

# BAPTIST HEALTH SCIENCES UNIVERSITY *Alumni* NEWS

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**BAPTIST HEALTH  
SCIENCES UNIVERSITY**



## President's CORNER

Dear friends and fellow alumni,

I write this letter during one of my favorite times of the year - fall. Living near Shelby Forrest State Park, I have access to roads and hiking trails that are lined with gorgeous trees that range from brilliant red to vibrant yellows during this time of year. It was windy on my drive yesterday, and the different colored leaves made it seem almost magical as the sunlight filtered through them. I enjoy living in an area of the country where I can experience the four different seasons, all of which include favorite aspects for me. Nature reminds us through its seasons that change is a constant for us.

We also go through seasons in our own lives, and I will be embarking on a new season in my life in 2023. I have shared with the University's Board of Directors and colleagues on campus of my intent to retire June 30, 2023. This was a difficult decision after much thought, prayer and discussion with my husband, Ken, and others. The Board of Directors hired WittKieffer, a respected higher education and medical recruiting firm, to conduct a national search. I am very confident that the Board of Directors will choose a remarkable leader who will lead the University in even greater accomplishments. I commit to working diligently on a smooth transition this next year. The University has many exciting initiatives underway, guided by our strategic plan, Strengthening Impact, and you will read about some of those updates in this issue.

It does not seem possible that I arrived as a freshman to Baptist Memorial Hospital School of Nursing approximately 48 years ago. I still recall the first day of orientation and how uncertain I felt about everything. Nevertheless, classmates became new friends quickly, and I will forever love and cherish all of you who shared in that wonderful, but challenging, learning experience. Each one of you helped me grow by your encouragement, wise counsel and enduring friendships; you are forever in my heart.

The opportunity to lead Baptist Health Sciences University for 18 years as President has been a labor of love and an extraordinary blessing. I have witnessed the Lord's grace and faithfulness to His promises repeatedly. I am grateful to the remarkable faculty, staff and leadership team I have the privilege of serving alongside daily. I am in awe of the transformational work they do every day to serve and develop our students into future health care professionals.

To our treasured alumni, your service, compassion and skill continue to inspire me and all those in need of your healing touch. I am honored to be counted as one among you. You are the shining light that carries forth the tradition of excellence begun in 1912.

I am excited to see what this next season holds for me, and my heart will remain a Baptist University Blue Healer forever.

With much love and admiration,

Betty Sue McGarvey, Ph.D., RN  
President

BAPTIST HEALTH SCIENCES UNIVERSITY


# Alumni NEWS 2022

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Alumni NEWS

is sponsored in part by the Baptist Memorial Health Care Foundation.

## Letter from Alumni Board President, Damon Mays, Nursing, Class of 1985



I grew up on a farm in a very rural community in West Tennessee. As a young child, I was around all kinds of farm animals, chickens, ducks, and geese. Unfortunately, by the time I was in high school, I developed a pretty severe case of Histoplasmosis that had settled in my lungs. As a junior in high school, I was hospitalized for several weeks as the disease had progressed to the point I was experiencing acute respiratory distress and required infusions of antifungal medications. This experience changed my life. Experiencing the cooperation of the health care team opened my eyes to a new career choice and before you know it I was enrolled and began my journey at what was then called the Baptist Memorial Hospital School of Nursing as a student in the diploma program.

I believe the education I received prepared me to work in any hospital, in any location and I have never forgotten the friends and relationships that were forged during those years of study. I'm sure many of you share the same memories of your time at Baptist and cherish the long-term relationships you have with classmates that are as strong today as they were back then. One of the things I love the most about the Baptist Alumni Association is having the opportunity to reconnect with those friends and how it feels like it was just yesterday when we were there, learning and growing together.

While there may have been many changes since you were a student on the campus, the core goals remain the same, to provide a "Higher Education with a Higher Purpose" through programs grounded in Christian principles, building on the legacy of education that started back in 1912! The Baptist Health Sciences University is still getting the job done and doing it well, and you can be proud of the job that the team at the University is doing every day to prepare health care professionals to enter a challenging career in health care.

I am very proud to represent you to our University as the President of the Alumni Association and I would love for you to join me in representing your class by participating in Alumni events throughout the year. There are many opportunities to volunteer and most require just a small commitment of your time. If you can participate in this way, please reach out as there is something for everyone. I am confident you will enjoy this time, creating new memories with friends from your time at Baptist as well as from new relationships you make along the way. You can also always help support the University financially if you feel led to do so. Your contributions can be the reason a young student is able to remain enrolled in the program. This coming spring, I will be passing the Presidential/Chair torch to Heidi Hordyk (1999, Nuclear Medicine) and I know Heidi feels just as strongly as we both know how being an active member in the association has provided enjoyment for us both.

I do hope to see you at an alumni event in the future, I know you will enjoy your time!

*Damon Mays*

Damon Mays, BSN RN  
Nursing '85  
Alumni Board of Directors President  
Baptist Health Sciences University



## It Has Been an Honor and a Privilege

Baptist Health Sciences University President Betty Sue McGarvey, Ph.D., R.N. recently announced her summer 2023 retirement to colleagues and students. After 48 years as a student, nurse, professor

She has witnessed many changes at Baptist since she began working as a nursing assistant during nursing school. Baptist Memorial Health Care has had five leaders in its 110-year history and Dr. McGarvey has worked or studied under four of them; Dr. Frank Groner who served as system administrator from 1946-1980, Joseph Powell who led from 1980-1994, Stephen C. Reynolds, who served as system administrator from 1994-2014, and now Jason Little who has led Baptist Memorial Health Care since 2014.

Dr. McGarvey earned additional degrees during her tenure at Baptist including a Master of Science in Nursing in 1990 and a Doctorate in Philosophy of Nursing in 2002.

Several positions and years later, Dr. McGarvey assumed the role of President when Dr. Rose Y Temple retired in June 2005.

“Dr. Temple was an important mentor to me,” said Dr. McGarvey. “She encouraged me professionally and personally; I learned a lot from her outstanding example of leadership.”

In the last 18 years, a lot has happened; the then College started

offering doctorate level programs and became Baptist Health Sciences University in 2020. The use of technology in both learning and the health care field has transformed the way education and health care are provided.

“Our student body has changed to reflect the communities we serve,” said Dr.

McGarvey, “and many of our students have had some college or are second career students seeking additional degrees.”

The University has expanded its footprint in both student recruitment and clinical education opportunities as the Baptist Memorial Health Care system has expanded its reach to 22 hospitals across Tennessee, Mississippi and Arkansas over the years.

“I have had some incredible mentors through the years,” said Dr. McGarvey. “And one of them reminded me often that leadership is about relationships. He affirmed for me that connections with others is the key ingredient with people you work with internally and externally.

and accomplished leader, Dr. McGarvey is stepping down from her decades of professional service to the University.

Dr. McGarvey began her journey graduating with a nursing diploma from then Baptist Memorial School of Nursing in 1978. “It was kind of a fluke that I ended up in nursing school as a student to start with,” said Dr. McGarvey. “I just knew I wanted a meaningful career.”

She worked in several units at the Baptist Medical Center including emergency department and cardiac while also earning a Bachelor of Science in Nursing from then Memphis State University.

“I loved working at the bedside,” said Dr. McGarvey. “I enjoyed caring for and interacting with patients and their families and working with so many different professionals in the hospital.”

One of her nursing roles was as the staff development instructor for the emergency department and that is where she realized how much she enjoyed teaching and education. Starting in 1993, she moved to full-time teaching at then Baptist Memorial School of Nursing.

“I did not realize when I went to the School of Nursing that they were beginning to consider moving to a collegiate model. I was blessed to be a part of the founding planning committee who worked on the transition to Baptist Memorial College of Health Sciences,” says Dr. McGarvey.

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**“Keep what you do something personal, invest in what you’re doing and the people you are serving.”**

**– Dr. Betty Sue McGarvey**

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Dr. McGarvey is proud that alumni are well represented within BMHCC and at the University. Many professors and staff are alumni from the University and worked in the Baptist system before returning to share their expertise and wisdom with future health care professionals. "It is always an honor to welcome alumni back to the University to serve and teach the next generation of students," explained Dr. McGarvey.

Dr. McGarvey has always been a visionary. The University was recently awarded candidacy status for a proposed college of osteopathic medicine to help educate and train doctors of osteopathic medicine, to help serve our community's medical needs.

"It has been an honor to work alongside Dr. McGarvey," said Zach Chandler, executive vice president and chief strategy officer at Baptist Memorial Health Care. "Her visionary leadership is demonstrated in the University's transition in 2020, offering graduate and doctorate level degrees, not to mention the proposed college of osteopathic medicine that we hope to open in 2024. We've relied on BHSU to educate health care providers to our communities for more than a century, almost a quarter of that under the presidential leadership of Dr. McGarvey."

Dr. McGarvey is well-respected by her peers, students, Baptist Memorial Health Care leadership and her board of directors.

"Dr. McGarvey is very goal oriented," said Anita Vaughn, former CEO and administrator of Baptist Memorial Hospital for Women and Spence and Becky Wilson Baptist Children's Hospital who has been on the University board of directors since she retired in 2016.

Anita served on the search committee when Dr. McGarvey was hired as president of the then College.

"Wow did we luck into Dr. McGarvey," said Anita of that time. "The Lord really opened doors for us and what a wonderful thing. It has been the ultimate pleasure to work with her and towards the goals she has set."

Dr. McGarvey is also grateful for the leaders who have supported her over the years. "I am forever grateful for their ability to lead while never losing sight of the Baptist mission of healing, preaching and teaching," she said. "Baptist has been a wonderful place to work and grow."

When asked for her advice for students, Dr. McGarvey said she encourages them to connect daily with their passion for their work and remember what excited them about their vocation in the beginning.

"Keep what you do something personal, invest in what you're doing and the people you are serving," said Dr. McGarvey. "As long as you continue to do that, you'll grow and be successful."

In her next big role of retirement, Dr. McGarvey plans to spend time with her husband and their family, and do some traveling.

"The years have flown by; I look back and think 'how did that happen?,' she said. "But I will be a Baptist Blue Healer for life!"





## Dr. Cathy Stepter, 1992 Nursing Alumna, recently named Dean for the Division of Nursing for Baptist Health Sciences University

Dr. Cathy Stepter is a 1992 graduate of the Baptist School of Nursing diploma program. She has gone on to earn several more degrees; Bachelor of Science in nursing from Union University in 1995, Master of Science in nursing, adult health clinical nurse specialist from Arkansas State University in 2001, a Doctorate in Nursing Practice from Georgia Southern University in 2012 and a post master's certificate in adult-gerontology from Vanderbilt University School of Nursing. She is licensed as an advanced practice nurse in Tennessee and Mississippi. Dr. Stepter was recently named Dean for the Division of Nursing at Baptist Health Sciences University.

Dr. Stepter most recently oversaw the development and creation of the Doctor of Nursing program at Baptist Health Sciences University in 2018, serving as the inaugural program chair. Dr. Stepter has also served as Assistant Professor, Associate Professor, and Professor of Nursing. She also worked as a registered nurse in the Baptist Memorial Health Care system from 1992 until 2009 when she began teaching full time.

In her new role, she will continue to grow enrollment in the traditional BSN, RN-BSN completion, and DNP programs to help meet the health care needs of our communities.

Dr. Stepter is a fellow in the American Association of Colleges of Nursing 2021 Elevating Leaders in Academic Nursing. Through her work, she secured grant funding for a student mentoring program and helped establish a clinical nurse residency program.

Dr. Anne Plumb, Dean Emeritus, BHSU Division of Nursing, said this about Dr. Stepter assuming the role of Dean, "Dr. Stepter's 18 years teaching in the Baptist system, in addition to her leadership role as Doctor of Nursing practice program chair and professor, as well as starting and overseeing the DNP program at the Baptist University have prepared her for this new role. I know she will serve the University, our students, our professors and our community well."



**"I know she will serve the University, our students, our professors and our community well."**

**– Dr. Anne Plumb**

*Dean Emeritus*

*BHSU Division of Nursing*





## Dr. Marcy Purnell named new Doctor of Nursing Practice Program Chair

Marcy Purnell, Ph.D., APN, FNP-C, was recently named the new Doctor of Nursing Practice Program Chair, in August 2022. She has an extensive history in both nursing practicum and education.

Most recently, Purnell served as an endowed chair of nursing for Louisiana State University Health Science Center, a position she held for two years. Before that, she served as Visiting Faculty in the School of Leadership and Advanced Nursing Practice at The University of Southern Mississippi. In fact, she has held teaching and faculty positions across the country since 1991.

Purnell has worked as a nurse practitioner in primary care clinics and at Stern Cardiovascular Clinic.

To say her love of nursing and education runs deep is an understatement.

"I knew I wanted to be a nurse from age six," said Purnell.

She earned a Bachelor of Science in nursing from University of Tennessee in 1986, at a time when many of her nursing colleagues were earning associate degrees and certificates, not bachelor's degrees. When her four children got a bit older, Purnell decided to go back to school to earn a Master of Science in nursing, a family nurse practitioner certification and a Ph.D. Purnell promotes the idea of nurses earning advanced degrees, like she has, especially as the nursing field has changed over the last 35 years.

"As advanced practice nurses, we are able to provide a different level of support, a continuity of care for parents, to assist doctors and floor nurses and help fill the gap," explained Purnell. "This was especially key when the COVID-19 pandemic first hit, we were able to help fill those roles when demands were even greater in acute and ambulatory care settings."

Purnell believes that the advance practice role of nurses is starting to become a standard across the industry, helping to grow the profession and improve patient care standards.

Purnell also enjoys that Baptist Health Sciences University is a spiritual environment because God is so important to the role of nurses.

"I encourage prospective students to reach out if they're interested in continuing their education," said Purnell. "Our program is small but we're supportive and want to see you succeed. We will give you attention and we want to see you be successful."

Baptist University has offered the DNP program since 2018 and has graduated 16 students. For more information, email [Marcy.purnell@baptistu.edu](mailto:Marcy.purnell@baptistu.edu).



**"Our program is small but we're supportive and want to see you succeed. We will give you attention and we want to see you be successful."**

**– Marcy Purnell**



## Baptist Health Sciences University and the proposed College of Osteopathic Medicine take important next steps in the application process

Earlier this year, Baptist Health Sciences University submitted an application to open a college of osteopathic medicine in Memphis. Research has shown that doctors tend to remain in communities where they trained, which suggests these doctors are likely to stay here after finishing their education. This is important because the Mid-South, like many areas of the country, is facing a shortage of primary care and family medicine doctors, especially in the wake of COVID-19. The majority of DOs go into primary care and essential care specialties and tend to serve in rural and underserved communities, all of which is consistent with Baptist Memorial Health Care's mission.

DOs bring a unique, patient-centered approach to every specialty across the full spectrum of medicine and is one of the fastest-growing professions in health care today, representing one-fourth of all enrolled medical students. Throughout their four-year curriculum, DOs receive the broad training and exposure that prepares them to practice in a range of medical specialties, including primary care, pediatrics, obstetrics and gynecology, emergency medicine, psychiatry and surgery. The majority of DOs tend to serve in rural and underserved communities. Baptist Memorial Health Care employs 141 osteopathic physicians of Baptist Memorial Group's 800 employed physicians working in many different areas, including family medicine, internal medicine, pediatrics, general surgery, ophthalmology and radiology across the three-state region.

In 2021, Baptist University hired Peter Bell, DO, as vice provost and dean of medical education for the college of medicine. The American Osteopathic Association recently honored Dr. Bell with the 2022 Distinguished Service Award, which recognizes significant contributions to the osteopathic medical profession through leadership, excellence, achievement and dedication. With his doctor of osteopathic medicine expertise and experience helping other universities gain accreditation for new colleges of osteopathic medicine, he is an excellent candidate to lead BHSU's College of Osteopathic Medicine (COM) proposal.

Dr. Bell and his team are still working to recruit professors and health care educators to teach in the proposed College of Osteopathic Medicine.

In early October, the proposed COM earned candidacy status and the right to move forward on the path to becoming accredited.

"We have 24 months to achieve pre-accreditation status," said Peter Bell, DO, vice provost and dean of medical education at Baptist University. "We're now in the process of applying for pre-accreditation and hope to get approval in May of 2023. Once we have pre-accreditation status, we can recruit students for the fall of 2024."

If the application is successful, we would seat our first class of students in August 2024. As part of the process, in fall of 2022, Baptist University began interior renovation of the building located at 1115 Union Avenue.



Peter A. Bell, DO, MBA, HPF, FACOEP-dist, FACEP  
Vice Provost and Dean of the proposed College of Osteopathic Medicine

**"Once we have pre-accreditation status, we can recruit students for the fall of 2024"**

**– Dr. Peter A. Bell**





## BHSU Expands Learning Spaces with Realistic Immersion Rooms

In Summer 2022, Baptist Health Sciences University launched two new learning spaces called Immersion Rooms, one in the nursing building and one in the collaboration building. This immersive learning experience is unique to Baptist locally and is the only of its kind in the tri-state area.

The space allows for a safe, low-stakes learning environment for future health care workers. Dr. Cheryl Scott, assistant professor and interprofessional simulation coordinator with a Certified Healthcare Simulation Educator (CHSE) certification; Dr. Cathy Stepter, dean of nursing; and Dr. Angel Boling, program chair of undergraduate nursing, brought the immersion room concept to Baptist University.

With the space, professors can stage almost any scenario imaginable for students – the back of an ambulance, a home with barking dogs, a day care or a bus. This experience forces students to think critically about their surroundings with disturbances such as potential risks and tripping threats.

“Health care happens everywhere, not just in an organized, contained hospital or clinic setting,” explained Dr. Boling.



Dr. Cheryl Scott demonstrates an Immersion Room at BHSU

The room can also be set up to look like actual Baptist facilities, such as a surgery suite at Baptist DeSoto, labor and delivery at Baptist Women’s or the ICU at Baptist Memphis. With this feature, professors hope that the transition to real-world Baptist spaces will be even more seamless for their students.

“We are meeting students where they are,” said Dr. Scott.

“During the early stages of COVID-19, we had to be creative, and the idea for Immersion Rooms came from that time. Our students had to keep learning, but we couldn’t safely access hospitals and clinics for several months. Now we have a way to bring the space to our classroom in a safe and educational way.”

The rooms can reach all the senses. The walls have

hot spots that students can push for a quiz, such as finding all the errors in a hospital room or surgery suite. The audio is consistent with the environment, like traffic on the bus or doorbells ringing or dogs barking in the home, forcing students to block out ambient noise that isn’t necessary to the care delivered. Instructors also have props they can add into the room to simulate a messy house, a busy bus or a hectic office.

“The Immersion Rooms allow students to learn the way they want to learn, through gaming and technology,” said Dr. Boling. “This learning experience engages our students, teaching them how to think critically in an interactive space.”

The space can also help prepare for the worst-case scenario.

“We can play out a disaster at the hospital or a work site with this technology,” added Dr. Scott.

Baptist University will be filming at Memphis metropolitan area Baptist facilities during the coming months to integrate real-space videos into their Immersion Room settings while continuing to use the spaces they already have filmed.

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**“The Immersion Rooms allow students to learn the way they want to learn, through gaming and technology.”**

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**– Dr. Angel Boling**

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Scan the QR code to see a preview of an Immersion Room.



## 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 foundation to heal, preach and teach, 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.

This fall we accepted 15 new members for a total of 105 Honors students comprising 13% of the current student population. The Honors Program is a member of the National Collegiate Honors Council. The average programmatic grade point average is 3.509 and we have 20 students in the Living Learning Community of the residence hall.

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 held three fundraisers: in the fall, Share the Thankfulness, in the spring, Share the Love, and in the summer, Share the Sunshine. Students invite others to support the Honors Program and the

establishment of an Honors specific scholarship. The Created to Commune initiative sponsors several social events at the end of each trimester as well as 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 service in the fall, Student Open House Showcase in May, Black Men in White Coats in April, Future Health Care Professional Camp in June, and our annual Toy Drive for the Baptist Children’s Hospital in November. This year has opened up new upcoming service opportunities including the Baptist HealthCORE tutoring program for high school students and the Tennessee Health Career Summit on November 17, 2022. The Scholarship to Share initiative allows students to present their Honors Capstone Experience research each trimester through the Honors Forum. The Spring Honors Forum will become part of a new event sponsored by the Honors Program, as well as Baptist University’s honors societies and professional organization, called Elevate: Student Research Symposium being held on March 30-31, 2023. The following is the research that has been presented by our fifteen 2021 – 2022 Honors Program graduates through these events.

Term	Student	Program	HCE Project Title	Faculty Advisor
FA21	Kassia Anderson	Nursing	Impact of SBAR on Patient Outcomes	Dr. Cheryl Johnson-Joy
FA21	Stephenie Nichols	Medical Laboratory Science	Methods Used to Diagnose AML	Dr. Darius Wilson
FA21	Ashlynn Taylor Shankle	Nursing	Compromising Health for the Sake of Others	Dr. Cheryl Johnson-Joy
FA21	Jada Thomas	Nursing	Health care Facility Magnet Recognition Program	Dr. Cheryl Johnson-Joy
SP22	Lula Boone	Biomedical Sciences	An Analysis of the Relationship Between PCOS and Cardiovascular Disease	Dr. Lilian Nyindodo
SP22	Micah Gibson	Radiation Therapy	Delivering Empathetic Patient Care During Radiation Therapy Treatment	Prof. Christen Ganley
SP22	Sondos Hamadneh	Medical Radiography	Automatic Exposure Control Misusage	Prof. Thomas Wolfe
SP22	Alexandrea Kemper-Johnson	Radiation Therapy	Exercise Reduces and Prevent Tumor Growth in Cancer Patients	Prof. Christen Ganley
SP22	Grayson Landers	Health Administration	ICU Liberation as a Precedent for Innovation in Health Care	Dr. Briana Jegier
SP22	Morgan Nance Chelsie Sutton	Nursing	Mandated Nurse Staffing Ratios	Dr. Cheryl Johnson-Joy
SU22	Alana Berry Raechel Kenlee Dunn	Nursing	Surgical Time-Outs in the Operating Room	Dr. Cheryl Johnson-Joy
SU22	Ashley Hutchins	Nursing	COVID-19 Effects on Nursing Student Education	Dr. Pam Cherry
SU22	Julia Vergara	Nursing	Diabetic Management in the Hispanic Community	Dr. Cheryl Johnson-Joy
FA22	Brooke Kathrin MacFerran	Nursing	Alarm Fatigue	Dr. Angel Boling
FA22	Natalie Thurmon	Nursing	Baby-Friendly Initiative	Dr. Angie Crow



If you or someone you know might be interested in the program, donate to the ongoing efforts, or would like to share their “Honors Professional Journey” with our current students, please contact Dr. Paul Criss at (901) 572-2525 or email [paul.criss@BaptistU.edu](mailto:paul.criss@BaptistU.edu).



Behind-the Scenes tour at Baptist Memorial Hospital-DeSoto Respiratory Care Department



A Created to Commune Social Event

Honors Program Graduates receiving their awards and medallions at the Medallion Ceremony held each trimester prior to graduation.



Spring 2022



Summer 2022



Fall 2021



Fall 2022



## Faith and Service

Across the street from the collaboration building is the largest low-income residential facility in Tennessee. City View Towers is the home of over 400 residents coming from various backgrounds. The University has had the privilege of forming a partnership with the City View Towers community. During the year, students, staff and faculty became involved in the community through a variety of activities. Some activities included:

- **Serving Thanksgiving dinner to the residents**
- **Providing Christmas goodie boxes for the staff**
- **Helping MIFA deliver holiday boxes to the residents**
- **Student Government Association sponsoring a Valentine’s craft Day**
- **A rose in a vase given to all the mothers to celebrate Mother’s Day**
- **Healthy cooking class with low sodium rubs and healthy recipes given to the residents**
- **Information on different types of cancer, cancer treatments, and where to receive free screening for cancer around the Memphis area presented by senior radiation therapy students**
- **Blood pressure checks, nutrition education and medication management performed by nursing population health students once per week as their clinical rotation**
- **Smoking cessation class provided by respiratory care students**

The greatest outcome of this partnership is the relationship being built between the City View Towers residents and the Baptist University community.

BHSU radiation therapy graduate Lauren Brown, started the BHSU Student Mothers Support group in the fall of 2021. Student moms meet by Zoom every other week for a time of support and encouragement. In the late spring, the mothers and their children





met at the Memphis Zoo for a fun day together. In October, the library sponsored a BHSU Student Mothers Group story time and crafts Halloween party.

One of the most amazing opportunities for the year was the opportunity for the University along with team members from the Baptist system to support the people of Ukraine. When the unrest broke out in February, Karen Smith sent a prayer for the Ukrainian people to the University community. A student, Samantha Kelley, has strong ties with Ukraine and asked if more could be done than just prayers. Kelley's email spurred the creation of a group of six people associated with the University with ties to Ukraine. From the six-person group, a food and hygiene product campaign began which included an elementary school in Marion, AR along with the BHSU campus. The campaign resulted in two large pallets weighing 651 lbs. of hygiene kits for men, women, and children, 683 lbs. of goods and 265 lbs. of clothing being sent to Ukraine through the ministry Operation Ukraine. However, the project did not stop there. The Baptist Foundation and the Pastoral Care Department of the Baptist system heard what the University was doing and wanted to help with the fundraising campaign. The Baptist Foundation sent an email to all team members asking for monetary gifts for the Ukrainian effort. With a matching gift of \$10,000 from both the Pastoral Care Endowment Fund and the Baptist Foundation over \$30,000 was collected. Because of the connections of the committee of six more than 75,000 people were impacted by the donations. Working through Crosslink Memphis, a medical supply ministry, a donation valued at \$26,432 worth of antibiotics was sent through the Giving Tree Medical organization to several hospitals in Ukraine. A donation valued at \$83,689 was given to missionaries who had lived in Ukraine to give to other missionaries in their network working on the ground with small clinics to distribute antibiotics, vitamins, bandaging, topical creams, and hypertensive medicine to those in need while sharing the gospel. Approximately \$3,000 was sent to a



ministry in Ukraine to purchase winter coats, gloves, hats, and socks as the displaced people prepare for the winter. Supplies were sent by air, by containers, and many in suitcases of Ukrainians in the US for meetings and support returning home. Also through the resources of Crosslink Memphis, 60,000 pairs of reading glasses valued at \$36,000 were sent to Operation Ukraine to help restore the vision of these displaced.

Karen Smith, director of faith & service, "It was truly amazing to watch the mysterious working of God in this project."

A big thanks go to the team of six: Donna Mars, chair of the nuclear medicine department; Samantha Kelly, a senior nursing student; Kasson Sanborn, a past employee of the University who served as a missionary in Ukraine for three years; Sarah Biggs, student transition coordinator at Baptist University; A.J. Kamer, executive director of Crosslink Memphis; and Karen Smith, director of faith and service and chaplain at Baptist University.



## Spring Alumni Reunion Brings Alumni Back to Campus



Approximately 70 alumni, guests, and staff were excited to “Come Back Together” for the spring Alumni Reunion on Saturday, April 23. Since this was the first time in two years alumni have been able to come back to campus, the theme “Come Back Together,” was appropriate. The event was held in the Collaboration Building atrium where attendees were able to see the interprofessional education lab and experience Abbey Road in the virtual immersion room.

Relationship Marketing Coordinator and Nuclear Medicine alumnus, Zac Cox, welcomed everyone back and shared his excitement about reconnecting alumni from 1954 - 2019 and introducing them to future alumni. After a delicious lunch, Dr. Chery Scott, interprofessional lab coordinator, shared with the attendees on how the virtual immersion room assists students in learning how to provide the best care in a safe environment.



Carlos Aguilera, current Biomedical Sciences student and Student Government Association President, shared how his calling and his time at Baptist University is shaping him to pursue his ultimate goal of attending medical school and being a leader amongst his peers along the way.

Alumni Board President, Damon Mays closed out the day by presenting the 2022 Young Alumni Award to 2017 Biomedical Sciences graduate Patrick Townsend. Townsend is a current critical care physician assistant for the Memphis Lung Physician Group at Baptist Memphis. He continues his involvement with the University by participating as a panelist during the April Black Men in White Coats event.





## Let Your Blue Healer Spirit Shine: Homecoming 2022



On October 1, BHSU had its first on-campus Homecoming, allowing current students and alumni to reunite on campus for the day.

Activities took off on the Campus Hub field lot, where alumni and students gathered for tailgating festivities. Later, the Student Life and Activities office hosted a student Inaugural Royals Pageant and the grand finale event, Silent Disco.

### Tailgate

In the sunny 78-degree fall weather, 200 alumni, faculty, staff, students, and guests gathered at the Campus Hub for a chance to socialize at the tailgate. Two SEC football games were broadcast for the attendees viewing pleasure. Attendees watched the games while enjoying free barbeque nachos from 901 Catering.

“BHSU has always been a welcoming family environment,” said Zac Cox, relationship marketing coordinator. “I felt that, as a student and as a new employee. I think that everyone felt like they were at their family reunion and picked up right where they left off the last time they were here,” he added.

While enjoying a free italian ice from Brown’s Italian Ice, the first 100 students to arrive had the opportunity to create their own homecoming T-shirt. Face painting and a moon bounce house allowed kids to take part in this event in a fun way while enjoying a surprise appearance from Hartley Healer.



*continued on page 16*



## Let Your Blue Healer Spirit Shine: Homecoming 2022 *continued from page 15*

### Inaugural Royals Pageant

To support BHSU pride and provide students a chance to develop their professionalism and provide a confidence-building opportunity, members of the Student Government Association hosted the university's first Inaugural Royals Pageant.



“The pageant was met with resounding cheering and applause from our Royals 2022 audience,” Sarah Biggs, student transition coordinator, states. “All of our contestants did an incredible job and they are all tremendous ambassadors for BHSU.”

Six contestants participated in three rounds of judging. Fifty percent of judging included a professional interview. What judges were looking for consisted of personality, communication, content of answers, and leadership. The Scrub Strut consisted of 25 percent of the pageant. This round was judged by confidence, individuality, fit, and audience impact. The final round was of an On-Stage Q&A. The contestants were then judged based on confidence, personality, and the content of their answers.



Haley Maccarino, a senior nursing student, won first place, and Shania Fields, a surgical technology student came in second place.

### Silent Disco

Homecoming Day concluded with a Silent Disco event. This event consisted of participants receiving headphones with two playlists to dance to. Mirrorballs and glow-in-the-dark decorations were used to transform the BHSU Library into a neon disco party.



### Let's Go Blue Healers!

See exciting photos from Homecoming 2022 and more when you follow us on [Instagram @baptisthealers](#) and like our [Facebook page @ Baptist Health Sciences University](#).

Baptist Health Sciences University would like to express our sincere gratitude to Memphis Medical District Collaborative for sponsoring our Homecoming Tailgate. Without you, we could not have accomplished this.





## Spring 2022 Commencement Ceremony

On April 14, Baptist Health Sciences University conferred 79 degrees in Associate of Science, Bachelor of Health Sciences, and Bachelor of Nursing Science degrees. Commencement was held at First Baptist Church in Millington, Tennessee. The following graduation awards were announced during the ceremony:

- **Board of Directors Award** –  
Jaimee Staples, Nursing
- **Elizabeth Farnell Achievement Award** – Kathryn Kuchta, Nursing
- **Joseph Powell Award** –  
Lula Boone, Biomedical Sciences
- **Sarah Ainsworth Award** –  
Lula Boone, Biomedical Sciences
- **Dr. Ling H. Lee Achievement Award** – Kayla Lewis, Medical Radiography
- **Dr. John F. Rockett Award** – Andrew Pitney, Nuclear Medicine Technology
- **Dr. Emmel Golden Award** – Kalilah McCoy, Respiratory Care





## Fall 2022 Commencement Ceremony

On August 11, Baptist Health Sciences University held a summer commencement ceremony at Bellevue Baptist Church. President McGarvey conferred 10 associate degrees and 40 bachelor's degrees.

- Board of Directors Award - Raechel Kenlee Dunn, Nursing
- Sarah Ainsworth Award - Raechel Kenlee Dunn, Nursing
- Elizabeth Farnell Achievement Award - Alana Berry, Nursing
- Joseph Powell Award - Jennifer Martinez, Health Administration
- Sigma Theta Tau Award - Alana Berry, Nursing



## Winter 2022 Commencement Ceremony



On December 15, Baptist Health Sciences University held a winter commencement ceremony at First Baptist Church in Millington, Tennessee. President McGarvey conferred 56 associate, bachelor, and doctoral degrees in the following disciplines: 6 Health Administration, 1 RN-BSN, 40 Pre-Licensure Nursing 2 Doctor of Nursing Practice, 1 Pre-Health Studies, and 6 Medical Laboratory Science. Sara Lyles, a Nursing graduate, received the Board of Directors Award. Brooke MacFerran, a Nursing graduate, received the Joseph Powell Award. Kaitlyn Hartz, a Nursing graduate, received the Elizabeth Farnell Achievement Award. Natalie Thurmon, a Nursing graduate, received the Sarah Ainsworth Award. Madalyn Sloan, a Medical Laboratory Science graduate, received the Dr. Thomas McColl Chesney Award. Marayla Polischek, a Doctor of Nursing Practice graduate, received the Advanced Practice Leadership Award.



## Baptist Alumnus receives West Tennessee Healthcare 2020 President's Award – Damon Mays, Alumni Association President, Nursing Class of 1985



Damon Mays, right, is presented the President's Award by James Ross, president/CEO, West Tennessee Healthcare

West Tennessee Healthcare is pleased to announce Executive Director Damon Mays as the 2020 President's Award recipient (delayed due to the Covid-19 pandemic). The President's Award, which is awarded annually, recognizes a department director that goes above and beyond their day-to-day responsibilities by exhibiting a selfless manner within their career, community and civic involvement. Mays was presented with the honor during the April Board of Trustees' Meeting at Jackson-Madison County General Hospital. Damon has been an employee of West Tennessee Healthcare since 1985, serving most recently as the executive director of the West Tennessee Healthcare Regional Transfer Center. "Damon exemplifies servant leadership in our organization," said James Ross, West Tennessee Healthcare president and chief executive officer, "He has devoted his entire career as a trusted leader, and we are so proud to honor him with this award."

Source: <https://wnws.com/west-tennessee-healthcare-executive-director-damon-mays-presented-presidents-award/>



### 2022 Alumni Award Winners

Your 2022 Alumni Award winners are as follows along with excerpts from their nominations submitted by fellow alumni. You can read a description of each award along with nomination criteria on page 22. If you know a deserving alumnus, please submit a nomination to [alumni@baptistu.edu](mailto:alumni@baptistu.edu) and/or Baptist Health Sciences University, Attn: Zac Cox, 1003 Monroe Ave, Memphis, TN 38104.

*continued on page 20*



## 2022 Alumni Award Winners *continued from page 19*

### Distinguished Alumni Award – Dr. Cathy Stepter (1992, Nursing)

Dr. Cathy Stepter has had a major impact on nursing education and the preparation of future nurses, both for those who are entering the BSN profession and those who are contributing to patient care through advanced practice.

Dr. Stepter began her nursing career on a medical-surgical unit and was quickly promoted to head nurse, nurse manager and house supervisor. She transitioned to BHSU as a nursing educator and taught medical-surgical nursing and the Capstone course prior to students graduating. She has held numerous faculty leadership positions within the University. In 2016, Dr. Stepter was named the program chair for the design and implementation of the Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) degree. She led the successful accreditation approval for the program by the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE) and was a key leader in the successful substantive level change with the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges.



### Alumni Service Award – Katie Cody (2009, Diagnostic Medical Sonography)

Katie is the faculty advisor for the Allied Health Student Association, a part of the Emerging Leaders program, and serves on many committees with the University such as service first, technology, quest symposium, DMS advisory, and financial assistance. She is a site visitor for The Joint Review Commission on Education in Diagnostic Medical Sonography, a reviewer for Inteleos (ARDMS) app, and a peer reviewer for the *Journal of Diagnostic Medical Sonography*. These are just some of the ways that Katie serves Baptist University and the public. Katie does a lot more in her church and for her community. She is always willing and able to help anyone who asks for her help. She works tirelessly keeping her students on the right path to be successful academically, professionally, and personally.



### Young Alumni Award – Patrick Townsend (2017, Biomedical Sciences)

Patrick is a current critical care physician assistant for the Memphis Lung Physician Group at Baptist Memphis. Patrick continues his involvement with the University by participating as a panelist during the April Black Men in White Coats event.



**“After God called me to be a nurse and attend the Baptist School of Nursing, He blessed me with 43 years of service to the Baptist mission.**

**Those amazing years ultimately led me back to my roots to serve on the board of Baptist Health Sciences University.”**

**– Beverly Jordan**

## **Baptist Alumna Honored in TICUA Hall of Fame - Beverly Jordan (1977, Nursing)**

- Baptist Memorial Hospital School of Nursing - Diploma in Nursing | 1977
- Central Michigan University - B.S. | 2002
- University of Phoenix - M.S., Nursing | 2005
- Recognized as One of the Most Powerful Women in Healthcare IT in 2018
- Dedicated Nurse
- Patient Advocate

Beverly Jordan showcases the Baptist Health Sciences University mission of preparing graduates for careers of service and leadership by providing a comprehensive health sciences education within an integrated environment of learning and Christian principles. She was recruited as the ideal student who shares a commitment to Christian values and ethics, academic excellence, and lifelong professional development.

Jordan graduated with her nursing diploma from Baptist Memorial Hospital School of Nursing (now Baptist Health Sciences University) and stayed with Baptist throughout her career. She started as a bedside nurse and continued to learn, develop, and lead in all aspects of patient care, which led her to hold a number of leadership roles during her tenure. Some of those titles include chief nursing officer of Baptist Memorial Hospital-Memphis and the Baptist Memorial Health Care system as well as vice president and chief information and transformation officer for Baptist Memorial Health Care Corporation. Jason Little, current Baptist Memorial Health Care Corporation CEO, said it best when speaking of Jordan during her 2020 retirement, “Many of our new leaders are ‘home grown’ and have worked their way up into their new roles.”

Throughout her career as a health care provider, Jordan was an advocate for patients. She continuously challenged the norm and determined innovative tactics to advance quality of care and patient safety. Before her retirement in 2021, Jordan was able to help the Baptist system implement the electronic medical record initiative, Baptist OneCare, which earned Baptist a 2019 College of Healthcare Information Management Executives (CHiME) HealthCare’s Most Wired recognition as a certified level seven. Baptist was the only health care organization in the Mid-South to earn the recognition.

Jordan also led the implementation of MyChart, a secure portal that gives patients controlled access to the same health record their physicians and clinicians use. Jordan highlighted MyChart saying, “We cannot change health care as an industry. We have to change it on an individual level. I have to start caring about my own health, and MyChart allows me to do that.” Both of these successful initiatives, plus many others, resulted in Jordan being recognized by Health Data Management as one of the Most Powerful Women in Healthcare IT in 2018.

While leading in the field of health informatics and technology, Jordan set aside time to volunteer for Habitat for Humanity, serving as chair and vice chair. She also served on the Board of Directors for Leadership Memphis and Baptist Health Sciences University. She provided health system perspectives to academic advisory boards and Deans of Nursing programs to help better equip the future of health care.



## Call for Alumni Award Nominations

### DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI AWARD

Baptist Health Sciences University is pleased to announce that nominations are now being accepted for the 2023 Distinguished Alumni Awards. The award will be given in late April during the alumni reunion luncheon. 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](mailto: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 and announced at the Spring alumni reunion, or the fall homecoming event.

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## Distinguished Alumni Award 2023

Please address nominations to: Zachary Cox, alumni coordinator, Baptist Health Sciences University, 1003 Monroe Ave., Memphis, TN 38104.

Nominated by: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone number(s): \_\_\_\_\_

## HONORS AND AWARDS



I nominate: \_\_\_\_\_ Field: \_\_\_\_\_ Class of: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone number(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Reason for nominating the alumnus \_\_\_\_\_

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Information regarding professional career \_\_\_\_\_

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Information on other honors/awards \_\_\_\_\_

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



## David Breedlove (2001, Respiratory Care) (2005, Nursing)

### Working with veterans

Dr. David Breedlove is a two-time graduate of Baptist Health Sciences University, earning a Bachelor of Health Science in Respiratory Care in 2001 and Bachelor of Science in Nursing in 2005.

David, who has also earned a doctor in nurse practitioner, has a servant heart and work spirit, demonstrated through decades of work with Veterans and Department of Veterans Affairs across the southern United States.

He works as the nurse manager in the Mental Health Residential Rehabilitation Treatment Program at the Central Arkansas Veterans Healthcare System in Little Rock. He has also worked with the North Texas Veteran Affairs Health Care System, the Central Texas Veteran Health Care System, as well as the VA Health Care Systems in Columbia, South Carolina, and Memphis, Tenn.

David works as a nurse manager at the Eugene J. Towbin Healthcare Center in North Little Rock, which primarily serves veterans with mental health diagnoses, as well as geriatric veterans. The Center provides residential rehabilitative and clinical care to veterans who have a wide range of problems, illnesses, or rehabilitative care needs which may include mental health and substance use disorders, co-occurring medical conditions and psychosocial needs such as homelessness and unemployment. All these programs provide a 24/7 therapeutic setting utilizing both professional and peer supports.

“We serve veterans with integrity,” said David. “I advocate for them to receive respect and excellent care.”

David credits the VA system with helping one of his relatives who served in the military as a combat veteran to recover from post-traumatic stress disorder, and to become very successful in life.

David recognizes that his empathy and commitment to excellence is in part due to his time at Baptist University, which occurred simultaneously while working fulltime at the VA in Memphis. David said this was a difficult time, but has contributed to his success. He finds it funny that he ended up working in mental health since he admitted that the mental health was one of the toughest courses he took in the nursing program. As a result, Dr. Breedlove encourages

nursing students to give each nursing course their all because the program at Baptist is designed to make each student a “whole nurse.”

“Nursing school isn’t easy, but it opened a lot of opportunities; Baptist University helped prepare me,” said David.

As a result of his hard work, Dr. Breedlove’s career has exposed him to many opportunities at the VA, and in the private sector, including working as a nurse in the emergency department, intensive care, patient safety and quality, nursing education, nurse recruitment and nurse management.

Following his time at Baptist University, he has earned a Master of Science in Operations Management, a Master of Science in Nurse Leadership in addition to a Doctor of Nursing Practice.

On October 14, 2022, Dr. Breedlove received his 20-year service award with the VA. One reason he cites as having remained with the VA is to help serve one of the country’s two most underserved populations – veterans.

“My education from Baptist University has helped me to branch out into anything I wanted to do,” said David.







## Patti Honnoll (2008, Diagnostic Medical Sonography)

“The world needs more Baptist sonographers”



Patti Honnoll is the self-described biggest Baptist Health Sciences University cheerleader. Based on her personal experience with ultrasounds as a teenager and her love of science, Patti was led to the medical field and specifically, sonography.

“The sonography program is very challenging and I’m very thankful for that,” said Patti. “I wanted to learn it all and to earn a bachelor’s degree so I could explore various specialties.”

Following graduation, Patti worked at St. Jude in Memphis, Tennessee for eight years before moving to Cleveland, Miss. for her husband’s job. There, she worked at a vascular clinic in Cleveland for five years.

“Vascular sonography was not my favorite class at Baptist,” laughed Patti. “But I’m so glad I took the class

and took the boards, because that allowed me to take that position and succeed in my role.”

Patti passed board examinations in abdomen, neurosonography, OB/GYN, pediatrics, vascular, and physics.

During her time at the vascular clinic in Cleveland, Patti saw a pattern of patients in need of accurate sonography results; accurate results lead to accurate diagnosis and more accurate treatments. For example, peripheral artery disease, PAD, is common in the Delta region of Mississippi. A sonographer is searching for a stenosis, and if that is missed or mistakenly reported, a patient could lose a leg or experience gangrene.

In March 2021, Patti opened her own sonography clinic, The Sonogram Specialists LLC, in Cleveland. She sees a wide variety of patients for any sonography needs, from children to pregnant women to elderly patients. She has a pediatric ultrasounds registry, which is rare in her part of the state. She works with hospitals and doctor’s offices to perform accurate, detailed sonograms, which she is able to do with her education and board exams.

“Sonography is an amazing field,” Patti said. “I am grateful I went to Baptist University because it made me the sonographer I am.”





## William Curry (2017, Biomedical Sciences)

### Great opportunity to grow

Mission work is a true calling. William Curry graduated from Baptist Health Sciences University in 2017 with a Bachelor of Science in Biomedical Sciences. Following his undergraduate studies, Will worked at Crosslink Memphis, a medical supply ministry, before pursuing a Master of Science in Physician Assistant Studies.

During his time at Crosslink Memphis, Will learned how he could get involved in medical mission trips from a local level. He worked to track down unused medical supplies and pharmaceuticals from local hospitals, mission trip administration and learned about the impact medical mission trips can have. Will applied for a mission trip to Peru in early 2022 through Crosslink Memphis. This is the most recent in a long list of mission trips he's taken, which includes a 2016 trip with Baptist University to Belize, a 2019 medical mission trip to India and a 2019 medical mission trip to Tanzania. However, the trip to Peru was Will's first as a physician's assistant and first since COVID-19 changed the health care landscape.



Will with wife Courtney and son, Bennett

"Most of our work on mission trips helps meet general health care needs," explained Will. "We see the full spectrum of patients from children to pregnant women and the elderly population."

Will said they often help with diet and hydration best practices.

"In Peru, the diet is very starchy carb-based, with potatoes and plantains easily accessible," said Will. "On top of that, sodas can be easier and cheaper to come by than clean drinking water."

Because of this diet, they see patients with type two diabetes and pre-diabetes and heart issues. Some patients have extreme dental issues, needing teeth pulled, so the mission trips include dentists. Several patients experience allergies and chronic pain, which the missionaries help to address.

Due to heavy flooding in January 2022, the mission trip wasn't able to set up a clinic in the village. They had to arrange for patients to visit their boat, where the mission workers practiced and stayed for the entire week, holding appointments for eight hours a day. They treated approximately 500 patients that week.

For patients in Peru, like the village on the banks of the Ucayali River where this mission trip served, they have to travel to bigger cities for medical care and often get skipped by Peruvians who have more money for their health care. For example, if a patient presents with a skin wound, they're seen by the doctor then must source materials like gauze and hydrogen peroxide to bring back for the doctor to use. This is why medical mission trips are so important.

When asked if he had any advice for future medical mission workers, Will



recommended that workers remain flexible.

"I was blown away by how much of this most recent trip to Peru didn't go to plan," said Will. "Don't expect to run on schedule. You'll get to see so much, and your perspective will be forever changed."

If mission work isn't in your future but you want to help, Will recommends reaching out to Crosslink Memphis to see how you can volunteer locally. You can also support current Baptist University students, faculty, staff, and alumni on their mission trips. Liquid Legacy is sponsoring two different Baptist University teams to Peru in the spring of 2023. Each team will serve for one week.

The total cost for this trip per person is \$1450 + International Airfare (approximately \$2600 total). This will include international airfare, domestic airfare, all ground transportation, lodging and some meals. As you can imagine, the \$2600 cost for this trip poses quite a hardship for some and your support will help reduce the cost needed to participate in this invaluable clinical

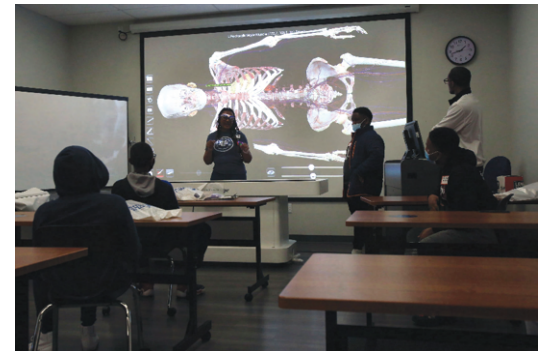
and spiritual experience. You may make a secure donation using the QR code or by using the enclosed envelope.





## Black Men in White Coats event hosted at BHSU

Black medical professionals in Memphis are working to bring more Black providers into the health care field. The third annual 'Black Men in White Coats' event was held at Baptist Health Sciences University. This was the first event hosted in person since the pandemic. More than one hundred middle, high school, and college students were able to connect with current health care professionals. There were panels and one-on-one talks. Dr. Lilian Nyindodo, chair and associate professor of Biomedical Sciences participated in the event along with eight other biomedical sciences faculty. At the event, Dr. Nynindodo announced the launch of the BaptistU HealthCORE, which will have specific events throughout the year to mentor potential students.



## Biomedical Sciences Mixer

Biomedical Sciences faculty, new students, current students and alumni gathered to interact with one another and network. It was an informal event with trivia games, door prizes, and the faculty cooked chili for everyone to enjoy.

Five BMD alumni were present:

**Charles Brown**, 2019 - Working on a Doctor of Pharmacy at University of Tennessee Health Science Center

**Holly Ingram**, 2021 - Currently a director at the Alzheimer's Association

**Brandon Ward**, 2021 - Working on a PhD in molecular lab at the University of Memphis

**Lula Boone**, 2022 - Hired as a tutor with the Blue Healer Success Center as she applies to medical school

**Carlos Aguilera Zento**, 2022 - Working on his master's in public health at the University of Memphis.





## Blue Healer Monday

Blue Healer Monday was created during the 2021-2022 Academic Year through the efforts of the University's Empowering Community Initiative Team: Blue Healer Pride. The team determined that a Blue Healer starts each week off to remember who they are and their higher calling. While many colleges and universities end their week with such traditions, Baptist Health Sciences University desires to start each week showing our Blue Healer Pride. This sense of pride is a commitment to who we strive to be as students, faculty, staff and alumni. Blue Healers should strive to be competent, compassionate, and cheerful. So, every Monday faculty, staff, students and alumni are encouraged to wear with pride Baptist University apparel on campus and in the work place. And while every Monday is a Blue Healer Monday, the University on occasions will host special themed Blue Healer Mondays and with opportunities for the campus community to fellowship with one another.



## BHSU Hosts Future Health Professionals Camp

Baptist Health Sciences University hosted Future Health Professionals Camp on June 6-17 for students from Shelby and DeSoto County high schools. Dr. Lilian Nyindodo, associate professor and chair of biomedical sciences led the camp and coordinated the various learning activities with colleagues throughout the University. The camp focused on (1) bridging the gaps in health disparities in our community; (2) engaging high school students' interest in health professions; and (3) establishing mentorship opportunities for high school students to be supported through college enrollment. Activities included hands-on labs, clinical observation, tours, and educational events. Approximately 30 students participated from grades 9-12.





## TN Health Careers Summit & Expo

BHSU hosted the inaugural TN Health Careers Summit & Expo on November 12th. The purpose of the TN Health Careers Summit & Expo is to promote health professions and celebrate health as a career path for middle school, high school, and college students interested in pursuing health professions and health related careers. Attendees completed a service project to benefit Military and Veteran Healthcare by donating individually packaged snacks, travel sized toiletry items, socks, or other individually packaged items and assembled care packages.



## New Student Orientation

New Student Orientation (NSO) was a time for new students to get acclimated to campus and campus resources. Students met with the Success Coaches, financial aid, alumni and other support services and student organizations. Three in-person NSOs and 3 virtual NSOs were held throughout the summer. Sarah Biggs, student

transition coordinator, says “Our NSOs are an opportunity to get students off the proverbial front porch and into the building. With the participation of so many staff and faculty, this was accomplished!”

If you would like to help welcome new students during a New Student Orientation, email [alumni@baptistu.edu](mailto:alumni@baptistu.edu).

## Preview Day

Baptist Health Sciences University hosted their first Blue Healer Preview Day in three years on Friday, September 30, 2022.

Students from local high schools and community colleges attended the event to explore all the options available in health care education at BHSU and see some of the labs in action. The event was engaging and informative to all attendees.

The morning kicked off with a three-hour tour of the entire campus and all of the labs. Faculty presented to all attendees in smaller groups over the course of the morning.

The afternoon session included presentations from various campus partners including: Financial Aid, Student Success, Student Life and Honor’s during lunch.

The day concluded with a campus department fair and a tour of the Campus Hub and residence hall.

BHSU hosted an additional fall Preview Day on Saturday, October 29.

The feedback from students who attended in September was so positive that they left wanting more. For the October 29 Preview Day, the staff worked to accommodate a longer tour to allow more time for students to explore options at BHSU.



In addition, the October Preview Day included Baptist Memorial Health Care (BMHC) corporate recruiters during the afternoon session. They spoke about Baptist employment opportunities for graduates of BHSU and provided information on careers at Baptist.



## Tribute Gifts

Tribute gifts are meaningful and unique ways to honor your family, friends, or loved ones while supporting Baptist University's legacy of education. Your gift may support an area with the most urgent need, or any specific area of your choice. These gifts make for the perfect gift by recognizing:

- Birthdays
- Holidays
- Celebrations
- Milestones and achievements
- Memorials and bequests
- Anytime, in honor of someone special

A tribute gift is also the perfect answer to the age-old question "What do you get for a person who already has everything?" We will send acknowledgement to the honoree or honoree's family to inform them of your thoughtful gift, while keeping the amount confidential. Your gift of \$25, \$50, \$100 or more will mean so much and will have a positive impact on the honoree/family. We hope that you will consider using the enclosed donation envelope or visit [www.baptistu.edu/giving](http://www.baptistu.edu/giving) to make a tribute gift to support Baptist University while celebrating those you care about most.



## What a Blessing!

A special thank you to all who has supported our Blessing Bag initiative at the University. Because of your support, we were able to provide four blessing bags in 2022. The bags contain necessity items needed as students begin their clinical courses. The total cost of each bag is \$425 and tailored to the recipient's specific major containing the following items:

- BHSU bag
- Stethoscope
- Lab coat, scrubs, and patches
- Pen light
- Blood Pressure cuff
- Dosage IV book
- Medication manual
- \$50 gas gift card (allied health students)

If you would like to support this effort, please visit [www.baptistu.edu/giving](http://www.baptistu.edu/giving). You may also contact Sherita Martin at [Sherita.Martin@baptistu.edu](mailto:Sherita.Martin@baptistu.edu) or at 901-572-2773.



Nikeria Daniel - Spring 2022



Christynn Blocker - Summer 2022



Jordan Duck - Fall 2022



Moesha Williams - Fall 2022



## 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 in 2022. 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.

### President's Society (Alumni Giving \$1000- \$99,999)

Marilyn Crosby\*  
Patsy Gaw\*  
Robbie Lowery\*  
Betty McGarvey\*  
Kenneth Pruett\*  
Anita Vaughn\*

Bill Abney  
Karen Adams  
Cristen Adkins  
Marti Alford  
Janet Allinder  
Gabriel Alvero  
Michelle Amaya  
Charsity Ammons  
Ivy Anderson  
Kira Anderson\*  
Leianna Anderson  
Lynn Anderson  
Micaiah Anderson  
Molly Anderson  
Sue Anderson\*  
Anonymous  
Molly Antoine  
Keili Antuna  
Kiara Applewhite  
Sandy Arealos\*  
Desiree Armstrong\*  
Laura Armstrong  
Anita Atkins  
Diana Austin  
Hannah Austin  
Sameera Awwad  
Jerusalem Ayalew  
Katherine Azlin  
Paula Azlin  
Susan Bacher\*  
Dina Bachor  
Kathryn Bagwell  
Brittany Bailey  
Caroline Bailey  
Catina Bailey  
Avery Baker

Diana Baker  
Jessica Baker\*  
Savannah Ballard  
Rosie Barker  
Sandra Barron  
Jody Bartley  
Natalie Bates  
Addison Bawcum  
Bailey Beaird\*  
Lillie Beason  
Carla Bedsole  
Kayla Bennett  
Courtney Benoit\*  
Sydney Benson  
Celia Benton  
Lisa Berry  
Neely Berry  
Sharla Berry  
Brittney Berryman  
Brandy Bethune  
BHSU Radiology Students  
John Biery  
Nicole Biles  
Constancia Bingham  
Robalind Blackwell  
Darlene Blankenship\*  
Rebecca Blazer  
Candyce Bledsoe  
Christynn Blocker  
Abigail Bock  
Athena Bock  
Wight Boggs  
Angel Boling  
Marilyn Booth\*  
Lisa Borden  
Cynthia Bradford  
Lakisha Brady  
Charity Brannen  
Avis Brannon  
Renee Brassfield  
Taylor Bridges  
Rezshson Briggs\*  
Maury Bronstein  
Samantha Brooks  
Alecia Brown  
Courtney Brown  
Kathryn Brown\*

Loren Brown\*  
Shirvon Brown  
Anita Browne  
Kelsey Bruce  
Brittany Bryant\*  
Tanisha Bueford  
Toni Bueltemann\*  
Nancy Burchfield  
Denise Burnett-Stewart  
Dasha Burnside  
Megan Bursi  
Kayleigh Busby  
Melisa Cabrera  
Melissa Calderon  
Adonna Caldwell  
Logan Cameron  
Paula Camillo  
Emily Campbell  
Terri Campbell  
Julieta Cansino  
Jorge Carbajal  
Allison Cargile  
Brittney Carlock  
Kay Carlton\*  
Darnisha Carroll\*  
Aliah Carter  
Eureka Carter  
Alexis Castner  
Arie Cation  
Rhonda Cavitt  
Takeitha Chambers  
Erica Chandler  
Sarah Channell\*  
Terri Chapman  
Pamela Cherry\*  
Marc Chevalier  
Jennifer Childs  
Natassah Chipman\*  
Anna Chism  
Steve Chism  
Kylee Christian  
Christopher Church  
Kya Clark  
Liz Cleek  
Christen Cloud  
Felicia Cobbs\*  
Katherine Cody\*

Cynthia Cole\*  
Mary Cole\*  
Stephanie Cole\*  
Cameron Conn  
Patrick Conn  
Hannah Cook  
Isabella Cook  
Meghan Cook  
Lydia Cotnam  
Zaneta Cotton  
Rashawna Covington  
Callie Cox  
Lacey Cox  
Mallory Cox  
Susan Cox  
Zachary Cox\*  
Paige Craig  
Candis Crawford  
Mary Crawford  
Pamela Crislip  
Paul Criss  
Keybriona Crittenden  
Lisa Crocker  
Jennifer Crook  
Angie Crow\*  
Michaelle Crowley  
Dominique Crutchfield\*  
Andrew Culley  
Kimberly Cunningham  
Erin Dabney  
Thiah Dandridge\*  
Roshanda Daniel  
Wakonda Daniels\*  
Ayah Daoud  
Shannon Davenport\*  
Christina Davis  
Darel Davis  
Janet Davis  
Jaren Davis  
Maurice Davis  
Shaunette Davis  
Shawna Davis  
Samantha Deanda  
Kayla Deaton\*  
Rachel Deepan  
Kasey Defries  
Fatoumata Diallo

Ethan Dilley  
Micah Dodd  
Timika Dodson\*  
Alex Dominguez  
Jordan Doss  
Ralonda Douglas  
Haley Downen  
Dawn Downer  
Hannah Dowty  
Lelin Dowty  
David Drummond  
Jordon Duck  
Gwen Dunn  
Jennifer Dunn  
McKenzie Dunn\*  
Raechel Dunn  
Siobhan Dunn\*  
Kirby Durdin  
Maxine Durham  
Alisa Dyson  
Cali Edwards  
Leanna Edwards  
David Elliott  
Rebecca Elliott  
Courtney Ellis  
Jason Elrod  
Kalyn Emerson  
Diana Ennis  
Shante Fall\*  
Jennifer Ferrillo  
Shania Fields  
Terence Fink  
Erin Finney  
Shawn Fitzgerald\*  
Angela Flowers  
Doris Ford  
Kaylee Ford  
Baylee Forsyth  
Kenedie Fossett  
Krista Foth  
Wilma Fowler\*  
Angela Fox  
H. Fox  
Jennifer Fox  
Nicole Franklin  
Katie Frasure  
Alexis Freeman



## GIVING

Mary Margaret Freeman	Edith Heller	Kimberly Jose	Cedteanna Maybell*	Susannah Neel
Jessica Galan	Aimee Hendrix*	Erin Joseph*	Madison Mays	Rita Neely*
Christen Ganley*	Jennifer Henley	Frances Josie*	Gracie McAlister*	Amira Nelson
Mayra Garcia	Lycia Henry	Marley Kelley	Lauren McBride	Jessica Nelson*
Ashley Garner	Norma Henry*	Emilee Kellick	Darquazha McClatchey	Linda Neufeld*
Byron Garner	Tamera Hentzs	Jessica Kellum	Mayleigh McDivitt	Jessica Newsome
Areiel Garrett	Keisha Herron	Kimberly Kennel	Liquita McDonald	Michelle Nguyen*
Darlesia Garrison	Victoria Hewett	Anna Kerr	Michelle McDonald	Morgan Nicholas
Phyllis Gates*	Lisa Hight	Artisia Key	Arien McGhee	Hunter Nielsen*
Jessica Geraldson*	Jasimen Hill	Fadwa Khalifa	Amy McGinn	Caleb Nix
Richard Gilbert	Kaitlyn Hill	Kelsey Kiepe*	Erin McGriff	Rebekah Nix
Britney Giles	Christina Hillhouse	Charity Kirk*	Mahalia McKain	Stan Nix
Lamees Ginem	Laura Hoard	Kristina Kirkpatrick*	Kaleigh McKinnie	Justin Norman
Lauren Glassco	Kylen Hodges	David Klink	Brenda McMillen	Mary Ann Northern*
Norma Gober*	Rosemarie Holland	James Knox	Sarah McPherson*	Lilian Nyindodo
Madison Golden	Tanya Holmes	Abigail Kurtz*	Maria Mejia	Sandra Oates*
Emmel Golden, Jr.	Heidi Hordyk*	Deidra Lamar	Marian Mendoza	Gavin O'Callaghan
Camille Goldstein	Regina Howard*	Karoline Lamb*	Makayla Menigistu	Meagan Odom
Oswaldo Gonzalez	Isabella Howat	Brandi Lambert*	Angela Merritt*	Jessica Oliver
Corinne Goodner*	Michaela Hudson	Seraphine Lambert	Antonio Merriweather	Nhu Ong
Jessica Gorden	Molly Hulse	Allysen Lancaster	Camryn Michael	Emily Orellana
Paola Granados*	Caitlin Hunt	William Lancaster	Annemarie Miller	Demetric Osburn
Sherita Granderson	John Hunter	Marci Laverdet*	Carlee Miller	Farrah Oswald
Bethany Grantham	Angel Hutton	Janie Lee	Erica Miller	Emily Ott
Bonnie Gray*	Ayaat Ibrahim	Oscar Legaspi	Madelyn Miller	Deborah Overton
Chaquita Gray	Robert Irwin	Linda Lendermon*	Mary Millione	Maggie Owen
Paige Gray	Anastaceya Ivory*	Kelly Leung	Kailee Milne	Brent Owens
Tonya Green	Madalyn Ivy	Kenneishia Leverson	Lindsey Mingo	Kenyon Page
Carolyn Greene	Angelica Jackson	Shaunda Lewis*	Joann Misterbutler	Tianna Paige
Ariel Greer	Rachel Jackson	Ashlyn Lightsey	Aaliyah Mitchell	Donna Park*
Lauren Greer	Autumn James	Julia Lipsey	Anita Mobrak	Carla Parker*
Donna Griffin	Jamie Jasper	N'Waynah Littleton	Alice Moisan*	Robert Parker
Gerrica Griggs	Summer Jasper	Patrice Livingston	Louise Monasco*	Tiffany Parker
Sherrica Griggs	Catherine Jeffcoat*	Amy Lofties*	Vonyale Montgomery	Wayneshia Parker
Sharon Grimes	Briana Jegier	Jean Long	Christopher Montoya	Zoey Parker
Nicholas Guernon	Brandi Jenkins*	Katharine Long	Hannah Moody	Christi Patrick*
Jennifer Guess*	Betty Jennings*	Leslie Long	Ethan Moore	Ashley Payne
Anthony Guinn	Ginger Jensen	Sidney Long*	Lily Moore*	Can-Decia Payne
Christopher Gully*	Alexandria Johnson	Vicki Long*	Mary Moore	Sherri Payne
Shylann Gunn	Arrienne Johnson	Amaya Love	Sharon Moore*	Tyresha Payne
Mary Gunnells*	Erica Johnson	Fredriauna Lowe	Timiracle Moore	Alexandra Peaks
Billie Gurke*	Kathryn Johnson	Kayla Lowery	Keanna Moorehead	Kristie Peggins*
Martha Haggan*	Kirsten Johnson	Micahel Luna	Kassandra Moradian	Denise Perkins
Cameron Hall	Nicole Johnson	Haley Maccarino	Callie Moreno	Destiny Perkins
Lauren Hall	Niesha Johnson	Tammy Maccarino	Marilissa Morgan	Sarahi Perrusquia
Taylor Hall	Robbie Johnson	Jennifer Mahnken	Genice Morris	Laquita Perry
Mark Halperin	Roderick Johnson	Shannon Malenky	Rhyan Morton	Jordan Peters
Karen Harper	Cheryl Johnson-Joy	Sharon Markham*	Yvette Morton*	Senovia Petty
Jaron Harris	Abby Johnston	Isabella Marriott	Tjeerd Mulder	John Phipps
Remiah Harris	Amber Johnston	Donna Mars*	Campbell Mundroff	Carmill Piggie
Ruben Harris	Alexandria Jones	Mae Marshall	Michelle Mundroff	Jada Pittman
Terri Harrison	Erin Jones	Maggie Marshnation	David Murray	Anne Plumb
Janet Haselmaier	LaShun Jones	Molly Martin	Laura Myers	Oneka Poindexter*
Lydia Hayes	William Jones	Sherita Martin	Morgan Nance*	Olivia Poldvee
Cynthia Haymore	Shondra Jordan	Denetta Marzette	Melvin Nash	Linda Polk





- |                         |                   |                        |                    |                    |
|-------------------------|-------------------|------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Ann Powell              | Cheryl Scott      | Jane Smothers          | Jennifer Tinnel    | Maiya White        |
| Ledillon Powers*        | Kristina Scott    | Meagan Spangler*       | Tamela Tirone      | Taylor White       |
| Shaterra Pryor          | Leandrea Scott    | Triniti Spight         | Audrey Tisdale     | Zamya White        |
| Paige Putnam*           | Malanee Selmer    | Shawna Stanton*        | Gabriela Toledo    | Asia Whitmore      |
| Donna Qualls*           | Addie Shackelford | Jaimee Staples*        | Amber Toles*       | Lillian Wientjes   |
| Patricia Quesenberry*   | Mikayla Shaffer*  | Diane Stefan           | Gustavo Torres     | Jeremy Wilkes      |
| Emily Ramsey            | Brieyonna Shannon | Eron Stephens          | Ashley Triplett    | Cheyenne Williams* |
| Bailee Ransbottom       | Barbara Sharp     | Faith Stephenson       | Bobby Truitt       | Deandre Williams   |
| Alaina Renfro           | Kristen Shaw      | Catherine Stepter*     | Susan Tulino       | Elizabeth Williams |
| Ruth Reyes*             | Crystal Shelton   | Kalle Stevens          | Donovan Turner     | Jamya Williams     |
| Jennifer Reynoso        | Claudia Shepherd  | Jamiyah Stevenson      | Sarah Turner*      | Katrina Williams   |
| Gwen Richardson         | Hurley Shepherd   | Grace Stewart          | Breat Tye          | Makayla Williams   |
| Hannah Richardson       | Denese Shumaker*  | Jasmine Stewart        | Jamia Ueal         | Makhila Williams   |
| Jamecia Richardson*     | Pamela Siggers    | Kyana Storey           | Yuanne Unson       | Morgan Williams    |
| Latoya Richardson       | Joanna Signore*   | Shelby Stringfield*    | Edith Vaughn*      | Petra Williams     |
| Jasmine Riddle*         | Lige Simmerman    | Margaret Strong        | LaShunta Vaughn    | Stephanie Williams |
| Victoria Ridgeway Espin | Jori Simmons      | Melissa Surlis         | Devon Wade         | Tyler Williams     |
| Amanda Riley*           | Garrett Simonton* | Diva Suttle            | Patricia Waggener  | Ann Willis*        |
| Becky Rinks             | Talitha Singleton | Rebecca Sweeney        | Ani Wah            | Connie Willis*     |
| Amy Robbins             | Nancy Sissman     | Carolyn Sweeney-Fisher | Hannah Walker      | Darius Wilson      |
| Megan Roberson*         | Vernon Slayton    | Laritha Sweet*         | Pamela Walker      | Ebonie Wilson      |
| Michelle Roberson       | Sheena Sledge     | Kathryn Swicord*       | Raven Walker       | Kinsey Wilson      |
| Veronica Roberson*      | Sydney Slocum     | Hailey Swindle         | Ann Wallace        | Madison Wims       |
| Benjamin Roberts        | Taylor Small      | Morgan Tackett*        | Halle Wallace      | Thomas Wolfe       |
| Kaitlyn Roberts         | Alexandra Smith   | Janice Taff            | Ann Warblow*       | Taylor Wood        |
| Kaleigh Roberts*        | Allyson Smith     | Kelian Tate            | Eva Warimu         | Ashley Woodbury    |
| Jia Robinson            | Ashilyk Smith     | Nemetria Tate          | Crystal Warner     | Stephanie Woods    |
| Tosha Robinson          | Dajsha Smith      | Trista Tate            | Hannah Warner      | Dorcas Woodson     |
| Ricardo Rodriguez       | Debra Smith*      | Ashley Tatum           | Bettie Washington* | Taylor Wooldridge  |
| Maria Rodriguez         | Diamond Smith     | Alexis Taylor          | Tracy Washington   | Quantrika Wooten   |
| Marilyn Rose            | Elizabeth Smith   | Brett Taylor           | Ashleigh Watson    | Aurora Wright      |
| Emily Rush*             | Emma Smith        | Cheyenne Taylor        | Sandra Watson*     | CaMesha Wright*    |
| Lynsey Russell*         | Jori Smith        | Markysha Taylor        | Taylor Watson*     | Kennedy Wright     |
| Rebecca Salinas         | Karen Smith       | Shaundra Taylor*       | Asha Watts         | Shania Wright      |
| Kimberly San Jose       | Karen Smith       | Alyssa Terry           | Maggie Weaver      | Sydney Yochum      |
| Carla Sanderson*        | Kimberly Smith    | Traveka Terry          | Stevi Webb         | Megan Youmans      |
| Keith Sappington        | Leanne Smith      | M.E. Thoma             | Carol Webster      | Trudy Young        |
| Nicole Satchfield       | Lexie Smith       | Amanda Thomas          | Monique Weems      | William Young      |
| Michael Schellberg      | Nautica Smith*    | Jessica Thomas         | Madison Welch      | Hye Yun            |
| Caryn Schmitz           | Nicole Smith*     | Jazmyne Thompson       | Rita West          | Katherine Zaccheo  |
| Mitchell Schrudder      | Ryann Smith*      | Julietta Thompson      | Katelyn Westbrook  | Rosa Zapata        |
| Barry Schultz           | Shannon Smith     | Paige Thompson         | Tamika Weston      |                    |
| Linda Schultz           | Shelbie Smith     | Tammy Thorn*           | Kristy Westphal*   |                    |
| Carly Schumann          | Theretha Smith*   | Lakesha Tillmann       | Katherine White    |                    |

AmazonSmile Foundation  
 Baptist Memorial College of Health Sciences Benevolent Fund  
 Breast Cancer Eradication Initiative, Inc  
 Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission of Colleges  
 Follett Higher Education Group  
 Gould's Salon and Spa

HealthNet Federal Credit Union  
 Kroger (Community Reward Program)  
 Lettie Pate Whitehead Foundation, Inc.  
 Napa Cafe'  
 OR Nurses Nationwide, Inc.

\*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**. Or to charge a gift, call **Sherita Martin at 901-572-2773**. Remember, a small amount can make a big difference.

## 2022 Scholarship Luncheon

On October 10, more than 200 people attended the annual scholarship luncheon recognizing a select group of scholarship recipients, their families and donors. In total, 199 awards in the amount of \$663,375 has been awarded for the current academic year. Robbie Johnson, vice president and chief development officer, opened the event with a beautiful prayer of thanksgiving. The program also included three current student speakers, Mahnoor Asad, Maria Rodriquez, and Kenyon

Page. They spoke about their journey to the University and their gratitude for the support and encouragement demonstrated through the generosity of the donors. Alum Zac Cox, Relationship Marketing Coordinator, spoke about his journey after attending Baptist University, the importance of giving back and the many reasons why he remains dedicated to his alma mater. The luncheon was a wonderful time of fellowship for both donors and students.



2022 Scholarship Luncheon



Mrs. Lynn Pounds with Don and Lynn Pounds scholarship recipients



## CONGRATULATIONS

Keep your fellow classmates updated! Email any and all life and professional updates to [alumni@baptistu.edu](mailto:alumni@baptistu.edu) to be featured in the "Class Notes".

### BIOMEDICAL SCIENCES

#### Samantha Boothe (2016)

Earned a Doctor of Medicine degree May 2022 from University of Tennessee Health Science Center and started her residency in General Surgery after graduation



#### Baely Erickson (2018)

Started Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine program fall 2022 at William Carey College of Osteopathic Medicine (1)

#### Alexandra Hassan (2016)

Earned a Doctor of Medicine degree from Touro College of Osteopathic Medicine in New York and started her residency in Emergency Medicine after graduation.

#### Holly Ingram (2021)

- Working as Public Policy Manager with the Alzheimer's Association
- Published first article, "MicroRNAs: Novel Targets in Hepatic Ischemia- Reperfusion Injury" in MDPI Journal March 2022.



#### Firas Quran (2018)

Earned a Doctor of Pharmacy degree from Union University May 2022 and started his residency with BMHC after graduation. (2)

#### Alek Rickman (2020)

Started Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine program fall 2021 at New York Institute of Technology College of Osteopathic Medicine in Arkansas (3)

#### Kristin Smith (2017)

Started Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine program fall 2021 at New York Institute of Technology College of Osteopathic Medicine in Arkansas



#### Patrick Townsend (2017)

- Working as a PA with Baptist Memphis Lung Center
- Commissioned as a First Lieutenant in the Army. "I have been working towards this for quite a while and I remember how all of my professors supported me during my time at Baptist to get here. So I just wanted to say thank you and the rest of Baptist for all of the support, even after I have graduated!" (4)



#### Lauren Vance (2016)

Earned a Master of Science in physician assistant studies degree from Christian Brothers University.

### DIAGNOSTIC MEDICAL SONOGRAPHY

#### Elizabeth Nevle Carter RDCS(AE), RDMS (AB)(OB/GYN)(PS), RVT (2020)

- Passed the Pediatric Sonography specialty exam, adding to her RDMS credential, RDCS(AE), RDMS (AB)(OB/GYN) (PS), RVT.
- She is currently employed at Baptist Memorial Hospital for Women and the Spence and Becky Wilson Baptist Children's Hospital.

#### Debrecius Fletcher RDMS(AB)(OB/GYN), RVT, DMS (2005)

- Recently passed the Obstetrics and Gynecology specialty exam, adding to her RDMS credential.
- She is currently employed at St. Francis Memphis in the Ultrasound department.

**Dendy Kirkpatrick** RDMS (AB)(OB/GYN), DMS (2002), recently passed the Obstetrics and Gynecology specialty exam, adding to her RDMS credential. She is currently employed at MOGA in Southaven, Mississippi.

#### Abby Kurtz (2007), Assistant Professor of Diagnostic Medical Sonography

- Pursuing her PhD, Abby was published in an edition of the *Journal of Diagnostic Medical Sonography*. Kurtz, A. (2022). Feeling and learning: A study of students' emotions in the sonography classroom. *Journal of Diagnostic Medical Sonography*. Advance online publication. <https://doi.org/10.1177/87564793211070246>



## CONGRATULATIONS

**Kelsie (Weakley) McConnell**, MS, RDMS (2015)

- Married to Mitchell McConnell on June 25, 2022
- Earned Master of Science in Leadership and Policy Studies from The University of Memphis in May 2019
- Started role as Practice Manager in Maternal-Fetal Medicine at Regional One Health in January 2023; employed at Regional One since graduation in 2015
- Published a chapter on “Fetal Skeleton” in *Textbook of Diagnostic Sonography*, Volume Two, 5th edition (5)



**Mary Grace Renfro** (2013), Instructor of Diagnostic Medical Sonography

- Earned Master of Science In Radiologic Sciences degree from Northwestern State University of Louisiana (NSULA) in August 2022 (6)



**Mitzi Roberts** EdD, RT(R), RDMS, RDCS, FSDMS (1994) (1993, Medical Radiography)

- Selected as a member of American College of Cardiology Cardio-Obstetrics Work Group
- Published chapters on “Placenta, Amniotic Fluid and Fetal Membranes” and “Fetal Urogenital System” in *Textbook of Diagnostic Sonography*, Volume Two, 5th edition

**Christie Tillery Taff, RDMS** (2007)

- Lead Clinical Coordinator, Mid-South Maternal Fetal Medicine
- Published a chapter on “Sonography of the Second and Third Trimesters” in *Textbook of Diagnostic Sonography*, Volume Two, 5th edition

**Connie Willis** (2004), Chair & Assistant Professor of Diagnostic Medical Sonography

- Elected as Chair-Elect of the Joint Review Committee on Education in Diagnostic Medical Sonography (JRC-DMS) for 2021 – 2023 and will move to Chair in October of 2023
- Previously served as a Director, Off-Site Reviewer, Substantive Change Committee member, and Armature Task Force member

## HEALTH ADMINISTRATION

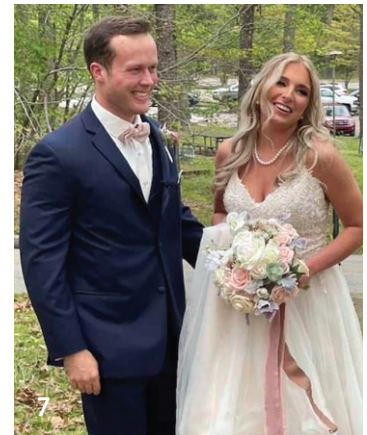
**Amy Lofties** (2020)

Began working as an admissions officer for Baptist Health Sciences University.

## MEDICAL LABORATORY SCIENCES

**Mikayla Harden Pruitt** (2019)

- Mikayla earned a master’s in education and is currently in the PhD program in biomedical research with an emphasis in microbiology, immunology, and cell biology at University of Tennessee Health Science Center.
- In 2021, Mikayla married Chris Pruitt (2018, Nuclear Medicine Technology) (7)



**April Johnson** (2018)

Baptist Medical Group Regional Laboratory Consultant for North Mississippi since December 2021.

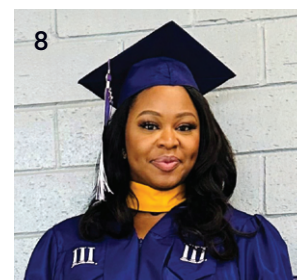
**Amber Toles** (2018)

New laboratory manager at Baptist North Mississippi in Oxford.

## MEDICAL RADIOGRAPHY

**Kathy Fish** (1977)

- Honored as part of “Women Who Lead” in *Memphis Business Journal*
- Assistant Professor of Medical Radiography after (2006)



**Kayla Mayfield** (2019),

- Earned Master of Science In Radiologic Sciences degree from Northwestern State University of Louisiana (NSULA) in December 2022
- Working for Baptist Medical Group (8)

**Debra Smith** (2006)

Serving as Tennessee Society of Radiologic Technologists (TSRT) President since October 7, 2021 and Chairman of the TSRT Board since October 7, 2022

## NEURODIAGNOSTIC TECHNOLOGY

**Ben Erickson** (2020)

- The first graduate of the bachelor’s degree program.
- Ben received his ABRET CLTM (Certification in Long-term Monitoring) right after he graduated with the neurodiagnostic technology bachelor’s degree.





## CONGRATULATIONS

- Ben received a letter from the Vice President of Western Governors University where he is working on an MBA. The letter shared the following statement recognizing his exemplary work on a particular paper. “The submission on developing organizational ethics and socially responsible behavior is excellent because it cogently discusses corporate social responsibility and logically describes its pragmatic, ethical, and strategic tenets. For many other impressive reasons, this submission truly exemplifies excellence!”
- Designed a patent pending wearable device that is capable of capturing full body video of a patient who is undergoing a 72 hour EEG in their home. The most common systems utilize a stationary camera. This approach improves the diagnostic yield of the video component by keeping the patient’s eyes, face, and all extremities in focus for nearly 100% of the recording. This contrasts with the current webcam placed on a surface in the room the patient is expected to spend the most amount of time in which restricts their ability to engage in activities of daily life. This restriction can reduce their interactions with potential seizure triggers as well as create a situation where the patient simply walks away from the camera for great lengths of time. (9)

## NUCLEAR MEDICINE TECHNOLOGY



**Heidi Hordyk** (1999)  
Received Murray Calloway County Hospital’s Hospital Mission Award given to those that display the virtues of the MCCH mission: “providing outstanding care & services through

our confident, compassionate and exceptional healthcare professionals” (10)

**Donna Mars** (1996) Chair & Associate Professor of Nuclear Medicine Technology (NMT)

- Asked to serve as a site visitor for the Joint Review Committee on Educational Programs in Nuclear Medicine Technology (JRCNMT) to a NMT program in Galveston, Texas, July 18- 19, 2022.
- Successfully defended her dissertation, Nuclear Medicine Technologists’ Motivations to Pursue Post-Primary Credentials, on November 1, 2022 earning a Doctor of Education (EdD) in Higher Education and Adult Education; Concentration: Higher Education from The University of Memphis

**Chris Pruitt** (2018)

- Working at West Cancer Center in PET/CT.
- Currently working on a Master of Business Administration at The University of Tennessee at Martin.
- In 2021, Chris married Mikayla Harden, (2019, Medical Laboratory Science). (11)



**Jackie Stevens** (2022)

Working at Sutherland Cardiology Clinic along with other alumni from the Baptist University including Erma Oliver (1975), Alan Peterson (1993), David McCaslin (1996), and Ashley LaGrone (2022).

**Mikaela (Deal) Thornton** (2018)

- Working at Methodist Hospital – North
- In April 2022, Mikaela married Curtis Thornton and is now a family of four, with children Ava and Joe.
- Completed Master’s of Business Administration with an emphasis in health management in July 2022. (12)



**Zac Cox** (2011)

Zac and his wife, Cassie, welcomed a new baby son, James Travis Cox, on July 7, 2022 (13)



## CONGRATULATIONS

**Jamie Keller** (2018)  
New family addition, baby Raegan, was born January 2022. With a new baby came a need for a bigger house, so the Keller's built and moved into their new home June 2022. Jamie continues working at West Cancer Center full time and still loves it! "PET has a lot of new and exciting things to help diagnose our cancer patients like the PSMA scans." (14)



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**Ashley LaGrone** (2022)  
One of ten students internationally to receive the 2022 Paul Cole Student Technologist Scholarship awarded by the Society of Nuclear Medicine and Molecular Imaging (SNMMI).

### NURSING

**Brandon Keith Bougard** (2008)  
Working as VP of Critical Care at Grady Memorial Hospital in Atlanta, GA

**Hannah (Zarshenas) Case** (2011)

- Earned Master of Science in Nursing – Family Nurse Practitioner from University of North Alabama and Family Nurse Practitioner Certification from American Academy of Nurse Practitioners in December 2022
- Started as a Family Nurse Practitioner with Cresthaven Internal Medicine in January 2023
- Married with two children who both want to be doctors like their mom (15)



15

**Madison Hoard** (2021)  
Awarded Daisy Award while working at Methodist North as an ER Nurse (16)



16

**Dr. Betty Sue McGarvey** (1978), President  
Served as a panelist for the 2022 TICUA Executive Leadership Institute (ELI) – Transitions: A Presidential Perspective held on May 11 at Welch College. The panelists each shared their "story" of becoming a president and perspectives/areas for the fellows to consider if applying for a presidency in the future.

**Stephanie Schultz** (2017) (2021, DNP)  
Stephanie and her husband, Thomas, welcomed baby, Watson (17)



17

**Sydney Ray Gully** (2013)  
Earned Doctorate of Nurse Anesthesia Practice degree from University of Tennessee Health Sciences Center

### POPULATION/PUBLIC HEALTH

**Jamecia D. Richardson** (2020)  
Began working as an admissions officer with Baptist Health Sciences University

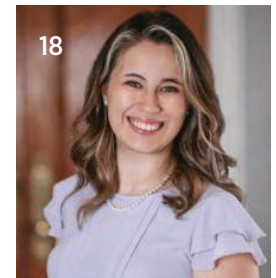
### RADIATION THERAPY

**Lauren Brown** (2017) faculty member  
presented "Radiation Recall After the COVID-19 Vaccine" at Baptist University Quest Symposium on August 25, 2022.

### RESPIRATORY CARE

**Jacquelyn Watson** (2019)

- Working for Eventa as Enhanced Respiratory Care (ERC) clinical liaison for the west region
- Selected as August 2022 Employee Highlight (18)



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## WANT TO BE IN THE NEXT ISSUE OF ALUMNI NEWS?

Please send us your photos for Class Notes, and find us on Facebook by searching Baptist Health Sciences University and Alumni. You may also send us a message or email [Alumni@BaptistU.edu](mailto:Alumni@BaptistU.edu)



[facebook.com/BaptistU](https://facebook.com/BaptistU)

@BaptistHealers



## Stay involved and connected!

Baptist University has always been fortunate to have alumni who believe in helping to promote the University and being active members in the Alumni Association. Whether you studied nursing, diagnostic medical sonography, medical radiography, nuclear medicine technology, radiation therapy, respiratory care, or health care management – at any of the Baptist Memorial Schools or the Baptist Health Sciences University – if you are a Baptist alum, we encourage you to get and stay involved with the college.

The following are many ways in which you can help by volunteering your time and service:

- Serving as a class agent - become the representative for your graduating class and contact between Baptist University and your classmates.
- Serving on a reunion committee for your class year.
- Serving on the alumni association board of directors.
- Serving as a regional contact for graduating seniors that are moving into your area.
- Attending or hosting an admissions reception in your area.
- 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

Email [Zac Cox at alumni@baptistu.edu](mailto:Zac Cox at alumni@baptistu.edu) to get involved.

## IN MEMORIAM



**Patricia Byrnes Blurton** (1969, Nursing) passed away February 2, 2022 (18)

**Marjorie S. Camero** (1952, Nursing) passed away February 28, 2020

**Mary P. Chipman** (1955, Nursing) passed away January 13, 2022

**James “Jimmy” E. Clifton** (1993, Nursing) passed away March 3, 2021

**Carolyn Gill** (1971, Medical Lab Technology)

**Doris Keown Green** (1957, Nursing) passed away April 8, 2022

**Rebecca Hale** (1972, Nursing) passed away February 20, 2019

**Nancy Henson**, (1957, Nursing) passed away May 7, 2021 (19)

**Pamela Diane Higdem** (1957, Nursing) passed away June 27, 2022 (20)

**Teresa Luke King** (Fitzgerald), (1975, Nursing) passed away April 22, 2022

**Lisa S. Maddox** (1956, Medical Lab Technology)

**Caroyn Owens Martens** (1960, Nursing) passed away February 7, 2022

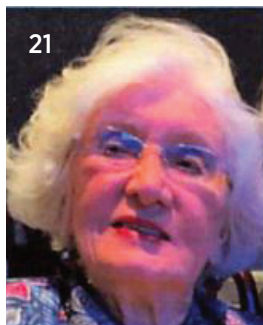
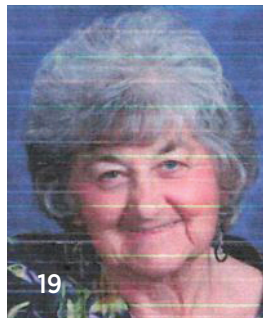
**Jerry McLarty** (1991, Nursing) passed away May 29, 2022

**Virginia Rainer** (1999, Nursing)

**Dr. Hurley Shepherd** (BHSU Faculty) passed away November 30, 2022

**Lila Faye Hogan Teague** (1950, Nursing) passed away November 28, 2014

**Mary (Hope) Wade** (1958, Nursing) passed away September 3, 2021 (21)





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## 2023 Spring Alumni Reunion April 15, 2023

More information forthcoming via email.

Email [alumni@baptistu.edu](mailto:alumni@baptistu.edu) to update your contact information.



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