

SPRING ARBOR UNIVERSITY JOURNAL

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DEAR ALUMNI AND FRIENDS,

One of the greatest pleasures in serving Spring Arbor University relates very little with the direct activity of our wonderful institution, but more with how God uses the education and foundation our alumni receive at SAU for His Kingdom work.

In this issue of the Journal are two examples of God's surprising design in the lives of two alumni: a counseling graduate owning and operating one of the world's largest suppliers of amphibians and a communications graduate operating a food truck. While their pursuits might not line up with their degree programs, the underlying foundation of their liberal arts education and our complete commitment to Christ as the perspective for learning provide critical thinking skills and faith commitments opening opportunities for them to follow God's leading.

Spring Arbor University's academic programs open doors to future opportunities and our faculty and staff lead and influence the paths our students pursue, but it is ultimately God who leads and guides our graduates into how they impact our world. Knowing that our graduates do not all look the same, but take the shape and form required by God to carry out His will in His creation, provides wonderful satisfaction as well as hope for the future of SAU and our world.



Dr. Brent Ellis
President



**EDITOR**

Derek Devine '14

DESIGN

Kerri Conrad Bowditch '16

WRITERS

Mark Adema '21

Chris Bauman

Derek Devine '14

PHOTOGRAPHY

Brooke Morse

**MARKETING &
COMMUNICATIONS**

Jon Bahr

Vice President

Derek Devine '14

Assistant Director

UNIVERSITY ADVANCEMENT

Dr. Doug Wilcoxson

Executive Vice President

Matt Gin

Assistant Vice President

Brian Knapp '10

Director of Alumni Relations

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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.

Office of Alumni Relations

alumni@arbor.edu

517.750.6673

University Admissions

517.750.6684

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



HOMECOMING 2021

After a year hiatus, students, alumni and community members gathered on campus to celebrate a day full of events and networking.



LIVING ON BOTH SIDES OF HOMELESSNESS

After overcoming homelessness, **Rhonda Callanan's '06, '10** faith and experience helps her shine light on poverty.



FROM HOBBY TO ENTREPRENEURIAL DREAM

Josh Willard, '08 turns a lifelong hobby into an entrepreneurial dream.

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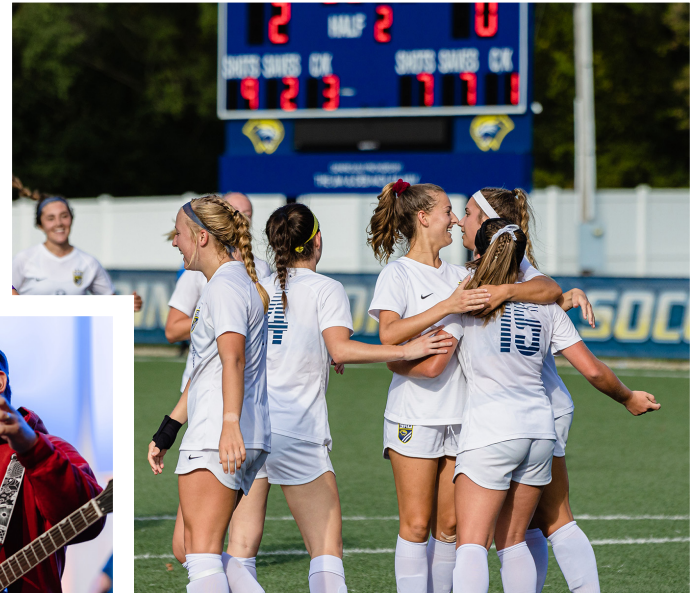
HOMECOMING

After a challenging year of COVID restrictions during the pandemic, it was refreshing to see current students, alumni and community members network and connect during Homecoming weekend. Visitors enjoyed local food trucks and vendors featuring SAU alumni and students, and several alumni returned to campus to perform live music throughout the event. Homecoming wrapped up with the President's Tailgate before watching the SAU women's soccer team secure a ninth straight win.



DOMINING

2021



ARBOR



MOVE-IN DAY

From Move-In Day to Arbor Nights, SAU was excited to invite new students and their families to campus during Welcome Weekend. First-year students got familiar with their new surroundings and classmates as they enjoyed a weekend full of exploring all that SAU has to offer.



CEDAR BEND

After a year hiatus during the pandemic, Core 100 groups returned to Cedar Bend to embark on a Northern Michigan adventure, where students learned camping basics, participated in team-building activities, and sought personal and spiritual growth. Opportunities like Cedar Bend allow core-mates to build lifelong friendships that will carry throughout their time at SAU and beyond.



TODAY



ARBOR GAMES

Arbor Games returned to campus this fall, providing many freshman and sophomore students with the opportunity to experience one of our most popular SAU traditions. This time around, students performed skits based on popular TikTok trends and competed in classic games like tug-of-war, egg tossing, and sack racing. Even a little rain couldn't stop one of SAU's most coveted events.





CNA AWARDS

The SAU Athletic Department recognized and celebrated the achievements of its student-athletes at its 4th annual Cougar Nation Athletic (CNA) Awards this past May. The CNA Awards is a formal, red-carpet event modeled after the well-known ESPYS, and created to allow an opportunity for the department to celebrate and honor the academic, athletic, and community excellence achieved by all SAU student-athletes.



SEAN VANN AT NATIONALS

Junior **Sean Vann** represented SAU at the 2021 NAIA Men's Golf National Championship, held at TPC Deere Run in Silvis, Illinois, after winning the Crossroads League Championship. Vann became the first Cougar to qualify for the national championship since Roy Adair in 2001.

MEN'S XC NATIONALS

For the first time in 15 years, the SAU men's cross country team qualified for the NAIA National Championship as the Cougars were ranked No. 21 in the final regular season edition of the coaches' top 25 poll.



TRACK & FIELD NATIONALS

Spring Arbor sent six individuals and one relay team to Gulf Shores, AL to compete in the NAIA Outdoor Track & Field National Championships.

WOMEN'S SOCCER NATIONALS

The Cougar women's soccer team made yet another run in the national tournament this fall. The Cougars held a season record of 18-2-1 while winning the regular season Crossroads League Championship. The team's success earned them the two-seed in the tournament, where they dropped to Oregon Tech in a close match in the quarterfinals.





SOFTBALL ALL-AMERICAN

Sophomore **Emmalee Hamp** made an instant impact with the softball team her freshman season as she led the team in almost every statistical category and earned National Fastpitch Coaches Association (NFCA) All-American honors.



NEW MEN'S SOCCER COACHES

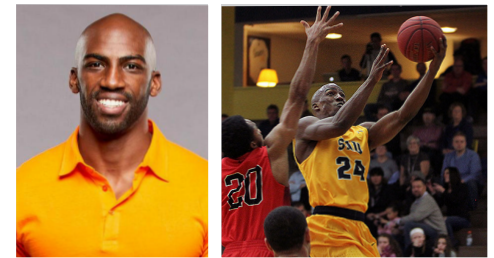
Former player and alum **Marco Bernardini '14** was named the new head men's soccer coach over the summer. The first move Bernardini made as the new skipper was hiring another former SAU coach and player, and long-time professor, **Anil Joseph '91, '19** as his top assistant.

FALL TENNIS AWARDS

Head women's tennis coach, **David Darling '13**, was awarded the Crossroads League Coach of the Year for the fall 2021 season. Four Cougar players, freshman **Rebekah Pake**, and sophomores **Lucy Burau**, **Makenzi Sells**, and **Joel Mast**, were also recognized by the conference as All-League performers.

HALL OF FAME INDUCTEES 2021

Three individuals will comprise the 27th induction class of the Spring Arbor University Athletic Hall of Fame. **Andrea VanderHorst Deihl '01** [1], **Dave Getsinger '87** [2], and former head women's basketball coach Tom Britsch [3] will be formally enshrined on Saturday, Jan. 15.



XAVIER PRATHER: BIG BROTHER

Former men's basketball player **Xavier Prather '17** was crowned the winner of the 23rd season of "Big Brother." Prather beat out 15 other contestants to take home \$750,000—the largest grand prize ever awarded on the CBS reality competition series—and became the first Black champion in the show's 21-year run.

MONTANA TRIP 2021

The Young Leaders Retreat epitomizes what is at the core of our athletic mission statement. A mix of athletes and coaches spend a week tucked away in the valley of the Pioneer Mountains at Two Moose Camp diving into principles and theories on leadership and spiritual development. The seclusion provides a haven for student-athletes to harness their leadership abilities, develop a depth of faith and design a core covenant to bring back and implement amongst their teammates. With daily devotions, leadership breakout sessions, and a backdrop only Glen, Montana can provide, this once-in-a-lifetime getaway is the apex of the calling for student-athletes and coaches to lead in the expansion of the Kingdom.

FROM THE FACULTY

EDUCATING DISCIPLES TO IMPACT THE WORLD

The School of Education faculty and staff were beyond excited for the 2021-2022 academic year. With the launch of new programs, initiatives and partnerships, our teacher candidates were eager to expand upon their readiness for the classroom and make a positive impact on K-12 learners.

At SAU, we have a long and storied history of producing exceptional professional educators. Our graduates have won numerous awards and are serving as excellent teachers, principals, superintendents, professors and university deans. They lead Blue Ribbon, Reward, and Beating the Odds schools, and one of our graduates is the head principal of the 22nd best high school in the nation (Tucson, AZ).

It's an honor to continually receive high ratings from the Michigan Department of Education and the National Council for Teacher Quality (NCTQ), recently receiving an "A" rating from NCTQ in classroom management – a distinction received by only 14 percent of teacher preparation institutions. Our Elementary Education program is one of five special mentions from the NCTQ for our Michigan Test for Teacher Certification pass rate. It would be difficult to find a school district in Michigan that does not have an SAU School of Education graduate serving in some capacity.

Our teachers are making a lasting impact on the lives of students across the state, country and around the world. At SAU, we strive to fulfill the Great Commission by educating more and better disciples through our teacher preparation programs, and meet the market demand for not just more, but highly skilled teachers who educate and love their students well.

It's a pleasure and a privilege to lead the SAU School of Education. We're extremely proud of the caliber of teachers we produce and are so thankful to have continued support from partner school districts and organizations. We will continue to inspire our students to dedicate their talents to a worthy life's work of serving others because we understand to change even just one life, is to change generations of lives to come.

John Williams, IV '05, '09
Dean, School of Education





PACT PROGRAM

We are proud to announce that the Michigan Department of Education has recently approved our Post Bachelor's Accelerated Certification to Teach (PACT). This program provides the opportunity for anyone with a conferred bachelor's degree to be certified in Elementary Education in less than one year. The coursework for this program is completely online, in an accelerated format and requires two internships (that can be completed in a teacher candidate's own classroom). We believe this program will not only meet the market demand for more teachers, but provide fully equipped, passionate professionals ready to share God's love and the joy of learning with students.

For more information, visit arbor.edu/pact.

LIVING ON BOTH SIDES OF HOME LESS NESS.

BY DEREK DEVINE



Rhonda Callanan '05, '09, is the co-founder of two non-profit organizations, The Torch and Torch 180. This is her story about overcoming homelessness and using the faith and wisdom refined during her time at Spring Arbor University to let her light shine in communities in Michigan and California.



In fall 2010, Rhonda and her daughter, Maddy, fled their home in the middle of the night.

“I had to make a quick decision that was best for her and me,” says Rhonda. “I was in an abusive marriage and we couldn’t stick around any longer.”

Rhonda and Maddy suddenly found themselves homeless. They did what they could to find a place to rest, even if that meant spending a lot of time in the car. There were times where they didn’t know where their next meal would come from.

At the time, Rhonda didn’t have a job that could support both of them, so she was forced to turn to agencies for help. Navigating this unprecedented path presented consistent challenges, but it was a four-word question that was the most deafening to her.

“Why are you homeless?”

Instead of feeling love and support from the agencies, she felt like they were flipping her situation back on

her – seemingly blaming her for being homeless. It also became clear that divorce was not accepted by her church and even by some of her friends.

“I felt like people were judging me,” says Rhonda. “It was then and there that I felt empowered to do something for people who face similar experiences.”

Finding a way out of homelessness was the main goal, but her top priority was to draw closer to God. While feeling abandoned by others, she felt God move closer and closer.

“God provided again and again until we were able to get back on our feet,” she says. “When we finally found ourselves in a more stable situation, I felt immediately called upon to start making a difference in the lives of others who face homelessness and poverty.”

With her friend, Sarah, who had also experienced poverty as a disabled veteran, she came up with a model of providing for poverty-stricken communities in a way that was not intrusive or judgmental.

“We landed on the idea of serving food because it is a necessity and binds people,” says Rhonda. “We knew it would be a way to bring togetherness to difficult situations that people around our community face.”

The two had the idea to buy a food truck. It was a more affordable option and would provide the ability to be mobile and serve in multiple locations. They built a website, established relationships and raised funds to pursue their dream.

“The Torch started as an idea and God provided the means necessary to turn it into reality,” says Rhonda. “Through connections and fundraising, we secured a more affordable option than a brick or mortar building and hit the road in 2014.”

Today, The Torch serves multiple communities in Livingston County. And, with the help of former Detroit Lions defensive end Lawrence Jackson, expanded its presence to Los Angeles. Lawrence’s friendship, and passion for serving, helped Rhonda spread the word to many, including grocery chain Trader Joe’s, which added another partnership. The partnership provided The Torch with a brand new catering truck and hundreds of pounds of groceries every week.

Through their work with the food truck in underprivileged communities, Rhonda discovered a need to help people with disabilities. This recognition led to the creation of

Torch 180 in Fowlerville, Michigan. Located in the town’s former library building, Torch 180 operates as a cafe and training program for adults with disabilities who would like to work in the food service industry.

During the coronavirus pandemic, Rhonda shifted the mission of Torch 180 to serve upwards of 30,000 hot meals a week for those in need. Because of the success of both ventures, Rhonda continues to build community relationships that lead to additional support for The Torch and Torch 180.

“My biggest desire after experiencing homelessness was to do something that provided for people in poverty in a better way,” says Rhonda. “I don’t ever want to ask people why they are homeless or in poverty. I just want to love them and support them no matter what their story is.”

“I don’t ever want to ask people why they are homeless or in poverty. I just want to love them and support them no matter what their story is.”



To watch Rhonda’s story, visit: arbor.edu/torch

I AM

“**FOREVER GRATEFUL**
THAT GOD HAD A
BIGGER PLAN
FOR MY LIFE AND PROVIDED ME A
GREAT COLLEGE HOME AT
SPRING ARBOR UNIVERSITY.”

“I initially chose to attend Spring Arbor University to play basketball, but God had much bigger plans for my life. Before I arrived on campus, I was not a Christian. I did not grow up in the church, I had no Christian friends, and I knew very little about the gospel.

A few weeks into my first year, I found God and became saved. My life changed completely. I love SAU’s community full of students, professors, coaches and pastors, who are all on fire for Christ. My relationships across campus have helped me strengthen my relationship with God and allowed me to disciple other students.”

TYLER KAMINSKI

CLASS OF 2022



FROM *Hobby* TO **ENTREPRENEURIAL** *Dream*

Josh Willard '08 turned his hobby of collecting dart frogs into one of the largest online retailers for frogs, feeders, and supplies in the United States, if not in the world.

BY DEREK DEVINE

Josh Willard grew up in Jackson, Michigan outside of a swamp where he could be found catching frogs and snakes daily. His mother only had one rule for his catch: he could keep it around the house for one night before he had to release it the next day. When he got connected to a local pet store in high school, he started purchasing exotic animals that he *could* keep at home.

"I discovered my hobby and enthusiasm for exotic animals at an early age," says Josh. "When I was able to collect animals, I knew it would be something I'd do forever."

Josh had to temporarily give up his hobby when he attended college in Indiana to study youth ministry. When he graduated and accepted a job as a youth pastor, he started up a new collection of exotic animals, including dart frogs.

"To afford my hobby, I found myself buying products in bulk and selling the extra for profit," says Josh. "This model proved to be successful enough to turn a profit, so I turned it into a side business."

In 2004, from his two-bedroom apartment, Josh started selling extra pre-made fruit fly cultures as well as supplies for kits so others could make their own. When he moved to a house, he utilized the space in his garage, where he expanded in selling other products as well and hired his first couple of employees. His passion and willingness to elevate the customer service aspect of the business allowed him to find quick success.



Josh enrolled in Spring Arbor University's Master of Arts in Counseling in 2007. He wanted to shift his career and this program provided him with that opportunity. Within the program, an internship was required, so Josh resigned as a youth pastor to launch into his new work. A week before the internship started, he got a call from the facility and was told they had lost funding for the position that year.

"I entered into scramble mode," says Josh. "All of a sudden, I had no full-time job, no internship, and no plan for what I would do during a gap year until the internship opportunity would come back around."

Then it hit him. His hobby of collecting and raising exotic animals might just be enough to get by for a year until he could figure out a new plan. He figured he could tamper down his collection and put more focus into pocketing the extra money he made from selling the extra product.

When the internship opportunity resurfaced a year later, Josh decided to pursue it while balancing his side hustle outside of normal business hours. When the internship concluded, he was offered a full-time job. Taking a leap of faith, Josh instead put his SAU education and experience to use by turning his passion for exotic animals into a full-time business and moving Josh's Frogs to its first facility in Corunna, Michigan. In 2013, he relocated his business to the historic Owosso Casket Company building—a 37,000 square foot, five-story warehouse that was once known to be the largest casket manufacturer in the United States.

Today, Josh's Frogs is still in Owosso, Michigan, and employs more than 100 people. What started as a hobby has now turned into Josh owning and running a company that is the largest producer of captive-bred poison dart frogs in the United States, and probably the world. Josh's Frogs specializes in exotic pets including species of frogs, lizards, and pet insects like spiders, and offers everything you need to take care of those animals, from food to cages and plants.

As his company has grown over the years, including a large boost in business during a pandemic-filled 2020, Josh has made it his mission to elevate captive-bred animals to a position and availability that they haven't been in the past. This is what drives the company today.

“Even though this work has always been my passion, it’s still amazing to see how God orchestrated it all.”

“From bringing light to these animals, to educating people about them, everything we do makes us much more than an online pet retailer,” says Josh. “We love making a difference in people’s lives and connecting our customers with nature and animals that are hearty and are going to make an impact on native populations.”

If Josh had planned out his own life, he would never have imagined this is where he would end up.

“Even though this work has always been my passion, it’s still amazing to see how God orchestrated it all,” says Josh. “It’s so humbling to see how all of my experiences in life have allowed me to do what I love successfully.”

To watch
Josh's story, visit:
arbor.edu/josh

MUNN

BROADCAST

CENTER

In recognition of the lifetime of service they devoted to Spring Arbor University and SAU Radio, SAU announced the dedication of the Munn Broadcast Center on Oct. 9, 2021 in honor of E. Harold “Hal” Munn Jr. and his wife, C. Ella Munn.

Hal served on the Spring Arbor University Board of Trustees for 50 years (1960-2010). During his tenure as a board member, Hal dreamed, planned, funded and established SAU Radio, the current home of commercial radio station HOME. fm and the new student-led station, 89.3 The Arbor.



A young E. Harold “Hal” Munn, Jr.





President Ellis and wife, Christy with C. Ella Munn



Daughter, Renee Runyon '79, '02, Wife, C. Ella Munn, Son-in-law, Dan Runyon '76



Front entrance to Munn Broadcast Center, home of SAU Radio



SAU broadcasting student **Caleb Vaive** on 89.3 The Arbor



Tom Davis '98, General Manager of SAU Radio





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



ALUMNI TODAY

1970-1979

Carolynn (Calkins) Spooner '77 hopes to retire soon and spend time with her husband Bill. The Spooners reside in Kalamazoo, MI.

1980-1989

Gwendolyn (Stone) Whelpley '81 works as a marriage and family therapist at GW Counseling, LLC. She lives in Nicholasville, KY.

Sharon (Rupert) Fryman '86 retired from Spring Arbor University in November 2019 after 35 years of service. She and her husband **David '81** reside in Indianapolis, IN.

1990-1999

1 **Pamela Kunkel-Chappell '95, '01, '07** works as a school counselor at Ingham Intermediate School District. This fall she will be a first-time grandmother. Pamela lives in Onondaga, MI.



2000-2009

2 Linda Schaub '00 retired from her role as executive director of development at SAU in June 2021 after 28 years of service. She and her husband Ron reside in Spring Arbor, MI.

3 Gwyn Brooks Pounds '02 married her childhood friend in 2020. She and her family moved to the suburbs of Chicago, where she works as a school social worker at two elementary schools.

4 Sara Landon '03 serves as an accounting coordinator at Kalamazoo Nature Center where she has worked for 12 years. She also works in the children's ministry at Grace Harbor Church. She and her twin boys live in Plainwell, MI.

5 Tanya (Metzler) '05 and **Rodrigo '16 Rosado** and their 3 year-old daughter, Ella, are missionaries in Buenos Aires, Argentina. Tanya coordinates holistic ministry across the area in what they call Transformational Church. Rodrigo trains emerging leader college students to lead and plant churches.

6 Libby (Gibbons) Bonnell '09 uses her Master's in Counseling from Spring Arbor to help the students and community of Wyoming High School with academic, post-secondary and social/emotional needs. She currently resides in Caledonia, MI.

2010-2019

7 Hailey (Marvin) Conde '11 married her husband Justin in 2016. They welcomed their son Duke in 2019. Hailey is a senior manager, accounting & operations at Crown Point Systems Inc. The Condes live in San Diego, CA.

Karis (Van Valin) Hathaway '11 works as quality assurance lead at CallRevu. She lives in Byron Center, MI.

Jody Howell '11, '14 attended the California State University Institute for Palliative Care and subsequently earned a certification in hospice and palliative care for advance practice nursing. She serves as a palliative care nurse practitioner at Aspire Health. Jody resides in Tiffin, OH.

Roxanne Kruger '11, '19 works in a private practice as a therapist as well as in a college counseling health and wellness center with a clinical focus on trauma and childhood sexual abuse. She lives in Grand Rapids, MI.

8 Jennifer Bozeman '12, '20 completed her Master's in Strategic Communication and Leadership at SAU and now works as a full-time missionary with TWR (Trans World Radio) based in Cary, NC, where she currently resides. She works as the short-term missions & internship coordinator.

ALUMNI TODAY

Christopher Harris '12 teaches as an adjunct instructor at Thomas Nelson Community College. He also serves on several college committees. In 2020, he graduated from The George Washington University with a Master's of Professional Studies degree in Publishing. In May 2021, he completed the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion in the Workplace certificate program at the University of South Florida. He is currently completing the Small Business Management for Designers certificate program through the American Institute for Graphic Artists. He lives in Newport News, VA.

Samantha (Farmer) Cary '13, '20 and her husband welcomed a new baby in July 2021. She works as a high school health teacher at Stride - Michigan Great Lakes Virtual Academy. They reside in Galesburg, MI.

Matthew Van Pelt '13 is the head basketball coach for the Saigon Heat in Vietnam.

Mindy Rice '13 '15 works at SAU in the School of Nursing as the chair of the traditional BSN program. She lives in Jackson, MI.

Jamileh Atallah '14 recently went back to school for nursing and is working her dream job as a registered nurse on a labor and delivery unit. She lives in Northville, MI.

Earl Karcher '14 lives in West Michigan and is married with a two-year-old daughter. Earl works as a product manager for a software company creating solutions for public safety agencies. He recently started working toward an MBA from Western Michigan University. Earl and his family reside in Paw Paw, MI.

Stephanie (Edwards) '15 and Matt '15 DeMeritt reside in Colorado Springs, CO. Stephanie works as associate program director at Dream Centers, and Matt works at a French café in downtown Colorado Springs.

9 Taylor (Scott) Hurley '15, '18 teaches special education in her hometown of Woodstock, Ontario. Previously, Taylor taught middle school math in the Dominican Republic for two years. She married her husband in 2020, with many SAU softball teammates standing in the bridal party. The Hurleys just welcomed their first child, Harper.



10 Chloe Henson '15 was recently married and works as a Sseko fellow partnering with women in Uganda to receive fair wages. She resides in Charleroi, PA.

11 Nichole (Easlick) Thompson '15 serves as the associate director of education at Sylvan Learning Center and is also a consultant for Mary Kay. She resides in Jackson, MI with her husband and dog.

Dean Christy '16 works as a photographer. He and his wife **Holly (Holdship) '16** have a one year-old daughter. They moved to Parma, MI, and Holly is employed by SAU.

12 Kimberly (Westcott) Everhardt '16 was married to her husband Josh in February 2021 on Anna Maria Island, FL. She works as director of social services and admissions for Volunteers of America. She and her husband reside in Oak Harbor, OH.

13 Molly (Gorczyca) Long '16 and her husband Van have two children, Gianna and Joseph. Molly is a stay-at-home mom for her beautiful family. They reside in Parma, MI.

Haley (Coggins) '17 and Samuel '17 Boerckel married in August of 2019. Samuel graduated from Grand Valley State University with his Master's in Physician Assistant Studies. Haley graduated from Ferris State University with her Doctorate of Pharmacy in May 2021. They live and work in West Michigan.



LET YOUR *light* SHINE

LAURA BRONSINK

B.A. in Psychology and Social Work '08

Higher education isn't just a part of Laura (Bartoszek) Bronsink's story, it has been her passion and career for over a decade. As a student leader at SAU, Laura experienced firsthand the impact of Christian higher education.

"I am a product of SAU's leaders and mentors who shaped me and helped me to turn my passion for helping others into a career in higher education," says Laura. "I am thankful to them for the ways that they invested into both my leadership and personal/spiritual development while I was at SAU and beyond."

Upon graduation, Laura pursued her first opportunity in higher education as a resident director at Indiana Wesleyan University. There, Laura found her passion for student development where she finished her time as the director of student conduct and community standards.

Continuing to pursue new opportunities while expanding her impact, this past summer Laura accepted the position of dean of students at Roberts Wesleyan College, a sister institution of SAU. In this position, she provides direct leadership in the areas of undergraduate student life, including residence life, commuter experience, student programming, student success, student code of conduct, and student wellness. As the dean of students, Laura will also promote an enriching student community by supporting institutional diversity and equity initiatives that impact the student experience. "I am very excited about starting this new journey at Roberts! I look forward to the new ways that I will grow and be challenged while doing my very best to help our students do the same. This is the dream for me, and I couldn't be more thrilled to be a part of what the Lord is doing here."

Laura also holds a Master's in Higher Education from Geneva College. She resides in North Chili, NY with her husband **Daryn '08** and their two daughters, Ailie and Marilynn. Also working in higher education, Daryn serves as an employer and alumni partner consultant at the University of Buffalo.



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14 Kasidy (Coats) Hannon '17 recently welcomed her second daughter in January of 2021. Kasidy and her husband both work for Auto-Owners Insurance, and live in Eaton Rapids, MI with their two daughters.

Reyna Luplow '17 teaches at Swan Valley High School as an English and Spanish teacher and also serves as the varsity basketball and girls track coach. She runs a non-profit that she started during her time at SAU called That Girl on Fire.

15 Cassandra (Darr) Reineck '17, '18 recently passed her LISW exam and opened her own mental health private practice. She is a mental health therapist specializing in trauma and grief therapy. She and her husband have been married for four years and reside in Northwood, OH.

Andrew Bridgeman '18 completed his Master's in Divinity at Princeton Theological Seminary in 2021, and he is the lead pastor at Corvallis United Methodist Church. He lives in Hamilton, MT.

Whitney (Martin) Pennington '18, '20 married her best friend after graduation and she recently completed her Master's in Social Work through Spring Arbor. She now serves as a junior high counselor at Maple Valley Schools and is also the youth pastor at her home church. Her family just adopted a teenager this past summer and they reside in Hastings, MI.



16 Elise Emmert-Thompson '19 married her husband Cody in September 2021. She works as a legal assistant at Mika Meyers PLC. They live in Wyoming, MI.

17 Brynna (Henika) Foster '19 works as a mortgage processor at Neighborhood Mortgage Solutions. She is working to obtain her teaching certification from UM-Dearborn. Brynna and her husband live in Essexville, MI with their two boys, Newton and Milo.



LET YOUR *light* SHINE

KEITH JORDAN

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

As a two-time graduate of SAU's Toledo campus, Keith Jordan is utilizing his degrees to further God's Kingdom in Toledo, OH. As Co-Founder and Director of Development of JLJ Vision Outreach, a non-profit serving disadvantaged and at-risk youth through life skills, education, and mentoring programs, Keith understands the power and importance of education. "SAU gave me life. They believed in me and made it possible for me to achieve a goal I promised my children and parents," says Keith. "SAU gave me the ability to believe in high aspirations."

In addition to his non-profit ministry, Keith has recently embarked on new ways to critically participate in his community. In 2020 he created a new magazine publication, *The Stalwart*, that celebrates the diversity and excellence of Toledo, and most recently opened a coffee shop, The Onyx Café. Keith saw a need to create a space where people could relax, refresh, and relate, which happens to be the tagline of the café. "The Onyx Café is a 'vibe.' It gives me great joy to serve people in a welcoming environment," says Keith. "I felt it was my duty to bring people together again; to love, to listen, to appreciate each other. This is my gift to humanity. God is great!" The café opened this past spring, ushering in Toledo's first black-owned coffee shop. Keith also plans to expand and add a new location in Maumee, OH.

In his work, pursuing excellence is a must; but for Keith, being a light and inspiring others to achieve excellence is what fuels his purpose to serve his hometown. Keith also serves as an adjunct faculty member and alumni board member at SAU.



2020-2021

Bekah (Carter) Acker '20 works as a communications coordinator for the Biggby Coffee Home Office. She resides in Dewitt, MI.

18 Rachel (Merchant) Elkie '20 recently finished her MBA and is married to her husband Sheldon. She serves as a sourcing specialist for JSS Safety & Rescue and is currently working on her second Master's in Finance. She and her husband reside in Bay City, MI.

19 Hope Renee Matteson '20 works as an advisor and post-secondary planner for Monroe High School. She lives in Monroe, MI.

Rachael Shoemaker '21 serves as an admissions representative at Spring Arbor University. She resides in Jackson, MI.



Michindoh Conference Center

A SPRING ARBOR UNIVERSITY CAMPUS

Marriage Enrichment Retreat

MARCH 4-6

The retreat is like a weekend-long date with fun activities for couples of all ages, wonderful fellowship with other believers, inspiring teaching, uplifting worship, great food and an excellent opportunity to set aside the cares of the world and enjoy time with your spouse.

Summer Camping Programs

Michindoh offers both resident and day camp programs for children ages 5-18. Each session is designed for a specific age group with program elements that will draw them into a community of peers, excite them with fun activities and lead them in understanding and worship of God who loves them and has an awesome plan for their lives.

PROGRAM DATES

Explorer Camp 1 (Ages 9-12)	June 19-24
Explorer Camp 2 (Ages 9-12)	June 26-July 1
Explorer Camp 3 (Ages 9-12)	July 3-8
Adrenaline (Ages 14-18)	July 10-15
Adventure (Ages 12-14)	July 17-22
Explorer Camp 4 (Ages 9-12)	July 24-29
Day Camp (Ages 5-10)	Each Week, M-F 8:30 a.m. – 5 p.m.


Spring Arbor
UNIVERSITY

AN EVENING AT THE ARBOR

Featuring the Gainey School of Business

Mark your calendars for
MAY 6, 2022

ALUMNI AWARD RECIPIENTS

For more information on our 2021 Alumni Award Recipients, visit arbor.edu/alumni-awards.



Alumnus of the Year Award

Dr. John Taylor HS '50

Retired - Surgeon



Faithful Servant Award

Amber McKee '93, '97

*B.A. in Human Resources, M.B.A.
Sr. Director of IT Performance Excellence
& People Technology Services at
Dawn Foods Global / Founder of MyPlace*



Professional Excellence Award

Guy-Uriel Charles '92

*B.A. in Social Science
Charles Ogletree, Jr. Professor of Law –
Harvard Law School*



LeRoy M. Lowell Award

Dr. Terry Darling '78

*B.A. in Psychology
SAU Professor of Psychology,
Dean, School of Social Sciences
Head Men's Tennis Coach*



Young Leader Award

Jason Atkins '06

*B.A. in Computer Science and
Business Administration
Missionary in Guinea-Bissau, Africa*



Concept in Action Award

Josephine Woods '21

*B.A. in Education
SAU-Student Teacher*



David P. Rawson Award

Dr. David P Rawson

The David P. Rawson Award is a new Spring Arbor University award created to honor the life of Dr. David Rawson and his years of service at Spring Arbor University. This award will be presented to an alumnus, current employee or former employee who has made a global impact on society. This award highlights the recipient's career and achievements while celebrating their unwavering commitment to Jesus Christ. The inaugural recipient of this award is Dr. David Rawson.

IN MEMORIAM



GRACE ANN (HAZELTON) ORMSTON '51

Deceased August 2, 2021

Upon graduating from Spring Arbor Jr. College in 1951 and Michigan State University in 1954, Grace immediately embarked on her dual careers of homemaker and teacher. She and her husband, Lee, set up their home at Meadow Gold Farm near St. Johns, MI where she began a 33-year teaching career at St. Johns Public Schools, primarily as a high school Home Economics instructor. Teasingly described by her daughters as “Super Mom,” she grew and preserved most of the family foods, sewed her daughters’ clothes, maintained beautiful flower gardens, volunteered regularly and entertained guests frequently — all while maintaining a full-time teaching career. Her natural ability to nurture extended from her family into the classroom, where she was a popular, trusted and effective teacher. Her adventurous spirit resulted in many wonderful traveling experiences for her husband and extended family. She was a “hands-on” grandma who delighted in engaging with her grandchildren’s interests and celebrating their achievements.

Grace was the wife of **R. Lee Ormston** (deceased) for 65 years, mother of current Spring Arbor University Trustee, **Lori (Ormston) Roberts '80** (William), and Lisa J. Bontrager (**Gary '83**), and grandmother of **Evan W. O. Roberts '17**.

The Ormston family is beloved by many in the Spring Arbor University community. Whether by knowing the Ormston family, or living in Ormston Hall, the Ormston name is etched not only into the infrastructure of the university but also into its legacy.



KIMBERLY ST. CHARLES

Staff 2016–2021 | Deceased May 2, 2021

Kim began her career in child development working as a teacher and then director of ABC Academy for 19 years before transitioning to Spring Arbor University, where she served as the assistant applicant coordinator. She enjoyed supporting her children’s many activities and talents while keeping up with their busy schedules, games, practices, rehearsals and performances. She enjoyed traveling, maintaining close relationships with her sorority sisters and serving as an active member of her church and community. Kim is survived by her husband Michael St. Charles and children, Kendall Stephens (Nicholas) and Zachary St. Charles (Aaliyah).



BETH COFFMAN

Faculty 1984–1987 | Deceased February 16, 2021

Beth received her Master’s degree and served as a teacher while raising three children. With her post-graduate work, she became a specialist in early childhood and family ecology. Her faith, family and love of teaching were her priorities. With over 40 years in the teaching profession, she taught in all elementary grades as well as a college-level teacher for three universities, including Spring Arbor University. Beth also served as a consultant in Washington, D.C. for the Reagan administration in Health and Human Services. However, her greatest joy was time spent with her husband and family.

Beth, a former first lady of SAU, was married to former SAU president Dr. Kenneth Coffman for 65 years. She was the mother of **Linda (Coffman-Carpenter) Lewis '77** (Chris), **Dr. Leland Coffman '82** (Nancy), and **Loran Coffman '85** (Brenda).

IN MEMORIAM (CONT.)

Loyal Dean HS '44 • 5/31/2021
Helen Rhinehart JC '45 • 2/4/2021
Frank Rose HS '45, JC '47 • 4/1/2021
Bruce Davenport JC '47 • 7/10/2021
Clancy Thompson HS '48, JC '50 • 5/11/2021
Dorothy Reese JC '50 • 6/4/2021
Nina Frye HS '51 • 6/5/2021
John Hyndman HS '49, JC '54 • 2/12/2021
Paul Tjepkema JC '60 • 2/19/2021
Dianna Lyke JC '60 • 4/13/2021
Audrey Schock HS '60 • 6/27/2021

Gary Myers '67 • 4/10/2021
Dara Clark '67 • 5/6/2021
Shirli King '68 • 2/8/2021
Glenn Flint '83 • 2/18/2021
Ida Hawkins '87 • 4/5/2021
Kathleen Prus '88 • 3/23/2021
Carolyn Schupbach '89 • 2/15/2021
Lorraine Graves '92 • 4/28/2021
Martha Farber '92 • 9/5/2021
Christy Donnell '93 • 6/2/2021
Constance Archambault '93 • 7/5/2021

Bret Liggett '93 • 9/23/2021
Carisa Ash '96 • 9/15/2021
Rodney Emmorey '06 • 3/11/2021
Catherine Biddinger '07 • 2/19/2021
Alfred Jones '07 • 9/23/2021
Phyllis Williams '08 • 7/5/2021
Yvette Stockard '12 • 2/21/2021
Luke Lacy '17 • 4/30/2021
Wendy Wallace • 1/31/2021
Virginia Cornwell • 9/15/2021

SAU ALUMNI GIVE THE GIFT OF EDUCATION

to Nursing Students through
an Endowed Scholarship



SAU is excited to announce a new \$1 million endowed scholarship for nursing students provided by the kindness and generosity of alumni **John '51 and Beth (Stark) '53 Taylor**. The first awards from this endowed scholarship were distributed to nursing students in Fall 2021.

“We are so grateful for the transformational time we experienced at Spring Arbor; our lives changed both personally and professionally and we are delighted that we have the opportunity to help provide that same experience to current and future students,” says John. “God has blessed us abundantly and we want to steward those blessings well.”

Early in their marriage, Beth worked as a nurse to provide John with the opportunity to attend medical school. This endowed scholarship honors the selfless way Beth loves and supports her family, demonstrated through years of service to others, as a wife, mother and nurse providing nurturing care in each role.

“This gift from John and Beth provides lasting opportunities for Spring Arbor University students to study and then practice the nursing discipline with expert care and Christian compassion,” says SAU President Brent Ellis.

“This endowed scholarship promises to impact the lives of nursing students, from the undergraduate to doctoral level, for generations to come,” says Dr. Alvin Kauffman, Dean of the School of Nursing and Health Sciences at SAU. “In a very real sense, this scholarship positively impacts the country’s quality of healthcare, as students from almost every state are preparing for service in SAU’s Christ-centered nursing programs.”

The Beth Taylor Endowed Nursing Scholarship is just one of many endowed scholarships that provide financial assistance to students, granting them access to the high-quality liberal arts education that Spring Arbor University is known for. Interested in providing this opportunity for students now and for the indefinite future? Contact the Office of University Advancement at 517.750.6673 to find out more.



Spring Arbor UNIVERSITY

UNIVERSITY ADVANCEMENT

106 E. Main Street
Spring Arbor, MI 49283-9701

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