

BLUFFTON

A magazine for Bluffton University alumni and friends | Fall 2018 | Vol. 15 No. 3



SHINING THE LIGHT

THE INAUGURATION OF
JANE M. WOOD, PH.D.
Bluffton's 10th President

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

It is a pleasure to write my first letter to readers of the “Bluffton” magazine. I arrived on campus on July 1, and have experienced a warm and wonderful welcome. My husband and I love walking and riding our bicycles throughout the Village of Bluffton. The natural beauty of campus, including the winding Riley Creek with so many bridges, the adjacent Nature Preserve and vibrant village life combine to create a truly exceptional university.

This fall's incoming class includes 13 international students from ten countries. Five are valedictorians, 13 are National Merit Scholars and/or Student Council members and 33 percent are ranked in the top quarter of their graduating class. We are called to teach them with transformational educational and co-curricular experiences, and I am confident that our faculty and staff are committed to the university's enduring mission.

Always, I am mindful that our students are individuals with a story that is as unique as each one of them. It is evident that Bluffton's mission has made an impact on the life stories of our alumni including this year's Hall of Fame Inductees and Alumni Award Recipients. Scott Bergman '06 not only shined as a student-athlete during his four years in college, but is giving back as a volunteer with Bluffton's golf team. Michele Durand '88 dedicated 11 seasons as a coach to her alma mater and taught many young women lessons in leadership along the way. Michael Stulman '08 has never forgotten Bluffton's enduring values as he turned a passion for cross-cultural exploration into a calling to serve others, and Dick Ramseyer '57 has taken a lesson on civic duty from Dr. Howard Raid and turned it into a lifetime of service.

I also want to let you know of my heartfelt gratitude for alumni support of Simply Innovate, the Campaign for Bluffton University. Financial gifts have helped Bluffton achieve more than 90 percent of the fundraising goal for the Knowlton Science Center. While our faculty and students have been diligent in their work and study in Shoker Hall, the realization of a new science building will allow us to continue providing outstanding science education for our students with new technology and



modern equipment. I look forward to working closely with campus and community constituents to bring the Knowlton Science Center to fruition in the near future.

Finally, though this is a time of continued change in higher education, it is also a time to celebrate the stability and enduring values that will continue to light the path as together we move forward at Bluffton University.

Warm regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jane M. Wood".

Jane M. Wood, Ph.D.
President



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BLUFFTON UNIVERSITY MISSION:

*Bluffton University seeks to prepare students
of all backgrounds for life as well as vocation,
for responsible citizenship, for service to all
peoples and ultimately for the purposes of
God's universal kingdom.*

BLUFFTON MAGAZINE is published

March, June and October for alumni,
parents, friends, faculty and staff by
Bluffton University, 1 University Drive,
Bluffton, OH 45817-2104 (419-358-3000,
www.bluffton.edu).

We welcome your comments!

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On the cover: Dr. Jane Wood wears the Bluffton University presidential medallion featuring College Hall and the words "The Truth Makes Free." Adopted as the motto in 1913, this conviction is central to Bluffton's liberal arts tradition in Christian higher education. Kent Yoder '78, chair of the Bluffton University Board of Trustees, bestowed the medal upon Dr. Wood during her inauguration ceremony.

Photo by Claire Clay '18, MBA '20



SHINING THE LIGHT

*The Inauguration of Jane M. Wood, Ph.D.
10th President of Bluffton University*

During her inaugural address as Bluffton University's 10th president, Dr. Jane Wood pondered a fact that many people in Yoder Recital Hall likely didn't realize. This year's incoming freshmen, the class of 2022, were born in the year 2000. They have lived in a century and a world that has never known life without the internet or Google.

"So the question before us, in many ways, becomes, what does it mean to have a university education when students can hold in their hands a smartphone, which can access more information and produce more facts than our counterparts in the Middle Ages could have ever imagined?" asked Dr. Wood. "What does it mean to obtain a university degree in the world today? Many will certainly ask, what is its value?"

In answering this question, Dr. Wood, who officially started in July but was inaugurated on Friday, Sept. 28, shined a light on the past, present and future of Christian higher education at Bluffton.



The beginnings of higher education

The beginnings of higher education, explained Dr. Wood, came about in Western Europe during the Middle Ages at the same time the foundations of many of the great cathedrals of Europe were laid.

“The dreamers and builders created cathedrals so that as the faithful sat in their pews, the light would shine through the stained glass depictions of Biblical stories and onto the white stone or marble interior of the sanctuary,” said Dr. Wood. “Thus, the medieval parishioners participated each week in their prayers, their songs and their presence as they were bathed in light, in what might be called seeking the beauty and revelation of divine truth.”

Today, Bluffton University’s motto, “The Truth Makes Free,” and the design of the seal as a shield, links Bluffton directly to the earliest universities in Paris and Bologna and proclaims our understanding that faith and learning are woven together Dr. Wood explained.

Bluffton through the years

Moving to 1899, Dr. Wood shared about the beginnings

of Bluffton University as Central Mennonite College. As Bluffton history professor, Dr. Perry Bush, noted in his book “Dancing with the Kobzar,” Noah Hirschy, the first president of Bluffton, remarked upon its launching: “The college they began that day would not be concerned with the ‘acquisition of mere knowledge.’ It would pursue a higher calling. Its aim would be to produce stalwart Christian men and women of ‘life and character.’”

“From the very beginning,” noted Dr. Wood, “this college set out to transform young people by calling them to lives of meaning and purpose.”

She also shared remarks from Bluffton’s fourth president, Lloyd Ramseyer in 1942. “The greater the stress of the times, the greater the need for education.”

This is an example that, as Dr. Wood explained, “Bluffton University has, for 120 years, lighted the way for students to face and find solutions for the personal and social issues facing their lives and their communities.”



A community of Blessings



"I am so excited to see that Bluffton University is in good hands with Dr. Wood at the helm, and I know many other students feel the same way that I do. I sincerely hope that your time here at Bluffton University is filled with joy and prosperity."

JACOB HILL

President, Student Senate



"Bluffton is precious to us. Its campus, its history, its mission and above all its people. Today, we are thankful that we now share the gifts of this place with you. We pledge to you our support, our partnership and our prayers."

DR. ALEX SIDER

Professor of religion



"May you be challenged to take risks and empower others to do likewise. May you maintain a healthy sense of humor and a great deal of patience. May you feel stronger for the challenges ahead knowing that all who are surrounding you today come as a sign of our support, encouragement and confidence."

DR. LIBBY HOSTETLER

Professor of education emerita



"We are really fortunate to gain your fresh perspective on all of the wonderful attributes that Bluffton has to offer which has reminded all of us why we do what we do each day for our students. You understand and appreciate how important community is on our campus and you have jumped right in."

JAMES GRANDEY

Head baseball coach



"You may have heard that the village is crooked. It's our streets. They are so crooked, we advise you to walk when you are exploring because should you get turned around, you can always take a shortcut through your neighbors' yards or call 911. In all seriousness, if we can be of help to you in any way, you only need to ask."

RICHARD JOHNSON

Mayor, Village of Bluffton



"Your alumni have been transformed here. Your alumni have a piece of Bluffton with them every day where they are and you have a sea of alumni sending you best wishes, offering prayers, giving you the loudest Beaver Call that we can muster because your alumni love Bluffton University and its people."

KATHY DICKSON

President, Bluffton University Alumni Association



"Dr. Wood, may the God who makes water gush up from the earth, who makes the rains that fall upon all of creation be your ever present companion, washing you with the wells of wisdom, currents of compassion, ocean depths of discernment, lapping waters of leadership, confluences of collaboration and streams of sheer joy."

REV. DOUGLAS LUGINBUHL

Conference Minister, Central District, Mennonite Church USA





Seeking the light and a job

Knowing that many people will point out that employability is the main point of college, Dr. Wood emphasized that:

“The foundation of a Bluffton education, in seeking truth, asking questions and posing solutions, will position students for well for life.”

Looking to Bluffton’s future, Dr. Wood shared plans to build on initiatives already underway during her presidency, including the revision of the general education program as well as the development of a strategic plan in 2019. She also looks forward to progress with the Austin E. Knowlton Science Center.

Welcome to Bluffton Dr. Wood

In welcoming Dr. Wood to campus, the inauguration ceremony also included greetings and blessings from a variety of Bluffton constituents including current

students, faculty and alumni, as well as church and community leaders.

The musical selection of “Shine the Light” by Raymond Wise, which features the chorus to “This Little Light of Mine,” performed by the Bluffton University Gospel Choir capped off the ceremony’s theme of shining the light on higher education.

A native of St. Joseph, Mo., Dr. Wood earned her bachelor’s degree in English literature from the University of Missouri. She went on to earn her master’s degree, followed by her doctorate in English literature from the University of Kansas.

Dr. Wood has more than 20 years of experience in higher education, including serving as a tenured faculty member, department chair, academic dean and vice president. She has demonstrated success in working collaboratively to develop strategic plans, spur enrollment growth and develop academic programs for undergraduate, adult and graduate-level students.

Dr. Wood has two grown daughters with her husband Wayne McGaugh.



JANE'S FAVES

*A look at the lighter side of
Bluffton's 10th president*

PET:

Dachshund, she grew up with the adorable dogs and currently has a 14-year-old rescue named Sidney

CAMPUS LOCALE:

The Swinging Bridge

HOBBY:

Gardening, one year she grew 13 varieties of tomatoes

MEAL TO COOK:

Lasagna and chocolate dump-it cake

OUTING:

Shakespeare in the Park

VACATION:

Cinque Terre, seaside villages on the Italian Riviera

SUBJECT TO EXPLORE:

Music appreciation

OUTDOOR ACTIVITY:

Skiing, both water and snow

*As a former literature professor, Dr. Wood
couldn't narrow her favorite book to just one!*

CHILDREN'S BOOKS:

"Goodnight Moon" by Margaret Wise Brown and the "Little House" series by Laura Ingalls Wilder

BOOKS BY LIVING AUTHORS:

"Gilead" by Marilyn Robinson and "Beloved" by Toni Morrison

BOOKS TO TEACH:

"To the Lighthouse" by Virginia Woolf and "The Wasteland" by T.S. Eliot

BOOKS FOR FUN:

Detective fiction, especially the "Reykjavik Murder Mysteries" series by Arnaldur Indridason





HALL OF FAME INDUCTEE

SCOTT BERGMAN '06



SCOTT BERGMAN was inducted into Bluffton's Athletics Hall of Fame in 2018 for his success as a basketball player. He is one of two people to score at least 50 points in a single basketball game and is one of two people to have twice scored at least 40 points in a single game for the Beavers. Bergman is ranked third for most career points scoring 1,660, with 607 of those points scored during his senior year alone. His points-per-game average of 15.7 is tied for first place. In addition, Bergman is only one of four people to have scored at least 1,000 points and recorded at least 250 assists.

He was named to the HCAC conference team multiple times and earned the title of Player of the Year for the 2004-05 season. He was also a McDonald's Holiday Tournament all-tournament team member and MVP. For the 2004-05 season, the National Association of Basketball Coaches (NABC) named Bergman as a third-team All-American as well as first-team all-district. After the 2005-06 season, he was named second team all-region by D3hoops.com as well as second team all-district by the NABC. Bergman was a team captain for three seasons from 2004-06.

During his senior year, Bergman made 14-14 free throws in a game against Hanover, putting him in Bluffton's record books as one of a handful of others to shoot 100 percent from the line in a single game. He was named the A.C. Burcky Award winner, which honors a senior male athlete each year.

Bergman is also a record-holder in golf and volunteers as an assistant coach with Bluffton's golf team. He graduated in 2006 with a degree in sport management and works at Marathon Petroleum Company. He and his wife Angie (Lee '08) have three children, McKenna, Clay and Brody.



HALL OF FAME INDUCTEE

MICHELE DURAND '88

MICHELE DURAND was inducted into the Athletics Hall of Fame in 2018 for her achievements in coaching. She played both basketball and tennis during her time at Bluffton, but a knee injury during her sophomore basketball season allowed her to take a year off from the playing floor and jump start her career on the sidelines. Durand lettered on the varsity women's basketball team all three years she played and was selected as a captain one of those years. She participated in 66 games and scored 609 points over her 3-year career.

Durand was not only an excellent basketball player but is a successful collegiate coach. During her 11 seasons as head women's basketball coach at Bluffton, Durand was named Coach of the Year twice and led a team to a conference championship.

This year will mark Durand's 18th season as the head women's basketball coach at Ohio Northern University in Ada, Ohio, where she has earned the title of Coach of the Year many more times. Her Polar Bear teams have set numerous records at ONU including the first regular-season undefeated team and NCAA tournament berths. Durand has nearly 300 wins at ONU and is the winningest coach in their school history.

Durand graduated from Bluffton in 1988 with a bachelor's degree in health, physical education and recreation. In 1990 she graduated from Bowling Green State University with a master's degree in exercise science.



ALONG THE RILEY

Grant funds course implementation

A \$25,000 grant will help Bluffton University implement a new, high-impact learning experience for sophomore students. The NetVUE Vocation Across the Academy Grant will allow Bluffton to pilot and implement a five-credit-hour course called Learning in Community. All sophomore-level students will take the course starting in the 2020-21 academic year. The course will be part of Bluffton's Enduring Values Program, a new general education curriculum geared toward preparing students for both life and vocation.



"We are excited to build on the community partnerships we have already developed and for students to have the opportunity to learn in a new, rich way," said Dr. Lamar Nisly, interim vice president and dean of academic affairs. "Students will be deeply engaged in their education through this experience as they look at different community issues and questions through multiple disciplines."

The NetVUE grant activities will support the first year of a three-year project to plan, pilot and fully integrate the Learning in Community class.



Common Application

Students applying to Bluffton University now have the ability to do so through The Common Application, an online college application platform that makes it easier for students in the United States and around the world to apply. More than three million college applicants, teachers and counselors use the platform each year.

The Common App allows students to fill out a single online form to apply to member colleges and universities, including Bluffton.

"At Bluffton, we strive to prepare students for lives of passion and purpose. We want to make the process to get here as easy and efficient as possible, so students can focus on what's really important to them, finding the right fit. That's why we joined The Common App," said Erin Ostling Burkholder, director of admissions.



Education accreditation

Bluffton was recently named one of 46 providers from across the country to receive accreditation for the educator preparation program. Just 147 total providers have been approved under the Council for the

Accreditation of Educator Preparation (CAEP) teacher preparation standards—rigorous, nationally recognized standards that were developed to ensure excellence in educator preparation programs.

"Our students, alumni and faculty should be proud of the work they are doing. We've set a very high bar for our teacher prep program and CAEP accreditation validates the hard work we are doing," said Dr. Gayle Trollinger, Bluffton's education department chair.

Bluffton received full accreditation without any areas for improvement or stipulations.



"Tough conversations" at Convocation

Author and counselor Jonas Beiler urged first-year students at Bluffton University to truly interact with people of differing viewpoints instead of running away from conflict.

"Be brave enough to have tough conversations," urged Beiler. "God forgives, and since we are made in the likeness of God we need to forgive as well."

Beiler, who wrote "Think No Evil: Inside the Story of the Amish Schoolhouse Shooting... and Beyond," spoke at Opening Convocation on Aug. 28. The book was the 2018 summer reading for first-year Bluffton students and explored the idea of forgiveness being central to the challenging conversations that took place following a 2006 shooting at a one-room schoolhouse in Nickel Mines, Pa.

The presentation started a year-long exploration into Bluffton's 2018-19 Civic



Engagement Theme of “When Talking is Tough: Respectful Conversations in a Divided Nation.”



New trustees named

Hannah Heinzekehr '07 of Goshen, Ind., has been appointed to the Bluffton Board of Trustees through Mennonite Education Association on behalf of Mennonite Church USA. Heinzekehr is a communication alumna and serves as communications program director for the Croc Institute of International Peace Studies at Notre Dame. She was previously executive director of “The Mennonite” magazine.

Joe Recker '78 has been appointed to an at-large seat on the board. The business administration alumnus from Ottawa, Ohio, farms and is the office manager at Horstman and Klir Medical, Inc. Recker serves on the boards of State Home Savings Bank and Lake Regions Bank. He is a principal with Lake Regions Bank and Anchor Partners and has served for five years as president/treasurer of Ottawa Feed and Grain.

Luke Shipp of Haskins, Ohio, has been appointed to an at-large seat on the board. The 2004 business administration alumnus is married to Janeen (Lacy '05) Shipp. He is vice president for commercial lines at First Insurance Group, working out of their Sylvania, Ohio, office. Shipp has previously served as chair of Bluffton's Alumni Council and has been active in developing Bluffton's new insurance and financial services concentration in the business department. All three will serve four-year terms through 2022.



Welcome! ¡Bienvenido! Kamogelo!

Thirteen international students from 10 different countries are currently studying at Bluffton. This is one of the largest groups of international students in recent years. Pictured in the Lion and Lamb Peace Arts Center are (kneeling) Sabina Tamang, Nepal; and Theri Phetlu, Botswana; (standing) Sachin Bala, Nepal; Avi-Nash Shah, Nepal; Jose Duron, Honduras; Rona Stafa, Albania; Daisy Martinez, Honduras; Igor Malaquias, Brazil; and Anteneh Asratu, Ethiopia.



Football safety

Bluffton football has added a new piece of equipment to its practice lineup—Guardian Caps. The soft-shell helmet covers can absorb up to 33 percent of the impact in a collision according to the manufacturer and are able to more effectively manage the impact of repetitive and cumulative blows than a helmet alone. “Bluffton University's football program

and our sports medicine staff take seriously the risk of concussions that may be received during practice,” said Phill Talavinia, athletics director. “While the use of the helmet covers will not eliminate the risk, wearing them certainly adds to the protection of our student-athletes and reduces the severity of possible head injuries. We are excited to have these as part of every players' practice uniform.”

The university recently purchased more than 100 of the covers for every player to wear during every practice. The protective covers are used in many Division I programs, but Bluffton is an early adopter among Division III schools.





Michael Stulman

Regional Marketing Manager, Africa
Catholic Relief Services
Senegal, Africa
Bluffton '08
Major: Sociology

Finding his calling

Cross-cultural experiences make a lasting impact on many Bluffton students, but Michael Stulman's has truly shaped his life. As a sophomore, Stulman '08 took part in a semester-long, cross-cultural experience to Uganda, Africa.

"There were a lot of things that influenced who I am and what I'm doing today, and looking back on it, it's kind of unbelievable," said Stulman. "[Dr. Lynda Nyce] played a really significant role by always encouraging me to try new things and explore my interests."

Nyce, former director of cross-cultural programs at Bluffton, helped him study abroad for not one semester but three by introducing Stulman to a variety of opportunities and writing recommendation letters.

"It was unusual for a sophomore to study abroad, but that was my first experience traveling in Africa and overseas," said Stulman. "I was there just long enough to develop a curiosity and to want to learn more."

Stulman's return stateside was short lived. After diligently working through his academics and logistics with Nyce, Stulman spent his senior year in Ghana and South Africa.

Stulman is the 2018 recipient of the Outstanding Young Alumni Award, presented by Bluffton's Alumni Association, after nearly a decade of discovery, exploration and service in Africa.

The Outstanding Young Alumni Award recognizes a recent graduate who has distinguished himself or herself through service to people, community or church, or who has made significant contributions in his or her career. The recipient must have graduated from Bluffton within the last 15 years.

Life in Senegal

Stulman began working with Catholic Relief Services in 2014, one year after he and his wife, Jeanne Elone, moved to Senegal. They have three children: 4-year-old Hugo and 2-year-old twins Ben and Max.

Stulman is the Africa regional marketing manager at CRS and travels across the continent acting as a photographer, videographer, technical guru and journalist.

"My job is to be a storyteller," said Stulman, "and to help people in the U.S. connect with our work overseas and understand what we're doing."

Stulman also collaborates with journalists who report for "The Washington Post," "NPR" and "The New York Times." Over the last four years, Stulman has taken approximately 40 different work trips to 24 different countries.

"I take about one trip a month," said Stulman. "I visit [CRS] projects, take pictures of the people we're working with and trying to support, I talk to them and write stories that I can share with constituents in the U.S."

Before moving to Africa, Stulman lived and worked in Washington, D.C., at first with the advocacy agency Africa Action and then with Grassroots Business Fund, a nonprofit committed to social enterprises around the world.

Stulman hopes that he can continue to raise awareness about what affects the people of Africa and influence how those in the United States specifically understand Africa.

"I love my work," said Stulman. "I'm very, very lucky to have the job that I do. I feel like it's really an honor to have this opportunity where I can travel to places, some of which are often really difficult to access, and meet people who have so many different experiences."

Campus connections

As a sociology major, Stulman tried to have as many experiences as possible on campus as well. He was involved in PEACE Club, International Connection (ICON) and other groups that focused on peace, justice and social issues.

"At Bluffton, I really got a multicultural learning experience, and each experience was completely different."

What he may not have realized at the time was that one of Bluffton's enduring values, community, would become a big part of his life.

"All lot of it is relationships," said Stulman. "How you build relationships with people is critical. And, I started thinking about that at Bluffton where I was always immersing myself in new student groups and study abroad experiences, and you have to figure out how to adapt in a new environment very quickly."



Richard (Dick) Ramseyer

Bluffton, Ohio

Bluffton '57

Major: Biology/Minor: Economics

A lesson from Dr. Raid

Richard (Dick) Ramseyer '57 spent his life finding ways to better the lives of others and the communities in which he lives, which is why he was selected as this year's Lifetime Service Award recipient, presented by Bluffton's Alumni Association.

The Lifetime Service Award recognizes an individual who has dedicated his or her life to heartfelt service to people, community or church. Inspired by personal faith in God and the ultimate purposes of His kingdom, this individual has made a difference in the lives of others.

After a lifetime of service, Dick credits his accomplishments to his education at Bluffton.

"Dr. Howard Raid was a very important part of my life," said Ramseyer. "He told us at every class, 'Get involved in your community,' and I really took that to heart. That's been a part of me ever since college days."

Ramseyer didn't plan to make a life in Bluffton; in fact, he didn't even plan on graduating from the college. He and a friend thought about coming to Bluffton College for one year and then transferring to a university back home in Illinois.

"That didn't happen," said Ramseyer. "We stayed. You kind of get hooked on things, and as a result of that, you're here for almost a lifetime."

Big moves and Bluffton

After graduation, Ramseyer moved back to Illinois and married Elfrieda (Landes '58). During the summer of 1969, Ramseyer was asked by President Kreider to join the administration in the advancement division at Bluffton, so the couple made their first return. They resided in Bluffton for 14 years. During this time, Ramseyer helped develop the following at the university: Shoker Science Center, Rosenberger Drive greenhouse, groundwork for the Emery Sears Athletic Complex and SCOPE magazine. He was also involved in the Bluffton University Nature Preserve, Bluffton Industrial Growth Committee, Bluffton Housing Corporation, Bluffton Expansion Corporation, Bluffton Community Progress Corporation, Bluffton United Way Board and Bluffton Business Men's Association (Chamber of Commerce). After resigning from the college, Ramseyer

formed Demart Enterprises, Inc., and with Paul Snyder founded Bluffton Construction Company, Inc.

After living in Colorado and Iowa and serving their communities in those states for more than 20 years, the Ramseys determined nowhere else felt quite like home as Bluffton did.

"We looked in numerous places; we looked in Florida, we looked in Arizona and just didn't feel comfortable," said Ramseyer. "We always just kept coming back to Bluffton. It's got all the things—the things you want in life to be close by."

Connecting the community

In 2001, they returned to home to Bluffton and Ramseyer picked up right where he left off—immersing himself in community projects and improvements. Although Ramseyer has participated in many village projects, the most notable is the Bluffton Bike and Pedestrian Pathway.

Ramseyer, among others, saw a need for something which would allow community members to safely bike, run and walk throughout the village, thus the Bluffton Pathway Board was born.

"We really pushed for a body to be appointed to cause this to happen and be implemented, thus the Bluffton Pathway Board and Bluffton Lions Foundation were born," said Ramseyer.

The Bluffton Lions Foundation, in collaboration with the Village of Bluffton, has received more than \$500,000 in grants to help construct the pathways over the last nine years. Four Lions Way Pathways and a park have been constructed with more to come.

Currently, Ramseyer is a member of the Bluffton Lions Club, Bluffton Investment Club, Allen County Bike and Pedestrian Task Force, Bluffton Chamber of Commerce (president), Bluffton Lions Foundation (chair), and Bluffton Pathway Board. He also serves on the village zoning committee and often volunteers at Bluffton University.

Dick and Elfrieda are active members of First Mennonite Church in Bluffton.

They have two children: Marty (Ramseyer '81) Barnett and Rick Ramseyer '83, a son-in-law and a daughter-in-law and two grandchildren.





ALUMNOTES

1950-59

William '55 and Jean (Boshart x56) Stucky reside in Goshen, Ind. Jean founded and has operated a Suzuki School of Music for 35 years in four communities. She performs and teaches violin, teaches Bible studies, is an Evangelical Presbyterian Church elder, nutritional consultant and enjoys time with family.

1960-69

Michael Smith '68, Carlsbad, N.M., retired in May after a 35-year career in nurse anesthesia.

1970-79

Barbara (Moyer '70) Lehman, Harrisonburg, Va., retired in May after 31 years in pastoral ministry in the Mennonite church. She and her husband, **John '70**, enjoy traveling, reading and discovering their "new normal." They also enjoy spending time with their son **Ben '99**, daughter-in-law and three grandchildren.

Paulette (Babuka '72) Wittenbrink, Port Clinton, Ohio, retired with 20 years in ministry with the United Methodist Church. She served during that time at Rushsylvania UMC, Harper UMC, Big Springs UMC, Northern Hills UMC and Hyde Park Bethlehem UMC. She and her husband **Tedd '73**, have two daughters and five grandchildren.

Jeff Boehr '78, Elkhart, Ind., participated in May commencement at Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical

Seminary (AMBS). He anticipates earning a Master of Arts in Christian Formation with a concentration in Christian spirituality in December.

1980-89

Brenda Phillips '80, South Bend, Ind., accepted the position of dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences at Indiana University South Bend.

Mark '82 and Kathleen (Bowers x81) Shelly recently moved to Danville, Pa. Mark is leading the infection prevention efforts for the Geisinger Health System. They are getting to know the central Pennsylvania area after living and working in Rochester, N.Y., the past 32 years.

Mark '83 and Paula (Holman '83) Moser, Lake City, Fla., are both retired after 35 years working as therapists. They spent two months this past summer hiking 641 miles together on the Pacific Crest Trail.

Jon Detwiler '88, Fremont, Ohio, is superintendent of the Fremont City Schools.

1990-99

Ellen (Cox x90) Farrar, Delaware, Ohio, is marking 12 years as an administrative medical assistant with OhioHealth in Pediatrics. She and her husband, John, celebrated their 12th wedding anniversary in October. They have four children.

Gregory Warner '92, Wapakoneta, Ohio, is retired after more than

20 years of service at Honda of America in Anna. He now enjoys life at home with his wife of 26 years, Cynthia.

Kathryn (Lehman '95) Harsha, Marriotsville, Md., directed the Sing Out! chorus, her ninth directorial performance, as a part of the Cleveland Rape Crisis Center's fund drive in May. The Center also recently established the Kathryn Harsha Visionary Voice Award, to be given biennially in recognition of partners advancing the elimination of sexual violence.

Brent '97 and Megan (Stauffer '99) Miller, Grove City, Ohio, will celebrate their 20th wedding anniversary in November. Brent is the acting president of the Grove City Area Realty Association and is a realtor with CRT Realtors. Megan teaches ceramics at Groveport Madison High School. They have two children, Lydia and Isaac.

Kevin Abel '99, Mobile, Ala., is the vice president of student affairs at Spring Hill College in Mobile, where he resides with his wife, Angela, and their daughters Sophia, Camille and Stella.

2000-09

Sarah (Shevlin '02) O'Briskie, North Canton, Ohio, is a challenge director and tutor at Classical Conversations.

Craig Van Renterghem '04, Findlay, Ohio, is the education director at the Marathon Center for the Performing Arts.





OUR LEGACY.

Bluffton alumni in the world

Bluffton Football honors #CainansPurpose

Patrick '05 and Gina (Berelsman '06) Craun along with their 6-year-old son Gideon served as honorary captains during the Beavers game against Mount St. Joseph. The Craun's 7-year-old son Cainan died in January from a brain tumor. The Beavers collected Lego sets at the game which the Craun's will donate to children's hospitals. The #CainansPurpose movement encourages families to complete Lego sets and share about the bonding time on social media. Patrick was an outside linebacker and served as a team captain in 2004.



Brenda (Hein '05) Heitkamp, Burkettsville, Ohio, and her husband, Eric, welcomed their third child, Mason, on Oct. 31, 2017.

Tom MBA '09 and Sarah (Humphrey '08) Smith, Culver, Ind., work as a Battery A unit counselor and sports administration office manager, respectively, at Culver Academies, a college preparatory boarding school. Tom also coaches track. They have one daughter, Nora, who was born July 1, 2016.

2010-18

Brent '10 and Christy (Rupp '10) Householder have relocated to Montpelier, Vt. Brent now works as a senior performance auditor for the state of Vermont auditor's office.

Karla Funk '12, Mead, Colo., is the choir and drama director at Heath Middle School in Greeley, Colo.

Brea Quellhorst '12, Wapakoneta, Ohio, teaches history at West Central Juvenile Rehabilitation Center in

Troy, Ohio. She is also again enrolled at Bluffton University to pursue an intervention specialist license.

Jonathan Tumblin '12, Hesston, Kan., recently joined Hesston College as a resident director.

Micah Yoder '12, Baltic, Ohio, and his wife, Debra, welcomed twins, Lucas and Luna, on April 18, 2018.

Chris Arnold '13, Bowling Green, Ohio, earned a Ph.D. in cognitive psychology from Bowling Green State University in May.



Legacy house becomes Welcome Center

Bluffton University moved its Welcome Center to the front door of campus. The Houshower House, a beautiful cottage with a rich campus history, now serves as Bluffton's first point of contact for campus visitors, including prospective students. The house is located at the corner of College Avenue and Spring Street, just off of the main entrance to campus.

"The Houshower House is a unique, warm and friendly place, and because it is a legacy home on campus, it is symbolic of the experience students will have at Bluffton right from their first visit," said Dr. Jane Wood, president.



H.W. and Olga (Kennel '18) Berky

Built by H.W. Berky, professor of chemistry, and his family in 1946, the house was donated to Bluffton in 2006 by his daughter Margaret (Berky '42) and son-in-law Mark Houshower '42. The house was envisioned as an English cottage by H.W.'s wife, Olga (Kennel '18) Berky, with a red-tiled roof and a circular stairway at the entry.

"My parents were one of the emeriti faculty couples and friends of the university who were very involved in helping the admissions department by folding all of the direct mail pieces, licking the envelopes and putting on

stamps prior to automation," said Dr. Hans Houshower, vice president for advancement.

"One of my mother's thoughts was that the house would make a great welcome center to introduce students to Bluffton so they could have the kind of transformative experiences that we have all witnessed. If she were living today, she would be thrilled."

Built following the end of WWII using many recycled materials because of the scarcity of building supplies, the house features a fireplace with a mantelpiece and wood from the original barn on campus, which housed the college's basketball gymnasium, and from the kitchen in Ropp Hall, where students enjoyed home-style meals. The brick in the fireplace is from Main Street Bluffton and limestone used throughout the house was handpicked by son, Richard Berky '48, from the nearby Bluffton Stone Quarry and hauled to the building site in small trailer loads. Many of Professor Berky's students helped with construction of the home, and H.W. and Olga lived there until 1983.



As well as developing the chemistry program at Bluffton, H.W. Berky is best known for establishing football as Bluffton's first intercollegiate sport and bringing the Ivy-league idea of an honor code to campus, which is still in place. Dr. Mark Houshower served as academic dean in the late 1960s and early 70s and Margaret served as director of the Reading Center, a support center for students with reading disabilities and study skills needs. Dr. Wood, was welcomed to the home during her initial visits to campus and immediately found the space to be inviting.

"In an increasingly technological world, where so much of our lives are about going to a website or picking up a phone and pressing one or pressing two, for us to have a legacy home serve as the Welcome Center with people in it to greet and welcome you to campus speaks to the kind of institution we are and want to continue to be in the world," explained Dr. Wood. "Technology is necessary and has an ever-increasing role in society, but at Bluffton we want to showcase the importance of relationships."



Mark '42 and Margaret (Berky '42) Houshower



Tyler x16 and Brianna (Keith '18) Ferris, Cleveland, Ohio, were married on Sept. 1, 2018. Brianna currently is working on a master's degree in music at Cleveland State University.

Elaina (Alpeter '18) Frye and **Seanquez Frey x19**, Lima, Ohio, were married on July 4, 2018. Elaina accepted a position as an intervention specialist at Independence Elementary School in Lima.

Erika Byler '18, Shipshewana, Ind., married Josh Helmuth on June 23, 2018. The couple will reside in Goshen.

IN MEMORIAM

Margery (Lecrone '40) Gregg, Concord, Ohio, passed away Aug. 6, 2018, at age 100.

Everett Hiestand '42, Kalamazoo, Mich., passed away May 13, 2018, at age 97.

Harriet (Schertz '48) Soldner, Decatur, Ind., passed away Aug. 17, 2018, at age 91.

Robert M. Ewing '50, Kirkersville, Ohio, passed away May 20, 2018, at age 92.

Robert D. Shelly '50, Hendersonville, N.C., passed away July 14, 2018, at age 90.

William A. Simcox, '50, Waukegan, Ill., passed away May 18, 2018, at age 92.

Elizabeth "Betty" (Bixel '51) Jeschke, Goshen, Ind., passed away June 27, 2018, at age 88.

Dale E. Schanely x51, Lake Placid, Fla., passed away Feb. 26, 2018, at age 91.

Emil Knorr, Sr. '57, Ocala, Fla., passed away Aug. 7, 2018, at age 82.

Robert H. Edinger '61, Van Wert, Ohio, passed away May 10, 2018, at age 82.

Norman Henry, '64, Mountain Rest, S.C., passed away Aug. 1, 2017, at age 78.

Jean (Stauffer '66) McConnell, Wooster, Ohio, passed away June 15, 2018, at age 74.

Steven Sutermeister x67, Flushing, Mich., passed away Aug. 17, 2018, at age 72.

Elizabeth "Betsy" (Kohli '72) Jackson, Findlay, Ohio, passed away May 18, 2018, at age 84.

Gordon Diller x77, Bluffton, Ohio, passed away Aug. 5, 2018, at age 67.

Donna (Grimm '81) Polhamus, Leipsic, Ohio, passed away May 31, 2018, at age 59.

John A. Upshaw, Jr. '81, Lima, Ohio, passed away May 14, 2018, at age 64.

Jean (Sapp '83) Koontz, Erie, Mich., passed away Dec. 9, 2015, at age 54.

Diane (Kempf '91) Majoy, Sandusky, Ohio, passed away June 7, 2018, at age 48.

Melissa (Sims x99) Borgman, Orient, Ohio, passed away May 11, 2018, at age 40.

Robb Jeremy Heppner '05, Salem, Ore., passed away Sept. 5, 2018, at age 36.

Tyler Schroeder '06, Ottawa, Ohio, passed away July 23, 2018, at age 35.

IN MEMORY OF MARY ANN SULLIVAN



Mary Ann Sullivan, professor emerita of English, died on Aug. 22, 2018, at the age of 77.

During her 32 years at Bluffton, she taught nearly every course in the English department as well as art history. Sullivan earned her bachelor's and master's degrees from Rice University,

where she was a Ford Foundation Fellow, and her Ph.D. in English literature from The Ohio State University. She also did extensive graduate course work in art history at Bowling Green State University and participated in the Florida State University study abroad program, spending a semester in Florence, Italy, in 1983.

Sullivan received many teaching awards during her career including two National Endowment for the Humanities grants. At Bluffton, she received several faculty awards, including a number of Study Center grants, the Sears Teaching Excellence Award in 1991, the Outstanding Educator Award from the Hancock County Chamber of Commerce in 1998, and the Bluffton Faculty/Staff Service Award in 2009.

In addition to her coursework, she was repeatedly selected to deliver the C. Henry Smith Peace Lecture and taught in the Institute for Learning in Retirement.

An avid traveler, Sullivan pursued the photography of architecture and maintained a website, the Digital Imaging Project, with more than 26,000 images and explanatory text. Her images have appeared in hundreds of national and international publications, and a permanent exhibit of her photographs of famous libraries is displayed in Musselman Library.

Sullivan was born on July 30, 1941, in Oklahoma City, Okla., and grew up in Texas. She was married to her husband, Bill Sullivan, who survives in Lima, Ohio, for 51 years.



FACULTY 360

Marathana Prothro

You are the adviser for “The Wit.” How are you teaching students to keep up with the constantly changing media landscape?

The key to navigating our media landscape is actually understanding human needs, motivations and behaviors. The understandable inclination is for students to say, “Teach me how to use this software.” I think curricula that focus solely on technical skills do a disservice to our discipline and our students. In our department, we intentionally nurture theoretical understandings and develop practical skills so students get in the habit of asking good questions before they just start making content without forethought or consideration of what may happen as a result of their work. So the process of teaching them to keep up with constant change is to help them learn to focus on that which endures — our need for connection, validation, inspiration — because at the end of the day, what we find compelling remains the same, even if the packaging shifts from one platform to another.



If you could interview anyone — living or dead — who would it be and why?

This is a tough question. Can I just plan my ideal dinner party of conversation partners instead? I would invite Margaret Atwood, Tina Fey, Amy Poehler, Oprah, Gal Gadot, Mindy Kaling, N.K. Jemison, J.K. Rowling, Ruth Bader Ginsberg and Beyoncé for a “Galentine’s” meal to end all Galentine’s meals.

What’s the best piece of advice you’ve received?

“Own your currency.” Amy Poehler writes about this in her memoir “Yes, Please!” The idea is that we all waste so much time wishing we were something other than what we are — smarter, prettier, stronger, etc. — that we lose sight of the unique gifts (or, our currency) we have to offer. So frequently my students come to me with questions that, if you’re listening carefully, are really inquiries about their worth and value in the world. My goal is to help shift their perspective from one of presumed deficiency to one of unquestionable worth so they know I believe in them and, as a result, feel empowered to go and make their own unique mark on the world.

Marathana Prothro is assistant professor of communication and divisional council member-communication and fine arts at Bluffton.



Professor emerita and family support student success through endowed scholarship

Through an endowed gift to Bluffton University, Barbara and Mel Stettler are investing in success for students who are studying nutrition and dietetics, programs Barb established and nurtured as a long-time faculty member at Bluffton.

"I want to help students through the financial aspect of the scholarship, but I also want to encourage them," explained Stettler.

"To be awarded a scholarship is special and it makes you feel good. It may not pay for your whole education, but getting that acknowledgement, that support and that encouragement can mean a lot for a student."

Stettler, associate professor emerita of family and consumer sciences, served on Bluffton's faculty for 30 years, from 1970-2000. Her forward-thinking approach as chair of the home economics department led to improvements and innovations including a full accreditation in the 1980s by the American Dietetic Association (ADA).

Since her retirement, the dietetics program has continued to innovate. Bluffton now offers an Individualized Supervised Practice Pathway (ISPP) post-graduate dietetic internship which prepares participants to sit for the Registered Dietitian Nutritionist (RDN) national exam.

"I'm very pleased with the direction of the program," said Stettler. "We simply indicated that we had a desire to do this, and the development officers guided the way and explained everything. It was a very easy process."

Barb's husband, Mel, is retired from the Ford Motor Company in Lima, Ohio. He, too, is a big supporter of the nutrition and dietetics programs. The couple, who live in Bluffton, have a married daughter and two grandchildren.

"It was something we thought about shortly after I retired," said Stettler. "We decided to save a little extra money each year so we would be able to fully fund a scholarship someday. Bluffton has quite a number of these



named scholarships, and I'm happy our family can be a part of that."

The Barbara and Mel Stettler Family scholarship supports Simply Innovate, The Campaign for Bluffton University. The campaign has raised more than 90 percent of the \$14.5 million needed for construction of the Austin E. Knowlton Science Center.

"I can't wait to see that new building," said Stettler. "Prospective students want to see updated facilities. It makes a big difference to them."

Additional campaign goals include \$5.5 million in annual support over five years; \$5 million to strengthen Bluffton's endowment with long-term support for student scholarships, faculty research and operations; and a \$1 million innovation goal to support new academic program development, faculty-student research and interdisciplinary initiatives that enrich student learning.

To learn more about setting up an endowed scholarship, contact the development office at 419-358-3269.



ENSURE BLUFFTON'S FUTURE BY
ENABLING STUDENTS TO REACH THEIR

FULLEST POTENTIAL

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www.bluffton.edu/giving

*The Austin E. Knowlton Science Center
will transform science education at
Bluffton University.*

The 32,500 square foot building is designed for 21st century teaching and learning for students in biology, chemistry, physics, mathematics, pre-medicine, nursing and dietetics. The facility will also serve as an integral part of Bluffton's liberal arts education for all students.

We are at more than 90 percent of the \$14.5 million needed to break ground on the building. Thank you to our alumni and friends who continue to support Simply Innovate, the Campaign for Bluffton University.

