

BLUE MOUNTAIN CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY

2023

# MOUNTAIN VIEW



CELEBRATING 150 YEARS

# MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Barbara C. McMillin

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.

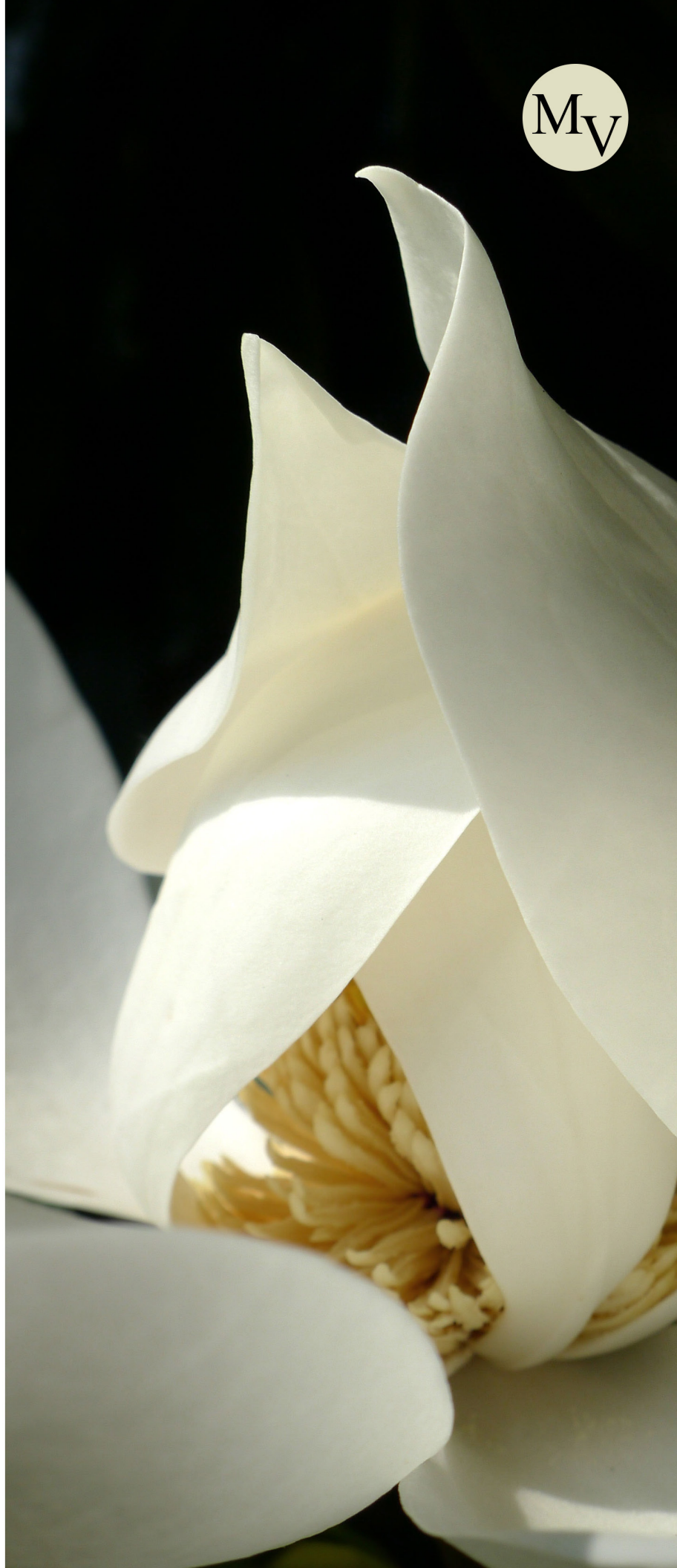
Most importantly, this edition of the *Mountain View* launches a year-long celebration of God’s great faithfulness to our beloved institution, a faithfulness that has endured for 150 years! Join me in proclaiming *Soli Deo Gloria!*



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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. She is a member of Pleasant Hill Baptist Church in New Albany, Mississippi, where she enjoys singing, especially southern gospel, and

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.

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.

"Oh, 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."



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

## Barbara C. McMillin

### Teaching, Preaching, and Healing

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, BMCU-

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!*

# Nursing Update

## Tammie McCoy

Dean of Nursing

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

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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!



Linda Gholston





# Testimony

## Emily Carr

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**



# Alumna of the Year

## Laura Medley

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.





### Faithful Daughter Award

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.



### Betty Hearn Award

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.



### Faithful Servant Award

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.



A full-page photograph of a man standing in front of a brick building with a white door. The man is wearing a dark navy blazer, a light blue and white checkered button-down shirt, light-colored trousers, and brown leather shoes. He has his hands in his pockets and is smiling at the camera. The background shows a brick wall, a white door with a black metal railing, and a set of stone steps leading up to the door.

# Distinguished Young Alumnus of the Year

## *Andrew Chesteen*

**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.



### Ed Ludlow Award

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.



### Johnnie Armstrong Award

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.

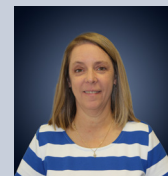


# Connections Program

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. Its 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.



# NEXT GENERATION TOPPER



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



# PD HOUSE

## THE STORY OF THE PALMER-DONNELL HOUSE The Year Was 1892

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."

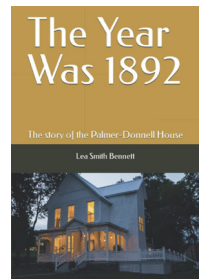
Some of its early readers have given glowing reviews. Joy Hurt Hill, graduate of 1974, stated, "The Year Was 1892 is beyond delightful! It is clever, well researched, well written and beautifully packaged. Such a grand collaboration! Thank you for a meaningful and fun read." Frances Magers Massey, graduate 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](https://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.



# Get Involved



Mallorie  
**Sweat**

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!







YOUR CALLING GOES  
**WHEREVER YOU GO**

and so do BMCU Online Degree Programs!

**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



# Why Do I Love FCA?

by Angel Wilson

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

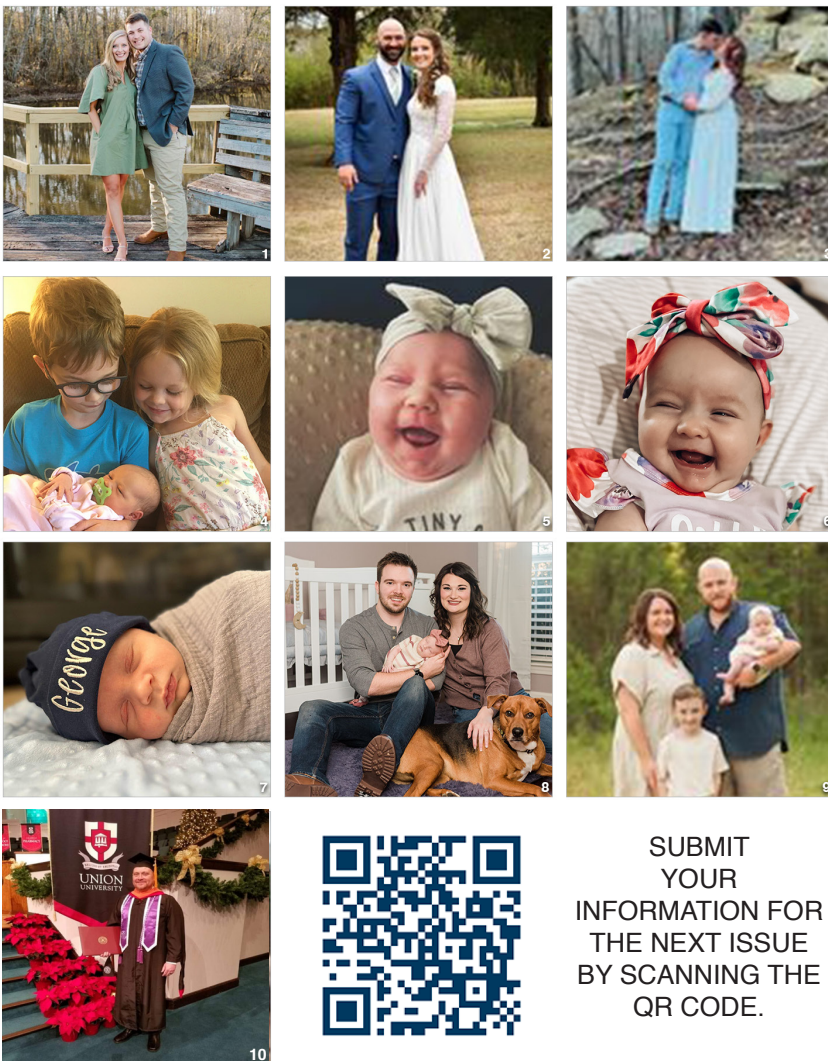
us. Matthew 28:16-20 tells us to go and make disciples, so that is what we strive to do. There are 350 student-athletes on the campus of Blue Mountain Christian University and we see it as our calling to serve them and give them the good news of Jesus. I love FCA for many different reasons, but the intentionality (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.

## Fellowship of Christian Athletes



# ALUMNI NEWS & EVENTS



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.



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THE NEXT ISSUE  
BY SCANNING THE  
QR CODE.

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 Choral 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!



June 6-8, 2024

## 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  
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

### MOUNTAIN VIEW I 20

June Whitlow

### 1959

Sara Martindale Billingsley  
Jean Powell Harrington  
Shirley Nickell McBeath

### 1960

Ann Guntharp Blanchard  
Mary Jo Pitner 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 Sisk 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 Inskeep  
Patricia Ledbetter  
Frances Magers Massey  
Susan Caldwell Pitts  
Ann Longest Smith  
Gayle Lee Smotherman  
Hope Summerour Stone

Donna Butler Conklin

### 1966

Dorothy Duncan  
Katherine Smith Dye  
Sharon Ball Enzor  
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  
Carolynne Knight Fooshee  
Nancy Furnish  
James Futral  
Shirley Moore Futral  
Gloria Glover Gates  
Margaret Davis Houpt  
Myra Harrington Langley  
Linda Wong Lim  
Noveta Smith Nellums  
Constance Russell  
Ivey Lambert Sewell  
Leslie Cowart Todd

### 1968

Janie Martindale Coombs  
Mary Ann Everrett  
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 Kreckler  
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

## ASSOCIATION MEMBERS

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  
Ann Mauney Little  
Patsy Roach Mauney  
Lyn Bennett Melton  
Belinda Allen Pearce  
Sherrell Ivy Settlemires  
Dwight Wymer

### 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

Sharon Hastings Bostick  
Alvis Cooper  
Alice Garner Cross  
Gerry Jones Hood  
Lee Gaskin Jefcoats  
Nebra Counce King  
Kathy Taylor Marlow  
Barbara Goddard Murphy  
Linda Aston Person  
Vicki Price  
Nancy Webb

### 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 Golding  
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 Leone 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

## ASSOCIATION MEMBERS

### 2013

Thomas Doughty

### 2015

Shelby Carmichael

### 2016

Morgan Robertson Bidwell  
Jamieon Davis

### 2018

Mallorie Sweat Cox  
Brandon Montgomery  
Mallorie Sweat Sweat

### 2019

Lauren Ashley Collins  
Whitney Bowens Davis

### 2020

Juliana Garner  
Autumn Barbee Lambes  
Will Robbins

### Spouse

Bobby Eubanks  
Lt. Col Joe Sheffield  
Thomas James

*This list reflects active members between February 10, 2022 and March 31, 2023.*

# IN MEMORIAM

### 1939

Evelyn Manning Burke \*

### 1942

Eleanor Shannon Woody

### 1945

Sue Evelyn Williams  
Anne Elizabeth Loftin Taylor

### 1947

Ann Street Miskelly \*  
Dorothy Jean Stell Berry \*

### 1948

Jean Donahue Kirkland  
Ruth Ann Ellis Oswalt \*

### 1949

Billie Mae Pickens

### 1950

Lila Jean Jones Wicklund  
Marie Cornelia Claypool Piper  
Mary Kate Lowrey Dennis

### 1951

Doris Virginia Mahanes Taylor  
Elise Tapp

### 1952

Jean Wiggs Ketchum  
Regina Catherine Duke Hildreth

### 1953

Dorothy Ann Miskelley Watson  
Selma Myrtis Moore McCord  
Martha Frances Davis Killebrew

### 1954

Frances Patterson Holston

### 1955

Helen Winifred Morgan Williams  
Bobbie Jean Kirkland Duvall \*

### 1956

Jean Haire Hays

### 1958

Maurine Belle Gaither Halliburton  
Jeanette Lyerly Brown

### 1959

Vera Pauline Haynes Work

### 1960

Jane Elizabeth Brock Weatherly  
Betty Warren Potts Gifford  
Elizabeth Conn Dilworth Costley  
Bettie Raye Smith Akers

### 1961

Gara Nell Lovorn Ward  
Martha Katherine Messner Harp

### 1962

William Towery Ware  
Gloria Jean Floyd Brandon  
Fannye John Graddy Bost

### 1963

Amye Alyce Givens Scott  
Linda Gay Lewis Ray

### 1965

Ann McClellan Winslow  
Mary Elnora Pigford Smith

### 1967

Diane Price Price Butler

### 1968

Sara Elizabeth Ashworth Lankler  
Patsy Henry Highland

### 1969

Betty Joyce Windham Williams  
Glenda Faye Johnson Smith

### 1970

Virginia Lyle Mason Meadows

### 1971

Teresa Bevill Wood  
Freida Floyce Graham Browning

### 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 Maftai

### 2010

Ashley M Privett

### Key Non-Graduates \*

*This list reflects those deceased between February 10, 2022 and April 30, 2023.*

# CHAPTER Quotes

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!

## **North MS Union Co**

Carol Peters  
carolteaches@gmail.com

## **Central/ South MS**

normaruthlee@yahoo.com  
Norma Ruth Robbins

## **North AL**

Barbara Rahrer  
brahrer@gmail.com

## **North MS Tippah Co**

Beverly Hemphill Moffitt  
bebmoffitt@gmail.com

## **Middle TN**

Frances Magers Massey  
cpmassey-brentwoodtn@att.net

## **Central AL**

Lynne Mayhall Heaven  
jlynneheaven@gmail.com

## **North MS Tishomingo/ Itawamba Co**

Vicki Price  
gudgolfr@aol.com  
Susan Bolding  
edwinandsusan54@att.net

## **Memphis/West TN**

Stephanie Seward Hart  
big\_braves\_fan71@yahoo.com

## **GMAC President**

Audrey Snow Caldwell  
ascaldwell49@hotmail.com



# BLUE MOUNTAIN CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY

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**NOTE:** This publication contains dated material  
and needs to be mailed as soon as possible.

