

FORWARD

Alumni & Friends Publication of Williams Baptist College

THE NEXT 75

Looking Ahead to WBC's Future



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Thinking Ahead

WHAT'S IN STORE NEXT FOR WBC?

The vision, commitment and clear divine providence that brought Williams to this point have the institution poised for a very bright future.

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The Crusade: Dr. H. E. Williams and the 1960 Race for Governor of Arkansas

Dr. H. E. Williams believed firmly in the principles of education, free enterprise, and, above all else, the Christian faith.

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THE NEXT 75

Looking Ahead to WBC's Future

BY BRETT COOPER // Vice President for Institutional Advancement

What will the next 75 years look like at Williams Baptist College?

As WBC celebrates this diamond anniversary, its proud history is also its launching pad. The vision, commitment and clear divine providence that brought Williams to this point have the institution poised for a very bright future.

"Williams Baptist College's strong position would be the envy of most institutions in the country," says Dr. Tom Jones, WBC's president. "We are financially sound with a nominal debt, a nationally recognized excellence in our academic programs, and a price that is affordable for most hardworking families."

But harnessing the potential of Williams for the next 75 years requires diligent – and prayerful – planning. Jones notes that careful planning helped WBC reach this point.

"The college community has always made the most of the resources provided through a prudent and intentional commitment to stewardship of the Lord's resources. Careful planning keeps us faithful to a long-standing commitment to responsible, fiscal management that has long been a part of the college's core values," he says.

Planning for the coming years at Williams has involved the Strategic Planning Committee, a broad cross-section of the college, including faculty, staff, administrators and students. Jones convened the committee in 2012 and again in 2015 to perform institutional analysis, prioritize strategic initiatives and create core objectives.

"Their recommendations formed the basis for the Diamond Vision Plan, which will guide our priorities through the next four years. Continuing the momentum and direction of earlier plans, the Diamond Vision Plan provides steps for capitalizing on institutional strengths, addressing areas for improvement, tackling imposing challenges, and embracing strategic opportunities," the president says.

The committee also developed the Williams vision statement, which serves as a target for WBC and its planning efforts: "To produce exceptional graduates prepared to competently engage local and global cultures through a Christ-centered worldview."

Jones notes, "As we develop programs and policies, that statement helps guide us as we

establish priorities, goals, and objectives that focus our efforts on our vision."

Making the planning process both more important and more challenging is the rapidly changing landscape of higher education. Practically every institution in the country faces the challenges of keeping college affordable, a growing phalanx of government regulations, campus safety issues and large-scale cultural shifts.

Jones notes that while some societal changes actually help Williams meet its goals more effectively, others directly oppose WBC's scriptural position as a Christian liberal arts college.

"A Christian college doesn't become a Christian college by accident. It is intentional. And it doesn't remain a truly Christian college by accident, either. Maintaining our Christian identity is intentional, it is ongoing," he says.

"There are always worldly forces at work that would push us away from our Christian moorings. Williams Baptist College holds steadfastly to the biblical principles and the Christian commitment upon which it was founded."

The planning process has revealed strengths at WBC and market niches which the college is well suited to fill. That has led to plans for the first master's degree program at Williams, as well as an online bachelor's degree in criminal justice.

"Since late last year we've been working on two new programs for the college. One, the Master of Arts in Teaching will provide an alternative to teacher credentialing. A fully online program, it will expand the number of Williams alumni serving in the public schools of our area," the president says.

"The second program, the Bachelor of Arts in Criminal Justice, will provide easy access to a curriculum for law enforcement professionals. This program will include the latest techniques and approaches, as well as the values inherent in a Williams curriculum, thereby enhancing the professionalism and quality of law enforcement professionals everywhere."

To implement the new academic programs, Dr. RoseMary Weaver has returned to Williams

as the dean of graduate and online programs. Weaver was the first director of the Williams Teacher Education Program in the 1990s and began the college's widely respected Bachelor of Science in Education degrees.

Williams will soon launch other programs to attract students, as well, including sports.

"We are on track to greatly expand our athletic offerings, both in collegiate competition and in club sports. These aggressive programs will help us not only attract students to Williams Baptist College, but also help us retain students by engaging their particular interests and skills," Jones says.

And the president notes that programs will be added beyond athletics.

"We also will look to expand specific interest areas, as we now do with our PBL business students, The Cast drama team, Williams Singers, praise and worship and other activities that highlight and engage the skills and interests of these students," he notes.

One notable example is the new WBC Honors Program, which has begun this fall under the leadership of Dr. Kenneth Startup. The first Coe Honors Scholars were chosen earlier this year to participate in the program.

"Regardless of a student's interest, these types of programs are needed at any college to attract high quality students and to retain them throughout their college career. Our plan is to provide a top level experience in all of these areas," says Jones.

The progress to come over the next few years, and the next 75, is exciting. But Jones is quick to add that Williams will move forward with the same commitment that brought the college to this point.

"It is our repeated intention that our worldview will be marked by a pronounced leading of the Holy Spirit, an unwavering commitment to God's Word and rigorous scholarship, and a vigilant witness that boldly and consistently proclaims Jesus as the author of all truth," he declares.

"As we grow, as we improve, as we plan our future, it will be with an eye toward establishing and implementing goals that will provide a course whose completion will enable Williams to make an even greater impact on our region, nation and world for the Father's glory." ❖

WEAVER RETURNS TO LAUNCH NEW PROGRAMS

Dr. RoseMary Weaver to take over as dean of graduate and online programs.

Dr. RoseMary Weaver is no stranger to progress at Williams Baptist College. She led the way as Williams began its widely respected teacher education program in the 1990s. Now, Weaver has returned to WBC to help launch other key programs, including the college's first master's degree.

Weaver took over this summer as WBC's dean of graduate and online programs, a newly created role, where she will guide the implementation of a Master of Arts in Teaching, as well as a bachelor's degree in criminal justice. Both programs will be fully online.

"The decision to offer the Master of Arts in Teaching (MAT) is the result of research and data as well as the demands expressed through interest and inquiry," Weaver said. "The MAT will be the answer to individuals who have a bachelor's degree in a content area but now want to become licensed to enter the teaching profession."

Weaver was the first chair of the Williams Teacher Education Program and guided WBC in beginning its Bachelor of Science in Education degree. Since then, WTEP has earned wide respect across the region as it has prepared teachers in eight education majors.

After leaving WBC, Weaver served as curriculum coordinator for the Pocahontas School District, but she agreed to return to Williams starting this summer in order to help launch its graduate and online programs.

"During the last two decades, the Williams Teacher Education Program has influenced thousands of students and enriched the lives of countless individuals," she said. "For this reason, I am honored to return to begin yet another new work, the online programs at Williams."

Weaver also noted that the online program in criminal justice will be a degree completion program for individuals who want to advance in the field of law enforcement.

"There are myriad opportunities in this field. Employment opportunities range from local, state and national social and legal services to private and corporate protective and security services, and even training and mentoring other law enforcement officers," Weaver said.

Dr. Brad Baine, academic dean at WBC, said the MAT and criminal justice programs will be reviewed by state and national accrediting agencies in coming months. He said the college hopes to receive approval later this year and begin offering both degrees in the spring 2017 semester.

"Dr. Weaver possesses the knowledge, leadership, and vision to ensure that the first graduate degree at Williams Baptist College receives identical success as all undergraduate degrees Williams currently produces," said Baine.

"Dr. Weaver's superior leadership and unrelenting work ethic will undoubtedly lead to a noteworthy Masters of Arts in Teaching program at Williams."

Dr. Tom Jones, president of WBC, said Weaver is the ideal choice to lead the new programs, which he said will extend the college's influence into new frontiers.

"These new programs will further Williams Baptist College's ability to produce exceptional graduates prepared to competently engage local and global cultures through a Christ-centered worldview," Jones said.

Weaver and her husband, Dr. Tom Weaver, live in Pocahontas. They are active members of Pocahontas First Baptist Church. ❖



"Dr. Weaver's professional abilities will allow Williams the opportunity to offer a MAT program for students who have received an undergraduate degree in a non-education field and are now seeking a route to become a licensed educator."

- DR. BRAD BAINE / ACADEMIC DEAN

THE CRUSADE:

Dr. H. E. Williams and the 1960 Race for Governor of Arkansas

By Colton Babbitt

As the United States entered the 1960s, the political climate of Arkansas was in a state of tumult. The issue of integration had stirred the populace and made the problems of an already poor state seem desperate. Governor Orval Faubus seemed poised to capitalize on the chaos and easily take a fourth term. In the midst of the turbulence, a political unknown, Dr. Hubert Ethridge Williams, would appear and unleash, with missionary zeal, an onslaught of criticism of Faubus' leadership.

Williams represented a minority sector of the population that disliked Faubus' tight control of the Democratic Party, his mismanagement of integration and his shortcomings on education. In an election with no shortage of Cold War drama, Williams would challenge what he perceived to be the menace of "Faubusism."

Dr. Williams was in many ways the opposite of Faubus. While many men (including Faubus) had been fighting World War II, Williams had been fighting to establish an institution of Christian higher education in Northeast Arkansas. He was a well-respected and experienced Southern Baptist minister and an educator, and he had utilized both aptitudes serving as president of Southern Baptist College since its inception in 1941.

Although Williams was trained in the arts of education and Christian ministry, he felt compelled to enter the 1960 gubernatorial race after receiving ample encouragement from admirers of his leadership and oratory skills.

Dr. Williams vocally declared that he was going after the governor, not Faubus the man. Faubus frequently referred to Williams as the "preacher," with heavy implications that he ought to go back to the pulpit where he belonged and let the professionals handle the politics. Although Dr. Williams had previously served in the office of the circuit clerk of his native Perry County, he was still considered an outsider candidate.

One of Dr. Williams' criticisms of Faubus was his political "dictatorship" of Arkansas politics and, more specifically, the Arkansas Democratic Party. Since reconstruction's end, every governor-elect had been a Democrat; therefore the Democratic primary was where the next governor would be predetermined. Dr. Williams felt that Faubus had a tight hold on the Arkansas Democratic Party, making it difficult for reform to take place.

The accusation that Faubus had a strong upper hand in the Arkansas Democratic Party was not a totally unfounded claim. His sway among Arkansas Democrats was visible as a stay-the-course attitude circulated praising Arkansas' "progress" under Faubus. Shortly before the primary election, welfare payments were

increased, and Williams cried foul. He charged Faubus and his supporters with abusing the welfare system to gain votes from those dependent on government support. When talking about this group, Williams referred to the elderly being "used by politicians."

The most pressing issue of the 1960 gubernatorial race was arguably integration. In 1957, the eyes of the world were upon Little Rock as Faubus ordered the Arkansas National Guard to prevent nine black students from attending Central High School. Southerners had roared in applause at Faubus' act of insubordination, while the Federal government found itself embarrassed, and the rest of the world watched on the edge of its seat.

Williams felt integration of the educational system was being mishandled, and Faubus had used the integration issue for political gain. He scathingly rebuked Faubus' statement that race relations had 'Never... been so good,' calling it a 'preposterous statement.' Faubus responded by asserting that Williams was receiving support from pro-integration supporters. This reflected Faubus' larger tactic of depicting the opposing Democratic candidates as integrationists.

Although publicly Faubus had fiercely attacked integration, Williams accused him of duplicitously encouraging integration privately. To Williams, this was an irresponsible political move that contributed to instability in race relations; Faubus



H. E. WILLIAMS

for

GOVERNOR

and integration at Central High School was fuel for Soviet propaganda, and the desire for social change could easily lead to a Communist movement among African Americans, as well as other minority groups.

Williams' political ideology was significantly marked by his fierce anti-Communist stance. He had visited the Soviet Union twice in the previous decade, once on an educational tour and then as the leader of an American entourage from Southern Baptist College to attend the American National Exhibition held in Moscow. He had seen the Soviets' best, although less than successful, attempts to compete with America, and he had seen people living in absolute squalor. These conditions firmly convinced Williams that transitioning to Communism was the worst possible ailment any nation could endure.

Williams connected his ideological enemy of Communism and his political target, Faubus, by declaring the instability caused by Faubus' policies was prime fuel for Soviet propaganda. The implication was clear: Faubus was aiding the Communists. In response, Faubus disavowed any ties or sympathies toward Communism and criticized Williams for questioning social programs Arkansans depended on.

As his background would suggest, Williams also was very concerned with improving education in Arkansas. As president of Southern Baptist College

he had championed private education and believed that a free nation needed private educational institutions separate from state control. However, he understood the practical purpose of public education, and he was heavily critical of Faubus' exceptionally low spending on education and the reflection it had on Arkansas. He argued that teachers in Arkansas made pitifully low wages, and supported a \$1,700 increase in teachers' salaries.

In the end, however, Faubus would narrowly avoid a runoff in the 1960 Democratic primary, and he won his fourth term. Williams later wrote, "I tried to help bring Arkansas to the middle of the road on some issues we had been led astray regarding. I feel I made a positive contribution which still lives on in our state." (Williams, 157)

Although Dr. Williams would not wrest the nomination away, his campaign serves as a reminder that not all Arkansans complacently supported Faubus. Many clearly had tired of Faubus and did not think the affairs of the state belonged in his hands. ♡

Colton Babbitt, a junior history major at WBC, is from Benton, Ark.

Further Reading:

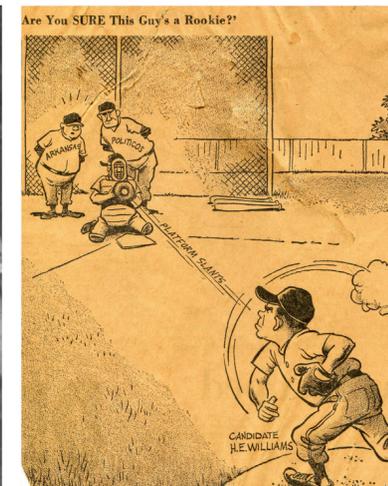
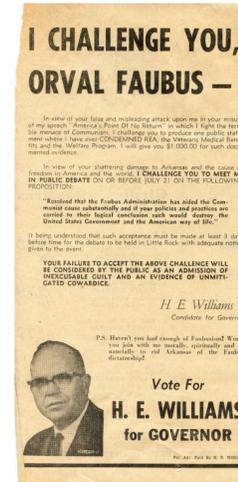
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MOTIVATED BY "HIS
STRONG BELIEFS
IN CIVIL RIGHTS
AND RACIAL
INTEGRATION."

FORWARD // FALL 2016



ALUMS LEAD LADY EAGLES TO 7TH PLACE NAIA FINISH

By Shane Stolz ('09) // Sports Information Director



Historic Year for WBC Athletics

On June 11, 2015, the Williams Baptist College athletic department announced a new head Lady Eagle, as WBC alum Laura Tucker ('13) had returned to her alma mater to lead the softball program. Tucker had a mind to bring the winning tradition back to the program, and she found success quickly. Her Lady Eagles finished the year as the 7th place team in the NAIA.

Tucker previously led WBC to two national tournament appearances as a student, once as a player in 2012 and again as a student-assistant coach in 2013.

"Returning to Williams was like coming back home. Williams really played a huge role in the trajectory of my life and I am forever grateful for that. To come back and coach at WBC was an honor, knowing the impact the faculty and staff had on me as a student. I felt that I would be able to make a difference in the lives of students. I was also very thankful that the administration had faith in me and gave me a chance to lead in spite of my young age," says Tucker.

Her first move after accepting the head coaching job was to add fellow WBC alum and All-American Karisa Hendrix ('13) to her staff. Hendrix played on both 2012 and 2013 national tournament teams.

"Coming back to WBC reminded me of how much I love this school and the people here. The atmosphere at Williams is so encouraging and personable. Due to our small size, our staff and faculty have the opportunity to invest in each student and help them succeed academically, as well as personally. I love being a part of that and working with this special group of people. Our students, staff and faculty at WBC are truly one-of-a-kind," adds Hendrix.

After the coaches graduated from Williams, they both moved on to graduate assistant coach positions--Tucker to Colorado Christian University in Denver, and Hendrix to Southwest Baptist University in Bolivar, Mo. After receiving master's degrees from their respective schools, both immediately returned to the WBC softball program that had so shaped their college careers.

It did not take the Lady Eagles long to respond to their new coaches' methods, as the squad earned an early 14-3 start to American Midwest Conference play. They also reached a national ranking as high as 22nd.

The team would struggle down the stretch, however, losing eight of their final 14 regular season games. The streak dropped the team from

the rankings, but they still finished the regular season in second place in the AMC, earning the 2nd seed in the tournament.

In order to receive a bid to the NAIA National Tournament, the Lady Eagles would need to win the conference tournament in Conway, Ark. Their chances started to look grim, though, after an opening game loss to Columbia College. The team would have to reel off four straight victories to advance, including three in one day.

Tucker's approach of one pitch at a time, focusing on defense and timely hitting stuck with the team. Led by four seniors (Callie Brooks, Andrea Drake, Hayley Overbay, and Susannah Pugh), the team beat Freed-Hardeman University, Park University (ranked 24th), and Columbia College, twice. The young coaches and their Lady Eagles came from behind to win WBC's second ever AMC Tournament Championship. They were headed to nationals.

Going into National Tournament play, the unranked Lady Eagles were drawn into the LSU-Alexandria bracket, where they would have to face two top 10 teams. First up would be 10th ranked Martin Methodist University, which WBC shut out 2-0. It was only MMU's fifth shutout all year.

Following the win, Williams faced host LSU-A, ranked 9th, and came away with a thrilling 5-2 victory, earning a spot in the championship of the LSU-A bracket, where they would once again face Martin Methodist. WBC used good pitching and timely hitting to beat MMU 2-0, again. The team celebrated with a dog pile in the middle of the pitcher's circle, knowing they were advancing to the NAIA World Series in Sioux City, Iowa, for the second time in school history.

There are 192 colleges and universities in the NAIA competing in softball, and WBC had secured a top 10 finish by reaching the World Series. While other students went home for summer jobs and vacation, the WBC softball team remained on campus, preparing for the trip that 182 other schools only dreamed of.

They also became local heroes, making appearances live on the set of Region 8 News, many radio appearances, newspaper articles, and a local pep rally in downtown Walnut Ridge. Everywhere they went, whether at Adriana's Restaurant in Walnut Ridge or an ice cream shop in Jonesboro, people were recognizing them and wishing them luck on the upcoming series.

"The group of ladies this year were determined to have a successful year. So much of what goes on in college athletics is behind the scenes. People don't

see our athletes getting up at 5 a.m. for workouts. People are not present for daily practices, meetings or study halls. This team sacrificed so much of themselves this year because they had a goal. They had personal goals and team goals, but all of those goals came with great sacrifice," Tucker notes.

The team was not satisfied with simply qualifying for the championship; they wanted to bring home a trophy.

"One reason we experienced so much success this past season was our players' unselfish and laid back attitudes" says Hendrix. "We had some of our best hitters willing to lay down sac bunts in order to advance runners, our pitching staff stayed ready at all times to get in the game if we needed them, and our dugout was consistently loud, encouraging, and constantly singing and dancing, keeping everyone loose."

The Lady Eagles finished the NAIA World Series with a 2-2 record. After losing their opening game to Marian University 2-0, they beat 7th ranked Simpson University 1-0 in extra innings and Webber International University 10-4 before falling to top-ranked Oklahoma City University, which eventually won the whole series.

"I believe the biggest reason for this season's success was the selflessness of our players. They truly embody what a team should be. This group wanted to win so badly for each other, which is not common in today's world. They believed in themselves, their coaches and teammates wholeheartedly. I think our team knew deep down we were going to be successful and that is why we had success. They truly believed and trusted in God's plan," concludes Tucker.

The first year coaching staff has built a solid foundation, and loses only four seniors from this year's squad. They look forward to the future and believe they could be the team to bring WBC its first ever NAIA National Championship. ♡

The 2015-16 school year was monumental for the Eagles athletic department. Not only did Williams Baptist College teams set records on the field, court and mat, but each squad also earned recognition for accomplishments outside the game.

"The 2015-16 athletic year was a banner year for WBC. Our programs represented our institution in an admirable way on and off the field of competition," said Director of Athletics Jeff Rider.

On the playing surfaces, the Eagles combined to win 138 games compared to 103 losses and one tie. The department achieved 13 victories over nationally ranked teams during the year. The school produced three All-Americans and 25 All-Conference performers. Both wrestling and softball brought home American Midwest Conference Tournament championships.

Baseball, men's basketball, men's soccer, wrestling, women's basketball and softball all beat ranked

teams during the year. Women's soccer set a school record for wins in a season, while volleyball tied its best ever finish at the AMC Tournament.

"It has been fun watching our athletic teams develop competitively in the AMC," noted Rider.

The Williams softball squad finished the season at the NAIA World Series, placing 7th before finally being eliminated by the number one team and eventual national champion Oklahoma City Stars. There are 192 competitive teams in NAIA softball.

The wrestling Eagles finished in 15th place at the national championships, having two wrestlers, Tyler Fraley and Jeffrey Haley, awarded All-American status.

In men's basketball, Tevin Howard received All-American honors.

Success was not limited to the playing fields, as once again the athletic teams were active in

community service. Projects included cleaning yards, picking up parks and volunteering at local events.

The athletic programs also hit the books hard, producing an impressive 68 Academic All-Conference honorees. Women's cross country, volleyball, softball, and men's soccer were named to the NAIA 2016 Scholar Team List. That means the teams had a combined GPA of at least 3.0.

As Rider concluded, "We are looking forward to developing relationships and supporting our Eagles teams again in 2016-17." ♡

138 wins
103 losses **1** tie
COMBINED RECORD

13 victories
OVER NATIONALLY RANKED TEAMS

3
ALL-AMERICANS

25
ALL-CONFERENCE

Wrestling & Softball
AMERICAN MIDWEST CONFERENCE TOURNAMENT CHAMPIONS

68
ACADEMIC ALL-CONFERENCE HONOREES



Williams is Molding Me...

BY COLLIN WHITNEY



I have surrendered to God's call on my life to vocational ministry, and I am being molded and equipped for my future ministry at Williams Baptist College. At one point, however, this calling was not so clear. Allow me to elaborate...

I have often heard ministers speak of a time they were "green" or "finding their sea legs," in the ministry. These stories of failed church camp trips, poorly delivered sermons and awkward church encounters are often hilarious, but seemed far from my own reality at the time. I wanted to avoid these mishaps that come with growing, but in my pride I believed I didn't have far to go to be ready for the real world. Needless to say, I was extremely misguided. In and out of the classroom I had much to absorb.

Two years ago, I stepped foot on the Williams Baptist College campus for the first time as a student. The moment was a flurry of emotion: excitement, anxiety, hopefulness and pressure. I quickly learned that college is no walk in the park, but rather a demanding season of academic challenge and personal and spiritual development. From day one I knew that Williams would be

the place I had to set my pride aside in order to be trained and equipped for my future. I was immediately prompted to "give attention to reading to exhortation, to doctrine..." (1 Tim. 4:13) and to give myself entirely to them (v. 15). I thank God for the faculty, staff and administration at WBC that push students to grow and pour themselves out year after year.

I've learned so much about myself, those around me and my God through my time at Williams. There is much that I have retained from the classroom, but above all else I now understand the following:

- God is in control, and I am not. I need to fully trust in Him.
- Learning and growing is a lifelong process, and I will never be finished.
- Research, problem solving, leadership and team skills are something we must own and develop for ourselves. They are not given.
- Relationships are the marrow of life.
- Failure will occur, but there is a future beyond it.
- God ultimately equips, and I can do nothing outside of Him.

This year we are celebrating our 75th anniversary as an institution. Williams enjoys a rich Christian heritage with strong values and actionable convictions, and these have all certainly been displayed during my college career. However, when I think of WBC, immediately my mind considers the tremendous work that God is doing in the lives of young people. Aside from an exemplary education in many different academic disciplines, students are being prepared to make an impact in Jesus' name, and will be sent out all over our state, nation, and world to be shining lights in the midst of darkness. I know that I have much more to learn in the final two years I will be at Williams, and I could not be more excited for the adventure. ♥♥

Collin Whitney is a junior from Searcy, Ark. He has a double major of Christian ministries and business administration, and he serves as president of the WBC Student Government Association.

"Let no one despise your youth, but be an example to the believers in word, in conduct, in love, in spirit, in faith, in purity. Till I come, give attention to reading, to exhortation, to doctrine... Meditate on these things; give yourself entirely to them, that your progress may be evident to all."

- 1 TIMOTHY 4:12-15



HOMECOMING 2016 INFORMATION

Saturday, November 5th

There will be:

- Men's Basketball
- Volleyball
- The Fall Drama
- Reunions
- Historical Displays
- Performances by The Cast and Williams Singers
- And More!

We will also take time to honor this year's Alum of the Year, James Costner ('63), and Distinguished Young Alums, Jonathan "Bobo" ('05) and Amber (Jewell) Newton ('03).

For more information, visit williamsbaptistcollege.com/homecoming



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PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS:

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NOTE: If your federal loans are not Direct Loans, you may be able to consolidate and qualify. However, only payments made on the Direct Consolidation Loan count toward your required 120 monthly payments.
- WORK - Maintain a Full-Time Employment Status While Working for a Qualifying Public Service Organization**

For more details on identifying qualifying public service organizations, visit MyFedLoan.org/PSLF. Unsure if your employer qualifies? Contact them to find out.
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This program was created by Congress to encourage individuals to enter and continue to work full-time in public service jobs. Under PSLF, borrowers may qualify for forgiveness of the remaining balance due on their eligible federal student loans after they have made 120 payments on those loans under certain repayment plans while employed full-time by certain public service employers.



U.S. Department of Education
Information about your federal student loan



I'D LIKE MY PAYMENTS TO COUNT TOWARD PSLF. WHAT SHOULD I DO TO BE CONSIDERED?

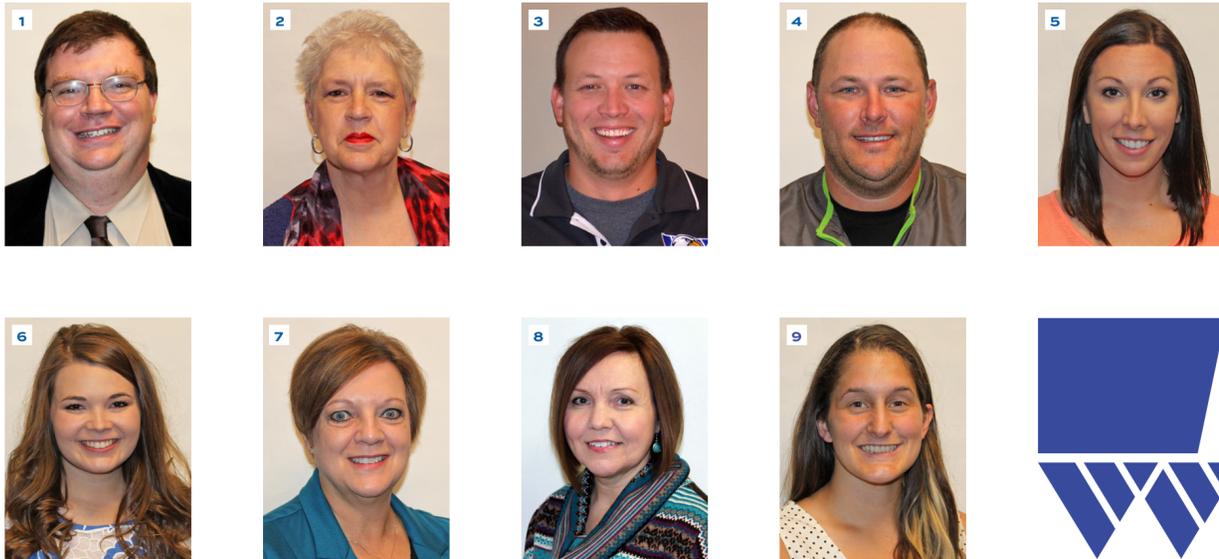
- Consolidate any non-Direct Loans, if necessary.
- Get on an eligible repayment plan, preferably Income-Based Repayment (IBR).
- Make on-time, monthly payments - not exceeding your installment amount, preferably through Direct Debit.
- Work for a qualifying employer while you make your payments.
- SUBMIT THE EMPLOYER CERTIFICATION FORM, found at MyFedLoan.org/PSLF.

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FedLoan Servicing is one of a limited number of organizations approved by the Department of Education to service these loans and is dedicated to supporting borrowers with easy and convenient ways to manage their student loans. Additionally, the Department has chosen FedLoan Servicing as the sole federal servicer responsible for monitoring and tracking the eligibility for all Public Service Loan Forgiveness (PSLF) borrowers.

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NEW FACES AND PLACES



[1] Dr. Dennis Vowell ('98) is the new assistant professor of psychology. He earned his B.S. in psychology from Williams and his doctor of psychology degree from the Forest Institute of Professional Psychology, and has extensive experience in the mental health field. The Paragould native now lives in his hometown with his wife, Debi, and their two children.

[2] Dr. RoseMary Weaver rejoins WBC as the dean of graduate and online programs (read about it on page 3). She has served the Pocahontas school district as the curriculum director. She holds several degrees, including a bachelor's in education from Arkansas State University, a master's in education from ASU, and a Ph.D. in curriculum and instruction from the University of Mississippi.

[3] Hayes Howell comes to Williams as the new Director of Campus Ministries. The Jonesboro native earned his bachelor's degree in biology from Arkansas State University before going on to earn his MBA, also from ASU, and a second master's degree in theology from Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. For the past several years, he has served on staff at the Journey Campus of Central Baptist Church. He and his wife, Elizabeth, live in Walnut Ridge with their two children.

[4] Stephen Abanathy ('05) returns to his alma mater as the head baseball coach. He is from Portageville, Mo., and received his bachelor's degree in business administration. He also earned his master's degree in sports administration from Arkansas State University over the summer. He and his wife, Rachel (Soliday) ('02), live in Jonesboro.

[5] Rachel Austin is now WBC's women's housing director. The Arkadelphia, Ark., native received her bachelor's degree in mass communications from Ouachita Baptist University and her master's in college student personnel, service, and administration from the University of Central Arkansas. She and her husband Josh, who is WBC's men's basketball coach, live in Walnut Ridge with their two daughters.

[6] MeKenzie (Hada) Fore ('16) joins the Williams staff as an admissions counselor. She graduated from WBC in May with a bachelor's degree in psychology. The Yellville, Ark., native now resides in Walnut Ridge with her husband, Tadd Fore ('15).

[7] Janie Campbell comes to WBC as the new administrative assistant to the academic dean. She has previous experience as the administrative assistant to the president at Welch College in Nashville. The Conway, Ark., native now lives in Walnut Ridge with her husband, Tim.

[8] Charlotte (West) Wheelless ('94) has been a member of the WBC faculty since 2009, and has taken the reins of the Williams Teacher Education Program. She holds a Bachelor of Science in Education from WBC and a Master of Education from Grand Canyon University. She is a National Board Certified Teacher and is pursuing a Doctor of Education degree in organizational leadership for higher education from Grand Canyon. She resides at Powhatan.

[9] Emily Stober ('15) has been on staff as an admissions counselor and served as the assistant volleyball coach. Beginning in January, however, she took the helm of the Lady Eagles and will enter her first season as the volleyball head coach. She is from Winona Lake, Ind., and now lives in Walnut Ridge with her husband, Scotty.



ON THE ROAD with Eggbert!

#EgbertsTravels

Many thanks to those who took Eggbert along on their summer travels! The fun isn't over yet, because Eggbert wants to keep on traveling with you!

You can now print Eggbert from home. Just visit williamsbaptistcollege.com/eggbertstravels and continue to share your photos with us!

Don't forget to tag us on social media using the hashtag #EgbertsTravels.

Follow us on social media to stay updated, see weekly trivia and throwback photos!

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AROUND CAMPUS

86 STUDENTS EARN DIPLOMAS

A crowd of over 1,000 filled WBC's Southerland-Mabee Center when degrees were awarded to 86 graduates during commencement exercises on Saturday, May 7. The commencement address was delivered by Dr. Heather Moore, a 2003 WBC graduate who serves as a resident physician at the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences in Little Rock. She is also a member of the Williams Board of Trustees. Graduating senior RJ Platz of Lake City also spoke at the ceremony on behalf of the class of 2016. Dr. Tom Jones, WBC's president, took time in the ceremony to recognize Dr. Kenneth Startup and Dr. Gary Gregory. Startup is retiring after 21 years as academic dean to return to the classroom as a Williams history professor, while Gregory is retiring after 25 years at WBC as a psychology professor.

WBC JOINS WALNUT RIDGE JAN. 1

WBC will become an official part of Walnut Ridge, after voters overwhelmingly approved consolidation of Walnut Ridge and College City in May. Each of the towns had to approve the merger for it to take effect. WBC had long supported the merger of the two towns and endorsed the effort that led to the May 10 vote. The merger will officially take effect on January 1, 2017.

BUSINESS STUDENTS BRING HOME NEW CROP OF AWARDS

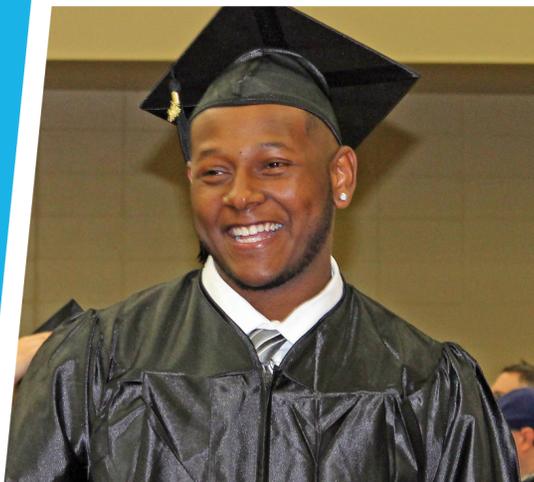
WBC's chapter of Phi Beta Lambda traveled to Atlanta over the summer, where they attended the National Leadership Conference and earned a new batch of accolades. They came away from the national competition with several new awards in tow. Eighteen business students competed in 16 different events at the national level, and placed in nine, including a first place finish. "PBL Nationals is always an amazing experience," said Viola, Ark., native and 2016 graduate Michaela Thompson. "Not only do we get to enjoy being with our classmates and professors, but we also compete against large, well-known schools. When we win, it really shows how great the quality of our education is and also how prepared we are for the workforce."

WHITNEY, BABBITT TAKE ON SGA LEADERSHIP

Juniors Collin Whitney and Colton Babbitt are the respective president and vice presidents of WBC's Student Government Association. SGA provides an opportunity for student input and empowers students to take ownership for their involvement regarding student issues. After campaigning during the spring semester, Whitney and Babbitt were elected by the WBC student body. "Colton and I hope to make an immediate impact on students' lives in numerous ways. Williams is a special place, and I look forward to serving in this new capacity," said Whitney.

WILLIAMS SELLS RIDGE CENTER

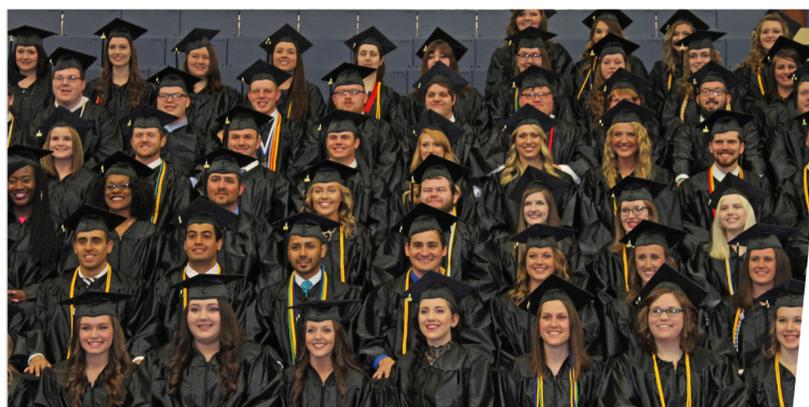
Williams has sold the Ridge Center, located in Walnut Ridge, making way for Tractor Supply Co. to occupy the space. The college was given the Ridge Center six years ago, and will use proceeds from the sale to continue to fund a residence hall, which President Dr. Tom Jones said would be a "major step forward for the college." A Jonesboro investment group is responsible for purchasing the property and moving Tractor Supply Co. into the area.



BELLE HALL



Construction continues on the 43-bed Belle Hall, with a projected building dedication planned for April. The project is fully funded, thanks in large part to the Jim Tom & Connie Belle Butler family.



CHARLES CHAMP ('68) earned his Ph.D. in mathematical statistics from Louisiana State University in 1986. For the last 24 years he has been teaching mathematical sciences in the College of Science and Mathematics at Georgia Southern University. He and wife, Tatyana, live in Statesboro, Ga.
Email: cchamp@georgiasouthern.edu.

KATHY (ANDERS) GRADY ('80) has been working at Legal Aid of Arkansas for 36 years. She and husband, Vincent, live in Newport, Ark.

REGGIE SMITH ('85) served four years in the U.S. Army, and then obtained a bachelor's degree from the University of Texas at Arlington and a master's degree from Amberton University. He works in sales in the Dallas region and is employed by Genentech, a biotechnology company based in San Francisco.

CYNTHIA WHEELS ('86) is bookkeeper for Quality Farm Supply and Global Ag Components in Jonesboro, Ark. She lives in Paragould.

BERNARD KABARU MWANGI ('91) and wife, Mary Wangechi, live in Limuru, Kenya. They continue to be involved in ministry endeavors. Email: benkabaruu@gmail.com.

ANGELA (ADAMS) FLIPPO ('93) has launched a new business venture in Walnut Ridge, Ark., called Flowers Nursery & Gifts. She and husband, Brad ('90), have two sons, Drew and Ty, and they live in Walnut Ridge.

DAVID ('98) and JEANNA (MIDDLETON) MASON ('01) reside in Jonesboro, Ark., and have three sons, ages 6, 9 and 12. David is an art teacher at the Trumann School District. Jeanna earned a master's degree in English from Arkansas State University in May 2016, and has begun work on a Ph.D. at the University of Louisiana at Lafayette.

HEATHER (PINGEL) GALLANT ('99) is the secretary at Ozark Baptist Church in Houston, Mo. She married Joe Gallant on December 27, 2013.

MELINDA MULLINS ('99) completed a master's of social work degree at UALR in 2012. She is employed by the U.S. Department of Veteran Affairs in North Little Rock. As a licensed clinical social worker she provides group and individual therapy for veterans with severe mental illness and substance abuse addictions. She lives in Conway, Ark.

MATT WEAVER ('00) received a Master's of Theology from New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary in May 2016. He and wife, Carrie (Swafford) ('00) live in Pine Bluff, Ark., where he is pastor of South Side Baptist Church.

JENNIFER (PRIDMORE) BANNON ('01) and husband, Brandon, celebrated the birth of their daughter, Lauren Elizabeth, on February 24, 2016. She joins big brothers Luke (9) and Ryan (7). Jennifer is a full-time homemaker and homeschool teacher. Brandon is vice president of student development at Louisiana College in Pineville, La.

CHRIS and SHARON PANNELLS (BOTH '03) reside in Rogers, Ark. Chris is employed by Assembled Products Corporation. He is production lead in the Jotto Desk Division in Rogers.

KWINN (HALFACRE) TUCKER ('03) is city director of Cityteam Philadelphia, headquartered in Chester, Pa. She is responsible for leadership development, strategy and fundraising. With her staff of eleven and hundreds of volunteers, she coordinates the addiction recovery program, homeless shelter for men, and feeding and family operations. The center touches approximately 5,000 individuals (including 1,300 households, and 3,000 children) per year and serves more than 89,000 meals annually.

AMBER (CLINKINGBEARD) WHITAKER ('03) and her son, Trey, have moved to Calico Rock, Ark. She is a first grade teacher at Calico Rock Elementary School.

HEATHER (DELAHUNT) MOORE ('04) has joined the Palliative Care Group at UAMS and the Central Arkansas Veterans Healthcare System. She continues to be a faculty member in the College of Medicine at UAMS. She and husband, Jacob, live in Cabot.

SARAH (ALLS) GIFFORD ('05) is a special education teacher at Nettleton High School. She and husband, Michael, have a one year-old son named Seth Michael who was born March 2015. They reside in Walnut Ridge, Ark.

CALEB ('06) and MAKENZIE (CROW) PINGEL ('11) moved to Springfield, Ill. Caleb has begun his MD residency training at Southern Illinois University.

JOE HAYNES ('07) became the assistant football coach at Lyon College this fall. He

and wife, Margaret, live in Batesville, Ark.

DERICK ('07) and KEM ROBERTS ('08) has accepted a position as director of streets, sewers and sidewalks for the city of South Bend, Ind. They live in Granger with their two sons, Reeve (3) and Kitt (1). They are members of the leadership team at Relevant Church, a new church plant in Niles, Mich. Derick is pursuing a master's degree in divinity through Liberty University.

AMANDA HARALSON ('08) and Jacob McDaniels were married on April 30, 2016. Amanda obtained a master's degree in health services administration from UAMS in 2010. She is employed by Arkansas Blue Cross Blue Shield in Little Rock, Ark., where she was promoted to manager of strategic services and enterprise project management. They live in Sherwood.

JUSTIN and LAURA BETH (HENDERSON) HECK (BOTH '08) continue to live in Westville, Okla., with their three children, Luke (6), Jude (4), and Lucy (1). Justin serves as pastor of the First Baptist Church and Laura is a full-time homemaker and homeschool teacher.

JENNY KEESSE ('08) married Bradley Watkins on March 19, 2016. They make their home in North Little Rock, Ark. After spending six years teaching music in elementary schools, she is now a counselor at Bryant High School.

KRISTEN PEEVY ('09) lives in Springdale, Ark. This fall she plans to continue furthering her education at Liberty University by working on a master's degree in religious education. Afterward she hopes to work toward a doctorate of ministry degree specializing in evangelism and church planting.

TONYA HUTSELL ('10) was awarded Elementary Teacher of the Year for 2015-16. She is a 5th grade literacy and social studies teacher for the Pocahontas School District. She and husband, Lanny, live in Pocahontas, Ark.

SAM ROGERS ('10) and wife, Katie, live in Manchester, England. Sam is a doctoral student in New Testament at the University of Manchester. Email: Samuel.rogers@postgrad.Manchester.ac.uk

MAURICIO "CITO" and ABBY (FULTON) VARGAS (BOTH '10) announce the birth of their first child, Isaia Jude, born on June 19, 2016. They live in

Springdale, Ark. Cito is a licensed funeral director at Epting Funeral Home, and Abby is a first grade teacher at First Baptist Christian School in Rogers.

BRITNEY LAM ('11) and Dennis Rowe were married in April 2015. She works in accounting at Aspen Transportation in Jonesboro, Ark. They reside in Rector.

JILL BAKER ('12) earned a master's degree in teaching from the University of Central Arkansas in 2015. She teaches first grade at Ward Central Elementary in Cabot. She lives in Searcy, Ark.

CHASE DEJOURNETT ('12) married Lindsey Huffmaster on March 19, 2016. He is employed by Sloan-Hendrix School in Imboden, Ark.

JONATHAN ('12) and KATIE (WYNN) HARTER ('14) celebrated the birth of their son, Zebadiah Rain. He was born on June 30, 2016.

CASEY TURNER ('12) is engaged to be married to Jeremy Jeffery on October 1, 2016. She completed a master's degree in public administration in December 2015 from Arkansas State University. She is working for Girl Scouts Diamonds and she lives in North Little Rock, Ark.

WILL WARD ('12) recently earned his Master in Divinity and Master in Social Work from Baylor University's Truett Seminary and Garland School of Social Work. He lives in Waco, Texas, where he works as an elementary school behavior specialist.

SAMANTHA (LINDERMAN) WOOLDRIDGE ('12) and husband, Seth, celebrated the birth of their first child, Peyton James, on June 18, 2016. They live in Springfield, Mo., where Samantha is a registered nurse and Seth is an engineer for BNSF Railway Co.

ASHLEY NEWMAN ('13) works at a crisis residential center for homeless and runaway youth in Seattle, Wash. She is also helping to start a new church called Dwelling Place-Seattle.

LINDSEY (GEORGE) WILLIAMS ('13) and husband, Jared, have a one year-old son named Brooks. They live in Corning, Ark., where Lindsey is a Kindergarten teacher.

JULIA CLARK ('16) lives in Batesville, Ark. She is teaching 7th and 8th grade English at Batesville Junior High School.

FRIENDS WE'LL MISS

AMELIA (WILLIAMS) FRANKUM of Heber Springs, formerly of Newport, Ark., passed away on June 30, 2016 at the age of 73. She and husband, Dr. Jerry M. Frankum, Jr., who preceded her in death on March 29, 2013, were active leaders in their churches and communities. She was a Brownie and Girl Scout leader, a member of the Newport Service League and the First Baptist Church in Newport, and an American Red Cross volunteer. She received the Arkansas Volunteer Award for her tireless work following the Jacksonport flooding in the 1980's. She served on the board of trustees at WBC for several years in the 1990's. She is survived by her daughters, Kendrick Thompson and Dr. Caroline Carlton and their families.

ALICE MAE (MCGORY) BUTTS ('43) of Prim, Ark., passed away on May 1, 2016, at the age of 92. She was a member and graduate of the charter class of WBC, then Southern Baptist College, located in Pocahontas. She was a school teacher in Arkansas and Missouri, and a member of the Fairfield Bay Baptist Church. She is survived by her daughter, Syrena Price ('80), her son, Ted Butts, and their families.

WALTER EUGENE ALLEN ('49) of Pittsburg, Texas, passed away on March 6, 2016. He joined the U.S. Marine Corps and served in the South Pacific through the duration of World War II. He is survived by his wife of 69 years, Billie Joy, children John Vernon, Elizabeth Haefs and Walter Metcalf, and their families. He was the first Williams (then Southern) graduate to be appointed by the Foreign Mission Board of the SBC. His missionary career spanned 30 years serving in many capacities in Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda. In his retirement he continued serving multiple churches and was chaplain in the American Legion Post 422 in Pittsburg.

NANCY (WEBB) SUMMITT ('61) of Blytheville, Ark., passed away on September 26, 2014. She taught at South Pemiscot School District in Steel, Mo., for 34 years. She is survived by her husband, Nathan, their daughter, Nia Wright and her husband, Tom.

JOE W. JACKSON ('63) of Sikeston, Mo., passed away on March 27, 2015.

WILLIAM "BILL" E. DAVIS ('68) of Walnut Ridge, Ark., passed away on March 25, 2016. He worked at Frolic Footwear,

Norgas, Snapp Motor Company and Farm Service, Inc., and attended the Hoxie United Methodist Church. Survivors include his wife, Sarah, sons, Blaine and Garrett, daughters Laura Madden and Erin Manning, and their families.

JUDY KAYE CARPENTER ('69) of Pleasant Hill, Tenn., passed away on April 9, 2016. She was a member of the U.S. Air Force and a veteran of the Korean Conflict. She became a Southern Baptist IMB missionary and served for 30 years in Jamaica, Brazil, Suriname and South Florida. She wrote a book entitled *In His Hands*. She is survived by her brother-in-law, Ron Cooper of Hot Springs Village, Ark., extended family members and many friends.

BILLY JOE BLANKENSHIP ('70) of Little Rock, Ark., passed away on February 14, 2016. He was preceded in death by his wife, Greta McCarroll Blankenship ('85). Billy retired after a 30-year career at the Arkansas Department of Finance in Jonesboro field office and later moved to Little Rock. He is survived by son, Mark ('84) and wife, Robin ('80).

REV. JIM L. BLACK ('81) of Cave City, Ark., passed away on May 19, 2016, at the age of 74. He pastored Ruddell Hill Baptist and Sage Baptist churches in Arkansas and was a chaplain at White River Medical Center. He is survived by his wife of 53 years, Sandra G. Black ('80), two daughters, Cheryl Spurlin ('95) and husband, Steve ('93), of Lubbock, Texas, and Christi Parrish and husband, Jamie, of Vilonia, Ark., and their families.

PAIRLEE GOLDEN ('89) of Alicia, Ark., passed away on January 15, 2016. She worked at Skil Robert Bosch Tool Company and at Swifton Head Start. She was a member of Freedom Church in Walnut Ridge. She is survived by her husband of 46 years, Bill, their children Billy and Tiffany and their families.

BONNIE JEAN (HATMAN) CAIN ('92) of Hoxie, Ark., passed away June 23, 2016, at the age of 64. She was a teacher and coordinator of the Northeast Arkansas Education Co-Op and a member of the Main Street Church of Christ in Walnut Ridge. She is survived by her husband, Alvie, three sons, Willis, Russ and Ben, and their families.

Britny Jean Vickers, of Homosassa, Fla., was killed in a tragic car accident on May 2, 2016, in Walnut Ridge.



BRITNY JEAN VICKERS
January 24, 1996 - May 2, 2016

Britny, 20, was a sophomore psychology major at Williams and a midfielder for the Lady Eagles soccer team. A talented athlete, she ran track and played soccer in high school. She also enjoyed participating in mud races, and as a thrill seeker, had even been skydiving.

Britny was known for her contagious smile, encouraging attitude, and ability to make all people feel accepted and included. She would frequently offer a smile and friendly, "Hello," to anyone, known or unknown, who crossed her path.

Britny was an avid supporter of the Eagles wrestling team as a whole, and particularly a fan of her boyfriend, Nick Hooper, who is a WBC wrestling team member.

Britny's soccer teammates had many words to describe her. They remember her for being "spunky, goofball, vigorous, energetic, radiant, compassionate, genuine, outgoing, hilarious, amazing, silly, fun, caring, humble, wild, determined, beautiful, extraordinary, inspirational, kindhearted, optimistic, and best friend."

Her soccer coach, Shane Stolz, added, "The energy, humor and enthusiasm that Britny brought with her to campus will be difficult to replace and will be sorely missed."

In Britny's honor, both men's and women's soccer teams will have the number 13 displayed on their warm-up uniforms this season.



FROM THE PRESIDENT

CELEBRATING 75 YEARS OF WILLIAMS

“Through the commitment, competence and caring of an incredible faculty and top-notch staff, Williams continues to hold fast to the strong moorings that established this great university endeavor in northeast Arkansas..”



Seventy Five Years! That’s more than 150 semesters, thousands of student testimonies, and countless lifelong friendships.

During this year of celebration, alumni have been anxious to share cherished memories of attending Williams or Southern. Though the accounts are varied, the storyline is usually the same. It begins with tales of hilarious fun, relentless hard work and conniving pranks. It ends with an emotional remembrance of the faculty, staff and students... people that encouraged, mentored and inspired them to be who they are today.

And that remains the bedrock of the Williams experience.

Through the commitment, competence and caring of an incredible faculty and top-notch staff, Williams continues to hold fast to the strong

moorings that established this great university endeavor in northeast Arkansas. Our intentions will continue to be marked by a pronounced leading of the Holy Spirit, an unwavering commitment to God’s Word and rigorous scholarship, and a vigilant witness that boldly and consistently proclaims Jesus as the author of all truth.

This last Anniversary issue of the *Forward* not only celebrates our past but reports on our recent successes. It will also give you a glimpse into the plans underway that will strengthen our mission of providing an excellent, holistically Christian, liberal arts education while compassionately shaping student lives.

Those plans will be supported by an ambitious fundraising campaign called The Diamond Vision Plan. In the weeks ahead, you will be

hearing more about this effort involving our alums and friends to provide the resources to advance the work of WBC even further. Please respond generously and help us promote The Diamond Vision Plan among those who support the solid work provided at Williams.

We hope to see you at Homecoming on November 5th when we hold the final celebration of our 75th Anniversary! Join us on campus to worship, renew acquaintances with old friends, and remember the generous provision of the Lord to this splendid work and special place called Williams Baptist College. **W**

Tom Jones
PRESIDENT

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FORWARD

DIAMOND VISION CAMPAIGN

Our Chance to Give Back

Watch your mail for a chance to participate in the 75th Anniversary Alumni Campaign. It is an opportunity for WBC alumni to help others enjoy the blessings they received at Williams, and to boost the stature of their alma mater.

- The goal of the alumni campaign is to increase alumni giving from 4% to 10%.
- Alumni giving rates have a positive effect on national rankings and show other donors that our alumni believe in their college.
- Alumni will be asked to make a commitment of a gift and to give at least annually.
- Fellow alumni will be sharing why they give and will be challenging others to give.
- All gifts, large or small, count toward the giving percentage, and the primary goal of the campaign is to increase the percentage of alumni donors.
- Watch your mail for details!

Williams Baptist College
56 McClellan Dr.
Walnut Ridge, AR 72476

