

KING

A MAGAZINE FOR ALUMNI & FRIENDS OF KING UNIVERSITY

DR. MILLER LISTON and **JEWEL BELL**

**How a Lifetime of
Service can Impact
Future Generations**

Pages 8 and 12





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Our Mission

We prepare students in our Christian academic community to excel as thoughtful, resourceful, and responsible citizens with a passion for serving God, the Church, and the world. We accomplish this through excellent teaching, high expectations, worthwhile example, and fidelity to our Presbyterian heritage. Our mission is the same for all campuses and sites; for online learning; and for all programs, curricular and extracurricular, graduate and undergraduate.

Our Vision

We aim to be the preeminent small to medium-sized Christian university in the Upper South, with a reputation earned there and beyond as a school serious about its Christian commitment, focused on student success, dedicated to academic excellence, and successful in producing graduates who excel wherever they live, work, and serve.

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Our Summer Vacation

Every line of work has associated myths that seem never to go away. Those in higher education must contend with the common presumption that everyone has the summer “off.” The errant “Enjoying your summer off?” is a frequent well-intended (if slightly envious) greeting.

Alas, were it so—and perhaps years ago it was. But in actual fact the summer at most any college or university today is a very busy time indeed—in some ways busier than the traditional school year. Classes run year-long at King, so many faculty never really stop teaching. The busiest time of year for the admissions and financial aid folks is often the summer, as the final push is on to make a King education possible for those who have been accepted, even as the planning is done for the next admissions year. The business office staff and fundraisers work hard to close out one fiscal year and begin the next. Likewise, the faculty and staff ramp up to close out the academic year just finished and prepare for the next.

Those who aren’t teaching are busy hosting study-abroad programs, or running STEM camps, or doing scholarly work, or revising their lectures for the next semester. Some faculty, staff, and administrators are able to go to professional association meetings that help keep them and the university current. Coaches are often hosting sports camps, even as they put finishing touches on rosters



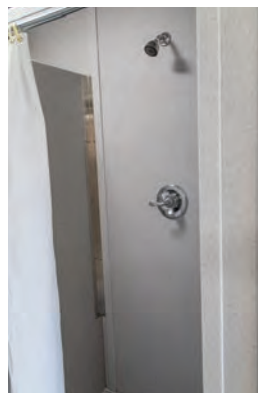
for the next year and ensure their playing spaces and equipment are in order. The Bristol campus may indeed seem empty with the residential students gone, but the work done each summer at all of our sites is considerable.

While for most of us our work remains more-or-less constant, irrespective of season, there are two groups on campus for whom the summers represent a significant up-turn in work. From the moment the last student crosses the stage at commencement and the alma mater is sung, King’s facilities and IT shops are working non-stop to accomplish a seemingly endless number of projects, from the mundane to the monumental.

That the grass grows faster when the students aren’t here is a truism, but it is true. And in addition to the normal grounds work that ensures King’s main campus grounds are as beautiful as they are, and the normal housekeeping that ensures things are clean and tidy, there are more comprehensive projects to tackle that cannot be done when the campus is full.

This summer just past, for example, had you visited campus you would have seen:

- Long-overdue deep cleaning of the brick on the hard-to-reach vertical surfaces of our brick buildings.



Liston restrooms (before & after)



**Spectrum Cable TV
via STREAMING
CAMPUS WIDE**

- The large trees which fell during the storms at the end of spring semester removed.

- Complete restoration of the front of the chapel, as our crews sanded the nearly century-old trim down to the raw wood, removing and repairing that which had rotted, and giving it fresh coats of white paint. It looks practically like new.

- Complete renovation of three Liston Hall restrooms, a pilot project done in hopes of doing all of the Liston restrooms over the next few years. The entire building (an excellent structure) needs attention, but restrooms and stairwells were the most critical areas of need—and last summer the stairwells were all refurbished.

- Complete rebuilding of the brick walkway in front of the E. W. King Building and the brick stairs that go to the chapel—made possible by a generous donation. This is the way most people access the Oval, and the original walkways had become dangerous and unattractive. (We are still looking for a donor who will fund rebuilding the stairs and brickwork on the Sells Hall side of the E.W. King Building.)

- Refurbishment of our counseling center.

- Transitioning away from hard-wired cable with boxes for television to wireless cable that residential students (and faculty and staff) may access from their smart TVs, computers, phones, or other personal devices.

- Quintupling the speed of on-campus wireless access.

- Installation of a new and dramatically improved sound system in the dining hall that eliminates all dead spots.

In an important strategic planning meeting at my last college, the president asked “What is the most important thing we do here?” No doubt he was expecting lofty, inspirational answers. But the very talented and down-to-earth head of physical plant answered first and resolutely: “Sewerage.” Everyone laughed, but he replied, “No, I’m serious. If the sewerage doesn’t work, nothing else will get done here: no meals will be served, no dorms will be fit to live in, and no classes will be taught.” And he was right, of course.

The work our facilities and IT staffs do here likewise is what makes everything else we do possible—at all of our campuses and online. Day in and day out, they accomplish a tremendous amount, work that is not always as visible as the summer projects I described above, but which is vital to our fulfilling our mission. They are very much our full partners in the work we do at King, inspiring us with their commitment and the quality of their work.

The next time you are on campus and see one of any of these “hands-on” workers, stop and thank them for the work they do toward our mission. And, better yet, think about funding projects (large or small) that will leverage their great talents and love for this place and our students. A campus that is well-maintained and preserved improves morale and retention, and helps us attract new students and new friends. In many ways these professionals are our best admission representatives and our best fundraisers.

Alexander Whitaker
President



Rebuilding of the E. W. King Building brick steps and walkway

Bound By Faith

Capt. Joseph Short and Lt. Col. Russ Ragon are among many King graduates that now share the Gospel of Christ as members of the U.S Armed Forces. Their military experiences are different, their personal stories are unique, and their journey to their current stations in life took different paths. They credit King, however, with guiding them toward Christ at crucial periods in their lives. Spreading God's word wherever He takes them, Capt. Joseph Short and Lt. Col. Russ Ragon are bound by faith and God's purpose.

Captain Joseph Short

A Bible signed by King faculty has traveled the world with Capt. Joseph Short as he wears his nation's uniform and ministers to his fellow soldiers. It's a familiar companion in foreign lands, a symbol of a journey that began long ago, and a constant reminder of God's redeeming grace. "It holds some of my fondest memories and continues to bring me hope," Joseph said. "It has been with me throughout my travels and will remain with me."

A Battalion Chaplain in the Wisconsin Army National Guard, Joseph is just one of many King graduates who now shares the Gospel as a member of the U.S Armed Forces. He is currently stationed in the Middle East with the 1st Battalion, 121st Field Artillery Regiment.

A troubled past and misguided decisions haunted Joseph as he graduated from high school in Newport News, Virginia. He went to his favorite guidance counselor and asked for help. After listening to his hopes for the next phase of his life, Mrs. Hall suggested just three colleges. Joseph immediately put King at the top of his list and, after being moved by the "warmth and graciousness" of an enrollment counselor who called one afternoon from the Bristol campus, he officially enrolled that fall. "I came to campus looking for a respite...and found the grace of God in the amazing friends and faculty I found there," he said.

He became intrigued by his courses in New Testament Survey and the documented journey from Babylon to Jerusalem that was so prevalent in literature. He developed an interest in psychology and presented his original research at regional conferences.

But some of his fondest memories of King were created during Liston Hall Devotions held each Wednesday night. "At the devotions, I saw people truly worshipping God



through singing and through prayer," he said. "The Holy Spirit was so very present during those simple songs and the heartfelt prayers of my friends. I had never experienced anything like it before."

He also discovered a talent for mentoring others while serving as a resident assistant on campus. After graduation, Joseph went to work with at-risk teens for a few years, then as a case manager for mentally ill adults. His journey took him to Florida and then Wisconsin, where he met his wife, Sarah.

However, he was growing restless with the direction of his career when he came across an article about life as a military chaplain and, through a friend of a friend, arranged to spend an entire day with a group of chaplains in the Wisconsin Army National Guard. In 2010, at the age of 36, he joined the U.S. Army.

He was commissioned as a Chaplain Candidate and earned a Masters of Divinity Degree from Trinity Evangelical Divinity School in Deerfield, Illinois, while gaining ministerial experience and completing an internship in Clinical Pastoral Education at a local hospital. In February of 2016, he was promoted to the rank of captain and full chaplain for the Wisconsin Army National Guard. His unit was deployed to the United Arab Emirates in August 2017.

The toughest thing about his deployment, he said, is just being away from Sarah and his two sons, Benjamin and Samuel. He looks forward to returning to Wisconsin and enjoying the simple things that are easy to take for granted, like "just being in the same room watching a movie and knowing they are safe."

Until then, he is enjoying his role as a religious counselor to members of his unit. "Being a chaplain is very different than serving in the local church," he said. "I liken it almost to being a kind of missionary where you have to learn and embrace a different culture with its own

language, history, and customs.”

He really wears two hats, he explained, both advising those in command about the impact religion plays on all operations and serving as a religious leader who provides worship services, religious education, pastoral counseling, and discipleship opportunities. He’s successfully adapted to the demands of the job, he said, thanks largely to his experiences at King.

“My time at King provided the framework I needed to become a lifelong learner and instilled in me a love for the journey of faith,” he said. “I have always taken King’s motto very seriously – Ecclesiae et Litteris, For the Church and for Learning. Everything I have learned has been a gift from God, and I have done my best to honor that learning by using it to build God’s kingdom.”

Lt. Col. Russ Ragon

The son of a Presbyterian minister, Russ grew up surrounded by Christian role models. He arrived at King in 1982, and continued to feel the influence. “I came to King at sort of an odd time in my life,” he said. “I was free from the oversight of my parents and did a lot of stuff that normal college students do, but it was always within an



atmosphere that was Christ-centered. We still had an obligation to God, and we still had an obligation to our fellow Christians to try to live life right and to try to make something of ourselves.”

Russ learned about King from his father, Ronald Ragon, who was a student for a short time in 1957, and from conversations with family friend Hugh Maclellan, a longtime King trustee.

He visited campus, then enrolled, then spent the next four years soaking in the wisdom of faculty members like Bill Wade, Craig McDonald, Graham Landrum, and Errol Rohr. “These were really, really intelligent people who were godly people. There was this overarching idea that these were people of integrity. They could teach anywhere they wanted, but they were at King because that was where

they wanted to be.”

Following his graduation from King in 1986, Russ began a four-year stint as a high school English teacher while also serving as a deacon at his father’s church. He soon felt called to a full-time career in ministry, and attended Reformed Theological Seminary in Jackson, Mississippi, before being named pastor at Lookout Valley Presbyterian Church in Chattanooga, Tennessee. Eight years later, at the age of 36, he joined the U.S. Air Force.

“I felt called by God to be an Air Force chaplain,” he explained. “I had never been on an Air Force base in my life, and didn’t really know what it involved. I started checking it out and decided that’s what I needed to do.”

His assignments have taken him to bases in California, Germany, Texas, and Turkey, and to the Air Force Academy in Colorado. He also was selected a few years ago to attend Texas A&M, where he earned a master’s degree in psychology through a program sponsored by the U.S. Army. The advanced degree has helped him to be a more effective counselor to those who rely on him in times of need, he said.

Now Wing Chaplain at RAF Mildenhall Air Force Base in England, he is responsible for all religious programs on the base. He works closely with chaplains who represent other religions and a variety of Christian denominations. Many of his duties are a routine part of life in the military, he said, but he also has the profound joy of baptizing babies, performing wedding ceremonies, honoring those who have died, and sharing the word of God with many for the first time.

“One of the things I really love is that I get to be around people who have never been in a church in their entire lives, and they don’t know anything about God,” he said. “It gives me a door to provide ministry to people who have never been a part of any religion. I’m a military officer, but I am 100 percent a Presbyterian minister. Anytime I get to do anything related to my chosen calling, those are the really meaningful things for me.”

Since June 2019, Lt. Col. Ragon began a new assignment at Randolph Air Force Base in Texas. He is now responsible for making chaplain assignments. He is also now closer to his wife, Margaret Fletcher, who is a professor at Auburn University, and his three children, Timothy, Madeline, and Samantha, who range in age from 20 to 28 and all live in Chattanooga.

“I’ve been so blessed with a great life and a great career, and King played a huge part in that,” he said. “I was surrounded by so many great professors and so many people who were believers at a very crucial time in my life. It was a great experience for me.”



Investing in Great Minds:

The Liston Family's Impact

Born in Richmond, Virginia, Miller Liston arrived at King while still a youngster. His father, R.T.L. Liston, had just been named King's 12th president when the family

came to Bristol in 1943, driving onto campus along unpaved roads to the Tadlock-Wallace House that was to be their home.

He attended schools in Bristol, enrolling at Tennessee High School for one year before transferring to Darlington School in Rome, Georgia. When

he graduated from the private boarding school in 1955, he returned to King to begin preparing for a career in medicine – drawn both by the promise of free tuition, he admits, and the excellent reputation King enjoyed under his father's leadership.

While pursuing degrees in biology and chemistry, he became fascinated by the “great minds” he encountered among the faculty and the student body. They routinely

engaged in intellectual conversation and focused on new discoveries, he said, eager to be a part of the great things happening in the world. Particularly memorable was classmate Max Weaver, who later enjoyed a successful career at Eastman Chemical Co., in Kingsport, Tennessee, and used his incredible knowledge of chemistry to patent numerous inventions.

“These were people who came from modest backgrounds, but had strong brains,” he said. “They were committed to academic excellence and theological excellence. They wanted to make a difference.”

With his father at the helm, King was growing rapidly and the younger Liston was enjoying life as a college student. He was on track for medical school when a trip to the movies unexpectedly changed his well-laid plans. “The Bridges of Toko-Ri,” a 1954 film starring William Holden as a Navy pilot, so intrigued him, in fact, that he left King midway through his college career to join the U.S. Navy.

“That movie changed my life,” he said. During his four-year stint in the Navy, he earned his wings in the Aviation Cadet Program and flew in the elite “Hurricane Hunter” squadron charged with providing advanced warning of destructive storms and hurricanes. When his active duty service was up, he entered the U.S. Naval Reserve



R.T.L. Liston

and returned to King to finish his education. Medical school at the University of Tennessee-Memphis followed. "I got in because of King's reputation for academic excellence," he said. "Some of the best minds were coming out of King in those days."

And then, like his father and grandfather before him, he felt the pull of the Presbyterian ministry. He earned a Master of Divinity Degree from Columbia Seminary in Decatur, Georgia, then launched a distinguished career serving churches in Florida, Georgia, Tennessee, and Virginia. Within the Presbyterian Church, he was tagged for leadership roles including Moderator of the Synod of the Mid-Atlantic and chair of the Synod's Council. Even after his retirement, he was often called upon to serve as interim pastor at various churches throughout Southwest Virginia and East Tennessee.

He also continued his military career for many years, serving as a chaplain in the U.S. Navy Reserve until retiring with the rank of captain in 1996. He was able to balance his military duties and his civilian responsibilities for so long, he said, because he truly loved being a minister.

Citing his accomplishments as an "effective church developer" and a "dedicated servant of our Lord Jesus Christ," in 1987, he was presented with an honorary Doctor of Divinity Degree from King. He was honored again in 2010 when both he and his wife Anne (Clemmons) '57, were named Volunteers of the Year for their frequent work behind the scenes.

"It was mostly scut work like stuffing envelopes," he laughed. "One of the flashiest things we did was help with the exam care packages. We just tried to help where we could, and we enjoyed it."

Liston Family Scholarship Recipient:

Jacob Reynolds

"It was totally a God thing," the King University sophomore said. "There's no doubt about it."

Jacob Reynolds was awarded the Liston Family Scholarship, an event that he considers life-changing. The Liston Family Scholarship is one of King's most prestigious academic awards. It covers the full cost of tuition and fees for four years and rewards incoming freshman for academic scholarship, Christian fellowship, community service, and university engagement.

After applying and being accepted to King, Jacob and his family thought everything was on track for him to enter King in the fall. "One night while having dinner, my parents shared some good news. They told me they had found a way for me to go to King," Jacob said. "They found a way to make it work."

His father, however, received a call from his employer notifying him that his job was being eliminated the next day. The family reconvened around the dinner table a few days later and decided to put King on hold. Jacob began making plans to attend a community college instead. And that's when God intervened, Jacob said.

At his mother's insistence, Jacob completed the application for the Liston Family Scholarship. "My mom just had this feeling that she couldn't explain," Jacob said.

In spring, Jacob learned he would be honored as salutatorian of his high school class. He was celebrating that success when he received the remarkable news – he was selected to receive a Liston Family Scholarship. Jacob's once-uncertain future changed in that moment.

"It was remarkable the way it all worked out," Jacob said. "I really wanted to be in a Christian atmosphere, and God made it all possible. This is where I needed to be."

Jacob is now in his second year at King, and is pursuing a degree in Business. He loves life at King and is "beyond thankful" to the Liston family for investing in his education. He's also grateful for the unwavering support of his parents, he said, who encouraged him to be positive and have faith – even when the future seemed uncertain for each of them.

"They told me that we had to trust in God, and they were right. The day I started at King, my dad got a great full-time job. We've been very blessed."



After Anne's death in 2016, Dr. Liston stepped forward once again with a monumental gift to King. The Anne Liston Scholarship Endowment Fund provides up to \$2,000 for first-time students who are the son or daughter of a minister, missionary, or staff member at a Presbyterian church.

The goal, he said, is to honor the memory of his beloved wife, who earned an English degree and a lifetime of treasured friends on the King campus, while preserving the University's deep roots in the Presbyterian Church.

His generosity continued in 2018 when he established the Liston Family Scholarship, a full-tuition scholarship

awarded to those who demonstrate academic scholarship, Christian fellowship, community and civic service, and peer engagement. Through this scholarship program, which is King's most prestigious academic award, he hopes to attract "great minds" comparable to those of the classmates that inspired him on this same campus 60 years ago.

"Our country needs leaders who understand the world and can make a difference," he said. "Colleges need to be a place where tough academic questions are considered.

We need to challenge our people and get them thinking, because it's a tough old world out there."



J. Miller and Anne Liston



Robert J. "Bob" Bartel 1931-2018 Shirley Ann" Bartel 1929-2019

Robert J. "Bob" Bartel, a King retiree who for 17 years enriched the campus with his incredible knowledge of business practices across the globe, died September 20, 2018. His wife, Shirley Ann Bartel, died July 2, 2019.

Born in China to second-generation missionaries, Bob came to the United States after high school to attend Wheaton College in Illinois. Shirley grew up in Mountainside, New Jersey.

The pair met at Wheaton College. Bob worked for the Federal Reserve Bank of New York and an international affiliate of Exxon-Mobile, before returning to Wheaton in 1970 to take a teaching position in the Economics and Business Department. Shirley was a first grade teacher at Sandburg Elementary. She and Bob had love of entertaining and gathering friends and Shirley always was a gracious hostess.

After a long tenure at Wheaton and a four-year stint at California's Westmont College, Bob came to King to accept an appointment to the Robert Maclellan Chair of Economics and Business. In addition to his classroom duties, he founded and managed the International Business Institute (IBI), an overseas academic program. Through this celebrated program, he connected King students with business and government leaders and arranged summer travel to international businesses like Unilever, Nestle, and Mercedes Benz.

Bob and Shirley shared their talents and love for Christ with the Bristol community. Bob served as Chairman of Charter Federal Savings Bank and as an Elder at First Presbyterian Church, where he was actively involved in helping to establish the Young Life Program.

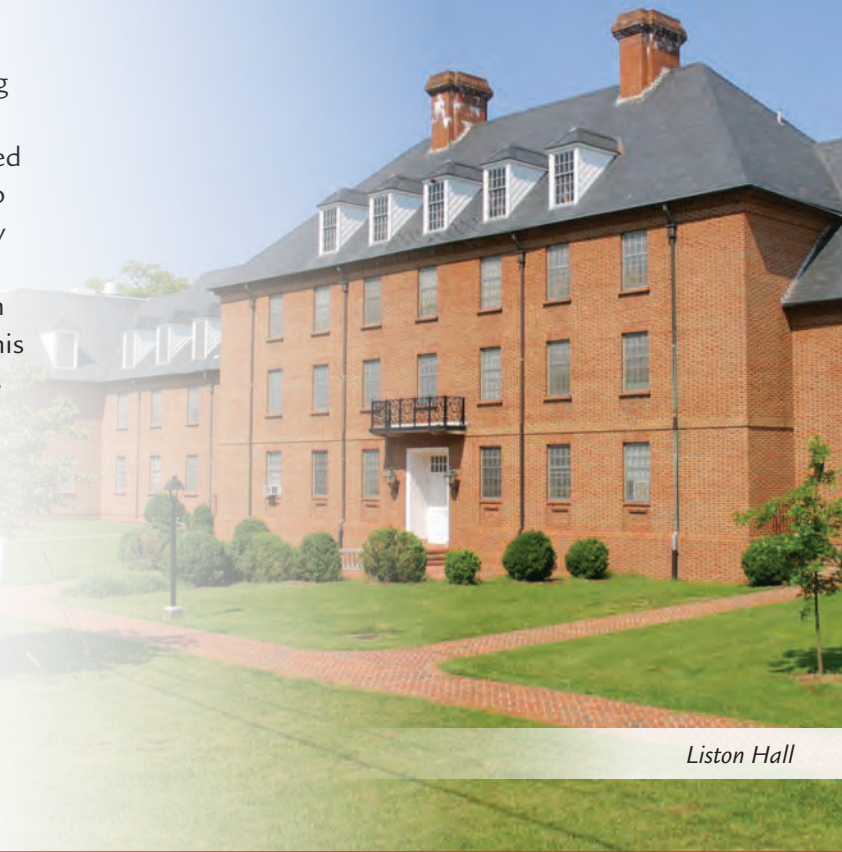
The Bartels would stay in Bristol for 17 years and treasure their time at King, First Presbyterian Church of Bristol, and the lifelong friendships they established as they did wherever they lived.

Bristol businessman Roger Leonard said Bob and his wife, Shirley, "excelled at cultivating friendships that were deep genuine and holy."

Some of the greatest minds at King are now preparing to make their way in the world with help from the scholarships he provides. In April 2019, Dr. Liston received the Distinguished Alumnus Award for his commitment to providing assistance to generations of students, his many significant contributions to the Presbyterian Church, the Bristol community, a grateful nation that he served as both a pilot and a chaplain, and, of course, his beloved King. This top honor recognizes alumni who exemplify King's values of Christian faith, service, career, and scholarship.

Dr. Liston now lives in Laurinburg, North Carolina, and continues to serve King as a member of the Board of Trustees.

More than seven decades have passed since he first stepped on to the King campus - a wide-eyed child with his whole life before him - proudly watching as his father took charge. R.T.L. Liston oversaw great growth and development during his 25-year tenure as president and his son, too, has earned a notable place in King's history.



Liston Hall

Dr. John S. Gaines 1933-2019

The King community on May 3, 2019, mourned the death of Dr. John S. Gaines, a civic leader whose distinguished 30-year teaching record earned him distinction as professor emeritus of education and American studies.

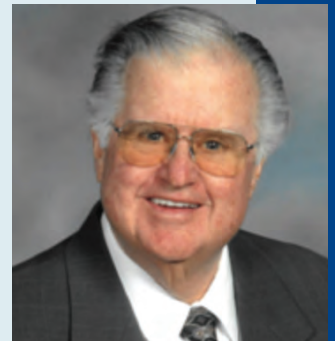
Born in California, Dr. Gaines held a bachelor's degree in Political Science from Occidental College, a master's degree in Administration and Social Science from California State University, and a doctorate in Education from the University of Southern California. He taught English as a Second Language at Seoul Academy in post-war Korea, then held a number of teaching posts in California's public schools before joining the faculty at King in the fall of 1969.

"The character and quality of a college like King is ultimately defined by those who devote their lives to its students," King President Alexander Whitaker said. "John, through his sacrificial service, exemplified the deep commitment of King to its students. His memory will live on in the lives of countless students and colleagues in this Christian academic community he helped build, and he will continue to inspire us all by the life he led."

A natural leader, he also served King in a variety of administrative roles throughout the years, including Vice President for Academic Affairs, Director of Teacher Education, Division Chairman, Director of Placement, and Director of Summer Programs. He even coached golf for a time.

Dr. Gaines served as a congressional intern as a young man, igniting a lifelong interest in politics that prompted him in later years to run for public office. He served four terms as a member of the Bristol Tennessee City Council, and was chosen by his elected peers to serve five years as mayor and five years as vice mayor. He also was a delegate to Republican National Conventions in 1996 and 2004, and enjoyed visiting historical sites throughout his life.

In the community, Dr. Gaines shared his expertise as a board member for the American Red Cross, Bristol Tennessee Essential Services, Tennessee Municipal League, Bristol Trainstation Foundation, and a long list of other organizations. He was also a member, deacon and trustee of First Baptist Church of Bristol.



IN REMEMBRANCE



"Through all these years, our love and devotion to Jewel has grown. We will always cherish Jewel as a mother in our lives."

**Ed Whitehead '67 and
Betty Heartwell Whitehead '68**

King's Crown "Jewel"

King University crowned its queen in September 2019 with a very special birthday party for beloved staff member Jewel Bell. In addition to her 90th birthday, Jewel's warm smile and the special relationship she has shared with students for more than six decades recently earned her recognition as King's first-ever Honorary Alumnus. Presented during Dogwood Homecoming Weekend 2019, the award recognizes that although Jewel did not earn a degree from King, she deserves a special place among the alumni for her "distinguished record of Christian faith and service."

Her employment with the University, which began in September 1952 as a temporary, two-week engagement, now spans nearly half of the institution's 153-year history. She is believed to be the longest-serving active, full-time employee in U.S. higher education.

As part of the celebration, King alumnus Jerry Caldwell ('97), executive vice president and general manager of Bristol Motor Speedway (BMS), arrived to chauffeur Bell in the track's signature pace car, taking a leisurely lap around King's Oval before providing a front-door drop-off to the festivities inside Maclellan Hall.

True to form, Bell insisted on working during her own party, serving as greeter and a host to the hundreds of students, faculty, and staff who came to celebrate her.

Bell is familiar to many alumni and friends of King as the literal voice of the university. Since 1961, she has operated the campus switchboard, answering calls and greeting those who visit the president's office. While her title is executive administrative assistant for communications, she's better known as Ma Bell, and her role throughout the decades has been one of advocate, sage, comforter, and guide.

At times, she has been a source of comfort for students who suddenly found themselves away from home for the first time or helped spark a friendship with those who needed it most. She helped trigger meaningful conversations with students about the important things in their lives and often coaxed a chuckle from them as they hurried off to class. It was a reminder that everything would be okay if they did their best and remained strong in their Christian faith. Her smile has always been memorable, King graduates agreed, because it made them feel loved and appreciated, like she was there for them and always would be.

"Those who understand the culture and commitment of our campus often mention Jewel Bell in the same breath as King," said Alexander Whitaker, president of King. "Her care for our students and her longtime devotion to the university are the model by which we are



"Jewel Bell is a gem and as sweet as the day is long. An enduring memory is her smile and the friendly chats at her station in Parks Hall."

John McClintock '74

all now measured. We are grateful for her many years of service, and for the grace and humor she continues to bring to every interaction. She is indeed the Jewel in King's crown."

Bell's sense of dedication is also reflected in her enduring service to community, which includes decades of support provided to organizations such as the American Red Cross, Slater Community Center, Healing Hands Health Center, YWCA of Northeast Tennessee/Southwest Virginia, and the Bristol City PTA Council.

Her service has garnered her a number of accolades, including the Algernon Sydney Sullivan award and recognition from the YWCA's Tribute to Women program. In 2007, in appreciation for her guidance to students, King established the Jewel H. Bell scholarship.

She is also the recipient of the university's first-

ever Lifetime Service Award and has been honored with a namesake lane on the Bristol campus. In 2017, she was declared an Aide-de-Camp by Governor Bill Haslam, a distinction that carried with it the title of Tennessee Colonel.

For her birthday, a number of organizations and personalities sent gifts and well-wishes, including the key to the city from the City of Bristol, Tennessee; a brass state line marker from the Bristol Chamber; a proclamation from the Tennessee State Senate, accompanied by a flag flown over the capital; birthday cards from academic organizations affiliated with King — even an autographed 90th birthday greeting from Dolly Parton.

Bell and her late husband, Lawrence, raised three children. Since then, her family has expanded to include numerous grandchildren and great-grandchildren, plus one great-great-grandchild. Her mission of caring for others remains as strong as ever, and she's thankful for the community that cares for her in return.

"My husband, Lawrence, and I were married for 50 years until his death," Jewel said. "My own children left years ago to pursue their careers, but this is still my home; the students are my family and I love them. Some of my family call me Gran, some call me GG, JB, Miss Jewel, plain Jewel, Mrs. Bell or Ma Bell.

"I feel like God has enabled me to be here so long because of them, and I believe I've made an impact."

Jewel Bell





Dr. Amy Knowles with Haitian friends

INSPIRING

Dr. Amy Knowles discovered her passion for healthcare in an unexpected place. Today, she continues to give back to the country she grew to love by encouraging King nursing students to take the same opportunity to be blessed and be a blessing.

Overwhelming poverty and the lingering destruction caused by numerous natural disasters may be apparent to first-time visitors to Haiti, but Dr. Amy Knowles hardly notices any more. She remains focused, instead, on the unbelievable kindness and resilience of the people who have been a blessing to her family and her career for more than 25 years.

Dr. Knowles, an associate professor of Nursing, is so passionate about her experiences in Haiti, in fact, that those closest to her – her husband, Jon; her research partner and faculty colleague, Dr. Penny Neal; and the graduate students she teaches and mentors – have all been inspired by her work there.

“The people of Haiti are some of the most incredible people I’ve ever met,” said Dr. Knowles, who teaches undergraduate and graduate level nursing courses at King’s Knoxville campus. “They are generous and kind, and they are always willing to help each other. They are the most altruistic people I’ve ever met.”

Dr. Knowles made her first trip to Haiti while a young nursing student at Carson Newman College and experienced what she now describes as a “complete paradigm shift.” After graduating and beginning her nursing career, she returned to Haiti periodically on a volunteer basis

and began seriously considering the possibility of adopting a Haitian child.

"I always say it was God that called me to the country, but the people of Haiti who keep drawing me back."

Dr. Amy Knowles

When she and Jon married a few years later, she convinced him to travel with her.

“It wasn’t really anything he was that excited about at first, but he agreed to join me,” she laughed. “It was a life-changing experience for him, too.”

Jon was so moved, in fact, that he immediately began working to establish a non-profit organization called Medic Samaritan. Established in 2011, the organization is focused on providing sustainable shelter, education, and clean water for the people of Haiti. It also provides a direction for Dr. Knowles’ research and the once-a-year mission trips she organizes for her nursing students.

Dr. Knowles and her associates are focused on strengthening

nursing education and improving access to healthcare in three rural communities. The work is meaningful and rewarding, she said, and there is plenty to do.

“At least once a year for the last four or five years, I’ve planned a trip with some of King’s nursing graduate students,” she said. “Our goal is to partner with the Haitian people to improve healthcare, prioritize their needs, and establish action plans to reach goals. We’re also looking at building nursing capacity so that people have improved access to healthcare.”

Reflecting on the Mission

Dr. Knowles, like many of her students, experienced a transformation during her first mission trip. It’s the reason she has directed so much of her research



THE NEXT GENERATION

toward the issues facing the tiny nation, why she shares her nursing expertise to enhance the availability of healthcare, and why she continues to make frequent visits. She refuses to be distracted by the political corruption, gang violence, drug trafficking, and organized crime that plague Haiti's largest cities and, instead, remains focused on helping the people of Haiti's rural communities.

With Dr. Neal as her research partner, she has conducted numerous studies about the rural health needs of the Haitian people, publishing and presenting her findings to ensure the information is not lost. She has secured training for nursing graduates to become midwives to promote healthy pregnancies and deliveries, taught CPR to nursing students and faculty, and conducted several community assessments to keep apprised of the needs of the people – always careful to listen to their opinions and honor their wishes. Dr. Kevin DeFord of King's Psychology Department has also pitched in, providing statistical expertise to make sense of the data collected for a recent perceived quality of health study.

Dr. Knowles also works closely with Faculté des Sciences Infirmières de l'Université Episcopale d'Haïti (which translated means Faculty of

"I can use my work to glorify the Lord"

Karen Rookard

Nursing Science of the Episcopal University of Haiti). The nursing school is among the best in that country and provides a Bachelor of Science in Nursing program that is comparable in quality to King, she said.

The King team of faculty members and students act as support staff for FSIL, providing faculty training and sharing their knowledge of the nursing profession with students. They also work diligently with Medic Samaritan through events like the annual Hope for Haiti 5k in Knoxville to provide scholarships for students to attend FSIL. Further, graduate students who do not participate on the mission trip have opportunities to assist the country by creating infographics on a health education

topic that is translated into the Haitian native language.

Reflecting on her work in Haiti, Dr. Knowles is grateful for those who have rallied around her and now share her passion for the work she began so long ago.

Her devoted husband, who works as a critical care paramedic for the University of Tennessee Medical Center's Lifestar helicopter, continues to operate Medic Samaritan and brings a critical emergency medical perspective to their work. Drs. Neal and Knowles make time each week to review research findings and plan new studies that will make a meaningful impact. King's graduate students volunteer each year to participate in mission trips, returning exhausted and forever changed.

And then there's Sheelove.

The beautiful Haitian girl was just 7 years old when the Knowles met her. Today she is their daughter.

"It took some time to go through the adoption process, but we kept pressing on," Dr. Knowles said. "She's 16 now and an absolute joy and blessing to our lives."

Karen Rookard was one of four students in King's MSN program chosen to travel to Haiti in October 2018. The trip not only changed her outlook on the nursing profession, but gave new purpose to her life, she said.

"I realized that I can have a deep rooted connection with a person that is about more than just a diagnosis or a problem," she said "we're all human and we have a real need to sustain life. It's possible for me to find a real spiritual connection with someone and tap into that."





Wrestler of the Year

KING ALUM ENTERS WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP

King University alum Sarah Hildebrandt '15 recently earned one of the highest honors from USA Wrestling when she was named the 2018 USA Wrestling Women's Wrestler of the Year.

Hildebrandt had a spectacular 2018 season, finishing with a silver medal at the World Championships in Budapest, Hungary in her first appearance in the event. That was only one of many medals the former Tornado wrestler won throughout the year.

"Last year, my biggest highlight was, no doubt, winning a silver medal at the World Championships," Hildebrandt said. "I've said it's been a goal of mine to succeed at the highest level since the very beginning, so it was nice to get a taste of that and prove to myself that I am on the right track. I am looking to improve upon that second place finish. I'm so grateful that I got to represent my country on the world stage like that."

She entered the World Championships seeded first after qualifying for the Senior World Team with a win over another King alum, 2016 U.S. Olympian Haley Augello at the Final X. In the World Championships, she won her first four bouts to reach the final, but fell to 2017 World Champion Haruna Okuno of Japan.

"Sarah is so deserving of this recognition," King head women's wrestling coach Jason Moorman said. "She is an outstanding leader and representative for women's

wrestling. We are very proud of all she has accomplished in this sport, and who she has become. I love hearing from our current team how much she inspires them, and to me that is just awesome."

Early in 2019, Hildebrandt won her first U.S Open title, again defeating Augello, and followed that with her third Pan American Championships gold medal in Peru. Hildebrandt took home gold medals from the Grand Prix of Spain and Outstanding Ukrainian Memorial, and also won a bronze medal at the Klippan Lady Open in Sweden. In her final international appearance, Hildebrandt finished fifth at the Poland Open in fall of 2018, and competed on the USA Women's World Cup team in Japan in 2019.

The journey started for Hildebrandt when she decided to come to King after being recruited by Moorman. "I saw his vision and drive, and it was more in line with my goals than any other coach," she said. However, the decision to come to King was sealed by a game of wiffle ball.

"Some of the girls on the team, who ended up becoming my best friends, invited me to watch intramural wiffle ball on my recruiting trip," said Hildebrandt. "When I went to watch, I could just see myself there. I knew I could have fun with these people, that I could be myself. The whole feel of the school felt right, and by the time I left that recruiting trip, I knew that King was who I wanted to sign with."

In her four years on campus, Hildebrandt was a four-time WCWA All-American, taking national titles as a junior and senior. She was a WCWA runner-up as a freshman and sophomore. She helped lead the Tornado to the first two of four straight WCWA national championships in 2014 and 2015. Hildebrandt was also a member of the first two NWCA National Dual titles as the Tornado went on to win four straight championships.

“Being a part of the beginning of the dominance of the King women’s wrestling program is special to me, being a part of every step of that process and growth,” commented Hildebrandt. “When I got to King, we were such a young team, but we worked our butts off. It took a couple years, but that’s what makes it even better. It’s been wonderful to see that momentum carried on after we graduated. That just shows you how powerful the atmosphere in that room is.”

King has played a big role in helping Hildebrandt get to where she is today, a number one world-ranking and competing for world and Olympic medals. Not only in the wrestling room, but in the classroom as well.

“My time at King helped so much in my preparation for the future. First of all, I had really great and understanding professors that worked with my hectic travel schedule and supported me working towards this goal and still going to school,” continued Hildebrandt. “I was also in the room with a ton of high level wrestler’s every day. Each one of us didn’t just have the goal to become national champions, we wanted to become

Olympic champions too. Being surrounded by such determined women everyday really elevated my wrestling. It made the transition from collegiate wrestling to Olympic level, much smoother.”

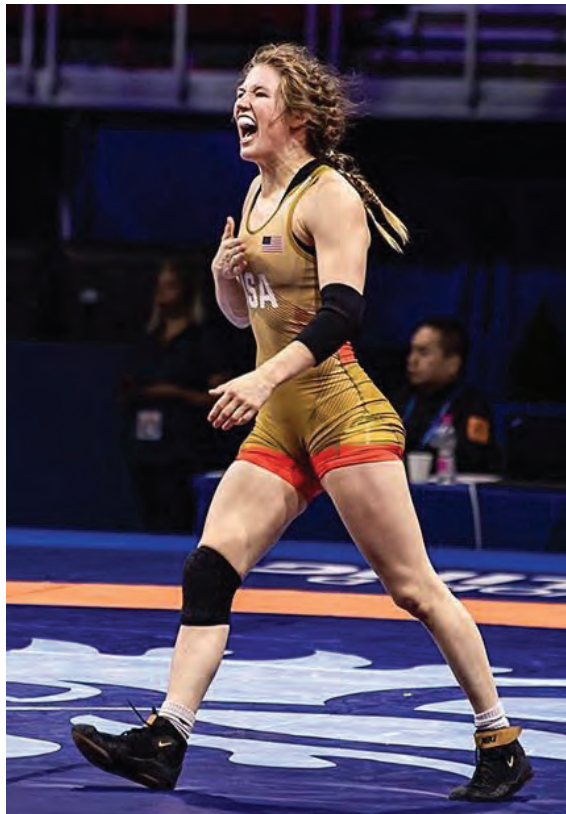
That mindset comes from Moorman, who is always pushing his athletes in every aspect. “Sure he [Moorman] taught me wrestling, but he really showed me grit and confidence,” said Hildebrandt. “He would put us through the most grueling, outrageous workouts. They really had nothing to do with wrestling, and everything to do with showing us that we could do anything. We could push through and come out stronger and as champions.”

“He also really believed I could achieve all my goals, even beyond his program,” Hildebrandt continued. “He

gave me the confidence to pursue them. That belief can carry someone a long way, and it really has for me. To have the confidence to walk into the Olympic Trials, as an 18-year-old, was because of the team I had behind me. Of course I didn’t win then, but Moorman knew we had to be at all these high level tournaments now. He knew how important they were to our development, both mentally and physically.”

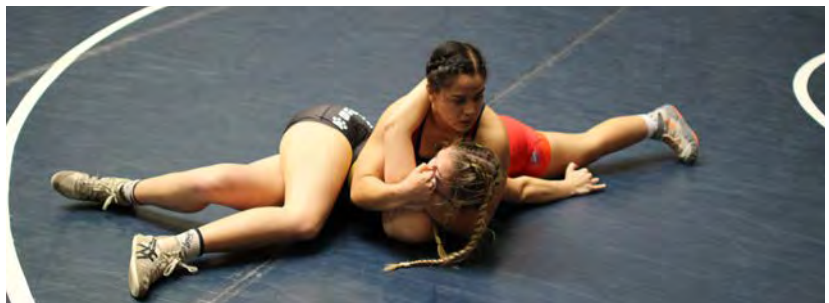
“I want to say thank you to everyone who believes in me and who believes in women’s wrestling,” Hildebrandt finished. “The King University staff and students have always supported our women’s wrestlers and that really allows for growth of the sport, as well as growth of the

women who go through the program.”



THE OLYMPIC TRIALS

take place at Penn State University in College Park, Pa. King already has six individuals qualified to compete on April 4-5. Ashlynn Ortega is the only current Tornado that has qualified at this time as she is joined by five King alumna. Sarah Hildebrandt leads this group as she is joined by Alli Ragan '14, Julia Salata '14 (current assistant coach), Forrest Molinari '17 and 2016 Olympian Haley Augello.



Current Tornado Ashlynn Ortega



MEN'S VOLLEYBALL *Success*

Head coach Ryan Booher has led the King University men's volleyball program to new heights during the past few years. The program is just over a decade old and is already well known in the men's volleyball community. The Tornado earned their first Conference Carolinas co-regular season championship in 2017, repeated in 2018 and again in 2019. King set a school record with 28 wins in 2017, going 28-4, including a 16-2 mark in Conference Carolinas play.

The 2018 Tornado continued, going 23-6, including a 15-1 Conference Carolinas record as they earned the top seed in the Conference Carolinas Men's Volleyball Championship, and hosted the league's "final four" in the Student Center Complex. King swept Barton College in the championship match, taking their first tournament title and earning their first NCAA Division I Men's Volleyball Championship appearance where King squared off with defending national champion The Ohio State University. Booher was selected Conference Carolinas Coach of the Year in both 2017 and 2018, marking the second and third times he has earned that award.

For the 2019 season, King went 20-10 overall, including a 14-2 Conference Carolinas record, earning a share of their third straight Conference Carolinas regular

season championship. The Tornado advanced to the Conference Carolinas Men's Volleyball Championship title match for the second straight year, falling at Barton 3-2, including a 17-15 fifth-set defeat.

Along with this success, King has two alumni playing professionally overseas. Mason Casner '15 is currently playing in Iceland and 2018 Conference Carolinas Player of the Year, Jeff Sprayberry '18 is playing in Finland.

Casner helped Knattspyrnu Akureyrari (Akureyi, Iceland) to back-to-back regular season championships and a 2017-18 postseason title. He also helped lead his team to consecutive Domestic Cup championships, a competition played against all the teams in the top three divisions. Casner is a team captain, and has garnered All-Iceland team in each of the last two years. In 2018-19 he ranked third in the league in blocks and in 2017-18 he was second in blocks and fifth in points.

Sprayberry completed his first season in Finland, helping Kareliaan Hurmos (Joensuu, Finland) finish second in the regular season standings. They won their first two playoff games, entering them in a tournament to qualify for the highest Finnish league. They won that tournament and will play in the highest league next year. Sprayberry was named MVP of the match four times and posted a career-high 17 points in the regular season. He finished third on the team in points and was named MVP of the tournament that qualified his team for the highest league.

KING ADDS COLLEGIATE BASS FISHING

In winter 2019, King announced collegiate bass fishing as its newest varsity sport. King joined more than 600 colleges who sponsor bass fishing on either the club or varsity level, and compete in the FLW College Series and Bass Pro Shops Collegiate Bass Fishing Series. Last spring, two current students, David Tolbert and Alejandro Feliciano, competed in the Yeti FLW College Fishing Tournament on Lake Guntersville in Alabama, where they finished 104th out of 208 boats, with a total weight of 11 pounds, 14 ounces. The Tornado started the Spring 2020

season strong, placing two teams in the top 45 at the FLW (Fishing League Worldwide) College

Series Event at Lake Seminole out of a field of 140. This spring, King will be competing in the Carhartt Bassmasters College Series and the FLW Southeastern College Series. If the Tornado finish in the top 10 percent of either series, they will qualify for the national championships.

Jason Moorman, King's head women's wrestling coach and a competitive fisherman, leads the program.



ATHLETIC HALL OF FAME 2019

During Dogwood weekend, three members were added to the King Athletic Hall of Fame: Jeremy Tittle '93, Travis Mains '98, and the 2001 women's soccer team. The 1957 men's soccer team was honored as a Team of Distinction.



Tittle was a member of the men's soccer team from 1989-93. He had an impressive career in the Tornado backfield, where he played every minute of every game in his four-year career. He was a two-time captain and became the first junior to be selected captain in 1991.

Tittle led the Tornado to a No. 1 region ranking his senior year, advancing to the NAIA District Championship game.

Mains had a remarkable career donning the scarlet and navy for the men's basketball team from 1994-98. He scored 1,313 points, placing him 11th in school history, and accumulating 513 rebounds in his career on the hardwood.

Following his senior season, he was selected All-TVAC and



garnered honorable mention All-America recognition as an NAIA Division II athlete.

The 2001 women's soccer team had a spectacular season, spending six weeks in the national rankings, climbing all the way to a ranking of 10th. The Tornado finished the season with



a 19-6-1 mark while going 6-2 in Appalachian Athletic Conference (AAC) play. In the 26 games, the Tornado scored 52 goals while only allowing 16. King was even better in their eight AAC games, scoring 25 goals against only seven allowed.

In 1957, incoming students Sandor (Alex) Lehoczky and Endre Sarkany established the men's soccer program at then King College. Horst Betz, who was a teaching assistant in languages was the coach, and the three recruited all of the foreign students that were on campus and gave a general announcement to the student body. King posted their first win on November 15th, when they defeated Maryville College 3-2 following a pregame ceremony where President Liston kicked out the first ball.



AUTREY SELECTED NCAA DII NATIONAL SAAC REPRESENTATIVE

King University swimmer Alexia Autrey has been named to the NCAA Division II National Student-Athlete Advisory Committee (SAAC), one of four new members elected to serve

from 2019 through the 2022 NCAA Convention.

The Conference Carolinas Student-Athlete Affairs sub-committee nominated Autrey and three other student-athletes from member institutions for the National SAAC.

"When I started the process I wasn't sure what the outcome was going to be," Autrey said. "When I received the email for the final four I got more excited, and when I received the last email I was very honored."

The NCAA National SAAC has 27 members, one from each of the division's 24 conferences as well as one from an independent institution and two at-large representatives.

"Alexia has been a great representative for her team from day one," Assistant Athletic Director/SAAC Advisor Nancy Rahn said. "In her first meeting she volunteered to

be a Make-A-Wish co-chair, and was chosen to attend the Conference Carolina SAAC Retreat. She is a great addition to the NCAA Division II National SAAC."

The National SAAC members serve as liaisons from campuses, conferences and on a national level, helping with feedback and reporting on behalf of their conferences. The members vote on a number of NCAA Division II committees, including the Management Council.

"My interest towards it came from looking online and reading about it," continued Autrey. "I saw how much of a difference people on the National SAAC can make, and I really wanted to be involved. There are a lot of leadership skills that go behind it, and I really wanted to try to put all of the skills I have learned throughout the year to it."

The selection for Autrey marks the first student-athlete King has had to serve on the NCAA Division II SAAC in the ten years King has been a NCAA Division II member.

Autrey is not only excited for King, but she hopes to learn more about leadership throughout the next three years. "I feel very honored," stated Autrey. "I was honestly taken by surprise when I got the email. After three years of serving on the National SAAC I will understand what it takes to be a successful leader, and I can take every skill that I learn and contribute that to a company."



HARRIS ONE OF THREE SELECTED FOR NCAA DAY IN THE LIFE CAMPAIGN

In spring of 2019, the NCAA reached out to member schools looking for three NCAA Division II student-athletes to be featured on their “Day in the Life” campaign. Ben Harris of the King University men's soccer team was one of seven student-athletes across the country selected for an interview, and one of three selected to be filmed for the “Day in the Life” campaign.

“The experience was awesome,” Harris said. “People came up to me all day asking what was going on, I got a good kick out of that. Working with the camera crew was awesome, more than the video, it was great talking to them all day.”

In April 2019, the NCAA had a camera crew come and film Harris as he went through his daily routine. They followed him to class and did a few interviews with him throughout the day, talking about his time at King and how he got into soccer.

“It’s a great video, I really enjoyed it, plus I get to send it to my family members to give them an insight on what I do. Hopefully, the video doesn’t speak just for me, but for what all student-athletes go through. It’s a lot for regular students having to play a full-time sport, be involved in

extracurricular activities, and excel in the classroom. Other than just me being on video, that should represent what all student-athletes are going through.”

Later in the day they filmed Harris and some of his teammates at soccer practice, and followed him to a men's volleyball game where he and fellow students were selling t-shirts for Student-Athlete Advisory Committee (SAAC).

“It was an honor [to show the King campus]. I’m really proud of King University. I’m proud of all of the students and faculty and staff that helped me out,” continued Harris. “It may have been me on the video, but I would never have been there without them.”

Along with playing soccer, Harris served as the President of SAAC, President of the Tornado Leadership Academy and President of the Jujitsu Club. At the time of the video, he was also trying to start a clothing line with a couple of his soccer teammates.

Harris graduated with a degree in business with a concentration in marketing, and a minor in economics. He has accepted a job with Reynolds American Incorporated where he did his internship.

THE FULL VIDEO CAN BE SEEN ON THE KING ATHLETICS YOUTUBE PAGE HERE:
[HTTPS://WWW.YOUTUBE.COM/WATCH?V=9QU2UINNLD4&FEATURE-YOUTU.BE](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9QU2UINNLD4&feature=youtu.be)

esports

HAS SUCCESSFUL INAUGURAL SEASON

Fall 2018, King launched a varsity esports program, joining a growing number of colleges and universities in the United States in one of the most popular and fastest developing sports worldwide. Twelve student-athletes, ten of which enrolled in fall 2018 as new students, competed in League of Legends and Overwatch during the 2018-19 academic year. After a fall season of training and exhibitions, both teams competed in the inaugural Eastern College Athletic Conference (ECAC) eague in the spring, joining 22 other colleges from around the country.

Each team finished their regular season with a 6-1 record, earning them a trip to the ECAC Championships in Albany, New York, where both League of Legends and Overwatch advanced to the quarterfinals. King looks to grow the roster and expand its offering of games in the coming years, building on the success of the inaugural season.

Fall 2019, the Tornado Overwatch team finished in the final four of a 64-team weekly tournament. They reached the second round of the ECAC tournament, and the League of Legends team has started 2-0 this spring.

Bettie Hite *Book Author*

Bettie Hite served as the primary author for *King University: Our Sesquicentennial Story, 150 years of Faith, Learning, and Life*. The book tells King's history, beginning in 1866, when three Presbyterian ministers approached Holston Presbytery about supporting a college that would "fully develop the moral as well as the intellectual man." Each era in King's history is included, six chapters in all, beautifully illustrating in words and pictures the years of struggles and uncertainty, periods of rebuilding and expansion, and the transformation of King from a one-building college with 48 students to a modern-day comprehensive university.

Hite grew up in Bristol, the daughter of two King College alumni. She graduated from Tennessee High School and earned a scholarship to King, explaining that she never really considered going anywhere else. After earning a bachelor's degree in English in 1963, she completed a master's degree in English from East Tennessee State University and took a number of fiction writing courses at Duke University.

A voracious reader, she has always loved to write. And although she worked as a secretary throughout her career, she periodically accepted freelance writing assignments for enjoyment.

So when she received a call one afternoon asking if she knew anyone who might be willing to compile King's history, Hite was ecstatic. She enthusiastically volunteered for the job.

She began with a proposed schedule and a list prepared by Dr. William Wade, professor emeritus of History, which outlined a series of potentially helpful documents located within King's archives in the E.W. King Library. She arranged a meeting with Dr. Wade, who schooled her on the history of the Presbyterian Church, and then sought help from Erika Brammer, then dean of Library Services, and Marika Kimerer, circulation manager.

Kimerer combed through boxes of documents and photos within the archives, searching for information of historical value. She carefully arranged the items she found, and often made photocopies so documents could be taken home for Hite's late-night work sessions. Brammer reserved a space in the Library for Hite to ensure her work was never disturbed.

"It really took us two chapters to figure out what we were doing," Hite said. "Marika told me that she prayed each time she went into the archives that she would find



what I needed for the next chapter, and she always did. We felt like God's hand was on this."

Hite searched old meeting minutes, college catalogs, yearbooks, brochures, and newsletters. She retrieved information from the *Bristol Herald Courier* and relied heavily on previous histories written by Dr. Wade. She diligently searched for photos of those who were instrumental in guiding King through the good times and the difficult days and was delighted when she found unexpected treasures.

She took great care to outline the contributions of every King president, each of whom she found to be a "great visionary. They knew what they needed to do to grow and succeed," she said.

Driven by the four-month timetable that had been established, Hite said she usually dedicated about four hours a day to the project. "I went to bed thinking about it and got up thinking about it," she said.

She also worked closely with book designer Jane Hillhouse of Hillhouse Creative, who she found to be "a pure joy." The two exchanged text, documents, and photos electronically, often late at night when they felt inspired.

The finished product is a beautifully bound book filled with historical facts and precious memories. Thumbing through the pages, Hite admits she is proud of what she accomplished and grateful for those who helped her turn disorderly boxes of photos and documents into an enjoyable read. The project brought back found memories for her, Hite admits, and allowed her to more fully appreciate those who played a role in King's rich history. And, she said, most gratifying of all, are the notes she has received from former classmates.

"One of my dear friends said she read the book and it reminded her why she loves King," Hite said. "That's the reaction we were hoping for."

King University: Our Sesquicentennial Story, 150 years of Faith, Learning, Life is now available at the Tornado Alley Shoppe on the King campus or online at <https://www.tornadoalleyshoppe.com/150th-Anniversary-Book-150book.htm>

FACULTY/STAFF NOTES



In July, **Brian Alderman**, **Han Chuan Ong**, and Sam Weddington (Pastor of First Presbyterian Church Bristol) were selected to attend a Howard Hughes Medical Institute (HHMI) conference on Reconciling Evolution and Faith at Brigham Young University. The conference hosted 18 teams from Christian universities to discuss how to reconcile the teaching of evolution with religion.

Nancy Beverly, regional territory manager and enrollment counselor, has been appointed to represent Hamblen County on the East Tennessee Regional Leadership Board (ETRLA), an organization dedicated to addressing key issues vital to a 16-county region of East Tennessee. Her three-year term began in August 2018.

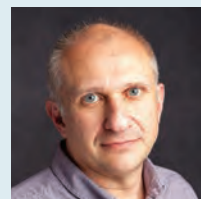


Ryan Booher, head coach of the Men's Volleyball Team, has been named chairman of Conference Carolinas Men's Volleyball Coaches, a Top 15 Poll Voter for the American Volleyball Coaches

Association (AVCA), and a member of the AVCA All American Committee. He has also been honored as ConfCarolinas Coach of the Decade, and was named ConfCarolinas Coach of the Year in 2011, 2017, and 2018.



Terry Cooper, **Michelle Cash**, and **Sharron Fleenor** completed the Doctoral - Nursing Practice (DNP) Program at King.



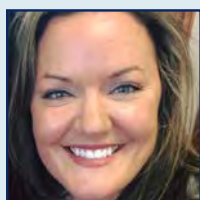
Dr. Martin Dotterweich, assistant professor of History and chair of the Department of History and Political Science, has been selected one of 20 participants nationally for "Teaching Vocational

Exploration," a weeklong seminar in Chicago. The seminar is sponsored by the Lilly Foundation and presented by the Council for Independent Colleges as part of its Network for Vocation in Undergraduate Education (NetVUE). Later this summer, his chapter titled "Habit and Belief in the Scottish Reformation," will appear in *Celtic Origins to Reformed Orthodoxy*, the first volume of the three-volume *The History of Scottish Theology*.



Dr. Samuel Evans, associate professor of Economics and co-director of the King Institute for Regional Economic Studies (KIRES), recently released a report titled "The Shift from Coal to Natural

Gas in The U.S. Electric Power Sector: Impacts on Global Greenhouse Gas Emissions and the Southwest Virginia Coal Economy." The report is based on research conducted by Dr. Evans, with assistance from students Kesley March, Robert Wilkinson, and Joey Mammolenti.



Julia Ferguson completed the Doctoral - Nursing Practice (DNP) Program at King. Also, Julia's project, "Implementation of the Yale Swallow Protocol," has been chosen for a President's

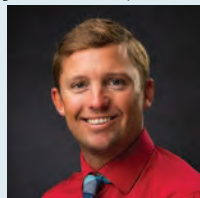
Excellence Award within Covenant Health System. These awards recognize outstanding individuals or projects that have improved patient care and lowered operational costs.



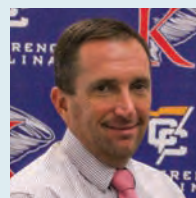
Melissa Ferguson, instructor in the Bible and Religion department, debuted her book *The Dating Charade* with HarperCollins (Thomas Nelson) on December 3, 2019, as part of a three-book contract. Included

with New York Times and USA Today bestselling authors Julia London, Jasmine Guillory, Christina Lauren, and Meg Cabot, *The Dating Charade* is a heartwarming romantic/comedy that has already been featured as one of the best upcoming romance titles on *Publisher's Marketplace* and *The Nerd Daily*. *Publisher's Weekly* referred to it as "Ferguson's delightful debut" and stated "Ferguson's humorous and chaotic tale will please romantic-comedy fans."

James Graves, head coach

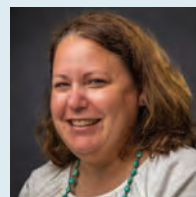


of the Men's Swimming Team, has been appointed to the NCAA Swimming and Diving Rules Committee.



David Hicks, athletic director, has been appointed to several prestigious committees as a representative of King's sports programs, including Chairman of the Conference Carolina's

Championships Committee, and a member of both the NCCA Playing Rules Oversight Panel and NCAA Division II Men's Basketball Southeast Regional Advisory Committee.



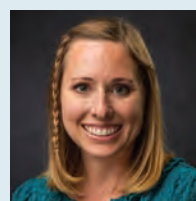
In May 2019, **Julie Hopkins** was invited to conduct a (3-hour) continuing education ethics seminar for psychologists, counselors, and community professionals for Frontier Health. The

seminar was entitled "A Seat at the Table: Ethics in Macro Community Practice." Julie has also been selected to serve as a proposal reviewer for the Beyond 2020 BPD (Baccalaureate Social Work Program Directors) Conference.



Becky Huckaby, part-time faculty and vice president of public relations for the Metropolitan Knoxville Airport Authority, has been selected to The Public Relations Society of America's election of 11

new members into the College of Fellows, including the Volunteer Chapter.



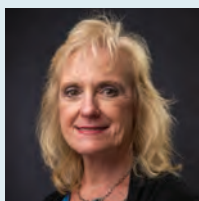
Erin Kingsley published a book review of *Virginia Woolf and Heritage* and *Eternally in yr debt: The Personal and Professional Relationship Between Virginia Woolf and Elizabeth Robins in Virginia Woolf Miscellany*

94 (Fall 2018/Winter 2019). She also presented her paper, "Making Mrs. Dalloway Strange: Patrick Ness's Release" at the 29th Annual International Conference on Virginia Woolf in Cincinnati, Ohio in June 2019. In 2018, Erin became an Associate Editor with *Feminist Modernist Studies* (a Routledge publication) and in 2019, she became a Membership Coordinator for the International Virginia Woolf Society. She is currently serving on the conference planning committees for the Feminist (Inter)Modernist Association conference in Chicago, Illinois, April 2020; and the 30th Annual International Conference on Virginia Woolf in Vermillion, South Dakota, June 2020.



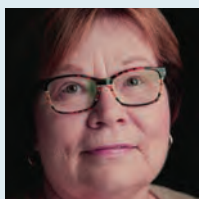
Dr. Bill Linderman and recent graduates Sami Austin and Josias Gomez had an article entitled “Ramsey Numbers for Trees with Large Maximum Degree” accepted for publication in *Congressus Numerantium*. Research for the article was

conducted while the two students were pursuing degrees in mathematics.



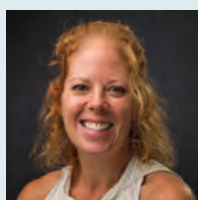
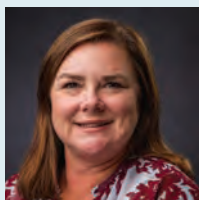
Nursing Instructor **Sherry Love** has earned a Doctor of Nursing (DNP) degree from the University of Alabama. In addition to her teaching duties, Dr. Love serves as

Advanced Practice Nursing (APN) coordinator.

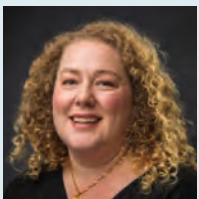


Dr. Rhonda Morgan has completed Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC) Committee Chair training and served on an on-site SACSCOC full

reaffirmation committee. She also chaired two Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE) reaffirmation committees. Additionally, Dr. Morgan delivered the keynote address at the annual research day of Sigma Theta Tau, Epsilon Sigma Chapter. The title of the presentation was “Transitional Research - A Value-added Perspective.”

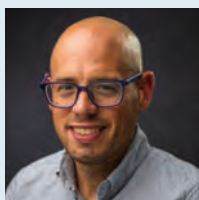


Penny Neal and Amy Knowles had an oral presentation accepted at the Sigma Theta Tau International Nursing Honors Society Biennial Conference in Washington, DC in November 2019. Their presentation was “Global Nursing Capacity Building and Collaborative Partnerships in Rural Haiti”.



Laura Ong was selected to attend the CourseSource Writing Workshop, held at the University of Minnesota from July 24-26. Participants were sponsored by the editorial board to develop their

active learning course materials for submission to the peer-reviewed open-source biology education journal CourseSource.



Dr. Kyle Osborn, assistant professor of history, wrote an article appearing in the anthology *Southern Communities*, titled “An Emotional Rebellion: Wrecking the Old South’s Emotional Community.”



Dr. Matthew Roberts and Dr. Don Hudson

published “Foundations of Christian Thought and Practice; A Model for Replacing Old and New Testament Surveys with an Innovative approach to Teaching Religion in 21st Century Colleges and Universities.” The article will appear in the *Journal of Religious Education* and profiles King’s development of RELG 1001 and the university’s model of teaching biblical and theological literacy to 21st century students. Additionally, Dr. Hudson has published “When Map Becomes Territory: Finding Ancient Israel in the Modern Age” in the *Journal of Global Archaeology and Anthropology*. He also has been invited to present four lectures to the local community in Greeneville, Tennessee, as Scholar in Residence at Tusculum 2022. His topic will be “How Do We Define Israel?: From the Digital Age Back to the Bronze Age.”



Dr. Glenn Sanders

participated in a roundtable discussion titled “Islam in the Classroom - Liberal Arts and Global Engagement” at the 2018 Biennial Meeting of the Conference

on Faith and History.



Andy Simoson's book, *Exploring Continued Fractions: from the Integers to Solar Eclipses*, was published in July 2019 by the American Mathematical Society.



Joseph Strickland, assistant professor of photography and digital media, had portions of his series “Ghosts: a Look at Manufacturing in America” on display in the Reece Museum in

Johnson City. He also was featured in an edition of *Edge of Faith* magazine, a publication that gives voice to established and upcoming Christian leaders in visual and performing arts, philosophy, psychology, and social issues.

President Alexander W. Whitaker receives Distinguished Alumni Achievement Award from Berry College



© Brant Sanderlin and Berry College

President Whitaker, a graduate and former chief of staff of Berry College, was presented with the Distinguished Alumni Achievement Award during the school’s 2019 Alumni Weekend. Preceding a 25-year career in the Navy, President Whitaker graduated from Berry in 1981. Later, he returned to Berry to serve as a senior officer of the college for nearly a decade, as chief of staff and earlier as head of major gift fundraising. His commitment to building lasting relationships and investing in the preparation and advancement of young people he says he credits to his time at Berry College.

FACULTY NOTES



Dr. Rebecca Thomas, chief of staff, has been appointed to serve a second consecutive term with the Leadership Group for board professionals as part of the Association of Governing Boards of Universities and Colleges (AGB). Her service included work on the professional development committee that was instrumental in planning and executing the annual Workshop for Board Professionals held in April 2019 in Orlando, Florida. Additionally, Dr. Thomas served on three on-site peer review committees with King's regional accreditor, Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC) during the 2019-2020 academic year.



Dr. Kelly Vaughan, associate professor of Biology, has been selected to present at the Undergraduate Biology Education Gordon Research Conference in Lewiston, Maine. The conference is titled "Achieving Widespread Improvement in Undergraduate Education" and is part of the prestigious Gordon Research Conference Series. The series is dedicated to providing an international forum to build communities that advance the frontiers of science.



Stephen Troutman

March 8, 1986 -

June 10, 2019

Stephen was a beloved husband, father, son, brother, and friend. He loved Tennessee football and always

lived life like he was on the ball field. Stephen overcame much adversity and had a passion for life and a fire in his heart.

He graduated from Carson Newman's accelerated BSN program in 2017. He enrolled in King University at the Knoxville campus in the fall of 2018 to become a nurse practitioner. Shortly after, he also started a new job at Village Behavioral Health Center. He had so much compassion for the children there and made a huge impact on their lives. His ultimate goal was to graduate from FNP school and receive his post graduate degree in psychiatry. He wanted to work in a psychiatric outpatient facility.

Stephen accomplished so much in his short life. He continues to honor his calling by saving the lives of four donor recipients.

Stephen's King FNP Lab Coat was proudly displayed at his service.



Charles "Chuck" S. Thompson

January 10, 1951

August 19, 2019

In addition to being a loving husband and nurturing father, Chuck Thompson was also a counselor, author, and professor. He received his Master's degree in Clinical Psychology from Wheaton College in 1989. He moved to Bristol, Tennessee with his family in 1990. He became the director of the King College Counseling Center and an Associate Professor of Psychology. Chuck was an active part of the King College community for many years, and after 29 years at King, he retired in May 2019.

"As a devoted disciple and sinner-saint, Chuck understood the importance of the journey, especially the journey to becoming who you were created to be," said his wife Barb Thompson. "Every experience in life, every skill gained, every trial and triumph - all measured and valued for its contribution in transforming us and preparing us for our ultimate calling."

He was born in Greenville, Texas and son to the late Charles and Joyce Steward Thompson. He is survived by his wife, Barb Thompson; son, C.J. Thompson and wife Rachel and their son, Soren; daughter, Sarah Barker and husband Matt and their children, Abby and Charles; daughter, Erin Reardon and husband Michael and their children, Matthew, Issac and John; sister, Meredith Harbour; and several nieces and nephews. He was a member of First Presbyterian Church and a beloved friend and father.

The family of Chuck Thompson is pleased to announce the establishment of the Chuck Thompson Memorial Scholarship at King University. This endowed memorial scholarship will provide annual support, in perpetuity, for a student at King who demonstrates financial need and a vibrant Christian witness.

For more information about donating to the Chuck Thompson Memorial Scholarship contact: Vice President for Advancement Brent Davison at bedavison@king.edu or 423.652.4832.

IN REMEMBRANCE



Gerry Underwood Stephens, a Chattanooga civic leader who proudly served King College as a member of the Board of Trustees died December 20, 2018. He was 93.

A veteran of World War II, Gerry served in five European campaigns, including the Allied landing at Normandy and the Battle of the Bulge, and later served as a Finance Corp Officer for the U.S. Army during the Korean War. He graduated from Washington & Lee and completed post-graduate studies at Stonier School of Banking at Rutgers University. Following his military service, he enjoyed a 33-year career in banking at American National Bank, which later became SunTrust Bank.

A member of First Presbyterian Church in Chattanooga for 85 years, he worked tirelessly within his community and beyond to promote Christian education and support charitable organizations. In addition to King, he donated his time to the Sweet Briar College President's Council, The Maclellan Foundation, Helen M. Tipton Charitable Trust, Chattanooga Bible Institute, Fellowship of Christian Athletes, Christian Community Foundation, and Bible in the Schools.

Norman G. Patterson, Jr. died on July 8, 2019. He graduated in 1959 and was affiliated with the class of 1955. Patterson was born in China to missionary parents, and his father later served as the college's physician. He and his wife, Janice, had three children. His professional accomplishments include a distinguished career in airline administration with Delta Air Lines where he also celebrated his retirement.



Shawn T. Roberson, associate professor in the School of Business, died on December 11, 2018, after a lengthy illness.

"He was extremely genuine and giving," said Dr. Mary Connor, a friend and colleague in the School of Business and Economics. "The students really loved him because he could explain things in a way that made sense to them. He was very patient."

Shawn grew up in Church Hill, Tennessee, and worked as an accountant for manufacturing firms for more than two decades - including R.R. Donnelly, Bristol Metals, and Beecham Laboratories - before coming to King in 2009 to teach on a full-time basis. He taught a variety of courses, including management, information systems, international business, and accounting. He also served as the program coordinator for the Bachelor of Business Administration Program and as Coordinator of King's Institutional Review Board. He changed the way accounting was taught, too, Dr. Connor said, noting that he often began with a problem and then introduced a theory to solve it. Students noted that his ability to provide real-world examples helped them to better understand complex accounting concepts.

And although he was a wizard with ledgers and spreadsheets, Shawn had a true passion for pottery. He studied at The Village Potters Clay Center in Asheville, making the journey over the mountain each week to learn new techniques. He used what he learned to create both useful and whimsical items that he shared with others who were eager to get their hands on a Roberson original. Shawn earned a bachelor's degree from East Tennessee State University in 1981 and a Master's of International Business Studies from University of South Carolina in 1983.

IN REMEMBRANCE

Rev. Ragland Nathaniel Fletcher, '47
February 21, 2018

Annie Eloise Hester, '50
April 23, 2019

Rev. Dr. Dawes Borah Graybeal, '52
February 26, 2019

Rev. Weston B. Guthrie, '59
July 28, 2019

Elizabeth Baker Temple, '60
January 13, 2019

Thomas Allen Kirby, '65
May 6, 2019

Herman Hodges, '67
February 6, 2019

Rev. Dr. David L. Morgan, '67
November 3, 2018

Rebekah Bai-Jia Chen, '85
July 7, 2019

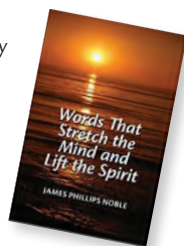
Joan Scott Cusaac, '07 and '12
June 30, 2019

Dennis E. Ledford, Jr., '16 and '18
November 7, 2018

CLASS NOTES

1940s

Dr. J. Phillips Noble '43 recently published his fourth book, *Words that Stretch the Mind and Lift the Spirit*. Dr. Noble lives in Decatur, Georgia.



1960s

The Rev. Robert E. (Bob) Button '63 recently completed his interim pastorate at Forest Hills Presbyterian in Martinsville, Virginia. He is scheduled to begin as Interim Past at Wytheville Presbyterian Church in July, but is first planning a trip to Hamburg, Germany, to attend the International Rotary Conference.

1970s

The Rev. Dr. William "Bill" Reinhold '71 has retired from active ministry with the Presbyterian Church (USA) and his most recent role as General Presbyter and Stated Clerk for the Presbytery of Coastal Carolina in Elizabethton, North Carolina. Bill and his wife, Lyda Virginia "Ginnie" Smith Reinhold '69 now live in Bridgewater, Virginia.

1980s

J. Kristen "Kris" Edscorn '81 has been named the Food Program Manager at North Carolina's Cooperative Christian Ministry of Cabarrus County (CCM). In that role, Kris oversees a main food pantry and seven satellite pantries that receive and distribute almost a million pounds of food to those in need. He also provides leadership to a corps of more than 50 weekly volunteers and two part time employees. After completing his King degree, Kris graduated from Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary in 1987. He and his wife, Jane, have two grown sons.

Fred Staley '85, has been named associate for administration at the Church of Bethesda-by-the-Sea in Palm Beach, Florida.

1990s

Sean Dardeau '91 recently moved to Valparaiso, Indiana, where he serves as Chief Executive Officer of Porter Health Care System and Market CEO for Northwestern Indiana. In that role, he oversees the strategic operations and growth of Porter Health Care System and Porter Physician Network, La Porte Hospital, La Porte Physician Network and Starke Hospital. After graduating from King with a bachelor's in Economics and Business Administration, Shawn earned a master's in Business Administration from Averett College in Danville, Virginia. He and his wife, Karen, have two children.



Philip R. Scholfield '93 was selected in February 2018 to manage the Chattanooga branch office of CTI Engineers, a civil engineering consulting firm where he has worked as a civil engineer and senior project manager since 1995. He was also recently named a commissioner for Hixson Utility District by Hamilton County Mayor Jim Coppinger.

Bethany Hankins Pedigo '98 recently released a collection of original songs titled "From Broken to Beautiful" on Bad Apple Records. CDs are available for purchase at www.badapplerecords.net and digital downloads can be purchased on iTunes, Amazon, Google and all streaming platforms.



2000s

Shannan Riley Miller '00 released "Pressed, But Not Crushed," her first CD, in January 2019. The lyrics of her songs and the way she pours her heart into each word and note are evidence of her relationship with Christ. The CD is available for purchase on www.shannanmillermusic.com and other platforms where digital music is available. Shannan and her husband, Brian '02, have three children – Riley, Reed and Rhett.



Brooke Justus-Fradd '01 has written a chapter for the recently released *Foothills Voices: Echoes of Southern Appalachia*, the second volume of an anthology created in cooperation with the Blount County Public Library. The publication includes stories of Appalachian life from intimate family stories to global issues. Brooke's chapter is titled "Honeymoon Lane" and tells the story of a married couple as they progress through life.

Amanda Lewis-Nang'ea '05 has begun a tenure track position in African history at the State University of New York at Geneseo (SUNY Geneseo). In 2015, she completed her PhD in African History and the History of Science at Michigan State University in East Lansing. She also has been an adjunct instructor for King during needed times since 2007. She married Dominic Nang'ea in 2016. She graduated from King in history and secondary education.

Ruth Crews Nelson '06 released a new book, *The Ancient*, in November 2018. Ruth is best known among booklovers as the author of the *Gatekeeper Trilogy*. She lives in upstate New York with her



husband and their dog.

Julia Rafalowski Rowland '06 completed a successful tenure as men's and women's volleyball coach at Coker College in Hartsville, South Carolina, and was promoted to Assistant Director of Athletics for Compliance. Julia earned a Bachelor of Science in Mathematics while playing volleyball at King. She and her husband have welcomed their first child, Charlotte Ann, to the family.



Haleigh Deneice Broyles '12 earned her MEd., in 2015 from Grand Canyon University in Phoenix, Arizona. She also wrote a song that has been selected and published in a southern gospel convention book. The book is called *Glorify Him*, and the song is "What a Happy Day." She graduated from King with her Bachelor of Arts in instrumental music and Spanish.



Chelsey Owens '14 has published *Because His Heart Was Strong*, a book based on her late father's story. Her father, Ricky Owens – well known for his all-star basketball career at Sullivan Central High School – was battling leukemia when Chelsey promised to write a book about his life. The resulting book documents the last 10 years of his life and his overwhelming love for his family.

Mitchell D. Calvin '14 is working at Lincoln Memorial University-Debusk College of Osteopathic Medicine's Physician Assistant Division. His wife, Lydia (Beverly) Calvin '12, recently completed her second year in the Lincoln Memorial University College of Veterinarian Medicine and is on track to graduate in 2021.

**We would love
to hear from you!**

Send updates to Jenna Christie
at jmchristie@king.edu

ADDITIONAL DOGWOOD AWARDS 2019

Legacy Award

Established in 2009, the Legacy Award recognizes families with multiple generations who have attended King and whose members demonstrate an extraordinary lifetime of service, achievement, and commitment to King's mission and vision.



Alice Hopper Dokter '68

Alice Hopper Dokter spent her childhood in South Korea and attended Korea Christian Academy while her father preached the Gospel of Christ. She came to King College in 1964 to pursue a degree in English. While on campus, she developed an overwhelming love for King and became one of its greatest ambassadors.

After her own graduation from King in 1968, Alice returned to Korea for a time to teach missionary children. She soon fell in love and returned to the U.S. to get married and start a family. The Dokters settled in Stone Mountain, Georgia, and Alice took a job as an administrative assistant and “second mother” for medical residents at Emory University. She encouraged her children, nieces and nephews to continue the family tradition by enrolling at King.

Now retired, Alice lives in Charlotte, North Carolina. She continues to be active in her church and recently began a new adventure teaching English to refugees from Asian countries. She also enjoys being a grandmother and is already working to bring the next generation of family members to King.



Young Alumni Achievement Award

The Young Alumni Achievement Award recognizes those 40 or younger who have made outstanding professional contributions in their field and shown a strong commitment to serving others.



Dr. David Rudd '08

While pursuing a degree in Biology at King, Dr. David Rudd distinguished himself as both a serious scholar and Christian. Following his graduation in 2008, he was accepted to the Edward Via Virginia College of Osteopathic Medicine (VCOM). He quickly rose to the top of his class and in 2011, he was named Student of the Year at VCOM. Dr. Rudd completed his residency in internal medicine at East Tennessee State University and received the Professionalism in Medicine Award in 2015. He also was accepted into the Infectious Disease Fellowship at Wake Forest University, where he was appointed a “near-peer” mentor and served as Chief Fellow for 2016-17.

Dr. Rudd currently serves as an infectious disease specialist at the W.G. “Bill” Hefner Veterans Affairs Medical Center in Salisbury, North Carolina, where he co-chairs the Antibiotic Stewardship Committee and is a member of the Infection Control Committee. He also serves as Clinical Instructor at Wake Forest Baptist Hospital in Winston-Salem. He and his wife, Lauren (Perrin), a 2007 graduate of King, currently live in Huntersville, North Carolina, with their three children, Madelyn, Noah, and Eden.



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Save the Date

DOGWOOD *Homecoming Weekend*

Postponed until KingFest
October 30 - 31, 2020



Including Special Anniversary Reunions for

Class of 1970 • 50 years | Class of 1995 • 25 years

and classes of '60, '65, '75, '80, '85, '90, '00, '05, '10, and '15



For more information, contact Jenna Christie at
423.652.4864 or jmchristie@king.edu.