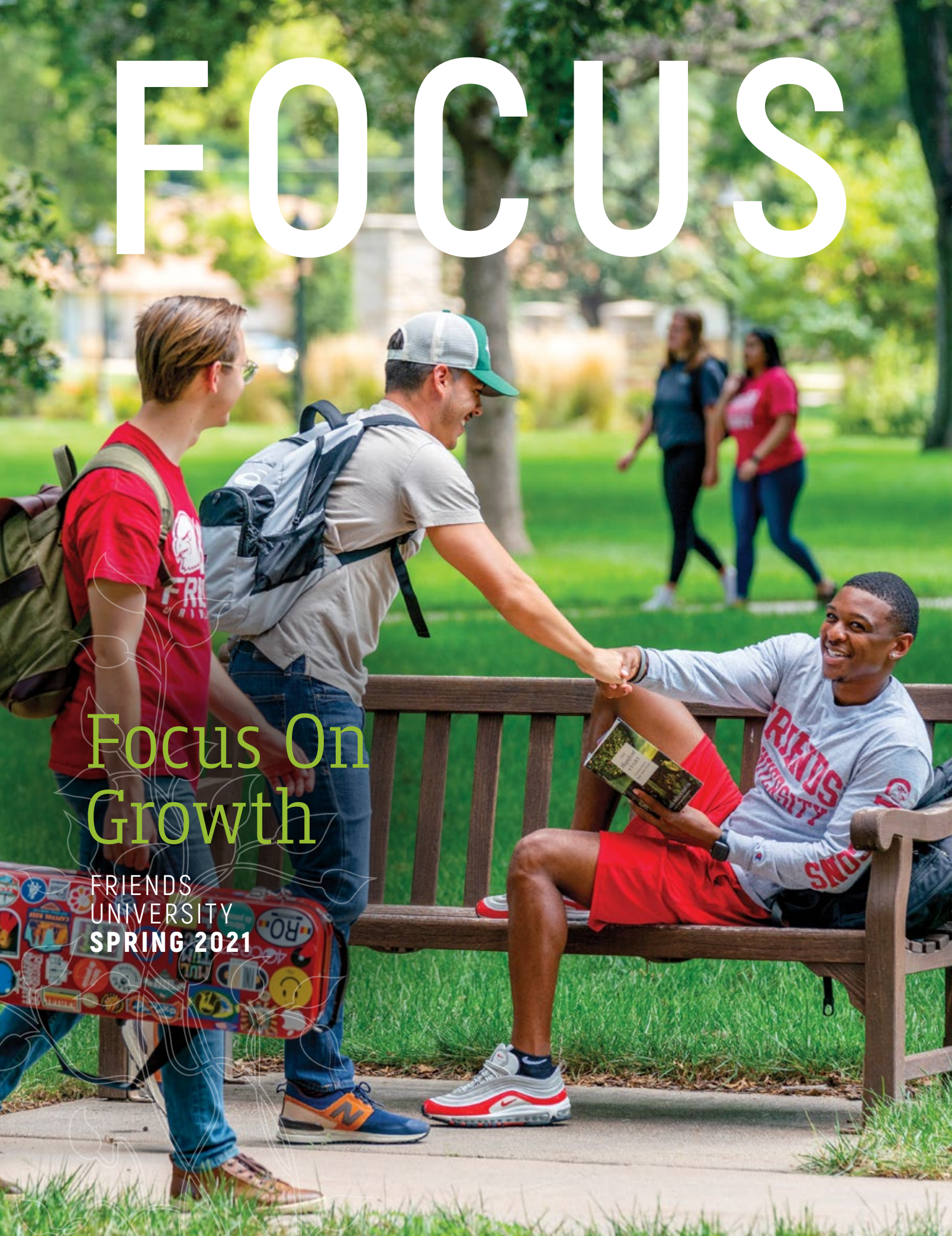


# FOCUS

## Focus On Growth

FRIENDS  
UNIVERSITY  
SPRING 2021







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# Focus on Growth

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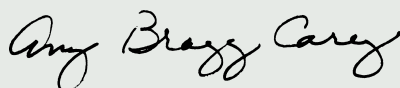
**10** Giving the Gift  
of a Lifetime

## LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Growth is a journey. It is often in the times of challenge, in the rub of life, that we experience the most growth. At Friends University, we were met with a crossroad this past year. We could either recoil in intimidation at the challenges before us, or press forward in faith. Our growth journey began with that step toward faith.

The number of students who have made Friends their home has significantly increased. We have seen an increase in the generosity of our

donors. And most importantly, we have grown in communion with God. He has continued to show us steadfast love and faithfulness. He continues to bless us and show where His brilliant light lies in the midst of uncertain darkness. Come grow with us!



Dr. Amy Bragg Carey  
President, Friends University

## ON THE COVER

Friends University students (front, l to r) Porter Wilkes, Noah Barajas and Casey Mosley.

PHOTO BY STEVE RASMUSSEN

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GROWTH IN THE GARVEY CENTER

# Garvey Rises Up to the Next Level

BY ANNA CAREY

In a tired and worn, small-town weight room a young Bailee Passmore felt an air of freshness, an excitement. With a deep breath in, pressing her palms into the barbell bar, she was ready to push her first lift. Though Powerlifting isn't commonly on the athletic roster, Passmore was hooked. Her successes in the weight room over the next two years gained the attention of Friends University Powerlifting Head Coach Joe Belden. Passmore was the first female recruit to the new Friends Powerlifting team and became the first female national qualifier. But her attraction to Friends wasn't a state-of-the-art athletic facility or elite physical education program, it was the sense of small-town community that she was often homesick for. Coach Belden became her mentor, and her teammates became her family.

The athletic community at Friends



University has seen significant growth in the last few years with the addition of new sports like Powerlifting, Men's Golf, and Men's/Women's Wrestling. Associate Vice President of Athletics, Rob Ramseyer, expects these growing sports will bring an additional 130 students on campus within the next four years. While this growth stirs new excitement and energy, the main athletic building on campus, the Garvey Physical Education Center, has reached beyond its capacity to house the training, rehabilitation and performance needs for all student athletes.

For lifters like Passmore, the weight room isn't just a training space, it's her powerlifting equivalent of a court or field. The tight weight room schedules mean Passmore's team has limited training time. Even the size of the current weight

room prevents the Powerlifting team from performing certain lifts or getting access to specialized equipment.

The solution according to Ramseyer is put simply: "We need space."

Capital Campaign, which was quickly halted when the pandemic swept through. "The volunteer leadership team had been formed, gifts were beginning to come in, and COVID hit," Dr. Carey

**Growing sports will bring an additional 130 students on campus within the next four years.**

University President Dr. Carey and the Board of Trustees saw the growth opportunities in athletics and started to dream about what an updated facility would look like. In February 2020, the board launched a \$15 million RISE UP

recalls. What was initially devastating, opened up new opportunities for renewed vision. The comprehensive campaign was scaled back to individual projects and the Garvey Physical Education Center was the first on the list.



#### ▲ **WEIGHT ROOM**

When Coach Belden first arrived on campus nearly two years ago, he deemed the weight room: "the wild west." To eliminate the "free for all" mentality, Belden established new equipment and maintenance rules. The students not only adapted, they were proud of the sense of ownership and responsibility gained. But that still didn't solve the packed training schedule that ran from 5 a.m. to midnight. The solution will be an expanded weight room with updated equipment, relocated in the Northwest corner of the building.



With a goal of \$2.3 million, the renovations on the Garvey P.E. Center will help nudge the athletic facility into the 21st century and could break ground as soon as May 2021. Only minor improvements have been made

allow us to maximize the space we have.” In order to house the growing athletic department, training room, weight room, administrative spaces/team meeting room and main lobby will be expanded and renovated.

cared for, where she has academic success, where she is challenged to grow in all areas of her life, where her character is getting cultivated, and she happens to win athletic events as well!

But in order to keep that vision and environment thriving, it’s time for the spaces like the Garvey Physical Education Center to match the quality of the community-driven experience.

## It’s time for the spaces like the Garvey Physical Education Center to match the quality of the community-driven experience.

to the space in the last few decades, so a renovation project of this size will be truly remarkable. When reflecting on the future construction plans Ramseyer says, “There’s nothing about it that’s extravagant; it is functional. It is going to

Student athletes like Bailee Passmore have found a home in her Powerlifting team. She has landed in the exact environment that Associate Vice President of Athletics Ramseyer desired to create: a place where Passmore is

### TRAINING ROOM

The current training room sits on the second floor of the Garvey building. For injured students, this requires a painful trek upstairs to receive treatment. A larger training room will take over the current first floor weight room. But Belden reminds that “if you’re looking at training more athletes, you need additional equipment too.” Therefore, high tech training equipment will ensure every athlete gets the best treatment, allowing coaches and trainers to address weaknesses to prevent injuries over time.





### ◀ ADMINISTRATIVE SPACES / TEAM MEETING ROOM

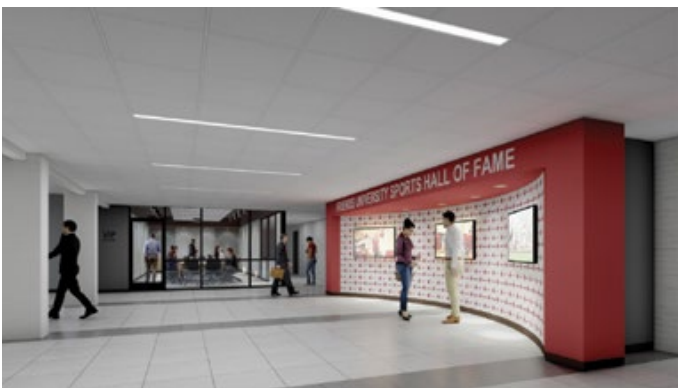
Though not necessarily flashy, the heart of the Garvey P.E. Center lies in the new office spaces and meeting rooms. As disjointed as the building itself has been, trying to track down a member of the coaching staff can prove challenging—they office all around campus. “I’m really excited to get all our coaches into one building!” Rob Ramseyer says. Dr. Carey also feels that having everyone under the same roof will “offer a greater sense of community among our coaches and their teams so that we can make a lasting impact, focused on life goals and purpose.”

There are currently no common spaces for students to gather as a team, which is why a team meeting room is another critical, community-centric space. Here they will be able to study and review game footage. But Ramseyer’s true hope is that it builds authentic relationships. “Athletics is so much more than competition,” Dr. Carey says, “It provides all the great skills of teamwork, accountability, fair play and achievement that prepares us for life.”



### ▲ LOBBY

A refreshed lobby will welcome Friends sports fans with a sense of expectation and a reminder of the Friends University legacy. Trophies and accolades of past victories will line the new athletic Hall of Fame. And the space will be more community-friendly with conveniently located handicap accessible restrooms.



GROWTH IN ENROLLMENT

# Exceedingly and Abundantly Overflowing at Friends

BY AMY GEISZLER-JONES



For Isabelle Schwien and Kayna Simoneau, a pandemic was not going to thwart their plans to start their first semester at Friends University in fall 2020.

Schwien, a freshman from the Denver suburb of Arvada who wanted to go to a small college, and Simoneau, a junior who transferred from a Division I California university that proved too big and too far away from home, are among the students who helped Friends University achieve its highest fall enrollment for new incoming students since 2011.

Friends had a 6% increase in all new students, including transfers, with an impressive increase of 20% among first-time freshmen students, according to Deb Stockman, vice president for enrollment management at Friends.



Having growth like that took a lot of effort and careful strategizing, said Stockman and Jordan Audette, director of recruitment. It's not unusual for colleges to lose new students between spring enrollment and the beginning of the fall semester but add the uncertainty of a pandemic and "we needed to up our game," said Stockman.

Virtual campus tours started within weeks of state-mandated lockdowns in March 2020. Friends pennants and Freddy Falcon yard signs were mailed to new students over the summer. The \$100 enrollment deposit was waived to help students during an economic downturn. And COVID-19 safety plans needed to be communicated to parents and students.

Schwien and Simoneau were on the receiving ends of some of those strategies and said they appreciated the reassurances that Friends was ready to welcome them.

**"I've always pictured myself going to a school where everyone knows my name."**

— Isabelle Schwien

offered through Friends' residence life programs, Schwien is meeting new friends and even making art.

"I love it," said Schwien of the suite-style accommodations in Green Residence Hall. "My parents say I'm spoiled because they didn't have nice dorms like this going to college."

In niche.com's study based on student satisfaction, Friends' student housing was ranked No. 1 in Kansas and No. 23 nationally in 2021 Best College Dorms in America.

going to be safer and easier, I decided," Simoneau said. Plus she's getting more playing time as a point guard.

#### OTHER ELEMENTS IN PLAY

With a pivot to virtual visits to high schools, recruiters can now connect with smaller Kansas high schools that might have been bypassed on traditional road visits, said Audette, who oversees recruitment efforts. More than 80 of Kansas' 105 counties are represented among the Friends student population.



#### FRIENDS' FORTES

"I've always pictured myself going to a school where everyone knows my name, you can interact with most of the students and the class sizes are small," said Schwien, a business administration major and a pitcher/outfielder on the softball team.

The student-to-faculty ratio of most classes at Friends is 10 to 1. Friends is holding in-person classes and activities while also offering online alternatives.

Schwien said she likes Wichita's urban feel and amenities, as well as Friends' location in the heart of the city. Thanks to regular programming

For Simoneau, Friends being a small Christian university helped her decide to transfer.

"Growing up my dad was a pastor," she noted.

Simoneau played two years of basketball at Butler Community College in El Dorado, Kansas, before transferring to California State University, Sacramento. Her first and only year there resulted in a medical redshirt. When the pandemic hit, students were sent home, which for Simoneau meant Rose Hill, just southeast of Wichita.

"Going to a college closer to home while a pandemic is going on was

One selling point for potential students is that nearly 100 percent of traditional undergraduate students receive significant scholarship and financial aid support.

Along with higher new student enrollment, Friends is growing in other ways, Stockman and Audette noted. New undergraduate degree programs have been added in conservation science, mechanical engineering, criminal justice and music theater, while two new concentrations were added to Friends' graduate business programs.





GROWTH IN GIVING

# Giving the Gift of a Lifetime

BY BRIAN WHEPLEY

Friends University has received blessings in abundance since 2015, with giving from alumni and others totaling \$21.3 million compared to \$12.8 million over the previous five years.

Friends' endowment has grown 35 percent since 2016, reaching \$58 million and providing ongoing resources for scholarships, endowed chairs and other missions.

The numbers reflect the generosity of donors but also the dedication — a rededication — to the university's Christian roots and equipping students to serve God and others.

"Supporters say they appreciate that we're focusing on our mission as a Christian university of Quaker heritage, and that we have an exciting vision for the future. And that vision includes a number of new programs," said Dr. Amy Bragg Carey, Friends president, citing programs in cyber security, mechanical engineering, conservation science, Christian spiritual formation and strategic leadership. "Alumni and key supporters





David and Sharon Hewitt  
and Alicia Panzer.

have watched this trajectory and have been willing to invest in our future.”

Kent Walkemeyer is a 1986 Friends religion and philosophy graduate who reconnected with the university fairly recently. Walkemeyer was raised in the southwest Kansas community of Hugoton, where his family now leases out their 3,000 acres of farmland, and both his parents and other family went to Friends. He learned generosity early but felt a disconnect after graduation, feeling Friends drifting from its clear Christian roots and instead contributed elsewhere.

Walkemeyer spent 15 years in ministry at a Friends church in California before joining the faculty at Azusa Pacific University’s Graduate School of Theology, where he teaches courses on preaching, spiritual formation and Friends theology and ministry, among

others. He also works with the Friends denomination, which brought him to Wichita five or six years ago and started his reconnection to his alma mater.

He was hesitant at first, knowing universities tend to move away from their Christian roots not toward them. Time and observation persuaded him. Walkemeyer joined the Friends Board of Trustees in 2019 and now the college professor slash farmer annually commits \$5,000 to the Falcon Fund and \$15,000 to the RISE Up campaign.

away. Embodying the ways we live and communicate, initiatives have gone online, such as the annual Day of Giving and need-of-the-moment efforts like raising emergency funds for students affected by the COVID-19 pandemic.

The university has adjusted its fund-raising approach to events in other ways as well. The RISE Up campaign shifted from a comprehensive, multi-project approach to a series of targeted projects in response to the pandemic. The first phase is close to fruition, with

“We enjoy attending fine arts events and support Friends University because they follow their Christian mission statement and show appreciation for their donors.”

— David and Sharon Hewitt

“I am so committed to the direction the university is taking, and training students to live out their Christian faith in whatever vocation they choose, that I was willing to commit financially to the vision,” Walkemeyer said.

“So many alumni talk of life-changing experiences at Friends. Some of them can really trace back to how their life was molded here,” said Brie Boulanger, associate vice president of advancement. “It’s important that they see that we’re continuing that legacy with students today.”

Giving to Friends comes in forms large and small, providing opportunities to donate regularly or one time, while one’s alive or via an estate gift. There are ways to publicly proclaim one’s connection to Friends, such as the Coffee Club with its new mugs each year, or university license plates, which generate \$30 for scholarships. Some donors choose to give anonymously, as with the new electronic sign along Kellogg.

In a day when scammers incessantly call trying to take one’s money, the time-tested phonathon has largely faded

\$300,000 needed to launch the \$2.3 million Garvey Physical Education Center renovation. Next, the university will focus on the much-needed Riney Fine Arts Center modernization.

“Every gift is meaningful. We need support at every level and all those gifts come together and provide a meaningful impact,” Dr. Carey noted. All gifts — whether for scholarships, new academic programs or building upgrades — show a commitment to the university mission.

“Every student at Friends is here because someone has provided some level of financial support. It’s as true today as it was 50 years ago. That’s the beauty and blessing of giving at a place like Friends. You have the ability to give back and reach those coming after you,” she said.

“Many things in our world are uncertain, but we’re not concerned because we’ve seen God’s faithfulness through all this,” Dr. Carey said. “We know we can’t do this important work on our own, so we keep asking the Friends community to stand with us.”



# *University News*

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## FRIENDS UNIVERSITY WELCOMES NEW FACULTY TO CAMPUS

Friends University is pleased to welcome  
Jordan Kieffer to campus this spring



### ▲ JORDAN KIEFFER

Jordan Kieffer serves as the new Assistant Professor of Business. She earned a Bachelor of Arts in Sociology from Wichita State University and a Juris Doctor from the University of Kansas. Kieffer served as a law clerk for Judge Melgren of the U.S. District Court, District of Kansas and also worked in private practice. Her extensive legal experience includes oil and gas litigation, construction litigation, water rights, commercial property tax appeals, employment litigation, general business litigation, estate planning, business advising and appeals. In addition to her law career, Kieffer is a small business owner in the fitness industry with her business Barre Forte Wichita.

## FRIENDS UNIVERSITY ANNOUNCES TWO MEMBERS TO THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Friends University is excited to welcome new member, Dr. Thayne Thompson, and returning member, Craig Bay, to the Board of Trustees. They began their terms at the February 20 meeting.



### ▲ **CRAIG BAY**

Craig Bay is a native of Wichita and attended Friends University where he met his wife Michelle. He received his Bachelor of Science in Chemistry, and returned to Friends to complete a Master of Science in Total Quality Management. Bay is the President of Kyodo Yushi Manufacturing Americas, LLC. He and Michelle have been married for 27 years and blessed with six children including three daughters and three sons.

Bay has served on not-for-profit boards including the Wichita Children's Home, The Open Door, and United Way of the Plains. He also has served as Regional Commissioner for the American Youth Soccer Organization (AYSO), serving west Wichita. His service also includes a prior commitment as a member of the Friends University Board. Bay's passions include seeking to serve the Lord as he is called, his vocation to his family as a husband and father, and service to the community.



### ◀ **DR. THAYNE THOMPSON**

Dr. Thayne Thompson graduated from Friends University with a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration and Bachelor of Science in Chemistry in 1983. He was actively involved in a number of campus activities while at Friends including Singing Quakers and was president of his Senior Class in 1982.

After working for five years in marketing at IBM, Dr. Thompson and his wife Kristin moved to Chicago for him to attend Trinity Divinity School. During the following years, he completed a Master of Divinity and a Doctorate of Ministry in Leadership and Church Administration from Trinity International University. After graduating with his Master's Degree, Dr. Thompson pastored for 25 years before joining the Leadership Team at Evangelical Friends Church – Mid America Yearly Meeting (EFC-MAYM) in January 2018. Today, he serves as Executive Superintendent of EFC-MAYM. Dr. Thompson also owns Charley's Philly Steaks in Wichita, Kan.

Dr. Thompson and his wife Kristin, of 38 years, enjoy traveling and spending time with their three children and families. In addition, he never turns down a golf game and enjoys Kansas City Chiefs football and Kansas State football and basketball.





## 2021 U.S. NEWS & WORLD REPORT BEST ONLINE PROGRAMS

Several online programs including bachelor's and master's programs offered by Friends University have earned national rankings from U.S. News & World Reports' Best Online Programs. The 2021 national rankings for Friends University were published on the U.S. News & World Report website.

### **BEST ONLINE BACHELOR'S PROGRAMS**

The Online Bachelor's Programs at Friends University are ranked at #102 in the nation, at #2 among all Kansas education institutions and at #1 among private universities in Kansas. The most popular majors being Business Administration, Accounting and Elementary Education.

### **BEST ONLINE MASTER'S IN BUSINESS PROGRAMS (EXCLUDING MBA)**

The Master of Health Care Leadership and Master of Management Information Systems online graduate programs are ranked at #107 in the nation, at #1 among all Kansas education institutions and at #1 among private universities in Kansas.

### **BEST ONLINE MASTER'S IN EDUCATION PROGRAMS**

The online Master of Education in Teaching and Learning program is ranked at #126 nationally, at #4 among all Kansas universities and at #1 among private college education online programs in Kansas.

### **BEST ONLINE MBA PROGRAMS**

The Master of Business Administration and the Global Master of Business Administration online graduate programs are ranked #187 in the nation, at #5 among all Kansas education institutions and at #1 among private universities in Kansas.



## INTELLIGENT.COM RANKINGS

Friends University has been awarded a top ranking status by Intelligent.com and was listed among hundreds of other competing institutions across the nation. Intelligent.com analyzed hundreds of schools with comparable programs on a scale of 0 to 100 and each program is based on curriculum quality, graduation rate, reputation and post-graduate employment.

**Master's in Marriage and Family  
Therapy Degree Programs**  
— Ranked #31



## MILITARY FRIENDLY SCHOOL

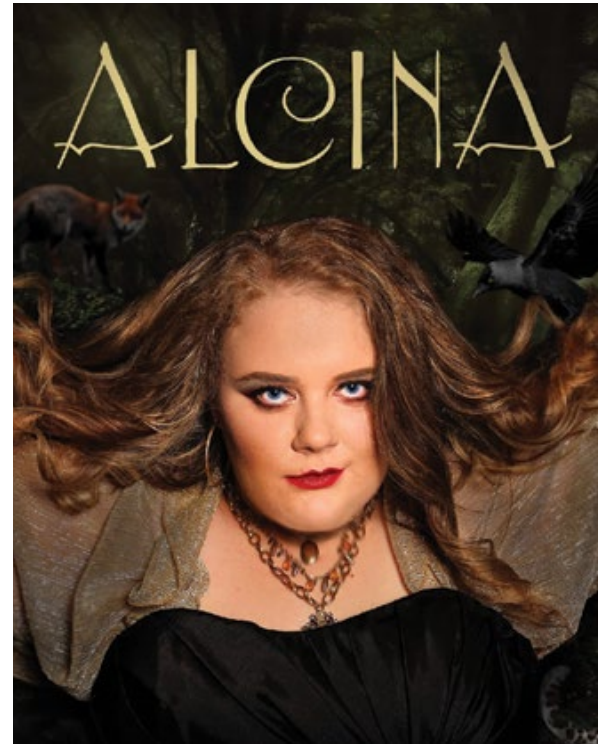
Friends University has been named as a 2021-2022 Military Friendly School. This designation provides a comprehensive guide for veterans and their families using data sources from federal agencies and proprietary survey information from participating organizations.

## FRIENDS UNIVERSITY PRESENTS HANDEL'S OPERA, ALCINA, AT THE SEDGWICK COUNTY ZOO

Friends University Fine Arts presented G.F. Handel's opera, *Alcina*. The university is fortunate enough to have a partnership with the Sedgwick County Zoo for the nationally recognized bachelor's degree program in zoo science, which provided a unique, fitting, beautiful backdrop and a safe environment for this enchanting production during COVID times. The exhibits were closed however some animals made an appearance in the show!

*Alcina* is based on an excerpt from Ludovico Ariosto's epic poem, *Orlando furioso*, in which the hero, Ruggiero, arrives on an island enchanted by the sorceress, Alcina. The beautiful Alcina seduces every knight that lands on her island, but soon tires of her lovers and changes them into wild animals, stones or plants. Alcina places Ruggiero under a love spell but soon falls deeply in love with him. When Ruggiero's betrothed arrives on the island to rescue him, conflict eventually ensues.

The Friends University *Alcina* opera production was selected by the National Opera Association to present a scene to a panel of judges at the National Conference in the Finals of the Collegiate Opera Scenes Competition in the Opera Division I undergraduate category.



## 10<sup>th</sup> THE APPRENTICE GATHERING™ Sept. 23-25, 2021 *Anniversary*

*The Apprentice Gathering is an annual three-day conference hosted on the campus of Friends University. Join and connect with attendees from all over the world while learning from some of the brightest minds in Christian Spiritual Formation.*



**Juanita  
Rasmus**



**Emily P.  
Freeman**



**Scot  
McKnight**



**Susie  
Larson**



**September 23-25, 2021**

**[apprenticeinstitute.org](http://apprenticeinstitute.org)**





## SINGING QUAKERS PREMIERED COMMISSIONED PIECE

The Singing Quakers led by the new Director, Dr. Rayvon T.J. Moore, accomplished several performances including the amazing opportunities to work with living composers and perform beautiful music during a unique year. The annual holiday lighting of the Davis clock tower brought their first performance of the year with an outdoor concert. Then they transitioned to a livestreaming Christmas Candlelight concert also featuring the Friends University Concert Choir, Chamber Choir, Jazz Vocal Ensemble and the majesty of the combined ensembles with 150 voices.

During the Christmas season, it was an honor for the group to be asked by legendary composer Stacey V. Gibbs, a modern-day Moses Hogan, to record a new spiritual-style Christmas piece with original text. Truly an honor to have a new piece by a composer who has

been commissioned by the King Singers on multiple occasions, has over one hundred published pieces and his pieces are performed all around the world by some of the top choirs.

The spring semester premiered a commissioned piece by world-renowned composer, Gwyneth Walker, who wrote the piece specifically for the Quakers, entitled Equality is in the air we breathe. The piece draws on themes of unity and peace from a poem by Langston Hughes and was performed at the Be Not Afraid: Songs of Faith, Hope and Love spring concert.

Music is a gift to the soul. The Singing Quakers are looking forward to more special opportunities to work with living composers with the hopes of being in the rotations of ensembles that are asked to do more recordings and the process to commission stellar composers.

Have a  
**FLY RIDE**  
with a  
**FALCON**  
**PRIDE**  
license plate



For more information,  
contact the **Alumni Office** at  
316-295-5810 | [alumni@friends.edu](mailto:alumni@friends.edu)

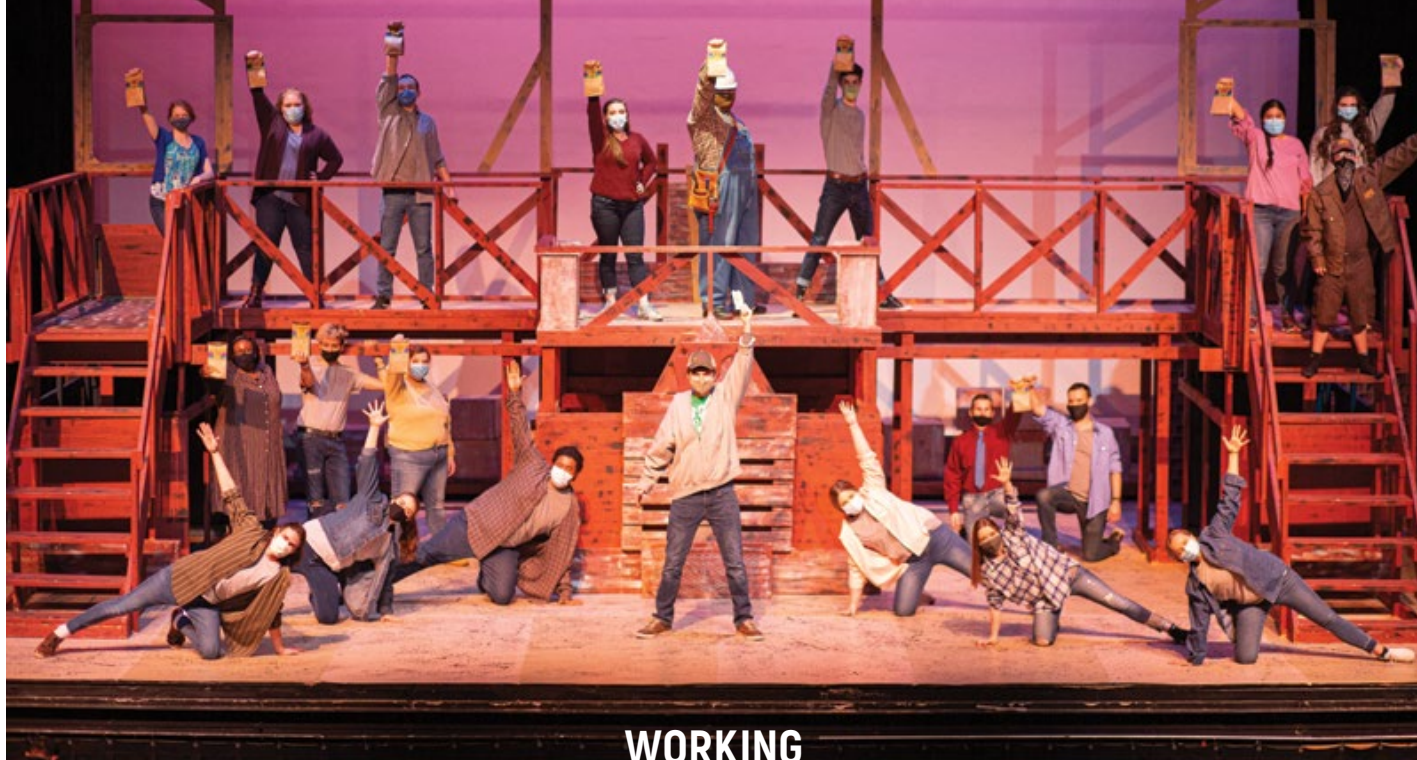
Get your Friends University license plate if you live in the state of Kansas.

It's more than  
**JUST A MUG**

Join the Friends University Coffee Club today and support our students and the Falcon Community!  
**#FriendsUPerk**



Visit [Friends.edu/coffeeclub](https://Friends.edu/coffeeclub) for more information



The winter musical featured a livestreamed performance of *Working*, a classic musical exploring the hopes and dreams of the average working American. Nominated for six Tony Awards, *Working* has been updated for a modern age, featuring songs by Tony Award-winning Lin Manuel Miranda, as well as favorites by Stephen Schwartz, Craig Carnelia and James Taylor.

Making his Friends University directorial debut, Assistant Professor of Music Theatre and Dance, Sheldon Mba sought to give the audience a show that recognizes and honors the unsung heroes in our lives that we often take for granted, especially during the hard times of a pandemic.

## VISUAL ART AND COMMUNICATIONS STUDENTS PAINT A CAR TO HELP OFFER HOPE



Friends visual art and communication students from the senior capstone class teamed up with Scholfield Honda to paint the winning design on a brand-new car as a way to shine a light on Wichita's Harbor House ministry. That's right! They painted on a brand new 2021 car, with a little catch!

Seniors Bella Smith, German Andrade and Amanda Williams, along with the guidance of instructor Lauren Miller, computer print technologies and director of the Riney Fine Arts Gallery and Jenny Venn, visiting assistant professor of graphic arts and interim program director of visual arts, brought to life the vision of their charity partner, Harbor House, on a car. Harbor House, a ministry of Catholic Charities works with domestic abuse survivors to provide them a safe place to stay and support services to seek a life free from abuse and a future filled with hope.

The painting was designed by the students to symbolize the darkness of a storm that can move toward the light

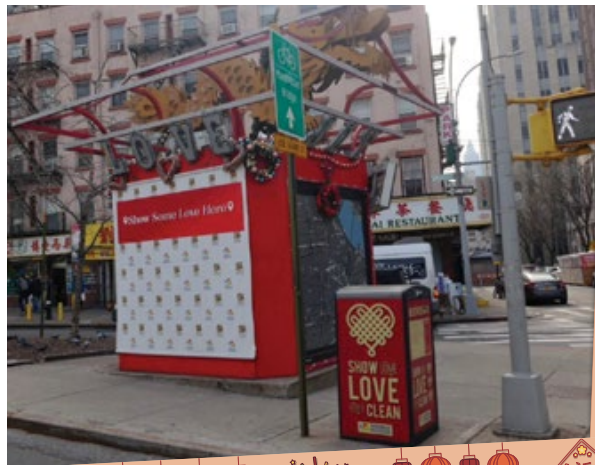


of hope with Christ as an anchor in our lives. Harbor House was one of four charities highlighted at the Scholfield Honda dealership event with a painted car to help bring awareness and raise funds for each organization. And that catch! Each car was covered with the special Xpel clear adhesive shield protector, a car protectant cover that Scholfield offers on cars to guard from scratches and paintings.



## FINE ARTS STUDENTS LIGHT UP NYC

Senior graphic design and visual communication students were given the unique opportunity to design new light pole banners, posters and graphics in Chinatown and parts of Little Italy in New York City in time for the Lunar New Year on Feb. 12. In addition, students designed large-scale graphics for the infamous Chinatown Kiosk that is seen throughout Chinatown, a familiar tourist destination and picture location.



## VOICE STUDENTS WIN BIG AT NATS



Friends University voice students competed in the National Association of Teachers of Singing (NATS) West Central Region Student Auditions, competing against college and university students representing a four-state area including Kansas, Nebraska, Colorado and Wyoming.

The competition was held virtually and Friends University is proud to have had the most finalists of any private college or university in the region for the fifth straight year. This achievement allows each of the finalists the opportunity to enter the NATS National Student Auditions.

## FRIENDS STUDENT WINS FIRST PLACE IN KASTA SOLO COMPETITION

Tan "Timmy" Ngo, competed in the Kansas American String Teachers Association (KASTA) State Solo Competition and was awarded first place in the senior division. This competition recognizes exceptional talent in the state of Kansas and the first time a student from Friends University has won this prestigious award.

Ngo is pursuing a Bachelor of Music in Music Performance with an emphasis in violin. He dreams of performing on stages around the world and has been guided by Friends University violin professor, Laura Hammes Black.



## INTRODUCING FRIENDS UNIVERSITY'S NEW ATHLETIC STAFF

### ▼ AARON MEISTER

Aaron Meister has been named as the head coach of the newly added men's and women's wrestling programs.

He comes to Friends after helping to jumpstart the men's and women's wrestling programs as an assistant coach for four seasons at Wayland Baptist University (WBU) in Plainview, Texas. He then took the reins of the program after legendary head coach Johnny Cobb retired prior to the 2014-15 season.

Meister's decorated coaching career includes coaching a World Champion, Tamyra Mensah-Stock, four World medalists, 13 National Champions, 96 All-Americans, and the 2019 NAIA Women's Dual Champions. Among those All-Americans is an Olympic Trials champion, two World Team Trials champions, three U.S. Open champions, a University World runner-up, and 25 of those individuals are either World or Olympic Trials qualifiers.

While at WBU, Meister initiated and endowed two scholarships (Johnny Cobb and Tamyra Mensah-Stock Wrestling Scholarships). He also created the

Panhandle Wrestling Association of which he currently serves as President while also starting the Panhandle Wrestling Club.

During his standout collegiate career, Meister captured three national championships (2019, 2018, 2014) in the Veterans Division of the U.S. Open.

At Fort Hays State University, Meister finished fourth at the 2004 NCAA D-II National Championships, won two Rocky Mountain Athletic Conference championships, and capped his collegiate career in 2006 with a fifth-place finish and First-Team Academic All-American honors. In 2003, he was NJCAA national champion, Academic All-American, and student-athlete of year at Labette Community College (Kan.).

In 2017, Meister was inducted to the NJCAA Wrestling Hall of Fame.

Meister earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Athletic Training in 2006 and also a Master of Science in Health and Human Performance with an emphasis in Sports Administration in 2009, both from Fort Hays State University.



### ▲ DUSTIN GALYON

Dustin Galyon has been named the new head coach of the revived men's golf program. He will also serve in the newly created role of Director of Golf, overseeing day-to-day operations for both the men's and women's golf programs. Galyon is heading a return of the men's golf program on the Friends University campus for the first time since the conclusion of the spring 2015 season.

Galyon arrives at Friends from Hesston College, where he served as Head Men's Golf coach, Assistant Athletic Director and Head Men's Basketball coach. Prior to his coaching roles, he served as the Associate Director of Admissions and an Admissions Counselor for the school.

Having taken over the men's golf program in December of 2019, Galyon had been active, signing 10 golfers to a national letter of intent.

In his administrative role as Assistant Athletic Director at Hesston College, Galyon played a big role in assisting the coaching staff's recruiting efforts and roster construction while also implementing overall recruiting strategies for the department and assisting in fundraising efforts.

He is also the owner of Galyon LLC: Keynotes and Seminars, where he speaks and leads training to thousands on a yearly basis regarding topics such as discipleship, leadership, motivation, college decisions and athletic leadership.

Galyon earned an Associate of Arts degree in 2004 from Hesston College before completing his Bachelor of Arts in Communication from Eastern Mennonite University in Harrisonburg, Va. in 2006.







#### ◀ JOSHUA JOHNSON

Joshua Johnson has been named the new Competitive Cheer and Dance head coach. The dance program will be launching soon. Johnson takes over the position with a stark familiarity with the program in which he served as the Falcons' tumbling coach while functioning in a similar role at his alma mater, Wichita State University.

His experience also includes a current role as head coach of the Fierce All-Stars in Wichita, a level three competitive cheerleading team. With the All-Stars, Johnson is the tumbling coach while conducting private lessons in stunting and tumbling. Johnson was a member and the co-ed Cheer Team Captain of the Wichita State University cheer team that placed third at the National Meet in Orlando, Fla. This gave him the opportunity to be a candidate for the TEAM USA.

Johnson earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Criminal Justice from Wichita State University in 2019.



## THE FRIENDS UNIVERSITY MEN'S AND WOMEN'S INDOOR FALCONS EACH CAPTURED THE KCAC CHAMPIONSHIP

The championship is special in a unique way for each program, as the Falcon men break through after three straight years finishing as the runner-up, while the Falcon women are the KCAC's top team for the seventh straight season to continue their dynastic reign.

## DR. ROB RAMSEYER NAMED ASSOCIATE VICE PRESIDENT OF ATHLETICS

Friends University is pleased to announce the promotion of Dr. Rob Ramseyer to Associate Vice President of Athletics in which he will also serve on the President's Cabinet.

Friends University athletics has seen growth in programming and partnerships in recent years with the addition of a graduate assistant program, men's and women's powerlifting, men's and women's wrestling, the return of the men's golf team and the launching of a new competitive dance team.

Dr. Ramseyer has been instrumental in the community partnership with the City of Wichita which allows the Falcon baseball team to have a home field on the newly renovated West Side Athletic Field. Friends University has also partnered with the Fellowship of Christian Athletes organization (FCA) to provide scholarships, mentoring and intern opportunities to student-athletes. These additions, along with the new football turf, are in direct alignment with the university's latest announcement of a \$2.3 million RISE Up Capital Campaign renovation project to the Garvey Physical Education Center set to begin later this spring.

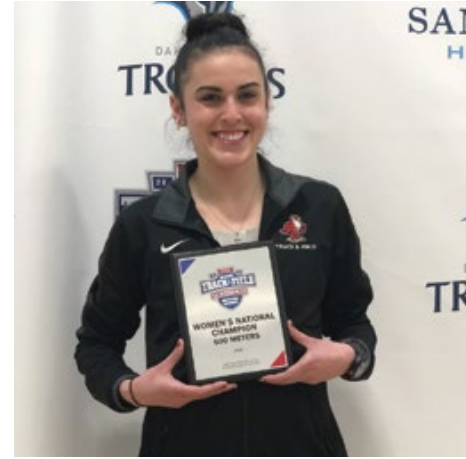


## NATIONAL CHAMPIONS AND FOURTH PLACE WOMEN'S FINISH AT NAIA INDOOR TRACK AND FIELD MEET

Senior Aileen Gurrola and Sophomore Aubrey Donley each capture National Championships at the NAIA Indoor Track and Field Championship to help the Friends University Women's Falcons finish fourth overall and bring home a National Trophy. The fourth place National finish ties their best showing in program history.



Aubrey Donley



Aileen Gurrola



## FRIENDS UNIVERSITY SCORES A HOME RUN WITH NEW SIGN

Last year the partnership with the City of Wichita created a new home field for Falcon baseball. This year a new star is on the field. Associate Vice President of Athletics, Dr. Rob Ramseyer and Wichita city officials reached an agreement when the large scoreboard sign didn't sell at the Lawrence Dumont Stadium auction. Friends had the sign moved and installed at the Westside Athletic Fields. Falcon fans and the Wichita community can enjoy this sign as a piece of baseball history live on.



## BASKETBALL COURT TO BE NAMED IN HONOR OF COACH JACK KATER

The basketball court in the Garvey Physical Education Center will be named the Friends University Jack Kater Court in honor of legendary Coach Jack Kater. Coach Kater was a successful coach in several sports, including basketball, track, football, softball and golf. He established an impressive history of conference titles in basketball and golf, leading to a number of KCAC championships and was inducted into the inaugural 1999 class of the Friends University Athletic Hall of Fame. As a coach, athletic director and teacher, he was known as someone who truly loved the students and encouraged them to become the best people they could be, not only in athletics, but also in life.



# Donor Profile

## LYNN AND LANCE DECKINGER



Lynn and Lance Deckinger were kind enough to share with us about their time at Friends University. It was in college where they first met, ran around with the same group of friends and their story begins! They live in the Wichita area and are the proud parents of Jeremy, an airline pilot and Josie, who is in college studying to become a teacher. In their free time, they enjoy traveling and have been fortunate enough to visit other countries. Let's get to know them!

### Tell us a bit about yourself and your careers.

**Lynn:** I am the Director of Brand Management for Grove9, a strategic marketing agency that helps purpose-driven organizations make a greater difference in this world. Looking back over my 30-year career in marketing, God has had a hand in every position, which has led me to my current position. A career highlight for me was being chosen as one of Wichita Business Journal's 40 under 40.

**Lance:** I started with Wichita Baseball, Inc. working with the Wichita Wranglers and the National Baseball Congress.

During that time, I also coached high school baseball and soccer along with coaching the Friends University soccer team. In 2000, I made a change and moved into education full-time allowing me to expand what I was doing with young people and follow in my parent's footsteps through the world of education. I am currently the Athletic Director at Wichita Northwest High School.

### When did you attend Friends and what was your major?

**Lynn:** I graduated in 1991 with a degree in business administration with minors in marketing and computer science.

**Lance:** I graduated in 1989 with a degree in business administration and later returned and completed a business education degree in 2002.

### What are your favorite memories from your time at Friends?

**Lynn:** As a young adult from the Houston area, I came to Friends because of my Quaker heritage and the opportunity to play on the tennis team. My fondest memories were living on campus, and the lifelong friends I made through the

college's faith accountability groups.

**Lance:** Playing on the baseball team with my father, Jim Deckinger, as head coach and playing on the Friends soccer team with my brother Clayton; along with the many friends we made by being involved in different activities. Being inducted into the Friends Athletic Hall of Fame is also a special moment.

### Why do you feel it is important to give back and why Friends?

**Lynn:** We understand the power of education and want to give opportunities to students who may not otherwise have the opportunity to attend Friends.

**Lance:** We appreciate the small college experience. We would not be who we are today without the experiences we had at Friends. We want to give back to Friends because of what it gave to us.

### Any career advice for future alumni?

**Lynn:** Always keep listening and learning.

**Lance:** Get involved in a career you enjoy. Find a career where you get to go to work instead of a job you have to go to.

# Alumni Spotlight

## PAUL LAVENDER

Paul Lavender is Vice President of Finance and Strategic Development at Thrive Restaurant Group. Thrive is a second-generation family-owned company, based in Wichita, that owns and operates over 100 restaurants across 12 states who are committed to making a difference in the lives of the people they serve. In Wichita, they are proud to own and operate HomeGrown, Carlos O' Kelly's, Peace Love & Pie, and Applebee's locations.

**What year did you graduate?**  
2008.

### Why did you choose Friends?

I was recruited to play soccer by Bill Shilling while I was a junior in High School and was considering Friends as early as that time. 9/11 was a few days into my senior year and I decided to put soccer on hold to enlist in the USMC. After my active-duty service ended and I moved back to Wichita, Bill was the first coach to reach back out and I made the easy decision to join the team!

### Who influenced you most during your time at Friends?

When I look back on my time at Friends, it is the relationships with my teammates and fellow students that first come to mind. The friendships I made had the biggest influence, but among teachers, there are two that stand out: Bill Allan and Dr. Jerry Smartt. They both poured into me in ways that I often didn't deserve, and I am grateful for their patience and guidance.



### Share your best college memory while at Friends.

There are far too many to count, but any time I think about Friends my mind immediately goes back to the soccer field. The summer three-a-day practices, the road trips, and the lifelong friendships developed with so many of the players.

### What advice do you have for current students who want to make the most out of their experience at Friends?

Be willing to step out of your comfort zone and get involved. I never lived on campus, but I think I would do that differently in my first year or two if I could do it again. For many, freshman year is the first opportunity to experience

the world away from the comfort and support of your family and home. Seek new experiences and the unique perspectives of others. Take advantage of your general education courses to find your passion (it's okay to change your mind!). Don't shy away from the tough questions that you might be asking yourself about your future and what motivates you.

### Describe Friends University in three words.

Friendship, Opportunity, Growth

### What is your greatest professional accomplishment?

Having the courage to follow my heart and test myself in new environments. I have had the privilege of living and working in three continents since my time at Friends. Before moving back to Wichita, I followed adventure to Australia, love to the United Arab Emirates, and opportunity to San Francisco. Maintaining a sense of curiosity for others, a willingness to learn and an openness for change has helped me be successful at each stop in the journey - but I believe the greatest accomplishment was simply saying 'yes' to the opportunities. I've found that if you maintain focus on the people, do your best to keep a posture of humility and work hard, everything else tends to fall into place.

### How did your education at Friends prepare you for your career?

My time at Friends helped to broaden my perspective, both personally and professionally. I have always been a numbers guy, but during my first Psychology course on campus, I fell in love with the science - and the understanding of people that comes along with it. My advisor helped me critically think through the idea of pursuing Psychology, and this decision has laid the foundation for everything that has come since. I am grateful for the diverse education and exposure to new concepts that Friends provided me, and the freedom and support of faculty in these life shaping moments.



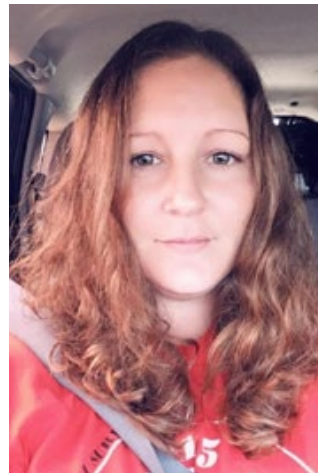
# *Spring 2021 Class Notes*

## IN MEMORY

"In Memory" passages with more details were submitted by family and friends. Information received after Feb. 25, 2021 will be included in the next issue. We reserve the right to edit as space allows.

**Coleen Atherton-Wiley, '61**, died Feb. 15, 2020. She taught English at Wichita Southeast High School and loved art, literacy and community. Atherton-Wiley served various community organizations and remained life-long friends with her Friends University contemporaries.

**Tabitha (Oblinger) Bean, '83**, died Nov. 16. She was a member of St. Paul's United Methodist church for most of her life and a member of the CI chapter of Professional Employer Organization (PEO).



**AMANDA BIERING**, died Jan 4. She was a beloved friend, colleague and instrumental part of the Friends University finance team in her role as the Billing and Workshop Specialist.

**Sharon L. (Hamilton) Bolin, '90**, died July 12.

**Tammy M. Bowman, '09**, died Dec. 2. She was an avid horsewoman who also enjoyed relaxing with a book, crafts, friends, and volunteering for many organizations in her community, including serving on local boards and committees.

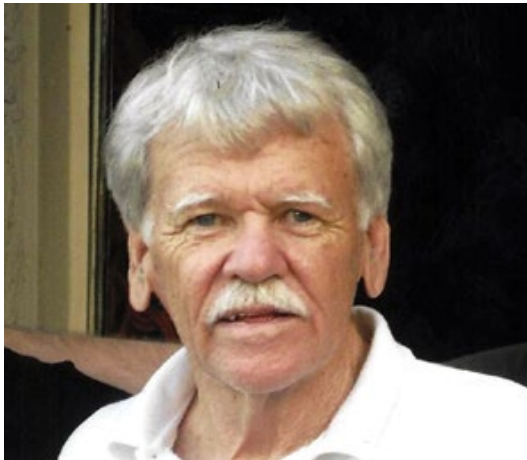
**Dr. Grace Brooks**, died Sept. 22. Dr. Brooks taught elementary school for a number of years before she began teaching at the university level at Friends University.

**Bonnie Darlene Brozek**, died Dec. 11. Brozek earned her teaching degree from Friends University and later earned her LPN, RN and administrative degrees. She was a member of the Friends Church.

**Darrell Bruner, '59**, died Aug. 8.

**Jason T. Clasen, '01**, died June 27. He worked for 14 years for BNSF Railway as a carman. He loved camping and being outside in nature and had a passion for motorcycles.

**Jodie Cline, '95**, died Dec. 10. She had a desire to help others and was both a pharmacist and therapist. She was passionate about Alzheimer's treatment and led several support groups. Cline enjoyed going to concerts, sporting events and music theatre with her family.



**RICHARD BROWNING GROSS, '71**, died March 31. His passion was building; homebuilding, beautiful clocks, furniture, birdhouses, and decks. If it was made from wood, he could build it. He loved helping his friends and family with their projects over the years.

**Darla E. Cook, '10**, died Sept. 17.

**Sheldon F. Cox, '62**, died Dec. 19. He was a pastor and enjoyed serving at Camp Quaker Haven in many capacities over the years. Cox was in ministry for 56 years before his retirement in 2015.

**William R. Crow, '53**, died Nov. 27. He served in the U.S. Marine Corps and fought in World War II and the Korean War. Crow's greatest joy was his family. He was an accomplished pianist and artist and enjoyed classical music, attending the symphony, singing in the choir and playing golf.

**Hazel Dalbom, '61**, died Aug. 2.

**Mary (McCoy) Edmond, '58**, died Dec. 26. She was a member of the Speedwell Order of the Eastern Stars, Marion County Community Center and the American Association of Professional Landmen. She worked for the Texas Department of Health, served as Mayor Pro-Tem and was a member of the Jefferson City Council.

**Tamara Jo (Wagner) Elleman, '97**, died Dec. 20. She was a natural teacher and touched many lives teaching preschool and kindergarten. She was a devoted mother to her two children and had a heart of gold and a devotion to serve others. Elleman was notorious for her purple nails and sparkly shoes.

**Ann Louise Gatterman, '99**, died Sept. 21. She taught for 37 years in the Fort Larned School District. Gatterman treasured her years spent in teaching and enjoyed watching former students progress through life.

**Russell Wade Granberry, '12**, died Dec. 27. He served in the U.S. Coast Guard from 1989-2005, attaining the rank of Petty Officer Second class. He loved statistics and data collecting and was a military pay technician for the U.S. Coast Guard of Topeka during his working years.

**William S. Gross, '66**, died March 15, 2018.

**Gregory Guice, '75**, died Jan. 2. He was a retired Wichita U.S.D. 259 sports coach and physical education teacher.

**Jan Hadley, '67**, died Feb. 6, 2020.

**Neil S. Hays, '54**, died Sept. 1. He served in the U.S. Army from 1956-1958 including several months in Germany. Hays was a farmer and rancher and was active in the Farm Bureau where he served on the Perryton Equity Board. He was a Sunday school teacher and member of the church board at First Southern Baptist Church.



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Thank you for your support!

**Jennie Mae Heck, '43**, died Dec. 2. She worked as a social worker and administrator at Social and Rehabilitation Services for 29 years before her retirement in 1991. While at Friends University she was a member of the Black Masquers Drama Club and the Iota Theta Mu sorority. Heck was a master gardener and served on the Mayor's Flower and Tree Board along with volunteering for many organizations in her community.

**George Hutchens, '51**, died Dec. 7. He served in the U.S. Army Air Corps where he was a pilot and flight engineer for the B-25 and B-29 aircraft. He later was a coach and teacher for 11 years before he joined the American Red Cross for 29 years and retired as the Vice President of Emergency and International Operation in Washington, D.C. Hutchens enjoyed golf, bowling and theater.

**Martin E. Johnson, '51**, died Aug. 31. He joined the Wichita Eagle Newspaper in 1954 until he retired as the Chief Financial Officer in 1992. Johnson loved a good time and being active, whether traveling with his wife and children, golfing fishing, hunting, or taking vigorous walks.

**Clifford Ray Kallenberger**, died Oct. 28. He was a part of the sheet metal union #29 for 35 years and worked on the Friends University clock tower. Kallenberger loved spending time with his family, gardening and the Lord.

**Diana Lynn Keller, '06**, died Aug. 21. She enjoyed bowling, playing darts, crossword puzzles, and spending time with her husband, children, and grandchildren.

**Mike Kinard, '87**, died Sept. 30. He served the Wichita community in various organizations including CASA of Sedgwick County, the Greater YMCA, Urban League of Wichita and the USD 259 Wichita School Board. Kinard was also a photographer known as My Pictureman and spent many years documenting the Wichita community.

**Eunice G. (McNichols) Kinser, '58**, died Aug. 17. She loved children and taught in public school, preschool, kindergarten, and Day Cares for nearly 40 years. After retirement she volunteered as a grandma at the New Creation Preschool in Newton, Kan.

**John Joseph Koenigs, '85**, died Dec. 26. He played football at Friends University and went on to manage the Cold Springs Fishing Resort in Minn. after graduation. Koenigs later returned to Wichita, Kan. and worked at Boeing and Spirit AeroSystems. He loved hunting, fishing and spending time with family and Friends.

**Sharon Kupfersmith, '60**, died Jan. 22, 2020. She was the co-founder of the Valley Center Pre-School and she retired from USD 259 Wichita Public Schools after many years of service. Kupfersmith's life was devoted to working with children and she loved her family and friends.

**Aki Kurose, '48**, died May 24, 1998. She was a teacher and social-justice activist. Kurose was incarcerated during World War II and was released to attend Friends University. Kurose's experiences sparked her activism against racism and injustice. She was recognized in Seattle as being the first Asian-American woman to have a public school, the Aki Kurose Middle School Academy, named after her.

**Donald Lasswell, '59**, died Dec. 26. He served in the U.S. Navy before he began teaching physical education and coaching basketball at the junior high level for 32 years, primarily at John Marshall and Coleman middle schools in the USD 259 Wichita Public School District.

**Derek Leppert**, died Sept. 10. He was the former Friends University head baseball coach from 2007 to 2010. He later went on to coach high school baseball, where he could develop and mentor young men. Leppert was chosen as the 2019 Assistant High School Coach of the Year by the American Baseball Coaching Association.

**Brian Leslie, '10**, died March 26. He owned a computer repair store in Hutchinson, Kan. Leslie also worked computer support at Horizons and the Hutchinson Clinic, and was formerly the Help Desk Coordinator at Kansas State University.



**DR. PAUL D. LONGHOFER**, died Nov. 21. He was a Principal, Area Superintendent, Assistant Superintendent and Clerk of the Board of Education for the USD 259 Wichita Public Schools for over 25 years. Longhofer served on the Board of Trustees for Friends University. He was passionate about the topic of educational negotiations and was a co-founder, president and board member of the North American Association of School Negotiators.

**Wilbur A. Lincoln, '46**, died April 13.

**Elizabeth "Libby" A. Lix, '72**, died July 28. She worked in various careers such as a home economics teacher at Andale High School, a substitute teacher in the Wichita school district, a microwave oven demonstrator for G.E., where she taught people how to use the newly popular appliance, and worked in pharmacy sales for McKesson. Lix loved spending time with her family and was a member of Enid Newcomers Club and AMBUCS.

**Ella "Clotene" Masner, '96**, died on Dec. 6. She worked in banking for many years. Masner and her husband owned banks in Kansas, Arkansas and Colorado, and they raised cattle and farmed wheat in Kansas. She was a member of the First Baptist Church in Anthony, Kan., where she sang in the choir.

**Brenda K. (Stubby) McGuire, '08**, died Sept. 13. She worked in sales positions with Cargill Seeds Company, Campbell Soups, Hallmark Cards, Tura Eyewear and Grene Vision. McGuire also worked for an optometrist in Wichita and as a CNA at Wheat State Manor. Her greatest joy in life was spending time with her loving husband, going on trips, motorcycle rides or just being at home.

**Randy R. Miller, '98**, died Aug. 18. He retired from Boeing after 35 years where he worked in several areas including the commercial, defense and space divisions. Miller was a pioneer with hand-held microprocessors and radio frequency data transmission. In retirement he enjoyed traveling the world with his wife.

**Nancy Jo Mueller, '10**, died Aug. 20. Mueller graduated with honors from Friends University with a Master of Science in Family Therapy. She was a devoted and loving mother to her son, Maddox, who preceded her in death. A highlight of her life was singing the National Anthem at a Cubs game at Wrigley Field.

**Patti Jo Odom, '68**, died Sept. 15. Her passion in life was military service in the U.S. Army and ultimately the U.S. Air Force where she retired with the rank of Air Force Captain in 1990. Odom was very active at Westside Baptist Church where she enjoyed teaching the youth and served as a youth leader.



**Harry Eugene Ozbun Jr., '96**, died Aug. 21. He was an avid antique car enthusiast, belonging to the Vintage Chevrolet Club of America, retired from Boeing, was a Vietnam Veteran with the U.S. Air Force, and a member of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

**Leslie Fay Parrish, '16**, died Oct. 6, 2019. She was a devoted mother to her two children and could fill the room with her smile.

**Virgil Puetz, '59**, died Sept. 27. Virgil was a teacher and coach at Bishop Carroll, Goddard, and Renwick High Schools, and was a player and coach at Friends University.

**Shawn Quackenbush, '99**, died June 28. He worked for Pratt County Community College, the Kansas National Guard Adjutant General's Office as the IT Support Supervisor for Emergency Communications for over 15 years, and Kiowa County Hospital as the IT Director. Quackenbush was a Rock and Roll fanatic and enjoyed fishing and Husker Football.

**PEGGY JOYCE DORRELL ROBERTS, '60**, died Sept. 3.

Roberts was devoted to her family. She and her husband served as missionaries for a year in Sudan, Africa where she taught English as a second language. She was also voted May Queen in her senior year at Friends University.



**Robert "Bob" Wilson**

**Rouse, '64**, died Oct. 1. He served as the area leader for Recovery International for over 20 years. He was co-pastor at Solomon Valley Baptist Parish in North Central Kansas followed by his ministering at First Baptist Church in Wichita, Kan. for over 23 years as a custodian and greeter host.

**Sigmund Schwier III, '62**, died Aug. 7.

**Maurice "Mo" Shields, '56**, died July 24. He played minor league baseball for the Dodgers before teaching and coaching at Bethel College and Cody High School. He worked as a Forest Service ranger and fire lookout, a deputy sheriff, a volunteer fireman, and a WWII tour guide. Shields and his family moved to Berlin, Germany where he worked for 21 years for the U.S. Army doing family counseling and social work.

**Ernest L. Smith, '50**, died July 5. He taught school for 28 years in Kansas. Smith enlisted in the U.S. Army Air Corp in 1942 and flew missions over Europe during World War II. His B-24 plane was shot down where he was captured as a POW and liberated a year later. Smith later served in the Air National Guard for 26 years at McConnell AFB and rose to the rank of Senior Master Sergeant at his retirement in 1983.

**Gordon L. Smith, '55**, Aug. 29. He loved to sing in the church choir, Symphony Chorus and the Singing Quakers Alumni Choir. He also loved to dance - 45 years of square dancing and 30 years of calling contra dances.

**Dr. Jon Sparks**, died Nov. 25. Sparks was the Library Director for Friends University from 1991-1995. He was also the director at Southern Nazarene University in Oklahoma and was the Dean of Library at Southwest Oklahoma State University.

**Dr. Jon Spijkerman, '56**, died Sept. 9, 2019. He was a pioneer and published author in the field of Mösbauer effect nuclear gamma ray spectroscopy. Spijkerman founded Ranger Scientific, Inc. in Fort Worth, Texas to manufacture Mösbauer spectrometers and other electronics that were sold world-wide. His other interests included materials characterization and electronics.

**Deborah "Debby" S. Stockman, '04**, died Jan. 1. She was employed by ONEOK, Inc. for over 30 years before retiring.

**Elbert Walters, '51**, died Nov. 20. He played on the basketball team while attending Friends. He later went on to work at Beech Aircraft Company, The Boeing Company and the Colorado State Highway Department where he worked for 27 years until his retirement in 1992. Walters served over 30 years as a church Elder.

**Lynda M. Watkins, '93**, died July 9. She served in a variety of roles as a professional musician including as a music director and an accompanist for churches, schools and community productions. She sang with the Wichita Symphony Chorus and worked for a number of years at Galichia Medical Group.

**BODIE WEISS, '93**, died June 24. He worked for the Coca-Cola Company delivering products before working in ministry. He later became the Senior High Youth Director at Eastminster Presbyterian Church in Wichita, Kan. Weiss was a prolific writer and had several books published.



**Thomas Weathers, '96**, died Nov. 29. He worked for the Kansas Gas Service and retired in 2014 as a Facilities Manager after 40 years of service. Weathers was active in the Boy Scouts of America and was a Wood Badge Leader for a number of years. He was a member of the Knights of Columbus and a lifetime Kansas City Chiefs fan.

**Viola "Vi" Mae Whiteman, '55**, died Oct. 23. Whiteman was the Director of Development for Friends University before her retirement.

**Wanda Tittsworth-Wright, '51**, died Nov. 23. She was a homemaker, wife and mother to many.

**M. Christine Vogt, '61**, died Dec. 8. She was a chorus member and frequent soloist in the Friends University orchestra performances and the Singing Quakers. Vogt had fond memories of studying, performing and working at Innes Department Store during her years at Friends. It was also at Friends that she met her husband of 58 years, the Rev. Jerry Vogt.

**Ellen Ruth Voran, '62**, died Nov. 22. Voran taught music for 34 years at several different elementary schools. In 1979, she was recognized as a Harper County Teacher of the Year, and in 1987 she received a Kansas Master Teacher Award.

**Janet Ariel (Smith) Wheeler, '51**, died Oct. 3. The joys of her life were following Jesus, raising her family, flowers, and sewing for everyone.

**Wayne Lee White, '59**, died Dec. 17. He managed the Electronic Computer-Aided Design Operations for Boeing Aircraft Company in Wichita, Kan. and retired after 39 years of service. White also served in the U.S. Army and retired with the rank of Colonel.

**Dorothy K. Young, '90**, died in 2012.

**Gwendolyn (King) Ziegler**, died Nov. 28. She was a retired social worker.

## CLASS NOTES

### 1970s

**Terry J Miller, '71**, worked at Steffen's Dairy Foods, bought a commercial milk route for 15 years, became an LPN and RN, and is now retired and busier than ever.

### 1980s

**Cynthia Hancock, '81**, teaches music at Heritage Christian Academy in Hugoton, Kan. and is married to **Galen Hancock '85**.



**PATRICIA "TISH" DIMICK, '84**, was named to the 2019 Goddard Education Hall of Fame. She taught Family and Consumer Sciences until her retirement the same year.

**Kim Johnson, '84**, and her husband Chris obtained their Licensed Professional Counselor Candidate (LPCC) certificate and are practicing in Delta, Colo.

### 1990s

**District Magistrate Judge Margaret "Peggy" Alford, '95**, retired after serving 28 years in Grant County. In addition, she oversaw the child in need of care and juvenile offender dockets in Seward County and served on the Supreme Court's District Magistrate Judges Certification Committee. Judge Alford is a 2009 recipient of the Lee E. Nusser Award, the highest recognition presented by the Kansas District Magistrate Judges Association.

**Jolynn Berk, '93**, was promoted to Chief Marketing and Communications Officer at Rise Against Hunger, the international hunger relief nonprofit. She has served in various development and marketing roles with the organization for eight years.

**Shawn Berschauer, '93**, is a mortgage loan officer at Legacy Bank and is serving on the 2020 Community Involvement Committee for Realtors of South Central Kansas. He has been in the mortgage industry in Wichita for 27 years and likes to spend his free time watching and playing sports.

**Carolyn McGinn, '98**, is a Republican member of the Kansas Senate and has been representing District 31 since 2005. She is a fourth generation resident of the 31st District.



**Pedro Leite, '93**, has joined the Kansas Wesleyan University Office of Diversity as a Student Support Advisor.

**Amy Robinson, '96**, is the owner & director of Motion Studio, a dance studio in Albany, Ind. She has been educating dancers from toddler to pre-professional in ballet, tap, and jazz for over 20 years. Robinson is also a certified yoga and pilates instructor and received a teaching certification from the American Aerobic Association International and International Sports Medicine Association.

**Jeff Zortman, '97**, owns a family farm in Meade county that has been in the family since 1884 and has grown to 6,000 acres under his leadership.

## 2000s

**Senator Kevin Braun, '09**, ran for re-election and is the Kansas Senator for District 5.

**Dr. Holly (Donnelly) Broadway '04**, is an elementary Principal at Bush Elementary School in Fulton, Mo. and was awarded the Northeast Missouri Association of Elementary School Principals (MAESP) Exemplary New Principal of the Year award.

**DR. CHRISTOPHER CASSIDY, '04**, was among one of the first doctors in Wichita to receive the COVID-19 vaccination given at Wesley Medical Center.

**Wendy Moyer, '02**, made Pinch Me aromatherapy therapy dough to give back to Fireside Elementary school in Phoenix, Ariz. with the proceeds supporting the school's kindness, anti-bullying and social emotional learning program.

**Dustin Parker, '03**, helped create a series of inspirational signage for Downtown Wichita called the Wichita Love Notes project.

**Richard "Rick" L. Reeve, '08**, is Lyon and Osceola County's new County Executive Director (CED) based in Rock Rapids and Sibley, Iowa.



**Nancy (Shuart) Vega, '00**, wrote an article called Black Lives Matter because America Matters that was published in The Hutchinson News.

## 2010s

**Eric W. Bailey, '13**, is the new Bourbon County Public Works Director. He previously worked for the City of Fort Scott in various positions for 20 years.

**Toby Baxter, '17**, is the Basketball Director for the YMCA Farha Sports Center. He previously served as the Sports Coordinator at the South YMCA and the Sports Director at East YMCA.

**DR. ANN (ERICKSON) NOVOSEL, '00**, accepted a position as a general pediatrician at Lawrence Pediatrics PA.

**Kenny Bui, '16**, is employed by Johnson Controls and enjoys being an adjunct faculty at Friends University. He has developed Six Sigma certification courses that attract many GMBA/MBA students.

**Chief William "Bill" Cochran, '11**, announced his retirement from the Topeka Police Department after 33 years of service. He worked in several capacities at TPD including homicide, traffic, patrol, field operations, criminal investigations as the Bureau Commander before he was promoted to chief in 2018. Cochran also served in the Army National Guard until his retirement as a First Lieutenant in 2005.

**Megan (Radley) Hartzell, '16**, is the Director of Communications for Downtown Wichita. She was interviewed by KMWU about the series of inspirational signage for Downtown Wichita called the Wichita Love Notes project. Hartzell also sat down with Friends University Fine Arts Show Me The Money program for a chat offering advice to students who are pursuing a degree in visual communications.

**Anna Hatter, '13**, is the new Abilene, Kan. Police Chief. Hatter was formerly with the Wichita Police Department for 26 years, most recently as a field services division commander.



**DAMIEN HISER, '18,** is a third year Doctor of Physical Therapy student at Wichita State University and worked on a 14-week rotation at AccelaCare Physical Therapy.

**Jordan Hegler, '18,** accepted a promotion and transfer within Textron to the Bell office in Dallas, Texas.

**Chelsea Baker Koenigsman, '18,** is the new West High School's head track and field coach. Koenigsman also teaches physical education at Northeast Magnet High School. Both schools are a part of the USD 259 Wichita Public School District.

**DAMON YOUNG, '13,** has been the public face of the Mahaney Group since joining the company more than a decade ago and is now the company's president. He is active with several business organizations in Wichita and across the state, including Lead Wichita, which brings the Global Leadership Summit to Wichita.

**Dr. Scott Robinson, '14,** was named one of the Five Best Chiropractors in Indianapolis. He focuses his continuing education on detoxification and supplementation to help patients remove any interference in their body's ability to heal.

**Dr. Brandon Stucky, MD, '13,** earned his Doctor of Medicine from the University of Kansas School of Medicine in Wichita. He completed his family medicine residency through Via Christi in Wichita and is now seeing patients at Plaza Medical Center.

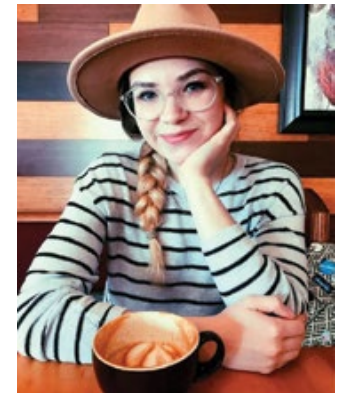
**Tim Wescott, '14,** was awarded the KWCH Salute the Badge award for the work he does with the Friendship Fields program at Friends University.

## 2020s

**Jana Boston, '20,** accepted an elementary teaching position with USD 259 Wichita Public Schools.

**Robert Cunningham, Jr., '20,** is serving on the American Association for Marriage and Family Therapy (AAMFT) Board as the Student/Pre-Allied Mental Health Professional Member.

**Maria Martinez, '20,** has accepted a job at South Central Mental Health as a triage counselor and will also be providing therapy services as an affiliate therapist at Architect Counseling.



**ALLISON PIESCHL, '20,** accepted a position with USD 259 Wichita Public Schools at Mayberry Cultural and Fine Arts Magnet Middle School teaching drama and theatre.

**SHAWN WALKER, '16,** worked with the Kickapoo Nation Tribal Police, the Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation Tribal Police, City of Mission Police Department and the City of Pleasanton Police Department where he served in the ranks as patrol officer up to Chief of Police. Walker retired from the Kansas Army National Guard after 21 years and is now a Regional Coordinator/Instructor for the State, Local, and Tribal Division (SLTD) in the midwestern region, in addition to pursuing an educational doctorate at Walden University.





## FACULTY/STAFF/ BOARD NOTES

**Coach Martin Ayin**, head volleyball coach, achieved his 300th career win.

**Dr. Gary D. Branum**, associate professor of chemistry, authored two chapters in *Inorganic Chemistry*, an online textbook published by TopHat. The chapters are titled Atomic Structure and Oxidation and Reduction.

**Dr. Robert Brooks**, assistant professor of music and director of the jazz program, most recent releases titled, *Accidental Nomad* and *New Standard Duo on Ropeadope Records*, have been received with critical acclaim. A new album of original music featuring Dr. Brooks was released entitled *Nocturnal Geometries*. Dr. Brooks also

has a project on Centaur Records being released in 2021, a live album from a modern large jazz ensemble, The Iron Post Jazz Orchestra.

**Dr. Angela Demovic**, an anthropology adjunct, was interviewed as a part of an Author Conversation Series with Lexington Books about her recently published book, *Bourbon Street, B-Drinking*, and the Sexual Economy of Tourism and cross-lists in anthropology, sociology, women's studies and tourism studies.

**Dr. Russell Arbon Fox**, professor of political science, director of the Honors program and Model U.N. sponsor, wrote and contributed to numerous political and election centered news pieces featured in the *Wichita Eagle*, *The Millennial Mirror*, *The Hayspost*, *The Iola Register*, *The Ottawa*



**DR. ANA JURCAK-DETTETTER**, assistant professor of biology, received a High Impact Grant to assist with a service project in her Conservation Biology class. This project includes creating a pollinator garden on campus. Part of the tending of the garden will be done by the new conservation club. This pollinator garden will allow for a habitat of pollinators on campus that can be used for teaching, research and a place of community.

*Herald*, *The Topeka Capital Journal*, *the Leavenworth Times*, *the Lawrence Journal* along with local television news media outlets KAKE, KWCH and KSN.

**Dr. Joan Griffing**, Tim and Gail Buchanan Endowed Chair of Fine Arts Division, performed in the reduced-size Wichita Symphony Orchestra concert. She also coached and mentored high school string students and members of the Wichita Symphony Youth Orchestra (WSYO) in chamber music groups, and adjudicated the WSYO Youth Talent competition. Dr. Griffing is serving on the board of the newly created Chamber Music Society of Wichita.

**Dr. Stan Harstine**, professor of religion, was invited to present Prompting Cognitive Growth in Undergraduate Students for Discussing the Bible. This teaching technique was presented at the 2020 National Meeting of the Society of Biblical Literature via Zoom.

**Dr. Jennifer L. Jay**, associate professor of marriage and family therapy (MFT), Wichita site clinical director and Wichita clinical internship supervisor, continues to serve on the Board of Directors at Mental Health Association of South-Central Kansas.

**Dr. Chris Kettler**, professor of theology and religion, gave a presentation for the Eighth Day Institute on Ray Bradbury



**VI BUMGARNER**, benefits manager, was recognized as a 2020 Wichita Business Journal Women Who Lead in Human Resources.

and the Gospel in honor of the 100th anniversary of the noted author's birth. Since the pandemic, Dr. Kettler has been writing *With Bonhoeffer in Prison and Pandemic* and studying the German martyr Dietrich Bonhoeffer's Letters and Papers from Prison and other writings to learn what can be done in pandemic situations. He also wrote the forward to the book, *To Recover What Has Been Lost: Essays on Eschatology, Intertextuality, and Reception History in Honor of Dale C. Allison, Jr.*, edited by Tucker S. Ferda, Daniel Frayer-Griggs, and Nathan C. Johnson,

eds. Leiden and Boston: Brill, 2020. Dr. Kettler also offered a response to Todd Speidell's presentation of *The Soteriological Suspension of Ethics in the Theology of T. F. Torrance* at the Thomas F. Torrance Theological Fellowship annual meeting and the American Academy of Religion annual meeting.

**Aaron Krone**, associate professor of art, was recognized for awards and exhibitions for juried art competitions across the country and internationally in Columbia. He also had a piece published in *Art Portfolio Magazine*.

**Dr. James Long**, professor of finance and division chair of business and information technology, earned a professional graduate level certificate in Corporate Finance through Harvard University.

**Dr. Sarah Lyon**, assistant professor of marriage and family therapy (MFT), Kansas City and Kansas City clinical director and internship supervisor and **Dr. Chris Habben**, professor of marriage and family therapy (MFT), Kansas City site program directory and Kansas City site specialized accreditation and

assessment administration, have spearheaded and implemented a Mixed Reality Clinical Simulation platform in the Kansas City Marriage and Family Therapy Program (MFT) which is a virtual reality environment where MFT students can practice and master complex interpersonal skills through combinations of artificial intelligence and live actors. As a part of the endeavor, they were invited by the American Association for Marriage and Family Therapy (AAMFT) to participate in a live demonstration of Mixed Reality Clinical Simulation Round Table presented by Mursion.

**Teresa Molina**, assistant professor of Spanish, was featured in *The Active Age* newspaper for her involvement in the Hispanic community. "We all have to find what our assignment is in life," said Molina. "I love the Lord and what he wants me to do is help others."

**Rachel Millard**, director of marketing, was recognized as one of the 2020 Wichita Business Journal's Marketing Award Honorees.

**Coach Adam Neisius**, baseball head coach, achieved his 300th career win.

**SHAWN KNOPP**, assistant professor of music education and band director, was awarded a \$500 Classroom Grant by the Kansas Association of American Educators (KANAAE), a non-union professional educators association serving Kansas educators.







**Dr. Matthew Schloneger**, associate professor of voice, is Central Region Governor of the Pan American Vocology Association (PAVA). He presented his recent research project Quantifying Vocal Repertoire Tessituras of Five Singers Through Real-Time Measures, at PAVA's Annual Symposium. He served as an adjudicator for the National Association of Teachers of Singing (NATS) and he is planning to launch a new summer opera program, Opera Seme, in Arezzo, Italy focused on Italian language and artistic training for undergraduate voice students.

**Dr. Jerry Smartt**, professor of Spanish and director of foreign language, was recognized by the Kansas World Language Association (KSWLA) for her 45 years of teaching at Friends University. She was instrumental in leading the Friends University Kappa Phi Chapter of The National Collegiate Hispanic Honor Society, Sigma Delta Pi in being named an Honor Chapter for its outstanding activities in 2019-2020. This award was bestowed to only 11 chapters nationwide in 2019 and the 14th time Friends University has received this distinction.

**DR. RAYVON T.J. MOORE**, assistant professor of music, director of choral studies and Singing Quakers director, was featured in The Wichita Eagle. Although he enjoys performing, Dr. Moore says it best, "My heart is more in conducting. I always felt that I was more naturally a teacher and educator. I have figured out a path that works for me where I can do both. This pandemic has offered new ways that we can challenge ourselves. It's offered a great challenge, ways we can be innovative, figuring how we can create something we used to have."



**DR. JAMES BRYAN SMITH**, associate professor of religion and the Dallas Willard Chair for Christian spiritual formation, re-released his book Room of Marvels. This expanded edition of the beloved book has a new afterword and a discussion guide for group use.





**DR. REBECCA CULVER-TURNER**, associate professor of marriage and family therapy (MFT) and Wichita site program director Dr. Turner was selected by the Wichita Business Journal as an honoree for the Excellence in Healthcare: Mental Health for her work in healthcare which has had a broad and positive impact in the Wichita area.

**Dr. J. Michelle Vann**, dual credit coordinator, is presently working with two anthology projects and was a featured speaker on TedXNewmanUniversity where she spoke on the topic of realigning when life gets busy. Dr. Vann is also a motivational speaker, founder of Vantastic Solutions and the nonprofit Sistahs Can

We Talk, and the author of two books, *Help Along the Journey* and *Stop the Merry-go-round I want to get off*. She served on the Minority Business Owners Panel for Vantastic Solutions to discuss goals and overcoming challenges, as well as how our community can better support growth at the 2020 ICT Summit.

**Jenny Venn**, visiting assistant professor of graphic arts and interim program director of visual arts, was the AIGA, the professional association for design Wichita Student Portfolio Forum 2020 keynote speaker where she presented 8-Bits: Life, Design, and Errythang Else. Venn is the designer of record and consulted for the Chinatown Business Improvement District (BID) on the forthcoming Are You Hungry and Be Kind Campaigns, as part of the post-pandemic revitalization effort in New York City. Her partnership with the BID has joined forces with Friends University graphic design

and visual communication students to design light pole banners, posters and graphics in Chinatown and parts of Little Italy for the Lunar New Year along with large-scale graphics for the infamous Chinatown Kiosk, a familiar tourist destination and picture location.

**Kelley Williams**, vice president of administration, was inducted into the 2021 Wichita Business Journal HR Professionals Hall of Fame.

**C. Patrick Woods**, Board of Trustee Member, self-published a book titled, *Ensuring Electric Market Independence: Addressing history through policy*.



**DR. KEN STOLTZFUS** has been working to develop a partnership between Friends University and LCC International University, a U.S. style Christian liberal arts university in Klaipeda, Lithuania. Dr. Stoltzfus presented on the topic of Understanding Addiction for LCC's Global Issues course. The course met via Zoom and included students from Ukraine, Belarus, Lithuania, and Uganda. He also collaborated with staff from LCC's Center for International Education to develop a successful Erasmus + grant proposal that will fund a faculty exchange program involving instructors from Friends and LCC.



# FRIENDS UNIVERSITY

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