

SPRING ARBOR UNIVERSITY

# JOURNAL

150  
*Years*

SPECIAL COMMEMORATIVE EDITION



# Celebrating 150 Years of

Spring  
UN

UGH & DNA  
WHITE LIBRARY

In fall 2022, we kicked off our Sesquicentennial Celebration with a Party on the Plaza featuring music group Sanctus Real.





## DEAR ALUMNI AND FRIENDS,

After accepting Christ during my freshman year of college, a verse from the book of James consistently challenges and encourages my walk with Christ. The trajectory of my life, prior to that momentous September day in 1988, spelled disaster and destruction. While my parents were committed Christians, I failed to grasp the truth of Christ and instead embraced, with reckless abandon, the lies of this world. When I recognized the truth of the Gospel and surrendered my will to the will of God the Father, my life radically changed. As James concludes his letter, he writes, “Whoever turns a sinner from the error of his way saves them from certain death and covers over a multitude of sins.” (James 5:20). This verse captured exactly what transpired in my life – I was saved from certain death and as my life turned to Christ, the sinful life I had fervently pursued was transformed.

As we celebrate our 150th year at Spring Arbor University, I cannot help but reflect on the multiple lives transformed through our great institution. As my life demonstrates and James clearly communicates, a single life saved has a multiplicative effect on our world. Consider the impact of Spring Arbor University and our 75,000 alumni who experienced Christ and were sent into the world as His ambassadors of redemption and reconciliation. As you reflect upon your peers and those whom you have known through your association with Spring Arbor University, I believe you will be unable to fully quantify the multiplicative positive effect of those individuals on this world and the Kingdom of God. How can you even attempt to measure the impact of our Board of Trustees Chairman and alumnus, Greg Bontrager '83, through his work serving as the President and COO of the American Cancer Society? Or consider the lives influenced and impacted by another Board of Trustee member and alumna, Babbie Mason '78, whose songs and ministry have reached millions. They are only two of 75,000 alumni who have traveled the world as missionaries, raised faithful children and grandchildren, taught and influenced impressionable minds in classrooms, served congregations and denominations, founded companies and non-profits, discovered ways to treat incurable diseases, nursed the sick, provided mental health care for the hurting, volunteered, written books, led colleges and universities, influenced global and national law, and have acted as caring and faithful neighbors, among many, many more applications of serving as a critical participant in the contemporary world.

The multiplicative faithful work of Spring Arbor University over our 150-year history is beyond measurement and understanding. Thank you for the role you have played in our amazing history!



*Brent Ellis*

Dr. Brent Ellis  
President



**COPY EDITOR**

Chris Iott

**DESIGN**

Fielding E. Fowler

**WRITERS**

Mark Adema '21

Jon Gerten '06

Lauren Hendricks '23

Autumn Tingue '24

**PHOTOGRAPHY**

B. Christine Photography  
SAU Archives

Learn more about SAU's history in the new book *Spring Arbor University*, available now on Amazon: [arbor.edu/SAU150book](http://arbor.edu/SAU150book)

**MARKETING & COMMUNICATIONS**

Marla Sanford '07

Vice President for Marketing/CMO

**UNIVERSITY ADVANCEMENT**

Dr. Doug Wilcoxson

Executive Vice President

Matt Gin

Assistant Vice President

Tricia Cramer

Director of Advancement Marketing & Public Relations

Brian Knapp '10

Director of Alumni Relations

The Journal (2023) 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](mailto:sherryk@arbor.edu).

Office of Alumni Relations

[alumni@arbor.edu](mailto:alumni@arbor.edu)

517.750.6673

University Admissions

517.750.6684

[arbor.edu](http://arbor.edu)

**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

## 1873



6

1910

8

In the 1910s, 1920s, and 1930s, God moved in amazing ways, prompting us to expand the dining hall, offer more programs, and add extracurricular activities such as athletics

1940

10

The 1940s saw many American men serving overseas in World War II, changing campus life as the student population shifted to a female majority.

## 1950



12

1960

16

As we journeyed into the 1960s, our strategic efforts to become four-year college became a reality.

1970

20

The 1970s were a special time for us as we celebrated 100 years of providing Christ-centered education.

## 1980



24

1990

28

In the 1990s, we prepared for expansion with a goal to provide access to new groups of people who were seeking a Christ-centered education.

2000

32

A new millennium brought with it significant change to Spring Arbor as we transitioned to university status.

## 2010



36

2020

40

In fall 2022, we kicked off our 150th academic year with a party on the Plaza.

42

150 Alumni Updates for 150 Years.

47

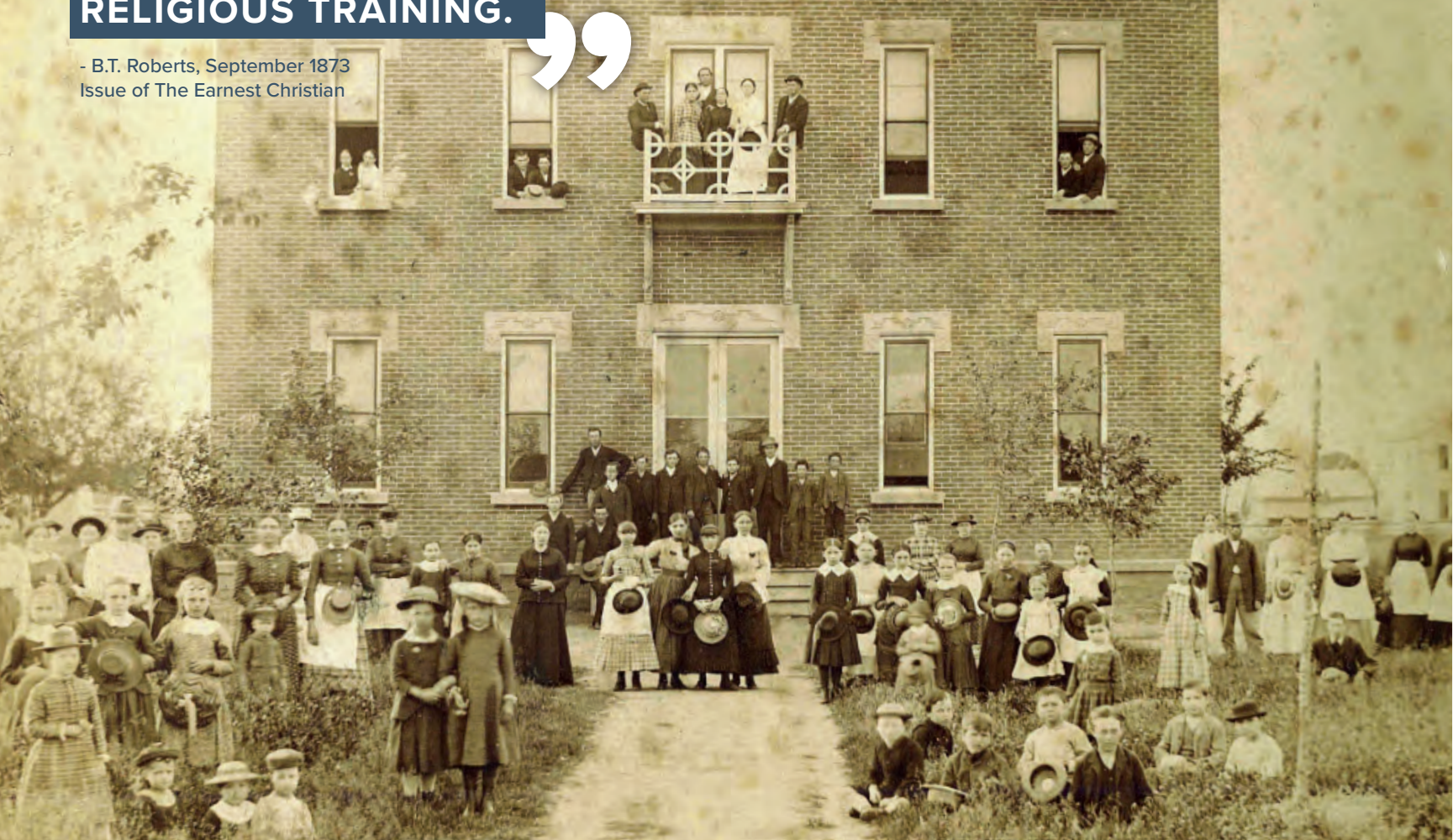
In Memoriam - now online!



# 1873-1900s

THE VISION FOR SPRING ARBOR WAS  
“TO COMBINE SOUND AND THOROUGH  
SCHOLARSHIP WITH CAREFUL  
RELIGIOUS TRAINING.”

- B.T. Roberts, September 1873  
Issue of The Earnest Christian



1870

1880

1890

1900

1910

1920

1930

1940

1873: Dedication of Spring Arbor Seminary

1881: First graduates, Alice Felt & Lillian Teat

1880: Invention of the lightbulb

1860: Birth of Free Methodist movement

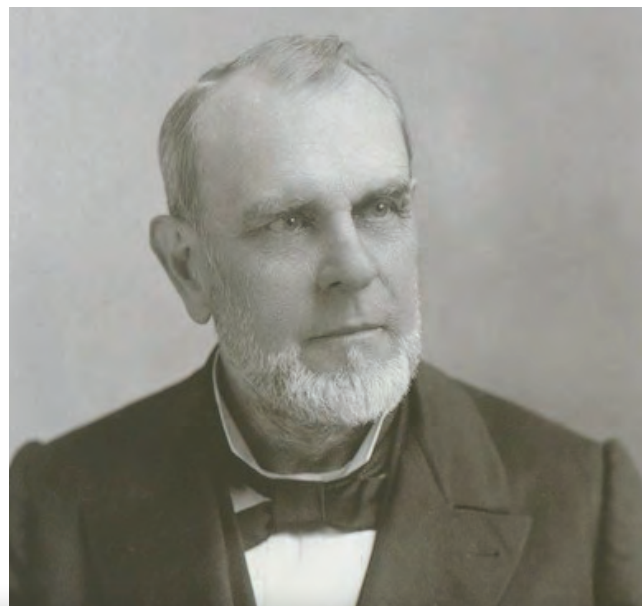


Established as Spring Arbor Seminary (primary and intermediate school), our story began with an idea that “religion, morality, and knowledge are essential to good government and the real happiness of mankind.”

Our school was developed on 10 acres of land in Spring Arbor Township and dedicated on Sept. 2, 1873 by Free Methodist Church founder Benjamin Titus “B.T.” Roberts. From the very beginning, founder Edward Payson “E.P.” Hart developed our mission “to combine sound and thorough scholarship with careful religious training” based on the hopes of B.T. Roberts for all Free Methodist schools. This commitment still guides us today.

Our first school year began with four teachers and 60 students. Most students stayed on campus in the boarding house, and several students traveled from as far away as Illinois to attend Spring Arbor Seminary.

As students grew academically, the high school program was revised to meet standards for college enrollment and provide our graduates admittance to leading colleges without entrance exams. Our first two decades were a time of growth with average enrollment of 80-100 students – a great beginning for a school committed to educating from a Christ-centered perspective.



Edward Payson “E.P.” Hart, founder of Spring Arbor Seminary and Free Methodist minister, was born on June 6, 1835 in Middlesex, Vermont.



**Pictured Left:** Students posing outside the boys’ dormitory and chapel, date unknown.

**Pictured Above:** Students circa 1880.



David S. Warner  
Principal  
**1893-1905**

1950      1960      1970      1980      1990      2000      2010      2020



# 1910-1930s

THEN SPEED THE GLAD SONG AND THE  
CHORUS PROLONG, 'TILL THE ECHOES REACH  
HEAVEN ABOVE; HER BANNER UNFURLED  
SHALL BLESS THE WHOLE WORLD,  
SPRING ARBOR, THE SCHOOL WE LOVE!

- Spring Arbor School Song

**OUR SCHOOL.**  
Words by C.F. Demaree Music by Minnie L. Bloomer

1. Michigan woods of forests and lakes her beauties our hearts entice; But  
2. Long may her banner float on the breeze, Her banner of blue and gold! Tho'  
3. First north and south they came at periods her name is spread far and wide; from  
4. Tho' an easy wanderer from her halls, Still memories will linger near. Of  
5. Hail, Alma Mater! we adore thy name; thy many more years to thee, 'Till  
6. There is a spot will never be forgot, For dearer than lake or pine-  
one is the hue of loyalty trees. In the other her glorious behest  
dawn and crown with the sun in the west! Of knowledge that will abide  
days full of joy, without an alloy, And friends we have loved while here  
shed forth thy light with rays clear and bright; 'Till filling thy mission divine

Then speed the glad song and the chorus long, 'Till the echoes reach heaven above,  
Banner unfurled shall bless the whole world, Spring Arbor, the school we love!



We proudly welcomed our first Black student, Olive Johnson '24, in 1920. After graduating, she went on to become a school teacher and social work activist in the Jackson and Detroit areas. Continuing the family legacy, her niece, Marilyn (Johnson) Hayes '66, was a part of the second class of four-year graduates.

1870

1880

1890

1900

1910

1920

1930

1940

1873: Dedication of Spring Arbor Seminary

1881: First graduates, Alice Felt & Lillian Tett

1919: Women gain the right to vote

1929: Great Depression begins

1930: Chapel and dorm fire

1923: School song written



The chapel and boys' dormitory building was destroyed on Dec. 6, 1930 in a fire, which led to a drastic decrease in enrollment the following fall. Even during the Great Depression, with the help of community members and alumni, Spring Arbor was able to raise enough funds to rebuild and remain open for our students.

During these three decades, God moved in amazing ways, prompting us to expand the dining hall, offer more programs, and add extracurricular activities including athletics, which were becoming popular nationwide. With enrollment on the rise, our Board of Trustees approved the addition of a junior college program for students who desired to earn a college degree. We were excited to see the 1928-29 academic school year welcome its first incoming class of college freshmen. We officially changed our name to Spring Arbor Seminary and Junior College in June 1929.

As with many stories, there were growing pains, and in an unfortunate turn of events, our chapel and boys' dormitory building was destroyed on Dec. 6, 1930 in a fire. Led by the Board of Trustees, more than \$125,000 was raised to build a new administration and classroom building, as well as four fireproof dormitories to house additional students. With the Great Depression in full effect, this was a daunting challenge. We saw the Lord's hand throughout this critical time as congregations within the Free Methodist Church graciously donated money, and gifts were made by our alumni, staff, faculty, and community. One alumnus in particular, Board of Trustee member Hugh White '23, personally paid off some of our debts and protected us from foreclosure. With influential and passionate leaders like this, we emerged stronger than ever.



Dr. Merlin G. Smith  
President  
**1926-1934**



Dr. Clarence L. Nystrom  
President  
**1934-1935**



Dr. LeRoy M. Lowell  
President  
**1935-1944**

1950

1960

1970

1980

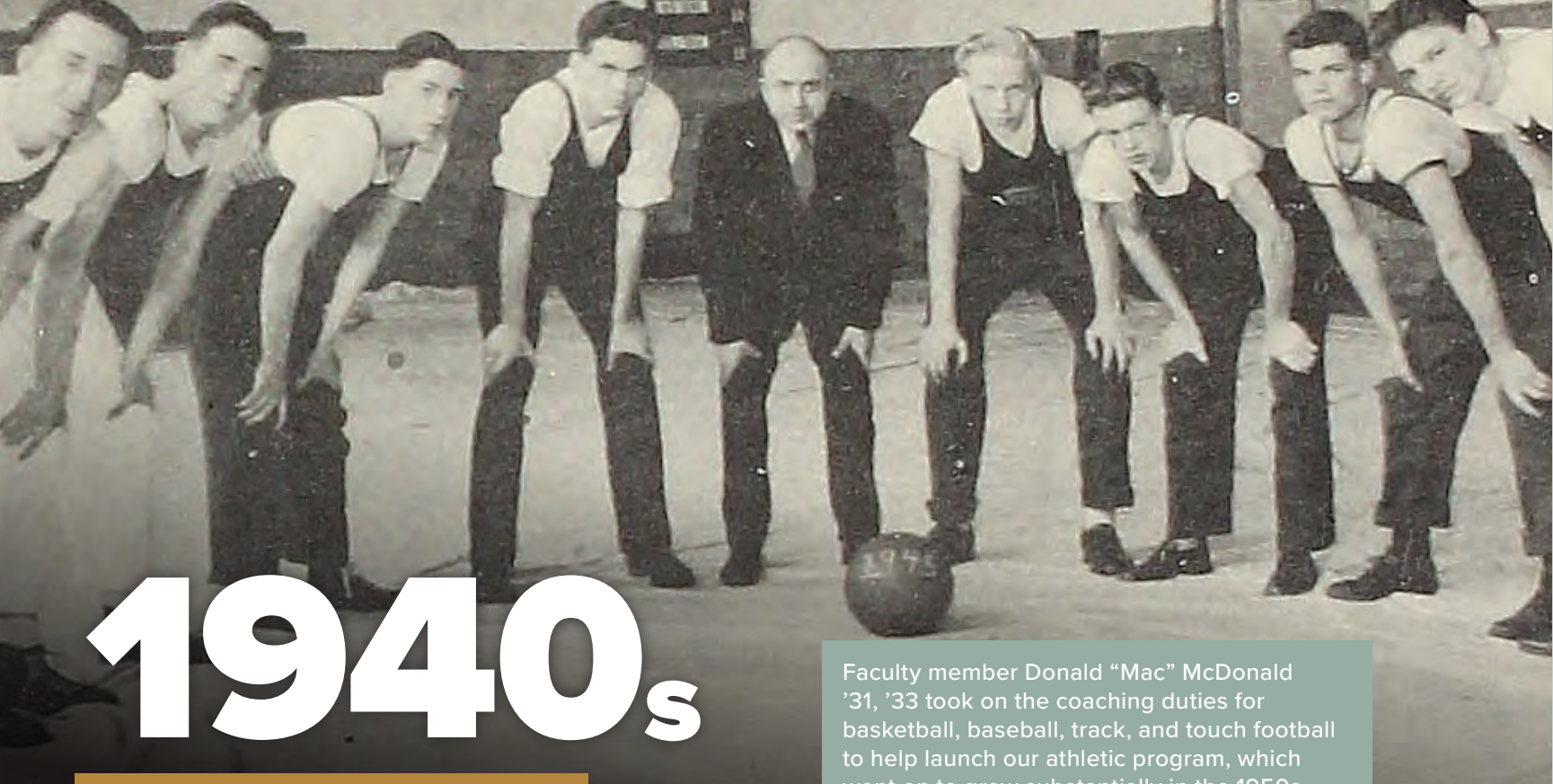
1990

2000

2010

2020





# 1940s

THE LORD CONTINUED

TO PROVIDE FOR

SPRING ARBOR IN THE

AFTERMATH OF THE

GREAT DEPRESSION.



In the 1940s, the Lord continued to provide for Spring Arbor in the aftermath of the Great Depression with funds from our alumni-sponsored Spring Arbor League and community members. Because of the generosity of our community, we were able to construct the DeCan Hall classroom and library building as well as Mu tt Hall for women.

Faculty member Donald “Mac” McDonald ’31, ’33 took on the coaching duties for basketball, baseball, track, and touch football to help launch our athletic program, which went on to grow substantially in the 1950s.

We then continued our efforts in expanding the campus by adding the Maycroft Administration Hall in 1946 and Ormston Hall for men in 1947. That was the same year we decided to drop “Seminary” from our name and officially became Spring Arbor Junior College.

The 1940s saw many American men serving overseas in World War II, changing campus life as the student population shifted to a female majority. As men returned from war, men’s interscholastic athletics gained popularity after being introduced in the 1943-44 academic year. Faculty member Donald “Mac” McDonald ’31, ’33 took on coaching duties for basketball, baseball, track, and touch football to get the athletic program up and running. Even through all these changes, one thing remained the same: the school’s goal to provide a Christ-centered education for all.

1870 1880 1890 1900 1910 1920 1930 1940

- 1873: Dedication of Spring Arbor Seminary
- 1881: First graduates, Alice Felt & Lillian Teř
- 1923: School song written
- 1930: Chapel and dorm fire
- 1941: Attack on Pearl Harbor



# Spring Arbor Campus • Then & Now



College street used to run through campus. Now the road is a sidewalk connected to the plaza and is considered one of the most iconic locations on campus.

Ormston Hall still stands, but has now been converted to offices.

Originally a gym, Smith Music Center is now the musical heart of campus.



Dr. James F. Gregory  
President  
**1944-1950**

1950

1960

1970

1980

1990

2000

2010

2020

1947: Dropped "Seminary" from our name





# 1950s

**MORE CAMPUS FACILITIES WERE ADDED TO ACCOMMODATE THE INCREASING NUMBER OF STUDENTS ATTENDING SPRING ARBOR EACH YEAR.**

We continued to grow throughout the 1950s as we received accreditation for our junior college program by the Michigan Commission of College Accreditation under Charlie Moon's leadership. Even still, David McKenna, Dean of Academic Affairs at the time, believed in the mission of Spring Arbor and requested our Board of Trustees to strongly consider that we achieve North Central Accreditation, which would propel us toward becoming a four-year college. With the continued growth of the school, our school's leaders ensured that a strengthened administrative structure and more campus facilities were added to accommodate the increasing number of students attending Spring Arbor each year.



Student section in 1957. Spring Arbor's mascot was originally the Blue Jays, but was changed to the Cougars in 1967.

1870

1880

1890

1900

1910


1920

1930

1940

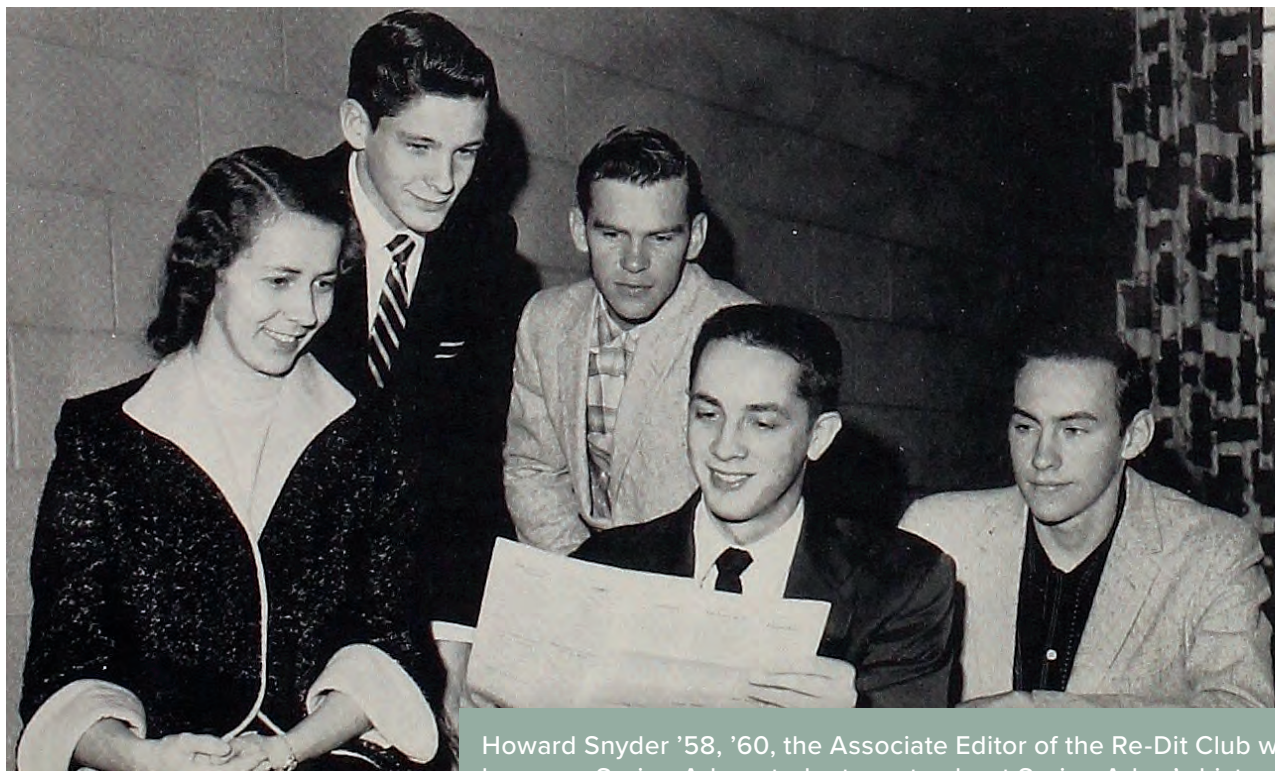
 1873: Dedication of Spring Arbor Seminary

 1881: First graduates, Alice Felt & Lillian Teft

 1930: Chapel and dorm fire

 1923: School song written





Howard Snyder '58, '60, the Associate Editor of the Re-Dit Club when he was a Spring Arbor student, wrote about Spring Arbor's history in *Concept & Commitment*, published in 2008.

In 1950, the existing gym was remodeled and renamed the Merlin G. Smith Gymnasium. The E.P. Hart Memorial Chapel was the next building to be renovated in 1951, followed by Sayre Hall in 1953. In order to expand our campus, we bought 27 acres of land northwest of campus that today consists of the White Library, Lowell Hall, Voller House (president's residence), and the McDonald Athletic Center. The upward trajectory of student attendance also meant adding more faculty for new programs, such as business, music, science, religion, and the arts, as these programs were key components in the campus-wide effort to transition to a senior college.



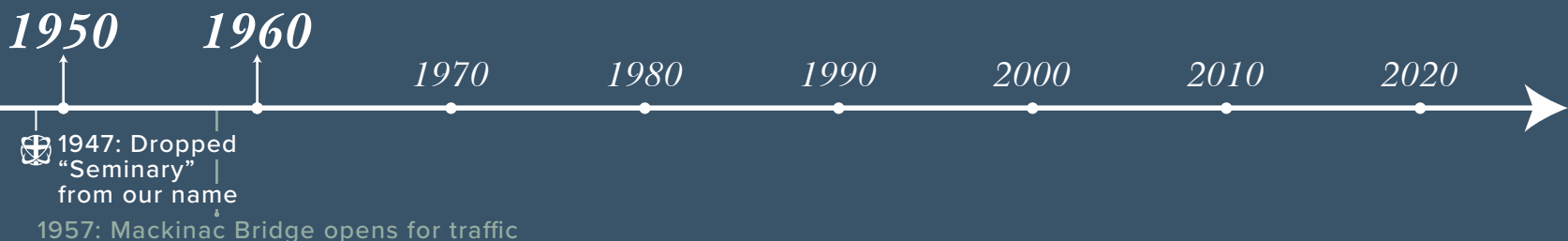
Dr. Charlie D. Moon  
President  
**1950-1955**



Dr. LeRoy M. Lowell  
President  
**1955-1957**



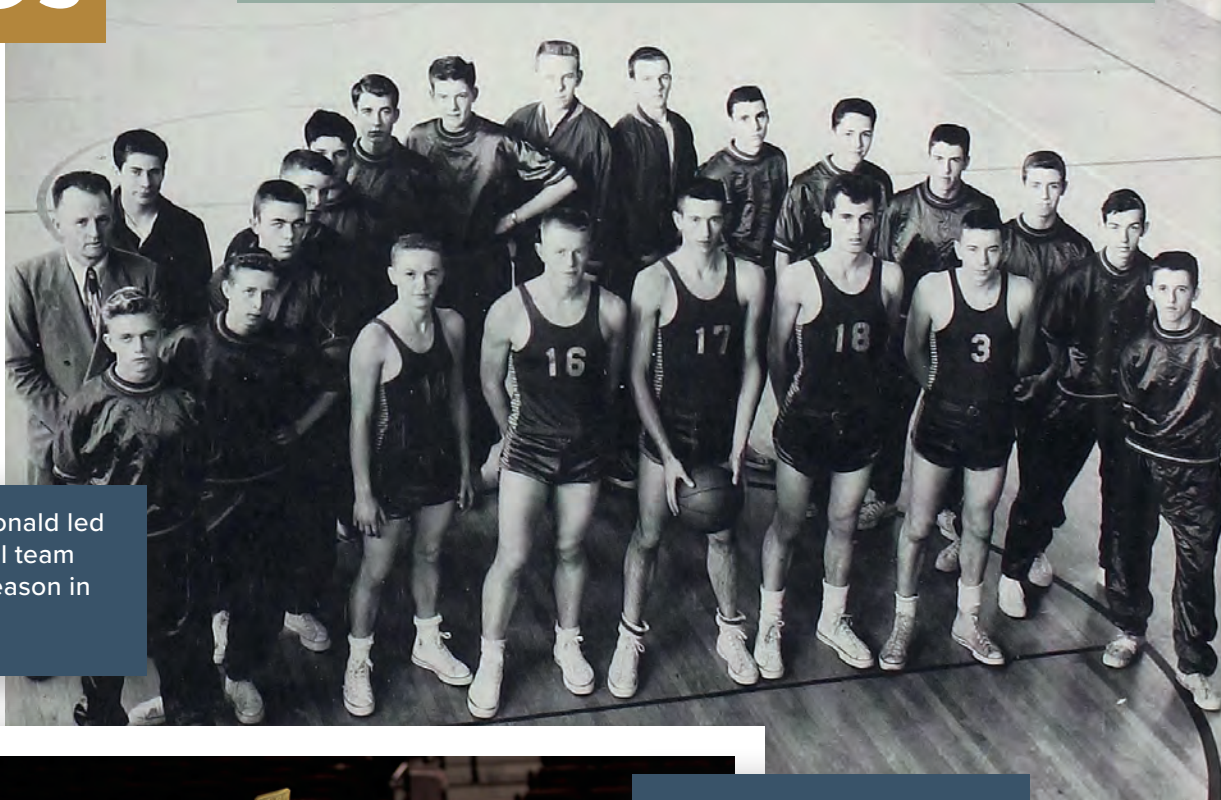
Dr. Roderick J. Smith  
President  
**1957-1961**





# 1950s

## SAU Men's Basketball • Then & Now



In 1955, Coach McDonald led the varsity basketball team to our first perfect season in Spring Arbor history.



In 2019, SAU won the NAIA Division II National Men's Basketball Championship.

1870

1880

1890

1900

1910

1920

1930

1940



1873: Dedication of Spring Arbor Seminary



1881: First graduates, Alice Felt & Lillian Teft



1930: Chapel and dorm fire



1923: School song written





The E.P. Hart Memorial Chapel, dedicated on May 5, 1951, was built to accommodate the growing enrollment.

The 1950s was also a time of spiritual growth for our students, faculty, and local community. Chapel Crusade rallies began after the completion of the E.P. Hart Memorial Chapel and drew hundreds of people from surrounding areas, including people from churches in Detroit, Grand

Rapids, and Ohio. These rallies reached their pinnacle in 1956, bringing transformational spiritual change to our campus. One special spiritual revival happened in January 1956, when many of our students joined in sharing their testimonies and worship - even during the halftime of a basketball game.

1950

1960

1970

1980

1990

2000

2010

2020

1947: Dropped  
"Seminary"  
from our name

1957: Mackinac Bridge opens for traffic

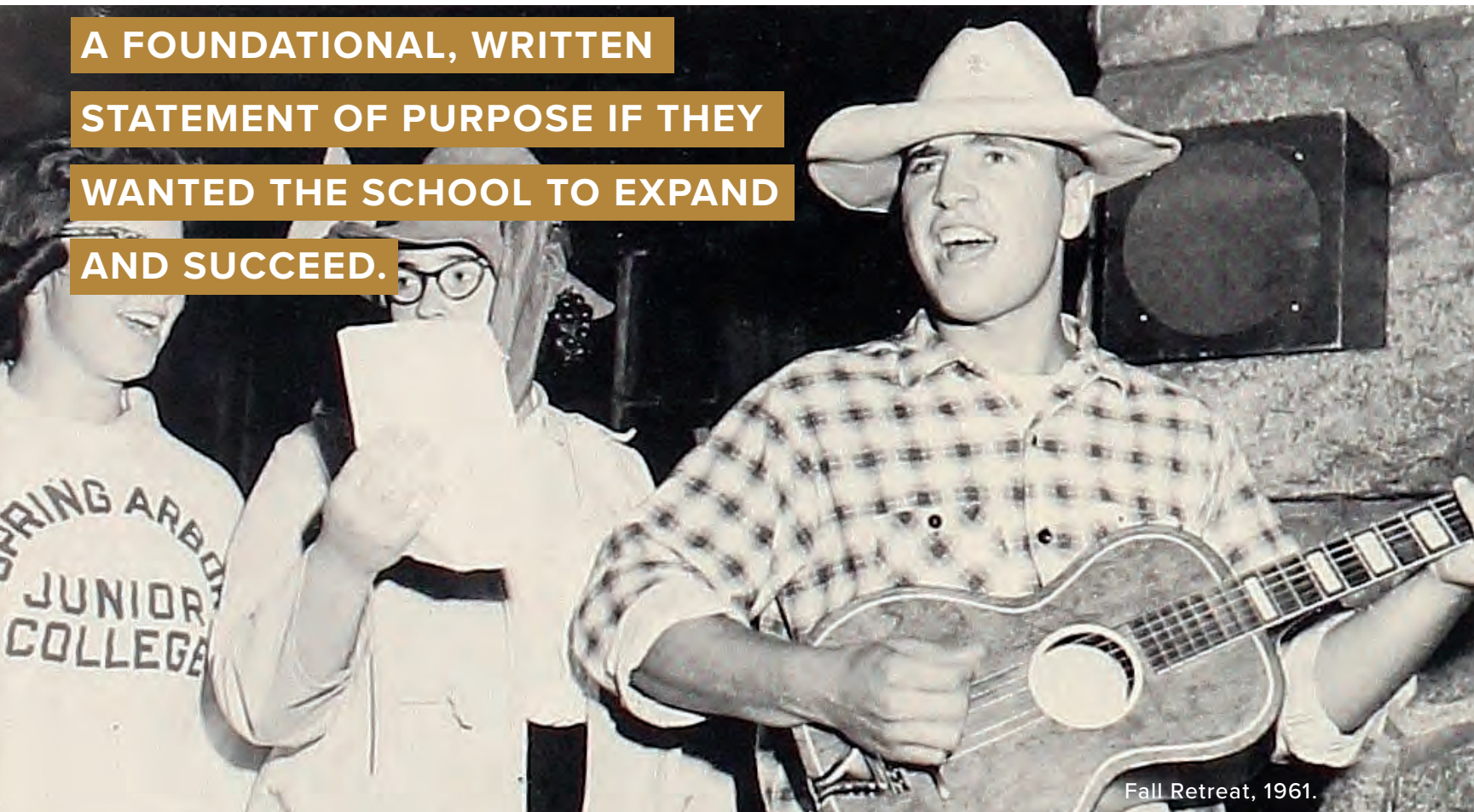


# 1960s

“

ALTHOUGH THE PHILOSOPHY OF  
THE SCHOOL HADN'T CHANGED  
SINCE 1873, ADMINISTRATORS  
REALIZED THAT WE NEEDED  
A FOUNDATIONAL, WRITTEN  
STATEMENT OF PURPOSE IF THEY  
WANTED THE SCHOOL TO EXPAND  
AND SUCCEED.

As we journeyed into the 1960s, our efforts to become a four-year college became a reality. David McKenna was pivotal in helping Spring Arbor receive full regional accreditation, with our name official changing to Spring Arbor College in 1967. This transition into a new stage of the institution called for a re-establishment of the philosophies that have shaped who we are throughout our history. Using the philosophy started in the late 1950s under Roderick Smith and iterations from faculty and administrators, McKenna established Spring Arbor's official purpose statement in the 1966-67 academic catalog, which is very similar to The Concept we adhere to today:



Fall Retreat, 1961.

1870

1880

1890

1900

1910

1920

1930

1940

1873: Dedication of Spring Arbor Seminary

1881: First graduates, Alice Felt & Lillian Tefft

1930: Chapel and dorm fire

1923: School song written





The Spring Arbor concept speaks of a unique idea and ideal for the Christian liberal arts college. It calls for a community of learners who are distinguished by their serious involvement in the study of the liberal arts, the total

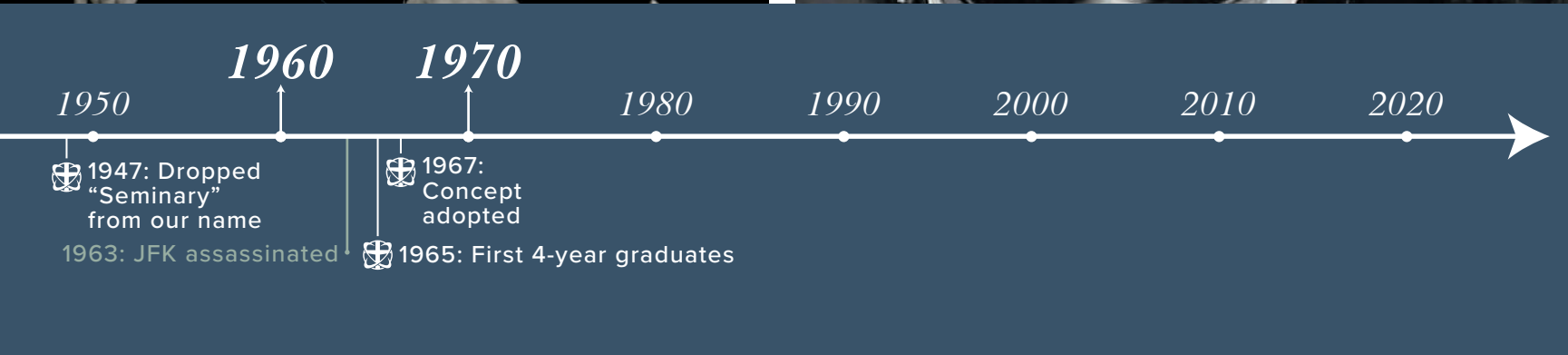
commitment to Jesus Christ as a perspective for learning, and a critical participation in the affairs of the contemporary world. It demands a design that shapes a curriculum, builds a campus and develops a confidence for life.



At-the-time U.S. Representative Gerald Ford, was our 1965 commencement speaker and the recipient of Spring Arbor's first honorary doctorate.



In 1963, longtime Board Trustee E. Harold "Hal" Munn Jr. started Spring Arbor College Radio, a noncommercial FM broadcast station operated by students.

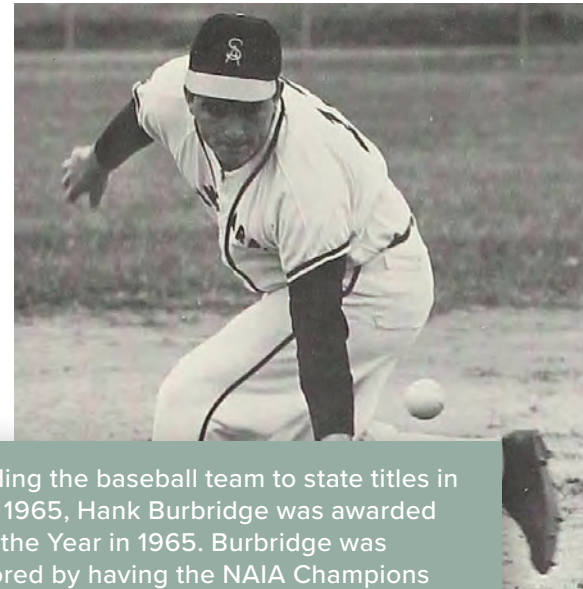
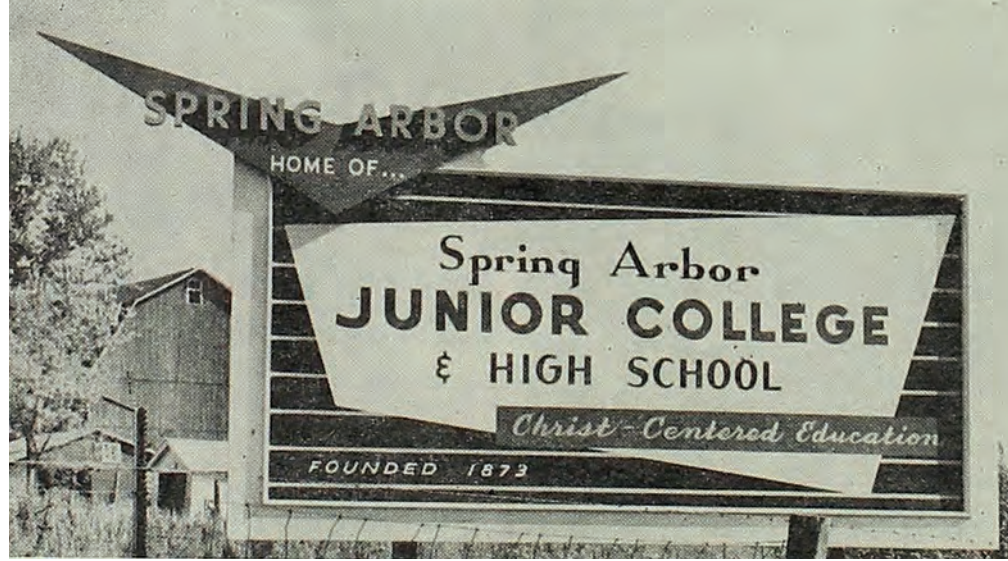




# 1960s

With the Concept in place, McKenna began a new curriculum in 1963 called the Christian Perspective in the Liberal Arts (CPLA), which is the foundation of our CORE program today. This program led students through a three-step process: to identify living issues, to analyze alternative viewpoints within those issues, and to integrate the issue with a Christian worldview. These courses were meant to go beyond simply memorizing facts and concepts but instead to challenge our students to analyze big life questions and moral issues in each area of their learning.

Because our college enrollment continued to increase throughout the 1960s, we made the decision to phase out the high school. In 1965, we had our first graduating four-year class, and the new Dining Commons-Student Center was dedicated in their honor the following academic year. In later years, we also added married student apartments on Chapel Road, the science building, the Hugh A. White Library, and the first three wings of the Lowell Hall.



After leading the baseball team to state titles in 1964 and 1965, Hank Burbridge was awarded Coach of the Year in 1965. Burbridge was also honored by having the NAIA Champions of Character award named after him.



1870

1880

1890

1900

1910

1920

1930

1940



1873: Dedication of Spring Arbor Seminary



1881: First graduates, Alice Felt & Lillian Tefft



1930: Chapel and dorm fire

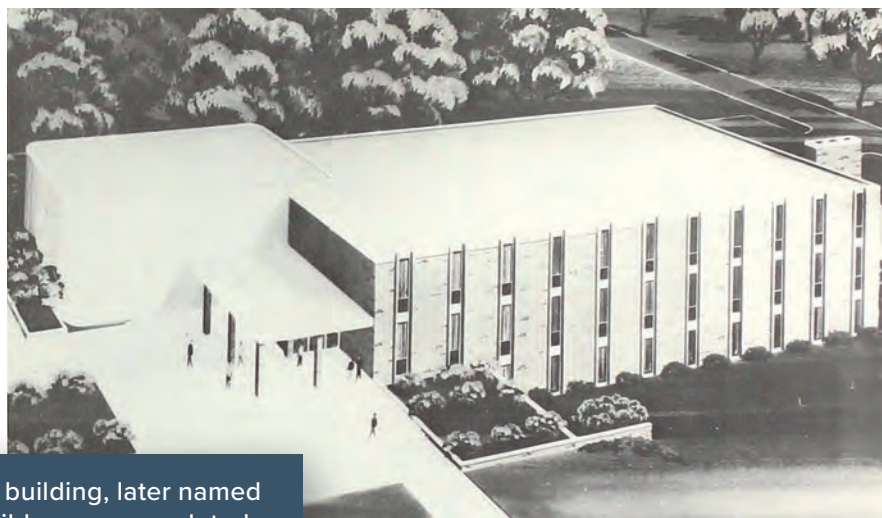


1923: School song written



# Whiteman Gibbs • Then & Now

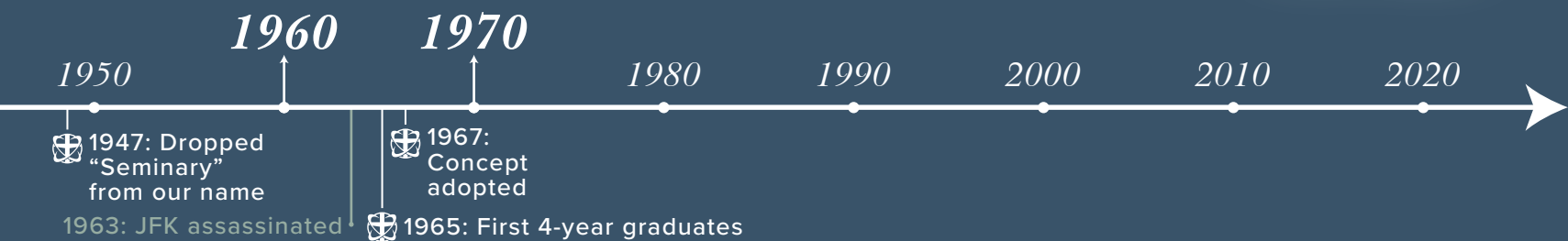
Plans have been made to renovate the existing Whiteman Gibbs building with state-of-the-art equipment and add an additional wing in the near future. The new space is designed to house all STEM-related programs, such as nursing, engineering, math, computer sciences, and natural sciences. The ability to learn and collaborate in the same space will provide greater synergy between disciplines.



The science building, later named Whiteman Gibbs, was completed in 1969 and dedicated in 1971.



Dr. David L. McKenna  
President  
**1961-1968**





# 1970s

“THE 1970S WAS A SPECIAL TIME FOR US AS WE CELEBRATED 100 YEARS OF PROVIDING CHRIST-CENTERED EDUCATION.”



Paul Nemecek and a team of dedicated SAU professors pioneered the Prisoner Education Program when it started in 1979.



1870

1880

1890

1900

1910

1920

1930

1940



1873: Dedication of Spring Arbor Seminary



1881: First graduates, Alice Felt & Lillian Teš



1930: Chapel and dorm fire



1923: School song written



The 1970s was a special time for us as we celebrated 100 years of providing Christ-centered education in 1973. Ellwood Voller, who was best known for taking an active role in campus events and his love for students, saw us through our centennial year and helped Spring Arbor College achieve re-accreditation in 1977. Kenneth Coffman succeeded Voller in 1979 and helped us expand our academics to include programs for working adults.

We started our first adult-studies programs within the Southern Michigan Prison in Jackson as part of our Prisoner Education Program (PEP), which provided prisoners an education that would lead to a Bachelor of Arts degree. We were able to offer programs in business, computer science, psychology, and social science, and saw enrollment for the PEP rise to around 200, making it the largest four-year college degree program for prisoners in the United States at the time.

In 1976 we completed the Physical Education Center, helping basketball, baseball, track and field, soccer, and other sports to continue growing. During this time, the federal government passed Title IX legislation, a law that prohibited sex discrimination within schools and opened the door for the expansion of women's athletics. While we had added volleyball and women's basketball to our athletic programs years before this legislation was passed, there was still a lot of work to be done to ensure that women in sports received equitable treatment. Kay Dunckel '59, our volleyball and women's basketball coach at the time, was a key advocate for not only our own women's athletics program but for programs across the nation. Much of the growth we've experienced in our women's athletic programs is because of the work she did while at Spring Arbor.



Kay Dunckel '59 was a versatile coach and professor who advocated for women's sports with the passing of legislation for Title IX.



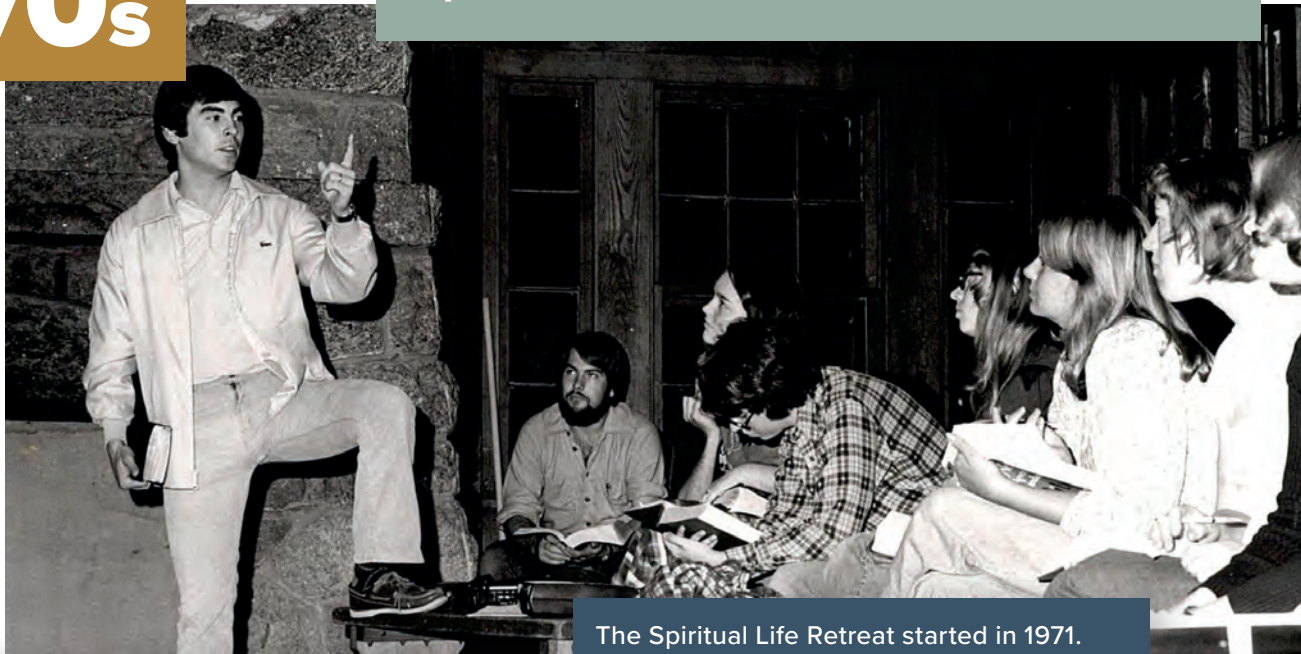
Joe Jaworski '72, professor of biology, provided funding through his estate after his passing in 2015, allowing us to open the Jaworski Clinical Simulation Lab in 2019 and begin our residential nursing program.





# 1970s

## Spiritual Life Retreat • Then & Now



The Spiritual Life Retreat started in 1971. In the fall of 2021, our students celebrated 50 years of upholding this tradition.



Dr. Ellwood A. Voller  
President

**1968-1979**

1870

1880

1890

1900

1910

1920

1930

1940



1873: Dedication of Spring Arbor Seminary



1881: First graduates, Alice Felt & Lillian Tešt



1930: Chapel and dorm fire



1923: School song written





To celebrate 100 years of being a Christ-centered institution, alumnus Jim Snyder '58 designed our Centennial Cross, located in Centennial Garden.

Other changes around campus included the completion of Lowell Hall's Delta wing, finished in 1970. This provided additional much-needed housing for women. We also purchased apartments on King Road to meet the growing demand of additional students. Our founding principles and Concept were taking life in new and exciting ways as Spring Arbor continued to grow, providing an expanding population with a Christ-centered education.



- 1947: Dropped "Seminary" from our name
- 1965: First 4-year graduates
- 1967: Concept adopted
- 1973: SAU's Centennial Year
- 1974: Nixon resigns



# 1980s



ONE OF THE BEST WAYS TO  
LEARN ABOUT ANOTHER  
CULTURE IS TO BE THERE.”

- Dr. Delvin Covey, Director of Cross Cultural Studies



Bill Bockwitz coached the men's basketball team from 1972-1980 and led the Cougars to a 150-115 overall record during his time as coach.



1870

1880

1890

1900

1910

1920

1930

1940



1873: Dedication of Spring Arbor Seminary



1881: First graduates, Alice Felt & Lillian Te't



1930: Chapel and dorm fire



1923: School song written



As our Prisoner Education Program and adult education opportunities began to grow throughout the 1980s, we became leaders among colleges and universities in our efforts to provide opportunities for adults who wanted to further their education. We began to expand our programs to those who couldn't take time out from their work to go to college or finish a college program already started.

The 1980s introduced new programs and majors, including the School of Business, computer science, communication, contemporary ministries, and social work. In an effort to help our future graduates with career planning, we also established a Career Center to assist with job placement post-graduation. As we grew our programs for adult learners, we added satellite campuses in Jackson, Flint, Lansing, Detroit, and Grand Rapids.

Another opportunity that was developed to enhance the learning experience for our students was our Cross Cultural Studies program that launched in the 1986-87 academic year. That program provided all undergraduate Spring Arbor students a chance to truly become critical participants in the world around them. Delvin Covey, Director of the Cross Cultural Studies program in the late 1980s, believed that "one of the best ways to learn about another culture is to be there."



150 years of Christ-Centered Education

25

Students enjoying the pool high dive, 1986.



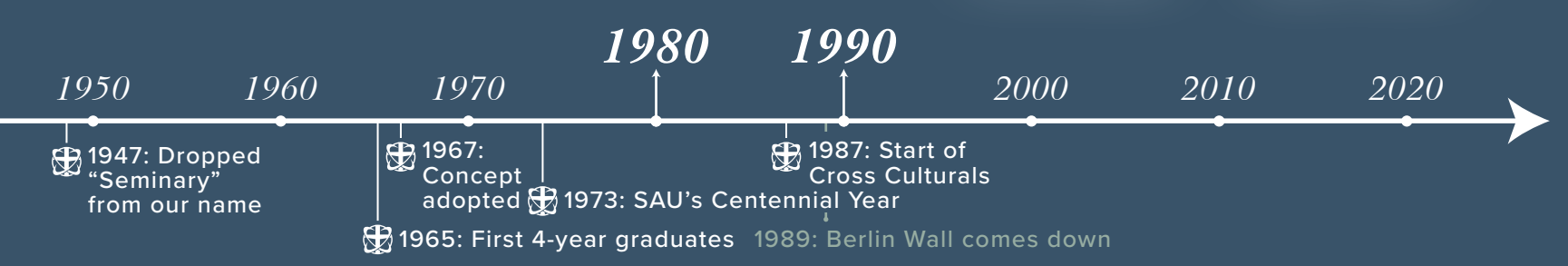
Puppet Ministry, 1982.



Dr. Kenneth H. Co man  
President  
**1979-1987**



Dr. Dorsey W. Brause  
President  
**1987-1991**





# 1980s

## Cross Cultural • Then & Now

Shown leading a trip, Ron Kopicko served as the beloved University Chaplain for 39 years until his retirement in 2019.

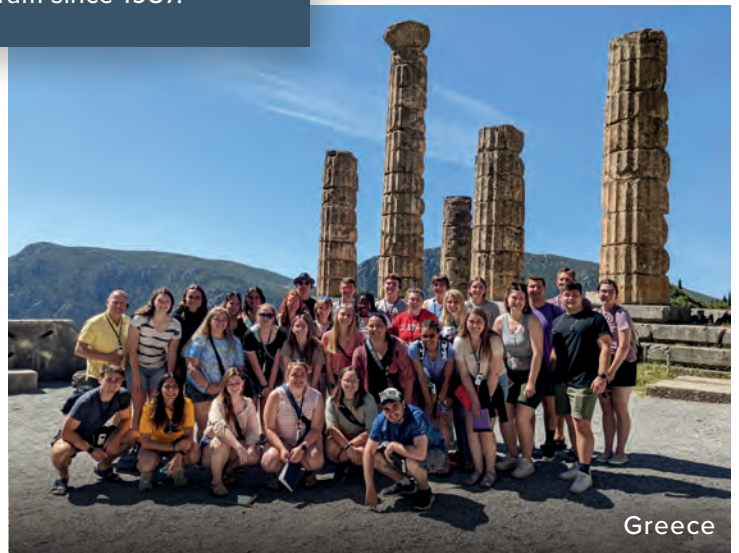


Mexico

SAU has sent thousands of students to 82 countries through our Cross Cultural program since 1987.



United Kingdom



Greece

1870

1880

1890

1900

1910

1920

1930

1940



1873: Dedication of Spring Arbor Seminary



1881: First graduates, Alice Felt & Lillian Te't



1930: Chapel and dorm fire



1923: School song written



Beverly '83 & Paul '81 Nemecek, Roger & Deb Varland, and Terry '78 & Mary '78 Darling were instrumental in starting many traditions that still go on today at Spring Arbor, such as the CORE program, Porchfest, and Arbor Games.

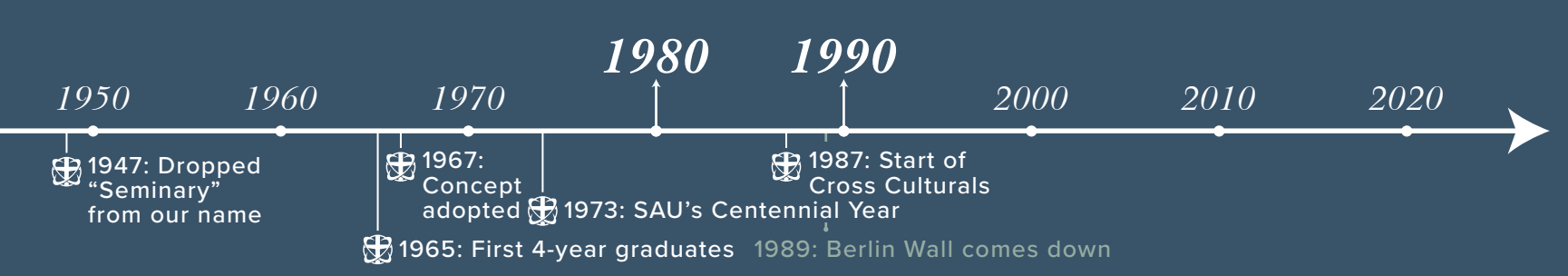


Arbor Games, 1984.

As a mandatory requirement for graduation, students embarked on a three-week trip to another country or in a cross-cultural setting within the United States while accompanied by one or more professors. To prepare for their experience, students took a class the semester prior during which they learned about the place they would soon be traveling to, the culture, and the people, and to have conversations with peers and professors about their upcoming adventure. More than 35 years later, our Cross Cultural program continues to provide life-changing opportunities to all Spring Arbor students.



Arbor Games, 2022.





# 1990s



IN THE 1990S, WE WERE PREPARING FOR EXPANSION WITH A GOAL TO REACH NEW GROUPS OF PEOPLE WHO WANTED A CHRIST-CENTERED EDUCATION.



In the 1990s, we were preparing for expansion with a goal to reach new groups of people who wanted a Christ-centered education. Part of this expansion was our overarching goal to better position Spring Arbor College to launch a capital campaign that would help us take the next step toward reaching university accreditation. M. Allen Carden enforced these efforts by helping achieve professional accreditation



Dedication of Glenn & Ruth White Auditorium in 1998.

1870

1880

1890

1900

1910

1920

1930

1940



1873: Dedication of Spring Arbor Seminary



1881: First graduates, Alice Felt & Lillian Tett



1930: Chapel and dorm fire



1923: School song written





for multiple programs, most notably our social work program. We were able to then reorganize our academic programs into four different schools, each with its own dean.

In 1997, the CCCU launched a semester abroad program that allowed our students to do an off campus study through a partnership with England's Oxford University. With the semester abroad option and our Cross Cultural Studies



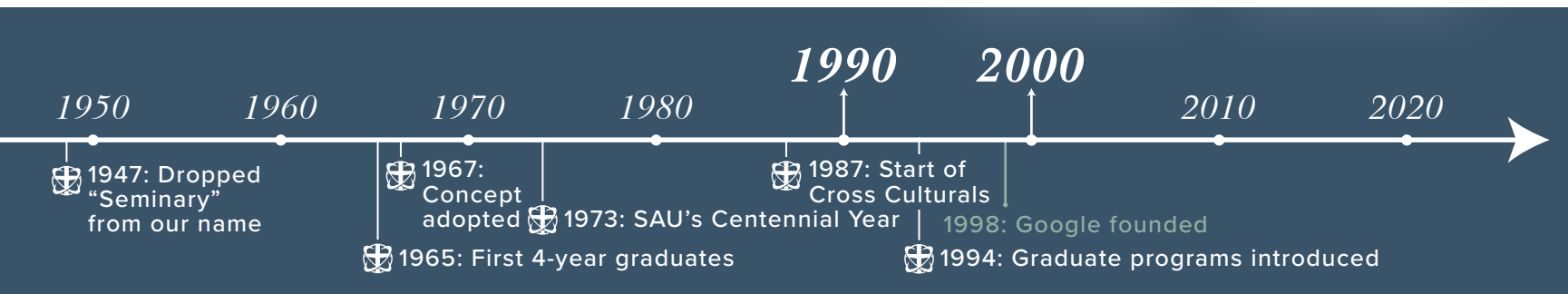
Dr. M. Allen Carden  
President

**1991-1996**



Dr. James L. Chapman  
President

**1997-2000**





# 1990s



Grand Canyon & Mexico Trip, 1991.



Student Band, 1999.



WSAE, 1991.

program, we continued to provide Spring Arbor students with opportunities to live out the Concept in real-world settings.

During this period, campus building renovations were part of our efforts to upgrade existing facilities into places for students to grow and thrive. We began in 1996 with the renovation of the old E.P. Hart Chapel, which was dedicated in 1998 as the Glenn & Ruth White Auditorium. This provided a new space for musical concerts and theatrical productions. We also transformed the Smith Gymnasium into a new facility for the music department that we now call the Smith Music Center.

It was during this time that we also built a new Admissions building at the front of campus, christened the Chapman Welcome Center, began building White Library, added more dining space in our Student Center, and added a fitness center to our Fieldhouse. Our hope was to continue growing our enrollment so we could take steps to reach university status.

We also expanded our academic offerings with graduate programs. Our first Master's programs that were offered, in 1994, were the Master of Arts in Education and Master of Arts in Management. In order to make sure these programs were up to academic standard, Carden was able to obtain approval in 2000 from the National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education (NCATE) to officially implement their Master of Arts in Education program. That made us one of the 10 colleges in the Coalition of Christian Colleges and Universities (CCCU) that had NCATE accreditation for both graduate and undergraduate offerings.

1870

1880

1890

1900

1910

1920

1930

1940



1873: Dedication of Spring Arbor Seminary



1881: First graduates, Alice Felt & Lillian Teft



1930: Chapel and dorm fire



1923: School song written





In 1994, Spring Arbor College graduated our first Master's students.



Skating for Tuques started in 1991.



### Skating for Tuques • Then & Now

- 1947: Dropped "Seminary" from our name
- 1965: First 4-year graduates
- 1967: Concept adopted
- 1973: SAU's Centennial Year
- 1987: Start of Cross Cultural
- 1994: Graduate programs introduced
- 1998: Google founded



# 2000s

“FROM 2001 TO 2007, WE ADDED MORE THAN A DOZEN NEW PROGRAMS, BRINGING NATIONAL RECOGNITION TO OUR ACADEMICS.”



A new millennium brought significant change to Spring Arbor. We welcomed Gayle Beebe as our president in May 2000 and transitioned from Spring Arbor College to Spring Arbor University on April 30, 2001. A campus-wide celebration was held during a special chapel, with a balloon launch ceremony and a picnic for all students, faculty, and staff. We also unveiled a new logo and seal, showcasing our change to Spring Arbor University. Excited for the future, we eagerly entered a time of growth.

A celebration was held for all community members in 2001 to commemorate our transition to university status.

1870

1880

1890

1900

1910

1920

1930

1940



1873: Dedication of Spring Arbor Seminary



1881: First graduates, Alice Felt & Lillian Tett



1930: Chapel and dorm fire



1923: School song written





Dedication of Ganton Art Gallery, 2005.



First Hanging of the Greens, 2001.



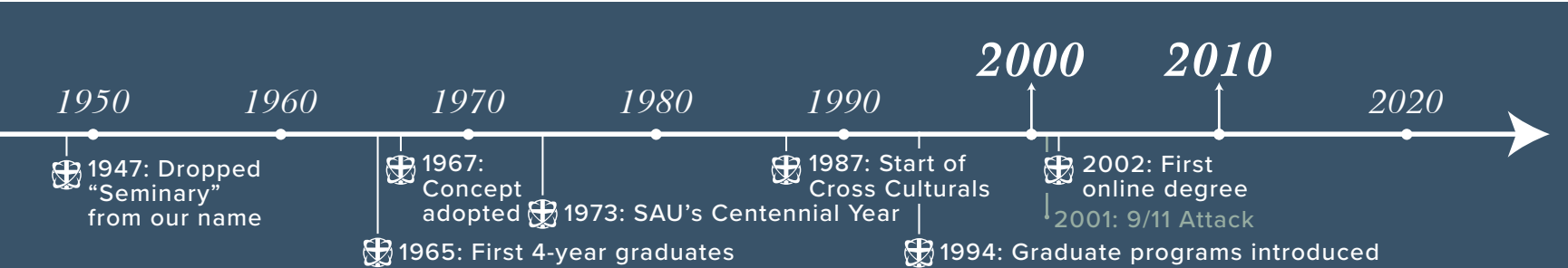
Parting at the Oak Tree/Plaza, year unknown.



Cutting of the Ivy, year unknown.

We introduced our first two village houses in 2001, followed by three more a year later and two more between 2003-2004. We also completed the Hugh and Edna White Library in 2002; the new three-floor, 38,000-square-foot space immediately aided our students in their studies. We transitioned our old library space to what we now know as Dietzman Hall, which houses several campus offices.

The McKenna Carillon clock tower, arguably the most recognizable part of our campus today, was completed in 2005 and pays tribute to the impact of former president David McKenna. The Ganton Art Gallery was also dedicated in 2005, named in honor of Spring Arbor alumni and Life Trustees Lloyd '54, '56 and Judith (Colson) '61 Ganton. Gainey Hall was added in 2006, named after Harvey Gainey, a longtime Board of Trustees member, and his wife, Annie.





# 2000s



Arbor Nights, 2009.



Dr. Gayle D. Beebe  
President

**2000-2007**



Dr. Gerald E. Bates  
President

**2007-2008**



Dr. Charles H. Webb  
President

**2008-2013**

From 2001 to 2007, we added more than a dozen new programs, bringing national recognition to our academics. In 2002, we offered the first fully online degree program, giving nontraditional students the opportunity to attend our school entirely online. We renamed our school of business the Gainey School of Business, which also paid recognition to Harvey Gainey. We saw an increase in our full-time and adjunct faculty, and our student enrollment in this decade moved the student-faculty ratio from 15:4 to 18:5.

1870

1880

1890

1900

1910

1920

1930

1940



1873: Dedication of Spring Arbor Seminary



1881: First graduates, Alice Felt & Lillian Tett



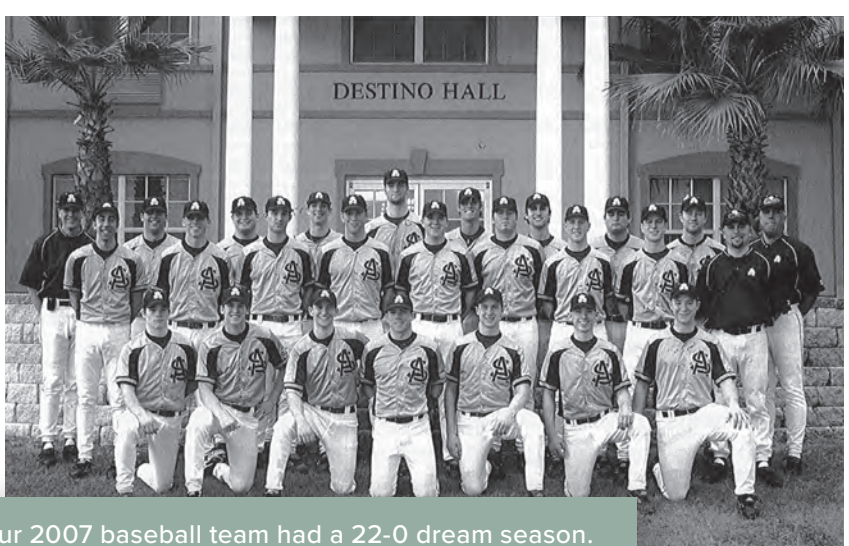
1930: Chapel and dorm fire



1923: School song written

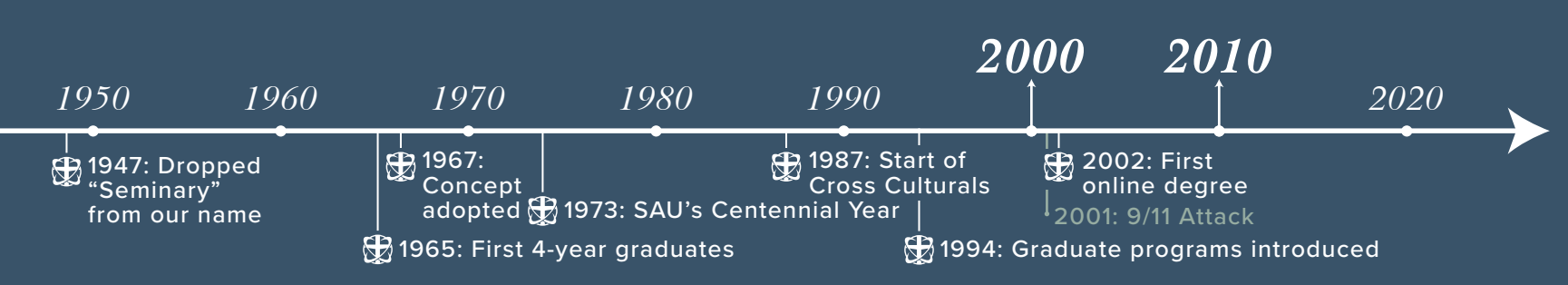


Our athletic programs gained national attention throughout the 2000s. Longtime athletic director and baseball coach Hank Burbridge retired in 2004 after a wildly successful 40-year career. In his retirement season, Burbridge earned his 1,000th win and was named the NAIA Coach of the Year. In 2005, our softball and men's basketball teams won their NCCAA D1 tournaments. Our baseball team had a dream season in 2007 with an amazing 22-0 record during conference play and a 48-5 overall record. They also claimed the NAIA Region VIII tournament, the Hartland Super Regional Title, and, most notably, a second-place finish in the NAIA world series.



Our 2007 baseball team had a 22-0 dream season.

Built in 2003, the McKenna Carillon Clock Tower & Plaza was named after SAU president David L. McKenna.





# 2010s

INAUGURATED IN 2013,  
SPRING ARBOR UNIVERSITY  
PRESIDENT BRENT ELLIS  
IS ONE OF OUR LONGEST-  
TENURED PRESIDENTS.

Inaugurated in 2013, Spring Arbor University President Brent Ellis is one of our longest-tenured presidents in school history. During his first years of service, he oversaw the introduction of numerous programs for both undergraduate and graduate students. Enrollment increased in graduate programs by 75 percent, and a dozen new programs, most notably the residential nursing and engineering programs, started in the 2010s. With the launch of the new programs, new academic spaces were added and existing facilities expanded to keep up with the pace at which they were growing. This growth was the catalyst for the creation of the Jaworski Clinical Simulation Center for nursing students and the electrical and mechanical engineering laboratories.



Movie on the Lawn, 2017.



1870

1880

1890

1900

1910

1920

1930

1940



1873: Dedication of Spring Arbor Seminary



1881: First graduates, Alice Felt & Lillian Te't



1930: Chapel and dorm fire



1923: School song written

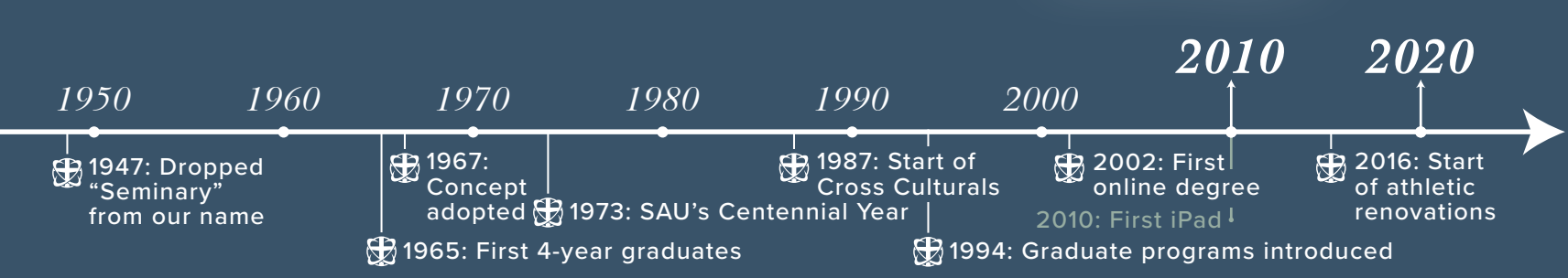




Choptoberfest, 2014.



Dr. Brent D. Ellis  
President  
**2013-Present**



As Spring Arbor University continued to grow with a renewed focus and commitment to Christ as the perspective for learning, God remained faithful. From the construction of Andrews Hall, which provided much-needed additional housing for students, to the renovation and expansion of the Kresge Student Life Center in 2013, God's hand was evident every step of the way. The Student Life Center continues to serve as the heart of campus life, housing a variety of student support offices and meeting spaces, and providing opportunities for students to connect with one another.



# 2010s



Generous donations provided the financial resources needed to renovate our existing athletic spaces. The first renovation was the Jones' Tennis Complex in 2016, complete with new shaded viewing areas and eight courts. In 2017, we dedicated the Walker Track and Field Complex, which allowed us to host our first track meet in 40 years. In May 2019, we renovated the McDonald Athletic Center (MAC), featuring the Arena sponsored by American 1 and Bill Bockwitz Court, which serves as the home for our volleyball and basketball teams. The MAC also houses the Faith Small Fitness Center, a state-of-the-art gym available to our students, faculty, staff, and local community, as well as the SAU Physical Therapy Center. Our Cougar Soccer Complex was also renovated during the 2010s with a beautiful turf field and clubhouses for both our men's and women's soccer teams.

These investments in our athletic facilities immediately paid off for our athletic teams. Our women's soccer team won two NAIA national titles, in 2015 and 2017, and made four final four appearances alongside three finals appearances. Our men's basketball team brought home its first NAIA national championship in program history in 2019.

In 2019, the newly renovated McDonald Athletic Center (MAC) was dedicated and named after beloved SAU coach Donald "Mac" McDonald.

1870

1880

1890

1900

1910

1920

1930

1940



1873: Dedication of Spring Arbor Seminary



1881: First graduates, Alice Felt & Lillian Te't



1930: Chapel and dorm fire



1923: School song written

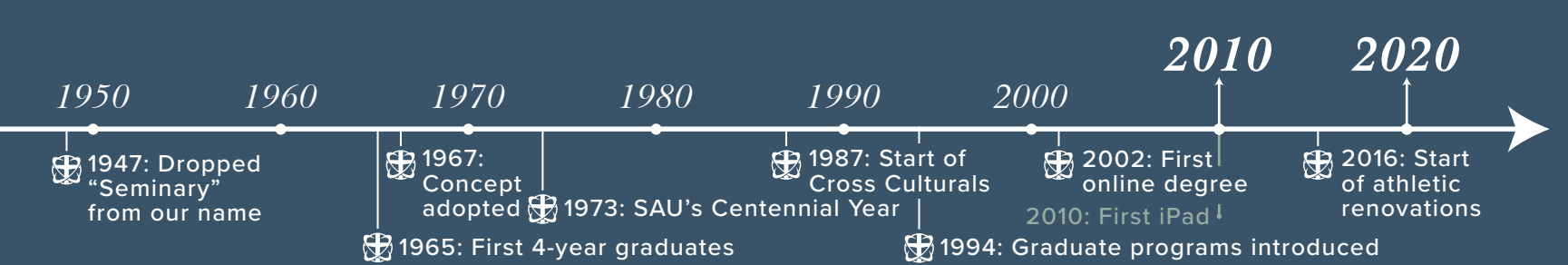




NAIA Men's Basketball National Champions, 2019.



NAIA Women's Soccer National Champions, 2015 and 2017. Our team also brought home the title again in 2022.





# 2020s

“

IT IS AN EXCITING TIME FOR  
SPRING ARBOR UNIVERSITY AS WE  
CELEBRATE OUR SESQUICENTENNIAL  
YEAR IN 2023!



We held a Party on the Plaza to celebrate 150 years of Christ-centered education on August 27, 2022. The celebration included a picnic, concert by Dove Award winning music group Sanctus Real, and rework show.







It is an exciting time for Spring Arbor University as we celebrate our sesquicentennial year in 2023! In fall 2022, we kicked off our 150th academic year with a Party on the Plaza. We invited the surrounding community to welcome students to campus and enjoy a live concert, picnic, and fireworks. We look forward with great anticipation to the culmination of our 150th year with a celebratory gala on Sept. 9, 2023.

The past 150 years have brought a variety of changes and challenges, but God's faithfulness to Spring Arbor has remained constant. As we continue to grow and adapt to the changing world around us, we hold tight to the original founding principles of the school: to provide a uniquely Christ-centered education for our students. As we face any obstacles that may come over the next 150 years, we are confident that God will see us through, just as he always has, as long as we keep our focus on him. "I keep my eyes always on the Lord. With him at my right hand, I will not be shaken." - Psalm 16:8-9

CELEBRATING 150 YEARS OF CHRIST-CENTERED EDUCATION

SESQUICENTENNIAL

SEPTEMBER  
9th

McDonald  
Athletic Center

[SAU150.org](http://SAU150.org)

FEATURING NEWSBOYS





# 150 Alumni Updates for 150 Years.

## 1960

**Sharlotte (Tomasello) Fortress '61** Happily retired. Spring Arbor, MI

**Mark Tjepkema '61** Youth Minister at Community Church of Henderson. Las Vegas, NV

**Mel Starr '64** Retired and recently published his fifteenth medieval mystery. Schoolcraft, MI

**Marjorie (Gundy) Mitts '65** Retired. Spring Arbor, MI

**Dianna (Messeroll) Smith '67** Retired. Bath, MI

**Wade Wilson '67** Works for SAU grounds department and his wife **Marge (Stark) '69** is retired. Spring Arbor, MI

**Lorna (Casement) Angus '68** Retired teacher from Northwest Community schools. Pleasant Lake, MI

**Carol Gustafson '69** Retired after 40 years as a social worker. Milan, MI

**David Gyertson '69** Retired university president after three presidencies and his wife **Nancy (Burt) '70** is a retired elementary school teacher. Wilmore, KY

## 1970

**Barry Jackson '70** Sales associate at Roll Bicycle Company. Fort Wayne, IN

**Steve Johnson '71** Teacher at Jonesville Community Schools and has ten grandchildren. Spring Arbor, MI

**Howard Hodges '72** Retired high school teacher from Long Beach Unified School District. Atlanta, GA

**Les Young '72** Retired elementary teacher/science consultant at Hastings-Prince Edward School and has two daughters and five grandchildren. Belleville, Ontario

**Joellyn (Hurd) Garn '74** Spent time traveling to Israel, Thailand, Indonesia, England, Scotland, Europe and 11 mission trips to Guatemala. Spring Arbor, MI

**Frank Passic '75** Field representative at United States Census Bureau, Albion historian, author of nine books, exhibit chairman for the Michigan State Numismatic Society and serves on the board of directors of that organization. He is also master scuba diver and keyboard player at his church. Albion, MI

**Yvonne (Yoder) Philpott '76** Self-employed. Port Orchard, WA

**Linda (Beardslee) Adams '77** Bishop for Free Methodist Church USA. Holland, MI

**Brad Buter '77** Retired teacher and his wife **Laurie (Milnes) '76** is a retired physical therapist. Spring Arbor, MI

**Nancy (Kinnaman) Hazzard '77** Registered nurse. Lafayette, IN

**Michael Schneider '77** Retired. Haslett, MI

**Carolynne (Calkins) Spooner '77** Retired medical technologist from Bronson Methodist Hospital Laboratory. Kalamazoo, MI

**B. Keith Brewer '78** Professor of Biblical Studies and director of the global learning experience at Pillar College. Recently taught Advanced Greek Exegesis to Ph.D. students at Africa International University's Nairobi Evangelical Graduate School of Theology in Kenya. Hillsborough, NJ

**Blake Glass '78** Retired from Kalamazoo Valley Community College and his wife **Sara (Ferris) '82** recently started a new job at Eurofins. Portage, MI

**Babbie (Oliver) Mason '78** Two-time Dove Award winning singer, songwriter, author and speaker. Current Board of Trustee member. Marietta, GA

**Gregory Schupra '78** Member manager and CFO at Spring Arbor Group, LLC and SAU Life Trustee. His wife **Ellie (Leslie) '80** is the Executive Director at Dream Centers of Michigan. Pontiac, MI



**Wesley Harper '79**

Attorney and former alumni board member. Spring Arbor, MI

**Janet (Kipp) Wight '79**

Retired social worker after 37 years. Weidman, MI

**Lori (Casler) Laidler**

'80 Substitute teacher at Edustaff. Perry, MI

**Donalynn (Case) Ingersoll '82**

Retired superintendent from Alma Public Schools. Spring Arbor, MI

**John Weidman '82**

Community pastor of discipleship, counseling, men and care at Oak Pointe Church. Southfield, MI

**Greg Bontrager '83**

Former President and COO of the American Cancer Society Inc., Worldwide and current SAU Board of Trustee chairman. Owosso, MI

**Alan Mellinger '83**

Missionary for economic development at Mission Igniter/Marketplace Manna. Jackson, MI

**Mark Bullock '85** Minister at Evert Free Methodist Church. Evert, MI

**Kathleen (Wenzel Olsen) Lofts '85** Retired Colonel for U.S. Army, and retired dean of students at Montcalm Community College. Stanton, MI

**Karen "Kit" (Patterson) Ehman '86** Author, speaker, and Bible teacher. Her husband **Todd '86** is the paint booth operator at General Motors. DeWitt, MI

**Beth Habecker '87** Professor at Oregon Health & Science University. Portland, OR

**Brad Hovermale '87** Operations manager at National Network of Depression Centers - CoStaff. Canton, MI

**Rick Lofgren '87** President at Children's Organ Transplant Association and his wife **Lisa (Ford) '90, '97** is retired. Greenwood, IN

**Nora Tarolli '87** Church secretary at Owosso First Church of the Nazarene. Owosso, MI

**Shirley Zeller '87** Retired. Albion, MI

**Kim Conant '89** Executive director at Lost Railway Museum. Horton, MI



**Chuck Brant '90** Warrant Officer for the 12th District Court. Spring Arbor, MI

**Heather (Root) Griggs '90** Retired superintendent of schools. Redlands, CA

**Kevin Gilliam '91** Director of admissions at Kuyper College. Hudsonville, MI

**Sam Durocher '93** Owner of Tiki Sam's Pizza. Hanover, MI

**David Jordan '93** Sign installer at Spry Signs and Concord High School track and cross country coach. Concord, MI

**Wendy Lorenz '93**

Missionary/TCK care coordinator with Free Methodist World Missions. Spring Arbor, MI

**Ryan Berkaw '96** Data center sales executive at Dell Technologies. DeWitt, MI

**Tim Gale '96** Audio engineer/associate producer at Billy Graham Evangelistic Association. Fort Mill, SC

**William Locke '96** Resale Specialist at Resale Depot. Jackson, MI

**Andrea (Perry) Hughes '97** Outreach director at Exodus Housing Development, Inc. Detroit, MI

**Mandi Bolton '99** Senior vice president and chief financial officer for Council for Christian Colleges & Universities. Alexandria, VA

**Josh Miles '99** Works as a K-5 technology/STEAM/library instructor at Memphis Community Schools and is married to **Meran (Kohn) Miles '01**. Armada, MI



# 150 Alumni Updates for 150 Years.

A large, stylized number '2000' in white, set against a dark green rectangular background.

## **Angela (Gramazio)**

**He in '01** Associate director at MI Venture Capital Association and soccer coach at D1 SEC Red Ann Arbor Huron. Superior Township, MI

## **Annamarie (Malec-McGill)**

**Wegrzyn '01** Education & communication coordinator/Epic instructional designer at Henry Ford Allegiance Health. Jackson, MI

## **Garron Garn '02**

Lieutenant Colonel in the U.S. Marine Corps with deployments throughout the Pacific and a combat tour in Iraq. Assigned to the Pentagon in the Office of the Secretary of Defense as a DOD Spokesman for the Russia/Ukraine/Eurasia portfolio. Married to former SAU student **Melissa (Baker)** and has two daughters. Alexandria, VA

## **Mark Vergiels '02**

Retired engineer for Chrysler Corporation (FCA). Temperance, MI

## **Nicholas Pollak '03**

Assistant professor of social work at Spring Arbor University. Albion, MI

## **Carrie (Wright) Sees**

**'03** Optometrist and owner at Rockford Family Eyecare. Rockford, MI

## **Daniel Bentle '04**

Vice president at N2Growth having previously served five years on faculty and staff at Washington University in St. Louis. He and his wife (Heidi) have two children. Anchorage, AK

## **Steve Bohus '04,**

**'12** Lead for best practices - operational excellence at Acrisure, LLC. Eaton Rapids, MI

## **Jennifer (Fair) Margraf**

**'04** Executive director at Clarkston Area Chamber of Commerce. Rochester Hills, MI

## **Rhonda (Boswell)**

**Callahan '06, '10** President of Torch 180. Fowlerville, MI

## **Jon Gerten '06**

Video marketing strategist at SAU having previously served for fifteen years in full-time ministry as a creative arts pastor. He has a wife and three children. Marshall, MI

## **Laura (Sudyk) Gibson**

**'06** Executive director and founder at Certain Hope Community. Rockford, MI

## **Matthew Hawkins '06**

Vicksburg High School assistant principal. Three Rivers, MI

## **Lauren (Outcalt)**

**Horras '06** Director of Safer Spaces & Title IX Coordinator at Calvin University. She and her husband (Jordan) have a two year old son. Grandville, MI

## **Marla (Pletcher) Sanford**

**'07** Vice president for marketing/CMO at SAU. Her husband **Aaron '09, '13** is an implementation consultant for TeamDynamix. Spring Arbor, MI

## **Matthew Sauder '07**

Coordinator for global community connection at International Child Care Ministries. Wauseon, OH

## **Katrina Goodall '08**

Manager of recruitment and outreach for the School of Social Work at Western MI University. Kalamazoo, MI

## **Shane Jewell '08**

Latin American field coordinator for short-term mission trips through the Free Methodist Church. Colombia

## **Brandon Marken '08**

CEO of Lean Rocket Lab and his wife **Jaclyn (Hildenbrand) '09** is a stay at home mom to their three children. Spring Arbor, MI

## **Heidi (Moreau) Rhodes**

**'08** Art teacher at Springport Schools and former adjunct professor at SAU. She works alongside fellow SAU alumni within the county to lead and support a county-wide group of art teachers and has worked with branches of the State Department of Education (including FAME, MAC, and MAEIA) to co-author documents that aim to help support arts teachers across the state of Michigan. She and her husband **Justen '10** have two children. Jackson, MI



**Josh Sprunger '08**

Financial pastor at Thrivent Financial and is ordained in the Free Methodist Church. Buckley, MI

**Stella Tippin de Malpica**

'08 Student success advisor & adjunct faculty at SAU. Marshall, MI

**Andrew Heberling '09**

Attorney at Ascension Health. Ypsilanti, MI

**Kimberly Martin '09**

Assistant vice president for product compliance management at Lincoln Financial Group. Greensboro, NC

**Julie Taylor '09**

Executive director at National Farm Worker Ministry. Raleigh, NC



**Aaron Grenier '10** works as a teacher at Howell Public Schools and is also an adjunct instructor at SAU. His wife **Lisa (Connell) '10** is a teacher in Hartland. Fowlerville, MI

**Brian Meagher '10**

Owner and president of BJM and CO., LLC. His wife **Kelly (Granger) '10** recently published her first book. Livonia, MI

**Chuck Connors '11**

Director of operations at Renovation Church. Portage, MI

**Jeff Hollister '11**

Secondary assistant principal at Livingston Christian Schools. Fowlerville, MI

**KT Nevil '11** Missionary teacher in Europe and the Middle East, and a TESOL school leader/administrator for Youth With A Mission. Aubervilliers, Ile-de-France

**Keegan Adriance '12**

Content creator at United Kennel Club. Kalamazoo, MI

**Sarah (Alumbaugh)**

**Classen '12** Lower elementary special education teacher at Kalamazoo Public Schools, Washington Writers' Academy. Vicksburg, MI

**Kayla (Hadley) Knapp '12**

Dean of Students at SAU. Her husband **Brian '10** is the Director of Alumni Relations. Jackson, MI

**Brittany Miller '12**

Children and youth ministry director at Lansing Central Free Methodist Church. Lansing, MI

**Becca (Mason) Treharne**

'12 Zealous international manager (a full-time, support based position) at Bridges for Peace. Married to Eilir-Wyn and they have a daughter. Jerusalem, Israel

**Lacey (George) Yoder**

'12 Director of alumni operations & projects at Hillsdale College. Recently married to Ryan Yoder. Stryker, OH

**Matthew Bierlein '13**

Representative in the Michigan House for the 97th State House District of Michigan. Vassar, MI

**Julius Buzzard '13**

Executive director at Growing Hope. Ypsilanti, MI

**Danielle Hilliker '13**

President and CEO at Southeastern MI Health Association. Farmington Hills, MI

**Marcia (Betz) Post**

'13 People care coordinator & local team leader in Kentuckiana Cru. Louisville, KY

**Stephanie (Rodriguez)**

**Schiro '13** Special projects manager and executive assistant to the president at Maverick Protection Group. Jackson, MI

**Elizabeth (Wood)**

**Steingass '13** Homemaker and freelance published illustrator. She and her husband (David) have four children. Archibold, OH

**Jonathan Walden '13**

Detective Sergeant for the Michigan State Police. Howell, MI

**Bekah Zraik '13**

Office director at Jackson Interfaith Shelter. Recently started an embroidery club where over 40 women gather every month. Her husband **Aaron '14** is a production specialist for Red Letter and an audio engineer. Jackson, MI

**Canena (Hills) Adams**

'14, '19 Internal communications coordinator at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville. She also teaches online communication courses for Lansing Community College. Knoxville, TN



# 150 Alumni Updates for 150 Years.

A dark blue square containing the year '2010' in a large, white, sans-serif font.

**Kyle Anderson '14** Pastor of worship development at Vineyard Church Kansas City. He is also involved in community and professional theatre in the area. North Kansas City, MO

**Chris Conrad '14** Global project lead at International Justice Mission (IJM). Ludington, MI

**Courtney Sanders '14** Online student support specialist at Spring Arbor University. Grand Blanc, MI

**Matt DeMerritt '15** Campus success and events specialist at Catalyst Campus for Technology and Innovation. His wife

**Stephanie (Edwards) '15** is the associate program director for Dream Centers Mary's Home. Colorado Springs, CO

**Daisy (Patterson) Holley '15** Assistant director for Residence Education at the University of Michigan. She and her husband recently built their first home. Sterling Heights, MI

**Tyler Langoni '15** Social worker at the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. He recently celebrated nine years of marriage and has a daughter. Vermontville, MI

**Holly (Doerner) Bigos '16** Dean of special education & intervention at Paragon Charter Academy. She was recently married to Andrew Bigos. Jackson, MI

**Cloe (McBride) Hadley '16** Art educator at Grand Rapids Public Schools and her husband **Kyle '16** works for the U.S. Postal Service. Grandville, MI

**Lauren Lyons '16** Financial analyst at Dawn Foods. Ypsilanti, MI

**Sandra Stephenson '16** Director of field education for the Social Work Department at SAU. Spring Arbor, MI

**John A. Bacon '17** Environmental Advisor at BP. Horton, MI

**Kyla (Wright) Cross '17** K-12 vocal music teacher at Homer Community Schools. Jackson, MI

**Mazen Ghazy '17** Graduates medical school in the spring and his wife **Heaven (Jones) '17** works as a registered nurse at MI Department of Corrections and starts her Mental Health Nurse Practitioner program in the spring. Brooklyn, MI

**Haleigh Haddad '17** Office director at Haddads Agency. She is also the head varsity volleyball coach and volleyball program director at her high school alma matter, Eaton Rapids High School. Lansing, MI

**Rebekah Villarreal '17** Substance abuse counselor at Department of Defense - U.S. Marine Corps. San Diego, CA

**Cecilia (Said) Codd '18** School counselor at Jackson Public Schools. Jackson, MI

**Stacy (Perryman) Feltz '18** Chief administrative officer at Hillsdale Hospital. Morenci, MI

**Jacob Hoppe '18** Assistant prosecuting attorney at Eaton County. Nashville, MI

**Abby Kittle '18** Recently wrote a book that will be coming out sometime this December. Bryan, OH

**KyMBER Stanley '18** Assistant unit leader at AmeriCorps NCCC. Cedar Rapids, IA

**Bethany (Kuenzer) Weber '18** Pharmacist at Meijer Pharmacy. Holt, MI

**Bekah (Carter) Acker '19** Communications coordinator at Biggby Coffee's home office. DeWitt, MI

**Catherine Cooper '19** Nurse practitioner for the U.S. Navy. Parma, OH



# 2020

**Hannah Gilliam '20** and **Connor Cottingham '21** are engaged to be married. Their wedding date is August 5, 2023. Fort Wayne, IN

**Annabelle (Kohns) Pollard '20** Adjunct professor at SAU after graduating with a master's degree in vocal performance from Bowling Green State University. Kalamazoo, MI

**Brooklyn Vander Hill '20** Resident director and housing coordinator at Ohio Christian University. Circleville, OH

**Calla Webster '20** Digital marketing manager at Yellow Lime Creative. Grand Rapids, MI

**Alexis Lewis '21** Student success advisor at Rise Above. Jackson, MI

**Hope Notter '21** Doctor of Occupational Therapy student at Indiana University Purdue University Indianapolis (IUPUI). Danville, IN

**Andrew Phelps '21** Assistant director of annual giving at SAU. Spring Arbor, MI

**Becky (Testerman) Quilliams '21** Nurse practitioner at Urgent Care of the Smokies. Seymour, TN

**Johnathan Husted '22** Student at Asbury Theological Seminary. Wilmore, KY

**Kyle Koerner '22** Instructional media support at Spring Arbor University. Saranac, MI

**Abi Upleger '22** Youth pastor at The Arbor Church. Spring Arbor, MI



## AUTUMN *at the* ARBOR

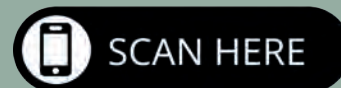
a Spring Arbor University Homecoming

**September 30, 2023**

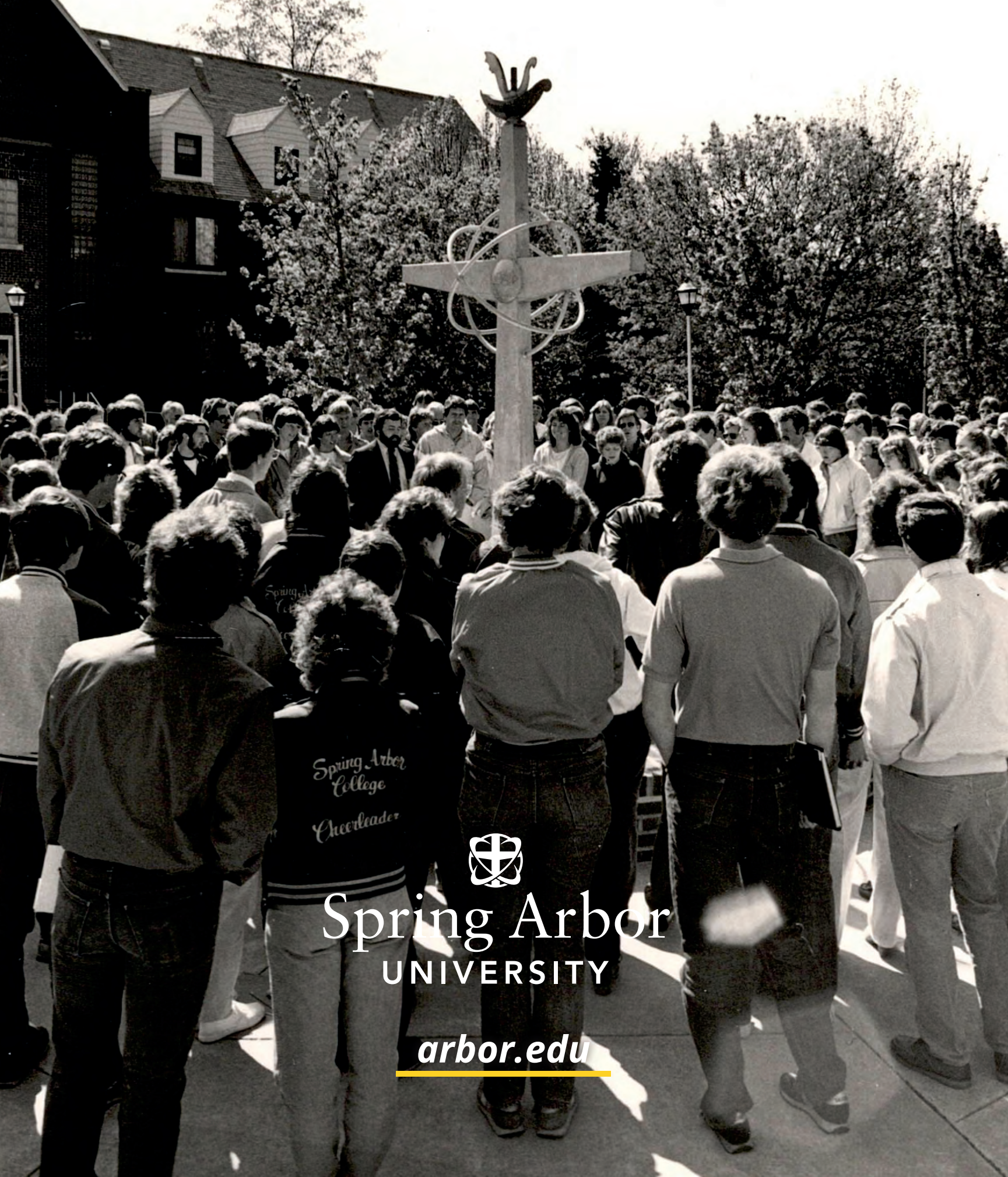
### IN MEMORIAM

Help us remember beloved Spring Arbor community members who have passed away in the past year in a new online format.

You can view our In Memoriam entries at [arbor.edu/in-memoriam](http://arbor.edu/in-memoriam) or by scanning the QR code.







  
Spring Arbor  
UNIVERSITY

[arbor.edu](http://arbor.edu)