the major. Dillion said

this allowed science-heavy majors to have a good foundation of the humanities, which would help them go into their respective pre-professional fields.

"We thought Harding would benefit because they are so many people here going into health [fields]," Dillion said. "Harding is particularly strong for this because we care about the spiritual aspect in people's lives, and in doing that it seems like Medical Humanities is tailor-made for Harding."

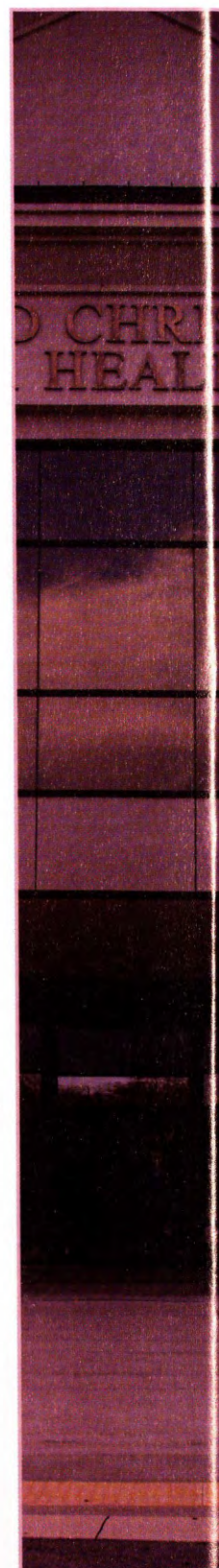
The new Medical Humanities major allowed faculty the opportunity to work with their peers in other departments. Because there were several departments involved, they were able to see different perspectives on how each of their classes worked together for one goal.

"Our brainstorming meetings are so interesting because we all think in a different way," Duke said. "[They help] us understand each other, which [then] will be helpful to the students."

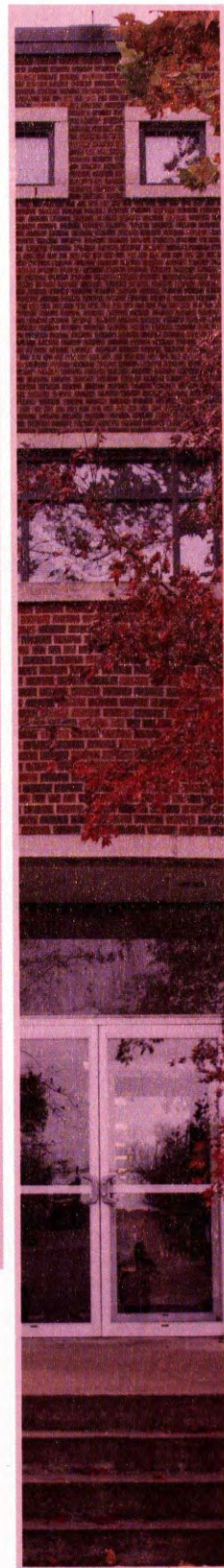
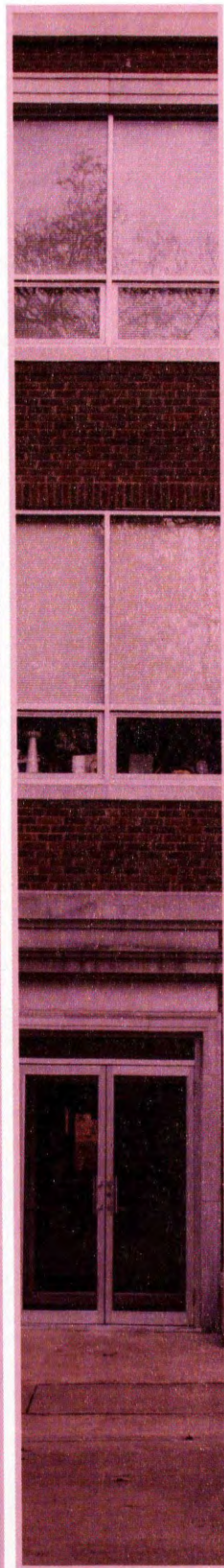
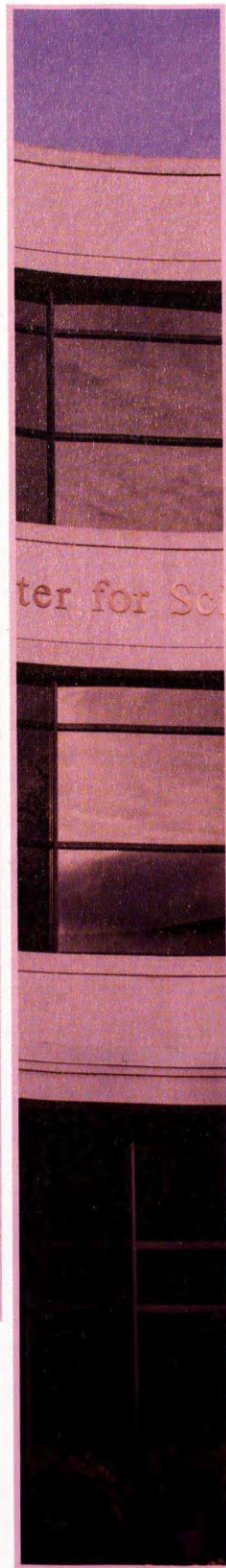
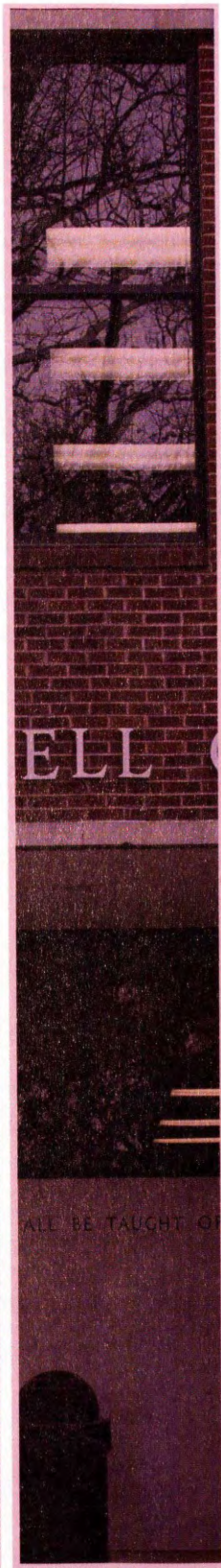
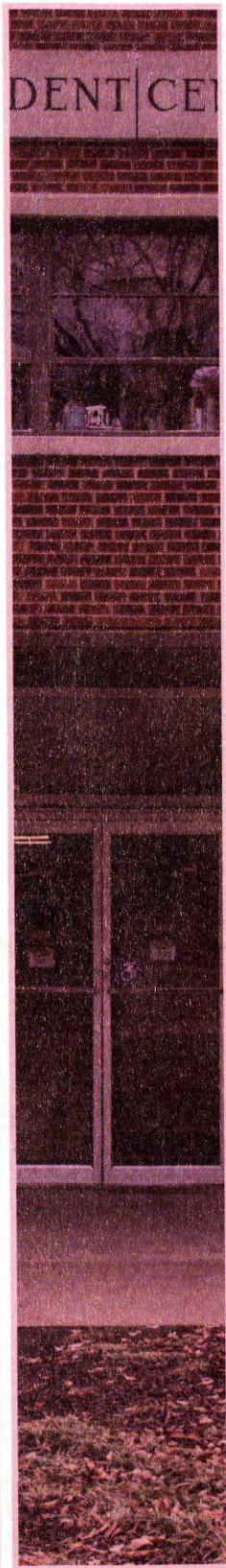
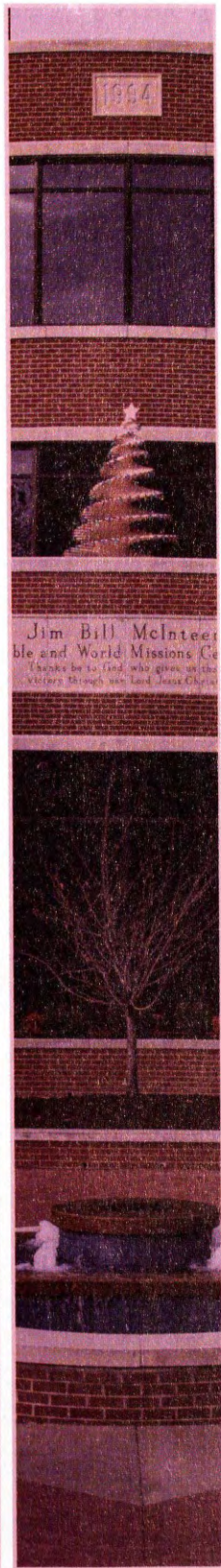
Freshman Hailey Bracey felt the Medical Humanities major was a great choice for her.

"I'm very new to the major, but I'm excited to see all of the opportunities it will lead me to," Bracey said. "I think it's really cool how they've combined [science] and humanities, so [my] options for a career are even broader. I have no idea what I want to do, so this gives me a lot of options."

Medical Humanities, a new major on campus that combines the College of Sciences and the College of Arts and Humanities, integrates classes from eight departments on campus. Five core classes and an extensive list of electives for the students to choose from are offered by faculty members in the following departments: Bible, English, history, humanities, health sciences, anthropology, criminal justice, communication, family and consumer sciences, nursing philosophy, political science, psychology, sociology and social work. // Photos by Kazu Fujisawa













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# CHEMICA ALL'ESTERO!

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## BIOCHEMISTRY STUDENTS TAKE RESEARCH ABROAD

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WORDS *Matthew King* // PHOTOS *Grant Schol*

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**D**r. Dennis Matlock, chair of the chemistry department, led a group of nine Harding students to Florence, Italy, during summer 2017, for a new program called Summer Undergraduate Research in Florence (SURF). The group stayed at the Villa, Harding's campus in Florence, with the Harding University in Florence (HUF) students to study and research biochemistry under Dr. Chiara Azzari at Meyer Children's Hospital.

The idea for the program came when Matlock overheard students saying they wanted to travel abroad but were unable to due to their classes, which were only offered certain semesters. This included senior biochemistry and molecular biology major Ryan Merritt, who said if he were to miss a class, he would have to wait a year to take it.

"I wanted to go abroad my sophomore year, but I never did because I was taking classes that were only offered in the fall and spring," Merritt said.

Matlock reached out to Dr. Jeffery Hopper, dean of international programs, to see if he knew of any research labs near the Villa or affiliated with Harding. Hopper informed Matlock that the Villa's groundskeeper, Sandro Guiducci, was married to Azzari, had a clinical laboratory.

Azzari had connections with Harding for a long time. She taught many Harding students traveling with International Programs.

"She comes up to the Villa and treats students when they are sick for a minimal cost," Hopper said.

After getting in touch with Azzari, Matlock packed his bags to check out her laboratory in Florence.

"They were using established technologies to analyze a patient's blood sample for suspected clinical issue," Matlock said.

Matlock and Merritt both noted that students practiced and studied similar techniques in the student labs at Harding.

"It's all stuff that we learn about in classes here, but we don't have the monetary resources to actually do," Merritt said.

Using the labs, doctors were looking for infectious diseases and genetic disorders in the patients' DNA. Students received hands-on experience that they could apply when they returned home.

"[Azzari] always emphasized that behind every sample you are dealing with a person's life," Matlock said.

Matlock has taught in Harding's College of Sciences since 2000. Because of the trip's success, Matlock planned on taking another group to Florence in summer 2018, with plans to offer students four upper-level science classes.

"Dr. Matlock is the perfect professor to lead SURF," Hopper said. "It was a joy to introduce him to Italy and Azzari."

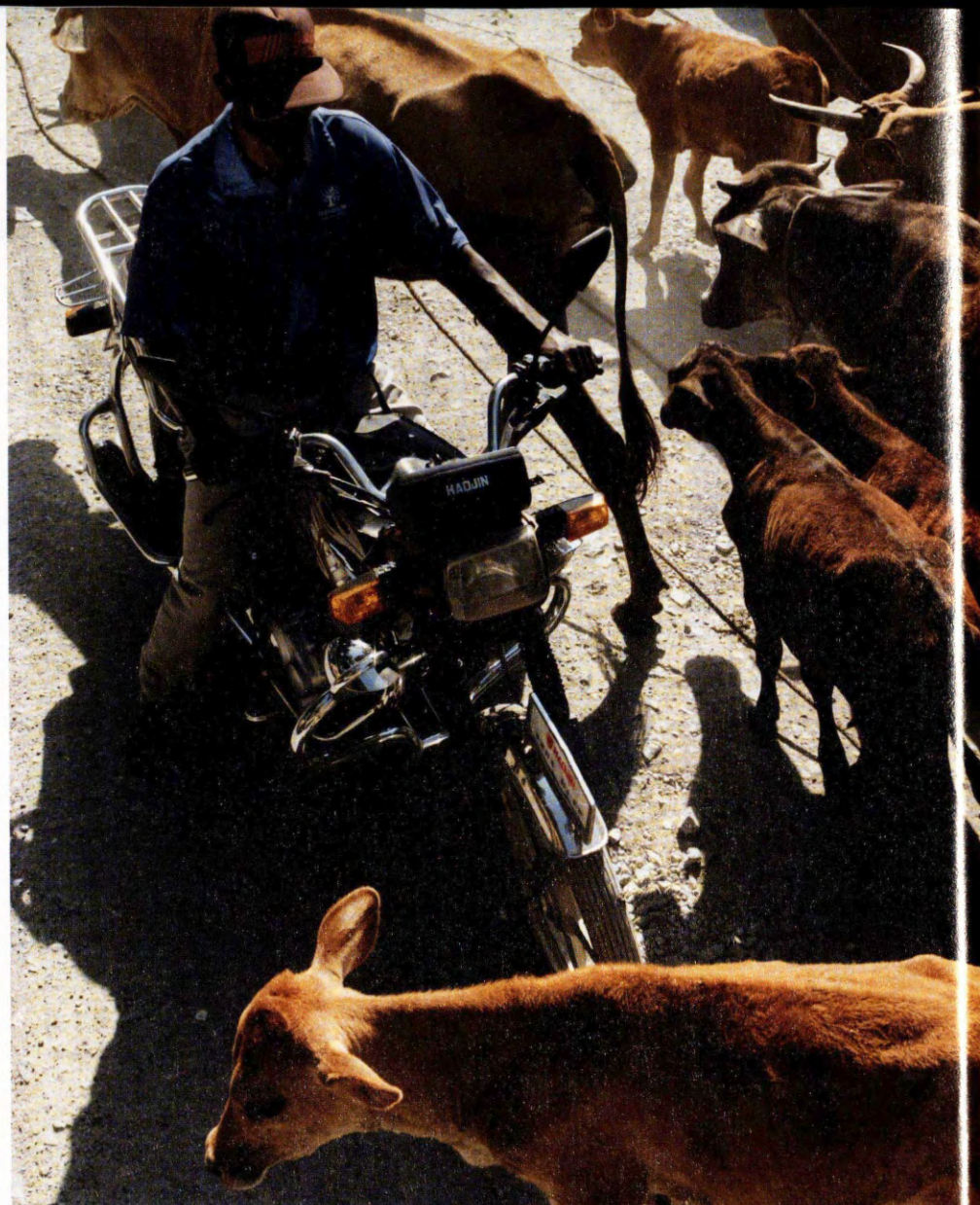
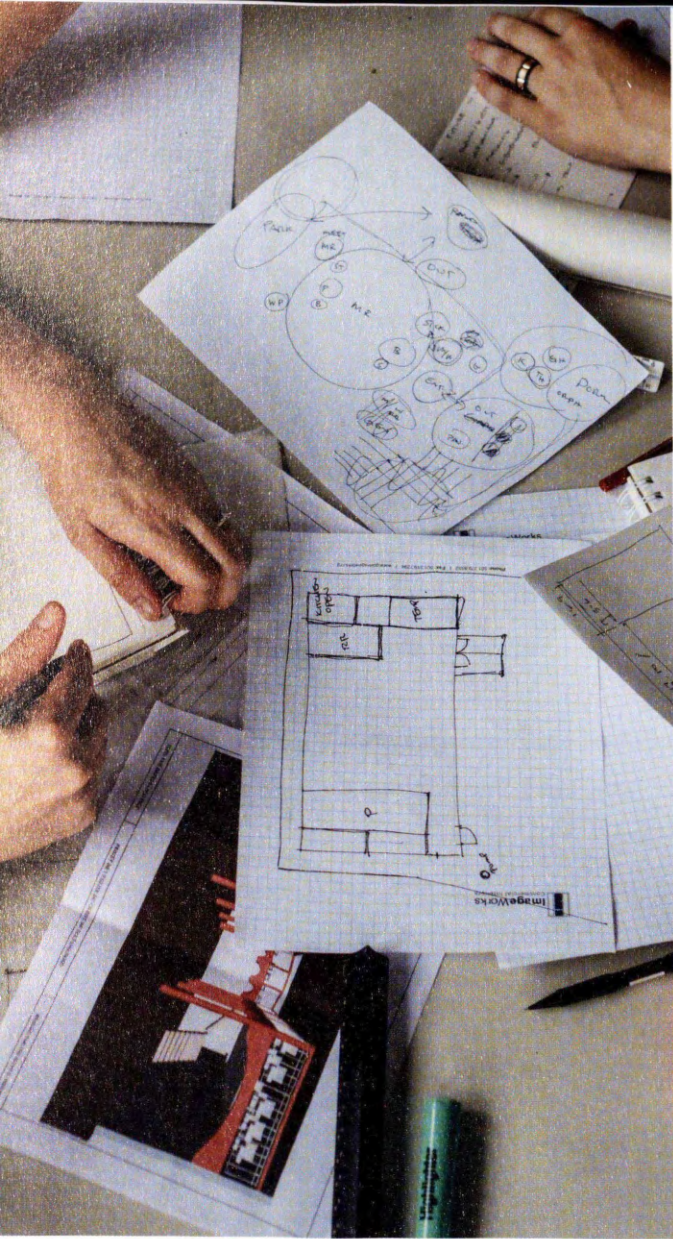
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Senior Lance Benson studies with an Italian researcher at Meyer Children's Hospital during the SURF program in Florence, Italy, on June 13, 2017. Several seniors who were not previously able to travel abroad due to class schedules were able to participate in the six-week program. // Photo courtesy of Grant Schol

Senior Shelby Roberts and junior Jade Toth observe an Italian researcher as she works at the Meyer's Children Hospital in Florence, Italy, on May 30, 2017. Students were able to receive hands-on experience that would stick with them throughout their professional careers. // Photo courtesy of Grant Schol

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# DESIGNING ABROAD

## ENGINEERING AND INTERIOR DESIGN STUDENTS INTEGRATE MISSION AND EDUCATION IN HAITI

WORDS *Garrett White* // PHOTOS *Ashel Parsons*

**I**n May 2017, Dr. James Huff, assistant professor of engineering, led a group of four engineering students on a two-week mission trip to assist the people of the Peltan Church of Christ in Haiti by expanding their church. However, instead of building it themselves, Huff and his students helped empower the church members to design the expansion using local expertise and resources. The engineering group held a four-day workshop with 25 church members in order to allow the members to contribute to the design. According to Huff, his group wanted to challenge the members' thinking rather than just build the expansion themselves.

"Our expertise is not in construction — it's in engineering [design]," Huff said. "So what we can do is walk beside them and push their thinking to take their natural expertise in the context, refine and focus it so they can have a process where the whole church contributes to the design."

Junior mechanical engineering major Julian Trujillo joined the 2017 trip and worked with Huff to facilitate a "community-centered solution design." Trujillo and his team spent time building relationships with the people in Haiti in order to further understand their specific needs.

"It was really important to have this community-centered design to where you're not just designing around the problem," Trujillo said. "You have to specialize [the] solution."

According to Huff, the first engineering trip to Haiti was in 2011, but the work was focused on the local school instead of the church building. He invited Dr. Todd Patten, professor of counseling, to bring some of his students. Since 2011, eight mission trips had been led by either the engineering group, the counseling group or a combination of the two.

In 2017, Amy Cox, professor of art, joined the Haiti trip to see if her interior design students could contribute to the mission there in the future. For Cox, it was also important that they empathized with the people of the church.

"Design is the perfect tool to be a learner," Cox said. "When you design a human-centered design process, the very first phase is empathy. You have to just uncover and learn from the person you're designing for. It meant that we got to know them really well."

For Huff, the most important aspect of the partnership was the relationship.

"I'm getting to see a fuller version of who Christ is when I know my brothers and sisters in a different context," Huff said. "And I think that changes my view of the Spirit. It changes how I think of the church and that's from going frequently and developing this relationship."

Engineering and interior design students and faculty help create a new design for a local church in Peltan, Haiti, on May 16, 2017. The students were able to combine their skills and faith in an effort to help the church. // Photo courtesy of Ashel Parsons

A local Haitian man rides his motorcycle through a pack of cows and alongside a truck as students and faculty travel into Peltan, Haiti, on May 13, 2017. Students and faculty spent time getting acquainted with the locals during their two-week trip in May 2017. // Photo courtesy of Ashel Parsons

Graduate student Braden Stevens, Professor of Art Amy Cox, graduate student Kimberly Stevens, Assistant Professor of Engineering Dr. James Huff and junior Julian Trujillo discuss building plans of the local church in Peltan, Haiti, on May 16, 2017. A group of engineering and art students and faculty traveled to Peltan to help a church expand its building to fit a growing population. // Photo courtesy of Ashel Parsons





It's a great atmosphere. Some of us go way back even to my time as a student here back in the '90s. I have several co-workers who were either former teachers, coaches, teammates or classmates of mine during my time here.

- Luke Cullins, instructor in the College of Sciences







# FROM PEER TO PROFESSOR

## HARDING ALUMNI BECOME KINESIOLOGY PROFESSORS

WORDS *Braden Bowman* // PHOTOS *Kazu Fujisawa*

**T**his year two kinesiology professors were hired as full-time faculty: Luke Cullins, instructor in the College of Sciences, and Dr. Britney Finley, assistant professor of kinesiology. Both attended Harding and also participated in sports.

While at Harding, Cullins was involved in many campus activities, such as playing quarterback on the Harding Bisons football team.

"I had an incredible experience playing football here at Harding," Cullins said. "It was a truly life-changing period of my life."

Coach Scott Ragsdale, associate professor of computer science, was one of Cullins' coaches during his time as a student at Harding and had a tremendous influence on his life.

"I am proud of Luke and the contribution he made to the Bisons as a coach and now as a teacher," Ragsdale said.

Since coming back to Harding, Cullins worked alongside some of his own peers, from the football team, who are now serving as faculty.

"The relationships I developed as a player have lasted for 20 years now," Cullins said. "When we get back together these days it's as if we pick up right where we left off."

Cullins felt the environment was just as welcoming as when he came to Harding as a student.


"It's a great atmosphere," Cullins said. "Some of us go way back even to my time as a student here back in the '90s. I have several co-workers who were either former teachers, coaches, teammates or classmates of mine during my time here."

Finley competed on Harding's track team and graduated in 2002. Now back on campus, she worked alongside her undergraduate professors.

"I am still in shock," Finley said. "[I] love it. I fully believe that my work will only improve after finding my role and how I fit into Harding."

Above all the great aspects of his new position on faculty, Cullins valued the relationships made in the classroom setting among his students.

"The absolute best aspect of my job is getting to know the students," Cullins said. "We have students from all over the country, and world, and this is what makes Harding such a special place."



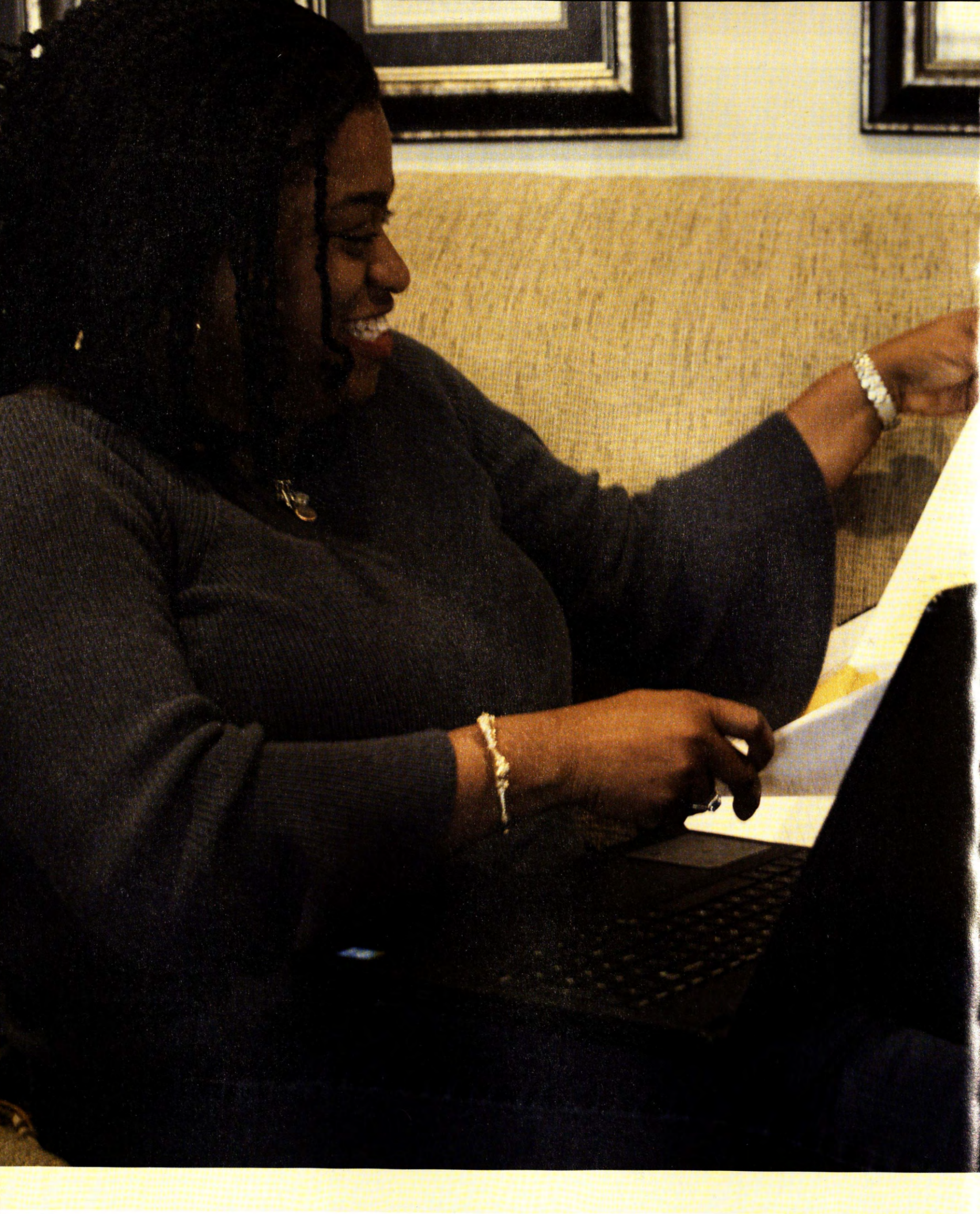
Britney Finley, associate professor of kinesiology, addresses her wellness class in the Ganus Athletic Center on Oct. 24, 2017. Finley began her career at the University of Arkansas Little Rock and began teaching at Harding during fall 2017.  
// Photo by Kazu Fujisawa

Luke Cullins poses for his yearbook photo during his sophomore year at Harding in 1998. Cullins was a star football player during his time at Harding and was named National Player of the Week by USA Football twice during his time as a student.  
// Photo courtesy of Petit Jean Yearbook

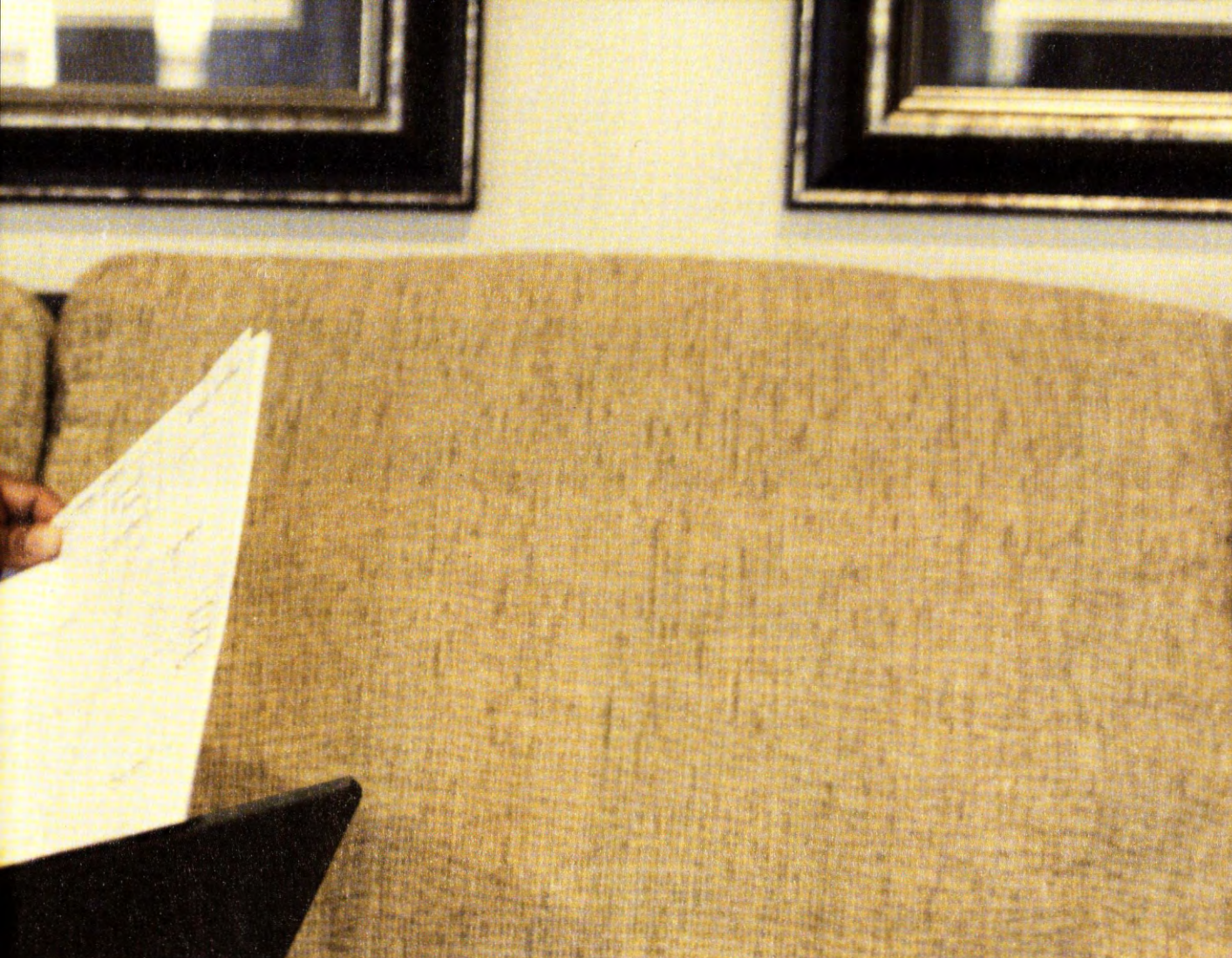
Britney Finley, formerly Copeland, smiles during her sophomore year at Harding in 2000. Finley was a member of the women's track team during her time as a student at Harding. // Photo courtesy of Petit Jean Yearbook

Luke Cullins, Health professor and assistant football coach, addresses his health and wellness class in the Ganus Athletic Center on Oct. 24, 2017. Cullins joined Harding as a faculty member in 2010 and has been a part of the football coaching staff. // Photo by Kazu Fujisawa









# A NEW WAY TO LEARN

## COLLEGE OF BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION ENHANCES MBA PROGRAM

WORDS *Hannah Hitchcox* // PHOTOS *Abigail Cooper*

**O**n Oct. 6, 2017, Harding's College of Business Administration (COBA) announced the launch of the enhanced Master of Business Administration (MBA) graduate program, which brought many changes to the current MBA program.

According to COBA Dean Allen Frazier, changes to the program included a fully online curriculum, nationally recognized Quality Matters (QM) certified classes and more interaction opportunities for students and teachers.

"When you go to other places and you see QM, you know it has been through a rigorous process of writing," Frazier said. "The classes are more interactive and we're requiring a synchronous event with each course which means the [faculty] and students will be live with one another."

As director of e-learning and multimedia systems, Paula Kirby implemented the QM standard across the online courses Harding offered and already saw an overwhelmingly positive response to the new standard for online courses. This was evident at the faculty technology showcase in September, in which professors who taught online QM courses shared their experiences using the program.

"The overwhelming answer from everyone on the panel is 'because we designed

our courses with this team through the QM standards, when I started the class as an instructor, I had nothing to do but interact with my students," Kirby said. "I didn't have to fix the content or the calendar, the courses were ready to go. That attested to the value of growing through that standard."

Harding alumnus and current MBA student Noah Styles chose to pursue an MBA at Harding because of his previous experience with Harding business professors and the lowered cost per hour of the program.

"Every single professor that I have had in the MBA program has business experience, and it shows in the classroom," Styles said. "It was a true blessing that they reduced the cost per hour in the MBA program a year before I started."

According to Frazier, the enhanced MBA program gave students an opportunity to receive an education that offered an interactive and in-depth analysis of the business industry, teaching students key qualities that allowed them to succeed in any field.

"All the skills of communication, decision making, motivation, leadership [are] not just business principles," Frazier said. "[They] are things that you need in every discipline across the world as you work."

Master of Business Administration student Letha Bell works on assignments while relaxing on a sofa at Starbucks on Nov. 10, 2017. The enhanced MBA program allowed students to take all of their courses online at their convenience. // Photo by Abigail Cooper