

BAPTIST HEALTH SCIENCES UNIVERSITY *Alumni* NEWS

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ALUMNI MISSION
TRIP TO THE
BAHAMAS
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**BAPTIST HEALTH
SCIENCES UNIVERSITY**

Baptist Health Sciences University Hosts First International Alumni Medical Mission Trip to the Bahamas

Baptist Health Sciences University (BHSU) held its first international alumni medical mission trip in June 2024, providing essential services to the people of Abaco, Bahamas. From June 23–30, BHSU’s Baptist Healers partnered with The Liquid Legacy, The World Cataract Foundation and Abaco Strong to offer free general medical screenings, dental care and eye care.

This mission marked a significant milestone as the first alumni trip and first medical team to serve Abaco since Hurricane Dorian devastated the island in 2019. The hurricane caused severe damage, leaving many residents with nothing.

“Being able to participate in this mission trip has truly been a blessing to me,” said Mahalia Mckain (biomedical sciences, class of 2023). “I hope it has likewise been a blessing to the people we served. It was truly humbling to learn about their stories and the struggles they have dealt with after the hurricane, while also being enriched by their kindness and willingness to share their culture with us. Initially, I was worried that I would not have enough skills to help on a trip like this, but I am so happy I pushed myself and took the leap. I was able to learn so much and build some new, beautiful relationships!”

Six BHSU alumni were joined by four faculty and staff members, including Karen Smith, director of faith and service and chaplain of BHSU; Pamela Siggers, program chair of surgical technology of BHSU; Dr. David Klink, senior associate dean for clinical affairs and professor of ophthalmology; and Dr. Amanda Robinson, director of the osteopathic neuromusculoskeletal medicine clinic and assistant professor of osteopathic neuromusculoskeletal medicine. Together, they provided general health care to more than 660 patients during the week.

“Hope was given to many,” said Smith, “as a result of the compassionate and loving care given by the Baptist University folks.”

Following the mission trip, a surgical team from the World Cataract Foundation headed to Abaco in early August to perform cataract surgeries on patients identified during the clinics.

Not only was physical healing done during the week, but emotional and spiritual healing also occurred. The people of Abaco suffered greatly during the 2019 hurricane. Many lives were lost along with

“Hope was given to many as a result of the compassionate and loving care given by the Baptist University folks.”
– Karen Smith
Director of faith and service and chaplain of BHSU

homes and possessions. Several days during clinics severe thunderstorms blew in and the people became very frightened and anxious. The team provided a safe space for them to feel protected and share their horrific stories. Many of the patients commented on the compassionate care they received from the Baptist Team. As one lady said, “Thank you for being the hands and feet of Jesus.”



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President's CORNER

Alone, we can do so little; together, we can do so much.
– Helen Keller

It is hard to believe as I write this that I am days away from my one-year anniversary. The adage that time flies when you’re having fun must be true. I certainly enjoyed my first year and feel like I have made some positive contributions to the University. The University and its people have certainly had a positive impact on me. It’s been a great first year, but there is so much more to come.

I am reminded of some thoughts I shared just weeks after the convocation ceremony in September 2024 that opened this academic year. I focused on two themes: community and common good. Community is a group of people sharing a set of common interests and perceiving itself as distinct in some respects. Common good is the idea of all of us working together collectively to make our university the best it can be. I used these ideas as our commitment to a shared path forward and a common vision for the future.

I have since expanded these ideas into broader concepts of belonging and belief building off some comments shared by Jason Little, CEO of Baptist Memorial Health Care Corporation. Belonging is a calling to be and do the best we can for the University. It’s a commitment to our values and to working together. Belief is the trust that we will accomplish our shared goals and live out the University’s vision. We are all in this together.

As we began the new academic year in September, we will be launching a new strategic plan that will guide us over the next several years. The broad strategies of academic innovation, institutional excellence, operational excellence and university partnerships have many specific strategy statements to define our work. But the specifics are less important than the people. You, our alumni and friends of the University, alongside our faculty and staff, will be called on to support our strategy and help us achieve our vision. Together we can do so much.

Thanks for all you do for Baptist University.

T. Hampton Hopkins, EdD
President



BUCOM hosts inaugural white coat ceremony and begins classes



On August 3, 2024, Baptist University College of Osteopathic Medicine (BUCOM) proudly hosted its inaugural White Coat Ceremony, welcoming 81 first-year students to the practice of medicine as the class of 2028. This momentous occasion took place at The First Baptist Church in Memphis, Tennessee, with family, friends, faculty, and staff gathering to celebrate the beginning of these students' journeys to becoming osteopathic physicians.

The White Coat Ceremony is a significant milestone, symbolizing professionalism and marking the students' entry into the medical field. It represents a rite of passage, ushering them into their new roles as medical students.

Dr. Teresa Hubka, DO, FACOOG, CS, President of the American Osteopathic Association (AOA), delivered greetings,



emphasizing the importance of the osteopathic profession. She addressed the class of 2028, stating, "You are joining the proud profession of osteopathic medicine. You will become physicians who truly value the relationship between the patient and the physician, working together to guide patients to good health. Remember, the true measure of a physician lies not in accolades or titles, but in the lives you touch and the difference you make. The DO difference."



The keynote address was delivered by Dr. Barbara Ross-Lee, DO, FACOF. She reminded students of the significance of the ceremony: "The white coat ceremony is a life-changing rite of passage. 'I am reminded of a Bible verse from 1 Corinthians 13:11. To the members of the BUCOM inaugural class, today you are no longer a student. Today, you start a new educational process as an osteopathic medical student, a member of the house of medicine.'"

Dr. Ross-Lee continued, "Know that as the inaugural class of BUCOM, you will set the achievement bar for all the subsequent classes that follow you. My charge to you is to set that bar high. That's your charge together."

Following the presentation of the white coats, students recited an oath to the osteopathic profession, led by Dr. Teresa Hubka. Each coat was adorned with the college patch, symbolizing their commitment to their new roles.

The ceremony also featured an invocation by Dr. Cameron Conn, senior associate dean for administrative, operations, and services; welcome and closing remarks from Dr. Peter Bell, vice provost and dean, College of Osteopathic Medicine; a university address from Dr. Hampton Hopkins, president of BHSU; an introduction from Dr. David Klink, senior associate dean for clinical affairs; and the presentation of the class led by Dr. Beth Choby, senior associate dean for academic affairs.

The ceremony marked a pivotal moment for BUCOM and its inaugural class, setting the stage for a future of excellence in osteopathic medicine.

The students started their first term of classes on Monday, August 5.



"Remember, the true measure of a physician lies not in accolades or titles, but in the lives, you touch and the difference you make. The DO difference."

– Dr. Teresa Hubka
President of the American Osteopathic Association (AOA)



Faith and Service

The 2023-2024 scripture verse was Psalm 25: 4-5: “Show me your ways, O Lord; teach me your paths. Lead me in your truth and teach me, for you are the God of my salvation; on you, I wait all the day.”

God clearly charted new pathways for the Office of Faith and Service to provide opportunities for spiritual growth and service for the campus. The opportunities included both in-person and virtual chapels. Topics such as God and suffering, Jesus and the Samaritan Women at Jacob’s Well, There is a Season for Everything and Trusting God Is Good When Life Is Hard were examined during the chapels.

One of the most meaningful chapels of the year was the first event of Dr. Hopkin’s Inauguration Week. The service was led by the Baptist Health Sciences University community and included a beautiful song by Dr. Brianna Evans (nursing, class of 2017), a litany by Karen Smith followed by a prayer circle around Dr. and Mrs. Hopkins where students prayed blessings over them. It was a sacred and meaningful time for the BHSU community.

Service opportunities both in Memphis and internationally were provided. The partnership with the University’s neighbor, City View Towers, the largest Section 8 residential community in Tennessee continued to grow as students enjoyed fun activities such as pasta making, playing bingo and workshops led by students in the different majors with the residents. Students served a meal at the Memphis Union Mission and worked at the Mid-South Food Bank. Two mission trips were offered

to the BHSU community. In April 2024, a group of 25 people from BHSU served with The Liquid Legacy and Tom Hough, a South American missionary, in Pucallpa, Peru. Over 1,624 patients were served during the week-long mission trip. As with all trips, amazing stories are written. This year was no exception. Here is one such story:

*Show me
YOUR ways,
O LORD;
teach me YOUR paths.
Lead me in YOUR truth
and teach me,
for YOU are the GOD
of my salvation;
on YOU,
I wait all the day.*

Psalm 25: 4-5

Ceremonies were conducted to remind the students of the calling upon their lives to be health care providers such as The Blessing of the Hands where the hands of the students are blessed with oil and prayed over as they entered their clinical rotations.

Erica Dickerson, coordinator of basic needs, offered wraparound services to students needing assistance with food insecurity, housing, transportation, childcare, budgeting and goal planning. Numerous students reached out for help.

God truly led the BHSU community on meaningful and life-changing pathways while gently teaching His ways.

Spring Alumni Reunion Fiesta

Saturday, April 13 was quite the fiesta! Over 60 alumni, guests and Baptist Health Sciences University faculty and staff came together at the Baptist University College of Osteopathic Medicine for the 2024 Spring Alumni Reunion Fiesta. Attendees were able to hear from BHSU President, Dr. Hampton Hopkins, enjoy a delicious taco bar, tour the nursing labs and immersion rooms and see the new College of Osteopathic Medicine.

The 2023 Alumni Awards were given out by Heidi Hordyk (nuclear medicine, class of 1999), alumni board chair, and Zac Cox (nuclear medicine, class of 2011), relationship marketing coordinator. You can see the list of 2023 winners and submit your nomination for the 2024 Alumni Awards on page 14. In addition to the annual awards, The Most Seasoned Alumni in Attendance Award was given to Phyllis Gates (nursing, class of 1954). Kathy Williams (nursing, class of 1974) was awarded

Traveled the Farthest for travelling 30 hours to attend the reunion. Barbara Helms (nursing, class of 1957) was called out by Mrs. Gates to be awarded the Still Working award. The class of 1974 celebrated 50 years and won the Class Giving Competition.

It was a heartwarming day filled with seeing old friends, sharing stories and seeing the exciting opportunities made available to current students. Together, we’re building a legacy that continues to inspire and empower future generations.



STAY TUNED
for our next issue:

It’s the Great Homecoming, Blue Healers held on October 26.



Young Alumni Pins and Pizza

16 young alumni, guests and Baptist Health Sciences University (BHSU) president, Dr. Hampton Hopkins, reconnected over pizza and duckpin bowling on July 11. The event was hosted at Rock'n Dough Pizza in the recently developed Orleans Station just blocks from campus. This was the first event to bring together alumni that have graduated in the past 15 years. It was exciting to see familiar faces and see the growth of the Memphis Medical District where BHSU is one of the anchor institutions. Sidney Long Alton (medical laboratory science, class of 2018) took home the award for first strike and Ryann Smith (neurodiagnostic technology, class of 2021) took home the award for top overall score.



Embracing Compassionate Care: BHSU Hosts Second Nursing White Coat Ceremony

On July 8, 2024, in the Campus Hub Gymnasium, the Baptist University Nursing Division hosted its second White Coat Ceremony for the class of Spring 2026, a rite of passage that not only emphasizes the importance of compassionate patient care early in nursing training but also plays a pivotal role in shaping the professional identity of our future nurses. Dr. Angel Boling, BSN chair, opened the ceremony and welcomed guests. Dr. Ivy Anderson, nursing faculty, followed with an opening prayer.

Dr. Cheryl Johnson-Joy, associate dean of nursing, presented Ashleigh House, Capstone senior nursing student, as the student speaker for the event. House

ended the speech by stating, "I want to leave you all with a quote from Dr. Maya Angelou. She once said, 'people will forget what you said, people will forget what you did, but people will never forget how you made them feel.' So, as you embark on this new journey, always remember to go into the hospital with a kind heart ready to heal the world with God on your side, one patient at a time."

Dr. Boling then introduced the dean of nursing, Dr. Cathy Stepter, as the guest speaker for the evening, who stressed the importance of the profession, stating, "Nursing is a calling of service. It is about putting others' needs above your own, about going the extra mile to ensure the

Embracing Compassionate Care: BHSU Hosts Second Nursing White Coat Ceremony *continued*



well-being of your patients. Today, you are not just accepting a coat; you are embracing a calling. You are pledging to uphold the highest standards of nursing practice, to advocate for your patients, and to lead with integrity and empathy. Your white coat is a reminder of the light you carry within you—the light of knowledge, compassion, and dedication. Remember that your work is not just a profession, but a ministry of healing and love."

Forty students came forward during the ceremony to be cloaked in white coats and receive pins by Dr. Cheryl Johnson-Joy, Dr. Demetric Osborn, Professor William Wood, Dr. Cheryl Scott and Professor Allyson Smith. While holding nursing lamps and led by Dr. Boling, the group recited the University's Nursing Clinical Pledge, a pledge that symbolizes the commitment to compassionate and ethical patient care. This pledge underscores the significance of the commitment each student is making. Stepter provided closing remarks and Anderson prayed for the group. A reception followed the event.

The White Coat Ceremony, started in 1993 at Columbia University Vagelos College of Physicians & Surgeons by Arnold P. Gold, MD, has since become a global tradition. Dr. Gold, a passionate advocate for humanistic health care, believed that the oath taken by new physicians at the end of medical school came too late. Through the nonprofit organization that he and his wife, Dr. Sandra Gold, started, The Arnold P. Gold Foundation has expanded the White Coat Ceremony around the globe, uniting health care professionals in their commitment to compassionate care.

In 2014, recognizing nurses' vital role in the health care team, the Gold Foundation partnered with the American Association of Colleges of Nursing to adopt a similar ceremony for nursing. The Gold Foundation provides support and resources to nursing schools to conduct the White Coat Ceremony, ensuring its successful implementation and continuation.

While it may take different forms at each nursing school, at its core, the ceremony emphasizes the importance of humanistic patient care, which is defined as compassionate, collaborative, and scientifically excellent health care, early in nursing training and professional identity formation.

The Gold Foundation champions the human connection in health care. The foundation engages schools and their students, health systems, companies and individual clinicians in the joy and meaning of humanistic health care so that patients and their families can be partners in collaborative, compassionate and scientifically excellent care.

For more information about the ceremony and the Gold Foundation, visit www.gold-foundation.org.

The BHSU ceremony was sponsored by the Baptist University Student Nurses Association, Dr. Seraphine Lambert and Dr. Cheryl Johnson-Joy, Advisors. Thanks to Dr. Demetric Osborn, Dr. Angie Crow, Professor Marilyn Dillard, Professor Allyson Smith, Dr. Cheryl Scott, Professor William Wood and Jeremy Wilkes for helping with the event.



- Alumni luncheons are scheduled for Baptist Memorial Desoto and Baptist Memorial Memphis
- Allied Health White Coat Ceremony held on September 30



Alumni Luncheon held at Baptist Memorial Women's



Barbara Helms



On Wednesday, August 7, 2024, Baptist Health Sciences University (BHSU) hosted an alumni lunch at Baptist Women's Hospital, bringing together 35 Blue Healers, spanning the graduating classes of 1957 to 2023. The event, designed as a grab-and-go or sit and stay lunch, offered alumni the chance to reconnect with former professors, colleagues and fellow graduates while reflecting on their shared experiences and the evolution of the University.

The gathering was marked by a warm and welcoming atmosphere, with each alumni receiving a t-shirt from the BHSU Alumni Association as a token

of appreciation. Attendees eagerly exchanged stories from their time at the University, reminiscing about the changes in the health care industry, such as the evolution of scrubs attire (see above image of Barbara H. wearing a traditional nurse's cap), and celebrating the enduring bonds formed during their years at BHSU.

Baptist Women's Hospital's leadership team, CEO Allison Bosse, and CNO April Fox also attended the lunch. "We held our first alumni luncheon with BHSU last week and it was gratifying on many levels," stated Bosse. "I especially enjoyed seeing our staff connect with their

former professors and colleagues. The luncheon was very well received, and we look forward to continuing this tradition at Baptist Women's and Children's."

The alumni lunch was more than just a meal—it was a celebration of the powerful sense of the BHSU community and camaraderie. The event highlighted alumni's deep connections with the University and each other, demonstrating the lasting impact of their time at BHSU. As the attendees departed, they carried with them not only their t-shirts but also a renewed sense of belonging to the Blue Healer family.

Stay involved and connected!

Baptist Memorial Schools, Baptist College of Health Sciences or the Baptist Health Sciences University has always been fortunate to have alumni who help promote the University and be active members in the Alumni Association.

If you are a graduate from any of the Baptist Memorial Schools or the Baptist Health Sciences University, we encourage you to get involved with the University.

Email Zac Cox at alumni@BaptistU.edu to get involved.

You can get involved by:

- Becoming a class agent who serves as a liaison between your graduating class and Baptist University.
- Serving on the alumni association board of directors.
- Serving as a regional contact for graduating seniors that are moving into your area.
- Nominating individuals for the annual alumni awards.
- Representing Baptist University at a high school or community college fair in your area.
- Referring potential students to the admissions office.
- Nominating individuals for the annual Distinguished Alumni Award.
- Welcoming new students during orientation or other campus events



Spring 2024 Commencement Ceremony



On April 18, 2024, Baptist Health Sciences University conferred associate and bachelor degrees to 78 graduates in the programs of biomedical sciences, diagnostic medical sonography, health administration, medical radiography, nuclear medicine technology, nursing, pre-health studies, radiation therapy and respiratory care. Commencement was held at Bellevue Baptist Church in Cordova, Tennessee. The following graduation awards were announced during the ceremony:

- Board of Directors Award – Hannah Moody, Health Administration
- Elizabeth Farnell Achievement Award – Kyonna Hubbard, Nursing
- Joseph Powell Award – Ayah Daoud, Biomedical Sciences
- Sarah Ainsworth Award – Athena Bock, Nuclear Medicine Technology
- Dr. Ling H. Lee Achievement Award – Halle Wallace, Medical Radiography
- Dr. John F. Rockett Award – Ann Owen, Nuclear Medicine
- Sigma Theta Tau Award – Ashley Garrison, Nursing





Summer 2024 Commencement Ceremony



On Thursday, August 15, 2024 Baptist Health Sciences University held a summer commencement ceremony at Bellevue Baptist Church, Cordova, Tennessee. President, Dr. Hampton Hopkins, conferred associate and bachelor degrees to 36 graduates in the programs of biomedical sciences, diagnostic medical sonography, health administration, medical radiography, neurodiagnostic technology, nursing, pre-health studies, public health and respiratory care.

The following graduation awards were announced during the ceremony:

- Board of Directors Award – Cedteanna Maybell, Neurodiagnostic Technology
- Elizabeth Farnell Achievement Award – Zaneta Cotton, Nursing
- Joseph Powell Award – Ermya Thompson, Biomedical Sciences
- Sarah Ainsworth Award – Ermya Thompson, Biomedical Sciences
- Sigma Theta Tau Award – Jaren G. Davis, Nursing



Winter 2024 Commencement Ceremony
scheduled for December 12, 2024

Join us at
Millington First Baptist Church at 4 p.m.



BHSU Honors Program

The BHSU Honors Program is a purposeful community of scholars committed to academic excellence and service. In keeping with the University’s mission to teach, preach, and heal, the Honors Program seeks to share “the light of Truth for mind, soul, and body” through four areas: scholarly research & advancement, professional & spiritual enrichment, cultural & social engagement, and service & leadership development. The Honors Program exists to develop scholarly servant leaders.

This fall, we welcomed forty (40) new members for a total of one hundred and fifteen (115) Honors students comprising 14% of the current student population. The Honors Program is a member of the National Collegiate Honors Council. The average programmatic grade point average is 3.55, and 93% of the participants are very satisfied with the Honors experience at BHSU.

The program has several initiatives to support these efforts. The *Led to Lead* initiative helps students learn advanced leadership and professional principles, offers leadership opportunities through the Honors Student Leadership Council and encourages students to engage in leadership opportunities on campus and in the community.

The *Gifted to Give* initiative revolves around three annual fundraisers: in the fall, *Share the Thankfulness*; in the spring, *Share the Love*; and in the summer, *Share the Sunshine*. Students invite those in their spheres of influence to support the Honors Program and the establishment of an Honors scholarship program.

The *Created to Commune* initiative sponsors several social events such as movie nights and Christmas and Spring gatherings and provides regular

opportunities for connecting with our students through monthly Honors Colloquia.

Through the *Honored to Serve* initiative students have volunteered to serve at the Honors-led Chapel services, Student Preview Days, New Student Orientations, *Black Men in White Coats* in April and *Baptist HealthCORE STEM Summer Camp* in June.

The *Scholarship to Share* initiative allows students to present their Honors Capstone Experience research each trimester through the *Honors Forum*. The Spring *Honors Forum* merged with the second annual *Elevate: Student Research Symposium* on March 8, 2024, sponsored by the Honors Program with Baptist University’s honors societies and professional organizations.

The following is the research that has been presented by our five 2024 Honors Program graduates through these events:

Term	Student	Program	HCE Project Title	Faculty Advisor
SP24	Ayah Daoud	Biomedical Sciences	<i>From Diagnosis to Treatment: Investigating Anti-Glomerular Basement Membrane Disease through a Systemic Review</i>	Dr. Koushik Roy
SP24	Janae Davis	Biomedical Sciences	<i>Social Determinants of Cardiovascular Disease: Disparities to Access and Treatment</i>	Dr. Michelle Alexander
SP24	Hannah Moody	Health Administration	<i>Health Administration and Crisis Management: Evaluating Responses to Public Health Crises and Emergencies</i>	Dr. Leah Greene
SU24	Kristen Shaw	Nursing	<i>The Impact of COVID-19 on the Healthcare System</i>	Dr. Christina Hillhouse
SP24	Allison Udell	Nursing	<i>The Impact of Inadequate Health Care on the Homeless Population</i>	Dr. Christina Hillhouse Dr. Cheryl Johnson-Joy

If you or someone you know might be interested in the program, would be able to donate to the ongoing efforts, or if you would like to come share your “honors professional journey” with our current students, please contact Dr. Paul Criss at (901) 572-2525 or email paul.criss@BaptistU.edu.



2023 Alumni Award winners

The 2023 Alumni Award winners along with a description and nomination criteria of each award are listed below. If you know a deserving alumnus, please submit a nomination to alumni@baptistu.edu and/or ATTN: Zac Cox, 1003 Monroe Ave, Memphis, TN 38104. 2024 Alumni Award nomination deadline is January 6, 2025.

- **Distinguished Alumni Award – David Breedlove (nursing, class of 2005)**
- **Service Alumni Award – Damon Mays (nursing, class of 1985)**
- **Young Alumni Award – Calisha Beauregard (medical laboratory science, class of 2013)**

Call for 2024 Alumni Award Nominations

Distinguished Alumni Award

Baptist Health Sciences University is pleased to announce that nominations are now being accepted for the 2024 Distinguished Alumni Award. The award recognizes and honors alumni for distinguished personal and career achievements and for exemplary contributions to society that bring credit to Baptist Health Sciences University. One award is presented each year.

Criteria

1. Recipients must be of such integrity, stature and demonstrated ability that the award reflects positively on Baptist Health Sciences University.
2. Personal achievement through outstanding service to their community.
3. Achievements, patent on a new discovery or an innovation in a new technology.
4. Outstanding contribution to health care.
5. Regional, national or international reputation in the alumnus' field.

If you would like to submit a nomination, please complete the form below and email to alumni@baptistu.edu or mail to Baptist Health Sciences University, Attn: Zac Cox, 1003 Monroe Ave, Memphis, TN 38104. This is an excellent opportunity to recognize our graduates who have had a very positive impact on their profession and their community.

Alumni Service Award

The Alumni Service Award acknowledges significant contributions of time and energy on behalf of the University and the Alumni Board/Association. Award selections will be made by a sub-committee of the Alumni Board of Directors.

Criteria

1. Significant contributions — Recipients have shown dedication to their alma mater over time by volunteering their time to assist in whatever way they feel they can best serve. We acknowledge “significant” as meaning above and beyond the normal commitments. Finally, their dedication has been an inspiration to others.
2. The recipient may be a graduate of the Baptist School of Nursing, any of the Baptist schools and/or Baptist Health Sciences University.
3. Candidates must perform community service in addition to service at the University.
4. Candidates must possess the highest standards of integrity and character that reflect the University’s values.

Selection Process

1. The Alumni office gathers recommendations made by alumni, faculty, staff or other students and passes the recommendations to the awards committee for review.
2. A letter must be submitted indicating the significance of the service rendered to the University by the nominee, along with a detailed list of accomplishments.

Young Alumni Award

The Young Alumni Service Award recognizes a recent graduate (fewer than 10 years) whose early volunteer service for Baptist University sets an example for their peers, helps to keep other young alumni involved and shows promise for continued service and leadership in the future. Qualified candidates will also have made significant strides in their chosen profession.

Nominations can be made by alumni, faculty and staff. The nomination is in the form of a written letter to the Baptist University Alumni Office. Nomination forms for both the Alumni Service and Young Alumni awards are given to the alumni office and forwarded to the awards committee. Awards are granted on an annual basis.

Distinguished Alumni Award 2024

Please address nominations to: Zac Cox, relationship marketing coordinator, Baptist Health Sciences University, 1003 Monroe Ave., Memphis, TN 38104.

Nominated by: _____

Address: _____

Phone number(s): _____

I nominate: _____ Field: _____ Class of: _____

Address: _____

Phone number(s) _____

Reason for nominating the alumnus _____

Information regarding professional career _____

Information on other honors/awards _____

Note: Attach a current resume or biography to this form. You may need to contact the nominee for this information.



Mom Knows Best - A legacy story

Following in your parent's footsteps can be expected, especially when it comes to college decisions. Anthony "AJ" Guinn's (nursing, class of 2024) story is no different but with a Baptist twist. Few can say they followed both their mom's education and career path. AJ grew up watching his mother, Melanie Guinn (nursing, class of 2007), attend nursing school at then-Baptist College of Health Sciences when he was a child. She worked full-time in phlebotomy and was encouraged by her mother-in-law during a hospital stay to go back to school for a nursing degree.

Previously, Melanie worked at The University of Tennessee Health Sciences Center for seven years after earning her medical assistant diploma from Concorde College.

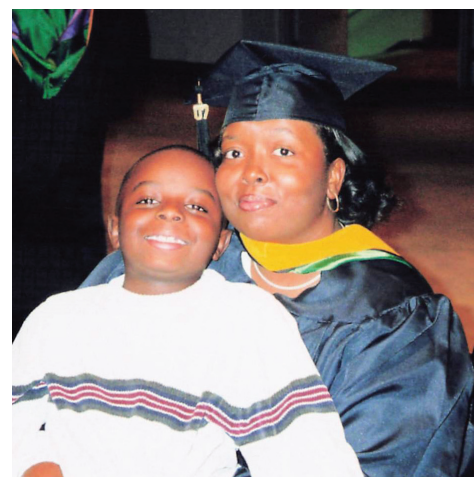
As a Baptist student, Melanie worked full-time to keep a steady income and

health insurance benefits for the family while attending night and weekend classes for nursing. She graduated in 2007 with her Bachelor of Science in nursing degree.

Melanie enjoyed her time at Baptist, making friends that she still speaks with regularly.

"Our Baptist teachers would hold pizza study sessions for us on the weekend," said Melanie.

Fast forward a few years and AJ was graduating from high school, looking



challenges while in school helping them to be better nurses in real practice.

"The scholarship assistance allowed me to focus on my studies, clinical experiences, and extracurricular involvement without undue financial stress."

– AJ Guinn

"I encouraged AJ when he needed a boost," said Melanie. "He came home from school talking about classes and teachers and asking me for insight since some of our teachers were the same!"

AJ graduated with his Bachelor of Science in

nursing on August 15, 2024. He was involved on campus as a student, serving on the Student Government Association as VP of Community Service. He was also a strong student and a scholarship recipient of the Legacy of Community Service Scholarship.

"The scholarship assistance allowed me to focus on my studies, clinical experiences and extracurricular involvement without undue financial stress," said AJ.

AJ has plans to apply for certified registered nurse anesthetist school. He wants to work in pediatric care and enjoys acting as a facilitator with parents and kids.

AJ has a picture with his mom at her 2007 graduation from nursing school and now he has a recreation of the photo at his 2024 graduation.

to pursue a medical career. He applied to Baptist Health Sciences University with the intent to graduate with a bachelor's in nursing.

"I told him to get a degree in surgery technology before jumping into nursing," said Melanie.

AJ did not agree with that approach. Instead, he applied directly to the nursing program.

"I saw my mom earn her nursing degree, all without the support she gives me," said AJ. "If she could do it, I knew I could do it."

Nursing school is not for the faint of heart. Graduates talk about their

The Rule of Three: Baptist Health Sciences University's Inauguration of Hampton Hopkins, Ed.D.

Baptist Health Sciences University hosted a presidential inauguration for T. Hampton Hopkins, Ed.D., on Friday, March 22, 2024 at the Frank S. Groner auditorium on the University's campus. He is the third president since the school started offering a four-year baccalaureate program in 1994.

"Being selected as the third president of Baptist Health Sciences University was a great honor," said President Hopkins. "I am grateful to everyone who had a role in welcoming me to BHSU and celebrating with me today."

I look forward to contributing my professional experience and personal convictions to further the mission of BHSU and helping prepare the next generation of health care professionals to lead and serve."

The week before the inauguration was filled with various events, including an inauguration chapel, a chili chow cookoff, a polar plunge and Dr. Hopkins serving as the Peabody Hotel Duckmaster.

Inauguration Chapel

The University community gathered in the Groner Auditorium on March 18 for the Inaugural Chapel. The "Pathways of Blessings" event allowed everyone to pray for Dr. Hopkins and his wife, Olivia, and brought a spirit of togetherness among the students, faculty, and staff of the University.

Chili Chow Cookoff

The next day, March 19, the University hosted an exciting chili cookoff where eleven teams, comprising of faculty, staff, and students, competed. The judges scored the dishes based on various criteria, including booth decorations, visual appearance, aroma, taste, spice/zip and heartiness, showcasing the creativity and diversity of the BHSU community.



Polar Plunge

The BHSU community came together on March 20 for the polar plunge event. 12 faculty and staff members joined Dr. Hopkins in a polar plunge dive at the Campus Hub pool to raise funds for a charity chosen by Dr. Hopkins. The BHSU community donated money to vote for which individual they wanted to see plunge into the water. For two weeks, students, faculty and staff eagerly awaited and donated for their favorite or least favorite person to jump into the freezing water, with WANTED posters plastered all over the campus. On the day of the event, a decree was issued that all participants must jump into the pool, raising funds for the determined charity.



Peabody Hotel DuckMaster

On March 21, the Peabody Hotel in Downtown Memphis bestowed Dr. Hopkins with the honor of leading the ducks to the Lobby Fountain from their rooftop cage at 11 a.m. The hotel guests, including the BHSU community, gathered in the lobby, eagerly awaiting the celebrated march of the ducks. With the official duckmaster cane in hand, Dr. Hopkins guided the ducks through the hotel's hallways, leaving a trail of awe-struck guests in their wake. The event was a delightful spectacle that left a lasting impression on everyone who witnessed it.



Inauguration Ceremony

Julia Pilgrim, pianist at Second Baptist Church in Memphis, provided music throughout the ceremony. Chaplain Karen Smith, director of Faith and Service, delivered the invocation.

BHSU Board of Directors Chair Beverly Jordan (nursing, class of 1977) welcomed guests. Allysen Lancaster, BHSU student, offered a scripture reading from Luke 12:48.

The following speakers provided greetings to President Hopkins: Chair of BHSU Alumni Association Heidi Hordyk (nuclear medicine, class of 1999), Faculty Senate President Lilian Nyindodo, Vice President of Administrative Services Adonna Caldwell, Student Government Association President Shania Fields (surgical technology, class of 2024) and Baptist Memorial Health Care President and CEO Jason Little.

During the installation of the president, the school's most recent president, Betty Sue McGarvey (nursing, class of 1978), presented the academic mace and BHSU Board of Directors Chair Beverly Jordan (nursing, class of 1977) offered the president's medallion.

"I was thrilled to help officially welcome Hampton Hopkins as president of

Baptist Health Sciences University," said Beverly. "An inauguration is such a special ceremony steeped in history and academic excellence. I look forward to working closely with President Hopkins and supporting his efforts to advance BHSU's footprint and academic excellence."



President Hopkins took the podium and delivered his inaugural speech to a crowd of 250 in attendance. His speech centered around the theme of the omne trium perfectum—the rule of three. Being the third president to serve at Baptist University, Hopkins discussed not only the symbolism but also the practical concept of the rule of three and how it will serve as his foundation.

"Three areas of focus must guide us on the journey as we look to the future

of BHSU," says Hopkins. "We must be creative and innovative. We must lead with renewed vision and values. We must seek to be different from our competition."

Throughout his address, he spoke about what that looks like for the University, and the importance of embracing change and adapting to new challenges. President Emeritus Dr. Rose Y. Temple attended the event as a special guest, adding to the sense of community and continuity at BHSU.

Dean of Nursing Cathy Stepter (nursing, class of 1992) sang the school's alma mater by Ray D. Hatton. Taylor Erb, BHSU student, offered the benediction, Psalm 25:4-5.

The week-long celebration leading up to the inauguration of Dr. Hampton Hopkins as the new president of Baptist Health Sciences University was a memorable experience for the University community. The various events showcased the creativity and diversity of the BHSU community, and the inauguration ceremony was a grand affair that marked the beginning of a new era for the University. We wish Dr. Hopkins all the best in his new role as the president of Baptist Health Sciences University.

Why is Giving Back Important?

It's important to recognize the significance of giving back to Baptist Health Sciences University. By giving to the University, you help create scholarships, community spaces, events, educational opportunities, housing, dining and unique activities for students to explore their interests. The generosity of alumni and other donors enables us to provide these resources, which are essential for the development of the next generation of health care providers. Baptist University funding, especially alumni contributions, plays a vital role in making these programs, resources, and activities available to students.

Dominique Crutchfield (health administration, class of 2015) shares her heartfelt reasons for generously giving back to her alma mater.

"As I reflect on my journey since graduating from Baptist Health Sciences University, I find myself filled with a deep sense of gratitude. My time at the University was not just a period of academic growth but a transformative experience that shaped the person I am today. The education I received, the lifelong friendships I forged, and the opportunities for personal development were all integral parts of my journey.

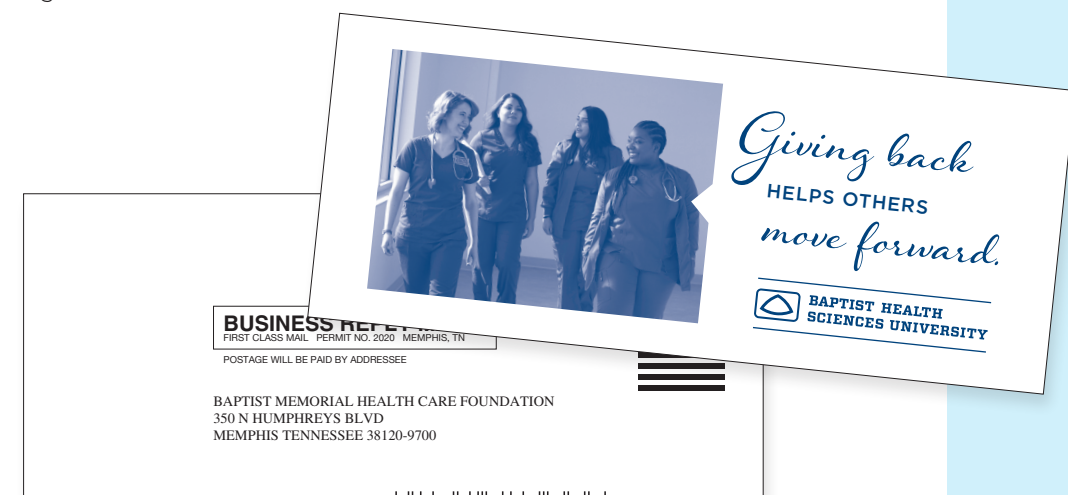
Now, as an alumnus, I take great pride in giving back to the university that gave me so much. Giving back allows me to contribute to something larger than myself. Supporting the University's initiatives—whether it's through scholarships, research funding, or campus improvements—means I'm playing a role in shaping the future of healthcare. I'm helping to create an environment where innovation can thrive, where students can discover their passions, and where the University can continue to lead in its fields."

Just like Dominique, you have the chance to make a positive impact in the lives of many. We encourage you to use the donation envelope enclosed to make a tax-deductible gift to Baptist University this year. You can also visit baptistu.edu/giving or contact Sherita Martin at 901-572-2773 to contribute by credit card. Remember, donations regardless of the size can make a significant difference.



"As I reflect on my journey since graduating from Baptist Health Sciences University, I find myself filled with a deep sense of gratitude. My time at the university was not just a period of academic growth but a transformative experience that shaped the person I am today. The education I received, the lifelong friendships I forged, and the opportunities for personal development were all integral parts of my journey."

— Dominique Crutchfield
(health administration, class of 2015)





Baptist Foundation Thanks You

The Baptist Health Sciences University and the Baptist Memorial Health Care Foundation wish to thank the following alumni and friends for their generous support from January –August 2024. These gifts allow us to offer student scholarships and awards in addition to enhancing our instructional activities. With your gifts, our students can fulfill their callings.

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Beverly Jordan*
Phyllis Gates*
Sandy Arevalos*

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Janet Allinder
Sidney Alton*
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Kira Anderson*
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Stern Cardiovascular Foundation

*BaptistU graduate



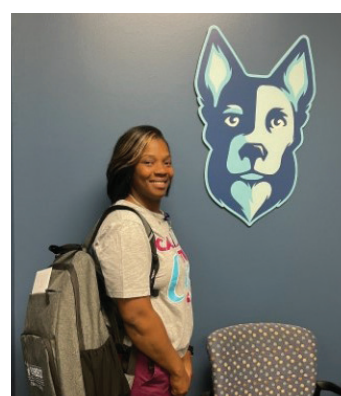
Donate

We hope you will consider using the enclosed donation envelope to make a tax-deductible gift to Baptist University **to support our mission of healing, preaching and teaching.** If you would like to make a donation with a credit card, please call **Sherita Martin at 901-572-2773.** Remember, a small amount can make a big difference.

Thank you Truist

We would like to give a special thanks to Truist Bank for supporting our Blessings Bag Initiative at Baptist Health Sciences University. Because of their support, we were able to provide eight blessing bags for the Summer 2024 trimester.

If you would like to support this effort, please visit www.baptistu.edu/giving. You may also contact Sherita Martin at **Sherita.Martin@baptistu.edu** or **901-572-2773.**



CONGRATULATIONS

Keep your fellow classmates updated! Email your professional and life updates to alumni@BaptistU.edu to be featured in the "Class Notes".

BIOMEDICAL SCIENCES

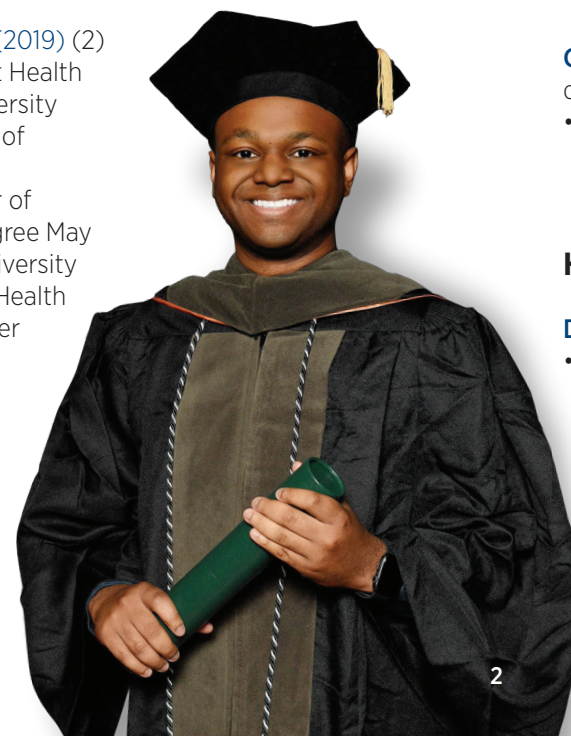
Isaac Lies (2019) (1)

Earned doctor of medicine degree May 2024 from University of Tennessee Health Sciences Center and started residency in General Surgery at University of Tennessee Chattanooga, Erlanger Hospital



Charles Brown (2019) (2)

- Joined Baptist Health Sciences University Alumni Board of Directors
- Earned doctor of pharmacy degree May 2024 from University of Tennessee Health Sciences Center



Firas Quran (2018)

- Completed PGY-2 pharmacy residency in Thrombosis and Hemostasis Management
- Passed Multistate Pharmacy Jurisprudence Examination to be a licensed pharmacist in New York.

DIAGNOSTIC MEDICAL SONOGRAPHY

Katie Cody (2009) diagnostic medical sonography instructor

- Served as a virtual site visitor for the Joint Review Committee of Education in Diagnostic Medical Sonography
- Served as a manuscript reviewer for the Journal of Diagnostic Medical Sonography
- Serving as an item reviewer for the American Registry for Diagnostic Medical Sonography's Maintenance of Certification Task Force

Abby Kurtz (2007) associate professor of diagnostic medical sonography

- Earned doctor of philosophy in educational psychology and research with a graduate certificate in qualitative research in education from the University of Memphis, May 2024; Dissertation: Caring, Teaching, Connecting, Learning: Phenomenological Insights Into the Teacher-Student Relationship in Sonography Education
- Promotion in rank to associate professor of diagnostic medical sonography at Baptist Health Sciences University
- Recipient of the Outstanding Graduate Student in Education Psychology Award, University of Memphis, April 2023

Connie Willis (2004) chair and assistant professor of diagnostic medical sonography

- Serving as Chair on Joint Review Committee on Education in Diagnostic Medical Sonography Board of Directors, October 2023 - present

HEALTH ADMINISTRATION

Dominique Crutchfield (2015)

- Elected as Chair-Elect of the Baptist Health Sciences University Alumni Board of Directors



CONGRATULATIONS

MEDICAL LABORATORY SCIENCE

Calisha Beauregard (2013) adjunct faculty of medical laboratory science

- Received the 2023 Young Alumni Award
- Working as lead medical technologist IV at Methodist LeBonheur

Natasha Bush (2014)

Working as lead tech in chemistry lab at Baptist Memorial Hospital-Memphis

Chandra Ellerson (2017)

Working as application analyst at Lab Connect LLC in Johnson City, TN

Sherita Granderson (2015)

- Working as lab supervisor at Baptist Memorial Hospital-Women's
- Teaching as adjunct professor in medical laboratory science program at Baptist Health Sciences University

Nicole Matthews Meeks (2018)

Working as lead tech in hematology lab at Baptist Memorial Hospital-Memphis

Kimberly Loren Atkins Reynolds (2013)

Earned a doctorate degree from Mississippi State University

Jonathan Rodgers (2013)

Working as lead tech in blood bank at Baptist Memorial Hospital-North Mississippi

Amber Toles (2018)

Accepted role of Medical Education Specialist with Baptist University College of Osteopathic Medicine

MEDICAL RADIOGRAPHY

Christen Cloud (2024)

- Served on April 2024 Peru medical mission trip team

Paige Putnam (2022)

- Honored as Overall Top Clinical Instructor by Baptist Health Sciences University medical radiography students

Dr. Mitzi Roberts (1993, medical radiography; 1994 diagnostic medical sonography) director of planning & institutional effectiveness

- Presented "Let the Patient Be Your Guide" at the Society of Diagnostic Medical Sonography Annual Conference in National Harbor, MD.
- Presented "Scope of Practice" at the Emerging Leaders Program in Plano, TX.
- Served on the Consensus Committee on the Future for Medical Imaging and Radiation Therapy. The committee met to discuss workforce needs, workforce retention, future needs in clinical practice, and future needs in education. The committee consisted of managers, clinical practice personnel, educators, program accreditation agencies, and credentialing agencies representing various medical professions from across the country. The event was held on February 18-20 in Albuquerque, NM.
- Served on the Maternal Fetal Medicine Sonographer Certification Taskforce maternal-fetal physicians, sonographers and other health care team members on February 12-14 in Washington, DC. The taskforce looked at specialty needs related to certification, education, and training of health care team members in maternal fetal medicine. Local physicians and clinical site affiliates were present at the meeting.
- Served as an organizational representative on the Sonography World Collaboration Team: Canada, Australia, United Kingdom, and United States. The team identified methods to share educational materials across the world for specific pathological conditions.
- Attended the American Institute of Ultrasound in Medicine physicians conference In April 2024. Dr. Roberts met with representatives to discuss shortages in healthcare workforce, musculoskeletal injuries for health care workers including national database collection, legislative changes related to state licensures for health care workers (specially DC, PA, and NH), and new certifications being requested by physicians for advanced practice work in the allied health professions. She also visited a SACSCOC institution, Austin Community College.

Debra Smith (2006) medical radiography assistant professor

- Serving as secretary for the Baptist Health Sciences University Alumni Board of Directors
- Served as site visitor for the Joint Review Committee on Education in Radiologic Technology (JRCERT).
- Member, Tennessee Health Science Advisory Council, Memphis, TN, October 2023 - present
- Chairman, Board for Tennessee Society of Radiologic Technologists, October 2023 - present

CONGRATULATIONS

NEURODIAGNOSTIC TECHNOLOGY

Mallory Weichel (2023) neurodiagnostic technology instructor

- Joined Baptist Health Sciences University Alumni Board of Directors

NUCLEAR MEDICINE TECHNOLOGY

Athena Bock (2024)

Received 2nd place for her poster presentation entitled, "Should the Antecubital Fossa be Used When Determining Thyroid Uptake Values?" at the 2024 Nuclear Medicine Technologists of Tennessee Annual Meeting held in Memphis, Tennessee, March 15-17, 2024.

Zac Cox (2011) relationship marketing coordinator

- Serving as a mentor with the Memphis Grizzlies Team Mentor program, 2014 - present
- Serving as American Advertising Federation Memphis board member, 2023 - present
- Served as a mentor for New Memphis Embark speed mentoring event on April 16

Cedric Jones (2024)

- Served on April 2024 Peru medical mission trip team
- Placed 3rd in the oral presentation competition at the 2024 Nuclear Medicine Technologists of Tennessee Annual Meeting held in Memphis, Tennessee, March 15-17, 2024. His research presentation was entitled, "The Effect of Abnormal Kidney Function on Standard Uptake Values in PET Imaging."

David Knight (2002)

- Currently working as a medical physicist with Landauer Medical Physics
- Presented "DOT Hazmat Training" at the Nuclear Medicine Technologists of Tennessee 2024 annual meeting in Memphis, TN

Russ Landers (1996)

- Lives and works on the western slope of Colorado.
- Currently working for Diagnostic Imaging Services of Idaho imaging patients for a cardiology office and three hospitals in Colorado and Wyoming.

Dr. Donna Mars (1996) chair & associate professor of nuclear medicine technology

- Presented "Clinical Significance to a Clinical History Prior to MPI Imaging" at the Nuclear Medicine Technologists of Tennessee 2024 annual meeting in Memphis, TN.

Nakisha Parker (2011)

- Currently working as the lead technologist at Methodist Hospital North in Memphis, TN
- Presented "The Importance of Clinical Competence in Healthcare" at the Nuclear Medicine Technologists of Tennessee 2024 annual meeting in Memphis, TN.

Carmen Rowland (2001)

- Currently working at RLS Nuclear Pharmacy in Cordova, TN
- Serving as 2024 President of the Nuclear Medicine Technologists of Tennessee (NMTT)

Stephanie Sain (2011)

- Currently working as the nuclear medicine supervisor at Stern Cardiovascular Center
- Presented "Rhythm Nation" at the Nuclear Medicine Technologists of Tennessee 2024 annual meeting in Memphis, TN

Hartwell Strain (2005)

- Presented "History of PET Imaging for Prostate" with Dr. Allen Ardestani at Nuclear Medicine Technologists of Tennessee 2024 annual meeting in Memphis, TN.
- Currently working as the director of imaging at West Cancer Center in Memphis, TN.
- Earned master of science in health administration from University of Alabama at Birmingham

Kimberly Rohling Williams (2009)

Welcomed baby, Ava Claire Williams, on March 13, 2024

Mikhaela' Williams (2017)

Currently working at Baptist Memorial Hospital-Booneville

NURSING

Everette Bryant (2013)

Welcomed baby, Aurora Kait Bryant, on March 22, 2024

Angie Crow (2009) assistant professor

- Joined Baptist Health Sciences University Alumni Board of Directors
- Member, Safe Kids Mid-South Committee, 2023
- Member, Professional Mississippi Nurses Association's Advanced Practice Committee, 2023

Shannon Davenport (1995) assistant professor of nursing

Served on April 2024 Peru medical mission trip team

Kirby Durdin (2024)

Served on April 2024 Peru medical mission trip team





CONGRATULATIONS

Taylor Hardy and Lindsay Barton Hardy (2013)

- Both graduated from University of Tennessee Acute Care Doctor of Nursing Practice in 2018
- Taylor is currently working for Baptist Medical Group Cardiovascular and Thoracic Surgery
- Lindsay is currently working for Baptist Memorial Hospital - Memphis.
- Welcomed baby, Mila Hardy, on February 27, 2024

Shelby Hiller Hodges (2018)

Welcomed baby, Brayden Ryne Hodges, on March 14, 2024

Ashley Wilson Mills (2019)

Joined Baptist Health Sciences University Alumni Board of Directors

Tori Martinez O'Neill (2012)

Welcomed baby, Killian Thomas, to the family in March 2024

Lauren Martin Ross (2020) (3)

Lauren and her husband, Frank, welcomed a baby boy, Beau Everett Ross, born August 6

Mariah Salim (2016) assistant professor of nursing
Hired as full-time assistant professor of nursing at Baptist Health Sciences University

Nicki Thompson Staples (2009)

Promoted to system nursing director of nursing professional development at Baptist Memorial Health Care



POPULATION/PUBLIC HEALTH

Deonna Madden (2020)

Appointed to lead Health Equity Committee at Baptist Desoto.

Jamecia Richardson (2020) (4)

- Earned master of public health August 2024 with a 4.0 GPA from The University of Memphis. (photo: Jamecia R. Memphis Grad)
- Joined Baptist Health Sciences University Alumni Board of Directors
- Currently working as the coordinator of experiential learning and career services at The University of Memphis



RADIATION THERAPY

Lauren Brown (2017) radiation therapy instructor

- Earned master of health sciences in human biology from Liberty University in December 2023

Breanna Byrd Romich (2010)

- Breanna and her husband, Craig, welcomed a baby girl, Lettie Lynn Romich, born August 15

Kourtney Horner Newsom (2019) (5)

Kourtney and her husband, Clark, welcomed a baby boy, Drew Barrett Newsom, born June 22



RESPIRATORY CARE

Kira Anderson (2003) program chair and assistant professor respiratory care

- Received the 2024 Outstanding Statewide Contributor Award during the Tennessee Society for Respiratory Care Meeting held April 8-9, 2024 at Whispering Woods Conference Center in Olive Branch, Mississippi.
- Currently serving as a member of the Tennessee Board for Respiratory Care, Tennessee Department of Health
- Currently serving as Chair of the Instructional Resources Committee, Baptist Health Sciences University Faculty Senate
- Presented "Strategies for Developing & Stress Management among Respiratory Care Students" at the Tennessee Society for Respiratory Care Convention and Exhibition, West Tennessee Chapter in Memphis, TN.

SURGICAL TECHNOLOGY

Aaliyah Mitchell (2024)

Served on April 2024 Peru medical mission trip team

IN MEMORIAM

Norma Allen (1950, Nursing)

Teresa "Terry" Stewart Beaty (1976, Nursing) passed away January 3, 2024.

Betty "Gail" Brown (1986, Nursing) passed away February 29, 2024.

Martha Francis "Fran" Byers-Mills (1974, Nursing) passed away January 26, 2024.

Lynda Rhea Collier (1965, Nursing) passed away August 16, 2024.

David Dees, Jr. (1986, Nursing) passed away January 31, 2024.

Janet Heath (BHSU Faculty) passed away March 27, 2024.

Gail Robbins McGraw (1970, Nursing) passed away June 15 2024.

Laura Raley Schwartz (1955, Nursing) passed away March 22, 2024.

Laura E. O'Neal Snider (2002, Medical Radiography) passed away April 12, 2024.



Know a future Blue Healer?

Do you know a potential Baptist student? Send their name, contact information, and interested major to alumni@baptistu.edu. One of our excellent admissions team members will reach out to them to answer any questions and help start their calling to Baptist.

WANT TO BE IN THE NEXT ISSUE OF ALUMNI NEWS?

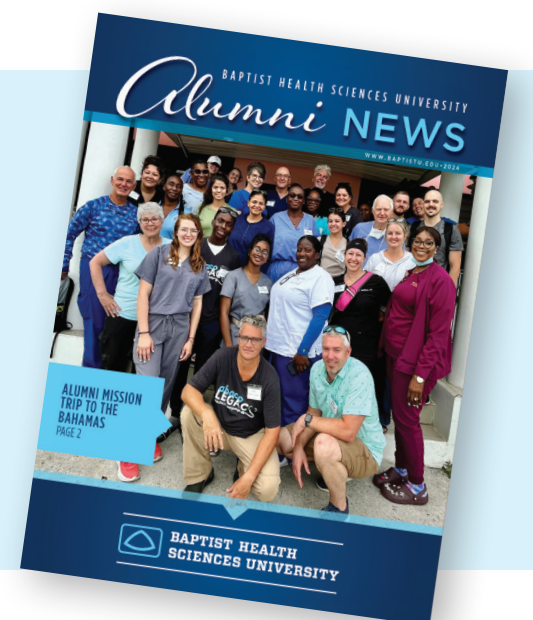
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27	28	29	30			

*Alumni
Spring Reunion*

APRIL 12, 2025

More information forthcoming via email.

Email alumni@BaptistU.edu to update your contact information.



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