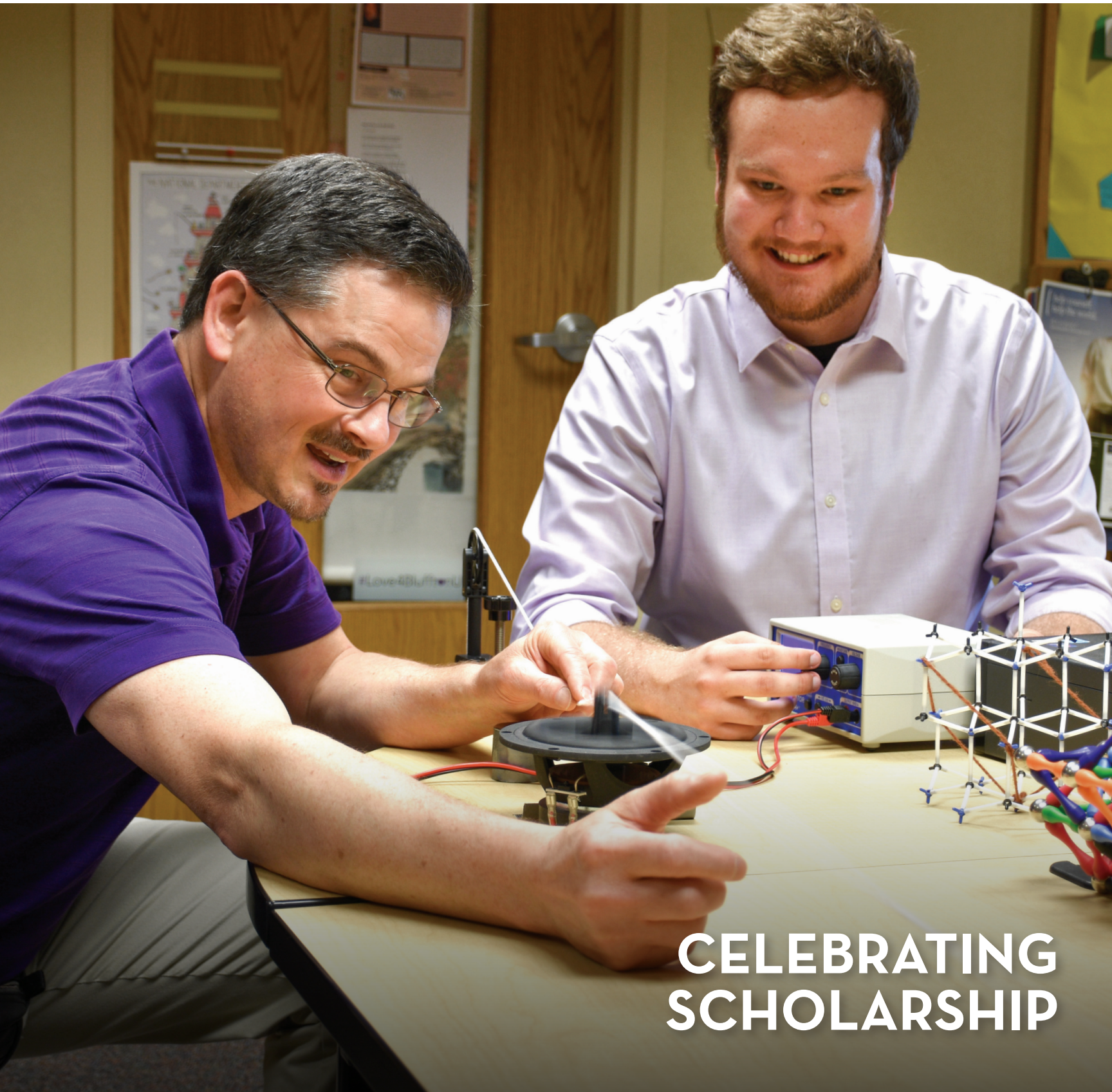


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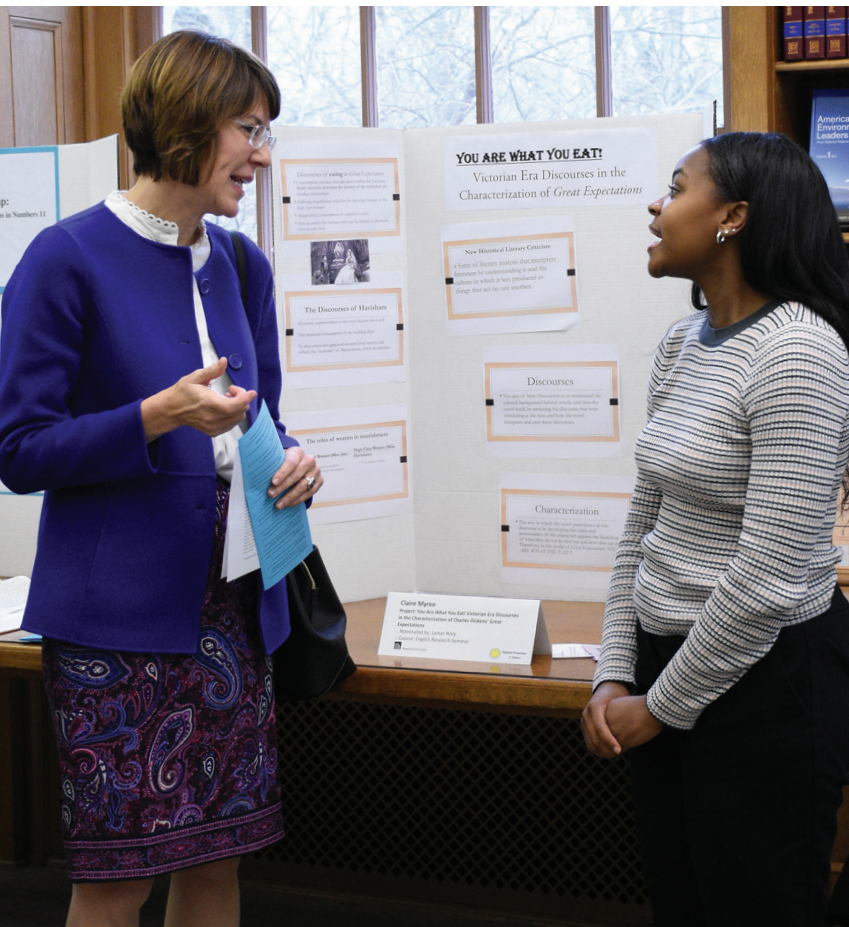
A magazine for Bluffton University alumni and friends | Winter 2020 | Vol. 17 No. 1



**CELEBRATING
SCHOLARSHIP**

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Earlier this semester, I had the pleasure of sharing a Colloquium presentation on the construction of personal narrative, which is about how we choose to share our life stories with others. During this presentation, I asked students, faculty and community members to reflect on how the stories we tell shape our lives. The same principles are true for the university; we have many stories to tell and these combined stories create and support community. At Bluffton, one story we tell often is our commitment to scholarship. This issue of the “Bluffton” magazine highlights the ways our faculty and students pursue high-level research across the disciplines with support from a variety of constituent sponsored funds.



In addition to staying active as researchers and scholars, Bluffton faculty also do a wonderful job encouraging and inspiring Bluffton's students to contribute their own voice to the scholarly conversation. These opportunities, including the annual Research Fair, help our students develop their portfolios and present information in ways they could have never imagined without the mentoring of Bluffton faculty.

I so enjoyed visiting with students at the Research Fair, and Claire Myree was no exception. Her presentation, “You Are What You Eat: Victorian Era Discourses in the Characterization of Great Expectations,” was informative and thought-provoking. We also discussed the cross-disciplinarity of her topic with our major in nutrition and dietetics. Our faculty regularly encourage our students to make the leap to think across disciplines, and the Research Fair highlights this type of critical thinking.

As a university, we are currently mapping the next chapter of our story through strategic planning. During summer and fall 2019, we hosted collaborative sessions with Bluffton's Board of Trustees, faculty/staff, community/business leaders and students to help Bluffton position itself for the future. Building on that input, we charged three planning teams, Leaders in Learning, Engaging at Home and Building Our Future, with generating coordinated ideas to inform the plan. While this work is not yet complete, I am energized by the creative idea generation to date and look forward to implementing a full strategic plan during the 2020-21 academic year that will continue to differentiate Bluffton University and propel us toward our continued mission-centered future.

Jane M. Wood, Ph.D.
President



BLUFFTON

A magazine for Bluffton University alumni and friends

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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: Dr. Stephen Harnish, professor of mathematics, and Ryan Oostland '20, a mathematics major and computer science minor from Goshen, Ind., collaborate on research through the XSEDE EMPOWER Program. The program's acronym stands for Extreme Science and Engineering Discovery Environment and is supported by the National Science Foundation. Oostland expanded on the research for a class taught by Dr. Darryl Nester and presented his findings at the annual Research Fair in Musselman Library. His project is featured on page 11.
Photo by Alison King



CELEBRATING SCHOLARSHIP

Our faculty are a vital and dynamic group guided by Bluffton's enduring values of community, discovery, respect and service. To nurture and sustain their academic interests and pursuits, Bluffton offers several faculty development opportunities including:

Faculty Scholarship Grants

These endowed grants reduce teaching load and allow tenured or tenure-track faculty with at least three years of teaching experience at Bluffton to focus on research during the academic year.

Bluffton University Research Center (BURC) Grants

Created more than 30 years ago, these grants allow faculty to engage in summer research activities that relate in some fashion to Bluffton's Anabaptist heritage.

Sabbaticals

Bluffton's largest faculty development program, semester-long sabbatical leaves provide support for research and creative activities. Faculty are eligible for their initial sabbatical in their tenth year of teaching and then at seven-year intervals.

The following pages highlight the wide and varied research taking place on campus which leads to meaningful learning experiences for students.





Dr. Amy Mullins *Trollinger Faculty Scholarship Grant*

While observing her students work on basic phonics skills with incarcerated youth at the Allen County Juvenile Detention Center, Dr. Amy Mullins, assistant professor of education, encountered a problem. The teens were embarrassed to use materials designed for young children.

“Our students tried re-covering their books with white paper to hide the titles,” said Mullins. “Then, we started looking online, but we couldn’t find anything appropriate.”

Lamenting the lack of resources, Mullins was asked what she was going to do about the situation. The question stayed on her mind.

“I kept thinking about how to help these older kids,” explained Mullins. “I knew exactly what I wanted for them—something they could use independently, something interesting to them and something to help them learn letter patterns.”

With the help of six hours of course-release time, Mullins developed **<http://crackthecodeliteracy.com>**. The website features letter pattern rap videos, a sight word concentration game and age-appropriate short stories filled with decodable text. While most online reading resources are geared toward students in third grade and below, Crack the Code is designed specifically for mature students.

The website is available through a small subscription fee, but Mullins is providing the resource free to the JDC. “Have you ever felt called to do something?” asked Mullins. “I truly feel like this work is my life’s purpose.”

Dr. Crystal Sellers Battle *Sabbatical*

When Dr. Crystal Sellers Battle started studying classical voice, she was given a heartbreaking ultimatum: to better pursue your studies, stop singing gospel music.

“My professors thought it was going to damage my voice,” explained Sellers Battle.

Instead of giving up the music she loved, Sellers Battle devoted her doctoral dissertation to studying vocal health practices for gospel singers.

“Most gospel singers aren’t formally trained, but they are singing with extreme emotion. A lot of gospel singers get vocal injuries,” she said.

Now, she’s building on her research through a spring 2020 sabbatical which includes several projects. First, Sellers Battle is developing a three-book series for Gospel singers tentatively titled, “I Sing Because I’m Free: The Complete Guide to Gospel Singing.” The series will include a workbook for gospel singers to develop artistry and skill, a book on cultivating healthy and inspired voices, and a history of gospel singing.

“Gospel music has its roots in just about every American musical style, so as I’m thinking about how to prepare gospel singers, this research will also help me better prepare jazz singers and musical theatre singers,” Sellers Battle said.

She is also developing a methodology for helping charismatic preachers deal with vocal health issues and will share her research and findings at the Gordon Conwell Theological Seminary’s Institute for the Study of the Black Christian Experience in Boston, Mass.





Dr. Perry Bush *Sabbatical; Naomi Lehman Faculty Scholarship Grant*

As a major agricultural hub, migrant farmworkers have been drawn to Northwest Ohio since the 1920s, including the Mexican-American family of 1969 Bluffton graduate Baldemar Velasquez.

“His family were migrant laborers near Gilboa (Ohio). They came here in the 1960s to work the crops and couldn’t get home. So they stayed,” said Dr. Perry Bush, professor of history.

Bush is writing a history of the Farm Labor Organizing Committee, founded by Velasquez while he was still a student. The labor union, which is currently focused on the tobacco industry, remains headquartered in Toledo, Ohio.

“Velasquez is one of our most famous alums. He is an accomplished labor leader and is still president of FLOC, but there hasn’t been a lot of recent scholarly work on this topic,” said Bush.

With the help of course-release time, Bush began researching the subject. During his spring 2020 sabbatical, he’s completing interviews, outlining chapters and writing.

“It’s a fascinating story, and as a Bluffton professor committed to the college’s mission, this is an interesting project because it’s also a story of commitment to nonviolence and to issues of economic justice.”

While his students are benefitting from learning about these topics in their Issues in Modern America class, Bush says the research undertaken for this project—from Latin American history to the history of the tomato—keeps him “fresh and alive.”

Dr. Jackie Wyse-Rhodes *Karl Schultz Faculty Scholarship Grant*

When people name a book of the Bible they are familiar with, the Book of Numbers is not likely in the top spot. But Dr. Jackie Wyse-Rhodes is delving into The Old Testament “gem,” to write a book for the Herald Press’ Believers Church Bible Commentary series.

“You don’t often hear sermons focused on the Book of Numbers at church, but there are a lot of great stories,” explained Wyse-Rhodes. “There are great narratives and adventures as the Israelites journey through the wilderness and the obstacles they face along the way.”

During the spring 2020 semester, she is taking two course releases and devoting the time to writing. The commentary is aimed at pastors and lay people who want a better understanding of the book. Wyse-Rhodes will include notes on each verse, a section focused on the text in Biblical context and ideas for preaching on the stories today.

“I also hope to write about how the text has been interpreted through time,” said Wyse-Rhodes. “For example, how the text was viewed in the Reformation and the different interpretations of the stories in works of art.”

Wyse-Rhodes’ research into the Book of Numbers was also the main topic of her recent Exegetical Studies class.

“I was able to work through the material in the book with students and I’m so grateful for the ideas that came from those conversations.”





Marathana Prothro *Bluffton University Research Center Grant*

Communication and convergent media majors tell stories every day, but one of the most important stories they tell is perhaps one of the hardest to both develop and define: Who am I?

“My project is about helping students discover themselves, their authentic selves, and to tell that story in authentic ways,” explained Marathana Prothro, assistant professor of communication.

Tentatively titled, “Branding and Being,” Prothro’s summer BURC Grant allowed her to work on an approach to personal branding and vocational discernment that aligns with the mission and values of Bluffton.

“Personal branding is a very big thing right now in business circles,” said Prothro. “The way I’ve talked about it with my students is that your brand is your promise of what others can expect of you when they work with you or interact with you.”

While Prothro plans to develop a textbook using her research, the implications for students go much deeper than the professional level.

“To me, this is important work because in the context of the time we live in, there’s so much about framing who we are that is based on other people. What other people want, what other people see, what other people’s strengths are... am I better than them? But really, what I want is for students to understand the continuity of who they are in whatever context they find themselves.”

Dr. Daniel Berger *Bluffton University Research Center Grant*

Organic chemistry textbooks are designed with the assumption that students are taking the class for a full academic year, but at Bluffton University there are a large number of students who take just one semester of the course. With financial backing from a Bluffton University Research Center Grant, Dr. Daniel Berger, professor of chemistry, is developing a resource with Bluffton in mind.

“The idea is to make a contribution to LibreTexts, which aims to be the primary source of open-access, public-license academic textbook materials,” said Berger. “My goal is to collate existing materials to generate an open-access textbook that is suitable for the way organic chemistry is taught at Bluffton.”

Organic chemistry requires a lot of resources and is perhaps the most expensive single course at Bluffton. To keep the costs manageable, Berger has already developed an in-house lab manual for substantially less than a commercial lab manual would cost. For the textbook project, he’s currently generating the textbook map.

“I’m finding that this project is a lot more like writing a textbook from scratch than I expected,” said Berger. “Eventually, I hope to use the text with my organic chemistry classes, and the materials will be available for anyone else who wants to use them.”

While the project is far from complete, Berger says the BURC grant provided a good start.





Jeanna Haggard *Bluffton University Research Center Grant*

Applesauce doesn't seem like an exciting food. But for students in Jeanna Haggard's Food Service Systems Management class, applesauce became a highlight of the menu they developed for the Bluffton University Nutrition Association's annual Harvest Dinner.

"To make the applesauce, we went to the orchard and picked the apples fresh," said Haggard, of the farm-to-table recipe. "Some of the students in the class said they felt like they had never tasted applesauce before after tasting this applesauce. One student's boyfriend is trying to get her to make it again, and she's trying to explain he needs to wait until next September."

Haggard's appreciation for the farm-to-table experience grew during a two-week summer 2019 apprenticeship with Vivian Howard, star of "A Chef's Life," a PBS show which aired from 2013-18.

"I just really like the way she takes whatever is available agricultural-wise and finds a way to put it on the menu to support local farmers," said Haggard, who used BURC Grant funds for travel and lodging.

After shadowing restaurant and farm staff, Haggard is incorporating what she learned into nutrition and dietetics initiatives including the Harvest Dinner and Bluffton Bread Company.

"For students, the focus of much of their studies is taking food—sugar, salt, fried food—away, but this is exciting for them. Sometimes, instead of restricting menus, it's about showing people how to enjoy seasonal food that is available right outside their backdoor."

Dr. Zachary Walton *Sabbatical*

From comic books to superhero movies to video games, Dr. Zachary Walton, associate professor of communication, enjoys popular culture. But when philosophical, moral and ethical themes appear in pop culture, he's truly hooked.

During his fall 2019 sabbatical, Walton studied the evolution of memes based on the hypothetical thought experiment called the trolley problem.

"I wanted to look at how these memes are created, how they change, and how they interact or build on one another," said Walton. "I'm analyzing them through the lens of visual rhetoric, looking for common patterns and themes."

Walton joined a Facebook group called Trolley Problem Memes, which has about 250,000 likes and follows. During his sabbatical, he began analyzing more than 800 images posted on the page from April 2016 through Nov. 2019. It's a way for him to explore how non-philosophers treat the trolley problem. The Facebook group limits the scope of the study while providing an archived history of names, dates and commentary.

"This study is providing me a methodological toolbox to analyze a type of discourse my students live and breathe," explained Walton. "Memes are part of their lexicon, their contemporary language, but instead of letting these images wash over them, I'm asking them to look at them with a critical approach."





CELEBRATE THE LIBRARY

Each year, student success, ingenuity and creativity is celebrated during Bluffton University's Celebrate the Library Week. The event, which recently marked its seventh year, highlights the high level of teaching and learning that takes place on campus every day, as well as the resources which contribute to student achievement.

The event, which includes a Research Fair and Health and Wellness Expo, also recognizes the importance of Musselman Library as a place filled with resources and services which strengthen academic culture. Through the library, students have access to more than 250 databases, 350,000 e-books, and 98,000 full-text serial titles. As a member of OhioLink, a consortium of 89 Ohio college and university libraries, Bluffton students have an additional 46 million resources at their fingertips.





Kylie Brock '21 NUTRITION AND DIETETICS MAJOR
VILLA HILLS, KY.

The Power of the Bell Pepper -

"I grew up eating bell peppers. They were a huge part of my childhood, so learning more about their health benefits has been awesome. A bell pepper can help prevent diseases like cancer, Alzheimer's and cataracts. I really want people to walk away wanting to eat bell peppers, and this project helped me learn how to develop a presentation that is factual and keeps people interested."



Avery Carter '22 NUTRITION AND DIETETICS MAJOR
BRYAN, OHIO

The Power of Gluten Free Living -

"I have Celiac disease, so I've been gluten free for seven years. With this project, I developed a flour blend that can be used for everything—bread, cookies, brownies—and it's all backed by science. Learning how to explain the research behind my project was a challenge, but being able to do that now is a really good skill to have because that's what we're going to do as dietitians."

Health and Wellness Expo

On Feb. 5, nutrition and dietetics majors in the class Nutrition Education and Communication provided healthy food samples and presented on a wide range of wellness and nutrition topics, from the power of pulses to an introduction of new grains.



Benjamin Ditto '21 NUTRITION AND DIETETICS MAJOR
DELPHOS, OHIO

The Power of Fiber -

"Paying attention to fiber is something I incorporate into my everyday life, and I know it is a topic a lot of people really don't know a lot about. It's exciting to share with people about things like how to calculate your net carbs. Having multiple people say, 'Wow, I've learned something new,' makes it all worth it. This is what it's all about."

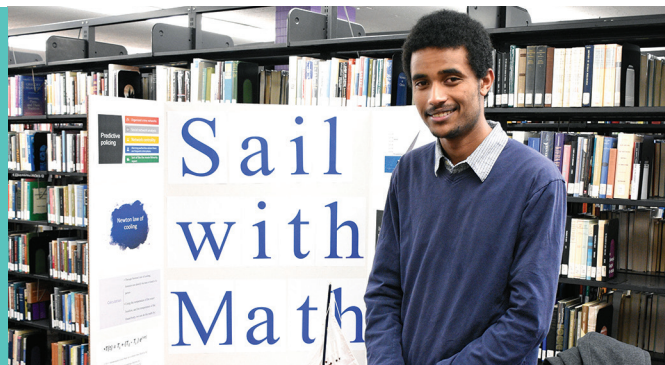


Kayla McSwords '21 NUTRITION AND DIETETICS MAJOR
MARYSVILLE, OHIO

The Power of New Grains and Quick Meals -

"I think a lot of Americans are really lacking when it comes to diversifying their whole grains. We tend to eat a lot of white rice or enriched and processed foods, and I wanted to encourage people to try new things—quinoa, barley, farrow and amaranth—while also making them a little less intimidating. Doing a project like this taught me how to cater my message to different audiences."

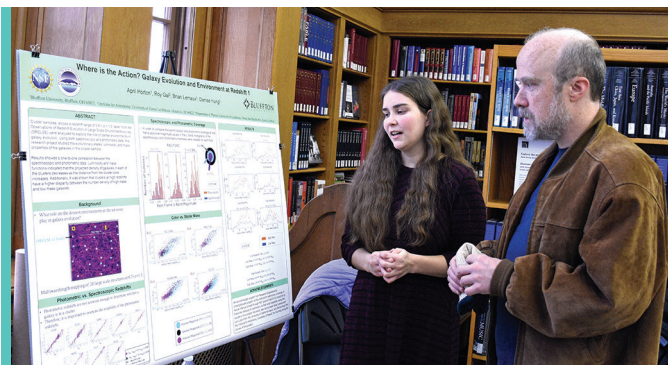




Ermias Assefa '22 MATHEMATICS MAJOR
ADDIS ABABA, ETHIOPIA

Sailing With Math -

"This project is on how we can make a sailboat move faster using the foiling method rather than the keeling method. A boat has three major components, the sail, the hull and the keel. The keel is the integral part of the boat because it helps the boat be stable. It prevents it from rolling over, but there's a new advanced level of boating—the foiling kind of system that allows it to skim on the surface of the water making it go faster."



April Horton '20 PHYSICS MAJOR
FINDLAY, OHIO

Galaxy Evolution and Environment at Redshift 1 -

"Basically, I was studying galaxies really far away from us. We looked at what kind of processes cause spiral galaxies to transform into elliptical, and we compared spectroscopic and photometric data in each of the galaxy clusters. Before going to the University of Hawaii for a Research Experience for Undergraduates, I wasn't sure what aspect of astronomy I wanted to study. With galaxy evolution, there's a lot of possibilities to explore."

Research Fair

On Feb. 6, more than 50 students shared presentations on projects and papers nominated by their professors. Presentations represented a range of interests—from research developed during the first-year Becoming a Scholar class to creative work refined during a semester-long art seminar.



Ryan Oostland '20 MATHEMATICS MAJOR
GOSHEN, IND.

Mathematical Morphology: Applying Dilation to Functions -

"Mathematical morphology is a branch of math used for image processing. I had done some work with this over the summer with Dr. (Stephen) Harnish and then after presenting on it, Dr. (Darryl) Nester, who I had for Numerical Analysis, asked what would happen if we applied some of the operations from mathematical morphology to functions. This project has given me more experience working in the programming language Python."



Caroline Schutz '21 TESOL MAJOR
BLUFFTON, OHIO

Developing Literacy: Analyzing Phonics and Whole Language -

"I looked into the debate between phonics and whole language for teaching kids to read. It's not so much a debate anymore, but it was very intense for a few years with different educators, theorists and psychologists struggling to find what was truly best for students in terms of reading and writing. Teachers now are taking a balanced approach to developing literacy—basically combining the best of both worlds."



ALONG THE RILEY



MLK Day Forum

Dr. LaShonda Gurley, director of the Center for Career and Vocation, provided practical ideas for dealing with bias and leveraging privilege in everyday life during her Jan. 21 presentation, “Walking the Talk: Transforming the Dream into Reality.”

During the presentation, Gurley related portions of King’s well-known and often quoted 1963 “I Have a Dream” speech to the areas of bias and the privilege we recognize in 2020.

“The young people of today are going to be the decision makers, the hiring managers and the teachers of tomorrow. We want to make sure they are prepared to work in a diverse society,” said Gurley.

Gurley started at Bluffton during the fall 2019 semester. She has more than a decade of practical experience in diversity, equity and inclusion in higher education settings.

VP of Fiscal Affairs



role at Bluffton on Jan. 2.

As a member of the President’s Cabinet and the university’s chief fiscal officer,

Arthur Woodruff has been appointed as Bluffton University’s vice president for fiscal affairs. Woodruff, who is originally from the Lima area, started his

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 has 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.



Alpha on campus

Bluffton University’s campus ministries team and student volunteers led Alpha, a multi-week video series and discussion group centered on the Christian faith. The international program, developed in London in 1977, creates spaces where participants come together for conversations about faith, life and God.

“Alpha is specifically designed for people who have questions about Jesus, questions about God, questions about Christianity and what it means to be a Christian,” explained Stephen “Tig” Intagliata, campus pastor. “It’s really good for seekers or people who are skeptical about faith or who don’t have much experience going to church. It’s also a good refresher course.

Anybody can get something out of it.”

During the fall 2019 semester, an average of 30 students gathered each Thursday evening for meetings. Near the end of the 11-week course, several leaders and participants came together for an overnight retreat held at Central Mennonite Church in Archbold, Ohio.



Digital Music Lab

Bluffton University’s music department hosted a reception for the opening of its Digital Music Lab on Oct. 28. The lab features Mac mini computers with various programs to create anything from written scores to electronic dance music. Grammy nominated singer, songwriter and producer, Kendall Nesbitt, provided a live demonstration and worked with students throughout the day.

“This lab is the culmination of my goal to bring music to all students on campus, not just those who have a classical background,” said Dr. Crystal Sellers Battle. “This lab gives students who are already creating beats in their room or on their phones, a way to develop their skills in a more professional way.”

Available programs include Logic Pro, Sibelius, Finale, GarageBand and Ableton Live.

Harvest Dinner

The Bluffton University Nutrition Association (BUNA) hosted the 17th annual Harvest Dinner on Nov. 16. Students raised \$5,000 through free-will donations with funds benefiting the Bluffton Food Pantry and Churches





United Pantry in Lima, Ohio. The meal included six soups and a selection of sides and desserts. Recipes were developed by students in Bluffton's Food Service Systems Management class with a variety of nutrition and dietetics students making the food. More than 500 people attended the event, which was held in Founders Hall for the first time.

"It was incredibly successful and exceeded my expectations. We were nervous about having it in a new location without a kitchen right off of the dining space, but it went better than we could have expected," said Kayla McSwords, BUNA president. "We had a great turnout and lots of help to make this event as successful as possible."

Volunteers from BUNA organized the event while members of SERVE and the baseball team served the meal.



NCAA Convention

President Jane Wood; Phill Talavinia, athletics director; Darryl Nester, faculty athletic representative; Kim Schimmoeller, senior associate director of athletics; and Abigail Newkirk '20 represented Bluffton at the annual NCAA convention in Anaheim, Calif., Jan. 22-25.



Coffee and conversation

Adam Byram '22, Therisanyo Phetlhu '23, Jack Reed '21 and Aubrey Bartel '20 enjoy Bassett Plaza, located just outside of Marbeck Center. The extended patio includes outdoor seating, fire table, retaining wall and updated landscaping. Renovations were funded by the 1969 50-year reunion class gift.

Newkirk, a speech-language pathology and audiology major, plays on the women's soccer team, is president of Bluffton's Student-Athlete Advisory Committee (SAAC) and is a member of the National Student-Athlete Advisory Committee. She was selected to represent all DIII athletes from the Heartland Collegiate Athletic Conference and its sister conference the North Coast Athletic Conference. During the SAAC sessions, mental health, sustainability and developing stronger partnerships with Special Olympics were key issues of discussion.

Alumni Advice

From the student activities that got interviewers attention to advice they wish they had followed, three young Bluffton alumni in corporate positions returned to campus with guidance for current students.

Moderated by Dr. LaShonda Gurley, the



Feb. 18 panel included Jeremy Amstutz '15, human resources recruiter at Mercy Health; Brandi (Dominique '14) Clark, terminal inventory accounting analyst at Marathon Petroleum Company; and Sarah Dhondt '16, treasury analyst at Owens-Illinois.

At the end of the session, Gurley challenged the panelists to share their final pieces of wisdom with students in 10 words or less. Clark's parting advice: "Believe in yourself, always have faith, trust God."





BLUFFTON UNIVERSITY



ATHLETICS HALL OF FAME

INDUCTION CEREMONY, FEB. 15, 2020
CLASS OF 2019-20

HALL OF FAME INDUCTEE

Jerry Burrey '65



JERRY BURREY was inducted into Bluffton's Athletics Hall of Fame for his performance in basketball and baseball. A four-year starter in basketball, Burrey earned All Mid-Ohio Conference second team honors in his junior year and first team honors his senior year. He was the MVP of

the Flint Holiday Tournament in 1964-65 and scored 1,181 points in his career at Bluffton. He remains in Bluffton's record books as 19th in scoring and 13th in field goals.

On the field, Jerry was a four-year letterman. Highlights of his baseball career include pitching a

no-hitter against Ashland College and securing an undefeated season as a starting pitcher.

Burrey was previously inducted into the Hall of Fame with the 1962 baseball team coached by A.C. Burcky. The team went 10-4 on the season and 8-2 in conference play.

A 1965 graduate, Jerry earned a degree in biology. He worked in public education for 33 years serving as a teacher, head basketball coach, head baseball coach, athletic director and guidance counselor. He also retired as the owner/operator of a car dealership in Mount Victory, Ohio, in 2016. Jerry is married to Karen Burrey and they have three children, including 2002 graduate Kim (Burrey) McMillen, and six grandchildren.





ED DILLER was inducted into the Athletics Hall of Fame for his achievements in football. A letterman on Bluffton's team for four years, Diller played a variety of positions; however, his primary role was middle linebacker. As a senior he was tri-captain of the team, defensive captain and most

valuable player. He also earned the CL Spade Award for the conference athlete with the highest grade point average and received all conference honors several years during his playing career.

In addition to his defensive efforts, Diller had six receptions for 55 yards, with an average of 9.2 yards per reception during his junior year.

Diller also carried the ball 97 times, gaining 323 total yards, with an average of 35.9 yards per game. He scored two touchdowns along with a two-point conversion, helping his team go 5-3-1 and outscore their opponents 177-114 throughout the season. As a sophomore, he scored two touchdowns and had 178 receiving yards on the season, the second highest on the team.

Ed graduated from Bluffton in 1969 with a mathematics degree. He served on the Bluffton University Board of Trustees for 20 years, including 10 as chair, and was awarded an honorary Doctorate of Humane Letters for his service. Diller, who graduated from Harvard Law School in 1976, is married to Karen (Esmonde '69) Diller. They have two children: Jason (Rachel Helmink '98) Diller '95 and Anna Diller-Stried '01 (Tim Stried '98) and five grandchildren.



SARAH (BETTS) VONSEGGERN was inducted into the Athletics Hall of Fame for her achievements in softball. One of the best pitchers in Bluffton softball history, she was previously inducted into the Hall of Fame as a member of Bluffton's 2004 softball team. vonSeggern

was named first team All-HCAC all four seasons, second team CoSIDA Academic All-America and first team CoSIDA Academic All-Region in 2004. Also in 2004, vonSeggern was named the HCAC's most valuable player, made first team NFCA/Louisville Slugger All-Region and third team NFCA/Louisville Slugger All-America.

Over four years, vonSeggern finished her career with a record-shattering 1.37 ERA, threw 80 complete

games, owned 60 wins and held opponents to a .176 batting average. vonSeggern struck out 749 batters and only allowed 414 hits in 645.1 innings. At the plate, she posted a .223 batting average, scoring 24 runs on 41 hits. Sarah also holds multiple single season records, including .74 ERA, .146 opponent batting average, 9.14 strikeouts per seven innings, 25 wins, 29 complete games, 209 innings pitched, 11 shutouts and 273 strikeouts.

vonSeggern graduated in 2006 as a chemistry and physics double major. In addition, her parents, John '74 and Joy (Ramseyer '78) Betts and sister Rachel Betts '03, as well as the late former Bluffton College President Lloyd ('24) and Ferne (Yoder '21) Ramseyer, the late Bob '50 and Alice Ruth (Pannabecker '51) Ramseyer, and the late David Betts '09 are Bluffton alumni. She is a chemistry teacher at Archbold High School in Archbold, Ohio. Along with her husband, Charles, she has two young daughters, Olivia and Zoey.



ALUMNOTES

1960-69

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 Saint Agustin's Catholic Church. They have three children and five grandchildren.

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

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!

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.

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.

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, recently 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.

OUR LEGACY

Bluffton alumni in the world

Ben '07, Megan, Simon and Cecelia **McCullough** enjoy a family bowling outing sponsored by the Bluffton Alumni Association at Southgate Lanes in Bluffton earlier this year. McCullough, Findlay, Ohio, is a Midwest exchange coordinator at Marathon Petroleum Corporation.



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.”





Saturday, July 25, 2020

10 a.m.
Bluffton Golf Club

Registration due by July 18, 2020

Register online with a credit card! www.bluffton.edu/golf

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.

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.

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.

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.



FACULTY/STAFF

Andi Baumgartner, associate professor of art, had two artworks selected for inclusion in the 2020 Ohio, Kentucky, Indiana Regional Showcase Exhibition at Manifest Gallery, Cincinnati. The exhibition is open March 6 through April 3.

Stephen "Tig" Intagliata, campus pastor, gave the morning sermon on Sunday, Feb. 9, at Lima Mennonite Church. His topic was "The Secret to Contentment" from Philippians 4:4-13.

President Jane Wood chaired the panel, "Helping Students Explore Their Vocations and Find Their Callings: The President's Role," at the Council of Independent College's (CIC) 2020 Presidents' Institute, on Sunday, Jan. 5.

Dr. Roy Couch, associate professor of music, was a guest conductor at the 32nd Annual Ohio Private College Instrumental Conductor's Association (OPCICA) Honors Band Festival held at Ashland University Jan. 18-19. Five Bluffton University students were nominated and participated in the festival. They were **Emma Cobb '20**, **Makenzie Newberry '20**, **Hannah McBride '20**, **Julian LaVallee '21** and **Josh McCauley '21**.

Louise Matthews '78, director of The Lion and Lamb Peace Arts Center, presented 72 sessions during the fall semester, including on-and off-campus presentations for elementary school students. Together, **Diane Neal**, assistant professor of education, and Matthews led monthly literature and art sessions with incarcerated youth at the Allen County Juvenile Detention Center.

Dr. Melissa Michal, assistant professor of English, and "Bridge" student editors attended the Winter

Wheat Festival at Bowling Green State University. "Bridge" hosted an informational table. Students **Dani Easterday '20** and **Colten McCabe '21** presented a panel, "Metaphor, Body, Self."

Dr. Jeff Gundy, professor of English, had a poem, "Quarry Hollow: Rules and Intimations," published in *The Christian Century* 136.26 (Dec. 18, 2019): 34.

Steve Yarnell, head volleyball coach, served on the American Volleyball Coaches Association's Great Lakes Regional awards committee.

Dr. Stephen Harnish, professor of mathematics, provided a presentation and poster of research he and four past or present students have developed, "Acoustically controlled defect dynamics: Materials science applications & quantum gravity analogies," at the 2019 Sustainable Research Pathways workshop at the Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory in Berkeley, Calif.

Dr. Karen Klassen Harder, professor of business and economics, was recognized for 25 years of service on the Praxis Mutual Funds Board of Trustees in November. Harder was a founding member of Praxis and has been an active participant in developing the process of stewardship investing in a way that combines faith and finance.

Dr. Jackie Wyse-Rhodes, assistant professor of religion, attended the annual meeting of the Society of Biblical Literature, held in San Diego in November. During the meeting, she presented a paper called "Draw This Text: A Ten-Minute Teaching Tip" for the Teaching Biblical Studies in an Undergraduate Liberal Arts Context program unit.

Carrie Phillips '99, archives and special collections librarian, attended the quarterly meeting of the Ohio Preservation Council on Nov. 21 at the Libraries Tech Center on the campus of Ohio State University campus. During the business meeting, Phillips was elected to a two-year term as chair of the organization.

Michael Barrett, assistant professor of criminal justice, attended the National Conference on Higher Education in Prison from Thursday, Nov. 14 through Sunday, Nov. 17 in St. Louis, Mo.

Dr. Crystal Sellers Battle, associate professor of music, hosted the Middle West Association of the Ohio Music Teachers Association for their monthly meeting and program and presented a lecture titled, "I'm a pianist! Do I need to know about vocal health? Absolutely!"

John Burkhardt, associate professor of accounting, attended the Mennonite Economic Development Associates' (MEDA) annual Business as a Calling convention in Tucson, Ariz., with eight students. The theme of this year's convention was "taking the leap" in life, business and international development.

IN MEMORIAM

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

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

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.



TEACHERS, EARN YOUR READING ENDORSEMENT

Coursework can be completed in as little as one summer!

Licensed teachers, who took a phonics class as an undergraduate, can earn a reading endorsement by taking online classes from Bluffton during summer 2020. Afterward, experiential learning hours can be completed in your own classroom or school. The program fulfills the Ohio Assessments for Educators requirements to take the reading endorsement examination.

As an added bonus, teachers who complete the summer reading endorsement program can continue their studies and earn a Master of Arts in Education from Bluffton with just six additional classes.

To learn more, visit www.bluffton.edu/maed



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.

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

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

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.

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.



FACULTY

360 James Grandey

You were recently 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, met Chase Jones – founder of Vs. Cancer – at the ABCA 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 16 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, because I am a coach.

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 associate athletic director for development at Bluffton.





JOIN US FOR MAY DAY

May 1-3, 2020

FRIDAY, MAY 1

- 9 a.m.-5 p.m.** **Annual Juried Student Art Exhibit**
Sauder Visual Arts Center
- 4 p.m.** **Class of '70 reception and dinner**
Marbeck Center
- 4:30 p.m.** **Class of '80 reception and dinner**
Sommer Center
- 7:30 p.m.** **May Day Musical, "Honk!"**
Yoder Recital Hall

SATURDAY, MAY 2

- 7 a.m.** **May Day 5k and Campus Walk**
Check-in and registration
Sommer Center
- 8 a.m.** **5k and Campus Walk start**
Sommer Center
- 8:45 a.m.** **Post-race cool down yoga**
Sommer Center
- 9 a.m.-5 p.m.** **Annual Juried Student Art Exhibit**
Sauder Visual Arts Center
- 9:30 a.m.** **Alumni Choir sing and student honors recital**
Yoder Recital Hall

- 9:30-11:30 a.m.** **Guided campus tours**
Leave every 30 minutes from
Marbeck Center
- 10:30-11:15 a.m.** **Music department reception**
Mosiman Hall
- 10:30-11:30 a.m.** **Milestone Class Reunion reception**
Marbeck Center
- 11:30 a.m.** **May Day Lunch**
Marbeck Center, tickets required,
pay at the door
- 1:30 p.m.** **May Day Ceremony**
Centennial Hall lawn
- 2:30 p.m.** **Student involvement reception**
Marbeck Center
- 2:30-4:30 p.m.** **Guided campus tours**
Leave every 30 minutes from
Marbeck Center
- 2:30-4:30 p.m.** **Science and mathematics reception**
Shoker Science Center
- 2:30 p.m.** **Ultimate Frisbee**
Alumni Field
- 7:30 p.m.** **May Day Musical, "Honk!"**
Yoder Recital Hall

SUNDAY, MAY 3

- 10:30 a.m.** **Baccalaureate**
Founders Hall
- 1-5 p.m.** **Annual Juried Student Art Exhibit**
Sauder Visual Arts Center
- 2 p.m.** **Commencement**
Sommer Center



For more information, visit www.bluffton.edu/mayday

Investing in Scholarship, Students and Faculty

I trust you are energized by the faculty and student research projects featured in this edition of the magazine. Yes, faculty and undergraduate research is alive and well at Bluffton and supported by a number of donor-funded endowments.

Bluffton University Summer Research Grants are funded by an endowment established by a grant from the Arthur Vining Davis Foundation. This endowment provides funds for faculty to engage in summer research projects that typically connect with their larger scholarly projects, for example sabbatical-length research and publication projects.

The Schultz, Lehman and Trollinger endowed funds were all established by families with a strong interest in supporting faculty research by providing six-hour course release grants that allow faculty to continue research across the academic year, again typically linked to a sabbatical or summer research project.

With funds from the Schultz family and the Lily Endowment, we also established a Summer Discovery Program for students that allows them to apply for competitive grants to pursue research or comparable vocational discernment projects.

And yes, we welcome interest by additional alumni and friends in establishing comparable endowed funds to support faculty and student scholarship. Please contact me or any member of the advancement staff to start a conversation.

Also, as Bluffton develops a five-year strategic plan, I anticipate it will include new initiatives for alumni and friends to invest in student and faculty research, experiential learning and career development. Stay tuned for opportunities to participate.

Please stay connected and support your alma mater as a volunteer and also with financial support for the Bluffton Blueprint, academic, athletics or co-curricular programs you love. It's easy to visit www.bluffton.edu/giving and make an online gift!

Thank you for your past, present and future support of Bluffton's students and mission,



Dr. Hans Houshower
Vice president for advancement



Stacey Joseph '20 – *Factors Leading to Professional Nurses' Choice to Leave the Bedside*



Von Thomas '20 – *The Story of the Assassination and the Assassin of James Garfield*



Ethan Zaerr '20 – *Sustainable Agriculture*





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SLICE • SHARE • CELEBRATE

From perfecting recipes with wholesome ingredients to implementing professional marketing plans, the Bluffton Bread Company is an example of the great things happening at Bluffton University.

Coming soon! Our special Lemon Blueberry Mother's Day bread features juicy, ripe blueberries elevated with a squeeze of lemon and raspberry glaze. Join our mailing list to receive updates about new flavors and online sales!

www.bluffton.edu/blufftonbread

