

The cover features a background of stylized, overlapping hands in green, purple, red, and orange. A torch is held in the center, with its flame represented by a green and yellow shape. The text 'SBUlife' is prominently displayed at the top, with 'SBU' in purple and 'life' in white. Below it, the magazine's title and issue information are provided. The main title 'Paying it Forward' is written in a large, white, cursive font across the middle. A quote about alumni mentoring is on the right, and a list of featured content is on the bottom left. The SBU seal is in the top right corner.

# SBUlife

Magazine of Southwest Baptist University Winter 2017



## Paying it Forward

*Inspired by the faculty from whom they learned, SBU alumni carry the torch by mentoring generations to follow*

### **INSIDE:**

2016

PRESIDENT'S

REPORT

# » Be Social

Read what students are sharing about SBU.



Happy Holidays from the SBU Tennis Teams #christmas #tennis #colleg-  
etennis #sbuniv #beatcatroar  
[via @sbu\_mw\_tennis on Instagram]

I graduate for the last time on Thurs-  
day night. Is this real life?! I'm

so ready and excited! #BSN #SBUniv

Writing in C. Pat Taylor for President. Every-  
one will get a hug and a smile and I don't  
see anything wrong with that. #sbuniv @  
charamagdalene



Tears, paint, and Photoshop  
somehow magically turned into  
a degree in Commercial Art with  
emphasis in Graphic Design  
#sbuniv #graduation #degree  
[via @jordanti23 on Instagram]



from friends to family before we knew it  
#highergroundsbu #sbuniv  
[via @oh\_please17 on Instagram]

Check out **"The Hub"** – Southwest Baptist University's social media mash-up site showcasing what people are saying about SBU online. Go to **social.SBUniv.edu** to see Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, YouTube and news release postings all in one place.

And be sure to use **#SBUniv** when you post about SBU on social media and you may see your post featured on "The Hub" as well!

Be social with SBU on Twitter, Facebook, and Instagram. **#SBUniv**



Paying it Forward	2
5 Questions with Robbie Bryant	4
Guess Who?	22
Keeping in Touch	23
SBU News	24

## 2016 PRESIDENT'S REPORT

# 5

Volume 102 Issue 1  
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# Paying it Fo

*Inspired by the faculty from whom they learned, SBU alumni carry the torch by mentoring generations to follow*



By Denise Elson Tucker '89

The mission of Southwest Baptist University is to prepare students to be servant leaders in a global society – a mission our faculty take to heart.

“My job is to show my students how it is done, model my passion genuinely each day, then push them to be all that God called them to be,” said Dr. Julie Bryant, associate professor of education.

That passion is ignited in all students at SBU as the groundwork is laid while they work toward their degrees and future careers, some of which include working with, and inspiring, youth and children.

“The interaction students have with faculty is extremely important to us here; something that we strongly value,” said Dr. Lee Skinkle, SBU provost. “The student-faculty interaction is a key component of the time that (students) will spend at SBU.”

And it is through these interactions that those relationships are nurtured.

“As I spend the couple of years I have with my students, I model for them how to teach, infusing my love of literacy into my own teaching,” Bryant said. “I hope my enthusiasm is contagious enough that it becomes a part of who they are in their own classrooms. I allow my students opportunities to practice teaching while I support them through feedback, additional modeling and encouragement.

“It does not take long, and they are ready. At this point, I pray for them, ask God to bless them, and then send them off to be the teachers they are called to be for Him.”

Bryant was instrumental in fostering a love for teaching for Clara Maloy '09, and “a desire to do

so with excellence.”

“Dr. Bryant was excited and passionate,” Maloy said. “She came in each day with a smile on her face, and it was then that I realized that is what truly sets the tone for the time you are with those students.”

Maloy has carried that with her in her teaching career, most currently at Central Christian School in St. Louis.

“My education at Southwest Baptist University was instrumental in my drive for excellence and my desire to pass that drive on to my fourth-graders,” Maloy said.

The impact a professor has on a student also applies in other areas of study such as youth ministry and psychology.

“Theology has to do with the way we see God and the world in relation to God,” said Dr. Don Denton, professor of theology. “The way we see these things shapes the way we live in the world. So, teaching these things can impact students as they come to see God and the world in new ways.”

And when students go out into the world, the mission continues beyond graduation. SBU alumni who work with students and youth inspire them to a higher purpose in life.

For those SBU alumni, the path to shaping the next generation – and beyond – wasn’t a plan, but a calling.

Betsy Anderson '07 is the program director at Vera Lloyd Presbyterian Family Services in southeast Arkansas, and much of the work she now does was shaped and nurtured by the faculty who taught her while pursuing her degrees in youth ministry and psychology with a counseling minor at SBU.

“My counseling minor was really instrumental



# Forward

➤ Alumni share their stories on pages 9-20.

in my development and growth during college and ultimately, God's preparation for what I had no idea I would do someday," Anderson said. "Dr. Richard Brewer and Bill Walkup were the heartbeat of all of that for me. They gave us so much more than a bachelor's level degree in counseling.

"My ministry classes also gave me a great foundation of servant leadership, which influences my work every day. Dr. Duke Jones and Dr. Mike Fuhrman were critical examples for me."

Equipping students is a key component to their growth, Jones says.

"There is a difference between teaching what is ideal versus what is real," Jones said. "I share my mistakes in ministry, so students will not make the same mistakes," Jones said. "I have a strong desire to equip students, which involves opportunities to participate in Kingdom building."

Rob Whitten '92 came to SBU feeling a call to do something with youth, and his time at SBU "helped crystallize what that would entail."

Whitten, the Chief Culture Officer for Cornerstones of Care, a child welfare organization based in Kansas City, worked closely with Dr. Kevin Schriver, while pursuing his psychology degree.

"I had Dr. Schriver for a number of classes in my major," said Whitten, who also holds a degree in music from SBU. "He was incredibly instrumental in helping me think about what came after graduation."

And based on Schriver's guidance, Whitten went on to graduate school where Schriver earned his master's at the University of Central Missouri.

"I have always been mindful of my role in influencing students, not just in the world of academics, but also as they prepare for life," said Schriver, dean of the College of Education and Social Sciences, "certainly in the realm of the professions of psychology, counseling, and the social services in general. I think, therefore, my purpose in the

classroom is not just convey the topic and content so that a student can just pass the test, but really utilize examples, perhaps ones I have experienced directly, so they can see it in real life."

That guidance is felt even years after the student has graduated, as Darren Sutton '91 can attest.

"Not only did SBU and Ms. (Betty Jo) Mulberry (former professor of religious education) prepare me for student ministry, but I found seminary (six years after graduation) to be a snap because they so thoroughly prepared me for ministry," Sutton said.

And preparation is part of what drives SBU's mission: "SBU

is a Christ-centered, caring academic community preparing students to be servant leaders in a global society."

"As a professor at SBU, it is my privilege and ministry to guide students as they develop knowledge and skills to excel in their chosen field and in life," Walkup said. "It is an honor to guide them as they become the person God created them to be, just as my professors at SBU did for me."

"I believe SBU's strength and future will be built on the fact that we are, and continue to focus

on, being more 'Mentor U' than 'Cyber U.'"

What keeps professors invested in SBU and the generations to come?

"I believe in it," Bryant said. "SBU made me the teacher I am today. I want to pour into my students the way my professors poured into me. God has given me a place I get to use my calling to equip future teachers in a way that I also get to share His love on a daily basis. I pray for God's blessings and favor to rest upon this place both now and in the years to come.

"Many students have received a God-honoring education at SBU, and I pray that many more will come here for that same blessing. I am delighted to be part of such an amazing heritage." ■

“ It is an honor to guide them as they become the person God created them to be, just as my professors at SBU did for me.”

**-Bill Walkup**  
*Assistant Professor of Psychology*

# 5

# Questions with **Robbie Bryant**



*In each issue of SBULife magazine, we interview one of our staff members so you can meet the people who help make SBU a Christ-centered, caring academic community.*

*Last December, Robbie Bryant received the SBU Life Beautiful Award, an honor given annually to employees – one faculty member and one staff member – who exemplify a “life beautiful.” He has worked in SBU’s Physical Plant for 14 years and currently serves as the MEP maintenance supervisor.*

## **As an employee of SBU’s Physical Plant, what are your responsibilities?**

My responsibilities are overseeing the mechanical, electrical and plumbing maintenance on campus. I work with a great team of people to accomplish these tasks.

## **What is your favorite aspect of your job?**

My favorite aspect of this job is easily the people I get to work with each day. I also like the challenge of this job in that no two days are alike. I am challenged physically, mentally, and even spiritually each day.

## **What are your hobbies – or something people might not know about you?**

People may not know I am in a Bluegrass band. I play banjo, bass, guitar and mandolin. I am blessed to be able to share this hobby with my son, who plays fiddle in our band. My wife swore she would never marry a Bluegrass musician, but God, with His great sense of humor, gave her the blessings of a husband and son who are just that! Additionally, I really enjoy going in our travel trailer to go camping with the family. My

daughter is one of my little camping buddies. We make the most of the camper fun any time we can.

## **What do you think makes SBU unique?**

SBU is unique in the fact that it is the best place I’ve ever worked! It is a rare place to work where if you have need of prayer, students, faculty, and staff across campus and our extensions, stand in agreement and lift you up in prayer. We are blessed indeed!

## **How has God been working in your life?**

Looking back at my life, God has always been at work. However, more recently, He has truly made His mercy evident to me. On August 25, 2016, I was diagnosed with Stage IV prostate cancer that had spread to two places in my pelvis and a place on my sternum. God, in His love, has revealed to me His healing power. He has shown me how to stand still and let Him move. Standing still is one of the hardest things I’ve ever had to do in my life. Yet, God can do His best work when we get out of the way. God is performing a miracle in my body, healing me of cancer, and I will ring that bell claiming no evidence of disease, in Jesus’ name!



# 2016 PRESIDENT'S REPORT

*Featuring:*

A WORD FROM THE PRESIDENT

SBU FACTS AND FIGURES

HONOR ROLL OF DONORS

SBU ALUMNI CARRY THE TORCH BY MENTORING CHILDREN AND YOUTH



# DEAR ALUMNI, FRIENDS AND DONORS,

I am reminded daily that the greatest asset of SBU is its people — those who represent Christ and carry out the mission of preparing students to be servant leaders in a global society.

We send about 300 students on 25 global projects each year, taking the message of Christ around the world. It is also important to share that message of hope and love right here in Bolivar, Mo., and wherever our graduates' careers take them.

This issue of SBULife features alumni who, through a variety of careers, have a positive influence on today's children and youth, our next generation of leaders. These alumni are passing on the life lessons they received from faculty and staff while at SBU.

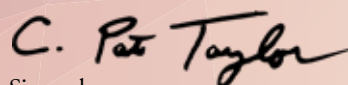
While we are able to feature just a few of our graduates in this section, I know that the SBU influence is far-reaching through thousands of SBU graduates.

As you read these stories, I hope that you will be encouraged that there is hope for the broken world in which we live. I hope that you are reminded of professors and staff who spent time with you and have had an impact on your life. I hope that you will take a moment to reflect on how God used your time at SBU to help shape you intellectually and spiritually.

In order for SBU to continue to be successful in providing our students quality Christ-centered education, the University must continue to update and expand our learning spaces to provide the best learning environment possible. To this end, the University completed three major renovation and construction projects recently:

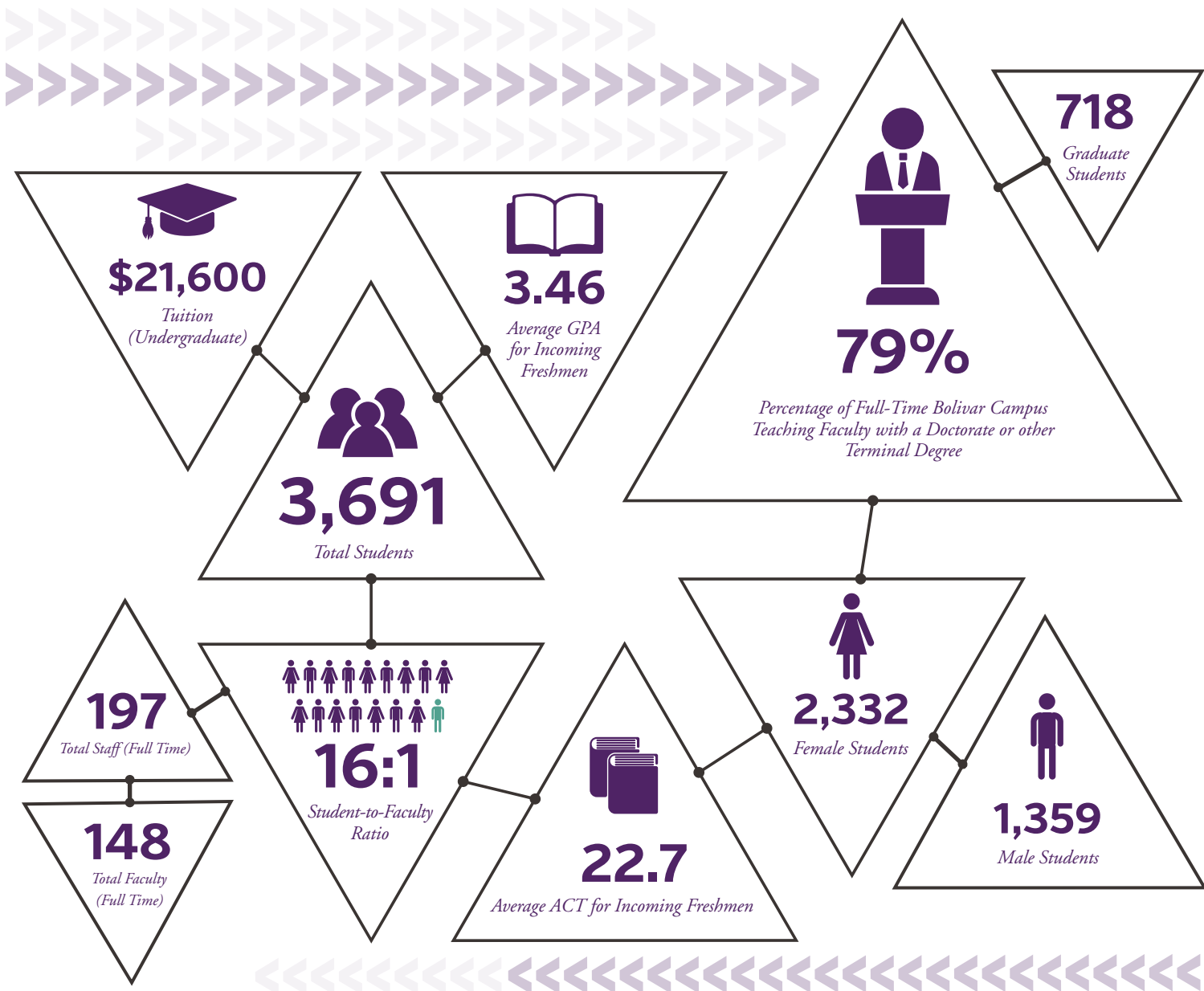
- Renovation and expansion of the Gene Taylor National Free Enterprise Center is completed. Students, faculty and staff are excited about new collaborative learning spaces, both in classrooms and in smaller student study areas.
- The Judy Taylor Physical Therapy Garden and physical therapy faculty clinic were completed in recent months. Through this clinic, our students will be better prepared for clinical experiences, and community members will benefit from services received at the pro bono clinic. The garden is a touching tribute to Judy, who certainly would have appreciated the beauty of the garden, but even more so the purpose — to assist patients with gait difficulties by incorporating a variety of terrains, ramps and walking paths.
- On our Springfield campus, we added a second building, the Nurse Training Center, that includes a state-of-the-art simulation lab and learning resource center. The facility is among the best in the state. It also houses additional office space, meeting space and classroom space for our growing healthcare programs.

Thank you for your support of these projects. Indeed, the greatest asset of Southwest Baptist University is its people — and that includes you, our alumni and donors. Thank you for your continued prayers and support for SBU's Christ-centered, caring academic community.



Sincerely,  
C. Pat Taylor





## BUDGET FIGURES

### Revenue Budget

	2016-17 Final Budget	
Tuition & Fees	\$45,227,210	80.14%
Missouri Baptist Convention	\$1,175,000	2.08%
Other Undesignated Gifting	\$717,275	1.27%
Investment Earnings	\$315,330	0.56%
Financial Aid Revenue	\$1,154,811	2.05%
Miscellaneous Revenue	\$497,495	0.88%
Auxiliary Enterprise Revenue	\$7,344,879	13.02%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$56,432,000</b>	<b>100.00%</b>

### Expense Summary

#### Educational and General

Total Instructional and Departmental	\$15,696,344	27.81%
Organized Activities	\$3,228,666	5.72%
Total Library	\$1,327,043	2.35%
Total Student Services	\$3,089,512	5.47%
Total Operation/Maintenance of Plant	\$3,137,311	5.56%
Total Administration	\$1,844,810	3.27%
Staff Benefits	\$1,181,517	2.09%
Total General Institutional	\$2,988,929	5.30%
Total Student Aid	\$18,166,408	32.19%
Debt Retirement	\$750,490	1.33%
Contingency	\$468,112	0.83%
<b>Total Educational and General</b>	<b>\$51,879,142</b>	<b>91.93%</b>
<b>Total Auxiliary Enterprises</b>	<b>\$4,552,858</b>	<b>8.07%</b>
<b>TOTAL EXPENSE BUDGET</b>	<b>\$56,432,000</b>	<b>100.00%</b>

# Annual Gift Clubs

## Heritage Society

### \$50,000 and Above

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The Late Mr. Gilbert F. Beutler  
Dr. and Mrs. Charles Chaney Estate  
Ruth Heyenbrock Estate  
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## *Leah Allen Capps '85*

Minister of Family Equipping  
 Second Baptist Church, Springfield, Mo.

By Denise Elson Tucker '89

Leah Capps loves teaching.

For six years, she taught second grade in the Ozark, Mo., school district, and taught for a total of 13 years, after receiving her degree in elementary education from SBU in 1985.

"I love seeing a child accomplish a hard task and then see what they have achieved," Capps said.

But something changed in 2002. Capps sensed that God had other plans for her.

"I felt a restlessness that I was supposed to be willing to step out and be ready for something to change in my career," Capps said. "When Dr. (John) Marshall – pastor of Second Baptist Church in Springfield, Mo. – called and asked me to meet with him to consider coming on staff at Second, I had a peace that this is what God had been preparing me for.

"But I was scared. My husband, Allen, was far more convinced that I could do this than I was."

Capps first joined the Second Baptist staff as Minister of Preschool Education and served in that capacity for 13½ years before becoming Minister of Family Equipping – a role she has been in for 1½ years.

Now Capps loves helping and teaching families.

"My desire is to make the time that these young children are at church, worth it for both them and their parents," Capps said. "The spiritual development of families is a hot topic right now. If we can help a parent feel equipped in their marriage, parenting skills, spiritual development, finances, etc., the entire family wins.

"I get to know them when they are embarking on their parenting journey," Capps said. "Their desire to be the parents God created them to be looks different for each family.

"I love developing a relationship with the child as well as the parent. I try to be available to the parents; to answer questions, to encourage them on a hard day, to pray with them when the struggles they are facing are hard, and to laugh with them. My team strives to develop programs that meet the needs of families."

Capps discovered her path under the direction of Dr. Twila Smith and Dr. Don Allen.

"They both worked to get to know their students," Capps said. "They knew strengths as well as weaknesses. They taught me that teaching is about showing your students that they can do anything – they just have to discover their path."



## Rob Whitten '92

### Chief Culture Officer Cornerstones of Care, Kansas City, Mo.

By Denise Elson Tucker '89

Before Rob Whitten became Chief Culture Officer for Cornerstones of Care, he began as a therapist at the company he has been part of for almost 20 years.

Whitten provided individual, family and group therapy to adolescent males with emotional and behavioral challenges, and over time moved into roles as clinical director, vice president of operations and eventually, CCO.

Whitten, who earned degrees in psychology and music at SBU, says it's important to find something you are passionate about and that you find meaningful.

"As much as I enjoy my current role, I also value the years I spent as a therapist working one-on-one with kids and families," Whitten said. "That work provided an incredibly strong foundation on which I built the work I am doing today."

In Whitten's position with Cornerstones of Care, he is in charge of setting the cultural and clinical course of an organization of more than 900 employees who daily work with hundreds of children.

"Some of that effort is preventive – working to strengthen young families with parenting skills and other resources," Whitten said. "For others, the work is about restoration and healing – helping families through times of crisis and assisting in putting the pieces back together."

The work always has been, and continues to be, rewarding for Whitten. His current role allows him to significantly shape the work of the organization, which serves close to 12,000 children and families per year.

"Every day I get to see children, youth, and young adults working through past trauma and other challenges," Whitten said. "I get to see children, who have been removed from their homes due to behaviors, return to their families. I get to see children without families get adopted. I get to see older youth – who by all intents and purposes, should fail – instead, graduate high school or work toward college or a vocation.

"Watching this constant growth and change is amazing."

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## Betsy Bryan Anderson '07

Program Director, Vera Lloyd Presbyterian Family Services, Arkansas

By Denise Elson Tucker '89

Six years ago, Betsy Anderson and her husband, Michael, left full-time church ministry to answer the call to be houseparents.

After graduating from SBU in 2007 with degrees in youth ministry and psychology, with a counseling minor, Betsy became the associate youth director at First Covenant Church in Salina, Kan. She served there for almost four years before she and her husband moved to southeast Arkansas.

Betsy started work at Vera Lloyd Presbyterian Family Services, where she served as a case manager and supervisor. The Andersons were in the process of becoming foster parents when they learned about houseparenting.

"We realized we could be devoting our whole life pouring into these kids, which had been a growing burden on both of our hearts for some time, without having to juggle full-time jobs and foster parenting," Anderson said.

In Anderson's work at the faith-based children's home, she serves many children in foster care, as well as youth in the juvenile justice system. She and her husband serve on the leadership team as volunteers for a state-wide non-profit – The Call – that recruits, trains and supports foster and adoptive parents.

She also works with overlooked youth in the schools, churches and communities of southeast Arkansas who have "been dealt cards no one ever should have to face."

"By providing intentional, therapeutic intervention for the trauma and a loving, structured support system, we hope they will be 'first generationers' of a different story," Anderson said, "whether it's the first to graduate from high school, attend/complete college, attain a full-time job, cultivate healthy relationships void of abuse. The list goes on of all the life change that is possible for these kids and their current and future families."

Her work through Vera Lloyd may be "on the complete other end of the spectrum (of a church vocation)," but much of what she does is the same at the core.

"As houseparents, we had the opportunity to truly empty ourselves daily for the sake of reaching the kids," Anderson said. "So many of the hundreds of girls we had in our home are living more peaceful, whole and fulfilling lives today – several of them have experienced the love of Jesus in a life-changing way."

"Some of our girls are parents now, and it's really rewarding to see them being this loving, nurturing parent that they themselves never had – breaking the cycles and chains."

# Annual Corporate Foundation Gift Clubs

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Fred C. & Katherine B. Andersen Foundation, Bayport, Minn.  
Hagan Scholarship Foundation, Columbia, Mo.  
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Missouri Baptist Convention, Jefferson City, Mo.  
Robert W. Plaster Foundation, Lebanon, Mo.

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BD Medical, Franklin Lakes, N.J.  
Beattie Scholarship Trust Fund, Saint Joseph, Mo.  
Benton High School Foundation, Saint Joseph, Mo.  
BKD LLP, Springfield, Mo.  
Blu Current Credit Union, Springfield, Mo.  
Brunswick Foundation, Lake Forest, Ill.  
Cabool Saddle Club, Cabool, Mo.  
Calvary Baptist Church, Manning, Iowa  
Calvary Baptist Church, Neosho, Mo.  
Calvary Chapel of Blue Island, Blue Island, Ill.  
Calvary Missionary Baptist Church, Bolivar, Mo.  
Carl and Anna Carson Memorial Scholarship, Bolivar, Mo.  
CFFRV, Aurora, Ill.  
Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma, Durant, Okla.  
Christian Service Foundation, Fort Wayne, Ind.  
Claremore Assembly of God, Claremore, Okla.  
Claude & Ada Low Foundation, Springfield, Mo.

## 2016 PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Clearwater R-I Schools, Piedmont, Mo.  
 Clever R-V School District, Clever, Mo.  
 Club Bear Inc., Republic, Mo.  
 Commerce Bank, Bolivar, Mo.  
 ConocoPhillips Company, Houston, Texas  
 Crete Public Schools Trust, Crete, Neb.  
 Cystic Fibrosis Association, West Plains, Mo.  
 Deer Run LLC, Green Ridge, Mo.  
 Delta R-V High School, Delta, Mo.  
 Doniphan Senior High School, Doniphan, Mo.  
 Dunklin R-V School District, Herculaneum, Mo.  
 El Dorado Springs Ministerial Association, El Dorado Springs, Mo.  
 Farmers State Bank, Bolivar, Mo.  
 FCS Financial, Jefferson City, Mo.  
 Fee Fee Baptist Church, Bridgeton, Mo.  
 Fellowship of the Concerned, Liberty, Mo.  
 Finley Charitable Foundation, Lamar, Mo.  
 First Baptist Church, Hermitage, Mo.  
 First Baptist Church, Thayer, Mo.  
 First Baptist Church, Richland, Mo.  
 First Baptist Church, Bismarck, Mo.  
 First Baptist Church, Independence, Kan.  
 First Baptist Church, Lebanon, Mo.  
 First Baptist Church, Neosho, Mo.  
 First Baptist Church, Newport, Ark.  
 First Baptist Church, Peculiar, Mo.  
 First Baptist Church, Wellington, Mo.  
 First Baptist Church, West Plains, Mo.  
 First Christian Church, Rolla, Mo.  
 First Day Free Will Baptist Church, Cabool, Mo.  
 First Southern Baptist Church, Stockton, Mo.  
 First United Methodist Church, Canon City, Colo.  
 Foresters Financial, Buffalo, N.Y.  
 Former Agents of the FBI Foundation, Dumfries, Va.  
 FRHS Athletic Booster Scholar Fund, Keller, Texas  
 Future Leadership Foundation, Jefferson City, Mo.  
 Gascosage Electric Cooperative, Dixon, Mo.  
 Grand Prairie School District, Grand Prairie, Texas  
 Hall Family Foundation, Kansas City, Mo.  
 Higher Education and Ministry, Nashville, Tenn.  
 HJM Innovations LLC, Elkland, Mo.  
 Hollister Tiger Booster Club, Hollister, Mo.  
 Hopewell Baptist Church, New Bloomfield, Mo.  
 Hopewell Baptist Church, Quincy, Mo.  
 Humansville Christian Church, Humansville, Mo.  
 Hutchins Advertising LLC, Springfield, Mo.  
 IMA Heartland Council, Kansas City, Mo.  
 Integrity Tax and Accounting, Bolivar, Mo.  
 Intel Foundation, Princeton, N.J.  
 Iowa Department of Education, Des Moines, Iowa  
 Iron County C-IV Schools, Viburnum, Mo.  
 Jack J. Isgur Foundation, Kansas City, Mo.  
 Jera Foundation, Rosebud, Mo.  
 John Byron Corbin Charitable Trust, Nevada, Mo.  
 John Lyons Sr. Scholarship Foundation, Washington, D.C.  
 Kids' Chance Inc., Saint Louis, Mo.  
 L & M Cattleman's Association, Ewing, Mo.  
 Laclede Electric Trust, Lebanon, Mo.  
 Lakeland R-III School, Deepwater, Mo.  
 Las Brisas 1, Inc., Malden, Mo.  
 Lebanon Area Foundation, Lebanon, Mo.  
 Lenexa Baptist Church, Lenexa, Kan.



# Libby Boyles Owens '91

## Executive Director St. Joseph Pregnancy Resource Clinic

By Denise Elson Tucker '89

Libby Owens speaks for those who do not have a voice.

Owens, who earned her B.A. in communication from SBU in 1991, is the executive director of the St. Joseph (Mo.) Pregnancy Resource Clinic. Through the clinic, she helps pregnant, at-risk women in the community, as well as providing post-abortion recovery support with free clinic services and classes.

"It is an honor to protect the miracle of life for voiceless, unborn babies," Owens said. "I love it when women gain confidence and choose life. It is a blessing to see lives transformed even in the most challenging circumstances."

During 2016, 165 babies were born to women receiving crisis pregnancy services through the St. Joseph PRC. Owens enjoys being able to help provide the guidance these women and their babies need.

"My job is all about life," Owens said. "I work so unborn babies are given the opportunity to live. Often, the next generation begins at St. Joseph Pregnancy Resource Clinic, when a woman at a crossroads in her pregnancy, decides to carry her baby to term."

As an undergraduate at SBU, Owens never saw herself in the position she is currently in, but says she has always enjoyed helping others.

"The best way to do that is when I am using my abilities for the Lord," Owens said.

And the confidence to utilize those abilities, including how to communicate with the women who come to her clinic, was nurtured by the late Dr. Bob Derryberry, professor of speech and communication.

"On several occasions, Dr. Derryberry would challenge me to see my speaking abilities beyond my limited perspective," Owens said. "His instruction gave me a desire to understand the art of communicating effectively."

Owens also uses that guidance to inspire others who are in similar situations of influencing the next generation.

"I would advise any leaders of non-for-profit organizations to be mindful of the mission and services provided," Owens said. "There is always benefit in seeking Godly wisdom and genuinely caring about those you serve. I often pray for the unborn babies and the women in crisis pregnancies."

And she remains motivated to persevere for unborn babies.

"Now I have the responsibility to 'Speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves, for the rights of all who are destitute,' - Proverbs 31:8," Owens said.

"There is great joy in striving to serve God and protect these miracles of life."



# Darren Sutton '91

Central Director of Student Ministries  
Parkview Christian Church, Orland Park, Ill.

By Denise Elson Tucker '89

During his 30 years in student ministry, Darren Sutton has been asked about when he would become a “real” pastor and start preaching, suggesting that maybe he is getting too old to work with students.

“I knew when I was 13 that God had called me to student ministry,” Sutton said. “I’ve never seen myself anywhere else, and I’m thankful that God hasn’t, either.”

Sutton’s ministry has taken him to churches in Arizona, Texas, Virginia, Missouri, Florida and most recently, Orland Park, Ill.

His wife, Katie, says there are hundreds of teenagers, parents and volunteers who would say that Darren had a part in helping them toward a life-long relationship with Jesus Christ. Many of his former students and volunteers have gone on to be vocational student pastors, missionaries, staff pastors, while others continue to volunteer in their church’s student ministries.

“I’m so fortunate that I get to directly influence teenagers, but I also get to influence other adults who influence them,” Sutton said. “God has opened doors for me to write and speak about student ministry, faith culture among teenagers, and how to influence adults who influence kids on a national level.”

Student ministry, and how it is presented, has changed a lot over Sutton’s career.

“I’ve been doing the same thing for almost 30 years now, just in different

packaging,” Sutton said. “When I started in youth ministry, outreach was a ticket to a pizza party. Following Columbine, it was a worship movement that helped kids feel intimately connected to Christ.

“Now, as we turn another generational corner, I’m creating spaces where students can discuss, openly, their dubiety about Jesus or faith, while earning the right to share Truth with them over time.”

The greatest influence on Sutton’s philosophies and practices in his career came from Betty Jo Mulberry, former professor of religious education.

“Ms. Mulberry challenged me to think outside the box regarding student ministry,” Sutton said. “She was the first person to ever push me to think about how current culture affects how we accomplish ministry with students and how that might change over time.

“She absolutely made excellence a part of the regular conversation – if this is for Jesus, we should be making it excellent. And, she declared that you never get too old to work with students.”

Sutton said he didn’t appreciate Mulberry for the wisdom she instilled during his time at SBU.

“I’m pretty sure I thought I knew more than she did because I was young and she... wasn’t,” Sutton said. “But within a few years of graduation, I realized that everything I was becoming in youth ministry was influenced by her. I could never express my gratitude.”

Liberty North High School, Liberty, Mo.  
Lincoln Elks Lodge #80, Lincoln, Neb.  
Living Water International, Sugar Land, Texas  
Macks Creek Alumni Scholarship, Macks Creek, Mo.  
Marine Corps Scholarship Foundation, Alexandria, Va.  
Mary Robinson Charitable Trust, Providence, R.I.  
McCartney Scholarship Trust, Newport, Ark.  
Meek Charitable Trust, Springfield, Mo.  
Melva Palmer Ellis Memorial, Lebanon, Mo.  
MIAAA, Warrensburg, Mo.  
Miami Public Schools Enrichment Foundation, Miami, Okla.  
Midlothian Baptist Church, Midlothian, Va.  
Miller Management Systems LLC, Kansas City, Mo.  
Missouri Association of Rural Education, Warrensburg, Mo.  
Missouri Insurance Education Foundation, Jefferson City, Mo.  
Missouri Society of CPAs, Saint Louis, Mo.  
Missouri Water Well Association, Dixon, Mo.  
Montgomery Family Foundation Inc., Carrollton, Ga.  
Mount Carmel Baptist Church, Lake Ozark, Mo.  
Mount Vernon R-V School District, Mt Vernon, Mo.  
Mountain Mover Ministries, Lees Summit, Mo.  
Mutual Insurance Company, Louisville, Ky.  
National Merit Scholarship, Evanston, Ill.  
National Propane Gas Foundation, Washington, D.C.  
New Home Baptist Church, Newburg, Mo.  
New Hope Baptist Church, Sedalia, Mo.  
Nichols Foundation, Canton, Mo.  
North Nodaway Education Foundation, Hopkins, Mo.  
North Shore Baptist Church, Rocky Mt, Mo.  
Nucor Steel Arkansas, Blytheville, Ark.  
Odd Fellows Home Association, Fulton, Mo.  
P.E.O. Scholarship Grant, Liberty, Mo.  
Palmyra Chamber of Commerce, Palmyra, Mo.  
Physical Therapy Specialists, West Plains, Mo.  
Plano Independent School District, Plano, Texas  
Pleasant Home Baptist Church, Springfield, Mo.  
Prairie View Sunday School, Shelbyville, Mo.  
Purdy FFA Alumni, Purdy, Mo.  
Ridgecrest Baptist Church, Springfield, Mo.  
Riverwood Bible Church, Jackson, Miss.  
Ross’s Floor Covering, Bolivar, Mo.  
Royal Neighbors America Scholarship, Rock Island, Ill.  
Russellville High School, Russellville, Ark.  
Saint Luke’s Health System, Kansas City, Mo.  
Salem Memorial Hospital, Salem, Mo.  
School of the Osage Foundation, Lake Ozark, Mo.  
Shelter Insurance Foundation, Columbia, Mo.  
Siloam Springs School District, Siloam Springs, Ark.  
Simmons Bank, Stockton, Mo.  
Skaggs Foundation, Branson, Mo.  
Smokers Outlet LLC, Glendale, Ariz.  
South County Baptist Church Foundation, Saint Louis, Mo.  
Southside Baptist Church, Aurora, Mo.  
Speedwell Southern Baptist Church, El Dorado Springs, Mo.  
St. Louis Carpenters’ District, Saint Louis, Mo.  
St. Louis Community Foundation, Saint Louis, Mo.  
State Farm Companies Foundation, Princeton, N.J.  
State Street Foundation, Princeton, N.J.  
Sterling Investment Advisors LLC, Bolivar, Mo.  
Tabernacle Baptist Church, Piedmont, Mo.  
Temple Baptist Church, Sullivan, Mo.

The Ellis Foundation, Fort Scott, Kan.  
 The Pearl Foundation, Springfield, Mo.  
 The Presser Foundation, Philadelphia, Pa.  
 Thomas & Dorothy Leavey Foundation, Los Angeles, Calif.  
 Town & Country Supermarkets, Salem, Mo.  
 Truman Heartland Community Foundation, Independence, Mo.  
 Twin Rivers Baptist Association, Wright City, Mo.  
 United Daughters of the Confederacy, Anderson, S.C.  
 United Freewill Baptist Church, West Plains, Mo.  
 US Bank Foundation, Minneapolis, Minn.  
 US Foods Inc., Salem, Mo.  
 Ventura College Foundation, Ventura, Calif.  
 Wal-Mart Distribution Center, Saint James, Mo.  
 Walmart Store #27, Salem, Mo.  
 Webster & Virginia Thomas Scholarship, Tipton, Mo.  
 White River Valley Electric Trust, Branson, Mo.  
 William Butterworth Foundation, Moline, Ill.  
 William T. King Scholar Trust, Saint Joseph, Mo.  
 Windgate Charitable Foundation, Siloam Springs, Ark.  
 Windsor Baptist Church, Imperial, Mo.

#### Founders' Club

**\$500 - \$999**

Adrian Christian Church, Adrian, Mo.  
 Aldrich Christian Church, Bolivar, Mo.  
 Alton R-IV School District, Alton, Mo.  
 Amarillo Area Foundation, Amarillo, Texas  
 American Legion Auxiliary, Salem, Mo.  
 Amy Baptist Church, Caulfield, Mo.  
 Anna Star Chapter #522, Anna, Ill.  
 Ashland Greenwood High School, Ashland, Neb.  
 Bear State Bank, Harrison, Ark.  
 Believers Life Care Group, Fort Worth, Texas  
 Blue Springs Christian Church, Blue Springs, Mo.  
 Bowers Service Company, Carthage, Mo.  
 Brighton Baptist Church, Brighton, Mo.  
 Bronson Healthcare Group, Kalamazoo, Mich.  
 Bryant Crosspointe Church, Bryant, Ark.  
 Bud Jones Memorial Scholarship, Odessa, Mo.  
 C-Metro Inc., Maumelle, Ark.  
 Calvary Baptist Church, Edwardsville, Ill.  
 Calvary Baptist Church, Odessa, Mo.  
 Capital Region Medical Center, Jefferson City, Mo.  
 Carlton Company, Holden, Mo.  
 Clinton J Carr Foundation Inc., Lebanon, Mo.  
 The Catalyst Church, Springfield, Mo.  
 Chaffee Public School Foundation, Cape Girardeau, Mo.  
 Christ Lutheran Church, Overland Park, Kan.  
 Church of God Holiness, Lowry City, Mo.  
 City of Maumelle Youth Council, Maumelle, Ark.  
 Clintonville Lodge #482, El Dorado Springs, Mo.  
 Closer Walk Church, Ridgedale, Mo.  
 Clover Road Christian Church, Hannibal, Mo.  
 Colten Powell Memorial Scholarship, Clarksburg, Mo.  
 Greater Kansas City Community Foundation, Kansas City, Mo.  
 Community Trust of Troy, Troy, Mo.  
 Delta Kappa Gamma Society, Kearney, Mo.  
 Diamond R-IV High School, Diamond, Mo.  
 Dixon Community Scholarship Fund, Dixon, Mo.  
 Elliott, Robinson and Company LLP, Springfield, Mo.  
 Evers and Company CPAs, Jefferson City, Mo.



## Clara Madden Maloy '09

Fourth-grade teacher  
 Central Christian School in St. Louis

By Denise Elson Tucker '89

Clara Maloy always knew she would be a teacher.

Both of her parents are secondary teachers and she loved spending time in their classrooms at the end of each day or during the summer.

"Our days now look much different, but I am grateful for the passion they fostered in me by being examples," said Maloy, who earned her degree in early childhood and elementary education from SBU in 2009.

For the past four years, Maloy has taught fourth grade at Central Christian School in St. Louis. Central Christian is a private school with an enrollment of 276 students who come from 43 different ZIP codes in St. Louis. Maloy embraces the school's diversity.

"There is something different about Central Christian School that I never experienced before I walked through the doors," Maloy said. "Our diversity is something that we celebrate. Our differences remind us that the God we serve is creative with us all and He delights in us."

"So we strive to foster diversity and use it as a tool to learn from one another and grow up in Christ together."

Part of Central Christian's curriculum includes "The Young Peacemaker," which focuses on what Scripture says about being a peacemaker. Maloy's class discusses conflict and the implications, whether good or bad.

"This year, in particular, my fourth-graders were incredibly profound in one of our first lessons about what conflict is and what conflict is not," Maloy said. "My kids mentioned things like 'conflict is: brave, a relationship builder, a time to slow down and listen. Conflict is not: always negative, always kind, a reason to run, or too big for God.'"

"I believe that through these lessons, God is using me to prepare my kids in a really practical way for countless situations they will walk through."

Being a positive part of a student's life is key to impacting their future, Maloy says, and being a Christian school educator, allows her to take that further.

"I am able to shepherd the whole child," Maloy says. "Our curriculum goes beyond academia and we can look at all we do through a biblical worldview. ... I don't have to sacrifice academia to teach who Jesus is and how we can weave His story throughout all that is taught in my classroom and school."

## 2016 PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Fair Play R-II Schools, Fair Play, Mo.  
 Faith Baptist Church, Lees Summit, Mo.  
 Family Church, White Hall, Ark.  
 Farmington Elks Lodge #1765, Farmington, Mo.  
 Fellowship Bible Church, San Antonio, Texas  
 First Baptist Church, Appleton City, Mo.  
 First Baptist Church, Baxter Springs, Kan.  
 First Baptist Church, Bentonville, Ark.  
 First Baptist Church, Independence, Mo.  
 First Baptist Church, Braymer, Mo.  
 First Baptist Church, Camdenton, Mo.  
 First Baptist Church, Cameron, Mo.  
 First Baptist Church, Carl Junction, Mo.  
 First Baptist Church, Centralia, Mo.  
 First Baptist Church, Eldon, Mo.  
 First Baptist Church, Hamilton, Mo.  
 First Baptist Church, Jenks, Okla.  
 First Baptist Church, Jonesboro, Ark.  
 First Baptist Church, Linn, Mo.  
 First Baptist Church, Marshall, Mo.  
 First Baptist Church, Maryville, Ill.  
 First Baptist Church, Nixa, Mo.  
 First Baptist Church, Pevly, Mo.  
 First Baptist Church, Pierce City, Mo.  
 First Baptist Church, Richland, Mo.  
 First Baptist Church, Rolla, Mo.  
 First Baptist Church, Seneca, Mo.  
 First Baptist Church, St. Charles, Mo.  
 First Baptist Church, Union, Mo.  
 First Baptist Church, Versailles, Mo.  
 First Baptist Church, Winfield, Mo.  
 First Christian Church, El Dorado Springs, Mo.  
 First Freewill Baptist, Purdy, Mo.  
 First National Bank, Camdenton, Mo.  
 First Southern Baptist Church, Kimberling City, Mo.  
 Fisher Properties Inc., Holts Summit, Mo.  
 Five Star Paving LLC, Humansville, Mo.  
 Foundation for Springfield Public Schools, Springfield, Mo.  
 Friends of Children Everywhere, Kokomo, Ind.  
 Friendship Baptist Church, Dexter, Mo.  
 Gift of Hope Inc., Forsyth, Mo.  
 Glenview Assembly of God Church, Granite City, Ill.  
 Gospel Light Freewill Baptist Church, Bonne Terre, Mo.  
 Grandview R-II School District, Hillsboro, Mo.  
 Grant Avenue Baptist Church, Springfield, Mo.  
 Griffith Family Charitable Foundation, Neodesha, Kan.  
 Harrison High School, Harrison, Ark.  
 Henderson Baptist Church, Rogersville, Mo.  
 Highland Area Community Foundation, Highland, Ill.  
 Hillcrest Baptist Church, Lebanon, Mo.  
 Honey Creek Baptist Church, Wolfe City, Texas  
 Illinois Baptist State Association, Springfield, Ill.  
 Independence School District Foundation, Independence, Mo.  
 Jones Construction, Salem, Mo.  
 Journey Church, Springfield, Mo.  
 Keeling Foundation for Kids Inc., Bolivar, Mo.  
 Kickapoo Voiture 760 40 & 8, Springfield, Mo.  
 Berryville Kiwanis Club, Berryville, Ark.  
 KLL Memorial Scholarship Foundation, Shawnee Mission, Kan.  
 L and S Fencing and Excavating LLC, Garfield, Ark.  
 Lael Ministries Inc., Saint Louis, Mo.  
 Liberty Baptist Church, Miami, Okla.  
 Lighthouse Baptist Church, Saint Ann, Mo.  
 Lighthouse Children's Theatre, El Dorado Springs, Mo.  
 Linden Baptist Church, Kansas City, Mo.  
 Lone Star Baptist Church, Willard, Mo.  
 Macks Creek R-V Schools, Macks Creek, Mo.  
 Maplewood Baptist Church, Maplewood, Mo.  
 Marble Creek United Baptist Church, Arcadia, Mo.  
 McDonalds of Salem, Rolla, Mo.  
 Members First Community Credit Union, Quincy, Ill.  
 Millcreek Baptist Church, Silex, Mo.  
 Montgomery Broyles Memorial Scholarship, Springdale, Ark.  
 Morningside Bible Church, Sioux City, Iowa  
 Mundial Seeds Inc., Santa Maria, Calif.  
 National Christian Foundation Heart, Olathe, Kan.  
 National Council of Jewish Women, Prairie Village, Kan.  
 New Covenant Community Church, Lincoln, Neb.  
 New Heights Church, Fayetteville, Ark.  
 New Hope Fellowship, Green Forest, Ark.  
 Nixa General Baptist Church, Nixa, Mo.  
 North Platte Foundation, Dearborn, Mo.  
 Northeast Baptist Church, Clinton, Mo.  
 Norwood R-I School District, Norwood, Mo.  
 Oak Grove Baptist Church, Salem, Mo.  
 Osceola Community Church, Osceola, Mo.  
 Our Lady of the Lake Church, Branson, Mo.  
 Owensville Christian Church, Owensville, Mo.  
 Park Baptist Church, Brookfield, Mo.  
 Pea Ridge School District 109, Pea Ridge, Ark.  
 Platte Woods United Methodist Church, Kansas City, Mo.  
 Pleasant Valley Baptist Church, Salem, Mo.  
 Polk County Mutual Insurance, Bolivar, Mo.  
 Redford Baptist Church, Redford, Mo.  
 Regions Bank, Fairview Heights, Ill.  
 Relevant Church, Springfield, Mo.  
 Robinson Baptist Church, Siloam Springs, Ark.  
 Salem United Methodist Church, Salem, Mo.  
 Second Baptist Church, Bowling Green, Mo.  
 SEMO Electric Foundation Inc., Sikeston, Mo.  
 Sharon Baptist Church, Wichita, Kan.  
 Sheldon Baptist Church, Sheldon, Mo.  
 Skupa Agency Inc., Campbell, Neb.  
 Sleeper United Methodist Church, Lebanon, Mo.  
 Southside Baptist Church, Charleston, Mo.  
 Spring River Baptist Association, Joplin, Mo.  
 Temple Baptist Church, Poplar Bluff, Mo.  
 Thomas M Paul Memorial Scholarship, Saint Joseph, Mo.  
 Tidwell Concrete Inc., Springfield, Mo.  
 Tower View Baptist Church, Kansas City, Mo.  
 Treehouse Condo Rentals Inc., Branson, Mo.  
 Trinity Baptist Church, Willow Springs, Mo.  
 Trinity Baptist Church, Reedsburg, WI  
 Valley Springs First Baptist Church, Valley Springs, Ark.  
 Verona Baptist Church, Verona, Mo.  
 VFW Post 5923, Camdenton, Mo.  
 Victor Baptist Church, Branson, Mo.  
 Warrenville Bible Chapel, Warrenville, Ill.  
 West Central Electric Coop Inc., Higginsville, Mo.  
 Westside Church of the Nazarene, Olathe, Kan.

## 2016 PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Willard Tigers Booster Club, Willard, Mo.  
 Willow Springs Scholarship Club, Willow Springs, Mo.  
 Word of Life Community Church, Kansas City, Mo.  
 Wyandotte County Christian Church, Kansas City, Kan.

**Bearcat Club**

**\$250 - \$499**

First Baptist Church, Adult II Class, Monroe City, Mo.  
 Aiden McVicker Charitable Fund, Cameron, Mo.  
 Association of Retired SBU Personnel, Bolivar, Mo.  
 AT&T Services Inc., Washington, D.C.  
 B & M Interiors Inc., Iberia, Mo.  
 Blue Valley Baptist Church, Overland Park, Kan.  
 Bolivar Ready Mix & Materials Inc., Bolivar, Mo.  
 Bolivar Rotary Club, Bolivar, Mo.  
 Brownfield Baptist Church, Richland, Mo.  
 Builders Glass & Products, Springfield, Mo.  
 Calvary Freewill Baptist, Springdale, Ark.  
 Camdenton R-III Foundation, Camdenton, Mo.  
 Camdenton Reorganized District R-III, Camdenton, Mo.  
 Canaan Baptist Church, Saint Louis, Mo.  
 Capital West Christian Church, Jefferson City, Mo.  
 Castlewood Baptist Church, Ballwin, Mo.  
 Chatham Baptist Church, Chatham, Ill.  
 Commerce Bank of Springfield, Springfield, Mo.  
 Crane R-III School District, Crane, Mo.  
 Cross Timbers Southern Baptist Church, Cross Timbers, Mo.  
 Crosspointe Baptist Church, Lees Summit, Mo.  
 Davis Memorial Scholarship, Paris, Mo.  
 Dorrisville Baptist Church, Harrisburg, Ill.  
 Emmaus, Springfield, Mo.  
 Evans Memorial Scholarship, Butler, Mo.  
 Evergreen Baptist Church, Bixby, Okla.  
 Everton Community Church, Everton, Mo.  
 Fairview Christian Church, Carthage, Mo.  
 Farmington PTSA, Farmington, Ark.  
 First Assembly of God Church, Bolivar, Mo.  
 First Baptist Church of Buckhorn, Waynesville, Mo.  
 First Baptist Church, Adair, Okla.  
 First Baptist Church, Dexter, Mo.  
 First Baptist Church, Iberia, Mo.  
 First Baptist Church, Harrisonville, Mo.  
 First Baptist Church, Jasper, Mo.  
 First Baptist Church, Licking, Mo.  
 First Baptist Church, Marceline, Mo.  
 First Baptist Church, Mascoutah, Ill.  
 First Baptist Church, Republic, Mo.  
 First Baptist Church, Richland, Mo.  
 First Baptist Church, Waynesville, Mo.  
 First Baptist Church, Weaubleau, Mo.  
 First Evangelical Free Church, Ballwin, Mo.  
 Frontenac School District #249, Frontenac, Kan.  
 Grace Baptist Church, Richland, Mo.  
 Hartville R-II School District, Hartville, Mo.  
 Heritage Baptist Church, Bolivar, Mo.  
 Independence Baptist Church, Richland, Mo.  
 Independent Colleges and Universities, Jefferson City, Mo.  
 Jack Ruble Memorial Scholarship, Piedmont, Mo.  
 Kate Duncan Smith DAR School, Grant, Ala.  
 Kids First Education Foundation, Wellington, Mo.  
 Kings Point Baptist Church, Lockwood, Mo.  
 Lake Area Civic Association, Camdenton, Mo.



# Pamela Lynn Bryson Foster '05, '09

Science teacher at Spokane (Mo.) High School

By Denise Elson Tucker '89

Teacher, youth leader, parent, foster parent.

These are just a few of the hats that Pamela Foster wears – all of which Foster, and her husband, have been passionate about for many years – and areas in which she has an impact on the lives of the next generation.

“I love teaching because I hope to make an impact on the future,” said Foster, who earned her bachelor’s degrees in chemistry and education in 2005 and her master’s in educational leadership in 2009, both from SBU. “As educators, we have the responsibility in shaping and developing the students to become the leaders of the future.

“I love youth ministry because we work with students from all walks of life, teaching them about Christ, deepening their understanding of Scripture.

“As a foster parent, I love giving a family and support to kids who need it.”

Foster had wanted to be a teacher since she was a child. She considered being a doctor, lawyer or nurse, but those pursuits were for financial purposes. Her passion has always been to teach and work with youth.

She and her husband have struggled to conceive, but in spite of that struggle, they always considered adoption.

“We started fostering and decided to do therapeutic for teen boys, and traditional for 0-3-years of age,” Foster said. “We work with kids who have experienced trauma some-

times beyond comprehension. We try to help them embrace adulthood, embrace opportunities and choices they have before them.”

During that time, the Fosters adopted a 20-month-old boy (now 6 years) and an 8-month-old girl (now 5), but continued to take in foster children.

“We work with caseworkers, the team, therapists and others to bring these boys a long distance in a short time,” Foster said. “We pray as they move through their adult years, that something we said or did will remain with them and make a positive impact on their future.”

Among the SBU faculty who had a positive influence on Foster during her college years and her future, Dr. Gary Gray stands out for Foster.

“I learned so much from him that has made me the educator I am today,” Foster said. “I didn’t just learn content, but how to be a teacher who demonstrates the love of Christ throughout their teaching.”

And, with so much on her plate, how does Foster keep going?

“My passion and calling given by God is what keeps me going,” Foster said. “My husband is a rock for me. The task of pouring into youth is never done; there is always a need.

“However, it is not about me. It is about what God can do through me, as He is far more powerful than anything I am capable of.”

Lake of the Ozarks Idiots Club, Camdenton, Mo.  
 Lowry City Community Betterment, Lowry City, Mo.  
 Charles Lyons Memorial Foundation, Inc., Lexington, Mo.  
 Macedonia Baptist Church, Springfield, Mo.  
 Morgan County R-2 Alumni Association, Gravois Mills, Mo.  
 Mount Gilead Church, Olney, Ill.  
 Nevada High School Scholarship Foundation, Nevada, Mo.  
 New Providence Baptist Church, Oronogo, Mo.  
 Newport Baptist Church, Lamar, Mo.  
 Northwest Region Association Inc., Saint Joseph, Mo.  
 Oakstar Bank, Bolivar, Mo.  
 Osage Beach Police Department, Osage Beach, Mo.  
 PEO Chapter BT, Riverton, Kan.  
 Pilgrim Rest Church, Mountain View, Mo.  
 Printers Ink LLC, Springfield, Mo.

Reedley Asa Inc., Reedley, Calif.  
 Shippy Memorial Scholarship, Warrensburg, Mo.  
 SSSHS Scholarship Fund, Siloam Springs, Ark.  
 Smithville R-II School District, Smithville, Mo.  
 South Haven Baptist Church, Springfield, Mo.  
 Southern Hills Baptist Church, Bolivar, Mo.  
 Saint Clair County State Bank, Osceola, Mo.  
 Summit Community Church, O Fallon, Mo.  
 Trinity Baptist Church, Willow Springs, Mo.  
 Union County Home and Community Education, Anna, Ill.  
 Union Hall Baptist Church, El Dorado Springs, Mo.  
 Utica Baptist Church, Utica, Mo.  
 Viola Baptist Church, Shell Knob, Mo.  
 Warren Baptist Church, Monroe City, Mo.  
 Whitewater Chapter No. 174 O.E.S., Leopold, Mo.



## Randy Buffington '79

Minister of Worship, First Baptist Church, Lee's Summit, Mo.

By Denise Elson Tucker '89

Randy Buffington has served as a minister of worship since he graduated from SBU with a degree in music education in 1979.

His work has taken him to Missouri churches in Lamar, Springfield, Warrensburg, Independence, and now at First Baptist Church in Lee's Summit, where he works with the youth choirs.

"Hopefully, they (the youth) will learn that through service to others and loving people, regardless of who they are or what circumstances they are in, they can either help change lives for the better or just let those people know they are loved," Buffington said.

"And hopefully, Christ will be glorified through those actions."

While an undergraduate at SBU, Dr. Duncan Couch, Susan and George Baker, Dr. Ted Harris and Delrae Glidwell encouraged Buffington to believe in himself.

"They helped me see that even a young man with limited talents, such as me, could make an impact on other people as long as I loved them and helped them to see their potential for higher service," Buffington said. "These teachers never

stopped encouraging me and pushing me to learn and grow and love."

The impact of Buffington's dedication is still being felt, having served in the ministry for almost 40 years.

"He was my youth music director over 25 years ago, and he still has a heart and passion for youth," Erika (Lukens) Wheeler '94 said. "Randy was such a blessing in my life as a teenager, and he kept all of us kids wanting to come back for more.

"As an adult, I have kept in touch with Randy all these years later. He is just a joy to be around and still has such a vibrant, full ministry at his home church (Lee's Summit)."

And Buffington appreciates hearing from the youth he has taught and mentored during his career.

"I am basing this on anecdotal evidence, but the kids I have ministered to over the years are pretty consistent in following up and attending and serving churches of their own as adults," Buffington said.

"It's been nice to hear back from them over the years about how much youth choir meant to them and how it helped shape their faith and their service."

## BOARD OF TRUSTEES

OFFICERS: Don Fahrni '68, *chairman*; Phillip Franz, *vice chairman*; Randy Johnson '77, *secretary*

David Bennett '72, *Businessman, Joplin*  
Joe Brand, *Businessman, Salem*  
David Brown '88, *Pastor, Lebanon*  
Syndee Chase, *Businesswoman, Lebanon*  
Todd Decker '83, *Pastor, Neosho*  
Jerry Dudley, *Pastor, St. Charles*  
Jim Evans '74, *Businessman, Blue Springs*  
Kevin Farr, *Pastor, Steelville*  
Don Fahrni '68, *Businessman, Russellville*  
Phillip Franz, *Businessman, West Plains*  
Susan Gilmore '79, *Educator, Mt. Vernon*  
Jana Horner '89, *Physician, Bolivar*

Wayne Hutchins '51, *Retired Businessman, Springfield*

Bob Ingold '72, *Attorney, Springfield*  
Randy Johnson '77, *Pastor, Republic*  
Don Jump '64, *Dentist, Bolivar*  
Durwin Kicker '85, *Pastor, Marshfield*  
Charles Kimball '83, *Pastor, Ballwin*  
Ronda Miller, *Businesswoman, Camdenton*  
Rick Moore '85, *Educator, Kansas City*  
Donna Neil, *Businesswoman, Springfield*  
Ryan Palmer '96, *Pastor, Springfield*  
Mark Rains '70, *Attorney, Blue Springs*  
Rebecca Randles '85, *Attorney, Kansas City*  
Billy Russell '85, *Pastor, Bolivar*

## ADMINISTRATION

C. Pat Taylor, Ed.D., *President*

Darren Crowder '98, M.A., *Dean of Enrollment Management*

Rob Harris '88, Ed.D., *Vice President for Student Development*

Brad Johnson, Ed.D., *Vice President for University Relations*

Allison Langford, Ed.D., *Associate Provost for Teaching and Learning*

Bob McGlasson, Ed.D., *Associate Provost and Vice President of Operations for the Mercy College of Nursing & Health Sciences*

Tara Parson '03, C.P.A., *Chief Financial Officer and Vice President for Administration*

Mike Pitts '85, M.B.A. '10, *Director of Athletics*

J. Lee Skinkle, Ph.D., *Provost*

## DEANS

Troy Bethards '93, D.B.A., *Robert W. Plaster College of Business and Computer Science*

Kezia Lilly '96, D.N.P., R.N., *Mercy College of Nursing & Health Sciences*

Rodney Reeves '79, Ph.D., *The Courts Redford College of Theology & Ministry*

Kevin Schriver '83, Psy.D., *College of Education & Social Sciences*

Perry A. Tompkins, Ph.D., *College of Science and Mathematics*

Ed Walton, Ed.D., *University Libraries*

Jeff Waters, D.M.A., *Geneva Casebolt College of Music, Arts & Letters*

## UNIVERSITY RELATIONS

Holly Bridge '08, *Director of Alumni Engagement*

Theresa Daniels, *Director of Donor Relations*

Jim Grabowski '08, *Development Officer*

Jack Hays, *Fundraising Consultant*

Kristina Hottes '11, M.B.A. '13, *Assistant Director of Development Services*

Penny Marr, *Assistant Director of Stewardship Services*

Granville Watson, *Fundraising Consultant*

Steve Whisler '71, *Fundraising Consultant*

## MARKETING AND COMMUNICATIONS

Alyssa Glasgow '15, *Graphic Designer*

Charlotte Highsmith Marsch '97, *Director of Marketing and Communications*

Denise Elson Tucker '89, *Assistant Director of Marketing and Communications*

Jeff Weseloh '09, M.B.A. '13, *Director of Athletics Media Relations*

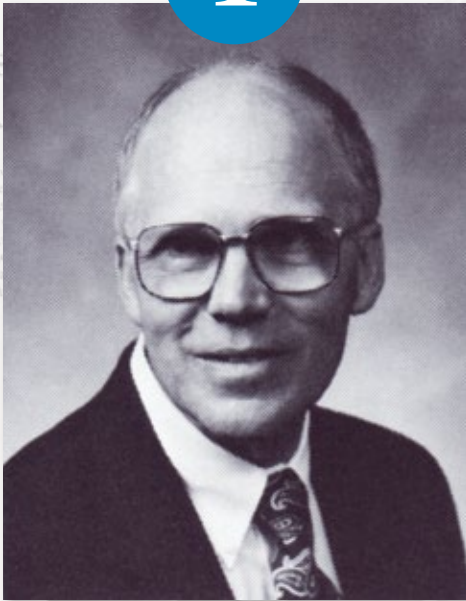
Rebekah Wright '10, *Assistant Director for Digital Marketing*

# Guess Who?

Throughout the years, SBU faculty and staff have greatly influenced the lives of students who come to our campus. Those students become alumni who go on to impact future generations for God's Kingdom.

*Can you recognize any of the former SWBC/SBU faculty and staff pictured below?*

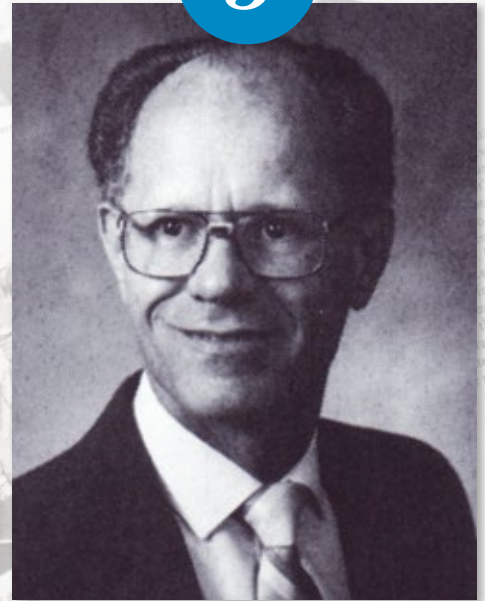
1



2



3



Everyone who correctly identifies at least one of these employees will be entered into a prize drawing. Submit your guesses by email to **[SBUcommunications@gmail.com](mailto:SBUcommunications@gmail.com)** or by mail to: Office of Marketing and Communications, 1600 University Ave., Bolivar MO 65613.

**Entries must be received by Friday, March 17.**

Thank you to all who participated in the previous Guess Who contest.  
The pictured SBU employees were Julia Campbell, Chris Keller and Mark Grabowski.

**The following all submitted correct responses:** Marita [McCampbell] Avilez, Larry Froelich, Julia Campbell, Nick Wilson, Amy Varner, Ivan Peterson, Jeremiah Greever, David Thiessen, Stan Sullinger, Russ Batten, Kristina Palmer, Juanita Boro, Gloria Simpson, Angela Crites, Cinda Smith, Megan Carry, Pattie [Wilson] Reitz, and Brian Zipfel

Congratulations to Kristina Palmer who won the prize package!

## 1950s

**William L. Hooper '51**, Ph.D., professor emeritus of music at SBU, was one of four winners of the Missouri Composers Project 2017 competition, which is part of the Mizzou New Music Initiative. The winners receive a \$500 honorarium from the Singuefield Charitable Foundation. The 85-year-old's choral composition, "Crucifixus," was selected as one of the works that will be performed by the Columbia Civic Orchestra and the Columbia Chamber Choir at 7:30 p.m., Sunday, March 19, at Broadway Christian Church, 2601 W. Broadway, Columbia, Mo. Admission to the concert is free and open to the public.

## 1960s

**Ronnie Lowry '68** is retired and resides in Jacksonville, Fla. He would love to hear from other SBU alumni from 1968-1970. He can be reached at [ronnie.lowry@outlook.com](mailto:ronnie.lowry@outlook.com).

## 1970s

**Jackie Bursmeyer '71** retired on May 1, 2016 from serving as a missionary for 38 years with the International Mission Board in Chile and the Americas. She can be reached at [jsbursmeyer@yahoo.com](mailto:jsbursmeyer@yahoo.com).

**Stanley Smith '71** and his wife, Lynda, reside in Harrisburg, Pa. Stanley currently serves as the Interim Executive Director-Treasurer of the Baptist Convention of Pennsylvania-South Jersey. He can be reached at [StankSmith@aol.com](mailto:StankSmith@aol.com).

**Larry Scantlan '78** and his wife, Donna, live in Wentzville, Mo. Larry retired in 2014 from the IT industry and is now a professional entertainer performing at more than 30 nursing homes and assisted living/independent living facilities throughout St. Louis and St. Charles counties. Larry can be reached at [scanco@charter.net](mailto:scanco@charter.net).

## 1980s

**Todd DeFore '85** lives in Glen Allen, Va., and can be reached at [rebd41@gmail.com](mailto:rebd41@gmail.com).

**Jana Kolthoff '88** lives in Saint Peters, Mo., and has three children, Tyler Wienecke (22), Rachel Wienecke (19) and Sean Wienecke (13). Jana would love to hear from her friends and can be reached at [jlwien@gmail.com](mailto:jlwien@gmail.com).

## 1990s

**Patrick '90** and **Cindy Payton '90** live in Midland, Texas, where Patrick is senior pastor at Stonegate Fellowship, a church founded 17 years ago and the largest Baptist church start in state history.

**Mark Cooper '90** is currently a leader of Bible Study Fellowship. He has two nieces and two nephews. He lives at 6700 E. 135 St., Grandview, Mo, and would love to hear from his friends at SBU.

**Darren '91** and **Katie (Wilmoth) Sutton '91** reside in Frankfort, Ill., and have three children, Isaac (21), Timmy (19) and Max (16). Darren recently joined the staff at Parkview Christian Church in Orland Park, Ill., where he serves as Central Director of Student Ministries. He is a regular contributor to [youthministry.com](http://youthministry.com), [Group Magazine](http://Group Magazine), and has authored or contributed to 15 books and resources for youth ministry. He can be reached at [veteranyp@gmail.com](mailto:veteranyp@gmail.com).

**Mark Zaragoza '95** lives in Midlothian, Texas, and recently accepted a position at UT Southwestern Medical Center as a Certified Medical Office Assistant. He also works as an EMT for AMR North Dallas. He can be reached at [zaragoza.mark@gmail.com](mailto:zaragoza.mark@gmail.com).

**Misty (Burge) Wiseman '96** and her husband, Michael, live in Poplar Bluff, Mo., and have three children. Misty can be reached at [mistywiseman@pb.k12.mo.us](mailto:mistywiseman@pb.k12.mo.us).

## 2000s

**Jason '00** and **Carrie (Fitzwater) Williamson '00** live in Beasley, Texas. They have three children, Jayna (10), Josiah (6) and Judah (5). The family can be reached at [jwilliamson36@att.net](mailto:jwilliamson36@att.net).

**Carissa (Petersen) Palmberg '06** and her husband, Karl, have two children, Russell (2) and Ava (1). The family lives in Brandon, S.D., and can be reached at [carissa.palmberg@gmail.com](mailto:carissa.palmberg@gmail.com).

## Future Bearcats



**Sarah (Mercer) Ballard '01** and her husband Josh welcomed Lyla Jean Ballard on April 28, 2016. Lyla's big brother Isaac is proud of his baby sister.

**Jennifer (Bonds) Ebers '10** and her husband, Andrew, have one daughter, Elena Jane (10 months).

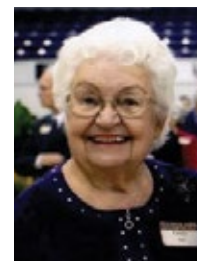
**Rebecca (Brightwell) Cross '10** and her husband, Nathan, welcomed their first child, Zadie McKay, on December 30, 2016.

## In Memory

**Karen J. (Stapp) Hatcher '56** passed away on Dec. 8, 2016, at Integris Grove Hospital after a long illness. She received her A.A. degree on May 11, 1956.

**Ben Brown '65, '67** passed away at his home with his family by his side on February 7, 2017. He graduated from SWBC with the first four-year class and went on to receive a master of divinity from Midwest Baptist Theological Seminary. The last 57 years of his life were spent preaching the Gospel. At the time of his passing, he was serving as minister to senior adults at Calvary Baptist Church in Republic, Mo. He is survived by his wife, Freida, two sons, and two daughters, including his daughter, Joy Brown, who serves as secretary for the education department at SBU.

**Carolyn Mott '50** passed away February 6, 2017 at the age of 86. She is survived by four daughters, 13 grandchildren, and 22 great-grandchildren. Carolyn was a long-time SBU supporter and received the Life Service Award from SBU in 2005. Memorial contributions may be made to the Martha Carolyn Mott Music Scholarship at Southwest Baptist University.



## HOME COMING 2017 | SEPTEMBER 22-23

Mark your calendars and make plans to join us for **HOME COMING 2017** on the SBU Campus!

Nominations are open for the Edwin Lightfoot Distinguished Alumni Award and Life Service Awards to be given during Homecoming 2017! Deadline to submit nominations is March 10, 2017. For details, go to <http://www.SBUniv.edu/alumni/alumni-association/index.php> or contact Holly Bridge, director of alumni engagement, at **(417) 328-1806** or [alumni@SBUniv.edu](mailto:alumni@SBUniv.edu).

## Historic Season for SBU Football

Southwest Baptist University wrapped up its most successful season in program history in 2016, with a conference co-championship, its first trip to postseason play, a national ranking and multiple postseason honors.

The Bearcats finished the season with a 10-2 record and ranked No. 22 in NCAA Division II. Their historic season came to an end with a 63-35 opening-round loss at home to the Colorado School of Mines on Nov. 19.

SBU junior running back Bubba Jenkins earned second-team All-America honors from the Don Hansen Football Committee, first-team All-Region honors by Don Hansen and second-team All-Region from the Division II Conference Commissioner's Association; freshman offensive lineman Sammy Zeqiraj was named All-America honorable mention; head coach Robert Clardy '08 was named Great Lakes Valley Conference Coach of the Year,

and sophomore quarterback T.J. Edwards earned GLVC Offensive Player of the Year honors.

Picked to finish fifth in 2016's GLVC Preseason Poll following a 4-6 record in 2015, the Clardy-led Bearcats shared the GLVC Championship with Truman State University. SBU also had four unanimous All-GLVC first-team selections. The Bearcats had a league-high 10 first-team selections and 19 total honorees.

The Bearcats also re-wrote the program's record book, setting 28 different marks. Jenkins led the way for SBU, establishing six records, while senior punter Austin Molitor set four records. As a team, the Bearcats set or extended 13 team records, with nine of those on the offensive side of the ball.

SBU opens the 2017 season on Aug. 31, at Eastern New Mexico. The Bearcats' home opener is Sept. 9 against Mississippi College.



SBU junior running back Bubba Jenkins

## eSports launched for 2016-17 school year

Southwest Baptist University became one of about 15 colleges and universities in the nation to offer eSports as a varsity athletics program, including scholarships for varsity athletes.

As a varsity program, SBU is a charter member of The National Association of Collegiate eSports (NACe), a new organization founded and initially funded by the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA). NACe is the governing organization for varsity collegiate eSports programs.

ESports, or "electronic sports," is an emerging, competitive gaming scene in which teams compete in popular video game titles. SBU's first varsity team competes in League of Legends, a five-player team game in which the team works together to destroy an enemy team's base.

"SBU has taken several steps over the last year in our intramural eSports program,

which led to this dream coming to fruition," said Chris Allison '16, director of SBU's Meyer Wellness and Sports Center. "Our Spring 2016 intramural success in our Xbox One arena has led to our expansion into the varsity eSports world."

The pilot program was so successful in engaging a student population that SBU's Executive Cabinet approved the creation of a varsity eSports team.

"Gamers have existed for decades on college campuses, competing online and against each other in the solitude of their dorm rooms," said Allison, who serves as SBU's eSports head coach. "This new program will not only give us the opportunity to highlight the skills of our players, compete intercollegiately and create on-campus community, but it presents us with the opportunity to offer scholarships to high-level players and provide them with an equally high-level education."

SBU competes in the Collegiate StarLeague, which is comprised of about 600 U.S. schools and has been facilitating collegiate eSports competition since 2009.

The team finished its inaugural season's fall split with a record of 4-3.

Collegiate StarLeague, the hosting organization for League of Legends collegiate competition, runs the competitive season during both the fall and spring semesters. Competition begins with a "fall split," where teams are randomly arranged in divisions and compete in a round-robin structure.

This fall, SBU competed in the Midwest Division 9 with teams from University of Nebraska-Lincoln, Mississippi State University, Columbia College and Washington University-St. Louis.

The fall split standings are used to reorganize divisions for the spring split. SBU has advanced to a single-elimination playoff in March.

## More than 200 students graduate from SBU in Bolivar

Southwest Baptist University graduated 214 students at two winter 2016 commencement ceremonies.

Dr. Carolyn Bishop, president of the Consortium for Global Education, delivered the commencement address at the Bolivar ceremony on Dec. 16. Dr. Bishop began her work with CGE, an international education organization, in 1997.

Tyler Hernandez, a psychology graduate from Bloomington, Calif., delivered the Bob R. Derryberry Senior Address. Dustin Surber, a music education graduate from Marshfield, Mo., presented the senior music

performance. Surber performed “Corner of the Sky,” from the musical “Pippin,” by Stephen Schwartz.

The Mercy College of Nursing and Health Sciences of SBU held its commencement on Dec. 15, at Ridgecrest Baptist Church in Springfield.

Logan Williams, ASN graduate, delivered the Springfield campus commencement address. ASN graduate Benande Molme sang “How Great Thou Art,” accompanied by Gerald Adams, also an ASN graduate.

## SBU honors Bryants with Life Beautiful Awards

Robbie Bryant, MEP maintenance supervisor, and his wife, Dr. Julie Bryant '97, associate professor of education, received the Staff and Faculty Life Beautiful Awards during the annual employee Christmas banquet in December.

### *Staff Life Beautiful*

Robbie Bryant has worked in SBU's Physical Plant for 14 years and currently is the MEP maintenance supervisor. He attends Lakeside Assembly of God Church, where he serves as the lead musician for the worship team. In addition, he serves in the music ministry of First Baptist Church of Bolivar at the Esquire, where he sings, plays instruments and acts in various skits.

“He understands the value and importance of ensuring a comfortable, functional work environment for SBU's students, faculty and staff,” said SBU President Dr. C. Pat Taylor. “He is known always to have a pleasant demeanor with anyone with whom he has contact, treating everyone with respect, dignity and understanding.

“As one co-worker noted, ‘He is a great example of a Christian

family man; he loves his wife and children as Christ loves us.’” He also is a member of the “Highway 32 Bluegrass” band, ministering at churches around the state through Christian bluegrass music.

### *Faculty Life Beautiful*

Dr. Julie Bryant '97 has been a member of the SBU faculty since 2002 when she began as an instructor of education. Before coming to SBU, she taught kindergarten and first grade at School of the Osage. She currently is an associate professor of education, the Lewis E. Schollian Chair of Education and Faculty Senate president.

“Dr. (Lee) Skinkle has shared with me how impressed he has been by her spirit of enthusiasm and cooperation, and what a pleasure it is to work with her,” Dr. Taylor said. “She is truly an asset to our University.

“From one of her colleagues: ‘She is a blessing to all with whom she works. She constantly seeks ways to improve her instruction, care more deeply for the students, while engaging

in many activities throughout campus. She always brings smiles to faces across campus.’”

She is a member of Lakeside Assembly of God Church in Pittsburg. The Bryants have two children, Jaron and Jaylee.



Robbie Bryant (left), Staff Life Beautiful Award recipient; Dr. Julie Bryant (right), Faculty Life Beautiful Award recipient

## Bolivar Chamber selects SBU as Large Business of the Year

Southwest Baptist University received the Large Business of the Year award from the Bolivar Area Chamber of Commerce in November.

“One of the neat things about when a prospective student visits our campus is when making that decision to attend SBU, they look at the community,” said Dr. Rob Harris, vice president for student development, when he accepted the award. “They go and eat at places in Bolivar and they find out if this is the community they want to be in. Time and time and time again, we hear, ‘We like it here. We like the caring atmosphere.’ So people of Bolivar and businesses, thank you

for this award and thank you for your efforts to make this community thrive.”

SBU President Dr. C. Pat Taylor was unable to accept the award because he was out of town on personal business, but he was thrilled to hear that SBU had received the award.

“For years, SBU has enjoyed being part of the Bolivar community, and it is always our goal to be a positive contributor to Bolivar and the people who live here,” Taylor said.

## → BE A LIFE-CHANGER!

An investment made by donors to SBU's Annual Scholarship Fund helps equip students like Noella, with the tools necessary to make a difference in the world. SBU students will join a network of Bearcats boldly following Christ as they live out His love in their workplaces, neighborhoods and communities.

Will you consider donating to the Annual Scholarship Fund this year? SBU students are calling now to tell you how your gift changes the lives of many SBU students.

Every donation makes a difference! A gift of any size to the Annual Scholarship Fund will impact students in a **BIG** way.

**1 ONLINE**  
giveto.SBUniv.edu

**2 MAIL**  
University Relations  
1600 University Ave.  
Bolivar, MO 65613

**3 PHONE**  
[417] 328-1801

SBU's Annual Scholarship Fund **2017 Phonathon Goal:**

**\$115,000**



**MEET NOELLA**  
PRE-PHYSICAL THERAPY MAJOR  
KANSAS CITY, MO

### I want to donate to SBU's Annual Scholarship Fund:

Enclosed is my one-time gift of \_\_\_\_\_, payable to Southwest Baptist University.

I pledge \_\_\_\_\_, to be paid over \_\_\_\_\_ months.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

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