BLUE MOUNTAIN CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY

MOUNTAIN VIEW

CELEBRATING 150 YEARS
The magnificent magnolia gracing the cover of the *Mountain View* elicits for anyone who has traversed our picturesque campus in late spring and early summer powerful recollections of the distinctive fragrance that is as sweet as the memories made here on the Hill. Year in and year out—some for parts of three centuries—the iconic magnolias have faithfully adorned the BMCU landscape, their contribution to the campus being as familiar as the name “Lowrey” and as constant as the expectation for Christ-centered excellence that has defined this institution of higher learning since its founding in 1873. This edition of the *Mountain View* celebrates enduring faithfulness—what could be a more appropriate symbol than the exquisite blooms that have greeted every new BMCU class for 150 consecutive years!

I know that you will join Carla Benson in affirming the faithful service of Sheila Freeman, who retired in May from her position of Registrar after a tenure of 48 years. I trust that you will be encouraged and excited to read of the faithful leadership of School of Nursing Dean Tammie McCoy and of the faithful support of generous donors who have established the Linda Gholston Nursing Scholarship. The testimony of current nursing student Emily Carr reminds us of the blessings that accompany faithful obedience to God’s call, while the spotlight stories about this year’s alumni award recipients highlight their faithful service to their churches, their professions, and their alma mater.

Most importantly, this edition of the *Mountain View* launches a year-long celebration of God’s great faithfulness to our beloved institution, a faithfulness that has endured for 150 years! Join me in proclaiming *Soli Deo Gloria!*
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Sheila Freeman
A Faithful Servant
by Carla Benson (‘63)

If, as the dictionary defines, faithfulness means putting others first, being trustworthy, and staying loyal and true to family, friends, and other loved ones, then faithfulness is one word that describes Sheila Daniel Freeman.

Sheila is easily faithful to her family. To know her is to know her whole family. She delights in sharing stories of the activities and accomplishments of her parents, siblings, nephews, and extended family. And the birth of her own daughter Valerie, Valerie’s marriage to Josh, and the birth of her grandsons, Paxton and Easton, provided a new treasure trove of experiences for notable pride in person and achievements. Her love and devotion to her family is paramount in her life.

Sheila is absolutely faithful to her friends. To be her friend is to know that you can count on her caring, generosity, and support in all circumstances. Those who have received her crocheted afghans, baby blankets, and scarves have been warmed by the love imbued in every stitch. Those who have enjoyed the delicacies prepared for family gatherings, church dinners, and office parties have expressed high praise for her culinary skills. And those who have experienced unique business or personal travel adventures with Sheila have endless anecdotes to share. In times of happiness and joy, in times of grief and sorrow, in times of success and failure, her friendship is ever present to cheer or console.

Sheila is definitely faithful to her God. As a Christian one has the unique responsibility to model faithfulness and allegiance to God, to give witness to His promises, to observe the ordinances of His church, and to love His people. Sheila has embraced this role of faithfulness to God with exuberance. As a member of the Women on Mission group. She serves as Church Clerk and is meticulous in recording and reporting details of the church business meetings. Sheila is also a substitute teacher for an adult Sunday school class. Her trust in God’s faithfulness has informed her own faithful response.

Sheila is decidedly faithful to her work at Blue Mountain College/Blue Mountain Christian University. After earning her Bachelor of Science degree in 1975, Sheila was immediately hired as assistant registrar at the College and was later promoted to registrar. During her 48-year tenure, Sheila’s employment history revealed a strong work ethic, a careful attention to detail, and an analytical mind which enabled her to grasp and embrace new ideas while remaining true to the basic precepts of her position’s purpose and responsibilities.

Sheila is scrupulous in the maintenance of student records, in the certification of academic performance for varied constituencies, and in the planning, scheduling, and reporting necessary for the efficient operation of her office. Her adherence to the policies of the institution, her loyalty to her employer, and her recognition of the sensitive nature of records are innate qualities that provide a level of accuracy, consistency, confidentiality, and collegiality that support the academic, service, and spiritual values of the institution.

Sheila is a member of the adult choir. She has a heart for missions and participates in mission action projects as a member of the Women on Mission group. She serves as Church Clerk and is meticulous in recording and reporting details of the church business meetings. Sheila is also a substitute teacher for an adult Sunday school class. Her trust in God’s faithfulness has informed her own faithful response.

“She has helped me so much” is a refrain uttered time and again by a frantic freshman scheduling her first core classes or a salient senior seeking degree certification. From registration to graduation, Sheila’s focus is on helping students achieve their academic goals. With advisory roles and committee assignments, her days are filled with multiple tasks, queries, and challenges. Whether recording minutes of meetings, compiling recipes for the Blue Mountain College Cookbook Presidential Edition, or keeping score at basketball games, going beyond the routine is the norm for this versatile staff member whose competence and cooperative spirit have garnered admiration and respect from students and colleagues alike.

Many of the synonyms for faithfulness are chronicled in Sheila’s life: commitment, dedication, fidelity, devotion, allegiance, steadfastness, loyalty. She epitomizes servant leadership. As Sheila begins the transition to another season of her life, it is time to cherish the memories of time spent with her and to celebrate with her the freedom that will come with retirement. In preparing for this new journey of faith, the words of the prophet Jeremiah are offered to her, “For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope.”
since our founding in the latter part of the nineteenth century Blue Mountain Christian University has served our community, our state, and our region by equipping teachers to fulfill their calling. To this day, nearly 150 years later, teachers prepared at BMCU are sought after for their conviction that teaching is a ministry. This conviction shapes and inspires their interaction with every student.

In the middle of the twentieth century Blue Mountain Christian University expanded its service outreach by equipping men to fulfill their calling as preachers. To this day, almost 70 years later, BCMU-educated ministers are recognized for their commitment to Bible-based preaching and Gospel-centered service. This God-honoring commitment is a blessing to those they lead and to those they serve. And now in the early years of this the twenty-first century Blue Mountain Christian University is once again expanding its commitment to service—this time to equip and prepare individuals called to minister to the community as healthcare professionals. We were elated and excited to announce in August 2022, that BMCU had received Stage Two approval from the Mississippi Institutions of Higher Learning Board to launch a School of Nursing for the purpose of preparing Bachelor of Science educated nurses. The program officially began in January of 2023 with options for both traditional four-year students and RN’s who seek to earn the Bachelor of Science in Nursing.

With this expansion the university fulfills its long-awaited goal of replicating the three-fold ministry of Christ: the ministry of teaching, preaching, and healing. We anticipate that nurses trained at BMCU will join those called to teach and those called to preach in pursuit of the model of service found in our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Soli Deo Gloria!

And Jesus went about all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, and preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing all manner of sickness and all manner of disease among the people.

-Matthew 4:23 KJV
The School of Nursing faculty are excited to have an opportunity to start this nursing program at BMCU. The curriculum has been prayerfully planned and is based on Christian service and care of the most vulnerable individuals. Our mission is to prepare professional nurses from the perspective of a Christian worldview that fosters intellectual integrity, academic excellence, civility, and character. Our program is built on the Calling to become a servant as the hands and feet of Christ in the role of a professional nurse. Our hope is to alleviate some of the nursing shortage. We strongly believe that nursing education with a Christian focus can help with the nursing shortage while making a large difference in the lives of nurses and patients.

Since the program was announced in August, the faculty have continued to work to finalize the nursing courses and to build upon the outstanding general education foundation that enhances student opportunities for success. And on January 9th, the School of Nursing was pleased to welcome our first nursing classes of traditional and RN to BSN students.

During the past few months, students have completed numerous examinations, quizzes, skills checkoffs, discussion boards, projects, papers, and clinical days. Students even spent a day at a local daycare teaching basic care skills. It goes without saying that they have spent countless hours in the classroom and studying with the goal to learn all of the content necessary to be the best nurse possible. Each student has grown in knowledge and confidence and has put their caring spirit into action.

On February 13th we were delighted to have our very first White Coat Ceremony with Blessing of the Hands. The white coat ceremony has long been a tradition in healthcare fields that marks the transition into the clinical area. Why a White Coat? For many years, patients have responded well to a clean environment and a white coat on the healthcare providers. Currently, the white coat stands for trust, professionalism, knowledge, and caring, to name just a few. Our students were cloaked by their advisors signifying their readiness to enter clinical practice and the beginning of the special act of caring for others.

The Blessing of the Hands has also been performed at many healthcare facilities and universities. This activity recognizes the value of human touch in healthcare and acknowledges the spiritual aspects that are a critical part of patient care. Students, faculty, and nurses in the audience received the special blessing of their hands. Each one was reminded of the value of the work of their hands in their Calling to be a nurse. During the ceremony, students were treated to an address by BMCU Board Chair Linda Gholston, a retired nurse administrator, with many “stories” to tell to encourage them in their work. Additionally, Board Trustee LuAnne Travis Ford sang In Christ Alone, reminding everyone of the essence of the gospel of Jesus Christ and further enhancing the Calling of this special nursing profession.

For 21 years, according to a Gallup poll, nursing has been named the most trusted profession. Patients and families depend on nurses to be their voice and to provide aspects of their care. The School of Nursing strives to be outstanding role models for helping our students be successful in nursing. Our students are our future and we want each one of them to be a part of the ongoing profession that is the most trusted. I have no doubt that with this outstanding faculty, our students will be successful professionals and will meet our BMCU goals for intellectual integrity, academic excellence, civility and character.
Why We Established the Linda Gholston Nursing Scholarship

by Vanita Billingsley
Board of Trustees

In the fall of 2022 before the BMCU School of Nursing opened its doors to the first class of students, a group of retired nurses from hospitals around North Mississippi toured the renovated church annex that would house the nursing program. The group was impressed with the clinical labs where state-of-the-art technology had been installed to expose future students to real-life clinical situations that nurse professionals see daily in practice. They were also encouraged to hear that these students will be learning in an environment that acknowledges Christ and His vital place in the healing process.

Many of these nurses worked with Linda Gholston in various capacities through the years. Miss Gholston, chair of the BMCU Board of Trustees, a registered nurse, and retired nursing administrator, was a key player in recognizing the need for a nursing school at BMCU. She provided leadership throughout the process of making the program a reality. The idea of establishing the nursing scholarship in Miss Gholston’s name was quickly embraced by this group of retired nurses. Her lifelong dedication to the profession and the respect that she has earned among healthcare professionals made naming the scholarship in her honor the plan from the beginning.

The profession of nursing is dear to each one of the retirees who visited the campus in the fall. The personal gratification this career has afforded and the patients’ lives that have been touched influenced these individuals to participate in the scholarship effort. This has been a rewarding experience for everyone involved. Providing financial support to nursing students who are the future of the nursing profession was one way to give back to a career that has given so much.

Our state and region are experiencing severe nursing shortages resulting in the closure of entire units at healthcare facilities. We pray that the Linda Gholston Nursing Scholarship will be a part of the solution at this challenging time. This spring, a few of these retired nurses participated in the inaugural white coat ceremony at BMCU. Putting a face with a potential scholarship recipient was a tremendous blessing. We look forward to participating in future events!
I contemplated what career path I wanted to pursue for a long time but to no avail. Growing up, I knew from an early age I wanted to do missions in some capacity. The desire to serve people at their most vulnerable has been in my heart for years and only grows stronger as time goes on. I considered social work, counseling, and law. Medicine was the only profession I had no interest in—that is, until I participated in an outreach event with Baptist hospital where I learned more about the medical field and the plethora of opportunities one could pursue. My interest was piqued, but I wasn’t convinced until I had the opportunity to shadow a physician from my hometown. From the first day of shadowing, I fell in love with the environment and the combination of hands-on care with behind the scenes contemplation and examination of signs and symptoms. I still wasn’t sure what role in the medical field I wanted to work, but I decided Biology was a safe bet that would cover all my bases. After an exhausting two years of college campus visits, interviews, and prayers, I decided on what was then Blue Mountain College because of the authenticity of the professors I met, the Christ-centered environment, and the opportunities the school offered. I began classes as a Biology major on a pre-med track in the Fall of 2020. As I continued my college career, I began leaning more and more towards nursing. When the school announced they were getting a nursing program, I was thrilled and was one of the first to sign up and apply for the program.

Since I began the Blue Mountain Christian University School of Nursing program, I’ve become more excited about nursing almost every day. Our nursing program has the most amazing instructors I can possibly imagine who pour into us, encourage us, and pray for us while making sure they drill an unimaginable amount of literally life or death information into us successfully. Nursing school is absolutely one of the hardest things I’ve ever decided to do, but I one hundred percent believe that it is worth it. The simulation lab, clinical, and classroom experiences are all amazing and more educational than I would have ever fathomed. I have already learned so much and get more passionate about nursing every day—well except for Pharmacology test days haha!

My dream is to graduate and eventually start working in the NICU while volunteering for medical missions as often as possible. I love Central America and have been on several medical mission trips there through BMDMI, Baptist Medical and Dental Missions International. I would love to continue my education and become a Nurse Practitioner one day, but for now I’d better get back to hitting the books and studying for my next Pharmacology test. I’m so incredibly thankful for the educational and spiritual foundation that BMCU has given me and for all of the faculty, staff, and students who have always been there for me. I’m beyond blessed to be here.

Emily E. Carr, Student Nurse Classification: Junior Class of 2024
ALUMNI ASSOCIATION
AWARDS
The 2023 Alumna of the Year is awarded to Laura Grisham Medley. Laura graduated from Blue Mountain College in 1966 with a Bachelor of Arts degree in mathematics. Medley also holds a Master’s degree in mathematics from Louisiana State University. She taught mathematics at schools across the south and worked for Aviation Missile Solutions in Huntsville, AL. Medley was outstanding in academics and sports activities while a student at BMC, and she has continued to support BMCU through the alumni association. She served as the North Alabama Alumni representative on the BMCU Alumni Board from 2012 to 2019 and has been involved in numerous projects through the North Alabama BMC Fellowship. Medley is also a member of the Palmer-Donnell House Guild. She has served in various church capacities, including Women’s Ministry Council, Bible study coordinator, 50 plus years as an adult life group teacher, youth life group teacher, VBS worker, and a choir and praise team member. She is devoted to serving God, committed to Christian education, and dedicated to Blue Mountain Christian University.
The Faithful Daughter Award recognizes and expresses gratitude to an alumna or former student who has demonstrated servant leadership through consistent and faithful interest and investment in the mission and vision of Blue Mountain Christian University. The 2023 Faithful Daughter Award was presented to Nancy Hopps McDonald. McDonald earned a bachelor’s degree in 1982 and pursued her passion for painting during college and throughout her career. She served at BMC as the Alumni Director and residential supervisor, along with her husband at the Southplex Residential Complex. McDonald was nominated for this award primarily due to her significant contribution to the success of the Palmer-Donnell House. She painted and sold seasonal prints of the House, and funds were raised for renovation.

The 2023 Betty Hearn Award was presented to Lela Hale, who has demonstrated servant leadership in education. She graduated from BMC and received a master’s degree from Delta State. Hale’s 38-year teaching career has spanned from kindergarten to college. She holds master’s and specialist’s degrees in curriculum and instruction from Delta State and the University of Mississippi. Her Ph.D., awarded by the University of Mississippi, focused on educational leadership in K-12. Hale served as director of clinical experience at BMC for six and a half years, where she helped train education majors for teacher certification. She served three years as superintendent of education for the Marshall County School District and one year at William Carey University. Hale served as president of the Mississippi Professional Educators in 2016-2017. Throughout the years, Dr. Hale has been an active member of the BMCU Greater Memphis Alumni Chapter.

The Faithful Servant Award recognizes and expresses gratitude to a ministerial alum or former student who has demonstrated consistent and faithful service, reflecting servant leadership qualities. The 2023 award was presented to David Haynes, a graduate of BMC with a Bachelor of Arts in Biblical Studies. He holds a master’s degree and a Doctor of Christian Education from Liberty University. He is a native of Corinth and has been in full-time ministry since 2001. Dr. Haynes and his wife, April, have one daughter, Taylor. He has been the senior pastor at Trinity Baptist Church in Fulton since 2015. As a church leader, he is active in the Mississippi Baptist Convention and has served several years on the State Convention Board. He is also involved in the Itawamba Baptist Association, serving in many leadership capacities. Dr. Haynes is a huge supporter of Blue Mountain Christian University. He has served as President and Vice President of the Ministerial Alumni Association and on the James L. Travis scholarship committee.
Andrew Chesteen received the 2023 Distinguished Young Alumna/Alumnus of the Year Award, which is given to a deserving graduate who graduated within the last 20 years. He graduated Summa Cum Laude in 2015 with a Bachelor of Arts in Biblical Studies. He is currently pursuing a Master of Divinity and a Ph.D. in Evangelism from New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary. He is a native of Winona and married to Audra Woods Chesteen. They have two children, Selah Joy and Drew. Chesteen has served as the senior pastor of New Albany First Baptist Church since May 2019.
The Johnnie Armstrong Award is presented to an alumnus/alumna who has embraced the five core values of Champions of Character in Athletics, Physical Education, or Kinesiology and demonstrates a commitment to the College values. BMC graduate and former Topper Cross Country runner Tuesdae Clark is the 2023 Johnnie Armstrong Award recipient. Clark earned a bachelor’s degree in biology from BMC in 2012 and furthered her education to become a nurse. Clark served as a nurse at LeBonheur Children’s Hospital for nine years and is currently the school nurse at Byhalia Elementary School. She is involved in church activities and the Save a Life Foundation. Clark is married to her BMCU sweetheart, Taylor Clark, and they have two children. She is described as an outstanding Christian who demonstrates her faith daily and inspires others to grow, succeed, and lead.

Royce Wilder is the recipient of the 2023 Ed Ludlow Award, which honors alumni for their servant leadership in music. Wilder graduated from Blue Mountain College in 1991 with a Bachelor of Science degree in Music. He has had a long and successful ministry leading worship and managing music at First Baptist Church in Corinth. He holds a graduate degree from the Webber Institute of Worship Studies. Wilder has been a loyal alum serving in several roles such as leading worship for the BMCU Ministerial Banquet, hosting the BMCU Chorale at his church, and participating in events on campus. He has served as an adjunct professor in the Fine Arts Department. He has two daughters, and they are currently students at BMCU. Wilder has demonstrated a life of service and ministry to his church, family, and community with a passionate commitment to glorify and exalt the Lord.

Connections Program

Teaching is one of the most rewarding and most challenging jobs that is definitely a God-called position. Teachers help mold and shape the lives and minds of so many young people. The same young people that will be the future leaders of our United States of America and our world. Blue Mountain’s history is rich in proclaiming the Gospel of Christ and, in its early years, educating women to become teachers. It’s reputation for teacher education has remained a constant for the University since those early days.

The Blue Mountain Connections Program is in its beginning phases to establish relationships between current teacher interns and teacher education alumni. The desire of this connection is to establish relationships and networking for former educators and future educators. There is a lot that has changed since some of the alumni graduated from the program at BMCU, but there is one that has remained the same...children. BMCU Teacher Education Faculty are devoted to continuing this longstanding tradition of training Godly teachers for their future classrooms.

If you would like to know more about how to become a part of the Blue Mountain Connections program, contact:

Dr. Stephanie Clausel
sclausel@bmc.edu
662-685-4771 Ext. 155.
Can you think of a student who would love Blue Mountain Christian University?

Our mission is to help future Toppers discover God’s purpose and calling for their lives here at BMCU! We would love your help getting connected!

If you know students who are looking for an academically excellent, Christ-centered education, send us their information!

Send their contact information to the Office of Admissions and we will take the next steps!

Office of Admissions
662-685-4771 | EXT. 181
admissions@bmc.edu
The publication of the book that tells the story of the Palmer-Donnell House, a vintage white Victorian house, which stands just to the right of the Euzelian Gate at Blue Mountain Christian University, has been a work in progress for several years. At the Founder’s Day program, November 4, 2022, the team of officers of the Palmer-Donnell House Guild responsible for its dedicated research, writing, proofreading, formatting, and final publishing, unveiled the first copies. The team consists of Guild President Kathie Wessels Wilson (1969), Secretary Lea Smith Bennett (1974), Treasurer Anna Jackson Quinn (1961), and Publicity Chair Charlotte Bryant Madison (1969).

Founder’s Day began with the dedication of the book to the late Bobby P. Martin, long-time supporter of the whole state of Mississippi and particularly of Blue Mountain Christian University, and to Bettye Coward, the seventh president, whose vision for the house to serve as a welcoming center and alumni house, led to its purchase and subsequent renovation.

In the book’s Foreword, written by the eighth president of Blue Mountain Christian University, Dr. Barbara C. McMillin invites you “to immerse yourself in the history of this delightful home told from the perspective of one of its most colorful and engaging residents, the charming Lottie Palmer Donnell. I have no doubt that you will quickly find yourself right at home and will soon feel like a member of the family, just like so many others who accepted the invitation to ‘sit a spell’ on Miss Lottie’s porch.”

Some of its early readers have given glowing reviews. Joy Hurt Hill, graduate of 1974, stated, “The Year Was 1892 is beyond delightful! It is clever, well researched, well written and beautifully packaged. Such a grand collaboration! Thank you for a meaningful and fun read.” Frances Magers Massey, graduate of 1965, thanked the collaborators for “bringing this project to fruition” and hailed the book “a treasure.” Vicki Price, graduate of 1977, called the book “truly a work of love” and “a stellar job.”

In a recent Palmer-Donnell House Newsletter, Guild President Kathie Wilson summarizes the book as one that “tells the story of the Palmer-Donnell House in the voice of Miss Lottie, Charlotte Palmer Donnell, who moved to the home as a small child with her parents, the builders. Miss Lottie lived in the house for more than 80 years. Her colorful stories and those of her friends, neighbors and colleagues show the history of the house, of its residents and of its setting—the college and town both known as Blue Mountain.”

Lea Bennett, the principal author for the book, in its Preface, gives the Lord credit for this publication. She recalls, “Most likely it was Dr. Bobby P. Martin who planted the seed for this book project back in 2018. The Lord watered and nurtured that seed in my spirit until it was a driving thought, sprouting ideas daily. Now He has been pleased to bring to fruition this work—a telling of stories scattered through four generations of a happy, close-knit family. Stories which speak of the College and community that influenced the family’s days, and which were, in turn, influenced by them. All the while the Lord orchestrated the rescue of a dear old house on the brink of ruin. He was also pleased to do all this through a small team of friends, a myriad of volunteers, and a network of advisors and supporters.”

To purchase the book, you can go to amazon.com/books. The Guild officers would be happy to visit your group and bring copies to sell. The profits from the sale of books will be used to establish an endowment for the upkeep of the Palmer-Donnell House.
For some, the alumni association membership ($35/year) might be on the bottom of the list when making budgeting decisions. Some alumni might think that spending $2.92 cents a month would be worth nothing. Comparing this with other yearly fees such as Disney+ at $109.99 a year or Sam’s Club for $110.00 doesn’t suggest much value. However, there are some awesome perks to being a part of this alumni association.

One of my favorite reasons is the ability to connect with other alumni. Upon graduation, I moved to Nashville, TN for graduate school and a new career. Being part of the alumni association, I was able to connect with my local alumni chapter. I have also had the opportunity to connect with other generations of alumni through various events. There are countless networking opportunities such as communicating with others in my career or searching for a church home.

Another reason to join the alumni association is the ability to contribute to the next generation. The alumni association supports current students. Memberships and annual donations help provide today’s students continued opportunities of receiving a Christ-centered education as they grow to become the next generation of professionals.

Being a part of the alumni association helps keep you connected with your alma mater. Through local events on the campus, weekly/monthly emails, and social media, I feel that I am still a part of Blue Mountain. My time on campus playing for the women’s basketball team and being involved with the Baptist Student Union have played a large part in shaping who I am. I love being able to reflect on my time on the Mountain and contributing to this same positive experience for current students.

If you have not renewed your 2023 membership yet, scan the QR Code to renew today!
GRADUATE PROGRAMS:

Master of Business Administration

Master of Education
• Elementary Education, K-6
• Literacy/Reading, K-12
• Secondary Education Biology

UNDERGRADUATE PROGRAMS:
• Business
• Psychology
• Christian Ministry
• Nursing RN to BSN
I love FCA because it is different. I love FCA because it is intentional with reaching people with the Gospel. I love FCA because it is personal. Our mission is to lead every coach and athlete into a growing relationship with Jesus Christ and His church. Our vision is to see the world transformed by Jesus Christ through the influence of coaches and athletes. Specifically, at Blue Mountain Christian University, we do this through campus and team huddles. We have a lead team of about 15 people, and each of us has a team we minister to. Our goal is to go to athletes even if they do not come to us. Matthew 28:16-20 tells us to go and make disciples, so that is what we strive to do. There are 350 student-athletes on the campus of Blue Mountain Christian University and we see it as our calling to serve them and give them the good news of Jesus. I love FCA for many different reasons, but the intentionality (and fun) that we have is what makes it so special.

We have the opportunity to minister to and serve the student-athletes, and the student body as a whole, and we have a lot of fun while doing it. We play games, worship, dive into the Word, and have small group times at each of our campus huddles. Fellowship and relationship building easily happens and FCA is a huge blessing in my life.

Why Do I Love FCA?

by Angel Wilson
Join us this year as we celebrate 150 years of God’s Faithfulness at Blue Mountain Christian University! We hope you will make plans to attend this marvelous sesquicentennial celebration. All BMCU events will have a 150th-anniversary flair, but the three main alumni gatherings will be Homecoming Weekend, the Women’s Conference featuring Karen Kingsbury, and Reunion Weekend.

The first event to kick off the year will be Homecoming Weekend, November 3-4. The weekend will begin on Friday, November 3, at 10 AM with the Founders Day service in the Modena Lowrey Berry Auditorium, followed by an unveiling you will want to attend!

Make a day of it and join us. We will have reserved seating for all alumni on Hankins Court for lunch, followed by afternoon activities facilitated by our Student Life Office for all ages. The BMCU Chorale will treat us to a special performance on Friday night.

On Saturday, there will be alumni gatherings, receptions, the HOCO Court Presentation, and Topper basketball games. Visit the Alumni tent all weekend to stock up on our brand-new BMCU fall clothing!

An announcement will be made soon with details on the Women’s Conference on April 20, 2024.

Reunion Weekend will be June 6–8, 2024. We hope all alumni will plan to attend as we celebrate all classes ending in 4’s and 9’s. This event will be Blue Mountain Christian University’s 150th Anniversary Celebration Reunion, and you will want to be here!

1. Cameron Kohl (’21) married Holly Chummy Khol 05.13.23
2. Hillary Parrish Clayton (’17) married Jesse Clayton 03.11.23
3. Maddison Clayton Parker (’18) married Justin Parker 01.04.23
4. Ashley Gardner Gillespie (2011) and husband Daniel welcomed their third child, Mary Sinclair on May 12, 2023 Pictured: big brother James and big sister Gwin holding Mary
5. Jake (’20) and Brie Shmidt Heffner (’21) welcomed Prudence Opal 11.22. Jake graduated from SCTS with his MDiv 05.12.23
6. Casey (’13) and Michal Roberson Ornter (’10), along with big sisters Jackie and Macie and big brothers Ross and Reed, welcomed Maggie Jeanne Ornter 01.25.23
7. Brandi Rakestraw (’16) and big brother Samuel Rakestraw welcomed George Brady Rakestraw 04.11.23
8. John (’17) and Tori Richard (’17) welcomed Violet Fina Richard 10.31.22
9. Josh, Alecia (’13), and Rhett Sanderson welcomed Swayze Ann Sanderson 01.27.23
10. Brian Rainey (’96), father, pastor, and now a Nurse Practitioner. Bro. Brian Rainey has served the Lord in ministry for 30-plus years; he recently added a new branch to his ministry. Along with pastoring Covenant Baptist Church, he works at the Jackson Clinic as a Nurse Practitioner.
ASSOCIATION MEMBERS

1947
Joyce Hall Beasley
Lennie Powell Waycaster
Lennie Powell Westbrook

1948
Ruth Swann Askins
Kathryn Jewell Ayers

1949
Virginia Rutledge Taylor

1950
Betty Jo Braddock Henry

1952
Edna Elrod Durham
Martha Huggins Fisher
Margie Gregg Sizemore

1953
Betty Vandiver Lindstrom
Sue Garner Phillips
Creely Myatt Wilson

1954
Margaret Allen
Mary Ann Wacker Freer
Nancy Ellis Jones
Annetta Ray Kies
Betty Crawford Martin
Ida Todd Oglesby
Frances DeVaughn Sheffield

1955
Joyce Foster Ashmore
June Newcomb Boyd
Elizabeth Buchanan Newcomb
Molly Murrell White

1956
Grace Randle Atchley
Betty Jo Wicker Gaba
Nancy Browning Galatas
Beverly Mabry Hannaford
Imogene Mauney Hardon
Jimmie Trussell Rogers
Patricia Huddleston Sullender
Betty Watts
Carolyn Garrett

1957
Ann Deavenport Baker
Lucretia Majure Burton
Leora Geer Duce-Byrd
Mary Lowry Reavis
Elizabeth Bruce Smith
Patricia Horton Stanford
Ann Hall Vickery
Sarah J Thomason Wade

1958
Mary Cockrell Borchert
Alva Wright Brent
Marlene Stuhmer Garrity
Jean Gwyn Keeton
Mary Jane Stokes Okan
Faye Walker Pepper
Mary Cox Rush
Erma Bryant Spratlin

1959
June Whitlow
Sara Martindale Billingsley
Jean Powell Harrington
Shirley Nickell McBeath

1960
Ann Guntharp Blanchard
Mary Jo Pilner Lence
Carolyn Mounce
Sally Hewlett Taylor

1961
Wilma Griffin Chittom
Rachel Hamilton Emery
Lynne Middleton Garner
Nancy Buchanan Hart
Billie Hutchison Martin
Anna Jackson Quinn
Paul Roaten
Jamie Johnston Warren
Lynne Middleton Garner

1962
Cecile Randle Barrington
LaDoska Bennett
Sylvia Lowell Braddock
Barbara Wood Bullock
Rose Marie Deusner Carver
Jane Howell
Dorothy Raymer Jackson
Martha Stokes King
Norma Robbins Lee
Martha Sick Randolph
Wanda Greene Robinson
Betty Woodruff Ward

1963
Carla Freeman Benson
Nancy McQuery Bomar
Susie Jackson Butler
Jewel Beibers Byrd
Guyla McGee Gould
Frankie Tester
Patricia Jett Rogers

1964
Margaret McCully Blinn
Ellen Rushing Mills
Janice Nicholson
Sarah Spain
Judith Skelton Swanberg

1965
Leona Gardner Bartlett
Carol Cliff Blasi
Mary Ann Crow Brown
Mary Beth Gowan Burghard
Diedre Brantley Davis
Gail Heitman DeBurgh
Charles Wayne Gullett
Gloria Nabors Inskip
Patricia Ledbetter
Frances Magers Massey
Susan Caldwell Pitts
Ann Longest Smith
Gayle Lee Smotherman
Hope Summerour Stone

1966
Donna Butler Conklin
Dorothy Duncan
Katherine Smith Dye
Sharon Ball Enzer
Sandra Mitchell Harris
Rose Lazenby Kemmer
Charlotte Triplett Lauer
Laura Grisham Medley
Clara Sprayberry Morrissey
Carolyn Childers Saunders
Mary Brister Shadburn

1967
Lana Hill Anderson
Olivia Jane Clower Bryant
Carolyne Knight Fooshee
Nancy Furnish
James Futral
Shirley Moore Futral
Gloria Glover Gates
Margaret Davis Houp
Myra Harrington Langley
Linda Wong Lim
Noveta Smith Nellums
Constance Russell
Ivey Lambert Sewell
Leslie Cowart Todd

1968
Janie Martindale Coombs
Mary Ann Everett
Judith Hicks Goldsby
Linda Bishop Johnson
Susan Dobbs Nations
Elsie Jackson Norgard
Martha Smart Prather
Carolyn Olive Rhodes
Mary Callahan Stark
Bonnie Barkley Todd
Jo Barkley Todd
Hazel Tucker
Norma Boyce Washington
Vivian Ridley Wymer

1969
Patricia Pearce Bishop
Donna Walker Brown
Martha Childers Cappleman
Rebecca Henderson Crawford
Tillie Nolan Gullett
Nancy Chamberlain Krecker
Charlotte Bryant Madison
Janie Sneed Moore
Sandra Murphy Owens
Charlotte Palmer
Kathrine Wessels Wilson
Barbara Strickland McConville

1970
Johnnie Callahan
Rosemary Sample Eubanks
Kathy McKinney McCarthy
Brenda Jones Roach
Ruby Rorie
Faye Clackley Skinner
Patricia Alred Smedley
Linda Kirby Underwood
Sue Laster Weeks
Rex Yancey

1971
Audrey Snow Caldwell
Marva Strong Goodman
Shirley Mohundro Gustman
Joyce Morrison Hawkins
Lynne Mayhall Heaven
Joyce Hawkins Morrison
Joy McCreary Nanney
Barbara Rahrer
Kathleen Little Voyles

1972
Patricia Smith Crews
Carol Elliott Densford
Larry Dunlap
Susan DeGood Faughn
Vecelia Churchhill Gadd
Victoria Herrington Goeders
Becky Stennett Jernigan
Kitty Sanders King

1973
Linda Hall Brooks
Silvia Ball Thompson

1974
Jerry Beaty
Lea Smith Bennett
Wanda Weatherly Chalk
Joy Hurt Hill
Carolyn Marks Ketchum
Jan Tucker McCrary
Larry McCrary
Brenda McGee McMurray
Doris Jackson Sanford

1975
Bonnie Byrd
Bruce Cappleman
Anita Crump Eddings
Sheila Daniel Freeman
Linda Nolan Hill
Beverly Pipkin McNeal
Beverly Hemphill Moffitt
Cindy Boyd Steen

1976
Emma Ainsworth
Leah Baker Crawford
Cora Jones Davidson
Lori Dean Funderburk
Susan McKee Hill
Lisa Nix Knight
Anita McCormick Russell
Dwalia South
Patricia Broadway Stover

1977
Rose Aldredge Bear
Randy Bostick

1978
Dwight Brown
Deborah Henry Hicks
Karen Norman Kennedy
Renelda Pharr Owen
Mary Smith Roberts
Judy Crawford Rutledge
Sara Stephens
James Towery
David Hamilton

1979
Susan Sparks Bolding
Chris Burrows
Donna Smith Burrows
Pamela Bush Cain
Emily Crump Hayes
Tommy Peters

1980
Shelly Steward Parker
Paula Hill Robbins
Ellon Paseur Yancey

1981
Lela Smith Hale
Joyce Hodges Peters
Levera Rummel Braswell
Pamela Barnett Golden
Glynda Hall
Gwyn Wise Nick

1983
Jeffery Ginn
Sharon James Goolsby
Tammy Russell Montgomery
Elizabeth Thurmond

1984
Rhonda Latch Cockrell
Sandra Duncan

1985
Patsy Price Donahoe
Mary Nell Nichols Ginn
Michael Priest

1986
LaDonna Moore Griggs

1987
Machella Jeter Jones
Carolyn触摸 Leon Priest

1988
Dawn Lowery
Beth Davis Robertson
Larry Robertson

1989
Mary Ann Pannell Epting
Rickey Blythe

1990
Leslie Jarvis Holliday

1991
Sue Ethridge Owens
Tracy Robinson

1992
Heather Watson Dominguez
Alicia Jeter
Lisa Jo Johnson
Iris Hix Mason
Pam Johnson Stegall

1993
Laura Bryant Baker
Stephanie Seward Hart

1994
Lisa Gay Calhoun
Jennifer Enzor Chambers

1996
Fancy Bennett Fowler

1997
Margie Spivey James

1998
Laura Plunk

1999
Leah Blunt Denson

2000
Kourtney Barlow Mathews

2001
Amy Crocker Crocker
Sonia Jones

2002
Ashley Ball Berry
Laura Carpenter Jolly
Daniel Jolly

2003
Martha Bending

2004
Terry Floyd
Jennifer Booth Hitt
Christy Turner Underwood

2006
James Underwood

2007
Carol Peters

2008
Taryn Wentzel Perkins
Susan Hillhouse Hamilton

2009
Jessica O’Neal
Jeffrey Adams
Jessica Mason Mostek
Paige Harrell Stevens
Letoris Shumpert Shumpert
IN MEMORIAM

1939
Evelyn Manning Burke *
1942
Eleanor Shannon Woody
1945
Sue Evelyn Williams
1947
Ann Street Miskelley *
1948
Jean Donahue Kirkland
1949
Billie Mae Pickens
1950
Lila Jean Jones Wicklund
1951
Doris Virginia Mahanes Taylor
1952
Jean Wiggs Ketchum
1953
Dorothy Ann Miskelley Watson
1954
Frances Patterson Holston
1955
Helen Winifred Morgan Williams
1956
Jean Haire Hays
1958
Maurine Belle Gaither Halliburton
1959
Vera Pauline Haynes Work
1961
Gara Nell Lovorn Ward
1962
William Towery Ware
1963
Amye Alyce Givens Scott
1965
Ann McClellan Winslow
1967
Diane Price Price Butler
1968
Sara Elizabeth Ashworth Lankler
1969
Betty Joyce Windham Williams
1970
Virginia Lyle Mason Meadows
1971
Teresa Bevill Wood
1972
James Earl West
1973
Pattie Lane McNeely Roberts *
1975
McNeil T. Stanford
1977
Nancy Ellen Webb
1978
Susan Mason Clements Gunn
1979
Clarence Leonard Sullivan
1983
Ruby Ellen Autry Childers
1984
Harold B. Gregory Jr.
1991
Michelle Oglesby Scott
2005
Tara McLellan Maftei
2010
Ashley M Privett
Key Non-Graduates *

This list reflects those deceased between February 10, 2022 and April 30, 2023.
We are a proud group with a deep appreciation for our alma mater. We eagerly support each other and rejoice with new members who join us. As we learn of prospective students, we contact them with our loving support. We want to become a more active group as we schedule ways to network and keep in closer touch with BMCU.

Central Mississippi Alumni Fellowship

Fellowship, laughter, fun, and commitment to Blue Mountain Christian University are the heartbeat of the Greater Nashville Area BMCU Alumni Chapter. We have a luncheon/meeting in the fall and the spring. Our programs vary, and annual dues are $10.00. We welcome all ages! We encourage new and potential members to share their ideas about how the alumni chapters can better communicate and assist with the needs of current and recent graduates of BMCU.

-Greater Nashville Area Alumni Chapter

The Central Alabama group includes the greater Birmingham area and surrounding counties. We usually meet twice a year in the spring and fall. Our members share a love and concern for Blue Mountain and its ongoing mission. Since the Birmingham area includes UAB and Samford, we welcome and encourage any recent graduates pursuing further education or furthering careers in our area.

-Central Alabama Alumni Fellowship

The North Alabama Fellowship is seeking new members. We meet monthly to socialize and exchange information about what’s happening at Blue Mountain. We go to Founder’s Day, Homecoming, Reunion Weekend, and any other campus activities we can. We sell ferns every year to raise money for our endowed scholarship fund. If you live in Huntsville or the surrounding area, we would love to have you join us. If your plans after graduation take you to North Alabama, our members are well acquainted with the area and would be happy to help you with anything you need to settle in.

-North Alabama Alumni Fellowship

The Greater Memphis Alumni Chapter (GMAC) serves alums from the following counties - Crittenden, Desoto, Fayette, Marshall, Shelby, Tate, and Tipton. We are more than a chapter of alums; we are a family who enjoy being together. One of our favorite activities is our monthly lunch fellowships in different restaurants in our area. Each spring, we host a Scholarship Luncheon and Silent Auction to raise scholarship funds for one or more incoming freshmen entering BMCU. We attend several student and alumni campus activities as a chapter and as individuals. Alums, friends, and their families are welcome to join us in all that we do. Annual GMAC dues are $15 for an individual and $25 for couples, but dues are not a requirement for participation. Come, be a part of our family.

-Greater Memphis Area Alumni Chapter

If you want to stay connected and build friendships across generations of BMCU graduates, we encourage you to join a local BMCU chapter or fellowship in your area! If you don’t see a listing for your area, let’s start one!

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carolteaches@gmail.com

North MS Tippah Co
Beverly Hemphill Moffitt
bebmoftit@gmail.com

North MS Tishomingo/ Itawamba Co
Vicki Price
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Susan Bolding
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Central/ South MS
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Norma Ruth Robbins

Middle TN
Frances Magers Massey
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Memphis/West TN
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Audrey Snow Caldwell
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NOTE: This publication contains dated material and needs to be mailed as soon as possible.