

BELHAVEN

TARTAN

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APARTMENT LIVING

IN THE HEART OF CAMPUS

DUDLEY & ROBBIE HUGHES
UNIVERSITY VILLAGE

PLUS

Andrew Bucci:
REDISCOVERED

CONNECTING
CULTURES
Through Language

The *FASTEST*
Campus in America



Taking hold of the plumb line

With God's help we have: quadrupled the enrollment to 4,300 students, constructed many new buildings, achieved top-level recognition for our School of the Arts, added the School of Nursing and broadened the sciences, pioneered Worldview Curriculum, created new degrees in cutting-edge areas of study, developed an array of graduate programs, established campuses in major cities across the Southeast, formed international relationships of significance, founded an online campus now enrolling over 1,000 full-time students... and even added football.



During our opening Service of Dedication this Fall, I was presented with a clock commemorating 20 years of service at Belhaven University. Two-decades sound like a long time, but I feel like we are just getting started, and I cannot wait to see what God has planned for the years ahead.

Because of this anniversary, I went back to examine what the Lord guided me to say during my inaugural address 20 years ago, to see if it still held up today.

On that occasion, I focused attention on Zechariah Chapter 4, which describes how overwhelmed the people were with the enormous task of rebuilding the temple in light of their limited resources. But the Lord sent a messenger to remind them that the “plumb line” was in the hands of Godly servants willing to get the job done.

This is what I shared with that inaugural audience 20 years ago:

We have an overwhelming task before us, because the consequences of failing are staggering – it is our responsibility to be a significant center for equipping this city, the state, the nation and the world with leaders who have ingrained into their lives the essence of Christian service.

Now, your first response to that bold statement might be that, as the new president, I have zealously overestimated the importance of one small liberal arts

college tucked away in a quiet residential neighborhood. Surely, the type of societal influence I have suggested is reserved for the big universities or at least the elite private colleges.

But in fact, I believe our job is nothing less than what I have just described. Did not Jesus teach us, as Christians, that we are to be the salt of the earth? It does not take large quantities of salt to totally change the flavor of food. In the same way, it does not take many well-prepared Christians to change the shape of any setting.

As Belhaven College sprinkles our small number of graduates each year into the city, state, nation and around the world, I believe our businesses, schools, churches, medical and law offices and a host of other corners of society will be changed for the glory of God. Our communities will be better and safer places to live, our homes will be enriched as Christian values are modeled to children, our churches will be strengthened and people will interact with each other differently because they have been touched by a Belhaven graduate.

I hope you are ready to take hold of the plumb line as we begin this new stage in the history of Belhaven College. Together, if we never waiver in being a college which stays true to the commitments the Lord has given us – God will be honored, our students

will experience the best of Christian higher education – and 100 years from now, our world will be substantially changed for Christ, because the people of Belhaven College took hold of the plumb line and would not let go.

That was 20 years ago and much has changed, including the name of Belhaven “College.”

With God's help we have: quadrupled the enrollment to 4,300 students, constructed many new buildings, achieved top-level recognition for our School of the Arts, added the School of Nursing and broadened the sciences, pioneered Worldview Curriculum, created new degrees in cutting-edge areas of study, developed an array of graduate programs, established campuses in major cities across the Southeast, formed international relationships of significance, founded an online campus now enrolling over 1,000 full-time students... and even added football.

But our Godly calling is still just as urgent. That has not changed.

Roger Parrott, Ph.D.
President of the University



WATER FEATURE IN THE PATIO OF THE DUDLEY & ROBBIE HUGHES UNIVERSITY VILLAGE

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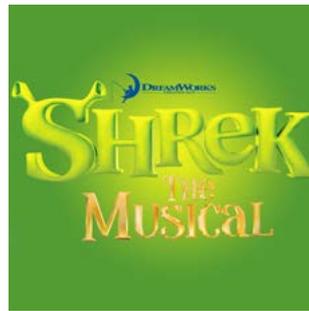
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DUDLEY & ROBBIE HUGHES



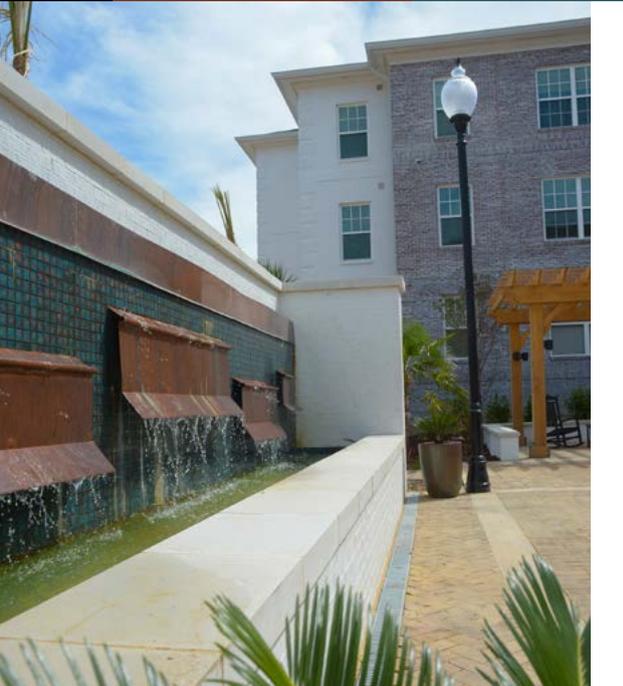
NEW ORLEANS-STYLE COURTYARD



The Dudley & Robbie Hughes University Village is unlike any other residence hall on Belhaven's campus. The \$9 million dollar, U-shaped, three story building provides top-quality apartment-style living in the heart of campus. The exterior's whitewashed brick pulls together other white stucco and brick buildings in an elegant blend of architecture.

This building is named in honor of two people with Godly vision to see over the horizon, a spirit of trusting stewardship and a passion to make a significant difference for Kingdom work. Mr. Hughes died during the construction of the building, but Robbie is actively engaged as an Executive in Residence in our School of Business. As we celebrated their generous \$4 million gift that made this marvelous new apartment complex possible, Mrs. Hughes was quick to add that she wants all the honor, and our thankfulness, to go to God.

UNIVERSITY VILLAGE



The high-end apartments house 132 students in 33 quality suites. For students, this facility provides apartment-style living for both men and women. The floors are divided by gender. Both men and women resident assistants and a full-time professional resident director manage the University Village.

The New Orleans-style courtyard is an oasis filled with lush vegetation and shade trees. The courtyard is a place to study, enjoy the weather or spend time with friends. The courtyard's beautiful fountain is aesthetically pleasing in both sight and sound. At night, the fountain is illuminated by flames, giving the courtyard a warm glow.



The spacious living room has stylish and comfortable furniture. A breakfast bar, perfect for sitting and enjoying a meal, separates the kitchen from the living room. Residents have the opportunity to cook their favorite meals using the full kitchen equipped with oven, stove top, microwave, refrigerator and dishwasher.



All utilities, including cable and ultra high-speed Internet, are covered in the semester rental price, along with campus parking and campus security. Every suite has a 48" high-definition television and DVR. The University Village is the only residence hall having a remote DVR in each bedroom. The complex also provides a fitness center, gathering lounge and study rooms reserved only for residents.

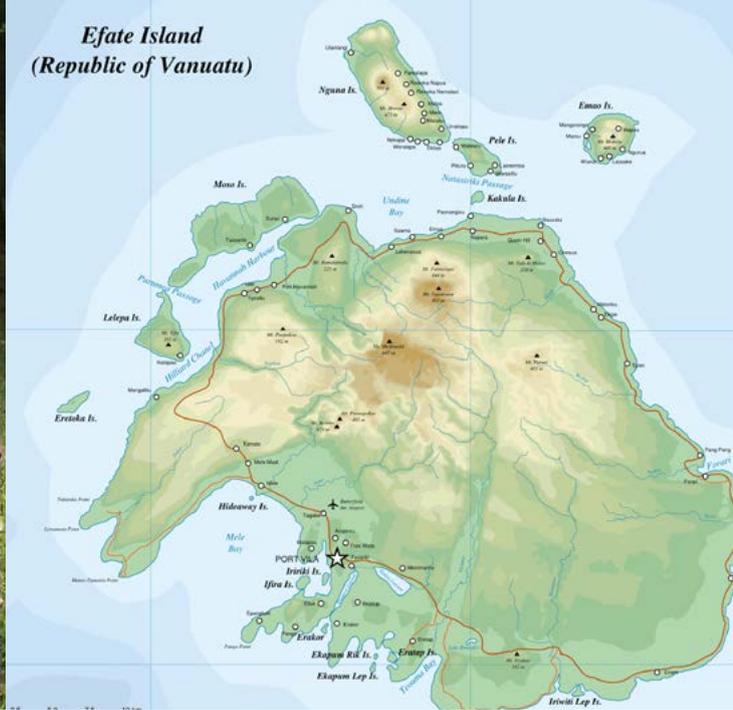


APARTMENT LIVING WITH GREAT AMENITIES





Efate Island
(Republic of Vanuatu)



CONNECTING CULTURES THROUGH LANGUAGE

Belhaven alum Gary LeMottee is a Mississippi transplant from Texas with an inherent interest in linguistics. His background and appreciation of language began with his mother. She has a master's in the subject and is fluent in Spanish, German, English, French, Italian and Portuguese. Growing up, if LeMottee mentioned being bored, his mother would give him a French dictionary and encourage him to read and study it.

These beginnings fostered what would become his aspiration of connecting the world through language.

His love of language led him to Belhaven where he earned a Bachelor of Arts in International Studies. The program gave him the opportunity to study abroad in Port Vila, Vanuatu during the summer. "It is said that there are not enough years in our lifetime to translate all the unknown languages of the world," LeMottee stated. "And those are the ones we know about. On the island of Vanuatu alone, there are an estimated 111 languages and 60 have yet to be translated."

In only three months, LeMottee researched, learned and translated the national language, Bislama, to then share stories and books with locals. He teamed up with Summer Institute of Linguistics (SIL) International for his study abroad program, because they serve worldwide communities in language development. SIL International saw LeMottee's potential at deciphering language and immediately put him to work.

Since many of the people who speak Bislama cannot read, and audio recordings are the best way for locals to enjoy books. LeMottee had the task of sifting through and translating each line of text from the classic *Pilgrim's Progress* by John Bunyan. After each chapter was formatted and reviewed, it was time to record. LeMottee gathered and



worked with local villagers who would record lines of story text in Bislama. After translations were reviewed and music was added, SIL International distributed the audiobooks. LeMottee added, “We put the audiobooks on a solar powered MP3 player and then gave them to tribes so they could listen.”

“Studying about the world and its various cultures isn’t the same as going there. Nothing could do more to open one’s understanding to both the similarities and differences of mankind than living and working in another culture, not just visiting.”

The radio has played a vital role in giving the villagers the opportunity to hear stories. The people of Vanuatu consider literature from other countries a treasure and have a radio station dedicated to broadcasting stories read in their language. Each week, they aired a new chapter of the book LeMottee translated and recorded.

While not at work, he spent his time immersing himself in the local town, visiting markets and picking up on as much of the language as he could. He learned to speak Bislama by talking to local villagers. “Some of the first words I learned were, ‘How do you say this?’ I would point at objects and ask strangers how to pronounce the words in Bislama. I would then record and write it down on my iPhone Notes app and practice it later.”

Cynthia Leavelle, Director of English Language and Culture Project, believes that study abroad programs can give students important real-life experience that can shape their future. “Studying about the world and

its various cultures isn’t the same as going there. Nothing could do more to open one’s understanding to both the similarities and differences of mankind than living and working in another culture, not just visiting.”

LeMottee is fluent in Spanish as well as English and now Bislama. According to Leavelle, the benefits of a linguistics focus can pay-off for her students, especially LeMottee. “It is not difficult to get people from other countries who are fluent in English, but Americans who are fluent in other languages are scarce and getting rarer. Being fluent in a language such as Chinese, Bislama, Korean or Russian, coupled with cultural awareness and sensitivity, could open up many possible careers.”

Sharing stories is something LeMottee is passionate about. He wants to use his skills to share stories with tribes who cannot read. “I want to go back to Vanuatu for a few years and translate more books and short stories. After that I would like to work with the United Nations, UNICEF or work in educational translations in different countries, especially third world countries.” LeMottee is now working on a Master of Arts in Applied Linguistics at Biola University. He then plans on earning a Ph.D. in Intercultural Studies at the same university. ●

"Belhaven is clearly setting the pace for institutions of higher learning across the country."



"We're charting new territory for higher education with super robust access that will help us improve high-performance



teamwork, teaching, learning, research and scholarship at our school," said President Dr. Roger Parrott. "Only a handful of other universities in the country have Internet speeds even close to what C Spire will be providing on our campus."



All 700 residential Belhaven students living in the University's six residence halls received the next generation services, which included 1 Gbps (Gigabits per second) broadband Internet access, up to 6.5 times faster than the speediest broadband connections.

According to a 2014 analysis by Testmy.net, a data speed testing service, Lamar State College held the No. 1 spot of the top 100 colleges in the U.S. with the fastest Internet access, with download speeds averaging 154.8 Mbps (Megabits per second) and upload speeds of 47.8 Mbps. In contrast, Belhaven students will have download and upload speeds of up to 1,000 Mbps. The wireless signal strength is much stronger now and every residence hall room has direct access points. In addition,

every room has a DVR to record high-definition television and each bedroom in the University Village also has a remote DVR.

The agreement, announced on April 6, 2015, by University officials and C Spire representatives, also provided wireless phones, voice-over IP phone service and dedicated high-speed fiber optic



internet access to the 400 full-time faculty and administration.

Faster Internet connections have grown in importance in recent years on college campuses across the nation. The average student now owns seven Internet-connected devices, including phones, computers, gaming consoles, streaming TV boxes, printers, tablets and e-readers and uses them over 125 hours each week, according to a 2014 nationwide online survey of 1,209 students between the ages of 18 and 34 by Crux Research and re:fuel agency, a New York-based marketing firm.

Understanding the changing tide in higher education, Belhaven realized the importance of giving students every available advantage when it comes to utilizing multiple devices. Without a high-speed Internet, these devices might as well be rendered useless. "As student demand for total access grows and technology is more deeply ingrained into their daily lives, colleges need to stay ahead of the curve with ultra-fast, high-quality Internet solutions," said Brian Caraway, Senior

Vice President of Enterprise Markets for C Spire. "Belhaven is clearly setting the pace for institutions of higher learning across the country."

According to Caraway, students have replaced cumbersome backpacks laden with heavy books and now are more likely to bring lightweight iPads, tablets or laptops to class, purchase e-textbooks, participate in Skype study groups or post their homework to online services such as Blackboard. In fact, Caraway said a 2014 study by Presta Electronics found that 73 percent of students need technology to study, and over 70 percent use a computer or tablet to take notes.

Belhaven's move comes as C Spire and the city of Jackson continue to make steady progress with qualifying homeowners in more areas of Mississippi. Thus far, five of 13 areas—or fiberhoods—in the city have reached their pre-registration targets and are moving into the engineering and construction phases of the massive fiber optic infrastructure technology initiative. Commercial service is expected to be available later this year in most areas.

"This can be a major economic development tool moving forward because we'll have the infrastructure at our university and in other parts of the city," said Parrott, who is the longest serving university president in the state. "It will help more of our graduates stay here or even start their own high-tech businesses. There's no doubt that access to high-speed bandwidth and the latest technology will create an environment where more high-paying jobs exist and talented people want to live." ●

ANDREW BUCCI REDISCOVERED

Belhaven University hosted a major art exhibition from one of Mississippi's modern masters and most celebrated visual artist, Andrew Bucci (1922–2014). Over the course of eight decades, he produced a dazzling and timeless body of work, while establishing a style that was purely his own. He left behind a treasure trove of artwork, and art lovers around the state and country are rediscovering the legacy of Andrew Bucci.

Jack Kyle, Senior Director of Arts Development at Belhaven University, became interested in organizing an event for Bucci after meeting the artist last year during the USA International Ballet Competition in Jackson. (Bucci's painting, *Figure in Green*, was selected as the signature image for the 2014 IBC commemorative poster and program.)

"I was surprised to discover that, although his works are in permanent collections of many major museums, he had never had an exhibition devoted exclusively to his work in Jackson," Kyle said. "That's when I conveyed to Mr. Bucci my interest in organizing an exhibition of his art at Belhaven University, and I also invited him to curate it. He enthusiastically accepted." Bucci had begun selecting works from his personal collection when he died on November 16, 2014 after a brief illness. Family members wanted the exhibition to proceed, and they continued preparations with Belhaven University.

Local artists, gallery owners and many people who love Bucci's art rallied together to make the exhibition a reality. On May 29, 2015, *Andrew Bucci: Rediscovered* opened to the public. This was the first exhibition of the artist's work since his death and the first show that exclusively presented his work in Jackson, Mississippi. According to Kyle, the name of the exhibit was selected because, "It is a fresh introduction to his artistic talent and serves as a catalyst to reawaken the art world to Bucci's importance as an artist."

Paintings selected for this exhibition reflected a range of styles over a prolific career—from Matisse-inspired still-lives and rare family portraits to dazzling modernist landscapes. The exhibition, located in Belhaven's Bitsy Irby Visual Arts and Dance Center, consisted of 29 oil-on-canvas paintings, one major work on paper and six needlepoints. All of the works were from Bucci's estate, and many were displayed to the public for the first time.



"A look at Bucci's work indicates that the artist was quite impressionable," observed Erika S. Olinger, Owner of Cole Pratt Gallery in New Orleans. "Influences of Picasso, Braque, Matisse and others of the School of Paris are clearly visible." Olinger has studied the works of Bucci and has a deep appreciation for his art. She adds, "The figure, color and landscape defined Bucci's artistic career. As he matured in his style, these three often converged."

Bright, vivid colors were the first thing to immediately catch the viewer's eye at the exhibit. Olinger points out, "Bucci was enthralled with color and wanted to understand what it was about through practice and repetition. He used color to expand and push out his surfaces, as well as to contract and push inwards."





His landscape paintings were another highlight of the show. Olinger believes that one of the most significant attributes of Bucci's work is the emotional impact these types of paintings have on the viewer. "Joyous, uplifting, happy, healing... these are all words that have been used to describe Bucci's landscapes."

Andrew Bucci: Rediscovered was part of an initiative at Belhaven University to advance and support the arts, called the Marie Hull Society for the Arts. The University has a notable focus on producing top artists and is one of only 34 universities in the U.S. accredited in all four of the major arts. Dr. Roger Parrott, President of the University, said, "Belhaven University is a leader

in fine arts education for students from Mississippi, the United States and abroad. I am delighted that Belhaven University is presenting this exhibition of Andrew Bucci, one of Mississippi's most outstanding artists. Without doubt, this exhibition will serve as a catalyst to ignite the interest of our students, art lovers and art scholars alike in recognizing the artistic genius of Andrew Bucci."

Bucci was influenced early in his career by Marie Atkinson Hull, who was a 1909 Belhaven (College) University graduate and one of Mississippi's foremost artists of the 20th century. Around 1940, Bucci began taking art lessons from Hull in her home on Belhaven Street in Jackson. Over the course of their lifetimes, they forged a mutually

influential relationship that was reflected in their paintings and continues to be studied by art scholars and historians to this day.

During his creative legacy, he received Mississippi's most prestigious arts awards and honors. In 2009, he received the Governor's Award for Excellence in the Arts from the Mississippi Arts Commission. In 2012, he received the Mississippi Institute of Arts and Letters Lifetime Achievement Award. His painting of a magnolia blossom appears on the 5-cent U.S. postage stamp, issued in 1967 for the 150th anniversary of Mississippi statehood. ●



OCTOBER
15-17

HOME COMING 2015



* For more information, see the website www.belhaven.edu or smartphone app OR call 601.949.3789



THURSDAY

- 4:00 p.m. Women's Soccer vs. University of the Ozarks
- 7:00 p.m. Men's Soccer vs. University of the Ozarks

FRIDAY

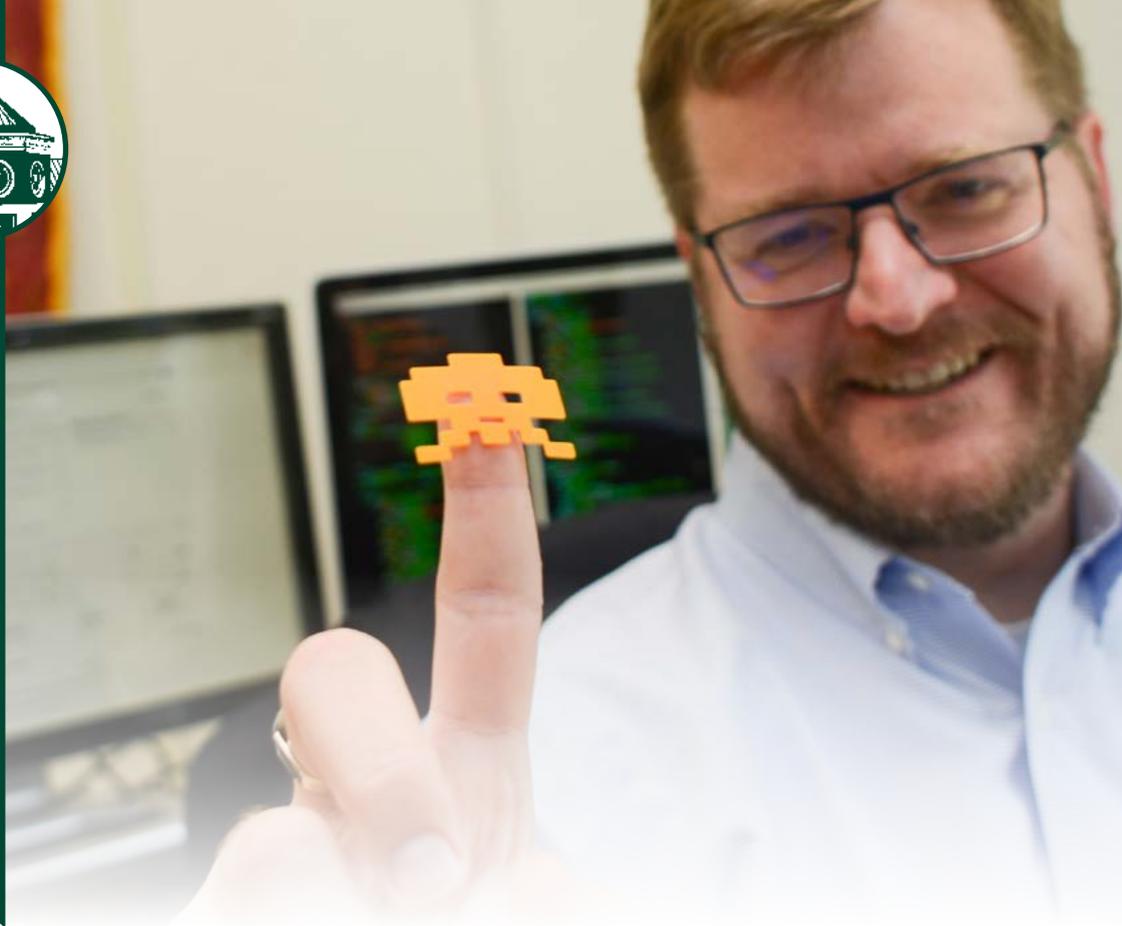
- 6:00 p.m. 2005 Class Reunion*
- 6:00 p.m. Math and Science Reunion Reception*
- 6:00 p.m. 1965 Class Reunion Reception*
- 7:00 p.m. "The World's Largest Man"
Dr. Harrison Scott Key
book reading and reception*

SATURDAY

- 8:30 a.m. Women/Men's Cross Country Meet
& vs. Mississippi College
- 9:15 a.m. (Choctaw Trails Clinton)
- 9:00 a.m. 50 Year Club Fall Meeting
- 10:00 a.m. Alumni Homecoming Brunch*
- 1:00 p.m. Football vs. Warner University
- 5:00 p.m. Women's Soccer vs. Univ. of Texas at Tyler
- 6:00 p.m. 1974-1977 Class Reunion*
- 7:00 p.m. Men's Soccer vs. Univ. of Texas at Tyler
- 7:30 p.m. "Alumni Collaborative Piano Recital"
featuring alumni Nicole Harwell



BELHAVEN LAUNCHES COMPUTER SCIENCE PROGRAM



Computer science expert and alum, Dr. David O'Gwynn leads new program

Dr. David O'Gwynn ('99) returned to his alma mater to take the role of chair and assistant professor of Belhaven University's new computer science program. "Computer science has changed dramatically from the academic programs of the past," said Dr. Roger Parrott, President of Belhaven University. "I'm thrilled that our new major will be on the front edge of what students need to get the best jobs in the computer science industry."

The core curriculum of the new program is centered around network services and incorporates concentrations in cyber security and indie gaming. Students pursuing an emphasis in cyber security are studying network defense, cyber intelligence, malware reverse engineering and incident response, as well as network intrusion and defense. "One needs only scan the headlines to understand that our networked world is a very hostile place," said Dr. O'Gwynn. "Businesses and governments alike are under constant attack in the cyber domain from criminals, extremists and others. We are preparing our students for that world, giving them the tools to protect and defend the systems they will build and maintain."

"I'm also very excited about the cross-discipline emphasis for indie gaming." Dr. O'Gwynn understands the profitability of the computer gaming industry and how its power and growth potential extends into the usual entertainment domain as well as non-entertainment domains, such as education, training and therapeutics. "While most of the

gaming industry is concentrated in a few very large game companies, the independent, or 'indie', game design community is growing and thriving. Belhaven, with its ethos of cross-disciplinary curricula, is uniquely suited for preparing students to enter into the highly entrepreneurial world of indie game design." Students pursuing a concentration in indie gaming, not only study the mechanics behind gameplay and visual design components, but they also are learning about the business and marketing side of gaming.

"When Belhaven considered reestablishing a computer science program, it was an easy decision to pursue Dr. O'Gwynn," said Dr. Dennis Watts, Associate Provost. "David brings a wealth of knowledge and experience in computer science. His addition to our science and mathematics faculty continues to advance the institution's STEM capabilities and, therein, our students' opportunities for employment in STEM disciplines."

Dr. O'Gwynn worked at Massachusetts Institute of Technology: MIT Lincoln Laboratory, where he was a technical staff member of the Cyber Systems and

Operations Group. Dr. O'Gwynn worked on projects dealing with cyber situational awareness and the support of national cyber defense. He received his Ph.D. in computer science from the University of Alabama at Birmingham in 2011, his M.S. in computational engineering from Mississippi State University in 2003 and his B.S. in mathematics from Belhaven University in 1999. His Ph.D. thesis was on a topological approach to shape analysis and alignment. From 2005-2011, he worked for the University of Alabama at Birmingham as a teaching and research assistant. In 2003, he worked for Watkins-O'Gwynn Consulting Electrical Engineers as a system administrator. He also worked for Mississippi State University as a research assistant in 2000-2003. His academic articles and research were included in IEEE High Performance Extreme Computing Conference (HPEC 2012, 2013 and 2014), 42nd AIAA Aerospace Sciences Meeting and Exhibit, ACM Southeast and Lincoln Laboratory Journal.





UNIVERSITY DESIGNATED COLLEGE OF DISTINCTION

Engaged students, great teaching, vibrant communities and successful outcomes

The University was honored for the fifth consecutive year as a College of Distinction. The 2015–2016 College of Distinction designation is given to select schools to honor their excellence in student-focused higher education.

Belhaven was recognized in all four distinctions: engaged students, great teaching, vibrant communities and successful outcomes. The goal of Colleges of Distinction is to provide students, counselors and parents with information about schools that excel in these key areas.

Tyson Schritter, Executive Editor of Colleges of Distinction, said, “We take an unbiased look at the admission process and look at the myths surrounding college admissions, provide tools for self-assessment and provide insights from college admissions professionals, high school counselors, students and parents. Schools designated as Colleges of Distinction create well-rounded graduates and are among the very best in the country.”

Colleges of Distinction was established as a web-based guide for high school juniors and seniors, who are seeking a school that is nationally recognized and highly recommended by professionals in the field of education. Colleges and universities were nominated for participation by high school counselors, and then evaluated using qualitative and quantitative research.

BELHAVEN NAMED MILITARY FRIENDLY SCHOOL

Award honored the top 15 percent of colleges, universities and trade schools in the country

Nationally recognized for its service to the U.S. military, Belhaven University was awarded the prestigious title of 2015 Military Friendly School. The award honored the top 15 percent of colleges, universities and trade schools in the country that are doing the most to embrace America’s military service members, veterans and spouses as students and are ensuring their success on campus and after graduation.

Belhaven Adult and Graduate Studies have a history of supporting military personnel in their goals for higher education. The adult studies program makes attending Belhaven more affordable for military by providing the Yellow Ribbon Program, grants and other incentives. Belhaven military benefits not only help with the financial side of education, but also extend into other areas. Books are included with tuition and a student’s transcripts are requested and paid for by Belhaven.

Belhaven Online is another reason the university made the military friendly list this year. The online program fits into the busy and mobile lifestyles of the military and provides a flexible schedule for them to earn a degree.

Now in its sixth year, the Military Friendly Schools designation provides service members transparent, data-driven ratings about post-military education and career opportunities. The school survey, methodology, criteria and weightings were developed with the assistance of an independent Academic Advisory Board, comprised of educators from schools across the country.



WHITE HOUSE RECOGNIZED BELHAVEN FOR INNOVATIVE SCIENCE EDUCATION

President Obama, the First Lady and Vice President Biden recognized Belhaven University for its commitment to increase the number of college graduates in the fields of science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM). “America needs to become the leader in science and technology again, and Belhaven has the ability to help achieve this national priority,” said Belhaven University President Dr. Roger Parrott.

Participants were asked to commit new action to one of four areas: building networks of colleges around promoting completion, creating K-16 partnerships around college readiness, investing in high school counselors as part of the First Lady’s Reach Higher initiative, and increasing the number of college graduates in the fields of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics.

Belhaven University committed to redesigning its general core science curriculum for non-science majors. The goal of the redesign was to emphasize the important role of science in our society and economy as well as inspire 10 percent of our students to pursue STEM degrees. The University’s commitment to STEM has already seen a positive increase. “With our new science facilities and aggressive young science faculty, Belhaven’s enrollment in STEM-related academic majors increased 34 percent this year, plus 45 students in our brand new School of Nursing,” adds Dr. Parrott. “This new cutting-edge curriculum for non-science majors sets us apart as a university that is serious about equipping our students to value science that is part of our everyday lives.”



ACCOUNTING MAJOR AWARDED TOP SCHOLARSHIP

Based on her high GPA and exemplary character



The Mississippi Society of Certified Public Accountants (MSCPA) awarded Meredith Keeton a prestigious scholarship, given to only one accounting student at each of

the universities and colleges in Mississippi. Keeton, a junior accounting major, was given the scholarship based on her high GPA and exemplary character. She received a total amount of \$3,000.

Dr. Geoffrey Goldsmith, Professor and Chair of Accounting, said, “Meredith met and exceeded all of the qualifications. She is an outstanding student!” According to Dr. Goldsmith, the scholarship not only helped Keeton finance her education, but it will also be a tremendous addition to her résumé when she begins her career in accounting. “It is an honor for her to win the scholarship; it will put her on the radar of CPAs with the state’s MSCPA leadership,” added Dr. Goldsmith.

NURSING EDUCATION AWARD PRESENTED TO BELHAVEN PROFESSOR



Dr. Amy Rex-Smith, Professor of Nursing and Director of RN-BSN Program at Belhaven University, received the Excellence in Nursing Education award from the Massachusetts

Chapter of the American Nurses Association (MAANA). The MAANA hosted a dinner ceremony to honor her on April 10, 2015.

“Nursing is all about life-long learning,” said Dr. Rex-Smith, “When I care for acutely ill patients at the bedside, I do much good. If I can extend my reach by educating the next group of nurses, then I have made a more significant contribution to health care.”

She joined the faculty at Belhaven University after 22 years working at the University of Massachusetts in Boston, where she focused on acute care, critical care nursing, and spirituality and health. Dr. Rex-Smith earned her B.S.N. at Seattle Pacific University, a M.S.N. in Medical-Surgical Nursing at Boston University and a Ph.D. from the University of California, Los Angeles.

DANCE DEPARTMENT NAMED TOP TEN CHOREOGRAPHY SCHOOL

Based on the type of degree offered and the quality of the choreography

Belhaven University’s Dance Department was recognized as a Top Ten Choreography School among other prestigious universities of dance, such as The University of Arizona, Temple University, California State University and University of North Carolina-Greensboro. The Seattle-based newspaper Seattle Pi determined the top schools based on the type of degree offered and the quality of the choreography taught at each institution.

“It is great to see our dance program recognized among the best in the country,” said Dr. Roger Parrott, President of Belhaven University. “We stand out even further as the only Christian university working at the highest levels in dance.”

Cynthia Newland, Associate Professor and Chair of the Dance Department, said, “The inclusion of Belhaven’s Dance Department on this top ten list comes as an honor, affirming our desire to establish a competitive dance program. Our goal as instructors is to produce technically trained, refined dancers and performers who understand their craft

and hold the power to communicate and honor God through dance.”

Belhaven dance faculty and guest artists provide students with opportunities to investigate and develop their choreographic “voice” through well-rounded curriculum in dance crafting courses. Dance mentors also offer practical applications to learning, re-staging dances or setting new choreographies as well as encouraging dialogue about the process and end production.

Every semester, the department provides a platform for emerging choreographers to present their creations and receive constructive feedback. Newland adds, “We are intentional to include assignments that include an array of choreography from around the world as well as assignments that explore various approaches and tools of dance making. We require our students to provide intelligent communication about viewing dance and to articulate their intentions and choices for their own dance compositions. We take this part of the field of dance seriously; however, we still strive to have some laughs and fun in the process.”



PHOTO BY RACHEL NEVILLE



GWEN WHITE INDUCTED INTO MISSISSIPPI SPORTS HALL OF FAME

Former Belhaven Women's Basketball coach Gwen White was inducted into the 2015 class of the Mississippi Sports Hall of Fame. The Belhaven Hall of Fame member was one of six inductees in this year's class honored in front of a record crowd.

A true pioneer of women's sports in Mississippi as an athlete and a coach, White coached at Belhaven from the first collegiate season in 1974-75 through the 1983-84 season, compiling a 174-152 record. White led the Blazers to three 20-plus win seasons and six winning records in her 10 years.

"Coach Gwen White is a pioneer for women's athletics in our state," said Belhaven Vice President for Athletics Scott Little. "She excelled as both an athlete and a coach, and has faithfully impacted the lives of countless students over her years of coaching."

White retired from coaching after 51 years in 2012. She joined an elite list in the 2015 class, including: Brett Favre, an all-time great quarterback for the University of Southern Mississippi and a 20-year veteran of the NFL playing for the Atlanta Falcons, Green Bay Packers, New-York Jets and Minnesota Vikings; Mike Dennis, star running back for Ole Miss who also spent time in the NFL with the Los Angeles Rams; Fred McAfee, a speedy running back for Mississippi College, who played for the New Orleans Saints; and Clarence Weatherspoon, a basketball star at the University of Southern Mississippi who later played for the Philadelphia 76ers.

BELHAVEN ALUM AWARDED FULBRIGHT ARTS RESEARCH GRANT

Stephanie Miracle ('04) was awarded a U.S. Fulbright Research Grant to study dance in Essen, Germany. This prestigious grant enabled her to spend a year at Folkwang University, studying the lineage and legacy of Pina Bausch. Bausch is one of Germany's most influential choreographers of the 20th century and his dance company, Tanztheater Wuppertal, is world-renowned.



Stephen Wynne, one of Miracle's dance professors while at Belhaven University, was the first to introduce her to the work of Bausch. Wynne and his wife, Britta, had both been dancers in Cologne,

Germany and created choreography in the style of Bausch's dance theatre. "I felt very strongly connected to this approach to making choreography and wanted to know more and was directed to Pina Bausch," said Miracle.

Miracle believes that her time at Belhaven prepared her for studies at Folkwang University and said, "Now that I am here, I can see how my experience at Belhaven prepared me for this Fulbright year. The rigorous technical regiment of classical ballet and classical modern mirrors that of Belhaven. I feel that I am returning to my roots and the teaching philosophies of Belhaven professors like Laurie Worill-Biggs, Amy McIntosh, Marc Arentsen, Stephen Wynne, Lou Campbell and Cynthia Newland."

Cynthia Newland, Associate Professor and Chair of the Dance Department, said, "Since graduating from Belhaven, she has pursued and utilized her God-given gifts as a dance artist in New York City and Washington D.C. The dance department celebrates Stephanie's many accomplishments and contributions to the field of dance, while upholding Kingdom values."

STUDENTS RESEARCH HUMAN TRAFFICKING IN MISSISSIPPI

Social work students collaborated with Beautiful Ones Ministries and Shared Hope International to research and raise awareness about human trafficking in Central Mississippi. "Raising awareness is the first step to prevention for any issue," said Dr. Angela Gaddis, Chair and Associate Professor of Social Work. "If there is a lack of knowing that the problem exists, then no action will take place to address it as a problem. Raising awareness can move people to action."

Social work majors Rebekah Allen, Haley Crosby and Mary Ali Stewart worked with Beautiful Ones Ministries during their internships. Dr. Gaddis guided the senior-level students during the research process. The report examined the prevalence of domestic minor sex trafficking (DMST) and the access to services for victims. It revealed that poverty and education gaps, prevalent in Mississippi, make children in the area particularly vulnerable to trafficking.

The social work students interviewed a total of 36 local professionals—from law enforcement, the judicial system, government agencies, nongovernmental service providers and the community—about DMST occurring in the target areas. The individuals interviewed have identified a total of 90 DMST victims in recent years. The students found that there are currently no treatment programs or shelters specifically for human trafficking victims in Mississippi.

The compiled data was presented to a task force created by Mississippi Governor Phil Bryant to combat human trafficking in the state. The information will be used to develop new programs targeted at prevention, identification and treatment of human trafficking victims.

NEW FACULTY



MS. DANA ARMSTRONG, Assistant Professor of Nursing, has been a registered nurse for 22 years and taught at Hinds Community College for six years. Prior to Belhaven, Dana received her B.S.N. and M.S.N. from the University of Mississippi.



DR. ELIZABETH BRANDON, Associate Professor of Biology, taught at Mississippi College for seven years prior to Belhaven and is doing research in obesity as it relates to end-stage renal disease. Liz received her B.S. from Delta State University and Ph.D. from the University of Alabama at Birmingham.



DR. LEANN CARTER, Associate Professor of Education, comes to us from Blue Mountain College and brings ten years of experience preparing students in the classroom and online settings. LeAnn received her B.A., M.Ed. and Ed.D. from the University of Mississippi.



MR. DUANE DIEHL, Night Librarian, has 18 years of experience working in specialty, public and academic library settings. Duane received his B.A. and M.A. from Trevecca Nazarene University and M.L.I.S. from the University of Tennessee.



DR. SUSAN DUETT, Assistant Professor and Director of Health Administration, taught at the University of Mississippi Medical Center (UMMC). Susan received her B.S. and Ph.D. from the University of Mississippi and a M.B.A. from Mississippi State University.



MRS. DEBI FATHERREE, Assistant Professor of Nursing, previously served at Woman's Hospital for seventeen years as Director of Clinical Education and as Perinatal Educator. Debi received a B.S.N. from Mississippi University for Women and a M.S.N. from the University of Mississippi.



DR. VIRGIL MENSAH-DARTEY, Assistant Professor of Business Administration, has experience as a Belhaven adjunct, a consultant and an online educator. Virgil received his B.S. from Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology and his M.S. and Ph.D. from Cornell University.



DR. JOEL OAKLEY, Assistant Professor of Mathematics, brings nine years of teaching experience in advanced mathematics courses. Joel received his B.S. and M.S. from Mississippi State University and his Ph.D. from the University of Georgia.



DR. DAVID O'GWYNN, Assistant Professor of Computer Science, spent eight years in academic research, instruction and mentoring and four years working in cyber security at MIT Lincoln Laboratory before coming to Belhaven. David received his B.S. from Belhaven University, his M.S. from Mississippi State University and his Ph.D. from the University of Alabama at Birmingham.



DR. AMY REX-SMITH, Professor of Nursing and Director of RN-BSN Program, brings 22 years of academic nursing experience from the University of Massachusetts, Boston. Amy received her B.S.N. from Seattle Pacific University, her M.S.N. from Boston University and her Ph.D. from the University of California, Los Angeles.



DR. BRAD SMITH, Director of Online Psychology Programs and the Care and Counsel International Institute, has been a licensed psychologist since 1997. Brad received his B.S. from Tufts University, M.Div. from Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary, and M.A. and Ph.D. from the University of Massachusetts.



MRS. DEBORAH SMITHERMAN, Assistant Professor of Nursing, has 35 years of nursing experience in various settings including hospitals, insurance companies and home health. Deborah received her B.S.N. and M.S.N. from The University of Mississippi.



DR. DAVID SOLLISH, Associate Professor of Musical Theatre, comes to Belhaven from Waldorf College where he served as Head of the Musical Theatre and Design/Technology programs. David received his B.F.A. from West Virginia University, M.S. from Illinois State University and Ph.D. from Bowling Green State University.



DR. EVERETT WADE, Assistant Professor of English (Memphis), comes to Belhaven from the University of Memphis, where he received a B.A., M.A. and Ph.D.



DR. CYNTHIA WILKINS, Assistant Professor of Teacher Education & Director of Graduate Education, has 29 years of teaching experience including service as an adjunct for Belhaven. Cynthia received her B.S. from Baylor University, M.Ed. from Mississippi College and Ph.D. from Mississippi State University.

5 YEARS OF SERVICE

Rebekah Bert
Travis Bounds
Jennifer Brown
Steve Calder
Mark Curtis
Junior Devore
Virginia Garrison
Trent Green
Tracy Harrington
Susan Haughton
Tommie Jackson
Marsha James
Keri Jensen
Niki Jobe
Jeremy Johnson
Latessa Johnson
Timothy Jordan
Jerry Kelleher
Deb Leal
Cynthia Leavelle
Karlos Lyons
Aaron McCarver
Larissa McCutchen
Ed Pickel
Carol Pierce
Michelle Polins
Kathy Ross
Marilyn Ross
Larry Ruddell
Kathleen Sloan
Ric Tice
Jonathan Tolbert
Joe Villarreal
Beth Whitney
Emily Wright
Ronald Young

10 YEARS OF SERVICE

James Bennett
Bryant Butler
Tawesia Colyer
Brian Gates
Dianne Liddell
Avery McAfee
Claudia Nisbett
Ron Pirtle
Erin Price
Andy Sauerwein
Song Xie

15 YEARS OF SERVICE

Christie Barber
Hill Denson
Joanna Dieckman
Erv Martin
Suzanne Sullivan

20 YEARS OF SERVICE

Maurice Greer
Chip Mason
Roger Parrott

25 YEARS OF SERVICE

Helen Martin
Joe Martin



CLASSNOTES

BETTY (MONETTE) WHITE ('55')

celebrated 57 years of marriage this year to husband, Dr. John White. Betty has had a wonderful singing career sharing her voice and gift in opera companies and choral societies across the country. They reside in Salem, Ore. and spend time in Palm Desert, Calif. where she is active in the two choirs of St. Margaret Episcopal Church.

RICHARD AESCHLIMAN ('61) married Betsy Christiansen on May 30, 2015, and they reside in Lawrenceville, Ga.

TOM MAYNOR ('61) was granted elder emeritus status after 42 years of service in the First Presbyterian Church, EPC Session in 2015.

RONALD SIEGENTHALER ('61) and **BERTHA (LITTLETON) SIEGENTHALER ('59)** have retired and moved from Delray Beach, Fla. to Black Mountain, N.C.

PEGGY ROBERTS LITTLE ('62) was honored September 30, 2014 at a festive luncheon in celebration of her retirement from 17 years of service in the Atlanta, Georgia office of the Administrative Committee of the Presbyterian Church in America.

LANIER ELLIS ('64) retired in 2008 as an Associate Reformed Presbyterian pastor and is now the Charlotte Host Family Program Coordinator, matching international students at the University of North Carolina Charlotte with a local American family or single for friendship while they study in Charlotte. Lanier is married to **KAREN GIBSON ('65)**. They have three grown children and seven grandchildren.

KEN ('64) and LESLIE (HALL) WILSON



Lindsay Gill to Study Medieval English at University of St. Andrews

Gill wants to breathe new life into a beautiful, but dead language. She believes Old English literature has the potential to be revived and its elements to be used in modern poetry.

Belhaven alumnae **LINDSAY GILL ('14)** is pursuing a Master of Literature in Medieval English at the University of St. Andrews in Scotland, one of Europe's oldest and most prestigious centers for teaching and research.

Gill wants to breathe new life into a beautiful but dead language. She believes Old English literature has the potential to be revived and its elements to be used in modern poetry.

The University of Leicester and University of Dundee sent Gill acceptance letters, but she selected St. Andrews because of its long history of academic quality and focus on medieval English. "St. Andrews was founded in 1413 as Scotland's first university. It has a spectacular academic record and is steeped in history. The medieval English program includes modules on Old English, an interest I've had for years. I hope to develop my career and writing in new directions from what I glean in this program."

She recently graduated from Belhaven University with a double major, earning her degrees in creative writing and history. Dr. Randall Smith, Chair and Professor of Creative Writing, recognized her potential and said, "From the start, Lindsay demonstrated the creative intuition of a writer and the keen intellect of an academic—thus, her eventual double-major in writing and history. Belhaven produces amazing

students!"

Gill compares her aspirations in writing to creating a tapestry; old medieval styles can be woven together with new elements to form a unique work of art. "To fully appreciate any novel or piece of literature, one must be prepared to study it, piece it apart and understand its world—to take a microscope to the tapestry," said Gill. Research is an integral part of the degree program at St. Andrews. She plans to study the connection between Old English and Shakespeare, particularly the Old English linguistic and thematic threads that persisted into Shakespeare's time and plays.

"There is a specific type of poetic formatting, a type of alliteration, a type of word language that Old English uses, like compound words and word rhythms. Modern poetry doesn't do that. They started using Continental forms with the influx of the Normans into England around 1066. Since then, we have only been using Continental forms and have left everything behind with the forms and the processes that those poets used that are actually more natural to the English tongue. I think it would be interesting to experiment with that and bring it to modern poetry."

She is setting her sights toward a future that involves more than just writing. After her masters work, she aspires to earn her Ph.D. and teach at the university level.



(‘65) celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary with a celebration that included their 24 grandchildren. Ken was honorably retired from 40 years on the Pastoral staff at Briarwood Presbyterian Church, Birmingham, Ala. in 2005.

REGINA MANNING (‘66) and her husband have retired after 22 years in the Navy and 22 years teaching history and science at Lakeside Junior High School in Orange Park in Fla.

JOHN ROLLO (‘68) is retiring from Mission to the World of the PCA this fall after 40 years serving in various capacities at home and abroad. This past December he retired after 42 years from Wycliffe Bible Translators. John and his wife, **CLAUDIA (‘71)**, are the proud grandparents of four wonderful grandchildren.

TONY CASORIA (‘72) has retired after 12 years as pastor at two south Florida churches and 27 years as the pastor of Center Grove Presbyterian (PCA) in Edwardsville, Ill. He and his wife, Nancy (‘72), are now living in Hendersonville, N.C.

JUDI PATETE HORTON (‘72) now owns The Oxbow Lodge at Lake Bruin (lakebruinoxowlodge.com), as well as a property in Pensacola, Fla. She hosts reunions, retreats, parties, weddings, business meetings and the like.

MARGARET C. COOK (‘74) has moved back to Jackson, Miss. to teach, preach and write after 22 years pastoring the Ryegate and South Ryegate Presbyterian (USA) Churches in rural Vermont.

STEVE AND DENISE SHUMAN (‘74) have lived in Laurel, Miss. since 1991 where Steve pastors the Covenant Presbyterian Church PCA. At its September 10, 2013 meeting, Grace Presbytery elected Steve as its Stated Clerk. For the previous six years, he served as the Recording Clerk.

RICHARD BURGNET (‘77) and **ANNE BURGNET (‘74)** celebrated 37 years of marriage this year.



GAVULIC NEWEST MEMBER OF BELHAVEN SPORTS HALL OF FAME

Belhaven University recently recognized a standout athlete and announced the newest member of the Belhaven Athletics Hall of Fame, former softball pitcher Lyndsey Gavulic. She was presented with the Hall of Fame Award on April 11, 2015, as part of the annual Green-and-Gold Week.

Gavulic represented the softball team from 2003–2006, starting all four years for Belhaven under coaches Leslie Blanton, Andrea Roberts and Rick Fremin.

Gavulic came to Belhaven as a freshman and quickly took control of the circle for the Green-and-Gold, starting every game. Her poise, power and rise ball became well-known and respected within the conference and region. As a junior, she set the Belhaven single-season record for strikeouts with 286, a record that remains today.

As a senior, she continued to dominate the circle for the Blazers, picking up 20 wins to give her 63 for her career. Gavulic also set the NAIA single-game record for strikeouts with 19, which she held until this past season. Gavulic wrapped up her career for the Blazers in 2006 as the leader in every major pitching category, including games, innings pitched, wins, strikeouts, earned run average and batting average against. She still remains in the top three in every career pitching category.

She finished her career as a four-time All-Gulf Coast Athletic Conference recipient and was a two-time all-region recipient.

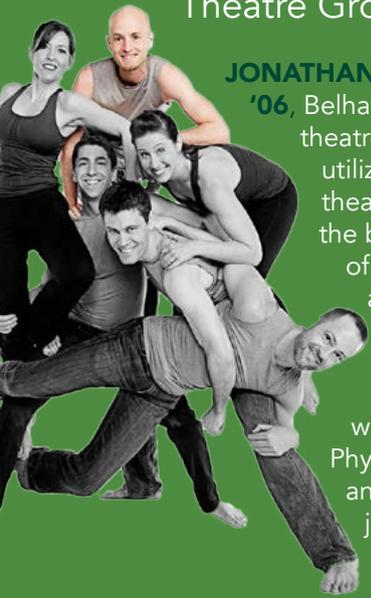
LISA BURKE STOVER (‘78) was hired as the Director of Business Intelligence at The Health Plan in St. Clairsville, Ohio.

JULIA (JULIE) MCRAE BARHAM (‘80) and **JAMES NEIL BARHAM (‘84)** have moved to Neil’s home town of Alexandria, La., where his mother still resides. Neil continues the job he had in Miami, but now does it remotely. Their two daughters plan to go to college next year.

CALVIN TERRELL (‘84) was awarded the Atmos Richard Best in 2015. The award is given for outstanding customer service.

JOEL BEZAIRE (‘98) received the Bovender Chair at University School of Nashville. This Chair is awarded every three years to a teacher who “models the best in innovative teaching practices and thorough involvement in the life of the school.” Joel and his wife, Jennifer, have also welcomed Julian Thomas to their family. Julian joins his older brother, Liam.

Lowery Excels in Physical Theatre Group



JONATHAN LOWERY

'06, Belhaven University theatre alum, is utilizing physical theatre to push the boundaries of dramatic arts. After graduating, he participated in an internship with PUSH Physical Theatre and in 2007, joined the group full-time.

Lowery said, "It's very hard to describe PUSH with words because what we do is so visual. We mash together many different performance styles and use the physicality of movement to tell stories without words. Each performance is a collaboration that requires the audience to invest part of their imagination to fill in the invisible details."

Lowery and the members of PUSH competed in Season 1 of TruTV's Fake Off, a next-generation talent show with cutting-edge acts that weave iconic pop culture into new performances. The show has a collection of professional performance troupes from around the country that compete before a live audience and are then judged by a panel of celebrities. The PUSH team made it all the way to the finals and ended up finishing in second place.

Lowery was part of the second-ever class of theatre majors. He studied dance as well as circus arts at Belhaven before he graduated. He attributes much of his success to his time at the University. "Well, it started with my years at Belhaven. I would never have gotten into physical performance if it hadn't been for the theatre department's mime troupe, The Joshua Squad, and Dr. Lou Campbell, head of the theatre department at the time."

JILL PELHAN DAY ('99) and her husband, Brad, welcomed daughter Charlotte Katherine in 2014. Kate is also welcomed by 10-year-old brother, Andrew.

DAVID O'GWYNN ('99) is returning to Belhaven to take the role of chair and assistant professor of computer science.

DAMIEN ROSETTI ('00) earned his Specialist Degree in Educational Leadership from Arkansas State University and was also named a National Certified School Counselor by the National Board of Certified Counselors. He is currently employed by the Biloxi Public School District as a career technical education counselor at Biloxi High School.

MANDY (LANIER) BAILEY ('01) has been promoted to assistant principal in the Forrest County School District (Hattiesburg, Miss.). Additionally, she will complete her Educational Specialist degree from William Carey University this fall and will enroll in the university's Doctor of Education program immediately thereafter.

SARAH LINK ('02) has been named associate executive director by the board of directors of the Mississippi Optometric Association (MOA). She previously served as MOA Membership Coordinator. She is a juried member of the Craftsmen's Guild of Mississippi in the metal-jewelry category and is a volunteer running coach for third-fifth grade girls with Girls on the Run of Central Mississippi.

CLEVELAND M. PATTERSON, III ('02) received a Juris Doctor degree from the Southern University Law Center in Baton Rouge, La. in 2012. He is currently an Assistant District Attorney for the Mobile, Ala., County District Attorney's Office.

MYRTIS RANKIN ('02) has been named vice president and business development officer at Bancorp South in Jackson, Miss.

TAPLEY (SEAFORD) WHALEY ('02) and husband, Matt Whaley, welcomed their second child, Tobin James Whaley on July 27, 2013.

BILL BROADHEAD ('03) has completed a master's degree and is working on his Ph.D. at the Univ. of Southern Mississippi. He is the new principal at Crystal Springs High School.

NATHAN RIBELIN ('03) and **K.B. (LUNDELIUS) RIBELIN ('04)** welcomed Jubilee Lux Ribelin on February 12, 2014. She is welcomed by her brother, Calvin and sister, Felicity.

EMILY HUGHES RUSS ('04) lives in Little Rock, Ark. with husband, Ryan, (former Belhaven RD) and two children, Eliza (3) and Jon (2). Emily is a stay-at-home mom and a part-time bookkeeper for their church. Ryan is a therapist at Capstone Treatment Center.



GREG HAWKINS ('05) and **KRISTY HAWKINS ('05)** welcomed Emily Grace Hawkins into the world on February 11, 2015.

DANIEL MCPHEARSON ('05) and **HANNAH JOHNSON ('10)** were married on March 1, 2014. Hannah is a physical therapist at UMMC, and Daniel is an account manager with The William Morris Group.

BRIAN BOLTON ('06) married Debra Hall on the 20th of June, in Memphis, Tenn.

SHELBY (ROBERTS) SEGREST ('07), and husband, Hudson, and children, Ella and James, welcomed their third child, Matthew Elkin Segrest on March 11, 2014. They live in Birmingham, Ala.

CAROL CORROTHERS ('10) completed her Master of Science this past spring.

MARY BRYAN ('11) and husband, Josiah Bryan, have welcomed three children into their family. Calvin was born June 8, 2011. Fred was born on June 25, 2013 and Elizabeth was born on July 11, 2015. Mary has recently taken a part-time job as a certified hula-hoop fitness instructor, barre fitness instructor, and a WATER in MOTION® instructor. This fall, she will also start work as a dance instructor at a Christian dance studio called Art and Soul.

ELLIE HONEA ('11) served for two years in Japan (music and the arts in missions/church-planting) and is currently raising support to continue serving long-term. The ministry is led by **ABI (LAVALLEE) LOWTHER ('98)** and her husband, Roger, and Alumna **RACHEL REESE ('10)** is on the team as well.

EMILY SCHRECK ('12) is teaching at Northside Christian Academy in Lexington, S.C.

DEMARCUS AKEEM SUGGS ('11) is currently dancing professionally with the Dayton Contemporary Dance Company in Dayton, Ohio.

TOBEY HOUSTON ('13) has been promoted to vice president of network development for Merit Health. She previously served as director of physician outreach/market development. In her new role, Houston leads network and ambulatory care strategies and develops relationships with

outside healthcare providers to expand access to primary and specialty care across the region.

RODDY MERRITT ('13) accepted a position in May at the Methodist Children's Home of Mississippi where he assists abused and neglected children. He is also pursuing a career as a singer/songwriter.

ETHAN SAMSEL ('13) of Clinton, Miss., received an award from Mississippi College School of Law during its annual Law Day ceremony. Samsel was the recipient of the Mississippi Bar Award Litigation Section, presented to two 2L students who have excelled academically and show promise in the area of litigation.

ANTHONY WITHERSPOON ('13) has won a special election for mayor of Magnolia, Miss. Witherspoon took office immediately and will serve the remaining three years of former mayor Melvin Harris' term.

JACOB BENTON ('14) was promoted to elementary athletic director after having taken the job of head boys and girls soccer coach at Hartfield Academy in Flowood, Miss. Jacob married **ELIZABETH (BET) JOHNSTON ('14)** and they have welcomed their first child, Sawyer Elizabeth, to their family.

MICHAEL BAILEY ('14) was promoted to director of patient throughput operations at St. Dominic Hospital.

AMBER PALMER ('14) is now pursuing a master's degree in business administration at Mississippi State University and works as the special assistant to the chief of staff at Mississippi Institutions of Higher Learning. Amber and her husband welcomed their second child on June 1, 2015.

CHLOE BROWN ('15) is currently working on a master's degree and coaching cross country in Montgomery, Ala. She will have an art show in November at the Cedars Gallery in Fondren (Jackson, Miss.).



Marie Hull Legacy Celebrated at Mississippi Museum of Art

By Dr. Roger Ward, Deputy Director and Chief Curator, Mississippi Museum of Art

MARIE ATKINSON HULL (1890-1980) is an acclaimed artist/teacher and considered one of Mississippi's most significant artists. She was

a 1909 Belhaven (College) University graduate and a longtime resident of Jackson's Belhaven neighborhood. Hull was beloved by generations of friends, students, and colleagues, and today her work is admired as much as ever. Famous for her portraits of sharecroppers, farmers and domestic help during the Great Depression, Hull was also admired for her floral still-lives. Her impressionist and abstract expressionist paintings are acknowledged today for their originality and skill in demonstrating her command of color.

September 28, 2015, is the 125th anniversary of the birth of Marie Hull and to celebrate, the Mississippi Museum of Art will host two exhibitions presenting more than 150 works, the most ever assembled. Both are on view September 26, 2015 - January 10, 2016 at the museum in Jackson.

The first exhibit entitled Bright Fields: The Mastery of Marie Hull, a Myra Hamilton Green and Lynn Green Root Memorial Exhibition, is the larger of the two. The exhibit is curated by acclaimed concert pianist and Mississippi native, Bruce Levingston, a life-long admirer and collector of Hull's work. "Marie Hull was not only a great painter, but an important

cultural figure in the South," said Levingston. "Her influence and impact on all the arts not only in Mississippi, but throughout the region, was tremendous. Hull's works themselves, whether moving portraits, daring abstracts or glorious landscapes, create a legacy not only of her masterful artistry but of the rapidly changing time and place in which she lived and created her work."

On the Road with Marie Hull, the second of the two exhibitions, is conceived and curated by Dr. Roger Ward, Deputy Director and Chief Curator of Mississippi Museum of Art. Its subject is Hull's amazing vitality, which found expression through her constant travel.

An indefatigable draftsman, she left an extraordinarily rich record of her experience in her sketchbooks. No less so is this the case for her extended sojourn in France, Spain and Morocco when she made over 600 drawings and watercolors of the picturesque hilltop towns of Brittany and the Auvergne, of La Mancha and Andalusia, and of the dazzling kasbahs and minarets of Casablanca, Fes and Marrakech.

"Both the state and this institution owe a great deal to Marie Hull," said Betsy Bradley, Director of the Mississippi Museum of Art. "She was a founding member of the Mississippi Art Association in 1911, the forerunner to the Mississippi Museum of Art, and her lasting impact on the creative landscape continues to reverberate. This fall's exhibitions are the Museum's way of paying homage to the life and work of one of the state's most enduring cultural ambassadors."



PARTING ART



(Above) Wang gifted an original oil painting to Dr. Roger Parrott and T. Calvin Wells, Chairman of the Board of Trustees. (Left) Still life oil paintings gifted to the university as well as an example of Wang's portraiture talent. This selection is from the portrait of Peng Liyuan, the President of the People's Liberation Army Academy of Art and the wife of current Chinese leader Xi Jinping. She is often referred to as the "Chinese First Lady" in the media.

Mr. Rong Wang is an internationally famous oil painter from the People's Republic of China, whose daughter Xhaoxin (Zow shen) is studying English as a second language at Belhaven University.

Mr. Wang is President of Aide Art of China, a Christian art academy that serves as an art-training conservatory for some of China's most promising oil painters. The Aide Art Academy promotes peace, love, patriotism and Christianity throughout Mainland China. Under Mr. Wang's leadership, Aide Art of China has funded and assisted hundreds of aspiring art students.

As a highly-decorated and acclaimed artist, Mr. Wang is regularly commissioned by the People's Republic of China Ministry of Foreign Affairs to capture prominent dignitaries as they visit China. Recent paintings completed by Mr. Wang include works for the President of Cameroon; the President of South Sudan; the Prime Minister to the Queen of Denmark; the President of Argentina; the President of Eritrea; the President of Macedonia; the President of Tunisia; the President of Malta; the Russian ambassador to China; the President of Tanzania; the President of Chile; and the President of Suriname. His work for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs has given him many connections throughout the country and within the Chinese government.

Mr. Wang and his artworks have been widely acclaimed by Central China Television, Central Network Television, China Education Television, China Daily News, Journal of Chinese Calligraphy and Painting, Chinese Art Magazine, China Reform, China Entrepreneur and China Art News, in addition to hundreds of regional and local publications throughout the country. Mr. Wang hopes to make numerous connections and potential contacts for future exchanges of art, culture and goodwill between China and the United States.





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TARTAN

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Doubt

BY JOHN PATRICK SHANLEY

Sept 30-Oct. 3



**GHOST
STORIES
OF MISSISSIPPI**

Oct. 29-31

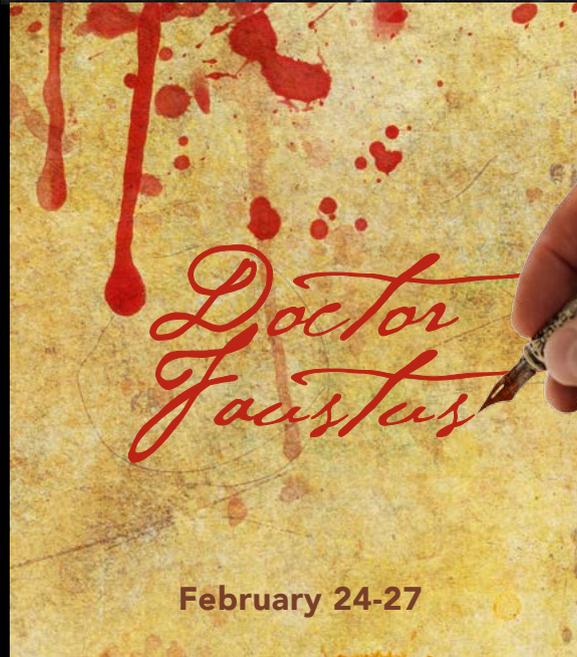


November 6-7; 11-14
Nov. 7, 14



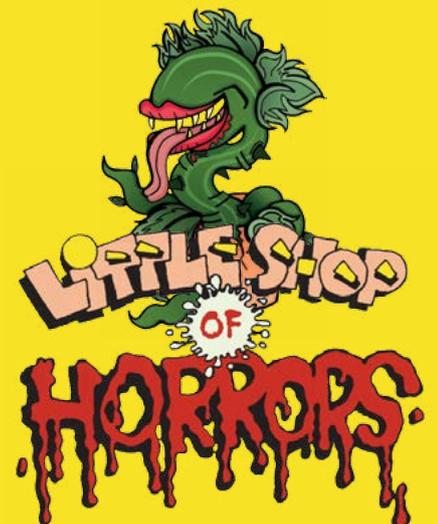
**'night,
Mother**
BY MARSHA NORMAN

February 4-6



*Doctor
Faustus*

February 24-27



April 15-16; 20-23