

FALL 2023

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CAREY

THE WILLIAM CAREY UNIVERSITY MAGAZINE



WCU-Tradition
Campus is Growing

STORY BEGINS ON PAGE 17

LETTERS FROM CAREY



Dear Carey Family,

On behalf of our Board of Trustees, faculty, staff and most importantly, our students, THANK YOU for remaining active with your alma mater. It is indeed a blessing to be able to represent all of these groups, and other supporters, as I serve as your President.

I was blessed to work alongside Dr. Tommy King for many years here at Carey, and we are heartbroken at the huge loss we feel after his passing earlier this year. It is very safe to say, in my opinion, that there is no one who wanted WCU to continue to be successful more than Dr. King. It is my honor now to continue the work he started here and to take Carey to the next level. With your prayers and support, I know we will do just that!

Our two main goals from last year were to increase our undergraduate student population and to engage our alumni. I am very proud of the efforts of our Alumni Office under Pam Shearer as we have increased our staff to better support all of you who mean so much to us. The new Carey Alumni Association has grown tremendously, and we are grateful for your support. In addition to more staff, they now enjoy the renovated space of one of our most treasured buildings, Crawford Hall. Please come by to see this great space and to connect with our alumni team.

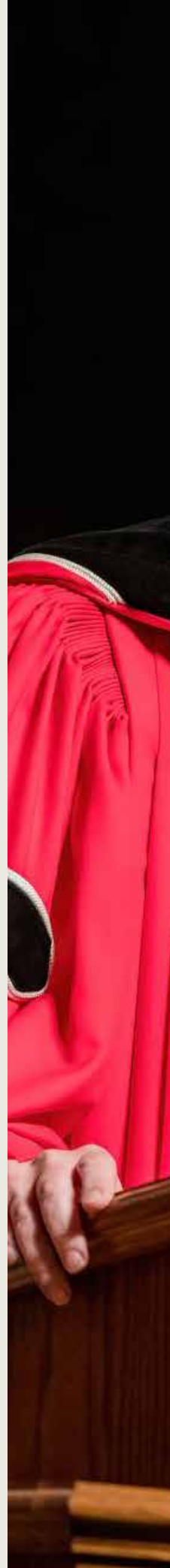
Our other goal of increasing undergraduate enrollment saw significant progress. While most colleges in the country are declining in this area, WCU saw a five percent increase in undergraduate enrollment for the fall term and an eight percent increase for the winter term! We are not where we want to be, but we are headed in the right direction. Our overall enrollment stands at more than 5,500 students for the third year in a row. Our Making College Affordable campaign is largely to thank for this increase as we increased our scholarship amounts, froze our tuition and we took the burden of the costs of textbooks off our students by paying for textbooks for undergraduate students. Now, we are one of the most affordable options for a college education, so please help us by spreading the word!

Now, more than ever, Christian Higher Education is critically important in our society. We feel we bring great value to the lives of our students by preparing them to answer God's call on their life in a Christian environment. Please pray for us as we continue to live out the motto of Dr. William Carey. Expect Great Things from God; Attempt Great Things for God.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ben Burnett". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Ben Burnett, President

COVER PHOTO: *Aerial photo of the Tradition campus taken by David L. Burnett, technical assistant at WCU Tradition.*



CAREY

THE WILLIAM CAREY UNIVERSITY MAGAZINE



Therefore,
put on the full
armor of God.

Ephesians 6:13

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William Carey University is accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges to award bachelor, master, education specialist, and doctoral degrees. Contact the Commission on Colleges at 1866 Southern Lane, Decatur, Georgia 30033-4097 or call 404-679-4500 for questions about the accreditation of William Carey University.

WCU mourns the passing of
DR. TOMMY KING



WILLIAM CAREY UNIVERSITY MOURNS THE PASSING OF PRESIDENT EMERITUS DR. TOMMY KING, WHOSE WISDOM GUIDED THE UNIVERSITY FOR MORE THAN 15 YEARS – OVERSEEING EXPLOSIVE GROWTH IN STUDENT ENROLLMENT AND VISIONARY EXPANSIONS IN PROGRAMMING AND INFRASTRUCTURE.

“Dr. King’s love for William Carey University was unmatched and his leadership took us to another level. His lifetime of service in the field of education, and with the Baptist churches of Mississippi, changed the lives of Mississippians for generations,” said WCU President Dr. Ben Burnett.

“His vision inspired all who were fortunate to work alongside him – and the impact he had on all of us is immeasurable. I count myself blessed to have worked directly under his leadership for the last 10 years of my career and I am humbled to follow in his footsteps as president of William Carey University.”



LIFETIME OF SERVICE

Dr. King, 82, died Nov. 22 at Forrest General - Asbury Hospice Center, surrounded by his family and lifted up in prayer by people all over the state of Mississippi.

The first Carey graduate to be named president, King came to the position with more than 30 years of experience in public education from elementary to university levels. At WCU, he served earlier as dean of the school of psychology and counseling, vice president for graduate and off-campus programs, professor of psychology, and executive vice president.

Under his leadership as president, a new 50-acre campus was established in Biloxi after Hurricane Katrina. The Hattiesburg campus grew from 135 acres to 170 acres. The College of Osteopathic Medicine opened in 2010, the Doctorate in Physical Therapy program began in fall 2016, and a new College of Health Sciences Building opened in July 2021. At the Tradition campus, the School of Pharmacy accepted its first students in 2018 and, in the same year, WCU cut the ribbon on Scianna Hall

– an academic building that also boasts a large community meeting place.

The number of sports teams increased from six to 18, and the university offered new degrees and online/hybrid classes. Enrollment more than doubled during Dr. King's tenure.

Finally, it was Dr. King whose steady heart, and faith in God, guided the Carey family's steps after an EF-3 tornado devastated the Hattiesburg campus in February 2017.

A MAN'S CHARACTER

But a man is more than his resume. His character stands revealed in small acts, as well as large ones. A student speaking at a ribbon-cutting for the King Student Center in spring 2021 said this of Dr. Tommy King:

"Dr. King, I asked students to choose one word that expresses what you mean to them. And these are some of the words they shared – dedicated, visionary, eloquent, genuine, friendly, wise, welcoming, perseverant, optimistic, personable, considerate, hospitable, caring, supportive, thoughtful, approachable, gentle, and

kind," Carey Scholar Bryson Rogers said.

"All of the personal stories I heard reinforce that you are present, you do not isolate yourself from us, you live life among us, you take time for people."

And the truth is, Dr. King did so much of his visiting in a golf cart, that the Carey family can't help but look to see if it's him whenever one rolls by.

Dr. Brett Golson, WCU vice president of spiritual development, said Dr. King's legacy and influence will be remembered for generations.

"With heavy hearts, we mourn the passing of our longtime leader and friend. Dr. Tommy King blessed us with his leadership as president of William Carey University and enriched our spiritual lives as a pastor and church statesman. His profound commitment to education and ministry has left an indelible mark on tens of thousands of students, parents, and the community of faith," Golson said.

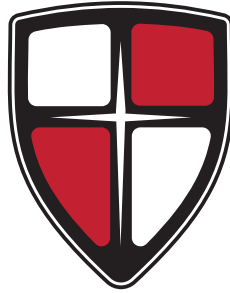
FUNERAL ARRANGEMENTS

Visitation for Dr. Tommy King was held Monday, Nov. 27, from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. at First Baptist Church in Columbia, followed by a funeral service at 11 a.m.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to the Tommy King Missionary Dependent Scholarship. William Carey University offers tuition, textbooks, room, and meal plan free of charge to all International Mission Board dependent children. This scholarship ensures WCU's ability to continue offering this scholarship to the children of our IMB missionaries.



*Use the QR code or the link to make a donation:
www.wmcarey.edu/kingmemorial*



Therefore, put on the
full armor of God.

Ephesian 6:13

WCU Theme

‘PUT ON THE FULL ARMOR OF GOD’

EACH YEAR, WILLIAM CAREY UNIVERSITY CHOOSES A BIBLICAL THEME TO INSPIRE STUDENTS, FACULTY AND STAFF. THE THEME FOR 2023-24 IS “THEREFORE, PUT ON THE FULL ARMOR OF GOD.”

The phrase is from Ephesians 6:13, which reads, “Therefore, put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand.” (NIV)

Dr. Brett Golson, WCU vice president of Spiritual Development and Church Relations, reminds us the Apostle Paul told believers to stand like warriors poised for spiritual battle against the evil of this world.

As a prisoner, Paul was surrounded by Roman guards

arrayed in military regalia. In Ephesians 6, Paul lists the primary pieces of Roman armor to symbolize how believers are to equip themselves for the spiritual war waged against them.

“A Roman soldier would never leave off even one piece of his armor. His helmet, chest plate, belt, sandals, shield, and sword were all vital to victory over his enemy. Likewise, truth, righteousness, the Gospel, faith, salvation, the Bible, and alertness in prayer will ensure victory over our enemy,” Golson said.

“William Carey University champions excellence in education – but the success of our students cannot be solely measured in terms of enrollment, graduation, and career accomplishments. We must prepare them for a life-long spiritual war. To that purpose, let us admonish our students to put on the full armor of God.”

Kirk Cameron

Headlines WCU Scholarship Dinner



WILLIAM CAREY UNIVERSITY HOSTED ITS 12TH ANNUAL SCHOLARSHIP DINNER OCT. 9 AT LAKE TERRACE CONVENTION CENTER IN HATTIESBURG. THE SPECIAL GUEST AT THIS YEAR'S FUND-RAISER WAS CHRISTIAN ACTOR, PRODUCER AND SPEAKER KIRK CAMERON.

"People remember him as Mike Seaver in the 1980s sit-com, 'Growing Pains.' But since then, he's invested his time and energy into faith- and family-based films and television shows and hundreds of live events focused on marriage, family and parenting," said Karen Golson, WCU director of advancement.

Cameron held a question-and-answer session for William Carey benefactors before addressing a sell-out crowd in the dining room already enthusiastic after a charismatic performance by the Carey Worship Choir & Band.

Anna Carroll of Carriere is a member of Carey Worship Choir and serves as president of the Student Government Association.

"As a scholarship recipient and student at William Carey University, nights like these are

really important for me because they allow my education to be affordable. Every single person who attends helps me reach my goal of graduating and going on to pursue a career as a doctor. Students are very thankful for events like these," Carroll said.

Earlier in the day, Kirk Cameron spoke at Carey's weekly chapel service – sharing his personal story about how an atheist actor in Hollywood accepted Jesus into his heart and changed his life forever.

The students assembled for chapel were familiar with many of Cameron's projects, including "Fireproof," 2008 Christian film about a troubled marriage that became the No. 1 inspirational movie of the year.

More recently, Cameron produced "Lifemark," a film about adoption and the value of life in the womb. He's also been featured on national news shows talking about "American Campfire Revival," which urges people to return to the principles that will bring blessing and protection to America.

More than 90 percent of WCU students receive financial aid. For information about supporting WCU's scholarship program, call the Office for Advancement at (601) 318-6192.



SAVE THE DATE FOR THE TRADITION CAMPUS SCHOLARSHIP DINNER

Drew Brees and Sarah Thomas will be the featured speakers at the Scholarship Dinner for the Tradition Campus on May 13, 2024. For tickets and more information, contact Jenifer Freridge at jfreridge@wmcarey.edu.



*William Carey
Wins Two*

“BEST OF THE PINE BELT”

AWARDS



The members of Thomas Hall are, front row from left, John Marc Strebeck and Dylan Laird. In the back row are Zak Williams, Garrett Briley, and Reese Morgan.

IN JULY, WILLIAM CAREY UNIVERSITY WAS VOTED “BEST PLACE TO WORK” IN HATTIESBURG’S “BEST OF THE PINE BELT” CONTEST – FOR THE SECOND CONSECUTIVE YEAR.

“It’s an honor to win this coveted award again and we appreciate the community’s support. But even more than that, perhaps, I’m grateful that the William Carey family takes such pride in their university and its mission,” said WCU President Dr. Ben Burnett.

“We’re also proud to see our rock guitar group, Thomas Hall, win the ‘Best Local Band’ award less than a year after they started playing together.”

David Bryan, assistant professor of music, formed the rock ensemble at the beginning of the 2022-23 school year. The goal was to

expand the guitar program’s focus.

“Guitar students have varying interests as musicians and, while they all receive a classical foundation, we want to make sure they’re versatile, prepared, and able to say ‘yes’ to any gig,” Bryan said.

“Choosing a name for the band was a little difficult at first. We wanted to connect it to the university, but not just be called the WCU Rock Band. Thomas Hall is the name of our music building and we thought it was interesting to use it in the band’s name – since we all pretty much live there and rehearse there day-in and day-out.”

Bryan coaches the group, helping to teach guitar parts and work through rehearsals and arrangements. But band members have a lot of input into what music is chosen for performance based on their strengths and likes.

- Garrett Briley, guitar, of Elberta, Ala. – Worship Technology major
- Dylan Laird, bass, of Collinsville – Worship Leadership major
- Reese Morgan, guitar, of Hattiesburg – Guitar Performance major
- John Marc Strebeck, guitar, of Long Beach – Guitar Performance major
- Zak Williams, drums, of Seattle, Wash. – Music Therapy major

Plans for the 2023-24 academic year include performances at high schools, church events and festivals – and a fully-produced concert with the WCU tech team at Thomas Fine Arts Center.

The “Best of the Pine Belt” contest is sponsored by Signature Magazine and its publisher, HubCitySPOKES.



TUSCAN STUDIOS

With the demand of technology that has entered both the commercial production spaces and houses of worship, we are excited to step into a new era of audio technology education with a state-of-the-art audio lab for our students called Tuscan Studios.

The access of this new audio lab will give hands-on, real-world experience in live audio mixing and recording technologies. Tuscan Studios will help prepare future media directors and audio engineers for a wide array of employment opportunities, all within an encouraging and Christian educational environment.



The studio is the result of a vision in the heart of Dr. Wes Dykes, dean of the Winters School of Music, and donors like Ted and Janie Bower. The Bowers are both Carey graduates and made significant donations to the project.

Consortium for GLOBAL EDUCATION

CAREY HOSTED THE 36TH ANNUAL MEETING OF THE CONSORTIUM FOR GLOBAL EDUCATION SEPT. 27-29 ON THE HATTIESBURG CAMPUS. CGE PROVIDES STUDY ABROAD OPPORTUNITIES FOR AMERICAN STUDENTS AND HELPS SECURE VISAS FOR INTERNATIONAL SCHOLARS TEACHING IN THE U.S.

WCU faculty and staff networked with visiting scholars about how to expand opportunities for students – like the existing Cooper School of Missions and Ministry program that enables intercultural studies interns to improve their Arabic through study abroad.

CGE member schools from all over the U.S. and abroad attended, including SIAS University in the People's Republic of China; Arabic Language Institute in Aman, Jordan; Northrise University in Zambia; and Liverpool Hope University in England.



Dr. Carolyn Bishop, CGE president, and Dr. Heath Thomas speak to the press during the three-day consortium meeting. Thomas is president of Oklahoma Baptist University and chair of the 2023 CGE Executive Committee.

WCU College of Osteopathic Medicine receives major grant for Institute of Primary Care

THE WILLIAM CAREY UNIVERSITY COLLEGE OF OSTEOPATHIC MEDICINE (WCUCOM) HAS RECEIVED A \$20 MILLION INFRASTRUCTURE GRANT THROUGH ACCELERATEMS, THE LEADING OFFICE FOR WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT IN MISSISSIPPI, TO ESTABLISH A NEW INSTITUTE OF PRIMARY CARE.

The announcement came May 5 during a press conference at WCU's Hattiesburg campus.

"We are extremely grateful for this impactful grant. The institute will be a beacon to transform and improve health care for all of our Mississippi communities," said Dr. Italo Subbarao, dean of WCUCOM.

The Institute of Primary Care will enhance WCUCOM's mission to increase the number of primary care physicians in rural and underserved areas in Mississippi and the Gulf South. It will train student doctors and primary care resident physicians, help community physicians and other healthcare providers advance their training and certifications, and provide a medical education space for advancements related to primary care.

"William Carey University has focused on workforce areas in our state which need the most attention – the fields of education and healthcare," said Mississippi Lt. Governor Delbert Hosemann.

"Under the leadership of Dr. Ben Burnett, and in partnership with the legislature, this \$20 million grant will directly result in an infusion of new doctors, nurses, and other healthcare professionals into rural Mississippi."

The Institute of Primary Care will have a large, state-of-the-art osteopathic manipulative medicine lab and a point-of-care ultrasound skills lab. It will also include an innovative skills simulation center and a large conference room for continuing medical education events.

"Our College of Osteopathic Medicine was established with a primary purpose to do just



Dr. Italo Subbarao, dean of the WCU College of Osteopathic Medicine, speaks at a press conference to announce a major infrastructure grant to establish the Institute of Primary Care at William Carey University's Hattiesburg campus.

as Christ did, to serve the underserved. That was the main mission of our namesake, William Carey," said WCU President Dr. Ben Burnett.

"We're not just named after Dr. William Carey, we want to continue the ministry that he started more than 200 years ago. Today's announcement is a culmination of a year and a half of work by Dr. Subbarao and his team. The fruits of their labor will strengthen the mission we created exponentially."

The \$20 million Mississippi Health Sciences Training Infrastructure Grant funds are allocated from the Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Fund program, which is part of the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021.

Under 2022 House Bill 1006, AccelerateMS is responsible for the management, oversight, and monitoring of these funds.

"We are honored and privileged to participate in a team that is focused on trying to improve the lives of Mississippians in a very palpable way. I cannot think of a workforce sector more important than supporting people who have a heart for serving those in the most vulnerable positions," said Ryan Miller, executive director of AccelerateMS.

For more information about the Institute of Primary Care, call (601) 318-6235 or email com@wmcarey.edu.

More WCUCOM NEWS



DR. VERONICA SCOTT OF THE WCU COLLEGE OF OSTEOPATHIC MEDICINE WAS INDUCTED INTO THE HATTIESBURG HALL OF FAME.

Dr. Scott joined the WCUCOM faculty in 2016. She is an assistant professor of preclinical sciences and founding director of the medical school's Office of Diversity – where she works to maintain an equitable academic environment at WCUCOM by providing cultural humility training to students, faculty, staff and administrators.



The WCU College of Osteopathic Medicine hosted its third Rural Health Summit. A gathering of health professionals from all over the state, the summit featured a talk by Dr. Ilse Levin, D.O., who serves on the national American Medical Association's board of trustees. She discussed health care challenges facing rural states – and delivered a lecture called "What I Wish I Knew in Medical School" to the COM's first- and second-year students.

In the photo: Dr. John R. Mitchell, president of the Mississippi State Medical Association, Dr. Italo Subbarao, dean of WCU College of Osteopathic Medicine, and Dr. Ilse Levin.



IN ITS 2024 RANKINGS, U.S. NEWS & WORLD REPORT RANKED WCU COLLEGE OF OSTEOPATHIC MEDICINE NO. 1 NATIONWIDE IN PRODUCING THE HIGHEST PERCENTAGE OF GRADUATES SERVING IN RURAL AREAS.

This marks the second year in a row WCUCOM has received this distinction. WCUCOM also ranked 6th in the nation for highest percentage of graduates practicing in health professional shortage areas and 8th in the nation for highest percentage of graduates practicing in primary care. Dr. Italo Subbarao said the award speaks to the future: "It fuels our passion to develop compassionate physicians and improve access to healthcare in rural and underserved communities in Mississippi and the Gulf South."



WCU offers hybrid LPN to RN PROGRAM

WILLIAM CAREY UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF NURSING IS MAKING IT EASIER FOR LICENSED PRACTICAL NURSES IN MISSISSIPPI TO BECOME REGISTERED NURSES – WHILE CONTINUING TO WORK AT THEIR CURRENT JOBS. BEGINNING IN FALL 2023, THE LPN ADVANCED PLACEMENT (LPN AP) PROGRAM WAS ALSO OFFERED IN A HYBRID FORMAT WITH REQUIRED PRE-NURSING COURSES TAUGHT IN SUMMER 2023.

WHAT DO STUDENTS NEED?

WCU developed the LPN AP program based on feedback from the medical community. Many LPNs who want to return to school to pursue RN licensure have been unable to do so because of work and family obligations. WCU's new program offers more flexibility, including full-time and part-time study plans, to allow students to complete their bachelor's degrees in nursing.

"Mississippi has a large population of excellent LPNs who want opportunities for career advancement. Giving them an accessible way to complete their bachelor's degrees and RN licensure opens doors for them to earn higher incomes for their families and provide better patient care," said Dr. Alicia Newell, dean of the WCU School of Nursing.

Admission to both the traditional LPN AP program and the new hybrid program is based

on GPA and possession of an unencumbered PN license – with no admission exams required. Both programs allow LPNs to earn college credit in selected courses based on their current knowledge of the course topics.

MAKING INSTRUCTION ACCESSIBLE

However, students across the state can take advantage of the new delivery method. The hybrid program will allow students to participate in theory classes taught using synchronous and asynchronous lectures and assignments. Clinical experiences, which require the direct supervision of a registered nurse, will be offered in various locations across the state based on enrollment and will include simulations and in-person patient care.

"We're always looking for innovative ways to address the nursing shortage. This new program means we can make our excellent



Dr. Janet Williams

nursing program accessible in other areas of the state. We believe helping our existing LPN workforce enhance their education, and providing them with career mobility, is a great way to help nursing in our state," said Dr. Janet Williams, vice president of WCU's College of Health Sciences.

For more information, email nursinglpn-ap@wmcarey.edu.



More Nursing NEWS

RegisteredNursing.org awarded WCU's Ph.D. in Nursing program a No. 5 national ranking after a review of data sources like the Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System, National Center for Education Statistics, and U.S. Department of Education's Office of Postsecondary Education.

William Carey's Ph.D. in nursing is a hybrid program, combining online instruction and periodic in-person meetings.

Dr. Jenna Barton, WCU coordinator of graduate nursing: "Our program is flexible for the working nurse and its accelerated and efficient timeframe enables students to contribute to the profession at the highest educational level."

The WCU Online Master's Degree in Nursing Education program earned a No. 5 national ranking from NurseEducator.com.

The program is designed for registered nurses who are seeking advanced preparation and leadership roles. It prepares graduates to assume faculty roles in nursing education at the pre-licensure level or staff development roles in healthcare settings. It is 100 percent online, plus preceptorship in the student's local area, and can be completed in 18 to 24 months.



William Carey launches

COM-SNBS Direct Admission Program



WCU announced its COM-SNBS Direct Admission program on July 26. Pictured at the press conference are, from left: WCU President Dr. Ben Burnett; Dr. John Smith, COM Assistant Dean of Admissions; Dr. Italo Subbarao, Dean of the College of Osteopathic Medicine; Dr. Thomas Rauch, SNBS Chair of Biological Sciences; Dr. Everett Roark, COM Associate Dean of Pre-Professional Services; and Dr. Mary Mackey, SNBS Chair of Chemistry & Physical Sciences.

A NEW PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN THE SCHOOL OF NATURAL & BEHAVIORAL SCIENCES (SNBS) AND COLLEGE OF OSTEOPATHIC MEDICINE (COM) GIVES QUALIFIED WCU STUDENTS AN OPPORTUNITY TO EARN GUARANTEED ADMISSION TO THE MEDICAL SCHOOL.

The COM Direct Admission program was announced during a press conference in July – and officially launched at the start of the fall 2023 trimester.

“What we’ve been able to do is develop a curriculum in concert with our undergraduate pre-med program so that students know exactly what courses they need to take. And if they can complete that curriculum, they can be admitted into the medical school,” said Dr. Italo Subbarao, dean of the COM.

“For students who want to become physicians, and know that when they’re freshmen, our direct admission program gives them a great advantage.”

HERE’S HOW COM DIRECT ADMISSION WORKS:

- Incoming students must have a combined SAT score of 1200 in the reading and math sections or an ACT score of 26. The application process also includes interviews with COM and SNBS faculty.
- Successful applicants enter the program in their freshman year. As undergrads, they complete a rigorous slate of chemistry, biology, psychology, physics and medical courses designed to prepare them for the rigors of medical school. The courses are offered through the School of Natural & Behavioral Sciences and taught by SNBS and COM faculty.
- Students must maintain a cumulative GPA of 3.75 or higher, as well as a science GPA of 3.75, and earn their bachelor’s degrees from William Carey University.
- Other requirements before admission to the COM include a MCAT score of 500 or higher, documentation of 50 hours of health care experience/shadowing, and a satisfactory interview with COM faculty.

Dr. Thomas Rauch of the SNBS Biological Sciences Department helped design the curriculum for the COM Direct Admission program.

“We advise students from the start as they go through the direct admission program. We review all the courses students need to take – and they have to come see me every trimester. We make sure they’re on-track with the curriculum and making good progress,” Rauch said.

WCU President Dr. Ben Burnett said it’s another way to help students pursue their calling.

“William Carey was already competitive with public institutions, but we’ve taken it a couple steps further. We’re paying for undergraduate textbooks starting in the fall. And we’ve frozen tuition at last year’s level – while also increasing academic scholarships by an average of 40 percent,” Burnett said.

For more information, contact Dr. Thomas Rauch at trauch@wmcarey.edu or (601) 318-6119.

More SNBS NEWS



SNBS started the fall trimester with a new fluorometer acquired with help from a \$25,000 grant from Mississippi INBRE (IDeA Network of Biomedical Research Excellence). A fluorometer is used to analyze samples for use in biochemistry and instrumental analysis. In the photo, Dr. Mary Mackey, chair of Chemistry & Physical Sciences, with faculty members Ashley Johnson and Rick Morrison, examine the fluorometer, which will better prepare chemistry majors to enter pharmacy school.



Sarah Crowsey took a 2nd place win in chemistry/biochemistry for her poster presentation during the IDeA South Eastern Region Conference in South Carolina. Her research project was titled, "Investigating Biofilm Formation on Polymer Substrates via Flow Cells." Crowsey is a triple major in chemistry, biology, and forensics.

Students and faculty from the SNBS and the COM's Astronomy Club celebrated Mid-Autumn Festival with star-gazing and mooncakes. Celebrated in East Asian cultures, the eight-day festival is a time to give thanks for the fall harvest and spend time with family and friends. The group used the SNBS telescope view the moon, stars – even the rings on Saturn!



WCU-Tradition CAMPUS



poised for next phase of expansion

WILLIAM CAREY UNIVERSITY HAS MADE A HOME ON THE MISSISSIPPI GULF COAST FOR ALMOST 50 YEARS. IT ALL BEGAN IN 1976, WHEN CAREY PURCHASED THE FORMER GULF COAST MILITARY ACADEMY PROPERTY IN GULFPORT. KNOWN AS “CAREY ON THE COAST,” THE LOVELY 20-ACRE BEACHFRONT CAMPUS WAS DEVASTATED BY HURRICANE KATRINA IN AUGUST 2005.

Classes were held off-campus until 16 modular buildings could be set up. But university leadership ultimately chose to build a new permanent home inland and bought 30 acres in the 4,800-acre Tradition Planned Community on Highway 67.

Phase 1 of the new campus, William Carey University-Tradition, opened in August 2009. It consisted of a main administrative building, a classroom building, a small maintenance building, and a guard shack.

PHASE 2

While new programs and classes were added over the next decade, the size of the Tradition campus stayed the same until 2018 – when two new, major buildings opened in consecutive months.

- **Sept. 14, 2018:** WCU officials cut the ribbon on Scianna Hall – featuring classrooms, offices, labs, a student lounge, and a 4,300-square-foot conference center. The building is named for Gulf Coast native Charles “Chuck” Scianna, the first person to make a financial contribution for re-building after an EF3 tornado damaged WCU’s Hattiesburg campus in January 2017.
- **Oct. 19, 2018:** Mississippi Gov. Phil Bryant spoke at the dedication of Sanderson Hall – the new home of the WCU School of Pharmacy. The three-story complex was named for Joe Frank Sanderson Jr. and his wife, Kathy, for their generous contributions in support of its construction.



CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE



WCU-Tradition CAMPUS

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PHASE 3

And now, the next steps toward expansion at WCU-Tradition are on the drawing board:

- Three-story dormitory to provide student housing and create a residential campus. Current plans include a recreation area and a Student Success Center on the ground floor.
- Two-story building adjacent to Scianna Hall scheduled to house a high-tech nursing simulation lab on the second floor and a full cafeteria on the first floor – to replace the existing Crusader Café currently serving only lunch.

“Our Tradition campus now accounts for more than 20 percent of William Carey’s enrollment. We think these proposed additions will provide the spark needed to bring attention to the Gulf Coast campus. Our prayer is that God will lead us to the necessary funds to make these dreams a reality,” said WCU President Dr. Ben Burnett.

Dr. Cassandra Conner, vice president of WCU-Tradition, said the university always strives to provide welcoming and supportive environments for students.

“The two new proposed buildings, the cafeteria/nursing center and student dormitory, will help reshape the Tradition Campus to better serve its students. Both buildings have been designed to provide spaces for our students to meet, collaborate, study, and learn,” Conner said.



WCU-TRADITION *Notes*

CRIMINAL JUSTICE

In fall 2023, the Criminal Justice program launched a major in forensic science, which opens up several career paths in law enforcement and investigative work.

CAREY ATHLETICS

Starting in fall 2024, WCU-Tradition will be the home of two new sports – men's swimming and women's swimming. Like other Carey teams, they will compete in the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics.

▼ TRADITION TUESDAY

In the spring, "Tradition Tuesday" debuted on WLOX-TV, featuring interviews with William Carey guests about campus events and programs. It airs Tuesdays at 11:30 a.m. during "Shop South Mississippi." The WLOX broadcast joins a similar program on WDAM, "William Carey Wednesday," that features the Hattiesburg campus. In the photo, host Jim Tabor interviews Dr. Michael Malloy, dean of the WCU School of Pharmacy.



PHARMACY

WCU School of Pharmacy is one of only a handful of accelerated pharmacy programs in the country. This summer, the Accreditation Council for Pharmacy Education granted them continued four-year accreditation through June 30, 2027.

NURSING

Tradition now offers an LPN to BSN program. Its hybrid format makes it easier for Licensed Practical Nurses in Mississippi to become registered nurses while continuing to work at their current jobs.

▼ CHAPEL

The Baptist Student Union hosts a monthly chapel service in the Belmont Room at Scianna Hall. Local pastors conduct the service, which is followed by free lunch and fellowship. In the photo, LaRue Stephens, pastor of First Baptist Church Long Beach and a member of the WCU Board of Trustees, delivers the message.



▲ LEADERSHIP

Dr. Cassandra Conner, vice president of WCU-Tradition, received a One Coast Community Leader Award. These awards are presented annually by the Gulf Coast Chamber of Commerce to recognize outstanding business and community leaders on the Mississippi Gulf Coast. In the photo, WCU President Dr. Ben Burnett congratulates Dr. Conner.

▼ SUCCESS

Several people from WCU-Tradition were nominated for Gulf Coast Woman Magazine's Class of 2023 "100 Successful Women to Know," including Donna George, assistant director for the business office. Dr. Cassandra Conner, VP of WCU-Tradition, and Jenifer Freridge, director of business programs, received the award. These awards are presented by the Gulf Coast Chamber of Commerce to recognize outstanding business and community leaders. Pictured are Jenifer Freridge, Cassandra Conner and Donna George.



Small Business Leadership

AWARD LUNCHEON

RICHARD AND GLENN MUELLER RECEIVED THE 2023 SMALL BUSINESS LEADERSHIP AWARD DURING A LUNCHEON OCT. 20 AT THE GREAT SOUTHERN CLUB IN GULFPORT. THE ANNUAL EVENT IS CO-HOSTED BY WCU-TRADITION CAMPUS AND THE GULF COAST BUSINESS COUNCIL.

The brothers were born and raised in Lakewood, Ohio, and relocated to the Mississippi Gulf Coast in 1981. That same year, they developed the franchise rights to expand Domino's Pizza outlets in Mississippi and Louisiana under the company name RPM Pizza, which now operates more than 100 locations.

They are also the founders of TrainTastic, fueled by a decades-long fascination with model trains that began when the brothers were children.

"The most important thing that a business owner can do is keep his business healthy – but as you become successful, it's important to give back to the community. As a retiree, I make sure to do a significant amount of charitable work, and my biggest one is the TrainTastic museum, where we're making a huge investment to build the largest model train museum in the world," Richard Mueller said.

U.S. Sen. Roger Wicker was keynote speaker for the event – talking about the future of the Magnolia state against a backdrop of huge cranes at the Port of Gulfport visible through the Great Southern Club's panoramic windows. Wicker has served Mississippi in the U.S. Senate since 2007 and is the ranking member of the Senate Armed Services Committee.

Alesha Bonner received the 2023 Small Business Leadership Scholarship. A resident of Gulfport, Bonner is a senior at WCU-Tradition campus, pursuing a degree in business administration with a concentration in workforce training and a minor in psychology.



Dr. Cheryl Dale, right, presents the 2023 Small Business Leadership Scholarship to Alesha Bonner, a senior at WCU-Tradition campus pursuing a degree in business administration.



The Small Business Leadership Award Luncheon was held Oct. 20. Shown at the award ceremony are, from left, WCU President Dr. Ben Burnett, TrainTastic co-founder Glenn Mueller, TrainTastic CEO Cynthia Walker, TrainTastic volunteer Rob Mooney, and Jamie Miller, president and CEO of the Gulf Coast Business Council.



Glenn Mueller and his brother, Richard Mueller, won the 2023 Small Business Leadership Award. They are the founders of TrainTastic – the world's largest model railroad museum with more than 30 model railroad train layouts.

William Carey
receives \$2.1 million

TEACHER RESIDENCY GRANT



THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION'S "SUPPORTING EFFECTIVE EDUCATION DEVELOPMENT" PROGRAM (SEED) HAS AWARDED WILLIAM CAREY UNIVERSITY A THREE-YEAR, \$2.1 MILLION GRANT FOR A TEACHER RESIDENCY PROGRAM TO TRAIN FUTURE ELEMENTARY TEACHERS IN STEM AREAS – SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, ENGINEERING, AND MATHEMATICS.

WCU School of Education's successful proposal is called "Stepping Up STEM at WCU."

"Any time a private Christian university like William Carey can get external funding to advance education in Mississippi is a big day. We're trying to help people answer the call to teach, and we've graduated more than 1,000 education majors in just the last two years," said WCU President Dr. Ben Burnett.

"Receiving \$2.1 million to invest in future teachers will allow us to accelerate that growth, specifically in the areas of science and technology, but also in special education. These are some of the most pressing critical shortage areas in the state."

PRESS CONFERENCE

U.S. Rep. Mike Ezell, R-District 4, attended a press conference announcing the grant on Aug. 16.

"We're very proud of what's going on here at William Carey. It makes me have a lot of faith in our young people. They're hungry for a better education system and to be a part of making something better – not only for the state but for our country. This is going to pay big dividends, way more than the grant ever will, as our young people go through the system and become good contributors to America," Ezell said.

The SEED funding will support 32 undergraduate students majoring in education, who will spend their junior and senior years learning teaching strategies in real-world classrooms from experienced math/science mentors and university instructors. The students selected for WCU's "Stepping Up STEM" program will serve in eight school districts with critical teacher shortages: Covington County, Forrest County, Greenville, Hattiesburg, Laurel, Picayune, Stone County, and Vicksburg-Warren.

Upon graduation from William Carey, the students will receive a K-6 teaching license with additional certifications in STEM and Special Education areas. After that, they will work as full-time teachers in their partner school districts for two years.

REAL-WORLD RESULTS

"We pride ourselves on fighting the teacher shortage and trying to make sure we have an effective teacher in every classroom. The teacher candidates chosen for this program will learn how to work with their students to enhance problem-solving and critical thinking skills," said Dr. Teresa Poole, dean of the WCU School of Education.

"As a former science teacher, this is really encouraging to me because many times students are not introduced to STEM content until secondary school. We want to change that, and we want to make sure our elementary teachers feel prepared to teach these kinds of classes."

The grant also provides the mentor teachers from partner districts with professional enhancement training for three years and the opportunity to earn a STEM endorsement leading to a master's degree at William Carey University.

Dr. Katie Tonore is the WCU School of Education's chair of curriculum and instruction.

"This means, at the end of the grant period, the eight partner school districts will have a much stronger STEM culture. Each district

will have four new math and science teachers – plus an experienced mentor teacher with enhanced STEM skills," Tonore said.

For more information, call the WCU School of Education at (601) 318-6142.

BY THE NUMBERS

William Carey University is one of only eight schools nationwide to receive a SEED grant this year – and the only one in the state of Mississippi.

This latest grant follows WCU's groundbreaking work with teacher residency programs. Since 2019, WCU has received five other teacher residency grants:

MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION \$600,000 grant in 2019 to establish an undergraduate residency program in Gulfport and Ocean Springs elementary schools. Funded by Kellogg Foundation.

MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION \$1.8 million grant in 2022 to establish master's-level teacher residency program in eight partner school districts. Funded by U.S. Department of Education.

BLACK EDUCATORS INITIATIVE Three grants in 2021-23 totaling \$300,000 to help undergraduate K-6 teacher residents earn undergraduate degrees in elementary education.

Commencement

1,200+ Graduates in May and August 2023







WCU's "Cobbler Closet"

FIGHTS FOOD INSECURITY

William Carey volunteers at the "United Against Hunger" food drive included, from left: Maggie Hickman of Perkinson; SGA President Anna Carroll of Carriere; and Dr. Anna Bailey, Dean of Students & Wellness.

THE "COBBLER CLOSET" FOOD PANTRY IS OPEN AT WCU-HATTIESBURG – A PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN THE STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION AND THE WCU OFFICE OF STUDENT SERVICES.

"Cobbler Closet is something we've needed. It's something our student government has advocated for, and I would say that it's a great help in fighting food insecurity. Even though it's still new, increasing numbers of students are utilizing it," said SGA President Anna Carroll.

"The food pantry stocks dry goods and canned foods donated by supporters. We also have a refrigerator, where we're able to offer fresh produce purchased with cash donations."

During the winter trimester, the Cobbler Closet will be open three days a week at the fitness center. It's called Cobbler Closet in honor of the university's namesake, William Carey, the "father of modern missions" – who was also a shoemaker, botanist and social reformer.

"Students shouldn't feel shy about visiting a food pantry. We've done a good bit of work to minimize the 'stigma' with walk-throughs, social

media posts, etc. There are no forms to fill out, and students don't have to make requests in writing," said Dr. Anna Bailey, Dean of Students & Campus Wellness.

On Oct. 21, William Carey University, University of Southern Mississippi, and Pearl River Community College co-hosted the "United Against Hunger" food drive at Corner Market grocery store on Hardy Street. The goal was to help stock food pantries at each campus.

"It was on a Saturday and it was wildly successful. Shoppers donated six buggies filled to the brim to split among the schools' food pantries. Two ladies each gave a buggy-full of groceries all by themselves. And some people made cash donations, too," Bailey said.

For more information about the Cobbler Closet, contact Dr. Anna Bailey at (601) 318-6830 or abailey@wmcarey.edu.



YOU CAN HELP

Supporters can make donations online by visiting Cobbler Closet's "Wish List" on Amazon.com. Just enter this link, <https://a.co/bacNwls>, or scan the QR code.

INAUGURAL CLASS

Master's in CHRISTIAN THEOLOGY



Pictured before the graduation ceremony are, from left: Robert Harris of Duck Hill, Ashley McClinton of Hattiesburg, and Caleb McCord of Mount Olive.

The first graduates of WCU's new master's degree program in Christian theology received their diplomas May 12 at Temple Baptist Church. Offered by the Cooper School of Missions & Ministry Studies, the curriculum equips students to teach on the mission field, local churches, and colleges or universities – and write in the field of theology.

Courses include biblical, systematic, historical, missiological, and practical theology. Students also complete five reading colloquia – Introduction to Research and Writing, Theology of the Early Church and Patristic Period, Medieval Theology, Theology of the Renaissance and Reformation, and Theology from the Modern Period. This online degree can be completed over five consecutive trimesters.

Ten students are currently enrolled in the program and a new cohort will begin its studies in 2024.

Summer

MISSIONARIES & INTERNS

SEVEN CHRISTIAN STUDIES STUDENTS INTERINED WITH SBC CHURCHES AND ENTITIES THIS PAST YEAR. THIRTEEN INTERCULTURAL STUDIES STUDENTS INTERINED IN NORTH AMERICA, ASIA, EUROPE, SOUTH AMERICA, AND AFRICA. TEN SUMMER MISSIONARIES WENT TO FOUR U.S. STATES AND FIVE INTERNATIONAL LOCATIONS.

Sarah Funk is a sophomore at Carey majoring in Elementary Education, and she spent her summer serving on university campuses in Southeast Asia.

Sarah reflects, "This summer, I was pushed out of my comfort zone and challenged to share the Gospel with students at every opportunity. It brought me so much joy!



Sarah Funk



Michael Domke

God taught me the power of prayer in every situation. Through my experience, I feel the urgency of reaching the billions who have never heard the name of Jesus."

Michael Domke is a sophomore studying Cross Cultural Business Management who served in Utah this past summer through the BSU.

Michael reflects, "We spent two months sharing our faith with Mormons, running vacation Bible schools, and connecting the community members with local churches. The local churches in Utah supported us, ministered alongside us, worshipped alongside us, and encouraged us greatly throughout the summer. I've walked away with a greater passion and urgency for ministry and a firmer foundation in what I believe. God has revealed and reminded me of the importance of the local church, the need for Truth, and our helpless yet comforting reliance upon Him."

Samantha Young is a junior majoring in Chemistry and Intercultural Studies who served in Southeast Asia this past summer through the BSU.

She reflects, "Getting to serve in Southeast Asia this summer will forever be an experience that changed my life. God is moving in powerful ways across the world, raising up the body of Christ and stirring up curiosity in many of those who get to hear the Good News! He is faithful to keep His promise to redeem all nations, and seeing Him at work fulfilling that promise was truly amazing. Even though I will never know the impact of many of those conversations, I know I serve a God who I can trust far beyond my own understanding. All that any Christian needs to do is to walk in obedience to Him and have faith in the goodness of His character. He will surely take care of the rest as we continue to go and be a part of what He is doing in all nations!"



Samantha Young

PHARMACY

Trip



The School of Pharmacy students and faculty traveled to Guatemala on a mission trip. They served more than 1,000 people with medicine and vaccinations.





SBC *New Orleans*



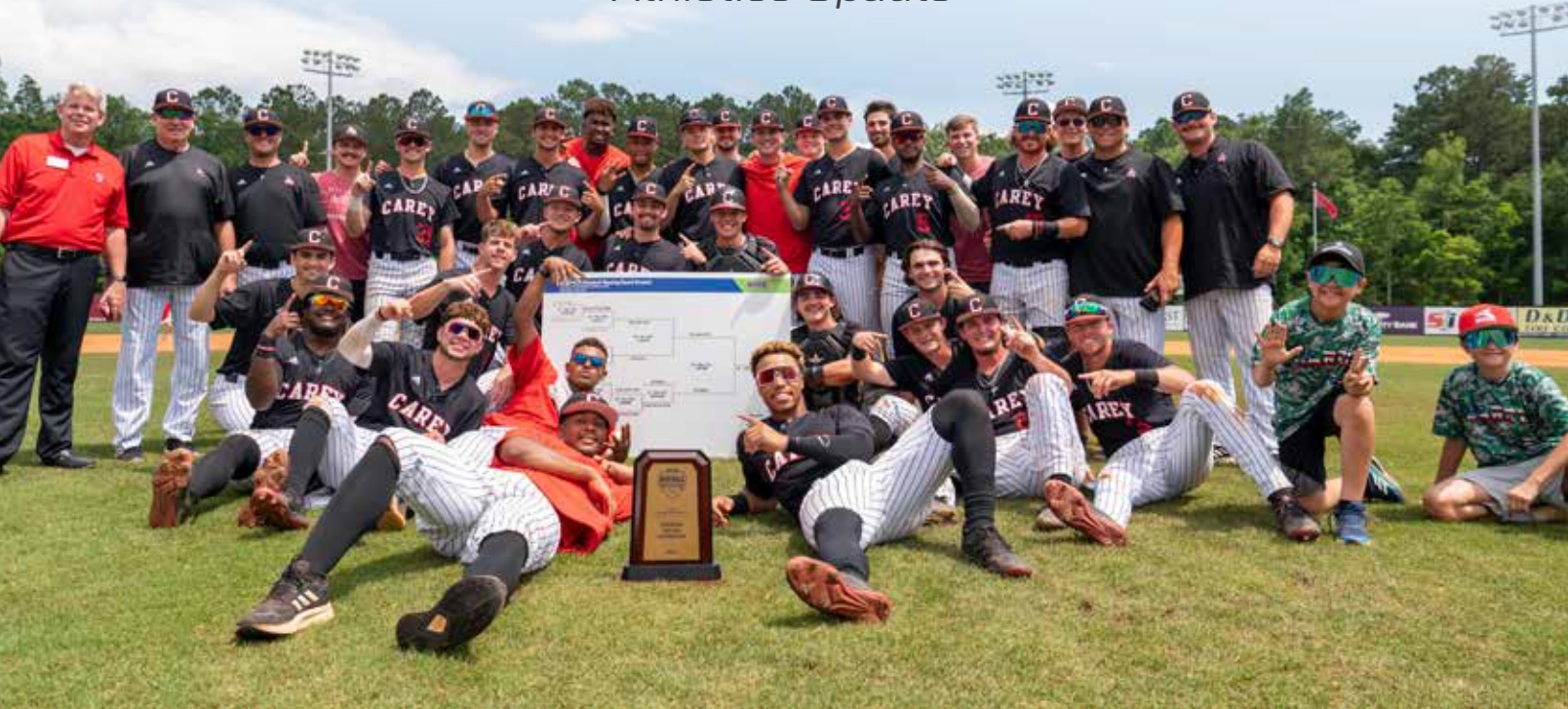
Mississippi Baptist Convention

The Carey Worship Choir and Band performed at the SBC Pastors' Conference and the Mississippi Baptist Convention. Dr. Burnett gave university updates in both New Orleans and Jackson.



WILLIAM CAREY CRUSADERS

Athletics Update



TENNIS

The women's tennis team captured their fourth SSAC tournament title in May. They advanced to the quarterfinal round of the 2023 NAIA Women's Tennis Championship.



▲ **WOMEN'S SOCCER**

The Lady Crusader soccer team completed a fabulous season and headed into the championship match undefeated. Ranked #1 in the nation all season long, the team finished up second at the NAIA National Tournament in Foley. The final game was a heartbreaker: 1-1 at the end of regulation and two overtime periods. University of the Cumberlands squeaked out a 3-2 victory over the Lady Crusaders in penalty kicks to win the final.

◀ **BASEBALL**

The baseball team ended its season with an overall record of 49-11 and 22-2 in conference play. The Crusaders hosted and won a national regional tournament and made it to the semifinals of the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics World Series in Idaho—where Coach Halford picked up his 1,300th career win.

THREE NEW SPORTS

Carey athletics will add three sports to the 2024-25 lineup. Men's and women's swimming will be based at the Tradition campus. Competitive cheerleading will be based in Hattiesburg.

DJ PULLEY STEPS DOWN AS ATHLETIC DIRECTOR

DJ Pulley has stepped down after six years at the helm of Crusader athletics. Pulley began his journey at Carey in the fall of 2000 as a member of the golf team. During his 20 years in college athletics, Pulley has served as a graduate assistant coach, sports information director, head men's golf coach, and assistant women's basketball coach before taking over the reins as athletic director in 2016. Head women's basketball coach Tracy English will serve as the interim director of athletics until a permanent replacement is found.

COMMISSIONER'S CUP

For the seventh straight year, Carey Athletics won the Southern States Athletic Conference Commissioner's Cup. The SSAC uses a scoring formula that evaluates the percentage of potential points earned by each school in the sports it sponsors, and bonus points are awarded for sports sponsored and conference tournament titles won.



SPORTS HALL OF FAME

Seven alumni were inducted into the Sports Hall of Fame on April 15. Wanda Burre Ard '79, basketball; David Bass '93, basketball; Michael Dumas '94, baseball; Nic Ishee '13, golf; Marco Mthembu '98, soccer; Jill Wedgeworth '09, softball; Wally Hartel '75, legacy. Russ Hendley received a legacy induction for his many years of support for Carey Athletics.

Pictured left to right: seated—Russ Hendley, Wanda Ard, Jill Wedgeworth, Wally Hartel; standing—Marco Mthembu, David Bass, Michael Dumas, Nic Ishee



WCU breaks ground for
Bobby Halford Fieldhouse



William Carey University surprised head baseball coach Bobby Halford with the announcement that a new fieldhouse will be named after him.

WILLIAM CAREY UNIVERSITY ANNOUNCED ITS LARGEST ATHLETIC FACILITY PROJECT IN NEARLY SEVEN YEARS WITH A GROUND-BREAKING FOR THE BOBBY HALFORD FIELDHOUSE AT LARRY KENNEDY SPORTS COMPLEX.

“Coach Halford is somebody who has been here since the 1970s, with 38 years as a head coach, so there’s really no conversation about who to name the fieldhouse after. It’s important to recognize the success we’ve had over the last couple of decades – and it’s long

overdue for us to provide this facility for our players,” said WCU President Dr. Ben Burnett.

More than 150 guests from the business community, city officials, players from all eras, co-workers, and fans of Crusader athletics gathered for the July 20 ground-breaking. The 4,800-square-foot facility will be located between Milton Wheeler Field and Joseph & Nancy Fail Field. It will have locker rooms for the baseball and softball teams.

The name of the fieldhouse was kept secret until Dr. Burnett announced, from the podium, that it would be named in honor of WCU’s longtime Crusader baseball coach.

“I’m blessed, and it’s an honor. I came



Coach Halford's family came out to support him.



ORAL HISTORY PROJECT

Launched in October

THE UNIVERSITY IS COLLABORATING WITH PUBLISHING CONCEPTS, INC. (PCI) TO COLLECT AND PUBLISH ALUMNI STORIES. THE STORIES AND PHOTOS WILL BE PRESERVED IN A BOOK THAT CELEBRATES THE IMPACT CAREY HAS HAD ON OUR LIVES AND WHO WE ARE TODAY. EVERY YEAR THAT WE DON'T CAPTURE AND PRESERVE THESE STORIES IS A LOST OPPORTUNITY, SO WE'RE EXCITED TO MOVE FORWARD WITH THIS PROJECT!

Most of our alumni have received a yellow postcard in the mail as well as an email asking for our participation in the project. After just two weeks, we've collected more than 1,000 stories and updated almost 1,500 alumni records. Of those who responded, 97.8

percent recommend others call in and participate.

One alumna commented, "I know my call had to have been one of the most boring ones she'd had all day, but she made me feel like it was the most interesting!"

Another said, "The OHP is a wonderful way to preserve some of WCU's treasured moments from the past to promote an evidence-based foundation for future students and staff."

If you have not yet called in, please do so. You are not obligated to purchase anything in order to participate. However, you will be given the opportunity to purchase a copy of the book and other Carey merchandise if you'd like to. The number to call is 1-800-567-5367.

If you have questions about the project, you can call 1-800-982-1590 or email customerservice@publishingconcepts.com.

down here in 1971 to play two sports. I never dreamed I'd be here this long and have as much comradery with the people we have met. It was really special. I'm very humbled and blessed," Halford said.

Coach Halford has wrapped up his 38th season in charge of Carey baseball – perhaps the best season in his storied career. His Crusaders went 49-11, won the SSAC regular season title and finished third at the NAIA World Series. Coach Halford earned career win number 1,300 on May 29, when WCU defeated #1 Southeastern (Fla.) 13-4 in game two of the World Series.

Hanco Construction began work immediately, with an anticipated completion date before the start of the 2024 season in February.

Anyone wishing to make a gift to the Bobby Halford Fieldhouse can contact Karen Golson at kgolson@wmcarey.edu.





Alumni HALL of FAME

William Carey University inducted five new members into its Alumni Hall of Fame during 2023 Homecoming festivities. They are, front row from left, Barbara Loustalot Hamilton and Sandra Simmons King. In the back row are W.L. "Trey" Folse and Thomas McSwain. Not pictured is Keith Rischer.

**WILLIAM CAREY UNIVERSITY
INDUCTED FIVE NEW MEMBERS
INTO ITS ALUMNI HALL OF
FAME DURING HOMECOMING
FESTIVITIES IN APRIL – PASTOR
THOMAS MCSWAIN JR., NURSING
AUTHOR AND SPEAKER KEITH
RISCHER, AND LIFELONG
EDUCATORS W.L. FOLSE, BARBARA
HAMILTON, AND SANDRA KING.**

“Carey has a 130-year history of producing graduates who have answered God’s call to serve others. This year’s class is a great example – three educators, an expert nurse clinician, and a minister who we honored for their outstanding service,” said WCU President Dr. Ben Burnett.

“We are proud of these graduates, as well as all of our graduates, and look forward to helping more quality individuals like these five honorees as they make our state and nation a better place.”

The induction ceremony was held April 14 at WCU’s Hattiesburg campus. Here’s a look at the honorees:

W.L. “TREY” FOLSE

W. L. “Trey” Folse of Folsom, La., is a two-time graduate of William Carey University, earning a bachelor’s degree in 1982 and a master’s degree in 1985. He was a member of Carey’s basketball team, playing for Coach John Stephenson – as well as serving as a graduate assistant coach in baseball for Coach Stephenson and Coach Steve Knight’s first-ever graduate assistant coach in basketball.



WCU Alumni Hall of Fame inductee Barbara Hamilton, center, visits with Kevin and Pam Shearer during Homecoming 2023. Pam is WCU’s director of alumni engagement.

Folse has dedicated his career to serving children, educators, and families.

He began his teaching career at his alma mater, Slidell High School. During 35 years with his hometown system, he rose through the ranks as a school leader and district administrator. The school board appointed Folse superintendent of St. Tammany Parish in 2010. His success in that leadership role earned him the title 2017 State of Louisiana Superintendent of the Year.

During his time as superintendent, Folse received many other awards, including Crimestoppers’ Excellence in School Safety and Prevention Award, Community Service Award from the Covington Branch of the NAACP, and St. Tammany Federation of Teachers and School

Employees “Man with a Mission” Award.

In 2020, during the heart of the pandemic, Folse joined the Louisiana Department of Education as its first assistant superintendent of School System Relations. He established a new unit dedicated to strong relationships and open lines of communication between his state agency and Louisiana’s 70 public school systems.

Folse is married to his best friend, Patty, who is also a lifelong educator. They have two children, Will Folse and his wife, Rachel, and Abby Morris and her husband, Jake. Patty Folse also blessed her husband with two step-sons, Jack and David Witte. The couple has five grandchildren – with a fifth on the way.

BARBARA LOUSTALOT HAMILTON

Barbara Loustalot Hamilton of Hattiesburg graduated from William Carey University in 1958 with a bachelor’s degree in English. She later earned a master’s degree in English and an education specialist degree in educational leadership from Mississippi State University.

During her student days at William Carey, Hamilton was president of the Baptist Student Union, officer of her sophomore and senior classes, and officer of the Student Government Association. Her classmates voted her a “Class Favorite,” a “Beauty,” and “Miss William Carey.”

She retired in 2022 after a six-decade career in education, including roles as English teacher at high schools and colleges, grant-writer, and executive assistant to the WCU president.



During his student days, WCU Alumni Hall of Fame inductee W. L. “Trey” Folse, left, was Coach Steve Knight’s first-ever graduate assistant coach in basketball. Folse is shown at the Homecoming crawfish boil with his wife, Patty, Coach Knight, and the coach’s wife, Regina.

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Alumni HALL of FAME

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WCU Alumni Hall of Fame inductee Sandra King and her husband, WCU President Emeritus Tommy King, visit with Shelia Brown of the Office of Advancement and her grandson, Hudson Speights, during Homecoming 2023.

Hamilton also taught many classes and seminars for the church on the local and state level. She was a consultant for the Mississippi Baptist Convention in the areas of single adults, ministers' wives, and missions. She wrote training materials for the Southern Baptist Convention and an English workbook for Holt, Rinehart, and Winston Publisher. She was on the teaching staff for Mississippi Baptist Convention's youth weeks at Gulfshore Conference Center for many summers.

Hamilton has served in many professional organizations, including Delta Kappa Gamma since 1977. She has received many awards, including Outstanding Young Woman of America, Phi Theta Kappa Outstanding Educator of the Year, Meridian Community College Outstanding Faculty of the Year, and Outstanding High School Teacher. In Hattiesburg, she served on the board of the Downtown Hattiesburg

Association, the Historical Preservation Association, and the 19th Amendment Celebration Committee.

In 2022, WCU conferred upon her an honorary Doctor of Humane Letters degree.

She was married to the late Jackie Hamilton for 43 years and has three children, 10 grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren.

SANDRA SIMMONS KING

Sandra Simmons King grew up in Mt. Hermon, on the state line of Mississippi and Louisiana. She graduated from William Carey University in 1965 with both bachelor of arts and bachelor of science degrees. She majored in elementary education and minored in biology. She earned master's and education specialist degrees in elementary education with an emphasis on early childhood education from the University of Southern Mississippi.

Mrs. King taught elementary school in Louisiana and Mississippi for 42 years before her retirement.

King was a member of Alpha Delta Kappa, a board member of Mississippi Association of Educators, and served on the board of directors of Spouses of International Lions Club. She has been a longtime Bible teacher for children and active church participant. She is a lifetime learner and a supporter of quality education.

She is married to Dr. Tommy King, president emeritus of William Carey University. They make their home in Columbia and have one son, two grandsons, and three great-grandchildren.

King's philosophy of life is, "I believe the best investment one can make is in the life of another. To spend my time on earth attempting to enable one to have a successful future has brought me much joy and satisfaction."

THOMAS MCSWAIN

Thomas McSwain Jr. of Collins earned a bachelor's degree from William Carey University in 1998. He furthered his education at Grand Canyon University with a master's degree in Christian studies and a doctor of education degree in organizational leadership.

McSwain is pastor of Old Hopewell Baptist Church in Collins. He has served as senior pastor of two other churches – one in Hattiesburg and one in Thomasville, N.C.

He authored a book, "Don't Fight the Darkness," with a foreword by Dr. Fred Luter, past president of the Southern Baptist Convention. McSwain is a certified mentor with New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary for one-on-one discipleship. He also partners with First Sweet Pilgrim Association for Sunday School and Baptist Training Union Congress, serving more than 300 students.

With Christ's church as his passion, McSwain serves as a licensed trainer for Send Network of the North American Mission Board. He has served as vice president of Baptist Medical and Dental Missions International in Honduras, Nicaragua, and Guatemala. McSwain also served in the U.S. Army's 82nd Airborne Division, including a tour of duty in Operation Enduring Freedom.

He has been invited to preach at William Carey University's chapel services and serves as an adjunct professor of Old Testament Survey.

McSwain and his wife, Sonya, have been married for 27 years. They raised four children together, embracing their role to teach and train their children in the way of God. Three of the McSwain children have enrolled at William Carey University.

KEITH RISCHER

Keith Rischer of Anoka, Minn., is an author, nurse educator, and expert clinician with more than 35 years of experience. He is recognized as a thought leader on clinical judgment and its importance for safe nursing practice and improving patient outcomes.

A member of the WCU Class of 2020, Rischer holds a doctorate – and is also a registered nurse, cross-certified registered nurse, and certified emergency nurse.

Driven by a passion for inspiring and educating the next generation of nurses, Dr. Rischer launched a website, "KeithRN," in 2012 to pursue his vision of transforming nursing education. His innovative clinical reasoning case studies simulate current practice realities to help students think critically and apply knowledge to complex patient scenarios.

His membership platform, "Think Like a Nurse," provides active learning and evidence-based teaching strategies to develop clinical judgment essential for safe practice to more than 1,500 educators in more than 200 programs across the United States and Canada.



WCU Alumni Hall of Fame inductee Keith Rischer

In 2022, he published "Think Like a Nurse." This three-volume student textbook set provides practice-based perspective on essential content – including professional identity formation, holistic care, civility in nursing, pathophysiology, and the development of clinical judgment.

Dr. Rischer speaks widely at conferences and workshops on critical thinking, clinical reasoning, and strategies to close the academic-to-practice gap.

Keith is supported in all his endeavors by his wife, Rhonda, and is blessed with five children and six grandchildren.

"The vast impact these five Carey graduates have had throughout their careers inspires me. In education, ministry, health care, family, and community service, they all leave grand legacies. They are great role models and examples for our alumni and students to look up to. They are my heroes," said Director of Alumni Engagement Pam Shearer.

For information about the William Carey University Alumni Association, email pshearer@wmcarey.edu.



WCU Alumni Hall of Fame inductee Thomas McSwain arrives for the Homecoming Court ceremony with his daughter, Trinity, and wife, Sonya.



2023

Homecoming

HOMEcomings COURT

William Carey University's 2023 Homecoming Court includes, in the front row, 2023 Homecoming Queen Faith Dillon. In the second row are Kassidee Stillwell and Elaina Hollis. In the third row is Kaylee Hodgins. In the fourth row are Anna Carroll and Tristan McSwain. In the fourth row are Sarah Funk and Melissa Schauer. Not pictured, Daybath Marte-Herrera.



MR. & MISS WCU

Mr. and Miss William Carey University were recognized during Homecoming 2023. Mr. WCU is Fernando Duron Jr. of Wilmer, Ala., an instrumental music education major. Miss WCU is Grace Smith of Poplarville, a biology major who will begin WCU's Doctor of Physical Therapy program in the fall.



50 YEAR LUNCHEON: *The class of '73 celebrated their 50th reunion on April 14.*



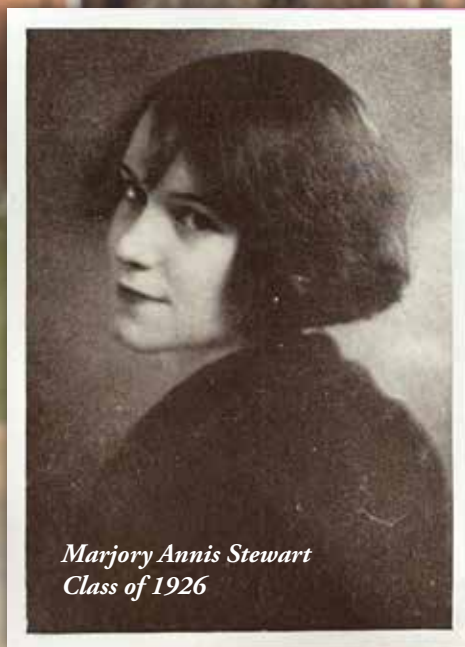


CAMPUS PICNIC
Crawfish and burgers were a hit with both students and alumni.

Save
the Date
FOR HOMECOMING
2024
APRIL 19-20



| PLANNED GIVING



*Marjory Annis Stewart
Class of 1926*



*Dr. James M.
& Mrs. Janice*

STEWART

Family legacy stories run deep and strong at William Carey University. The Stewart family is one of many whose Carey ties span generations. Dr. Jimmy Stewart, who served as Chairman of the Board of Trustees at William Carey University, had ties to the school before he was even born, beginning with his grandmother Marjory Stewart (née Annis) graduating from then-Mississippi Women's College in the 1920s. Both of his parents were also Carey grads, and his father, Dr. Don Stewart, later taught in Carey's Department of Philosophy for 15 years. His mother, Mrs. Mona Stewart, earned three degrees from Carey and later served on the Board of Trustees. Jimmy fondly recalls his time on campus throughout his childhood and young adulthood, from serving as crown-bearer at a May Day Celebration at the age of six, to going to Crusader baseball and basketball games, to accompanying his dad while he drove

down the coast on Mondays to teach night classes. All of these experiences and more helped to foster a deep sense of community between him, his family, and the university.

Now, Dr. Jimmy Stewart and his wife Janice—also a Carey grad—have recently announced a planned gift to William Carey University. This generous commitment is a part of the Charitable Remainder Trust that they have established as part of their will, which will be known as the James M. and Janice S. Stewart Trust Fund.

When asked what encouragement he might give to others considering planned giving, Dr. Stewart said, "Everything I have is a gift from God... If God has blessed you, and you have resources beyond your daily needs, and there are funds remaining after your death, consider what's going to happen to that money. Planned giving directs what's going to happen to that money—who gets it and how they use it."

"Since I've gone through this process, now I'm thinking about how God is going to bless others through my planned giving. It totally changed the way I looked at money, retirement, and even William Carey University."

If you have questions about planned giving, contact Karen Golson at kgolson@wmcarey.edu.



The Paul and Betty Sykes

MISSIONARY DEPENDENT SCHOLARSHIP

at William Carey University

BETTY JEAN CROCKER, A NATIVE OF HATTIESBURG, MISSISSIPPI, GRADUATED FROM THEN-WILLIAM CAREY COLLEGE IN 1971 WITH A DEGREE IN MATH. SHE MARRIED PAUL GERARD SYKES IN NOVEMBER 1971 AS HE WAS SERVING AS A SERGEANT WITH THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE. THE TWO OF THEM SPENT THE NEXT 52 YEARS OF THEIR MARRIAGE TRAVELING ALL OVER THE WORLD WITH TOURS OF DUTY IN BOTH THE FAR EAST AND EUROPE. THEY FELT THAT IT WAS ESSENTIAL TO KEEP IN TOUCH WITH CHRISTIAN CHURCH ACTIVITIES AND ORGANIZATIONS WHILE LIVING OVERSEAS AND THAT THEIR ASSOCIATION WITH AMERICAN MISSIONARIES SERVING IN FOREIGN COUNTRIES WAS FOUNDATIONAL TO SATISFYING THEIR OVERALL NEED FOR FELLOWSHIP AMONG OTHER FELLOW CHRISTIAN BELIEVERS.

When Paul retired from the Air Force in 1989, the couple decided to settle in Hattiesburg after a 20-year absence from the area. Paul, a Vietnam veteran, completed his bachelor's degree in pre-professional psychology at the University of Southern Mississippi and then continued to complete his master's degree in marriage and family therapy through the same institution.

Both Betty and Paul worked with the University of Southern Mississippi for more than 20 years and retired in 2010. Betty worked at the USM School of Nursing as well as the English Language Institute. Paul was a project manager with the Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry. Betty's extensive background while living overseas was a vital asset to foreign students who were coming to the United States to study English. With Betty's experience abroad, she was able to provide the necessary

support to students in need of such services.

Approaching their later years of life, Betty and Paul felt a desire to share their financial blessings with William Carey University. Having attended the annual 50-year Alumni Luncheon in 2023 and hearing a wonderful presentation about the various scholarships and other financial services provided to students, they were inspired to contribute to Carey with a planned gift.

They added an immediate gift which allows Betty and Paul to see and enjoy the benefits of knowing missionary dependents will receive scholarships at Carey. The planned gift assures that their generosity will continue to benefit students for generations to come.

For more information or to donate to the Missionary Dependent Scholarship, contact Karen Golson at kgolson@wmcarey.edu.

What is Planned Giving?

Planned Giving, also known as legacy giving, is a donation designated to be paid at a future date, often via a person's will.

CLASSES NOTES



60s

DAVID MARING '68

David completed another novel, "Darkness to Light," the most recent in a long list of novels. He majored in history at Carey and served in the U.S. Marine Corps. He is a retired Circuit Court Judge who combines his legal experience with his military training and his strong southern biblical background to create novels ranging from historical fiction to suspense thrillers. These days he enjoys writing and hanging out with his chickens.



80s

DON BIADOG '83

The Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States presented Chaplain Manuel "Don" Biadog, Jr. with the National Chaplain of the Year Award in July 2023. Don is a dedicated Carey alumnus, having graduated Cum Laude with a double major in Biblical Studies and Social Science. He is grateful to God for receiving the "Alumnus of the Year Award for Community Service" in 1993 and "Alumni Hall of Fame" award in 2018. He earned two master's degrees, Master of Divinity and Master of Arts in Religious Education in 1987 from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, TX. In 2001, he earned the Doctor of Ministry from Fuller Theological Seminary in Pasadena, CA. During his military service, he received the Master of Arts in National Security and Strategic Studies in 2014 at Naval War College, Newport, RI. Lastly, he received an Honorary Doctor of Divinity from Baptist Missionary Association Bible College, Philippines, in 2017.



90s

BRADLEY '98 AND BRANDY '99 WHITE

Bradley has served as minister of music and worship at First Baptist Church Summit, MS since 2001. Brandy and Bradley both hold degrees from Carey – he holds a bachelor of music education, and she a bachelor in vocal performance. Bradley earned a Master of Music in Church Music with extra studies in voice and music theory. During their time in Summit, Bradley has taught music theory as an adjunct instructor at Southwest Mississippi Community College. Brandy has taught private voice, Kindermusik, and piano. The choir at FBC Summit has grown from 35 members to more than 150 under his leadership, and they also started an orchestra that plays weekly for services and special events. Bradley also founded the Southwest Mississippi Regional Church Choir, a group of 300 church musicians from the area that sing together once a year. Bradley regularly leads revivals and special events around Southwest Mississippi and has appeared as guest lecturer for church music conferences throughout the south. Bradley and Brandy have three daughters – Clara Beth (20), Lillian (16), and Stella (9). They enjoy working in their yard and spending time with family.



10s

WILL WHEAT '11

Will currently serves as the principal at Forrest County Agricultural High School. He earned his bachelor's degree from USM in 2008, then the master's ('11), specialist ('19) and doctorate ('23) from Carey. Will is married to Kristina (Carey class of '09). They have two daughters.

**TRACY COOK '17**

Tracy was appointed interim president of Alcorn State University in July 2023. He previously served as chief of staff and vice president for student affairs and enrollment management. He holds doctorate and specialist in educational leadership degrees from Carey and bachelor and master's degrees from Alcorn State.

**LYUJOHN WILLIAMS '18**

Since 2022, Lyujohn has served as associate band director and director of jazz at Ben Davis High School in Indianapolis,

IN. He earned the Bachelor of Music Education at Carey. At WCU, he was honored to perform with the Symphonic Winds, Jazz Bands, Chorale Orchestra, Show Choir Band, and the Knights of Jazz (WCU's advanced jazz combo). During his senior year, he won the 2017 William Carey Concerto competition. Before coming to Ben Davis, Lyujohn was the director of bands at Decatur Middle School. Along with teaching, Lyujohn has a passion for performing and plays trumpet for numerous bands around the Indianapolis area, including the JoySwing! Jazz Orchestra, the Indiana Wind Symphony, the Directors Jazz Orchestra, and the Pork & Beans Brass Band. When not playing or teaching, he enjoys spending time with his wife, Becca (WCU class of '18), and playing with their dog, Daisy, and cat, Onyx.

**SARA GRACE GOLSON VALENTINE '18**

Sara is a Hattiesburg native who graduated from WCU in 2018 with a Bachelor of Science in Intercultural Studies and Biology with a minor in Chemistry. She earned her Master's degree in Biomedical Sciences from the University of Mississippi Medical Center in 2019 and graduated from UMMC's School of Dentistry in 2023. She and her husband, James, currently live in Starkville where James is a second-year veterinary student at Mississippi

State University. Dr. Valentine is part of the Mississippi Rural Dentists Scholarship Program and is working at Smiles Dental Clinic in Louisville, MS.

Outside of school and work, Sara and James love to travel, hike, play music, run/exercise, bake, and hang out with their cat, Pepo, and dog, Honey.

**AMIA GREEN '19**

Amia earned the Bachelor of Science at Carey, then entered medical school at the University of Mississippi School of Medicine in Jackson. She is currently in her first year of residency for Ophthalmology at Walter Reed National Military Medical Center. After completing residency, Amia plans to serve as an Army Ophthalmologist, taking care of service members and their families. She also plans to mentor students who are considering a career in the medical field.



20s

**JESSICA TAYLOR '21
EMILY STRICKLAND '22**

Mentorships are an integral element in the WCU School of Pharmacy. Jessica and Emily recently mentored Victoria Harris, a third-year student pharmacist. Victoria recently completed her APPE Acute Care Medicine rotation at Merit Health Wesley. She expresses her deep gratitude for the invaluable guidance and mentorship she has received during this transformative experience. Victoria said, "What makes it even more special is having two outstanding William Carey School of Pharmacy graduates, Dr. Emily Strickland '22 and Dr. Jessica Taylor '21, as my mentors. I have gained a wealth of knowledge under their expert guidance, and I feel privileged to have learned from these exceptional pharmacists."

L-R: Emily Strickland, Victoria Harris, Jessica Taylor



Please send your class notes to alumni@wmcarey.edu to be included in the next Carey Magazine.

Alumni & Faculty Passings

BREANNA AINSWORTH '13

April 20, 1991 - September 27, 2023

GEORGE BERGER '64

April 2, 1942 - October 3, 2023

**BARBARA ELIZABETH
CHITWOOD '66**

August 24, 1944 - July 26, 2023

MARION OTIS FARMER JR '66

October 8, 1944 - May 25, 2023

ANDREW FORD '98

December 13, 1984 - July 07, 2023

GARY FORDHAM

Former Trustee

October 7, 1954 - May 24, 2023

THOMAS WILLIAM GURKSNIS '74

August 26, 1941 - May 30, 2023

MARTHA JO HAYES '53

February 18, 1932 - April 20, 2023

FAYE MCGREGER HOWE '59

February 7, 1935 - May 24, 2023

RAYMOND THOMAS KING '64

President Emeritus

June 16, 1941 - November 22, 2023

RICHARD EVERETT MADDEN '56

February 02, 1933 - July 30, 2023

BILLY RAY MATHIS '50

October 01, 1929 - April 13, 2023

MINDY ELIZABETH MCGEE '09

May 4, 1983 - May 4, 2023

STEPHEN WAYNE PIGOTT '13

December 13, 1984 - July 7, 2023

BILLY ROSS RENICK '72

March 11, 1950 - August 5, 2023

MARGARET PHILLIPS SAYLES '79

January 9, 1938 - April 18, 2023

REV. ALBERT "BART"

DAY SHAW, JR. '68

May 24, 1941 - October 3, 2023

STEPHEN RAY STRINGER '98

February 03, 1968 - April 27, 2023

EARL EUGENE TAGERT, JR '65

December 17, 1942 - March 31, 2023

THEARON TIMOTHY

"TIM" THOMAS '70

November 10, 1947 - June 1, 2023

JOLENE LYNELLE WILSON '06

March 11, 1979 - April 10, 2023

A.V. "SONNY" WINDHAM, JR. '62

July 14, 1937 - September 28, 2023

PATRICIA FAITH WOODARD '69

October 16, 1947 - April 6, 2023



Single & Recurring Gifts

Gifts of any amount are crucial to the growth and development of scholarships. Donors may make single gifts by mail or through our online giving page at any time. To schedule recurring gifts, contact the Office for Advancement.

Planned Gifts

Planned giving to William Carey University allows a donor to become part of the university's Covenant Society. Many planned giving options are available, including wills, estate planning, life insurance, charitable gift annuities, charitable remainder trusts, and real estate.

Ways to Give

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WCU Box 141
710 William Carey Parkway
Hattiesburg, MS 39401

CALL



601.318.6192

EMAIL



advancement@wmcarey.edu

ONLINE



www.wmcarey.edu/give

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CAREY

The William Carey University magazine is available online to all alumni and friends at www.wmcarey.edu/alumni and is published periodically and mailed to alumni association members and donors.

Also available online at www.wmcarey.edu/alumni

WCU works in friendly cooperation with the Mississippi Baptist Convention and is supported by churches that contribute to the Cooperative Program.



Show your CAREY PRIDE and SUPPORT WCU



Display your Carey pride by purchasing a William Carey University special license plate for your vehicle, and at the same time, you will be supporting the university. Over half of the additional fee for each WCU special tag comes directly back to the school from the State of Mississippi Department of Revenue. For more information about purchasing a WCU license plate, visit www.dor.ms.gov/mvl/availabletags.

CAREY

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Dr. Tommy King

JUNE 16, 1941 -
NOVEMBER 22, 2023

Full story on pages 4-5

