

BLUFFTON

A magazine for Bluffton University alumni and friends | Spring 2021 | Vol. 18 No. 1



**EDUCATION FOR THE
MIND AND HEART**

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The theme of this magazine “Education for the Mind and Heart” truly encapsulates both our mission and our strategic planning goals at Bluffton University.

This year we have experienced so much change, but our duty to “prepare students of all backgrounds for life as well as vocation...” has never faltered. Here are a few points of pride I’d like to share with you now that the 2020-21 academic year has concluded.

Students, faculty and staff came together to live and learn in person for the entire academic year! Our #ProtectTheDam plan worked and provided the campus with a safe environment that carried us through the year.

Music and fine art students practiced and performed all year while following intense safety protocols. Their passions and talents inspired the creativity of our faculty resulting in the video production of the 125th “Messiah” so that great tradition would not be missed.

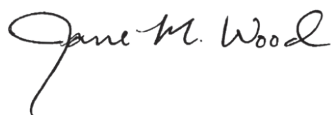
Student athletes, coaches and sports medicine staff worked together to practice, play and #ProtectTheDam. Women’s basketball even played the second most games of any NCAA DIII team in the country!

All 12 of the new We Flourish strategic plan initiatives were launched in year one, during a very complex time of teaching and learning.

Enrollment was strong and steady and the projections for the fall 2021 class are on track to be one of the largest incoming classes since 2003. Prospective students are looking for the Bluffton experience of living on campus and learning in person with faculty!

The Board of Trustees navigated a way forward to cash flowing the university budget and ensuring the construction of the Knowlton Science Center is on track to begin this fall.

As you read the following stories, ponder this quote attributed to Aristotle, “Educating the mind without educating the heart is no education at all.” Thank you for all you do to help Bluffton students get a well-rounded education at Bluffton.



Jane M. Wood, Ph.D.
President



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Spring 2021 Vol. 18 No. 1

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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.*

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We welcome your comments!

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On the cover: Darius Boeke '24, a mathematics major from Sidney, Ohio, holds his logbook from *Becoming a Scholar*. Students were encouraged to use the book to doodle, design and dream as part of the class's Design Your Life lessons.

"I'm not the best artist, but I like to express myself," said Boeke.
"This book stresses who I am now and who I'm trying to become."

Photo by Claire Clay '18, MBA '20





**DESIGN
YOUR LIFE**

What is your major? What do you want to do with your life? Where do you see yourself in five years? Incoming students are often pressed to answer these questions and have their lives fully planned out before even stepping foot in a college classroom.

In reality, many first-year students need some extra guidance. During the 2020–21 academic year, two sections of Bluffton’s first-year Becoming a Scholar (BAS) class piloted a new program called Design Your Life (DYL). Using elements of a curriculum originally developed at Stanford University and modified for Bluffton undergraduates, DYL helps students get more out of (instead of just cramming more into) their college experience.

“Design Your Life really connects with the part of Bluffton’s mission statement that talks about preparing students for ‘life as well as vocation,’” explained Marathana Prothro, assistant professor of communication.

“In BAS, we’re still talking to students about Bluffton’s values and finding a sense of belonging at Bluffton, but we’re also introducing some new ideas about reflecting on your past to help you figure out how to move forward.”

Prothro along with Dr. LaShonda Gurley, former director of the Center for Career and Vocation, taught the piloted sections. However, all BAS sections will include DYL components starting in fall 2021.

For Darius Boeke ’24, a mathematics major from Sidney, Ohio, the DYL lessons changed the way he approaches college.

“I was never a big planner. I never thought about what I was going to do in four years,” said Boeke. “I was more of a go-with-the-flow type of guy, but with that class, I realized, time management is key. Doing the plans and maps helped me realize I need to stay on track to reach my goals.”

The curriculum is based on a framework called the Discovery Cycle, where students move through a continuous cycle of engaging, reflecting and storytelling. Students sketch their ideas and progress in a journal and are encouraged to explore a range of possibilities for their future. Designers describe this process as prototyping.

They also use a variety of planning tools including:

- Odyssey Plans, graphic representations of three possible alternative lives a student might live over the next five years.
- Energy assessments, visualizations of the activities which invigorate or deplete a student’s energy to better design a fulfilling life.

DISCOVERY CYCLE



ENGAGE



REFLECT



STORYTELL

Design Your Life helps students build a framework for their college experience and practice how to apply design-thinking to life’s big questions using three steps:

ENGAGE—explore, prototype and develop an action mindset

REFLECT— learn by taking stock of experiences after they happen

STORYTELL— articulate a point of view to gain clarity and create opportunities

The goal is for students to get more out of (instead of just cramming more into) their college experience. Senior students will come full circle with the DYL process as they transition the framework from getting more out of college to getting more out of life.





Above: Near the beginning of the academic year, President Jane Wood visits students in each Becoming a Scholar section. Here, she speaks with students in Dr. LaShonda Gurley's BAS section who piloted the Design Your Life elements. During the visits, President Wood speaks with students about being Bluffton Beavers and answers questions students have about the university.

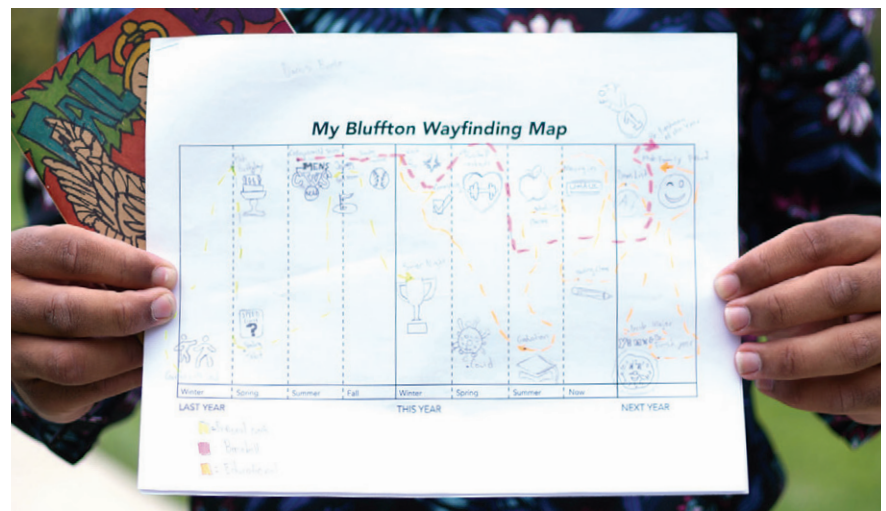
Right: Wayfinding Maps help students reflect on the experiences that have been meaningful in their lives, the opportunities available to them at Bluffton and the goals they have for the future. Darius Boeke's map features reflections from high school, major events from his first semester such as starting classes and working out with the baseball team, and goals for the future including making dean's list. Yellow, pink and orange highlights show the connections between his personal, educational and athletic milestones and goals.

- Wayfinding Maps, tools to help student document their experiences, reflect on the connections between them and identify emerging patterns.

"Wayfinding is the ancient art of finding out where you are going without knowing where your destination is," explained Gurley. "The South Pacific explorers, using only stars and currents accomplished some of the greatest feats of exploration and migration in history. Wayfinding your life is similar. There is no one destination in life, but we can pay attention to the clues in front of us to build a way forward."

Or, to quote Steve Jobs, "You can't connect the dots looking forward; you can only connect them looking backwards."

For Lydia Saylor '24, a psychology and social work double major from Convoy, Ohio, the class far surpassed her expectations and helped her determine not only who she is now but the type of person she wants to be in the future.



“We spent a lot of time mapping out our four years at Bluffton while figuring out what we truly value and want,” said Saylor. “We considered different futures and careers and learned about how to get there.”

At the end of the fall 2020 semester, each student in the pilot classes pieced together what they learned and shared a personal narrative through a video assignment.

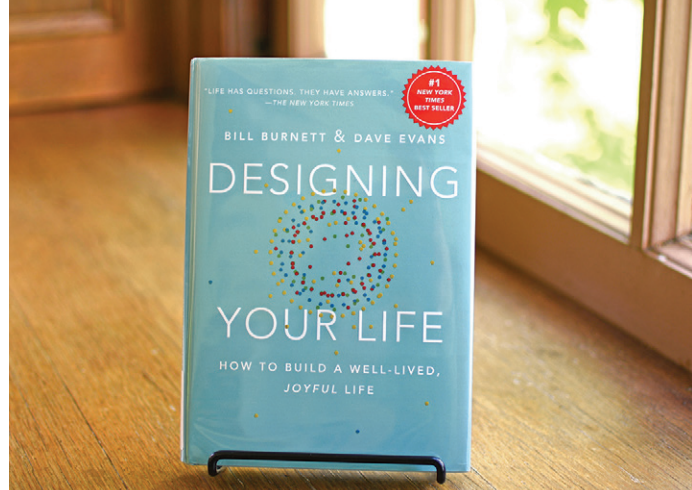
Part of Bluffton’s strategic plan, DYL tools will eventually be woven into all four classes in the Bluffton Blueprint, including the senior seminar, Christian Values in a Global Community. They can also be adapted and translated for personal and professional use well beyond graduation.

“Our students’ stories are powerful and they are inspiring,” said Prothro. “I wish I had a process like this when I was a student.”

While the BAS classes are taught by university faculty, each section also has a student mentor who answers questions and helps first-year students navigate their way at Bluffton. Next year, Boeke will serve as the mentor in Prothro’s section.

The key DYL message he will share with students:

“Accepting failure is okay. There are going to be days when you don’t do your best, but it’s about designing ways to overcome your mistakes. Yeah, you might mess up, but there are a thousand opportunities for you to be great.”



The book, “Designing Your Life” by Bill Burnett and Dave Evans inspired the Design Your Life curriculum, which was originally developed at Stanford University. As the book’s description states: “The same design thinking responsible for amazing technology, products and spaces can be used to design and build your career and your life, a life of fulfillment and joy, constantly creative and productive, one that always holds the possibility of surprise.”

Designing Your COVID Life

The authors of “Designing Your Life” refreshed their Life Design toolkit to reflect the realities of life during the COVID-19 pandemic. Prothro used the questions below in her own life, during several of her classes and as part of a Colloquium presentation at Bluffton.

In this new reality, I am working on mourning and letting go of _____.

What is not working for me right now is _____.

New changes to my life that are beneficial are _____.

While there is a lot outside of my control, I do have the ability to change _____.

My biggest open questions when thinking about my future during COVID-19 times are _____.

I am currently focused on trying to _____.

I am interested in spending more time on and/or learning more about _____.





Collaborative MBA, Aug. 2019

An Emphasis on Emotional Intelligence

What attributes lead to a successful career? Is raw intelligence key or are relational skills such as empathy more important in the workplace? These are questions Dr. George Lehman, professor emeritus of business, often pondered with students enrolled in leadership courses through Bluffton's MBA program. They're questions Lehman originally explored as a graduate student at Case Western Reserve University, and they're questions Lehman is still exploring at Bluffton as he takes on a new role focused on emotional intelligence.

For many jobs, IQ is important. For example, not everyone has the IQ to become a nuclear physicist. This is called threshold competency. However, exceeding the threshold competency for a certain position doesn't mean someone will be a better worker than another applicant who simply meets the threshold.

"You have to have enough raw intelligence to know what you are doing in your career," explained Lehman, "but people who are very good at their jobs often have skills that don't show up on IQ tests."

Instead, Lehman looks to the growing research of emotional intelligence as a key success factor for leaders.

Often abbreviated to EI or EQ, emotional intelligence is a cornerstone of the leadership courses taken by adult and graduate students at Bluffton. While IQ is relatively fixed, measured by tests and quantified through a numeric score, EQ is flexible and can be improved, but is not easily measured or defined by a fixed score.

"EQ was developed in the 1980s as an alternative to IQ and people are really intrigued by it," said Lehman. "People often want to take a test to see how good they are at it, but emotional intelligence should not be about how well you do on a particular EQ test. Instead, the focus should be on what you learn about yourself."



Lehman was approved to administer and interpret the Emotional and Social Competence Inventory and incorporated the concepts into Bluffton’s coursework in 2015.

“Know Thyself”

There are four parts to a basic EQ structure: self-awareness, social awareness, self-management and relationship management. Or in Lehman’s words, “understanding your emotions and the emotions of others so you can manage yourself and others effectively.”

While all four “quadrants” work together, according to Lehman, the key is self-awareness.

Roughly 40 years ago, emotional intelligence began gaining traction and acceptance through the research and publications of psychologists Peter Salovey, now the President of Yale University, and John D. Mayer. However, the concept of self-awareness is certainly much older. The phrase “Know Thyself” is inscribed on the Greek Temple of Apollo at Delphi and Benjamin Franklin wrote in the 1750 Poor Richard’s Almanac, “There are three things extremely hard, steel, a diamond and to know one’s self.”

To improve self-awareness in the workplace, Lehman suggests spending time thinking about what you really want from your career.

“People have very different needs from the workplace. For some, it’s financial stability,” explained Lehman. “For others, it’s also about companionship, achievement or mental stimulation. There are many reasons people work, and when we get riled up at work, it’s likely one of those needs is not being met.”

Spreading the word

Now retired from regular teaching, Lehman is sharing his knowledge of emotional intelligence with several new audiences. This spring, he began providing a series of small-group workshops for Bluffton’s faculty and staff. Each training includes an initial seminar to introduce the concepts followed by additional sessions of reflection.

“EQ is something you need to chew on for a little bit. You can’t just say, ‘ok, I got this,’” said Lehman. “Part of your growth is reflecting on what you’re learning.”

Lehman started with the admissions and business offices but will eventually reach every department on campus. The goal is to help faculty and staff better relate to each other and to students.

Recently, he provided an emotional intelligence overview during Chamber University with the Lima-Allen County Chamber of Commerce. Emotional intelligence workshops for organizations connected to Bluffton through the Corporate Partners Program are also available.

Still in its early stages, the university is also working to develop a certification program or a collection of courses with a strong EQ component. A strategic plan initiative, the goal is for the certification to be available to undergraduate students as well as adult students.

“Helping people understand emotional intelligence, including our students and our partners, will strengthen the businesses and organizations who hire our graduates,” said Lehman.

Emotional Intelligence Explanatory Structure

Adapted from the “Emotional and Social Competency Inventory” training manual by Richard Boyatzis and Daniel Goleman.

		Self	Others
Awareness		Self Awareness <i>Emotional Self-Awareness</i>	Social Awareness <i>Empathy</i> <i>Organizational Awareness</i>
Actions		Self Management <i>Achievement Orientation</i> <i>Adaptability</i> <i>Emotional Self-control</i> <i>Positive Outlook</i>	Relationship Management <i>Conflict Management</i> <i>Coach and Mentor</i> <i>Influence</i> <i>Inspirational Leadership</i> <i>Teamwork</i>



86 ATHLETES
HONORED LAST YEAR AS
ACADEMIC
ALL-HCAC



A YEAR LIKE NO OTHER

Because student-athletes, coaches and sports medicine staff diligently followed Bluffton's #ProtectTheDam plan, all 16 athletic teams were able to practice and compete throughout the year.

The 2020-21 academic year was unique, to say the least. Bluffton received national attention when "USA Today" recognized the Sept. 3 men's matchup versus Tiffin as the first NCAA golf match since March 2020. The golf teams were both nationally ranked by GolfStat.com in the fall. Bluffton football was also declared Co-National Champions by "In the Huddle D3FB" podcast for being just one of three NCAA DIII teams to have won a game during the fall 2020 college football season.

While some games were rescheduled, no games were canceled due to COVID-19 positive cases or the quarantining of students at Bluffton.

Volleyball

Remi Bower '21 capped off a stellar career by being named HCAC Player of the Year and securing 1st Team All-HCAC honors. Brooke Kleman '22 and Kaylie Campbell '23 were named All-HCAC Honorable Mention. Bluffton also went to its 13th consecutive HCAC tournament, and Cassidy Posey '22 was named to the tournament team.

Football

Bluffton football acquired an impressive 10 All-HCAC selections during the 2020-21 season. Montez Archer Jr. '24 was named HCAC Defensive Player, Special Teams Player and Newcomer of the Year, and D3Football.com named him to their Team of the Week. The ceremonial "Hammer" also returned to Bluffton after the team beat Defiance College.

Men's and Women's Cross Country

After a fall season on the track, the Beavers jumped back into the cross-country season for one day in the spring semester to compete at the HCAC championships. The women's team placed 4th with Jenia Freewalt '24 securing a top 12 finish and All-HCAC conference honors. Justine Lesniewski '24, Miranda Billman '24 and Ethan Ly '24 earned All-HCAC Honorable Mention recognition.

Men's and Women's Golf

The Beavers hosted the men's HCAC tournaments at Hidden Creek Golf Club. The men secured a team 54-hole record of 943 at the tournament with Takoda Pratt '21 earning the school 54-hole record. Brylee Oberdorf '22 and Haley Gill '23 tied each other for two school records this year—18-hole with a score of 83 and 36-hole with a score of 173.

Men's Soccer

Four-year starter Patrick Spillman '21 earned Bluffton's A.C. Burcky Award presented to the outstanding senior male athlete. Elijah Grieser '23 and Maxwell Kennedy '23 were selected All-HCAC Honorable Mention, and the team as a whole showed tremendous growth and improvement during Coach Robert Richardson's first season at the helm.

Women's Soccer

Four-year letter winner Abigail Newkirk earned Bluffton's Kathryn E. Little Award presented to the outstanding senior female athlete. Post-season honors were handed out to Maddie Huffman '21, All-HCAC 2nd Team; and Taylor Steinke '21, All-HCAC Honorable Mention.

Men's Basketball

The Beavers rolled to 10 consecutive wins to open the season, shattering the school record of six! Coach Guy Neal is now up to 382 career victories. Jameel Cosby '22 earned All-HCAC 1st Team honors while Dezman Brown '21 was named to the All-HCAC 2nd Team and Aaron Rich '21 picked up All-HCAC Honorable Mention.

Women's Basketball

Coach Chad Shutler took home HCAC Coach of the Year honors for the second time in six years and secured 208 all-time victories. The Beavers also made their 8th straight trip to the HCAC tournament. Brianna Gillig '22 notched All-HCAC 1st Team honors. She also set the school and HCAC records for points (41) in a single game. Nora Hemminger '21 earned All-HCAC Honorable Mention and Maddie Fitzpatrick '24 was named to the Newcomer team.

Men's and Women's Track and Field

Indoor: Brandon James '22 earned All-Region honors for heptathlon and Amanda Church '24 All-Region honors for pentathlon. James was named HCAC Field Athlete of the Year. Desmond Gist '24 was named Newcomer of the Year and placed 1st in 60m hurdles with a school record 8.61. Outdoor: Gist placed 1st in long jump at the HCAC championship.

Baseball

The Beavers advanced to the semifinals of the HCAC tournament, defeating Anderson University twice during the five-team double elimination tournament. Bluffton made it to the big show after defeating Rose-Hulman twice during a preliminary round. Adam Duncan '20, MBA '21 and Parker Reynolds '20, MBA '21 were named All-HCAC Honorable Mention while Jacob Boelkens '23 and Jacob Latkofsky '21 were named to the tournament team.

Softball

Bobbi Adams '23 secured NFCA All-Central Region honors and was named All-HCAC 1st team after a stellar season. She and Sydney Bowen '21 lit up the single-game record books during a sweep against Manchester. Bowen took home All-HCAC 2nd Team honors while Taylor Steinke '21 earned All-HCAC Honorable Mention.

NCAA
DIVISION
III

36

SCHOOL ATHLETIC
RECORDS BROKEN
DURING 2020-21



ALONG THE RILEY



Swimming and Diving

Bluffton is adding swimming and diving as an intercollegiate sport for the 2021-22 academic year. The Beavers are an NCAA DIII school and compete as part of the Heartland Collegiate Athletic Conference. With Bluffton's addition of men's and women's swimming and diving, seven schools in the HCAC will offer the sport.



Ben Rath, who most recently served as an assistant swimming and diving coach at the University of Findlay, will lead the team as head coach. Rath has also held

coaching positions at Lakeview Country Club and Findlay Area Swim Team.

The university will partner with the Lima YMCA for the team's practice and host site. Bluffton now has 18 intercollegiate athletic teams including men's and women's basketball, golf, soccer, cross country, indoor track and field, and outdoor track and field. Bluffton also offers football and baseball for men and softball and volleyball for women.

Transfer friendly

Bluffton University was recently named to Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society's 2021 Transfer Honor Roll in recognition of the dynamic pathways the university has created to support transfer students.

Bluffton is one of 150 colleges and universities selected for the honor. Colleges were named based on their Transfer Friendliness rating.

"The Transfer Honor Roll reflects the growing importance of recognizing and responding to the needs of transfer students," said

Dr. Lynn Tincher-Ladner, Phi Theta Kappa President and CEO. "This award is given to four-year colleges and universities with proven outcomes for transfer success."

At Bluffton, a dedicated admissions transfer coordinator works with each student individually throughout the application process.

"Bluffton welcomes transfer students from all over the country, and they are a valuable part of our campus community," said Holly Metzger '05, senior admissions counselor at Bluffton. "Some have just one semester of coursework and others have an associate's degree. It is our goal at Bluffton to provide a personalized and seamless experience for all transfer students from start to finish!"



SHRM alignment

Bluffton University's degree-completion program in business is now aligned with the Society for Human Resource Management (SHRM) HR Curriculum Guidebook and Templates. Throughout the world, more than 500 programs in approximately 425 educational institutions have been acknowledged by SHRM as being in alignment with its suggested guides and templates.

"We're excited for this recognition. SHRM is the largest professional association devoted to human resources management and is a recognized authority in the field," said Dr. Ashley Johansen, director of degree-completion programs in business.

"This alignment identifies that Bluffton University's business management graduates are prepared to meet the needs of today's challenging HR and business landscape."

The HR Curriculum Guidebook and Templates were developed by SHRM to define the minimum HR content areas that should be studied by HR students at the undergraduate and graduate levels. The guidelines are part of SHRM's Academic Initiative to define HR education standards taught in university business schools and help universities develop degree programs that follow these standards.

Students enrolled in a degree program at an educational institution aligned to SHRM's core curriculum guidelines are able to apply for the SHRM Certified Professional (SHRM-CP) exam.



Keeney Peace lecturer



During Bluffton University's annual Keeney Peace Lecture, Rev. Dr. Jack Sullivan Jr. called on members of the campus community to

"courageously use their resources, platforms and privilege to disrupt and dismantle policies that discriminate and decimate."

Sullivan, an ordained minister, executive director of the Ohio Council of Churches and anti-death penalty activist, shared the message during the March 9 Forum, "The Transformative Stardom of Ordinary People."

Sullivan provided examples for how people can show up for justice by highlighting the work of anti-death penalty activists who develop creative partnerships, mobilize for social justice and overcome their fears to proclaim the dignity of human life.



“These stars embrace the eternal truth that Martin Luther King Jr. taught us about light and love when he said, ‘Darkness cannot drive out darkness; only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate; only love can do that,’” said Sullivan. “You do not have to go very far to find these kind of stars. They are all around us. Many of them are you.”

Beaver-Falcon scholarship



Jessica Lovell, a senior from Grove City, Ohio, is Bluffton University’s ninth recipient of a full scholarship to Bowling Green State University’s

Master of Accountancy program.

Lovell has earned the Beaver-Falcon MAcc Scholarship, a Bluffton-Bowling Green partnership that includes a full-tuition award plus a paid graduate assistantship for a Bluffton graduate.

Bowling Green’s program includes a variety of areas of study such as advanced accounting, data analytics and information systems auditing. The program allows students to build upon the strong foundation of the Bluffton accounting major while gaining expertise in new areas. Lovell will begin her advanced studies in fall 2021. Completion of the master’s program will give her the 150 hours of study required to sit for the Certified Public Accountant exam.

“I’m thankful for the opportunity,” said Lovell. “I’m excited because this path will set me up to take the CPA exam when I graduate.”

Lovell is majoring in accounting and business administration with a math minor. She is a student-athlete on Bluffton’s volleyball team and is a member of Bluffton University Business Leaders and Student Athlete Advisory Committee.



Vaccination clinic

Bluffton University partnered with Bluffton Hospital to host two on-campus vaccination clinics for students in April. While the vaccine was voluntary, Bluffton’s COVID-19 steering committee provided regular updates about vaccine availability and encouraged students and employees to get vaccinated. Cooper Chung ’23, a nursing major from Delphos, Ohio, chose to get vaccinated because he plans to travel and visit family in Canada this summer.



Identities revealed

A tightly guarded secret at Bluffton, even the roommates of the students who portray Bluffton’s J. Denny and Jenny mascots may have no idea which students are actually suiting up. However, the identities of the most recent performers were revealed during February’s Lip Sync Battle.

Three students revealed their identities including: Clay Meyer ’23 and Cassie Mladek ’21, as J. Denny Beaver, and Olivia “Lou” Westcott ’23 as Jenny Beaver. A second Jenny Beaver was not revealed and will continue to serve her mascot mission.

Meyer is a music education major from Kalida, Ohio. He is a member of Concert

Band, Camerata Singers, University Chorale and Brass Ensemble. Meyer is also assistant director for pep band and an assistant in the music department.

Mladek is an elementary education major from Coshocton, Ohio. She plays volleyball and is a member of Bluffton Education Organization, Marbeck Center Board, National Student Speech Language Hearing Association, C. Henry Smith Scholars and Student Athletic Advisory Committee. Mladek works as a Marbeck front desk manager and student ambassador.

Westcott is a convergent media major from Toledo, Ohio. She is a member of concert and pep bands and is a convergent journalist for “The Wit.” She works in the technology center and as the communication department assistant.

In the past 11 years, just 39 students have been selected to fill the roles of J. Denny and Jenny Beaver.



121ST ANNUAL COMMENCEMENT

Saturday, May 8, 2021

The achievements of Bluffton University's class of 2021 were celebrated Saturday, May 8, 2021, during an in-person Commencement at Dwight Salzman Stadium. Nearly 200 students crossed the stage during the 121st ceremony including traditional undergraduate and degree-completion graduates earning bachelor's degrees as well as MBA and MAEd students earning master's degrees.

Special this year, graduates wore purple stoles bearing the words "Class of 2021." The unique memento was designed as a testament to their resilience during the past year and a half and their commitment to completing their education through the COVID-19 pandemic.

"May this stole always be a symbol to you that no matter what life path you choose to follow, you already have persevered through difficulty to achieve your degree," said President Jane Wood. "This stole speaks to your achievement and our continued confidence and belief in you both individually and as the Bluffton University class of 2021."

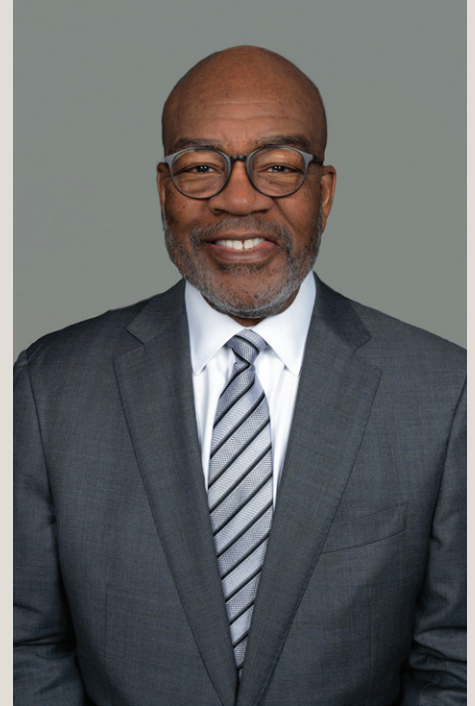
Lawrence E. Milan '73 shared the Commencement address, "The Present Is But A Moment—How Will You Show Up?"

Milan gave advice, provided some words of encouragement and finished with these parting words: "Remember, there's no script for life's journey. You are the author of your next chapter. Make it worthy of reading by the generations that follow you because after all is said and done, the present is but a fleeting moment. No day is promised to any of us. Make every moment count, and ask yourself: 'How am I showing up?'"





Commencement speaker Lawrence E. Milan '73



A 1973 Bluffton graduate and current member of Bluffton's Board of Trustees, Larry Milan is the senior vice president, chief HR and diversity officer at Connecticut Children's Medical Center. During his address, he also reminisced about his time at Bluffton.

"Over 50 years ago I set foot on this beautiful campus for the first time. I was a starry-eyed kid. I had rarely been away from home, and I was finally on my own. My main priority was finding the cafeteria, finding my classes and finding out how to be cool because I had no clue. Despite being one of only a handful of black students on campus, my instincts told me Bluffton was the perfect place for me to grow as a person and further my education. So, I entrusted this institution with the only thing I had: my potential."



ALUMNOTES

1960-69

John Hung '60, Centerville, Ohio, retired from U.S. Civil Service in 2015, after more than 42 years. John has also been a freelance translator/interpreter since 1980. He is continuing the study of new languages in hopes to become a polyglot. He and wife, Winnie, have a son and three grandchildren.

Phyllis Bixler '61, Bluffton, Ohio, moved from Springfield, Mo., to the Maple Crest Retirement community in Bluffton after her 50th class reunion in 2011. She attends Bluffton First Mennonite Church and attended many events on Bluffton's campus pre-COVID.

Lee Augustine '67, Wawarsing, N.Y., and his wife Renee, spend socially-distant time gardening, stacking

firewood, canning, making jelly, tapping maple trees, swimming and watching Laurel and Hardy movies. He is as an assistant high school soccer and basketball coach. They have three adult children.

1970-79

D. Arletta (Fagan '71) Culp, Fort Wayne, Ind., taught choir and vocal music for 30 years, including 13 years teaching middle school. She volunteers in two hospitals and assists with refugee needs. Music and inspirational writing bring her joy and she enjoys traveling with her husband, Michael.

Arthur J. Engler '71, Storrs Mansfield, Conn., is married to Ronald J. Kolanowski and has three children. Arthur retired from full-time teaching at the University of

Connecticut School of Nursing but continues to teach two courses while volunteering with the American English Language Institute and an honor society for nursing.

Nathaniel Fields '71, Alexandria, Va., is engaged in encouraging and assisting racial harmony, diversity and inclusions, and social and economic justice issues in the United States. Internationally, he works primarily in Africa and the Middle East on education, youth development, community development and venture philanthropy initiatives. He has a son.

Priscilla J. Friesen '71, Washington, D.C., consults with families with a range of human problems, teaches professionals practicing in mental health and family enterprise, and is working to make the Murray Bowen

OUR LEGACY

Bluffton alumni in the world

Robert L. Hewitt '69, Chambersburg, Pa., professor emeritus of social work at Shippensburg University, was featured in the 2021 Black History Project. News reporters from across Pennsylvania interviewed Black educators, diversity advocates and other leaders to get a sense of their favorite books with different facets of Black history, to include less familiar texts that have inspired them and shaped their worldview. Hewitt's selections were: "The Half Has Never Been Told: Slavery and the Makings of American Capitalism" by Edward E. Baptist, "The Warmth of Other Suns: The Epic Story of America's Great Migration" by Isabel Wilkerson and "The Heritage: Black Athletes, a Divided America, and the Politics of Patriotism" by Howard Bryant.



Archives available at National Library of Medicine. She is married to Robert Felton III, a stepparent of two and has five grandchildren.

Mitchell Kingsley '71, Bluffton, Ohio, is an attorney, volunteers with Mennonite Disaster Service and enjoys biking and woodworking. He is married to **Ann (Enright '71)**. They have three children and three grandchildren.

Allan '71 and Janice (Lower '71) Freeman, Martinsburg, Wyo., have been married for 49 years. Allan retired from the United States Navy and Janice retired from Bon Ton after its bankruptcy in 2008. She also worked in a floral shop. Now, they care for 11 cats.

Virgil Charles Mann '71, Lima, Ohio, is a retired teacher/administrator of Lima City Schools. He volunteers at Wheelhouse Bicycle Ministry, is married to wife, Linda, and has two children.

Craig Phillips x71, Lake Saint Louis, Mo., is retired from teaching at the Kansas State School for the Blind. He also trained teachers of individuals who are blind and visually impaired at Missouri State University. He is married to Carol.

Phyllis (Winkler x71) Reynolds, Bluffton, Ohio, retired from Citizens National Bank in December 2019, where she trained other employees. She also taught Sunday school for young children at First Mennonite Church more than 20 years. She has one child and four grandchildren.

Gary Rinehart '71, McComb, Ohio, is in an internship at the church of Great Peace. He plays organ, piano and picks out hymns. He loves serving God and asks for prayers on finding a church that needs a preacher.

Marcia (Mawer '71) Simcox, Pipersville, Pa., volunteers for local food banks, a recovery house, and various Bible studies and ministries. She is married to **James R. Simcox '70**. They have five sons including two Bluffton graduates and 15 grandchildren.

Nancy (Brock '71) Wallace, Celina, Ohio, retired after more than 40 years in social work.

Gary Wetherill '71, Bluffton, Ohio, retired after 35 years at Brookhill Center. Gary also retired from volunteering with the Boy Scouts and the Et Cetera Shop in Bluffton. He is president of the Swiss Historical Society of Bluffton and Pandora, and is married to **Lois (Bauman '74)**. They have two sons and two grandchildren.

Fred Steiner x72, Bluffton, Ohio, released, "Bluffton Anthology: A Creek Runs Through It." The book features several contributing writers who are Bluffton alumni or faculty/staff members. It's available at several Bluffton stores. He's also the editor of the "Bluffton Icon" and "Ada Icon."

William (Bill) Hudson, Jr. '74, Fort Worth, Texas, retired after 10 years of being a math educator, psychology teacher and principal for 40 years.

Scott Smith '78, Crossville, Tenn., is back to work as an associate professor of sport management at Tennessee Tech University. He is a professor emeritus from Central Michigan University and most recently was an online program director for a master's in athletic administration at Ohio 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** began with new enrollees during 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



1980-89

Rob Ramage '84, Logan, Ohio, is finishing his 38th year with the Logan Hocking Schools as assistant principal of the high school. Rob recently started a fly fishing guide service on the Ausable River in Michigan. Planning to retire from education in two years, Rob will use ausableonthefly.com to keep him busy in the outdoors.

Sara (Mayes '86) and Doug Kisseberth '84, Jenera, Ohio, are marking 11 years as co-owners of Drive Time Driving Instruction, with classrooms in Bluffton and Findlay, Ohio. Sara also serves as web content manager for Bluffton University. As new grandparents, they are thoroughly enjoying spending time with their young granddaughter.

Randy Blank '87, Ottawa, Ohio, earned a Master of Arts in Adult Education from Ohio State in 1997, joined the faculty of UNOH in December 2000 and has been chair since 2015. In 2018, he earned a Ph.D. in psychology from Capella University.

He and wife, Kaylene, have two children.

1990-99

Rick Geiser '95, Apple Creek, Ohio, teaches math at Waynedale High School and is the varsity girls basketball coach. The team won their league for the first time in 15 years and made the school's first trip to the state final four. Rick and wife, Lois, have three teens.

Bryan Youngblood '96, Marietta, Ohio, is a teacher, football coach and baseball coach at Parkersburg South High School. In 2017, he was named the Secondary Physical Education Teacher of the Year for the state of West Virginia. He is the current vice president of secondary education for SHAPEWV.

2000-09

Kyle '03 and Mandy (Snider '05) Cutnaw, Wapakoneta, Ohio, welcomed their daughter, Rosie Lynn, on Aug. 5. She joined her older brother, Nathaniel Moses. Mandy

teaches second grade at Cridersville Elementary and Kyle is the assistant principal at Wapakoneta Middle School.

Rachel (Lapp '03) Risner, Millersburg, Ohio, published a women's Bible study titled "Significant: Six Ordinary Women, One Extraordinary God, A Study of Women in Jesus's Genealogy." Her husband, **John Risner '03** is the lead pastor at Mennonite Christian Assembly. They have eight children.

Dr. Galina Terbova '03, Lilburn, Ga., joined the Emory University Center for AIDS Research as assistant director of research programs, and will work with the center's administrative and developmental cores, supporting the development of early-career investigators and providing overall programmatic support.

Benjamin "Randy" Hart '04, Grosse Ile, Mich., married Pavadee Poowuttikul and started a new position as assistant professor of medicine and clinical gastroenterologist at the University of Toledo. They have a daughter, Anya.

Markers of success DISTINCTIVELY BLUFFTON



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— *intelligent.com*



Transitioning to Telehealth

Nearly a decade after taking classes together at Bluffton University, three food and nutrition alumni have recently been reunited in their efforts to improve health and well-being. Heather (Schierer '13) Davis, Amber (Swaney '12) Anderson and Jessica (McDonald '12) Pence all work for New York-based telehealth company Fruit Street. The company provides the CDC's diabetes prevention program through a mobile app and classes held via Zoom.

"We're teaching the basics of food, how to make meals, why activity is important and how to live a healthy life," explained Pence, a registered dietitian and lifestyle coach. "It's about accountability and letting our participants know they aren't alone on their journey."

A surge of interest

With 20,000 current participants, the company is quickly growing in the area of telehealth.

"A lot of people are familiar with Zoom now. They say, 'Oh yeah, I've done church by Zoom or my kids' classes are on Zoom,'" explained Anderson, a participant support lead. "Even the older generation is more comfortable with it."

While Fruit Street already had plans to expand, the COVID-19 pandemic amplified the demand for telehealth services.

As a participant support manager, Davis' primary responsibility is to improve user experience by connecting the clinical side of the operation with the engineering team. While her knowledge of food and nutrition is important to her work, the lessons she learned through Bluffton's cross-cultural program have been key.

"We have participants from across the United States so just being able to relate to different people with different cultures has been incredibly useful, and I developed those skills through the cross-cultural program," said Davis.

Finding a fit at Fruit Street

While the three Bluffton graduates all work remotely and are rarely on the same Zoom call together, they've each found a good career fit at Fruit Street.

Davis is exploring a new interest in management.

"I wanted to have more of a say in the future of Fruit Street, in the future of our app and to make sure our product is helpful to our participants," said Davis. "This is not what I was expecting to do after graduation at all, but I'm really enjoying the management aspect of the position."

Anderson, who had previously left the field of nutrition and never earned her licensure, is reengaging in the field she was drawn to in college.

"I've worked various jobs and enjoyed them all because they've always led me to my next spot," said Anderson, "but this is the job that I've felt most comfortable in. I'm doing something I enjoy, and it's something that I've missed."

She's even reengaged with Jennifer Little, former dietetics internship experience director, about sitting for the RDN exam.

Pence is enjoying interacting directly with participants from the comfort of home after previously working at an office job with a long commute.

"My career has come full circle," said Pence. "My first job as a dietitian was in a weight loss clinic and then I left there and did diabetes education. With Fruit Street, it's a combination of both, and I get to help people meet their personal health goals."



Amber (Swaney '12) Anderson

Participant support lead

Major: Food and Nutrition; ISPP



Jessica (McDonald '12) Pence

Registered dietitian and lifestyle coach

Major: Food and Nutrition; ISPP



Heather (Schierer '13) Davis

Participant support manager

Major: Food and Nutrition





Graduation Outcomes *class of 2020*

98%

OF GRADUATES ARE
EMPLOYED OR IN
GRADUATE SCHOOL
OR LONG-TERM SERVICE
WITHIN SIX MONTHS
OF GRADUATION
– Class of 2020

TOP 5 INDUSTRIES for recent Bluffton graduates (5-year average)



1. K-12 EDUCATION



2. HEALTH CARE



3. BUSINESS AND
ACCOUNTING



4. MANUFACTURING



5. HIGHER
EDUCATION

Scott Steiner '05, Berne, Ind., and his wife, Amber, are excited to announce a new addition to their family! On March 26, 2021, Graylynn Nicole joined the Steiner family. She has three loving brothers.

Stephanie (Gorgeny '06)

Abbruzzese, Kent, Ohio, left K-12 education after nine years to pursue a career in public health. She earned a master's in public health from Kent State, is working toward a Ph.D., and researches health equity and health literacy. Stephanie has a son with husband, Jack.

Nick Schreck '06, Louisa, Va., has been the head coach of the Louisa County Girls Basketball team in Louisa County, Va., since 2015. During the 2020-21 season, his team went 15-0 and became the Virginia Class 4 State Champions. He is married to **Claire (Berger '05)**.

2010-19

Aaron '11 and Joni (Martin '11) Yost, Goshen, Ind., welcomed daughter, Winnie Marie, into the world on Aug. 14, 2020. All are doing well as they adjust to life with a baby.

Lucas Fullenkamp '13, Nashua, N.H., started a new role as the director of institutional research at Rivier University.

John Oyer '13, Washington, Iowa, and his wife, Saralyn, welcomed son, Clay Randall Oyer, on Dec. 25, 2020. John works for Excel Industries.

Abbey (Grabber '14) Nafziger, Archbold, Ohio, and her husband, Steve, welcomed their second daughter, Jaylin, on Sept. 6, 2020. Abbey, a former J Denny Beaver, started her career teaching in special education and coaching at Archbold

Area Schools, but now enjoys staying home with her girls.

Jessica Wilhelm '14, Dayton, Ohio, is engaged to Ryan Brindamour. The couple is planning a May 2022 wedding. Jessica is in her fourth year as a tax accountant for law firm WilmerHale, one of the largest law firms in the country.

Hannah Johnson '15, Goshen, Ind., got engaged to Scott Gay in February 2018 and plan to celebrate next July with close family and friends. Hannah works at Das Essenhaus and Dogtown Resort Kennel and Shelter. They have a rescue cat named Paris.

Chay '15 and Sara (Klenke '15) Reigle, Muncie, Ind., were married on Oct. 3, 2020. Chay has been employed at Ball State University since 2017, and Sara is working at Muncie Comprehensive Treatment Center. The couple has two cats.

Patricia Eshleman Latimer '16, Cincinnati, Ohio, graduated from medical school and is now a psychiatry resident at UCMC/ University of Cincinnati hospital system. She is working toward becoming a psychiatrist.

Erika Byler '18, Goshen, Ind., recently started as the administrative assistant at North Goshen Mennonite Church. She is also the assistant play director at Westview Jr/Sr High School.

Sam '18 and Lauren (Miller '18) Sturm, Savannah, Ga., were married on Dec. 28, 2020.

Jason '19 and Kiera (Suffel '19) Summers, San Antonio, Texas, recently moved. Kiera works at Union Home Mortgage and Jason works for Marathon Petroleum Corporation.



IN MEMORIAM

Thelma Jean (Maurer x48) Miller, Lancaster, Penn., passed away Oct. 25, 2020, at age 97.

Hazel (Nussbaum x49) Himes, Wooster, Ohio, passed away Dec. 2, 2020, at age 93.

Robert Hower '50, Bluffton, Ohio, passed away Nov. 21, 2020, at age 92.

Charles Sheidler x50, Carmichael, Cal., passed away Oct. 13, 2020, at age 96.

Donald A. Yaussy '50, Lakeside Marblehead, Ohio, passed away Jan. 23, 2021, at age 94.

Joanne (Buhler '51) Voth, Harrisonburg, Va., passed away April 6, 2021, at age 91

Eugene Kimmet x53, Lake Geneva, Wis., passed away Feb. 13, 2021, at age 95.

Wendell E. Metzler '53, Nappanee, Ind., passed away Nov. 21, 2020, at age 89.

Barbara (Wright '53) Shinabery, Bluffton, Ohio, passed away Nov. 28, 2020, at age 90.

William "Bill" Stucky '55, Goshen, Ind., passed away Sept. 16, 2020, at age 86.

Roger Bixel '58, Lima, Ohio, passed away March 30, 2021, at age 86.

Eugene McMullen '58, Youngstown, Ohio, passed away March 11, 2021, at age 85.

G. William "Bill" Ramseyer '58, Bluffton, Ohio, passed away Feb. 18, 2021, at age 84.

D. Joan (Hostetler x59) Badertscher, Dover, Ohio, passed away Feb. 20, 2021, at age 83.

Carol Ann (Kent '59) Speicher, Marysville, Ohio, passed away March 23, 2021, at age 83.

Helen (Diller '60) Hlass, Long Beach, Miss., passed away Oct. 25, 2020, at age 82.

William T. Freed '61, Ada, Ohio, passed away Oct. 3, 2020, at age 87.

Bill Montgomery '61, Findlay, Ohio, passed away Sept. 21, 2020, at age 84.

Thomas Kirchhofer '62, Royal Oak, Mich., passed away Jan. 4, 2021, at age 80.

Phyllis (Frail '63) Born, Circleville, Ohio, passed away Nov. 5, 2020, at age 78.

Marvin Ritter '63, Findlay, Ohio, passed away Feb. 13, 2021, at age 79.

Nancy (Ludwig x64) Crew, Napoleon, Ohio, passed away Dec. 17, 2020, at age 78.

Robert Kimmet '64, Fairborn, Ohio, passed away Nov. 7, 2020, at age 77.

James F. Pelton, Jr. x64, Lake Orion, Mich., passed away Nov. 17, 2020, at age 78.

Karen (Buffenbarger '66) Alloway, Huntsville, Ohio, passed away Dec. 30, 2020, at age 77.

Charles Hendricks '66, Broadview Heights, Ohio, passed away Jan. 22, 2021, at age 77.

William Bowersock '67, Lima, Ohio, passed away Sept. 10, 2020, at age 83.

Ronald Hunsicker '67, Lititz, Penn., passed away Jan. 23, 2021, at age 75.

Joyce (Brunner '68) Frey, South Bend, Ind., passed away March 11, 2021, at age 74.

Lyndella (Larlham '69) Andrews, Saint Marys, Ohio, passed away Jan. 24, 2021, at age 74.

Sue (Kempf '69) Groves, Lima, Ohio, passed away March 23, 2021, at age 89.

Kenneth Lentz '69, Payne, Ohio, passed away Oct. 13, 2020, at age 73.

Suzanne (Elliot '71) Antrim, Canal Winchester, Ohio, passed away Dec. 29, 2020, at age 71.

Jo Anna (Diller '71) Croft, Bluffton, Ohio, passed away Jan. 13, 2021, at age 79.

David Rempel Smucker x71, Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada, passed away March 12, 2021, at age 71.

Marybeth Corbett '72, Lima, Ohio, passed away Jan. 1, 2021, at age 70.

Lois Ann Hindall '72, Arlington, Ohio, passed away Jan. 14, 2021, at age 88.

Nathan Habegger '73, Nantes, France, passed away Oct. 10, 2020, at age 68.

Kathleen (Miller '75) Abbot, Van Wert, Ohio, passed away Jan. 22, 2021, at age 69.

David L. Anderson x76, Bluffton, Ohio, passed away Jan. 3, 2021, at age 68.

V. Jill McDowell '76, Killbuck, Ohio, passed away Nov. 30, 2020, at age 66.

Kathryn "Kate" Jo Gundy '80, Bluffton, Ohio, passed away April 11, 2021, at age 62.

Teresa 'Teri' (Hauenstein '81) Grilliot, Grand Rapids, Mich., passed away March 16, 2021, at age 67.

Lyndon Moore x86, Middletown, Ohio, passed away March 23, 2021, at age 57.

Sue (Allion '87) Deifendeifer, Lima, Ohio, passed away Nov. 6, 2020, at age 82.

Judy (Cook '92) Clark, Lima, Ohio, passed away Sept. 18, 2020, at age 72.

Thomas Neff '95, Findlay, Ohio, passed away March 11, 2021, at age 71.

John P. Melton '00, Bluffton, Ohio, passed away Sept. 1, 2020, at age 53.



FACULTY 360

James Grandey

You were selected as an ambassador for the nonprofit Vs. Cancer. Tell us about the baseball team's involvement in the campaign to end pediatric brain tumors.

We began supporting the fight against childhood cancers in 2012. My assistant coach at the time, Aaron Hutchison MBA '12, met Chase Jones, founder of Vs. Cancer, at a coaching convention. Since we began this journey, we have raised over \$50,000 through donations from our players, friends, family and supporters.

The efforts with Vs. Cancer are just one piece of service the team completes each year. How else is service incorporated into your coaching philosophy?

We are all very fortunate to be at Bluffton, and we raise a lot of money each year to support our program. It is important to return the favor, so to speak, and give back to those that support us and especially those who are not as fortunate as us. Service is one of Bluffton's four enduring values, and as a head coach, I believe it is my responsibility to incorporate all the enduring values into our program. Our community service includes helping on campus and in the community of Bluffton, which allows our players the opportunity to meet community members, and also, through groups like Vs. Cancer, on the regional and national level.



You've served as Bluffton's baseball coach for 17 years. What drew you to the field of coaching?

I was fortunate to have great role models growing up. My dad has umpired baseball for over 40 years and was always dragging me to the park to chase foul balls, and my mom was a teacher for 30 years. My high school coaches helped me forge a work ethic and passion for the game while my college coaches showed me how I can incorporate my passions into a career. I believe I can make an impact, like my parents and coaches.

What is the best piece of advice you ever received?

I'm not sure this is advice that I've received, but through my years I've learned that if you understand "why" you do what you do, you will never burn out. We all get tired and need to recharge, but if we truly know why we do what we do, we will never tire from doing what we are called to do.

James Grandey is head baseball coach and deputy athletic director at Bluffton.





Knowlton Science Center Construction Begins September 2021

After a pause on the construction process for the Knowlton Science Center due to the pandemic which impacted the timing for bridge financing, Bluffton University continues to move forward with construction anticipated to begin this September.

To address the most critical need for lab space for students, phase one of construction will include a lab-only building to be the new home to the teaching labs for nutrition and dietetics, chemistry and biology. The physics labs will remain in the Shoker or Founders labs. The faculty office wing and removal of Berky Hall, both part of the original construction design, were pushed to a later phase to reduce costs. The anticipated cost of the lab-only building will be \$10 million. It is expected to open in time for the 2023 academic year.

“Now that we have moved through the pandemic and strengthened university finances this fiscal year by achieving



cash-flow, we are able to fund phase one of the construction of the lab building with gifts and donations that have been received from the Simply Innovate campaign,” said President Jane Wood. “I wish that we could build the full building at this time, but with construction costs and the current realities for higher education coming out of the pandemic, we would be waiting another five or more years to secure bank financing to build. Starting with the lab-only building allows the university to proceed with the construction phase now to meet the urgent needs of students.”

The lab building has two options for additions in the future, both for faculty offices and an option to expand the teaching and learning space for additional labs as science and health-science programs grow. In May, architects and engineers assessed both Berky Hall and Shoker Science and the buildings were deemed structurally sound for continued use.





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