

SPRING ARBOR UNIVERSITY
JOURNAL

SUMMER 2022





DEAR ALUMNI AND FRIENDS,

As Spring Arbor University's 150th academic year commences, reflection upon our history, current state and future dominates my thoughts. In 1860, our nation elected Abraham Lincoln the 16th president. In that same year, B.T. Roberts, a Methodist-Episcopal minister, founded the Free Methodist Church around seven "freedoms" including the abolition of slavery, freedom of the Spirit in worship and free pew space in each church sanctuary.

Just 13 short years later, on September 2, 1873, E.P. Hart, a Free Methodist pastor working with a small group of church members, founded Spring Arbor Seminary (or grade school). Now, almost 150 years later, that small seminary graduates nearly 1,000 students every year with degrees ranging from associate to doctorate in disciplines including English, history, and art, as well as nursing, business, and engineering. As I reminisce about the past, celebrate the present, and eagerly anticipate the future, the phrase that keeps leaping out to me – summarizing this great university – is **Freedom to Educate**.

Freedom to Educate insisted in the motivation of E.P. Hart to establish Spring Arbor Seminary focused on providing access to education combining "sound and thorough scholarship with careful religious training." And in 1960, when then president Dr. David McKenna recognized the need to broaden access to students desiring baccalaureate degrees and led our institution in becoming Spring Arbor College. During the 1980s, without wavering from the founding commitment of E.P. Hart in providing this dual purposed educational philosophy of rigorous scholarship with Christ as the perspective for learning, Spring Arbor College began to offer access to prisoners incarcerated in the Southern Michigan State Prison because they believed that true rehabilitation could best occur when an individual was introduced to Christ and provided an education. **Freedom to Educate** is woven throughout our history, it's central to our mission now, and it's essential for the continued strength and prosperity of our future.

Today, Spring Arbor University continues to keep access to our unique and transformational education top of mind as we expand our disciplines, degree programs, and modes of delivery. Like E.P. Hart, we desire to provide access, not to any sort of education, but to a Spring Arbor University education, because we remain convinced that the best education is both academically rigorous as well as unapologetically Christian.



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Brent Ellis". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

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The Journal (Summer 2022) is published for the alumni and friends of Spring Arbor University. SAU is a private, Christian liberal arts university affiliated with the Free Methodist Church of North America.

For information on alumni, the Arbor Fund, major gifts, planned giving, external relations or to change contact information, please call or email Sherry Keeler in the Office of University Advancement at 517.750.6396 or sherryk@arbor.edu.

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THE CONCEPT

Spring Arbor University is a community of learners distinguished by our lifelong involvement in the study and application of the liberal arts, total commitment to Jesus Christ as the perspective for learning, and critical participation in the contemporary world.

Spring Arbor University reserves all editorial rights regarding this publication and may edit prior to publication or decline to publish any material submitted for publication, in its sole discretion.

INSIDE FEATURES



AN EVENING AT THE ARBOR

The Gainey School of Business celebrates the accomplishments of its students, faculty and alumni.



A HOPE AND A FUTURE

With Communication, Media, and Fine Arts all under one new school, faculty look forward to the growth and development of the program.



SAU: A HISTORY OF ACCESS TO A CHRIST-CENTERED EDUCATION

As we celebrate 150 years at Spring Arbor, we reflect on the history of SAU's continued determination to provide access to a Christ-centered education for all people.

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MISSION



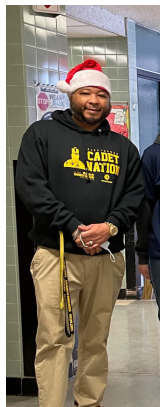
ALASKA

The Alaska mission team spent the majority of their time in Soldotna. They stayed at Solid Rock Bible Camp where half of the group spent their days serving as day camp counselors for 1st-6th graders. The other half of the group went into the city and volunteered with various organizations including the Kenai Peninsula Homeless Coalition, Love INC, the Kenai Peninsula Food Bank, and the North Star United Methodist Church Food Pantry.



FLINT

The Flint team, while they didn't travel far, made a great impact on a local community in Michigan. This team served at Eisenhower Elementary School with the Boys and Girls Club of Greater Flint, running afterschool programs for the kids. They were also able to visit Flint City Hall and met with Councilwoman Allie Herkenroder '17. Their eye-opening experience helped them learn new perspectives on Flint, the water crisis, and community education.



WASHINGTON, D.C.

Another team was sent to serve in our nation's capital, Washington, D.C. This team served with Lifestyles Church, passing out water to people experiencing poverty and homelessness, and also with an organization called Martha's Table, where they packaged boxes of food to give out to the community. This team also had an incredible opportunity to be a part of David's Tent, where they got to lead worship on the National Mall.



NTRIPS



LOUISIANA

The Louisiana mission team traveled down south and served at Word of Life Church, a local church in Donaldsonville. The team spent a lot of time painting and cleaning in the church's youth program space, as well as assisting with various projects around the church, including working on their prayer garden.



NORTHERN MICHIGAN

The Northern Michigan team traveled up to Newberry, a small town in Michigan's Upper Peninsula. This team partnered with God's Country Cooperative Parish and Newberry United Methodist Church. They stained wood, swept, mopped, sorted items, moved lumber, made pastries, cleaned furniture, and more. They also got to see some incredible sights and go dog sledding!



AN EVENING AT THE ARBOR





This past May's An Evening at the Arbor highlighted the Gainey School of Business. It celebrated the accomplishments of our students, faculty, and alumni serving as business professionals – solid Christian leaders who are experienced critical thinkers, expert problem solvers, and ethical employees.

The Gainey School of Business academic programs provide more than just a typical business degree. Students are immersed in the world of Wall Street in the TRUE Community Credit Union Trading Center and through the Student Investment Club. Marketing students provide services to local businesses and nonprofits, increasing their real-world experience. Future business leaders and entrepreneurs access resources from Lean Rocket Lab and alumni mentors. Internships are available to business students based on their field of study. Gainey School of Business graduates are lifelong learners equipped as enterprising leaders to serve the world as ambassadors of Christ.





COUGAR ZONE



LONGTIME COACH PASSED THE TORCH

After 42 years as head coach of Spring Arbor University Men's Tennis, **Terry Darling '78** passed the torch on to his son and current SAU Director of Tennis, **David Darling '13**.

Terry has been involved in Spring Arbor University Athletics for over four decades, playing on the team before serving as the Head Men's Tennis Coach since 1980.

"Playing tennis as a student at Spring Arbor College from 1975 to 1978 under Coach Charlie Carey was a rich and rewarding experience that helped me develop as a Christian man," said Terry. "When I got the incredible opportunity to become the head coach of the men's tennis team at the tender age of 23, I saw this as an amazing opportunity to help do what Coach Carey had done for me for other generations of athletes. Watching 18-year-old boys transform into Christian men during their time at Spring Arbor has been one of my great joys."

Under Terry's direction, the SAU men's tennis program has accumulated over 400 wins and numerous NCCAA/NAIA All-American players. Coach Darling led Spring Arbor to two conference championships, and three NCCAA National Tournaments.

Along with Terry's team success, he has claimed several coaching awards. These include the Wolverine-Hoosier Athletic Conference (WHAC) Coach of the Year in 1997 and 1999 and Mid-Central Conference (MCC) Coach of the Year in 2006 and 2011. He also received NAIA Region VIII Coach of the Year honors in 2007 and ITA East Region Coach of the Year in 2012.

“Through all my years of coaching, I have been blessed to have some amazing assistant coaches, including **Steve Schippers '87**, who started our women’s tennis program after being my assistant coach for several years, and **Bobby Pratt '92, '08**, who also assisted me before becoming the head coach of our women’s tennis program,” mentioned Terry. “But most notable has been my assistant coach of 27 years, Todd Dobben. I doubt that I would have been able to sustain my coaching career for this long without Todd’s able assistance for almost three decades.”

Athletic Director **Ryan Cottingham '94** pays tribute to Terry’s influence by saying, “Coach Darling is an extraordinary human being who has impacted countless lives at SAU and beyond. A devoted follower of Jesus Christ, Coach Darling has been an incredible role model for our student-athletes, coaches, and community members.”

As Terry passes along his legacy, he mentions, “I am at the point in my career where I want to make sure that I am leaving my team and my players in good hands. I am convinced that this is the right time for a coaching change. I can think of no better person to hand over this responsibility to than my son, David, who has been the Director of Tennis at SAU and has been taking on more and more administrative responsibilities every year for the men’s program.”

As David elaborates on his father’s tenure, he exclaims, “My dad has been the SAU men’s tennis coach my entire life, so it was surprising but encouraging when he approached me about this potential change. Surprising because I don’t know a world where my dad isn’t the head tennis coach. Encouraging because I know he has had a wonderful career as a coach. He has impacted many lives on and off the court, none more than my brother’s and mine. I had the privilege of playing for him for four years at SAU, but it doesn’t even remotely compare to the honor it is to be his son. He is the epitome of a Christ-loving husband, father, professor, and coach, and I am so glad I’ve had to learn and be molded by him. I’m excited for the next chapter for SAU men’s tennis and am thrilled to be

able to step into his role and use my knowledge to continue where he left off. Coaching for over 40 years is an incredible accomplishment and while he has impressive accolades as a coach, the real measure of his time at SAU are the lives he has changed.”

Terry hopes to continue his involvement in SAU tennis under a different capacity. He comments, “I hope to continue to be David’s assistant (along with Coach Dobben) for the men’s tennis program, so I will not be walking away from this important part of my life, just handing over the leadership to David.”

While Terry will continue serving in his role as Professor of Psychology, Spring Arbor University would like to thank Coach Darling for his unwavering dedication and commitment to excellence.



To send a note to Coach Darling, visit arbor.edu/terrydarling

For updates on our Cougar athletic teams, visit saucougars.com.

FROM THE SAU FACULTY

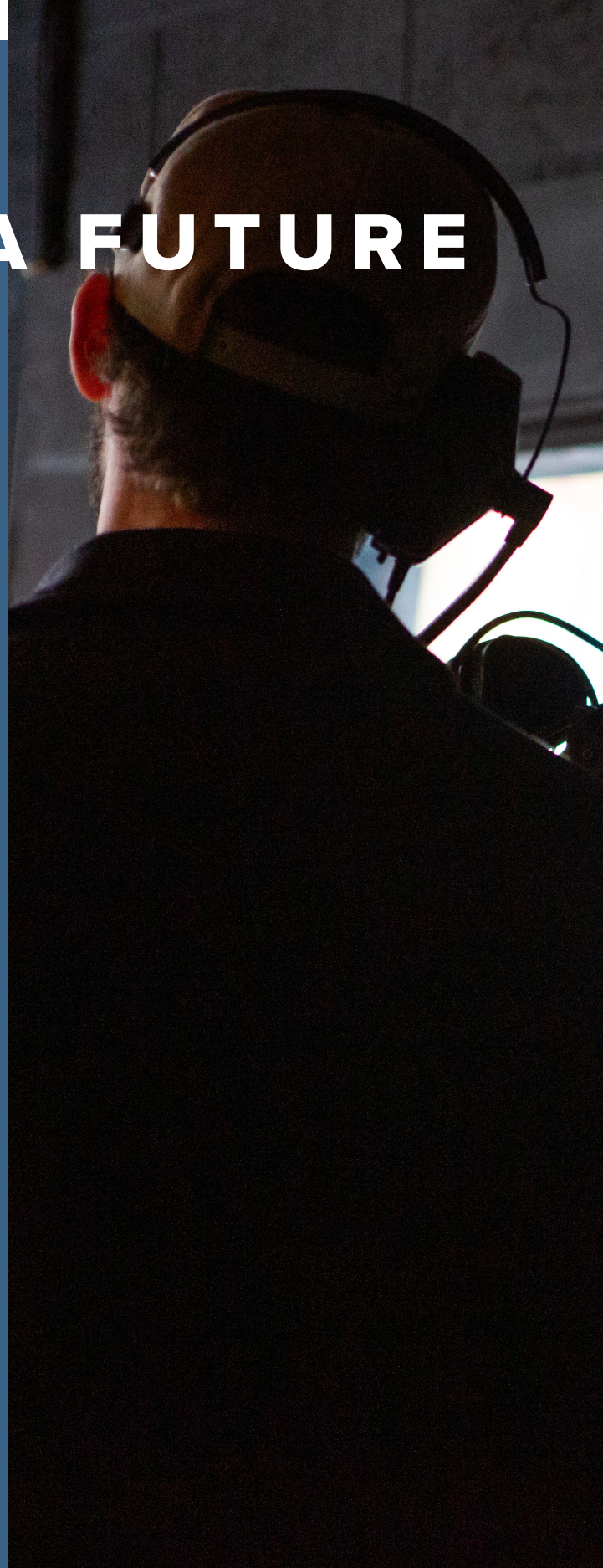
A HOPE AND A FUTURE

NEW SAU SCHOOL SHAPED BY SYNERGY AND INNOVATION

Spring Arbor University's recently developed School of Communication, Media and Fine Arts brings communication, media, art and music together with a new vision marked by curriculum changes and initiatives to impact the entire campus.

The new structure enhances opportunities for collaboration between creative students and faculty within the school, but also provides students from a variety of disciplines access to courses that had previously been unavailable to them. We hope to change the way people perceive communication and the arts.

There is tremendous interdisciplinary value in the arts. Courses in photography, graphic design, communication, and media may benefit students in business, engineering, the natural and social sciences, and the humanities. Those courses offer students opportunity to develop marketable skills and master techniques to elevate their ability to communicate effectively. Much of what we do is foundational, in some way, to every other discipline on campus. Chemists, engineers, social workers, pastors, writers, nurses, managers and accountants must all share important information with others. An understanding of persuasion and essential communication skills will help them do that more effectively. Understanding the power of graphic design, photography, video and sound results in messaging that is clearer and more compelling.





The updates within the School of Communication, Media and Fine Arts streamline the curriculum so students can choose what best fits their vocational goals. Hands-on experiential learning remains central to everything we do. All students in the program leave with a robust portfolio that often includes actual client work. Art students close out their time at SAU with a public exhibition of their work in the Ganton Art Gallery. Music students record an EP or an entire album. Video students screen short films. Professional development and networking happen when students gather for Shop Talk – a monthly program featuring alumni working in the fields of communication, media, art and music.

Through the expansion of the school, we are actively seeking partnerships with alumni to provide internships, mentor students, and start or support scholarships.

While we must fiercely protect the integrity of who we are as a Christian liberal arts university, it's also important to lean into change. The process of restructuring departments and revamping curriculum has been challenging but rewarding. It has made clearer the many ways the liberal arts strengthen our ability to solve problems and communicate effectively, providing skills that are foundational to disciplines across campus. The School of Communication, Media and Fine Arts will continue to celebrate creativity and promote all it has to offer to each and every student on campus. The future is bright.

Dorie Shelby

Dean, School of Communication, Media and Fine Arts

SAU: HISTORY OF CHRIST-CENTERED



E ACCESS TO A D EDUCATION

A once-in-a-lifetime moment happens this fall as Spring Arbor University welcomes the 150th class to campus. Established in 1873, the Spring Arbor story began with E.P. Hart and his desire to form “a school devoted to promoting earnest Christianity and sound, solid learning.” As defined by E.P. Hart, the goal of Spring Arbor is to create access to a Christian education for any student, regardless of age, ethnicity, financial status, gender, physical abilities, race, and religion — a tradition proudly carried on at SAU today.

Access for all students to a high-quality, Christ-centered liberal arts education weaves throughout the school’s 150 years of history. Generations of Spring Arbor students and alumni share stories of a welcoming campus community, meaningful historical traditions, individual life transformation, lifelong friendships, and the unique way students are equipped to love and serve others in their personal and professional lives. Each story reinforces the legacy of unique learning experiences, dedicated faculty and staff, and total commitment to Jesus Christ as the perspective for learning established at Spring Arbor from the beginning.

OUR HISTORIC ROOTS

Education outside of the home in the late 1800s was primarily reserved for men. However, understanding both the individual and societal impact education can have, Spring Arbor not only allowed women to enroll, but the first two graduates from Spring Arbor, **Alice Felt 1881** and **Lillian Tefft 1881**, were both women.

In the early 1970s, Congress passed the Education Amendments of 1972, including Title IX, granting women rights to the same opportunities as men, primarily within athletics and other areas in higher education. Spring Arbor contributed to the national conversation surrounding Title IX, primarily through **Kay Dunckel 1959**, coach and director of women’s athletics.

Access to Christian education for international and racial minority students has also always been a priority for Spring Arbor. Spring Arbor’s first international student, **Peter Magubeni 1907**, referred by





Free Methodist missionaries, came to Spring Arbor from South Africa in 1903, when opportunities for international students to study in the United States were limited.

Then, less than two decades later, Spring Arbor's first black student, **Olive Johnson 1924**, enrolled in 1920 despite the significant disadvantages and discrimination the black community faced. Olive overcame adversity and financial difficulties and became a well-respected and beloved student at Spring Arbor. After graduating, she found it difficult to find employment because of her race. Still, she persevered and secured a position as a teacher for the Inkster School District, later becoming a school social worker.

Spring Arbor's passion for the underserved continued during the "long, hot summer of 1967" when race riots broke out in the streets of Detroit. Amid the civil unrest, admissions reps and administrators from Spring Arbor drove to Detroit to personally meet high school students and invite them to come to campus.

Spring Arbor saw an additional avenue to provide access when in 1979, the Prisoner Education Program (PEP) allowed inmates at the Southern Michigan State Prison access to earn a college degree. Spring Arbor faculty taught classes

from a Christ-centered perspective and built a program that quickly became the nation's largest four-year college degree program for inmates. By 1985, nearly one in five Spring Arbor students enrolled was an inmate through the PEP. The results were overwhelming – the recidivism rates for Spring Arbor graduates were significantly lower than the national average, proving that access to college courses taught by compassionate professors who share their love of knowledge and Jesus Christ as they teach genuinely makes a difference in prisoner rehabilitation.

Inspired by the success of PEP, Spring Arbor looked for additional ways to provide access to Spring Arbor's unique Christ-centered education to even more people groups. In the early 1980s, through the vision and leadership of then President **Ken Coffman** and Vice President **Wayne Clugston**, an adult degree-completion program (currently called SAU Global) brought Christ-centered education to sites around Michigan. Enrolled adults continued working in their field while completing their degrees at sites conveniently located in their communities. Over 20,000 alumni have received degrees through the SAU Global program, with many more receiving professional certifications and endorsements.

BRANCHING INTO THE FUTURE

Through the advent and growth of online opportunities, access to a college education is available from any place. But, as we evaluate the current landscape and anticipate the future, three specific challenges exist.

The diversity of programs offered is the first hurdle to overcome. Long known as an excellent school for educators and pastors, Spring Arbor increased STEM programs over the last five years to include residential nursing, electrical and mechanical engineering, and the launch of a cybersecurity program this fall. SAU graduates are making the world a better place – we see it through nurses who care for their patients’ souls as much as they care for their bodies, scientists like **Robert Gould 1976**, who views his work in drug development as a step toward reversing the effects of the fall of humanity, and engineers who seek to apply Biblical principles such as justice and stewardship into the design of technology. Our society is in desperate need of nurses, scientists, engineers, and other STEM-related professionals who have learned through a Christian worldview – and there are hundreds of potential students eager to learn and make their mark on the world. These growing programs, created to meet the market demand, provide students the unique opportunity to be educated in these fields through the lens of Christ.

A second barrier to obtaining a college degree is the rising cost. The financial burden families experience can be overwhelming. At Spring Arbor, we continue to absorb many of these rising expenses, but the price that students see is also rising. To maintain affordability for students, we provide institutional need-based scholarships through the Arbor Fund. Each year, the Arbor Fund provides \$750,000 in financial assistance to students. These funds, generously provided by alumni, parents, foundations, corporations, and friends, are essential for students to afford a Spring Arbor education.

Looking ahead to the future, the third obstacle that students will face as they seek a Christ-centered education is the potential loss of access to state and federal funding. Spring Arbor does not directly receive any government funding as a private institution, but our students do – through the Michigan Tuition Grant, federal Pell Grants, and federal loans. This imminent threat to state and federal funding for students who attend Christ-centered institutions like Spring Arbor impacts their right to choose the type of school they attend.



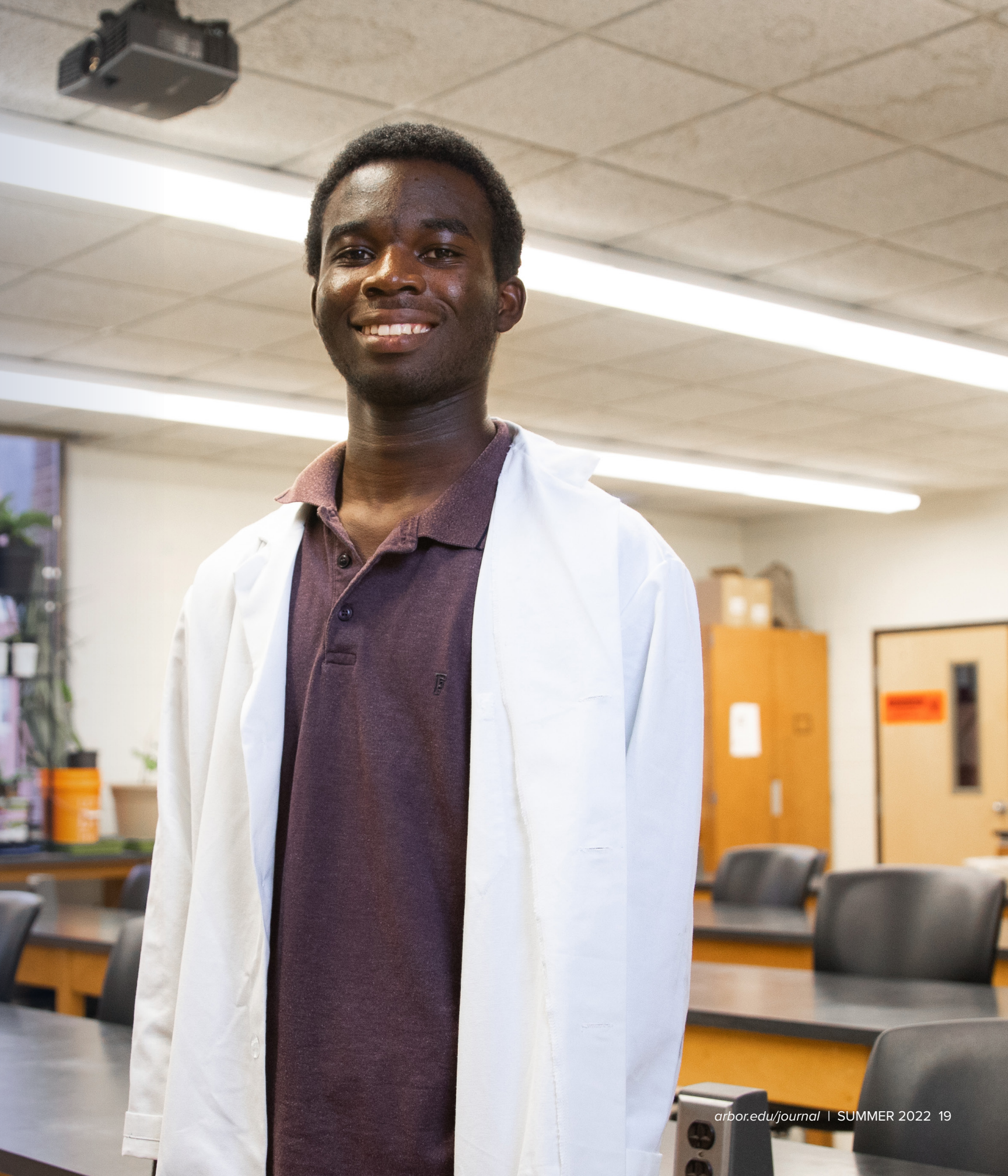
Christian higher education has weathered many tests throughout history, and more challenges are expected moving forward. Despite these challenges, Spring Arbor University remains a stronghold – deeply rooted in our founding principles and providing access to a Christ-centered education for students from all walks of life. We celebrate the pioneering spirit of the people and stories of the first 150 years of Spring Arbor and eagerly anticipate the amazing things God has in store for the future of SAU.

“AS A STUDENT AT SAU, I’M
**CONSTANTLY
ENCOURAGED**
BY MY FRIENDS AND PROFESSORS
**IN MY WALK WITH
JESUS.**”

“I feel like God is protecting me, putting me on the right path. I am learning the science skills I will need, but God is doing so much more in me. My shyness has faded away and my confidence as a Christian and as a scientist who follows Christ grows every day.”

NANA YEBOAH
CLASS OF 2023

HOMETOWN: SUNYANI, GHANA
MAJOR: BIOCHEMISTRY





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ALUMNI TODAY

1970-1979

During her 33-year career, **Kim (Carter) Baker '79** advanced to become the hearing office director in one of the largest Social Security Administration hearing offices in the country. After retiring in 2014, she began working with Family Promise, a homeless network. Kim currently lives in Valrico, FL.

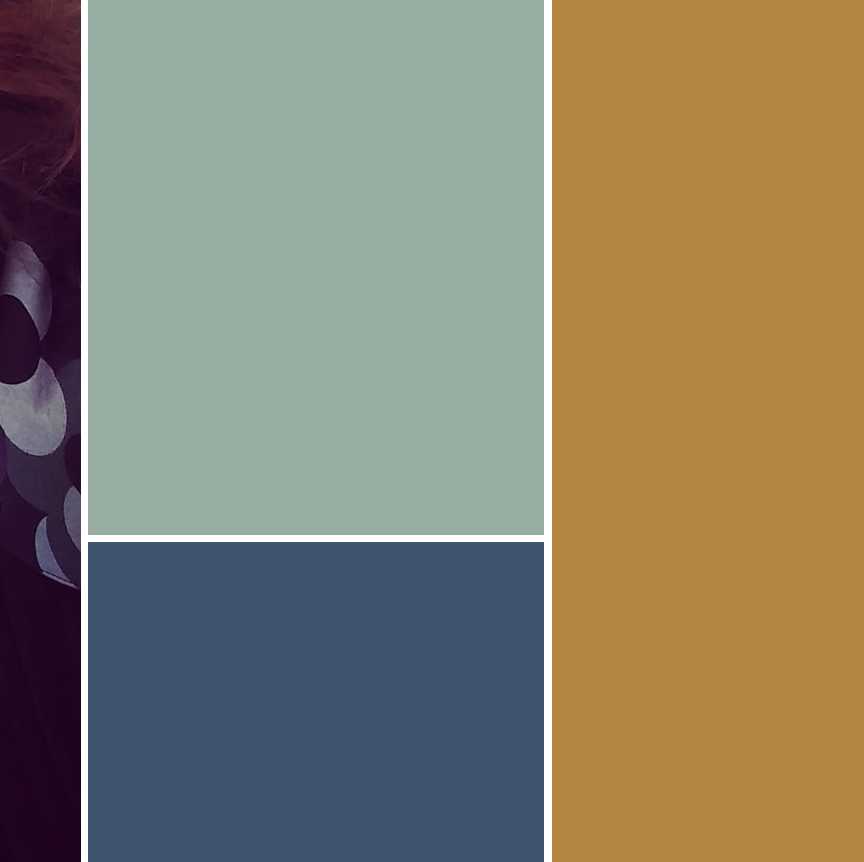
1980-1989

Mark Chase '86 is a retired school counselor in Zanesville, OH.

Rick Mann '86 serves as an IT director for the State of Hawaii in Kaneohe, HI.

Robert LaFontaine '88 is retired from the Chrysler Corporation. He currently resides in Gladwin, MI.

To be featured in future Journal issues, submit your updates at arbor.edu/update.



1990-1999

In January 2022, Real Leaders honored CEO **Rob Acton '91** (LGC 2010) and Cause Strategy Partners -- the social impact company Acton founded in 2015 -- with the 2022 Real Leaders Impact Award which "honors the top impact companies applying capitalism for greater profit and greater good."

Doug '92 and **Doris (Spence) '92 McPherson's** oldest son, **Spencer McPherson '21**, graduated from SAU in May. Their younger son, Will, began his freshman year at Spring Arbor last fall, and their daughter, Anna, will begin her freshman year at SAU this fall. Doug and Doris love watching their children enjoy their Spring Arbor experience. The McPhersons are from Saranac, MI.

Todd Patterson '95 serves as the director of family ministries for New Hope Presbyterian Church in Overland Park, KS.

Melissa Stormont '97 serves as principal for the Vandercook Lake public middle and high schools while living in Michigan Center, MI.

Richard Bush '99, '01 serves as the dean of economic and workforce development at Black Hawk College. He lives in Davenport, IA.

2000-2009

1 Stephanie (Parker) O'Dea '00 recently joined Governor Whitmer's K-12 policy team. She previously served for 19 years as a high school teacher and K-12 administrator in several Michigan school districts. She was also elected to the General Education Leadership Network (GELN) executive board, where she has been serving as the chair since June 2020. She is a proud parent of three and resides in Greenville, MI.

2 Shannon (Marcou) Slocum '03 lives in Elgin, IL and works as a memorial specialist/designer for the Peter Troost Monument Company in Chicago. The monument pictured has won an award from both the American Institute of Commemorative Art and Monument Builders of North America.

3 Since graduating, **Melvina Tillman '03**, has become a mother and has served as an oncology patient navigator since 2018 for Karmanos Cancer Institution. She lives in Dearborn Heights, MI.

Amy (Plessner) Hayes '04 works as the director of SUD and DV services at Saginaw Psychological Services, Inc. She also serves as an adjunct faculty in the M.A.C. program at Spring Arbor University. Amy resides in St. Charles, MI.

ALUMNI TODAY

Matt Hawkins '06 serves as high school assistant principal at Vicksburg Community Schools. He lives in Three Rivers, MI.

Debra Holton '06 serves as principal at Jackson Preparatory & Early College. She resides in Jackson, MI.

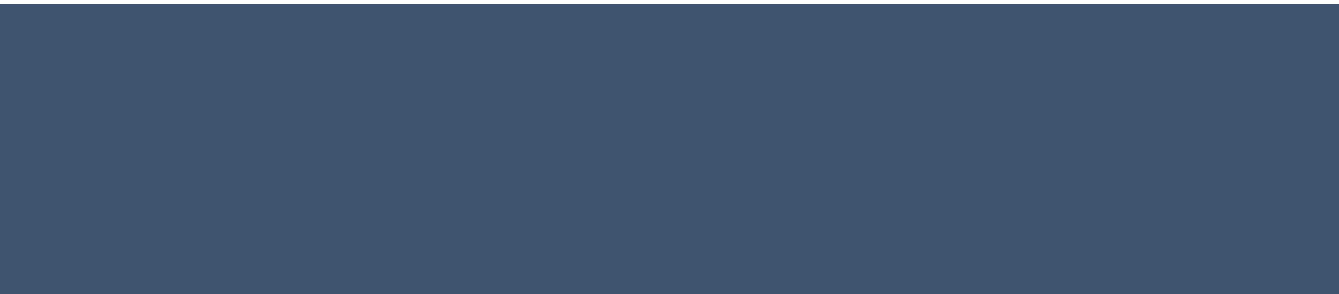
In November 2021, **Chris Bohle '08** accepted a position as an emerging talent recruiter at Meta (formerly Facebook) with a specific focus on equitable hiring practices. He lives in Ypsilanti, MI.

4 Since graduation, **Jordan Smith '09** has been teaching high school science at St. Patrick Catholic School in Portland, MI. After earning his master's degree in science education from Western Governors University in 2019, he began teaching part-time at Spring Arbor University and was recently promoted to affiliate professor.

2010-2019

Hudson Pitts '12 has been named associate vice president at New York-based PR firm Rubenstein, working in real estate communications. Hudson lives in Astoria, NY.

5 Roommates throughout college, **Rachel (DeSimpelare) Francis '12** and **Jenna (Youngs) Marchewka '12, '15**, both welcomed baby girls in 2021. They hope their daughters will continue their tradition as SAU roommates. Rachel and husband Ryan Francis welcomed daughter Elsie on May 28, 2021; they reside in Grand Blanc, MI. Jenna and her husband, **Jordan Marchewka '17**, reside in Jackson, MI with their daughter Josie, born on August 4, 2021, and son Jay (age 3).



LET YOUR *light* SHINE

BETH HABECKER

B.A. in Chemistry '87

Beth Habecker, Ph.D., a member of the SAU Board of Trustees and the Academic Affairs Committee of the Board, received one of the top honors from the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS). The AAAS Council named her an AAAS Fellow on Jan. 26, 2022. Honored alongside 564 other scientists, engineers, and inventors, the association elects people in these fields whose “efforts on behalf of the advancement of science or its applications are scientifically or socially distinguished.”

Beth was recognized by the council in the pharmaceutical sciences “for distinguished contributions elucidating the roles of the sympathetic nervous system in cardiovascular disease.” Her research program focuses on sympathetic dysfunction, with a specific focus on myocardial infarction and the changes that occur in sympathetic nerves within the heart after myocardial infarction.

Beth also currently serves as a professor of chemical physiology and biochemistry at Oregon Health & Science University. After graduating from SAU, she received her Ph.D. in Pharmacology at the University of Washington in Seattle and completed her postdoctoral training in Neuroscience at Case Western Reserve University and the National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke.



6 Nancy (Martin) Dabney '13 works in operations leadership as a senior program management professional at United Way of South Hampton Roads. Committed to promoting and modeling cultures of acceptance, inclusion, transparency and openness, Nancy enjoys public speaking and cultivating relationships with her local community. She resides in Chesapeake, VA.

7 Brandy (Werner) Dixon '13 recently transitioned to being a stay-at-home mom after teaching at Holy Ghost Lutheran School for eight years. In December, she and her husband welcomed their second child, Brynleigh Ruth Lynne Dixon, who joins brother Ryan Daniel (age 2). The Dixon family lives in Milan, MI.



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8 Annamarie Osment '13, after five years as the operations coordinator for the County of Monroe, won the 2020 election to Monroe County Clerk/ Register of Deeds. She resides in Monroe, MI.

Robin (Bullock) Thompson '13 is a family skills case worker at Spectrum Human Services. She resides in Otisville, MI.

9 Chad '14 and Hannah (Ingersoll) '13 Philson live in Spring Arbor, MI with their two kids, Molli (age 5) and Maci (age 2). This year, Hannah completed her first season as head competitive cheer coach at SAU. The team broke school records for highest placement (2nd) and score (76.17) this season and took home the NCA National Championship this past April.

10 Becca (Mason) Treharne '15 works as the zealous coordinator for Bridges for Peace. Becca serves to disciple and help young adults understand God's heart for Israel and the Jewish people. She and her husband welcomed daughter, Hallie Wyn, in December 2021. They live and work in Jerusalem.

11 Salina De La Rosa '16 has her dream job as an English and health teacher at DaVinci High School. This spring, she completed her second SAU degree, a master's in trauma and resiliency. She resides in Jackson, MI.



LET YOUR *light* SHINE

KAYLA WILLIAMSON

B.S. in Advertising and Public Relations '18

This past fall, SAU alumna Kayla Williamson had the experience of a lifetime as she worked behind the scenes at the 2021 Tony Awards, covering celebrities on the red carpet and capturing the various performances and live reactions of Tony Award winners on social media. Because the COVID-19 pandemic stunted any in-person opportunities for live theatre throughout 2020, Kayla had been anticipating the Tony Awards in 2021 for a long time and she couldn't fathom the magnitude and meaning of this celebratory return to live theatre.

"As soon as they started the overture, I started weeping. To see all these actors and dancers who were out of work for nearly two years finally being able to do what they love — to gather in the same space and have this shared experience — it was just so magical."

Kayla found her love for musical theatre at Spring Arbor University through the SAU Hearts Drama program. Along with her involvement in the student newspaper, The Pulse, she combined her talents in writing and graphic design with her passion for theatre to pursue a career in digital marketing for theatrical productions. She is currently the manager of digital content & strategy at the American Theatre Wing, a New York-based nonprofit organization that provides financial and educational support to all creatives within theatre and is also the founder of the Tony Awards.



Thomas Jones '16 serves as an associate attorney at Lewis Kappes, P.C. in Indianapolis, IN.

12 Sara (Sullins) Martin '16 married Tyler Martin in May 2019 and they welcomed their first child, Leo, in September 2021. Tyler works as a system administrator in Monroe, MI, and Sara is a full-time stay-at-home mom to Leo. They live in Sylvania, OH.

Trevor Sims '16 is a material technology engineer at Samsung in Austin, TX. In his role, he supports the manufacturing of chips that are used in many electronics - including cars and phones.



13 Katie (Odom) Sommers '16 works as a family support specialist at North Country CMH. She and her husband have two children, Joslyn (age 6) and Brynlee (age 2). They live in Central Lake, MI.

Austin Hundley '17 is an executive consultant at Medcerts. He resides in Westland, MI.

Alysa Hoge '18 works as a regional human resources manager at La-Z-Boy in Toledo, OH.

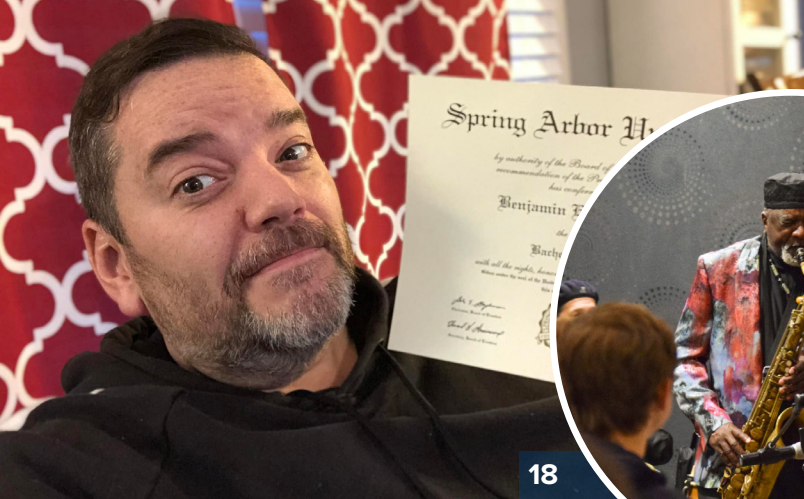
14 Mitchell '18 and Ally (Jackson) '18, '19 Jurek married in September 2020. Mitch is self-employed, working in new construction and remodeling projects. Ally is employed by the State of Michigan, Jackson County. The Jureks reside in Jackson, MI.

2020-2021

15 Olivia (Louthan) '20 and Ryan '21 Bloom married in June 2021. Olivia works as a resident director at Concordia University Wisconsin while taking classes to complete her degree in professional counseling.

16 Rachel (VanWormer) Ingalsbe '16, '20 recently graduated with her MSW from Spring Arbor University. She and her husband adopted their son, Gideon, in December 2021. Rachel works as behavioral health therapist at Alcona Health Center. They reside in Cheboygan, MI.

Andrew Jones '20 is a youth pastor at Spring Arbor Church of the Nazarene. He lives in Jackson, MI.



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LET YOUR *light* SHINE

WENDELL HARRISON

B.A. in Organizational Management '16, M.B.A. '18

Jazz saxophonist and clarinetist Wendell Harrison has long been known for taking music into his own hands. Wendell attended Northwestern High School in Detroit and later attended the Detroit Conservatory of Music, now known as the College for Creative Studies. Harrison has performed with Motown stars such as Marvin Gaye and Aretha Franklin, as well as premier jazz artists in New York such as guitarist Grant Green, vocalist Eddie Jefferson and the great Sun Ra.

Co-founder of the legendary Tribe record label and collective in the 1970s, Harrison went on to establish Rebirth Inc., a nonprofit jazz performance and education organization, in the 80s. Numerous well-known jazz artists such as pianist Geri Allen, saxophonists James Carter and Eddie Harris, vocalist Leon Thomas and trumpeter Woody Shaw have performed with Wendell and participated in Rebirth's programs. He also created WenHa, a record label and publishing company which released many of his recordings, as well as that of his wife, pianist Pamela Wise.

Wendell continues to thrive as a musician, educator and entrepreneur creating new and innovative projects such as composing new music for various ensembles, touring on the techno music scene with Carl Craig, and recording with young musicians. Detroit continues to produce the finest musical talent in the world, which proves true with the great jazz master Wendell Harrison.



16

17 Anthony Yeo '06, '20 teaches 4th grade at Northeast Elementary School in Jackson Public School District. He is grateful to work in the district he attended as a student. He resides in Jackson, MI.

Meredith Harkema '21 is working as a clinical support specialist at MED1 Leonard. She has been accepted to and will be attending Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine beginning fall 2022. She lives in Rockford, MI.

18 After a 24-year journey, **Ben Barnes '22** has finally completed his undergrad degree at SAU. Thanks to a very patient wife and two patient and helpful (but mostly distracting) daughters, he finished his bachelor's degree in psychology & Christian ministries in the spring of 2022.



PRESIDENTIAL TRIP

France

2023



Save The Date

Travel with Presidential Couple, Brent and Christy Ellis, to France in June 2023

Your adventure awaits! Join this unique travel experience led by President Ellis and SAU faculty member Dr. Elisée Ouoba. See France like never before during your privately guided 10-day tour of this beautiful country of history, art, and baguettes!

Questions? Contact the Alumni Relations Office at alumni@arbor.edu or **517.750.6673**



Welcome to the SAU Cougar family!

Introducing Lil Coug Emersyn Fulton born June 2021 to Ian and Megan (Jones) Fulton '19.

Do you have a new Lil Coug at home? Contact alumni@arbor.edu for a 6 month onesie so we can include your baby announcement in our next Journal issue!

NEW TO THE ALUMNI BOARD



Kelly Crum '92

Chief Diversity Officer &
Director of Diversity, Equity &
Belonging, Jackson College
Jackson, MI



Tracey Lowder '92, '99, '05

Principal, Pioneer High School
Ann Arbor, MI



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IN MEMORIAM



IRENE PRICE-GREINER '60 (1942-2022)

SAU Alumni Director (2003-2016)

In 2002, Irene received the Professional Excellence Award from the alumni association at Spring Arbor University for her work at Jacobson Stores, Inc. After 39 years with Jacobson's, Irene was asked to join the Advancement team at SAU as director of alumni relations in January 2003. She retired from SAU in 2016. Irene also served on the advisory council of the Salvation Army. Irene's greatest joy was spending time with family. She was blessed by and adored her friends who were like family.



HARVEY GAINEY (1942-2021)

SAU Board of Trustees Member (2003-2015)

Through the financial generosity of Harvey and his wife, Annie, SAU built the residence dorm Gainey Hall in honor of their contribution in 2006 and named the Gainey School of Business after him in 2007.

Harvey and Annie founded Two Moose Camp in Glen, MT, a non-profit Christian camp dedicated to leadership training. Two Moose Camp has generously hosted SAU students for the past 15 years, including students in the honors program and student leaders. Since 2009, athletic teams at SAU have sent players over the summer to receive leadership training.

Harvey was known as a successful businessman, philanthropist, and entrepreneur. He founded and operated the Gainey Corporation in Grand Rapids, MI, and served on the Board of Trustees at Liberty University.



ALVIN GLICK (1926-2022)

Faith F. Small Community Faithfulness Award Recipient 2018

The founder, CEO, and chairman of Alro Steel, Al Glick died at the age of 95. Al was the recipient of the Faith F. Small Community Faithfulness Award at Spring Arbor's An Evening at the Arbor in 2018, recognizing his leadership in promoting private action for the public good and being an inspiration to the local community.

Bernard Bedell HS '49 • 3/2/2022

Rod Pearl HS '53, JC '56, '66 • 2/20/2022

Marti Okley HS '53 • 11/28/2021

John Falcone HS '57, JC '61 • 12/19/2021

Doris Shearer JC '43 • 1/4/2022

Bill Acton JC '57 • 3/29/2022

Mary (Voller) Cain JC '59 • 12/22/2021

Sharon (Auch) Filegar '66 • 12/12/2021

Muriel (Monk) Ort '70 • 1/6/2022

Mike Berwager '75 • 12/12/2021

Dennis Rubley '76 • 2/22/2022

Daniel Biteman '80 • 2/28/2022

Edward O'Connor '84 • 3/16/2022

Rebecca Baum '90 • 3/6/2022

Linda (Fowler) Chavous '92 • 1/5/2022

Benjamin Rohrer '94 • 1/27/2022

Steven Mudge '96 • 1/8/2022

Kristi (Auer) Auer-Slater '00 • 1/27/2022

Deb (Foote) Gilchrist '02 • 1/13/2022

Jacqueline (Elford) Pothoof '02, '20 • 1/27/2022

Kim Molnar '04, '07 • 12/23/2021

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