

# FRANKLIN COLLEGE

MAGAZINE | SPRING 2019



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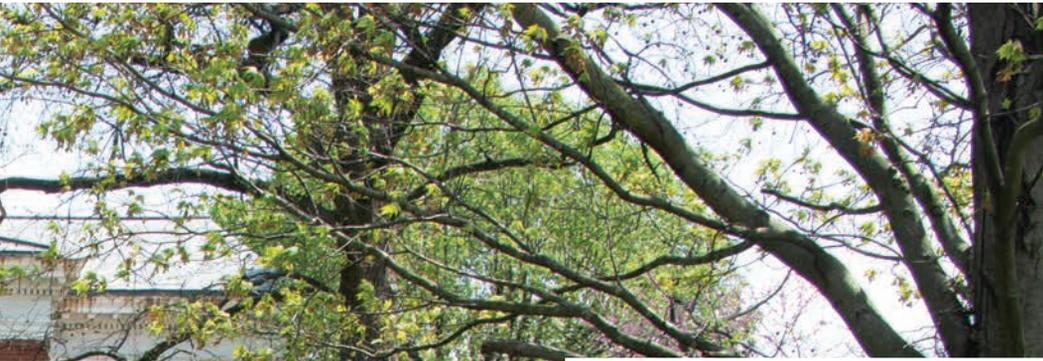
## THE VOICE

Broadcaster achieves career win with Indianapolis Colts.

Pg. 28



RENEE KEAN '06



# NATURE'S CLASSROOM



*With the sun shining, birds chirping, squirrels scavenging and magnolia trees blooming, spring is an enticing time to enjoy the outdoors at Franklin College. These students and their professor found the perfect spot in front of the Pulliam School of Journalism, on the west side of campus.*



# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

## Dear Alumni and Friends,

Spring, as we all know, is a time of renewal and transformation in nature. With lengthier daylight hours, blossoming plants and trees and visibly active wildlife, spring surrounds us with symbols of promise and a fresh start.

My appreciation of the spring metaphor has deepened greatly during my four years of service as Franklin College President. I have observed in our college community, as in nature, how a culmination of efforts, at just the right time, enables a flourish of awe-inspiring achievements.

This spring, my heart is overflowing with gratitude for the hard work faculty continue putting into our new curriculum implementation and for the critical support staff provide. The chance to congratulate another class of students on their graduation and the start of exciting careers and graduate school programs also gives me tremendous pride and joy.

Our college life cycle moves forward with each new endeavor, every new class and all of you. I am sincerely grateful for your ongoing and generous support of ideas, programs and projects that profoundly impact the people in our Franklin College community. This magazine issue highlights some of the remarkable outcomes for which you are responsible. Thank you for all the reasons you continue to give us to celebrate, year after year.

Sincerely,

**FRANKLIN COLLEGE PRESIDENT**

Follow @PresFC on Twitter.

# FRANKLIN COLLEGE

MAGAZINE | SPRING 2019

## Volume LV, No. 2

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### Franklin College Magazine

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### Franklin College

Established in 1834, Franklin College is a liberal arts college in the Indianapolis metropolitan area, about 20 miles from the city's downtown. In 1842, the college began admitting women, becoming the first coeducational institution in Indiana and the seventh in the nation. Our students and alumni are self-motivated lifelong learners who relentlessly pursue the best in themselves and in our community.

### Nondiscrimination Policy

Franklin College is committed to the principle and practice of equal opportunity for all its students, faculty, employees and applicants for admission and employment. For that reason, the college provides equal employment opportunities on the basis of merit and without regard to the individual's race, color, religion, gender, disability, age, national origin, marital status or sexual orientation, in accordance with state and federal laws and any other characteristic protected by law. The college prohibits, forbids and will not tolerate any verbal, physical or other conduct that belittles or demeans any individual on the basis of the above-listed statuses. All employees, managers, supervisors and job applicants are covered by this commitment. No person or employee, no matter his or her title or position, has the authority expressed, actual, apparent or implied to discriminate against any employee of the college. This policy applies to all terms and conditions of employment, admission to and enrollment in Franklin College, including, but not limited to, recruitment, selection, hiring, benefits, educational policies, admission policies, financial aid, scholarship and loan programs, housing athletic and other college-administered programs and activities.

### On the Cover

Matt Taylor '08 stands on the Indianapolis Colts' practice field.

PHOTO BY MATT BOWEN



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Reminisce with **Ric Flecker '67**, as he recounts his mother's courageous role in helping him attend Franklin College and realize his dream of playing football.



# CAMPAIGN GOAL EXCEEDED

**A public announcement on May 13 let the world know that Franklin College had exceeded its \$10 million fundraising goal for the Campaign for the Sciences. The campaign helped fund the construction and renovation of the new 51,000-square-foot Franklin College Science Center on campus.**

PHOTO BY CHAD WILLIAMS

The college hosted a Science Center dedication and ribbon-cutting ceremony on May 16. Full event coverage will be included in the next *Franklin College Magazine*.

“We are extremely grateful to the many donors, including trustees, alumni, friends and organizations, who have been instrumental in helping us reach our goal,” said Thomas J. Minar, Ph.D., Franklin College President.

“One of the most impactful was college trustee Dr. Margot Lacy Eccles (HD ’02). The generous \$2.5 million financial promise and matching challenge she made prior to her death in 2012 was a substantial impetus to getting the campaign off the ground. The ripple effect that followed was game-changing, and we are so pleased the Science Center’s Lacy Labs will honor her memory and contributions.”

Minar said another generous and impactful gift came from the Elba L. and Gene Portteus Branigin Foundation. In January, the Branigin Foundation challenged the college to raise the remaining funds needed to reach its fundraising goal by May 1. If accomplished, the foundation would provide the final \$225,000 to bring the campaign across the finish line.

“We are thankful for the Branigin Foundation’s substantial gift and for challenging us to be diligent in reaching our campaign goal,” said Minar. “As impactful as Dr. Eccles’ gift was in getting the campaign started, so was the Branigin Foundation’s challenge



and gift toward eclipsing our goal.”

The Science Center project began in February 2012, when the college’s board of trustees announced moving forward with preparations for a campaign to enhance science programs and facilities. In October 2016, the board approved moving forward on the construction and renovation project, breaking ground in May 2017. Phase one was the construction of a 21,000-square-foot addition to the existing science building, Barnes Hall, and phase two was the renovation of Barnes Hall, built in 1927 and last renovated in 1987. The newly constructed portion of the Science Center opened for use in

May 2018, and the entire facility was opened for use in January 2019.

“I’m proud to be a Grizzly every day, but the success of a \$10 million campaign is a truly extraordinary occasion,” said Dana Cummings, vice president for development and alumni engagement.

“The entire Franklin College community came together in support of our beautiful new Science Center, and the results are remarkable. My heartfelt thanks go to each and every person who made the decision to support Franklin College students and the future of education with their hard-earned dollars. We are ever grateful.” ■

## RECORD-BREAKING GRANT

A new grant funding research on Canada Geese in urban landscapes is enabling Franklin College, Ball State University and the Indiana Department of Natural Resources to collaborate.

The four-year, \$250,000 grant is the largest Franklin has ever received for undergraduate student research and is administered through the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service’s Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration Act.

Each research partner will study Canada Geese in distinct urban settings across Central Indiana. Franklin College’s optimal location south of Indianapolis will permit on-site research in one of the Midwest’s fastest-growing cities.

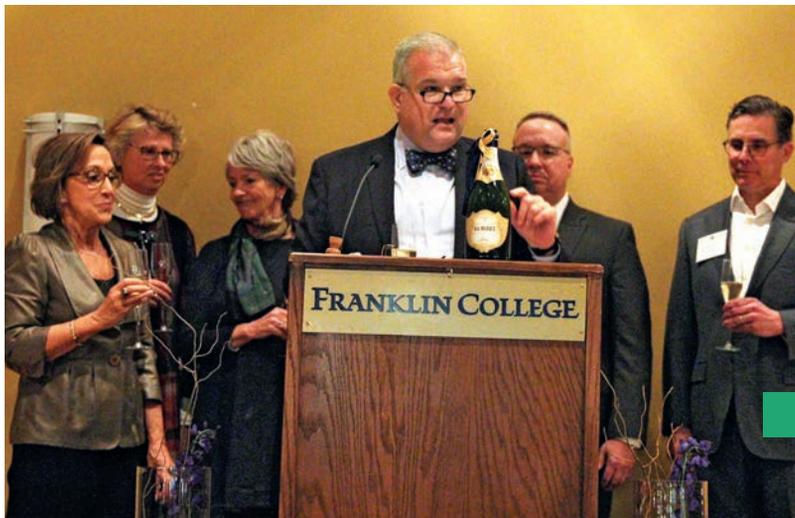
Ben O’Neal, Ph.D., associate professor of biology and one of the principal investigators, said, “Appropriate management of these beautiful, but contentious creatures necessitates deliberate, evidence-based decision making. This study will help meet that need and also offer Franklin College students an opportunity to immerse themselves in the practical work of wildlife research and management.” ■



RENEE KEAN '06

# CELEBRATING PHILANTHROPY

Giving society members and donors who participated in the Campaign for the Sciences were special guests at the President's Circle Celebration, Feb. 8.



PHOTOS BY RENEE KEAN '06  
AND QUINN FITZGERALD '20

President Thomas J. Minar, Ph.D., thanked donors for their exceptional generosity and highlighted how annual gifts help the college address priority areas of need and opportunity. He focused on the critical role of leadership gifts toward the \$10 million Campaign for the Sciences, and he gave a progress update on the 51,000-square-foot Science Center, for which the college broke ground in May 2017.

After Minar led a champagne toast in the Napolitan Student Center, the celebration relocated to the Science Center. Donors enjoyed an exclusive preview of the facility, prior

to the official dedication on May 16. Science faculty and students were on site to facilitate tours, demonstrate technology and share examples of ongoing research projects. Each of the Science Center's three floors offered a variety of hors d'oeuvres, desserts and spirits. ■

Want to become a President's Circle member and join the distinguished men and women who represent the pinnacle of commitment to Franklin College? Contact Lee Ann Jourdan, assistant vice president for alumni engagement and annual giving, 317.738.8755. View the full Honor Roll of Donors, recognizing everyone who made a gift of any size last fiscal year, at [FranklinCollege.edu/giving/honor-roll-of-donors](http://FranklinCollege.edu/giving/honor-roll-of-donors).





# 5 WAYS TO SHOW COLLEGE PRIDE

1. Wear blue and gold on National College Colors Day, Sept. 1, 2019. Share pics on social media using [#FranklinCollege](#), [#GrizAlumni](#) and [#CollegeColorsDay](#).
2. Put a plate on it! Join the more than 900 Indiana motorists proudly driving home their support with Franklin College license plates. Purchase plates online at [in.gov/bmv](http://in.gov/bmv). Live outside of Indiana? Shop for license plates frames at [bit.ly/2IcFc61](http://bit.ly/2IcFc61).
3. Advocate for Franklin College. Share examples of your college experiences to help recruit future Grizzlies. Refer students online at [bit.ly/2ErgKeF](http://bit.ly/2ErgKeF). Also, consider volunteering for alumni career panels, offering student internships or participating in college-sponsored networking events. Email [kbixler@FranklinCollege.edu](mailto:kbixler@FranklinCollege.edu) for details.
4. Be part of the tradition during Homecoming and Alumni Weekend, Oct. 9 – 13, 2019. Reunite with friends, attend your class reunion, get free Griz swag, eat great food, watch the football game and tailgate. Share pics on social media using [#FCTradition](#).
5. Follow, like and share Franklin College on social media. Your influence will help build awareness, involvement and Griz pride!



**202**  
FACULTY  
AND STAFF  
GIFTS



ILLUSTRATION BY CARA WAHLERS

**130**

NUMBER  
OF GOLD  
(graduates of the  
last decade)  
ALUMNI  
DONORS

**1,012**

TOTAL DONORS

**BECAUSE OF**  
**YOU**

**\$165,288**  
TOTAL RAISED

**326**

STUDENT  
PARTICIPANTS

**208**

STUDENT  
DONORS

**100%**

ALUMNI  
COUNCIL  
PARTICIPATION

**Thank you** for making the seventh annual #GivetoGRIZ the most successful 24-hour fundraising challenge in program history!

“It’s truly incredible to watch the difference made on our campus through philanthropy on this special day. The entire Grizzly Nation came together this year, and we are grateful,” said Dana Cummings, vice president for development and alumni engagement.

#GivetoGRIZ benefits the Franklin Fund, which helps provide tuition assistance for qualifying students along with addressing college areas of priority need. Promotion through Facebook and Twitter drove this year’s donor participation.

Donors wishing to make a gift to the Franklin Fund during the current fiscal year have until June 30. Give online at [FranklinCollege.edu/give-now](http://FranklinCollege.edu/give-now), call 317.738.8040 or return the enclosed envelope with your gift today. ■

# REIMAGINED CURRICULUM

Faculty and administrators have been hard at work for the past year and a half on the most comprehensive curricular reform in the college's 185-year history. The new curriculum, the Pursuit at Franklin College, will make engaged learning an integral part of every student's Franklin experience.

PHOTOS BY RENEE KEAN '06



The Pursuit leverages many of the best practices already deeply embedded in the college's liberal arts and sciences curriculum, carries them across every discipline and integrates them into all majors. In this way, the Pursuit immerses students in four years of engaging, cohesive, transformational experiences.

Upon earning a bachelor's degree, students will have knowledge in their chosen disciplines as well as skills to help make them more adaptable and valuable to employers, not just now, but in the decades to come.

According to Thomas J. Minar, Ph.D., Franklin College President, the Pursuit positions graduates to succeed in a rapidly changing world.



"Throughout all of history, we can find examples of how innovative ideas have driven economies and changed the world. Some of the most inspirational innovators are from Indiana, which continues to be a springboard for thinking big.

"Hoosiers such as Colonel Eli Lilly, Madam C.J. Walker, Frank Ball and Orville Redenbacher are some of the greatest examples of innovators who achieved extraordinary success because they recognized opportunities, developed ideas and pursued dreams. They knew how to think, and we believe Franklin College graduates can build on their impactful legacies."

The Pursuit hinges on six high-impact educational practices:

1. **Launch:** A yearlong program that helps propel new students through the transition into college and offers empowering opportunities for social, personal and academic growth throughout their first-year experience.
2. **A relevant and responsive liberal arts experience:** Specially designed courses will help students learn to see the world through a variety of lenses and to understand how values are formulated from different perspectives.
3. **Immersive, applied experiences:** Learning will take place somewhere other than in a traditional classroom. The college will expand opportunities so that every student completes at least one internship but also so that every course students take during January's Immersive Term (previously Winter Term) will be experience-based.
4. **Overt opportunities to use technology:** Whenever possible; both in- and out-of-classroom experiences will involve technology.
5. **Undergraduate research opportunities:** Over four years, students will conduct research of an increasingly professional caliber, gaining the confidence and ability to pursue and answer meaningful questions.
6. **Cohesive professional development opportunities:** Every major will integrate customized opportunities for a student's professional development, helping forge a clear vision of the path between college and career.

"These practices characterize an approach that is intentional and unique to Franklin College. The Pursuit is carefully crafted to intersect liberal arts education with experience-based preparation for the world of work," said Lori K. Schroeder, Ph.D., provost and dean of the college. "The Franklin faculty are fully committed to delivering a curriculum that can help students succeed in the pursuit of their individual goals."

During the 2019 Immersive Term, the college rolled out the Pursuit's inaugural element, Pivot, an offering of nontraditional mini-courses that ranged from cooking creatively on a budget and practicing meditation to deciphering fake news and maintaining a gratitude journal, among more than 50 other topics.

**"THE PURSUIT, LAUNCH AND THE CENTER FOR STUDENT SUCCESS ARE ALL SPECIFICALLY DESIGNED TO PROVIDE STUDENTS A HIGH-TOUCH, INNOVATIVE AND DISTINCTIVE PATH TO THRIVE IN COLLEGE."**

**KERI ELLINGTON**

DEAN OF STUDENT SUCCESS AND RETENTION

"With an emphasis on lifelong learning, professional development, life skills and wellness, Pivot courses are designed to teach students skills and strategies that will help them adapt and flourish personally and professionally long after graduation," said Keri Ellington, dean of student success and retention.

Another key element of the Pursuit is a yearlong program called Launch. It is specifically designed for new students and provides resources to help with the transition into college. First-year experiences greatly impact student outcomes, according to Ellington.

"The Pursuit, Launch and the Center for Student Success are all specifically designed to provide students a high-touch, innovative and distinctive path to thrive in college. With equal parts rigor and resources, we are confident that these new efforts will deliver an exciting, empowering and inspiring first-year experience that puts all students on a successful course to graduation."

Full implementation of the Pursuit will coincide with the start of the 2019-20 academic year. ■

# FROM LEARNING TO DOING

Internships are a key part of the Franklin College experience, and January – the Immersive Term – is a prime opportunity for students to intern full time for four weeks. Internships can help students build skill sets, professional connections and a portfolio of work and experience, providing a springboard for entry into the workforce or graduate school.

Data collected through an annual survey consistently indicates 95 percent of Franklin College students are employed or attending graduate school within six months of graduating.

For employers, hosting an intern is a great way to find promising new talent. Interns also can help lighten employee workloads and bring new perspectives to problem solving. Want to discuss hiring an intern? Contact Kirk Bixler, director of career development, at 317.738.8803.

PHOTOS BY RENEE KEAN '06



**"CONNOR HOLLAND '19 WAS VERY PERSONABLE, PROFESSIONAL AND COMPETENT. HE DISPLAYED EXCELLENT WORK ETHIC, ENTHUSIASM AND EAGERNESS TO LEARN."**

**NATALIA ULLOA**  
COUNSELOR, SHELBYVILLE HIGH SCHOOL

**“Deciding to bring an intern to NYC for our most important trade show of the year was a leap of faith. We had a 600-square-foot booth to set up and manage, 100 sales agents to train on 400 products and hundreds of customers who packed our booth every day. Marena Drake '19 won the praises of everyone. She was professional in her appearance, the way she handled customers, even her interactions with the owner of the company. It was a pleasure to have her on our team. We look forward to continuing her internship and seeing where this may lead!”**

**Julie Wells**  
president, DJECO-U.S.



“ Rob Warren '19 was THE model intern for not only our area office, but for our entire network of offices. His ability to continuously push through obstacles and work harder each day to reach his goals was exemplary. He has set the standard for what we will expect each of our college interns to strive.”

Adam K. Ellis  
managing director,  
Northwestern Mutual

“ BRYCE HALE '20 WAS A GREAT TEAM PLAYER, EAGER TO LEARN AND DO ANYTHING ASKED. HE WAS INSTRUMENTAL IN HELPING DOCUMENT OUR WEBSITES AND APPLICATIONS. HE ALSO HELPED OUR DEVELOPER REVIEW CODE AND UPDATE FILES WITH OPTIMIZED IMAGES, WHICH HELPED INCREASE OUR SITES' PAGE SPEEDS. I WAS REALLY IMPRESSED WITH THE WAY HE TACKLED OUR INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY INVENTORY PROJECT AND DIGITAL DASHBOARDS.”

JUSTIN HART  
MARKETING DIRECTOR,  
CHRISTY VENTURES

“ IT WAS A TRUE PLEASURE HAVING CHELSEY ARVIN '19 IN THE LAB. SHE IS A BRIGHT STUDENT WITH THE PASSION AND DRIVE TO SUCCEED. CHELSEY GAINED EXTENSIVE EXPERIENCE IN TISSUE CULTURE TECHNIQUES, TREATMENT OF CELLS WITH DRUGS AND ENDPOINT ANALYSIS FOR VIABILITY AND ATP CONTENT. SHE WORKED WITH BOTH NEURONAL AND CARDIAC INDUCED PLURIPOTENT STEM CELLS EVALUATING FUNCTIONAL ENDPOINTS, LIKE ELECTRICAL CONDUCTANCE.”

THOMAS K. BAKER '91  
RESEARCH SCIENTIST, ELI LILLY AND CO.



# Distance LEARNING

The best way to develop a truly global perspective is to engage with the world.

The college offers a variety of faculty-led Immersive Term study-away courses for students every year. The three-week courses, offered in January, vary in location but consistently share the goal of helping students learn to better understand the world's interdependence and complexities.

"These courses deepen learning by connecting the classroom to the broader world. They give students the chance to immerse, investigate and explore global issues they have studied but perhaps have not experienced firsthand or for which they have a limited frame of reference," said **Jenny (Piland) Cataldi '05**, office of global education director.

The benefits of Immersive Term travel are twofold. In the immediate, students may be inspired to take responsible action such as helping raise awareness of issues or reaching out to policymakers. Over the long term, students with global travel experience may be more valuable to employers and graduate schools who want individuals confident

about and willing to collaborate with international colleagues. Individuals with global perspective also may be more compelled to help address complex issues related to world financial systems and poverty, religious conflict and persecution, and the environment and sustainable agriculture.

"Travel helps empower students for many possibilities," said Cataldi.

The 2019 international courses enabled students to volunteer with the Special Olympics in Costa Rica, delve into the culinary culture and language of France, work on a fair trade coffee farm in Guatemala and see how art therapy is helping people in Uganda work to overcome wounds caused by poverty, British colonialism and years of guerilla warfare. A domestic immersive course took students to New York City to participate in the Model U.N.

Here, we share some photos by students who captured the essence of global learning. ■



*In the Normandy region of France, **Danielle Nuckols '19** took this photo of a souvenir coin commemorating the 75th anniversary of D-Day. The nickname refers to June 6, 1944, during World War II, when American, British and Canadian forces landed on five beaches in France, embarking on a two-month battle that resulted in the liberation of Western Europe from Nazi Germany's control.*

*While on safari in Uganda's Murchison Falls National Park, **Kylee Carr '20** spotted an elephant in the marsh. In the background, native women carry tall grasses back to their village, possibly to make huts.*



**"TRAVEL HELPS  
EMPOWER STUDENTS  
FOR MANY  
POSSIBILITIES."**

**JENNY (PILAND) CATALDI '05**

*Quinn Fitzgerald '20 and classmates worked with small-holder coffee farmers and cooperatives in Guatemala. Several farmers welcomed the students into their homes for lunch. On one occasion, Fitzgerald met Esmeralda, a farmer's granddaughter. She was shy but captivated by the camera, Fitzgerald said, "This photo of her is one of my favorites from the entire trip."*



# BUZZ WORTH

## NATIONAL ACADEMIC RECOGNITION

The American Mathematical Society (AMS) bestowed the 2019 Award for an Exemplary Program or Achievement in a Mathematics Department to Franklin College on April 8. T. Christine (Chris) Stevens, Ph.D., AMS associate executive director for meetings and professional services, made the presentation on campus.

“The undergraduate program offered at Franklin College has unique curricular and co-curricular aspects. It considers the student holistically and is intentional, carefully planned and regularly assessed and revised,” cited the AMS in its award notification letter.

Franklin’s faculty were applauded for following well-defined programmatic goals and a model for student success. The AMS acknowledged that the Mathematical Association of America has invited the faculty to present at two previous MathFest conferences, and they will present, again, this summer.

Mathematics professor **Dan Callon '77**, Ph.D., said the AMS award is a reflection of the department’s culture “developed through the investment of time, talent and energy of our wonderful current and emeritus faculty and staff, outstanding students, highly-involved alumni, welcoming community partners and generous donors.” **1**

## MATHEMATICS FUND

Franklin College Trustee and Board Chair Emerita **Christi S. Fields '74** (HD '19) with her spouse, Jack Borgerding, made a lead gift of \$50,000 establishing and endowing the Legacy Fund in Mathematics. Additional gifts from other donors, alumni and friends helped increase the fund to \$100,000.

The fund recognizes three influential professors whose combined teaching careers represent a century of mathematics excellence at Franklin College, **Dwight F. Heath '43**, Richard “Dick” Park (HD '02), Ph.D., and **Dan Callon '77**, Ph.D.

The fund’s annual proceeds will support engaged-learning activities, including student participation in undergraduate research, internships and professional conferences. Recipients will be selected by mathematics faculty.

## PI BETA PHI CREATES FUND

**Melissa Beer '19**, who double majors in applied mathematics and quantitative analysis, and **Brianna Hutton '19**, who majors in exercise science, are the inaugural recipients of gifts from the IN Alpha Pi Beta Phi 125th Anniversary Award Fund.

The fund, commemorating the chapter’s founding at Franklin College on Jan. 16, 1888, is designated to assist collegians with their educational expenses. More than 50 alumnae and friends have contributed to the fund thus far, raising more than \$19,000. Donations are still welcome to the active fund, which began in 2013, coinciding with the chapter’s 125th anniversary celebration.

Eligible recipients must be initiated Pi Beta Phi members, who are in good standing with the college and uphold the fraternity’s core values. **Jessica (Lillpop) Mahoney '96**, chapter alumna and current collegiate adviser, and Taylor Dwyer, Franklin College director of student involvement and Greek life, chose the recipients, who were recognized in February. Future recipients will be recognized at the annual Homecoming and Alumni Weekend Pi Beta Phi Breakfast. **2**

Y



In the foreground are emeritus mathematics professor Richard “Dick” Park (HD ’02), Ph.D., associate professor Justin Gash, Ph.D., and AMS associate executive director for meetings and professional services T. Christine (Chris) Stevens, Ph.D. In the background are emerita professor Bonnie Pribush, professor John Boardman, Ph.D., lecturer Angie (Hughes) Walls ’88, associate professor Paul Fonstad, Ph.D., associate professor Stacy Hoehn, Ph.D., emerita professor Karen Wade, professor Dan Callon ’77, Ph.D., trustee Christi Fields ’74 (HD ’19) and president Thomas J. Minar, Ph.D.

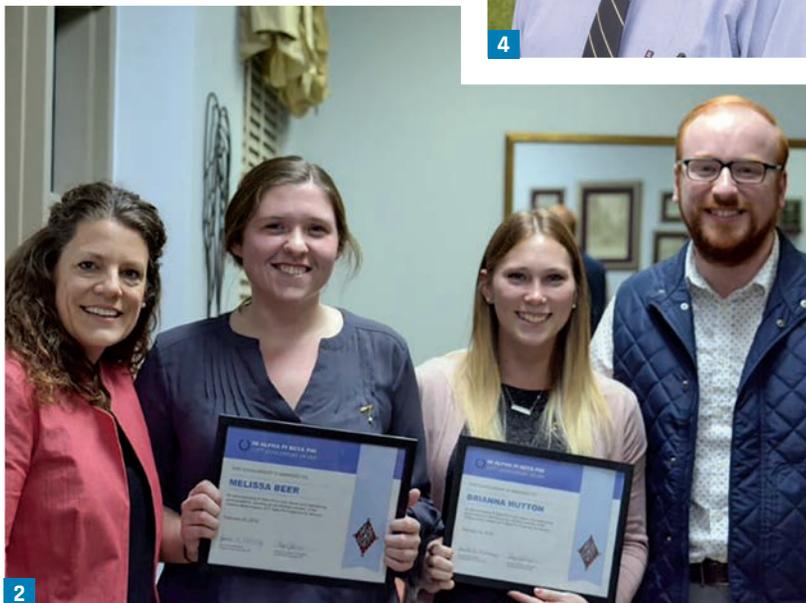
## ART MUSEUM EXHIBIT

A painting by David Cunningham, associate professor of art, is included in the 87th annual juried exhibition of Indiana artists at the Indianapolis Museum of Art at Newfields through June 1. His painting shows how nature has transformed industrial waste from the '50s into beautiful stones frequently found along Lake Michigan’s shoreline. Cunningham’s artwork has earned several awards of professional excellence and been displayed at galleries and museums across the United States, and at the Indianapolis International Airport. **3**



## BOOK AWARD

David Carlson, professor of philosophy and religion, earned a Bronze in the 21st annual Independent Publisher Book Awards contest for *Enter by the Narrow Gate*. It is the first novel in Carlson’s mystery-thriller series following Lt. Christopher Worthy and his friend, Greek orthodox priest Father Nicholas Fortis, as they investigate unexplained murders. Learn more at [davidccarlson.net](http://davidccarlson.net). **4** ■



Jessica (Lillpop) Mahoney ’96, Melissa Beer ’19, Brianna Hutton ’19 and Taylor Dwyer

# LIVE and Learn

By Shelby Mullis '19, Pulliam Fellow

## Age is no obstacle to learning for Joyce Duvall '60 and Gene Critchfield, "seniors" at Franklin College.

After decades of giving to others through teaching, counseling, ministry and coaching, the two are back in the classroom; only this time, they are the students. "We're not ready to sit around and do busy work. We want to be intellectually challenged. That's important to us," Duvall said.

Critchfield, 88, and Duvall, 84, lifelong learners, reside two miles from the college at Otterbein Franklin Senior Life Community, and when they discovered they could audit courses for self-enrichment, they took the

opportunity. The courses, which do not provide college credit, are offered at a discount.

"We're both physically quite healthy, and probably our brains are the most important part of who we are, to us, our brains and our hearts," Critchfield said. "When people ask, 'Why are you doing this?' my first reaction is, 'Why not?' Life is interesting, and life is good. We want to keep on experiencing it and learning all that we can."



They recently were enrolled in two courses, one on gender and sexuality and the other on nonprofits. They previously audited a class on gerontology. Critchfield and Duvall enjoy the campus community.

"I'm fascinated by the students, how bright they are and how interested they seem," Critchfield said. "It's a family-like environment. I've never experienced any of that in previous schooling."

Critchfield graduated from Ball State University in 1954, earning a bachelor's degree in education. He later went on to pursue additional degrees in theology and counseling at Garrett Seminary and Indiana University.

Duvall graduated from Franklin College 59 years ago with a bachelor's degree in music education. She notices stark differences between what the college looked like then compared to now.

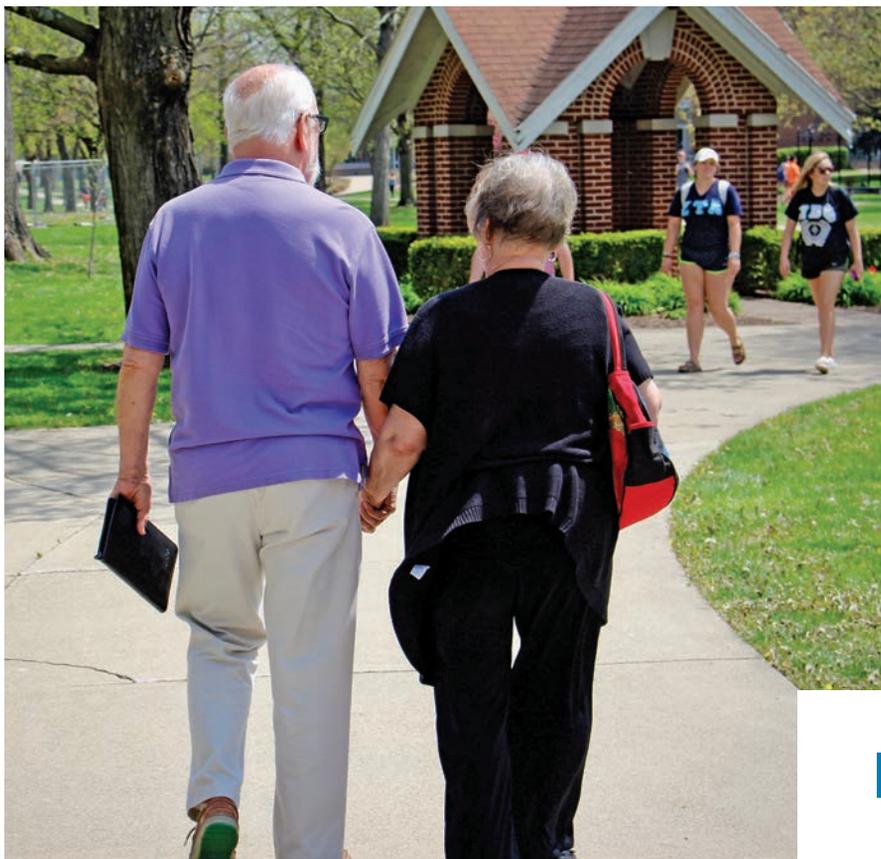
"It's twice as big," she said, referencing the number of buildings as well as the enrollment. "However, the same standards seem to exist. There are high academic standards, which I really admire, and a family-like atmosphere."

Critchfield and Duvall share an admiration for the college's uniqueness, something that emulates the distinctiveness of their 34-year marriage.

They met in 1978 when Critchfield offered Duvall a job with Indianapolis Public Schools' adult-education program. Two years later, the tables turned and Duvall asked Critchfield to work with her. They say the rest is history.

"I was fascinated by her energy and attracted to her immediately because she has a positive attitude about life," Critchfield said.

Duvall agreed.



PHOTOS BY BRYAN WELLS '19

"I suppose that's the main thing we have in common. We share values. Both of us are very people-oriented."

"Both of us have always believed in the power of knowledge, and of the human being," Critchfield added.

"There's some drive in each of us to be of service to other people, and you can't do that if you don't have anything to offer. Of course, all of us do have something to offer."

The two agreed that returning to college has been extremely beneficial for their well-being.

"It's such a healthy thing for the elderly," Duvall said. "We've educated others and helped others to see their potential for lifelong learning. That's been at the core of everything we've done." ■

**"LIFE IS INTERESTING, AND LIFE IS GOOD. WE WANT TO KEEP ON EXPERIENCING IT AND LEARNING ALL THAT WE CAN."**

**GENE CRITCHFIELD**

# Wave of SUCCE



No pool, no problem. When you have a championship mentality, anything is possible. The Grizzlies' swimming and diving program is proof of that.

The program, guided by founding coach Andrew "Andy" Hendricks, capped off the most successful season in its 10-year history, with five women advancing in March to the 2019 NCAA Division III Championships in Greensboro, North Carolina.

Teammates **Ashley Snoke '21**, **Jacqueline Richard '21** and **Courtnee Coffman '21** brought home honorable mention All-American honors from the four-day competition. Their 1:35.76-finish in the 200-freestyle relay broke both the Grizzlies' program and Heartland Collegiate Athletic Conference (HCAC) records and earned 16th place overall. Teammate **Brynna Sentel '21** joined them in the relay and added an individual All-American honorable mention nod in the 100-backstroke. Her finish time of 56.27 earned 12th place overall.

*Brynna Sentel '21 and Jacqueline Richard '21 (in back) with teammates Ashley Snoke '21 and Courtnee Coffman '21*

SS



*Ashley Snoke '21 competes in the 100-breaststroke.*

Coffman, Snoke and **Jessica Halsmer '21** also competed individually in the 50- and 100-freestyle, 100- and 200-backstroke and 100-breaststroke. In total, the five women qualified in 13 events and came away as the most decorated swimmers in college program history, with five All-American honors and three Scholar All-American honors. The 200-freestyle relay, 400-freestyle relay and 400-medley relay were all new program records and HCAC records.

“Every time these women took to the pool they represented Franklin College in a way that should make every Grizzly proud,” Hendricks said. “They consistently performed at a high level,

with a competitive, yet humble spirit.”

Since the college does not have a pool, the Grizzlies hold their practices and competitions at Franklin Community Middle School, approximately one mile from campus. Still, the Grizzlies have consistently outperformed competitors at the conference level. Prior to formation of the HCAC Swimming and Diving Championships in 2018, the men’s team had won five consecutive NCAA Liberal Arts Championships while the women had won two consecutively. After a transition to the HCAC this year, the men’s and women’s teams both won respective championships in February.

With such achievements, the program’s reputation has grown nationally, and beyond. One current team member is a native of Australia. Previous members have been from as far away as Switzerland, Ukraine and Hawaii.

**Artur Schneider '17** was the first-ever Grizzly to qualify for the NCAA Division III Championships in 2015. He qualified again in 2016 and 2017, when **Regina Solik '17** also qualified.

“The program’s success is contingent on helping the student-athletes set goals, evolve and get better. We know that success in the pool helps instill skills and discipline that support success in other import-

ant aspects of their lives,” Hendricks said.

Hendricks previously served as an adjunct instructor of mathematics at Franklin College, and he currently is coordinator of research for institutional analytics. His dedication as a coach is widely known. He previously was named the NCAA Liberal Arts Women’s Coach of the Year, the NCAA Liberal Arts Men’s Coach of the Year three times and the HCAC Men’s Coach of the Year this season, upon the teams’ dual titles. ■

# AHEAD OF THE CURVE

By Quinn Fitzgerald '20, Pulliam Fellow, and Shelby Mullis '19, Pulliam Fellow

**A former three-sport high school athlete and four-year baseball player at Augustana College in Rock Island, Illinois, Daniel Fifer (MSAT '18) was the one to watch on the field. He ran the bases. He scored the points.**

Now, Fifer stands on the sidelines. It's his job. As an athletic trainer for the Arizona Diamondbacks Major League Baseball team, he has a different perspective of the action, but his goal remains the same.

"As an athlete, you think and worry about the pitcher you're facing or whether you're going to get any hits," Fifer said. "As an athletic trainer, you're still doing everything you can to win, just in a different way.

"You're creating an environment for the athletes in your care to go out and succeed. Your success is watching those athletes perform at their best."

Franklin College's Master of Science in Athletic Training (MSAT) program helped prepare Fifer for the career he has today. He is one of six students who graduated on May 19, 2018, cementing a legacy as the first-ever students to earn master's degrees from the institution since its founding 185 years ago.

Implemented in July 2016, the MSAT program is a comprehensive curriculum designed to integrate formal and rigorous classroom instruction with clinical

PHOTOS BY SARAH SACHS/ARIZONA DIAMONDBACKS



educational experiences in a variety of allied health-care settings.

“We’re a professional-level athletic training program, which means we prepare students to take the board of certification exam so they can practice as athletic trainers,” said program director Jennifer Austin, Ph.D., LAT, ATC.



summer session followed by work across the span of two school years.

Director of graduate studies in health sciences, Kathy Remsburg, ATC, said Franklin created its program when the accrediting body for athletic education issued a new mandate requiring all athletic training majors to obtain a master’s degree. She said

because they give students full days to immerse in health-care delivery side by side with professionals already established in their fields.

Austin said the MSAT program is unique because it focuses heavily on evidence-based practice, which means searching for information to support

***"IT'S DIFFERENT AT FRANKLIN. IT'S NOT JUST ABOUT GETTING GOOD GRADES. IT'S ABOUT STUDENTS DEVELOPING PERSONALLY AND PROFESSIONALLY INTO GOOD AND WELL-ROUNDED PEOPLE."***

**DANIEL FIFER (MSAT '18)**

“We focus on the prevention and management of injuries for individuals who are physically active.”

The MSAT program offers two options, a 3+2 program and a two-year post-baccalaureate program.

The 3+2 route allows undergraduate students to complete the program prerequisites and bachelor’s degree requirements before stepping into the master’s program during their fourth year.

The two-year program is for students with a bachelor’s degree who have already completed the required prerequisite courses for the program. It’s a common track for college graduates who want to change paths or those who did not have time to major in athletic training during their undergraduate career.

Regardless of the option, coursework for the program is completed over one

by 2022 undergraduate programs in athletic training will cease to exist.

“Knowing this was coming down the pipeline, I proposed a curriculum to start the MSAT program at Franklin College,” Remsburg said.

The MSAT program put Franklin ahead of the curve.

“We’ve already graduated master’s students, although the program requirement is still several years away,” she said. “While some other schools are just getting started, we’ve been established and able to fine tune the details.”

Fifer said his MSAT program experience included spending two days a week in a classroom environment and three days completing clinical work in a variety of health-care settings.

Remsburg said the clinical rotations are a key part of the MSAT program

what students are doing in their clinical practice.

“We’re not just using traditional methods that have been done over and over again,” Austin said. “We’re actually backing up what we’re doing with evidence.”

Students also focus on building their soft skills such as communication, critical thinking, research and application, all pillars of Franklin’s liberal arts and sciences education.

From Fifer’s perspective, what set Franklin’s MSAT program apart from other options was the people.

“The professors and the community we had behind us were the best I’ve seen,” Fifer said. “It’s different at Franklin. It’s not just about getting good grades. It’s about students developing personally and professionally into good and well-rounded people.” ■

# TALK THIS WAY

By Amy (Kean) VerSteeg '96, Editor

Boom baby, holy cow and booyah are catchphrases embedded into pop culture, thanks to sports broadcasters Slick Leonard, Harry Caray and Stuart Scott, but it took more than a distinctive voice to cement their legacies.

The fact is when it comes to watching or listening to our favorite sports teams, the voice on the mic is a significant part of the experience. We expect broadcasters to share illuminating backstories about athletes and coaches, to dispense fascinating facts from sports history and, of course, to keep us updated on the live-game action.

Sports broadcasters can help us feel like we are part of the action, whether we are calling shots from our couch at home, sitting on a barstool among friends or reliving highlights at a postgame tailgate. Even when we disagree with what they say, the best ones compel us to listen. They are masters of their craft.

Here, we recognize four broadcasters for their past, present and future roles.

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PHOTO COURTESY EMMIS COMMUNICATIONS





## FLASHBACK

At the mic, **Joseph "Joe" F. McConnell '62** was one of the greats.

Prior to his death in April of 2018, he called the action for 23 years in the National Football League, including a tenure with the Indianapolis Colts, and he announced games for 15 years at Purdue University, where he was the voice of the Boiler-makers' football program.

In all, his sports broadcasting career spanned 46 years and covered dozens of significant chapters in sports history, including five NBA championship

series, three Super Bowls for the Minnesota Vikings, an American Basketball Association championship for the Indiana Pacers and Purdue's 2000 Big Ten championship in football and victory at the Rose Bowl. He also had stints broadcasting Major League Baseball, professional golf, boxing and hockey.

In recognition of McConnell's distinguished career, Franklin College inducted him into the Athletic Hall of Fame as a friend in 2010. Less than one year later, he received the Franklin College Pulliam School of

Journalism's Elmer Davis Award. The awards were a fitting tribute for a man whose career in sports broadcasting began while he was a student, calling Grizzlies' basketball games.

McConnell also was an inductee of the Indiana Broadcaster Pioneers Hall of Fame, a five-time Associated Press/United Press International Play-by-Play Sportscaster of the Year and an Indiana Sportscaster of the Year in 2000. He won Illinois Sportscaster of the Year in 1981. ■

## CALLING THE SHOTS

The name **Bob Lovell '73** is synonymous with "Indiana Sports Talk," a radio program covering the Hoosier state's high school and college basketball scene as well as professional teams. Since its launch in 1994, the program has spread to nearly 40 affiliate stations statewide, but Lovell's involvement in sports began decades ago, before he was ever a broadcaster.

Lovell was an all-conference basketball player at Plainfield (Ind.) High School prior to attending Franklin College, where he became a three-year letterman in basketball and a four-year letterman in baseball. He later became head coach of two sports at his college alma mater, running the basketball and baseball programs from 1977-81. After that, he was athletic director and head coach at Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis from 1982-94. His teams won 270 games and made four national tournament appearances. He then served as senior associate commissioner for the National Collegiate Athletic Association Division I Horizon League for seven years.

Lovell's passion for the game and knowledge of Hoosier sports history have helped him earn many career accolades, including Indiana Sportscaster of the Year. He also is an inductee of the Indiana Sportswriters and Sportscasters Hall of Fame.

In 2018, he earned the Indiana Pacers Silver Medal Award, an annual honor bestowed to a living person for outstanding contributions to Indiana high school basketball in a capacity other than playing or coaching. Recipients of the Silver Medal subsequently become Indiana Basketball Hall of Fame inductees. Lovell holds other honors from the Indiana Basketball Coaches Association, Indiana Football Coaches Association and Indiana High School Athletic Association.

Lovell said, "Indiana Sports Talk' has allowed me to continue involvement in sports, and I feel blessed to have had two different careers that have been sports-related. The show is a very important part of high school and college fans' weekend experience, and I am proud to be a part of it." ■



# FROM BASEMENT TO BOOTH

How Matt Taylor '08 made his way from hosting an imaginary rock radio station in his parents' basement to calling plays for the Indianapolis Colts in the announcer's booth at Lucas Oil Stadium is not a fairy tale, but it is his dream come true.

"I was blessed in the sense that I knew early on what I wanted to do as a career. I liked the concept of hearing somebody come out of a speaker. I was fascinated with it. My first love was radio," Taylor said.

Some of his earliest childhood memories include spinning his dad's records on the stereo and pretending to be a DJ. Family photos show Taylor staging a racecar track as the backdrop to his version of an Indianapolis 500 report, and he vividly can recount fashioning flashlights into strobe lights to imitate the start of a Pacers' basketball game at the former Market Square Arena.

"My parents will tell you that growing up I had the biggest imagination you could find."

When Taylor was not talking about sports, he was playing them. He was a three-sport athlete at Indianapolis' Roncalli High School, and he was eager to find a college where he

could continue playing the game he loved most — football — while pursuing a degree in broadcast journalism. Franklin College was the right fit.

"I remember talking as a freshman to Ann Barton (Pulliam School of Journalism Assistant Director) three weeks before classes started to see how soon I could get involved in the college radio station (WFCI)," he recalled.

At that time, the station's format was alternative rock, a genre he loathed.

"Being as passionate as I was about radio, the format didn't really matter. I was more concerned about taking full advantage of the resources. I spent a lot of my free time in the studio, figuring out how to edit, and run a board. I remember pushing buttons just to see what magic they could do. WFCI is where I cut my teeth behind the mic."

After building some confidence in his skills, Taylor recruited football teammate

**Thomas Fluty '07**, also a broadcast journalism major, as a co-host.

"We wanted to DJ people into the start of the weekend so we came up with a rock show we called the 'Friday Night Fiasco.' We had a blast, and the show became somewhat popular. It started out as a 7 to 9 show, expanded to 11, then to midnight."

Taylor also began traveling with the men's and women's basketball teams and the baseball team, providing play-by-play radio coverage of their away games.

"As I got better, the more I liked it, and the more serious I got about it. I treated those games like I was calling the Super Bowl."

As a starting linebacker for the Grizzlies' football team, Taylor could not do double duty as a play-by-play announcer, but he made sure the broadcast team's equipment was set up in the press box prior to each game. Taylor also launched

a Franklin College coaches' radio program.

"I tried to model it after Division I and pro-ball shows, half an hour of dialogue with coach interviews and players as special guests. Outside of the players' parents and friends, there wasn't much of an audience, but I didn't care. For me, it was all about learning how to formulate a show. I was ambitious, and Franklin gave me the opportunity to explore."

Taylor said division head and professor of journalism Joel Cramer was instrumental.

"He gave me a really long leash, and he didn't squash any ideas. He helped and gave advice without inhibiting me, and that meant a lot. Everything I did in college radio poured gasoline on the fire that made broadcast the career I wanted to do."

Taylor also had internships with ESPN 950 AM, where he edited shows and with WFBQ 94.7, where he worked in promotions with his childhood idol and family friend, Jimmy "Mad Dog" Matis.

After Taylor graduated from college, he faced the realities of entering a highly competitive field. Early in his career, he worked at Emmis Communications in Indianapolis, where he answered phones for "Indiana Sports Talk," a radio show hosted by **Bob Lovell '73**.

**"OUR NUMBER ONE GOAL IS ALWAYS TO MAKE A BROADCAST THE BEST POSSIBLE FOR COLTS' FANS AND TO ENHANCE THEIR GAME-DAY EXPERIENCE."**

**MATT TAYLOR '08**

"I remember having to justify to my buddies why I couldn't go out on a Friday night. I had a job to do, answering phones and writing down scores as the high schools called them in. It wasn't glamorous, but it led me to producing a drive-time show, then to doing play-by-play, then to covering state championships and up, up the ladder I went."

Since then, there has not been much time for looking back, but Taylor has learned some valuable lessons.

"The best career advice I can offer is don't say no to anything; it's what has helped me the most. You never know when an open window might lead to a door you can bust down for a bigger opportunity."

All of Taylor's notable work at Emmis Communications

eventually led to an offer from the Indianapolis Colts. In 2012, he became manager of radio production and, until recently, has mostly worked behind the scenes to ensure every broadcast reaches the more than 50 radio affiliates who help keep the Colts' fans engaged in the action.

"Anything you hear during the Colts' programming coming through your speaker has my DNA all over it, whether I wrote it, said it or produced it," Taylor said.

On occasion, he has segued into visual media, hosting the Colts' web shows and TV programs. He also has been a sideline reporter during game-day radio broadcasts and has done play-by-play announcing for past pre-season games on TV.

"The longer I've been with the Colts, the more I've had

put on my plate," said Taylor. You could say his plate began to runneth over in August 2018, when the team's longtime announcer, Bob Lamey, resigned after reportedly using a racial slur off the air.

The Colts had a preseason Monday night football game scheduled against the Baltimore Ravens less than 48 hours later, and the executives counted on Taylor to transition smoothly into the announcer's chair.

"I understood the gravity of the situation, that I'd be doing a job that only 31 other people have in the NFL, but I had a great baseline of experience from being with the Colts' organization for so many years.

"The biggest difference doing the play-by-play compared to doing other parts of

the broadcast, was squeezing in a crash course on the Ravens."

Taylor spent hours memorizing facts about the Ravens' units, coaching staff, team history and achievements, taking notes and mentally preparing for a game that he said "went off well."

Executives agreed and soon after named Taylor interim announcer, kicking off what essentially became his five-month audition.

"I had some sleepless nights, trying to get inside other people's heads. I wondered if they liked what I was doing or if I should be doing anything differently.

"I never wanted to take the opportunity for granted, but there finally was a point where I had to have an internal conversation with myself: 'You're

## GOING PRO

By *Daily Journal of Johnson County*  
Reprinted with permission.

It's a long road from Indiana to California, but one **Brandon Barger '21** hopes to travel. He wants to announce soccer matches for the Summer Olympics when the games return to Los Angeles in 2028. In pursuit of his dream, he's majoring in multimedia journalism and building a well-rounded skillset.

"In my major we study photography, videography, newspaper writing and broadcast writing," said Barger, a graduate of Indian Creek High School in Trafalgar, Indiana.

The aspiring professional sports broadcaster also is gaining valuable experience at local games. He announces football, girls' and boys' basketball, softball and baseball for his high school alma mater. That's where **Butch Zike '72**, former head coach for the Grizzlies' softball team, heard Barger call a game, liked his style and asked if he

qualified to do this. Live in faith, not fear. Be yourself. Do your best. Hopefully, this is destined to be.”

Preparation and persistence paid. In early January 2019, the Colts offered Taylor the full-time play-by-play announcer’s position.

“I got the offer on a Friday morning, one day before the Colts were flying out to play the Houston Texans in an AFC wild-card game. I was jumping out of my skin with excitement, but I also remember thinking, ‘OK, you have to get on the plane and get back to work. You still have to prove your worth every single day.’”

Taylor told his spouse and immediate family, but a public announcement was on hold until end of the season. His secret made announcing the wild-card game extra exciting.

“Even though I couldn’t say anything on the air, that day was a lot of fun on so many levels. The Colts won their first playoff in three years (21 – 7), and I was feeling more like myself because a lot of trepidation about the future was gone.”

Twelve days later, they publicly announced Taylor’s new position as the full-time “Voice of the Colts.”

“It was one of the top five greatest days of my life! It’s not in my nature to crave the spotlight, but I was so grateful for all the support and for everybody who reached out to me.”

Taylor realizes he has reached the peak of a career climb that began decades ago, in the basement.

“Of all the things I can do in radio, I feel like play-by-play is my biggest strength. It’s

been my driving force. It’s why I took the job with the Colts. This opportunity is why I stayed for so long.”

The view from the announcer’s booth at Lucas Oil Stadium is one Taylor savors, even amid chaos.

“Play-by-play announcing is like a game of chess in your head. You have to talk, and formulate and finish your thoughts while all these other voices are coming through your headset. You’re getting updates from a spotter, anticipating when to break for a commercial and trying to set up your color guy, all at once. Plus, you’re following the game and keeping fans informed. There’s a lot to compartmentalize and manage.”

Taylor remains manager of radio production in addition to the role of play-by-play announcer. He credits

colleagues for helping him balance the duties.

“We have a great broadcast lineup and infrastructure. Both are why we can adapt on the fly. I’m really proud of how we’ve been able to pull off some new things without a hitch but also how we cut our losses when something isn’t working.”

Most important to Taylor is what the fans think.

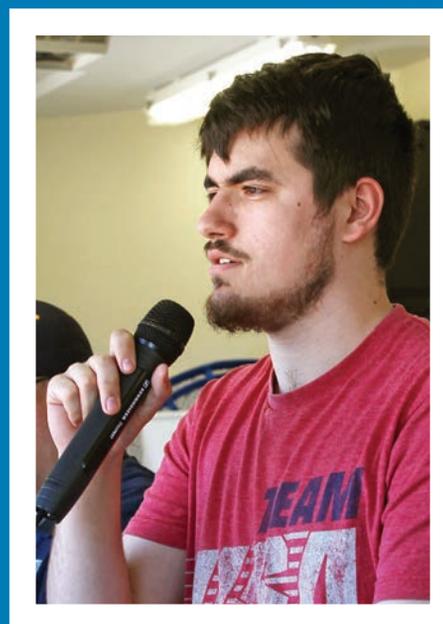
“I’ve stepped into a role the same guy had for 34 years. Inevitably, some people have made comparisons. That’s just human nature. As fans get used to the changes, I’d like to think we’re building something special.

“Our number one goal is always to make a broadcast the best possible for the Colts’ fans and to enhance their game-day experience.” ■

would be interested in announcing college games. Since then, Behrens Softball Field has been Barger’s training ground.

“Every time I go into a game it’s to get better. As an announcer, you’re not there to be the focal point. You’re there to enhance the game. Sometimes I take pieces of what I hear from other announcers and adapt it to my own style,” Barger said.

After graduating from college, Barger wants to work at a TV or radio station. He’s also considered graduate school, where he could possibly announce Division I soccer or hockey, his favorite sports. In the meantime, he’ll keep practicing in preparation of a golden opportunity at the Olympics. ■



QUINN FITZGERALD '20

# LIST MAKERS

By Amy (Kean) VerSteeg '96, Editor

Since 1996, the *Indianapolis Business Journal* has presented the Women of Influence program, recognizing those who have risen to the highest levels in business, the arts and community/public service across Central Indiana. The 2018 honorees, announced in November, included **Andi M. Metzel '91** and **Deana (Baker) Haworth '99**.

*Through their professional and philanthropic leadership, these women of influence are building legacies in their industries while helping others thrive to their fullest potential. Here, we present five more things you should know about each of them.*

Metzel is a partner at Taft Stettinius & Hollister, a law firm employing more than 470 attorneys at 10 offices across America. She has more than 20 years of practice experience, specializing in complex commercial litigation and representing corporate and individual clients. She earned her law degree from the Indiana University Robert H. McKinney School of Law. Her honors include serving as president of the Indiana State Bar Association in 2018 and as an appointed member of the Indiana Supreme Court Disciplinary Commission in 2011. She is currently the board chair for Girls Inc.



SUBMITTED PHOTO

**Deana (Baker)  
Haworth '99**

Haworth began her career as a public relations specialist at Hiron integrated communications agency and immediately assumed an upward trajectory, as she served in various account leadership roles. Hiron

of Greater Indianapolis. In her words . . .

■ “Two goals consumed me early in my career, paying off my law school student loans and becoming a partner before I was 40. I accomplished both and — at least then — felt like I had ‘made it.’ What I know today is that I am always developing my skills, learning and becoming a better version of myself, and that it is not such a bad thing to be a work in progress. I am still ‘making it.’”

■ “Spring 2018 was a big change for me and for many of my colleagues because

we made a strategic decision to collectively join our existing practices with Taft, to help continue growing our platform in Indianapolis. Taft invests in the community and has the kind of thoughtful and progressive mindset I value. I believe that this turning point in my career path is just the beginning.”

■ “My mother is my rock. She is my best cheerleader and worst critic. She has motivated and inspired me and taught me how to be strong and yet stay kind. It is not always easy to push yourself — that is why they invented mothers!”

■ “At all stages of my personal and professional life, I have taken inventory of my priorities. If I have become indifferent or realize my expectations are not being met, I try not to be afraid to refocus and make changes that may become necessary.”

■ “My advice to young women is to be genuine and willing to evolve. Trying too hard to be perfect or to be something you are not distracts your focus and deprives you of the energy you need to give 100 percent.” ■



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Andi M. Metzler '91

promoted the 18-year agency veteran to chief operating officer in 2018. In the role, she manages business development and strategic planning operations while continuing to serve as senior adviser on key accounts. Haworth was a first-generation college graduate, earning her bachelor's degree in public relations at Franklin and subsequently her master's degree at Ball State University. In her words . . .

■ “In many ways, I feel as though I haven't begun to reach my full potential. My personality doesn't allow for a ‘sit back’ approach, so I am always recognizing things that need accomplished.”

■ “I would not be where I am today without the mentorship of my colleagues, Tom Hirons (founder, board chair) and Jim Parham (president, CEO). While Tom has showed me how to harness my passions to lead change, Jim has taught me that no matter how hard a situation, proper communication can make a huge difference. I am truly thankful to work for such strong leaders.”

■ “My involvement with the Wishard Hospital (Indianapolis) referendum is one of several career turning points. It was both massive in size (200+ community meetings, presentations, public events) and outreach (government, business,

philanthropy, life sciences, education and faith-based communities). We garnered 85 percent voter approval for a \$750 million referendum during one of the worst recessions in U.S. history. It was a powerful experience that opened my mind to the infinite possibilities of what can be accomplished given effective public outreach and education.”

■ “I was born and raised in rural southern Indiana (Stinesville). As my career progressed, I noticed the void in public outreach to the people who live in areas that mirror my hometown, and I was very determined to tackle the problem. The

result is our Rural Reach program. By combining Hirons' industry expertise and our team's rural life experience, we will help companies, organizations and government agencies communicate to the rural poor through a unique matrix of strategies and tactics.”

■ “My best advice for young women is to embrace their intelligence, abilities and leadership potential. Every single woman has the potential to be the next great CEO, entrepreneur and venture capitalist. The opportunity is there, and you deserve it just as much as anyone else.” ■

# On the **RISE**

By Shelby Mullis '19, Pulliam Fellow

## You might say the planets aligned to help Ian Mullen '16 find his career niche working for world-renowned astrophysicist and pop culture icon Neil deGrasse Tyson.

During his sophomore year of college, Mullen stumbled upon an Internet video of Tyson explaining the link between stars and humans, and it changed the way he looked at the universe.

“It blew my mind because it presented something so complex in a way that was understandable.”

The video led Mullen to discover Tyson’s “StarTalk Radio,” a podcast about space, science and popular culture. After that, he was hooked on the podcast and the idea of interning for the production company, which he succeeded in doing in the summer of 2015.

After earning his bachelor’s degree in broadcast journalism one year later, Mullen resumed working on the podcast, and his job role has snowballed ever since.

Currently, Mullen is the social media assistant and social media channel manager for the StarTalk Podcast Network, which includes “StarTalk Radio,” “StarTalk All-Stars” and “Playing with Science.” Mullen writes episode copy and blog posts for all the programs. He also writes social media posts and designs graphics for the latter program, which focuses on the intersectionality between sports and science.

“I like working for a company that’s doing a good thing,” he said. “They’re putting science and education out into the world, where people can easily ingest it and understand it in a fun, friendly, non-intimidating way.”

Mullen works remotely for the New York City-based podcast network, from his home in Chicago, where he

also recently completed studies at Harold Ramis Film School – The Second City. It was the first improvisational theatre established in the United States and is the only film school focused entirely on comedy.

“I always wanted to come to Chicago and get my start in the improv-film world because it’s the proving ground,” said the Ohio native.

He recently made an independent film called “Masterpiece,” which he is circulating to festivals for screening consideration.

Because he works remotely and reports to the “StarTalk” director of program operations, Mullen has had only a few interactions with the podcast host, Tyson.



As an undergraduate, Mullen neither foresaw nor precisely prepared for the career path he's following, but his background in the liberal arts and sciences has been beneficial to helping make him a stronger writer.

"Science is based on fact, and you don't want to fabricate what you're saying to people in episode copy. You also have to find a way to make information pop. It tests my creative storytelling and journalism skills."

A sense of purpose motivates Mullen to do his best work.

"The fact that I can help bring science, positivity and education into the world is such a joy."

See his work at **[IanMullen-IsHere.com](http://IanMullen-IsHere.com)** ■

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# PUPPY LOVE



"AS A VOLUNTEER, IT'S ONE OF THE BEST DAYS OF MY YEAR BECAUSE I GET TO HELP MAKE PEOPLE HAPPY WHILE SPENDING TIME WITH A SWEET, BRILLIANT DOG."

SUZANNE (NEKVASIL) ROBINSON '87

PHOTOS BY SARA BALDWIN SCHATZ

## Franklin College Alumni Council member Suzanne (Nekvasil) Robinson '87 and her spouse, Mark, have a passion for paws and for philanthropy. Volunteering with the Indiana Canine Assistant Network (ICAN) gives the Carmel, Indiana, couple the chance to combine the two loves.

For the third consecutive year, they served on ICAN's Puppy Love Valentines Committee and accompanied service dogs on gift box deliveries to workplaces in the Indianapolis area.

ICAN actually impacted the Robinsons long before they knew the organization's name. Suzanne's late mother had a rare condition that caused her muscles to atrophy, and she needed help to support herself. Her late father had Parkinson's disease.

"Someone we knew was aware there were service dogs who are really well-trained but don't graduate from the training program, so my parents ended up adopting one, a black Labrador named Ranger, about 15 years ago," Robinson said. "The friend coordinated everything, so we never even learned the name of the organization."

Ranger helped with mobility issues and household activities.

"My mom would give Ranger the 'brace' command and he would stiffen his body so she could push off of him to get out of her chair. He could turn lights on. He would get mail for them. He was such a great dog who really helped my mom to be independent longer. The only reason he didn't graduate is because he barked at cars."

About 10 years after Ranger's adoption, Robinson met Sally Irvin, the founder of ICAN, at a fundraiser for a different nonprofit organization. In speaking with Robinson about her parents' dog, Sally realized that Ranger had been part of ICAN, and she had trained him as a newborn puppy.

"She sent us puppy pictures of Ranger, and we framed them and gave them to our parents as a Christmas gift," Suzanne said. "They didn't adopt Ranger until he was three years old, so they loved seeing him as a puppy."

All ICAN dogs receive most of their training by offenders at three state prisons, Pendleton Correctional Facility, Correctional Industrial Facility in Pendleton and the Indiana Women's Prison in Indianapolis. Dogs who graduate from the program are paired with a child or adult with a disability or disorder, such as autism, epilepsy, diabetes, stroke or post-traumatic stress disorder.

Suzanne and Mark regularly attend ICAN service dog graduations at the women's prison, when prisoners who trained the dogs officially turn them over to the clients.

"It is very emotional. The handlers share that while they can't change the pain they have caused other people, ICAN provides a way for them to give back and help take pain away for someone else," said Robinson.

She vividly recalls the first graduation they attended.

"A prisoner-handler said no living being had expressed love for her until she trained an ICAN dog."

The cost to train a dog for the two-year program is about \$26,000. Clients who receive the dog do not have to pay that amount thanks to donations, grants,



sponsorships and fundraisers like the Puppy Love program.

Suzanne said Puppy Love is a win-win in that it benefits ICAN, the Valentine gift box recipients (many of whom are surprised to receive it) and the volunteers assisting with deliveries.

"As a volunteer, it's one of the best days of my year because I get to help make people happy while spending time with a sweet, brilliant dog."

The Robinsons are able to use their marketing, communications and media relations experience to help ICAN beyond their committee work. Suzanne is communications director for Crowe, and Mark is a senior manager of editorial content for the IndyCar Series. ■

# CLASS NOTES



## '50s

**Max Fitzpatrick '56** recently received the Franklin (Ind.) Chamber of Commerce Community Service Award in recognition of his many years of volunteerism with 4-H and the Johnson County Fair. A longtime member of the fair board, Fitzpatrick's involvement has included signing the first-ever contract for vendor-provided games and rides, founding the Tractor Club and organizing a grant that allows 4-H clubs and members to spend money on educational programs. In 2018, he received recognition at the Indiana 4-H Leadership Summit for his 65 years of volunteerism.

## '70s

**David Young '72** became the girls' soccer coach at Columbus (Ind.) North High School in March 2019. He is only the fourth coach to lead the program since its inception in 1993. He has worked in Columbus for 20 years as an engineer for AT&T.

**Mike McClure '75** announced publicly in a *Daily Journal* story that he would retire as Franklin (Ind.) Community High School's assistant athletic director on June 11, 2019. His current role coupled with his previous positions of teaching and coaching football and track at the high school reflect a 20-year tenure. McClure also is a former head football coach at Franklin College. Succeeding McClure as assistant athletic director is the high school's current head football

1: Terri L. Roberts-Leonard, Franklin College Director of Diversity and Inclusion, and Brooke (Wagoner) Worland '99, Franklin Community Schools Assistant Superintendent 2: Alberto Marcias '08 3: Jennifer (Lash) Jones '98 4: Max Fitzpatrick '56 5: Jason Huckelberry and spouse Sara (Papas) '06 6: Gary L. Robinson '78

PHOTOS BY CHAD WILLIAMS, OTHERS SUBMITTED



coach **Chris Coll '90**, who was a player at the college when McClure was defensive coordinator and, eventually, the head coach.

**Gary L. Robinson '78**, seventh-grade social studies teacher, was chosen the 2017-18 Center Grove Community School Corp. Teacher of the Year. Colleagues voted him as teacher of the year at the middle school, and then a special panel at Franklin College selected him the winner among all of the teachers of the year across the school district. He has taught for more than four decades, with most of those years spent in Greenwood, Indiana's Center Grove community, where he graduated from high school.

## '90s

**David Dunkle '94**, M.D., vice president of medical affairs for Johnson Memorial Health, was named interim CEO in March 2019. The health system is located in Franklin, Indiana.

**Debbie (Lacy) Guckenberger '95** will be the girls' Indiana All-Stars coach when the team faces the Kentucky All-Stars on June 7 and 8. Guckenberger is the girls' basketball coach at Brownsburg High School, where she recently completed her fourth season and led the team to a 20-4 record. She is 70-29 overall with two Class 4A sectional championships in her record. Guckenberger previously coached 12 seasons at Greenwood and is 197-162 overall in 16 seasons.

**Jennifer (Lash) Jones '98** recently became an equity partner at Sackrider & Co., an accounting firm in Terre Haute, Indiana. Jones, a CPA, joined the firm in 1998, specializing in services for employee benefit plans, not-for-profits and contractors.

**Katherine Noel '98**, a Kokomo, Indiana, attorney, was appointed chair

of the State Ethics Commission by Indiana Gov. Eric Holcomb. Noel was appointed to a four-year term on the commission by Holcomb in 2018. She previously served on the State Employees Appeals Commission for six years. She earned her doctorate from Indiana University's Maurer School of Law.

**Brooke (Wagoner) Worland '99** made a career transition to assistant superintendent of Franklin Community Schools in March 2019. She previously worked at Franklin College, where she served in a variety of roles during her 18-year career. At her time of departure, Worland was the assistant provost and dean of engaged learning. Her volunteerism includes serving as board vice president of the Elba L. and Gene Portteus Branigin Foundation since the fall of 2017. For her professional achievements, leadership and volunteerism, Worland was selected the 2019 winner in the alumnae category of the Franklin College Office of Diversity and Inclusion Women of Distinction Awards. She and her family reside in Franklin, Indiana.

## '00s

**Paul Buening '00** was inducted into the 2019 Chargers Athletics Hall of Fame at North Decatur High School in Greensburg, Indiana. He was a three-sport athlete in football, basketball and baseball. He also played basketball in college and was a three-year starter.

**Sara Papas '06** married Jason Huckelberry on September 9, 2018, at Woodland Country Club in Carmel, Indiana. They honeymooned in Aruba. Sara is a technical service specialist for Roche Diagnostics, and Jason is a control engineer at Bastian Solutions. They reside in Noblesville, Indiana.

**Lance LaBonte '07** and his spouse, **Brittany (Smithey) '07**, assistant professor of physician assistant studies at

Franklin College, are the parents of a son, Brooks Michael, born Oct. 12, 2018. Brittany works at Hendricks Regional Immediate Care Center in addition to the college. The family resides in Martinsville, Indiana.

**Alberto Macias '08** won the 2018 Indiana State Commissioner's Award for Youth Services Employee of the Year. He teaches PE and health at the Logansport Juvenile Correctional Facility. One of his nominators said, "He has a special type of charisma and integrity that the youth have grown to love and respect. His presence and way of working with the youth immediately improved the safety and dynamics of the general population at the facility."

## '10s

**Travis Braun '10** was recognized in *Variety* magazine after entering into a new contract with Disney Channels Worldwide. He will develop and produce both animated and live-action content for multiple platforms. He currently serves as



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creator and co-executive producer of the Disney Channel series “Fast Layne” and Disney Junior’s series “T.O.T.S.” In 2016, Braun wrote and produced the commercial “Doritos Dogs,” which won a \$1 million grand prize and aired during Super Bowl 50.

**Fonso White '11** joined Bishop Luers High School in Fort Wayne, Indiana, as the boys’ basketball coach in the fall of 2018. He previously coached at Westfield, Clinton and Southport high schools, all located in Indiana.

**Amy Fox '12** and Dalton Spiller married on Oct. 20, 2018, at Walker’s Bluff Winery in Carterville, Illinois. They reside in Southern Illinois.

**Jenna (Erdman) Rutan '12** and her spouse, Jacob, are the parents of a son, Chase, born May 18, 2018. Chase joins a sister, Claire. The family resides in Columbus, Indiana.

**Martin Chastain '13** and his spouse, **Jessica (Haggard) '13**, are the parents of a son, Sawyer Murphy, born Jan. 10, 2019. The family resides in Greenwood, Indiana.

**Brianne (Steppe) Schneckenberger '13** took the oath of office as an appointed member of the Planning Commission for McCordsville, Indiana, in February 2019. At the time, she was the youngest and the only female.

**Krystal (Sloan) Neal '14** and her spouse, Joe, are the parents of a son, Brigán William, born Sept. 20, 2018. Krystal works as a polysomnographic technician at the Riley Hospital for Children Sleep Center. The family resides in Indianapolis.

**Tony Quintana '14** is co-director of 10th West Gallery in downtown Indianapolis. The contemporary fine art gallery earned first place in *Nuvo* magazine’s Best of Indy 2018 list of local galleries. Quintana also

is co-owner of QB Curators. He and business-partner Maria Behringer bring contemporary art exhibitions to Indianapolis.

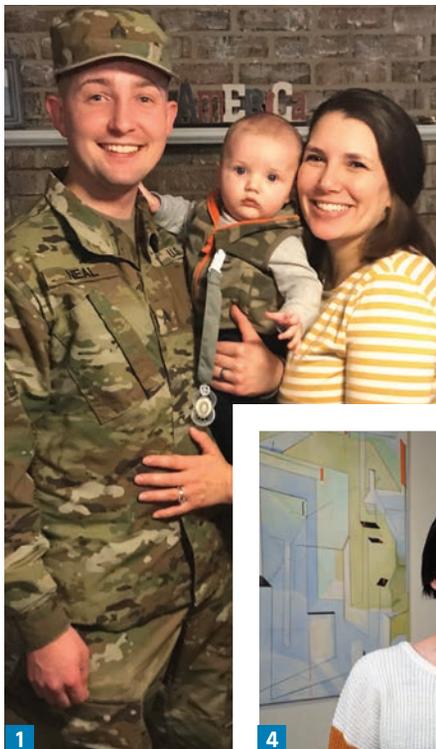
**Jake David '15** and **Hayley Tiberghin '16** married on June 16, 2018. Members of the wedding party included **Corie Walton '16**, **Matthew Bachman '15** and **Shaughn Harrigan '15**. Jake works for David Enterprises, and Hayley is teaching third grade. They reside in Evansville, Indiana.

**Kate (Miller) Denton '15** and her spouse, Ryan, are the parents of a daughter, Hadley, born Dec. 14, 2018. She joins a brother, Jace. The family resides in Crown Point, Indiana.

**Max Larreur '15** earned his Master of Science in wildlife biology at Kansas State University in the summer of 2018 and accepted a full-time position as an instructor at the Cape Eleuthera Institute in the Bahamas.

*1: Joe Neal, son Brigán and spouse Krystal (Sloan) '14 2: Amy (Fox) Spiller '12 and spouse Dalton 3: Sawyer Murphy Chastain, son of Martin Chastain '13 and wife Jessica (Haggard) '13 4: Maria Behringer and business partner Tony Quintana '14 5: Kate (Miller) Denton '15, holding daughter Hadley, next to spouse Ryan, holding son Jace*

SUBMITTED PHOTOS



## New pursuits?

Share your milestones, experiences, travels and tales in the next magazine! Email submissions to [aversteeg@FranklinCollege.edu](mailto:aversteeg@FranklinCollege.edu). Photo attachments are welcome, but please be sure to ID everyone, from left to right.



**Sophia Abner '17** completed her Master of Public Health degree at the University of Edinburgh in Scotland. She also accepted a research position on diabetes and other cardiometabolic diseases at the University of Leicester in the United Kingdom.

**Zac Turner '18** accepted a production technician position with the Pioneer Chemical Co. His bachelor's degree is in biology/ecology conservation.

**Jessica Young '18** is a customer support representative at KYB Americas Corp. in Greenwood, Indiana. She brings a bachelor's degree in quantitative analysis with an economics specialization to the role, which involves gathering and interpreting information to better serve customers. ■

## CORRECTION

We regret misspelling **Jane (Wyrick) Hettich '34** and omitting her class year in our previous issue, Winter 2019. Hettich was director of alumni relations at Franklin College from 1954-74. She died March 14, 2002.

## OBITUARIES

### '30s

**Virginia (Patterson) Nutting '39** died on Aug. 20, 2018. She majored in mathematics at Franklin and was a member of Tri Delta sorority. She was preceded in death by her spouse, Eugene. Their three children survive. She resided in Centennial, Colorado.

### '40s

**Margaret Anne (Dillard) Boyer '44** died on Oct. 18, 2018, from complications following a stroke. She majored in English at Franklin and was a member of Pi Beta Phi sorority. She attended graduate school at Indiana University prior to moving south, where her husband, **Roscoe A. '41**, Ph.D., taught at the University of Mississippi School of Education in Oxford. There, she helped organize the local chapter of the League of Women Voters and the Ole Miss chapter of Pi Beta Phi (with which she maintained a lifelong connection). The Boyers were lifelong members of the Oxford-University United Methodist Church. Survivors include two sons and five grandchildren. She resided in Needham, Massachusetts.

**Mary Lu (Bergdoll) Hanson '48** died Oct. 10, 2018, after a brief illness. She attended Franklin College one semester before returning to her family home in southern Indiana to help operate the family grocery store. After World War II ended, she returned to the college, where she became a member of Zeta Tau Alpha sorority, later serving as chapter president. After graduating, she remained active as a college volunteer with the Alumni Council and as a donor through the Old Main Society. For a short time, she worked for Purdue University as a home demonstration agent, but, in 1952, she returned to her southern

Indiana roots to operate a tractor sales company in partnership with her father. She had a deep love of the land and abundant respect for the farmers entrusted with its care. She became sole owner-operator of the dealership in 1965, renaming it Lawrence County Ford Tractor. She retired in 1990. She was an active volunteer, serving 43 years on the Bedford Medical Center board and as the first woman president of the Bedford Chamber of Commerce. Spouse Albert preceded her in death. Survivors include two children, three grandchildren and three great-grandchildren. Son **Martin '80** and granddaughter **Allison (Huffman) Kruse '03** are alumni. She resided in Bedford, Indiana.

**James D. "Don" Willis '48** died Dec. 13, 2018. He majored in pure mathematics and was a member of Kappa Delta Rho fraternity at Franklin. He also was a U.S. Army veteran of World War II. He worked as an insurance claim representative for various companies throughout his career, retiring from Allstate after 20 years. His spouse of 67 years, Patricia, preceded him in death. Survivors include their three children, four grandchildren and three great-grandchildren. He resided in Bargsville, Indiana.

**Ruth A. (Rogers) Ragsdale '49** died Jan. 2, 2019. She was a Pi Beta Phi sorority member at Franklin. She later worked as a sales associate for Talbots. She enjoyed doting on dogs and cats and rooting for the Cincinnati Reds and Louisville Cardinals. Survivors include her spouse, **John "Jack" '48**, their three children and four grandchildren. One grandson preceded her in death. She resided in Louisville, Kentucky.

### '50s

**Claiborn M. "Clip" Wamsley '50** died Jan. 27, 2019. He majored in business and was a member of Kappa Delta Rho

fraternity at Franklin. He also was a U.S. Navy veteran of World War II. He made a lifelong career at First National Bank of Monterey, Indiana, serving as chair and CEO until his death. He was a previous recipient of Indiana's Sagamore of the Wabash award, a volunteer member of his town's fire department and a longtime scorekeeper for two area high schools. His wife of 71 years, **Alice (Mishler) '48**, survives, as do their four children, 15 grandchildren and 28 great-grandchildren.

**Theresa "Terry" (Tull) Wells '52** died Jan. 5, 2019. She attended Franklin for two years and was a member of Delta Zeta sorority. She worked as a news reporter at the *Kokomo Tribune* for a short time before getting married. Later on, she worked as an estimator at Phillips Brothers Printers in Springfield, Illinois, retiring after 17 years. Survivors include her three children, Steve, Mike and the Rev. **Julie (Wells) Blythe '82**, five grandchildren and two great-grandchildren. She resided in Springfield, Illinois.

**Rev. Dewey R. Findley '54** died Feb. 20, 2019. He majored in psychology at Franklin, where he sang with the concert choir and was chapter president of the Independent Men social organization. He was ordained into the Methodist Church ministry in 1957, and he earned bachelor's and master's degrees from Boston University School of Theology. He and his spouse, **Kay (Smithey) '61**, served at numerous churches across Northern Indiana and Illinois. The Findleys were married for 58 years, serving as a loving example to the couples who attended their popular marriage enrichment workshops. Kay survives, as do their four children, eight grandchildren and four great-grandchildren. Two grandchildren preceded Dewey in death. He resided in Franklin, Indiana.

**Richard "Dick" Judy '57**, Ph.D., died Dec. 29, 2018, on his 84th birthday. He attended Franklin College and Indiana University. He enlisted in the U.S. Army in 1958 and served as a commissioned officer from 1961–85, retiring as a lieutenant colonel with multiple medals and citations. He earned master and doctoral degrees from Indiana University, and he subsequently built a long career in education at the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point, where he served as dean of business and economics. After retiring from that position, he continued teaching at the university until 2000. He then became a small-business consultant. He was an active volunteer through Rotary, Boy Scouts and the local chamber of commerce, among others. Survivors include his wife, Mary, their three children, six grandchildren and one great-grandchild. He resided in Stevens Point, Wisconsin.

**Lloyd R. "Buzz" Spencer '57** died Jan. 15, 2019. He was a member of the football team and Lambda Chi Alpha fraternity at Franklin, where he majored in theatre. A U.S. Army veteran, he for a time had a career as a radio DJ, then he transitioned to sales and management for Johnson & Johnson and Searle (later renamed Monsanto). After retiring, he and his spouse, **Sue (VanAntwerp) '55**, returned to Columbus, Indiana, where they were very active in the Unitarian Universalist Congregation and as volunteers with Franklin College and Meals on Wheels. The couple also enjoyed traveling the world. Sue, his spouse of 64 years, survives, as do their two children, five grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

**Byron Beck '59** died Oct. 14, 2018. He was a U.S. Army veteran of the Korean War. He majored in economics at Franklin, then earned his Master of Business Administration from Indiana University. He worked for various

manufacturers across the Midwest and on the East Coast, eventually retiring from GenCorp Services. He later became a very active volunteer, serving on multiple boards. Survivors include his wife, Loretta, their two children and one grandchild. He resided in Marion, Indiana.

**Daniel L. "Dan" Murray '59** died Oct. 25, 2018. He attended Purdue University and Franklin College, where he was a member of Sigma Alpha Epsilon fraternity. He served in the U.S. Army Reserve and made a career as a land surveyor. He retired from Franklin Engineering after 40 years of service. He was a 58-year member of the Franklin Masonic Lodge F&AM and a previous exalted ruler of the Franklin Elks Lodge. Survivors include his wife, Rita, their two children and four grandchildren. He was a resident of Franklin, Indiana.

## '60s

**James "Jim" Newkirk '60** died April 30, 2018, after a brief battle with renal cancer. He was a U.S. Army veteran, who built a 31-year career in finance at Eli Lilly and Co. He was a former Cub Scout leader, high school team adviser for Junior Achievement and Little League coach. His wife of 61 years, Shirley, survives, as do their four children and 12 grandchildren. He resided in Franklin, Indiana.

**Paul M. "Pat" Clancy '61** died Nov. 13, 2018. He attended Franklin and was a member of the football team and Phi Delta Theta fraternity prior to leaving to enlist in the U.S. Marine Corps. He later served as president of the Shane Co., a privately owned chain of jewelry stores. He developed the jeweler's well-known tagline "You have a friend in the diamond business." After retiring from there, he opened Clancy Furniture Brokers, where he worked until his death. Survivors include his



# EARLY INNOVATOR

The National Inventors Hall of Fame posthumously inducted **James M. Sprague '30** (HD '54), Ph.D., on May 2, 2019, during a ceremony at the National Building Museum in Washington, D.C.

Sprague was inducted in recognition of his role on the Merck Sharp & Dohme Research Laboratories team that pioneered thiazide diuretics, the first class of drugs to safely and effectively treat hypertension. Today, thiazide diuretics remain a first-line treatment for high blood pressure and related heart problems.

“The National Inventors Hall of Fame honors the innovative game-changers who have transformed our world,” said CEO Michael Oister. “Through inventions as diverse as life-saving medicines and web browsers for the visually impaired, these superhero innovators have made significant advances in our daily lives and well-being.”

Sprague held a doctorate from the University of Wisconsin and did postdoctoral work at Yale University. He earned 27 U.S. patents and several foreign patents for his employer, Merck Co., Inc. Sprague died in 2000, at age 91. ■

SUBMITTED PHOTO



significant other, Micki Mayer, her four children and her grandchildren. He resided in Indianapolis.

**David Cline '61** died Jan. 5, 2019. He worked for Eli Lilly and Co. for 39 years in the elemental analysis laboratory. His hobbies included golfing, hunting and fishing. Survivors include his spouse, Mary Ann, their two children and six grandchildren. He resided in Greenwood, Indiana.

**Norman Jackman '61** died Nov. 17, 2018. He attended Franklin College, where he played baseball and was a member of Sigma Alpha Epsilon fraternity. He was a U.S. Marine Corps veteran and retired from Williams Industries, after 40 years of service. Survivors include his spouse, Rosalyn, their three

children and eight grandchildren. He resided in Trafalgar, Indiana.

**L. Gene Perry '63** died Feb. 21, 2018. He held a Master in Business Administration from Indiana University and achieved a lifetime career in human resources with Bloomington Hospital of Orange County (now IU Health Paoli), retiring as CEO. Survivors include his spouse, Kathrine, four children and three grandchildren. He resided in Bloomington, Indiana.

**Nicholas LaVecchia '67** died Dec. 23, 2018. He attended Franklin College and Humboldt State University in California. He was a U.S. Army veteran of the Vietnam War and had a teaching career. He resided in Menlo Park, California.

## '70s

**Sharon L. (Robarts) Deming '71** died Feb. 13, 2019. She held a bachelor's degree in sociology from Franklin and a master's degree in library science from Southern Connecticut State University. She was a librarian prior to launching her own business as a real estate appraiser and title searcher. She retired in 2010, due to health reasons. Survivors include her spouse, **Glenn '71**, their child and two grandchildren. She resided in Meriden, Connecticut.

**Linda Horsey '71**, Ph.D., died Jan. 5, 2019. She earned her bachelor's degree in sociology from Franklin College, then went on to earn a master's degree in social work and a doctorate in education administration, both from

# ELEVATING SCHOLARS

The **Roger F. Mock '67**

Endowed Memorial Mathematics Scholarship, established in February, honors a man whose interests and talents were diverse. Mock, who died in 2010, at age 65, was the 12th member of his family to attend Franklin College. His brother-in-law, James T. Napolitan (HD '12), Ph.D., a college trustee, established the \$50,000 scholarship as a gesture of love and respect for his wife, **Sandra (Mock) '60**, Ph.D., on her 80th birthday.



FRANKLIN COLLEGE ARCHIVES

“Sandra dearly loved Roger,” explained Jim. “He was a person not afraid to be different; we have so many great memories of him.”

Roger, for example, was passionate about theatre and acting, which led him to a stint in pro wrestling, where he portrayed Col. Roger Peabody, a Britisher.

Although wildly creative, Roger also was analytical. He double majored in mathematics and chemistry. His avocations included serving in the U.S. Army, working for the Medical Business Bureau of Chicago (a family business), editing legal textbooks, crunching numbers and training interns at the Chicago Mercantile Exchange.

“The gentleness of Roger’s mind was always a source of amazement to me,” said Sandra. “He loved mathematics, and I think he would enjoy knowing that his scholarship will foster others with that same passion.” ■

Columbia University. She worked as an instructor for 13 years at Old Dominion University and was a clinical manager for the city of Portsmouth until her death. Survivors include two children. She resided in Norfolk, Virginia.

**Larry A. Roush '75** died Jan. 14, 2019, at his home. He was a U.S. Navy veteran. Survivors include his wife, Deborah, their child and one grandchild. He resided in Martinsville, Indiana.

## '80s

**Scott A. Tanner '86** died Feb. 21, 2019. He majored in history at Franklin, where he was a football team member. He went on to graduate from the Indiana University School of Law and establish the Tanner Law Group in Indianapolis. He was a member of the Community Associations Institute (CAI) and was designated a fellow in its College of Community Association Lawyers, the highest national honor for attorneys specializing in the practice. He was active in the leadership of the Central Indiana Chapter of CAI, serving as president and for several terms on the board of directors. His spouse of 32 years, **Carole (Phelps) '86**, survives, as do their two children. He resided in Greenwood, Indiana.

**Kevin C. Burdine '87** died Jan. 8, 2019. He majored in sociology at Franklin, where he was a member of Phi Delta Theta fraternity and the basketball team. Most recently, he worked for Action Filtration Corp., and he was a game official for basketball and volleyball. Heather, his wife of nearly three years, survives, as do two children and four stepchildren. He resided in Franklin, Indiana.

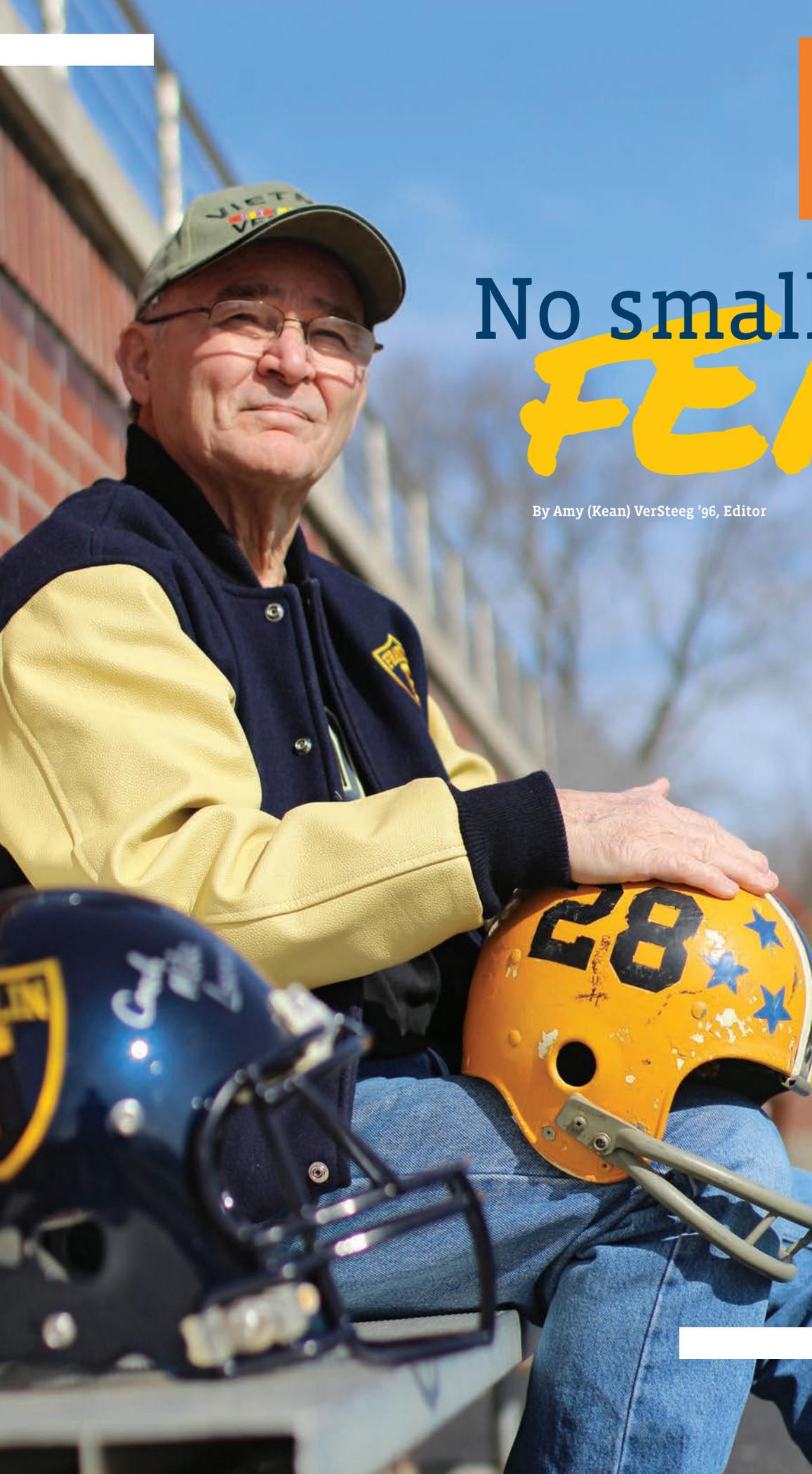
## '00s

**Blake Mayfield '04** died Aug. 28, 2018. He was a member of the football team and Phi Delta Theta fraternity at Franklin. He earned his master’s degree in elementary education from Indiana Wesleyan University, and he taught at Northgrove Elementary School. Survivors include his spouse, Suzy, and their two children. He resided in Bargersville, Indiana.

## Friends of Franklin College

**Joyce L. Green** died Oct. 28, 2018. She was a registered nurse and worked for many years at Franklin College. She also held positions with the Johnson County Health Department, as head nurse, and the Indiana Masonic Home (now Compass Park), where she trained nurses aides. Survivors include her spouse of nearly 66 years, **William B. “Bill” Sr. '50**, their two children, six grandchildren, 10 great-grandchildren and one great-great-grandchild. She was a member of Grace United Methodist Church and gave faithfully to many nonprofit organizations in her hometown of Franklin, Indiana.

**Yuriko Ling** died Dec. 9, 2018. She was an adjunct professor of Japanese and sociology courses at Franklin College from 1985 to 2003. She also taught part time at Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis. Beyond teaching, she actively volunteered in the Franklin community. She helped city officials bring KYB Industries, the first Japanese-owned manufacturing facility to Franklin. She also established a sister-city exchange program between Franklin and Kuji, Japan. For her efforts, she received the Woman of the Year Award from the Franklin Chamber of Commerce. Her husband, Yu-long, a Franklin College professor emeritus of political science, survives, as does their son, daughter-in-law and three granddaughters. ■



# No small **FEAT**

By Amy (Kean) VerSteeg '96, Editor

At 117 pounds, Ric Flecker '67 did not look like the average-size college football player, but what he lacked in size he made up for with heart.

Still, finding a way to attend Franklin College and play football was no small feat for Flecker. He gives full credit to his mother for having the will to find a way.

Flecker grew up in Alexandria, Indiana, during a strong economy buoyed by manufacturing. His father, brother, uncle and three cousins all worked at the nearby GM plant, where there were "good-paying" jobs.

QUINN FITZGERALD '20

The unspoken understanding was that Flecker would follow their example.

“My dad was a man of few words, and college was never a part of the conversation,” explained Flecker. “My mom didn’t give opinions. She was a simple homemaker. Her main job was raising five kids and taking care of her husband. Dad made all the decisions, and I never saw her defy him.”

That changed in the summer of ’63.

Flecker was a high school graduate, undergoing treatment for debilitating mastoiditis, which made him unable to work and gave him too much time to think about the college experience he would be missing. Even the financial aid form he had somehow managed to get his dad’s signature on seemed like a lost cause, as summer slipped away.

With only one day remaining before freshmen were to begin classes at Franklin College, the only school where Flecker sought admission, the phone rang at his family’s home. What happened next changed the course of his life.

“The Franklin College Business Office told mom if she could come up with \$800 (equivalent to about \$6,400 today) that it, along with grants, work-study jobs and loans would pay for my freshman year.

“That same day, very matter-of-factly, mom drove me to the bank, co-signed for a loan and took me downtown for new clothes. I left for Franklin with four shirts and four pairs of pants,” said Flecker.

Most astonishing, to him, was that his mother did all of it without consulting his father.

“What she did with such courage is remarkable. I can’t imagine what it was like for her after she drove me to campus, then went back home and waited for my dad to get off work,” said Flecker.

He heard through the family grapevine that his father gave his mother the silent treatment for weeks. To this day, Flecker marvels at her sacrifice.

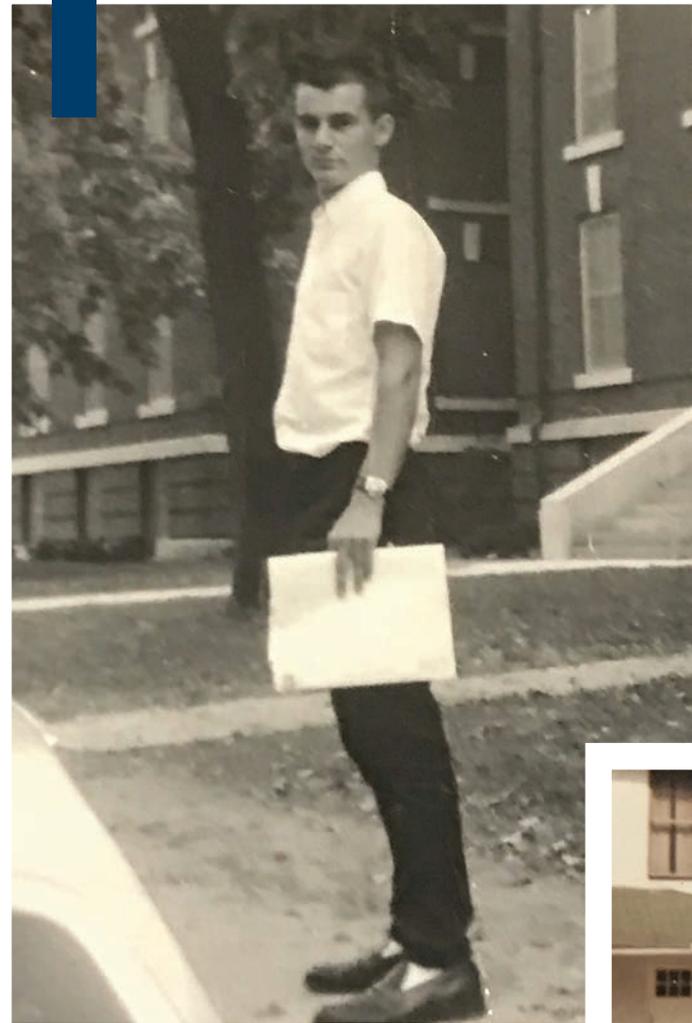
“I can’t say with any certainty that I would have gone off to college on my own, but mom knew there was more I was meant to do. Every success of any kind I’ve had in life is due to her decision.”

With his foot finally in the door at Franklin College, Flecker made a beeline for head football coach Stewart “Red” Faught.

“I can’t imagine what it was like for him to have this little scatback saying, ‘Hi, I’m here to save your football program.’ I had such an irrational viewpoint. I went out to that football field thinking I was an equal,” recalled Flecker.

As it turned out, Flecker earned a place on the team, but his frame was too small for the college gear. He had to request his high school football helmet and practice pads; he kept his lucky No. 28 but handpainted his helmet gold to match his college teammates.

“Coach never diminished my potential, but he made it clear that I would play when he thought I was ready,” recalled the former running back.



**Ric Flecker '67** on the day his mother dropped him off to begin college.

**Alice Flecker and son Ric** on their way to the college’s “May Sing” event.

SUBMITTED PHOTOS

**"MOM'S DECISION TO SEND ME TO COLLEGE PROPELLED ME TO A VERY SATISFYING 29-YEAR CAREER."**

**RIC FLECKER '67**



"My freshman year was mostly a learning experience. I was on a scout team that let the main guys run over us, and I think I earned some credit for toughness. I got more of an active role in my sophomore and later years."

Coach gave the diminutive player a boost of confidence by inflating his weight more than 30 pounds on the team roster, listing him at 150. Once Flecker made his way off the bench, his parents began attending games.

"There's no question that dad begrudgingly came to accept that mom made the right decision for me. He came to the football games with her, and on Dads' Day wore a cardboard sign around his neck with my number on it. He never said he was proud, but he used to leave a \$5 bill on my desk every time they visited."

Besides football, Flecker pledged Phi Delta Theta fraternity, participated on the baseball and track teams and completed his bachelor's degree in PE. His first job after college was in Anderson, Indiana, teaching journalism and advising the student newspaper at Highland High School, where he also was the head baseball coach. After two years there, Flecker served in the Vietnam War.

He returned to Franklin College in 1972 as a defensive backs coach while pursuing a master's degree in counseling and guidance at Indiana University.

"I reflected on my high school years and thought about how the counselors didn't seem very involved in my experience. I thought about how I would do it differently and make the guidance office a place that students would want to spend time. I realized that counseling would give me the chance to make a greater impact than teaching."

Flecker's career eventually led to Edgerton, Ohio, where he was a high school guidance counselor for 12 years and girls' basketball coach for 11 years.

"We had two undefeated seasons and went to the state championships," Flecker said. His fondest memory is the culmination of an undefeated season, one year prior to his mother's death.

"It was parent night, and my sister brought my mom. I went over to give mom a red rose and a hug, and the fans gave her a standing ovation. Then, she stood up and bowed. Afterward, my sister talked about how much that meant to mom, and it really meant a lot to me, too."

After his tenure in Ohio, Flecker moved to Whiteland, Indiana, where he served as a high school guidance counselor for 15 years and girls' basketball coach for nine years.

"Mom's decision to send me to college propelled me to a very satisfying 29-year career," Flecker said.

He honors her with the Alice Flecker Memorial Scholarship at Edgerton and Alexandria high schools.

"Mom put other people first. Now, I try to do that. Maybe as I continue to age I will get better at it."

Flecker comes back to Franklin College for football games as often as possible and regularly plays golf with several classmates who also were athletes in the '60s. They've dubbed the group the Old Guard.

Flecker resides in Nashville, Indiana, with his spouse, Jeanne, and volunteers with the Brown County Humane Society. ■



PHOTO BY RENEE KEAN '06

# ACCELERATING WORKFORCE PREPARATION

Many of today's competitive health-science graduate programs require direct patient-care experience as a prerequisite for admission, but schedule conflicts, uniform expenses and travel logistics can be big obstacles for undergraduate students. A health sciences co-op between Franklin College and a neighboring senior living community, Compass Park, is helping.

The program provides students, such as biology major **Tete Dahn '19** (pictured above), with a four-week internship involving class instruction and direct patient care opportunities. The dual-approach gives students insight about their career options and offers transferrable experience for graduate school or professional positions. After completing the program, students may test to qualify for certified nursing assistant (CNA) positions at Compass Park, which offers flexible scheduling, as they continue pursuing their undergraduate degrees. The mutually beneficial program advances student learning while helping the retirement community address gaps in talent recruitment and retention.

The program, established in 2018 with a grant from the Ball Venture Fund, was the first of its kind between a four-year Indiana private institution and a health care provider. Special scholarships helped inaugural participants with uniform and test expenses. Read more about our pre-professional programs online, [www.FranklinCollege.edu](http://www.FranklinCollege.edu)



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