

BAPTIST HEALTH SCIENCES UNIVERSITY

Alumni NEWS

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**WELCOMING OUR
NEW PRESIDENT**
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**BAPTIST HEALTH
SCIENCES UNIVERSITY**

Welcoming OUR NEW PRESIDENT

On July 10, 2023, Baptist Health Sciences University welcomed its new president, T. Hampton Hopkins, Ed.D. He immediately hit the ground running with collaborative work on the Baptist University College of Osteopathic Medicine set to seat students in fall 2024.

Dr. Hopkins most recently served as president of Carolinas College of Health Sciences in Charlotte, North Carolina, a job he had held since 2016. Carolinas College of Health Sciences is affiliated with Atrium Health, a nonprofit health care system with 40 hospitals and more than 70,000 team members. Dr. Hopkins' experience with a hospital-based approach to higher education in health care began in 2001 when he joined Carolinas College of Health Sciences as dean of student affairs and enrollment management.

"My path wasn't one that I'd expected, but the turns have been serendipitous," said Dr. Hopkins. "How the work affects the health care for the larger communities we're in is what has kept me in this field."

While he was at Carolinas College of Health Sciences, Dr. Hopkins increased enrollment by more than 30% in less than 15 years, negotiated favorable relationships with nearby universities in nurse practitioner specialties and oversaw the renovation and relocation of the college while securing large donor commitments and external grants. During his time there, Dr. Hopkins transitioned the college from an associate's program to baccalaureate level education, creating multiple bachelor's degree programs during his tenure.

"Most important to me was creating deeper pathways for student success, increasing graduation rates, helping them get that first job and creating ways to help students be successful during their education and their career," said Dr. Hopkins.

Creating successful students and ultimately health care workers is what Dr. Hopkins aims to do first at Baptist Health Sciences University. He intends to stay true to the Baptist mission of educating health care students in a Christian environment. His top priority is to retain and

improve upon the recruitment of students from all walks of life over the next three to five years.

"Now is the time to think beyond what we were and to create what Baptist University can become," said Dr. Hopkins. "As we determine our path forward, we will be creative and innovative, lead with renewed vision and values and seek to be different from our competition."

Dr. Hopkins doesn't take the history of Baptist Memorial Health Care and Baptist Health Sciences University lightly.

"Baptist has such a wonderful history as an institution and I respect the deep history and what has been built here," said Dr. Hopkins. "The faculty and staff bring a depth of care and compassion along with deep institutional knowledge that I think is unique to the higher education health care sector."

Before working in health care education, Dr. Hopkins worked in higher education at University of North Carolina - Asheville as an assistant director of student activities and at Pellissippi Community College in Knoxville, Tennessee as director of student life. He has several degrees, including a Bachelor of Science from Winthrop University in Rock Hill, South Carolina, a Master of Higher Education from the University of Tennessee - Knoxville, a Doctor of Educational Leadership from the University of North Carolina - Charlotte and a diploma of biblical interpretation and bible teaching from Gordon Cornwell Theological Seminary in Charlotte, North Carolina.

In the few months they have been in Memphis, Dr. Hopkins and his wife have enjoyed living here.

"Memphis is a vibrant city with a wonderful culture of history and food," said Dr. Hopkins. "We've found it very welcoming."

Dr. Hopkins is filling the role previously held by Dr. Betty Sue McGarvey who retired after 48 years with Baptist in the summer of 2023.



The Board of Trustees of Baptist Health Sciences University requests the honor of your presence at the inauguration of

T. Hampton Hopkins, Ed.D.

THE THIRD PRESIDENT OF BAPTIST HEALTH SCIENCES UNIVERSITY

Friday, March 22, 2024 | 1 p.m.

Baptist Health Sciences University Collaboration Building
The Frank S. Groner Auditorium | 20 Dudley Street
Memphis, Tennessee 38104

Reception with light refreshments to immediately follow ceremony

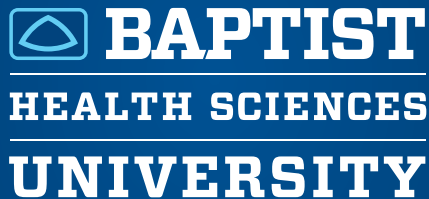
Kindly RSVP for the ceremony and reception at BaptistU.edu/Inauguration.

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President's CORNER

I alone cannot change the world, but I can cast a stone across the waters to create many ripples. - Mother Teresa

Who among you are runners? Not me; I like to walk. I like to walk in nature by a pond or lake, in the woods or on the beach. I particularly like taking my dogs for a walk, as it is often my best form of exercise. Those of you who walk dogs may recognize my challenge. I walk two of them at the same time. Neither dog is particularly well-trained, so they are constantly tugging at the leash or wanting to chase some animal.

What I have done to adapt and to try to keep at their pace is listening to upbeat music. A strong, pounding bass energizes me and I speed up my rhythm to match the beat. However, when I do this, I find that I don't enjoy the walk and the scenery as much as I want to. While trying to keep up with the beat, the music becomes distracting. I lose sight of my path and my purpose and find myself having to refocus on the joy of my journey.

I now have the joy of joining you on a continuing journey that started more than one hundred years ago. We have followed many paths along this journey. Now we are poised to chart a new path together.

The scripture that will guide us through this academic year is Psalm 25:4-5. In the Contemporary English Version, it states, *show me your paths and teach me to follow; guide me by your truth and instruct me. You keep me safe, and I always trust you.*

We are experiencing a lot of change at the University and our path is yet to be fully defined, but I am confident that if we are open to the ways and paths before us and trust in God to guide us, we will strengthen our academic community for the common good of all its members.

As we complete the final year of our strategic plan, *Strengthening Impact*, we will simultaneously be developing our next strategy. For our next strategic plan, I hope that we will be creative and innovative, lead with renewed vision and values and seek to be different from our competition. Together we will identify our path forward and together we will be the driving force behind the strategy we establish.

I am excited to be on this path with you and am honored to be the third president of Baptist Health Sciences University.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'T. Hampton Hopkins'.

T. Hampton Hopkins, EdD
President



Letter from Alumni Board Chair, Heidi Hordyk, Nuclear Medicine, Class of 1999



Greetings from the Baptist Health Sciences University Alumni Association Board of Directors! It is an honor to serve as the Chair of the Alumni Board of Directors this year and to represent you at the University. We are here to support the alumni goals and to build relationships among alumni, current students and the organization. This past October was a wonderful example of that relationship building as we celebrated the second annual Homecoming at BHSU. If you weren't able to attend, it was a relaxed family atmosphere with an opportunity to learn about the many programs that the University now offers. If you haven't been back on campus since graduation, I highly encourage you to make plans next year to come back home – the growth is amazing and the dedication to providing a higher education with a higher purpose is evident.

As I was thinking of what I wanted to share with you in this letter, I came across a quote from Debby Boone. It said “Dreams are the seeds of change. Nothing ever grows without a seed, and nothing ever changes without a dream.”

Through the years, many seeds have been planted and dreams have guided the path for the University. Beginning with the School of Nursing opening in 1912 and the establishment of the School of Radiologic Technology in 1956, there was a dream to go further to transform health care. In 1994, the seeds of change brought about the chartering of the Baptist College of Health Sciences, and I was proud to graduate (BHS Nuclear Medicine '99) in the first baccalaureate class. What I have found as I have become involved in the Alumni Association Board of Directors, is that the seeds of change are still growing and bearing fruit. The dream that has been fostered over the past three decades by Dr. Rose Temple and Dr. Betty Sue McGarvey has resulted in a University to be proud of, a University that has a vision to be distinguished regionally for innovation and excellence in health sciences education which prepares graduates to transform health care.

The seeds of change continue to bring exciting new growth as we welcome a new President, Dr. Hopkins. As our third president, he now nurtures the dream as the University adds the College of Osteopathic Medicine. The core values of the University remain integrity, professionalism and service as an expression of Christian values and continuous improvement. As alumni, we play a critical role in supporting these values and the vision of the University.

Please consider joining the Alumni Association to make new memories with old classmates, sponsor a current student as they compete in state competitions, and help the next generation entering into health care be successful. The possibilities are endless when we get involved!

Heidi Hordyk, MBA, R.T.(R), CNMT, CRA
Nuclear Medicine '99
Alumni Board of Directors Chair
Baptist Health Sciences University



Dr. Barry Schultz, provost, vice president of academic affairs and founding faculty member retires

Dr. Barry Schultz retired from his position as Provost of Baptist Health Sciences University in December 2023 after serving in a variety of roles for 28 years. As one of the five original faculty members hired at Baptist Memorial College of Health Sciences, he taught math from 1995 to 2008 and was the distinguished faculty member of the year in 2002. Dr. Schultz was promoted to dean of general education in 2008, where he served until his promotion to provost in 2020. While dean, he was instrumental in creating the biomedical sciences program, pre-health studies program, honors program and the development and creation of the College of Osteopathic Medicine.

Dr. Mark Stutz named new Biomedical Sciences Chair

The Division of General Education and Health Studies welcomed Dr. Mark Stutz as the new chair of biomedical sciences. Dr. Stutz completed his Bachelor of Science in Health Science from Lock Haven University in Pennsylvania; Master of Science in Education with an emphasis in Biomechanics and Sports Psychology from University of Kansas and his Doctorate of Philosophy in Curriculum and Instruction from Kansas State University. The title of his dissertation is Predicting Academic Achievement in National Athletic Trainers' Association Undergraduate Athletic Training Programs.

He joins us from his most recent position as chair of the division of natural and health sciences at Nebraska Wesleyan University in Lincoln, Nebraska. Dr. Stutz is a licensed athletic trainer and recently was elected to the National Academies of Practice (NAP). NAP advises governmental bodies on the U.S. health care system. Distinguished professionals are elected by their peers to join NAP, which is the only interprofessional group of health care practitioners and scholars of its kind. Along with this prestigious honor, Dr. Stutz has received a number of state, regional and national academic advising and professional service awards and can be found presenting at local, state, regional and national meetings. His research interests include injuries and illnesses affecting the pediatric population and the use of standardized patients and interprofessional education in health care educational programs. In his spare time, he enjoys spending time with his family, watching sports and traveling.





Laura Baker named new Medical Radiography Program Chair

Professor Laura Baker, MBA, R.T.(R) (ARRT), is the new chair and assistant professor of medical radiography at Baptist Health Sciences University. Prior to joining BHSU, Professor Baker served as the program director for the school of radiologic technology at Methodist University School of Radiologic and Imaging Sciences. Before her appointment as program director at Methodist, she served as the school's clinical coordinator. She also worked as an interventional radiology staff technologist for Baptist Memorial Hospital-Memphis. Professor Baker is a textbook writer for eDynamic Learning and a site visitor for the Joint Review Committee on Education in Radiologic Technology (JRCERT).

Professor Baker has a Bachelor of Science in Biology from the University of Memphis, a certificate in radiologic technology from Methodist School of Radiologic Technology, a Master of Business Administration from Belhaven University and is certified and registered with the American Registry of Radiologic Technology.



New Coordinator of Basic Needs, Erica Dickerson

The Office of Faith & Service welcomed a new employee, Erica Dickerson, Coordinator of Basic Needs. Ms. Dickerson will be focusing on the wraparound services for our students. These services identify the basic needs of students while also helping the students develop goals to be more successful in creating a school-life balance. She will focus on food insecurity, housing, utilities, daycare, goal setting, budgeting, time management and more.

New Neurodiagnostic Technology Program Instructor/ Clinical Coordinator, Mallory Weichel (2020, Neurodiagnostic Technology)

Professor Mallory Weichel, AS, R. EEG T. is the new instructor/clinical coordinator for the neurodiagnostic technology program at Baptist Health Sciences University. Prior to joining BHSU, Professor Weichel served as a neurodiagnostic technologist at Tri-State Neurology Clinic. Professor Weichel is a 2020 graduate of Baptist Health Sciences University's NDT program and has the R. EEG T. credential.





Baptist University College of Osteopathic Medicine (BUCOM) prepares to welcome its first class in August 2024

Under Dean Dr. Peter Bell's leadership, the Baptist University College of Osteopathic Medicine (BUCOM) is preparing to welcome its first class of osteopathic medical students in August 2024. The Commission on Osteopathic College Accreditation (COCA) granted "pre-accreditation" status to the program on April 14, 2023. This status allows BUCOM to recruit students and offer the four-year doctor of osteopathic medicine program at Baptist University. The program will be monitored by COCA over the next five years to ensure satisfactory progression by hiring qualified faculty members and building adequate facilities in which to offer the curriculum. BUCOM will be eligible for full accreditation when the first cohort of students is poised to graduate, in the spring of 2028.

Within a week of receiving pre-accreditation status, BUCOM's student applications opened in the shared online application system shared by osteopathic medical schools, AACOMAS. The admissions office is well on their way to hitting their goal of 1,500 applications for the inaugural class. COCA approved an annual class size of 150 students, but requires new COMs to begin at 50% capacity in their first year. To fill the 75 seats in the class, the admissions office screens applicants through two rounds of file review, and top candidates are invited to spend the day on campus interviewing, touring the construction site, and eating lunch with faculty members.

Dr. Bell's leadership team has also been busy traveling to 16 regional colleges and universities to establish articulation agreements and pipeline programs to increase the number of applicants from the Baptist Memorial Health Care tri-state service area of Tennessee, Mississippi and Arkansas.

At full capacity, BUCOM will need approximately 100 new faculty and staff members. During summer 2023, Dr. Beth Choby, senior associate dean of academic affairs, hired and on-boarded the initial group of founding faculty who are working diligently to design an integrated curriculum for the first two years of the program. Simultaneously, Dr. David Klink, senior associate dean of clinical affairs, is visiting Baptist hospitals and establishing a structure for years three and four of the curriculum, where students will complete their clinical rotations.

Lead by vice president Leanne Smith and April Tyson, senior director of financial and business services, renovations of the future College of Osteopathic Medicine building are moving quickly. The 100,000 square-foot building is located at 1115 Union Avenue, directly behind the nursing building. Stay tuned for future opportunities to tour the building and **check out the webpage at www.BaptistU.edu/medicine or scan the QR code for a virtual flythrough of the facility.**





Faith and Service

During 2023, the winds of change were blowing across Baptist Health Sciences University. Changes included a new president, faculty moving to a different building, the retirement of long-time Baptist University employees and many others, but the one thing that did not change was the faith-based identity of the university. The school continues to offer events and opportunities for spiritual growth throughout the campus.

Our partnership with City View Towers, the largest low-income residential facility in Tennessee, grew stronger. Throughout the year, students, staff and faculty continued to be involved in their community through a variety of activities such as a pasta-making class and game days which included bingo. Three residents from City View Towers were guest speakers during Black History Month, sharing their experiences in the civil rights movement.

One of the most effective on-campus events for spiritual growth occurred on Thursday nights. The student-led organization, BASIC (Brothers and Sisters in Christ) sponsored “Real Talk” as a place for real conversations with real community. Along with Chaplain Karen Smith, director of faith and service, student leaders led the conversations dealing with difficult issues facing the students on their faith journey.

Student Retreat

As part of welcome week at the beginning of the fall 2023 trimester, the office of faith and service, along with student life, sponsored a weekend student retreat. The retreat took place at Pinecrest Camp and Retreat Center in LaGrange, Tennessee. 45 people participated in the three-day event. During the weekend, Bible studies with small groups were held, focusing on the scripture passage for the year:

Make me to know your ways, O Lord; teach me your paths. Lead me in your truth and teach me, for you are the God of my salvation; for you I wait all the day long. Psalm 25:4-5

Other activities included art, a bonfire, outdoor games and competitions. On Saturday night, Dr. Hopkins, president of the University, joined the group for a time of questions and answers and a fun competition. It was a fun and meaningful weekend where community was built and opportunities for faith development were given.

Peru Mission Trip 2023

After a two-year hiatus due to COVID, the University once again offered an international medical mission trip during the last two weeks of April. Sponsored by The Liquid Legacy, two groups of 25 traveled to the jungles of Peru to set up clinics in and around the city of Pucallpa. The focus was to serve the indigenous Peruvians called the Shipibo tribe. Not until 1986 were the Shipibo people considered human beings by the Peruvian government. Along with Liquid Legacy, the University partnered with a ministry called United Servants Peru. Tom Hough, the director of the ministry, was born in the jungles of Peru 67 years ago to missionary parents. His parents set up a safe place for the Shipibo people to stay when bringing their goods into the city to sell. The safe place developed not only into housing, but also a theological educational institution for jungle pastors who set up clinics for the teams. The local pastors check on each patient and their families in order to introduce themselves and talk about the church.



During the two weeks in Pucallpa, more than 2,450 patients were served. They were cared for medically and spiritually. The groups were encouraged to touch each patient, look them in the eyes, and let them know that they are children of God. Prayer and a compassionate touch become a healing balm during the clinics.

A part of the educational institution is an organization called the Shipibo Church Association. Just as in the United States, the Association provides encouragement and resources for the local churches. Because of the compassionate care, our groups provided for the people of the villages, and the support of the community leaders, two Shipibo churches joined the Shipibo Church Association. The team truly was the hands and feet of Christ during the two weeks in Pucallpa.



Peru Mission Trip 2023 continued

Participating alumni included: Charles Brown (2019, Biomedical Sciences), Shannon Davenport (1995, Nursing) assistant professor of nursing, Mahalia Mckain (2023, Biomedical Sciences), Nicholas Ray (2023, Biomedical Sciences), Jamecia Richardson (2020, Public Health)





Alumni Luncheon held at Baptist Memorial Hospital-DeSoto

A luncheon for alumni held on April 4, 2023, included lunch, pictures with Hartley, our University mascot, a free alumni t-shirt and words of thanks and encouragement from Baptist DeSoto's CEO and '94 nursing alumna, Brian Hogan. 55 alumni, University partners and current students attended the event.



Alumni Luncheon held at Baptist Memorial Hospital-Collierville

The luncheon on May 18, 2023, was held to thank Baptist University graduates, current students and those who work with future healers for their dedication to the Baptist family. The aim was to provide a place where everyone could rediscover their love of health care while reconnecting with one another.

University mascot Hartley made an appearance at the luncheon. For many alumni, it was their first time seeing the mascot in person. The 35 attendees received a thank-you gift from the Alumni Association, which included a branded alumni t-shirt. Participants ranged from the graduating class of 1984 to recent graduates from the April class of 2023.





Alumni Luncheon held at Baptist Memorial Hospital-Memphis

On November 9, 2023, a nacho bar complete with a Baptist University-logo cake was the catalyst to bring together alumni, current students, faculty, staff and other team members that help prepare the next generation of healers. 70 alumni and students attended, ranging from December 2024 graduates to alumni from 1977. Each alumnus in attendance received a t-shirt as a thank you. Stories and words of encouragement to the next generation were exchanged while having pictures taken with University mascot, Hartley. Baptist Memphis Nursing Clinical Development Director Katie Lafever, nursing class of 2005, awarded Jan Padgett, nursing class of 1977, the “most seasoned alumni in attendance” award.



Stay involved and connected!

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

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

You can get involved by:

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

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



Spring Alumni Reunion Luau Held at Bass Pro Shops at the Pyramid

On April 15, 2023, more than 120 alumni, family, friends, faculty and staff gathered for the Blue Hawaii Luau Alumni Reunion on the Mississippi Terrace at the Bass Pro Shops at the Pyramid. Attendees were greeted with lei by alumni board members and current University students in the Big Cypress Lodge lobby where they were escorted up the elevator to the third floor where the luau began. Zac Cox, relationship marketing coordinator and 2011 nuclear medicine alumnus, welcomed everyone to the 2023 Spring Alumni Reunion. Alumni enjoyed great conversations and life updates from their fellow classmates while taking in beautiful views of the Mississippi River and downtown Memphis.

Zac presented Phyllis Gates, class of 1954, with the “Longevity” award as Mrs. Gates liked to call it. This award goes to the attendee who is the most tenured Baptist alum. The class of 1973 was noted for celebrating their 50th reunion.

Sherita Martin, director of development, gave a special recognition to the class of 1978. Sherita also invited anniversary classes to participate in a giving challenge leading up to the reunion. The class of 1978 took home the prize by giving \$7,290.

Damon Mays, nursing class of 1985 and the outgoing alumni board chair, gave remarks of thanks to his fellow classmates for attending and introduced Heidi Hordyk, nuclear medicine class of 1999, as the incoming alumni board chair.





Fall Homecoming Weekend 2023

Overton Shell Concert with Central BBQ

On October 6, 2023, approximately 45 alumni, guests and current University students, faculty, staff and administration gathered on the hospitality decks at the Overton Shell during a beautiful fall night to enjoy music and barbeque. Before the night's featured artist, Morgan James, took stage, University guests enjoyed music from opening acts from the Black Arts Alliance, the Memphis Grizzlies Grizz Line and a welcome by Memphis Grizzlies head coach Taylor Jenkins. Guests enjoyed Central BBQ while enjoying the live music, beautiful weather and camaraderie.



Homecoming Fall Festival

Homecoming weekend continued on campus. More than 150 alumni, guests and current University students, faculty, staff and administration came back to campus for some fall fun. Guests had their choice of two food trucks to enjoy while watching football games inside or sitting outside to enjoy the beautiful weather. Guests also enjoyed popsicles from local Mempops, inflatables, a face painter, a balloon twister and a pumpkin patch. Academic programs setup spaces in the Assembly Hall to welcome their classes back on campus. The programs decorated their tables with games, candy and even a popcorn machine for everyone to enjoy.

Each year, attendees vote on the program table that was best in show. The 2023 winner was medical radiography.

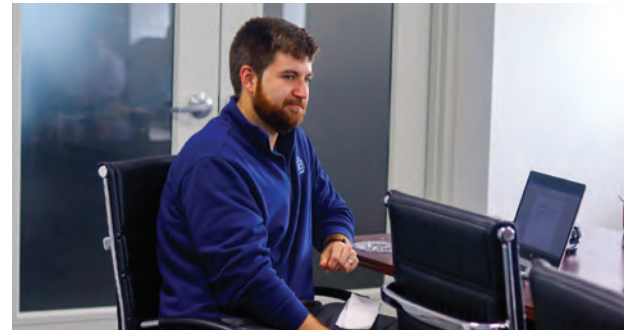
"We had a wonderful time with great food and great people," said Debra Smith, medical radiography assistant professor and 2006 alumna. "I love that the medical radiography program won best tailgate! I am looking forward to next year and I hope to see many more students then."





Coffee and Conversations with BHSU President, Dr. Hampton Hopkins

Alumni were invited to sit down for coffee and conversation with new BHSU President, Dr. Hampton Hopkins. Dr. Hopkins began with an introduction sharing about his previous roles at other schools, his family and how God began working many years prior to him becoming the president at BHSU through a friendship with Dr. Betty Sue McGarvey. Attendees from classes 1960 to 2023 had no trouble keeping the conversation going. They asked Dr. Hopkins several questions and shared many stories from “back in the day,” as well as current opportunities and issues that face our alumni now. Dr. Hopkins concluded the conversation by focusing on how a sense of belonging is a key component of alumni engagement that begins with their time on campus as a student.



BHSU Honors Former President Dr. Betty Sue McGarvey with Portrait Unveiling and Induction into TICUA’s Hall of Fame

On November 8, 2023, Baptist Health Sciences University’s faculty and staff convened at the Campus Hub library to honor former President Dr. Betty Sue McGarvey with a portrait unveiling and induction into the Hall of Fame by the Tennessee Independent Colleges and Universities Association (TICUA).

As the second president of BHSU, Dr. McGarvey’s portrait will be displayed in the library alongside that of the first president, Dr. Rose Temple. Dr. McGarvey selected the talented Joe Sawyer for the task. Sawyer, a 2010 alumnus with a bachelor’s degree in nursing, spent the past decade working in pediatric and neonatal nursing before founding S&L Mural Company, a commercial mural business.

TICUA represents private higher education institutions in the state. Recently, TICUA announced the achievements of 24 alumni from member institutions in various fields, both nationally and globally. On October 4, 2023, the names of the 2023 inductees were revealed, which included Dr. McGarvey, recognizing her remarkable contributions to the health care industry. Dr. McGarvey has served Baptist Memorial Health Care for an impressive 48 years and her exceptional performance has earned her numerous accolades, including the distinguished title of “Super Woman in Business” by the *Memphis Business Journal*. During the ceremony, Zac Cox, relationship marketing coordinator, handed her a plaque and a ribbon to honor this induction.





Spring 2023 Commencement Ceremony

On April 20, 2023, Baptist Health Sciences University held a spring commencement ceremony at Bellevue Baptist Church in Memphis, Tennessee. President Dr. Betty Sue McGarvey conferred associate and bachelor degrees to 119 graduates in the programs of biomedical sciences, diagnostic medical sonography, health administration, medical radiography, neurodiagnostic technology, nuclear medicine technology, pre-health studies, radiation therapy, respiratory care, nursing and the first graduating class of surgical technology.

The following graduation awards were announced during the ceremony:

- Board of Directors Award – Ann Durham, Nuclear Medicine Technology
- Elizabeth Farnell Achievement Award – Brittany Collins, Nursing
- Joseph Powell Award – Mahalia McKain, Biomedical Sciences
- Sarah Ainsworth Award – Michael Faulkner, Health Administration
- Dr. Ling H. Lee Achievement Award – Khitam Hamad, Medical Radiography
- Dr. John F. Rockett Award – Ann Durham, Nuclear Medicine Technology
- Dr. Emmel Golden Award – Cassie Nielson, Respiratory Care





Summer 2023 Commencement Ceremony

On August 17, 2023, Baptist Health Sciences University held a fall commencement ceremony at Bellevue Baptist Church in Memphis, Tennessee. President Dr. Hampton Hopkins conferred associate and bachelor degrees to 45 graduates in the programs of biomedical sciences, health administration, neurodiagnostic technology, nursing and surgical technology.

The following graduation awards were announced during the ceremony:

- Elizabeth Farnell Achievement Award – Kayleigh Busby, Nursing
- Joseph Powell Award – Isabella Marriott, Biomedical Sciences
- Sarah Ainsworth Award – Isabella Marriott, Biomedical Sciences
- Sigma Theta Tau Award – Charmelle Trice, Nursing



Fall 2023 Commencement Ceremony

On December 14, 2023, Baptist Health Sciences University held a winter commencement ceremony at Millington First Baptist Church in Millington, Tennessee. President Dr. Hampton Hopkins conferred associate, bachelor, and doctoral degrees to 46 graduates in the programs of biomedical sciences, health administration, medical laboratory science, neurodiagnostic technology, nursing and nursing practice in adult gerontology acute care.

The following graduation awards were announced during the ceremony:

- Board of Directors Award – Cali Edwards, Medical Laboratory Science
- Elizabeth Farnell Achievement Award – Seham Howington, Nursing
- Joseph Powell Award – Seham Howington, Nursing
- Dr. Thomas McColl Chesney Award – Cali Edwards, Medical Laboratory Science
- Sarah Ainsworth Award – Ryann Smith, Neurodiagnostic Technology
- Advanced Practice Leadership Award – Darlesia Garrison, Doctor of Nursing Practice
- Sigma Theta Tau Award – Candyce Wallace, Nursing





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 teach, preach and heal, the honors program seeks to share “the light of truth for mind, soul and body” through four areas: scholarly research and advancement, professional and spiritual enrichment, cultural and social engagement and service and leadership development. The honors program exists to develop scholarly servant leaders.

This fall the honors program accepted 20 new members for a total of 77 honors students comprising 10% of the current student population. The honors program is a member of the National Collegiate Honors Council. The average programmatic grade point average is 3.5 with 93% of the participants being very satisfied with the honors experience at BHSU.

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

The Gifted to Give initiative revolves around three annual fundraisers: in the fall, *Share the Thankfulness*, in the spring, *Share the Love*, and in the summer, *Share the Sunshine*.

Students invite those in their spheres of influence to support the honors program and the establishment of an honors scholarship program.

The Created to Commune initiative sponsors several social events such as movie nights and Christmas and Spring gatherings, 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 services, Student Preview Days, *Black Men in White Coats* in April, Baptist *HealthCORE STEM Summer Camp* in June and our annual *Toy Drive for the Baptist Children’s Hospital* in November. This past year opened up new service opportunities, including the Baptist HealthCORE tutoring program for high school students and the *Tennessee Health Career Summit* that took place in November 2023.

The Scholarship to Share initiative allows students to present their honors capstone experience research each trimester through the Honors Forum. The Spring Honors Forum merged with the inaugural offering of *Elevate: Student Research Symposium* on March 2023, sponsored by the honors program, as well as Baptist University’s honors societies and professional organizations.

The following is the research that has been presented by our seventeen 2022 – 2023 honors program graduates through these events:

Term	Student	Program	HCE Project Title	Faculty Advisor
SP23	Grace Babcock	Nursing	<i>Nursing Burnout Due to the COVID-19 Pandemic</i>	Dr. Renee Parker
SP23	Megan Balash	Medical Radiography	<i>Medical Radiography Students’ Attitude Towards Shielding</i> with Marley Kelley	Professor Thomas Wolfe
FA23	Brittney Berryman	Nursing	<i>Improving the Role of the Nurse in caring for Children with Exposure to Adversity</i>	Dr. Cheryl Johnson-Joy
SP23	Brittany Collins	Nursing	<i>Use of Cognitive Behavioral Therapy in Dementia Caregivers</i> with Brittany Collins	Dr. Angel Boling
SP23	Jasmine Dunn	Nursing	<i>Interventions to Prevent Pressure Injuries in Patients with Reduced Mobility</i> with Kennedy Fossett	Dr. Pam Cherry
SU23	Isabella Marriott	Biomedical Sciences	<i>Rural and Urban Access to Nutritious Foods: Program Implementation in Hospitals</i>	Dr. Christina Davis



HONORS AND AWARDS

BHSU Honors Program *continued*

Term	Student	Program	HCE Project Title	Faculty Advisor
SP23	Ann-McKeel Durham	Nuclear Medicine Technology	<i>Does the Loo Expose You? Does Using the PET Department Patient Bathroom Contributed to Occupational Exposure</i>	Dr. Donna Mars
SP23	Kennedy Fossett	Nursing	<i>Interventions to Prevent Pressure Injuries in Patients with Reduced Mobility with Jasmine Dunn</i>	Dr. Pam Cherry
SP23	Lia Freeman	Radiation Therapy	<i>Evaluation and Management of Cognitive Decline in Brain Tumor Patients</i>	Professor Christen Ganley
SP23	Michaela Hudson	Nursing	<i>Use of Cognitive Behavioral Therapy in Dementia Caregivers with Brittany Collins</i>	Dr. Angel Boling
SP23	Marley Kelley	Medical Radiography	<i>Medical Radiography Students' Attitude Towards Shielding with Megan Balash</i>	Professor Thomas Wolfe
SP23	Samantha Kelley	Nursing	<i>The Holistic Effects of Increased Stress on Emergency Medicine Nurses</i>	Dr. Angel Boling
SP23	Nicholas Ray	Biomedical Sciences	<i>Considering Hypertension as a Direct Link to Neuroinflammation and Subsequent Pathogenesis in Alzheimer's Disease: A Narrative Review</i>	Dr. Charity Brannen
SP23	Jeffery Rhea	Nursing	<i>Decreasing the Occurrence and Recurrence of Breast Cancer with Kelli Rhea</i>	Dr. Cheryl Johnson-Joy
SP23	Kelli Rhea	Nursing	<i>Decreasing the Occurrence and Recurrence of Breast Cancer with Jeffery Rhea</i>	Dr. Cheryl Johnson-Joy
SP23	Hannah Warner	Nursing	<i>Breast Cancer Health Disparities Among African American Women</i>	Dr. Angel Boling

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



BHSU Honors Program continued

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



Medallion Ceremony Spring 2023



Medallion Ceremony Fall 2023



Medallion Ceremony Summer 2023



Salute to Scholars Spring 2023



Honors Luncheon Fall 2023



Toy Drive for Baptist Children's Hospital delivery



Call for 2024 Alumni Award Nominations

Distinguished Alumni Award

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

Criteria

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

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

Alumni Service Award

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

Criteria

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

Selection Process

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

Young Alumni Award

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

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

Distinguished Alumni Award 2024

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

Nominated by: _____

Address: _____

Phone number(s): _____

HONORS AND AWARDS



I nominate: _____ Field: _____ Class of: _____

Address: _____

Phone number(s) _____

Reason for nominating the alumnus _____

Information regarding professional career _____

Information on other honors/awards _____

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



Baptist Alumna Honored in TICUA Hall of Fame – Dr. Betty Sue McGarvey (1978, Nursing)

- Baptist Memorial Hospital School of Nursing - Diploma of Nursing | 1978
- Memphis State University - B.S., Nursing | 1985
- University of Tennessee, Center for Health Sciences - M.S., Nursing | 1990
- University of Alabama at Birmingham - PhD, Nursing | 2002
- 48 Years of Service to Baptist Memorial Health Care
- Named a “Super Woman in Business” by *Memphis Business Journal*
- Former President of Baptist Health Sciences University

Dr. Betty Sue McGarvey is a graduate of Baptist Memorial Hospital School of Nursing, which has grown under her leadership to become Baptist Health Sciences University. Baptist Health Sciences University prepares graduates for careers of service and leadership by providing a comprehensive health sciences education within an integrated environment of learning and Christian principles. Under this mission, Dr. McGarvey has led by example. She retired in 2023 as the university president.

Dr. McGarvey’s 48 years of service to Baptist Memorial Health Care began with a career as a trauma nurse coordinator and a nurse in the emergency department and coronary care unit. During her tenure at Baptist, she earned the additional degrees of master of science in nursing and doctorate in philosophy of nursing. She chose to do so to deepen and broaden her knowledge of the health care industry, which exemplifies the University’s value of continuous improvement.

Dr. McGarvey valued passing on her knowledge and moved from the bedside to full-time teaching at then-Baptist Memorial School of Nursing. Her tenure as a faculty member led her to become a founding member of Baptist Memorial College of Health Sciences. Baptist Memorial College of Health Sciences was built on the curricula of the school of nursing to offer a broader range of educational programs to develop future generations of health care providers. Zac Cox, 2011 alumnus and current relationship marketing coordinator for Baptist Health Sciences University said, “To have the pleasure of knowing her as one of her students, a mentor, colleague, fellow alumni and friend is to know true leadership, service over self and the meaning of being a Baptist graduate.”

Dr. McGarvey, through her tireless dedication and visionary leadership, oversaw the transition of Baptist College of Health Sciences to Baptist Health Sciences University, offering graduate and doctorate-level degrees, as well as the establishment of the proposed College of Osteopathic Medicine. During this work, she found time to share her knowledge by serving as a board member on several professional, educational and community organizations. A few of those include the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges, Memphis Medical District Collaborative, Leadership Memphis, Tennessee Independent Colleges & Universities Association, Rotary International, American Heart Association and several others.

She has received awards and recognition from each of her alma maters and was honored as part of the “Super Women in Business” by the *Memphis Business Journal* and “50 Women Who Make a Difference” by *Memphis Woman* magazine.



“The years have flown by; I look back and think ‘how did that happen?’ But I will be a Baptist Blue Healer for life!”

– Dr. Betty Sue McGarvey

Source: TICUA Hall of Fame 2023 Inductees



Holly Ingram (2021, Biomedical Sciences)

Making the most of your education

For Holly Ingram, going to Baptist Health Sciences University to pursue a career in health care was a step in following her sister, a nursing graduate of what was then-Baptist College of Health Sciences. She quickly proved to be anything but a follower.

Holly entered the University in the Honors Program, not knowing exactly what she wanted to do in health care. Initially, she thought it was nursing. After taking some courses, she decided to focus on biomedical sciences and graduated within three years from a program that typically takes four years. She served as president of the SGA and chair of the honors student leadership council. She

“Use your time at Baptist to figure out your career. I made some of my best friends here and I really encourage students to foster their connections.”

– Holly Ingram



also excelled outside of school, volunteering with the local chapter of the Alzheimer’s Association and as a lead volunteer at St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital.

In addition to doing her clinical rotation, Holly was interested in shadowing a practicing physician in the Baptist system, a recommendation from BHSU’s Chair and Associate Professor of Biomedical Sciences, Lilian Nyindodo, PhD, MPH, who also later recommended that Holly apply to medical school. After contacting several physicians, Holly heard back from Dr. Rachel Harrison, a cardiothoracic surgeon at Baptist Memorial Hospital–Memphis.

“Shadowing Dr. Harrison wasn’t an educational requirement, but I loved it,” said Holly.

Following graduation, Holly first worked for the Alzheimer’s Association in Tennessee on the policy side, and then in Chicago as an associate director of the medical and science relations team. She is inspired by her work with them and being by her grandmother’s side as she dealt with Alzheimer’s disease.

Holly started medical school in July 2023 at Rocky Vista University in Utah and plans to focus on neurology.

Holly said that the biggest benefit, in addition to small class sizes, of attending BHSU is networking. Her time as an undergraduate increased her confidence in her skills, which will translate well when she is practicing medicine and treating patients.

In March 2023, Holly was the keynote speaker at the Honors program Elevate Symposium where she encouraged students to be creative, collaborative and connect with fellow students and professors. She told the students how her career path and vision for her future changed, but she is grateful that BHSU gave her the opportunity to pivot.

The first Elevate Symposium was a two-day event featuring oral, poster and Honors Capstone Experience project presentations. Colleagues learned about research and happenings at BHSU.

“Use your time at Baptist University to figure out your career,” Holly added. “I made some of my best friends here and I really encourage students to foster their connections.”



Christopher Gully (2013, Nursing; 2023, Doctor of Nursing Practice)

Once you have more degrees, you can do more

Chris Gully graduated from the Baptist College of Health Sciences nursing program in 2013. He knew that he wanted to go back to school for a postgraduate degree. In December 2023, Chris graduated from Baptist Health Sciences University as a gerontology nurse practitioner with an emphasis in acute adult care. He passed his boards in October 2023, making him the first ever Baptist University DNP student to pass the boards before graduation.

one conversation led to a five-year position in the CVICU and ultimately led Chris to pursue the doctorate in nursing.

“Don’t be afraid to ask about opportunities,” said Chris. “Try everything offered, take the classes and talk to everyone when doing your clinicals.”

Chris said that he knew he wanted to stay in nursing, but wanted the opportunity to expand his scope of



“Don’t be afraid to ask about opportunities. Try everything offered, take the classes and talk to everyone when doing your clinicals.”

– Christopher Gully

Chris always knew he wanted to do something in health care, but he didn’t know what. He took several classes before deciding to focus on nursing. He was an involved student on campus, serving as an RA and attending most student events. Chris met his now wife Sydney in 2009, their first semester in college. They both graduated from the nursing program in 2013.

Following graduation, he worked in the CVICU at Baptist Memphis as a rotating nurse for cardiothoracic surgeon Dr. John Craig, which is an unusual role for a newer nurse. He came upon the position in an interesting fashion. While in undergrad, he talked to Dr. Brad Wolf, a cardiovascular surgeon, about any potential part-time or weekend rounding opportunities. That

practice, which comes from further education.

Dr. Cathy Stepter, the then-director of Baptist University’s Doctor of Nursing program, contacted Chris several times about continuing his education. She knew he would make a good student, again. He waited until Sydney completed her post-graduate education. She graduated in May 2020 from a nurse anesthetist program and Chris started his program in January 2021. He, like his wife, worked while he was in school.

“All the credit is to my family,” Chris said of working while in the DNP program. “There’s no way either of us could’ve done both without family support.”



Besides being an excellent student and motivated health care worker, Chris is also a father to three young children, ages six, five and eighteen months, and an active member of his church.



Biomedical Sciences 10th Anniversary

A 10-year anniversary celebration for the biomedical sciences program was held on September 16, 2023. Biomedical sciences alumnus, class of 2017 and Physician Assistant, Patrick Townsend, spoke at the event, sharing how the University played such an important role in achieving his dream of being a PA.

Current students Maria Rodriguez and Ayah Daoud (SP24) shared why they came to BHSU and how the program/faculty is preparing them for their goal of attending medical school. Guests enjoyed refreshments, games and received a free t-shirt commemorating the occasion.



BHSU & BMHC Host Student Hiring Event Admissions Events

Baptist Memorial Health Care's employment services hosted a hiring event for Baptist Health Sciences University students on March 22 and November 6 in the Campus Hub Atrium and Library. Baptist extended multiple job offers to students during and after the events. Some students also applied for positions at Baptist afterward.

"Baptist University students have the opportunity to start a career with Baptist as a part-time employee while they finish their degree or as a future graduate," said Donna Robinson, director of talent acquisition and allied health professionals with Baptist employment services. "At the event, students had the opportunity to meet with us and learn how to optimize their earning potential."

Employment services joined with Baptist University to help students identify opportunities within Baptist. Students benefit from having this special access to Baptist, one of the largest not-for-profit health care systems in the country. In addition, employment services reaches out to Baptist University students during their new student orientation and class visits. Also, a Baptist Career Center was established in the Campus Hub. This gives Baptist recruiters a space on campus to come meet with students, faculty and staff throughout the year.

At the event, employment services assisted students with the application process, conducted introductory screenings and introduced students to hiring managers. Recruiters provided

honor-based salary quotes and extended contingent offers where applicable. Trent Riden, director of employee health, and his team conducted health evaluations and drug screenings. Representatives from several entities participated in the event including Baptist University, Baptist Medical Group, Baptist Collierville, Baptist Crittenden, Baptist DeSoto, Baptist Memphis and Baptist Women's Hospital.

"Hosting this event on campus streamlined the process of connecting students with applicable jobs, interviewing them and potentially making offers for those jobs," said Donna Robinson. "We collected the contact information for interested students and are planning continued outreach and follow-up."

Zac Cox, relationship marketing coordinator at Baptist University, said that students were very grateful the hiring event was held on campus.

"They thanked us for bringing Baptist to them because they're so busy with classes and clinicals and most of them have jobs outside of school," Zac said. "They don't have time to go to job fairs at hospitals, but they can take time between classes to talk with potential employers who are on-site."

Roshanda Daniel, internship coordinator for Blue Healer Student Success Center was available to review resumes with students and inform them of resources available at BHSSC.



Caring for Others: A True Legacy

Lettie Pate Whitehead Evans (1875-1953)

For more than 69 years, the Lettie Pate Whitehead Foundation has provided annual grants to deserving Christian female students with financial needs attending accredited educational institutions in the nine southern states of Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee and Virginia. These grants are awarded each year at more than 200 accredited educational institutions, including Baptist Health Sciences University.

The foundation is named after Mrs. Lettie Pate Whitehead Evans, a generous philanthropist and accomplished businesswoman. She was the wife of Joseph B. Whitehead, one of the original bottlers of Coca-Cola. When Mr. Whitehead died at an early age, Mrs. Whitehead took over her husband's bottling business and real estate interests, guiding both to great success. She became one of the first female directors of any major American corporation when she was appointed to the board of The Coca-Cola Company in 1934. She also generously gave to educational institutions throughout her life.

In 1946, Mrs. Whitehead's youngest son, Conky Pate Whitehead, created the Lettie Pate Whitehead Foundation to honor his mother. The first cohort began receiving grants in 1954. The first cohort included 29 institutions and was only limited to three states: Virginia, North Carolina and Georgia. In 1973, the Whitehead Foundation expanded its reach to include the nine states it currently serves, and Baptist University was among the schools chosen across the larger geography. This places Baptist University in the second major cohort of schools to participate. For 50 years, Baptist University has been able to award the Lettie Pate Whitehead grants to deserving Christian females pursuing health sciences degrees.

Baptist Health Sciences University is forever grateful for the generous heart of Mrs. Lettie Pate Whitehead Evans. She lived her life by these words found in her personal scrapbook "I shall pass through this world but once. Any good therefore that I can do or any kindness that I can show to any human being, let me do it now. Let me not defer or neglect it, for I shall not pass this way again." Her genuine care for others is truly her greatest legacy.



Lettie Pate Whitehead Evans

"Many thanks to those at the Lettie Pate Whitehead Foundation for making this scholarship possible. I am able to fully focus on my studies without having to worry about the financial burdens of tuition. I am hoping to be able to give back in a similar way someday."

Ashley Woodbury,
2023 Lettie Pate Whitehead recipient

"I want to thank you and the Lettie Pate Whitehead Foundation for not only making this scholarship available to female students in need, but also choosing me to receive this scholarship; I am honored."

Taylor Carr
2023 Lettie Pate Whitehead recipient

"Thank you, Lettie Pate Whitehead Foundation, for funding such an amazing scholarship that changes the financial situations of students like me."

Kelsey Johnson
2023 Lettie Pate Whitehead recipient



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 2023. 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)

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Marilyn J. Crosby*	Kristi Baird	Angelee Brooks*	Sara Clark	Hannah Dowty
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Angela Scott	J’Niya Tallie	Katelyn Westbrook	Breast Cancer Eradication Initiative, Inc
Kenezeuna Scott	Angelina Tappero	Dyra Wheatley	CHACU C/O Carolinas College of Health Sciences
Susan Scott	Kenneth Tate*	Dana Wiley	Follett Higher Education Group
Taylor Selby	Ashley Tatum	Jeremy Wilkes	Fortis Institute
Claudia Shepherd	Madelyn Taylor	Robert Wilkins	Galen College of Nursing
Denese Shumaker*	Tanisha Taylor	Cheyenne Williams*	HealthNet Federal Credit Union
Pamela Siggers	Traveka Terry	Derek Williams	Itawanba Community College
Joanna Signore*	M.E. Thoma	Elizabeth Williams	Kroger (Community Reward Program)
Lisa Signore	Adrienne Thomas	Kay Williams	Lettie Pate Whitehead Foundation, Inc.
Linda Simpson	Dedrick Thomas	Presley Williams	Louise Yarwood Family Trust
Darla Sisco	Jaxon Thomas	Rene Williams*	Matthew Walker Comprehensive Health
Nancy Sissman	Debbie Thompson	Stephanie Williams	Memphis Medical District Collaborative
Denise Slaughter	Alicia Thurman	Stephanie Williams	Regional One Health
Shakira Smiley	Lakesha Tillmann	Rosie Williamson	Rhodes College
Alan Smith	Jennifer Tinnel	Ann Willis*	Ripley Second Baptist Church
Allyson Smith	Tamela Tirone	Connie Willis*	South Main Hemp LLC
Debra Smith*	Tyler Tisdale	Elizabeth Willis	Tennessee Center for Health Workforce
Diamond Smith	LaToya Tobias	Darius Wilson	Development (TCWD)
Jeanne Smith	Amber Toles*	Madison Wims*	The Univesity of Memphis
Karen Smith	Crystal Tringleth	Jaquesha Winder	Transfr
Karen Smith	Zoe Tripp	Desmond Winter	Truist Foundation
Kayla Smith	Richard Trout	Bayleigh Wisher	
Leanne Smith	Bobby Truitt	Thomas Wolfe	
Nicole Smith*	Taylor Tucker	Jacqueline Wood	
Shannon Smith	Donovan Turner	Lori Wood	
Zachary Smith	Jana Turner	Rinnie Wood	
Sydney Snell	Starlette Vance	Elizabeth Woodcock	
Ada Sparkman*	Eric Vandiver	Dorcas Woodson	
Michele Spears	Audrey Vasauskas	Cindy Wooten*	
Beverly Stanton	Anita Vaughn*	Veronica Wright	
Shawna Stanton*	Edith Vaughn*	Ed Yancey	
Abigal Starr*	Cynthia Vincent	Melissa Yarbrough	
Diane Stefan	Abby Volner	Lisa York	
Betty Steiner-Kershaw*	Devon Wade	Anne Youngblood	
Kimberly Stenger*	Sebrina Wade	Katherine Zaccheo*	
Catherine Stepter*	Sharon Wade	Joyce Zollicoffer Sydney	
Caylin Stevenson	Patricia Waggener	Yochum	
Jo Stevenson	Ann Wallace	Megan Youmans	
Ronald Stevenson	Laura Ward	Trudy Young	
Sidney Stevenson	Estella Warner	William Young	
Tiffany Stevenson	Hannah Warner*	Hye Yun	
Laquinta Steverson	Bettie Washington*	Katherine Zaccheo	
Skipper Steward	Sam Watson	Rosa Zapata	

*BaptistU graduate



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

2023 Scholarship Luncheon

On October 16, 2023, more than 250 people attended the annual scholarship luncheon recognizing the scholarship recipients, their families and donors. A total of 183 awards in the amount of \$605,704 were awarded for the current academic year. Dr. Elizabeth Williams, dean of allied health, opened the event with a beautiful prayer of thanksgiving. The program also included three current student speakers, Taylor Erb, Anthony Guinn and Molly Martin. They spoke about their journey to Baptist University and their gratitude for the support and encouragement demonstrated through the generosity of the donors. Alumna Tammy Thorn gave words of gratitude, encouragement and challenged the scholarship recipients to become active alums after graduation. The fellowship was enjoyed by all.



Dr. Hopkins addresses attendees at the 2023 Scholarship Luncheon.



Harry Smith with scholarship recipients.



Scholarship Luncheon 2023 student attendees



CONGRATULATIONS

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

BIOMEDICAL SCIENCES



Brady Cooper (2021)
Started physician assistant program at Bethel University

Roa’a Hajjeh (2021) (1)
Started optometry program at Southern School of Optometry, fall 2023

Holly Ingram (2021) (2)

- Started DO program at Rocky Vista University, College of Osteopathic Medicine, Utah, Fall 2023
- Keynote speaker at BHSU Elevate 2023

Isabella Marriot (2023)
Participated in Baptist Summer Scholars Program

Elena Savage (2020)
Graduated from physician assistant program at Bethel University, May 2023

Patrick Townsend (2017)
Working as a physician assistant at the VA Memphis



DIAGNOSTIC MEDICAL SONOGRAPHY



Courtney Caccamisi Cargile (2010) (3)
Courtney and her husband, Michael, welcomed a baby girl, Charli Kate Cargile, born July 31

Stormy Laxton Cox (2018)
Obtained her ARDMS Fetal Echocardiography (FE) specialty registry

Heather Burdette Hunt (2011)
Obtained her ARDMS Fetal Echocardiography (FE) specialty registry

Kristin Rushing Martin (2021) (4, 5)
Kristin and her husband, Matthew, welcomed a precious baby girl, Esther Martin, on July 21st.



Kelsi Weakley McConnell (2015) (6)
Kelsie and her husband Mitchell welcomed a baby girl, Vivienne Leann McConnell, on September 28

Connie Willis (2004) chair and assistant professor of diagnostic medical sonography and
Abby Kurtz (2007) associate professor of diagnostic medical sonography

- Submitted a grant application along with investigators from the University of Memphis to the National Institutes of Health (NIH) to conduct a study of artificial intelligence (AI) enabled, autonomous low-cost 3D ultrasound breast cancer screening technology.



CONGRATULATIONS

HEALTH ADMINISTRATION

Michael Faulkner (2023)
Promoted to patient account supervisor at OrthoSouth

MEDICAL LABORATORY SCIENCES

Mikayla Harden (2019)
• Started second year of PhD program at University of Tennessee Health Science Center
• Since graduation, Mikayla has worked in clinical laboratory and taught K-12 school.



8

MEDICAL RADIOGRAPHY

Harley (Smith) Bumpous (2021) (7)
Married Matt Bumpous on June 3 in Nesbit, MS

Allison Clift (2020) (8)
Allison along with Vicente Bahena welcomed baby, Owen Reid Bahena

Siobhan Dunn (2017)
Hired as an instructor in the medical radiography program at Baptist Health Sciences University

Michaela Dunlevy Fitch (2020)
Michaela and her husband, Landon, welcomed baby, Lennon Lee

Katrina Wilson Porter and Mitchell Porter (2020) (9)
Mitchell and Katrina married August 5

NEURODIAGNOSTIC TECHNOLOGY

Ben Erickson (2022)
Abstract focusing on his patented improvements to video monitoring for ambulatory EEGs was presented at the ASET - The Neurodiagnostic Society annual conference in Orlando, Florida, July 2023.

NUCLEAR MEDICINE TECHNOLOGY

Lakeysta Ford (2012) (10)
• Proud mother of a four-year-old son, Justin
• Working at Baptist Memorial Hospital-North Mississippi in Oxford, MS since 2012
• Earned a master's degree in business administration with a concentration in human resource management from University of Louisiana at Lafayette Graduate School
• Currently pursuing a doctorate in health care administration at Oklahoma State University



7



9

Donna Mars (1996) chair and associate professor of nuclear medicine technology
• Served as an accreditation site visitor for the Joint Review Committee on Education in Nuclear Medicine Technology (JRCENMT)'s review of Midland Technical College's Nuclear Medicine Technology program in Columbia, SC, June 2023.
• Published a book chapter: Mars, D.C. (2022). Patient Care. In D. Gilmore & K. M. Waterstram-Rich (Eds.), *Nuclear Medicine and Molecular Imaging: Technology and Techniques* (9th ed., pp. 167 - 216). Elsevier.



10

NURSING

Dr. Felicia Cobbs (2011) assistant professor of nursing
• Earned doctor of nursing practice degree in executive leadership from Samford University, April 2023
• Received BHSU DAISY Award

Cindy Eldred (1994)
Received 2023 Baptist Desoto Nurse Excellence Award



CONGRATULATIONS

Dr. Briyanna Evans (2017)

- Earned doctorate of nursing practice from University of Tennessee Health Science Center with a focus in adult-gerontology acute care nurse practitioner
- Hired as assistant professor in the nursing program at Baptist Health Science University

Kelsey Fiveash (2016)

Received DAISY and Service First awards at Baptist Memorial Hospital-Memphis

Abbey Jeansonne Kahler (2011)

Recognized as CURE Extraordinary Healer 2023

Tina Loun (1990)

Recognized as LeBonheur Children's Hospital, Power of One: Allergy/Asthma Nurse Clinical Team recognition

Louise Manasco (2010)

Accepted in the nursing PhD program at Indiana University of Pennsylvania

Dr. Angela Merritt (1988)

Earned doctor of nursing practice degree in executive leadership from Samford University, April 2023



11

Ashley Wilson Mills (2019) (11)

Married to Blake Mills on May 20 in Yuma, TN

Dr. Renee Parker (2004)

associate professor of nursing

- Served as the Essentials Faculty Champion with the American Association of Colleges of Nursing and leads the division curriculum task forces

Dr. Cathy Stepter (1992) dean of nursing

- Served as lead author in the gastrointestinal disorders chapter of the *Textbook for the Adult-Gerontology Acute Care Nurse Practitioner Evidence Based Standards of Practice*, Springer Publishing, published February 2023.



12

Carol Thetford (1980) (12)

Received the DAISY Lifetime Achievement Award

Jennifer G. Prather (2012)

- Pursuing a doctor of philosophy in nursing science at University of Tennessee Health Sciences Center in Memphis, Tenn.
- Grant funded for her application titled "Modified Mindfulness-Based Intervention to Improve Stress and Quality of Life in Stroke Survivors and Support Persons" for \$10,000 to the Association of Rehabilitation Nurses and Agnes Marshall Walker Foundation Research Grant Program. Prather will conduct a pilot study to assess feasibility and acceptability of a remotely delivered, 8-week, modified mindfulness-based intervention for stress management in stroke survivors and their support persons (together, the stroke dyad). Stroke-specific modifications allow for stroke disabilities while maintaining the pillars of mindfulness (e.g., breathwork, body scan, and gratitude). Feasibility and acceptability data will be evaluated using enrollment, attendance, retention, and home practice rates. Exploratory analyses will be conducted to measure stroke survivor and support person improvements in stress and quality of life for the stroke dyad.
- Published articles:
 - Prather, J. G., & Stanfill, A. G. (2023). *An Integrative Review of the Utilization of the Perceived Stress Scale in Stroke Recovery*. The Journal of neuroscience nursing: journal of the American Association of Neuroscience Nurses, 55(2), 65-71. <https://doi.org/10.1097/JNN.0000000000000695>
 - Prather, J. G., Baughman, B., Alexandrov, A. W., & Grimes Stanfill, A. (2022). *A Conceptual Model of the Influence of Mindfulness-Based Interventions on Stress and Quality of Life in Patients With Chronic Conditions*. Holistic nursing practice, 36(2), 67-75. <https://doi.org/10.1097/HNP.0000000000000500>
 - Mason, A. E., Hecht, F. M., Davis, S. K., Natale, J. L., Hartogensis, W., Damaso, N., Claypool, K. T., Dilchert, S., Dasgupta, S., Purawat, S., Viswanath, V. K., Klein, A., Chowdhary, A., Fisher, S. M., Anglo, C., Puldon, K. Y., Veasna, D., Prather, J. G., Pandya, L. S., Fox, L. M., ... Smarr, B. L. (2022). *Detection of COVID-19 using multimodal data from a wearable device: results from the first TemPredict Study*. Scientific reports, 12(1), 3463. <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41598-022-07314-0>
 - Mason, A. E., Kasl, P., Hartogensis, W., Natale, J. L., Dilchert, S., Dasgupta, S., Purawat, S., Chowdhary, A., Anglo, C., Veasna, D., Pandya, L. S., Fox, L. M., Puldon, K. Y., Prather, J. G., Gupta, A., Altintas, I., Smarr, B. L., & Hecht, F. M. (2022). *Metrics from Wearable Devices as Candidate Predictors of Antibody Response Following Vaccination against COVID-19: Data from the Second TemPredict Study*. Vaccines, 10(2), 264. <https://doi.org/10.3390/vaccines10020264>



CONGRATULATIONS



Shelby Silvis (2015)

- Earned a master of science in nursing from the University of Memphis
- Began working as a family nurse practitioner at Prohealth Silo Square in Southaven, MS

Christina Cantrell Smith (2018) (13, 14)

Christina and her husband, Jonathan, welcomed a baby boy, Cohen Michael Smith, born May 24.

RADIATION THERAPY

Christen Ganley (2007) chair and instructor of radiation therapy

- Chaired a Joint Review Committee on Education in Radiologic Technology (JRCERT) site visit team in its review of Suffolk University's radiation therapy program, March 2023, in Boston, Mass.

RESPIRATORY CARE

Kira Anderson (2003) chair of respiratory care

- Presented at the Tennessee Society for Respiratory Care Conference in March 2023. The title of her presentation was, *Strategies for Developing Confidence & Stress Management among Respiratory Care Students.*

Cassie Nielson (2023)

- Passed the NBRC Clinical Simulation Exam (CSE) to earn the registered respiratory therapist (RRT) credential.
- Accepted to the master of public health program at the University of Memphis

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Please send us your updates and 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.

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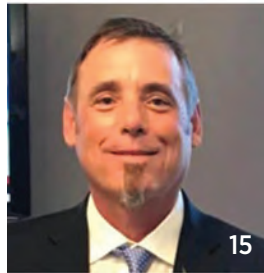
   @BaptistHealers





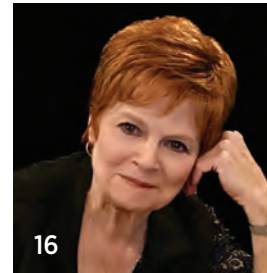
IN MEMORIAM

John “Wayne” Acree, Jr. (1993, Radiography) (15)
passed away August 6, 2021.



15

Mary B. Brown (1972, Nursing)
passed away December 6, 2023.



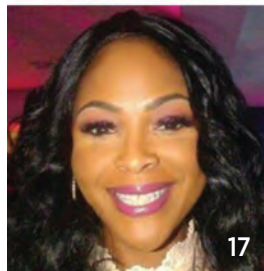
16

Nelda Sue Thorne Conwill (1952, Nursing)
passed away December 28, 2019.

Janet Ida Green Davis (1954, Nursing)
passed away July 10, 2023.

Ruth A. Elkins (1959, Nursing)

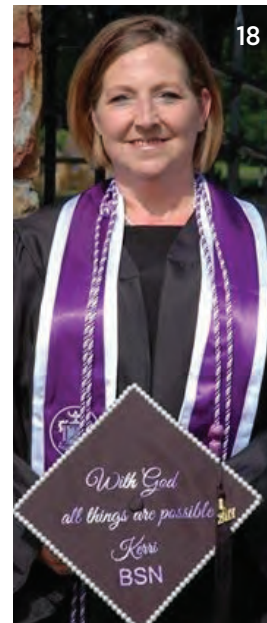
Judy Greene (1995, Radiography) (16)
passed away October 7, 2023.



17

Hazel “Ish” Griffith (1950, Nursing)
passed away August 28, 2022.

Marcia “Marcy” Hackler (1975, Nursing)
passed away December 20, 2022.



18

Bettye M. Hicks (1951, Nursing)
passed away April 12, 2023.

Mary Sue Thompson Maybin (1943, Nursing)
passed away July 3, 2014.



19

Jessica McElrath (2008, Nursing) (17)
passed away January 21, 2023.

Kerri Moore (2017, Nursing) (18)
passed away December 12, 2022.

Brenda L. Moore Osburn (1964, Nursing)
passed away February 1, 2019.

Louie Richard Roney (2007, Nursing) (19)
passed away December 14, 2022.



20

Kathryn Swicord (1955, Nursing)
passed away December 24, 2023.

Jeanette Baker Webb (1964, Nursing) (20)
passed away December 23, 2023.



21

Louise Courtney Yarwood (1950, Nursing) (21)
passed away January 10, 2023.





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