

Winter 2020-2021

# SEASONS

The Magazine of Freed-Hardeman University



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History Making Outreach

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## THE BROWNS

History Making Gift



Find additional content, photos and videos at [fhu.edu/seasons](https://fhu.edu/seasons).

*FHU family member **Kyle Pearson** created the illustration of fellow alumni John W. and Rosemary K. Brown that is featured on the cover. A 2011 graduate who studied graphic design at FHU, Pearson has created art since he was old enough to hold a pencil.*

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# *CONTENTS*







Find video content at [fhu.edu/lectureship](https://fhu.edu/lectureship).

*Alumnus Brandyn Graves designed digital art for this year's lectureship. Graves works as the university's technical director and as an assistant professor of theatre, focusing on design and technical theatre.*



# *Encountering* **ECCLESIASTES**

## **FINDING MEANING IN A MEANINGLESS WORLD**

During the past 85 years, the Freed-Hardeman University Annual Bible Lectureship, has brought thousands of attendees to Henderson for a spiritual feast. Faced with the pandemic, lectureship leadership was forced to re-vision the event for 2021.

Instead of the planned week-long study of the Gospel of Luke with hundreds of speakers and large crowds on campus, the 2021 lectureship looked at the book of Ecclesiastes in a different format. "In light of current events, we wanted to go

to the Word of God for answers in a way we hoped would bless many," Dr. Doug Burleson, lectureship director, said. The theme chosen for the study was, "Encountering Ecclesiastes: Finding Meaning in a Meaningless World."

Thirteen men, each of whom prepared a lesson on a topic taken from Ecclesiastes, were featured

in a series of videos released Feb. 7-11. In addition, the lessons have been printed in book format and are suitable for Bible class study.

"The 2021 lectureship was not canceled," Burleson noted. "We simply recreated its format with the desire to serve the church, connect with our lectureship friends, and continue to love our neighbor, as we protected the campus community and our guests."

"We understand how much the lectureship means to so many people," Burleson said. "However, we simply could not put our student population nor thousands of guests who traditionally come from around the world at risk."

Topics and speakers in order of presentation were: "Encountering Disorder: Meaning in Change," Dr. Justin Rogers; "Encountering Pleasure: Meaning in the Process," Dan Winkler; "Encountering Time: Meaning in the Moment," Dr. Mark Blackwelder; "Encountering Labor: Meaning in Rest," Dr. Ralph Gilmore; "Encountering Reputation: Meaning in Opportunity," Jeff Jenkins; "Encountering God: Meaning in Reverence," Hiram Kemp; "Encountering Success: Meaning in Accomplishment," Dr. Billy Smith; "Encountering Wisdom: Meaning in Learning," Dr. Doug Burleson; "Encountering

Injustice: Meaning in Civil Disobedience," Kenneth (K. J.) Moore; "Encountering Wealth: Meaning in What You Have," Dr. David Powell; "Encountering Uncertainty: Meaning in the Unpredictable," Dr. Jim Gardner; "Encountering Youth: Meaning in the Present," Dr. Matt Cook; and "Encountering Life: Meaning in Accountability," Dr. Rick Brumback.

Classes designed especially for ladies focused on the theme, "Living in the Everyday with the Ever After in Mind." Pre-recorded lessons streamed Monday-Thursday at 8:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. Speakers included FHU First Lady Tracie Shannon, Kristi Burleson, Aleshia Sokoloski, Cathy Powell, CeCe Spencer, Jamie Boyd, Hannah Young, and Dr. Sharen and Dr. Karen Cypress.

This year's lectureship book honors two couples who hold special meaning for Freed-Hardeman, the lectureship and the kingdom; Stan and Marj Mitchell and Kerry and Lisa Couch. Stan Mitchell, who had taught in the FHU College of Biblical Studies since 1997, passed away Feb. 19, 2019. Kerry Couch, an alumnus of Freed-Hardeman and a member of the FHU Board of Trustees for 18 years, lost his battle with cancer Sept. 10, 2020. Fellow trustee John Law wrote an article about the Couches while Dr. Kevin Moore wrote a tribute to the Mitchells. Both are included in the lectureship book.

The 250-page book may still be ordered at [fhu.edu/lectureship](http://fhu.edu/lectureship) for \$10. Congregations and individuals are encouraged to buy the book and use it for group or personal study. The lectures premiered during the week of Feb. 7-11 and remain online (at [fhu.edu/lectureship/2021-lectureship-videos](http://fhu.edu/lectureship/2021-lectureship-videos)), so they may be watched in combination with studying the book.

Some in-person sessions for students were conducted Feb. 7-11, including the popular late-night lessons for college students and daily chapel. In addition, links to special studies for women were made available online. The lectureship committee also did real-time updates from campus throughout the week and all sessions were live-streamed.

The program originally planned for February 2021, "He Went About Doing Good: The Compassion of Christ in Luke," is now scheduled for 2022. "We are continuing to prayerfully prepare for that lectureship even now," Burleson said.

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# COMMENCING

Freed-Hardeman University honored 2020 spring and winter graduates at separate ceremonies Saturday, Nov. 21, in Loyd Auditorium.

Degrees were conferred upon August and November graduates at 10 a.m. Fifty-six received baccalaureate degrees, while 37 completed graduate degrees. Six doctoral students received their degrees during the morning ceremony.

A ceremony recognizing the May graduates was conducted at 2 p.m. Degrees had already been conferred upon May's 260 undergraduates and 83 graduate students. Commencement exercises for the May 2020 graduates had been twice postponed because of COVID-19. Former FHU First Lady Laurel Sewell spoke at the 2 p.m. celebration.

Sewell noted three wishes she had for graduates. First, she asked that they "remember what needs to be remembered and forget what needs to be forgotten." Secondly, she said, she wished for graduates "to be filled with the love of knowledge and learning, but to be hungry for the understanding and integrity that make knowledge a force for good." Finally, she said, she wished for them to keep their balance. "Family and career are going to require balance like you've never known before."

She continues to work with her husband, former President and now Chancellor Milton Sewell, in entertaining guests of the university and speaking on behalf of Christian education. She is very active with the FHU Associates, a group she has served as national president and in other offices.









Sewell is a graduate of Mars Hill Bible School and Florence State College, now University of North Alabama. A frequent speaker at ladies' days and at lectureships, she is also the author of "The Six Gifts of Hospitality" and has contributed

articles to several Christian publications.

Tyler Alverson, a December 2019 summa cum laude graduate, was the recipient of last year's Faculty Scholarship-Leadership Medal.

He earned a Bachelor of Arts in Bible with an emphasis in preaching and is currently pursuing the Master of Divinity. He is also a graduate assistant in the Graduate School of Theology and the pulpit minister of the Red Walnut Church of Christ. The

presentation would normally have been made in May 2020 but was delayed because of COVID and the early end of the spring semester.

One of Alverson's major professors described him as "intelligent, but humble; efficient, but compassionate; driven to succeed, but always willing to serve." In four years of competition in cross country and track, he earned conference and national recognition.

Coach Derrick Spradlin said Alverson is "unique in that his athletic excellence matches his leadership qualities; he is gracious, humble and quick to joke around. No bragging, no complaining. He leads by example, cheering on his teammates and congratulating the top runners from other schools. He embraces the grind." He was also the recipient of the Heart of a Lion Award given annually by FHU's intercollegiate athletics program.

**Remember what  
needs to be  
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**1:** Dr. C.J. Vires awards Tyler Alverson the Faculty-Scholarship-Leadership Medal at the graduation ceremony. // **2:** Samantha McMillian Martin enters Loyd Auditorium prior to the ceremony. // **3:** Graduate Garrett Bradley poses with his family following the ceremony. // **4:** Graduates enter Loyd Auditorium prior to the ceremony. // **5:** On the way to the graduation ceremony, students walk through Bucy Tower. // **6:** Graduates await the processional. // **7:** President David R. Shannon and First Lady Tracie Shannon take a selfie with graduate Bailie White. // **8-9:** Masked and socially distanced, graduates participate in commencement exercises. // **10:** Former FHU First Lady Laurel Sewell speaks during one of the ceremonies.



## GREEN BAY PACKERS RECRUITER VISITS FHU

Chad Brinker credits his success as an assistant director of pro scouting/salary cap analyst for the Green Bay Packers to his relationship building skills and his ability to spot natural talent. The business is not for the faint of heart, Brinker explained during his visit to Freed-Hardeman University in November. He shared his story in chapel and in a sports marketing class.

"My challenge is to put together the best team possible to win championships, but there are 31 other teams doing the exact thing that I'm doing and my daily goal is to beat them," said Brinker. He added that recruiting for the NFL's winningest franchise taught him how to hire good staff and become a successful recruiter.

"In this field, I've learned that hard work does not guarantee success," Brinker said. "You can't do this alone, and you will only go as far as the people around you will allow because relationships matter."

Before his career as a recruiter began, Brinker was the sixth all-time leading rusher at Ohio University and played briefly for the New York Jets and in NFL Europe. A career-ending concussion led to Brinker's career change to medical sales.

"I had to figure out my identity after football, and a

position with the Green Bay Packers fell in my lap," Brinker said.

While talking with Vincent Mennino's sport marketing class, Brinker shared that his favorite part of his job is successfully figuring out a player's strengths, while the most challenging aspect is being away from his family.

Students absorbed Brinker's stories about working in sports management, a field in which more and more students are interested, Mennino said.

"Careers in the sports industry are growing rapidly, and student interest in the field is growing faster than average," Mennino said.

FHU's program is in its first year, offering several courses as part of the sport administration major.

"We have nine students majoring in sport administration already and three students minoring," Mennino said.



## FHU RECOGNIZED AS A BEST VALUE SCHOOL

Building on the momentum of two years of record enrollment, Freed-Hardeman University has again received strong rankings from U.S. News and World Report. FHU is listed in the top ten of Best Value Schools, coming in at number eight. The university is also included in the top one-third of Regional Universities in the organization's 2021 Best Colleges report.

The magazine annually ranks nearly 2,000 institutions based on the following criteria: outcomes, 35%; faculty resources, 20%; expert opinion, 20%; financial

resources, 10%; student excellence, 10%; and alumni giving, 5%. The magazine uses only quantifiable data. The Best Value ranking specifically considers a school's academic quality and the 2019-20 cost of attendance for a student who received the average level of need-based financial aid.

FHU President David R. Shannon said, "It is always gratifying when outside agencies recognize the high quality of education provided by FHU. To God be the glory!"

## MCCALL CO-WRITES FILM HONORING NICHELLE NICHOLS, "WOMAN IN MOTION"

The story of "Star Trek" legend Nichelle Nichols and how she helped change the nation's space agency appeared on the big screen for one night only Feb. 2, 2021, in theaters around the country. "Woman in Motion: Nichelle Nichols, Star Trek and the Remaking of NASA" focuses on NASA's efforts in the late 1970s and '80s to recruit people of color and the first female astronauts.

Chester County native and Freed-Hardeman University alumnus John McCall was instrumental in bringing the story to life. It was a project five years in the making. McCall was first introduced to Nichelle Nichols' work with NASA in 2015 by Todd Thompson, the director of "Woman in Motion." He had already accumulated a good bit of information and had begun the work of bringing Nichols' story to the screen.

"This was truly a labor of love for him and it was easy to see he was excited about it," McCall said. "The more I spoke with him, the more intrigued I became. I feel very lucky he asked me to help." McCall joined the team of four who wrote the script for the documentary.

"I had heard of Nichelle Nichols, of course, but I had no idea she had helped change modern space travel like she did," McCall said. Nichols portrayed Lieutenant Nyota Uhuru in "Star Trek: The Original Series" and its film sequels. "I was instantly fascinated with her story and her determination to help NASA on her terms. While NASA was building the space shuttle, she was out recruiting the next wave of astronauts who would become part of history. The more we dove into her story, the more obviously we saw all of the people she touched and the lives she helped to shape."

Thompson provided information he had gathered, as well as transcripts of his conversations with Nichols. "Then I just dove in," McCall said. "I think it took us longer to assimilate all of the information than it did to write!" With the help of his friend Google, he continued the research. "Since this was a documentary, we knew that it wouldn't be like writing

a typical screenplay because the process involves piecing together interviews and clips and finding the right flow to tell your story," according to McCall.

McCall described the collaboration on the script as "phenomenal." "It seemed that the longer we worked, the more roads were opened to speak to other people and interview them: NASA astronauts, film stars, public politicians. The net her influence spread is pretty vast," he said.

According to the film's synopsis, Nichols formed Women in Motion, Inc. in 1977 and began her campaign to increase diversity in NASA. Her efforts resulted in more than 8,000 African-American, Asian and Latino women and men for the agency, despite the bureaucracy's reluctance to have her involved. Today, NASA credits her with turning it into one of the most diverse independent agencies in the federal government.

In many ways, writing the script was educational for McCall. "I learned so much about Nichelle. It was so difficult for her to be taken seriously, and I love how that didn't deter her from doing what she knew she needed to do," he said. He also learned that "when you have a great story, many people want to help you tell it." People never hesitated

to offer their help to make sure her story was told, he explained. Finally, he said, "I also learned when to just let a story tell itself. No frills. No trying to make the story bigger than it was. Nichelle's story was one that would leave an impact on its own."

"It was an honor to help tell the story of such an iconic person in science fiction history as well as NASA history," McCall concluded.

Editor's Note: John McCall, native of Sweet Lips, Tennessee, and 1993 FHU alumnus, lives in Winter Garden, Florida, with his wife Holly Sewell McCall (FHU Class of 1996), and their three children: Anniston, a freshman at FHU; Grady, 11th grader at West Orange High School; and Wiley, seventh grader at Family Christian School.





## BOBBIE SOLLEY CENTER FOR EXCELLENCE IN TEACHING

Dr. Bobbie Solley, former director of education development for Healing Hands International and a retired professor from Middle Tennessee State University, has worked to establish the Bobbie Solley Center for Excellence in Teaching at Freed-Hardeman University. The center was launched officially in January 2021.

Utilizing the mantra, "Reaching Students, Empowering Teachers, Transforming Instruction" (RET), the center's mission is to develop teacher and school leaders committed to making a positive impact on student learning and fostering high student academic achievement for diverse student populations. A five-year plan has been developed to assist the center in reaching its goals.

Professional development activities are set to begin in February 2021, using a variety of innovative methods, including coaching, mentoring, seminars, workshops, diversity sensitivity training, experiential activities and many others. Building on partnerships already in place with Chester County Schools, Columbia Academy and Middle Tennessee Christian School, the center seeks to develop additional partnerships throughout West Tennessee. The five-year plan also calls for scholarly research and possible publications by the faculty and participants.

FHU alumna Sarah Hibbett has been named the director of the center. She, along with Dr. Sharen Cypress, dean of the FHU College of Education and Behavioral Sciences, and Dr. Amy Downey, chair of the department of education, began in August developing plans for launching the center. Comprised of public and private school teachers and administrators from West and Middle Tennessee, the board has met to share ideas for the center.

The first official professional enhancement activity is set for Feb. 17, 2021. Currently, the plan is for a virtual meeting. A fishbowl activity will organize groups of educators in role-specific groups throughout the day. Questions and prompts tailored for their roles will be posed to jump-start conversation. The advisory committee will observe and listen to the fishbowl for highlights from those conversations to help plan future professional developments, according to Hibbett.

"We are excited and grateful to receive this wonderful gift from Dr. Bobbie Solley and the Solley Foundation. It has the potential to improve not only the college of education and Freed-Hardeman

University, but also the quality of teaching throughout the area," Cypress said. "We are eagerly anticipating hosting the first professional development activities for educators in 2021."

Solley established the Bobbie Solley Foundation, Inc., a non-profit organization located in Murfreesboro, Tennessee, in 2017. It seeks to provide professional development to deserving organizations and/or individuals who have educational needs, and expand and deepen teaching and learning and related academic initiatives and scholarship at Freed-Hardeman University.

Funding for the center will come from the Solley Foundation and Freed-Hardeman University, as well as others who would like to contribute.

Solley previously established a scholarship at FHU in memory of Roberta Edwards, missionary to Haiti killed Oct. 10, 2015, in Port au Prince. It is intended for Christian students from developing countries who have financial need.

Additional details about the Bobbie Solley Center for Excellence in Teaching may be obtained by contacting Cypress at 731-989-6074 or Hibbett at 731-989-6082.





## FHU TO LAUNCH NEW ONLINE MASTER'S PROGRAM

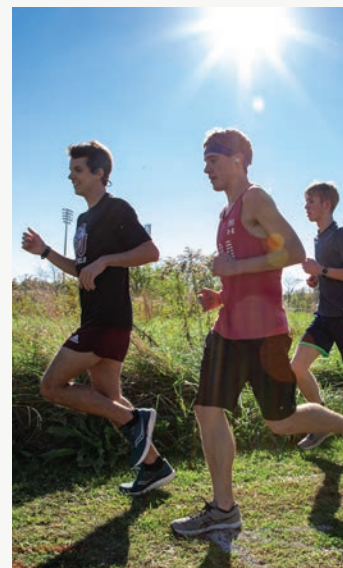
Freed-Hardeman University plans to offer a Master of Science in exercise science and rehabilitation beginning Fall 2021, pending approval of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools.

The degree will be offered as a stand alone Master of Science or it may be completed in conjunction with a Bachelor of Science in kinesiology. The dual degree will allow students to complete the undergraduate coursework for a Bachelor of Science in kinesiology degree and a Master of Science in exercise science and rehabilitation in a 4 + 1 format.

The degree will be totally online, providing flexibility for students already in the work force and ease of scheduling for those taking the dual degree option. The degree will benefit students who wish to apply to professional programs in physical and occupational therapy, a master's

program in athletic training, as well as those who wish to continue their studies in exercise and human performance, according to Dr. Jana Meninno, program coordinator. The 33-hour program includes a practicum or a capstone project.

Applications are currently being taken for the Fall 2021 class. Additional information is available at [www.fhu.edu/academics/graduate/graduate-exercise-science](http://www.fhu.edu/academics/graduate/graduate-exercise-science).



## FHU DOCTOR OF MENTAL HEALTH GRADUATES TO RECEIVE CEREMONIAL PINS

Freed-Hardeman University's Doctor of Behavioral Health graduates are now eligible to receive the Arnold P. Gold Foundation's "Keeping Healthcare Human" ceremonial pin when they graduate.

The nonprofit Arnold P. Gold Foundation champions the human connection in healthcare. They engage medical, nursing, and allied health programs/schools, health systems, companies, and individual clinicians in the joy and meaning of humanistic healthcare, so that patients and their families can be partners in collaborative, compassionate and scientifically excellent care.

The ceremonial pins feature the Gold Foundation's logo surrounded by the words "Keeping Healthcare Human" to remind graduates of their commitment to treat patients with dignity and respect.

FHU's Doctor of Behavioral Health degree program prepares current and future healthcare providers for a transforming behavioral health marketplace. It is designed to produce graduates who have advanced clinical and executive leadership skills as well as business insight. The program is directed by Dr. Michael Cravens.

## VIDEOS SHARE KNOWLEDGE AND EXPERTISE OF FHU FAMILY

FHU's Office of Alumni Engagement has instituted an initiative designed to share the collective knowledge and wisdom possessed by the FHU family. A series of short videos, called "FHYou...Connecting Your Expertise" provides ideas, advice and best practices across a wide range of topics.

The first video featuring Dr. Billy Smith, former dean of the FHU College of Biblical Studies, was posted Dec. 21, 2020, on social media. In it he gives advice for making connections as one encounters various people. A video by alumnus Andy Frizzell with three questions for uplifting the youth in our lives was posted Jan. 19, 2021. Additional

videos are continuing to be posted at regular intervals and all will be archived in the alumni section of the FHU website.

"In a time where building and maintaining relationships is challenging," Director of Alumni Engagement Chris Ramey said, "it is our hope these videos will bring value, insight and connectivity to the FHU family."





## MAKIN' MUSIC LIVES ON!

According to Tony Allen, dean of student life and Makin' Music producer, and his student coordinators, "Some Things Never Change." Spring is coming, and FHU students will be Makin' Music April 9-10, 2021. The annual musical extravaganza, derailed last year by COVID-19, was forced to move to an online streaming of a dress rehearsal.

Allen and student coordinators, Hannah Leas and Riley Qualls, are busy preparing for the 2021 show amid whatever eventualities the new year brings. "Makin' Music is happening!" they said. A plan is in place to livestream the show, professionally. "It will be pay-per-view, but priced so that a family can afford to watch," Qualls said. Information is online at [fhu.edu/makinmusic](http://fhu.edu/makinmusic).

Actually, Leas said, Makin' Music has been in full swing since the fall semester. Hosts and hostesses have been selected, the staff has been chosen, and group managers have been named.

Hosts and hostesses are Mandy Stinson, senior nursing major, from Lavergne, Tennessee; Anna Robinson, senior child and family studies major from Fulton, Mississippi; Annelise Williamson, sophomore arts and humanities major from Salem, Oregon; Caleb Johnson, senior history major from Pinson, Tennessee; Brooks Jackson, junior Bible

major from Florence, Alabama; and Maggie Nash, junior social work major from Jackson, Tennessee. Presley Connor, junior theatre design major from Henderson, Tennessee, and Nathan Graham, junior youth and family ministry major from Knoxville, Tennessee, are emcees. Presley Pearce, junior communication major from Greenfield, Missouri, will be The Voice of Makin' Music.

"We want this tradition to continue," Allen said. Makin' Music will go on, because "Some Things Never Change."

*This year's Makin' Music hosts and hostesses are Brooks Jackson, Mandy Stinson, Annelise Williamson, Maggie Nash, Anna Robinson and Caleb Johnson.*



## TEACHER PREPARATION PROGRAM AMONG TOP IN THE COUNTRY

The National Council on Teacher Quality (NCTQ), a nonpartisan, not-for-profit research and policy organization, has named Freed-Hardeman University's graduate elementary teacher preparation program among the top in the country for strong training in classroom management strategies.

NCTQ's 2020 Teacher Prep Review: Clinical Practice and Classroom Management found encouraging progress in teacher preparation programs' adoption of evidence-based classroom management strategies that are universally effective, regardless of student age or the subject being taught. Freed-Hardeman University's graduate program is among only 14% of elementary programs to earn an A. The program serves as a model of excellence for others, according to NCTQ.

"We are proud of Freed-Hardeman University's teacher education program," FHU President David R. Shannon said. "This is one of our most popular majors. We are well aware of the contributions our graduates make to the lives of their students and to the betterment of their communities."

FHU's teacher education program has been accredited by the National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education (NCATE) since 1981 and was granted accreditation by the Council for the Accreditation of Educator Preparation (CAEP) in May 2020. In addition to CAEP accreditation, the Tennessee State Board of Education approves all programs in FHU's College of Education.

## FHU HONORS MR. AND MISS FHU 2020 IN DELAYED CEREMONY

Freed-Hardeman University celebrated the 2020 Mr. and Miss FHU, Katie Morris and Kenneth Moore, Saturday, Aug. 22, in a ceremony in Chapel Hall. The event had been delayed because of COVID-19 and the subsequent early end of the spring semester.

Morris, from Jackson, Tennessee, plans to pursue a degree in occupational therapy following completion of a degree in kinesiology in Spring 2021. At FHU, she has been a member of University Program Council, Alpha Chi Honor Society and Xi Chi Delta social club. Regarding her experiences at FHU, Morris said, "I value the relationships that have been cultivated through this Christian community and I appreciate the opportunities FHU provides for its students to experience the world through studying abroad."

Moore, a resident of Nashville, graduated from FHU in Spring 2020 with dual degrees, a Bachelor of Science in Bible and a Bachelor of Arts in English. He is currently pursuing a Master of Divinity at FHU. Ideally, he said, he would like to eventually teach at FHU, while also serving as a preacher. "I would love to do for the church and FHU what they have done for me," he said. Moore has been a member of University Chorale, Honors Program, and Sigma Tau Delta English Honors Society. Moore considers Feb. 21, 2018, the best day of his life. On that day, Dr. Billy Smith, a member of the FHU Bible faculty, baptized him.

Other finalists for Miss FHU were: Amy Gingerich, a chemistry major from Jamesport, Missouri, who is working in a research laboratory in Bowling Green, Kentucky; Claire Morris, kinesiology major from Jackson, Tennessee, who plans to pursue a graduate degree in occupational therapy; and McKenna Shrader Taylor, a nursing major from Columbia, Tennessee, who has begun her nursing career at Maury County Regional Hospital.

Finalists for Mr. FHU included: Logan Campbell, a chemistry and Spanish major from Spring Hill, Tennessee, who is currently teaching Spanish at Columbia Academy while waiting to enter dental school this fall; Gage Gregory, a biology major from Gallatin, Tennessee, who plans to attend dental school and serve his country through the United States Air Force; and Caleb Johnson, a history major from Pinson, Tennessee, who will seek a doctoral degree in sociology following graduation from FHU in May 2021.

This year marked the 80th consecutive year Freed-Hardeman students and faculty have selected students who best represent the FHU ideal. "These students were selected because of their influence, leadership

and academic ability," Chris Ramey, director of alumni engagement, said. "This time-honored tradition is the highest honor bestowed by the student body and faculty."



Mr. FHU Kenneth Moore and Miss FHU Katie Morris stand in front of Old Main Administration Building. A photo of all nominees is included on page 40.



## FHU PRESIDENT LOOK-A-LIKE FACE MASKS BENEFIT LOCAL NON-PROFIT

Freed-Hardeman University students in Matt Barker's communication class raised \$1,500 for Henderson's Exchange Club/Carl Perkins Center for the Prevention of Child Abuse by selling face masks that resembled the lower, mustached half of FHU President David Shannon's face. Funding for the project came from a \$1,000 LEADS grant from Leaders Credit Union.

Barker divided his 22 students into four groups. One group originated the mask idea. It was their responsibility to design the masks and get them manufactured. Oliver's Screen Printing and Embroidery in Henderson produced the masks. A second group produced the winning video to secure the grant. According to Leaders, their video had the most likes and shares of any entry. This group

also recorded videos promoting the fundraiser. The public relations/marketing group promoted the grant application through social media and in chapel announcements. The final group organized the sale of the masks, including choosing a location and scheduling workers. They also served as a liaison between the class and Carl Perkins Center.

In total, the students sold 125 masks.

"This fundraiser would not have been possible without the hard work of all the students in my class," Barker said. "I cannot say enough about how proud I am of what they were able to accomplish through this project. I think this project provided students with a glimpse of the impact they have not only at Freed-Hardeman University but in the local community, as well."



## FINDING A PATH TO PROFESSIONAL PURPOSE

The FHU Passage initiative, slated to begin with the 2021 freshman class, is geared toward helping students determine "a path to professional purpose." They will learn to set clear career goals and map a path for reaching them. New students typically enter college with many questions. This program is designed to help them answer at least three questions: What can I do? How do I grow? and Where can I go?

Students will work with an assigned faculty or staff member over a two-year period, completing prescribed activities to discover their strengths and network with professional contacts. At the end of the two years, they will have made considerable progress toward creating a professional portfolio, positioning themselves to compete successfully for internships, employment and graduate school.

In an attempt to harness the power and connection of alumni, they will be asked to participate in the program, also. They are invited to share their knowledge, professional wisdom and personal experiences with current students.

To learn more about FHU Passage, prospective students, parents and alumni may contact Jared Gott, director of emerging and innovative programs, at [jgott@fhu.edu](mailto:jgott@fhu.edu), or Jim Brown, passage coordinator, at [jbrown@fhu.edu](mailto:jbrown@fhu.edu).



## EDUCATION FACULTY MEMBER COMPLETES PH.D.

Jennifer Creecy, who teaches in the College of Education, has completed her Ph.D. through Capella University, specializing in K-12 studies. Her dissertation explored the experiences of middle school mathematics teachers with problem solving and problem posing.

She joined the FHU faculty in 2010, after teaching math to high school students for 12 years in Southeast Missouri and two years in Chester County, Tennessee. While in Missouri,

she had opportunities to work on curriculum development, for several districts, as well as a model curriculum for the state.

At FHU, Creecy teaches undergraduate courses, serves as the liaison for secondary education majors and is the department's data and assessment coordinator.

## PUBLICATIONS

### BIBLE PROFESSOR'S WORK PUBLISHED

An article entitled, "Gregory of Elvira as an Evolving Pro-Nicene," by Dr. Richard (Rick) Brumback, associate professor of Bible, has been published in *Studia Patristica*, a series published by the Oxford International Conference of Patristic Studies. Meeting every four years, they have published the conference papers since 1955.

### EDUCATION JOURNAL FEATURES WORK OF PROFESSOR AND ALUMNA

Dr. Stephen Marvin, associate professor of education, and Dr. Rose Monroe, a graduate of FHU's Ed.D. program, recently co-authored a paper accepted for publication in the *Journal of Education and Training Studies*. The article examines perceptions of instructional coaches and teachers on the barriers of multi-level instructional coaching in higher performing vs. lower performing elementary schools in Tennessee.

### BIOLOGY PROFESSOR STUDIES DEMOGRAPHICS OF MUSK TURTLES

Dr. Brian Butterfield, professor of biology, co-authored an article featured in *Chelonian Conservation and Biology*. It looks at the demographics of sympatric musk turtles and loggerhead musk turtles in a Florida spring ecosystem.

### BIBLE PROFESSORS PRESENT PAPERS AT NATIONAL MEETING

Three members of the Bible faculty presented papers at the national meeting of the Evangelical Theological Society. They were Dr. Matt Cook, Dr. Kevin Moore and Donnie DeBord.

Cook, assistant professor, presented "The Muslim American Experience: Repeated Themes in Recent Muslim American Memoirs." Kevin Moore, associate professor, presented "The Meek Shall Inherit the Earth? Deciphering Meaning Through Layers of Context." DeBord, assistant professor, presented, "Premodern Hermeneutics and

Jesus' Resurrection on the Third Day: How Premodern Hermeneutics Allows Readers to See the Prophecies of Jesus' Resurrection on the Third Day," and participated in a panel on hermeneutics that discussed the New Testament's use of the Old Testament.

### WARREN CENTER PUBLISHES BOOK BY BIBLE PROFESSOR

Dr. Matt Sokoloski, associate professor of Bible, has authored a book entitled, "Developing a Defense: Christian Apologetics and the Existence of God." It has been published by Warren Christian Apologetics Center.

### CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY PUBLISHES ARTICLE BY FHU PROFESSOR, ALUMNA

A Freed-Hardeman University professor of mathematics and a 2019 summa cum laude baccalaureate graduate have combined forces to create a game of intransitive dice recently published in a well-known recreational mathematics journal.

Dr. Jared Collins worked with Isabel Harris to convert the ideas in her honors thesis into a publishable paper. The paper appears in the October 2020 issue of *Eureka*, published by the Archimedeans, the student-led Mathematical Society of Cambridge University.

The four-player game utilizes a set of 19 intransitive dice satisfying that for any subset of three dice, there exists a die which will roll higher than each of them with probability greater than one-half. "We accomplished this using nine-sided dice, currently thought to be the least possible," Collins said.

Collins holds a bachelor's degree in mathematics from FHU, as well as a master's and doctorate from the University of Memphis. In addition to teaching, he conducts research in the field of complex dynamics. Harris is currently a doctoral student in mathematics at Auburn University. This is her first professional publication.



# SMASHING RECORDS

In the midst of a pandemic, Freed-Hardeman University has again set enrollment records. Total headcount for Fall 2020 stands at 2,188 students, with 1,727 of those being undergraduates. Both are all-time highs.

First-time, full-time undergraduate students in Henderson increased by 8% or 410 students, the most since 2014. The number of residential students, 1,132, is a 10-year high.

High school students beginning their academic careers early also boosted enrollment. A record 346 are taking college courses and completing high school requirements simultaneously.

Particularly gratifying are the 85% fall-to-fall retention rate and the full-time, first-time freshman retention of 82%, both near records.

"What an emotional blessing to see students return to Freed-Hardeman, their home away from home," David R. Shannon, FHU president, said. "They were asked to leave so abruptly last semester; these high retention rates show how excited they are to have the full college experience FHU provides," he continued.

Graduation rates also are strong. The six-year rate of 65% set a new record, and the five-year graduation rate equaled the old record of 63%.

"We are grateful to our enrollment management team members, who have worked so hard to stay in touch with prospective students in trying times," Dave Clouse, FHU vice president for community engagement, said, "and for the faculty and staff who provide an experience that students are eager to have again."

"Most of all," Shannon said, "we are thankful to God who blesses again and again. We pray that we will honor Him and that those blessings will continue to advance the noble mission of Freed-Hardeman."





Freed-Hardeman University's second annual Day of Giving Nov. 5, 2020, resulted in gifts totaling almost \$400,000. Spurred by challenges from two anonymous donors, 1,286 alumni and friends of the university made contributions to 51 projects, ranging from scholarships to equipment for the campus radio station. Requests came from the Associates, social clubs, the library, Mid-South Youth Camp, athletic teams and others.

The emphasis of the day was on the number of donors participating. To meet the original donor challenge, 750 individuals were needed to make gifts. That goal was met by 3 p.m., resulting in a \$150,000 gift from the anonymous donor. A second challenge issued for an additional 250 donors was also surpassed and a second anonymous donor added \$50,000 to the total.

Contributions came from 34 states and five countries. Five southern states had the most donors: Tennessee, 725; Alabama, 116; Kentucky, 80; Mississippi, 40; and Florida, 28.

Alumni from the class of 2020 led the way in number of donors, but an alumna from 1940 was the oldest donor. Bertha Nichols Blackwood of Jasper, Alabama, celebrated her 100th birthday in October. Sadly, she died Nov. 28, 2020, ending a lifetime of giving to her family and friends.

"It was a wonderful day to bring the Freed-Hardeman family together," FHU President David R. Shannon said. He thanked those who organized the event, the challenge donors, and all those who prayed for and participated in the Day of Giving. "Most of all, I thank God. We truly know that all good gifts come from Him," he said.

#### TOTAL NUMBER OF GIFTS

**1,286**

#### TOTAL DONATIONS

**\$396,107**

#### NUMBER OF DONOR STATES



PLUS FIVE COUNTRIES

**51** AREAS OF CAMPUS  
WERE IMPACTED BY  
FHU CHALLENGE GIFTS

DONATIONS WERE RECEIVED FROM ALUMNI  
WHOSE CLASS YEARS SPANNED FROM

**1940-2020**



When Jim Clayton, president of Clayton Bank, began a \$1 million stock portfolio in 2007, the intent was that Freed-Hardeman University students would manage it, thereby learning about investing from a very real world perspective. In addition, FHU's College of Business would share in the profits and pay back any losses.

Since its inception, more than \$154,000 in performance incentives has been returned to the FHU College of Business finance program. Over the last nine years, the fund has outperformed its comparable value index by an average of 2% annually, according to Dr. Ryan Hysmith, who along with Jay Satterfield, is the faculty advisor to the team.

In September 2019, the fund transitioned to FirstBank Investment Fund when Clayton sold the local Clayton Bank to Jim Ayers of FirstBank. "The more than a decade partnership with Mr. Clayton provided such an exceptional learning opportunity for our students, and we appreciate the vision he had in creating this fund," Hysmith said. "We are grateful to be continuing the program with FirstBank and building on the foundation that started more than 13 years ago."

Although many of the students who became investment team members were business majors in the process of earning Bachelor of Business Administration degrees, not all were, nor did all of them enter the world of investments. They did, however, learn skills that apply in their current work.



## CONTINUING \$1M EXPERIENCE

Both Hysmith and Satterfield tell students the objective of the class is to help students learn how to make decisions, such as buying and selling, and then to defend their decisions before other team members and at the board presentation. If they also learn to pick securities, that's great, but it's not the goal of the class.

2006 graduate in finance Chad Banks now works as a financial advisor at Regions Investment Solutions, a subsidiary of Regions Bank. Being a part of the investment team gave him, he says, "'a behind the curtains' understanding of the evaluation of stock and when to buy and sell it. It also taught me how to work on a team and negotiate differences of opinion to come to a common goal." The most valuable lesson, he said, was learning that "just because you put a lot of work into something doesn't mean your original plan will come to fruition. Sometimes you have to be satisfied with what you learned along the way rather than the original end result."

Cameron West, a 2011 BBA graduate in finance, is using his talents as a financial advisor with Raymond James. He gives credit to the investment team and Satterfield for his current career. "The structure of Clayton Investment Team pushes

you to improve your public speaking, presentation, debate and analytical skills. It gives you a real world application to the concepts you learn in other business classes, which allows you to be interested in concepts that many students won't use until years later in their careers," he said. "As a financial advisor, I use skills developed through the Clayton Investment Team on a daily basis. Jay is a phenomenally patient and talented teacher. Clayton Investment Team is an amazing class/program that I highly recommend for business and non-business students."

Eric Tompkins, who earned both a Bachelor of Business Administration and a Master of Business Administration in accounting in 2014, is currently the assistant controller at TriStar Southern Hills Medical Center in Nashville. "Although I didn't go into a career in investments, I learned the value of preparation and the importance of presenting information in a meaningful way," he said. "Since I didn't pursue an equivalent career, the lessons of teamwork, preparation, and presentation are the things that I rely on in my current job."

Mitchell Galloway, who earned dual business degrees in 2016, is now a trial attorney with the United States Department of Justice. "The Clayton Investment Team prepared me for



my career as a prosecutor by teaching me how to process and synthesize large amounts of information and use that information to discern reasonable conclusions. It also prepared me to think quickly, be comfortable under pressure, and articulate the rationale behind decisions and conclusions that

I reached," he said. "Despite being learned in the context of an investment team, I use these skills on a daily

basis in my current position, both in and out of the courtroom." Galloway believes, "The most valuable thing I learned as a member of the team was when to admit that I don't know an answer and how to ask questions in order to determine areas for which I need more information."

Recent graduate Marshall Dearing received his BBA in financial planning and an MBA in May 2020. He is an associate advisor at Vector Wealth Strategies, LLC. He served the investment team as an analyst for two semesters and an additional semester as the team manager. He says he uses the skills he

learned on a daily basis. "I am required to be thorough and precise with my job as a financial advisor because we want to give our clients the best possible level of service," Dearing said. "You want to be analytical while still sounding personable in presenting with a client. As I advance in my career as a financial advisor, I must make decisions that will impact individuals and families. If I am not confident in my knowledge or decision-making, then I am not properly doing my job."

This year, nine student analysts and a fund manager comprise the team. Ben Painter, a junior business analytics major from Cold Springs, Kentucky, is the manager. Analysts are Preston Bennett, a senior finance and business administration major from Chapel Hill, Tennessee; Taylor Brasel, a junior business administration major from Booneville, Mississippi; Dillon Clayton, a senior in the dual BBA/MBA program from Myrtle, Mississippi; Bradley Covert, a senior business administration major from Morrison, Tennessee; Hunter Haislip, a junior business administration major from White Bluff, Tennessee; Bo Lyons, a junior financial planning major from Wetumpka, Alabama; Sam McGreevy, a senior business administration major from Mt. Juliet, Tennessee; Kara Palk, a senior business administration major from Round Rock, Texas and Colby Shelton, a senior business administration major from Aetna, Tennessee.



# ZOOMING WITH SINISE



**1:** Benefit Dinner attendees enjoy a meal catered by FHU Dining Services. // **2:** Chancellor Milton and Mrs. Laurel Sewell enjoy refreshments. // **3:** President David R. Shannon facilitates a socially distant chat between Gary Sinise and an event sponsor. // **4:** The Tokens Show honors John and Rosemary Brown with their performance. // **5:** Dr. Claude Pressnell, president of Tennessee Independent Colleges and Universities, inducts John and Rosemary Brown into the TICUA Hall of Fame. // **6:** The Associates offer gift baskets and their signature coffee at the Merry Market. // **7:** Dr. Gary McKnight directs FHU Chorale caroling // **8:** Guests enjoy a taste of FHU. // **9:** President Shannon in Henderson and Gary Sinise in Los Angeles chat with the audience listening in.



The Freed-Hardeman University Annual Benefit Dinner for scholarship funds, held Friday night, Dec. 4, 2020, raised more than \$1.5 million to assist students. The total exceeded last year's total, despite the challenge of hosting it during a pandemic.

Actor and activist Gary Sinise was the featured speaker, but as one might expect in 2020, it was not the usual speaker presentation. Instead of traveling to Henderson as had been planned, Sinise delivered his remarks live but from a distance. Viewers were treated to a tour of the headquarters of the Gary Sinise Foundation in Los Angeles. FHU President David R. Shannon interviewed the philanthropist, as he showed mementoes of his career and honors. Sinise had decided not to travel to Henderson in view of the illness of his son.

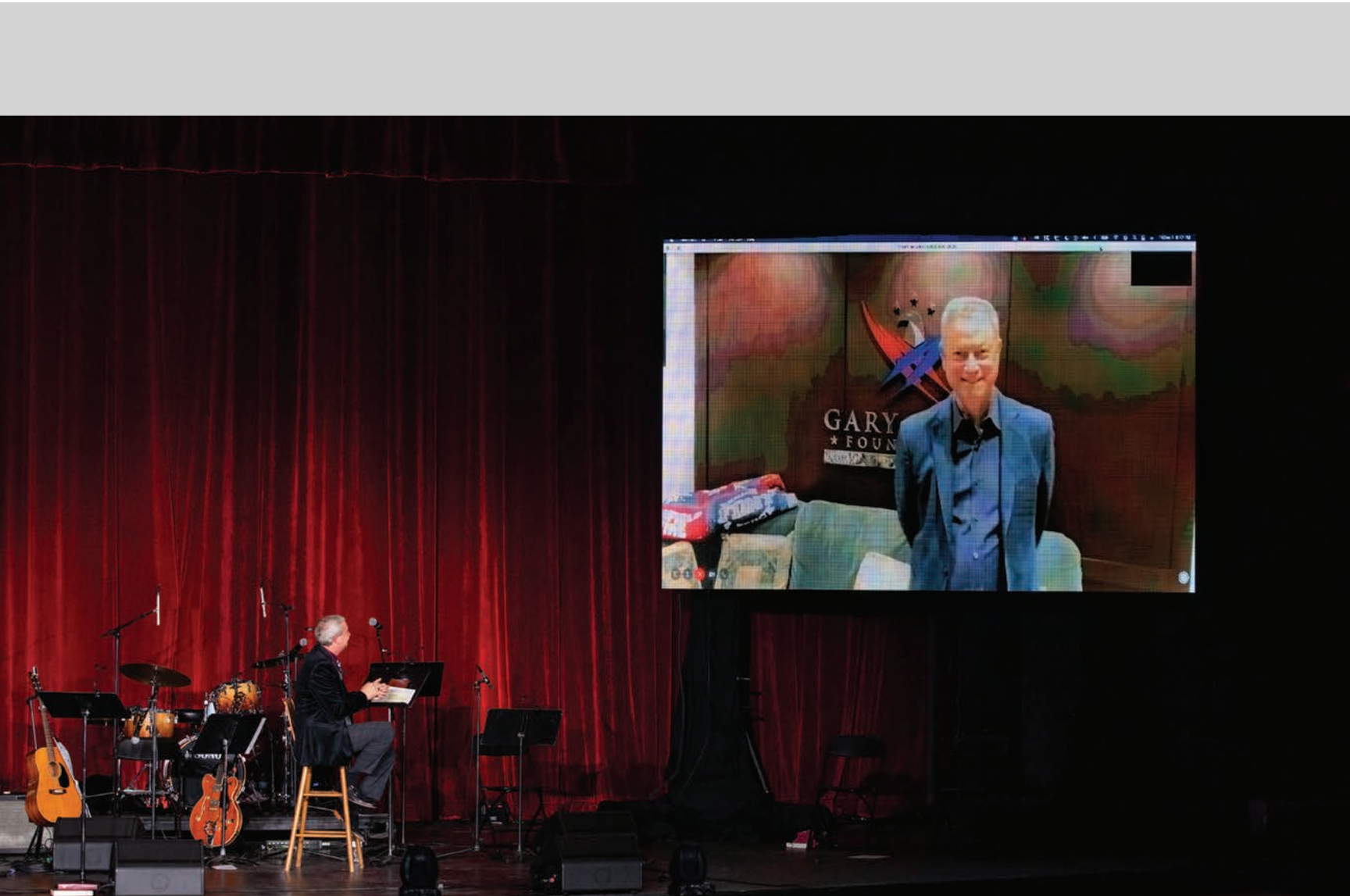
A highlight of the evening included announcements regarding the future of FHU. Continuing their years of philanthropy to Freed-Hardeman, as well as many other entities, alumni John W. and Rosemary K. Brown have made yet another major commitment to the university. The couple has pledged \$15

million over the next five years, making it the largest single gift in the history of the university. In recognition of their generosity, Tennessee Independent Colleges and Universities inducted them into the organization's inaugural hall of fame.

Changes because of the COVID 19 pandemic included capping attendance in Loyd Auditorium at 50% capacity. Other than major donors who enjoyed served dinners, attendees received self-contained charcuteries, dubbed "A Taste of FHU."

Guests also participated in Christmas in the Commons. A heated tent housed the Merry Market, where upscale vendors displayed their wares for early Christmas shopping. Carolers entertained, and free horse-drawn carriage rides around Bader Green were available.

The Tokens Show, a Nashville-based troupe presenting philosophical variety shows, entertained prior to Sinise's appearance with a tribute to the Browns.











**1:** The Tokens Show provides musical entertainment for the evening. // **2:** The lobby of Brown-Kopel, decked in holiday style, awaits the arrival of guests. // **3:** Scott and Amy Sewell attend the dinner. // **4-9:** Guests enjoy dinner prior to the main event. // **10:** Tables are set and waiting for guests to arrive. // **11:** Dr. Elizabeth Saunders, for whom a building will soon be named, acknowledges her introduction. // **12:** Actor Gary Sinise gives a virtual tour of the offices of the Sinise Foundation. // **13:** Loyd Auditorium provides ample space for social distancing. // **14:** Trustee John Law and his wife, Adrienne, president David R. Shannon and First Lady Tracie, Vice-President Dave Clouse and wife, Eve, are ready for the dinner to begin. **15-16:** The Merry Market provides holiday shopping for guests.



# *BROWNS: CHANGING HISTORY A.*

## **BROWNS MAKE MULTI-MILLION DOLLAR GIFT TO FHU**

Continuing their years of philanthropy to Freed-Hardeman University, as well as many other entities, John W. and Rosemary K. Brown have pledged to give FHU \$15 million over the next five years. It is the largest single gift in the history of the university.

## **USING THEIR GIFTS**

Their latest gift to Freed-Hardeman will go toward an addition to and renovation of Wallace-Gano Dining Hall, a new software program for the university's administration, and seed money to establish a scholarship program for minority students. The revamped Wallace-Gano will get a new name, the Dr. Elizabeth Saunders Center. It will include a cafeteria, Lion's Pride Marketplace, student services, bookstore, mailroom and the ATPI Center for Digital Innovation.

ATPI will initially house four academic programs: robotics, artificial intelligence, computer engineering and cybersecurity. The center's name honors the Browns' parents, Albert and Treva Brown and Phillip and Irene Kopel; the letters are the first letters of their names. Although their parents are deceased, John Brown thinks "they would be extremely impressed."

"They owned neither a computer nor an iPhone," Rosemary Brown said, "but I think they would appreciate the honor."

The Browns earned Associate of Arts degrees from Freed-Hardeman College in 1955 and completed baccalaureate degrees at Auburn University in 1957, he in chemical engineering and she in chemistry. Rosemary Brown later earned a master's degree from Rutgers University. FHU awarded them honorary Doctor of Laws degrees in 1999.

They have contributed to various FHU endeavors for nearly 40 years, including scholarships, endowed chairs of excellence in Bible and mathematics and computer science, \$5 million





# ND LIVES

*The historic impact of John and Rosemary Kopel Brown's generosity is evident, even from a distance. In addition to strengthening and launching programs, they have made possible buildings that are central to students' time at FHU. Those include the Brown-Kopel Business Center and Hope Barber Shull Academic Resource Center, shown in this photo.*







**1:** John and Rosemary visit with former FHU President E. Claude Gardner and his wife, Glenda. // **2:** Rosemary Brown poses with her father, Philip Kopel. // **3:** John Brown and Rosemary Kopel marry in 1957 with friends from FHC as their attendants. // **4:** John Brown and his siblings gather for a family photograph. // **5:** John and Rosemary Brown are pictured in earlier days. The couple met at FHC in 1953. // **6:** The family gathers for the graduation of their grandson Johnny. // **7:** The couple enjoys relaxing at the lake.

for the Brown-Kopel Business Center, \$8 million for the Hope Barber Shull Academic Resource Center, and \$1 million for the Physical Therapy Assistant Program.

### FROM THE FARM TO THE BOARD ROOM

John Brown grew up on a farm in West Tennessee, where daily life was a struggle. Born during the Great Depression as the oldest of five children, Brown worked from the time he could hold a hoe. His father lost his job with a subsidiary of General Motors in 1929, and the family turned to farming. Life became even harder when his mother contracted tuberculosis. Her four-year treatment in a sanitarium led to some of Brown's siblings being sent to live with relatives. He remained with his father, and they kept farming — a job he determined to escape. "The work was 24/7, and you just never got caught up," he said.

That hardscrabble life, where the family struggled to get by, led Brown to a strong belief in preserving assets. He recalls his dad "carrying a silver dollar to town on Saturdays, hoping that he wouldn't have to spend it." In his career, Brown said, "I was acutely aware that if I managed things incorrectly, people's lives might be drastically affected."

Brown was named president of Stryker Corporation in 1977, a position he held until 2003. From 1977 to 2009, he was the chief executive officer; from 1981 until 2009, he was

the chairman of the board. Under his leadership, company revenues went from \$17 million to \$6.7 billion.

Early on, Brown set a goal of 20% annual growth for every division of Stryker. The company consistently met the goal. Divisions failing to meet it were presented the Snorkel Award, an "honor" they were required to display in their work area. It served to remind them, he said, "that they were underwater."

Urging consistency regardless of the conditions, Brown told employees: "Don't lie, don't cheat and don't steal. Always be forthcoming," he said. Brown also advised thinking before acting, valuing quality over margins and being respectful, even of competitors. Finally, he said, "Surround yourself with quality people."

### THE FREED-HARDEMAN COLLEGE YEARS

Much like John, Rosemary said she "grew up in a small town with a small graduating class and small exposure to the outside world." Unlike his rather large family, she had one sister who was 10 years older, leading to her growing up much like an only child.

The couple met at Freed-Hardeman College in Robert Witt's college algebra class. Rosemary, however, recalls seeing John earlier in the cafeteria and thinking, "Who is that cute guy? I



should meet him." In the spring, she invited him to attend the Sadie Hawkins party with her, and he accepted. "I owe it all to Lil' Abner and Sadie Hawkins," she said.

They also remember hanging out at the College Inn, a small building on the corner of Main Street and Cason, but still on campus, of course. "They had the best hamburgers and hot dogs in the world," Rosemary said. They also "spent a great deal of time in the library — studying," according to John.

The couple transferred to Auburn University to complete their baccalaureate degrees. In the summer between their sophomore and junior years, John worked two jobs in Chicago, allowing him to buy an engagement ring and propose at Christmas 1956.

They married following graduation from Auburn in 1957. John Brinn, their chemistry teacher at FHC, performed the ceremony and four FHC friends: Ralph Black, Ken Fike, Eleanor Weaver and Judy Pogue were their attendants.

Later, Rosemary completed a master's degree at Rutgers. She began what became an almost 30-year teaching career when her two daughters were in junior high school. She particularly enjoyed getting to know students outside the classroom, which has allowed her to remain in touch with them through the years.

## RETIRED, BUT STILL INVOLVED

The Brown family enjoys a special tradition of spending the last two weeks of each year in Longboat Key, Florida. The time fit their schedules, since their daughters' families and Rosemary had a holiday from teaching. John could go also, as he noted, "If Stryker had not made its numbers by then, there was not much he could do!"

The Browns now spend much of their time in Atlanta, where their daughters and their families live. He continues to run the John and Rosemary Brown Family Foundation. The foundation channels its efforts toward educational institutions, scholarships and secondary education because John Brown believes education is the path to success. "I grew up on a farm. I'm here because I got a good education," he said.

In their retirement years, the Browns have "many interests that continue to offer ways to be involved with church and community." Their faith, they say, has influenced their giving, "as it has every decision we have made." Rosemary Brown says she would like to be remembered as one who appreciated the following quote from Nelson Henderson: "The true meaning of life is to plant trees, under whose shade you do not expect to sit."



## THANK YOU FROM A GRATEFUL FHU

"John and Rosemary Brown's contributions through service and resources have enriched the lives of thousands of students, including those at FHU," David R. Shannon, president of FHU, said. "Their unmatched contributions have impacted every student on campus. Their willingness to let students into their lives to see their faith, character and business acumen has deeply impressed students."

"We are grateful for the 'trees' John and Rosemary Brown have planted on the campus of FHU," Shannon said. "May their shade bless students far into the future."

## INDUCTION INTO TICUA HALL OF FAME

The announcement of the most recent gift was made at the FHU Annual Benefit Dinner. The couple was inducted into the Tennessee Independent Colleges and Universities' inaugural Hall of Fame by Dr. Claude Pressnell, president of TICUA, at



**1:** FHU President David R. Shannon, the late Roy Shannon, John W. Brown, Clara Shannon, Rosemary Kopel Brown, FHU First Lady Tracie Shannon and Joanne Bradshaw, granddaughter of N.B. Hardeman (seated) attend a reception for FHU in Atlanta. // **2:** The Browns are honored by Auburn University, another university that has benefited from the Browns' generosity. // **3:** John W. Brown and Rosemary Kopel attend the 1954 Valentine party at FHC. // **4:** Rosemary Kopel Brown is pictured with her mother, Irene Kopel.



the event. The evening's entertainment presented by The Tokens Show also honored the couple.

The Browns, via a video message, thanked TICUA for the honor, calling it "quite unexpected." Apologizing for being unable to attend, they expressed "great appreciation" for the honor. "I am not sure we deserve it," John Brown said, "but we will take it!"



## ***BOOSTING MINORITY ENROLLMENT***

Aided by a major gift from alumni John W. and Rosemary K. Brown, Freed-Hardeman University has established a new endowed scholarship program to assist students of color in attending the university. The Pursuit of Excellence Diversity Awards will be granted for the first time this fall.

Four students will be selected to receive the renewable grants for the 2021-22 school year. Applications are available from the FHU Office of Admissions and must be returned by April 15, 2021. Factors to be considered in the selection process include academic credentials; leadership ability; participation in school, church and community endeavors; and reputation among peers, youth leaders and faculty. Recipients will be announced in May 2021.

The awards are stackable above all other aid. Variation in the exact amount of the grant may occur and is dependent upon the annual earnings of the endowment.

"We are grateful for the generosity of the Browns in enabling FHU to begin this scholarship program," FHU President David R. Shannon said. "These awards are geared toward recruiting additional students of color who have leadership qualities and are dedicated to maximizing their potential and academic ability."

With current funding, 16 students could benefit annually by 2024. Additional funds are being solicited for the scholarship program. Potential donors may contact Kyle Lamb in the FHU advancement office at [klamb@fhu.edu](mailto:klamb@fhu.edu).



# SERVING STUDENTS, HONORING SAUNDERS

Freed-Hardeman University's renovated and expanded Wallace-Gano Dining Hall will be re-named in honor of Professor Emeritus Dr. Elizabeth Saunders, FHU President David R. Shannon announced at the university's annual benefit dinner. The Dr. Elizabeth Saunders Center will include the cafeteria, the Lion's Pride Marketplace, student services, bookstore, mail room and the ATPI Center for Digital Innovation, which will initially house four programs: robotics, artificial intelligence, computer engineering and cybersecurity. Funding for the renovation and expansion will be funded by the generosity of John W. and Rosemary K. Brown.

Saunders, who retired from FHU in 2018, taught in the teacher education program for 40 years. She became the first Black graduate of Freed-Hardeman College in 1967 and when she joined the faculty in 1978, she was the first Black member of the faculty.

At Memphis State University, where she completed her baccalaureate degree, Saunders was one of eight Black students who lived on campus. Following her graduation from MSU, she began her teaching career in the Haywood County School System. There she discovered a particular interest in helping students with reading difficulties. To better assist them, she returned to the university for a master's degree in reading. Saunders continued her education at East Tennessee State University, where she earned her Doctor of Education degree and was the first Black student to complete a doctoral degree there.

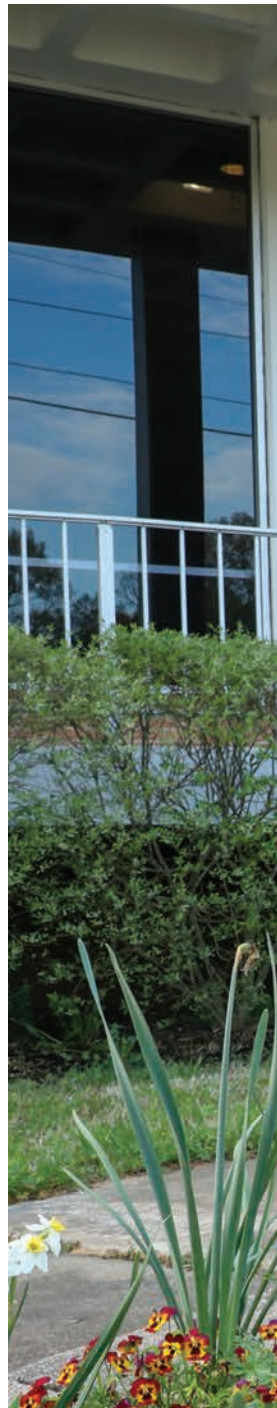
Saunders has not restricted her service to Freed-Hardeman. She has been an active member of her local congregation, teaching Bible classes and at vacation Bible school and speaking at ladies' days.

She has also been active in various professional organizations. She served on the Henderson Board of Alderman for 14 years, occupying the seat once held by her father, George Saunders. She served on the Chester County Advisory Board for the Exchange Club/Carl Perkins Center for the Prevention of Child Abuse and is currently a member of the board of directors for African Christian Schools. She has traveled extensively, frequently on mission trips.

As the daughter of educators, the value of education and the importance of literacy were part of her upbringing. Her father taught history in Chester County Schools for 37 years, and her mother, Nyla, a cosmetologist, taught those skills in Haywood County for 15 years. To honor her parents and grandparents, Saunders established the Saunders-Ruth Scholarship to assist an FHU undergraduate education major.

Although Saunders has now retired from teaching, she plans to continue teaching and learning through Sunday school, traveling on mission trips and reading her Bible daily.

"I read the Bible as I walk on the treadmill each morning," Saunders said. That habit allows her to read through the Bible annually. She says one of her favorite scriptures is Proverbs 3:5-6: "Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct your paths." Many are grateful that her path led her to Freed-Hardeman University, where her quiet manner and steadfast faith influenced students for decades.







COMMUNITY  
WELCOME

The building that has long served Freed-Hardeman students will soon be renovated and renamed in honor of Dr. Elizabeth Saunders thanks to a gift from John W. and Rosemary K. Brown.



In the midst of a pandemic, live theatre returned to the Freed-Hardeman University stage Nov. 5-7, 2020. "Little Shop of Horrors" was FHU Theatre's first production since March when COVID-19 closed the curtains. "The show went really well," Director Cliff Thompson said. "It was well attended and the performances were solid. I received a lot of comments about the excellence of the set; how finished everything appeared."

Bringing the musical spoof on 1950s sci-fi and monster movies to life on stage presented unique challenges, according to Thompson. Chief among them, he said, was the difficulty of scheduling rehearsals, a task made more complicated by the uncertainty of who would be able to practice due to the university's quarantine policy. Although three cast members contracted COVID-19 in September, 11 of the 20 cast members were quarantined at one time or another because of possible exposure to the virus. What, when and who could practice became an ongoing exercise in juggling. Nevertheless, Thompson called the cast "joyous" at being able to be on the stage again.

The directors and cast took the usual precautions: wearing masks when not on stage, social distancing, temperature checks and lots of sanitizing.

In addition, cast members signed contracts agreeing to exercise caution about meeting in large groups.

The audience in Loyd Auditorium wore masks and practiced social distancing, a task made easier because of the size of Loyd Auditorium. Although it will seat more than 2,000, ticket sales were limited to 350 reserved seats and the number of persons permitted in the lobby was limited. "I felt really good about how well our COVID plan worked," Thompson said.

## LITTLE SHOP OF

# HORRORS





FHU Theatre also presented "Little Shop of Horrors" 15 years ago. "This was a new look at an old favorite," Thompson said. In the previous production, FHU Theatre had rented the plant from another theatre. This time around, Brandyn Graves, FHU theatre design professor, designed the man-eating plant, as well as the set. He took a brand new approach to the villain. A quintet of puppeteers brought the man-eating plant to life.

"We had to continually work with the plant puppeteers so that they could create a single puppet performance. For this production, we wanted a much larger and more visually dynamic Audrey II. It was tricky figuring out how to build something so non-traditional," Graves said. "There was a learning curve that we all had to go through, with lots of trial and error in the construction."

"It was a challenging time," Thompson said. "I was very proud of our students and how well they worked together, trying to keep each other safe and creative."

With one live production completed during the pandemic, FHU theatre is looking ahead. "We have three plays auditioning now," Thompson said. "We have a COVID plan in place and will continue to work that plan as it becomes necessary."

Jack Joiner, a freshman photography and theater major from Milan, Tennessee, played Seymour Krelborn, a worker in a Skid Row flower shop. Bishop McLaughlin, a junior English major from Henderson, was Mushnik, shop owner, and Jessica Hixson,

a junior theater and music major from Columbia, Tennessee was Audrey, Seymour's love interest. Jon Michael Thompson, a senior theater major from Henderson, Tennessee, portrayed Orin, the play's sadistic dentist. Josie Goulding, a senior fine arts major from Richmond, Virginia, was the voice of Audrey II, the blood-thirsty, not-from-this-world plant.

The musical featured a 60s-style girl group, which serves as the play's storytellers. Members were Erin Cahill, a junior family science major from Memphis, Kaitlyn Moore, a freshman nursing major from Henderson, and Lakyn Wools, a senior theater performance and secondary education major from Nixa, Missouri.

Others in the cast included the following: Collin Baker, a junior from Henderson; Sarah Mae Bowen, a sophomore from Decatur, Alabama; Nate Cass, a freshman from Cordova, Tennessee; Spencer Parker, a freshman from Huntsville, Alabama; Landon Rydl, a sophomore from Seffner, Florida; Lincoln Smith, a freshman from Columbia, Tennessee; J.T. Watford, a freshman from Newbern, Tennessee; and Robert Young, Jr., a junior from Rosedale, New York. The stage manager was Haven Sanders, a junior from Hermitage, Tennessee.

In addition to Thompson, the play's directors were Becky Hartle, Chester County elementary school fine arts teacher, musical director, and Madison Davis, senior theatre and biology major, choreography director.





# *FINDING NEW WAYS TO SERVE*







Feeding the Freed-Hardeman University, family a “real” Thanksgiving meal made the Lion’s Pride Dining Services staff happy, to say nothing of the students, faculty and staff. “We were super excited to offer a wide variety of more traditional holiday items,” Tamie Torres said. “This is the largest number of items we have been able to serve all semester, and we could not have been happier.”

Because of the ongoing pandemic, supply chain challenges and shortages in staffing, the number of menu items and offerings had to be simplified for the semester. “We also had to consider the ‘take-away’ aspect of what we could prepare and serve. We offered more grab-and-go items and some pre-packaged items we had not offered in the past,” Torres said. “We are still learning what items work and which have not been as successful, based on student feedback.”

While abiding by safety practices for COVID-19 was a new challenge, health safety certainly was not a new concept for the dining service. “We have always had a ‘safety first’ mentality,” Torres said. While all of the cooking staff was already ServSafe Food Manager Certified, all of the staff also received additional training for COVID-19 safety practices before the semester began.

“Freed-Hardeman is such a social place and, of course, students want to be together,” Torres said. “The cafeteria has always been a great place to do this, so one of the most challenging aspects of keeping students safe is practicing social distancing and mask wearing in a place that is meant to gather and socialize.”

Over the late spring and summer when students were not on campus, the dining service still found a way to serve food to hungry people. They began a curbside pickup program for the community. When the semester ended early, the Lion’s Pride Dining Services team sprang into action, getting the curbside service operational in one week. “We needed to keep our core staff employed and we had a community that needed some terrific, tasty and healthy food options during a time when it was difficult for folks to find restaurants that were able to serve,” Torres said. The service was well received with a loyal following. It was so well received, in fact, that dining services hopes to offer the service to the community again in the future.

Another community outreach was also very successful. At the start of the pandemic, members of the dining service staff wanted to help the community. “We saw so many people losing jobs and livelihood and we wanted to help,” Torres said. “Again it came down to feeding them.” The staff contributed their tips from the curbside service, and with the help of other donors, they covered the cost of approximately 250 spaghetti dinners, which were given away. “The response from those who received the meals was very humbling,” Torres said. “We hope to be able to offer this again.”

Thinking back on that Thanksgiving dinner—it was a way for the dining services staff to say thank you to the students. “We wanted our students to know how much we appreciated them throughout this challenging semester. Food is always our way of saying, ‘Thanks’ and ‘We appreciate you,’” Torres said.





# REFLECTING ON FALL 2020

## NATALIE VALENTINE

SENIOR // SALEM, VIRGINIA

Going into the semester, everyone was unsure what FHU would be like. While things were very different, we were still able to have a great semester that brought a sense of normalcy after months of quarantine. We were able to have social club events, intramurals and even in-person classes. Although the way we did things changed, the people and atmosphere at Freed remained the same. COVID changed a lot of things, but it didn't stop us from having a good semester. I think it's safe to say that the extra rules and regulations were a small price to pay if it meant we got to be back on campus with each other. I was just grateful to be here.



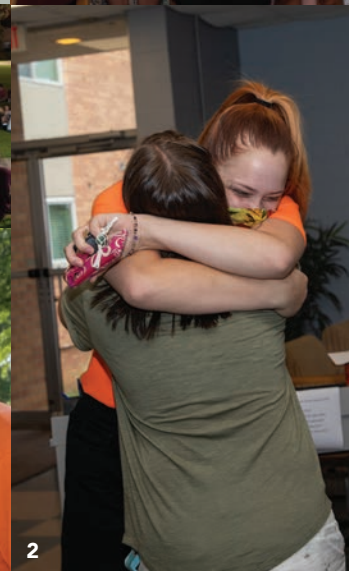
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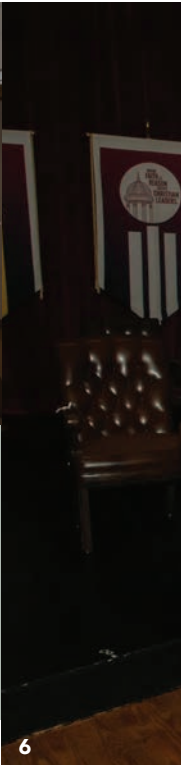
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## PICTURED

**1-3:** Students return to campus during Welcome Home. // **4:** Incoming freshmen assemble for a devotional during Interface. // **5:** Parker Smith and Hayden Hodge help freshmen move into their dorms. // **6:** President David R. Shannon and student body president Cameron Miller stand with Dr. Vicki Johnson who was the master of the bell at Tolling of the Bell. // **7:** Students participate in a Lion Walk at the beginning of the school year. // **8:** Shannon Sewell disinfects seats in between Tolling of the Bell Ceremonies. // **9-10:** Incoming freshmen canoe the Buffalo River during Interface activities. // **11:** Interface group F4 poses in front of Bucy Tower.





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## RYAN HODGES

SENIOR // HENDERSON, TENNESSEE

A lot of events were taken away this semester at FHU due to the circumstances we are in. However, while events were taken away, the things that make Freed-Hardeman University what it truly is were not. Spiritual lives were grown, life-long friendships were made, and memories were made. Nothing will take away FHU's ability to provide those things year in and year out.





## DEMETRIA REEVES

SENIOR // HOHENWALD, TENNESSEE

As a senior this year, I am especially grateful for being back on campus. I am so glad that they found ways for us to safely do many of our normal campus activities, like social club events and devos. I am also thankful that I am still getting to do in-person classes and practicums, so that I can still take advantage of the opportunities to grow academically at Freed-Hardeman. There have definitely been changes, but it is just good to be back again.





## CASSIDY SHRADER

SENIOR // COLUMBIA, TENNESSEE

My final fall semester as an undergraduate at Freed-Hardeman University, along with other seniors across the country, was far different than the previous semesters, to say the least. Although it consisted of masks, social distancing, and an abundance of students quarantined, I am just thankful I got to experience the closest thing to normalcy for my final fall semester. I was an Interface coordinator for the incoming freshmen and transfer students and only got to see a small glimpse of just how hard the administration was working over the summer to plan a semester like none other. My partner and I worked alongside Tony Allen over numerous Zoom calls and group text messages during the summer, usually ending with Mr. Allen exiting the call just to attend several other virtual meetings with other FHU administration members. FHU had a peak of COVID cases halfway through the semester, which led to cancelling intramural games, social club activities, and most in-person classes at the time. Compared to other universities across the country, I soon realized how fortunate the student body was to have the opportunity to continue in-person classes once the spreading declined. After an abrupt end to my junior year at FHU in March and a fall semester that was in question at first, I am so thankful to be a part of a university that constantly strives to put students first and is constantly creating an atmosphere that feels like home.



## PICTURED

- 1:** Xi Chi Delta hosts a recruiting event. // **2:** Sigma Rho recruits students. // **3:** President David R. Shannon takes a selfie with Mr. and Miss FHU 2020 // **4:** Amy Sewell speaks to Jud Davis' photography class. // **5:** Mr & Miss FHU nominees with President David R. Shannon and wife Tracie. // **6:** The ethnic Cultures class visits Pinson Mounds. // **7-10:** Students gather at the Annual Presidential Pumpkin Carving. // **11:** Chapel focuses on Domestic Violence and Breast Cancer Awareness. // **12:** Chi Beta Chi invites new students to consider joining. // **13:** FHU men's soccer competes on campus.



# SUZANNA GRADY

SENIOR // MURRAY, KENTUCKY

This past semester began with a great deal of uncertainty and anxiety for many students, including myself. Given the circumstances, we weren't sure how our education or social lives were going to be moving forward. Reflecting on this past semester, I am so grateful that I attend FHU. The faculty and staff went above and beyond trying to make our semester as normal as possible, while also keeping our student body safe and healthy. I'm glad we were able to stay in-person for class and participate in club/campus activities for the majority of the semester. We as a student body are fortunate to have a campus that understands not only our educational needs but our spiritual and social needs, as well!



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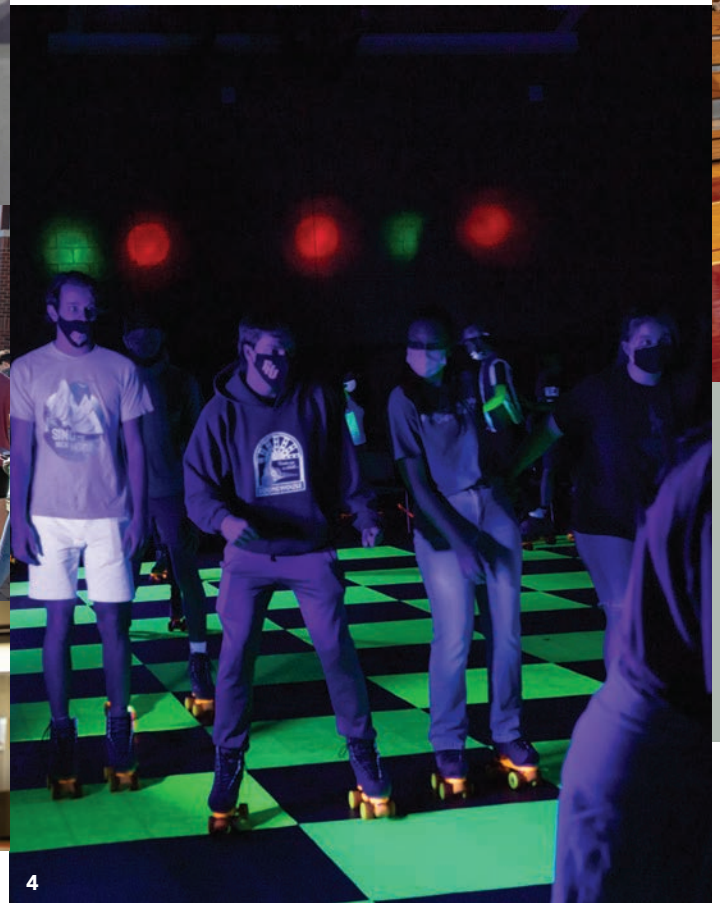
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## PICTURED

**1:** Alumnus John McCall speaks to a class in Chapel Hall. // **2:** President David R. Shannon appears on the set during the filming of RUSH 2020. // **3-4:** Students enjoy skating. // **5-6:** Even though they were different in 2020, Maroon and Gold Days typically attract large numbers of high school students to campus. // **7-9:** The Lions and Lady Lions compete in a new conference. // **10:** FHU Chancellor Milton Sewell and wife, Laurel, pose with President David R. Shannon and First Lady, Tracie, at graduation // **11:** FHU Theatre presents "Bronte." // **12:** FHU celebrates two graduations in November. // **13:** Logan Campbell, '19-'20 recipient of the outstanding graduate in Spanish and Bailie White, '19-'20 recipient of the Jim Edmonds Student Achievement Award are among the 2020 graduates. // **14:** FHU golfers compete in several fall tournaments.

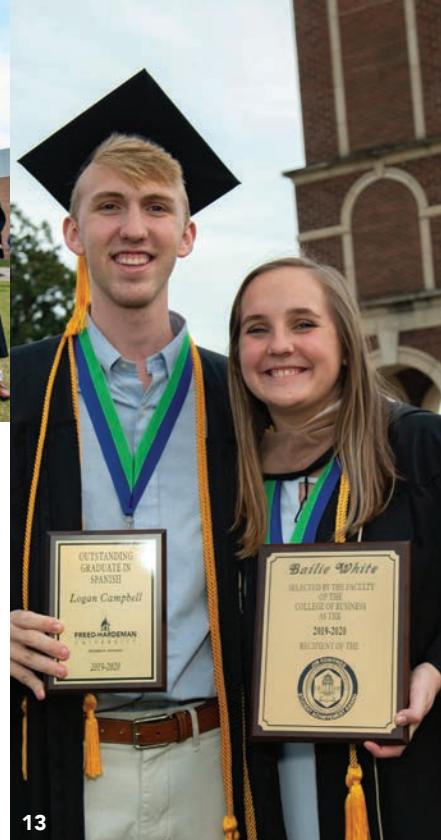




## DANIEL ENGLAND

SOPHOMORE // BEMISS, GEORGIA

This past fall at Freed Hardeman was just like any other with the exception of the glaringly obvious global pandemic. With socially distanced Makin' Music practices and individually packed lunches, there certainly were some changes. One thing that did not change, however, was the attitude of the student body. COVID-19 might have changed a lot of things but it didn't change our love for each other and Freed Hardeman University.





# WINNING WITH HUMILITY







New coaches, new teammates, new conference—Lion guard Kortland Martin has had to deal with a lot of new during his time at FHU. His humility and work ethic not only helped him get through those changes but turned him into one of the top guards in the country also.

Lion coach Drew Stutts has been around for the majority of Martin's FHU career, since he was the assistant coach for the Lions before being named the head coach in the summer of 2019. Stutts realizes the changes the program has had to endure during Martin's time as a Lion, and he has the utmost respect for the way he has handled those changes.

"Kortland has experienced a lot over the course of his career here at FHU. There have been some ups and downs, and many changes within the program," Stutts said. "But his consistency, no matter the situation, has been truly unbelievable."

Martin came to FHU in 2017 out of Humboldt, Tennessee. He saw the floor in all 30 games his freshman season, averaging nearly 13 points per game. He only played in 19 games his sophomore season, but he was called upon heavily to do the team's scoring. That year, he scored 25 points in seven games and had what was at the time a career-high 41 points in one game. He was placed on the American Midwest Conference's Third Team All-Conference team.

In his junior season, the first season under Stutts as the head coach, he averaged nearly 17 points per game, including a contest where he scored an FHU single-game record 44 points against Missouri Baptist. This season he set a single-game record of 16 assists against Crowley's Ridge. For his efforts, conference coaches named him First Team All-Conference. He also garnered All-American honorable mention recognition.

"The thing about Kortland that is special is that he doesn't mind taking on different roles because at the end of the day, he just wants to win," Stutts said. "That attitude and approach speak to his character and the young man he is on and off the court. Kortland is simply a winner."

While his role on the court has seemed to change from year to year, Martin feels that it doesn't matter what it takes, he's willing to do whatever he needs to do to help his team win. And his confidence in Stutts and Assistant Coach Jake Mitchell – and their confidence in him – make that task easier.

"My relationship with Coach Stutts and Coach Mitchell has always been positive," Martin said. "They know that I'll do whatever it takes to win. I'm surrounded by great players with great skill sets. They do an awesome job of putting the ball in the basket, and I get to do the easy part of just getting it to them in their spots."

Since Martin has been a Lion, the team has gone from a 10-20 record his freshman season to another losing record his sophomore season (only winning seven games) all the way to finishing 18-10 last season with an appearance in the American Midwest Conference Tournament. Currently, the Lions are 9-5 overall and 4-4 in the Mid-South Conference.

"Thus far, the best part about my basketball career at FHU would be playing in the AMC Tournament last year," Martin said. "We didn't get the outcome we would have liked, but the experience and atmosphere were great. Now we are just striving for a better outcome than last year."

Martin has really seen it all in the last three seasons, and there isn't any doubt in his coaches' or teammates' minds that he has been one of the largest parts of this incredible turnaround.

"He has really matured over the past three to four years," Stutts said. "Last year, he began to become more vocal on and off the court, talking with his team and coaches. He's become one of our leaders."

Stutts added, "Earlier in the year, we met as a team and learned about what a leader or captain is on a team. Every member of our program – coaches, managers, players – voted on who our three team captains should be, and Kortland received every first-place vote. He has really grown and matured as a young man over the past four years, and I am proud to have him leading our team this season."

This turnaround that the Lion basketball program has made over the last two years would not have been possible without Martin. His ability and leadership have been the cornerstone of what the Lions are trying to build now and in the future.

"Kortland is just a special young man. He isn't just a talented player; he is a special person," Stutts said. "He is mentoring some of the younger players on our team who are going through the same maturation process he went through. I love Kortland, and I am so thankful I have had a chance to be his coach."



# HONORING HALL OF FAME ALUMNI



Two athletes were inducted into the FHU Sports Hall of Fame Nov. 7, 2020. Jim Carter, Lion first baseman from 1995 to 1997, and Haley Newby McRady, All-American Lady Lions basketball player who graduated in 2015, were added to the illustrious group.

Former coach Chuck Box presented Carter, calling him “a professional hitter.” Box referred to Carter as one of the best hitters he had coached in his 30 years of coaching. Carter was a part of the Lion program at a pivotal time as they went from the worst team in the league to conference champion.

Carter is No. 2 in career batting average, hitting .412 in two years. His career slugging percentage of .675 is also No. 2 all-time. In his junior season, he hit 21 doubles (No. 2 of all time in a single season), batted .401, brought in 42 runs, had a .572 slugging percentage and a .481 on-base percentage.

His senior season, he batted .425 (No. 7 all-time in a single season), had 76 hits (No. 10 all-time in a single season), brought in 69 runs (No. 2 all-time in a single season), scored 61 runs (No. 6 all-time in a single season), had a .704 slugging percentage (No. 10 all-time in a single season), had an OPS (on-base plus slugging) of 1.171 (No. 10 all-time in a single season), and recorded 27 extra-base hits (No. 10 all-time in a single season).

Carter reminisced about Box is recruiting him when he was at Jackson State. Carter decided instead to transfer to Austin Peay State University. After a single semester, he changed his mind, called Box, and told him he wanted to be a Lion.

Carter is currently the athletic director and head baseball coach at Goodpasture Christian School in Nashville, where he and his wife Heather and their two children live.

McRady was introduced by her brother-in-law, Eric Tompkins. He recounted the many accolades she had received during her career. The 2014-15 WBCA and NAIA National Player of the Year, two-time First-Team NAIA All-American, two-time WBCA All-American, two-time Conference Player of the Year, and three-time First-Team All-Conference selection, McRady solidified herself as one of the greatest players to ever wear a Lady Lion uniform.

McRady is No. 7 all-time in Lady Lion scoring with 1,841 points and No. 4 all-time in rebounds with 1,091. In her career, she averaged just over 13 points per game and just under eight rebounds per game while shooting nearly 50 percent from the field. In her junior and senior seasons, she averaged a double-double, 19.3 points per contest and 11 rebounds a game in her junior season and 17.8 points and 10.5 rebounds her senior year.

A strong leader and excellent student, McRady was the team captain for two years and a three-time AMC Scholar-Athlete and two-time NAIA Scholar-Athlete.

In response, McRady recognized those who helped her along the way. She thanked her mother, her head coach Dale Neal, her sisters and brother and her teammates. McRady is the 15th Lady Lion basketball player to be inducted into the Hall of Fame. She and her husband, Daniel McRady, live in Nashville, where she works for Hospital Corporation of America.

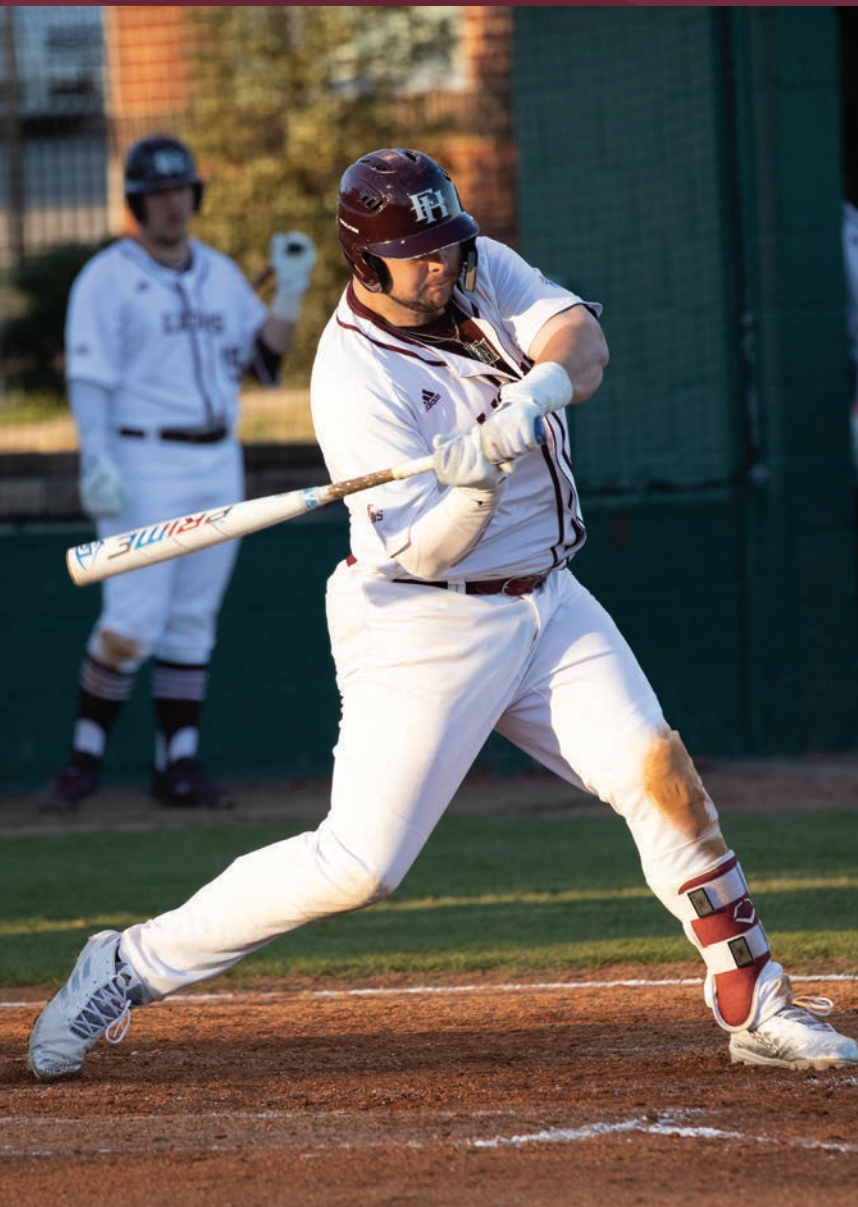


# NAMING NAIA PRE-SEASON ALL-AMERICANS

Lion baseball players Josh Sears and Alex Huey were named NAIA Preseason All-Americans, the league announced a little over a month and a half before the 2021 season began.

Sears looks to become a three-time First-Team All-American, after hitting .350 and four home runs last season in just 19 games. He currently is FHU's all-time leader in career home runs with 46.

Huey enters his junior season after being named a Preseason All-American last year. In four appearances, Huey had a 3-1 record with a 3.24 ERA. He had 31 strikeouts while walking only five batters in 25 innings pitched in the abbreviated season.





# EARNING NAIA BASKETBALL HONORS

In an abbreviated season that had no national tournaments, four Freed-Hardeman University basketball players garnered national recognition.

For the second consecutive season, Haylee Croom was named an NAIA first team All-American. As a senior forward, she led the Lady Lions to their second American Midwest Conference championship and was named the Conference Player of the Year. Croom averaged a double-double with 18.1 points and 11.6 rebounds per game.

Croom is currently a graduate assistant coach for the Lady Lions, as she pursues a master's degree.

Playing one season for the Lions, Bryan Battle was named to the NAIA Third Team All-American list. Battle averaged 16.2 points and 7.3 rebounds per game. He also was named to the All-AMC team and was chosen to participate in the 2020 NAIA All-Star Game which would have been played on the night of the national championship.

In addition, two players earned honorable mention recognition on the All-American list, Lady Lion Alyssa LeMay and Lion Kortland Martin. LeMay averaged 13.5 points per game, knocking down 72 3-pointers at a 38-percent clip. Martin, a junior, averaged 16.9 points per game and set a new single-game scoring record with 44 points.







## MOVING TO THE PROS

Former Lion Bryan Battle signed a professional contract to play for KK Promo in Bosnia's top professional basketball division, less than one year removed from his stellar season in an FHU uniform.

After graduating from Freed-Hardeman in 2020, Battle returned to Arizona and began working to pursue his dream of being a professional basketball player. His time as a Lion, as well as his hard work in the gym before and after, earned him a contract to play in one of the top leagues in Europe.

As a Lion, Battle averaged just over 16 points per game and pulled down more than seven rebounds per game. He was named an NAIA Third Team All-American, an AMC First Team All-Conference and an NAIA All Star.

"During my time at FHU, I was able to reconnect with my passion for basketball. I met people all over campus who cared about my success," Battle said. "I'm thankful for two

great coaches in Coach Drew Stutts and Coach Jake Mitchell who gave me the confidence to perform well on the court, and I'm thankful as well for great teammates who cared about winning. Go Lions forever."

"We are so excited for Bryan. This was a goal of his that we discussed at length heading into his senior season," Stutts said. "The reason Bryan was able to fulfill this goal simply came down to his work ethic and dedication. Last season here at FHU, he approached the season with a professional mindset. He spent countless individual hours in the gym outside of our team practices and was an everyday guy."

Stutts added, "I know he will continue to work, individually improve, and elevate his team. We are thankful that he joined our FHU family and that we were able to help him achieve his dream. Bryan has a bright future, and I look forward to supporting him throughout his professional career."





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**JUNE 6 - 11, 2021**

Week 2 and Junior Camp Week 2  
**JUNE 13 - 18, 2021**

Week 3 and Junior Camp Week 3  
**JUNE 20 - 25, 2021**

Week 4 and Junior Camp Week 4  
**JUNE 27 - JULY 2, 2021**

Week 5  
**JULY 4 - 9, 2021**

Week 6  
**JULY 11 - 16, 2021**

Week 7  
**JULY 18 - 23, 2021**

Week 8  
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## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

March 2, 5, 7 – FHU Theatre: “Fly By Night”

March 3, 4, 6 – FHU Theatre: “Silent Sky”

March 21-28 – Spring Break

April 9-10 – Makin’ Music 44

April 20, 23, 25 – FHU Theatre: “Building Madness”

April 21, 22, 24 – FHU Theatre: “Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde”

May 15 – Commencement

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