

BELHAVEN UNIVERSITY

TARTAN



S U M M E R 2 0 2 1



Letter From The President

“It was the best of times, it was the worst of times.”

-A Tale of Two Cities

In profound and unimaginable ways, the opening of Charles Dickens’ famous novel has come to summarize this past academic year at Belhaven University. With the onslaught of Covid, it was a time of staggering challenges, it was a time of towering victories.

In the midst of unprecedented difficulties, God transformed our limitations into opportunities. Even the briefest sampling of the year’s polarities is testimony to God’s great care for Belhaven. Truly, Jesus has led us all the way!

- Restrictions shut down many campus activities that frame the traditional undergraduate experience with joy. AND YET, every traditional student will be able to enlarge their overall educational experience by receiving the gift of a free online master’s degree.
- Classroom seating was limited to 15 students. AND YET, 95% of our campus-based courses were offered in person during a time when most universities taught exclusively online.
- Everyone wore a mask at all times on campus. AND YET, these interpersonal barriers only served to heighten our appreciation for the relationships in our lives.
- Most staff worked from home for nearly a year. AND YET, by Zoom, we met together far more often and were more productive than ever before.
- Last spring’s competition hiatus canceled athletics for nine long months. AND YET, this spring all 17 of our sports were in action, and softball and track made it to the national championships.
- A campus funeral service for our dear Miss Bettye Quinn was not possible. AND YET, over 10,000 watched her memorial online.

- Public K-12 education shifted to an online format. AND YET, our Master of Arts in Teaching enrollment quadrupled, in anticipation of a more effective return to the classroom this fall.
- Many students suffered family financial hardship because of Covid-19. AND YET, government grants provided \$6 million in additional aid directly to students.
- Chapel was forced to be held online. AND YET, our video chapel allowed us to feature influential Christian leaders from all over the world.
- Higher education suffered the greatest job loss in history, with 12% of faculty and staff losing their jobs. AND YET, Belhaven did not eliminate one job because of Covid-19.
- The campus endured the inconvenience of weekly Covid-19 testing. AND YET, our infection rate dropped from 15% in the fall before testing, to only 1/2% in the spring with testing.
- Our artists were forced to perform with masks and social distance. AND YET, faculty used these limitations to teach new and creative expressions in the Arts.
- Homecoming and events with alumni and friends were canceled. AND YET, we had a record year of giving.
- It was a tough year. AND YET, God was always with us.

In many ways, this was our best year ever. We made it!

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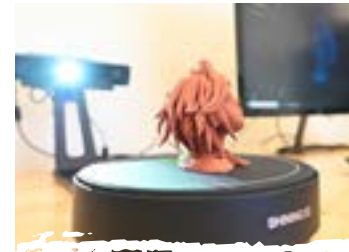
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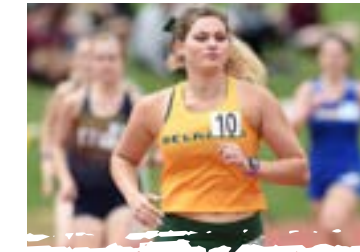
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The Legacy of Bettye Quinn



On June 4, 2020, The Belhaven University family lost one of its most beloved and influential professors, Ms. Bettye Quinn. With a combined 61 years of teaching experience, Bettye had established a legacy of teaching and serving that has influenced countless others. She daily lived the University motto, “to serve, not to be served.”

For many she was a living, breathing history book of Belhaven University, and for others she was an adopted mother and caring confidant. No matter your connection, she was seen as a permanent installation at the University, thought to live forever. Her passing left an absence that is being filled by the very people she affected so deeply.

University’s commencement exercises, May 4, 2019. This special honor was a public way of recognizing her tremendous impact on the many Belhaven students who sat under her tutelage.

Bettye earned a Bachelor of Arts from Belhaven College in 1958 and a Master of Education from Mississippi College in 1961. She completed further graduate work at Mississippi State University.

She taught eight years with Jackson Public Schools before coming to Belhaven in 1966 to teach education and psychology. She has over 53 years of experience in teaching elementary education at the collegiate level. In addition to teaching at Belhaven as

Education. She also carried the title of national secretary for Kappa Delta Epsilon Education Sorority.

Her many awards were evidence of her dedication to the teaching profession. Some of her awards included: Outstanding Young Education National Winner, Mississippi Economics Council Star Teacher, Alpha Theta Professor of Year, Belhaven College Alumnus of the Year, Belhaven College Board of Trustees Professor of Year, Headwae Award, Legacy of Learning, and Belhaven Leadership Council Faculty of the Year. In 2002, Belhaven honored her by naming the Bettye Quinn Alumni House and Welcome Center. She was a member of Wells Methodist Church for 73 years and has taught Sunday school at the church for 65 years.

Dr. Parrott continued, “Billy Graham once said, ‘The greatest legacy one can pass on to their children or their grandchildren is not money or material things accumulated in your life, but rather a legacy of character and faith.’ Bettye didn’t have biological children, but she had thousands and thousands of children in schools all across the states, many who are now grown with their own children because of the influence she put into their lives through the teachers she trained, and that web will continue to grow. I can’t imagine BU without BQ; it just won’t feel right. She is in our hearts in our spirit, and she is in all that we are at Belhaven University.”

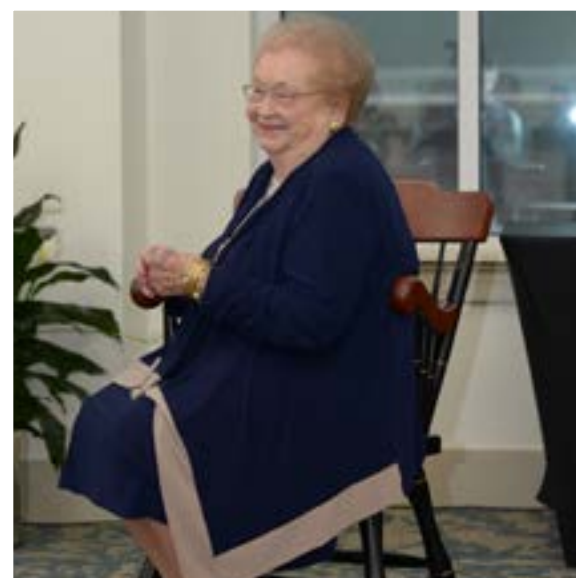
I can’t imagine BU without BQ; it just won’t feel right. She is in our hearts, in our spirit, and she is in all that we are at Belhaven University.

In a memorial video for Bettye, Belhaven University President Dr. Roger Parrott had this to say about her. “I just have this image that in heaven God is going to have this huge screen in front of Bettye, and it is going to open up with the people that she taught and then branches out to the children that those teachers influenced and the families they influenced; there will be this gigantic web of influence because of the dedicated life of Bettye Quinn.”

Just a year before her passing, Dr. Parrott awarded Bettye Quinn an honorary doctorate during the

Associate Professor of Education, she was an adjunct faculty member for Mississippi State University and the University of Mississippi at the R & D Center, where she taught education for ten years.

Since 1955, Bettye has worked at Mississippi Baptist Medical Center’s Emergency Department, volunteering each Christmas Day. Through the years, she earned the title of state president for Alpha Delta Kappa, Mississippi Department of Classroom Teachers, Mississippi Association of College Teachers of Education, and the Association of Childhood



To view the Bettye Quinn Memorial Video scan the code and follow the link.

The Bettye Quinn Memorial

ENDOWED EDUCATION
SCHOLARSHIP FUND

Bettye Quinn's legacy of teaching lives on through the Bettye Quinn Memorial Endowed Education Scholarship Fund. This special scholarship was designed to help students who want to impact future generations through teaching, just like Bettye. Join us in honoring her life through giving to this scholarship.

Gifts are genuinely appreciated and can be accepted online or by mail:



Belhaven University
1500 Peachtree St
Campus Box 158
Jackson, MS 39202
Please write "*Bettye Quinn Memorial*"
in memo.

NATIONAL RECOGNITION



IT WAS A GOOD YEAR FOR BELHAVEN AS THE UNIVERSITY CONTINUED TO RECEIVE ACCOLADES FOR ITS CHRISTIAN ENVIRONMENT, SCHOLASTIC RIGOR, SUPPORT OF THE MILITARY, AND MUCH MORE.

U.S News & World Report

BEST REGIONAL UNIVERSITIES IN THE SOUTH



U.S News & World Report

SOCIAL MOBILITY 2021



U.S News & World Report

BEST UNDERGRADUATE TEACHING FOR REGIONAL UNIVERSITIES 2020





ALL SPORTS all the time

The action-packed Spring of 2021



The spring semester at Belhaven University was certainly unique, but never before have all of Belhaven's 15 intercollegiate sports competed in the same semester.

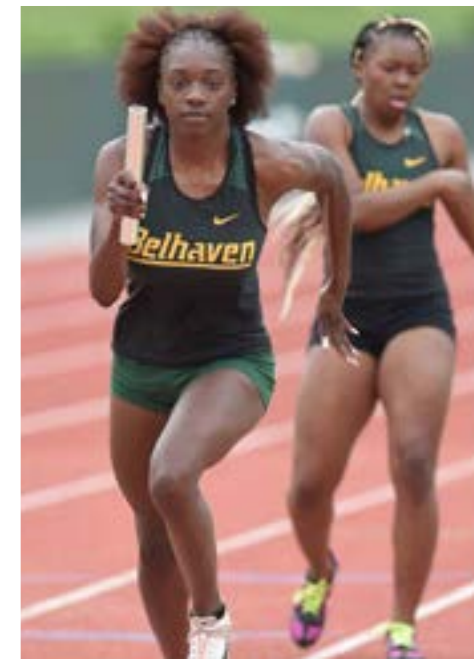
The NCAA's postponement of the fall sports season until the spring gave us spring football, soccer and volleyball, as well as sports which normally compete every spring.

The Blazer football team played a five-game schedule, and picked up their first winning season since 2012 by winning their final three games. Head coach Blaine McCorkle was named the American Southwest Conference's Coach of the Year.

Both men's and women's soccer participated in their respective conference tournaments, with both squads falling in the conference quarterfinal round. The volleyball team ended the season on a four match winning streak, with four players receiving all-conference honors.

Men's and women's basketball showed promise this season, with the men picking up key conference victories over Sul Ross State and Concordia, and the women making the postseason ASC tournament before falling to the nation's second-ranked team.

Golf and tennis squads showed improvement throughout the season and the Belhaven track team boasted conference champions as they hosted the ASC Track and Field Championship for the first time.



To support TEAM GREEN scan the code and follow the link.



COACH OF THE YEAR
Head coach Blaine McCorkle
American Southwest Conference
Football

Baseball got off to a hot start, earning votes in the national rankings and making the ASC postseason in head coach Kyle Palmer's second season at the helm.

The Blazer softball team had a tremendous season, winning the American Southwest Conference to claim the first conference title in any sport in the NCAA era for Belhaven. The Blazers were as highly ranked as No. 6 in the nation and made the school's first appearance in the NCAA Championships. Head Coach Kevin Griffin was the ASC Coach of the Year and sophomore Kennedy Carruth was the ASC's Pitcher of the Year. 🍀



COACH OF THE YEAR
Head Coach Kevin Griffin
American Southwest Conference
Softball



Q&A Worldview

WITH PROVOST DR. BRADFORD SMITH

What is a worldview and why is it such a central focus at Belhaven?

A: Worldview is the framework we build to understand everything we learn, observe or experience. Worldview answers questions like: What is truth and how can we know it? Is there a God? How did the universe get started? How will it end? Why is there evil and suffering in the world? What makes life meaningful? Is there a way to judge what is right or wrong? When I wake up in the morning each day, do the choices I make both for today and the long term matter?

And, of course, really important especially for college students, is the question of vocation: What do I do with the time and talent I have? What is worth working hard for?

We all have a worldview whether we know it or not, whether we have thought about it in a systematic way

or not, and whether we can articulate it or not. Worldview is the incredibly powerful and often hidden influence on how we live and that is why we put such an emphasis on it at the University.

A worldview is like a computer operating system that works behind the scenes and processes all the information it receives. If it's flawed or unreliable, it distorts everything. To open ourselves uncritically to a process of learning--not knowing or evaluating the worldviews lying beneath the ideas being taught is dangerous.

At Belhaven, it all begins with the University's mission: "To prepare students academically and spiritually to serve Christ Jesus in their careers,

in human relationships, and in the world of ideas." Decades ago, the Belhaven leadership recognized that to accomplish this task, students needed to be prepared to apply a Biblically-based Christian worldview to every aspect of their lives and to critically evaluate everything they learn in light of that. That led to a

A worldview is like a computer operating system that works behind the scenes and processes all the information it receives.



purposeful decision to build Christian worldview teaching into every course of every academic discipline.

What makes a worldview Christian and how do students develop a Christian Worldview?

A: At Belhaven, we believe the Holy Bible is the inspired, inerrant, and only infallible, authoritative Word of God, which exercises ultimate authority over the individual, the Church, and human reason. The Bible is the foundational authority for a Christian worldview. Students and faculty in different disciplines may have questions that are particularly important for their Christian worldview. Those in the arts need to develop a Christian worldview that goes deep into what is beauty. Those in health professions need a profound understanding of the human body and the process of healing and wholeness. Those in business need a well-developed understanding of a Biblical view of economics, marketing, and management. The task of each academic department is to clarify the implications of Biblical truth for its particular discipline.

Our goal is that each student who walks across the stage at graduation will be grounded in the truth of the Biblical worldview, and be equipped to further develop that understanding as God leads them towards maturity and deeper exploration.

What are the foundational truths?

A: We believe that "In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth" (Genesis 1:1) and everything he made was very good (Genesis 1:31). Our Dean of Worldview Dr. Tracy Ford has said, "Because we have a creator God, nothing is random, nothing is just the result of a collision of atoms, but instead, this world and its inhabitants reflect the fingerprint of a designer, purposer and lawgiver." That has tremendous implications for students who come here to study. God's keenly interested in it all—the colors on the artist's palette, the cellular structures of the human body, the laws of physics, the dynamics of human mind as we study in psychology and so on. It's all relates to God's creation. This means that God is the author of the universe and that we were created by Him and for Him.

We believe God created us in His image (Genesis 1.26). We also have the ability to create and relate to Him and to one another. He has called us to be His stewards to bring shalom to our world. The Hebrew word "shalom" is often translated "peace" but it means much more. The theologian Cornelius Plantinga, Jr. described shalom as, "the webbing together of God, humans, and all creation in justice, fulfillment, and delight...shalom means universal flourishing, wholeness and delight—a rich state of affairs in which natural needs are satisfied and natural gifts fruitfully employed, a state of affairs that inspires joyful wonder as its Creator and Savior opens doors and welcomes the creatures in whom he

The value of studying differing worldviews



DR. ELIZABETH WILLIFORD ('77)

Dr. Elizabeth Williford, Chair of the Psychology and Social Services Department, explains the benefits of exploring opposing worldviews. "We will take the time to understand a view that is different from ours, as we realize that God created us as unique individuals, in varying cultures and circumstances," said Dr. Williford. "Learning to analyze other worldviews can be beneficial as well, as we do not generally live sheltered lives and will encounter many people whose worldviews differ from our own. Thus, understanding what a person believes can help us understand how a person thinks and relate more effectively to that person."

delights. Shalom, in other words, is the way things ought to be.” But we also believe that humanity has fallen from our state of holiness through the sin of Adam and we continue to reflect this fallen state. While all creation, including humanity, was created in a perfect state of shalom, that was shattered, and we now experience the consequences of a created world that is suffering under the weight of its brokenness. Put simply, life is messed up. Things are not the way they ought to be.

Belhaven prepares students to serve Christ in a broken world. Each academic department is grappling with some consequence of our fallen world and holding firm to a vision for restoration—for shalom. Exercise scientists learn to care for injuries with the goal of restoring wellness. Social workers work with those burdened by social problems with the goal that they and their communities will flourish once again. Those in the arts and humanities through imagination and reflection give us perspective on the

vision of shalom juxtaposed with the reality of living in a broken world. But amidst all of humanity’s rebellion and the brokenness, God sent Jesus Christ to earth on a rescue mission—to live a perfect life, to die on a cross and to be resurrected so that all of creation could be reconciled to God “by making peace through his blood shed on the cross” (Colossians 1:20).

Finally, we believe that there will be a day when Christ will return and inaugurate the new heaven and the new earth and His kingdom will never end. The big story of God’s relationship to the world is one of creation, fallenness, redemption, and reconciliation of all things to God.

In the Book of Genesis, the big story begins in a garden where all of creation is in a state of harmony and universal flourishing—a state of shalom. After the fall of humanity, Christ’s reconciling work on the cross and resurrection lead, as we see in the Book of Revelation, to His return and the restoration of a holy city, again,

with all of creation in a state of harmony and universal flourishing a state of shalom.

Every professor at Belhaven helps their students to see this thread of redemption throughout history. They want students to understand that their story is part of this “Big Story.”

Is it the job of faculty to help students “connect the dots” between these Christian worldview foundations and the student’s particular discipline?

A: Yes, it is. One of the things I am most pleased about with our faculty is their competence and

“Importantly, the Bible is clear that poor health and suffering are not to be assumed to be a result of an individual’s sin; that God allows illness and suffering for His own purposes (Job Chapters 1 & 2, John 9:3). While nurses should educate

patients about the natural consequences of behaviors informed by science, nurses should not make judgments about a patient’s spiritual status based on illness or suffering.”

—ELISE TURNER, M.S.N.
ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF NURSING

What faculty are saying about...

WORLDVIEW?



“The Christian dramaturg (one who helps directors and actors on the interpretation of a play), it seems to me, should look to Jesus as an

example. He told stories, but he always had a purpose to telling the story. There was always a message, a moral, a takeaway that the wise listener would pick up on and apply to his or her own life in meaningful ways.”

—DR. ELISSA SARTWELL
PROFESSOR OF THEATRE



“The study of history encapsulates the struggle of a mankind that was created with a moral understanding to follow God’s will, but

whose subsequent ethical corruption taints our post-Fall existence.”

—DR. SETH PARRY
PROFESSOR OF HISTORY



to be a result of an individual’s sin; that God allows illness and suffering for His own purposes (Job Chapters 1 & 2, John 9:3). While nurses should educate

patients about the natural consequences of behaviors informed by science, nurses should not make judgments about a patient’s spiritual status based on illness or suffering.”

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commitment to guiding students as they explore the particular worldview issues related to their major. Creating a faculty capable of that kind of high level worldview understanding of their discipline is more challenging than it may seem. Secular higher education—the context where many of our highly credentialed faculty received their graduate education—does not generally talk about worldview. A secular perspective is assumed.

While all of our faculty come to Belhaven with great credentials and a strong Christian testimony, they don’t all come with the same level of preparation in how to teach their subject through the lens of a Christian worldview. We see the process of strengthening that ability as an essential faculty development task at the University. Beginning in the interview process, we confirm a faculty candidate’s commitment to engage in that process.

What does that process look like?

A: Every four years in our tenure and promotion process, faculty are reflecting on their own worldview development, discovering new questions that need exploration and finding effective ways to teach Christian worldview to their students.

Belhaven’s faculty colleagues, academic leadership, President and Board of Trustees are all involved in maintaining the fidelity of Christian worldview integration in the classroom.

As part of the initial tenure process, faculty are required to write a scholarly paper answering the following questions.

1. What are the theoretical assumptions of current secular scholarship in your academic discipline?
2. What are the methodological assumptions (research and practice) of current secular scholarship in your academic discipline?
3. What are the appropriate and relevant biblical assumptions for this discipline?
4. How do these biblical assumptions compare and contrast with the secular presuppositions mentioned above?
5. How have you integrated and incorporated what you have concluded regarding the amount of agreement (if any) between these secular and biblical assumptions to your students in the classroom?

6. Where will your personal reading, thinking, and research lead you over the next four years to show that you can (1) clearly distinguish or harmonize biblical and secular assumptions that are foundational to your academic discipline and (2) reveal more effectively to your students in the classroom what you have concluded regarding the relationship between these secular and biblical assumptions?

Faculty then appear before Belhaven’s Promotion and Tenure Council made up of faculty elected by their peers and respective deans. Candidates who are recommended by the provost to the president and approved then meet. Faculty applying for tenure meet with the Belhaven Board of Trustees Academic Affairs Committee where they are invited to discuss their papers and answer questions before being finally confirmed by the board of trustees.

Have you found that students value the Worldview emphasis?

A: Yes. Generation Z (people born between 1995-2010) who make up most of Belhaven’s traditional student body, are intensely interested in the big questions of life. The well-known McKinsey & Company consulting firm goes as far as to say that the search for truth is at the root of all Generation Z’s behavior. Belhaven’s longstanding emphasis on worldview and Gen Z’s yearning for truth and significance are a perfect match.

And, our Belhaven students and alumni agree. David Simpson ’19, describes how the worldview

EMBRACING TRADIGITAL

curriculum bolstered his spiritual walk with God in a new way. “God is the God of everything, including education,” said Simpson. “Worldview studies helped me to connect the dots between theology and practical living.”

Corina Cater '18 said she was thoroughly immersed in Belhaven's worldview curriculum which took on a new significance for her. Cater noted, “As I encountered new experiences and challenges in my college years, Belhaven's worldview curriculum met me with hope, wisdom, and depth: from learning how better to articulate my faith as it compares to other religions in freshmen courses to a course devoted to preparing me for what comes after college in my senior year (from marriage to finances). I can say with certainty that Belhaven's worldview curriculum prepared me to confront life with grace, understanding, and steadfast trust in God.”

Would you like to add anything else?

A: One of the great privileges of being provost is getting to read the name and major of each student who graduates. This year, that was 1,789 students. As they made their way on the stage and their families cheered, it was a moving experience for me. Not only are they leaving Belhaven with new skills and knowledge—they're going out into the world with a biblical understanding of God's plan—the Big Story and how they can be a part of it. 🍀

Belhaven University's academic offerings continue to grow with the new Bachelor of Arts in Tradigital Studies. “Belhaven is among some of the first universities to offer this unique integration of practical and foundational work in visual art and graphic design,” said Jon Micah Tyson, co-chair of Belhaven's Art and Design Department.

Tradigital is art and design that incorporates traditional and digital processes in the creation of a work. Students who graduate with a tradigital degree transition into careers as art directors, graphic designers, web designers, branding and visual strategists, printing technicians, and production artists.

Professor Tyson said, “It's a degree that is built on reliable and healthy approaches to authentic art-making processes, and gives the student the ability to understand those processes in light of technologies' role in the creative space.”

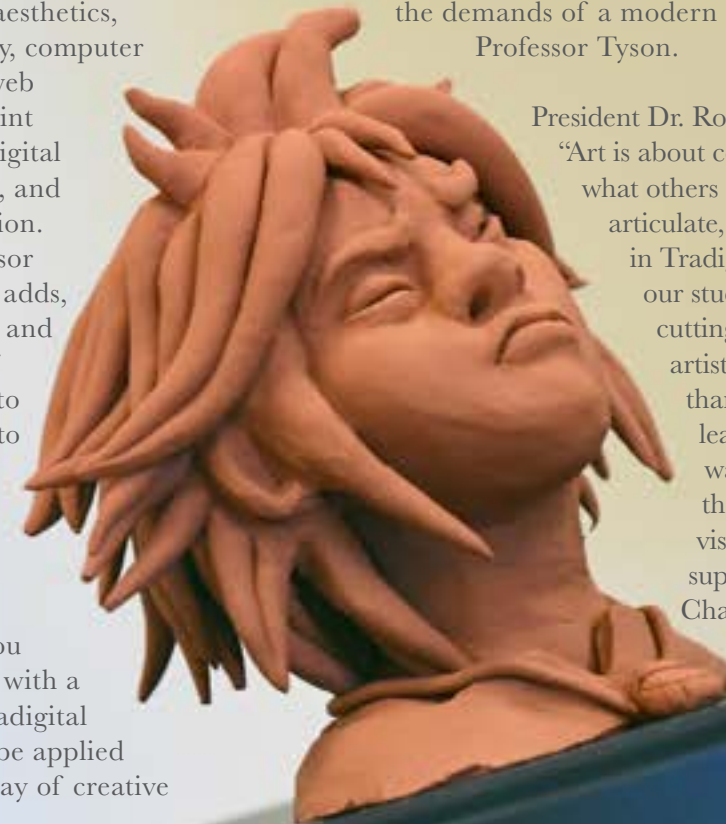
Students in the tradigital program will study drawing, design, art history, aesthetics, photography, computer graphics, web design, print design, digital imaging, and animation.

Professor Tyson adds, “The artists and designers of today need to be exposed to current and emerging technology and processes. The skills you will acquire with a degree in tradigital studies can be applied to a vast array of creative careers.”

Belhaven University already has a long history of artistic and technical excellence, and according to Jon Micah Tyson, the new program will prepare students for a demanding, tech-driven industry.

“Traditional mediums, foundational design methodology, digital processes, and the latest modern technology all mix beautifully together to expand a creatives' toolbox and skill set to fit the demands of a modern marketplace,” said Professor Tyson.

President Dr. Roger Parrott added, “Art is about communicating what others cannot envision or articulate, and this new focus in Tradigital Art will prepare our students to excel on the cutting edge of today's artistic expression. I'm thankful for this unique learning environment was made possible by the forward-thinking vision and long-term support of Kate and Charles Irby.” 🍀





TRACK & FIELD

Home for student athletes and new facility brings exciting competitions to campus

Construction of the Belhaven University Track and Field is now complete, and student athletes can now train and compete on the state-of-the-art, eight-lane track complex. Located on the north side of campus, the new facility extends from the Bitsy Irby building to the Belhaven Lake.

Vice President for University Enrollment and Marketing Dr. Kevin Russell said, “The completion of the new track and field opens up many more opportunities for our student athletes. When you combine our new facilities with our well-known academic reputation you create a great option for serious competitors. We look forward to watching our track, field, and cross-country programs benefit and grow!”

The track has a synthetic all-weather running surface, similar to those of past Olympic games. Belhaven Blazers can now compete in 21 collegiate track and field events. Sprints, hurdles, steeple chase, middle and long-distance races, relays, long jump, triple jump, high jump, and pole-vault will take place on campus. Belhaven’s Softball complex on Riverside Drive will accommodate other field events that include discus, hammer, and javelin throw as well as combined events such as decathlons and heptathlons.

“Constructing a track from the ground up is a huge undertaking,” said LaRon Bennett Jr., Director of Track and Field/Cross Country. “There are so many moving parts that all have timing windows: from surveying of the land, to



LARON BENNETT JR.

the digging of the area, to filling back in the dirt and lime, to letting that set for weeks, to pouring and leveling asphalt and letting that set, then to pouring and leveling of the rubber track surface, to striping and marking of the surface. To note, all of these were dependent on the weather cooperating.”

A number of unforeseen obstacles changed the completion date and caused multiple delays. “Our challenges completing the track were wet weather and soil, which are no surprise for us in Central Mississippi,” said Vice President and Director of Athletics Scott Little. “While it did take longer than we planned, we are all very pleased with the outcome. The team is excited about using the new facility, and that is what makes me the happiest. Even our students who aren’t student-athletes get to use the facility, so it enhances campus life for everyone.”

Little explained they would rather not start a sport without the facilities to support it, but that decision proved beneficial. Several of Belhaven’s student-athletes have already posted nationally ranked times and distances in their indoor season which began in January.

Belhaven’s track and field is a top facility and because of its uniqueness, it is a premier location for hosting state, district,

and national meets for both high schools and colleges. In fact, Belhaven University hosted the American Southwest Conference (ASC) Track and Field Championships April 29 - May 1. In total, the Blazers won four events and had three conference champions. Ben Adams (Javelin), QuoShane Kelly (Discus), and Kelton Kemp (110 Hurdles and 400 Hurdles). Kemp and Kelly became ASC Champions for Belhaven on the final day of the Championships.

Belhaven’s first official home track and field event was April 16-17 and hosted a number of colleges and universities from the surrounding area. 🍀



GRADUATION Celebration

Spring of 2020 and 2021

This year's commencement ceremony was different from years' past. In May of 2020, the COVID-19 pandemic was sweeping through the U.S., leaving a long list of cancellations in its path. One of those being the Belhaven Graduation Ceremony for the Class of 2020. While they did enjoy a virtual ceremony, they could not enjoy the usual pomp and circumstance that surrounds graduation.

At the time, Belhaven University President Dr. Roger Parrott invited the Class of 2020 back next year to take part in a proper graduation celebration.

After much planning, the University was ready to host one of its biggest graduation ceremonies. A total of 745 students from both the Class of 2020 and the Class of 2021 celebrated an in-person graduation at the Mississippi Coliseum on Saturday, May 1, 2021.

Even with the CDC's ease of restrictions for large gatherings, the University still took every precaution to keep attendees and graduates safe. The new venue at the Mississippi Coliseum had ample space to host a large attendance. Even though families of graduates could only attend, Belhaven still had to produce three different ceremonies to accommodate the number of graduates. The day of graduation included three different ceremonies for traditional, adult, online, and graduate students that took place at 9

a.m., 2 p.m., and 7 p.m. During the ceremony, each graduate was given ample time to celebrate and walk across the stage after receiving their diplomas.

For families and friends who were unable to attend, the University livestreamed the event on its Facebook and YouTube pages. This was the first time Belhaven has ever livestreamed graduation, and within two days, over 30,000 people had viewed the ceremonies.

Belhaven University President Dr. Roger Parrott was the commencement speaker this year. Dr. Parrott is one of America's most experienced presidents - serving over 33 years. He earned his Ph.D. from the University of Maryland in Higher Education Administration. Dr. Parrott is a third-generation College president and was one of America's youngest college presidents first elected at age 34. He has served on various boards and was Chair of the 2004 Forum for World Evangelization hosted by the Lausanne Committee for World Evangelization. Dr. Parrott is the author of "The Longview: Lasting Strategies for Rising Leaders." His newest book will be released in January 2022, "Opportunity Leadership: How To Stop Planning And Start Getting Results." His wife, MaryLou, earned her Ph.D. in English and teaches at Belhaven, specializing in Shakespeare and classical literature. They have two adult children who graduated from Belhaven. 🍷



2020 was a challenging year for many colleges and universities. As the country braced for the worst, Belhaven University was making plans to not only endure, but thrive during COVID-19.

The pandemic began to impact Mississippi in March of 2020. As a result, the Belhaven campus closed to the public, students were sent home, and faculty and staff transitioned to working from home. Many left, not knowing when they might return.

While many educational institutions struggled with a transition to an online-only format, Belhaven was in an advantageous position, with a long-established online program. Every academic department had its challenges, but they found creative ways to engage students. The theatre department used a streaming service to broadcast their plays and dance majors could be found on Zoom video-calls, practicing choreography with their professors. No matter the academic department, Belhaven professors met with confidence the challenges of teaching and delivered expert instruction in the midst of a pandemic.

Chapel moved to an online format, and this yielded a very diverse group of speakers from around the world. Athletic competitions were put on hold, campus life and arts events were canceled, and Belhaven's May 2020 graduation was even affected by COVID-19.

After a semester of online learning, the leadership at Belhaven were eager

to bring back students and faculty to the campus. The question was how to make it safe for everyone to return. Officials at Belhaven outlined common practices, called The Belhaven Promise, to keep students, faculty, and staff safe. This guideline provided both an offensive and defensive strategy and included:



FACE—Wear a mask over both mouth and nose. Wear inside if others are present during class (exceptions include meals and residence hall rooms).

SPACE—Keep a social distance all the time.

WASH—Frequently use soap and water or sanitizer.

WIDEN—Avoid close contact on or off campus.

CHECK—Monitor fever over 100.4, dry coughing, or difficulty breathing.

REST—Avoid class and being around others if you are sick.

QUARANTINE—Isolate if you have been exposed or contracted COVID-19.

VACCINE—Get the recommended (not required) free flu vaccine this fall.

Belhaven University President Dr. Roger Parrott said, “It is critical for our safety that we agreed to these precautionary boundaries, and continue to hold these standards because of our commitment to love each other in Christ.”

The University community all needed to be unified in fighting COVID-19, and clear communication was a key factor to ensuring a safe return. Staff members made several videos, released emails and posted social media content and news stories, giving students the correct guidelines. Visual reminders accompanied this messaging. A cut-out of a masked Blazer man could be seen all throughout campus, reminding students to wash their hands and wear a mask. A six-foot long sword and shield were carried around by student leadership during move-in-day to remind new students to keep socially distanced. Blazer dots were put on floors for social distancing in lines and places that might anticipate crowds.

In a matter of weeks, the University made significant progress in returning to normalcy and keeping its students on campus.

This progress would take a major leap in the coming weeks, as an important announcement was on the horizon.

On December 16, 2020, the University announced the construction of its own COVID-19 testing center to track asymptomatic students, faculty, and staff. Professors in the chemistry and biology departments expanded their roles to coordinate, test, and conduct lab work for thousands in the Belhaven University community every week.

BLAZERS

RESPOND TO COVID-19

WHILE SOME COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES ARE STRUGGLING TO RECRUIT AND RETAIN STUDENTS, BELHAVEN RECENTLY HAD ONE OF ITS STRONGEST YEARS FOR ENROLLMENT.





“With thanks to our many donors, our testing center helped us get the best out of a tough situation, and we have seen the tremendous impact it has on protecting the University,” said Dr. Parrott. Many colleges and universities were not testing students, and many had to close their on-campus classes and activities. Research from Dr. Deborah Birx, former White House Corona virus Coordinator, showed that colleges who did not conduct asymptomatic testing showed a 15% or greater infection rate. Those who conducted asymptomatic testing had less than a 1% infection rate.

Belhaven was the only university in Mississippi to build a dedicated COVID-19 testing center. “We are a complete asymptomatic surveillance testing facility,” said Dr. Shelley Smith, Assistant to the President for corona virus management and assistant chemistry professor. Every day, hundreds of students, faculty and staff were tested using saliva samples. Those samples were then tested in the University lab and the results were produced within hours. Testing will resume when students return for the August 2021 semester.

“This testing center is important to Belhaven University because our professors want to teach classes on campus, our students want to attend classes in person, and our staff want to be on campus working,” said Smith. “To make that happen, we need to test everyone on campus and on a weekly basis to prevent the spread of COVID-19.”

Belhaven began building the testing center in November and began testing in January 2021. Students said

they have already seen the benefits of having it on campus. “It allowed us to be on campus and go to classes without having to resort to online learning,” said Clare Bishop, who was a student worker at the testing center. Bishop recently graduated and was accepted into the University of Mississippi Medical Center School of Medicine. She believed the testing center offered her early experience in her future career field. “I want to become a doctor and this experience was great for me. It gave me an advantage in a world that I otherwise wouldn’t have experience in at this point,” Bishop expressed.

The University knew that the challenges were overwhelming for students. From masks and social distancing to smaller audiences for events and postponed sports, COVID-19 put many limitations on the typical Belhaven campus experience.

Belhaven was the only university in America giving free masters’ degrees to traditional students who enrolled that semester. The scholarship was for freshmen, transfers, and all returning students who enrolled for the fall 2020 semester’s traditional campus program. “In the midst of COVID-19, we could not operate in normal ways

and expect a good outcome,” said Dr. Parrott. “College should be the best years of your life. This was not the year our students planned when they first dreamed about going to college. A free master’s degree was our way of helping our students push through these hard adjustments, in order to succeed at an even higher level educationally.”

Belhaven’s use of creative solutions during the pandemic has kept students enrolled, while giving students support, both financially and educationally.

While some colleges and universities are struggling to recruit and retain students, Belhaven recently had one of its strongest years for enrollment. At the peak of Fall 2021, the University had 4,846 students. This is the highest enrollment in Belhaven’s history.

Other schools have had to endure tough faculty and staff reductions. According to the Chronicle, “Since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, higher education has suffered its greatest job losses on record.” At the beginning of the pandemic, Dr. Parrott communicated the desire to do everything possible to save every job—and he did.

“Even during this time of COVID-19, we reached our highest enrollment in history,” said Dr. Parrott. “Higher education is going to change dramatically after COVID-19, and Belhaven is positioned to be on the frontline of innovation. The future is already looking incredibly bright at Belhaven University.” 🍀



ANNIE

A safe place where students can bridge between the clinical lab and the hospital.

Alumna and nurse Mary (Walt) Minor ’78 gifted Belhaven’s School of Nursing a high-tech manikin that will give students an unique learning experience and advantage in their education.

Annie the robot is a moderate fidelity manikin, designed specifically for student nurse training. She breaths, has heart and lung sounds, has blood pressure and electrical signals in her heart, and sits unsupported on the side of the bed. Low tech manikins work well for practicing many nursing skills, but the advantage of Annie is much more lifelike and responds as a human would. She can mimic a realistic clinical event in a realistic clinical setting.

Professor and Dean of the School of Nursing Dr. Amy Rex-Smith said, “We will be incorporating Annie to enrich our experiences, as we already use low fidelity simulation and real patients at clinical sites. Annie will augment this by giving us a safe place where students can bridge between the clinical lab and the hospital.”

Minor was interested in making a significant contribution to help the Belhaven School of Nursing. When she found out that the University had a simulation room and it had been empty, she generously offered to fill the bed with Annie.

“We plan on beginning to use her in the Fall 2021 semester,” stated Dr. Rex-Smith. “Annie will provide a way for nurses to practice their skills without hurting real people. The

students can get the needed experience before they ever do the procedure on a real patient. We also plan to set up scenarios so that the students can practice collecting actual real time data to then make clinical decisions based on the analysis of the information.”

“This is a game changer for Belhaven’s School of Nursing,” stated Belhaven University President Dr. Roger Parrott. “We are so proud of how far the program has come in such a short period of time. Our reputation is remarkable with the hospitals and our students not only get jobs, but they get top-level specialty jobs. Most of them are getting two or three offers when they graduate. The hospitals are seeking them out not just for the level of our nursing education, but because of their strong Christian commitment and desire to serve.”

Mary Minor considered her time at Belhaven as a time of healing that opened her eyes to beauty and good in God’s world and in His people as well as a time of educational excellence. She remembers with fondness professors such as Dr. Wilson and Mr. Chamblin. “Being able to give back to Belhaven I find deeply satisfying and one of the best things I have ever done,” said Mary.

Dr. Parrott adds, “A huge thanks to Mary for her generosity in making this enhancement to our School of Nursing. It will pay eternal benefits and lifesaving benefits in this world.” 🍀

Campus News

ANGIE THOMAS SURPRISES FULL-RIDE WRITERS SCHOLARSHIP WINNER ON ZOOM

New York Times best-selling author Angie Thomas surprised an unsuspecting creative writing student with a full-ride scholarship to her alma mater Belhaven University.



During a pre-planned Zoom meeting, Thomas suddenly appeared on screen to deliver the good news to a shocked Andrea Foreman.

Foreman, from Wilmington, Delaware, was selected as the winner of the Angie Thomas Writers Scholarship for her writing submissions. "Reading Andrea's writing was truly a joy," said Angie. "She is a gifted writer, and I have no doubt that she will impact others with her gift."

Chair and Professor of Creative Writing Dr. Randall Smith said,

"Andrea demonstrated the qualities we look for in an Angie Thomas Writer's Scholarship candidate: passion for writing, a distinct voice, the ability to realize complex and nuanced characters on the page, and gutsy determination to pursue creative transparency."

The scholarship was designed to help young aspiring writers who need the extra support to make their dreams of authorship a reality. "Let's face it – the financial burden of college is a huge obstacle for so many young people; it was one for me," observed Angie. "By giving Andrea this scholarship, she will be able to focus more on her studies and writing, which will allow her gift to thrive."

Foreman is the second student to win the scholarship, which covers tuition and room & board at the University for four years. "Honestly, I'm so excited!" said Andrea. "It's a dream come true to win a full-ride scholarship and attend a university dedicated to creative writing." The Angie Thomas Scholarship is awarded to only one incoming freshman each year, but other applicants received partial scholarships.

The scholarship was named in honor of Belhaven University alumna Angie Thomas '11, author of New York Times best-selling novels "Concrete Rose," "On the Come Up," and "The Hate U Give." "The Hate U Give" was developed into a major motion picture, and Thomas is also working as a producer on the film version of "On the Come Up."

"It means the world to me to have a scholarship in my honor and to know that Belhaven has this level of pride for me," said Angie. "Even more than that, it's incredible to know that this award will play a huge role in a young writer's life. That alone is an honor."

THE SHOW MUST GO ON

The Belhaven Theatre Department has learned how to pivot while many other shows and plays, even Broadway, are on pause during the COVID-19 pandemic. The past fall 2020 and spring 2021 season brought many challenges, but Belhaven's Theatre Department found creative ways to safely showcase the hard work and talent of its students. The University stepped into new territory with streaming services and video production to share their plays, not just locally, but around the world. "As it became clear to us that the pandemic was not going away, we at Belhaven Theatre determined that we would not let COVID-19 keep us from telling stories and learning our craft," said Dr. Elissa Sartwell, chair of the Belhaven University Theatre

Department. "We are not willing to sit on the sidelines while others 'figure out' what theatre will look like in a post-COVID world. Our students



PHOTOGRAPHY: CANA DITTY

will shape the future of theatre, and it is our job to empower them for that charge."

The first play to utilize the method of streaming was *Check, Please!*, and audience members could watch the play via Broadway on Demand. *Check, Please!* took a playful look at the pitfalls and peculiarities of blind dating, set against the backdrop of Zoom dating during a pandemic. The theatre department also utilized the University's YouTube channel to stream and record plays such as *The Bear*.

The final production of the fall semester, *The Spoon River Project*, featured a larger cast and even included singing. Dr. Sartwell adds, "Through careful use of masks, staggered rehearsals, and lots of hand-washing, we were able to film this play with multiple cameras and

multiple takes." The final edited version of *The Spoon River Project* streamed November 11-14 on Broadway on Demand.

"It's not been easy to do theatre during a pandemic, but our faculty and students are problem solvers," observed Dr. Sartwell. "We're resilient, and we've learned a great deal about stories and story-telling as we've had to modify our typical processes to provide for the safety of our students, faculty, staff, and community members. We are excited that our shows can be viewed by family and friends who don't live close to Jackson. Anybody in the world can watch our fall shows this semester."

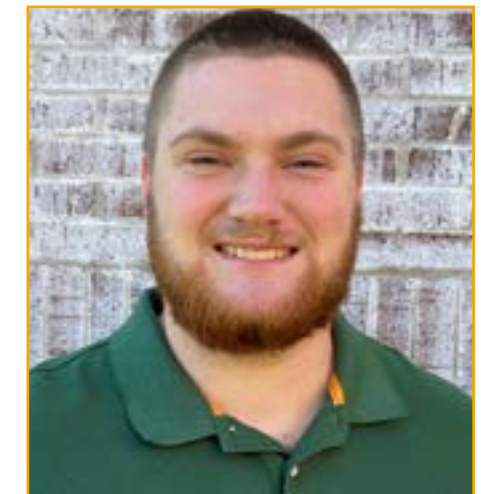
BLAZER SELECTED TO REPRESENT ALL MISSISSIPPI STUDENT CHAPTERS ON HEALTHCARE BOARD

Mississippi's American College of Healthcare Executives (ACHE) selected health administration major Cole Gaddy to serve on its board of directors. He is the first Belhaven University representative to take this prestigious role and will represent all student chapters from Mississippi's colleges and universities.

"Being selected is truly a blessing," said Mr. Gaddy, "When I was offered the position, I had no words; all I could do was call my dad and thank God." Cole will be the student voice on the board as they plan professional and educational activities for members and student associate members in Mississippi. "I want to be a great advocate for all of the student

members in the state," added Mr. Gaddy. "I hope that in this role I will be able to grow my leadership skills and meet some amazing leaders that I can learn from."

"Cole is an outstanding student and athlete," said Dr. Susan Duett, Belhaven's Director of Health Administration, Supply Chain Management, and Associate



Professor. "This opportunity will strengthen Cole's leadership skills and challenge him with new professional contacts, mentors, and friends in healthcare administration. As a member of the board, he will develop relationships with executives who can guide him to achieve his professional goals."

To be considered for this role, students must be enrolled in a healthcare administration program, have a vested interest in health care administration, and demonstrate the potential to be a leader in this industry. A student representative is a non-voting board position representing the interests and views of local college and university students enrolled in one of the accredited programs that make up the

ACHE Higher Education Network. Cole will work face-to-face with CEOs all over the state and his professional goal is to eventually become a CEO of a children's hospital. Duett adds, "He recently met with the CEO of the Children's Hospital of Mississippi and is already making significant connections that will benefit all of our student chapters. I'm sure that Cole will be a valuable asset in his role on the ACHE board."

BELHAVEN UNIVERSITY NAMES NEW VICE PRESIDENT FOR STUDENT DEVELOPMENT



Belhaven University has appointed Dr. Shelley Smith to Vice President for Student Development. Since being named Assistant to the President for Corona Virus Management on December 1, 2020, Smith has made an enormous impact on the Belhaven University campus, earning the respect of her peers. The University initially

hired her for a short-term position because of her scientific expertise as a Ph.D. in chemistry and her project management experience in industry.

Those skills have allowed Belhaven to test the entire campus weekly for COVID-19, keeping the infection rate below half percent for the semester. Belhaven University President Dr. Roger Parrott said, "During this time, Shelley has displayed exceptional administrative gifts, organizational outlook, problem-solving ingenuity, and community-building commitment, along with steady optimism, boundless faith in Christ, high-capacity energy, warm collegiality with campus faculty and staff, and deep care for individual students."

Smith will report directly to the President and will serve as a member of the administrative team. She will continue to oversee Belhaven's COVID-19 Testing Center as well. Dr. Parrott adds, "Looking past COVID, I am charging Shelley with the priority of helping us to deepen community on campus. I've asked her to focus on facilitating a robust culture of quality relationships and individual care that will strengthen residential and commuter students. This is an especially vital challenge in a post-pandemic world that has trained us to become too dependent on technology for personal connections."

Smith will be responsible for residence life, student leadership, student organizations, chapel administration, orientation, student activities, campus ministries, counseling services, mental health support programming, judicial management, dining services, residential crisis management, and international student services.

She earned her B.S. and M.C.S. in chemistry from Mississippi College, and completed post-graduate classes at The University of Southern Mississippi. Smith earned her Ph.D. in Theoretical and Quantum Chemistry at Jackson State University.

For 22 years, Smith has taught in high schools, community colleges, and universities in Mississippi. Before coming to Belhaven University, Smith was the Research and Insights Technical Development Projects Manager and Product Regulations Supervisor at Ergon Inc. From 2014-2019, she taught chemistry and biochemistry as an associate professor at Mississippi College. She taught at Copiah-Lincoln Community College as an instructor of organic and inorganic chemistry from 2003-2014.

Smith is deeply involved in her church, Topeka Baptist (Topeka, Mississippi). She is the pianist, discipleship training teacher, and prayer text ministry director. She plays the piano, organ, flute, and piccolo. She also sings with her siblings in a gospel quartet, "The Smith's," and "The Bridge Band."

UNIVERSITY INTRODUCES NEW DEGREES

TRADITIONAL

Belhaven University is now offering three high-demand, skill-focused majors through a partnership with an innovative nationwide consortium of over 75 colleges and universities. Students can now earn degrees in actuary science, sales management, and supply chain management.

The University partnered with Rize, a higher education company

that works with the Lower Cost Models for Independent Colleges (LCMC) consortium. Rize/LCMC allows member institutions to adopt high-demand majors, minors, and certificates that get students ready for careers in the fastest-growing fields.

Belhaven students will still enjoy the traditional college experience and have a strong Christian worldview dimension through courses taught by Belhaven faculty. Depending on which degree students pursue, they will take two or three virtual classes through Rize's industry experts.

ADULT AND GRADUATE

Belhaven University is now offering the Master of Public Administration (MPA) with Finance Concentration for students who want careers in public and government finance.

This degree program equips graduates for increased leadership and management responsibilities within government agencies. The program also enhances knowledge, skills, and abilities of public sector professionals and serves other students who desire careers in public and non-profit organizations.

Dr. Brenda Redfern, assistant professor and Belhaven's Director of Public Administration, said, "A solid understanding of governmental financing is important regardless of the public position a person may hold. Every public servant -- from the laborer to the manager to the agency head -- is required to work within the constraints of governmental funding and rules."

ONLINE

Belhaven Online is offering an

MBA with a Project Management Concentration for students who want to advance in their business careers.

"Project management is one of the fastest growing career fields according to the Project Management Institute," said School of Business Dean Dr. Chip Mason. "Project managers are an important part of any organization. They help set goals, identify measures of success and encourage teams to accomplish tasks that advance their organization. It requires teamwork, technical knowledge, and a commitment to go beyond customer expectations. This new concentration is a natural fit for the servant leadership emphasis in the Belhaven University School of Business."

NEW 3/2 ENGINEERING PROGRAM WITH MSU AND UM

Students in Belhaven University's School of Science and Mathematics can now study engineering through a unique dual degree program with the University of Mississippi (UM) and Mississippi State University (MSU).

The UM's School of Engineering and MSU's Bagley College of Engineering partnered with Belhaven University's School of Science and Mathematics to provide an academically robust program that benefits all three institutions.

Dr. John Estes, Belhaven University's Yerger Chair of Mathematics and Director of Engineering Partnerships, said, "By joining our resources, we will be able to generate more STEM

majors—a distinct need of the state of Mississippi. Our partnership will serve to benefit both universities, our region and state," Estes said.

"We are proud to offer students the benefits of both a Christian liberal arts university like Belhaven and research institutions like MSU and UM," Estes said. "Our students will have the opportunity to get hands-on mentorship, a solid foundation in science and technology, and interaction with engineering professionals at Belhaven and specialized courses, research, and connections with industry at our partnering institutions.

The partnership offers students an opportunity to simultaneously earn a degree in biology, business, chemistry, mathematics or physics from Belhaven, a private, Christian liberal arts college in Jackson, and an engineering degree from UM or MSU. The dual degree program does not guarantee students will earn two degrees, as each student must fulfill the degree requirements for each university to earn its degree

In the fall of 2020, the first two engineering students engaged in this partnership finished their time at Belhaven and transitioned to Phase II at Mississippi State. One earned a co-op spot with Eaton Aerospace, and the other earned a paid internship with University Mississippi Medical Center. 🍀



To contribute to campus activities like these, scan the code and visit the link.

Alumni News

1960

ANNIE HUIE NEWMAN (1962) welcomed her great-grandsons, Rowan and William Cochran. They are also the grandsons of Molly Newman McManus (1988) and hopefully future Blazers!



LARRY KLINE (1968) published *Grace Survivor* in 2019. Larry is married to Rose Dickens Kline and resides in Wheeling, WV. His book is available on Amazon.

1970

SHANE ETTER (1978) left corporate life after suffering from a stroke. Shane picked up writing to exercise his brain and has become a prolific author. Shane was nominated for 2020 Georgia Author of the Year. His most recent book is "World of Rage" and will soon complete his next work, *The Prosaist and the Unholy Ghost*.

1980

MARTIN (MARTY) LABRARREARE CARR (1980) husband Jim passed away January 4th 2020. In June of 2020 Marty moved from Peoria, IL to New Orleans, LA.

MIKE KHANDJIAN (1980) recently published his first book, *A Sometimes Stumbling Life* and is in the early stages of writing his second. He and Katherine (1982) have lived in Maryland, in the Baltimore suburbs, since 2006, where Mike has been the pastor of Chapelgate Presbyterian Church. Katherine has taught Elementary Music for over 35 years. She built a major music ministry in Tallahassee, FL, from the ground floor - up. And, she sang the soprano lead in Handel's Messiah in Miami in an annual city event.

JOSEPH PARKER (1981) has two recently published books – *A Pastor's Notes : God Calls the Church to Stand Boldly For Life* and a novel – *The Intercession Chronicles*. Joseph is currently pastor of Bethlehem A.M.E. Church in Winona, MS and is on staff with American Family Association serving as host of the radio broadcast THE HOUR OF INTERCESSION.

TERESA GARAFALO (1982) and her husband moved to Jefferson, NC in 2018. In 2020 Teresa celebrated 36 years with Wells Fargo Bank.

CURTIS CAYLOR (1983) retired in 2016 after 33 years teaching middle school. **DEBORAH (ZAMORA) CAYLOR ('89)**, retired as Associate Treasurer of Washington & Lee University after 32 years. They are now helping to take care of four grandchildren.

MAXIE GORDON (1983) opened the Gordon Medical Arts Clinic (GMAC) in Clinton, MS. GMAC provides comprehensive mental and physical health services, ranging from psychiatry to internal medicine.

DANNY EWERT (1984) recently completed a nineteen year career with Cardinal Health where he was the COO of Chemistry and Pharmaceutical operations working with a focus on nuclear medicine. He has joined Gordon Medical Arts Clinic as its Chief Operations Officer. He and his wife live in Brandon, MS and enjoy regularly participating in mission trips serving with But God Ministries work in Haiti.

BILL WILSON (1984) finished up three years as artist in residence at the Mississippi's Governor's Mansion with the publication of *The Mississippi Governor's Mansion – Memories of the People's Home* which he co-produced with Governor Phil Bryant. Check out his series of artist interviews – TheArtThropologist on Youtube.

MARTY HUDDLESTON (1988) is a PCA deacon. He and his wife Beth live in Sevierville, TN and are long-term members of Evergreen PCA. They are the parents of four grown children — Megan, Andrew (and wife Ashley), Rachel (and husband Craig), and Sarah. Marty wrapped up his career with EDS and after a period of running his own logistics and property management businesses has joined Mission to North America's Disaster Response Team full time in October 2018 as Logistics Specialist.

1990

WADE HINTON (1993) accepted the position of Assistant Secretary of State, External Affairs for the state of Mississippi June 2020. He and his wife Sondra reside in Southaven, MS with their three children.

My Belhaven Sisters

BY RUTH WIBLE BREWBAKER
BFA in Art (1988)

In August, 1984, a crowd of families pulled into the parking lot of Caldwell Hall, the freshmen girl's dorm at Belhaven College, unloading all the belongings needed for their daughters or sisters that first year away from home. The first person I met was Diana Smith, my roommate and first friend at Belhaven. As Diana and I became more acquainted, we soon found our room filled with new friends from our second floor hall. Mary Beth Bryan and Lisa Hibbard, who was all the way from Delaware, were among them. Others we would soon meet were Amy Nettles, Lisa Headley, and Christy Walsh.

My mother had told me on the 250 mile drive from my home in Montgomery, AL that I would meet people with whom I would be friends for the rest of my life. How right she was. Nearly 36 years after first getting to know one another at Belhaven, eleven of us stay in contact with each other on a daily basis. Joining us after our freshman year were Connie Babington Wilson, Vicki Endris Moorehead, Shelley Webb Fenton and Ginger Stevens Monette. With the exception of Connie and me, none of us live in the same city. We are now from Florida, Alabama, North Carolina, South Carolina, Mississippi, Tennessee, and even Colorado.

Belhaven is the place we learned to navigate some of the challenges of the world in a safe, grace-filled

environment. We were encouraged and taught biblical truth by wonderful teachers and staff. We learned to lean on one another through times of difficulty and come along side each other in times of joy. When it was time to graduate and leave, we had a longing for the times when we might share just a bit of the love and laughter we enjoyed so much from our bond that began at Belhaven.

Our group has been blessed to continue our friendships through a yearly Girls Lake Weekend. Central to that time together is our "Prayer and Share Time". Technology has allowed us to continue this time of sharing throughout the year and even to add a new member to the group, Christy Walsh Goodwill. Our communication has made the progression from email to social media just as our relationships have made the journey through our lives' many changes. It is hard to believe what we have all been through since those days of wearing our Tri-B green and gold, being in the Singing Christmas Tree, performing in Coffeehouse and enjoying dances in the dining hall.

One of the greatest gifts this group provides is the opportunity to walk through adversity together. New Year's Eve 2003 saw Craig Bernard hospitalized and clinging to life. The doctors gave him no hope of surviving pancreatitis. Several of us

were able to travel to Columbus, MS to be with Mary Beth and the family. By God's grace and the tenacity of Mary Beth, Craig survived and was airlifted to UAB ICU to ring in the New Year. What a blessing to witness his miraculous healing and continued ministry.

Jesus says in John 16:33 that in Him we have peace. In the world there is tribulation, but to take heart because He has overcome the world. It has been an incredible gift to see each one of these dear friends cling to this promise in their own lives, growing in their walk with Him no matter the circumstances. When one is going through a difficulty others are quick to offer a word of hope, share a verse of truth from scripture, or add a "Minion" meme if the mood calls for it.

One of our greatest triumphs was being able to surprise Vicki Endris Moorehead at the 2019 Belhaven



Alumni Awards in November. She received the STEM Distinction Award. We are so very proud of her. What

an honor to know these incredible women. I am so very thankful that God moved me to attend Belhaven all those years ago. 🌟

BRIAN BENN AWARDED FOR SKILL AND WORK WITH COMMUNITY



Belhaven University alum Brian Benn ('18) is using his expertise in technology to serve others and was recently honored for his skill and selfless work.

Brian won the prestigious Atlanta Technology Professional of the Year award for his work as senior vice president and chief information officer at the Atlanta Housing Authority, the largest housing authority in Georgia and one of the largest in the nation.

This state-level award recognized Mr. Benn for leadership, innovation, collaboration, and community involvement. He accepted the award at the Atlanta Technology Professionals Awards Gala 2020 on November 19, 2020.

“It is always an honor and a blessing to be recognized by colleagues and peers who have a profound understanding of the work that we do. It is especially exciting to have the opportunity to not only be a technology evangelist, but specifically to garner attention for our commitment to digital inclusion for all of our residents.”

Brian Benn earned his MBA with Belhaven University in May of 2018 and has worked for the Atlanta Housing Authority since 2012. He has been integral to the development and implementation of technology strategies that ultimately support 25,000 households and 55,000 residents in Atlanta. The housing authority provides and facilitates affordable housing resources for low-income households.

He is responsible for any and all technical projects as well as the agency's security programs in a number of departments within the Atlanta Housing Authority. The scope of Brian's job is broad and directly impacts his community in Atlanta. Much of his work with residents is educating them on digital technologies that can ultimately benefit his community.

“We have an added focus and intentionality specific to directly and positively impacting our residents (and our Atlanta community as a whole) by seeking to bridge the digital divide,” said Brian. “We have developed specific initiatives and strategies to ensure that digital inclusion and digital transformation extend to our 55,000 residents.”

Brian added, “I love the opportunity to be a servant leader - growing and empowering others, setting them up for success, and helping them to maximize their God-given potential individually and collectively.”

JOHNATHAN ARNOLD (1995) is headmaster of Covenant Christian Academy and recently completed the merger of CCA and Community Christian School of Canton, GA. He and Gretchen (1997) have been involved in Christian Education since 2001. Johnathan is thankful for the help of new board member Ron McKinney (1967)!

JOHNATHAN C. SMITH (1996) was recognized as Teacher of the Year, Paulding County Schools, GA. He and Allison live in Dallas, GA with their two daughters.

JOSH DEAR (1998) Recently contributed a chapter to the book titled *Amazing Love! How Can It Be: Studies on Hymns* by Charles Wesley, (for the first several weeks following its release), it was ranked as the #1 new release in the “Christian Hymns and Hymnals” category! Josh, his wife Karen and their three children reside in Muskegon, MI where he was called to pastor Grace Bible Church in September, 2020.

DAN MARKS (1998) formerly Chief Marketing Officer at Hancock Whitney became Partner and Executive Vice President at Infusion Marketing Group in Sept. 2020. He and Katie moved their family from the MS Gulf Coast back to Smyrna, GA in 2020.

2000
ERIN FULTS (2005) recently added to her multiple credentials the Certified Business Coach designation. Erin is the Owner of Acorn Studios and enjoys providing tools and services that help leaders to grow their companies with confidence and impact their communities for good.

TYLER AND HELEN HOGAN (2008) reside in Dover, DE with their five children (ages 3–12). Tyler is the President and CEO of Bright Ideas Press, which publishes geography, history, science, and humanities



curriculum for homeschoolers and private schools. Tyler is the author of *Demystifying Learning Styles*, and *North Star Geography*, as well as the atlas software WonderMaps, and the game designer of Civitas: The Government Card Game. He also speaks internationally on homeschooling, education, the arts, entrepreneurship, and worldview. They are active at Grace Church (PCA), where Tyler serves as a ruling elder. Helen is a set designer for a local theatre ministry, and homeschools their kids.

CAMERON ACHORD (2009) spent his playing days at Belhaven University as a four year starter at safety. After coaching at Southern Miss and Southwest Mississippi, he joined the five time Super Bowl Champion New England Patriots staff in 2018 as an assistant special teams coach. Achord is in his fourth season with the Patriots, and in 2020, was promoted to special teams coordinator.

2010
MICHAL CHRISTIAN HARVEY (2010) completed her M.Ed in Organizational Leadership and Communication from Belmont



University in 2019. She married Dr. Benton Harvey in October of 2019. She now resides in Nashville, TN.

JOSEPH



NELMS (2014) AND CHADWICK HARMAN (2014) just produced their first feature film. You can follow them on Instagram [BTS@asrealasyoumakeit](#). They will soon begin scouting for their next feature and have exciting news about location and partnerships!

CHISAKO SUZUKI (2014) was married on March 14, 2020 to Hajime Kato. They make their home in Kawaskai, Japan.



To submit alumni updates for the next Tartan Magazine, scan the code and follow the link.

In Memoriam

The Passing of Belhaven Alumni and Friends

TINA WILLIAMS ('05, '08)
January 3, 2020

JOHN WALKER ('93)
January 10, 2020

LINDA TRUESDALE ('04)
January 13, 2020

CECILIA BROOKS DIXON ('76)
January 28, 2020

CAROL HOWIE ALLEN ('57)
January 28, 2020

BETTY RAWLINSON HUFFSTUTLER ('49)
January 30, 2020

CAROLYN ALDRIDGE DELORIO ('64)
February 8, 2020

MATTHEW DAVIS ('19)
February 12, 2020

WILLIAM MOSAL ('59)
February 26, 2020

MELANIE DICKSON MANNING ('98)
March 3, 2020

JULIAN ROSA ('69)
March 10, 2020

CAROLYN ANDERSON TYSON ('79)
March 13, 2020

MICHAEL SMIDDY ('87)
March 17, 2020

ANNE MITCHELL BLALACK ('78)
March 18, 2020

BETTY BERGLAND MOSAL ('59)
April 6, 2020

MACK ROBINSON ('04)
April 6, 2020

STELLA LITTLETON HILLSMAN ('58)
April 15, 2020

SUE STOCKETT NICHOLAS ('50)
April 24, 2020

LEONARD THOMPSON ('09)
May 2, 2020

BETTY QUEEN LONG ('50)
May 3, 2020

SUE THIGPEN LUCASS ('64)
May 5, 2020

LAURIN WELCH HUME ('65)
May 7, 2020

JAMES MANNER ('72)
May 17, 2020

BETTYE QUINN ('58)
June 6, 2020

RUTH FORTER MCGUIRE ('51)
June 7, 2020

MARCIA HUFF DEBARY ('61)
June 16, 2020

PATRICIA THOMAS ('00)
June 18, 2020

JANE DEARING KEARNEY ('58)
June 21, 2020

MARY ANDREWS WILKINSON ('47)
June 22, 2020

ROBERT GATES ('79)
June 29, 2020

JAMES JOINER ('04)
July 15, 2020

KAREN CONERLY SINGLETON ('67)
July 17, 2020

MARY BURNETT SIMS ('48)
August 12, 2020

MARY KAYE HOLMES MCPHAIL ('80)
August 21, 2020

RON HILL ('10)
August 31, 2020

KAREN LYLESS ('91)
August 31, 2020

ANNETTE HAWKINS BALNICKY ('60)
September 9, 2020

PAULINE COLLEY RAMSEY ('40)
September 14, 2020

PEGGY PATTERSON SKATTEBO ('78)
September 16, 2020

LADYE CARPENTER FREITAG ('41)
September 21, 2020

ANNE OWEN BASKIN ('54)
September 22, 2020

BESSIE FISHER CHISUM ('54)
September 29, 2020



BESSIE LEONA FISHER CHISUM MUSIC STUDIO

given by Bessie Leona Fisher Chisum in memory of her mother, Mary Lula Dean Fisher, and her aunts, Rebekah E. Dean and Dora Dean Pennington. Bessie attended

Belhaven in 1964 and 1965 and went on to finish her degree at the University of Mississippi.

ROSA JAMES WALKER ('47)
October 11, 2020

NATHAN RIBELIN ('03)
October 12, 2020

CHRIS HERSHFELT ('67)
October 13, 2020

FAY SPRUILL DAVIDSON ('58)
October 26, 2020

LENORA MATHEWS ('16)
November 6, 2020

EVA DAVIS HORNER ('43)
November 8, 2020

PEGGY ROBERTS LITTLE ('61)
November 12, 2020

LOYCE CAIN MCKENZIE ('55)
November 20, 2020

HILDA COEN HUDLIN ('42)
November 22, 2020

ELIZABETH GILES BUFFINGTON ('63)
December 2, 2020

STELLA NEIGHBORS ALLEN ('63)
December 6, 2020

SHERRY MEADOWS ('77)
December 8, 2020

DORIS MCABEE BATTE ('50)
December 12, 2020

LINDA RUSSELL LINDSEY ('02)
December 14, 2020

NANCY STEINERT MCCAUL ('58)
December 19, 2020

SUZANNE PAUL ('55)
December 20, 2020

FREDERICK MILLS ('06)
December 21, 2020

LISA FRENCH TAYLOR ('93)
December 26, 2020

RONALD HIEBER ('67)
December 27, 2020

JOHN WHITTEN ('70)
December 29, 2020

OLLIE WALKER PETTIS ('46)
December 31, 2020

Estate Planning: I don't know how to start or who to trust

Trustworthiness is a highly prized asset in today's world. We want to be trustworthy in the important things God has given us. That's why we have prayerfully and thoughtfully engaged with PhilanthroCorp. They share our common desire to help families define the legacy they desire for their family and God's kingdom. They are trusted advisors in creating wills and trusts and will help you each step of the way.

Since 1997, PhilanthroCorp has been helping Christian families think through issues of stewardship and estate planning from a Biblical worldview. PhilanthroCorp will help you discern the important relationships and resources you have and recommend the tools that are most effective to ensure your family is cared for and that you leave the legacy you desire.

The process begins by conducting a phone interview where PhilanthroCorp asks questions to learn your story, including your wishes and hopes for future generations. PhilanthroCorp then provides tools that can guide you to legacy decisions within the privacy of your home. Based on those decisions, PhilanthroCorp will design a plan that can be implemented by your advisors, or by an attorney in their network, at reduced rates. The services of PhilanthroCorp are free to you and there is no obligation.

Whether you feel your estate is large or small, PhilanthroCorp can help you create or update your plan. Get started by calling Susan Wylie at PhilanthroCorp at 800-876-7958 ext. 2125.

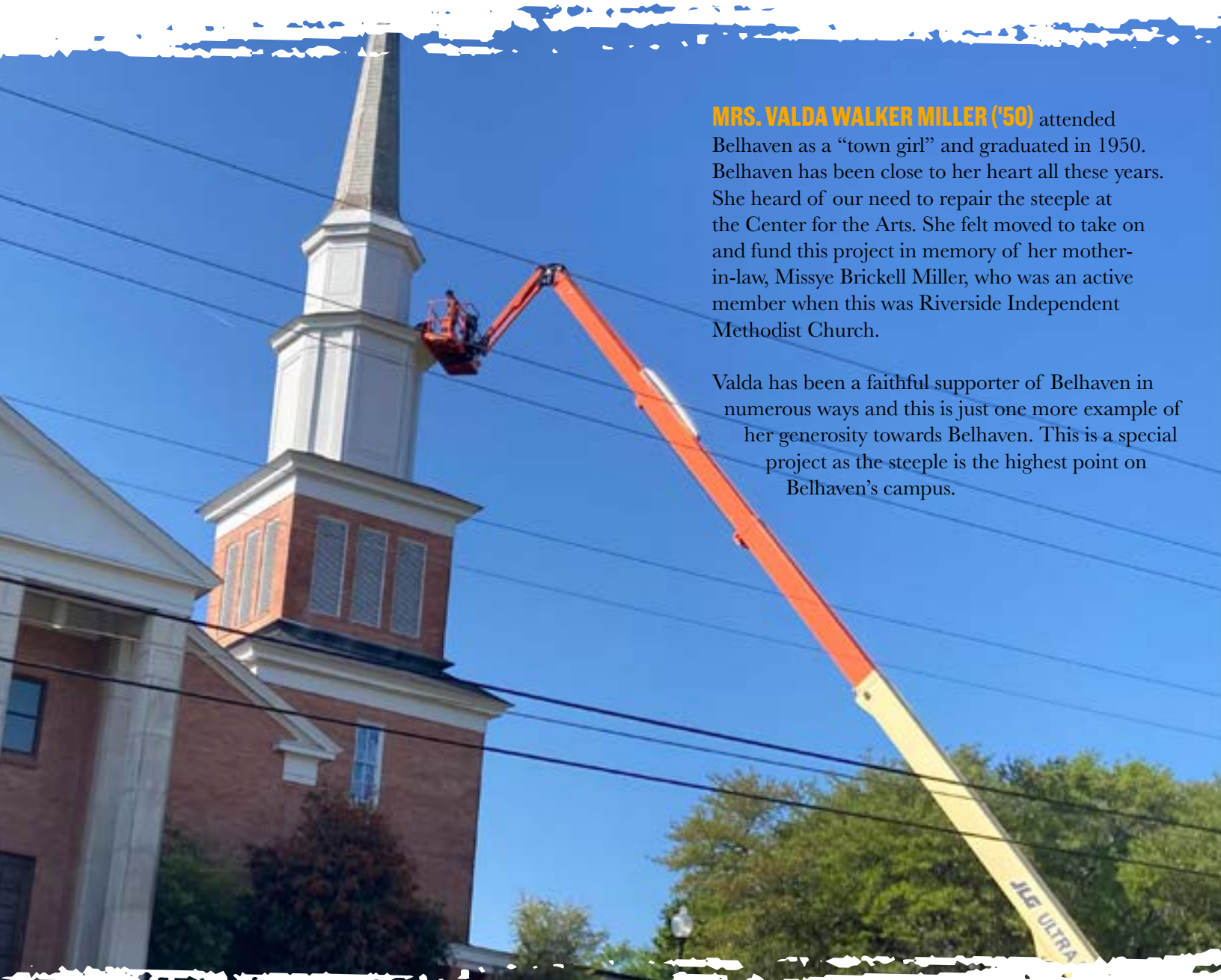


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MRS. VALDA WALKER MILLER ('50) attended Belhaven as a “town girl” and graduated in 1950. Belhaven has been close to her heart all these years. She heard of our need to repair the steeple at the Center for the Arts. She felt moved to take on and fund this project in memory of her mother-in-law, Missye Brickell Miller, who was an active member when this was Riverside Independent Methodist Church.

Valda has been a faithful supporter of Belhaven in numerous ways and this is just one more example of her generosity towards Belhaven. This is a special project as the steeple is the highest point on Belhaven’s campus.

FOR MORE ON THE WAYS TO GIVE TO BELHAVEN VISIT: WWW.BELHAVEN.EDU/GIVING