

# BLUFFTON

A magazine for Bluffton University alumni and friends | Spring 2020 | Vol. 17 No. 2



**BETTERING THE  
WORLD TOGETHER**



# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I am an ardent fan of NPR's once widely known show called, "This I Believe." For those of you who may not be acquainted with this series, it was an invitation to people from all walks of life to write a few words expressing the beliefs that frame their life—an articulation of their personal credo. These past few weeks have provided an opportunity for me to revisit many of the guiding principles which have been important to me. I believe very much in the examined life, and, although there is uncertainty all around us now, my freshly scrutinized, and slightly updated, credo continues to guide and sustain me. During this key time in global history, I would like to share with you my "This I Believe:"

I believe:

- In the unquenchable fire of the human spirit that will rise again and again to meet whatever faces us;
- That a faith-based liberal arts education, guided by faculty and staff who personally mentor, teach and coach students, radically changes and opens extraordinary possibilities for them;
- In the majesty of Flannery O'Connor. And Toni Morrison. And Dr. Seuss ("After all, a person's a person, no matter how small");
- That as a person of abiding faith I am also a person of profound hope;
- That Bluffton University will stand steady and clear in purpose as together we bring our students back in the fall to "prepare them for life as well as vocation, for responsible citizenship, for service to all peoples, and ultimately, for the purposes of God's universal kingdom."
- In the strength and resilience of the Bluffton University community.

Since late February, we all have been doing our best to walk through difficult decisions. At Bluffton, this includes sending our students home from residence halls, switching



to remote learning and asking many employees to work from home for several weeks. Although the spring semester has ended, the range of difficult decisions before us will continue now and into the fall.

I thank those of you who have provided your continued support as we continue the mission of Bluffton University. Please know the university holds you and your families in our prayers as well.

Jane M. Wood, Ph.D.  
President



# BLUFFTON

A magazine for Bluffton University alumni and friends

Spring 2020 Vol. 17 No. 2

WRITER

Tricia Bell

DESIGNER

Alison King

CONTRIBUTING PHOTOGRAPHERS

Michelle (Nakoneczny '99) Arron

Burton Andrews '70

Bluffton University Archives

Claire Clay '18, MBA '20

Kyla Devier

Kathy Dickson '03

Emily Dyson '23

Brandon Gouthier

Wendy Helmig

Alison King

Carrie (Roth '95) Mast, MBA '03

Dan Metzger '05

Caylin Morstadt '20

Abigail Newkirk '21

Edward Potkanowicz

Brittney (Selden '04) Raines

Josh Runda '14, MBA '16

Michael Stulman '08

Courtney Weekley '23

Beth Weigandt '20

VICE PRESIDENT FOR ADVANCEMENT

**Dr. Hans Houshower**

houshowerh@bluffton.edu

VICE PRESIDENT OF

ENROLLMENT MANAGEMENT

**Robin Bowlus**

bowlusr@bluffton.edu

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,

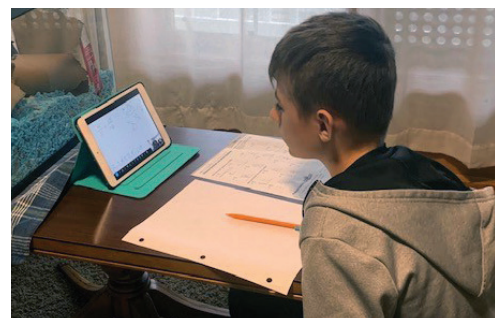
www.bluffton.edu).

**We welcome your comments!**

## BETTERING THE WORLD TOGETHER

- 4 Relationships Key to Remote Learning
- 6 Bluffton Study Buddies
- 8 Nursing on the Front Lines
- 10 Campus Ministries
- 12 Bluffton Athletics
- 14 Along the Riley
- 16 Alumnotes
- 17 A Month of May Day
- 21 Alumni Profile: Sarah Ricks '10
- 23 Bettering the World with Resilient Hearts

**On the cover:** At Bluffton, our sense of a greater purpose develops students of exceptional character and expansive vision. Since 1899, we've been learning, experiencing and bettering the world together. This issue of "Bluffton" recognizes that even though we may be physically separated due to COVID-19 health and safety measures, we remain united as a community.



# RELATIONSHIPS KEY TO REMOTE LEARNING

*For students, faculty and staff at Bluffton, the hardest part about transitioning to remote learning may have also enhanced its success. Pandemic health and safety measures meant students couldn't learn in physical community, but the strength of relationships forged on campus before the shutdown, endured.*

**“Bluffton’s leadership emphasized from the beginning of this crisis that our primary focus should be on supporting one another and our students,” said Dr. Gerald Mast, professor of communication. “I believe our students stayed engaged during this difficult time because of the relationships they have with each other and with faculty and staff. Resilience is something we achieve together, in community.”**

On March 10, Ohio’s governor mandated institutions of higher education transition to remote learning. By March 16, final in-person classes were held, faculty workshops on the use of helpful technology (including the videoconferencing platform Zoom and course management system Moodle) took place and remote instruction began. Many Bluffton faculty were already familiar with the tools, having used them in their regular coursework or while teaching adult and graduate classes.

“I encouraged professors to try some approaches with which they were comfortable right away and then, over some days, to

add additional elements to their remote teaching,” explained Dr. Lamar Nisly, vice president and dean of academic affairs. “There were some challenges. First, developing a well-structured remote course takes time. We didn’t have that luxury. Second, all of us—students and faculty/staff—are at Bluffton because we love face-to-face interaction.”

For some students, access to high-speed internet or a computer was also a challenge—especially with parents working at home or having siblings who were also completing remote learning assignments for their K-12 or college classes. Many students relied heavily on their smartphones.

“I quickly learned how to use the Zoom app on my own phone so I could show students how to use the app. Other students drove to fast-food places with internet access and would join class from the parking lot because their home internet access was too weak,” said Mast. “During class students who lost access would often text a classmate who would give live updates to me and the class on their progress in reconnecting.”

Sometimes, the challenges were more humorous in nature.

“There were some issues with technology, including my home WiFi tending to fade out if my wife turned on the microwave during class,” said Dr. Jeff Gundy, professor of English. “One student ended up sharing his earbuds with





his little sister all through one class period—apparently she found me amusing!”

And sometimes challenges were thwarted because of increased communication and outreach provided by faculty.

“When I see students in a classroom, I can often pick up on who is struggling or falling behind,” explained Dr. Deanna Barthlow-Potkanowicz, assistant professor of psychology. “But, once we moved online, I encouraged them more frequently to reach out if they were confused or had questions because I didn’t have my usual cues available to me.”

In some instances, Zoom connections weren’t practical for remote instruction, so professors adapted.

“For applied lessons, which are one-on-one, we started with Zoom sessions, but those were difficult—the mics on student computers weren’t great for the frequencies and internet speeds varied a lot,” said Dr. Roy Couch, associate professor of music. “We had better success having students record pieces and send them to us. Then we would meet via Zoom to provide feedback.”

Similar challenges took place in the art department.

“I ended up pre-recording demonstrations and lectures in video form, and uploading the file for private YouTube access,” said Andreas Baumgartner ’08, associate professor of art. “This approach was helpful for students in a number of ways—most notably students were able to repeatedly watch video content in order to fully pick up on the procedural steps.”

Each professor determined the best approach for holding their classes. Many remote sessions were held during the same timeframes they were held on campus. Other classes transitioned to an asynchronous model, with students reviewing material and completing assignments at times that best fit their needs. Students continued to receive letter grades and professors worked individually with students who were experiencing unique challenges with grace and encouragement.

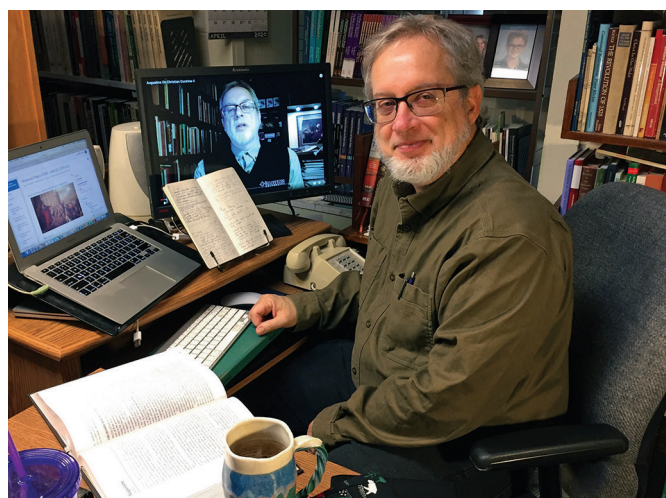
**“Almost universally, students carried forward with their coursework, stayed connected with their professors and sought help when they needed it,” explained Dr. Lamar Nisly, vice president and dean of academic affairs. “Our ability to make this astoundingly fast transition to remote learning work is a tribute to our amazing Bluffton community.”**



Dr. Deanna Barthlow-Potkanowicz put together two remote-teaching setups at her house. Her husband is a professor at Ohio Northern University.



Andi Baumgartner demonstrates a marbling printmaking technique in this screenshot from a video made for Printmaking: Alternative Digital Print.



Dr. Gerald Mast continued to teach from Riley Court. His setup included two monitors which helped him use Zoom effectively.



# BLUFFTON STUDY BUDDIES

*Online classrooms and community  
provided during the COVID-19 crisis*

When schools closed their doors in Endwell, New York, in an effort to slow the spread of COVID-19, Michelle (Nakoneczny '99) Arron was concerned about keeping her sons engaged in learning. Then she logged onto Facebook and saw a post from her alma mater. Ohio schools had closed as well, and in response, Bluffton quickly developed and promoted a new program called Bluffton Study Buddies. The program allowed Bluffton educator preparation majors to obtain student teaching and field experience hours while providing a service to the wider community. Study Buddies



mentored preschool through high school students and provided homework help/educational activities through the videoconferencing platform Zoom.

**“I emailed right away to confirm that my boys could join up with a Study Buddy, and I had a quick response back,” said Arron. “Study Buddies was a very, very helpful resource for our family. My sons Finn and Keane knew every Monday, Wednesday and Friday they needed to get on Zoom for their lessons.”**

Arron's oldest son, 12-year-old Cooper, also logged on for quick help with his coursework.

Finn, who is 9 and in the third grade, worked on English and Language Arts skills with a group of first through third grade boys. With their Study Buddies, Leslie Beasley '20, an intervention specialist major from Columbus, Ohio, and Robert McMullen-Ruppert '20, an intervention specialist major from Montpelier, Ohio, the group read the Laura Ingalls Wilder book, “Little House in the Big Woods.” They also worked on comprehension skills through fun activities developed by the Study Buddies such as “Little House” Jeopardy.







**“This experience definitely made me think about teaching in a different way. To be a teacher, you have to learn to adjust, and this was the biggest adjustment lesson ever!” explained Beasley, who had been student teaching at Lima North Middle School when schools closed.**

“In the classroom, you have to think on your feet. Out of the classroom, I just tried my best to apply those lessons while constantly adjusting and working with the students where they are at.”

To finish their Bluffton student-teaching requirements, educator preparation majors could serve as a Study Buddy, tutor independently or complete online modules on best practices to use in the classroom. The modules covered topics from helping students become independent learners to strategies to use with students who speak English as a second language. They could also continue to help their cooperating teachers, though the work was often limited.

McMullen-Ruppert, who had been student teaching in Chicago through a Bluffton partnership with the Chicago Center for Urban Life and Culture, completed some of the modules, but he preferred the opportunities provided through Study Buddies.

“One day, I was partnered with a kid who wanted to learn about science. So I looked up the Ohio standards, and I

put something together really fast on precipitation,” said McMullen-Rupert. “In the Study Buddies setting, you couldn’t always plan ahead and that was hard, but it was also a lot of fun and it still allowed me to interact with kids.”

From March through May, students logged on to the Study Buddies Zoom page more than 500 times, Zooming in from states including Ohio, New York, Indiana, Iowa and Wisconsin. Some of the students who sought help had no prior connection to Bluffton University and learned about the program through social media shares or news reports.

For Danielle Ray ’20, an intervention specialist and early childhood education major from Convoy, Ohio, being away from the students she had grown close to while student teaching at Bath Elementary School in Lima, Ohio, had been a challenge, but Study Buddies helped her and the kids she interacted with maintain a sense of normalcy.

“There’s a kindergartner who I worked with on subtraction. I had never met her in person, but she was so excited to work with me,” said Ray. “I’m such a hands on person, and this is such a hard time for everyone. I just wanted to give her a hug.”

The program proved that in times of crisis, communities—whether they’re ones you’ve been connected to for decades or just recently learned about, can come together in new and unexpected ways.

“My husband and I are very thankful for the Study Buddy Program and that I was able to see it on Facebook the exact moment when I did,” explained Arron.

**“I graduated over 20 years ago, and never would have thought my kids, who are not college aged, would be attending ‘class’ at Bluffton University at this point in their lives. I’m grateful now and will continue to be.”**



# NURSING ON THE FRONT LINES

*Bluffton University nursing majors learn from American and Italian medical professionals on the front lines of health care*

Dr. Sherri Winegardner, director of nursing, routinely invites guest speakers to share about their experiences in the medical field with students in her classes. On March 25, students in Bluffton University's Global Health and Intercultural Care class had the opportunity to learn from three medical professionals on the front lines of the COVID-19 crisis—Dr. Will Krost, an emergency department physician at St. Vincent's Medical Center in Toledo, Ohio; Filippo Drage Laghi, an emergency room nurse in Ravenna, Italy; and Roberto D'Angelo, a registered nurse also in Ravenna, Italy; who works in the emergency transport system.



**“It was a sobering discussion to say the least, but a unique situation with second-year nursing students at Bluffton connecting around the world via Zoom to one of the areas hardest hit by this pandemic,” said Winegardner. “The emphasis of this class is to look at health concepts from a global perspective, but we moved the focus solely to the global COVID-19 pandemic.”**

During the videoconference, Krost discussed the importance of stay-at-home orders, treatment options being explored such as hydroxychloroquine and azithromycin, and the stress on medical professionals at this time. While sharing about the overwhelmed health care system in Italy, Laghi and D'Angelo underscored the devastating mental and physical toll of the outbreak.

“What shocked me most was their insight into some of the most common challenges that nurses and doctors are facing,” said Kourtney Kretschmar, a sophomore nursing major from Greenville, Ohio. “Shifts are becoming longer, typical routines are gone, health care workers are just going day by day and they’re afraid of passing the virus on to anyone else.”







While not nearly as drastic, normal routines for the students changed, as well. Students completed their classes and labs for the remainder of the semester at home through online learning programs, and clinical experiences in hospitals and medical facilities were canceled. The Ohio Board of Nursing issued a statement that there would be no penalties to a program due to the interruption of planned clinical activities.

**“These times are difficult for everyone. Some are separated from their families, some have lost their jobs, and so many are risking their lives and health every day to treat this virus and flatten the curve,” said Leksi Carpenter, a sophomore nursing major from Delphos, Ohio. “This is a problem that the entire world has to get through together, and we all need to be mindful of each other.”**

For Winegardner, changing her lesson plan to focus on the pandemic was necessary for a variety of reasons: so students were aware of the potential of pandemics, so they

understood how contagion occurs and impacts populations, and so they become conscious of the importance of their roles as caregivers during times of extreme need.

“Most of us, even adults, had not had exposure to a pandemic in our lifetime, let alone one caused by a novel virus impacting the globe so significantly,” said Winegardner. “In my 30-plus-year career, the only prior pandemic I was exposed to was the H1N1 swine flu. While the disease did kill many Americans and others worldwide, the changes to our daily life were minimal. Most of our students are too young to remember it at all.”

Winegardner said her class goal was to expand her students’ knowledge through contact with professionals on the front lines so they will be better prepared to work in similar situations should they be confronted. While the reality for medical professionals is uncertain and scary, Caleb Nesbit, a sophomore from Deatsville, Ala., said this situation has strengthened his resolve to continue with a nursing major.

“My thoughts on entering the medical field have not changed,” explained Nesbit. “I want to help people and support them whenever they need it.”





# CAMPUS MINISTRIES

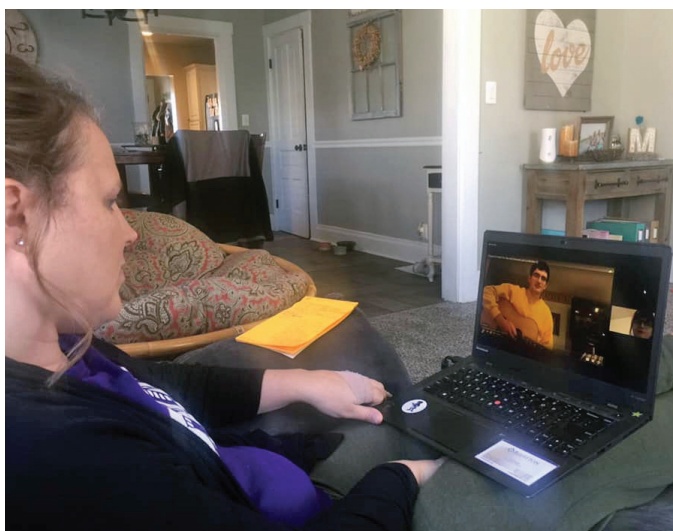
*keeps students connected to the light*

In times of difficulty, Bluffton University pastoral assistant Makenzie Speakman turns to John 1:5, “There is light in the darkness, but the darkness will not overcome it.”

As she finalized her spring semester from home instead of campus due to the coronavirus, the junior from Carroll, Ohio, turned to the verse more than ever.

“It is a constant reminder to me to not only look towards the light and the positive parts of life, but to also stay positive and be that light for others who may be experiencing darkness,” explained Speakman.

Speakman and fellow students on Bluffton’s campus ministry team along with campus pastor Stephen “Tig” Intagliata ensured Bluffton students had the resources to continue their spiritual development at home.



**“The university’s sense of community has remained amazing although we are so far apart,” said Meghan Ream ’22, a ministry assistant from Delphos, Ohio. “Continuing Chapel, holding club meetings and being able to tutor and interact with people from campus remotely has been a huge help for me.”**

Chapel continued during its weekly Thursday morning time through Zoom videoconferencing instead of in-person at Yoder Recital Hall. Bible studies and small group spiritual development activities also continued by electronic means—through YouTube videos, chat groups, text exchanges, phone calls and messages of hope shared on social media.

“I appreciate that I’ve gotten to stay connected with those I’m used to working with,” said Amy Marshall, a ministry assistant from Pickerington, Ohio. “Being involved as part of campus ministries has helped me in this time. It has helped me maintain a sense of normalcy and responsibility. Although I’d prefer seeing people face-to-face, I am thankful for Zoom and FaceTime.”

New opportunities also formed. For example, Marshall started a weekly “Explore the Bible” series on Saturday evenings. Later, the meetups were followed by jam sessions with ministry assistant Spencer Garrison ’22, who also coordinated the music for the Zoom Chapel services.







**“I have learned that there is more to college than just classes, sports and activities. It is really about the people that you get to experience all of those things with,” said Garrison of West Salem, Ohio. “I did Instagram Live videos and played music as a way to still connect and spend time with them in a way.”**

During Chapel, instead of asking outside speakers to share the weekly sermon, Intagliata either shared the message himself or invited current students, faculty, staff or recent graduates to speak. One week, Holly Metzger '05, enrollment counselor, shared the message with members of Bluffton's SERVE group. She appreciated Bluffton's approach, which was similar to her home church St. Mark's United Methodist Church in Findlay, where her husband Dan Metzger '05 serves as pastor.

“This time has provided an opportunity to learn about capabilities we maybe never knew we had and ways of doing ministry that will hopefully only help the local church not just to get through COVID-19 restrictions, but thrive in new ways in the future,” said Metzger. “Continuing to offer opportunities for students to attend

Chapel and other spiritual life engagements virtually has been refreshing for students, faculty and staff to feel a sense of community and togetherness in spite of not being able to gather physically on campus.”

In his final Chapel message, because of the end of the academic year and because he is retiring, Intagliata shared a quote from Catholic priest and author, Henri Nouwen, which he hopes resonates with students today and into the future.

“Joy does not depend on the ups and downs of the circumstances of our lives. Joy is based on the spiritual knowledge that while our world is shrouded in darkness, God has overcome the world. God's light is more real than all the darkness, God's truth is more powerful than all human lies and God's love is stronger than death.”

## A PLAYLIST OF HOPE

*Many of the students explained they are coping with the changes and uncertainty in their lives by listening to music.*

**Here are a few of their suggestions:**

**“Let the Ground Rest”** by Chris Renzema

**“Trust in You”** by Lauren Daigle

**“You Already Know”** by JJ Heller

**“Into the Sea (It's Gonna Be Ok)”** by Tasha Layton

**“Fear No More”** by Building 429

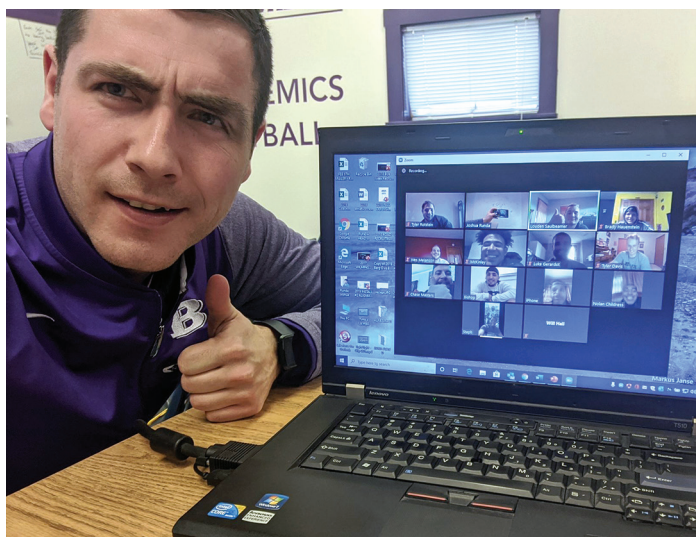


# ***BLUFFTON ATHLETICS***

## **RESPONDS TO PANDEMIC AS BEAVERS DO**

In the late 1920s, long-time coach and athletic director A.C. Burcky suggested the beaver as Bluffton's mascot. His rationale, according to "Dancing with the Kobzar: Bluffton College and Mennonite Higher Education," was beavers are resourceful, don't tire easily, accomplish more with less and work hard to make the world a better place. One hundred years later, that's exactly what today's Bluffton Beavers did despite their seasons ending early, classes moving online and the difficulties of being separated from their friends and teammates due to the coronavirus.

"Without having much to compare to in this situation, I believe the team responded well," said Aaron Krepps, head football coach. "They would much rather have been on campus, but we 'adjust to and overcome adverse situations' just as the Beaver Pledge tells us."



### ***Thankful for technology***

Adjusting from an athletics standpoint meant coaches hosted virtual team meetings via Zoom and other online communication platforms and increased the number of texts and group chats among players.

"Technology, cell phones, FaceTime, and Zoom have been awesome," said Chad Shutler, head women's basketball coach. "I can't imagine how we would have navigated something of this magnitude 20 years ago."

Team workouts were sent out by email and varied by season and sport. Student-athletes in cross country and golf were able to maintain a semblance of normalcy in their training at home but challenges remained.

"Getting out the door on your own is a lot harder than it is for a team practice, but our men and women have done a phenomenal job of staying positive and motivated despite their circumstances," said Logan Wells, head cross country coach. "To put in the work they did without an immediate race or competition on the horizon takes drive and determination. They have been an inspiration to me."

Many field athletes as well as golfers have sent videos to their coaches for tips on technique. Golf is also concentrating on a sometimes-neglected aspect of the game.

"We focused on the mental aspect of golf," said Craig. "We looked at various articles and viewed different TED talks and videos to get better between our ears."





## ***Teams connect in new ways***

Picking up a phone, as opposed to email or text, became more commonplace, as well.

“The topic of our communication varied from academics to basketball to simply the general topic of how they and their families were doing,” said Guy Neal, head men’s basketball coach.

Different approaches were taken to promote team bonding as well. For example, men’s soccer hosted team trivia nights, volleyball made a team “pepper” video and women’s soccer completed silly video challenges such as toilet paper juggling.

“One week, part of the team ‘arrived’ to the Zoom meeting in their prom dresses,” said Amanda DeMoine, head softball coach. “This team continued to have a lot of fun together, and we remotely put a couple of videos together.”

For Bluffton student-athletes, academics remained a priority. Coaches typically have students turn in grade and attendance checks when on campus. While online instruction did not perfectly replace the on-campus academic experience, professors and coaches worked together to do their best with the resources available.

“I was in contact with several professors who tried really hard to accommodate our students’ new situations,” said Shutler. “They extended deadlines and bent over backwards to work with not just our athletes but our students as a whole. I continued to be impressed by their sincere caring and commitment to our community.”

## ***Recruiting from a computer***

Coaches also adapted to a new way of recruiting.

“Ninety percent of what I normally do, I couldn’t do anymore,” explained James Grandey, head baseball coach. “Instead of going to games, we worked on the last few recruits for 2020, and began to lay the foundation with the 2021 class.”

Instead of meeting in person, coaches connected more directly with high school coaches electronically to get names of potential recruits. Admissions counselors also transitioned to providing virtual tours to prospective students.

“Perhaps one benefit of high school students being encouraged to social distance and stay at home is there



were fewer conflicts in their lives which allowed potential recruits to sign up for virtual visits,” said Steve Yarnell, head volleyball coach.

“Zoom visits did not replace the impact of an in-person visit, but it was a great option for the situation we were in,” added Krepps. “Recruits and their families provided positive feedback on our virtual visits.”

## ***Final thoughts***

“This situation taught me to have a lot more trust in my players. I sent them workouts and had to rely on them to follow through and keep their end up to progress as we continued our journey to progress as a team,” said Harry Kirwan, interim head men’s soccer coach. “We had a mutual understanding and the guys responded excellently.”

“It is easy to be a happy and good person when things are going well, but you develop your character when times aren’t so good,” said Kevin Gregory, head women’s soccer coach. “I am extremely proud of our group—with how they handled themselves and looked after each other. We have a team full of very special people.”

“Our student-athletes responded with such maturity and understanding that it had even taken me by surprise,” said Kaylea Jachno, head track and field coach. “Of course they were upset that they couldn’t show the conference just how talented they were, but they understood that this was out of their control, and they chose to instead focus on what they could control—their training and academics. That excites me for next year.”



# ALONG THE RILEY

## Admissions becomes test-flexible

Bluffton admissions has adopted a test-flexible policy for applicants so that students who are consistently on their high school honor roll can be admitted solely based on GPA.

“In a time when there are many complexities around access to standardized tests, Bluffton University is committed to better support students who want to be successful in college” said Robin Bowlus, vice president of enrollment management.



To be considered for regular admission, applicants must meet one of these two criteria:

- High school GPA of 3.0 or higher (test scores will not be considered for admissions decision)
- High school GPA between 2.3 and 2.99 as well as a minimum 19 ACT/990 SAT. In addition, class rank or College Credit Plus classes may be considered for decision of regular admittance

Students who do not meet these regular entrance requirements are encouraged to apply and may be invited to apply for entry into Bluffton's Discovery Program, which requires additional application materials. Standardized test results will still be required for placement in certain majors, for class placements and for competitive academic scholarships.



## Medical Laboratory Science Major

Students who are interested in preparing for a career as a scientist who conducts and reads medical tests in hematology, microbiology and immunology can now major in medical laboratory science.

Interested students will take three years of prerequisite courses in biological sciences, chemistry and mathematics at Bluffton. In their final year, students will take part in coursework at the West Central Ohio Medical Laboratory Science (WCOMLS) Program administered by Ohio Northern University. The WCOMLS program is the only program accredited by the National Accrediting Agency of Clinical Laboratory Sciences run by a private college in Ohio.

After four years plus one summer semester, students will graduate with a bachelor's degree from Bluffton University and are eligible to sit for the American Society for Clinical Pathology (ASCP) Board of Certification (BOC) exam, which allows students to become certified medical laboratory scientists. Bluffton students in the program are eligible to continue participation in Bluffton sports teams in their final year.



## VP of Fiscal Affairs

Arthur Woodruff has been appointed as Bluffton University's vice president for fiscal affairs. Woodruff, who is originally

from the Lima area, started his role at Bluffton on Jan. 2.

As a member of the President's Cabinet and the university's chief fiscal officer, Woodruff will provide leadership, oversight and stewardship for all aspects of Bluffton's financial resources, as well as oversee business services, human resources and campus facilities and grounds.

“Mr. Woodruff's extensive experience in finance, including his experience in the health care arena, as well as his most current role as a controller in a small, private, faith-based college, makes him ideally positioned to be the vice president of fiscal affairs at Bluffton University,” said Dr. Jane Wood, president.

Since 2014, Woodruff had served as the controller at Grace College and Seminary. Before that, he was the administrator and treasurer of Christ's Covenant Church in Winona Lake, Ind.

Woodruff currently serves on the board for Raise the Dough, Inc.



## Recognition for 'The Wit'

“The Witmarsum,” Bluffton's student-driven media organization, earned three awards during the 2020 Ohio Collegiate Newspaper and Website Competition.

“The Wit” placed first in Best Multi-Media Package with “Phil: Art, teaching and life” by Dakota Fredette '19. “The Wit” also placed first in the Arts and Entertainment category with a package of three pieces including: “From Botswana to Bluffton: A mother and daughter share on experiences and education” by Hannah Conklin '19;





"Days after dropping off his cousin, Alvarez enrolled, too" by Nicole Centofanti '21 and "Phil: Art, teaching and life." "The Wit" received second in the Best Website category and is in Division B for schools with enrollments of 10,000 students or less. Bluffton competed against schools including Baldwin Wallace University, Capital University, University of Findlay and Ohio Northern University.

"These awards are an incredible affirmation for the hard work students have put in over the last four years since the rebirth of 'The Witmarsum,'" said Marathana Prothro, assistant professor of communication and faculty advisor to "The Wit."



### Beaver-Falcon Scholarship

Kirk Kauder, a senior from Curtice, Ohio, is Bluffton University's eighth recipient of the Beaver-

Falcon MAcc Scholarship, a Bluffton-Bowling Green partnership. The Master of Accountancy Scholarship includes a full-tuition award plus a paid graduate assistantship for a Bluffton graduate.

Kauder double majored in accounting and business administration. He served as president of the Student Investment Club, secretary of Bluffton University Business Leaders and treasurer of Brave Space. Kauder was also a C. Henry Smith Scholar and spent a semester at the Washington Community Scholars' Center in Washington, D.C.

Beginning in fall 2020, Kauder plans to pursue the accounting track of study at Bowling Green. Completion of the master's program will give him the 150 hours of study required to sit for the Certified Public Accountant exam.



### "Senior Night"

Senior members of the Bluffton University baseball team spoke to their teammates during a mid-March practice which turned into an impromptu "Senior Night" after the Heartland Collegiate Athletic Conference officially canceled the spring athletics season.



### Athletes of the Year

Andrew Renner of Cairo, Ohio, received the 2020 A.C. Burcky Award. He finished his basketball career 15th on Bluffton's all-time scoring list with 1,232 points. Renner was named Second Team All-Heartland Collegiate Athletic Conference in his junior year and moved up to First Team for his senior year. Renner was also named to the all-tournament teams for two tip-off tournaments as well as the McDonald's of Bluffton Holiday Tournament. His name appears on several top-record lists at Bluffton

including ninth for 3-point field goals and ninth for steals. He served as a team captain in his junior and senior seasons.

Alexis Cash of Gaines, Mich., received the 2020 Kathryn E. Little Award. She is a two-time HCAC women's cross country champion and an HCAC women's track champion in two events. She holds the school record for the 6-kilometer run and sits 4th all-time in the 5-kilometer run. During the 2018 cross country season, Cash became the first female cross country athlete in school history to earn All-Region honors by placing in the top-35 at the NCAA DIII Great Lakes Regional Championship. For her efforts, she was named to the Academic All-American team. On the track, Cash holds the school records in both the indoor and outdoor 3,000-meter run and 5,000-meter run.



# ALUMNOTES

## 1960-69

**John Hung '60**, Centerville, Ohio, is retired from Wright-Patterson AFB near Dayton. He and his wife Winnie worship and serve in their local Chinese church, as they have since its founding in 1983. They have one son and three grandchildren.

**Glenn Baughman '63**, Des Moines, Iowa, concluded a 45-year career in clinical social work with his retirement on Oct. 31, 2019. He and his wife, Ann-Marie, also closed their bed-and-breakfast guest house. They are active with Des Moines Mennonite Church and St. Augustin's Catholic Church. They have three children and five grandchildren.

**Dr. Robert Hewitt '69**, Chambersburg, Pa., was the keynote speaker for the 2020 Massillon Tiger Benchwarmers Booster Club Inc. black history scholarship dinner program. He presented "Five Pearls of Wisdom: Responsible Citizenship for the 21st Century and Beyond." Bob is a professor emeritus of social work at Shippensburg University.

**Don Imhoff Jr. x69**, Trenton, Ohio, is retired after 46 years of real estate, probate and bankruptcy law practice in Middletown, Ohio. He teaches Sunday school classes and accompanies some services on the piano at Trenton Mennonite Church.

## 1970-79

**Michael B. Ball '70**, Spring Branch, Texas, retired in 2001 as a colonel in the U.S. Army Medical Service Corps. He worked 13 more years for the Army and Air Force before

retiring again in 2016. He volunteers extensively with church activities, conservation projects and he sponsors scouts with their Eagle Scout projects. His wife **Donnie (Ward '67)** passed away in 2011. He and his wife LeAnna have a blended family of six children and 17 grandchildren.

**Terry (Brown '70) Burkhead**, Grinnell, Iowa, is a retired preschool teacher, director and administrative assistant. She and her husband Don married in 1973. They have two sons and three grandchildren.

**Joyce (Waldman x70) Case** is an author, mentor and dreamer. She and her husband of 50 years, Gary, live in North Lewisburg, Ohio. Joyce's greatest joy is spending time with her two daughters and five fabulous grandsons. She counts her blessings daily!

**Marsha (Carr '70) Cooper**, Payne, Ohio, taught elementary education in Indianapolis public schools and at Antwerp Local School in Ohio. She currently substitute teaches for Paulding County schools. Marsha is a master gardener and volunteers at her church. She and her husband Robert have six children.

**Susan (Heffentrager '70) Elverson**, Perkiomenville, Pa., has nearly 50 years of experience as a teacher or supervisor for special education. She still teaches part time and does volunteer work as her free time allows. She and her husband Allan will celebrate 30 years of marriage in June 2020. Their blended family includes five children and 14 grandchildren.

**Tom Fleming x70**, Wellman, Iowa,

majored in English while at Bluffton, but in 1991 earned a nursing degree. He spent most of the following 28 years as a registered nurse. Tom and his wife **Kay (Burkholder x72)** are active in their Mennonite church. They have three children and 10 grandchildren.

**Pamela Graber '70**, Lawrenceburg, Ky., was a history major at Bluffton and went on to earn a M.D., M.P.H., board certification in public health and E.R. medicine, and studies climate change. She is married to Melvin Wilson. They have one daughter. Pamela's other interests include Audubon, Democratic candidate support and campaigning.

**Norm Holcomb '70**, New Bremen, Ohio, taught for 35 years, including 34 teaching 7th and 8th grade science at Marion Local Schools. He has served on the New Bremen School Board, with the Auglaize County ESC and on the Joint Township District Hospital Board. He and his wife **Jan (Siebert '69)** have a daughter, **Carrie (Holcomb '99) Phillips**, a son and four grandchildren.

**Laura (Yoder x70) Holloway**, Honey Brook, Pa., was a hospital nurse aide before joining Trans World Airlines. She and her husband Robert have been married 49 years. They have one daughter and three granddaughters.

**Rita (Staley '70) Holman**, Harrod, Ohio, spent her entire educational career teaching at Allen East Local Schools, where she retired with more than 30 years of service. Rita and her husband Robert have two sons, one daughter and nine grandchildren.







*Von Thomas '20* MAY DAY KING,  
DAYTON, OHIO

"Even though we are not together as one today, as our country is going through this pandemic, we can still celebrate this great tradition that has survived this university for so many years. There have been a lot of ups and downs, but college has shown me that it's okay to fall down. You are powerful when you step right back up."



*Leslie Beasley '20* MAY DAY QUEEN,  
COLUMBUS, OHIO

"This has been a crazy senior year for all of us. I truly miss seeing everyone's faces on campus, and I didn't realize how much I took that for granted until now. I love you and miss you all. This is surely not a goodbye; it's a see you later. Keep your head up. The Beasley family is praying for you."

## A MONTH OF MAY DAY

Since students and alumni were unable to gather on campus for May Day, Bluffton University hosted the Facebook event "A Month of May Day" to celebrate virtually. Here are a few excerpts from the speeches posted online.



*Gail Wasem Rose '70* 50-YEAR CLASS  
REPRESENTATIVE

"You, as did we, face a world of uncertainty. For us it was the Vietnam War and learning what draft numbers our classmates were assigned. For you, it's watching briefings to see how many cases of COVID-19 are reported. But our time at Bluffton has armed us with knowledge, compassion, commitment and hope. You will become part of the solution to this problem and many others."



*Dr. Jane Wood* PRESIDENT

"These past few weeks have been a time of great disruption. I have missed seeing our students on campus, and I am saddened by not being able to take part in the activities leading up to graduation. Seniors, as you prepare to end your time as Bluffton students, remember that you are also joining the community of Bluffton alumni. We are Beavers All."



**Cathy (Lee '70) Howell**, Lebanon, Ohio, is a retired educator having taught special education, preschool, kindergarten and as a literacy coach for 31 years. She and her husband **Ron '69** have been married for 50 years. They have two daughters/sons-in-law and three grandchildren. She also volunteers at their church, in a community choir and at the YMCA.

**Tim Kruse '70**, Findlay, Ohio, retired after 44 years as a teacher, principal, superintendent and alternative school administrator. He has served on the Family Resource Center of Northwest Ohio and Hancock Federal Credit Union boards, as well as the Bluffton University Alumni Association. Tim and his wife Dani have been married for 30 years. They have four children and four grandchildren.

**Denny Lane '70**, Bellefontaine, Ohio, taught high school English and served as work-study coordinator at Bellefontaine High School for 35 years. He also coached boys and girls basketball, baseball and softball for 30 years. He now runs a small lawn business and works at Liberty Hills

Golf Course. Denny has three children and five grandchildren with his late wife **Marcia (Rollins x72)**. He is remarried to Mary Jane Sulceberger.

**Hazel (Hieser '70) Lautzenheiser**, Berne, Ind., taught primarily kindergarten for more than 39 years in Illinois and Indiana school districts. She continues to volunteer at her local elementary school and her church. Hazel and her husband **Ted '68** have two children, Matthew and **Erin (Lautzenheiser '96) McKean**, and three grandchildren.

**Gene '70 and Lynda (Arter '70) Lehman** live in Orrville, Ohio. Lynda taught in the Lakota and Orrville school systems. She also taught Sunday school and served and directed various choir and bell choir groups. Gene taught at Freeman Junior College and Academy, Lakota Schools, Orrville City Schools, Wooster City Schools and Kidron Central Catholic. He also is a bluegrass guitar player, tennis coach and small business owner. They have four married children, **Luke '94, Joshua '99, Whitney '02** and

**Morgan '07**, and 10 grandchildren.

**John '70 and Barbara (Moyer '70) Lehman**, Harrisonburg, Va., are both retired; John from teaching and ministry and Barbara from pastoral ministry in the Mennonite Church. They have been married for nearly 50 years.

**Peter Pang x70**, retired in 2016 from Michelin North America, where he served in a variety of positions in industrial engineering, human resources, production management, tire design and project engineering. He has three children from his first marriage. He and his second wife Miriam live in Simpsonville, S.C.

**Gail (Wasem '70) Rose**, Lebanon, Ohio, is semi-retired. She serves as president of her local library board and is vice president of the Harmon Museum board of trustees. She also teaches at the University of Dayton and is an elections poll worker.

**Mary Lou (Fretz '70) Roush**, Lima, Ohio, is a retired educator. She and her husband, **Tom '69**, have celebrated 49 years of marriage. They have three children and six grandchildren.

**Bill Schuette '70**, Versailles, Ohio, retired in 2000 after a 30-year career in education as a coach, teacher, curriculum coordinator, guidance counselor and eventual high school principal. He now travels extensively, visiting all seven continents and all U.S. national parks to-date. Bill and his wife Connie have three children and seven grandchildren.

**James Simcox '70**, Pipersville, Pa., is retired but still "actively working" in service to his church, community, family and friends. Jim and his wife **Marcia (Mawer '71)** have five married sons and 13 grandchildren, with one on the way.

AS A COMMUNITY WE ARE

**BETTERING  
THE WORLD  
TOGETHER!**



OUR GRADUATES ARE

**EDUCATORS &  
DOCTORS &  
LAWYERS &  
SOCIAL WORKERS &  
CAREGIVERS &  
BUSINESS, CHURCH &  
COMMUNITY  
LEADERS.**

Follow us on social media and watch for our **#BetteringTheWorldTogether** posts. Then, share with us what you are doing in this time of need or nominate a fellow Bluffton Beaver!

Send your nominations to: **Claire Clay '18, MBA '20**, alumni relations manager, at [clayc@bluffton.edu](mailto:clayc@bluffton.edu).







## OUR LEGACY

### *Bluffton alumni in the world*

Students and alumni took part in Bluffton Spirit Week (April 6-10) on social media to share their love for Bluffton. **Brittney (Selden '04) Raines**, Lima, Ohio, sported her Bluffton gear; the **Weigandt** family, Sidney, Ohio, including **Jason '95** and **Beth '20**, gathered to chant the Beaver call; and **Caylin Morstadt '20**, Delaware, Ohio, couldn't resist getting her dog Dex dressed for the occasion.

#### **Ellyne (Ramseyer '70)**

**Sollenberger**, is retired from teaching, but also worked for a time in accounts receivable, as a day care director and a stay-at-home mom. She actively volunteers in many ways through her church, local hospital and library, the Salvation Army, United Way and YMCA. Ellyne and her husband Harold will celebrate 50 years of marriage in August. They have two married children and five grandchildren.

**David Spraw '70**, Galion, Ohio, taught English for 38 years at Galion schools, where he continues doing public announcing for their boys and girls athletic events. David volunteers in his community, is secretary of the Galion Community Foundation and teaches an adult Sunday school class. He and his late wife, Janet Ulmer, have one daughter.

**Fred Suter '70**, Westerville, Ohio, taught math for five years and spent 15 years in marketing and consulting in educational publishing. He also taught middle school in Swaziland and worked

with local farmers in the Democratic Republic of Congo during five years in Africa. In 2012, he started a water project in the Congo. Fred and his wife Marlene have two children.

**William Swank '70**, Van Wert, Ohio, is a retired educator, administrator and coach in the Colonel Crawford and primarily, Van Wert City school districts in Ohio. He has also served on Van Wert's United Way, Crime Stoppers, Optimist Club, park district and women's shelter boards. He volunteers at his church. Bill and his wife **Joan (Yaussey '71)** have two children and two grandchildren.

**Greg Traucht '70**, Marysville, Ohio, retired in 2010 as executive director of the Council on Development of the West Ohio Conference of the United Methodist Church, which followed 24 years as a vice president in banking. He is active in his church, has served on the Marysville Memorial Hospital board and was elected in 2013 to the West Liberty-Salem High School Athletic Hall of Fame. Greg and his wife Ellen have two married children and five grandchildren.

## 1980-89

**Cathy (Schroer '80) Goff**, Rio Vista, Calif., retired from the Air Force Reserves and civil service in 2016, with 36 and 30 years of service, respectively. She travels by RV in Midwest and southern states, plays golf and bocce ball. Cathy has two Chihuahuas, Buddy and Chica, to keep her company.

**Lois (Kaufmann '80) Howell** is a behavioral clinician at Meridian Health Services in Richmond, Ind. Her husband **Kris '82** works in customer service at Cordell Express in Dayton. They live in Lewisburg, Ohio, where Kris is music director at Trinity Lutheran Church. Their family is also involved in praise band and bell choir.

**Susan Kauffman '80**, Chicago, Ill., is a bookkeeper for a diverse congregation. She also teaches about soils at Heartland Community College in Normal, and is in discussion to teach a fully online course at a Chicago-area college.

**Tami (Rucker '84) Speicher**, a retired teacher, is having fun writing





## Graduation Outcomes *class of 2019*

# 99%

OF GRADUATES ARE  
EMPLOYED OR IN  
GRADUATE SCHOOL  
OR LONG-TERM SERVICE  
WITHIN SIX MONTHS  
OF GRADUATION  
— *Class of 2019*

## TOP 5 INDUSTRIES for recent Bluffton graduates *(5 year average)*



1. K-12 EDUCATION



2. HEALTH CARE



3. BUSINESS AND  
ACCOUNTING



4. MENTAL AND  
BEHAVIORAL  
HEALTH



5. SPORTS AND  
FITNESS

in hopes of fulfilling her childhood dream of being an author. She aspires to eventually see her work published. Tammy and her husband **David '85** live in Marysville, Ohio.

**David Green '89**, Johns Island, S.C., is the director of the Barrier Island Environmental Education Center.

## 1990-99

**Ellen (Cox x90) Farrar** and her daughter recently moved to Fairhope, Ala. She works at Fairhope Pediatrics. They live a block away from Mobile Bay and love their new life in the south.

**Stephen Lackey x92** and his wife Beth announce the birth of Exar Lackey. They reside in White Lake, Mich.

**Lara Gephart '94**, Corpus Christi, Texas, was selected to receive a full-tuition grant to Ashford University, where she will pursue a master's degree in criminal justice with emphasis on homeland security. The grant, awarded to only four of 20 applicants, covers all expenses for one year. Her classes began in November.

## 2000-09

**Elizabeth (Dick '00) Shewell**, Youngstown, Ohio, presented at the Ohio Center for Autism and Low Incidence's 2019 conference, OCALICON. Her team presented Proactive vs. Reactive Approaches for Students with ASD and Challenging Behaviors. Shewell, a K-12 music teacher at Western Reserve Local Schools, is an alternative learning team member, helping ASD students function in an inclusion classroom.

**Brienne (Wyndham '03) Springer**, Auburn, Ind., was recently awarded the High School Career Development

Professional of the Year Award at the 14th annual IMPACT Awards for her work at Garrett High School. She also is president of the DeKalb Chamber Partnership Board. Brienne and her husband Sam have five sons.

**Sonia Irvin '04**, Cridersville, Ohio, is the director of Mennonite home health and senior services for Mennonite Home Communities of Ohio. Sonia and her husband Bill have two children.

**Molly (Pawsey '05) Berry** and her husband Alex welcomed a daughter, Gemma, on March 27, 2019. Berry, the associate director of alumni engagement, will celebrate 12 years at Millikin University in June. The family lives in Decatur, Ill.

**Kris Lee MBA '06**, Piqua, Ohio, is retired from a career in law enforcement. He was recently appointed mayor of the city of Piqua.

**Natalie (Troyer '06) Stollar** and her husband Chris welcomed a daughter, Gianna, on Oct. 31, 2019. She joins siblings Corban and Aria. Stollar and her family live in Columbus, Ohio.

**Ben McCullough '07**, Findlay, Ohio, became a Midwest exchange coordinator in Marathon Petroleum's light products supply & logistics strategic business partnerships group in September 2019. On Nov. 10, he and his wife Megan welcomed their second child, Cecelia Janene.

**Jake Slager '07**, Bluffton, Ohio, has accepted a new role as a sales development manager with The Coca Cola Company. He will work as a liaison between Coca Cola America and the Coca Cola Bottlers for Meijer national retail sales specifically. He enjoys sports, travel and many outdoor activities. Jake and his wife **Jami (Halker '07)** especially enjoy time with their son Breck and daughter Brinxlee.





# Sarah Ricks '10

**Project Organizer, Gulf Coast Leadership Council**  
**Majors: Business Administration and Writing**

When Sarah Ricks graduated from Bluffton in 2010, her goal was to help people “and utilize my skills and education in a way that would make a contribution to my greater community.” Today, that is exactly what she is doing, but she never imagined it would be in Southeast, Texas. The Lima, Ohio, native is a project organizer for Gulf Coast Leadership Council, a non-profit that brings faith communities of all denominations together to provide resources to people in need. Over the past few years, the greatest need has been Hurricane Harvey recovery and relief.

## Coming to Bluffton

As a senior in high school, Ricks and her classmates were invited to spend a weekend at Bluffton. Intrigued by the campus community, she returned a few weeks later to sit in on a class and ended up in a debate with another student. Class ended, but Ricks wanted to continue the conversation.

“I never found her, but I enjoyed the dialogue,” said Ricks. “At Bluffton, I realized I was able to express and develop new ideas and appreciate the value of learning.”

A Forum presentation by Bluffton trustee Larry Milan '73 showed her how a person's values can shape their career. “I realized it doesn't have to be separate. I still carry that with me,” explained Ricks, who continues to consider Milan a trusted mentor.

A business administration and writing double major, Ricks' classes helped her learn how to develop a business plan, bring people together and refine messages. However, she particularly enjoyed her liberal arts courses—first-year seminar, cross-cultural and capstone.

“We were asking questions, looking at our hopes and dreams and seeing where we could contribute in the community while bringing both our career and purpose into alignment.”

## Ohio to Texas

After graduating from Bluffton, Ricks' career flourished at Sherwin Williams while working alongside brothers Ben '07 and Sam '08 McCullough.

“They mentored and grew with me and helped me step out on my own,” said Ricks. “It was a wonderful experience to see the values of Bluffton play out in the real world.”

While serving as a district manager in training with Speedway, Ricks resigned to care for her ailing grandmother in Texas. There, she built new relationships and connections and remained after her grandmother's passing. When Hurricane Harvey hit in 2017 followed by Tropical Storm Imelda in 2019, Ricks' management and communication experience became an asset in relief efforts.

## All in this together

As a project organizer, Ricks' work is currently focused on hurricane relief efforts—from the immediate need (food, clothing



and shelter) to helping disaster victims navigate bureaucracy and obtain assistance from agencies such as FEMA and the Texas General Land Office.

“After Harvey hit, my heart really wanted to do more to bring resources to the hardest to reach in the community,” explained Ricks.

So, she created a model to host outreach events at churches which removed barriers to accessing help.

“Instead of asking people to go to an office building, we came directly to the individuals in the community. We connected them directly to case managers to walk them through recovery so they could apply for home rebuilds, legal services, whatever resources they needed.”

Her current priorities include organizing for the 2020 Census and bringing local faith-based leaders together to work on issues of flooding.

Ricks is doing this for her community, while going through the recovery process herself.

“Our home was flooded, and we had to get out of the house and transition to a different location. I went through the process of getting repairs done on our home while working alongside families hurting just like we were,” said Ricks. “We truly are in this whole life experience together.”



## 2010-19

**Marcus Unruh '11** married Marissa Hochstetler on Oct. 6, 2018. The couple recently moved from Hesston, Kan., to Wayland, Iowa, so Marcus can help on the family farm.

**Tammy (Nelson MBA '14) Allison**, Wauseon, Ohio, has accepted the position of Guide (Administrator) at Otterbein Monclova in Monclova, Ohio. She earned a nursing home administrator license in 2018. Allison is married with two children.

**Connor Mortimer '15**, was married on Aug. 24, 2019. He and his wife Logan live in Cleveland, Ohio. He is pursuing a master's degree in physician assistant studies at Case Western Reserve University, with plans to graduate in August 2020.

**Samantha Servizzi '15**, Glendale, Ariz., has taught for five years as a K-5 resource teacher at Glendale Elementary. She will transition to a K-3 life-skills self-contained teacher in the same district. Her work focuses on students with multiple disabilities. She coaches girls soccer at Glendale.

**Jennifer (Paxson MBA '17) Basselman**, Wauseon, Ohio, is the superintendent of the Williams County Board of Developmental Disabilities.

**Bailey Hartle '19**, Versailles, Ohio, is a math teacher at Monroe Central High School in Parker City, Ind. He is also a high school assistant track coach and advisor of the middle school's math academic competition team.

## IN MEMORIAM

**N. Laurence Burkhalter '47**, Bluffton, Ohio, passed away Oct. 15, 2019, at age 99.

**Camilla (Gorby '47) Rosenberger**, Altoona, Fla., passed away Feb. 21, 2020, at age 94.

**Georgia (Sommer '49) Linscheid**, Reedley, Calif., passed away Nov. 14, 2019, at age 92.

**Carrol H. Birky '50**, Denver, Colo., passed away March 29, 2020, at age 99.

**Mary (Maust '50) Boyer**, Bluffton, Ohio, passed away Oct. 9, 2019, at age 95.

**Leonard Smucker '50**, Ashland, Ore., passed away Nov. 28, 2019, at age 91.

**Lois (Rich '50) Smucker**, Ashland, Ore., passed away July 26, 2019, at age 90.

**Margaret (Salzman '52) Rosenberger**, Lititz, Pa., passed away Feb. 2, 2020, at age 89.

**Donald Steer '52**, St. Petersburg, Fla., passed away Oct. 21, 2019, at age 89.

**Dana R. "Doc" Welch '57**, Sherwood, Ohio, passed away Oct. 24, 2019, at age 84.

**Nancy (Hostetler '58) Bishop**, Medina, Ohio, passed away April 7, 2020, at age 83.

**Elbert "Duby" Dubenion '59**, Westerville, Ohio, passed away Dec. 26, 2019, at age 86.

**Shaw "Jack" Shang Lai x60**, Elk Grove, Ill., passed away Nov. 18, 2019, at age 83.

**James Miller '60**, Ottawa Lake, Mich., passed away Nov. 19, 2019, at age 85.

**Jim Knox '61**, Wauseon, Ohio, passed away Oct. 20, 2019, at age 87.

**Ruth Anne (Frankhauser x63) Lewis**, Ohio City, Ohio, passed away Jan. 12, 2020, at age 78.

**Ellen Pool '63**, Upper Sandusky, Ohio, passed away March 17, 2019, at age 77.

**Larry Smucker x63**, Chevy Chase, Md., passed away Feb. 24, 2020, at age 78.

**Dixie (Mumaw x63) Thompson**, Harrod, Ohio, passed away Nov. 1, 2019, at age 78.

**Russell Wiessinger x63**, Springboro, Ohio, passed away April 27, 2019, at age 77.

**William Doll x64**, Beavercreek, Ohio, passed away Nov. 10, 2018, at age 76.

**Neil Flick '65**, Deshler, Ohio, passed away Oct. 2, 2019, at age 85.

**Jeanne (Sloane '65) Wert**, Bluffton, Ohio, passed away Jan. 20, 2020, at age 91.

**Jim L. Hall x66**, Sidney, Ohio, passed away Nov. 29, 2019, at age 74.

**Asa R. Sabiers '66**, Fremont, Ohio, passed away Dec. 31, 2019, at age 81.

**Ronald Sauder '67**, Cincinnati, Ohio, passed away Aug. 8, 2019, at age 74.

**Patricia (Richards x71) Battiston**, West Milton, Ohio, passed away July 30, 2019, at age 70.

**Roberta "Robin" (Devane '74) Hartman**, Wellington, Ohio, passed away Dec. 23, 2019, at age 67.

**Marjorie (Zion '76) Armstrong**, Marblehead, Ohio, passed away Jan. 2, 2020, at age 65.

**Larry Todd '77**, North Richland Hills, Texas, passed away Jan. 19, 2020, at age 65.

**Verra Mae Gales '78**, Lima, Ohio, passed away Dec. 26, 2018, at age 72.

**Vicki (Moore x78) Peters**, Franklin, Ohio, passed away Jan. 20, 2020, at age 63.

**Lynette Rader '78**, Lima, Ohio, passed away Dec. 29, 2019, at age 63.

**Kathryn Predieri '79**, Akron, Ohio, passed away Oct. 26, 2019, at age 62.

**Mandy Thacker '12**, Eagle River, Wis., passed away March 19, 2020, at age 30.







## Bettering the World with Resilient Hearts

My maternal grandmother, Olga Kennel Berky, was the 1918 May Day queen. She and her classmates graduated into a world of great uncertainty with World War I still raging and the Spanish Flu on the rise. During the summer of 1918, her future husband, Bluffton professor H.W. Berky, was serving as a U.S. Army scientist researching antidotes to chemical warfare. In fall 1918, Bluffton students were quarantined on campus and limited to small classes with other activities, including chapel suspended. They created a new version of the alma mater, "Hail to Thee Dear Influenza" and the college continued to educate students.

Fast forward to World War II. While there was no pandemic disease this time, Bluffton students, faculty and graduates faced life altering decisions. Some chose alternative services. Others, like my father, Mark Houshower '42, entered military service. As a German speaker, my father interviewed survivors of several concentration camps, experiences that profoundly influenced his life including professional choices to serve others as an educator and pastor.

As part of our virtual Month of May Day program, Gail Wassem Rose, the 50th year reunion class speaker, reflected on the uncertainty of graduating during the Vietnam War years when classmates waited on the announcement of draft lottery numbers to determine future plans. Graduates of 1970 faced uncertainties that, while different than today's, were daunting in their time.

The good news is that for more than a century, Bluffton alumni including those of the Class of 2020, have graduated with the resilient hearts they need to navigate

a world with unexpected challenges and to serve others in their communities and across the world.

During this time, as we prepare to educate new and returning students next fall, I would ask you to consider making a gift to the Bluffton Fund. **Thanks to the very generous support of a Bluffton alumnus, all Bluffton Fund gifts through June 30, will be matched dollar for dollar up to \$150,000.** With this matching opportunity, your gift of any size will make a huge difference for our students and plans for the 2020-21 academic year.

Thank you for your prayers and support for Bluffton's mission, programs and students,



Dr. Hans Houshower  
Vice president for advancement

### Support the Bluffton Fund

**Online:** [www.bluffton.edu/giving](http://www.bluffton.edu/giving)

**Phone:** 419-358-3269, April Sybert, donor relations manager

**Mail:** Send checks to

Bluffton University, Development Office

1 University Dr., Bluffton, OH 45817

Write Bluffton Fund in the memo line





1 University Drive  
Bluffton, Ohio 45817

---

Nonprofit Org.  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
Permit #81  
Bluffton, OH 45817

## BLUFFTON UNIVERSITY ALUMNI MASTER'S DEGREE GRANT

In recognition of the significant contributions Bluffton alumni make to the institution and in their respective communities, all alumni who earned their undergraduate degree at Bluffton are eligible for the Bluffton University Alumni Master's Degree Grant.

The **20 percent tuition discount on Bluffton University master's degree programs** begins with new enrollees for the 2020-21 academic year. Eligible programs include the Master of Business Administration (MBA), Master of Arts in Organizational Management (MAOM) and Master of Arts in Education (MAEd).

For additional information on the Bluffton University Alumni Master's Degree Grant or to apply, visit [www.bluffton.edu/alumni-masters-grant](http://www.bluffton.edu/alumni-masters-grant)

