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Focus on Art & Soul

4 Ensembles of
the Soul

6 Rooted in Faith

8 The Next Act for
Riney Fine Arts

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

At the very beginning of all things, God created. He shaped light with His own hands. He spoke seas and mountains into being. He even formed each one of us with a unique set of passions and purposes. And as wonderfully made beings, we too are called to create.

Art does more than capture our attention, it touches our souls. At Friends University, we create space for artistry that inspires and makes a difference, providing our talented students with the resources and opportunities to

help share their gifts. We hope that our students use their creative expression to live out the words in Matthew 5:16: "Let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven."

Dr. Amy Bragg Carey
President, Friends University

ON THE COVER

Davis Administration Building
painting by '19 alumna Chelsea Ast.

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Ensembles of the Soul

BY BRIAN WHEPLEY

Friends University's jazz program, like the music itself, is improvising and adapting.

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The group Conjunto Latino, founded in 2020, expands the program's repertoire by having students dig deep into Latin music, a genre often lumped under the inadequate description of "south of the United States," said Dr. Nick Schroeder, interim jazz director.

A surely incomplete list of Latin styles includes samba, salsa, cumbia, bossa nova, Tejano and mariachi, all threaded with jazz and vice versa. Another surely incomplete list of its homelands includes Cuba, Mexico, Brazil, Colombia, Haiti and Puerto Rico.

"It really rounds it out, especially in the jazz side of things," said Andy Slater, percussion instructor and co-director of Conjunto Latino. He notes "jazz is this ever-changing term," encompassing hip-hop, electronic music, "any improvised music."

Students in the program earn degrees in music, music performance or music education. Over five dozen Friends students play or sing in Concert Jazz Band, Conjunto Latino, Jazz Vocal Ensemble, SOULstice and Equinox.

The program, led for three decades by Lisa Hittle, built a deserved reputation for its graduates and education efforts. That includes the annual jazz festival, which attracts high-quality performers and eager middle and high school students.

Conjunto Latino builds on that foundation by giving musicians broader exposure to types of jazz they'll hear, teach and could be paid to play. Having such a group is unusual for a school Friends' size.

"This group gives our students access to this whole other developed world of jazz, the Latin side of it," Slater said. "Conjunto gives us an ensemble that absolutely focuses on non-Western music, specifically dance-centered music, which is important."

"It's very valuable to me, as a Latino musician," said saxophonist and music performance major Oscar Ramos. "It's important to know every aspect it — jazz, hip hop, rap, even country music."

CONJUNTO LATINO: A BIG COMBO OF STYLES

Miguel Santana Morales is a Friends graduate, artist in residence and co-director of Conjunto Latino who was in on the ground floor when the group began two years ago. He and Slater discovered a common interest in the music over a conga drum backstage at a gig.

"I know a lot about my music, because I was born with it," said Santana Morales, a native of Puerto Rico who realizes others, even Latinos, often lack that advantage.

"Miguel is helping us really understand the authenticity of all these nuanced styles," Schroeder said.

With Conjunto Latino in its fourth semester, its co-directors see a work in progress.

"We're trying to do more of a seminar kind of thing where I can show them different styles and we can show them the history behind it and what country it comes from," Santana Morales said.

"The point is to really increase that foundational knowledge of what this music is rather than just putting a bunch of charts in front of the band and have them read the ink," Slater said.

Conjunto Latino has three or four percussionists, plus bass, piano, guitar and up to five players each on sax, trumpet and trombone. With percussion paramount, players are focusing on congas, timbales and "bongo bell" (a combination of bongos and cowbell) and stick with the same instrument all semester to build familiarity. To further skills, each student will rewrite a jazz standard into a specific Latin style.

THE SOUL-SATISFYING SOUND OF MUSIC

Practicing and performing deliver lessons well beyond music, lessons in approaching the challenges life throws at you.

"Ensembles have a team quality, and it's really rewarding for them to struggle through challenges and persevere. One of the best remedies for your soul is a good performance," Schroeder said.

"One of the best remedies for your soul is a good performance."
— Dr. Nick Schroeder



"It's not easy. It's a whole new language, and a whole new instrument and technique and these kids have to try and get it fast," said Santana Morales.

Schroeder hopes students gain what he did from a Latin ensemble in college: "That was a transformative experience, because it was a kind of music I had no experience playing."

"A lot of people go to music school and don't really get out of Western music theory," Ramos said. "Rhythmically and melodically, these other concepts are just as important. That's the reason jazz and Latin music are so compelling, because rhythm trumps."

"When you're in a group of people and you're all on the same wavelength, it can feel like an out-of-body experience," Slater said. "I see music as slaying the giant within, and it's why I keep coming back to it."

The thought of the next great performance kept Ramos centered earlier in the COVID-19 pandemic, when Friends sent students home.

"Most people find music cathartic. Whether they're playing, listening or writing, for a lot of people it's a happy place," said Ramos, a student from Champaign, Illinois. "I remember a really rough time going back home. Before that I played one of the best shows of my life. The thing that kept me motivated was looking back at my achievements, that I want to do all that again."

Rooted in Faith

PHOTO BY JOE STUMPE/THE ACTIVE AGE

BY AMY GEISZLER-JONES





Marty Miller

Marty Miller didn't know much about gardening — except for lessons learned at his grandparents' farm about the importance of manure — when he became the executive director of Wichita's Botanica Gardens in 2008.

While Miller may not have had a green thumb when it came to gardening, he had a green thumb of another sort: the ability to build a successful organization. He also had deep roots in faith and service to community.

Under Miller's leadership, Botanica has blossomed from a struggling organization with no growth plan to draw nongardening lovers to a top regional attraction that now features multiple themed gardens, along with education and entertainment areas and an events venue. Illuminations, Botanica's annual holiday lights event and major fundraiser, has become one of the region's biggest and brightest events; USA Today listed it among the best in the U.S. in 2021.

Miller's work at Botanica has allowed him to apply the business acumen he gained while earning two degrees in business from Friends and working for

billionaire Phil Ruffin and later in state and local governments.

"I wanted to help build something that families and kids could enjoy," said Miller, about his vision for Botanica, which started in 1987 as a collaboration between the Wichita Area Garden Council and the city of Wichita.

Creating a themed children's garden was one of Botanica's first major projects under Miller's leadership. Through Ruffin's tutelage, Miller had learned that in order to grow, a business has to enhance its products and services to entice a variety of demographics, Miller said. The award-winning Downing Children's Garden opened in 2011.

Since then, it seems like something new is always sprouting up at Botanica, from butterfly and bee houses to a pavilion featuring the much-beloved restored Joyland Amusement Park carousel.

This year, Botanica will feature its second major traveling exhibition. Fourteen oversized sculptures made entirely of collected marine debris comprise "Washed Ashore." The exhibition's topic and Botanica's operations provide ideal grounds for Friends' conservation science students, Miller said.

"We have several thousands of species of plants, plus the exhibit and Botanica are a great learning experience for understanding various environmental elements, including along the river. At Botanica, we also address soil conservation, water pollution and working with soil. This is an opportunity for students to learn" right in their backyard, Miller said.

While Botanica is still the place to see and study Mother Nature at its finest — with the help of gardeners, horticulturists and volunteers including Friends' Friendship Fields program — it's also becoming a destination for entertainment and events, such as concerts featuring local bands and even the Wichita Symphony.

During the pandemic, Botanica gifted complimentary passes to Friends

employees to enjoy Botanica's calming spaces including its Woodland Walk, a quarter-mile trail along wooded areas and a tranquil waterfall, with rustic benches for respite and reflection.

Miller attributes his roots in faith and service to his parents. Miller's father, Vern Miller, was a lawman with somewhat legendary ways of enforcing Kansas laws, first as the Sedgwick County sheriff and then as the state's attorney general.

Vern Miller not only instilled a legacy of working with others for the good of the community in his son, but also started a legacy of attending Friends University; both Vern and his brother graduated from Friends. Marty earned a bachelor's degree in business administration (1970) and a master's in management (1990).

As a Friends undergraduate, Miller, who was also working for his father, offered his professors ride-along opportunities that proved quite the diversion from their classrooms.

"Working in law enforcement allowed me to learn the value of serving the community and attending Friends provided the moral values and religious teachings that helped shape my life and relationship with God," Miller said.

In 1980, Miller left law enforcement to work for Ruffin. Later, he worked on economic development programs with the Kansas Department of Commerce. In 2000, he joined the city of Wichita's finance department. He learned of the Botanica job when he jokingly asked the director of parks for a job mowing grass.

More than a decade later, Miller has a great reverence for the organization he oversees.

"I call it a window on heaven, right here in the middle of Wichita, where you can watch the butterflies, hear the birds and learn more about nature plus also participate in entertainment and activities in a beautiful garden background."

Marty lives in Wichita with his wife, Cindy. Together they have a blended family of five children and 11 grandchildren.

"Attending Friends provided the moral values and religious teachings that helped shape my life and relationship with God."
— Marty Miller

The Next Act for Riney Fine Arts

BY ANNA CAREY

Art is more than a catalyst for expression, it has the ability to reflect faith and cultural values, magnify untold stories, and recount history's narrative. For Friends University, in the swirl of uncertainty, our community relied on Fine Arts performances to instill hope.



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ommissioned choral anthems like "Equality is in the Air We Breathe" by Gwyneth Walker gave voice to the marginalized, the vibrant costumes and dances of the Cinco De Mayo Street Festival offered guests a passport around the world, bold graphic designs featured in Chinatown, New York City blended cultural perspectives in an effort to aid economic recovery, and the musical adaptation of "Little Women" reminded audiences of the strength found in family. With the ability to transcend languages and bridge cultures, these artistic events drew the community together.

According to co-chairs Dr. Matthew Schloneger and Dr. Rayvon T.J. Moore, "Art is a vehicle in which we are able



to connect spiritually, intellectually, and artistically, in harmony, with those around us.” And at Friends University, the glue bringing all of these creative experiences together is that of the Riney Fine Arts Center.

Bearing the name of Singing Quakers Director and Fine Arts Chair of 45 years, Dr. Cecil Riney, the Riney Fine Arts Center has had a home on the Friends University campus since the 1960s and has been an artistic staple in the Wichita community. Here the Singing Quakers choral ensemble made a name for itself, multicultural jazz groups celebrated diverse music styles, and the launch of the new Music Theatre program provided opportunities in music, dance and theatre. However, the facility itself has seen very few updates since its debut.

With a desire to give student performers and future music educators a real-world experience and increase community collaboration, the Riney Fine Arts Center will undergo a \$7 Million renovation and expansion. This

is the second phase of the successful RISE UP Capital Campaign which fueled the renovation of the Garvey P.E. Center in 2021.

With **\$4.5 Million raised**, the campaign now enters its next act as the spotlight shifts onto the Fine Arts Division. With Dr. Cecil Riney himself on the campaign committee, the expansion plans honor the fine arts tradition while leaning into growth opportunities to strengthen the program’s future

The Riney Center has certainly been well-loved as evidenced by the worn seating in Sebits Auditorium, outdated analog equipment, tired staging and dance floors, and overcrowded scene shops. Knowing that most performance halls have transitioned to digital programming and LED stage lighting, Dr. Schloneger says, “We’re currently not competitive, because we’re not up to the level of most high school and even newer middle school auditoriums.” For dancers, training proves difficult when the dance floors do not have the necessary

▲ CHAPEL/RECITAL HALL

The Quaker tradition is most notably marked by quiet, reflective experiences in which to hear God’s voice. The addition of a dedicated space to the west side of the Riney Fine Arts Center will make room for that tradition. This peaceful chapel will be open to students, faculty, and staff for times of personal prayer and worship. It will also serve as another recital hall for smaller fine arts performances.

springs to help limit injury risk. Replacing the dance floors with sprung floors, updating equipment, and creating more space for creativity is just one piece in this renovation orchestration.

Community is another significant facet of the Riney Center. With local arts groups like the Juniper Arts Academy, the Wichita Children's Choir, the Regina Klenjoski Dance Company, and Music Theatre Wichita using the facility, the Riney Center has a full schedule of community rehearsals, performances, festivals, and summer camps. Expanding entryways, creating more multipurpose recital halls, and updating bathrooms with handicap accessibility will establish

a more inviting environment for guests. One of the entryways will appropriately bear the name of Verna Riney, wife of Dr. Riney. A piano teacher for over 50 years, Verna was known by students and faculty for her warm hospitality and deep love for the arts.

But perhaps the most inspired feature of this expansion is the addition of a chapel. According to university President, Dr. Amy Carey, "This will be an identifying marker of a sacred space on our campus. Standing as a reflection of our Quaker heritage and Christian mission, this bright and spacious room will be available for prayer, worship, contemplation, and other spiritual activities."

For generations, the Riney Fine Arts Center has shared the stage with humbling, sacred spirituals, moving contemporary dance numbers, and lively theatrical shows, allowing audiences to escape, imagine, empathize, and reflect. It has also created space for students of any degree and any skill level to find their artistic voice and be a part of an authentic creative community.

But it's time for the curtain to open on this next act for the Riney Fine Arts Center. While there is a physical expansion at play, Dr. Schloneger knows these necessary updates will really "expand the wonderful, long tradition that fine arts has had at Friends."



It's time for the curtain to open on this next act for the Riney Fine Arts Center.

▲ SOUTH SIDE ADDITION & RENOVATIONS ▶

The expansion of the south side entryway will allow guests to be welcomed with a more spacious and bright reception hall. It will serve as a multipurpose space with room to host receptions, performances, dinners, and other community-centered events. Included in this space will be a kitchenette and storage facility. In addition, the art gallery floors will be restored and bathrooms convenient to the entrance will be updated with handicap accessibility accommodations to better serve all guests.

BLACK BOX THEATRE

The renovation of the Riney dance studios will provide safer rehearsal spaces, increased storage space and an upgraded Black Box Theatre. With the installation of sprung dance floors, dance and music theatre students will be able to train at full capacity, with less injury risk. One of these studios will be transformed into a new Black Box Theatre. Lighting from the auditorium will be transferred to this space and the current Black Box will be repurposed for set construction and music theatre storage.

NORTH SIDE RENOVATIONS

The expansion of the north side entrance will establish a more comfortable and welcoming atmosphere. In addition, a newly renovated recording studio will provide students with hands-on training in music and audio production.

AUDITORIUM

The renovation of the auditorium will allow guests to be welcomed into a space as vibrant and inspiring as the performances themselves. In order to achieve this, the current worn and broken seating will be replaced, the stage floor will be resurfaced to better support the physical health of dancers and actors, and the room will be refreshed to create an inviting ambiance. With performances both live-streamed and in-person, technological updates are essential. New LED lights will replace the out-of-date lighting. Being 15 years since significant updates were made, sound and video equipment upgrades will improve live-stream systems.

For more information on the Riney Fine Arts Center RISE Up Capital Campaign project or to make a donation, visit friends.edu/riseup.



University News



FRIENDS UNIVERSITY ANNOUNCES THREE MEMBERS TO THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Friends University is excited to welcome three new members to the Board of Trustees. Vickie Young Beam, who began her term in October 2021, and Gil Alvarez and Matt Shepherd, who began their term in February.

◀ VICKIE YOUNG BEAM

Vickie is a Principal in the Audit Department of Cover & Rossiter where she runs many of the region's most prestigious nonprofit and for-profit audits. Vickie joined Cover & Rossiter in 1997 and has established a reputation for her excellent attention to detail, strong project management skills and dedicated relationships with her clients.

Vickie earned a Bachelor of Arts in Liberal Studies from Friends University and attended the University of Delaware to further her studies in accounting. Vickie received her CPA certificate from Delaware in 1997. She is a member of the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants and the Delaware Society of Certified Public Accountants.

Vickie is a board member of the Delaware Alliance for Nonprofit Advancement (DANA) and currently serves as the Board Treasurer and Finance Committee Member at Development and Research Innovations, Inc. (DRI), a local nonprofit organization that seeks to provide proactive intervention for at-risk children and communities in Delaware and world-wide.

During Vickie's free time she enjoys volunteer work, spending time with her husband and two children as well as running, biking and traveling.



◀ GIL ALVAREZ

Gil Alvarez is the Deputy Superintendent for Wichita Public Schools. His dedication to the students and the Wichita community has allowed him to serve Wichita Public Schools for 23 years as a high school teacher, athletic director, assistant principal, principal and currently as a district level administrator where he supports Pre-K to 12th grade academic instruction to promote student growth and achievement.

Alvarez has been an AVID National Staff Developer and his professional and community affiliations include, Kansas State High School Activities Association Board of Directors, Wichita State University Masters of School Leadership Advisory Board, Hispanic Scholarship Fund Association and the U.S. Selective Service System Local Board Member.

Alvarez received his Bachelor of Science degree in Science Education from Friends University and Masters of Educational Administration and Supervision and District Level Certification in Educational Leadership from Wichita State University. He and his wife Amy are the proud parents of four daughters, Alayna, Amaia, Alivia and Araya. He is an active member of St. Catherine of Siena Catholic Church and in his spare time, he enjoys traveling, attending sporting events, and spending time with family.

MATT SHEPHERD ►

At the helm of Young Life – Wichita is Matt Shepherd, who has served as Metro Director since 2009 and previously as Area Director from 2002-2008. Matt's dedication and obedience to his calling have been instrumental in growing Wichita's Young Life from one area into 14 different area communities supported by a dedicated, also-growing staff. Fully invested in the community, staff, committee members, and volunteers, Matt is responsible for all areas of ministry and operations, including spiritual development, leadership development, resource development and fundraising, direct ministry, infrastructure support, and training. He holds a Bachelor of Business Administration in Accounting from Kansas State University, a Master of Arts in Christian Spiritual Formation and Leadership from Friends University, and is an Ordained Minister. Matt and his wife have five children and are highly active in the Wichita community. To him, Young Life is incarnational for meeting youth, leaders, and donors where they are in life at any given point in time.



INTRODUCING FRIENDS UNIVERSITY'S NEW COACHES



◀ ESTEFANIA "STEF" CASTRILLON, WOMEN'S TENNIS HEAD COACH

Friends University women's tennis graduate assistant intern coach Estefania Castrillon has been promoted to the program's new head coach.

Castrillon is in her second year as the women's tennis GA and helped coach current senior Nikolett Krivek (SR/Szged, Hungary) to All-KCAC recognition last season.

Prior to arriving at Friends, Castrillon served as a tennis coach at RDUTennis, a tennis camp/clinic for adults and kids in Washington, D.C. from 2017-18. She was also an Intern Wheelchair tennis coach at Bogota Tennis League in Bogota, Columbia from 2014-16.

Castrillon enjoyed a star-studded collegiate career, winning NCAA D-II East Coast Conference Tennis Player of the Year at the University of the District of Columbia along with an appearance in the ITA East Regional championship finals. She was also selected as the team captain for UDC during the 2019-20 campaign.

A native of Bogota, Columbia, Castrillon earned her Bachelor of Science degree in Psychology from the University of the District of Columbia and is currently progressing towards a Global Master of Business Administration degree from Friends University.

TERRY HARRISON, FOOTBALL HEAD COACH ▶

Harrison appears to be the perfect choice in leading the Falcon football program forward, as he arrived on campus after transforming fellow KCAC member Bethel College into a conference and national power.

After taking over a Bethel program in 2018 that was 1-9 and at the bottom of the league the previous season, Harrison's impact was felt immediately as he installed the flexbone offense and guided the team to finish third in the NAIA in rushing offense (274.4) per game.

Harrison had the Threshers rolling again this past year with a 9-2 overall record and a 9-1 league mark that netted the squad their second consecutive co-KCAC regular season title along with a final NAIA national ranking of 17th.

Harrison is embarking on his second go-round as a head coach of the Falcons in Wichita, as he spent five seasons as the head coach of the Wichita Heights High School Falcons. At Heights, Harrison guided the team to four Kansas 5A regional titles, a district championship and a Greater-Area Wichita-League title along with a 38-16 overall record. In 2016, Harrison was named the City-League Coach of the Year.

He has also been afforded the opportunity to speak at multiple coaching clinics, with the most recent engagement being the Tulsa Glazier Mega Clinic in 2016.

Harrison was a three-year captain at Sterling College and graduated in 2004 with a Bachelor of Sciences in Physical Education and Health. He then earned his Masters of Science in School Leadership from Baker University in 2011.





FRIENDS GIVE BACK

The R.I.S.E. Values (Respect, Inclusion, Service, Excellence) are lived out each day at Friends University. It is through our commitment to caring for each other and our community that our service shines through in many ways.

By destigmatizing mental health help-seeking needs and increasing access to the Center on Family Living (CFL) on the Friends University campus, the CFL has served the student population with 1008 free sessions. That equates to \$15,120 of mental health services for students who were in need of it.

Sigma Delta Pi Hispanic Honor Society collaborated with Cabela's for Vamos a Pescar (Let's go fishing) to interpret for an outreach event to the local Hispanic/Latino community.

Residents at the Lakepoint Assisted Living Center enjoyed an afternoon of baseball entertainment as the Friend University Baseball team held a practice in their courtyard.

Way to go Falcons!

Friends University teamed up with the Sedgwick County Health Department to host several Covid-19 vaccine clinics for faculty, staff, students and the community to get their first, second or booster shots.



Friends faculty, staff and students participated in the Salvation Army Service Day for the 29th year at the Christmas holiday distribution.



The Women's Soccer Team went to Giving the Basics warehouse to help organize and pack donated items and then held two "Dignity Drives" to collect hygiene items that will go to community members in need.



Hispanic American Leadership Organization (HALO) students took part in an outreach to the Hispanic community at Evergreen Community Christmas Convivio where they prepared decorations for the celebration and distributed Christmas goodies to families. They also hosted a Hispanic Heritage Day event featuring art, music, culture and internship opportunities for Friends students, high school students and the local community.

FRIENDS UNIVERSITY THEATRE PRESENTED THE WHODUNIT PLAY, CALAMITY TOWN

Friends University Theatre shared the college premiere of Calamity Town which featured 12 university students who portrayed 21 characters. The play is based on the 1942 novel of the same name written by Frederick Dannay and Manfred B. Lee, under the pseudonym, Ellery Queen.

Calamity Town is an intriguing whodunit play set in a nostalgic New England village. The town is full of inviting and moral folks. However, beneath its calm veneer, lies a disturbing secret and a

potential killer in their midst, ready to strike again over the coming holiday. The story's protagonist and amateur sleuth, Ellery, must rightly deduce fact versus fiction before festivities turn fatal and the townsfolk face a tragic fate. The New York Times labeled the story "the best mystery produced by Ellery Queen."

"It was an old-fashioned evening of entertainment, mystery and intrigue!" said Director and Friends University Assistant Professor of Drama and Media, Kurt Priebe.



FRIENDS UNIVERSITY PRESENTS OPERAS, OLD MAID AND THE THIEF AND FABLES

Friends University performed two short operas- Old Maid and the Thief by Gian Carlo Menotti and Fables by Ned Rorem.

The evening was spearheaded by local director, Ashley Winters. She serves as the Managing Artistic Director at Opera Kansas and was excited to teach lessons and direct the opera this semester. Fine Arts Division Co-Chair and Associate Professor of Voice, Dr. Matthew Schloneger, was the music director and producer for the performance. The production featured senior student, Gabe Karst as the orchestra conductor.

Old Maid and The Thief is a one-act radio opera that tells the tale of humanity and its futile pursuit of enlightenment. As the layers are peeled away, the audience finds that the ancient vices of jealousy, pride, avarice [greed], sloth and lust are still at our core.

Fables is a collection of five micro-operas, each featuring a colorful cast of characters that explore those same inner vices, bad attitudes and the little lies we tell ourselves.

"We hope these works allowed our audience to gain a refreshing perspective on the value of ancient human insights through the colorful weaving of our fabled musical stories as we expose those historically dark parts of our inner selves that we don't like to talk about at parties," said Winters.



ANNUAL CHRISTMAS CANDLELIGHT CONCERT BIGGER AND BETTER

Concert goers received plenty of what keeps them coming back every year with exciting additions. Generations of students, faculty and audiences have participated in the candlelight tradition on Friends University's campus but this year the production was moved to a much more spacious location at Central Community Church.

Friends University Singing Quakers and Concert Choir sang the traditional renditions along with other groups including Falcon Chorus, Women's Choir, Flute Choir, Orchestra, Concert Band, Jazz Band and Dance. All these forces combined to create a holiday spirit that warmed many hearts.

"I wanted to create a Christmas concert that celebrated all that we have to offer in the Fine Arts Division. This concert is our big present to you, our beloved community," said Artistic Director of Candlelight and Singing Quaker Conductor, Dr. Rayvon T. J. Moore.



FRIENDS UNIVERSITY PRESENTED THE TIME-HONORED CLASSIC, LITTLE WOMEN

Based on Louisa May Alcott's classic book, Little Women has been expertly adapted for the stage and song. The story centers around four adventurous sisters- Jo, Meg, Beth and Amy March — as they grow up in Civil War America. It is a captivating story of family, heartache, hope and love brought to life through music by Jason Howland.

The production included a live orchestra composed of Friends University music students, faculty and outside

guests. Rolaine Hetherington, assistant professor of voice, served as the Musical Director and Sheldon Mba, assistant professor of music theatre and dance, was the Stage Director and Choreographer.

"Just like the March family, we must learn to let go. The only thing we have control over when disaster strikes or heartache ensues, is how we choose to pick up the pieces and move forward," said Mba.

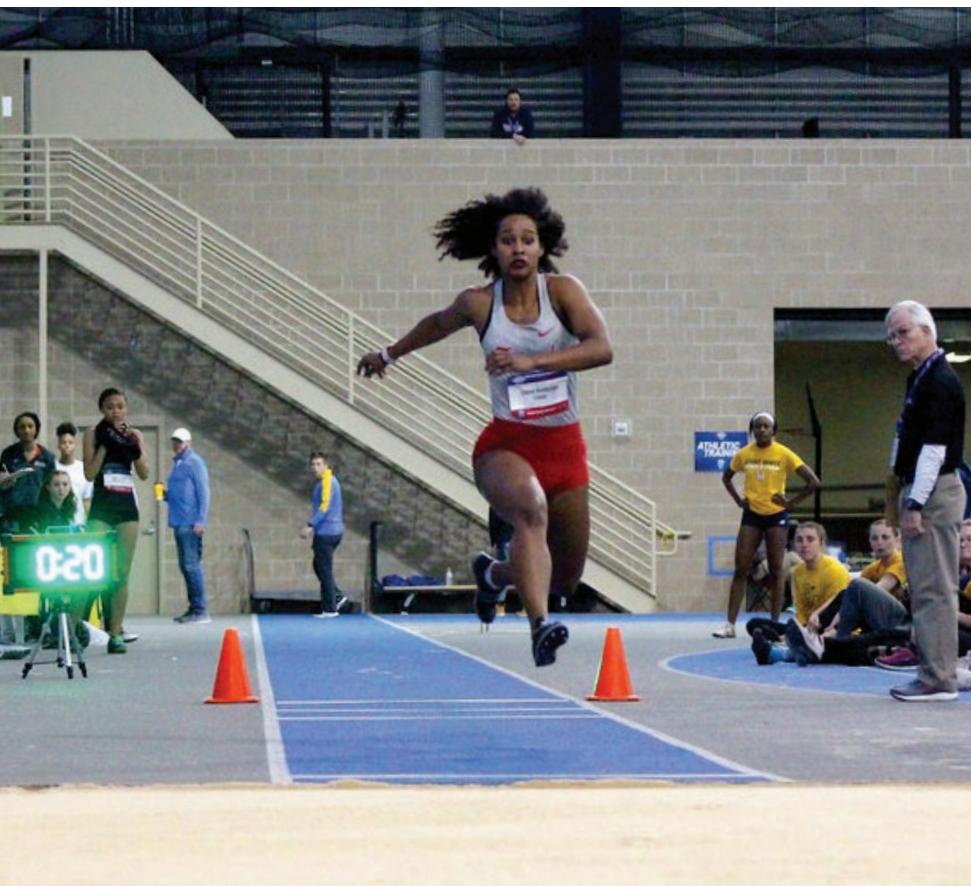
RECORD-BREAKING WINS FOR FRIENDS UNIVERSITY AT NATS

Friends University voice students competed in the National Association of Teachers of Singing (NATS) West Central Region Student Auditions, setting an all-time record with 12 finalists and 25 semifinals (out of 28 auditions). They competed against college and university students representing a four-state area including Kansas, Nebraska, Colorado and Wyoming.

For the sixth year in a row, Friends University had by far the most finalists and semifinalists of any private school in the region and the third highest total overall behind two Big 12 state universities. Finalists are eligible to enter the NATS National Student Auditions this spring.

FRIENDS UNIVERSITY HOSTS COLLABORATIVE BAND CONCERT

The Friends University Concert Band presented a winter concert with the Wellington High School Band. This was the second of three collaborative concerts with area high school bands. Each band performed its own repertoire then combine for two final selections.



MEN'S AND WOMEN'S FALCON TRACK TEAM FINISH IS TOP 25 AT NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP

PHOTOS BY RACHEL MOORE, CENTRAL METHODIST UNIVERSITY

The Friends University Falcons earned a combined 18 All-Americans at the Indoor NAIA National Championship Meet at Dakota State University in Brookings,



S.D. The Falcon men wound up tied for 14th nationally, while the Women Falcons finished tied for 21st.

"It was quite the weekend at NAIA's for our program," said Friends track & field head coach Henry Brun. "Bringing the number of qualifiers we did to the meet made it exciting to watch. When you get to the national meet, it is more about mental toughness than anything and I can confidently say that we held strong from beginning to end. I am very proud that both the men's and women's programs finished in the Top 25 giving us great momentum going into the outdoor season."

MEN'S AND WOMEN'S WRESTLING DEBUTS AT FRIENDS

The Friends University Falcons' Men's and Women's Wrestling teams concluded their debut season with many firsts. The men's team finished with a seventh place finish at the KCAC meet while the women's team competed in their first-ever NAIA National Invitational.

"Now that our foundation has been set, we can build upon that and strive to become even better," said Friends wrestling head coach Aaron Meister."



FRIENDS MEN'S AND WOMEN'S BASKETBALL PLAYERS BRING HOME KCAC CONFERENCE TITLES



Women's team from left to right: Taylor Jackson won Third Team All Conference, All Freshman Team, All Defensive Team and Freshman of the Year, Carrie Lacy won Third Team All Conference, Alexa Chairs won All Conference Honorable Mention, and Hayley Stiger won a Champions of Character Medallion.



Men's team from left to right: Ian Konek won Third Team All Conference, Trey Reid won All Conference Honorable Mention, Drew Patterson won All-Freshman Team, Alex Gray won All-Freshman Team and Eastyn Ruffin won a Champion of Character Medallion.

PHOTO BY LINDSEY PEANINSTEIN



COMPETITIVE CHEER HAS HISTORIC SEASON

The Friends University Competitive Cheer team won the KCAC conference championship for the first time in the program history awarding them the opportunity to compete in the NAIA National Competitive Cheer and Dance National Championships where they finished 15th overall.

FRIENDS UNIVERSITY ANNOUNCES BRIE BOULANGER AS VICE PRESIDENT OF ADVANCEMENT AND MARKETING

Friends University is pleased to announce the promotion of Brie Boulanger to Vice President of Advancement and Marketing in which she will also serve on the President's Cabinet.

The role of the University Advancement and Marketing teams at Friends University is to work closely to keep students and alumni connected to the university before, during and after their time at Friends.

Boulanger holds a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology from Wichita State University and a Master of Business Administration from Friends University. She began her career at Friends University in 2010 and has held several positions including Recruiter, Director of Alumni Relations, Director of Development and Associate Vice President of Advancement. In her spare time when she is not serving the Friends University community, you will find her attending her children's sporting events.



AWARDS

MILITARY FRIENDLY

Friends University has been named as a **2022-2023 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 RECOGNIZED FOR TOP PROGRAMS FOR 2022

Friends University has been awarded top ranking status for several degree programs and was listed among hundreds of other competing institutions across the nation by **Intelligent.com**. Each program ranking is based on curriculum quality.

- Best Colleges in Kansas — Ranked #7
- Best Online Master's in Health Services Degree Programs — Ranked #10

- Best Online MBA in Healthcare Management Programs — Ranked #11
- Best Online Master's in Accounting Degree Programs — Ranked #25
- Best Online Cyber Security Degree Programs — Ranked #29
- Best Master's in Marriage and Family Therapy Degree Programs — Ranked #30
- Best Online Bachelor's in Elementary Education Programs — Ranked #31
- Best Online Master's in Healthcare Administration Programs — Ranked #32
- Best Online MBA in Supply Chain Management Programs — Ranked #33
- Best Online Master's in Education Programs — Ranked #54

FRIENDS EARNS RANKING FROM EDUMED.ORG

Friends University has been ranked number seven by EduMed.org as one of the best online learning programs in healthcare on their Best Online Master's Degrees in Healthcare Management list.

FRIENDS EARNS CPN SEAL OF PREVENTION

Friends University has achieved the 2021 Campus Prevention Network Seal of Prevention for its exemplary efforts to foster student safety, well-being and inclusion through online prevention programs. Fewer than 15 percent of U.S. institutions have earned this distinction this year.



FRIENDS UNIVERSITY LAUNCHES NEW FRIENDS TALKS SERIES

Friends University launched the new Friends Talks lecture series which hosts two sessions each year with one encompassing a community focus and the other will have a theological perspective. Each event will feature local and national experts of community, philosophy, religion and spirituality who will teach our community something new and substantial about the way we see the world.

The inaugural session featured author and founder of Strong Towns, Charles Marohn who discussed his book "Confessions of a Recovering Engineer: Transportation

for a Strong Town." Local scholars, activists, artists and leaders discussed the challenges and choices facing our city with how Wichitans work, play, move and live.

Author and internationally recognized expert on the world of Jesus, Rev. Dr. Michael O. Wise, was on hand to meet with local

pastors and host a keynote presentation on "The Mystery of the Last Document from the Jerusalem Temple: A Window on the World of Jesus."

Friends Talks are free and open to the public.

FriendsTalks

Theology. Community. Progress.

FIDELITY BANK FOUNDATION GRANT LAUNCHES NEW RECORDING STUDIO

Students and friends in the community can develop their artistic voice and style, learn professional mixing, music and video editing, and also lighting and production techniques.

With this wide range of equipment, the studio can accommodate anything from intimate podcast sessions to full band recordings and green screen video shoots.





GRADUATING TEACHERS RECEIVE TEACHER TOOL KIT

Friends University is proud to partner with Credit Union of America who support educators. Graduating education seniors were presented a teacher took kit filled with classroom supplies and goodies to help get their classroom started. Mentor teachers were also presented an Educrate gift box to show appreciation for their dedication and support they showed to their student teachers during the semester.

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 for more information

Have a
FLY RIDE
with a
FALCON PRIDE
license plate

KANSAS FRIENDS UNIVERSITY ABC 123

KANSAS FRIENDS UNIVERSITY FRU 001

KANSAS FRIENDS UNIVERSITY ABC 123

KANSAS FRIENDS UNIVERSITY FRU 001

For more information, contact the **Alumni Office** at 316-295-5810 | alumni@friends.edu

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



GATHERING IN THE GARDEN

Friends University partnered with nearby Franklin Elementary School for a community garden gathering. The event brought students, teachers and families of all ages together for an evening of fellowship.

The Friends University Community Garden, located behind Smith and Village apartments on South Glenn, provides bountiful blessings of food, beauty and fellowship.



FRIENDS PARTNERS WITH NLC AND LOCAL UNIVERSITIES TO SUPPORT STUDENTS

Friends University is proud to partner with the National League of Cities, the City of Wichita, Newman University and Wichita State University to support Wichita's postsecondary students to meet the basic needs that sideline students from attaining postsecondary credentials and succeeding in the workforce. Wichita is one of five cities selected for the NLC 2021-2022 Cohort. The other cities include Madison, Wis.; Raleigh, N.C.; Savoy, Ill.; and Tampa, Fla.



The Apprentice Gathering is a 3-day conference designed for individuals longing to continue their personal journey into Christ-likeness. Learn from a diverse lineup of plenary speakers including James Bryan Smith, Tish Harrison Warren, Curt Thompson, Rich Villodas, Jen Pollock Michel, John Ortberg, and more.

Register: apprenticeinstitute.org



Donor Profile

ROGER AND SUSAN (BRESSIE) BROWN

Roger and Susan Brown were kind enough to share with us about themselves and their time at Friends University. This sweet couple started dating after a Singing Quakers tour and later married in 1974. They are the proud parents of Rebecca, Melissa and Eric, and grandparents to nine grandchildren who keep them busy attending their activities.

Tell us a bit about yourself. Family, career, hobbies?

Susan: I taught vocal music for 20 years and continue to teach private piano lessons along with being a church organist, pianist and accompanist. I also enjoy working with children and youth at church, love to travel and do volunteer work.

Roger: I am a native of Cheney, Kan. and have worked at Citizen's State Bank in Cheney since 1973. When I am not working I enjoy traveling with Community Bankers Associations of Kansas cruises.



Front row (l to r): Ellie Burdick, Cecil Brown, Roger Brown, Susan Brown, Nina Brown, Brooke Brown
 Middle Row (l to r): Hallie Spieckermann, Melissa Spieckermann, Lyndie Burdick, Joshua Burdick, Rebecca Burdick, Anna Spieckermann, Camryn Spieckermann, Natalie Burdick, Eric Brown
 Back row (l to r): Phil Spieckermann, Paul Burdick

When did you attend Friends and what was your major?

Susan: I graduated in 1975 with a degree in music education.

Roger: I graduated in 1973 with a degree in business administration.

What are your favorite memories from your time at Friends?

Susan: My fondest memories of Friends were Singing Quakers, especially the tours and the Symphony of Spring, the lifelong friendships and memories made. My husband still reminds Dr. Riney when we see him that we began dating after a Singing Quakers tour!

Roger: My favorite memories are football and the Mineral Water Bowl game, Singing Quakers, and meeting my wife Susan in the Singing Quakers.

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

Susan and Roger: We feel it is always important to give back to the places that have made a difference in your life. We enjoyed the sports and the fine arts. Giving enables Friends to continue giving young people a quality education and improves the campus.

Any career advice for future alumni?

Susan: Proverbs 16:3, "Commit to the Lord whatever you do, and He will establish your plans."

Roger: Commit to your dream and give the effort necessary to realize your dream. Have a good time and be responsible!

Alumni Spotlight



Sarah, Brian, Becky, Adam, Luke, Rachel, Noah

DR. BRIAN DREW

What year did you graduate?

I graduated from Friends University in 1994, and from the University of Missouri at Kansas City School of Dentistry in 1998.

Why did you choose Friends?

I chose Friends University because I received the Presidential Scholarship. Along with other grants and scholarships, I was able to finish at Friends without any loans for my education.

Who influenced you the most during your time at Friends?

I was most influenced by Dr. Melody Brownell who was my pre-dental advisor. She recognized that I was not applying myself in a manner to be successful in dental school, and told me that I would not receive her recommendation to dental school unless that changed.

Share your best college memory while at Friends.

My best memory at Friends was playing soccer under the lights in the stadium.

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

My advice to make the best of your college experience is to be involved with campus activities to make lots of new friends. Also, if you are going onto graduate school, take every class available in that field at Friends because it will make graduate school easier.

Describe Friends in three words.

Comfortable, beautiful, excellence.

What is your greatest professional accomplishment?

My greatest professional accomplishment was successfully pushing legislation through the Oklahoma Capitol to increase the number of hygienists that I could employ. I have been on the Governmental Affairs Committee of the Oklahoma Dental Association now for 13 years and it took five years to accomplish that goal.

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

My education at Friends made dental school so much easier as I had a great academic foundation to build from.

Spring 2022 Class Notes

IN MEMORY

"In Memory" passages with more details were submitted by family and friends. Information received after Feb. 1, 2022 will be included in the next issue. We reserve the right to edit as space allows.

George Lucas Adams III, '68, died Aug. 8. He began his teaching career in Kansas and also taught in Hartford, Conn. Adams retired from the U.S. Navy and was a skilled sea captain.

Frank Allbritten, III, '89, died Dec. 28. He served in the U.S. Navy, advancing to the rank of Petty Officer Second Class and later went on to enjoy careers as a house painter and a locksmith.

Ted Forrest Anderson, '99, died Jan. 27. He taught middle school language arts and coached at Andale High School in various capacities, most notably as the girls' basketball coach.

Cynthia LaGail Anderson, '94, died July 20. She provided foster care for over 21 years to children with special needs, worked at Boeing and loved to travel.

KENNETH RAY DIMICK, '81, died July 25. He spent the majority of his working career, (29 years) at KG&E/Westar before he began working for the City of Wichita in the transportation department. Ken's passion was being involved in music and playing his trumpet.

Denise E. Ashford, '89, died Nov. 18, 2019. She worked for the Wichita Public School District for many years and was a computer tech para educator at Benton Elementary School.

Richard Baker, '58, died April 8, 2020. He was an accountant at several hospitals, was part of the Singing Quakers while at Friends and was happiest when surrounded by music.

Arthur Binford, '55, died Jan. 21. He was a minister, worked at the United Way for 25 years, was the curator for the Friends University Quaker library and a member of the University Friends Church.

Roy Carlton Brown, '75, died Aug. 15. He served in the U.S. Navy, worked for the Wichita Police department for 22 years and went on to work for the Kansas Security Exchange Commission.

Douglas Buchanan, '09, died July 17. Doug and his sister Jodi founded the BS Sandwich Press food truck, helping to pioneer the food truck business in Wichita.

Nicolle L. (Spann) Buhler, '00, died Dec. 15. She loved to homeschool her children and had a love for the Scriptures.

Iola Mae Powell Cadwallader, '47, died Nov. 15. She taught English, speech and theatre; was a preschool director; and wrote four full length musicals which were produced in the Oskaloosa, Iowa community where she resided.

"Bill" Wilba Leroy Calloway, Jr., '66, died Jan. 11. He fueled his passion for music by singing at various engagements while working his way up the ladder in corporate America.



**Dr. John Kwang-Ming**

Cheng, died Dec. 15. He served as an interpreter for Quaker Missionaries working near Nanjing, China. He later accepted a faculty position at Friends University as a professor of mathematics and was the chair of the Department of Mathematics. He later went on to work at Cessna and Boeing specializing in stress analysis in an industrial setting and played a significant role in the design of the Boeing 767 aircraft.

Joyce E. (Riggs) Church, '54, died July 14. Joyce taught for 41 years in Arkansas, Colorado and the Wichita Public Schools and won horseracing races.

Curtis "Jerry" Gerald Condra, Jr., '93/'99, died July 21. He worked in radio and television, went on to be a professor in the Department of Broadcasting at the State University of New York at Oswego (SUNY).

David Homer Cox, '94, died Oct. 2. He dedicated his life to serving the body of Christ in many capacities as a pastor, youth pastor, and Youth for Christ Executive Director and Director of Development.

Danny Darrington, '99, died Oct. 16. He worked at Mayberry Cultural and Fine Arts Magnet Middle School.

ALZIE MARIE FRASURE, '91, died May 22. She was the President, along with her husband, of RJ Travel Advisors. Marie was also the founder and Executive Director of Youth Initiatives in Education and Leadership Development (YIELD); in addition to being the founder, architect and driving force behind Mt. Carmel's Community Outreach Programs for over 35 years.

Jerry Milton Davis, '92, died Dec. 4. He worked as an engineer and draftsman and served two terms as a Finney County Commissioner District 2.

Terry L. DeBrot, '77, died Oct. 25. He followed his passion for woodworking and founded DeBrot Construction Company.

Priscilla Hosie Pearson Dickens, '39, died Aug. 14. She taught in the elementary school on the Rosebud Indian Reservation in South Dakota, was a homemaker and devoted mother.

Derek S. Ellsworth, '94, died Dec. 24. He worked in the fiberglass pipe industry and had a passion for cars.

Menno (Mick) A. Friesen, '52, died Aug. 20. He served during World War II, was a private pilot, farmer, rancher and bus driver.

James "Jim" Edmund Gerteis, '68, died Jan. 13. He served in the U.S. Air Force, owned and operated Advanced Electronics, was a bio-med technician and enjoyed singing in the men's barbershop quartet.

Ralph Morris Green, '75, died Aug. 18. He worked at Boeing for many years, was a florist, and a talented artist in sculpting and painting.

Ronald Melvin Hanson, '94, died May 27. He was a radio professional, owned Visual Communications, Inc. and was inducted into the Kansas Music Hall of Fame, along with his band, the Benders.

Duane E. Harrington, Sr., died Nov. 6. He owned and operated American Cab Company in Wichita until his retirement.

Julie Ann Niehoff Harris, '01, died Aug. 17. She worked for Sally Mae, Niehoff Heating and Air, and General Dynamics.

Karolena J. Harris, '57, died Jan. 4.

June Marie Howe, '50, died July 24. She taught K-12 and Sunday school at First Baptist church in Wichita, Kan.



BEVERLY KAY GENSEMER, '89, died Dec. 29. She worked in human resources and enjoyed playing music with many groups including the Loveland Orchestra, Loveland Symphony, Loveland Opera Company, Fort Collins Health and Wellness Orchestra, and a highlight of her accomplishments included performing the challenging 6th Brandenburg Concerto.



DUANE M. HANSEN, '72, died Dec. 7. He served as a minister with the Friends Church in Colorado, Indiana, California, Kansas and Oklahoma and was a Mass Mutual agent. He enjoyed serving on the Board of Trustees for Amarillo HOA and Friends University, as well as attending Friends University athletic events.

William "Bill" Carl Hurst, '51, died Dec. 10. He retired from Tandy Leather Company, was a deacon and led singing at his church.

Lakin J. Russell Jennings, '95, died Oct. 27. He was a mechanic, pilot, deputy sheriff, District Magistrate Judge for Kearny County, Director of the Southwest Kansas Regional Juvenile Detention Center and the State Representative of the 122nd District.

Gail Gordine (Buttel) Johnson, '53, died Oct. 25. She worked at Murphy's Landing and Little Six in Shakopee, Minn. She volunteered at Auburn Manor and Auburn Courts, did fundraising for the Institute of Logopedics and was a big part of the United Cerebral Palsy of Minnesota.

Diana Kay (Imhof) Jones, '92, died on Nov. 28. She had a long and successful career culminating as a Court Administrator for the 25th Judicial District of Kansas.



CHARLES G. KANNADY, '71, died July 17. He taught science and driver's education in Florence, Marion and Goddard, Kansas. He was a farmer/rancher and a real estate broker. Charles attended Eastmoor United Methodist Church, was a member of Lions Club, National Board of Realtors and Marion Advancement Campaign.

Danna Kay (Butler) Kelly, '74, died Jan. 6. She taught art at several schools in Louisiana and Kansas, and later she served as the Director of the Norton Learning Center until her retirement.

Carlton Wade Kennard '81, died Oct. 2. He practiced law for many years, worked as a radio sports broadcaster and for Olympian Insurance

Rebecca Krom, '21, died Aug. 6. She worked at Cannon Beach Christian Conference Center on the Oregon coast before receiving her master's degree in Marriage and Family Therapy.

Ellen Irene Loewen, '55, died Oct. 19. She taught for several years, started her own daycare, and did alterations and seamstress work.

Ronald "Ron" Ivan Lowry, '70, died Dec. 2. He served rural churches in central and western Kansas as a United Methodist Ordained Minister.

Joy Lucille Martin, '64, died November 10.

Ruth (Ruthie) Ann Forsberg Martin, '02, died Oct. 21. She taught students with special needs at Beloit Elementary School and Abilene Elementary School in Valley Center, Kan.

John Martyn, '77, died Aug. 31. He served as a Methodist pastor in Kansas for Graham County, Russell, Bunker Hill, Goddard, Benton and Towanda.



ANGELA MOONEYHAM, '13, died Oct. 3. She worked for Wichita Public Schools as a special-needs para and teacher at Wichita West High school. She was a member of the Ellsworth VFW Auxiliary, Mulvane American Legion Auxiliary and the Grace Lutheran Church in Wichita, Kan.

TRAVIS REED, '01, died March 10, 2021. He worked for various companies including Blue Cross Blue Shield of Kansas. Travis had a passion to teach others and was an adjunct professor at Friends University. His ultimate passion was his family which brought Travis the most joy.



Terry A. McClure, '67, died July 12, 2020. He taught physical science at Homer Hanna High School in Brownsville, Texas for 25 years.

David C. McDonald, died Jan. 9. He was a property manager for numerous management companies throughout Wichita and later worked for Sutherland Lumber Company.

Nancy Lynn Monical Pugh Mercer, '06, died Dec. 3. She served in the U.S. Air Force and later went to work in various positions in the aircraft industry until she retired from Boeing.

Shannon Louise Milch, '14, died June 05. She was a service representative for AnswerNet, was a member of the Rozel United Methodist Church, Daughters of the American Revolution and South-Central Stock Horse Association.

William "Bill" E. Miller, '58, died Nov. 30. He was drafted in the Civilian Public Service (CPS) and served in the Korean War. Bill was a public school teacher for 28 years and built houses during the summers and after his retirement.

Ricardo "Rikke" Mitchell, '01, died Sept. 27. He worked at Labette Community College as an Academic Advisor and then worked at the Community Developmental Disability Organization as a Basis Assessor.

Thomas Eugene Mitchell, '69, died June 21. He served in the U.S. Air Force and was awarded the Presidential Commendation Medal. Following his military service, Tom worked as a staff arranger for the Pride of Oklahoma Marching Band, various music positions and was a pastor at Covenant Presbyterian Church in Austin, Texas.

Christopher Bryan Moore, '66, died June 8. He worked with the Garden City Police Department, the Johnson County Sheriff's Office and the Sedgwick County Sheriff's Office before a second career with Scholfield Honda in Wichita for 23 years.

Michael Lee Nassif, '98, died Sept. 1. He was a sales representative and involved in the tree/plant nursery business for many years before transitioning to school bus and charter bus driving.

Beverly C. Parker, '88, died Jan. 17. She found joy in her family, pets, traveling, art and music.



JONATHAN G. SANCHEZ, '06/'16, died Jan. 20. He was the CEO and Co-Founder of Ember Enterprises, Chairman for the Wichita Hispanic Chamber of Commerce and active in the Wichita business community.

Paul Austin Parrish, '66, died Oct. 29. Paul began his teaching career as an assistant professor at the South Bend campus of Indiana University. He and his wife both taught at College Station and Texas A&M University.

GIVE ONLINE!

Submit your tax-deductible gift at friends.edu/give. Thank you for your support!

Coach Jim Phillips, died Aug. 20. Coach Phillips was the former men's basketball coach at Friends University. He went on to be the second-winningest coach in Missouri Southern State University history.

Edward Curtis "Curt" Poole, '88, died June 6. He served in the U.S. Navy and worked for IBM for 26 years before taking an early retirement and then began a second career at Spirit Aerosystems.

Delores M. Reich, '84, died Oct. 14. She was a retired lab technician at St. Joseph Hospital, Minor Emergency Center Network in Wichita, Kan.

Sandra Lee Rexroat, '72, died May 8. She worked in higher education for over 40 years at such universities as the State University of New York at New Paltz, Metropolitan State University and Texas A&M University-Kingsville.

Hilda Gloria Rodriguez, '98, died Aug. 11. She was born in Cuba, raised in Wichita and took pride in becoming a U.S. citizen.

Doris Stogsdill Scott, '47, died Nov. 30. After many years of teaching English, French, speech and special education, she worked at Cossell Rader Insurance Agency.

Dan D. Shreve, '71, died Nov. 11. His favorite pastimes included spending time with his wife and daughter, vacationing in the mountains, growing tomatoes in his garden and taking care of his dogs.

William H. Simmons, Jr., '58, died Nov. 13. He was a football coach and physical education teacher at Houston ISD for 34 years.

Milton G. Sites, '61, died Sept. 3. He was a retired schoolteacher for Wichita Public Schools, a member of West Side Christian Church and a talented vocalist.

RUTH DIEFFENBACHER SCHEER, '48, died Jan. 4. Music filled the lives of her family and she composed much of the music she used to raise her 10 children and then would create operettas and shows for the family to perform under the stage name The Scheer Delights. Education was very important to Ruth and her husband, Harold and the family has established the Thursday Afternoon Music Club Ruth and Harold Scheer Instrumental Scholarship, in their honor.



DARLINE L. SHAW, '71, died Aug. 1, 2020. She worked in her early years as a secretary, a schoolteacher and then she worked at Boeing until she retired after 41 years. She always smiled, was incredibly generous and brought life to her environment.

Wesley Alan Steele, '00, died Aug. 23. He owned Signal 88 Security in San Antonio, Texas with his wife Kendra.

Everett "Sonny" Stiger, '57, died Oct. 19. He was an accomplished violin player and enjoyed playing in various country bands his whole life. Sonny worked for the U.S. Forest Service and the Montana Prescribed Fire Services.

Randy C. Strassburg, '68, died June 11. He was a Property Tax Consultant and the owner of Strassburg & Co. for over 45 years.

Donna C. Stuempel, '94, died Dec. 5. She worked for Western Union for 33 years in communications and then went on to work for Kansas City Kansas Community College.



Richard Dale Swaney, '52, died Nov. 27. Dale began his career as a small business owner of O'Dell Washer & Supply and eventually retired from Sedgwick County after 17 years as an appraiser. He did two tours of duty in the U.S. Army in Korea.

Harold Dueker Swanson, '53, died Jan. 1. Dr. Swanson taught biology at Drake University for 35 years.

Norma Jean Boyd Thayer, '53, died on Sept. 23. She was active in government and politics for many years, serving as an elected member of the Village Board of Trustees in Potsdam, N.Y. and then as the Chairman of the Village's Urban Renewal Agency.

Theodore "Ted" Joseph Trask, '88, died Dec. 21. He was a retired Wichita Fire Battalion Chief.

Debby Tresner, '74, died May 10. She performed as a professional vocalist, worked many years as an incredible florist, loved theater and served in ministry in many different capacities.

Margery Alice (Lygrisse) Warren, '51, died June 13. She taught in Wichita, Burden, Sunnyside and Rose Hill schools.

Barbara J. Weddle, '56, died Jan. 7.

Halbert L. Whisenhunt, '46, died Dec. 17. He was a U.S. Merchant Marine during World War II. He later settled on the family farm and raised wheat and cattle and had a water well-drilling business with his brother.

Edward Leland White, '59, died Sept. 10. He was a Korean War Veteran in the U.S. Army and worked for the Gas Service Company for 38 years.

Mary Frances Glines Whitt, '59, died Oct. 26. She worked in the Houston area in retail and finance for a number of years.

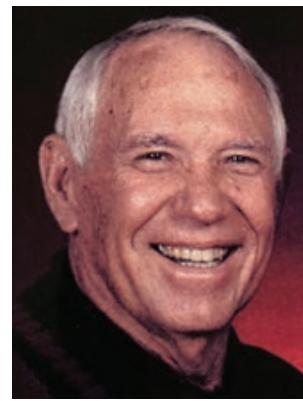
Arthur Ray Williams, '86, died Aug. 31. He worked for Sherwin-Williams as a chemist before his career took him to Boeing where he was part of the team to build the new Air Force One.

David Roy Wood, '56, died July 12.

CLASS NOTES

1960s

Retired Chaplain Col. Terry L. Murray, '68, was recognized as a 2020 Kansas National Guard Hall of Fame Inductee. The late retired Chaplain (Col.) Terry L. Murray was accessioned as a chaplain in the Kansas Army National Guard and received a direct commission as a first lieutenant. He later became the Kansas State Area Command Chaplain and was the first state chaplain in the United States to include both Army and Air Guard chaplains and chaplain assistants in joint training and was responsible for Kansas being the first state to use both Army and Air Guard chaplains in support of state emergency operations.



NORRIS "STUFFY" K. STAUFFER, '64, taught and coached for 29 years at Shawnee Mission East High School in Kansas City. After his passing the school celebrated his accomplishments including 17 total state championship teams. His wife **CAROLINE MILLBERGER STAUFFER, '62,** and family were on hand as Stuffy was honored and posthumously inducted into the Shawnee Mission East High School Hall of Fame.

1970s

David Riffel, '78, published his first book, *Mentoring Warriors*. He is the senior partner at Alloy Architecture and the Executive Director of Mentoring Warriors, a Christian-based non-profit focused on training men to mentor and preparing young men for life.

1980s

Steven E. Couch, '86, graduated in 2020 from the University of Texas in Arlington with a Master of Music in Choral Conducting.



PATRICIA A. RINGGENBERG, '80, is celebrating 40 years as a graphic designer with, 33 of those years at the Wichita Eagle and the remaining at Larksfield Place.



MIKE MCCORMICK, '85, retired after 36 years of teaching in May 2021. Through the years, he taught instrumental and vocal music, music technology classes, coached football, basketball, and women's and men's golf. In his retirement, he continues working at First United Methodist Church of Valley Center where he is the director of the adult choir and the praise band, and the high school youth director. Mike and his wife **PHOEBE J. MCCORMICK, '86**, live in Valley Center, Kan.

Ina Cavin, '02, has been named to the Hy-Vee Hall of Fame. She is the district store director at the Gladstone and Liberty Hy-Vee stores. Cavin was also named District Store Director of the Year at the company's annual stockholders meeting.

1990s

Mindy C. Barr, '96, is a summer Leadership Development Strategist for Capturing Kids' Hearts. She travels around the country training school staff on how to implement and support the CKH process.

James R. Gregorcyk, '95, is a City Council Member of Garden City, Kan., a board member of Johnson County Fire District, a Fourth degree Knights of Columbus, an Eagle Scout '91 and supports PRIDE Industries with a strong Veterans centered mission.

Judge William Mott, '91, was reappointed to the 30th Judicial District Court in Kansas.

Yvonne Sieber, '92, helped develop systems and practices at several area not-for-profit organizations before her retirement from Bluestem communities. Sieber's professional career of nearly five decades has been almost exclusively in the not-for-profit world. She is looking forward to slowing down, spending more time with her family and community, reading, and traveling.



NELSON MOSLEY, '93/'95, was named the new Chief of Police and Director of the Office of Public Safety for the University of Kansas.



BROOKE BENNETT AZIERE, '00, began a four-year term on the University of Kansas School of Law Board of Governors, is Member of the Foulston's Executive Committee and serves on the Friends University President Advisory Council.

2000s

Hadassah (Jennifer) Alderson, '02, published, *The Bible According to Eve: The Women of the Torah*, which retells the stories of the women of the Hebrew Bible in the first five books.

Jacob Cook, '07, recently released a book *Worldview Theory, Whiteness, and The Future of Evangelical Faith*.

Ronnie J. Guest, Jr., '00, is the new City Manager of the City of Choctaw and Executive Director of Choctaw Utilities Authority in Choctaw, Okla.



TALENA HOOPER, '03, is the Division Executive for the Commercial Banking Great Plains Division at Wells Fargo.

Malea Hartwickson, '06/'08, was selected by the Kansas Healthcare Collaborative Board of Directors as the Executive Director.

Evert L. Hastie III, '01, is currently seeking a Bachelor of Arts in Theology with minor in Choral Music at Newman University.

Dr. Courtney Long, '08, recently returned to Friends University for a recital and to teach music lessons virtually.

MICHELLE TIGGRAD KRAMMERER, '03, joined Amazon Music as the Head of Country Music where she will lead all efforts to continue growing country music listening on the service, inclusive of marketing, and artist and label relations through new initiatives and collaborations with a wide range of artists.



ABBEY DOHM, '04, was chosen for the Angels in Adoption Award for 2021 for the state of Kansas from the Congressional Coalition on Adoption.

Felicia S. Welch, '09, received a promotion to Assistant Program Administrator at the State of Kansas Department for Children and Families.

2010s

Nathan Borton, '16, released his debut record, Each Step in January 2022.

Micah Chermak, '12, and his wife Yellie are the new Co-Directors of the Dance Program at the Reif Performing Arts Center in Grand Rapids, Minn.

Denise Moland, '13/'18, is the Vice President of Patient Care Services for Samaritan North Lincoln Hospital in Lincoln City, Ore.



DAELOR OSEN, '14, finished medical school at Oklahoma State University College of Osteopathic Medicine in Tulsa, Okla. He matched into an Emergency Medicine Residence program at Oklahoma State University Medical Center in Tulsa, and started residency in July of 2021.

Damon Young, '13, was appointed Chief Business Officer by the Kansas Leadership Center.

Elizabeth Winger Young, '10, completed her course of study through the United Methodist Church.

2020s

Jackson Oldham, '20, is the new assistant basketball coach at Arizona Christian University in Glendale, Ariz.

Weston Tallman, '21, joined Hutchinson Regional Healthcare System as the Assistant Controller for the Finance Department following 13 years with Kroger Accounting Services in Hutchinson, Kan.

Emily Wagner, '21, began a key and certification management apprenticeship with Deloitte.

FACULTY/STAFF/BOARD NOTES

Dr. Prince Agbedanu, assistant professor of biology and director of the human biology and health science program, was selected to participate in the 2022 NetVUE seminar on Teaching and Vocational Exploration offered by the Council of Independent Colleges through its Network for Vocation in Undergraduate Education (NetVUE).

BILL ALLAN, associate professor of family life, retired from Friends University after serving our students for nearly four decades and was awarded Emeritus distinction.



Amy Clark was promoted to Director of Graduate and Professional Studies. She is a '16 alumna and has been with the University for six years as a Recruiter and the Assistant Director to Graduate and Professional Studies.



JESSICA BOONE was promoted to Director of Alumni Relations at Friends University. Jessica is a '14 alumna and has been with the University for three years with the Advancement team and is currently pursuing a Master of Business Administration with a Concentration in Change Management also at Friends University.

Dr. Gretchen Eick, emeritus faculty member and adjunct professor, was named Prose Writer of the Year by the Kansas Authors Club while her latest book won the J. Donald and Bertha Coffin Award. She was featured in a commentary for the Pennsylvania Capital-Star for her opinion piece and also had a play about political prisoners in Turkey win first prize.

Dr. Russell Arben Fox, professor of political science, director of the Honors Program and Model U.N. sponsor, was interviewed as a political expert for KAKE News and was featured in the Wichita Story magazine, the Wichita Beacon and on KCUR 89.3.

Vashti Jones, administrative assistant of athletics, was elected President of the Kansas Nebraska Woman's Missionary Union where she will help Kansas and Nebraska Southern Baptist churches. As a state president, she will sit on a National board as a Vice-President for Women's Missionary Union (WMU) auxiliary to the Southern Baptist Convention.



DR. VALENTINA CHAPPELL, professor of business and technology, retired from Friends University after serving our students for 20 years and was awarded Emeritus distinction.



DR. DONA GIBSON, professor of education and psychology, director of the master of education in teaching and learning and master of education in special education, retired from Friends University after serving our students for 40 years and was awarded Emeritus distinction.

Shawn Knopp, assistant professor of music education and band director, was a guest conductor for the Kansas Music Educators Association Northwest District Honor Band, the Patriot League Honor Band, the Symphony of Winds and the Lebo Beginning Band Festival. He also presented a session at the Kansas Music Educators Association (KEMA) In-Service Workshop titled Middle School Band Rocks! Getting Students to Middle School Band and Beyond.

Aaron Krone, associate professor of art, had a drawing accepted into the Martha's Vineyard Drawing. He won honorable mention for his work titled Silent Observer from the Art Gallery Room for the international juried art competition. One of his paintings received Special Recognition in Light, Space and Time Art Gallery Cityscapes International Online Competition.

Rachel Millard was promoted to the Senior Director of Marketing and will serve on the Cabinet Council. She has been with the University for 15 years.

Teresa Molina, assistant professor of Spanish, was elected Vice President of the Wichita Area Sister Cities (WASC) Board. Part of her duty includes maintaining communication with the mayor's office of Wichita's Sister City of Tlalnepantla de Baz, Mexico.

MICKEY SHANNON, web developer and alumnus, showcased his photography at Bradley Fair's Autumn in Art show. He also shared art information and expertise on the KAKE News morning show.



DEB STOCKMAN, vice president for enrollment management, announced her retirement for March 2022. She has been at the University for eight years during which time she faithfully served in the areas of Enrollment Management and Marketing.



Dr. Rayvon T.J. Moore, Fine Arts division co-chair, assistant professor of music, director of choral studies and Singing Quakers director, helped assist Andover Central High School choir as they prepared for a concert.

Dr. Rob Ramseyer, associate vice president of athletics, was selected to participate in the '21-22 Wichita Business Journal's Emerging Leaders program.

Dr. Moses Rumano, associate professor of education and division chair, was selected to serve on the Council for the Accreditation of Educator Preparation (CAEP) accreditation team for Southwestern College as the higher education observer.

Dr. Jerry Smartt, professor of Spanish and director of foreign languages, was invited to speak to the students at Horace Mann Dual Language Magnet School about going to college.

Dr. Dick Teter, professor of computer science and information systems, served on the Kansas State Department of Education (KSDE) committee that wrote the educator preparation program standards for Computer Science in 2020 and 2021. Dr. Teter also announced his retirement after the spring 2022 semester and has been awarded Emeritus distinction.

KELLEY WILLIAMS, vice president of administration, announced her retirement for June 2022. She is our longest serving Cabinet member having served 25 years at the University and oversees a number of significant areas including Human Resources, Information Technology and Physical Plant.

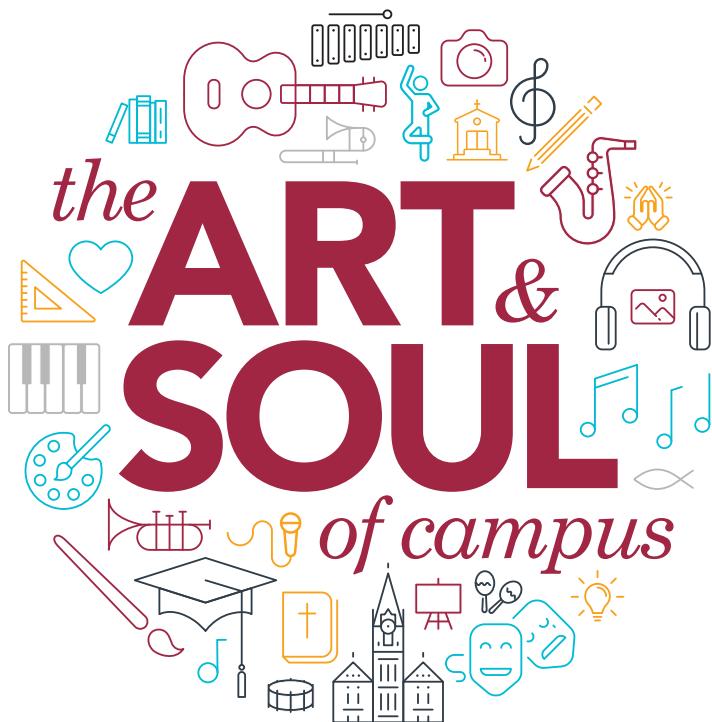


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