

FORWARD

Alumni & Friends Publication of Williams Baptist College



Rich with Meaning

WHY CHRISTIAN HIGHER EDUCATION IS ESSENTIAL TODAY

Real meaning is the real reason for Christian higher education.

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Joy Ring Invests Half a Century in Williams

The business professor has served WBC longer than any other faculty member in the history of the college.

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RICH WITH MEANING

Why Christian higher education is essential today

DR. BRETT COOPER

Vice President for Institutional Advancement

Peggy Lee once belted out the musical question, “Is That All There Is?” It’s a sad little tune about one who has experienced what life has to offer, only to find it empty and disappointing.

All these years later, we find a generation that is also asking if that’s all there is. Encouraged by their culture, they pursue their every inclination with uninhibited gusto, and yet they are apt to find the result empty and devoid of real meaning.

That is where institutions like Williams Baptist College are called to fill the void.

Real meaning is the real reason for Christian higher education. Just as Christ gives meaning to life itself, the Christian influence breathes meaning into education and infuses knowledge with wisdom.

Christian higher education stands for uncompromising academic excellence in the pursuit of knowledge, but then it dares to take the crucial next step, delving into more meaningful questions on the meaning of life, the world we live in and our place within it. It meets the moral relativism of our time with the bedrock principles of the Gospel. It is an oasis of education that is enriched with meaning, and with hope.

Jameea Ward (’15) found that to be her WBC experience.

“Attending a Christian college like Williams really prepares you for life and affects how you think about situations,” she observes. “Obtaining an education at a Christian school constantly reminds you that although you plan to strive for your own goals, you never forget to help someone else along the way and exude Christ’s spirit in everything you do.”

Ward, a native of Missouri City, Texas, completed her Williams education in May, earning a bachelor’s degree in biology/pre-medicine.

The same sentiment goes for Ethan Risley, a junior finance major from Farmington, Ark. “As a follower of Christ I like that I can be surrounded by fellow believers, and that I am not only preparing for my career but also growing spiritually,” he says.

Faculty represent the front lines of Christian higher education, assuming responsibility for maintaining both academic excellence and spiritual integrity in the classroom. Dr. Chris Polachic, who is joining the WBC science faculty this fall, embraces the challenge.

“A Christian college is part of the salt and light of the church,” Polachic says. “There is a strong trend in Western culture to confine religious faith to the private domain of life and keep public discourse clear of its ‘unhelpful irrationality.’ So it is important that Christian institutions challenge this, keeping the world salted and illuminated.”

Polachic adds that the work is critical not only for maintaining the faith, but for the good of education. “Christian colleges take up the issues that are important to everyone and return the thoughtful, disciplined, gracious and reasonable perspective of the historic Christian faith.”

Schools like WBC sometimes face the misperception that they shelter students, hiding them from knowledge or ideas that might challenge their religious beliefs. Quite the contrary, faculty members say they are preparing tomorrow’s leaders to face the challenges of the “real world,” whatever career paths they choose.

“Students are not insulated from controversy or sheltered from difficult ideas, but they are provided a rich spiritual context in which to evaluate human knowledge with revealed wisdom, and thus grow into more mature, astute disciples,” says Polachic.

Melinda Williams (’81), who teaches communication and drama at WBC, says rather than being restricted by the Christian

environment, she feels liberated by it. “I actually feel as though I have more freedom at a Christian institution, more freedom to be myself. My Christian beliefs and standards are a part of who I am as a person, and I don’t have to hide those or repress those at a Christian college. No matter if it is just around campus or in the classroom, I am free to express my Christian-based views and opinions,” she says.

Similarly, Dr. Brad Baine (’00), who directs WBC’s widely respected Williams Teacher Education Program, finds that the Christian environment yields a passion among his colleagues to produce exceptional graduates.

“Faculty at Williams are experts in their respective fields. Therefore, students benefit from excellent instruction in a learning environment that is challenging and motivational. The faculty at WBC take pride in pouring their hearts into their students,” Baine notes.

Baine says the goal is to produce graduates prepared to live out their Christian faith in a secular world, and to do so with outstanding preparation in their professions. Within his field of education, the results are verifiable.

“School administrators continually and consistently provide – unsolicited – praise and positive feedback on the level of preparation that WTEP graduates possess, and the comment, ‘I would rather hire a Williams graduate than any other graduate of other institutions’ is commonly shared with faculty members from the WTEP,” he notes.

Ward, the recent graduate, was on the receiving end of WBC’s academic rigor, and she now feels confident it has prepared her for the next level.

“I definitely found Williams to be challenging academically. I plan on applying for medical school, and I feel more than ready for those

challenges I will face in graduate school,” she says.

In fact, biology/pre-med is the largest major at Williams these days, perhaps surprising to those who view faith and science as adversaries. But like the others on the WBC science faculty, Polachic believes his Christian faith actually benefits his study of science.

“My knowledge of God, informed by my experience of the resurrected Christ, provides consistency for my appreciation of science. So in this way, science is actually a participation in something sacred: Fundamental research uncovers what God has done. I think He delights in our discovery of His world, especially when it challenges our preconceptions and instincts!”

As in other fields, of course, studying science means encountering viewpoints that don’t jibe with a traditional Christian perspective. Polachic, a campus minister who has evangelized science students at secular institutions, says those encounters can be opportunities to learn and grow as believers.

“I’ve learned to appreciate worldviews that are not my own, and value authentic understanding rather than straw-man characterizations,” he notes.

“This has been incredibly helpful in navigating some of the perceived tensions between science and Christian faith. If you find your faith threatened by some worldview, make a friend who holds that view and get to know them as a human being: This will bring clarity and insight and tends to enrich your own appreciation of the Gospel.”

Another obvious benefit of Christian higher education is the chance to bring an ethical influence to bear on society. As Baine puts it, “In a society of ever-changing values, it is critical that current and future professionals in their respective fields have Christian values and

practices that demonstrate eternal truths.”

Melinda Williams notes, “We are taught from biblical principles that whatever we do, we should do for the glory of God. So those standards we try to instill in the students hopefully come through in their future jobs, whether Christian occupations or secular work.”

The communication professor also sees value in students learning to serve others.

“Society seems so geared on getting ahead, whatever the costs, that we sometimes forget our actions have consequences and may end up hurting other people,” she notes. “I think trying to impart in the students the idea of servitude in their personal and professional life will not only make them better people, but better employers and employees.”

“As a follower of Christ I like that I can be surrounded by fellow believers, and that I am not only preparing for my career but also growing spiritually,”

—ETHAN RISLEY, STUDENT

While WBC strives to be holistically Christian, with a spiritual influence that permeates all facets of the institution, the college is probably best known for the Christian warmth and caring which have always characterized the campus.

“I feel that at a college like Williams, the students have a more personal connection to the faculty and staff. In finance, if I ever feel I don’t understand something, my professors are there to help me understand what I need to know,” says Ethan Risley.

“The faculty at Williams never cease to make the students feel at home. They

always prove that they really care about their students and their success in school,” observes Jameea Ward.

From a faculty perspective, Melinda Williams says a sense of servitude on the part of professors often makes the difference with students.

“I know I have seen the average student strive to succeed in his or her academics because the chance and opportunity were provided,” she says. “Sometimes all it takes is encouragement, and getting to know our students on that personal level enables us to see the potential in a student.”

During their college years, young adults set the moral and spiritual compass that is likely to guide them for the rest of their lives. The importance of establishing the proper influences during these years can hardly be overstated.

“College is an environment where most students are beginning to figure themselves out in a serious way,” observes Polachic. “The convictions that are formed here are those that will largely continue with you throughout life, with some adjustment.”

Christian higher education helps us understand that college should be about more than the quest for a diploma. It is a journey that should build the mind and shape the life. It should empower students to engage their world for good. It should be rich with meaning.

The times in which we live have many asking, “Is that all there is?” Colleges like WBC offer an answer the world needs to hear. ♥

A MATTER OF INTEGRITY

DR. KENNETH STARTUP
Vice President for Academic Affairs

When the term academic integrity is employed, it is usually used as the synonym for academic honesty, that is, the refusal to cheat, plagiarize, or engage in other forms of academic misconduct. To state the obvious, academic integrity and academic honesty are, indeed, two sides of the same coin. These are inseparable concepts and ideals.

At Williams, we prize academic honesty as an unqualified ideal. Yet, the brief discussion which follows moves the concept of academic integrity away from its more explicit – and obvious meaning – to a slightly broader, but equally vital, understanding of the term. Academic integrity at Williams also involves the issues of academic expectations, academic rigor, and academic evaluation.

Stated another way, at Williams, it is a part of our commitment to uphold the highest standards of academic integrity that we maintain high academic standards. The lowering, or the dilution, of academic standards represents another form, albeit a more subtle form, of academic dishonesty. The simple designation of our college as an institution of higher education obligates us, morally, to provide a truly higher education, an education that challenges, that stretches the student, an academic environment that requires, and expects, that students will seriously engage (and hopefully master) the material prescribed in the course.

This kind of academic integrity requires faculty to work diligently in the preparation of their classes, to work diligently in their presentations and lectures, to work

diligently in grading and assessing student academic performance. It is a matter of our integrity as a faculty that we apply ourselves to our tasks – our calling – as scholars and teachers with determination and dedication.

It has to be said, as well, that students also bear part of the responsibility for this kind of academic integrity; laziness, complacency, disinterest on the part of students also violates the highest meaning of academic integrity. When the student enrolls in a class, that student is making a commitment to invest the requisite time and effort to succeed in the course. Disdain for, or disregard of, this commitment violates the spirit – and obligations – that characterize the proper relationship between a student and teacher.

Academic integrity also requires that we tell the truth when assessing a student's academic performance. Giving a better grade, when a lower grade is merited, is a form of dishonesty. We violate our calling as Christian educators when we fail to evaluate honestly and without partiality a student's academic work. No amount of good intentions can compensate for this kind of dishonesty. The powerful undertow of grade inflation in American education is the mark of a diminished regard for academic integrity, and, perhaps, for honesty generally. Understandably, it is easy to allow rationalizations and cultural pressures to erode both the quality of class content and the honesty that should guide the evaluation of student academic performance.

At Williams, we strive to tell the truth, to maintain our academic integrity as individual faculty members and as an institution.



75TH ANNIVERSARY

TO BE CELEBRATED IN 2016

Williams Baptist College is nearing its diamond anniversary, and it's time to celebrate! Dr. H. E. Williams led to the establishment of the college in 1941, and plans are set to commemorate the milestone throughout 2016.

The first of three major celebrations will be on January 13, at the spring semester's first chapel service. Special guest speaker, Arliss Dickerson ('65), will deliver the message, and various activities and giveaways are planned for the day.

A special convocation chapel will take place on August 31, the first chapel of the 2016-2017 academic year. Members of the Williams family will address the student body, marking the official 75th anniversary of WBC.

Mark your calendars now for Homecoming 2016, scheduled for November 5. The day will be the finale celebration of the diamond year, and it will include the usual alumni festivities, as well as other special events that are planned.

WBC will spend the calendar year celebrating the legacy and rich history of Williams Baptist College. Look for more information at www.williamsbaptistcollege.com, and make plans to celebrate with us! 

3 MAJOR CELEBRATIONS

13 JANUARY
Spring Semester's First Chapel Service

31 AUGUST
Special Convocation Chapel

5 NOVEMBER
2016 Homecoming

WBC will spend the calendar year celebrating the legacy and the rich history of Williams Baptist College.



NEW FACES AND PLACES



A new school year often means new school supplies, a new class schedule and a new place to live for many new students. Friendships form, and there are ample opportunities for growing and learning something new. This year, Williams has the pleasure of welcoming several new faculty and staff members. Although they come from different places and backgrounds, they maintain the same focus: helping WBC achieve its vision and mission.

[1] Dr. Joshua Richards brings his international teaching experience to Williams as an assistant professor of English. Richards comes to WBC from Shantou University in China, where he has been associate professor of foreign languages and literature, and he previously served on the English faculty at Palm Beach Atlantic University. He was also a postgraduate tutor and lecturer at the University of St. Andrews in Scotland. He holds a PhD in literature from the University of St. Andrews and a master's degree in English from Florida Atlantic University. He earned bachelor's degrees in both English and physics from Ouachita Baptist University.

[2] Dr. Chris Polachic is WBC's new assistant professor of natural science. The Canada native has a PhD in physics from the University of Alberta, and earned his master's degree in physics and bachelor's degree from the University of Saskatchewan. He has teaching experience at Ambrose University and the University of Alberta. Polachic has received the Queen Elizabeth II Doctoral Scholarship twice and in 2012 and 2013 he won teaching awards at the University of Alberta. He has also had research published in several scholarly journals and is an active member of Power to Change Ministries, an evangelical campus program in Canada.

[3] Janna Himschoot comes to WBC as an instructor of business. The veteran accountant with experience in the corporate world holds a bachelor's degree from Arkansas State University in accounting and an MBA from Missouri State University. The Hardy native worked for over a decade as controller with the Ultima Division of Propertyinfo Corporation. More recently, she has worked as a professional coder, medical biller and consultant at two clinics in Highland. She also has served as a professional business tutor at Black River Technical College in Pochontas.

[4] Taren Morse comes to WBC as the new assistant professor of art. She has a master's degree in illustration from Academy of Art University in San Francisco and a bachelor's degree in studio arts from Sterling College in Sterling, Kan. She has worked successfully as a commercial artist, had her work featured in exhibits in California and Kansas, and has studied with some of the leading innovators in concept illustration and design.

[5] Amber Grady ('03) rejoins the Williams staff as the new dean of students. Grady's resume is full of higher education experience, beginning with her time as assistant director in WBC's Office of Admissions. She has also worked in student services for Arkansas State University in Jonesboro and Newport, and returns to WBC from time spent as the associate director for college readiness at the University of Arkansas. The Newport native graduated from Williams in 2003 with her BA in English, and holds a master's in college student personnel services from Arkansas State University.

[6] Laura Tucker ('13) also returns to Williams as the new head softball coach. Tucker graduated from WBC in 2013, when she earned her degree in physical education. Tucker was a member of the

Lady Eagles softball team that made a National Tournament appearance in 2012, and served as a student assistant to the squad that finished fourth in the nation in 2013. Tucker, a Beebe, Ark., native, returns to Williams after earning a master's degree in curriculum and instruction from Colorado Christian University, where she also served as a graduate assistant to the school's softball team.

[7] Dan Capp comes to Williams as the director of men's housing and campus recreation. Capp earned his physical education degree in 2014 from Hannibal-LaGrange University. He was the captain of HLG's wrestling team and earned high honors in the sport, including being named an NAIA All-American. He is from Kansas City.

[8] Sarah Hunt ('15) is now WBC's women's housing director. Hunt graduated from Williams in May with a degree in psychology, and while she was a student she served on the student activities board. The Lepanto native is also working towards her Ed.S. in school psychology from Arkansas State University.

[9] Karisa Hendrix ('13) returns to her alma mater as an admissions counselor and the assistant softball coach. Hendrix, a 2013 WBC graduate, is widely known for her time on the Lady Eagles pitching mound, and was instrumental in getting the squad to the national tournament in 2012 and 2013. She returns to Williams after earning her master's degree in athletic/activity administration from Southwest Baptist University, where she served as a graduate assistant to the school's softball team. She is from Cherokee Village.

[10] Emily Stober ('15) joins the Williams staff as an admissions counselor. She graduated from WBC in May with a bachelor's degree in psychology. The former Lady Eagle volleyball player will also serve as the assistant volleyball coach, and she is from Winona Lake, Ind.

[11] Hannah Morgan ('15) graduated from Williams in May, and she now serves as an admissions counselor. She earned a bachelor's degree in liberal arts and was active in PBL and theater as a student. She is from Smithville.

[12] Ebony Scott ('15) is also a new admissions counselor, and 2015 WBC graduate. The Jonesboro native earned her bachelor's degree in family psychology and was involved in many campus groups and activities.

[13] Rick Norris joined the Williams staff in late 2014 as the director of campus safety. He has 26 years of law enforcement experience, including time as a volunteer fire chief, EMT, patrolman and undercover narcotics officer. He also served in the Hot Springs Criminal Investigation Division and was promoted to the rank of captain before retiring in 2012.

[14] Ramon Rodriguez is WBC's new campus safety supervisor. He is a native of Cuba and most recently moved to Walnut Ridge from Miami, Fl.

Other employees who have already been serving Williams, but who have taken on new job roles include:

[15] Heather Parson ('04) has been named chair of the Department of Business at Williams. She began her new position this fall. She has been assistant professor of business at WBC since 2011. Parson, a 2004 alumna, holds an MBA from Arkansas State University."

[16] John Mayberry ('10) became the director of student life over the summer. The 2010 Williams graduate has worked in the Office of Admissions for four years, spending the last two as the assistant director of admissions.

[17] Dr. Brad Baine ('00) is serving as the interim head volleyball coach for the 2015 season. He has been at Williams since 2004, is chair of WBC's department of education and graduated from WBC in 2000. He has an MSE from Arkansas State University and earned his PhD from the University of Arkansas.

[18] Kathy Evans is now the administrative assistant/education coordinator of the Williams Teacher Education Program. She has been at WBC for 27 years, spending 10 of those years as the coordinator of student activities.

[19] Max Rose ('74) spent over 17 years managing the campus bookstore, but this summer he transitioned into the job of gift account coordinator in the Office of Institutional Advancement. He is also a 1974 alum.

SAVE THE DATE HOMECOMING & PARENTS DAY '15 SATURDAY, NOV. 14

JOIN US FOR A DAY FILLED WITH:

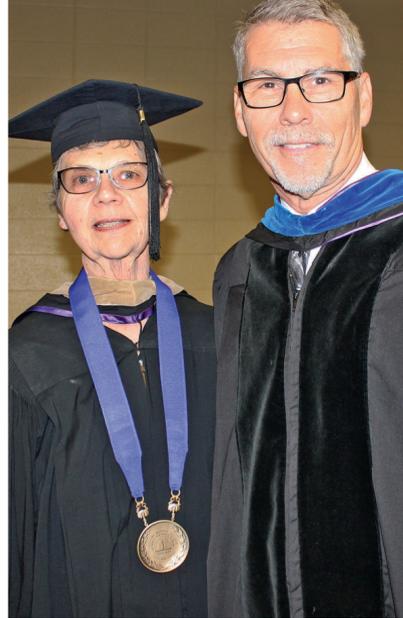
- + Performances by the Cast and Williams Singers
- + Golden Eagles reunion for graduates from 1965 and earlier
- + Fall drama: "The Man Who Came to Dinner," featuring WBC faculty, staff, administration, alumni, and seniors
- + Art exhibit by Jamie Tompkins, an accomplished artist from Ash Flat
- + Food and fun!
- + Basketball: Eagles vs. John Brown University

This is a Williams Singers' Reunion year, too! **CONTACT DR. BOB MAGEE FOR MORE INFORMATION.** (bmagee@wbcoll.edu)



RING INVESTS HALF A CENTURY IN WILLIAMS

GRACE STOLZ ('12)
Coordinator of Public Relations



STUDENT SUCCESS CENTER NAMED FOR JOY RING

Anyone who has been connected to Williams Baptist College over the past 50 years likely knows Professor Joy Ring. The business professor has served WBC longer than any other faculty member in the history of the college, and her achievement was celebrated at May's commencement exercises.

Ring earned her bachelor's degree from Lyon College and began her teaching career in the Mammoth Spring school district. During that time, she earned her M.B.E. from the University of Mississippi, taught summer school at the Strawberry High School, and eventually came to Williams, known then as Southern Baptist College.

In her first year, she taught most of the business classes, was department chair and became yearbook sponsor during what she calls the manual typewriter days. She has also spent time as a division chair, and would travel with other professors to a college extension center, held at the Air Force Base in Gosnell.

Ring was hugely instrumental in transitioning WBC from the manual typewriters into the land of computers.

"When it came time to start using computers in my classes, I went to the Highland Radio Shack to beg, borrow or steal a few TRS-80s and needed software," she recalls. "One of the first questions I asked was if I would be able to learn with the students, or would I have to learn and then teach, as I worked well from both sides of the desk. They delivered and loaned six fully loaded computers and a printer, and the college eventually purchased about ten of these computers."

She also helped organize and lead Kiddy College, a summer program for K-6 students at Williams that focused on math, drama, art and computers.

"I put sleeping bags on the classroom floor and placed various kinds of computers on the bags so the young students could use them," says Ring. "Various software companies provided age appropriate software for us to install on the computers. Since this was the first exposure for most of these guests, as well as their parents, we had local families and those from as far north as Hardy and east to Memphis. It was a great experience and exposure for the college."

Ring aided the Walnut Ridge public school district in writing a grant to enable them to purchase computers and software for senior adults to use in an after-hours computer lab, and she purchased the K-1 class its first multi-media computers and color printer.

"The teacher was really concerned that the students would destroy the equipment, but she got over that within a week. Several software companies provided lots of software that was age appropriate. I am not sure, but I think that I had as much fun as the students," she adds.

"She is a treasured member of our campus family, and there is no way of measuring the incredible impact she has at Williams."

—TOM JONES, WBC PRESIDENT

Ring easily remembers the early days of Williams, when funds were low and faculty and administration helped build sidewalks and wire lamps, among other things.

"I learned a long time ago that it never hurts to ask others for help," she says. "Money was tight during the early years, but there was never a need that the Lord did not provide. I was known for making baby quilts and placemats and napkins

when I saw a need or want that I could fulfill. I have probably made over 200 baby quilts, and the last one is always my favorite. I still get phone calls and e-mails from students who were in my classes a long time ago. As others have said, the college is like a big family."

During the May 9 commencement exercises, Prof. Joy Ring was celebrated for her five decades of service to the college, and it was announced that the Joy Ring Student Success Center had been named in her honor. Dr. Kenneth Startup, WBC's academic dean, also presented her a medallion commemorating her 50 years at Williams. She was given a sustained standing ovation by the crowd, which filled the Southerland-Mabee Center.

"I have asked several individuals to measure my head to be sure it has not expanded too much," she jokes. "It was a shock because that was not one of the things that I thought might happen. I think the true answer is that it is a humbling experience that the Lord helped me accept."

"Joy Ring's love for Williams Baptist College and its students has been abundantly clear for half a century. She is a treasured member of our campus family, and there is no way of measuring the incredible impact she has at Williams," adds Dr. Tom Jones, WBC's president.

The five decades Prof. Ring has invested in Williams Baptist College are a part of WBC's faith-filled legacy of compassionately shaping students' lives. Workers like her make it possible to produce exceptional graduates prepared to engage local and global cultures through a Christ-centered worldview, and her wisdom will continue to guide students and co-workers alike.

She concludes, "As you come to Williams, leave baggage behind that you do not need. Get involved with things that are of interest to you and then expand into new areas. You never know where the Lord will lead." ♥♥

Williams has opened its Joy Ring Student Success Center, giving students a whole new range of resources to make their Williams experience a good one, and to help them persevere in college.

According to Dr. Jeremy Dutschke, vice president for enrollment management and student services at Williams, the academic center serves as a multi-faceted space. Students can receive academic tutoring, writing assistance, personal counseling, career guidance and study or work on group projects.

"Ultimately, the success center is available to promote the cognitive and emotional success of each student as they continue from year to year during their time at Williams," notes Dutschke.

Developing a student success center has long been considered at WBC, and over the past year it became obvious that the facility was needed sooner rather than later.

"For several years, the concept of a success center has been discussed at Williams," Dutschke says. "I appointed a Retention Task Force early last fall with the goal of implementing strategies to increase retention of students through graduation. One of the key ideas from the RTF was the development of a student success center, as soon as possible."

Over the summer, Williams renovated the space previously occupied by the campus bookstore. The room now has designated areas for students to receive various academic and educational services.

"With our bookstore going virtual, and the opening of the campus spirit store in the student center, the vacated area was a perfect place to institute the Joy Ring Student Success Center," adds the vice president.

The facility is named for Prof. Joy Ring, WBC's longest serving professor, who is entering her 51st year with the college.

"Ms. Ring has been a stalwart for student success throughout her years at WBC," Dutschke concludes. "Many Williams students owe their success to the significant investment that Ms. Ring has made in their lives. There is no better way to honor the legacy of Joy Ring than to name the success center in her honor."

The Joy Ring Student Success Center occupies a spot on McClellan Drive, next to WBC's mail and copy room. ♥♥



87 GRADUATES EARN WILLIAMS DEGREES

Williams awarded degrees to 87 graduates during its 2015 commencement exercises, held Saturday, May 9. A crowd of over 1,000 filled the college's Southerland-Mabee Center for the ceremony. Dr. Dawson Williams, a 1982 WBC graduate who currently serves as a marriage and family counselor in North Little Rock, delivered the commencement address. Graduate Jenifer Roberts addressed the crowd from a student's perspective.

HISTORY STUDENTS CREATE MUSEUM DISPLAYS

The Wings of Honor Museum in Walnut Ridge has several new displays, thanks to the efforts of Williams history students. The students completed a wide array of exhibits for the World War II museum as part of the college's World War II class, taught by Dr. Daniel Spillman, who is the chair of WBC's history department. "The students conducted extensive research into primary sources at archives, libraries, museums and in some cases by interviewing WWII veterans," said Spillman. "I think the hands-on nature of the project provided a nice compliment to the more traditional in-class lectures, readings and discussions."

GOLF TOURNEY RAISES MONEY FOR WBC ATHLETICS

The WBC Golf Tournament was held in May at the Sage Meadows Country Club in Jonesboro. Prizes were awarded to winners in two separate flights. Taking first place in the "A" flight was the team of Jesse Coffman, Jess Cooper, Ty Jones and John Mays. Second place in the "A" flight went to Ryan Carpenter, Brandon McNeil, Cole Sheffer and Jeremy Sheffer. In the "B" flight, the first place team was composed of Micheal Dickson, Phillip Tolson, Lee Turnbull and Eric Turner. Second place in the "B" flight went to Dave Fowler, Daniel Gossett, Benson Hart and Adam Staples. Williams also extends its appreciation to the numerous sponsors who supported the event.

PBL CONTINUES WINNING STREAK AT NATIONALS

WBC's Phi Beta Lambda chapter had another successful award season, as it brought home a new batch of awards from the state and national leadership conferences. Of their awards, seven were earned at the national competition, including a first place finish in Community Service Project for the work they do with Little Rock-based charity Heifer International. Heifer's mission is to alleviate hunger, and PBL has hosted a hunger awareness dinner for several years in order to raise funds for the organization.

VIRTUAL CAMPUS BOOKSTORE LAUNCHED

Williams now sells textbooks exclusively online. The college joined forces with Follett Virtual Solutions to fulfill students' textbook needs. Follett offers numerous purchasing options, 24 hour shipping, and free shipping on orders of \$75 or more. While books will no longer be sold on campus, WBC still sells school merchandise onsite. The new spirit store is located in the Eagle Coffeehouse & Grill and is managed by Fresh Ideas.



HERSHEL DON YANCEY ('71) and wife, Terry, have moved to Mount Dora, Fla. He completed an interim pastorate of the Batesville (Miss.) Presbyterian Church in December 2014, and was honorably retired in May 2015 in the Presbytery of St. Andrew, PCUSA. He serves as a PCUSA representative on the Presbyterian Council for Chaplains and Military Personnel.

SAM YOUNG ('78) is director of data sciences at Behavioral Interventions, Inc., a subsidiary of The GEO Group. He is responsible for all data science activities within BI and provides support to other GEO departments. He also teaches management science courses as an adjunct faculty member at Webster University, Tiffin University and Metropolitan State University of Denver. He and wife, Angel, live in Berthoud, Colo.

DANA KELLEY ('81) formed The Solutions Group located in Jonesboro, Ark. The Solutions Group is a full-service marketing firm specializing in and focusing on digital, online and inbound marketing techniques and solutions. He and his wife, Kelly, live in Jonesboro. He is also a member of the Williams Board of Trustees.

DAPHNE (SANDERS) THOMAS ('90) is a public relations and marketing executive. She lives in Memphis, Tenn.

JANET (MOORE) BRAND ('95) retired this year from the Walnut Ridge Elementary School after teaching for 20 years. She and husband, Roger, have two daughters, Rhonda Campbell (Allen) and Kristie Graham (Brad), and two grandchildren, Jacob and Kylie. She plans to continue her volunteer work both at the school and at People's Faith Tabernacle, where her husband is pastor.

RHONDA (MCENTIRE) FOWLER ('96) completed a master's degree in educational leadership in 2012. In her job as career and technical education coordinator for the Northeast Arkansas Education Cooperative in Walnut Ridge, she works with ten different school districts. She and husband, Scott, live in Alicia.

ERIC NEWELL ('01), in his first year as head coach of the Auburn University at Montgomery softball team, led the Warhawks to their second straight NAIA World Series Championship win in Sioux City, Iowa, this spring. Eric also received the honor of 2015 NAIA Softball National Coach of the Year.

NATHAN BULLOCK ('03) is director of off-campus and outreach programs for Rutgers University's Camden campus. He has served as a board member for the Continuing Education Association of New York and he is active in several professional organizations, including the Association for Continuing Higher Education (ACHE) and the Learning Resources Network (LERN). He lives in Collingswood, N.J.

MATT ('04) AND STEPHANIE (TUCKER) ROSE ('06) announce the birth of their daughter, McKenzie Lynette, on July 31, 2015. She joins big brother, Maddox (6). They reside in Hoxie, Ark.

JADE (MOUNT) SIMPSON ('04) and husband, Casey, celebrated the birth of their daughter, Hallie Claire, on June 10, 2015. They live in Rector, Ark., where Jade is a second grade teacher.

CHRISTOPHER WILLIAMS ('04) graduated with a master's degree in business administration/IT management emphasis in May 2014. He and wife, Kandycy, married in October 2014, and live in Little Rock, Ark. He is a recruiter for the Arkansas National Guard Youth Challenge Program.

MIKE ROSE ('05) and wife, Jessica, celebrated the birth of their son, Max Bryant, on June 5, 2015. Max joins big sister Grace (2), and they live in Little Rock, Ark., where both Mike and Jessica are emergency room physicians at St. Vincent Hospital.

JUSTIN ('07) AND LAURA BETH (HENDERSON) HECK ('08) welcomed their third child, Lucy, in September 2014. Lucy joins big brothers, Luke and Jude. They make their home in Westville, Okla., where Justin is pastor of the First Baptist Church.

KATHERINE (YANCEY) DIXON ('08) and husband, Adam, welcomed their first child, Alexandra Isabelle, on August 14, 2014. They live in Springfield, Mo., where Katherine works as director of accreditation and compliance at a psychology internship consortium.

PABLO PAREDES ('08) earned a master's degree in theology from Dallas Theological Seminary in May 2015. He is an associate pastor at The Heights Baptist Church in Richardson, Texas.

ANDREW ('08) AND HEATHER (MARTIN) WATSON ('09) announce the birth of their second child, Oliver William, born on July 16, 2015. He joins big brother, Parker (3). Andrew is director of admissions and men's and women's cross country coach at WBC, and Heather is the cheerleaders' sponsor, also at WBC.

KRISTEN PEEVY ('09) earned a master's degree in theology from Liberty University in October 2014. She lives in Springdale, Ark.

IRA ('08) AND MELANIE (SWATY) ROUNTREE ('09) celebrated the birth of their first child, Jonathan Clark, born on May 12, 2015. They reside in West Memphis, Ark.

JAKE GUENRICH ('10) and wife, Stephanie, celebrated the birth of their son, Branch Anderson, born on June 1, 2015. Branch joins big sister Mallie Grace (4), and big brother Mordecai (2). They make their home in Walnut Ridge, Ark., where Jake serves as pastor of the First Baptist Church.

SAM ROGERS ('10) has been accepted into the Ph.D. program at the University of Manchester, England. He and wife, Katie, moved to England so he could begin studies in the fall of 2015.

SHANE ('09) AND GRACE (GILLEY) STOLZ ('12) celebrated the birth of their first child, Eleanor Winifred (Winnie), on April 21, 2015. Shane is WBC's sports information director and head soccer coach of the men's and women's teams. Grace is WBC's coordinator of public relations.

ERIC SMITH ('11) and wife, Amanda, celebrated the birth of their daughter, Kennedy Taylor Lynn, on April 7, 2015. Kennedy joins big brother, Bryce (6), and they make their home in Bryant, Ark.

BURTON WINSTON ('11) was presented the Sloan-Hendrix High School Teacher of the Year Award for the 2014-2015 school year. He lives in Walnut Ridge, Ark.

ELIZABETH (GUTHRIE) MCCORD ('12) is teaching elementary music in the Boulder Valley School District in Broomfield and Lafayette, Colo. She is also pursuing a master's degree in music education at the University of Colorado Boulder. She and husband, Ricky ('12), live in Boulder.

JANAI (POWELL) RINDELS ('12) and husband, Ryan, celebrated the birth of their first child, Josiah Scott, born on January 26, 2015. Janai serves as music director at First Baptist Church Sonoma where her husband serves as pastor. They live in Mill Valley, Calif.

GARRETT BROADAWAY ('13) lives in Pochontas, Ark. He has joined the sales team at Baltz Chevrolet Dealership in Pochontas.

BRANDEN CAFFOE ('13) and wife, Courtney, live in Wake Forest, N.C. He is pursuing a master's degree at Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary.

HANNAH ROACH ('13) was married to Mark Stacy on June 16, 2015. They make their home in Jonesboro, Ark.

EMILY SMITH ('13) was married to Richard Nicholas Dail of Ravenden, Ark., on June 27, 2015. She is a school teacher, and he is an engineer with the Arkansas State Highway and Transportation Department. They live in Bryant, Ark.

GRANT SMITH ('13) was married to Courtney Gail Owens on June 20, 2015. Both are social studies teachers, he at Walnut Ridge Middle School and she at Paragould High School.

NICK WEBER ('13) AND MEGAN MATHRE ('13) were married on July 11, 2015. They make their home in Walnut Ridge, Ark., where he is bi-vocational music minister at the First Baptist Church. Nick is also an elementary school music teacher for the Paragould School District.

JORDAN HENSON ('14) was married to Justin Todd on April 26, 2015. They make their home in Memphis, Tenn.

CHRIS WILLIAMS ('14) was married to Zarah Tinkle on June 20, 2015. They make their home in North Little Rock, Ark., where Chris is working in the construction industry, is assistant soccer coach at North Little Rock High School, and a worship team member at the Summit Church. Zarah is employed at Mugs Café in Argenta. They are both leaders in Young Life, a ministry to high school students.

FRIENDS WE'LL MISS

VIRGINIA HARRISON ('96) of Manhattan, Kan., passed away on June 29, 2015. She was a retired mathematics teacher and enjoyed computers and traveling. She was preceded in death by her husband, Daniel Harrison, who served as a religion professor at WBC from 1966 until 1991. She is survived by daughters Sarah H. Goodman and Nora Ransom and their families.

JAMES A. MUELLER ('65) of Lake Station, Ind., passed away on June 5, 2015. He was employed at Bethlehem Steel for 35 years. He is survived by three sisters, three sons and their families.

DOROTHY "DOTTIE" (EUBANKS) POLSGROVE ('65) passed away on August 25, 2014. She was a teacher in Bryant, Ark., for over 30 years. She was a foster parent for many years and actively involved in her church, Indian Springs Baptist Church. She is survived by daughters, Angela Haynie and Andrea Polsgrove, and their families, and one brother, James Lee Eubanks ('67).

DARRELL STEELE ('65) of Alicia, Ark., passed away on March 30, 2014 at the Flo and Phil Jones Hospice House in Jonesboro. He was a farmer and worked in the trucking business. He attended New Life Cathedral in Hoxie, Ark. He is survived by his wife Cora; daughters Tammy Gates, Charlene Raby, Angie, and Casey; sons Chris, Darrell Jr., and Richard; and notable son, Greg Coats.

GREG CHANCE ('72) passed away on April 14, 2015, from injuries sustained in an automobile accident, at the age of 63. He worked in radio and was the news director for KASU in Jonesboro, Ark. During his broadcast career he received 15 awards from the Arkansas Education Association, and 30 awards from the Arkansas Broadcasters Association. He was a member of Fisher Street United Methodist Church in Jonesboro, and a past member of the Lions Club and Kiwanis Club. He is survived by his wife of 36 years, Cindy Chance, and many family members and friends.

JEFFERSON "JEFF" HYDE ('78) of Paragould, Ark., passed away on December 27, 2014, at the age of 56. He owned a wholesale business and served as pastor of several churches in northeast Arkansas. He was a member of the Brown's Chapel Baptist Church. He is survived by his wife of 32 years, JoAnna Hyde, his mother, Millie Hyde, and brother, Gary Lee.

T. CLIFFORD TONEY ('80) of Jonesboro, Ark., passed away on August 4, 2015, at the age of 57. He received a bachelor's degree from Ouachita Baptist University and a master's degree in religious education from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. He was an auctioneer, a real estate investor, a breeder of champion Labrador retrievers at Craighead Kennels, and a certified American Kennel Club judge. He was a member of Central Baptist Church, and is survived by two aunts and several cousins.

KEITH BRAND ('96) passed away on May 4, 2015, at the age of 55. He is survived by his wife, Tonda (McEntire) Brand ('90); sons, Ben and Brighton; parents, Gene and Sue Brand; siblings, Alan ('84) and wife Tonya, Kevin ('84), and Kay Lynn and husband Kenneth Bennett. He was city president of Regions Bank in Walnut Ridge, a Lawrence County School District school board member, and a member of the First United Methodist Church. He was actively involved in many community and civic organizations.

TAMARA "TAMMY" BALDWIN ('05) of Glade Hill, Va., formerly of Alicia, Ark., passed away on April 26, 2015, at the age of 53. She is survived by her husband, Rev. O. Monroe Baldwin ('05), children Kristen (Adam) Green ('10), Jessica ('13), and Dylan, and granddaughter, Truelee Marzee Green. She was a mental health nurse practitioner and a member of Diamond Hill Baptist Church.



FROM THE PRESIDENT

A DETERMINED SENSE OF PURPOSE

"I am proud to serve with people that not only make that happen on a daily basis, but aggressively seek to perpetuate a high biblical standard among their ranks."



THIS PAST SUMMER, THE COLLEGE WENT THROUGH AN INTENSIVE PERIOD OF RECRUITING, INTERVIEWING, AND SELECTING SEVERAL NEW FACULTY AND STAFF MEMBERS. THAT PROCESS REMINDED ME ABOUT THE DETERMINED SENSE OF PURPOSE WITH WHICH WBC EMPLOYEES SERVE.

Receiving applications from around the globe, most applicants were pedigreed scholars with impressive teaching resumes. And if exceptional scholarship were the only measure for selection, certainly all could have been hired.

But they weren't.

Those hired expressed a dynamic, personal relationship with Jesus Christ and an intrinsic understanding of how the Gospel is central to our

mission in Christian higher education. Search committees repeatedly pointed to these hallmarks as foundational standards to justify applicants moving forward in the selection process.

In this issue of the Forward, you will be introduced to these new WBC leaders. In addition, you will be reminded of how WBC leaders challenge and encourage students to aim for a higher purpose. And, you will read about students nurtured in a solid academic environment inspired by these leaders committed to the Lordship of Jesus Christ.

Williams Baptist College is determined to uphold an almost 75 year legacy of providing a decidedly Christian college education. I am proud to serve with people that not only make that happen on a daily basis, but aggressively seek to perpetuate a high biblical standard among their ranks.

Thank you for your support of this "splendid work" at WBC. We covet your prayers as we prepare graduates to engage both local and global cultures with a Christ-centered worldview. 

Tom Jones
PRESIDENT

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U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Mailmaster



FORWARD

Back a Winner!

GIVE TO WBC'S ANNUAL SCHOLARSHIP FUND.

THEY ARE THE NEXT GENERATION OF LEADERS in our culture, our churches and our families. And they need our support.

Williams Baptist College students choose to prepare for life at a college that challenges them both academically and spiritually. When we support them, we are backing a winner!

Over 90 percent of Williams students depend on scholarships to make their Christian college education affordable. That means your gifts to WBC's Annual Scholarship Fund have a direct and crucial impact on tomorrow's leaders.

BACK A WINNER. Give today to support the students of Williams Baptist College.

GIVE ONLINE!
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