

Summer 2020

# SEASONS

The Magazine of Freed-Hardeman University



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## YEAR-IN-REVIEW

Looking Back at the  
2019-20 Year in Photos



# IT WAS THE *best of times,* IT WAS THE WORST OF TIMES...

What a season we've had! As Charles Dickens famously wrote, "It was the best of times, it was the worst of times...it was the season of Light, it was the season of Darkness, it was the spring of hope, it was the winter of despair, ..."

Freed-Hardeman University, like most of the world, has ridden a virtual roller coaster the last few months. Perhaps no single group felt that season of Light and Darkness more than the cast and crew of *Makin' Music*. The show's cancellation was for them the worst of times. Their spirits soared, however, when they presented a dress rehearsal of the show online — and thousands watched. It wasn't the same, but it was very good.

Likewise, athletes went from the spring of hope to the winter of despair. Championship hopes were dashed. Classes went online; graduates didn't graduate, at least not with pomp and circumstance. But, learning continued, sometimes in more creative ways, and courses were completed.

Summer camps were altered. Mid-South Youth Camp went to online devotionals and virtual campfires. The usual fish fry became a "Finger Lickin' BBQ Chicken" drive-through fundraiser, which generated almost \$7,000 for the new dining hall.

Sports camps became day camps. Horizons became an online sensation. Forty congregations from nine states registered their youth groups and 181 individuals representing 19 states registered for the event. They "came" from as far away as California, Texas and New York. Total attendance of named participants was almost 700. FHU Dining Services had no students to serve so they fed

the community, offering curbside service to those who ordered meals. On one occasion, they offered a free supper.

The Associates, not to be deterred by a virus, offered Tea for Two boxes so ladies could host a tiny tea party in their own homes. They sold approximately \$3,500 in boxes and garnered more than \$2,000 in donations from supporters for the not-a-tea-party. "It was a good way to stay in touch with our tea party supporters and bring a little elegance to this time of social distancing," Debbie McLaughlin, Associates coordinator, said.

Through it all, we saw the work of the Lord. Our supporters still gave. In fact, we just completed the fourth best fundraising year in our history. Teachers still planned the next semester's work. Committees planned for a safe opening of FHU's 151st year. That's a good thing, since Dave Clouse, vice president of community engagement, said, "All indications point to a very strong enrollment this fall."

And now, we prayerfully wait. We wait for a cure, we wait for a vaccine, and we wait for students to arrive on campus. Masks, hand sanitizers and social distancing will be present, but they won't define us. We are ready for campus to come to life again. We are ready for the best of times.



David R. Shannon, President



Read more at [fhu.edu/seasons](https://fhu.edu/seasons)



Video content at [fhu.edu/seasons](https://fhu.edu/seasons)

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THIS IS MY STORY . . . THIS IS YOUR STORY . . .

# *This Is Our Story*

FHU concluded her 150th year by producing a video, "150 Years: This Is My Story." It streamed on Facebook Thursday, June 18, at 6 p.m. and is available for viewing at [fhu.edu/150th-anniversary](http://fhu.edu/150th-anniversary). The hour-long compilation includes interviews conducted by FHU President David R. Shannon and video footage submitted by alumni to commemorate the university's 150-year history.

"As we near the end of our 150th Year celebration, it just seemed right to listen to Freed-Hardeman," Shannon said. "You've heard the old cliché, 'if walls could talk' . . . well, let me tell you, alumni can — and what wonderful stories they have!"

Alumni who have a story they want to add to the online scrapbook may do so by submitting a horizontal video that is no more than five minutes to [alumni@fhu.edu](mailto:alumni@fhu.edu).







“ I WAS  
*hungry to learn more*  
THAN WHAT I HAD  
EXPERIENCED UP TO  
THAT POINT IN MY LIFE.

– DEBBIE MCLAUGHLIN, 1988



“ ...HAVING *1600 friends*  
ALL AROUND ME...

– BRANDON EDWARDS, 2005







“ WE CAME TO FREED-HARDEMAN.

*We never looked back.*

WE'VE BEEN HERE 23 YEARS...  
IT'S BEEN A BLESSING TO US.  
FREED-HARDEMAN IS FOR EVERYBODY.

– SHAREN CYPRESS, 1991





“ I REMEMBER COMING TO  
FREED-HARDEMAN FROM  
ZIMBABWE...

I DIDN'T KNOW THE CULTURE

*but you loved on me*

AND I FELT RIGHT AT HOME.

– NKOSI MPOFU, 2014

“ I CAME, *I stayed*  
AND I TAUGHT FOR 44 YEARS!

– SYLVIA HARRIS, 1958







“ CHAPEL HALL HAD A PERSONALITY.  
CHAPEL HALL HAD CHARACTER.  
EVERYBODY KNEW CHAPEL WAS  
THE MOST IMPORTANT THING  
THAT HAPPENED THERE.

*Chapel Hall was a  
holy place to me.*

– JOHN SMITH, 1960





“ THE FOCUS IS NOT ABOUT  
THE END PRODUCT

*but about the process—*

WHAT WE LEARNED ABOUT  
OURSELVES AND OUR GOD.

— BECKY HARTLE, 2013



“ SO MANY  
*special places.*  
SO MANY SPECIAL MEMORIES.

— DOUG BURLESON, 1999







FREED HARDEMAN  
UNIVERSITY



# Protecting the PRIDE

Freed-Hardeman University President David R. Shannon has announced plans to welcome students back for on-campus instruction in August 2020. "We can't wait to welcome new students and reunite with returning students on campus," he said. "We are family, and we love spending time with family. We also want to keep our family safe, and as Lions, we want to Protect the Pride!"

The fall semester will begin Monday, Aug. 10, with the annual Tolling of the Bell ceremony and beginning of classes. The semester will conclude Friday, Nov. 20, prior to what is typically a week-long break for Thanksgiving. The semester will have no holidays or breaks. Winter commencement is scheduled for Saturday, Nov. 21.

The FHU COVID-19 Task Force, composed of administrators, health care professionals, faculty and staff, developed the Protect the Pride Plan. "Its framework allows FHU to operate safely, despite varying levels of risk that may be present on campus and in the surrounding communities," Shannon said. In the event the risk level increases, each area of campus has plans governing the steps each area will take to increase the safety of the campus community.

"Throughout the spring when we were doing classes online, our students and parents let us know how much they value the on-campus experience FHU offers," Shannon said. "We are committed to serving students while preparing for other challenges our society may face."

Arrival times, move-in and registration have been adjusted. First-time students will arrive Wednesday and Thursday, Aug. 5 and 6. Returning students have been assigned a specific day for arrival: seniors, Aug. 7; juniors, Aug. 8; and sophomores, Aug. 9. A drive-through registration and check-in process will provide maximum safety for students and parents as they arrive on campus. Interface activities for new students will be conducted Aug. 5-9.

The Protect the Pride Plan involves implementing new procedures to help keep FHU safer. These include: temperature checks; increased sanitation across campus; de-densifying classes; additional hand sanitizers in campus buildings; health assessment reporting via the FHU Protect the Pride Health app for students, faculty and staff; physician and nurse availability in the campus clinic; social distancing; and requiring masks (according to the level of risk).

Students will also see changes in their daily schedules. Chapel, for example, will be conducted twice daily to promote social distancing in Loyd Auditorium. Classes will meet in rooms that increase the distance between students, and they will be

dismissed so as to reduce crowding in doorways and hallways. Campus activities will likely look a little different, but the university is working toward having many of the activities students have enjoyed in the past. When possible, events will be scheduled in open air venues.

The task force expects the fall semester to be a dynamic situation with cycles of increased and decreased risk linked to the number of confirmed cases and exposures on campus and in Chester and Madison Counties. Therefore, they have identified four levels of risk, determined by the level of community spread to communicate in real-time the risk to the campus-community. The four levels are color-coded green, yellow, orange and red. The task force then developed health and safety guidelines based on resources from the Centers for Disease Control, Tennessee Department of Health and other sources.

For example, green indicates there is no to little community spread, although there might be isolated cases. This level encourages adherence to CDC health and safety guidelines. Campus will operate as usual but with heightened awareness, symptom tracking, social distancing and increased cleaning and disinfecting efforts.

Yellow indicates minimal to moderate community spread, with the potential for rapid increase in suspected cases. At this level, masks are required in academic buildings and indoor university-sponsored events. Classes and indoor events cannot exceed 50 percent of the capacity of the space.

Level orange indicates substantial community spread. At this point, CDC health and safety guidelines are required, and campus units will employ mitigation strategies as needed. Masks are required, and classes and indoor events cannot exceed 25 percent of capacity.

Red indicates substantial, continued community spread. At this point, on-campus activities will be suspended.

Shannon said, "For 150 years, Freed-Hardeman has provided a transforming experience for our students, and we are thrilled this fall to offer the same. Our administration has been meeting regularly to prepare to bring our campus community back together. The FHU family is ready to be at home on campus. What has often been taken for granted may be appreciated most this semester."

Additional information regarding the Protect the Pride Plan is available online at [fhu.edu/protectthepride](http://fhu.edu/protectthepride). As further details emerge, they will be posted on this site.



# FHU VINYL PROJECT



**F**reed-Hardeman University alumnus Rodger Holtin ('72), lover of music, history, and vinyl, is nearing completion of a project to find and make available to friends of Freed-Hardeman, the sounds of her past. The FHU Vinyl Project, as he calls it, entails finding vinyl recordings of the college choral groups, chapel, the Pied Pipers and sermons, converting them to digital and making them available to other FHU alumni and friends.

As an employee in the FHU bookstore about 15 years ago, Holtin noted several individuals requested recordings of the Freed-Hardeman College Chorus directed by Kelley B. Doyle. Unfortunately, he had to tell them none were available. So, Holtin began a search for the master tapes. His campus search proved fruitless. Although the library had "well-used" copies of most of the recordings, there were no master tapes of the Chorus. He expanded his search to Goodwill, flea markets, estate sales and rummage sales. When his employment changed, he abandoned work on the project for a while.

Volunteering as a researcher for Greg Massey's history of FHU rekindled Holtin's interest in the vinyl project. "I hiked over to Greg's office to offer him grunt help," he said. "He sent me to the library to scan all the microfilm of the Chester County Independent since 1950." Holtin also pulled audio snippets from the "Sounds of FHC" albums while scanning the newspapers. "This was the impetus for the reboot of the project," he said. He now has all of the "Sounds of FHC" albums, multiple copies of some, which he purchased to find the best copies from which to make digital transfers. Since these albums had no original liner notes, he searched old yearbooks and student newspapers for names and spellings.

Although Holtin's interest in old recordings goes back to his grade school days, his fascination led to an unlikely connection to FHC/FHU a few years ago. In 2007 in a Dyersburg Goodwill store, he found a professional-looking lacquer recording with a blank label. Intrigued, he "shelled out the two bucks to find out what was on it." He discovered a recording of a







remote radio broadcast promoting a Senath, Missouri, Piggly Wiggly that had just been air-conditioned. A farm laborer named Charlie Barks, a customer in the store, participated in a trivia contest. It was broadcast on the radio and captured on a 78 RPM disc.

"Off and on for the next 12 years, we tried to locate Charlie," Holtin said. Finally, with the help of Mary Johns, Steele, Missouri, Holtin found his grave in a Senath cemetery. By tracing obituaries, he and his wife Alice, found Charlie's son. Holtin, using his FHU address, posted a message to him on Facebook. That son forwarded the message to his sister who, as luck would have it, had graduated from FHU in 1997. "On the credibility of my FHU email, she answered me," he said. Michelle Barks Carey had been in school with three of Holtin's children and now lives in Oakland, Tennessee. This year, the Holtins delivered a copy of the CD to her.

Holtin is currently converting the Pied Piper records to a digital format. All of the CDs completed by Holtin are available for purchase at the FHU Christian store. In addition, he is still searching for recordings on lacquer-coated aluminum discs, home or radio station recordings, or dictating machine discs.

For Holtin, the most earnestly desired of these recordings would be one of N.B. Hardeman, long-time president of FHC, preaching. "He spent so many years on the radio in the 1930s and 40s, that I am totally convinced there must be some old lacquer records of a youthful Brodie Hardeman out there," he said. Radio stations commonly used lacquer-coated aluminum discs to capture audio for use at a later time during this period, according to Holtin. Where are these recordings? If they – or any original recordings by the Chorus – are hiding in your attic, Holtin would like to talk with you.





# SESSQUICENTENNIAL MOMENTS

WFHU 91.5 The Lion is currently running a series of radio spots celebrating Freed-Hardeman University's 150-year musical history. Host of "Big Band Sounds," a weekly show on the station, and interim station manager, Rodger Holtin is producing these "Sesquicentennial Moments" and playing them periodically on the station.

So far, he has featured Wheeler Palmer, hired by N.B. Hardeman in 1938 to direct the college chorus and lead the college quartet. He was a member of the original Stamps Quartet. You can hear him as lead tenor on the first recording ever made by the group.

Palmer is also known for writing "I Know the Lord Will Find a Way for Me" and setting the books of the New Testament to music, the song most learn as children in Bible school.

Holtin has also highlighted Henderson country blues musician and long-time member of the FHU facilities staff, Waynell Jones. Jones recorded a 45 RPM of "Jaybird Boogie" and "The Chicken Song" with Highwater Records in 1984. "Jaybird Boogie" was the first song he ever composed—for which he received a case of Coca-Cola.

Another "moment" includes a professionally done jingle by Pepper Sound Studio to promote the station when it went on the air in 1967.

WFHU 91.5 can be heard within approximately 60 miles of Henderson and globally on iHeart Radio. The "Sesquicentennial Moments" are also posted on the station's Facebook page.





# LEARNING *Beyond the Classroom*

*FHU's Engaged Learning Initiative (ELI) exists to enhance the academic experience for FHU undergraduate students ([fhu.edu/eli](http://fhu.edu/eli)). It connects the classroom with the real world – from theory to applied practice.*

## CARING FOR *Cusco*

Eleven students, accompanied by two members of the nursing faculty, Dr. Sarah Pierce and Linda Hodges, went to Cusco, Peru, for two weeks in January, 2020. "This project was all about providing medical care to the lower income people of Cusco," Pierce said. They worked with the CerviCusco clinic.

Students' care was demonstrated through proper and efficient medical treatment, and spreading the love of God. They went to various regions of the country and cared for individuals in several environments, including a nursing home, an orphanage, churches, supermarkets and small villages.

One student particularly interested in physical therapy, Callie Stubbs, sought to identify cerebral palsy within children of the region and learn about their quality of life and how it differed from affected children in the U.S.

"This trip gave me valuable experience that I now hope to one day take and apply to the mission field. I had no idea how truly needed medical mission work is, or how rewarding the experience could be," Spencer Alsup said. "I have been on mission trips before, but never a medical mission trip, and never one so fulfilling and uplifting."

"The medical mission trip to Peru provided an opportunity for students to experience cultural immersion, practice/learn a foreign language, adapt to less than ideal clinical settings, use critical thinking to provide competent care with limited medical supplies, and work together as a team," Pierce said. "I have taken students on medical mission trips for the past five years and I continue to be in awe at the transformation that occurs in each student through this experience."





# THEY "Ain't Misbehavin'"



To improve their musicality and to sharpen their audition skills, a group of FHU students participated in a theatre workshop at Playhouse on the Square. The venue is Memphis' premier professional, regional theatre. They toured the facility and participated in a workshop with executive producer Michael Detroit and music director Nathan McHenry.



Later, students met the theatre's cast of "Ain't Misbehavin'" and saw a performance that evening. They observed in action the techniques learned earlier in the day.

Students were awakened to the number of positions that must be filled to run a professional theatre, Dr. Cliff Thompson, FHU director of theatre, said. They also gained a "better appreciation of the creativity and planning required to perform a musical theatre number," he said.

"Participating in the workshop provided a different perspective on how to view a musical theatre song in performance and equipped me with specific tools to strengthen musical theatre auditions."

Lakyn Woods, an FHU student, said,

As a side benefit, students developed a new interest in the music of "Fats" Waller, whose music is featured in "Ain't Misbehavin'."

## ADVOCATING *for* EDUCATING



Forty teacher education students drawn from the Introduction to Education and Special Education Foundations classes, along with their teachers, Dr. Alesha Northcutt and Ashley Estes, visited the Tennessee capitol for "Legislative Day on the Hill." The day was designed to help students understand how to be advocates for education.

They met with leaders from Tennesseans for Student Success and Representative Iris Rudder. Students also observed an educational subcommittee meeting where various House bills

were discussed and then met with House representatives Mark White, Kirk Haston and Jim Coley. Finally, students learned about Tennessee's new strategic plan for education, "Best for All."

"This entire experience was so beneficial for both me and my students," Estes said. "We learned before, during and after this trip. We learned about the legislative process and have continued to monitor the status of House bills that were discussed on the day of our visit."



# ELI FEATURE: *Headed West*

**T**wo FHU students, Amelia Beames and Hannah Mabry, took the ultimate college road trip last summer, visiting 17 national parks and monuments as they completed an Engaged Learning Initiative (ELI) project.

The pair flew to Denver and began a 4,000 mile trek in June 2019. Along the way, they visited Rocky Mountains National Park, Mesa Verde, Four Corners National Monument, Grand Canyon, Glen Canyon National Recreation Area, Zion, Sequoia, Kings Canyon, Yosemite, Lassen Volcanic, Mount Rainier, Glacier, Waterton Lakes National Park in Canada, Yellowstone and Mount Rushmore. Fittingly, they celebrated the Fourth of July at Mount Rushmore.

The independent study project required them to study history, geology and ecology of the parks. "We wanted to explore the concepts of diversity of landscape and wildlife over the range of areas we visited and emphasize the heritage of the parks to inspire people to visit and to enrich the park experience," Beames said. Her job was recording the images they saw along the way.

"While Amelia took photographs, I was in charge of gathering scientific and environmental facts about each place we visited for the children's book we planned," Mabry said.

Mabry, a biochemistry and Spanish major, handled the geology and ecology, while Beames, a criminal justice and photography major, concentrated on the history and recorded their travel photographically. Some of her photographs were incorporated into her senior exhibit.

For most of their trip, the duo stayed in Airbnb's, but some accommodations were more "interesting." At the Grand Canyon, they stayed in a refurbished school bus in the middle of a big field. "We weren't aware we were sharing the field with cows until we almost drove over one late one night and had a stare-down with the scariest 2,000 pound animal we'd ever seen," Beames said. At Mesa Verde, they discovered they had actually booked an Airbnb in California—eight hours away. A Travel Lodge filled in nicely.

The duo alternated days driving, figuring it would even out over the month. "The best part about driving together was experiencing the beautiful scenery that went on forever, combining our music playlists, and searching for the best cheeseburger that side of the US had to offer," Mabry said.

After the trip, Beames and Mabry used their research and photographs to compile a children's book about the parks. Titled "The West US: A Tour of 17 National Parks and Monuments," it features each national park and monument they visited in chronological order. "We wrote it at about a third or fourth grade level," Mabry said.

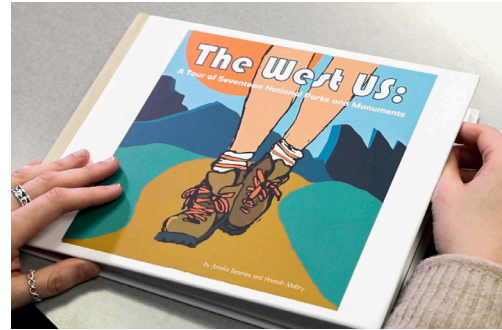
The two have been best friends since 2006. They attended Central Church of Christ in Paducah, Kentucky. Mabry came to FHU in 2015 and Beames in 2016. "We've become like family over the years," Mabry said. After all that time together, their friendship remains intact. "We're still great friends and take every opportunity to visit each other regularly," Mabry (now studying pharmacy at the University of Kentucky) said.

"This ELI project was one of the best gifts Freed-Hardeman ever gave me," Beames said.

"It was an incredible experience. I hope more people take advantage of all the cool opportunities a program like this provides! It makes dreams and wild ideas feasible."







“IT MAKES  
DREAMS AND  
*wild ideas*  
FEASIBLE.







“ I HAVE NOT  
THOUGHT IN  
TERMS OF  
*breaking barriers.*”



DR CHARLES WILES  
PROVOST & VP FOR ACADEMICS  
DR VICKI JOHNSON  
ASSOCIATE VICE PRESIDENT  
HEIDI SPROUSE  
ASSISTANT TO THE VP



# Breaking BARRIERS



**D**r. Vicki M. Johnson didn't set out to break any barriers or shatter any glass ceilings when she returned to her alma mater to teach in 1979. "I never really thought about it," she said. She came to teach business education, which she did, including typewriting, shorthand, and office management. Returning to her alma mater as a member of the faculty was, she says, "fulfilling a dream." She counts working with two of her mentors, Wynelle Hiten and Dr. J. Walker Whittle, as highlights of her teaching career.

Eventually, shorthand dropped out of the picture and typewriting became word processing and then business computer applications. Along the way, she also taught business communication, records management and office management. Business communication, a junior-level writing class, was her favorite. "Students didn't look forward to it," she said, "because they didn't like to write. Yet, it was usually listed as one of the top three courses, no matter what their major was, for preparing them for their job."

"It was my favorite because I could see improvement in their skills. They did not care for the course, thought I was too strict, and often didn't practice what they had been taught," Johnson said, "but many of those same students have since told me how helpful it has been in their jobs."

As a grammarian, she admits some errors give her grief: writing incomplete sentences, using numbers incorrectly, or, heaven forbid, forsaking the Oxford comma.

In 1992, Johnson made her first foray into administration when she became the assistant dean of the School of Business. She served in that position until 2009 when she began a 10-year stint as the associate vice president of academics and the highest ranking female in FHU administration.

Over that decade, she thought maybe twice about her status in administration, she said. While attending an FHU basketball game, a school employee came to her, noted she was "the highest ranking official" at the game and asked her about a particular situation. "I am being honest when I say that I had never thought of myself in those terms," she said. "And the funny thing was I knew nothing about the situation I was being asked about."

The second time, she says, was one day when she was thinking about the school's past and how it has changed over the years. She commented, "Being the highest ranking female has not controlled my thoughts. I have not thought in terms of breaking barriers."

The role of women at FHU has changed significantly since Johnson's days as a student. For many years, the only woman in an academic leadership position was Daphene Kennedy who chaired a department. Today, three of the five college deans are female. Johnson credits former president Joe Wiley with increasing the number of women in administration. He, in fact, appointed Johnson to her current role.

Now that she is retiring from university life, Johnson is making plans for the future: volunteer and church work, spending time with her sister whose health is failing, traveling, and reading, lots and lots of reading. "Books are my weakness," she said. "I probably have 200 books in my house that I haven't read yet."

But, reading will likely take a back seat when the Tennessee Vols are playing. Once a season ticket holder for Vol football games, she no longer sees many football games in person. "No one sits at a football game any more," she said, "and my knees won't let me stand." So, she purchased a 65-inch television and when game time comes, "I get in my recliner and I have the best seat in the house!" she said.

Johnson says she "loves equally the Lady Vol basketball team." An admirer of the late Pat Summit, she still attends some of the Lady Vol games in person, and, with Rick Barnes as coach, is paying more attention to the men's basketball team. "I mourn when football is over, and I mourn when basketball is over," she said.

Games and books and travel can all be forsaken for Heidi, a 13-year old black and tan miniature dachshund. Heidi has recently developed diabetes and requires insulin shots, so Johnson has adapted to her schedule, even missing Lady Lion basketball games, to give her the shot at the appropriate time. No doubt about it, Heidi is the highest-ranking female in the Johnson household.





# ANSWERING THE CALL

**JESUS DECLARED,** *"Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: Love your neighbor as yourself."*

*"Darkness cannot drive out darkness; only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate; only love can do that."* – **MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.**

**I**t is the great calling — loving the Lord and loving our neighbor. Two events held this spring were focused on spreading unity and love on Freed-Hardeman University's campus and throughout Henderson and Chester County.

Be the Bridge was held in late January for African American alumni to share their experiences as minorities on campus. In the weeks that followed the program, the coronavirus pandemic interrupted the spring semester, moving classes online and leaving everyone wondering when things would go back to normal.

Instead a new and disturbing normal emerged, one that was painful to look at, let alone digest. News stories of police brutality impacting African Americans from Georgia, Kentucky and Minnesota spread and sent a wave of emotions — anger,

shock, sadness — through the community. But those incidents also drove people into action.

Inspired to do something, FHU President David Shannon collaborated with Chester County Middle School Principal and FHU alumnus TJ Kirk to present a Henderson/Chester County COMMUNITY Night held in early June.

"I spoke with TJ about the pain, the reality and the emotional burden that people are feeling and we said we need to do something that is community wide," Shannon said.

Kirk added, "We wanted to bring people together, to get them off their phones, off social media and to get them to be face-to-face to have a conversation. Collectively, our statement is that racism has no place in this county."





“ ENOUGH IS  
ENOUGH;  
*it's time to*  
UNITE!

## COMING TOGETHER

A couple hundred people gathered for the CommUNITY Night at Eagle stadium. The evening's program included: Henderson Mayor Bobby King; longtime local educator Renee Croom, who was introduced by community volunteer Renee Phelps; Police Chief Gary Davidson; Henderson Alderman Michael Phelps, who read comments from Dr. Elizabeth Saunders, former alderman, FHU alumna and retired professor of education. Kirk and Shannon also shared inspirational messages and calls to action at the beginning and conclusion of the program.

"What should be our response during a time that is stirring so many emotions?" Shannon asked the crowd. "The movement that is coming out of the recent tragedy, I believe in 100 percent. I hope our children and grandchildren can talk like my generation can when we say 'Do you remember how things changed coming out of the '60s?' Laws were changed, and communities were changed. Do I think we've arrived? No. Do I think we have a long way to go? Yes. But let this be the decade when white, black and everyone else say, 'Enough is enough; it's time to unite!'"



Each speaker echoed a similar message of unity.

In Saunders' message she wrote, "Protests are not the end of progress, they are the beginning. Not only should we say we're not racists, but we should say we are anti-racism." She encouraged everyone to work together to dismantle the racial biases in every aspect of society.

Croom shared her vision for a United States where the "us" and "them" mentality is eliminated and replaced with intolerance for racism, bigotry or injustice in any form.

"I see a place for children where police brutality ceases to exist because in 2020 the people took a stand to not let injustice continue to destroy our nation. And I see a place where police are valued for their service to mankind," Croom said.

Davidson pledged his commitment to serve everyone fairly and equally, while King vowed not to allow racism to go unchallenged. "If you don't (challenge racism) it will tear this community in two," King said. "We call out injustice when we see it, no matter who it is or what it is."

Additional remarks and prayers were led by several individuals, including Adam Link, Rick



“ WE CALL OUT *injustice* WHEN WE SEE IT...

Seaton, Shane Connor, Troy Kilzer II, and Marvin Croom. Their comments focused on the importance of loving neighbors and of the community's being a shining light.

"Prayer is our best option, not our last option," Kirk said. "I believe prayer is where this all starts. The actions that follow will come from God's spirit to act on His behalf. We can't do anything at all without Him." Shannon encouraged the crowd to act compassionately toward their neighbor when faced with the opportunity to speak against injustice.





"Compassion causes good action," Shannon said. "Our great responsibility is a standard of truth higher than any of us individually, and in that, we are to always speak the truth in love."

Shannon and Kirk hope the event was the start of a movement of conversations that lead to a more unified community.

"God sees your neighbor; it doesn't matter their faith, ethnicity or which side of the tracks they live on. And the soul searching question for all of us is, do you?" Shannon said. "The best life to live is not a life that doesn't see color. It's a life that loves color."

## BE THE BRIDGE

Before the spread of the coronavirus and subsequent quarantine and mandatory isolation that followed, a crowd of students and alumni gathered in late January in Ayers Auditorium for what they hoped would be the first of many conversations to break any barriers between students of different ethnicities.

"We're here to better understand the Black experience at FHU," Micah Smith, director of institutional research, said.

Smith and Nadine McNeal, director of social work at FHU, have led the Be the Bridge student discussion group for the past several years using a college discussion guide designed for racial reconciliation. Be the Bridge is a national nonprofit organization.

The discussion also was in observance of Black History Month and part of the university's 150th anniversary schedule of events. The program acknowledged that not all students could attend Freed-Hardeman during its early years. The school desegregated in 1964, and Saunders was the university's first Black graduate in 1967.

"I tend not to focus on the past," Saunders said. "I think about the present and the things that I can change." Saunders advised students to come "out of their comfort

zones" to learn more about people who do not share their same racial identity or culture.

McNeal, who also served as a panelist, hoped FHU would host more activities where students could discuss racial perceptions and learn to 'see people as they are.'

"It would be good to have a university-wide attempt to unify the entire student body," McNeal said.

Alumnus Michael Jones said during his time as a student in the late 90's he wished he felt a greater sense of unity.



"While I met many wonderful people, I did not always feel heard and, therefore, did not feel important," he said.

As FHU moves forward, Jones encouraged the university to increase diversity amongst FHU's faculty and staff. Recent graduate Sandra Sylman believes more events like Be the Bridge could help raise cultural awareness.

"It's not a single event, but there needs to be small events (throughout the year) including chapel speakers," Sylman said.

Be the Bridge and CommUNITY Night launched what organizers hope will be a continuous effort to bring people together.





# SUE SHELTON WHITE:

## *Lady Warrior*

Suffragist, attorney, writer and politician, Sue Shelton White rose from being the orphaned daughter of Chester County teachers to become one of the state's and nation's leaders in the fight for women's rights, particularly the right to vote. Generally referred to as "Miss Sue," her petite size belied her considerable abilities and will. James Tate, general counsel for the federal Social Security Board, called her "a lady warrior" – both a Southern gentlewoman and a fighter.

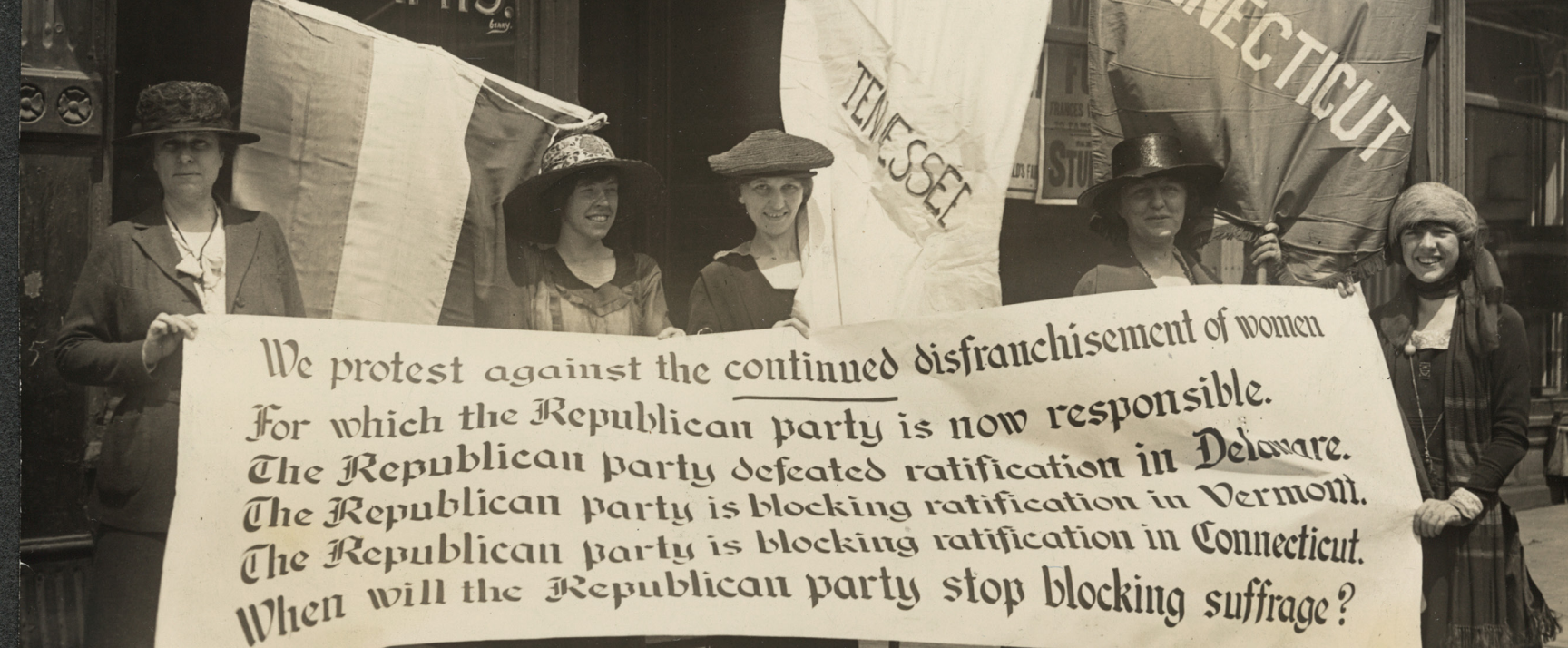
Unlike many suffragists who came from affluent backgrounds, White was born May 25, 1887, in Henderson, Tennessee, to James Shelton White and Mary Calista Swain. Her parents were schoolteachers of modest means and were considered by some to be liberal thinkers.

The death of James White in 1893 left Mary White responsible for the support of her seven children. She sold books and pianos, gave music lessons and wrote for the local newspaper. She also tutored her own children. The family lived in what Sue White described as a "twilight zone" between white Henderson and the Black community of Jaybird. Mary White died in 1901, leaving her daughter an orphan at age 14.

White graduated from Georgie Robertson Christian College in 1904 and West Tennessee Business College in







Dyer, Tennessee, in 1905. At age 18, she began working as a stenographer in Jackson; a few years later she became one of the state's first female court reporters.

From that beginning, she forged her way to the forefront of the women's suffrage fight. Joining the movement in 1912, she became the recording secretary of the Tennessee Equal Suffrage Association in 1913, but switched her allegiance to the National Woman's Party in 1918. She moved to Washington, D.C., and became Tennessee chair of the NWP and edited *The Suffragist*, the organization's newspaper.

In Washington, White participated in a demonstration on the White House lawn and burned a paper effigy of President Woodrow Wilson. She was arrested and served five days in jail. Following her release, she joined the "Prison Special," a train that traveled the country calling attention to the cause of women's suffrage. Twenty-six members of the National Women's Party traveled around the country. When they arrived at their destination, they put on uniforms like the ones they had worn in the workhouse for their public appearances. Speaking to large crowds, they described their treatment and the conditions in the prison.

After the U.S. Senate passed the 19th Amendment in June 1919, it was sent to the states for ratification. A little over a year later, 35 states had ratified it. Only one more state was

needed to make it law. Eight southern states had already defeated ratification; Tennessee's General Assembly would decide the Amendment's fate. White returned to her home state to lead the fight. Tennessee, by a single vote, ratified the Amendment Aug. 18, 1920.

As clerk and later secretary to Tennessee Senator Kenneth C. McKellar, White continued her fight for women's rights. Having earned a law degree in 1923 from Washington College of Law, she returned to Tennessee in 1926 and practiced law in Jackson until 1930. When Franklin D. Roosevelt was elected president in 1932, White was appointed executive assistant to Mary Harrison Rumsey in the Consumers Division of the National Recovery Administration. During the Roosevelt years, she expanded political patronage for Southern women. White also helped create a women's faction within the Democratic Party, contributing to Roosevelt's winning coalition in 1932. She moved to the Social Security Administration in 1935 where she helped implement the Social Security Act.

White succumbed to cancer May 6, 1943, in Alexandria, Virginia. She is one of five suffragists depicted in a sculpture located in Nashville's Centennial Park. The work of Alan LeGuire, it commemorates Tennessee's role in ratification of the 19th Amendment. The City of Henderson has not only named the downtown park in White's honor, but also has wrapped a utility box with highlights of her legacy.



# YEAR IN *Review*

These snapshots capture moments on campus from Fall 2019 and Spring 2020, which was modified by the worldwide pandemic. From everyday moments to performances to celebrations, they reflect FHU family.



**1–2:** Social clubs work together to produce the annual Mixer. // **3:** FHU Theatre Presents “Twelve Angry Jurors.”  
**4:** A Sept. 9, 2011, survivor speaks in chapel. // **5:** RUSH draws many students to campus.  
**6:** FHU Theatre Presents “God’s Man in Texas.” // **7:** Mission Emphasis Days feature missionaries from around the world.  
**8:** Students entertain members of the President’s Council. // **9:** The Jeremy “Pete” Parker Scholarship Fund receives a check.  
**10:** FHU Theatre Presents “As It Is in Heaven.”





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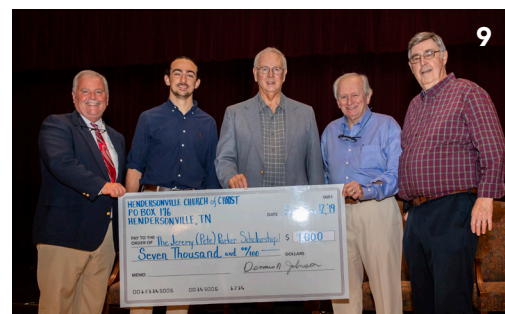
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**11:** Baseball team enjoys a meal with trustees. // **12:** The President's Council meets in Knoxville. **13:** Students present their at Scholars' Day. // **14:** Dorm Trick or Treating is a tradition. **15-16, 18:** Homecoming events build spirit. // **17:** FHU Theatre Presents "The Yellow Wallpaper." **19:** President Shannon interviews Dale Earnhardt at the Benefit Dinner. **20:** December commencement honors the accomplishments of approximately 120 graduates.





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**21–23:** Thousands come to FHU each February for lectureship. // **24:** Alumni Carl and Donna Holladay return to campus.  
**25:** FHU Theatre Presents “Alice!” // **26, 28:** High school students glimpse college life at Maroon and Gold Days.  
**27:** Panel discusses race relations. // **29:** Mr. and Miss FHU finalists pose in Chapel Hall.  
**30–31:** Makin’ Music is performed once as thousands watch online. // **32:** Nursing students receive awards.  
**33:** March 13, 2020, marks date of last in-person spring chapel.





# ACADEMIC *Updates*



## FHU PROMOTES FIVE IN DIVISION OF ACADEMICS

Five individuals within the Division of Academics have been promoted. They assumed their new duties June 1.

Dr. LeAnn Davis has been named associate vice president for instruction. She will continue to serve as dean of the College of Arts and Sciences. Davis, who has been a member of the FHU faculty since 1999, is now responsible for advancing the university's academic quality and learning experience. She also has authority and responsibility for planning, budgeting, scheduling, personnel, curriculum, instruction, academic program development and assessment and other instructional matters.

Dr. Jason Brashier, dean of the College of Business, is the associate vice president for innovation, planning and assessment. A member of the business faculty since 2005, he provides senior-level leadership coordinating the development and execution of the Division of Academic's strategic direction, innovation, assessment and continuous improvement efforts.

In addition, Jared Gott, an FHU employee since 2007 and most recently the registrar, has been promoted to director of emerging and innovative programs as well as director of the Quality Enhancement Program. Susan Kimpel, has been named the director of academic success and records and registrar. She had been the records specialist since 2015. Stephanie Duncan, former secretary in the registrar's office, has become the records specialist.

"These outstanding and highly-qualified individuals have demonstrated tremendous success in their current positions," Dr. C.J. Vires, provost and vice president for academics, said. "Their skills and talents will undoubtedly serve the division well, as they provide leadership within each of their new areas of responsibility."



## UNIVERSITY CONTINUES HISTORY OF ACCREDITATION

Freed-Hardeman College fought long and hard for its first accreditation by an outside agency. In November 1955, the State Board of Education approved FHC's teacher education program. National accreditation for the college finally came in December 1956 when the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACSCOC) declared FHC to be "a fully accredited junior college."

Celebration in Henderson began immediately. The bell tolled, calling the FHC and Henderson communities to Chapel Hall. When the crowd had gathered, C.P. Roland announced, "We're in!" The announcement was followed by loud applause, victory yells and a parade of 84 decorated cars down Main Street, according to Greg Massey's history of the university.

The best was yet to come, however. That night, FHC played the University of Tennessee at Martin in the Chester County High School gym. Mid-way through the fourth quarter, Dixon and Gardner, "wearing 10-gallon Texas hats," entered the gym to be greeted by excited fans. Topping off the evening, FHC won the game, 75-71.

In the years since, the university has maintained accreditation by the state and SACSCOC. In addition, various programs have achieved specialized accreditations by professional agencies. In recent months the FHU College of Education and Behavioral Sciences has had its approval by the state and its accreditation by the Council for Accreditation of Educator Preparation (CAEP, formerly NCATE) reaffirmed. In addition, the nursing and counseling programs have received specialized accreditations.

### CAEP RE-AFFIRMS TEACHER ED ACCREDITATION

CAEP has granted accreditation at the initial licensure level and at the advanced level effective Spring 2020-Spring 2027. The program met all five of the organization's standards: Content and Pedagogical Knowledge; Clinical Partnership and Practice; Candidate Quality, Recruitment and Selectivity; Program Impact; and Provider Quality Assurance and Continuous Improvement.

### STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION CONTINUES FULL APPROVAL OF LICENSURE PROGRAMS

In addition, the Tennessee State Department of Education has continued full approval to licensure in the following undergraduate and graduate programs: Early Childhood Education pre-K-3, Elementary Education, English 6-12, Mathematics 6-12, Biology 6-12, Chemistry 6-12, (UG and

MAT); History 6-12 (UG and MAT); Government 6-12 (UG and MAT); Speech Communication 6-12, Spanish pre-K-12, Physical Education K-12, Arts K-12, Theater K-12, Music – Vocal/General K-12, Special Education Comprehensive K-12, Special Education Interventionist K-8, Special Education Interventionist 6-12, Business Education 6-12, School Counselor preK-12, and Instructional Leadership Licensure K-12.

"Freed-Hardeman has prepared excellent teachers for decades. We are grateful CAEP has continued our accreditation and that the Tennessee Department of Education continues its approval of all of our programs," FHU President David R. Shannon said. "The FHU faculty worked diligently to prepare for these reviews, and so I also congratulate them on these successful site visits."

### CACREP APPROVES M.S. IN CLINICAL MENTAL HEALTH COUNSELING

The Council for Accreditation of Counseling and Related Educational Programs (CACREP) has announced the accreditation of Freed-Hardeman University's Master of Science in Clinical Mental Health Counseling program. The accreditation is effective for a two-year period, ending March 31, 2022. CACREP is a specialized accrediting body recognized by the Council for Higher Education Accreditation.

FHU President David R. Shannon was notified of the approval in a letter from Sylvia Fernandez, president and CEO of CACREP. The board of CACREP based its decision on an extensive review of FHU's self-study documents, the visiting team's report and FHU's response to that report.

### CCNE GRANTS NURSING PROGRAM ACCREDITATION

The Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE) has granted the Freed-Hardeman University nursing program accreditation for the next 10 years, 2019-2029. The board of CCNE found that the program met all accreditation standards with "no compliance concerns with respect to the key elements," according to the certification letter.

"I would like to recognize all of the nursing faculty for their continued tremendous effort to ensure we have a quality program that produces nurses of character, competence, compassion and work ethic," Dr. Chris White, director of the FHU nursing program, said. FHU offers a Bachelor of Science in Nursing in Henderson and Dickson. This year, the graduating classes at both locations reported a 100% NCLEX pass rate.





## FHU/DICKSON TO EXPAND NURSING PROGRAM

Freed-Hardeman University/Dickson is expanding its Bachelor of Science Nursing program in Dickson to include January admission. In addition to the August cohort, a maximum of 40 students will be able to begin their programs in January 2021.

Taught by a faculty with more than 150 years of nursing experience, FHU/Dickson nursing graduates have achieved a 100 percent NCLEX pass rate since the program's inception. State-of-the-art classrooms are equipped with the latest in clinical simulation mannequins. Nursing students can complete their BSN degree program and take the RN licensure exam in only 21 months.

"The Freed-Hardeman Nursing program has been a great partner with our hospital. We have hired many of their graduates and appreciate their compassion and knowledge," Gina Bullington, chief nursing officer at TriStar Medical Center, said. "The BSN program is not only an asset for the hospital, but also for the community as a whole."

"Being able to enroll in a BSN program in August or January will help us serve more students and provide an entry point without students having to wait an entire year," Bob Spencer, coordinator of the BSN program at Dickson, said. "The demand for bachelor-prepared registered nurses continues to grow, not only in our community but nationally. Being able to educate two classes a year will make more RNs available in the workplace."

The FHU nursing program is approved by the Tennessee Board of Nursing and is accredited by the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education. Additional information about the January cohort of the BSN program is available at [fhu.edu/bsnjanuary](http://fhu.edu/bsnjanuary).

## FHU OFFERS TWO NEW PROGRAMS THIS FALL

Freed-Hardeman University will offer two new programs this fall, a bachelor's degree in sports administration, pending approval from the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges, and a Master of Education in literacy with an emphasis in English as a second language.

Housed in the College of Business, the Bachelor of Business Administration in sport administration will offer students a robust business foundation focused on management, leadership skills and real-world applications in the sports industry. Students will complete 39 hours of core business courses and 24 hours of major courses in sport administration, communication, kinesiology and business electives. They will gain hands-on experience through a required internship working with

FHU's 14 intercollegiate athletic programs. Vincent Meninno, program coordinator, has 11 years of experience in college athletics, ranging from NAIA to NCAA Division I.

The M.Ed. in literacy, which bundles a master's degree and endorsements in both English as a Second Language (ESL) and Reading Specialist, is unique to the state.

The program, designed for currently licensed teachers, is offered fully online and can be finished in as little as 15 months. A course can be finished in eight weeks and the cost is \$610 per credit hour. Students may enroll in the program with plans to pursue the full degree, or just for the endorsement in either ESL or Reading Specialist. This program is directed by Dr. Suzi Miley.







# 2020 *Retirees*

*Thank you for all the ways you've served our FHU family and for  
using your mission for His glory!*

JEFF COZZENS  
RALPH GILMORE  
VICKI JOHNSON  
CONNIE PRITCHARD

RONNIE RUSSELL  
(not pictured)  
LAQUITA THOMSON  
CAROL WAYMIRE





# FACULTY AND ALUMNI *Briefs*

## NURSING HONOR SOCIETY HONORS PROFESSOR

Sigma Theta Tau International Honor Society of Nursing recently honored Dr. Suzanne Gillson, assistant professor of nursing, by naming her the Outstanding Ph.D. Student at Texas Women's University.

Gillson has taught in the nursing program at FHU/Dickson since 2018. She holds a Bachelor of Science Nursing degree from the University of Central Oklahoma and a Master of Science in nursing education from the University of Houston-Victoria. Most recently, she completed a doctoral program at Texas Women's University.

"We congratulate Dr. Gillson on this outstanding recognition," Dr. C.J. Vires, FHU provost and vice president of academics said. "She is making a tremendous difference in the lives of her students and in the nursing program."

Sigma Theta Tau, formed in 1922, is the second-largest nursing organization in the world. It has approximately 135,000 active members. The mission of the society is to support the learning, knowledge and professional development of nurses committed to making a difference in health worldwide.



## ALUMNUS SELECTED FOR NSF FELLOWSHIP AT VANDERBILT

Darren Heintzman, a 2017 summa cum laude graduate of Freed-Hardeman University, has been selected for the National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship Program at Vanderbilt University.

At FHU, Heintzman majored in biology and minored in chemistry and Christian apologetics. The faculty presented him the Faculty Scholarship-Leadership medal, the highest recognition the FHU faculty can bestow. He was also named the Biology Research Student of the Year.

Heintzman is enrolled in the Interdisciplinary Graduate Program at Vanderbilt where he will specialize in molecular pathology and immunology. His career in research began at FHU where he received second authorship on a manuscript based on research accomplished while an FHU student. At Vanderbilt, he was first author on a paper published in "Cell Reports." His research was completed while working in the lab of Dr. James Dewar of Vanderbilt.

Dr. Caleb Kersey, Heintzman's research mentor at FHU, called him "one of the best undergraduate research students to have come through my lab at FHU."

"Darren's recent acceptance of the NSF GRF award puts him in select company, since this award is given to fewer than 15 percent of more than 10,000 applicants," Kersey said. "Darren has made his FHU family proud, and I'm confident he will continue to impress while earning his Ph.D. at Vanderbilt University."

From Middlebourne, West Virginia, Heintzman is married to alumna Lanae Hodnett Heintzman ('17).





## JOURNAL PUBLISHES PROFESSOR'S REVIEW

Dr. Doug Burleson, associate professor in Bible at Freed-Hardeman University, has written a review of Dirk Jongkind's "Introduction to the Greek NT." It has been published in the "Review of Biblical Literature," a peer-reviewed journal of the Society of Biblical Literature.

In addition to his teaching duties, Burleson directs the university's annual Bible lectureship. He holds a Ph.D. in New Testament and Greek. His primary areas of research include biblical exegesis, New Testament Greek, New Testament textual criticism, biblical intertextuality and New Testament social settings.

## ALUM WINS AICPA AWARD

Bryan Davis, a 2012 alumnus of Freed-Hardeman University, has been named one of 133 winners of the 2019 Elijah Watt Sells Award, according to an announcement from the American Institute of CPAs (AICPA). Davis earned a Bachelor of Business Administration from FHU and a Master of Public Accountancy from The University of Texas at Austin. He is employed by Verizon Communications, Inc. in Lake Mary, Florida.

To qualify for the award, CPA candidates must obtain a cumulative average score above 95.50 across all four sections of the Uniform CPA Examination, pass all four sections on their first attempt and have completed testing in 2019. Nearly 75,000 individuals sat for the CPA Exam in 2019 with 133 candidates meeting the criteria to receive the Elijah Watt Sells Award.

The Elijah Watt Sells Award, established by the AICPA in 1923, recognizes outstanding performance on the CPA Exam.

## BAYLOR UNIVERSITY NAMES INSTRUCTOR OUTSTANDING GRADUATE STUDENT IN ENGLISH

Baylor University has presented Dr. Loren Warf, English instructor, with the Charles G. Smith Award as the Outstanding Graduate Student in English for 2019-2020.

Warf graduated from FHU in 2008 with a degree in English and worked several years at Pepperdine University. Recently, she successfully defended her dissertation at Baylor University to complete a doctoral degree in English with an emphasis in Victorian literature.

"This is a tremendous honor," Dr. C.J. Vires, FHU provost and vice president for academics, said. "I congratulate Loren for this outstanding accomplishment."

## IMPACT ACADEMY SELECTS EDUCATION DEAN AS ACADEMY FELLOW

Dr. Sharen Cypress, dean of the FHU College of Education and Behavioral Sciences, has been selected as a 2020-21 Impact Academy Fellow with Deans for Impact.

This year-long fellowship is for deans of programs that prepare educators. It combines intensive in-person learning experiences with ongoing coaching and mentorship from veteran members of Deans for Impact. It equips participants with the skills, knowledge, and strategies to solve complicated problems, build a solid foundation to lead transformational change and influence policy.







MAKIN' MUSIC 2020

# THE WORLD'S GONE

# *Crazy*

**M**akin' Music, Freed-Hardeman University's annual musical extravaganza, did not take the stage in April for the first time in its more-than-40 year history. Hundreds of students had practiced for months. They had written lyrics, practiced choreography, designed costumes and staging and rehearsed for endless hours, all in anticipation of the annual event which typically draws large crowds to campus. Makin' Music was canceled by concerns about the COVID-19 virus.

A "heartbroken" Tony Allen, the show's producer, met with approximately 60 student participants during chapel March 11 to inform them that since spring break would be extended, it would be impossible for the show to take place as scheduled. "Makin' Music is a year-long process," Allen explained. "As soon as one show is over, the next one starts. Leaders are chosen and they start working on the show. I was devastated, just thinking about all of the hard work, the love that goes into it, the seniors who wouldn't get closure, the experiences, the relationships, the list goes on and on."

"At first it looked as if Makin' Music wouldn't happen when we were expecting it to happen, and then all of the sudden, it

wasn't happening at all! It was just bizarre how much changed in the course of 48 hours," Peggy Weaver, director of the hosts and hostesses, said. "My first thought was, 'Our theme this year is 'Sing Me Back Home,' and I guess that is exactly what is going to happen."

Makin' Music, however, was destined to make one appearance. After Allen gave students a "few minutes to hug each other and to grieve," he spoke again, suggesting Tuesday night's run-through be live streamed. The show's leaders agreed to go for one chance to show what they had accomplished. They decided "to take what we had and throw it on stage."

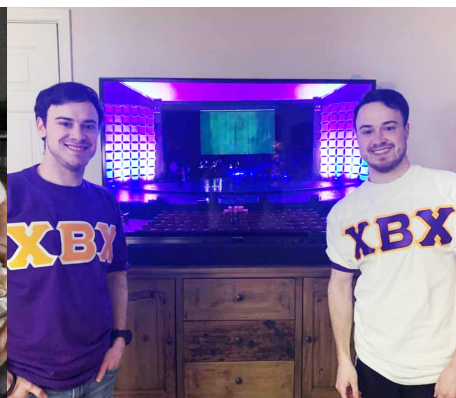
"Most of my hosts and hostesses knew after the initial shock wore off that performing our show, however imperfect, needed to happen! Everyone involved in Makin' Music had been working on their part of the show for a year and needed this show to happen to have a little bit of closure," Weaver said.

Sadness was quickly overtaken by excitement, according to student coordinator McKenna Shrader. "Everyone seemed grateful that we were able to do the show, even if it wasn't the way he had hoped and planned," she said. "There was a sense











of closure to be able to finish what they had worked so hard on, for over a year. It wouldn't be the full effect of a Saturday night Makin' Music show, but they would still experience the feeling of being on the Loyd stage in front of an 'audience,'" she said.

That one performance was both debut and finale. So, on what would have been the night for tech check, they ran through the entire show, sans the professional sound and lighting normally accompanying the show.

In fact, nearly 12,000 unique viewers watched the show, making it by far the largest audience ever to watch a Makin' Music production. "It will go down in history as one of the most watched Makin' Music shows, so it is definitely very memorable for everyone that watched or participated in the show," Shrader said.

In more that a bit of irony, the first line of the opening number says, "Tonight's the night we'll make history." It goes on to ask, "Whatcha doing tonight? Have you heard that the world's

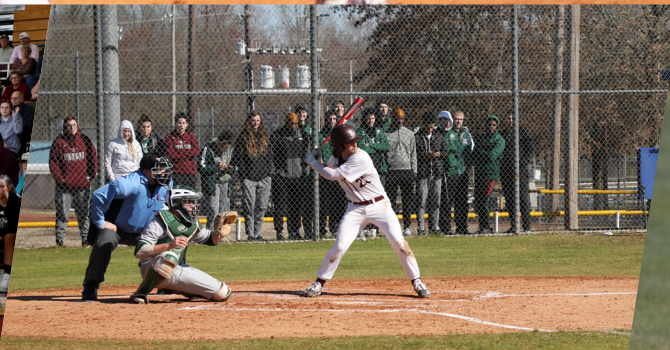
## “THERE WAS A SENSE OF *closure.*”

It was, as the director and coordinator had warned, raw. Technical glitches marred the early part of the performance. "It was very weird for my performers to perform to a camera," Weaver said, "but after the first couple of songs, the texts were rolling in to all of our phones letting us know that there were thousands of people watching and cheering us on from their homes!"

gone crazy?" The world had, in fact, gone crazy. And, Makin' Music 43 did make a little history.







# Over JUST LIKE THAT

All spring sports at FHU, as well as the rest of the country, ceased in 2020. The sounds of sports were silenced: no crack of the bat, no swish of the net. The hush of the golf course seemed permanent. There would be no trip to the national tournament for the Lady Lion basketball team, and the NAIA World Series was not to be played.

Senior All-American Haylee Croom described herself as “heartbroken” when she learned the NAIA National Basketball Championship had been canceled. “My teammates and I had so much confidence about how we were going to compete,” she said. “I knew we had a great chance to win the title again. We were performing at our peak.”

Baseball coach Jonathan Estes called the cancellation of the season “a big blow” to the team. “We had 13 seniors who didn’t get to finish what they had started. We didn’t get to have a senior day,” he said. “We had big plans to win the regular season and tournament championships, to host the World Series Opening Round, and to go to the World Series in Idaho again.”

“My message to the team has been: Control what you can control,” Estes said. “So much of our life is out of our control. We have to focus on those things that we can control: our attitude, our effort, our response.”

Perhaps sophomore pitcher Alex Huey spoke for all athletes when he wrote the following story. It first appeared on [simplyafan.com](https://www.simplyafan.com) and is used here with permission from Simply A Fan.



The crack of a bat. The cheers from the stands. The cleats being laced up. The sound of metal cleats on the floor of the concrete dugout. The smell of fresh ballpark hot dogs and hamburgers being cooked to perfection. The uniforms. The pants, pulled up or worn low, matching the button-up jersey with a name you represent both on the front and back. The hat, fitting on your head like a glove. The batting gloves. The smell of pine tar on the bats. The dirt being watered. The chalk being poured down the lines, so precisely and accurately. The handshakes, sunflower seeds, and pre-game rituals shared with teammates. The chatter of the crowd, eager for the game to begin. The grass being mowed, as a painter painting its canvas. Speaking of painting, the pitcher throwing that first pitch of the game on the outside corner with a sizzling fastball. The mitt pops. Chills.

"STRIKE!", the umpire exclaims.

These, among others, are things that everyone who knows and loves the game of baseball looks forward to every spring. Every

spring, it almost feels new. It feels so pure to walk up to a baseball field. To feel the breeze and the 65 degree weather that we all look forward to. Rogers Hornsby once said, "People ask me what I do in winter when there's no baseball. I'll tell you what I do. I stare out

the window and wait for spring." We wait long hours, days, weeks, and months during the offseason for this game to come back around every spring. Just for it to be taken away.

Just. Like. That.

The sights and scenes mentioned before are the reasons we, as baseball fans, choose to come back to this game every spring. It is why we spend long, countless hours at the ballpark each summer. It is more than a game to us baseball gurus – it is a way of life. We can not imagine a single year going by where we do not spend the whole spring and summer at the diamond. It is our fix. It IS our life for several months out of the year. What would we do without it?

Looks like we are about to have to find that out for ourselves.

I'm Alex Huey, a left-handed pitcher for the Freed-Hardeman University Lions baseball team in Henderson, Tennessee. I was just getting started with my sophomore season, when I was notified that it was coming to an end, due to this COVID-19 pandemic our world is experiencing at this time. When I received the news, it broke me. I can only imagine how hard it must have been for my coach to stand in a room of 50 players, 12 seniors included, telling them their season was over. Everything they worked for was over. The countless hours spent in the cage – over. The practices that bonded us – over. It was all taken away from us with the drop of a hat. Most people it wouldn't affect. They would just go on with their lives

and go home, looking forward to next year. Not us. Not the Freed-Hardeman Baseball team because to us, this was more than a game. This was the reason that we had made countless friendships and life-long memories because of the amount of hours we spent on bus rides to Missouri, Louisiana, and the middle-of-nowhere Arkansas. These were the people that we wanted to spend every minute and hour with on the baseball field. We are not teammates to each other, we are brothers. To say goodbye to my brothers in mid-March was not fun. Never before have I seen a larger number of grown men, in the same room, bawling their eyes out. We were hoping to wake up. We were hoping it was all a mistake. We were hoping it would change tomorrow. It wouldn't.

My mind first went to the group of seniors. Not only was everything that they had worked for this season over, but their career was over. Everything they worked for since they picked up a baseball was over. They were expected to move on with their lives and accept it. To our 12 seniors, I am so grateful. I have never looked up more to a group of guys in my life. They taught me so much. They showed me not only how to adapt to the college pace of play but the right and the wrong ways to play the game. Did they make errors? Of course. Did they strike out? Sure. Did they walk batters? Yeah. But they truly played every single game like it would be their last, leaving nothing on the field. Sadly, that became a reality.

Our season was truly just getting started. We were 17-5, ranked in the NAIA polls as the 8th-best team in the nation. We had gotten off to a slow start, in our eyes, but it felt as a matter of time until we were unbeatable. It felt like we were just about to hit our stride before the pandemic hit. We were about to start clicking on all cylinders; we could just feel it. We had several games we should have won, if the ball had bounced a little differently, but this is also part of the game we love. We had a good chance to become the 3rd FHU baseball team in as many years to make it to Lewiston, Idaho, for the World Series. Yet it was all taken away from us in the blink of an eye.

There are life lessons here to be learned. Whether it is your job, sports, school, finances, etc... Treat every day that you wake up and smell the roses like it will be your last. Do not take any moment for granted with your loved ones because you never know when you might see them again. You just never know.

I challenge you today. I challenge you to go outside and soak it all in, every chance you get. I challenge you to call a loved one and tell them that you are thinking of them. I challenge you to send a text to an old friend from high school telling them that you miss them. I challenge you to walk your dog and soak in the sights and scenes of this beautiful spring weather. And please, next time you walk up to a baseball diamond, soak it in. Stand there for a minute, and engage in its beauty and purity. Lay off the umpires for one game and enjoy baseball for what it is truly worth.

Why? Because this "game" of life, just like baseball, is more than a game. Enjoy it while you have it.



# LION ATHLETICS

## EPPERSON TO LEAD LADY LION BASKETBALL

Josh Epperson, former national director of basketball scouting for College Promoters USA, has been named head basketball coach of the Lady Lions. He began his duties in June.

A 2003 graduate of FHU with a degree in science and physical education, Epperson also holds a Master of Science in health and human performance from Fort Hays State University. He has 15 years of coaching experience — 12 at the high school level and three at the college level.

In Epperson's former role as national director of basketball scouting for College Promoters USA, he primarily scouted the Tennessee, Alabama and Kentucky region for the top basketball players. Overseeing the recruitment of more than 120 athletes in the region, he was the host and evaluator of the Southeast Regional Showcase for the top 80 girls basketball players from six states.

"I'm excited to return to my alma mater, a place that means so much to women's basketball regionally and nationally," Epperson said. "I'm also honored to coach at a Christian university with a reputation for excellence," he added.

Commenting on Epperson's new role, FHU President David R. Shannon said, "When you meet Josh Epperson, you will be impressed with his passion for the Lord, Freed-Hardeman and FHU Lady Lion Basketball.

The Lady Lions work hard and smart, and they have 24 straight national tournament appearances to prove it."

Athletic Director Mike McCutchen added, "Josh understands the culture and goals of Lady Lion Basketball. He has proven his commitment to coaching and teaching the game, and he's even more passionate about preparing student athletes for life beyond basketball."



## STUTTS JOINS LADY LIONS PROGRAM; CROOM TAKES ON NEW ROLE



Abby Stutts has been named assistant coach for women's basketball. Stutts has coaching experience in both basketball and volleyball on the high school and junior high level. She graduated from Mars Hill Bible School in 2016 where she was basketball All-State and All-Area, as well as the MVP in 2016. On the volleyball court, she was All-Area and MVP in 2016. She graduated from the University of North Alabama in December 2019 with a degree in elementary education.

"Abby is a great addition to the Lady Lion family," head coach Joshua Epperson said. "Abby loves FHU, has a love for the game of basketball and a desire to learn. She is a rising star in the coaching world, with head high school coaching experience already. We are ecstatic to have a person of such high character as part of our Lady Lions program."



Additionally, 2020 AMC Player of the Year and two-time NAIA First-Team All-American Haylee Croom has been named an assistant coach. Over Croom's recent four-year career, she has been a two-time NAIA All-American, an AMC Player of the Year, a two-time First-Team All-AMC member, the AMC Defensive Player of the Year, and was twice named to the AMC All-Defensive Team.

"We are thrilled to have Haylee continue in her new role with our program," Epperson said. "Anytime you get to have an assistant who is a two-time All-American and has won the national championship, you are excited. Haylee is as hard a worker as there is and has a deep love for FHU."





## SOFTBALL FIELDHOUSE READY FOR RETURN OF PLAYERS

The Lady Lion softball team used their new indoor practice area in the spring and will be able to use their new field house when they return to campus. The field house provides the softball team with a place to call home. The team room will enable them to entertain prospective players, in addition to making it much easier to prepare for games and practice inside during inclement weather. Camps and clinics will also be enhanced by the new facility.

"We have a super group of young ladies and the best field in the conference," Humphry said. "Now we also have the next piece needed to improve our program – a field house/practice facility."

The facility includes a 55' x 60' turf practice area that includes two full-sized hitting lanes and two full-length pitching lanes. The field house also houses a locker room with space for 30 players, a team room, coaches' offices, trainer's room and a dressing room for officials. Contributions from supporters of the program funded the \$350,000 projects, and E&T Contractors, LLC of Henderson was in charge of construction.



## ALVERSON HAS "HEART OF A LION"

Tyler Alverson has been awarded the Heart of a Lion by the intercollegiate athletics staff. An accomplished athlete on the cross-country and track and field teams, Alverson also has excelled in the classroom and in service.

Alverson qualified for the NAIA Cross Country National Championship all four years of his college career. He was named the American Midwest

Alverson was named to the AMC Academic All-Conference Team every semester, and is a three-time U.S. Track and Field and Cross Country Coaches' Association All-Academic Athlete recipient. A 4.0 student, he graduated in December with a degree in Bible. He is pursuing a Master of Divinity at FHU.

While Alverson's athletic and academic achievements are very impressive, he most resembles the Heart of a Lion in his work with the church. Youth minister for the Red Walnut Church of Christ, Alverson stepped into the pulpit following the untimely death of minister Stan Mitchell. He continued his work with the youth group while maintaining his GPA and athletic endeavors.

"I'm proud of Tyler and what he's accomplished over the past four years," Derrick Spradlin, cross country and track and field coach, said. "From the moment he walked onto campus, it's been obvious he had special talent and attitude. He's a great teammate and team leader who sets high expectations for himself and the team. He just continues to improve; his PR [personal record] came his senior year. It's been an incredible honor to coach him."

Conference Runner of the Week nine times in his career, the equivalent of spending an entire season as the runner of the week. He won six meets and had nine other Top 10 finishes.

As a track and field athlete, Alverson qualified for the National Championship twice in the marathon. He was named to the AMC All-Conference team seven times, once for every semester at FHU.



## FHU TO COMPETE IN MID-SOUTH ATHLETIC CONFERENCE THIS FALL



Cumberland University, all former TranSouth Conference rivals, together in the same conference again.

President David Shannon said, "By joining these old foes, we will play more conference games in areas where we have large numbers of prospective students, alumni and friends."

FHU coaches expect competition to be intense in the new conference. Soccer coach Jason Elliott goes so far as to call the Mid-South "the toughest conference in the NAIA." Josh Epperson, newly named coach of the women's basketball team says, "It's like the SEC of women's basketball for the NAIA." Golf coach Chris Hodges notes that the Mid-South sent three women's teams and two men's golf teams to the national championship last year.

"The Mid-South is one of the top overall athletic conferences in the NAIA. Adding FHU, Bethel and Martin Methodist will significantly strengthen the conference in several sports,"

FHU's Lions and Lady Lions are now part of the Mid-South Athletic Conference, making the move with former rivals Bethel and Martin Methodist. The move puts these three and

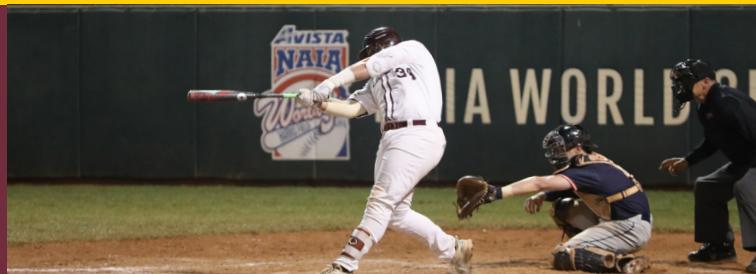
Jonathan Estes, baseball coach, said. "Freed-Hardeman has been able to compete on the national stage and will be able to continue to do so in the Mid-South. Specifically for baseball, the conference has more depth." He expects "every weekend series to be a battle."

With four teams located in Middle and West Tennessee, there also is the advantage of fewer miles to travel. Volleyball and softball coach Todd Humphry said, "In the American Mid-West, Lyon was the closest conference team at 3 ½ hours away," he said. "Now, Cumberland, Martin Methodist and Bethel are all within three hours of campus."

For tennis coach Stark Davis, the conference switch means more teams to play. "This conference has more than twice the number of schools with tennis programs," he said.

The Mid-South Conference began in 1995 with eight charter members. Nine full members and 25 affiliate members now call the Mid-South Conference home. The full members are Campbellsville University, Cumberland University, University of the Cumberlands, Freed-Hardeman, Georgetown College, Life University, Lindsey Wilson College, University of Pikeville, Shawnee State University and Thomas More University. Home office of the conference is in Bowling Green, Kentucky.

### SEARS ON WATCH LIST FOR GOLDEN SPIKES AWARD



Two-time NAIA All-American and 2019 AMC Player of the Year Josh Sears was named to the 55-player preseason Golden Spikes Award watch list, according to USA Baseball.

Now in its 43rd year, Golden Spikes identifies the top amateur baseball players in the country, including all college divisions and high school players. Sears was the only NAIA player on the list and one of five players not from an NCAA Division I school.

In his sophomore season, Sears broke the FHU all-time home run record en route to being named the AMC Player of the Year and an NAIA All-American for the second time. He finished the season with 21 home runs, while he also brought in 75 runs and batted .364.

### SECOND CHANCE FOR SENIOR ATHLETES

The National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA) has given an extra season of eligibility to senior athletes whose spring sports seasons were cut short by the COVID-19 pandemic.

They will be awarded two additional semesters of eligibility if they were enrolled full-time in 2020. At FHU, the ruling affects baseball, softball, tennis, golf and track and field. Most senior athletes have decided not to take advantage of the opportunity, choosing instead to move on with their careers.

However, Jonathan Estes, head coach of the FHU baseball team, expects five seniors, including three members of the pitching staff, to return. They are: Jacob Sawyers, Jack Christian and Landon Sewell. In addition, two outfielders, Dom Pisano and Christian Busby, will return for another shot at a senior season.





# Save the date for HOMECOMING

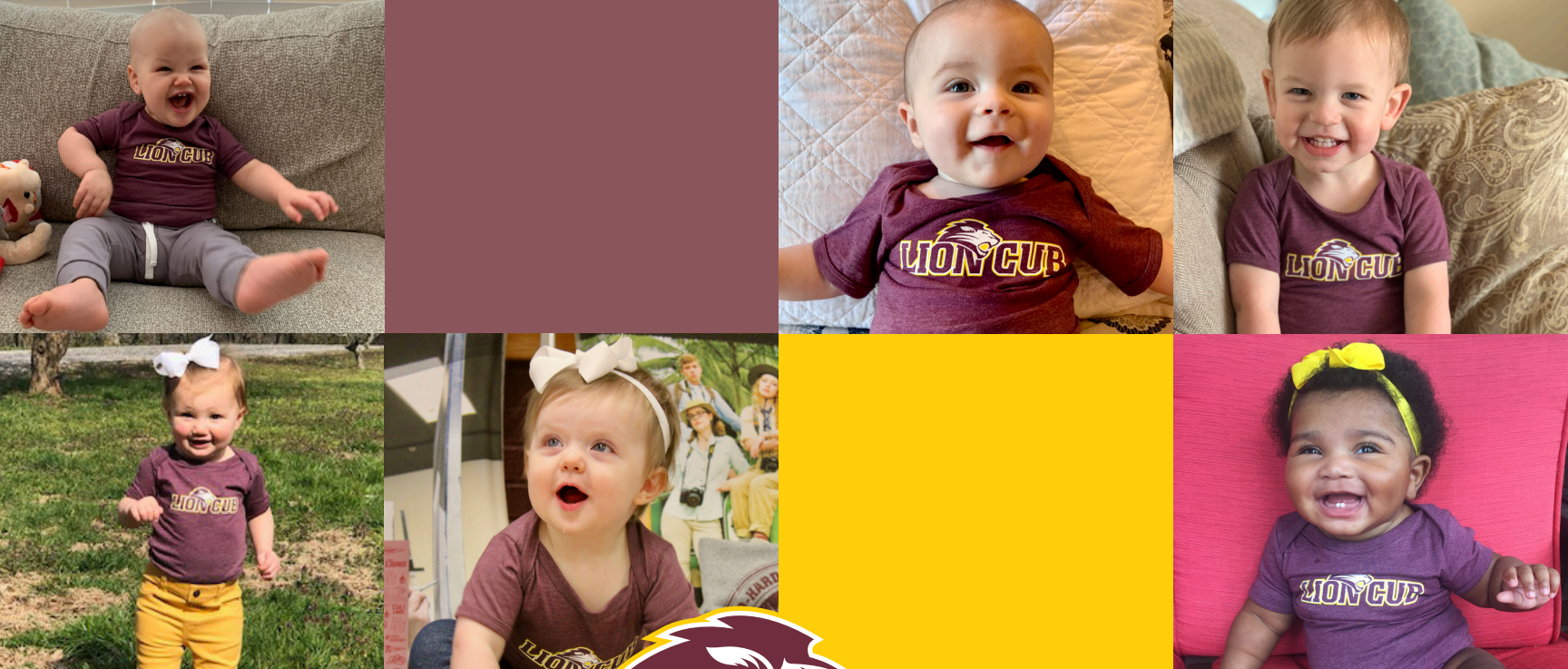
NOVEMBER 6-8, 2020

*Homecoming 2020, Nov. 6 – 8, will include a Zero-Year Reunion for the Class of 2020, alumni returning to campus to share their stories with current students for Alumination Day, basketball games, crowning of the homecoming king and queen, legacy pinning ceremony, a Pied Pipers show and much more.*

*Additionally, the classes of 1980 and 1990 will have reunion activities both days. Homecoming will conclude with a worship service Sunday morning in Loyd Auditorium.*

*Once the schedule is confirmed, the full slate of events will be posted at [fhu.edu/homecoming](http://fhu.edu/homecoming).*





We're thankful for the more than 500 legacy children who have joined the Lion Cub program.

As we close out the 150th-anniversary celebration of Freed-Hardeman, we are blessed to acknowledge legacy families, some of whom extend four and five generations deep. Whether your family is a two-generation or five-generation family, we value your tie to our beloved FHU.

We look forward to seeing these future lions use their gifts for His Glory.

#FutureFHULion #FHULionCub

To enroll your Lion cubs, visit [fhu.edu/lioncub](http://fhu.edu/lioncub) (for cubs 12 years and younger).







# GARY SINISE

FREED-HARDEMAN UNIVERSITY  
**2020 BENEFIT DINNER**  
DECEMBER 4 | LOYD AUDITORIUM

## Thank you!

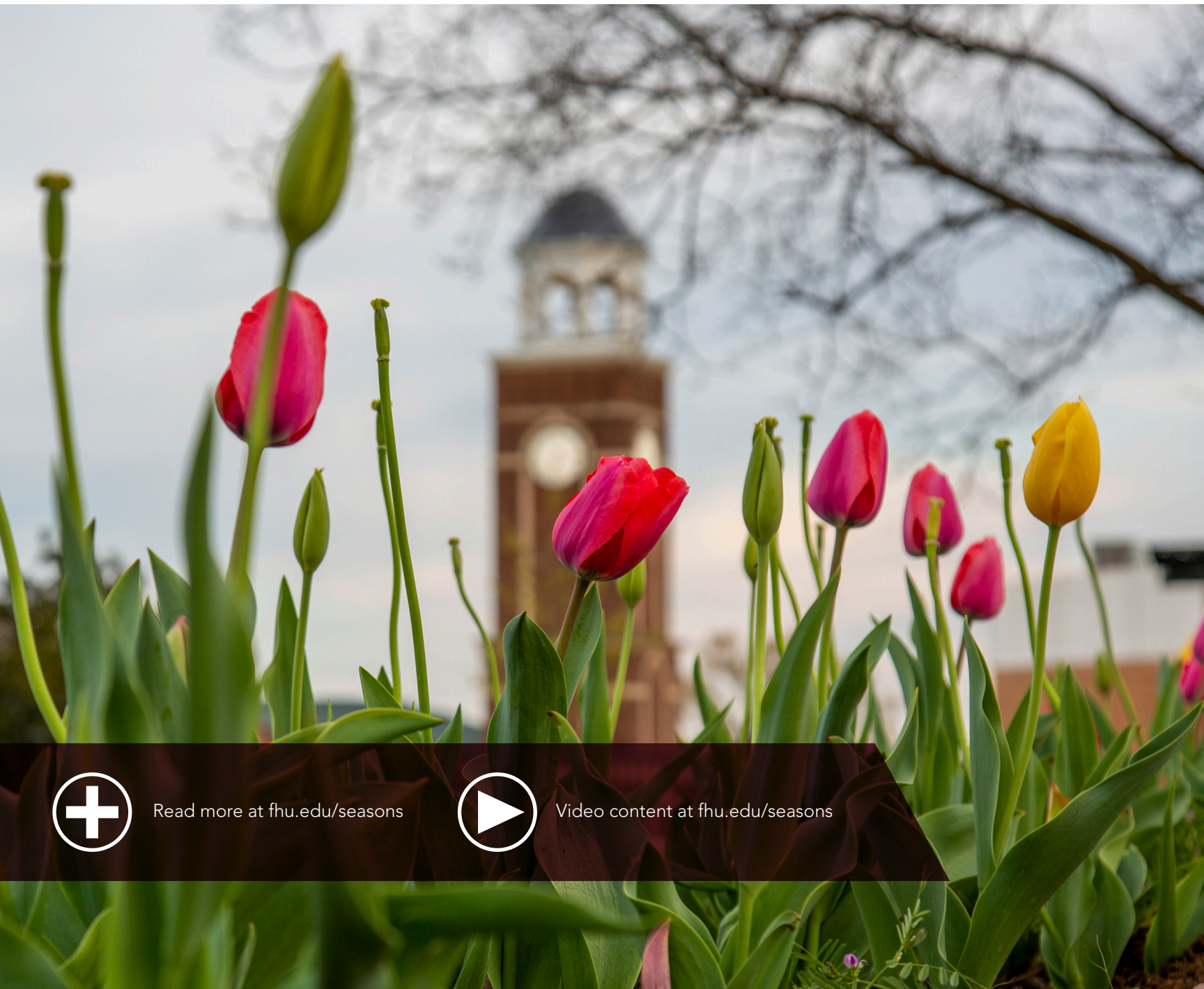
Because of you, students' lives have been impacted by raising more than **\$30 million** over the past **56 years** for student scholarships.

This year's entertainment will be Nashville's best variety show, the Tokens Show. As seen at the Ryman, The Tokens Show will bring you comedy, world-class vocalists, and Nashville's best session players.

In addition to our speaker and entertainment, we're making special plans to uplift our guests with seasonal surprises that will enhance your holiday experience... sights, sounds and smells that will take you back to cherished memories of Christmases past.

Learn more at **fhu.edu/sinise**, or call **800-FHU-FHU1, ext 6017**.





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Video content at [fhu.edu/seasons](https://fhu.edu/seasons)