

# FOCUS

*Friends University*  
**SPRING 2025**



**FOCUS ON**  
*A Call to  
Excellence*



## Letter from the President

The R.I.S.E. Values (respect, inclusion, service and excellence) have been guiding principles for our community at Friends University for nearly a decade. In addition to fostering an authentic, inclusive and generous community, we strive to excel in all areas of campus life and learning: academics, athletics, fine arts and spiritual formation.

My charge to our faculty and staff this year has been to commit to an even greater level of excellence. I desire for Friends University to be distinguished by our outstanding service to our students. We boast experiential learning opportunities, passionate faculty and staff and market demand programming and now we are gaining attention with our new Center for Enterprise and Community Engagement. This center offers agency-type learning to business students, through project management and business development, while supporting local companies and nonprofit organizations. This intentional marriage of community partnership and high-impact learning is an innovative outcome in our pursuit for excellence.

We are not content with simply meeting the standard. We don't operate in a way that simply checks off boxes. I believe we are called to do more. It's high academic standards **with** career defining experiences. It's nationally qualifying athletic teams **with** holistic coaching. It's transformative spiritual growth **with** student-led faith initiatives. It's intentional and authentic community **with** servant-hearted leadership.

Doing more isn't a ploy to keep ourselves unnecessarily busy or make Friends University seem overreachingly impressive. It's about giving our students an unforgettable and valuable experience. It's about lending them opportunities to strengthen their sense of vocation and develop leadership skills. It's about providing an environment in which they can form lasting relationships, lean on dedicated coaches and faculty mentors and explore their faith. And ultimately, it's about helping them take a confident first step toward a meaningful career.

This is why we are in constant pursuit of excellence.

*Amy Bragg Carey*

Dr. Amy Bragg Carey  
President, Friends University





# FOCUS ON *A Call to Excellence*

**4** A Centennial of Singing

**6** Enterprise and Community Unite

**8** Back from the Brink

**10** Decoding University Closures

## MORE EVENTS AND NEWS

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## ON THE COVER

The Alumni Choir at the Singing Quakers 100th Anniversary concert.

PHOTO BY STEVE RASMUSSEN

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# A CENTENNIAL *of Singing*

BY AMY GEISZLER-JONES



**T**he Friends University Singing Quakers have come a long way, when the group — with a ukelele sextet and orchestral musicians in tow — toured nearby Kansas towns, singing select pieces and performing musical parodies of grand opera in costume.

The current repertoire of the Singing Quakers, comprising more than 60 voices, includes traditional and complex works from the chorale canon, commissioned pieces and other cultural songs.

"I've always wanted an ensemble that can sing anything, from a spiritual that rocks the house to a piece that is so quiet it will make you want to cry," said Dr. Rayvon T.J. Moore, the director since 2020.

By the time that Dr. Moore became the ensemble's director, the previous directors, Dr. Cecil Riney and Dr. Mark Bartel, had already led the choir to sing across the nation and the world. Now, in the present day, Dr. Moore understands the significance of maintaining traditions, but also to be "daring and bold to adapt to audiences."

## A SNAPSHOT OF ITS HISTORY

The Singing Quakers were formed in the mid-1920s, originating from the boys' and girls' glee clubs and quartets. Initially called the Combined Glee Clubs in early programs, the ensemble

gained prominence during the Great Depression, increasing performances to raise funds for the university and support the Salvation Army. During World War II, director Charles Finney welcomed residents affected by wartime stress to join the group for therapeutic singing.

In the late 1940s, choral tours resumed to promote the university and attract prospective students. The group performed at political events in the 1950s, including those involving Quaker Richard M. Nixon. In 1970, they performed at the White House for a televised Christmas pageant. The Singing Quakers also performed at the New York World's Fair in 1965, and in 1968, became the first Wichita choir to



# Call to Excellence

tour internationally. In the mid-2000s, the Singing Quakers Alumni Choir formed, growing to 100 members for its centennial concerts in November.

## AIMING FOR MORE SINGING EXCELLENCE

For the Singing Quakers 100th Anniversary, Friends University invited back over a thousand voices that had once been members of the choir. On November 9-10, 2024, the current choir and the Singing Quakers Alumni Choir held performances in the newly renovated Riney Fine Arts Center to celebrate the century of history and success.

With an overwhelming audience in attendance, over 300 reserved tickets sold, the center was packed with friends and family alike. Over nine decades were represented at the anniversary concerts and alumni traveled across the world to attend.

For some alumni, it was a chance to revisit the university grounds, catch up with old classmates and reflect on the immense growth that the university has undergone. For others, it was a chance to immerse themselves back in the voices of the choir, absorbing the repertoire of songs that have come to define the current Singing Quakers.

Friends University wants to thank the committee that was responsible for organizing and conducting the anniversary weekend! The success that the Singing Quakers 100th Anniversary found could not have been reached without you!



Mr. Don C. Martinson with his grandson, Brian Duerksen '06.

## OLDEST VOICE

Mr. Don C. Martinson was the oldest voice at the Singing Quakers 100th Anniversary concert, at 102 years old, having graduated in 1943.

"I'm not a musician but I love to sing. My time in the Singing Quakers was fascinating, from Passion Week tours to memorizing the alma mater — I still have all four verses memorized. All to say, life has its ups and downs, and I've enjoyed singing and hope to keep holding onto it."



Lindsey (Alexander) Trusler with her parents, (left) Terry Lynn Alexander '78 and (middle) Eldon Albert Alexander '77.

## ACROSS THE WORLD

Lindsey (Alexander) Trusler '11 traveled from South Africa to the weekend concerts, being one of the farthest alumni to attend the reunion.

"Being a Singing Quaker has always been a great source of pride. I would attend concerts and reunions since my parents were Singing Quakers. I watched my older brother and sister join. I was so proud to follow in the footsteps of family members."

# ENTERPRISE AND COMMUNITY UNITE:

## *Steiner Helms the CECE*

As Friends University continues to thrive and deepen its connection with the surrounding community, the need for additional space to support this growth has become more apparent than ever. This expansion is multifaceted, encompassing everything from the renovation of existing campus buildings to the creation of specialized centers designed to foster excellence in specific fields. Among the most exciting developments in this ongoing journey is the recent launch of a new and dynamic center, which marks a significant milestone in the university's history.

In August, during the annual Breakfast with the President event, Dr. Amy Bragg Carey, the university's president, announced the unveiling of the Center for Enterprise and Community Engagement (CECE). In addition, she shared the exciting news of a generous \$1 million donation that will fund the center's development and operations.



CECE students attend the Wichita Business Talent Summit. From left to right: sophomore Cole McCreary, freshman Nicolas Foley, sophomore Grant Waggoner, junior Sander Fjell, freshman Kelsie Kinniburgh, sophomore Lidia DiLollo and senior Irian Padulles Majo.

At the helm of the CECE is Rachel Steiner, a Friends University alumna and former employee who brings both passion and experience to the role. Since her appointment in January, Steiner has been hard at work laying the foundation for the center, which is located within the Business Division on the university's Wichita campus.

"I am excited about integrating educational resources with community needs and I envision this office as a hub for collaboration. I am eager to bring my strategic mindset, leadership skills and commitment to community engagement to this role, helping to strengthen the university's impact," said Steiner.

The mission of the CECE is to combine community service with hands-on, experiential learning opportunities. This center will serve as a bridge between the classroom and the real world, offering students the chance to gain practical experience while contributing to projects that support the local community. The center will provide resources, project assistance and business support, empowering students to engage in meaningful work while also honing skills that will benefit them throughout their careers.

For Friends University, the creation of the Center for Enterprise and Community Engagement represents a bold step forward — one that not only enriches the educational experience of students but also strengthens the ties between the university and the community it serves. As the center continues to grow, it promises to be a beacon of innovation, education and service, helping to shape the leaders of tomorrow while fostering an even deeper sense of connection in the Wichita area.



Rachel Steiner



# BACK FROM THE BRINK: *How to Turnaround a* *A Call to Exce*



Dr. Biff Green, Binnie Green,  
Dr. Amy Bragg Carey,  
Dr. Richard Felix.



# Struggling University



**I**n 2014, after four years of decline, Friends University once again found itself at a crossroads. Facing mounting debt, operating losses, low morale and a disregard for the university's Christian mission, the Board of Trustees sought a visionary leader who could champion a renewed Christian mission. Dr. Amy Bragg Carey with her dissertation research on successful financial turnaround strategies, coupled with her unwavering Christian faith, seemed the right person for the job.

In July 2015, Dr. Carey was installed as the 14th president of Friends University and immediately set a course to "right the ship" financially and missionally through the Revitalization and Growth Plan. This plan was designed to reduce spending, grow market-demand programs and increase enrollment and retention. By the end of the first year, the \$6 million deficit was cut down to just over \$1 million. Dr. Carey had built a strong cabinet that was mission-driven and risk-taking, leading the way with a new membership with the Council for Christian Colleges and Universities, and focused on growth opportunities. But

even amidst the exciting momentum, these early years forced many difficult decisions as well.

The Christian mission revitalization was described as an "evolution," not a "revolution." Dr. Carey took time in getting to know people and the spirit of the university and eventually, the campus was renewed with energy and a sense of pride. Year-by-year, enrollment increased, innovative programs were added and there was a growing optimism among faculty and staff. The re-affirmed Christian mission provided clarity in marketing, hiring and community activities. Chapel services and Bible studies were reinstated with a newly reinvigorated Campus Ministries Department. New Christian masters and doctoral programs gained national recognition.

This revitalization was not a solo mission. It required faithful partnership and collaboration between Dr. Carey, the Board of Trustees, the Presidential Cabinet, faculty, staff and generous donors. That, in addition to God's favor, has allowed Friends University to not just survive but thrive well into the future.

A Call to  
Excellence

DECODING  
UNIVERSITY  
CLOSURES:

*Dr. Long's  
Data-  
Driven  
Approach*



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here is an opaque discussion about why university closures happen. Some institutions are still defining the factors of success, while others have faced instability for years. When will the complex data become reliable predictors? Dr. James "Jim" Long, the Division Chair of Business and Professor of Finance at Friends University, argues that it's already available.

About a year ago, Dr. Long began his research, cynical about how the demographic cliff would affect universities. He analyzed Kansas higher education, treating universities like stocks to determine which were worth investing in.

"The algorithm has been refined to apply everywhere. I'm looking at colleges and universities across the country now, predicting each of their chances based on net worth ratios, endowment, enrollment and other patterns," said Dr. Long.

Dr. Long has invited 13 students to join him in this research, granting them an opportunity to invest in this project. Students across finance, marketing and S.T.E.M. were given a chance to collect information from a public website to develop academic papers, reports and presentations to benefit the research. Their only instruction: be on the brink, but don't get Dr. Long fired.

Among the students is junior Josiah Watney, who joined the project with concerns for people working for higher education, like his father — who is a professor at Sterling College.



"I am writing the two theses of the project. I hope we can determine what colleges are in danger but also provide the next steps and list the successful patterns that could turn a college around," said Watney.

Based on a student vote, the concentration of the research has been defined by two topics: "Praying for Enrollment" which compares the denominations of universities based on financial success and failures, and the "Collegiate Deadpool" which is a prediction thesis of colleges that could be shut down by 2028 or 2030.

For junior Lydia DiLollo, her marketing direction will take place in the visual department. Recommended by her marketing advisor, DiLollo joined the project to develop a presentation that could coincide with the research, designing the data to sustain attention.

"In my group, we're going to start creating mock-ups of designs. We really

need to incorporate the data that we collected and make it a full, fleshed out presentation, with graphs, images and citations," said DiLollo.

This project is now fully underway, with both professor and students dedicating their efforts to finding innovative solutions to the challenges faced by universities. Beyond his teaching and division leadership, Dr. Long derives fulfillment from the detailed work of managing the data filled spreadsheets.

"It's a substantial amount of work, pulling data from 50 states, with more than 4000 universities over seven years, and then draw the comparisons of each of them. It's a lot to focus on," said Dr. Long. "But for those that receive a higher education, we cannot just consume information. We have a duty to produce it as well. That is what this research is all about."

To follow Dr. Long's research, **visit his website at [universitydeathpool.com](http://universitydeathpool.com).**

# UNIVERSITY NEWS

*Most coaches don't have adequate resources to help them develop those skills. The Impactful Coaching Project aims to solve that dilemma.*

— Dr. Rob Ramseyer

## From Sidelines to Pages: Coaching Project Produces Leadership Novel

With nearly 700 athletes, 17 head coaches, and 70 staff members, the Friends University athletic department is one of the largest growing groups in the Kansas Collegiate Athletic Conference. But how does a massive department sustain excellence?

According to Vice President of Athletics and Strategic Expansion, Dr. Rob Ramseyer, and Director of Golf & Men's Head Coach, Dustin Galyon, a coach cannot rely on producing a winning team to succeed. They must ask a single question: what do I not know that I don't know?

This is the focus of their latest research: The Impactful Coaching Project.

In October 2024, the duo released their book, *Leading and Coaching the 21st Century Athlete*, in hopes to resource more coaches and athletic departments with transformative methodologies. This collection of hard-learned lessons and personal experiences came from 27 years of failure, success, mentors, and a compilation of conversations.

This holistic resource offers practical strategies for coaches at all levels, helping them develop integrity, navigate conflict resolution, and provide an environment of care and growth for their teams. While navigating personal experiences through each chapter, readers are encouraged to reflect on their own platforms of care, consistency, and competence, the three models described in the book. These information silos require courage, as recognizing our lack of knowledge can lead to the discovery of future successes.

"The need for mentorship, accountability, community and knowledge, is immense," said Galyon. "Coaches are doing their best with the model they know. Unfortunately, those models may not work, or do, but there are better ones. So, I'm hoping the book can help."

Between Dr. Ramseyer's fluid, succinct writing and Galyon's lively spirit in each word, the duo created a balance of application, research and voice for the book. Readers will find

themselves feverishly consuming the lessons outside of their daily routines of athletic meetings, emails, recruiting and fundraising.

Much like the manuscript of the book, Dr. Ramseyer and Galyon believe the future of this project will write itself. The Impactful Coaching Project, with its podcast, Substack, and prospective speaking opportunities, has only scratched the surface and is poised for continued excellence.

"Very few coaches are incompetent in understanding their sport; but those who lack soft skills, team building competencies and the ability to build relationships of accountability are more common," said Dr. Ramseyer in the Pre-Zero Sports Talk Podcast. "Most coaches don't have adequate resources to help them develop those skills. The Impactful Coaching Project aims to solve that dilemma."

*Leading and Coaching the 21st Century Athlete* is available to purchase on Amazon.



Dr. Rob Ramseyer (left)  
and Dustin Galyon



## Tuning Excellence: Dr. Moore Receives Ernst Bacon Memorial Award

Dr. Rayvon T.J. Moore, Director of Choral Studies at Friends University, has been awarded the prestigious Ernst Bacon Memorial Award for the Performance of American Music for 2024 in the college/university division. This honor, part of the renowned American Prize competition, recognizes the exceptional artistry and dedication of Moore and the Friends University Singing Quakers in bringing the works of American composers to life.

The award is given to those who deliver outstanding performances of American music, and Moore's selection is particularly remarkable. His performances of compositions by Nance, Walker, Furman, and Whitacre — which were performed by the Singing Quakers — earned the admiration of judges across the country.

The Ernst Bacon Memorial Award stands out among

*The award is a huge honor  
and a milestone for me  
and the Singing Quakers.*

— Dr. Rayvon T.J. Moore





the many accolades offered by The American Prize. Unlike the other categories, this award doesn't simply recognize individual pieces of music or the artists performing them — it acknowledges a deeper level of excellence in the performance and the interpretation of works by American composers, spanning all genres and periods.

It's a celebration of artistry and culture, as well as a commitment to advancing the legacy of American music.

Dr. Moore was chosen from a pool of applications nationwide, with each recording considered not only for technical proficiency but for the emotional depth and culture that resonates far beyond the university's walls.

"The award is a huge honor and a milestone for me and the Singing Quakers," Dr. Moore shared. "It represents the culmination of years of hard work and the passion that our

students bring to every rehearsal. We've made it a point to celebrate American composers, whose music is so often overlooked, and to perform their works at the highest level."

This award also opens doors to greater recognition for Moore and his ensemble. In addition to a cash prize, the win includes professional adjudication, national and international recognition, and exposure through video and audio profiles on The American Prize website. For Moore, this accolade is not just a personal achievement, but a testament to the university's dedication to honoring the legacy of American music, as well as the talent and discipline of his students.

For the Singing Quakers, this award marks an important chapter in their history, one that underscores their commitment to not just performing music, but interpreting and preserving American music in its truest, most expressive form.



## The Gift of Excellence: Endowment Growth in the University

The importance of endowments cannot be overstated in the history of Friends University. As one of the founding terms between lot owner James M. Davis and the Kansas Society of Friends, the Board of Trustees of the Kansas Yearly Meeting should secure pledges for no less than \$50,000 for endowment across a six-year period. Upon completion of the terms, James M. Davis gave the full and complete title of the property to the Society of Friends, laying the foundation of the university.

It's through gifts — and the continued support from donors — that the university can maintain its mission of serving students and celebrating significant milestones in its rich history. Long-time donor and alumni McClure Smith has witnessed the positive impact his contributions have on the institution and its students.

"Friends University has excellent leadership, an impressive legacy and strong support in Kansas and Wichita. It lives up to its name. We trust any support we provide will be used wisely for both short-term and long-term goals," said Smith.

As a committed endower, Smith understands the significance of giving back. Increasing the endowment will support ongoing operations, accommodate growing enrollment and provide a safety net against the demographic cliff, economic downturn and other challenges. The university's strategic plan, Vision: Flourish, aims to grow the endowment to \$100M by investing in academic programs, securing new gifts, and creating market growth. It will also enhance individual attention and hands-on learning, features Smith experienced at Friends University.

"In one course, I was working directly with the chemistry professor to conduct research that led to a publication in a chemistry journal. The professor also helped me secure a job at a nearby chemical factory my junior year," said Smith.

Smith's bond with the university extends beyond his financial contributions. The values that defined his experience still resonate with him, shaping his admiration for the tenacity of current students. He sees a remarkable drive in them, drawing comparisons to his graduation class, and finds their spirit deeply aligned with the very qualities that once guided his own path.

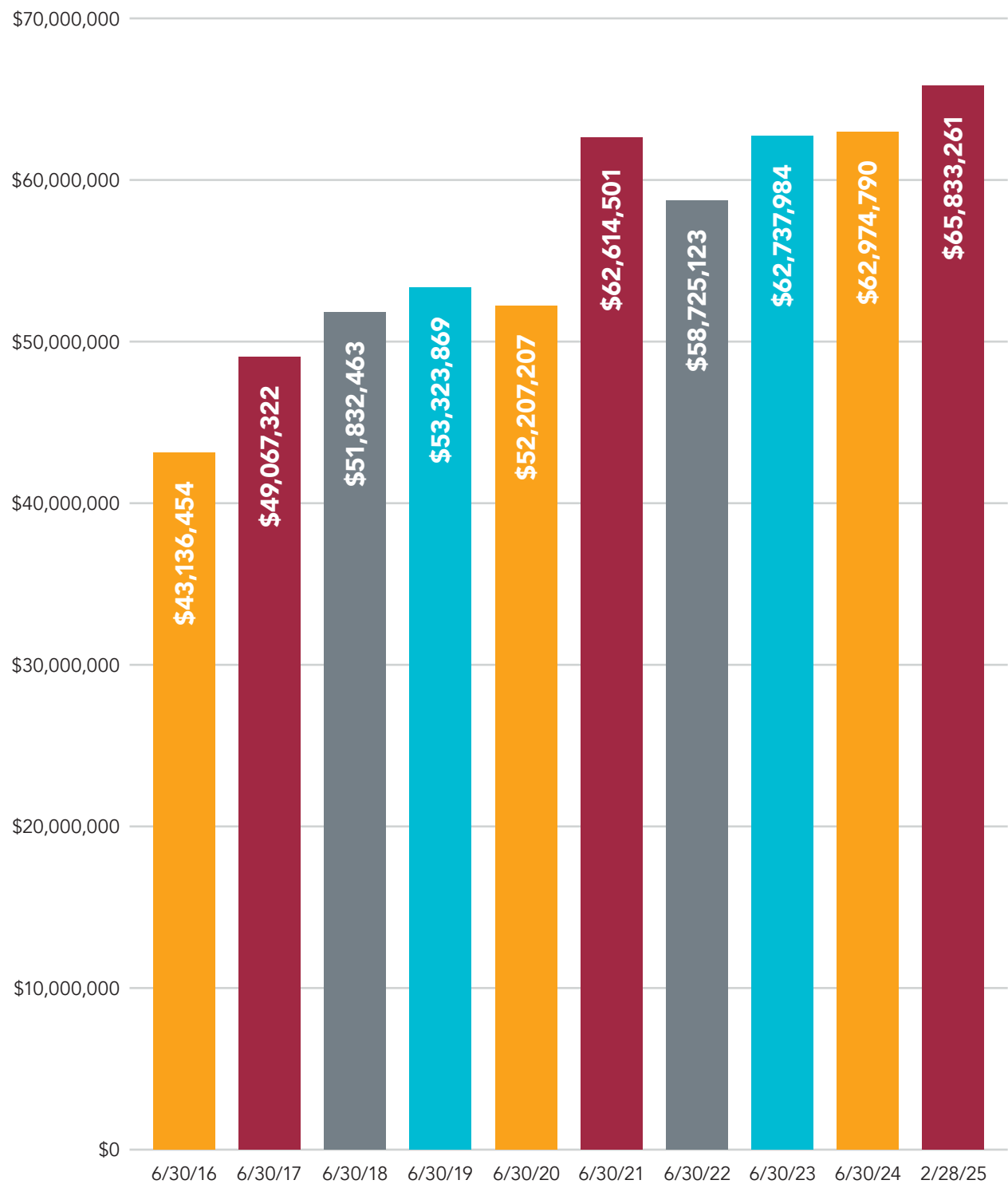
"Somehow, the students today seem even better than the ones from the early 1960s," said Smith. "The funds we give will ensure they receive an enriching education for their promising future."

*Friends University has excellent leadership, an impressive legacy and strong support in Kansas and Wichita. We trust any support we provide will be used wisely for both short-term and long-term goals.*

— McClure Smith



ENDOWMENT GROWTH SINCE JUNE 30, 2016





## Men's Golf Tees Up to #5 NAIA Ranking

After a dominating season last year, finishing out with the second highest scoreboard ranking in the nation, men's golf continued their excellence in the 24-25 season by ranking #5 in the NAIA Men's Golf Coaches' Poll. They are now three-time consecutive KCAC Conference Champions, having attained their trophy at the Buffalo Dunes Golf Course in Garden City, Kan.

## Women's Soccer Scores KCAC Tournament

The women's soccer team captured their first KCAC Tournament Championship of the modern era with a thrilling 1-0 overtime victory over the York University Panthers. The victory assured the Falcons of their fourth NAIA National Championship tournament appearance in the last six years, where they went toe-to-toe with No. 21-ranked University of Science and Arts of Oklahoma Drovers.



## Football Rushes Into Nationals

In a major milestone of head coach Terry Harrison's three-year coaching tenure, the Friends University football beat the Bethany College Swedes 65-15 to clinch the KCAC Kessinger Division championship. The victory also assured the Falcons of their first appearance in the NAIA Football Championship Series since the 2008 campaign. The first round of nationals proved to be even more exciting, as they recorded the program's first-ever NAIA Football Championship Series victory. The Falcon's finished the season with an 11-2 overall record for the program's most wins in the modern era and marked the Falcons' furthest advancement in the NAIA FCS in school history.







## Indoor Track and Field Soars with NAIA National Qualifiers Across Events



Indoor Track and Field produced several qualifiers for the NAIA National Championships: Senior Anya Walton, sophomore Aneesa Sheppard, and senior Mikkel Tarver in Triple Jump; Junior Aaliyah Ramirez and sophomore Carter Gittinger in Pole Vault; Senior Pablo Sanz-Rillo in the 3000m Race Walk.

## Powerlifting Squads Power Through Nationals

After dominating the meets in their conference, the men and women's powerlifting teams traveled to Oklahoma City to compete in the USA Powerlifting Collegiate National competition. Out of 1200 lifters and 104 teams, the women placed seventh and the men finished ninth. Four lifters placed in the top five this season and the totals from this year's competition qualify 15 lifters for next year's nationals.



## Perier Digs Deep to Set Record at Friends University

Senior volleyball player Antonia Perier earned the all-time record for digs at Friends University. Starting in the 2022 season, Perier recorded 921 digs in total. She quickly became a force on the court that earned a third-team All-KCAC athlete award in 2023 by leading the KCAC conference in digs the same year.





## Wrestling Pins Down NAIA National Spots

After achieving a conference runner-up finish at the Men's Wrestling KCAC Championships, 3 wrestlers qualified for the NAIA National Championships: senior Braden Morgan, freshman Benedict Holthaus and junior Ezavian Ortega. Women's wrestling also had qualifiers for nationals: senior Gianna Moreno and junior Bailee Nelson.

**\$20**

**Singing Quakers 100th Anniversary**  
ALUMNI CHOIR CONCERT - NOVEMBER 9-10, 2024

SINGING QUAKERS ALUMNI CHOIR

Let All the World in Every Corner Sing... Vaughan Williams  
A Mighty Fortress is Our God... Bach  
Ständchen... Schubert  
Festival Piece on "Saint Anne"... Debussy  
There was a Time... Handel  
A City Called Heaven... Fauré  
When the Trumpet Sounds... Thomas

A Prayer of the Heart... Stravinsky  
A Prayer... Schubert  
That Thing Within... Schubert  
When I Survey the Wondrous Cross... Purcell  
Praise the Lord... Handel

**Singing Quakers 100th Anniversary**  
*Alumni Choir Concert*

Featuring Conductors:  
Eric D. Stone, Dr. Rayvon T. J. Moore, Dr. Mark Bartel & Dr. Cecil A. Riney  
Accompanist: Dr. Jamie Knight

## Singing Quakers 100th Anniversary *Alumni Choir Concert*

NOVEMBER 9-10, 2024

**Commemorative  
CD & Booklet**

*Take home a piece of Friends  
University Fine Arts history!*

Recorded in the newly-renovated Sebts Auditorium, this CD includes performances by the 2024-25 Singing Quakers, the 2024 Singing Quakers Alumni Choir and a host of alumni joining for three of the choir's most iconic songs.

**Call the Cashier to order your  
CD today! 316-295-5865**





## Silence is the Loudest Performance

*Learning to be Silent* (song from Footloose) was selected as a finalist performance at the National Opera Association's annual conference. The performance was sung by Leia Medina, Natalie Hale and Arabella Turner, and directed by Special Appointment Instructor of Music Theatre Joice Henry.

## Blowing Away the Audience

The Friends University Wind Ensemble, conducted by Dr. Shawn Knopp, and the Saxophone Quartet, directed by Matt Koehn, were selected to perform at the 2025 Kansas Music Educators Association State Convention.







## Theatre Catches Finalist Spot

*Catch Me If You Can* was selected as a Finalist for The American Prize Musical Division. Despite being one of ten finalists, the musical was evaluated in reference to judges' perceived impression of an artistic ideal, leading the colorful and energetic performance to certainly be chased by the judges' eyes.

## Leading the Rhythm

Assistant Professor Heather Eilerts and a group of students attended the American College Dance Association Central Region Conference in January. Eilerts taught a Myofascial Release class during the conference and senior Ali Kells presented her original choreography at the Informal Showing.



# STUDENT VOICES

## Voice of a Leader: Yalitza Arroyo

Student athlete and Hispanic American Leadership Organization (HALO) President, Yalitza Arroyo was one of 50 students from across the nation who was invited to attend the American Enterprise Institute's (AEI) First Generation Forum in Washington D.C.

AEI's Academic Programs are designed to help facilitate civil engagement on college campuses. Throughout the year AEI provides forums and courses for students and faculty to help develop skills around civil and substantive discourse. November's First Generation Forum brought together first-generation undergraduate students like Arroyo from various universities alongside leading experts to discuss the state of the American Dream today.

With refreshing seminars from the most renowned researchers and practitioners, Arroyo participated in seat discussions about the most debated social topics in public services. Seminars spanned over meals, focusing on familiar topics, exposure to new topics, and gave

sense to the breadth of AEI scholarships.

"It was a great opportunity to meet and have conversations with students of many backgrounds from not only across the nation but the world as well," said Arroyo.

She was privileged to be an ambassador for Friends University and the state of Kansas as she connected with professionals and peers. Arroyo found the experience invaluable, eager to find ways to integrate her learning on campus with her first-generation peers.



*It was a great opportunity to meet and have conversations with students of many backgrounds from not only across the nation but the world as well.*

— Senior Yalitza Arroyo



## Voice of an Engineer: Cameron Summerer

When professors Robin Turnmire and Deborah Miller announced a final case-study presentation to the ENGR12 class this past fall, the students weren't surprised. After a semester filled with student-centered lessons and in-depth analyses of real-life tragedies, they had come to expect something far more engaging than a traditional textbook exam at the end of the course.

For junior Cameron Summerer, whose family hails from Michigan, the focus of his tragedy analysis was the Flint Michigan Water Crisis. Summerer, a mechanical engineering major with a mathematics minor and an intern at Kirkham Michael, a civil engineering firm in his hometown, recognized that the ethics course was crucial for his future.

"This utilization of critical thinking will be useful in my career as well as my everyday life. All engineers should design their projects with the safety of the user and manufacturer in mind," said Summerer.

Through his research, Summerer explored the crisis from a demographic, economic, and political perspective. These resources were later tied to core principles of laws, particularly the Laws of Humanity, which, as Turnmire puts it, focus on "the things we can control." He became increasingly aware of how preventable the tragedy had been, which only strengthened his resolve to influence the role of civil engineers in preventing similar disasters in the future.

"Hindsight is 20/20. It's easy to look at a real-world case and point out where the mistake was made. When making an ethical decision in the present, safety is the most important thing," said Summerer.

*This utilization of critical thinking will be useful in my career as well as my everyday life.*

— Junior Cameron Summerer



*To see the pursuit of a relationship with potential students, and the real currency of education, felt generous to my time and search.*

— Bren Tally

# ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

## The Tally Family

The Tally family has long been rooted in service, spanning fields such as therapy, dentistry, emergency medical services and food engineering. With nearly three graduates from Friends University Kansas City's M.S. in Marriage and Family Therapy, it felt like the perfect time to reflect on their experience in the program.

After a career in broadcast journalism, Bren had an unmet need to hear people's stories and make the world a better place, leading her to become a licensed clinical marriage and family therapist. She graduated from the Friends University MFT program in 2016 and launched Bren Tally Therapy. Upon receiving her license, Bren was given a meaningful parting gift from Dr. Sarah Lyon, a professor, which she keeps to this day.

"It was a word and an explanation. It was something that Dr. Lyon felt we needed to carry in our hearts when we took our next steps. Mine was the word 'trust.' I cannot tell you how profound that moment was. I put it in my calendar every year," said Bren.

Nearly ten years later, Bren's daughter, Elizabeth, and daughter-in-law, Ellie Stevens-Tally, joined her in the field, set to graduate from the MFT program in August 2025. They were welcomed by the same faces that greeted Bren, marking the first of many shared experiences within the family at the university.

"The program at Friends has a generous heart and is steadfast. Each professor provides a setting with no judgment and the program is defining the history of marriage and family therapy," said Bren.

Elizabeth Tally graduated from Hope College with an elementary education and special education degree. Seeing parallels between teaching and

therapy, Elizabeth sought a MFT program that would share her excitement about the field. That's when she met Dr. Habben and Dr. Lyon, who cast their own vision and passion for marriage and family therapy. After intense studying and constant faculty check-ins, Elizabeth has reached the end of her time, but looks back to the beginning of her journey with a smile.

"On the first day of class, the second-year students and faculty made a tunnel down the hallways and cheered us in. They left us little care packages on our tables. There was this sense of 'we're glad you're here,'" said Elizabeth.

Ellie Stevens-Tally married Noah Tally, Bren's son and Elizabeth's brother, in 2023. She graduated from Hope College, where she studied psychology, sociology and neuroscience as an undergrad. MFT was always the goal for Ellie, her call to join the Friends University program influenced by Dr. Habben and the program's Information Night.

"I really felt the way Dr. Habben and Dr. Lyon were representing a systemic lens, starting from the interview day. They allow us to have our own opinions and individualism, while also brainstorming ideas," said Ellie.

With Elizabeth and Ellie's graduation approaching, the MFT program will continue to trust in them and cheer them on, forever uniting them with the Friends therapeutic community.

"To see the pursuit of a relationship with potential students and the real currency of education, felt generous to my time and search," said Bren. "It wasn't like Friends was determining my quality, rather, I was interviewing them to ensure I understood what Friends could offer."



Clockwise from top  
left: Elizabeth Tally,  
Ellie Stevens-Tally  
and Bren Tally.





# DONOR SPOTLIGHT

## Nolan and Kathy Singer

Nolan and Kathy Singer met in high school and came to Friends University together, marrying in December of their college freshman year. After graduation, they traveled the country with Nolan's Air Force service, a passion they continue today. Now retired and planning their next vacation to Orange Beach County, AL, they reflect on their time as Falcons and feel inspired to give back to the university.

### Tell us about yourself. Hobbies, career, family, etc.

**Nolan:** I came to Friends University on a football scholarship and played for the '74 football program that won the KCAC Championship. After graduation, I joined the Air Force and served for 27 years and then worked at the Department of Defense, before retiring in 2020. For hobbies, we have our E-bikes, which we take on the trails down in Alabama and Oklahoma.

**Kathy:** While in school, I was a cheerleader and worked for Dr. Riney in the fine arts department, as an administrative assistant. We have three children and seven grandchildren, which we visit during our travels. We started our big hobby in 2021 when we bought an RV and we visit with friends wherever we go.



### When did you graduate from Friends University and with what major?

**Nolan:** I graduated in 1978 with a bachelors in business administration.

**Kathy:** I graduated in 1975 with an associate of arts.

### What was your favorite moment while attending Friends University?

**Nolan:** During my last year, I needed 12 credits of work study to graduate, so I began working for my father-in-law at an insurance firm. Back then, the advisors had to come and evaluate the student at the work site. Professor Highfield drove all the way to southeast Kansas, about 145 miles from Wichita, to visit my work study. The dedication that Professor Highfield had to drive that far really speaks to how much the advisors and professors really care for their students.

**Kathy:** Walkouts were always my favorite. We would all go to Joyland to eat and hangout. We thought we were accomplishing big things by convincing the president to call a walk out.

### Why do you feel like it's important to give back to Friends University?

**Nolan and Kathy:** Back then, we both worked while we were in school. That's the primary reason we give back to Friends University. It was tough for us financially, but grants got us through college and we worked to give ourselves a living. We feel that God has blessed us with the ability to give back, and so, we are doing that.

### How has Friends University impacted your life?

**Nolan and Kathy:** We grew up at Friends University and learned to surround ourselves with community. Wherever we were, we belonged, and Friends taught us that. Just being a part of the community, able to build it up and support one another, gave us a communal spirit that we look for in everything we do.





# SPRING 2025 CLASS NOTES

## In Memory

"In Memory" passages were submitted by family and friends. Information received after January 30, 2025, will be included in the next issue. We reserve the right to edit as space allows.

**Robert L. Brown** died on September 18, 2024. He enjoyed everything about sports, watching music programs and his children and grandchildren.

**Christopher Vincent Carlton '02** died on September 15, 2024. He enjoyed spending his free time volunteering for the "Doc" B-29 Superfortress program, where he donated many hours.

**Pauline J. Casey '99** died on September 12, 2024. She loved bowling, long walks, and was a dog lover.

**Carolyn Rush Christal '51** died on August 18, 2024. She taught English at Enid High from 1967 until retirement. She was a member of Enid First Church of the Nazarene, where she taught Sunday School and choir.

**Monte Clearman '86** died on August 23, 2024. His love for music was paralleled by his love for his family and his favorite pastimes.

**Marcile Crandall '82** died on August 18, 2024. She was a wise and beloved person who developed friendships and facilitated community.

**Yolanda Jo Dickinson '99** died on August 10, 2024. For her entire life, she wanted to be outside playing in the dirt and enjoying nature.

**Gregory Berend Dobbs '89** died on September 12, 2024. Giving back and helping others was important to Greg and he cherished every opportunity he did so.

**THOMAS A. "TAD" DOYLE '00** died on August 18, 2024. His hobbies included playing and coaching soccer, hiking, traveling, and spending much time with family and friends.

**Sandra Kay Downing '69** died on August 21, 2024. She always loved music and sang in church choirs throughout her life.

**Charlene Marie Durbin '91** died on September 21, 2024. Attending the Kansas State Fair was always a highlight on her calendar.

**Arnold L. Eaton '93** died on September 12, 2024. Arnold never knew a stranger and loved to socialize with others.

**Jon Ehrsam '65** died on November 16, 2024. He loved spending time with cars and with his loved ones.

**Daniel Audra Engle '03** died on January 12, 2025. He enjoyed fishing and spending time with his children and family.

**Alanna M. Felkins '12** died on September 10, 2024. Serving the Lord was always one of her greatest joys, whether it was leading youth or praise teams.



**PHILIP WALTER HARTWICK '91** died on August 11, 2024. He served his country in the United States Army during the Korean War as a radar operator. Phil took this experience and made a successful career in aviation electronics and flight systems.

**Michael A. Felt '96** died on August 5, 2024. Close friends say that he always had a story and that he never met a stranger.

**Michael G. Fouquet '96** died on May 19, 2023. He was a skilled contractor and built many beautiful homes in his lifetime.

**Rita Carole Frakes '04** died on July 5, 2024. Her dynamic personality and upbeat outlook had a positive effect on her students, friends, family and colleagues.

**Betty Anna Halderman '99** died on September 13, 2024. Traveling was her favorite hobby, specifically backpacking through Europe.

**Dewitt Harry '96** died on June 26, 2024. He is survived by his wife, son and daughters, whom he loved very much.

**Marlene (McClure) Henins '57** died on May 11, 2024. She was dedicated to the field of education and enjoyed activities with her family, music, crafts, and a good game of Scrabble.

**Charles Dennis Hensley '97** died on January 1, 2025. He loved sports, fishing and playing cards.



**PAUL HOWE '79** died on November 1, 2024. He served as the Friends University women's golf head coach for nine seasons. In a testament to his leadership with the program, Howe guided the Falcons to a top three result at the KCAC tournament in the 2024 season and were awarded the KCAC Women's Golf Team of Character.

**Dennis W. Huggins '01** died on September 17, 2024. He enjoyed playing golf, bowling, attending concerts and spending quality time with his grandkids.

**Gerald Issacson** died on August 14, 2024. He enjoyed boating on Table Rock Lake with his family and friends.



**VIRGINIA LEE IRELAND '52** died on December 13, 2024. She was a member of Grace Presbyterian Church in Peoria, Ill., where she was active in daily Vacation Bible School, taught Sunday School and was President of the Preschool Mother's Club and the School Age Mother's Club.

**Karen S. Kardatzke '96** died on September 7, 2024. She loved spending time with her children, playing games and planning meals.

**Olivia Vanay Kreifels '09** died on August 18, 2024. She loved driving through the countryside, listening to music, traveling and exploring the world at any chance.

**Earl Dean Lammy** died on December 23, 2024. He enjoyed being a sales associate and was known for his honesty.

**Mark B. Linder '96** died on May 25, 2024. He loved Sante Fe for its art, food and ski slopes.

**Kimberly Jean Lowry '06** died on December 22, 2024. She loved the beach and was known to be a devoted mother.

**Vernon D. Maxted '45** died on September 14, 2024. He had a wonderful sense of humor and loved to tell funny stories and jokes.

**Morris McCorvey '74** died on September 6, 2024. He was the former executive director of the Westside Community Center, a community volunteer, an actor and a well-known poet.

**EARLENE ANDERSON MEVEY '54** died on January 23, 2025. She was a member of University Friends Church, where she worked in the nursery, taught pre-school, served on the Mission Committee, and has chaired the Friends Women Funeral Dinner Committee.



**James I. Morrison '55** died on January 17, 2025. He enjoyed gardening, camping and attending his grandchildren's activities.

**Donald Ray Munson '83** died on December 30, 2024. His interests were vast, as he was often at home on the river, loved bird hunting, and tended various food plots for deer hunting each year.



**ROBERT EUGENE PATTERSON SR. '63** died on January 16, 2025. He was an avid Kansas City Chiefs fan and passionate golfer, playing courses across the country.

**Kimberly Jean Pixler '06** died on December 22, 2024. She was a devoted mother and loved to spend time with her grandchildren.

**Grace W. Porter '60** died on December 6, 2024. She made lifelong friends with the teachers she worked with and was considered a loyal friend.

**Armelia L. Jones-Posey '01** died on October 8, 2024. She brought light and joy to all those who knew her.

**Joyce A. Preisser '96** died on August 14, 2024. She loved oil painting, helping others and spreading the Word of Jesus.

**Carolyn Bea Preston '97** died on July 30, 2024. She had a joyous rhythm of dance and was a talented quilter.

**Roberta Reimschisel '70** died on December 6, 2024. She enjoyed sewing, reading, studying the Bible, organizing her beloved photo albums, spending time with family and plotting pranks.

**Lindsay D. "Rocky" Rochat '87** died on August 2, 2024. He loved baseball, softball, bowling and cows.

**Martha Kay Rustin '99** died on September 12, 2024. She was a member of Chi Omega and was a life-long Sooner fan.

**Michael Lynn Shirkey '91** and **'11** died on October 27, 2024. He had contagious laughter, big hugs, silly jokes and enduring love.

**Debra Sue Slavik '05** died on August 23, 2024. She loved baking, traveling and supporting her family and friends through all their endeavors.



**Dixie Lee Snavely '68** died on September 17, 2024. She delighted in her flower beds and spent many hours working in them.

**Ulysses Stokes '73** died on December 3, 2024. He loved watching sports, especially TNT's Inside the NBA, and engaging in discussions about current events with friends and family.



**JOHNNY STEVE TARRANT** died on November 2, 2024. He was inducted into the Friends University Hall of Fame in 2008 for his time serving as an announcer and was known as "The Voice of the Falcons."

**Lyle Howard Wheeler '51** died on December 10, 2024. He and his wife, Janet, spent 10 years on the mission field in Burundi, Africa under the auspices of what was then Kansas Yearly Meeting.

**Alana Ann Whitney '03** died on November 8, 2024. She was an avid fan of KU basketball, the Kansas City Chiefs, and the New York Yankees, and cherished her two dogs.

**Terry Witherspoon '78** died on March 15, 2021. Terry gave his life to Christ at the age of 12 and was baptized and united with the family's church home, Cyrene Missionary Baptist Church of Pickens, Arkansas. He loved his family and the church and cherished the memories he made with them.

**Jim W. Young '60** died on March 8, 2024. He taught industrial arts before starting his own business in building construction and remodeling.

**Lowell I. Young '60** died on August 4, 2023. Upon retirement he organized bridge and pool tournaments, distributed food to the less fortunate, and he made beautiful wooden gifts.

## Class Notes

### 1950s

**DR. CECIL RINEY '53** received the Arts Legacy Award at the 2025 Governor's Arts Awards, a prestigious honor that celebrates enduring contributions to the arts and the profound impact on Kansas's cultural heritage.

### 1970s

**Bonnie Viola Bauer '70** was recognized in her role as a Mary Kay Beauty Consultant.

**Jack Hatfield '72** was recognized by the Memphis Business Journal in his company Hatfield & Associates LLC.

**Lana Duncan '73** was a December 2024 Good Apple Award honoree by the Wichita Public Schools Board of Education.

### 1980s

**Melanie Owens '85** was a 2024 Women in Business award honoree in the Wichita Business Journal.

**Harry H. Brocksieck '88** published The Journey: Participating in Divine Nature.



**RON HOLT '73** was covered by The Voice for his business success and corporate trailblazing. He rose to chairman and CEO of the power company and is the only African American to ever reach that rank in Wichita.

### 1990s

**Stephanie Buckman '90** was recognized in the Wichita Business Journal's Whos' Who in Healthcare.



**Malia Lindner '92** was a December 2024 Good Apple Award honoree by the Wichita Public Schools Board of Education.

**Vonda Schuster '93** was inducted into the Kansas Thespian Hall of Fame and received the Theatre Teacher of the Year for Region 1 award.

**Rachel Ruth Bachman '96** received the Newton Area Woman of the Year award for 2024.

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**Heath W. Bechler '98** was honored by Hutchinson High School for his initiation on their Wall of Honor for his service in the Hutchinson area.

**Bradley E. Gregory** shared his All-American memories from his time playing football for Friends from 1998-1999.

## 2000s

**Iris Turner '00** was recognized in the Wichita Business Journal's Who's Who in Healthcare.

**Travis Easter '01** was promoted to Investigations Division Commander for the Wichita Police Department (WPD).

**Kelli Emrick '01** was a Woman Who Lead in Technology award honoree in the Wichita Business Journal.

**Aaron Wiechman '01** was reappointed to serve as an agricultural lending representative for the Texas Agriculture Finance Authority (TAFA) Board.

**Charles Edwin Harris '02** and **'06** was a December 2024 Good Apple Award honoree by the Wichita Public Schools Board of Education.

**Kay Sharp '02** was named the Director of Community Development at The Unified Government of Wyandotte County and Kansas City, Kansas (UG).

**Scarlette Diseker '03** was named Liberal's new City Manager in January 2025.



**BREANNA MONK '08, '13, '16** was announced as the new President and Chief Executive Officer of Wichita Festivals.



**Stephanie Doshier '04** was a December 2024 Good Apple Award honoree by the Wichita Public Schools Board of Education.

**Jennifer Perry** was a December 2024 Good Apple Award honoree by the Wichita Public Schools Board of Education.

**Lindsay Winterburg '04** was a December 2024 Good Apple Award honoree by the Wichita Public Schools Board of Education.

**Lisa Butler '07** was honored in the Wichita Business Journal's Excellence in Healthcare.

**Carey Gerdes '08** was a December 2024 Good Apple Award honoree by the Wichita Public Schools Board of Education.

**DIANN HENDERSON '06** was inducted into the Kansas Recreation and Parks Association Hall of Fame.

**Darin J. Lysaught '09** started his new job at MidFirst Bank in October.

**Nina Shaw-Woody '09** was ranked in Women We Admire's Top 50 Women Leaders of Kansas for 2024.

## 2010s

**Stacey Clark '10** was a 2024 Women in Business award honoree in the Wichita Business Journal.

**Jennifer Goehring '10** was recognized in the Wichita Business Journal's Who's Who in Healthcare.

**Sally Stevens '10** and **'16** was recognized in the Wichita Business Journal's Who's Who in Healthcare.

**Amy Ball '11** was recognized in the Wichita Business Journal's Women Who Lead in Aviation and Manufacturing.

**Leslie Edwards '11** was a December 2024 Good Apple Award honoree by the Wichita Public Schools Board of Education.

**Laurie Labarca '11** was recognized in the Wichita Business Journal's Who's Who in Healthcare.



**Audra Morgan '12** was recognized in the Wichita Business Journals' Women Who Lead in Aviation and Manufacturing.

**Angela Kay Perez '12** started her work as the Director of Choral Activities at Wichita Heights High School in August. She also welcomed her daughter, Sofia Perez, in November 2024.

**Emily Taylor '12** was a December 2024 Good Apple Award honoree by the Wichita Public Schools Board of Education.

**DeShaun Willingham-Linson '12** was recognized in the Wichita Business Journal's Who's Who in Healthcare.

**Dr. Rickey Frierson '13** accepted the position for assistant vice president for strategic student success initiatives at Colorado State University.

**Cindy Hohl '13** delivered the opening keynote address at the National Information Standards Organization (NISO) Plus 2025 conference in Baltimore.

**Erin D. Manning '13** was promoted to Vice President of Marketing at Exploration Place.

**Karen Struble '13** was a December 2024 Good Apple Award honoree by the Wichita Public Schools Board of Education.

**Brittany Denyse Maloney '14** was highlighted by Zinta Inspired Language group for her exceptional work.

**Kylie Moore '14** was a December 2024 Good Apple Award honoree by the Wichita Public Schools Board of Education.

**Joel Linscheid** taught at Friends University from 2015-2017. He was featured in The Linscheid | Kendrick Quartet at the Sound Conservatory November 2, 2024, in Moline, IL.

**Jordan Audette '16** and **'21** was chosen as one of 10 Queen Bees working to raise funds for Catholic Charities.

**LONNIE R. LEE '15** and **'17** was honored in the Wichita Eagle's Marquis Who's Who Honors for Expertise in Nonprofit Organization.



**Kevin Brocksieck '16** was accepted into the Colorado Springs Chorale for the 2025 season.

**Lisa Paine '16** and her nonprofit, The Juniper Arts Academy, was 2024 Arts Organization of the Year, voted by the Arts Council.

**Samuel Camp '18** was named the William Woods University head football coach.

**Heather Breslin '19** and **'23** was a December 2024 Good Apple Award honoree by the Wichita Public Schools Board of Education.

**Kathleen Jansen '19** was a December 2024 Good Apple Award honoree by the Wichita Public Schools Board of Education.



**DONELL HAMMOND '13** was named chief information technology officer and a member of the CEO's cabinet for Kauffman Foundation.



**CEDRIC TONEY '04 and '18** received the CFO honoree of 2025 from the Wichita Business Journal, Kansas Humane Society, and HealthCore Clinic.

**Jessica Gunkel Martin '19** was a guest speaker on YouTube podcast: Alfred Music Choral.

**Krista Ward '19** was a 2024 Women in Business award honoree in the Wichita Business Journal.

## 2020s

**Rebecca "Becky" Becker '20** received the Outstanding K-12 Art Educator of the year from The Kansas Art Education Association (KAEA).

**Noah C. Stockton '20** has been the Head Cross Country/Track and Field Coach at Founders Classical Academy for nearly four years and has multiple conference titles, state runner-up titles, and 4 state championships in track and field/xc.



**Mollie Botts '21** was recognized in the Wichita Business Journal's Who's Who in Healthcare.

**Davonte Pack '21** hosted a basketball camp with My Brother, No Other co-founders for the local Wichita area.

**Peter Thompson '21** was a December 2024 Good Apple Award honoree by the Wichita Public Schools Board of Education.

**Dr. RoShea Beck '22** received her doctorate in Healthcare Administration from Ohio State University in December 2024.

**Riley Blanton '23** published two articles for Everyday Health, discussing mental health during the holidays and gifts that may help with those struggling.

**Jana Owen '23** was covered by the Wichita Eagle for her direction of "Short and Suite Nutcracker".

**HALI DON WALTERS '21 and '23** started a new position October 7 as Director of Medical Practice at Horizons Mental Health Center.

**Drew Walden '23** was Employee of the Month for El Dorado High School.

## Faculty/Staff/Board Notes

**Dr. Rebekah Reyes Adams** has co-developed a resource AI-toolkit for educators interested in learning the integration of AI tools into training and education in Master level programs.

**DR. KNEELAND BROWN** was a guest speaker at the Wichita State University 2025 MLK Worship Celebration.



Professors **Sean Cash** and **Steve Monsen** announced the Belle Plaine Revitalization Project, a joint effort with Friends students and the Belle Plaine community to redesign the downtown main street, reimagine the layout of the main park, and develop creative ways to repurpose Belle Plaine's iconic water tower.



INGRAM'S Kansas Edition recognized **Dr. Amy Bragg Carey** in their 50 Kansans You Should Know honors, spotlighting her out-sized achievements.

**Dr. Amy Bragg Carey** and **Dr. Ken Stoltzfus** visited Washington D.C. to meet with Senator Moran, Senator Marshall, and Senator Bernie Sanders education staffers to discuss the developments of Christian colleges and universities.

**Ruben Chavez** has accepted the permanent position of women's wrestling head coach.

Adjunct professor **Chelsea Clennan** was named a 2025 HR Professionals Awards honoree by the Wichita Business Journal.

Previous faculty **Laurie Dove** landed a coveted publishing contract for her debut novel, "Mask of the Deer Women."

**Scott Frey** was recognized in the Wichita Business Journal's 2025 CFO Awards.

**Dr. Jeremy Gallegos** published his research "How Should We Advance Sleep Stewardship?" in the American Medical Association's Journal of Ethics. He also had a recent book review over his research "Bioethics for Nurses: A Christian Moral Vision," Religious Studies Review, FORTHCOMING.

**Dr. Bhargav Koppolu** was awarded the Outstanding Young Engineer award by the Wichita Council of Engineering Societies.

Head football coach **TERRY HARRISON** was named the Victory Sports Network NAIA National Coach of the Year.



**DR. SARAH LYON** was elected President of the American Association for Marriage and Family Therapy (AAMFT).

**Dr. Nathanael May** represented Friends University Fine Arts and the Wichita Arts Council at the Arts Day at the Kansas State Capitol — an event by Kansas Arts Network.

**Phil McClintock** was named KCAC Coach of the Year for men's basketball.

**Alex Melugin '09** was recognized in the Wichita Business Journal's Who's Who in Healthcare.

**Tyler Mies** was named 2024-25 KCAC Coach of the Year in wrestling.

**Teresa Molina** was invited to serve on the Board of Trustees for the Wichita Art Museum. She is a translator at

the Wichita Art Museum and has organized Spanish Night, an event that has drawn record-breaking crowds over the past three years.

Friends University Board Member and '90 alumnus **Jeff Ramsey** was promoted to Executive Vice President at Koch Industries.

**Dr. Jeanette Michelle Robertson** was honored in the Wichita Business Journal's Excellence in Health Care: November 2024 for her work as a Clinical Marriage & Family Therapist.

STEM Division members will be heavily involved with the Kansas Academy of Sciences' annual Wichita meeting later this spring, acting as facilitators for the event. Faculty includes **Dr. Patrick Mathews, Dr. Ana Jurcak-Detter, Dr. Kayla Eschliman, Dr. Prince Agbedanu, Dr. Bhargav Koppolu, and Dr. Gary Branum.**

**Miranda Shackelford** participated in the Neighboring Movement's first Faith-Based Animator Network this past summer, a program that is designed to "form Community Animators and connectors who are committed to their neighborhoods, including

its people, ecology, and associations" by training them to discover God's abundance through the gifts of their neighbors, connect neighbors together based on those gifts, and mobilize them toward the common good.

**Dr. Jerry Smartt** was selected to represent on the Hispanic Advisory Board and served as the Co-Chair of the planning committee for the annual Gala of the Wichita Hispanic Chamber of Commerce.

**Ken Spurgeon's** book inspired short film, *Sod & Stubble*, received the Best Western Film at the Chandler International Film Festival. His movie premiered March 28 at the Orpheum Theatre.

**Dr. A.J. Swoboda** was a guest speaker on The Discerning Leader podcast, where he shared the subversive power of sabbath, how to care for creation, and the formative power of daily patterns and habits.

"Monster Matt in Kansas" — a film documentary directed by **Blaise Webster** and animated by **Ethan Harvey** — was accepted into the First City Film Festival in Leavenworth, KS.

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