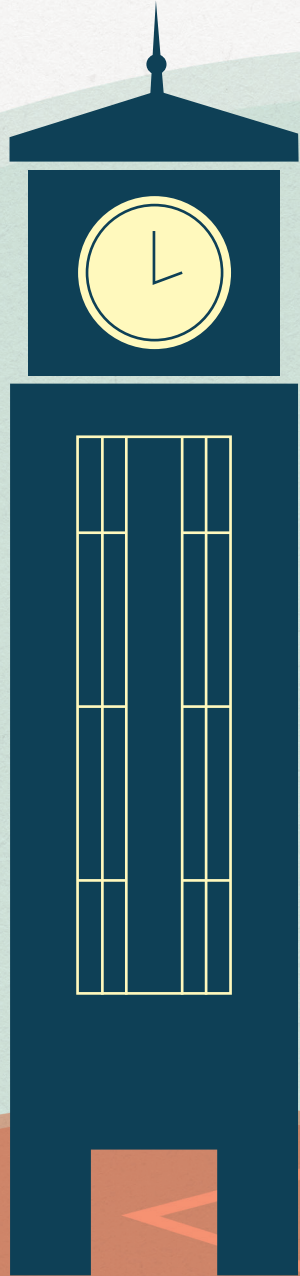


A SPRING ARBOR UNIVERSITY PUBLICATION

JOURNAL

FALL 2020 | VOLUME 44 ISSUE 1



PERSPECTIVES OF HOPE

THE SAU COMMUNITY SHINES
DURING COVID-19





DEAR ALUMNI AND FRIENDS,

This year has brought exceptional challenges to our university, to our world and to each of us individually. Over the last several months, members of the Spring Arbor University (SAU) community have spent innumerable hours discerning how to best adapt our academic programs and community life amid shifting and often uncertain circumstances. With no single, clear pathway to take, it has often felt as though our task has been to navigate through darkness.

Yet Scripture reminds us that we have been called out of the darkness and into the light. 1 John 1:7, our verse for the academic year, says, “If we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another.” When we

walk in the light, we place our hope, not in ourselves, but in Christ. We look to God’s truth in his Word in order to seek and gain his perspective. We allow the light of Christ to shine through us in our families, our communities and our careers. And we unite ourselves with each other as we grow in fellowship with God.

To walk in the light is to live in hope rather than fear. Within this issue of the Journal, you’ll find stories of how our students, faculty, staff and alumni are choosing hope during this season of change and challenge. In the following pages, we’ll celebrate the Class of 2020, who made their final semester one to remember; we’ll share how the coronavirus impacted students, faculty, athletes and alumni alike and highlight several members of our community who took swift action in the face of the global pandemic; and we’ll spotlight **Elizabeth Kanagawa ’06, ’11**, whose work as a school counselor has allowed her kindness, sensitivity and compassion to shine — and distinguished her among school counselors in Michigan.

Additionally, join us in celebrating the launch of three new programs — SAU’s Doctor of Nursing Practice in Strategic Leadership, Bachelor of Science in Mechanical Engineering and Master of Education in Trauma and Resiliency — in “Arbor Today” and read about the transformative collaboration around racial reconciliation and criminal justice reform that Chief Diversity Officer **Kevin Brown** is helping to facilitate between SAU and Oberlin College students a few pages later.

Let us walk in the light together and continue to allow his light to shine through us.

Dr. Brent Ellis
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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.

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LET YOUR COMPASSION SHINE: ELIZABETH KANAGAWA

Elizabeth Kanagawa '06, '11 shines in her work as a school counselor in Woodhaven, Michigan.

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SAU LAUNCHES DOCTORATE-LEVEL NURSING PROGRAM AT CRITICAL MOMENT IN HEALTHCARE

Spring Arbor University (SAU) launched an online Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) in Strategic Leadership program along with three online post-master's certificates in June 2020 — a pivotal moment in the healthcare industry. The innovative programs combine a Christ-centered worldview with the academic rigor of a world-class program, preparing nurses for the emerging challenges in the future of healthcare.

The DNP program is specifically designed for working nurses looking to advance their careers in the most highly sought-after areas of the advanced nursing profession. It provides the prospect for working nurses to grow within their skill sets to address the nation's ongoing shortage in nursing.

"The healthcare industry is currently facing the challenge of a lack of doctorally prepared nurses. The new, flexible online DNP in Strategic Leadership program provides opportunities for working nurses to expand their skills and advance their careers while also addressing an urgent need within the nursing industry," says **Dr. Dawn Day**, Chair of Graduate Nursing Programs at SAU.

The three new post-master's certificates offer even more opportunities for highly skilled nursing leaders to obtain specialized knowledge to impact the future of healthcare. Students can choose from clinical or educational tracks to create more opportunities to expand their careers while meeting the growing need for highly skilled nursing leaders. The certificates

include specialized training for work as a family nurse practitioner, adult-gerontology nurse practitioner or nurse educator.

Coursework is almost 100% online, with a curriculum that uniquely integrates Christian faith and principles with a world-class, rigorous academic program.

Both the online DNP program and the online post-master's certificate programs offer the flexibility and practicality of an innovative course design that ensures nurses can continue to work in their current roles throughout the curriculum. SAU's distinctive curricular approach prepares nursing leaders for advanced practice that glorifies God through ethical, compassionate and client-centered care.

ENGINEERING OFFERINGS CONTINUE TO GROW AT SAU

Spring Arbor University (SAU) proudly announced a new Bachelor of Science in Mechanical Engineering program in September 2020. The program — set to begin in Fall 2021 — is the latest addition to the new School of Engineering, joining SAU's Bachelor of Science in Electrical Engineering, which welcomed its first class last fall.

The new program, offered to traditional undergraduate students on SAU's Spring Arbor campus, will allow students to tailor their education to their specific interests. It helps fill a growing need for engineers in the U.S. economy. Built around NASA's Engineering Design Process, the program will prepare students for their future

careers by emphasizing teamwork, theory, design and project building.

As one of only two faith-based mechanical engineering bachelor's programs in Michigan, the program will allow SAU to promote both faith and a liberal arts perspective in a field that is critical in the modern economy. SAU's program will equip students to compete with graduates from larger schools after graduation.

"Mechanical engineering continues to be one of the areas of study with the largest interest from prospective students," says SAU Vice President of Enrollment and Marketing **Jon Bahr**. "Adding this program is a critical step in upholding that

goal of preparing students to be 'critical participants in the contemporary world.'"

Dr. Ronald DeLap, Dean of the School of Engineering at SAU, believes that engineers have the privilege and responsibility of developing and keeping God's creation, stating they have a unique, God-given calling to serve in ways that address the brokenness of a fallen world.

SAU plans to pursue accreditation for its engineering programs through the Accreditation Board for Engineering and Technology (ABET). DeLap will guide SAU through the application process for ABET accreditation following the 2023 graduation of the first electrical engineering class.

MASTER OF EDUCATION IN TRAUMA AND RESILIENCY PROGRAM MEETS K-12 NEEDS

This May, Spring Arbor University (SAU) launched an online Master of Education in Trauma and Resiliency program. The program — created to equip teachers to understand the impact of trauma on students and to learn essential social-emotional teaching strategies for the classroom and beyond — was met with immediate interest.

More than ever, K-12 teachers across the country find that their students have been exposed to trauma. The National Survey of Children's Health found that 35 million children in the United States face at least one type of trauma in their childhood. Students enrolled in SAU's M.Ed. Trauma and Resiliency program will discover how to help K-12 learners build resiliency and work through personal trauma that affects classroom behavior and performance.

"It is imperative that school personnel have specific training on how best to

support students who have been exposed to trauma. This program is aimed at equipping educators, schools and districts with the necessary skills to ensure the success of all students," says **John Williams IV '06, '09**, Dean of SAU's School of Education.

The program operates in partnership with Starr Commonwealth, a leader in providing trauma-informed and resilience-based courses, training and certification programs for teachers, administrators and other professionals working in school settings.

"To partner with SAU and their innovative education faculty is an honor," says Elizabeth Carey, Starr Commonwealth President and CEO. "Starr Commonwealth has provided support to educators seeking to best serve all students for more than 30 years. We are proud of the transformation in school culture and student performance we have witnessed with the help of our curriculum."



BRIDGING THE GAP

BY KEVIN BROWN

CHIEF DIVERSITY OFFICER



Last fall, Spring Arbor University (SAU) was presented with a unique opportunity to further develop students into “critical participants in the contemporary world.”

As part of SAU’s ongoing efforts to create a community that is welcoming to all students, I joined a few other senior administrators for a conversation with Simon Greer, a nationally recognized entrepreneur and social change leader, who has successfully brought people with ideological differences together.

Polarization and demonization of the “other” is increasingly prevalent in America, and there are limited opportunities for deep and informed engagement across lines of difference, particularly on college campuses. Greer wondered if his model would have success on a college campus and asked if SAU would be a willing partner on this journey.

Students at Oberlin College, known as a bastion of liberal thinking in Oberlin, Ohio, are sometimes labeled as elite, intolerant “snowflakes,” while SAU students are sometimes labeled as conservative, intolerant “evangelicals.” Each is supposed to view the other as the irreconcilable opposition. We dared to challenge that notion and decided to partner with Greer and Oberlin College to create and pilot a January-term course — all in the span of two months! Seven SAU students stepped up to join us in this leap of faith and take the pilot course, all without receiving course credit.

The course, called “Bridging the Gap,” began with simple, yet profound, guidelines for its participants: “The intention is to take seriously the things that others hold dear. If it matters to them, then it will matter to us; we will not try to convince



anyone that they are wrong or change them; and rather than thinking we are diminished by listening carefully to ideas we might disagree with, we will trust that we are enhanced by it.”

On Jan. 13, 2020, SAU welcomed 10 students from Oberlin College to kick off the program. Several days later, SAU’s students traveled to Oberlin to cap the pilot course. Over a three-week period, all 17 students invested a great deal in this journey, putting in over 125 hours of combined classwork, fieldwork and homework. They learned and practiced skills such as listening, providing feedback and telling their stories. They explored each other’s values, worldviews, political ideas, faith traditions and much more. Students were encouraged to hold to their convictions and not to blur differences or seek watered-down compromises.

Elizabeth Stewart, a senior communication studies major from SAU, said, “We knew the course was a safe space to learn and a safe place to disagree. Greer designed it around hearing others’ perspectives and made sure we were set up to be curious, listen, agree, disagree and focus on intellectual humility.”

The final phase of the program was an application of the newly discovered “Bridging the Gap” approach to a policy issue. Students were asked to focus on criminal justice reform. They began their deep dive into this issue by meeting stakeholders at every level in the criminal justice system. Students worked together, synthesized their knowledge and collaboratively presented their findings and blueprints for reform to a distinguished panel on the Oberlin College campus.

The pilot course and program was a success, but it was also so much more than that. We were all reminded that, secular or Christian, conservative or liberal, we all have our own stories that make us human.

THE FUTURE OF “BRIDGING THE GAP”

As a result of the pilot’s success, the Faculty Senate has approved this course for the 2020-21 January-term for credit. Greer and “Bridging the Gap” have secured funding to continue SAU’s partnership with Oberlin College and expand the program, thanks to the Arthur Vining Davis Foundation and Templeton Religious Trust. Furthermore, four SAU students who participated in the pilot course have been selected to serve as “Bridging the Gap” fellows for the 2020-21 academic year. These students will receive course credit and a stipend to serve as teaching assistants alongside Oberlin College students when new campus partners embark on their pilot courses.

As Chief Diversity Officer at SAU, I believe that we have to be committed to breaking down barriers and eliminating harmful bias, discrimination and racism so that we can create a campus community that truly reflects the depth and breadth of God’s kingdom. By participating in “Bridging the Gap,” we were able to offer students the opportunity to learn from others and practice active listening — two valuable steps on the road to developing authentic relationships that will lead to trust, honesty and respect.

Please visit arbor.edu/BridgingTheGap for future updates about this important program.





Spring Arbor
UNIVERSITY

LET YOUR *light* SHINE

“The friendships that I’ve formed at **SAU** have helped me to stay motivated. With good friends, you gain **perspective**, and you become **empowered to succeed** in your field of study, as well.”

— ISAIAH HARRIS, JUNIOR MARKETING MAJOR —

Find out more at [arbor.edu](https://www.arbor.edu).

The illustration features a light green background with a white line that meanders across the page, connecting several circular red areas. Each red circle contains a different scene of daily life. In the top left, a man in a black shirt and white mask sits at a yellow table with a laptop. In the top middle, a woman in a black top and yellow skirt stands near a ladder with a small black dog. In the top right, a woman in a black top and yellow pants is exercising. In the middle right, a woman in a black top and white mask sits in a yellow chair with a laptop. In the bottom left, a man in a black shirt and white mask stands with a young girl in a yellow dress and white mask. They are accompanied by a yellow dog on a leash and a yellow toy cart with a teddy bear inside. The word "PERSPECTIVES" is written in large, white, bold, sans-serif capital letters across the center of the page.

PERSPECTIVES



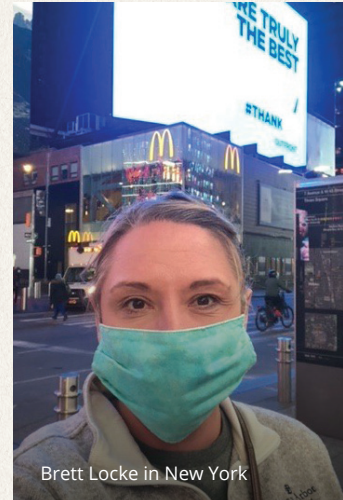
OF HOPE

This spring, the coronavirus presented unique challenges across the SAU community. To prevent the disruption of students' education, faculty members sprang to action to ease the university's transition to virtual instruction. Coaches discovered creative ways to guide student athletes through a difficult season. Students found new ways to connect and support each other remotely. And alumni offered strong leadership as they ensured the safety of others at work and at home. In a time of uncertainty and isolation, the SAU community redefined "togetherness," shining the light of Christ like a constellation around a world in need.

ANSWERING THE CALL



**SAU NURSING STUDENTS &
FACULTY RESPOND TO COVID-19**
by Katlyne Heath



Brett Locke in New York

During the spread of a global pandemic, as the world slowed down and people began to retreat to the safety of their homes, taking their jobs and their schoolwork with them, nurses everywhere got to work. As members of the first graduating class of Spring Arbor University's (SAU) traditional undergraduate nursing program completed their studies and joined fellow nursing alumni in the workforce amid pandemic chaos, SAU's graduate-level nursing students and faculty doubled their efforts to care for their communities — and their education.

For **Dr. Dawn Day**, Chair of Graduate Nursing Programs and Associate Professor of Nursing, and other nursing faculty, the spring semester became a balancing act. How could they support students academically in the midst of a health crisis, even as they and their students responded to the call for nurses on the front lines of the pandemic?

Many of the students and faculty who practice nursing clinically outside of school had to deal with not only the emotional stress of working as a nurse during the spread of COVID-19, but significantly altered work schedules, as well. Additionally, many students' clinical rotations were halted mid-semester, leaving their graduation plans in jeopardy.

Nursing faculty and staff had to quickly regroup in order to minimize disruption to their students' education. Many adjusted assignment deadlines and changed course policies.

Michelle Heriford, Director of the Nurse Practitioner Program and Assistant Professor of Nursing, worked tirelessly to redirect students whose clinical assignments had been affected by the coronavirus, at times placing them in new assignments in other areas of the country. Several students opened their homes to classmates traveling for clinical assignments.

Additionally, many faculty members reached out to students personally to ensure their safety and ability to complete their coursework. They prayed with students during class and opened discussion forums in which students could share their experiences with each other. Students began to use these virtual spaces to offer prayer and encouragement for their classmates.

"One could not hope for a better group of faculty," says Day, who has been teaching at SAU since 2013. "I am so proud to serve with them!"

Day hopes to prepare strong nurse leaders for the future of healthcare through SAU's graduate-level nursing programs. During the pandemic, she's been impressed to see students and alumni continuing to serve their communities every day, despite the danger their work presents to themselves and their families. "The physical and emotional toll of caring for patients throughout this pandemic is truly indescribable," says Day. "Our students and alumni are incredible!"

“The sun will rise every morning and set every night. God will be God tomorrow, and that does not change, whatever happens.”

— THOMAS JOHNSON —



Thomas Johnson



Students from the first graduating class of SAU's traditional undergraduate nursing program

Many students who serve in the military, healthcare leadership, education and other professions persevered through the spring semester, juggling their academic and professional responsibilities admirably well. Still others postponed their studies to travel to areas needing additional nurses on the front lines.

One such student was **Brett Locke**. Locke, a student in SAU's Master of Science in Nursing — Nurse Practitioner program, saw an opportunity to use her skills and expertise to serve those suffering with COVID-19 in the hardest-hit area of the United States.

“I felt a pull on my heart to come help in NYC, but I didn't immediately act on it,” says Locke. “I wasn't sure what God was asking me to do, I just knew I wanted to help in some capacity. The staff nurses [in NYC] had been working nonstop, the hospitals were overwhelmed. It took me three weeks and a lot of prayer before I committed to coming. This was one of the hardest things I have ever done, for so many reasons, but I knew God led me there and would see me through it.”

Another student, **Thomas Johnson**, continued his studies even as he worked on the front lines in an emergency room near Detroit. Amid death and suffering, Johnson, a student in SAU's RN-MSN — Nurse Practitioner program, found it more important than ever to put on the armor of God — both physically and spiritually — for his daily work.

“I always carry a Bible verse on my gear when I work. It is something I did in the army,” says Johnson. “I currently have two verses, Psalm 23:4 on my face mask and Ephesians 6:10-18 on my respirator. God has shown me to trust in him, and everything will get better. The sun will rise every morning and set every night. God will be God tomorrow, and that does not change, whatever happens.”

“The light that shines through students has only gotten brighter through this season, and I anticipate it will continue to grow as God is glorified through their work,” says Day.

The School of Nursing is currently revising course curriculum to reflect all that they and the broader nursing community have learned during this crisis. The revisions, which emphasize emergency preparedness, are guided by student and faculty experience. “This is one of the great products of student-faculty collaboration that will help us build an even stronger foundation for our programs,” says Day.

“My greatest takeaway from this crisis is that God is sovereign,” says Day. “He has given our students, faculty and staff the strength to endure. This strength has allowed us to move forward in unity to maintain a stellar nursing program, produce nurses who will impact healthcare with integrity and, above all else, glorify God in all that we do. I am inspired both personally and professionally through this experience, the good and the bad, and I trust that God will continue to bless us through it all.”

COLLEGE ATHLETICS

& THE CORONAVIRUS by Chris Bauman & Derek Devine



The spread of the coronavirus shut down sports across the country this spring. The decision brought a stunning end to the seasons — and in many cases, careers — of student athletes of all levels, including those at Spring Arbor University (SAU).

Before many knew that the coronavirus had reached the U.S. in early March, life — and sports — continued as normal. While the SAU baseball, softball and tennis teams had just returned from spring break trips to Florida and South Carolina, the defending national champion men's basketball team was competing in its second straight national tournament in Sioux Falls, South Dakota. The Cougars lost their opening-round matchup on March 11. Little did they know, the tournament would be shut down completely.

Just hours after SAU's loss, the Ivy League became the first conference to cancel sports through the remainder of the academic year due to coronavirus concerns. Later that night, the NBA postponed its season after one of its players tested positive for the virus, and the dominoes began to fall.

The next day, March 12, the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA) canceled the remainder of the DII men's basketball national tournament, as well as all remaining winter sport national championships. A few days later, the NAIA canceled all spring seasons.

For some of our athletes, this was their last opportunity to wear their SAU jerseys, take the field and simply be together. Many were devastated to hear that they wouldn't be able to play the sport they love with the people they love again at the collegiate level. Players typically have a chance to mentally prepare for the last day of their athletic careers, but in this case, many athletes played their last games without even knowing it.

**"You never
know what
tomorrow holds;
it might be a sprint
or a marathon."**

— ROB MILLER '86 —

SAU alumni **Rob Miller '86** and **Larry DeSimpelare '89** both serve as commissioners of conferences within the NAIA. Miller leads the Wolverine-Hoosier Athletic Conference (WHAC) and DeSimpelare leads the Crossroads League.

Miller had his first discussion concerning the coronavirus with NAIA CEO Jim Carr on a Monday in early March. They talked about how COVID-19 may impact intercollegiate athletics. By that Friday, the WHAC became the first NAIA conference to announce they would cancel the spring season.

"In my 35+ years involved in intercollegiate athletics, I've never observed something transpire so quickly," says Miller. "We went from moving 100 MPH to 0 MPH in a matter of a week."

Intercollegiate athletics came to a complete halt, and institutions started concentrating on how to manage the rest of the academic year. In a matter of weeks, students departed from on-campus living and learning to spend time in quarantine and take virtual classes from home.

Discussions about fall athletic plans launched late April as Miller spent time connecting with presidents and athletic directors within the conference. They remained in communication all summer as the pandemic continued to unfold. The most valuable thing Miller could do was listen and understand where each conference member stood.

"My job as commissioner is to wade through the needs of each conference member and provide clarity and options moving forward," says Miller. "We collaborated to obtain a middle ground and worked to develop practical solutions for everyone."

The WHAC contains institutions from Michigan, Indiana and Ohio, so Miller had to factor in guidelines from both the national and state levels as he worked with the NAIA and members of the conference.

"There are multiple layers that go into the decision-making process while managing this pandemic. Guidelines in all three states look different and change weekly," says Miller. "It's just a matter of working through the clutter and trying to keep the game plan as simple as we can."

Miller spent several years working for the NAIA directly, so he understands the difficulty of handling adversity within a conference when so many presidents and athletic directors are involved.

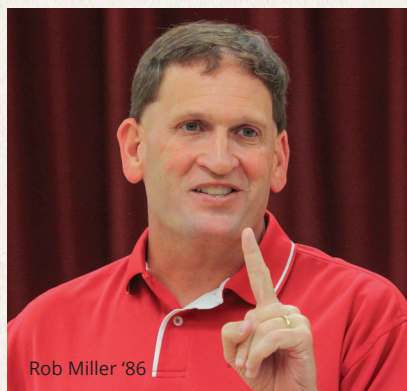
"I'm proud of our conference for not hitting the panic button and working together to come up with solutions," says Miller. "Several conferences have been fractured during this pandemic, so I am grateful we continue to work together and support each other during these challenging times."

DeSimpelare has the unique ability to lead 10 faith-based institutions, including SAU, as commissioner of the Crossroads League. "Faith factors into every decision we make during the pandemic," says DeSimpelare. "No leader within the conference believes he or she is bigger than the conference itself. The willingness of each person to sacrifice for the good of the conference continues to amaze me."

DeSimpelare typically meets with the presidents of each institution twice a year to discuss the most important agenda items. During the ongoing coronavirus pandemic, all parties have committed to meeting weekly to create a clear action plan to move forward.

"Spending time and collaborating with people you respect and admire has been a special opportunity for me," says DeSimpelare. "This pandemic is tough for all of us, but we lean on each other to solve the issue at hand."

The process of following guidelines to structure plans has remained fluid in both conferences.



Rob Miller '86



Larry DeSimpelare '89

"You never know what tomorrow holds; it might be a sprint or a marathon. Or, it might even be a day of rest as you sit back and await decisions from others," says Miller. "Regardless, we are all willing and ready to handle what comes next."

"Plans and processes are subject to change every day," says DeSimpelare. "Organization and great lines of communication have been strengths as we work through this thing together. It gives us the ability to adapt quickly and has allowed us to attempt to keep our kids safe while they play."

Both Miller and DeSimpelare are aware that this pandemic is something that no one has been able to navigate flawlessly. There is no "perfect" or final plan that can be created to get rid of the burden the coronavirus has brought upon intercollegiate athletics and the world. But at the end of the day, both commissioners continue to do everything in their power to provide the best possible experience to the student athletes within their respective conferences.



Mark Douglass

MAKING MUSIC DURING A PANDEMIC

**How SAU's Music Department Transitioned to
Virtual Learning Without Skipping a Beat**

by Dr. Mark Douglass

The appearance of COVID-19 presented the music department with some unique challenges. Among them were completing senior recitals, meeting students' musical equipment needs and helping students get into a mindset appropriate for musical study.

One of the earliest challenges was helping our graduating seniors complete their capstone requirement: the senior recital. This performance, marking the student's emergence as a professional musician, is comprised of 40-60 minutes of memorized music in multiple styles and languages. Singers must perform selections dating from as early as the Renaissance to the contemporary era, showing a mastery of the English, French, German and Italian languages. Instrumentalists and composers have similar requirements. Immediately before students were encouraged to leave campus — and with only a few days' notice — all of the graduating seniors put together their performances and presented themselves with the utmost professionalism. Our pianists, **Deb Sanders '16** and adjunct instructor **Linda Storm**, played marathon performances. Our faculty and students are truly exceptional; each one was prepared, at least one month early, to deliver a powerful performance that was indicative of their readiness to be a professional musician.

Once recitals were completed, the next challenge was to make sure that our applied students (those taking private vocal, instrumental or composition lessons) had the resources they needed to be successful in a remote setting. The faculty worked very hard to send students home with whatever they needed. We shipped keyboards, drum sticks, practice pads, headphones, interfaces, microphones and music stands. Most pianists and singers were able to continue their studies with the addition of a "loaner" keyboard. Composers who were initially working on campus in the music lab were able to continue their projects at home. Before students returned home, **Cayla Ross**, a music major in her third year, was in the final stages of completing "Builders," a record she wrote, recorded and produced. Because the faculty sent her home with the appropriate equipment, she was able to finish her project remotely, and we were able to enjoy her communicative and hopeful work in a seemingly hopeless time.

One of the biggest challenges in adjusting to the new format was conducting remote reevaluations of the needs of our students. The music faculty is collectively fastidious about meeting each of our students at their level. Because the

stay-at-home order had tremendous implications for the mental and emotional well-being of our students, we found the need to constantly reevaluate each student enrolled in our courses, approaching every meeting with more sensitivity and encouragement than usual. People simply aren't interested in learning the nuances of music theory when they don't feel physically and mentally safe.

The music faculty, supported by SAU's superb technology department, did an exceptional job tending to the broken spirits of our students. Adjunct instructor **Matthew Daniels** held virtual office hours daily, giving students ample opportunity for open discussion. Adjunct instructor **Emily Douglass** designed three virtual formats for her voice lessons and allowed students to choose, week-by-week, which format they would use. Assistant Professor of Music **Audrejean Heydenburg** continuously checked in with each of her students. If a student was not responding, Audrejean reached out to other faculty members to enlist their help in reopening



The SAU music faculty

the lines of communication. Adjunct instructor **Matthew Kay** changed his composition assignments, making them more tailored to students' available resources. Our response was met with success: our students were musically and academically engaged. Students finished the semester with a strong demonstration of expected growth.

COVID-19 taught us some important lessons, but it also affirmed what we do. There is a reason music is foundational in a liberal arts education: it helps us to become more inquisitive, reflective and critical. It inspires fellowship and a love of the beauty of God's creation, and it comforts us in times of difficulty. Although COVID-19 forced us to be physically separate, we were still able to fellowship. We created music together. We examined and dissected great works of music, discovering and rediscovering our Creator's aesthetic. Most importantly, we were able to collaborate in the creation of new music that will serve as salt and light for years to come.

SAU'S COVID-19 JOURNEY



JANUARY 30

SAU sends out its first official COVID-19 announcement to the campus community, stating its commitment to work collaboratively and proactively with local and state resources to monitor developments of the coronavirus.

FEBRUARY 27

With Spring Break approaching, a second announcement is sent to the campus community mentioning safety tips and a notice about staying safe as members of the campus spread out around the country.

MARCH 5

SAU forms a Coronavirus Planning Team (CPT), consisting of 16 representatives from every area on SAU's campus.

AUGUST 31

Undergraduate students and employees were tested for COVID-19 before the fall semester.

JUNE 9

SAU announces partnership with Garcia Laboratory in Jackson, Michigan, for COVID-19 testing for undergraduate students and employees upon return to campus.

MAY 22

SAU announces intentions to resume in-person instruction and residential life for the Fall 2020 semester. The CPT begins developing a plan to implement best practices to ensure the safety and well-being of all of our students and employees.

SEPTEMBER 1

The first day of classes for the Fall 2020 semester begins on time.



For updates on SAU's COVID-19 response, visit arboretum.edu/covid.

Faced with unprecedented circumstances and obstacles in the spring, members of the SAU community worked tirelessly to make the mid-semester shift from on-campus normalcy to a fully virtual experience away from their Spring Arbor home. Collectively, students, faculty and staff displayed resiliency as they continued their commitment to remaining Christ-centered while achieving academic excellence, even from afar. This collaborative community effort has ensured that the SAU family emerges from the pandemic ready to tackle the future as critical participants in the world.

MARCH 12-16

SAU announces that effective March 16, all face-to-face classroom instruction will be moved online and begins to transition various employees to remote operations.

MARCH 25

SAU administrators identified as “strictly necessary” workers to remain on campus as all other employees are asked to work remotely in order to comply with Michigan’s “Stay at Home Order.”

MAY 16

Virtual commencement takes place for traditional undergraduate students to celebrate the Class of 2020.

“I’m thankful for SAU’s dedication to ensuring we can continue to learn in a healthy, safe environment. It’s been great to have a sense of community back on campus and to see how we can build that community safely. I can’t wait to see what God has in store for my senior year at SAU!”

— MARK ADEMA '21 —

“We are so thankful for our dedicated staff and faculty who helped our students transition to remote learning last spring and prepare our campus for in-person classes this fall. We’re proud of the resiliency our students and graduates have shown as they overcame these challenges in this season.”

— COREY ROSS, VICE PRESIDENT FOR STUDENT DEVELOPMENT AND SUCCESS & CHAIR OF CORONAVIRUS PLANNING TEAM —



CLASS OF 2020,

When my mom recommended I visit SAU, I looked on the website and quickly determined that SAU was not the right fit for me. I wanted to attend a big university that would give me what I considered to be the “full college experience.” I was looking for a place where I could blend in, attend football games and receive my degree with ease.

What I received at SAU was much different and not exactly the college experience I thought I wanted. Instead of going to football games, I watched our soccer teams compete for national titles. Instead of blending in, I was known and held accountable for my actions. I had professors who invited me to lunch, like **Paul Patton '74** and **Chuck White (1967-68)**.

We had intentional times of worship together as a campus. We had elephants on the library roof and lip-sync events. We had plays in the Prop Shop, Cedar Bend trips and Barbie in the Dining Commons.

It's hard to express what the past four years have meant to me and how much they have changed me. I can't tell you how much it's meant to have some of the most incredible professors and classmates, to learn the lessons I've learned and to experience so many “Jesus moments” on campus.

Even though our college experience was unique compared to other universities, we can look back on the incredible memories and understand that it was much more than the “full college experience” we may have hoped for.

As this chapter of our lives closes, my prayer is that we continue to grow. I pray that we learn more about God, the people around us and ourselves. I pray that as we enter the world, that we bring the best parts of SAU with us. I'm excited to see the many ways God uses us for his mission.

**SINCERELY,
JUBILEE JACKSON '20**

SAU

MEMORIES
FROM THE
CLASS OF

2020



SARAH LANTIS '20

Psychology

"I will miss the psychology and youth ministry professors, as I am deeply thankful for the personal and spiritual transformation that came from those courses. I am grateful for the opportunity to study in Morocco and Ecuador, and how SAU supports cultural competency and diversity in learning."



BRANDON VALENTINE '20

Elementary Education

"Incredible memories in Andrews Hall. Everlasting friendships made at Sydow House. Leading students as a Peer Advisor. Asking my best friend to spend the rest of our lives together. These are the many memories at Spring Arbor that are solidified as a part of myself."



AIDAN TAYLOR '20

Business Administration

"When I reflect on all of my memories at SAU, Cedar Bend sticks out the most. It provided me the opportunity to mature as a college student and get out of my comfort zone. The relationships I created that weekend developed into the friendships I have today."



SAVANNAH VARGIS '20

Elementary Education

"I love how SAU encourages students to be a part of the community because it taught me to be fully focused on my neighbor and love them wholeheartedly. Thank you, SAU, for challenging yet encouraging me to be involved with my surroundings daily to further glorify his Kingdom."



LET YOUR

compassion

SHINE

ELIZABETH KANAGAWA

Named 2021 Michigan School Counselor of the Year

Elizabeth “Betsy” Kanagawa ‘06, ‘11 has been named the 2021 Michigan School Counselor of the Year by the Michigan School Counselor Association. A graduate of Spring Arbor University’s Master of Arts in Counseling program, Kanagawa lets her kindness, sensitivity and compassion shine as a school counselor at Patrick Henry Middle School in Woodhaven, Michigan, where she has served for nine years. Kanagawa is the granddaughter of professor emeritus and affiliate faculty member **Dr. Garnet Hauger**.

The School Counselor of the Year award honors professionals who devote their careers to serving as advocates for the nation’s students and addressing their academic and social/emotional development and college and career readiness. Award finalists were evaluated in the following areas: creative school counseling innovations, effective school counseling programs, leadership skills and contributions to student advancement. Kanagawa, along with other state School Counselor of the Year winners, will be considered for National School Counselor of the Year.

“It is a very exciting, humbling and overwhelming feeling,” says Kanagawa, who grew up in the Jackson area. “I’m very honored to be chosen and excited to represent Michigan.”

In 2019, the American School Counselor Association (ASCA) awarded Patrick Henry Middle School Recognized ASCA Model Program (RAMP) status, an achievement made possible by Kanagawa’s efforts.

“Kanagawa is a true testament to and embodiment of the mission and vision of the ASCA,” says Patrick Henry Middle School Principal Matthew Salah. “She has created and cultivated a data-driven, outcomes-based program that takes into account the whole-child approach.”

“As a school counselor, I truly believe in the power of a data-driven, comprehensive school counseling program for all students,” says Kanagawa. “Part of this program must include looking at achievement gaps and working to close those gaps for disadvantaged, marginalized students.”

Kanagawa’s coworkers praise her for her natural leadership, as well as the enthusiastic support that she offers her students and coworkers each day.

“Elizabeth is a natural leader and effective advocate at Patrick Henry,” says Patrice Barden, LLMSW, a Patrick Henry school social worker and colleague of Kanagawa. “She is very active in the school’s daily functioning. She supports our students, administration, staff and parents graciously. She exudes enthusiasm in her work and often presents fresh, new ideas on ways to reach students and advance counseling services. She holds a high level of experience, knowledge and insight that several staff members, including myself, look to for guidance.”

Kanagawa continually seeks new strategies that will allow her to best serve the students at Patrick Henry. Determined to connect with each student in a school of about 840 students, Kanagawa implemented “Minute Meetings,” during which she or another counselor asked students important questions about mental health and identified those most in need of support. Kanagawa aims to have each student attend three “Minute Meetings” every academic year. In addition to “Minute Meetings,” Kanagawa has coordinated “Mix It Up at Lunch Days,” which challenge students to meet new people through one-day-only assigned seating in the cafeteria during lunch.

Earlier this year, when Patrick Henry transitioned to online learning due to COVID-19, Kanagawa quickly adapted her methods to best serve students in the midst of the pandemic. She used Google Classroom to connect with students remotely and share lessons on self-esteem, stress and anxiety. Her “office” remained open to students via technology such as Zoom, Google Hangouts and Google Voice. She even held a virtual career day!

“A driving principle for me is simply sharing the love of Jesus,” says Kanagawa. “I feel like God gave me a set of gifts and abilities, and I want to fulfill the purpose he gave me in my work with the students and families in my community.”

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR

2020 ALUMNI AWARD RECIPIENTS!



ALUMNUS OF THE YEAR
ANTHONY LUTTRELL '77

Program: Biology
Profession: Retired, Former President
of Luttrell Consulting Group, LLC



YOUNG LEADER
DR. JACOB ATEM '08

Program: Biology
Profession: Co-Founder & CEO at
Southern Sudan Healthcare Organization



PROFESSIONAL EXCELLENCE
KARI SHIMMEL '03

Program: Art
Profession: Chief Strategy
Officer at Campbell Ewald



FAITHFUL SERVANT
KEN MILLS '78

Program: Music
Profession: Executive Director at
Southwest Michigan Youth for Christ

Spring Arbor University has a global alumni community who are using their gifts and talents to pursue excellence in their career, impact their communities and further the Kingdom of God. It is our privilege to recognize and celebrate our alumni each year for these accomplishments at our annual alumni awards dinner.

To view full bios on all our recipients, visit arbor.edu/awards.



LEROY M. LOWELL AWARD
K. CALEB CHAN, PH.D.

Profession: SAU Professor of Business,
Dean of the Gainey School of Business



CONCEPT IN ACTION
JONAH ENGLE '20

Program: Pastoral Ministry
Profession: Director of
EveryHeart Ministries



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**CHRISTIAN MUSIC.
A STUDENT-LED RADIO
MINISTRY OF SAU.**


Spring Arbor
UNIVERSITY

1970

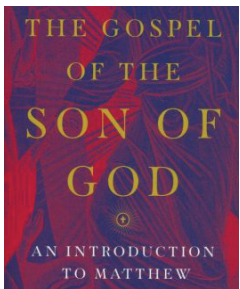


Thomas '70 and Noni (Graz '70) Ramundo recently celebrated 50 years of marriage and Thomas's 50th year of ministry. Thomas has served 38 years as a local church pastor, eight years as a conference superintendent and four years in his current full-time speaking ministry. They reside in Jackson, Michigan.

1976



Dan Runyon '76 serves as a chaplain for Vista Grande Villa. In May 2020, he retired after 20 years of teaching in the English and communication departments at Spring Arbor University. Dan lives in Spring Arbor, Michigan.



David R. Bauer '76 has published a new book with InterVarsity Academic Press, titled "The Gospel of the Son of God: An Introduction to Matthew." David serves as Beeson Professor of Inductive Biblical Studies and Dean of the School of Biblical Interpretation at Asbury Theological Seminary. David resides in Wilmore, Kentucky, with his son, Christopher.

1979

Gary Weidenhamer '79 retired in 2018 as the Director of Educational Technology for the School District of Palm Beach County, where he served for 39 years. Gary resides in Jupiter, Florida.

1981

David Gingrich '81 is the Associate Vice President for Geisinger Health System. David resides in Danville, Pennsylvania.

Thomas D. Mackie '81 works as an adjunct professor for Indiana University East. Thomas resides in Indianapolis, Indiana.

1982

Tina Benson '82 serves as a caregiver for Family Choice Home Care. Tina resides in Lexington, Kentucky.

1984

Connie (Evoy) Moeller '84 runs her own business, Expressions by Connie Mae, which focuses on her artwork. Her oil paintings have been displayed in several venues and won awards, and they are owned by people across the country. Recently, her paintings have been used to decorate United Banks across her state. Connie lives in Morgantown, West Virginia.

1985

Cindy (Kaye) Bullock '85 works as an administrative assistant for the North Michigan Conference of the Free Methodist Church. Cindy resides in Evart, Michigan.

1987



Cheri (Knowles) Clyde '87 serves as a teacher for the Dickson School District. Cheri's late husband, **Steve '87**, passed away in March 2020 after a three-year battle with brain cancer. Cheri resides in Charlotte, Tennessee.

1992

Jonathan Kohns '92 was recently named Associate Registrar at Spring Arbor University. His daughter, **Annabelle (Kohns) Pollard '20**, graduated from SAU with a degree in vocal performance. Jonathan lives in Plainwell, Michigan.

1995



Selena Hope (Bonga) Keenan '95 married Jeff Keenan in October 2019. Selena is excited to now have a big family of seven. They reside in Allegan, Michigan.

1997

Rob Chisholm III '97, '18 serves as a Graduate Medical Education Coordinator for the Medical University of South Carolina. Rob resides in Isle of Palms, South Carolina.



Beth Nagel '97 published an adoption book, "Cry of My Heart: Meditations and Prayers for Adoptive Moms" in May 2020. Beth's inspiration came from her written prayers after she and her husband adopted a sibling group of three children from the foster care system. They live in Rockford, Michigan.

2000

Nicole (Mourning) Johnson '00 serves as a Senior Business Relationship Manager for CP Federal Credit Union. Nicole resides in Jackson, Michigan.

Anne Walcott '00 serves as an orthopedic/trauma nurse for Mercy Health. Anne lives in Hubbard, Ohio.

2005

Sandy Brown '05 serves as an administrator for the diagnostic vascular units at the University of Michigan, Michigan Medicine. Sandy resides in Jackson, Michigan.

2006

Breannon (Mowen) Marshall '06 serves as a stay-at-home mother. Breannon lives in Lansing, Michigan.

2007



Stephanie (Hall) Montrosse '07 and her husband, Carl, welcomed their third son, Benjamin Daniel, in May 2020. They reside in Davisburg, Michigan. Photo credit: **Heather (Henderson) Gardner '08**, Stephanie's SAU roommate.



Misty (Hubbard) Videto '07 recently started her own professional organizing business, Starting Point Organizing. Misty lives in Spring Arbor, Michigan.

2008

Crystal Keetch '08 serves as the Director of Registration and Academic Services for Indiana Wesleyan University. Crystal resides in Marion, Indiana.

David Wheatley '08 recently co-authored the book, "What Great Teams Do Great." David lives in Kalamazoo, Michigan.

2008



Jillian (Bailey) Raymond '08, '15 works as a guidance counselor for Jackson High School. Jill and her husband, **John '08**, welcomed their second child, Thomas, in July 2019. They reside in Brooklyn, Michigan.

2010

Johnathon Glowacki '10 serves as the worship arts minister for Fairdale Christian Church. Jonathan lives in Louisville, Kentucky.

2011

Ryan Dellos '11 serves as an assistant principal, Bible teacher and varsity boys soccer coach at Gyeonggi Suwon International School. Ryan resides in Thornton, Colorado.

2012

Candice Tatro '12 was recently promoted to Juvenile Justice Clinical Supervisor at Easterseals Michigan. She has also had the opportunity to work with the Genesee County Girls Court, serving as a therapist for girls at risk of sex trafficking. Candice lives in Fenton, Michigan.

Lindsay Longwell '12 began her third year as a school social worker for Omaha Public Schools this fall. Lindsay resides in Omaha, Nebraska.

Ariel Gant '12, '15 is the Community Services Supervisor for Highfields. Ariel resides in Jackson, Michigan.



Kayla (Hadley) Knapp '12 and her husband, **Brian '10**, recently welcomed their third child, Benjamin, into the world in January 2020. Kayla recently graduated with her Master's in Higher Education Leadership and will be serving as an adjunct instructor at Spring Arbor University this fall. They now reside in Jackson, Michigan.

2013



Keambra (Overall) Pierson '13 works as the Associate Dean of Business Entrepreneurship and Professional Development at Henry Ford College. Keambra lives in Taylor, Michigan.



Katie (French) Espinoza '13 serves as a teacher for the Escambia School District. She and her husband, Roger, recently welcomed their firstborn son, Oliver. They reside in Pensacola, Florida.

2014

Cody Rogers '14 serves as a support analyst for Auto-Owners Insurance. Cody resides in Dewitt, Michigan.

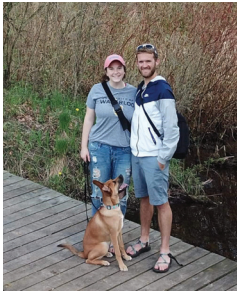
Christi Bartlett '14 works as a lung nodule nurse navigator for Henry Ford Allegiance Health. Christi resides in Cement City, Michigan.

Lisa (Schermerhorn) Ryan '14 serves as an RN care navigator for Michigan Medicine. Lisa lives in Grass Lake, Michigan.

2015

Sarah Roelofs '15 works as a business analyst for Meijer. Sarah resides in Grand Rapids, Michigan.

Chelsae Burk '15 is the Coordinator of Housing Assignments and Welcome Weekend, as well as the Administrative Assistant for Student Development and Success, at Spring Arbor University. Chelsae's husband, **Bryan '13**, serves as the head coach for men's and women's cross country at SAU. They live in Spring Arbor, Michigan.



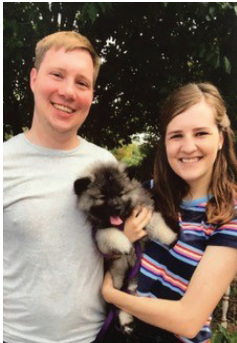
Emma Grace Palella '17 works as a resident director at Olivet Nazarene University. Emma resides in Bourbonnais, Illinois.

2018

Alicia Schmidtendorff '18 serves as an exercise physiologist in the cardiopulmonary department at Elkhart General Hospital. Alicia resides in Three Rivers, Michigan.

2017

Shannon (Bardwell) Reif '17 and her husband, **Kurt '18**, will welcome their first baby in November 2020. Shannon recently earned her MFA in illustration from the Academy of Art University of San Francisco and started a freelance surface design and illustration business called Shannon Reif Illustration LLC. Kurt works as a systems engineer at The KR Group, Inc. They reside in Kentwood, Michigan.



Jared Bulson '17 serves as the 4-12 vocal music teacher for Lawton Community Schools. Jared lives in Paw Paw, Michigan.

Sarah (Boyer) Hunt '17 serves as a chemistry and mathematics teacher at Canton Preparatory High School. Sarah lives in Belleville, Michigan.

2020

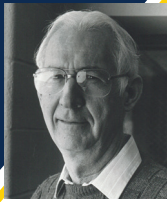


Terri Buiwitt '20 works as a substitute teacher. She recently graduated with her bachelor's degree from SAU while providing full-time care to her grandchildren. Terri lives in Corunna, Michigan.

Stay connected with SAU and fellow alumni — and allow us to best serve you and our current students — by providing your alumni updates! To update your information, and for a chance to be featured in future editions of the Journal, visit arbor.edu/alumni-update.

To learn how you can better connect and get involved with university and alumni events, initiatives and volunteer opportunities, visit arbor.edu/alumni.

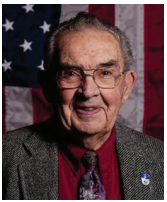
IN MEMORIAM



DR. DELVIN 'DOC' COVEY

passed away on April 29, 2020, at the age of 98. Doc began serving at Spring Arbor in the fall of 1964, when he was appointed chairman of the humanities division and professor of literature. After several years,

Doc left Spring Arbor College to accept a similar position at Gordon College, but he returned in 1983 to serve as the acting advisor for the newly developed communication department. Doc finished his time at Spring Arbor serving the university as the director of the Cross Cultural Studies program. During his tenure in higher education, Doc instructed over 20,000 students and made a lasting impact on many in the Spring Arbor community.



FRED "HOMER" JACKSON JC '46

passed away on May 30, 2020, at the age of 96. A long-time supporter of SAU, Homer was known for his seemingly endless capacity to make new friends and for welcoming each incoming freshman

class on move-in day. In total, Homer welcomed 61 classes to Spring Arbor, with his last being the Class of 2022, which he helped welcome to campus in the fall of 2018.

Homer served in World War II as a member of the U.S. Air Force before completing his junior college education at Spring Arbor in 1946. He later received his bachelor's degree at Greenville College and earned a teaching certification. After teaching for several years in the Flint area, Homer returned to Spring Arbor in 1957. At Spring Arbor, Homer coached basketball, track and baseball and went on to serve as the athletic director. He also helped establish the SAU Japan study abroad program and served, first, as the dean of men and, then, as dean of students. His last position was as director of admissions, a position in which he served for 24 years. In retirement, Homer continued to recruit students for SAU, including international students.

Homer was an active member of the Spring Arbor Free Methodist Church, and he helped organize mission trips to Haiti, Africa, Mississippi, Georgia, Louisiana, Mexico and Brazil. Homer was a champion for SAU, and a beloved member of the SAU community.

Edna (Shepler) Bernhard HS '53, JC '55	Dec. 1, 2019
William Blakeslee '82	Feb. 15, 2020
Gayle Briggs '06	Dec. 20, 2018
Betty Jo Byers '91	Nov. 27, 2019
Steven Clyde '87	March 11, 2020
Elaine G. Dailey '91, '01	May 9, 2020
Barbro (Larsen) Delamarter HS '55	Feb. 9, 2020
Alvin L. Denney HS '54	Nov. 29, 2016
Kenneth M. Dickinson JC '50	April 26, 2020
Filip T. Fiero '08	April 29, 2020
Rosemary (Gouge) Greider HS '50	March 15, 2017
Verle E. (Beck) Hansen HS '29	March 8, 2004
Janice (Derscheid) Johnson JC '58	March 6, 2020
Michael D. King '95	Jan. 29, 2017
Linda Klemens '90	Oct. 14, 2017
Trina C. Knox '86	March 18, 2012
Patricia A. McKee '86	Dec. 16, 2019
Henry W. Moon HS '57, JC '59	Dec. 16, 2019
Carter Ogle HS '52	April 21, 2019
R. Lee Ormston JC '51	Dec. 17, 2019
Robert L. Parks HS '48, JC '51	July 22, 2020
Patricia A. (Hudson) Parsons '73	April 12, 2020
Donald F. Pearse '86	June 2, 2020
Stephen Porter '72	March 16, 2020
Bonnie J. (Shoff) Schmalbach HS '48	Aug. 14, 2019
Amy L. (Swallow) Snapp '01	May 10, 2020
Colleen L. (Fleming) Stapley '87	June 6, 2020
Arleeta (Greve) Stevenson HS '54	Dec. 29, 2019
Gail (Schmidt) Terbush HS '53	Dec. 23, 2019
Tamra Thompson '02	Jan. 22, 2020
Madeline A. Trask '13	Dec. 22, 2019
Beatrice (Hudson) Travilla '85	June 8, 2020
Fred R. Whims HS '55, JC '57	June 28, 2020
Andrew M. Williams '09	Jan. 2, 2020
Lisa R. (Burton) Withrow '10	Jan. 29, 2020
Ralph P. Zempel '05	July 25, 2018
Rhonda L. (Mains) Zweifel '10, '14	May 4, 2020

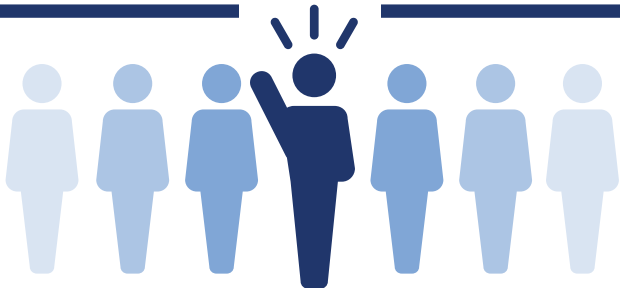
THANK YOU

SPRING ARBOR UNIVERSITY | FISCAL YEAR 2019-2020

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1,091 NEW DONORS

4,135 GIFTS

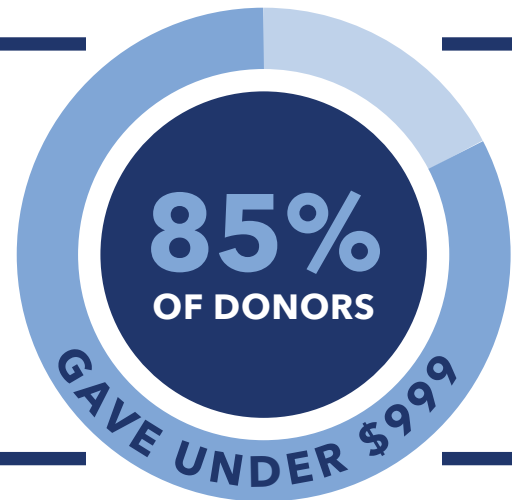


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Academics	\$247,517
Arbor Fund	\$773,921
Athletics	\$135,675
Capital	\$1,732,971
Endowment	\$58,000
Foundation	\$78,000
Missions	\$48,380
Scholarships	\$1,027,697
Strategic Projects	\$1,320,000
Other	\$688,972

EMERGENCY STUDENT RELIEF FUND

\$212,965

IN CALENDAR YEAR 2020

...and gifts continue to come in to support our students impacted by COVID-19!



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