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LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT
No matter whether God made us a “born” leader or not, we can all learn to become better leaders through advice shared by an accomplished mentor, reading an inspiring book full of insightful leadership principles and practicing our leadership skills regularly. In this issue, we highlight two Friends alumni who are leading their organizations with faith, service and trust. We also share how Student Affairs prepares students to further develop the leadership skills God gave them. As a smaller, Christian university, our students not only benefit from practicing their leadership skills in a wide variety of organizations, but they are guided to embrace the best qualities of servant leadership. We hope you will benefit from these “Lessons in Leadership” as well.

Dr. Amy Bragg Carey
President, Friends University

ON THE COVER
SGA President Zeek Craven and student leaders Gabrielle Annonson and Kailee Murphy work together as part of student leadership.

PHOTO BY STEVE RASMUSSEN

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Jeff Ramsey, a 1990 graduate, thinks his Friends University education in the late 1980s came in two places: on the basketball court, where he played small forward for the Falcons, and in the classroom, where professors such as Dr. Ronald Ryan and Dr. Harold Friesen helped guide and firm his commitment to majoring in accounting and business administration.

Coach Ron Heller, a member of both the Friends and Wichita State Halls of Fame, and assistant coach Kurt Budke would prove as influential on him as his classroom instructors.

“It was a great combination, because you’re learning the technical, academic perspective from the classroom but you’re also learning a lot about teamwork, continuity and what it takes to be successful as a team and communicate a common vision from sports,” said Ramsey, who joined Koch Oil Co. in 1990 and is now president and CEO of its Flint Hills Resources subsidiary.

“That’s what small colleges do, give people an opportunity. You learn a lot through team sports and when you go to college. It’s another level, as they bring in new people who may be better than you every year and you’ve got to figure out how to deal with that just as you do in the real world,” he said.

Ramsey grew up in Clearwater and was recruited by Friends, which appealed to him as a “small school in a bigger city,” something other small colleges couldn’t offer. His future employer recruited on campus his senior year — “I didn’t really know much about Koch Industries at the time; it was a quiet company then,” he says — and offered him the job that he began a week and a half after graduating “because I needed a paycheck.”

Starting in Koch’s accounting group, Ramsey soon decided he wanted to pursue a commercial role where he’d interact with customers and sell products. That role took him to Atlanta and then Virginia for six years, where he met his wife as well. He ventured into business development and supply management, then on to chemicals and commercial leadership.

Over his 29 years with the company, “I have changed jobs on average every two and a half years. Which helps keep you fresh.”

Flint Hills Resources, employing more than 4,000 people, makes and markets products that include gasoline, diesel, jet fuel, asphalt, ethanol, biodiesel, polymers, fertilizers, and distillers corn oil
“MY JOB IS REALLY TO MAKE OTHER PEOPLE SUCCESSFUL AND THAT TIES IN WITH THE WHOLE LEADING VS. DOING CONCEPT. IF MY TEAM IS SUCCESSFUL, THEN I WILL BE SUCCESSFUL.”

— Jeff Ramsey, President & CEO, Flint Hills Resources

It was a pivotal book early in my career that helped guide me and made me more effective at what I was trying to do.”

— Jeff Ramsey, President & CEO, Flint Hills Resources

and grains. It also owns or operates over 4,000 miles of pipelines that transport petroleum products, natural gas liquids and chemicals.

Ramsey is on the Friends University Board of Trustees and is active in his industry as well. He serves on the executive committee for American Fuel & Petrochemical Manufacturers Association, a trade and lobbying group, and on the National Petroleum Council.

As roles and responsibilities grow, “one of the more difficult parts is the transition to leading from doing,” of trying to continue to do work you once performed capably but is now the responsibility of others reporting to you. “There are times when you could do it and want to do it but shouldn’t do it.”

Ramsey said he fights the temptation to pick up the phone and go hunting for answers from customers or suppliers or employees. “My sense of urgency is usually pretty strong and when someone on the team hasn’t followed up on something, it might be easier for me to follow up directly,” he said. “But it’s not the best way for me to do that; if I undermine them, then that starts breaking down trust, and that’s not a good thing. I’ve had to learn patience, and it’s work in progress.”

Ramsey said he is fortunate that two principles he learned at Friends — integrity and humility — are valued at Koch Industries and are reflected in his leadership values.

“One is being a servant leader,” he said. “My job is really to make other people successful. And that ties in with the whole leading vs. doing concept. If my team is successful, then I will be successful.”

“Developing trust is key and you do that through being honest with people,” he said. “It’s the easiest and right thing to do, but some people like to sugar-coat things and it undermines what they are trying to achieve.

“We have to be transparent and forthright with people. Whether it’s feedback on an improvement area or something they need to change, addressing conflict and problems straight on, fairly and consistently, leads to building trust.”
“DR. LYBARGER, WHAT AN EYE-OPENING EXPERIENCE IT WAS TO HAVE HIM AS AN INSTRUCTOR. HE REALLY HELPED ME UNDERSTAND THE ROLE OF THE EXECUTIVE AND HOW YOU MAKE DECISIONS WITHOUT LOSING YOUR VALUES AND WITHOUT FORGETTING THAT YOU’RE IN THE PEOPLE BUSINESS.”

— Karen Sturchio, Executive Director, Kansas Christian Home

Karen Sturchio started working in senior care as a teenager, became a supervisor at 19 and earned her business management degree at Friends University in her 30s. A decade later, in 2011, she returned to Friends to work on her Master of Health Care Leadership and graduated in 2013.

Today, she is the CEO of Kansas Christian Home in Newton, home to 97 independent living units and a 73-bed skilled nursing facility. Before joining the Newton facility in 2016, Sturchio led Via Christi HOPE and, before that, two Presbyterian Manor facilities.

As she worked her way up organizational ladders, Sturchio became more interested in leadership principles...
and training. Her education at Friends helped her see “up” and understand how her role fit into an organization and its mission.

“I just always had a goal that I would become an administrator someday. I was working as the business office manager and serving a human resource role. It was very fulfilling, but I had the urge to have a larger impact,” she said of an early position at a Kingman senior facility.

As a working student with a family, Friends was the right fit.

“I knew I needed classes that would fit adult learning styles and schedules. Friends really knocked it out of the ballpark for adult learning,” she said. “You get a feeling of connection and that you were going to succeed.” Friends just had a huge impact on how she saw the world and things that affect me today in the business world.”

When Sturchio returned for her master’s, she did her capstone project on how leadership affected quality of care. From the Friends program and faculty like Bob Harvey and Dr. William Lybarger, she took valuable lessons about aligning personal values with an organization.

“Dr. Lybarger, what an eye-opening experience it was to have him as an instructor. He really helped me understand the role of the executive and how you make decisions without losing your values and without forgetting that you’re in the people business,” said Sturchio, who as adjunct faculty has taught a course in human resource analytics for the past several years.

To build skills among employees, she favors a leadership club that meets weekly for lunch, where they discuss books and topics they’re studying. Sturchio also is a facilitator for the Centers of Leadership, a leadership training initiative of LeadingAge, which represents non-profit providers of services to seniors, and occasionally for other groups.

She boils her leadership philosophy down to two key, intertwined tenets.

“First, get out of your own way and don’t micromanage. When I had the epiphany that I could turn around and leave and other people would do what they needed to do, it was good for them and it made my job so much easier,” she said. “Giving people autonomy is incredibly important.”

The second biggie is trust, something writer Stephen Covey drove home. Without trust and with micromanaging, whether it’s in your business or your family, “you teach incompetence. You teach only that ‘you’ can do it better,” she said.

Married for 34 years, Sturchio has three adult children and four grandchildren. In addition to spending time with her children and grandchildren, she loves to read and is a “news junkie,” lately favoring the BBC “because you get a little more than just the politics of the day.”

She has spent three and a half decades in her chosen field and jokes that “when I was 18, someone asked me what my career goal was. I replied that I would be working toward the same one all my life: becoming a senior citizen.”

More seriously, though, is the richness she has gained. “I have worked with a blind and deaf woman who was taught to sign by Helen Keller. I have worked with a man who was an engineer on Apollo 13. It always amazes me the stories that people have.”

It’s special, she said, “to be able to touch history and help people all at the same time.”

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**Recommended Reading:**

**“The Speed of Trust: The One Thing That Changes Everything” by Stephen Covey**

“That one is where the light bulb went off for me. Part of it was it teaches about trust in the workplace and the four characteristics of trust and that you have to have all of them to be considered a trustworthy person.”

— Karen Sturchio, Executive Director, Kansas Christian Home in Newton
FOCUS | FEATURE

READING RECOMMENDATIONS AND LEADERSHIP PRINCIPLES

Dr. Amy Bragg Carey
President, Friends University

LEADERSHIP READING: INTEGRITY: THE COURAGE TO MEET THE DEMANDS OF REALITY BY DR. HENRY CLOUD

Dr. Cloud suggests integrity is much more than honesty; it requires six important character traits and qualities to be a successful leader—a leader who leads with integrity. The book speaks about developing trust, the ability to see and face reality, to work in a way that produces results, and the importance of facing negative realities and finding solutions. Additionally, Dr. Cloud provides a metaphor for the impact a person with this type of integrity has on the lives of the people around him or her. Each one of us, as we navigate life and leadership, will leave a wake behind us, just like the wake of a boat.

Dr. Cloud puts it this way, “We leave a wake of people behind us as we move through their lives and their organization…So, we must ask ourselves…What is the nature of the wake? Are they more fulfilled as people? Or are they wounded? Less trusting? Feeling put down, cheated or manipulated?”

LEADERSHIP PRINCIPLES: As a driven leader, one who seeks excellence, I am ever mindful of the importance of my wake. A couple of leadership principles I have considered in my leadership journey is first a quote by Stephen Covey, that “Leadership greatness is achieved by people, who regardless of their position, choose to inspire others to find their voice.” At the same time, it’s important for a leader to have a True North, a compass of conviction for the path forward. Former Medtronic CEO, Bill George says, “Don’t let the noise of others’ opinions drown out your own inner voice.” Leading with courage and conviction is a challenge, but also a high privilege and calling.

Sean Cash
Assistant Professor of Business Management

LEADERSHIP PRINCIPLES: MANAGE PROJECTS BUT LEAD PEOPLE

I was once asked, “How do you lead people?” I think the most practical approach is adapting your leadership style to the specifics of the situation, the people involved, and the desired expectations and objectives. I believe expectations define qualitative behaviors and objectives define quantitative results. Not to be a chameleon, but it’s critical to understand leadership should be flexible because in today’s workplace one size does not fit all. That is my personal approach, and one I am continually improving. I have learned to consistently apply the Three E’s Philosophy. The Three E’s work at all levels of the organization, and frankly, can be used in any relationship. They are engage, educate and empower. Engage each person, educate them on how they fit, why they matter and what the expectations are within the organization, then empower them to make decisions.
and be successful. It is a simple approach that puts people first and produces amazing results every time. I find once people see you sincerely engaging with them and they understand how they fit and how they make a difference, they tend to make decisions in the best interest of the company and then hold themselves accountable for continuously higher standards and better outcomes. That is the empowerment part - they see they can and do make a difference - and so they do.

To illustrate this, I had the VP of Sales and Marketing and the VP of Operations traveling with me reviewing a potential acquisition. We were in the market conducting due diligence for four days. On the first morning, we gathered for breakfast in our hotel and as we walked down the hallway, a member of the hotel staff greeted us with, “Good morning. How are you?” They replied generically, “Good morning” but kept walking. I stopped and engaged the staff member. We had a 45-second conversation about nothing material at all.

At breakfast, I challenged my team to engage people whenever they could. By the end of the four-day trip the hotel staff called each of us by name. The following Monday, we returned to the office and my VP of Sales and Marketing realized he had left an expensive iPhone and iPad charging cord at the hotel. I suggested he call, but he quickly dismissed the idea as we had checked out the previous Thursday and surely it was gone. That afternoon, I insisted he call the hotel. To his surprise, he was told by the hotel manager, “Of course I remember you.” He was also told that the housekeeping staff found the cord, and she had already boxed it and mailed it to our office address that was on file with our hotel reservations.

Ken Blanchard and Sheldon Bowles’ book, “Gung Ho! How to Motivate People in any Organization.” In “The Servant,” two concepts really stuck with me. The first is as a leader you may lead with authority, but you will be called upon to also love, serve, extend yourself and sacrifice for others. With this understanding, we also realize Jesus Christ exemplified what a great leader is. Striving to think before acting and asking “What would Jesus do?” is my second takeaway from this book and affirmed my actions as a leader.

The book, “Gung Ho!” tells the story of a woman who became general manager of a manufacturing plant who discovers that even though her boss expected her to fail, she was able, through listening and empowering her employees, to turn the plant around. We learn there are examples in nature that teach us how to be successful. God’s creatures lift each other up, encourage one another and trust each other to do their part. All we need to do to be successful is to do the same.

**LEADERSHIP PRINCIPLES:** I have always believed anyone can lead from any position within an organization and throughout my career I have stepped into areas where I thought I could be of assistance to the community I was a part of. I have always been an avid reader, which is one of the leadership principles I really believe in. Reading gives leaders perspectives beyond their own and helps them be more innovative and personally empathetic and effective.

The phrase servant leader keeps coming up in my readings and even in the library literature and my experiences, the library directors I had the most positive experiences with were all, in my estimation, servant leaders. I would never ask anyone to do anything I wasn’t willing to stand by their side and do also. Lifting up the library team and providing them with the tools they need to succeed in the library mission is an ever-present activity that requires thought and daily prayer.

Dr. Arlen Honts
Professor of Business

**LEADERSHIP READING:** “THE SITUATIONAL LEADER” BY DR. PAUL HERSEY

One of the best leadership books is this 1984 classic. It is out of print, but well worth finding a used copy. The model has been updated by Ken Blanchard as Situational Leadership II and materials are available from his website.

**LEADERSHIP PRINCIPLES:** One leadership tenet I hold to is that every person is a leader at some point. Leadership is something you do as opposed to being something you are innately born with. I recognize some individuals are “less gifted” than others. That does not excuse them from taking the mantle of leadership when it is required of them. Everyone can learn to be a better leader — whether they feel gifted or not. Those with the most gifting often prove to be poor leaders while those who endeavor to be leaders even outside their comfort zone perform admirably.
Many employers look for what are called soft skills, the kinds of things that often aren’t taught in a classroom. It’s things like teamwork, communications and interpersonal skills and looking for ways to have beneficial outcomes that help distinguish leaders.

Those skills may not be part of a class syllabus at Friends University, but they can still be learned by its students — through its 21 student organizations, resident assistants (RA) program, student government association (SGA), and other campus life and activities opportunities.

And because of a challenge by Dr. Guy Chmielecki, who serves as the vice president of student affairs and dean of campus ministries, Friends students will be taking on more responsibility and ownership of those opportunities.

He’s asked staff within student affairs and the more than 40 full-time faculty who advise student activities to look for ways that students can be more involved with decision-making in their groups and organizations.

“We believe students tend to learn the best and grow the most when they are given such opportunities,” Dr. Chmielecki said. “They have access to campus leaders and peers, and they can learn from and be mentored and be encouraged by those leaders. The more opportunities we can give students to own it, the more impact they will have.”

In September, the student affairs division held its first leadership retreat for students. Forty-one student leaders and seven staff members spent Labor Day weekend at Camp Hiawatha in northwest Wichita, learning about topics such as faith and leadership and leadership practices.

The interaction helped some student leaders realize they could collaborate to create better student experiences — like the Chili Cookoff that’s been a longtime Friends event.

The school’s Cherry Carnival is a winter tradition stretching back to 1929 that has grown into a weeklong celebration. This year, the carnival’s Chili Cookoff had a different, more inclusive spin — it became a tailgate party for senior night at the men’s basketball game, Dr. Chmielecki said.

Some students — like seniors Zeek Craven and Christa Titus — have expanded their student leadership opportunities during their time at Friends University.
Friends, and their experiences show they are developing the types of skills needed to become good leaders.

Craven, who as a freshman became a member of the Zoo Science Club’s executive council and got involved with FACE — the Falcons Activities and Campus Events group, is serving his second term as SGA president. Titus became a resident assistant in her sophomore year and is now a senior RA. Within the Zoo Science Club, Craven eventually became the head zookeeper, helping supervise about a dozen students who care for the club’s reptile and amphibians housed in the science building. He ultimately helped restructure the club’s animal care program.

By the end of his sophomore year, during which he got more involved with FACE, Craven was on the ballot to become SGA president and won the election. As SGA president, Craven interacts regularly with university administrators and sits on search committees for key university positions.

“I’m definitely getting lots of experience,” Craven said. “It’s helping me hone my leadership abilities. It’s also helping me gain experience in working with people whom you don’t always agree with.”

“A lot of my leadership opportunities have taught me about servant leadership… and how to lead people who are different than you,” said Titus, who is majoring in health science and spiritual formation with a minor in biology and chemistry.

A member of the Friends cross-country team, Titus became an RA, she said, to help her give back and help fellow students. She had benefited as a freshman from a positive experience with her residence hall’s RA.

In her first year as an RA in Green Residence Hall, Titus saw another student struggling academically and socially. She brought her soup when she was sick, provided a listening ear and offered to go with her to visit the counseling office if needed. By the end of the year, the student had improved her grades in several classes.

Both Craven and Titus recommend students take advantage of the growing leadership opportunities at Friends.

Craven, who has also been involved in new student orientations and the first-year mentoring program at Friends, said, “I always tell any student I talk to that they should get involved. You’ll learn, you’ll grow and you’ll enjoy that involvement.”

Titus added, “It will help prepare you for your future and those parts of your life where you will need to take leadership, not just in a job but in your family. To be able to do that in college where you have others to help you and teach you and who can help you when you make mistakes and help you learn from those… that is awesome.”

2018 Friends University graduate Chelsea Ast (far left) and current students Noah Barajas, Isaac Sprague and Shelby Hundley attended the National Student Leadership Forum in Washington, D.C. last fall.
TWO NEW MEMBERS ADDED TO BOARD OF TRUSTEES

C. Patrick Woods and Dr. Kent Walkemeyer have been named to the Friends University Board of Trustees.

C. Patrick Woods

C. Patrick Woods of Topeka began serving on the board at the February meeting. Woods is the Manager of Regulatory Strategy at ITC Great Plains, a Fortis Company in Topeka. He also currently serves as president of the Kansas Association of School Boards in Topeka and has served for a decade on the Topeka Board of Education. He was named “50 Kansans to Know” by Ingram’s Business Magazine in Kansas City, and one of Greater Topeka’s “20 under 40” Top Professionals by the Jayhawk Area Council BSA. He graduated from Friends University in 2003 with a degree in political science-history and a minor in Spanish and earned a master’s degree in public administration from the University of Kansas. Woods lives in Topeka with wife Anna, a Topeka Public Schools teacher, and their two children, Zen and Itzel.

Dr. Kent Walkemeyer

Dr. Kent Walkemeyer will begin serving on the board in August. He served 15 years in pastoral ministry at East Whittier Friends Church in Whittier, Calif. before moving into academics at Azusa Pacific University. He has served as a professor of ministry at Azusa Pacific Seminary for 18 years, teaching courses in preaching, leadership and discipleship, with focused courses in Friends history, theology and ministry. He also serves the Seminary and the Friends churches in the role of Friends Center Director, a partnership committed to developing pastors and other spiritual leaders for the Friends movement. He and his wife of 30 years, Kimberly, recently returned to East Whittier Friends Church to serve in many volunteer roles. Kent preaches monthly and helps lead the church staff and preaching team. Kim helps lead worship and serves as a church elder. He is a 1986 graduate of Friends University and a graduate of Azusa Pacific University (M.Div. and D.Min).
Friends University will begin offering a new bachelor’s program in mechanical engineering this fall. The program is the only one of its kind offered at a faith-based, private university in Kansas.

“We’ve seen interest from students who want to pursue mechanical engineering in a faith-based environment,” said Dr. Nora Strasser, division chair of the Natural Science and Mathematics division. “In addition to the technical skills they will acquire through our program, they will also benefit from strengthening their soft skills, such as developing strong ethics, leadership and effective communication - skills that are in high demand by today’s employers.”

The new bachelor’s program will allow a graduate to enter the work force as a practicing engineer or continue their education as a graduate student in an engineering-related field.

Dr. Teresa Miller, visiting assistant professor of chemistry, will oversee the program with students learning from engineering experts in the Wichita region.

“Mechanical engineering is the most prevalent type of engineering, so job prospects are strong for our graduates,” Dr. Miller said. “The fact that they are learning and networking with local engineering leaders should also have a positive impact for students when it’s time to graduate and find a job.”

With a student-to-faculty ratio of 11:1, students will benefit from more individualized instruction and attention than larger programs can offer, Dr. Miller noted.

For more information on the program, visit friends.edu/ENG.
Friends University recently approved a new Bachelor of Science in Conservation Science that will begin in Fall 2019. The new program prepares students to work in and around the fields of biological and natural resource conservation.

The core part of the curriculum focuses on biology and ecology and features travel-based classes where students can visit natural caves, beaches and freshwater ecosystems. Students will learn about wildlife rehabilitation, ecosystem management and environmental science.

“This program is a unique and perfect fit for today’s students who have a passion to care for and nurture their environment,” said Dr. Ana Jurcak-Detter, assistant professor of biology. “While many other programs offer biology or science-based courses, our students will also take courses in politics, public policy and sustainability. They can also tailor the degree by taking courses within eight subdisciplines.”

For instance, a student could combine the program’s biology and ecology courses with courses from other disciplines to incorporate sustainability and conservation within a business setting or through environmental education, government advocacy, wildlife law enforcement, nature-focused writing and more. For more information about the new program, visit friends.edu/conservation.

Adults can earn combined Bachelor’s/Master’s in Business Management

BY GISELE MCMINIMY

Adult students entering or currently enrolled in the business management (BG) degree program at Friends University will have the option to complete an MBA or Global MBA at Friends in as little as one year after they earn their bachelor’s degree.

BG students can enroll in up to 12 graduate credit hours while taking their undergraduate courses. The remaining credit hours can be completed in less time than a traditional graduate program could be completed, helping adult students save time and money. This option is currently available to BG students who are enrolled or will enroll in general business, health care management and operations management concentrations, but may be extended to other concentrations in the future.

The online MBA programs at Friends give students a variety of options. Within the Professional MBA and the Global MBA programs, a student may earn concentrations in Accounting, Health Care Leadership, Cyber Security, Finance, Human Resources, Change Management or Supply Chain Management. For more information about the MBA degrees and concentrations, visit friends.edu/mba or friends.edu/gmba.
Friends University has established a partnership with Missio Alliance, an organization that unites pastors, practitioner-theologians and universities in the interest of cross-cultural and interdenominational collaboration around biblically-grounded theology.

“We see this new partnership as a wonderful opportunity to support our mission to help students honor God and serve others,” said Dr. James Bryan Smith, associate professor of religion and Dallas Willard Chair of Christian Spiritual Formation. “Missio Alliance’s resources and community will help us as we expand our work in Christian spiritual formation through our Christian spiritual formation programs and the Apprentice Institute.”

Friends University is offering students in the Wichita School District two programs that give them an opportunity to pursue a college degree at Friends while saving significant costs on their education.

Early College Academy
The Early College Academy is a program that allows high school students to earn two years’ worth of college credit while attending high school. Targeted at traditionally underrepresented students, the program will offer a combination of courses taken at the Friends University campus and Northwest High School.

Each spring, eighth-grade students will be eligible to apply for the Early College Academy. The first freshmen class is expected to begin in fall 2019 with 50 students. Academy students will be able to earn up to 54 college credit hours, which will enable most of them to start college as juniors.

STEM Promise
This program allows up to 50 graduating seniors from USD 259 to apply for the program that covers tuition for students pursuing a STEM degree at Friends. The program begins in Fall 2019 and provides scholarships to cover Friends’ tuition for up to 18 credit hours per semester for four years through a combination of federal, state and institutional aid sources.

“This new STEM-based program gives academically successful students who may not think they can afford a private education, the ability to attend a private college and enter STEM-related fields,” Dr. Carey said.

She notes that Friends’ new program ties in with the Project Wichita plan that encourages partnerships and new initiatives within the Wichita community to address educational needs at all levels.

“This program helps high school students find a pathway to a STEM field and provides the education they need so they can serve the community in a significant way,” Dr. Carey said. “It’s a win for everyone – the students, Friends University and Wichita. We help them reach their full potential, and they improve and strengthen Wichita’s workforce and community as a result.”

For more information on the program, visit friends.edu/usd295.
RANKINGS ROUNDUP

Friends University has earned new regional and national rankings.

U.S. NEWS BEST ONLINE PROGRAMS

Several online bachelor’s and master’s programs offered by Friends University have earned national rankings from U.S. News & World Reports’ Best Online Programs. Friends University online programs that are ranked in the following categories include:

- Best Online Business Programs (non-MBA) - The Master of Health Care Leadership and the Master in Management Information Systems online graduate programs are ranked at #108 in the nation and at #1 in Kansas, among all higher learning institutions in Kansas.

- Best Online Bachelor’s Programs — Business Management and Computer Information Systems online programs are ranked at #114 in the nation, at #3 among all Kansas higher education institutions and as #1 among private universities in Kansas.

- Best Online Education Programs — The online Master of Education in Teaching and Learning program is ranked at #115 nationally, at #4 among all Kansas universities and as the #1 private college education program in Kansas.

HIDDEN GEM OF THE MIDWEST — TOP 25 UNIVERSITIES

The Online Schools Center has named Friends University a “Hidden Gem of the Midwest.” Friends University stands out as one of only 25 universities in the nation being awarded this honor and as one of only two Kansas universities on the list. Colleges were chosen for a variety of reasons that made them Hidden Gems within their state, including low student enrollment, depth and variety of degree programs, academic resources and opportunities inside and outside of majors, student satisfaction, and faculty expertise.

MASTER OF EDUCATION PROGRAMS — NO. 19

Friends University’s Master of Education online program is ranked No. 19 in the nation, according to Intelligent.com. In a compilation of the best master’s in education online, Friends University came in at No. 19 in the nation and was the only private university in Kansas listed. To determine the top 30 colleges, Intelligent.com staff members compared program strength, student engagement and return on investment of accredited nonprofit colleges.

ONLINE MBA PROGRAM — TOP 50 PROGRAMS

OnlineMasters.com has named the top 50 online Master of Business Administration (MBA) programs for 2019 in the United States. Friends University was on the list and is only one of two Kansas colleges listed.
The top-ranked MBA programs were selected based on academic quality (40 percent), student success (40 percent) and affordability (20 percent).

**MBA WITH A SUPPLY CHAIN MANAGEMENT CONCENTRATION — NO. 7**

This concentration appears at No. 7 on “The Best Online MBA in Supply Chain Management Programs” list by OnlineMasters.com. The program was noted for having “Best Leadership Development.” It was recognized for preparing graduates for leadership careers by developing the skills to oversee logistics departments within their organizations. Friends is the only institution in Kansas on the list.

**MBA WITH A HEALTH CARE LEADERSHIP CONCENTRATION — NO. 17**

This concentration is listed at No. 17 in the nation on the “Best Online MBA in Healthcare Management Programs” and was noted for being the “Best in Career Development.” The program prepares students to enter the workforce by challenging students with course work designed by health care professionals.

**MBA WITH A CYBER SECURITY CONCENTRATION — NO. 19**

This concentration is listed at No. 19 in the nation on “The 20 Best Online Cybersecurity MBAs” by MBACentral.org. The program includes central MBA courses such as marketing management, managerial accounting, strategic planning, and leader as a change agent. Students who choose the cyber security concentration build their knowledge in fundamentals of cyber security; assurance, compliance, and cyber law; audits and controls; and network and systems security administration.
SPANISH HONOR SOCIETY AND SPANISH PROFESSOR RECEIVE NATIONAL AWARDS

BY AMANDA HAWKINS, SENIOR

Friends University’s chapter of the National Collegiate Hispanic Honor Society/Sigma Delta Pi has been named an “honor chapter” for its outstanding activities in 2017-18, an award that was bestowed to only 10 chapters nationwide in 2018.

Dr. Jerry Smartt, professor of Spanish and director of foreign languages, was also selected for the national Minaya Alvar-Franez Award for outstanding chapter adviser of the year.

This is the 12th time since 1996 Friends University has received the distinction of “honor chapter.” Dr. Smartt has served as chapter adviser since Friends University’s first honor chapter award.

“These awards are a testament to the strength of our Spanish program and club,” said Dr. Kenneth Stoltzfus, academic dean at Friends University. “Under Dr. Smartt’s leadership, the Spanish program has developed a unique curriculum that combines an academically rigorous focus on interpretation and translation with intensive service-learning and study abroad opportunities. This combination of academic rigor, practical skill development, and experiential learning opportunities prepares our Spanish students to fulfill the Friends University mission by using their interpretation and translation skills to honor God and serve others.”

The Sigma Delta Pi chapter at Friends University is actively involved on campus and in the community. Some of the projects the chapter has undertaken include a translation partnership with the University of Kansas School of Medicine, establishment of the Hispanic American Leadership Organization and Latino Leaders, hosting Wichita BizFest, and participation in the Mid-American Chapter of the American Translators Association. On campus, the chapter has hosted a Cesar Chavez Day with the campus’ Hispanic American Leadership Organization.

Students to Manage $100,000 Investment Fund

BY GISELE MC MINIMY

Starting this fall, Friends University students will begin managing $100,000 in real investment funds as part of a new Student-Led Investment Fund established by Friends and approved by the Board of Trustees.

Freshman, sophomores, juniors and seniors from any major can enroll in the one-credit class each semester to manage the funds. They will elect officers, work closely with the board to follow requirements and give reports at each board meeting about how the fund is performing.

They will also work with the University’s fund managers and learn from other guests invited to speak to the class — an excellent opportunity for networking and enhancing their options for jobs in the field upon graduation.

“This is a great opportunity for students to work on something that is hands on - not just theory,” said Dr. Jim Long, associate professor of finance and chair of the Division of Business and Information Technology. “We’ve had quite a bit of interest in this from prospective students and their parents. It’s a great experiential learning opportunity for students whether they are interested in going into the investment field after graduation or simply want to learn how to manage their own personal investments.”
Tell us a bit about yourself. Family, career, hobbies?
I have had the position of executive director of a non-profit organization, Home Technology Solutions, Inc., which provides personal emergency response services for individuals who have the desire and determination to remain safely in their homes. The organization provides a wonderful service for people, and each and every day I return home at night knowing something good has been provided to someone needing assistance. My husband, Neal, has been in education his entire career. At Wichita State University he’s had the opportunity to help students further their education and their careers.

When did you attend Friends and what was your major?
Graduation in 1979 seems a long time ago. In 1979 I was fortunate to double major in business administration and agri-business, both of which have benefitted me professionally and personally. One of my most favorite memories of a class at Friends was with Dr. Fredlund. He taught us how to cut up a whole chicken! No one ever does that anymore. Could I still do it? I think I could, as I can still see him teaching us how to make the cuts. I’m not sure it would be as precisely cut as his was, but I’d like to think I would still be able to pass his test!

What is your favorite memory from your time at Friends?
There are many great times (well, maybe not the dreaded economics tests) and memories from my four years at Friends, but my best memories are the great lifelong friends I made those four years. Many of the people remain very special to me, and we continue to have great times together.

Why do you feel it’s important to give back and why Friends?
I remember people saying to me “the years go by so quickly.” They were so right. With the passing of years, I realize how important it is to “pay back” what was provided to you, and even more important to actually “pay forward” all that has been given to me so the cycle of giving and caring continues. My mom graduated from Friends and was a teacher prior to her passing. She gave back in so many ways to so many and set the example. She instilled in me “you will always receive more as a ‘giver’ than you ever do as a recipient.” She was so right.

Any career advice for our future alumni?
Be kind. Work hard. Go above and beyond what is expected of you. Be humble. Do for others. Don’t feel entitled. Be generous with your time, talents and treasures to and for others. Pay back and pay forward. Don’t expect someone to do something you can do yourself. Always keep learning. And most importantly, treat others as you want to be treated. Success will come much more easily if all of these things can be a part of your life.
Friends University partnered with Kansas Turf, LLC for a new synthetic turf system that was installed earlier this spring. The new turf is IRONTURF, a cutting-edge turf that offers a more playable, durable and safer turf.

With this new turf, Friends is once again on the front-lines of installing a new state-of-the-art turf. Other organizations that have installed IRONTURF include Sporting KC and the New England Patriots.

“This new surface will greatly enhance the experiences of our student-athletes and will allow us to increase the visibility of our programs to further the mission and values of Friends University,” said Dr. Rob Ramseyer, Friends University athletic director. “We are very appreciative of this upgrade from Kansas Turf. We spent a great deal of time looking at different turf options before deciding to work with Kansas Turf, and IRONTURF rivals anything on the market.”

“We are very thankful for the new turf,” said Friends Women’s Soccer Head Coach Brent Hobson. “The athletic department has been going in a positive direction with our new administration.”

“We are very thankful for the new turf,” said Friends Football Head Coach Dion Meneley. “It will be a top-notch surface for our programs to compete on, and we are looking forward to high school and other local teams utilizing our facility as well. I encourage anyone who has not had the opportunity to attend one of our games to come see our new field and take a look at Friends University.”

In addition to the turf replacement, Friends University has also made improvements to the weight room in Garvey Physical Education Center and installed new banners in Garvey Gymnasium.

“Internally, we have been looking forward to this project for several years,” said Jake Farrant, Kansas Turf owner. “We looked at Friends and their history with synthetic fields, being the first synthetic football field in Kansas back in 1996. They have been forward thinking and innovative in their planning for three decades. Knowing we are part of the University’s progressive growth is extremely humbling for our team.”

Kansas Turf has been involved in several high-profile projects, including replacing turf at Bill Snyder Family Stadium at Kansas State University. Additional projects for the company include working with the University of Kansas, University of Missouri, McPherson College, Northern State University, Girard High School and Louisburg High School.

The project also features new turf on areas outside the track and inside the stadium, including the practice field.
Friends University senior Shelby Hundley couldn’t have scripted a better senior campaign for the Falcon women’s indoor track & field squad. Hundley garnered three KCAC Indoor Track Athlete of the Week awards and helped the Falcons achieve a 10th-place NAIA ranking before heading into the KCAC Indoor Championship meet in February.

“Shelby proves week after week that she is one of the best middle-distance runners in the country,” said Cole Davis, Friends track & field head coach.

Hundley hit three NAIA “A” standards at the Gorilla Classic in Pittsburg, Kan. in February.

The Bern, Kan. native finished a solid third in the 600-yard race with an NAIA “A” time of 1:25.75 and then helped the Falcon 4 X 400 and 4 X 800 relay teams each hit an “A” time. Both marks rank third in the program’s all-time indoor rankings.

Hundley seems to like the track surface at Pittsburg State University, as she also recorded the fastest time in the nation (1:34.89) in the 600 meters and finished second overall, behind only a student-athlete from the University of Tulsa at the PSU Invitational (Jan. 26).

In other action at the PSU Invitational, Hundley helped the Falcons break one of the oldest school records in team history in the Distance Medley Relay with a time of 12:35.13.

A team captain this season, Hundley picked up her first conference nod after emerging victorious in the 400 meter run at the Shocker Prelude (Jan. 19) with a national qualifying time of 58.28. She also helped the Falcon women capture the 4 x 400 relay win with a national qualifying standard time of 4:01.17.

During the KCAC Indoor Championships in Maryville, Mo., Hundley contributed to the women’s indoor track and field squad winning their fifth straight KCAC Indoor championship. She won the 800 meters with a school record time of 2:17.57. She was also victorious in the 60 Hurdles (9.13) and was part of the team’s first-place 4x800 relay team. In addition, she recorded national qualifying marks in the 400 and 800 meters.

Hundley continued her momentum at the NAIA National Indoor meet, earning an All-American honor with a fifth-place time of 1:34.40 in the 600 meters and contributed to the Falcons’ 4x800 relay team’s seventh-place showing to add another All-America nod to her resume.
NEW MUSIC IN WORSHIP CONCENTRATION OFFERS STUDENTS AN OPPORTUNITY TO COMBINE INTERESTS IN MUSIC AND FAITH

BY AMY GEISZLER-JONES

With so many Bible verses proclaiming one should sing and make music, it’s no wonder music is an important part of a worship service — so much so that many congregations nowadays have worship ministers or leaders.

To better prepare its music graduates who want to provide leadership in churches, Friends University now offers a music in worship concentration for students pursuing a Bachelor of Arts in Music. It’s the first concentration offered within the BA in Music degree.

Offering the 15-credit-hour concentration recognizes how central music worship has become in churches, said Dr. Mark Bartel, associate professor of music and director of choral music at Friends.

The concentration “is a perfect match for a Christian university of Quaker heritage with an outstanding music program. Students can pursue both passions and gain real-life experience while a student at Friends,” echoed Dr. Joan Griffing, the Tim and Gail Buchanan Endowed Chair of the Division of Fine Arts and professor of music.

Most of the classes within the concentration were already being offered, Dr. Bartel noted. Some, like Leadership of Music in Worship, had been developed in recent years as faculty recognized a need for such a class. In a new music internship requirement, students will have the opportunity to get hands-on experience and guidance from an on-site supervisor and a faculty member.

“We get numerous requests from churches and pastors who need music leadership,” Dr. Bartel said. “We’ve always had students either in volunteer or paid positions of worship in music so this was already happening. Now our students will be able to get specific credentials, and we can train our students to provide that leadership in churches.”

Nate Boone is in his second stint as a worship leader since graduating from Friends with a music degree in 2014. Now the worship pastor at Derby Church of the Nazarene, Boone said the concentration will help prepare students for many things he’s had to learn on the job.

It would have prepared him for understanding things such as how to use music as a springboard or to tie into a service, he said. One huge learning curve, he said, was understanding the wide variety of worship styles and worship music — ranging from high church liturgical to contemporary music as well as tastes among clergy and congregants.

“You don’t think about all of that when you’re just studying music,” Boone said.

TAYLOR EARNST STATE/REGIONAL AWARD

Dr. John Taylor, professor of music, has been awarded the 2018-19 National Federation of High School Activities State and Section 5 Award for Outstanding Music Educator.

He is not only the Kansas honoree, but the NFHS Section 5 award winner representing Kansas, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota and South Dakota. The award is given to individuals whose contributions have impacted high school activities programs. Nominees must exemplify the highest standards of ethical conduct and carry the endorsement of their respective state high school association.

Significant and/or long-term contributions to interscholastic high school music activities are important criterion in evaluating candidates. Dr. Taylor has served as the Kansas Music Educators’ Association executive director since 2013 and has served as an advocate for music programs across Kansas and throughout the world.
‘The Mikado’ wins second place in National Opera Association competition

Friends University received second place in the division II level of competition with the National Opera Association for last year’s production of “The Mikado.” This was the first year Friends University has sent a submission to the National Opera Association’s Opera Production Competition. Points were awarded for level of the principal singers, size of cast and orchestra, and production budget. Twenty-four judges spent hundreds of hours reviewing all the applicants. Dr. Matthew Schloneger, assistant professor of voice, directed the opera.

Fine Arts launches Masterclass Video Series

Fine Arts has been developing a series of mini Masterclass videos, where students in the division teach a Masterclass related to a specific topic. Each video features a Friends University fine arts student who shares tips on various things, such as time management, how to become a successful dancer and how to turn an illustration into a simple animation. Check out the videos on the Fine Arts Facebook page and follow the page for additional videos coming out in the future!

Fine Arts students excel at NATS contest

Eighteen Friends students traveled to the University of Nebraska at Lincoln to compete in the West Central National Association of Teachers of Singing Auditions and Conference Nov. 1-3. For the second year in a row, Friends University produced more regional finalists than any other private college or university in our region.
IN MEMORY

"In Memory" passages with more details were submitted by family and friends. Information received after Jan. 15, 2019 will be included in the next issue. We reserve the right to edit as space allows.

Ruth Elaine (Walker) Achelpohl, ’61, died Sept. 9. In 1959, Ruth married Clark Achelpohl. She received a master’s degree in Public Administration at UMKC. Ruth and Clark served on the national and local boards for The Association for Couples in Marriage Enrichment. Ruth worked for Heart of America Family Services, as the Executive Director of Cradles & Crayons, as Director of Bright Horizons, served on the Advisory Board of the Children’s Center, and the Kansas City Association for Mental Health.

Aileen Anderson, ’40, died Nov. 21. Aileen was a homemaker who enjoyed watching KU basketball and decorating. She was a member of Trinity United Methodist Church in Hutchinson and active in the United Methodist Women, holding numerous positions at both the local, district and conference level.

Ian Conner, ’13, died Thursday, Nov. 22.

Jeremy A. Dodson, ’08, died Oct. 18. He was employed as a Factory Machining Supervisor at John Deere Coffeyville Works. He married Cheri O’Brien in March 1997.

Michael Eric Friesen, ’83, died Sept. 2. Throughout his life he worked at Boeing, Koch, Sprint and more. He was a model for success: the title of one of his four books was “The Success Paradigm.” He gave an overview of it at the MIT Sloan Business School, one of his crowning achievements.

Marshall Douglas Gould, ’08, died Dec. 24. Marshall was employed by Dillons for more than 18 years managing departments. More recently he began working for Banner Creek Johnsonville.

John Richard Hanna, ’64, died Dec. 9. John grew up in Wichita where he met the love of his life and wife for 60 years, Doris Roberts. His career of 30 years as a buyer in the aerospace industry started in Wichita. After a career change, he took a position in the County of San Diego as a lead counselor at Polensky Children’s Center.

Kenneth M. Heinrichs, ’94, died Oct. 1. He had a career in law enforcement that spanned over 30 years, beginning in 1961 as a police officer for the Garden City Police Department. In 1971 he became deputy sheriff for the Finney County Sheriff Department in Garden City. Following his years in public law enforcement, he started a private security company in 1979.
Dolores Moore Harlow Hirst, ’52, died Oct. 25. She married fellow Friends student George William Hirst, ’52. She taught at both the elementary and junior high levels for the East Peoria school system. She became a florist after her retirement and was active with community organizations. In 2016, she won the Advocate of the Year Award for work with people with disabilities from the Life Center for Independent Living in McLean County.

Charles William Hubbard, ’51, died Oct. 25. Charles entered the business world and also farmed. In 1953, he started his career in education as a math teacher in the Derby Public Schools. After receiving a master’s degree in 1959, he became the principal at Swaney Elementary and later at Andover Elementary. He was assistant superintendent/business manager and then promoted to superintendent of the Derby Public Schools.

Robert A. Hudgins, ’51, died May 19. Bob excelled in baseball, football, and basketball. He also served as a beloved coach and mentor to many high school athletes. Bob retired as an elementary school principal and spent many days golfing during retirement.

Kevin W. Johnson, ’99, died Sept. 17. Kevin was awarded master’s degrees from Kansas State University and Friends University. He enjoyed real estate investing, working on the No Square Ranch and mission work.

Oris Kingery, ’62, died Sept. 10. He received a master’s degree in education from Fort Hays State University. He taught in Sylvan Grove from 1966 until an early retirement in 1974 due to health issues. During retirement he served as a volunteer dispatcher for the fire department, helped establish the local Senior Center and served on the Sylvan Unified School Board for many years.

Roger Curtis Krase, ’63, died Aug. 28. He was a retired dentist and served as a U.S. Navy veteran, serving during the Vietnam War.


Kim Lay, ’07, died July 29. Working many careers over the years starting at the bank, at Haliburton and as a real estate broker, Kim finally found her passion at Coffeyville Community College. Over the years she wore many hats as part of a 27-year career and retirement in May 2018.

Janet M. Lingnau, ’54, died Nov. 13 in Newton. She taught third grade at R.L. Wright Elementary in Sedgwick for 26 years. She was a member of Whitewater Federated Church, Hicks-Davison American Legion Post 268 Auxiliary and the 40 & 8.

Errol Lee Logue, ’63, died Aug. 21. In 1969, Errol and wife Claudia moved to Lansing Kan., where he taught and coached at Lansing High School. He was a three-time state champion cross country and track coach as a Lion for 40 years. Errol’s accomplishments were recognized by the Kansas High School Activities Association as a member of their 2014 Hall of Fame class. He was inducted into the Kansas Coaches Hall of Fame in 2015 and into the Friends University Athletic Hall of Fame in 2016.

Beatrice Louise Blacketer-Bolden, ’98, died Nov. 3. She was a registered nurse working at several nursing homes in Northwest Kansas. She enjoyed education and loved to learn as well as to help people.

Michael Jo McEwen, ’06, died Aug. 23. Michael worked 16 years for the General Electric Company Corporation as a corporate representative and was owner and chief operating officer for SyCom Services Corporation. Most recently he worked as an aerospace quality consultant both in the U.S. and in South Asia.

Edna Mae (Correll) McKain, ’60, died Sept. 28. She met future husband Newell McKain at Friends University. At the outbreak of WWII, Newell enlisted and was stationed near Macon Georgia. Edna and Newell eloped and were married in Bibb County, Ga. in 1942. They eventually settled in Haysville. Edna was the first-grade school teacher at the local Haysville grade school.

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Charles Otis Miller, ’60, died Oct. 8. He worked as a farmer during all of his school years and continued to farm for his entire life. Charles was an early computer programmer and draftsman at Cessna and a proud member of the U.S. Army National Guard for eight years.

Sammie Sue Mills, ’99, died Aug. 8. After earning her master’s degree, Sammie moved to Tulsa where her husband, John, was attending school. Sammie retired from North Kansas City Hospital after 17 years.

Wayne Neese, ’00, died May 6. Wayne served his country in the United States Marine Corp during the Vietnam War, receiving the Purple Heart. He worked as a highway patrolman for many years before retiring.

Vera K. (Laughlin) Schesser, ’63, died Oct. 20. She enjoyed a 46-year career as an elementary school teacher in Protection, Lawrence and for 27 years as a first-grade teacher at Enterprise School in Wichita. She was awarded the Distinguished Classroom Teacher Award from the Wichita Public Schools. A life-long learner, she also received a teaching certificate from Emporia State University and a master’s degree from Wichita State University.

Sarah June Schnake, ’16, died Nov. 4 in a motorcycle accident. She worked at Twister City Harley Davidson.

Dorothy Jane (Houston) Schrag, ’54, died June 1. She was a retired Haysville USD 261 teacher.

Dennis E. Schroeder, ’69, died Dec. 4. He taught at Sedgwick High School and then at Wichita North High School for a total of 30 years. He also coached swimming, football, basketball, track and cross country.

Arlene J. Seely-Bensch, ’63, died Dec. 25. After she graduated, she attended the University of Kansas receiving her master’s degree in education. Arline taught elementary school in Wichita, St. Louis, Meade, Perry-Lecompton and Eudora. She also served as a Title I reading specialist and a tutor.

Carol L. (Harrington) Shinn, ’55, died Nov. 27. She taught home economics at John Marshall Intermediate and Central Junior High from 1955 to 1957. She was a member and past president of the Lady Lionesses and had been active as an officer in the Economic Homemaking Unit and a local retired teacher’s homemaking unit in Wichita. Carol was an officer in the Wichita Area Track & Field Official Association, assisting with numerous track meets in the Wichita area.

Rev. Kenneth Wayne Short, ’54, died Dec. 10. Ken attended Friends University, graduated from Southwestern College, and received his Master of Divinity from Southern Methodist University. For 37 years he served United Methodist churches in Kansas, including Norwich, Tribune, Salina, Newton and Wichita, where he served three churches. In Wichita, he helped organize Senior Services, Rainbows United and Us Too Prostate Cancer Survivors Support Group.

Colleen “JoAnn” Skelton, ’83, died Oct. 11. JoAnn served her country in the United States Navy before devoting herself to homemaking and motherhood. She returned to school after graduating from Friends. JoAnn worked as a dedicated employee for KOCH Industries in the IT Department.

Mary “Rosy” Rosalin Smoot, ’94, died Sept. 24. She retired from USD 259 after 32 years as a teacher, tutor and piano instructor. She was a special teacher who changed the lives of many of her students. Rosy loved to read and write and especially loved KU basketball.

Michael “Mike” Standiford, ’78, died Oct. 30. Mike was the owner of local business Axle and Wheel Aligning Company. He played baseball at both Seward County and Friends and coached Little League baseball at Westurban in Wichita. He loved hunting, fishing and working at the family farm in Dexter.

Mary Louise Stockdale, ’44, died Nov. 13. She served as one of the first female meteorologists with the National Weather Bureau during WWII. She taught piano lessons for more than 70 years, retiring at age 90.

Dwaine Lee Tague, ’62, died Aug. 27. He served in the U.S. Navy during the Vietnam War. He married Esther Krause in October 1969. Dwaine and his wife owned and operated several motels over the years and, in retirement, was employed at Midwest Janitorial.

Sherry J. (Hart) Taylor, ’81, died Nov. 25. She worked first at Pizza Hut corporate headquarters for four years and then the Boeing Company for 26 years. For the last five years she served as a rural carrier for the USPS, first part time and then full time.
Devon Wiens, ’58, died Sept. 1. After graduation, Devon moved his family to Pasadena, Calif. to attend Fuller Theological Seminary and earn a master’s degree. After graduation from Fuller in 1963, he entered the doctoral program at the University of Southern California Graduate School of Religion. His first teaching position after completing his Ph.D. was at Huntington College in Indiana. After four years there, he was offered a position in the Theology and Religion department at Fresno Pacific University.

Gary Kirk Wise, ’57, died April 24. He was a retired farmer/stockman in Clearwater.

Rev. William Youngman, ’55, died Sept 15. He was an ordained elder in the Church of the Nazarene, having done pastoral ministry in Nazarene churches in Kansas, Massachusetts and Ohio before teaching in the Religion/Philosophy Department at MVNC/MVNU for 23 years. He also did short term teaching to students in Christian Ministry in Armenia and Jamaica.

Sandra “Sandy” Johnson, ’04, died Sept 26. She served as a special education para for the Haysville School District for the past 10 years.

CLASS NOTES

1940s

Lucille Daley, ’45, turned 95 years old in March. She was the first woman in her family to go to college and was the first person in her family to graduate from college. She is one of the last surviving graduates from her Friends class. She raised eight children, all of whom graduated from college except her second child, Carol, who was born with a heart defect. She championed her daughter, first at a day care facility then at Starkey Inc., where Carol worked until she was 65. Lucille supported the Center of Hope and Starkey and coached teams who competed in Special Olympics — all while raising the rest of her children. After graduating from Friends, she worked as an elementary teacher in Benton and later in Conway Springs. After WWII, she met Lawrence V. Daley III, who flew on 25 missions over Germany with the Army Air Force and worked at Boeing most of his life after the war.

1950s

Frances Owen, ’51, has eight grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren and lives in Wichita.

1970s

Richard Ferguson, ’76, was named vice chancellor for the Rwanda Institute for Conservation Agriculture (RICA), in January. He has been serving as professor and interim head of the Agronomy and Horticulture Department at the University of Nebraska–Lincoln.

Jim Gross, ’72, won the Individual Artist Award at the 49th Annual Arts Awards at Century II in November.

1980s

Cynthia Diane Hancock, ’81, accepted the position of accompanist for the high school, middle school, and elementary schools in Hugoton. She also serves as one of the worship leaders for Awana children’s ministries at Bethel Friends Church in Hugoton.

1990s

Ginny Atkison-Hall, ’96, is serving as safety security officer for USD 260 in Derby. She previously worked for the Derby Police Department and was the first female street officer and DARE officer in Derby.

MARRIAGES

Amanda Nicole (Gilpin) Borne, ’03, and Steve Borne were married Oct. 13. Her brother Alex Gilpin, ’04, officiated.
Jon H. Friesen, ’98/’08, has been promoted as the president and chief operating officer of NueHealth LLC. in Leawood.

Todd Fritzler, ’92, is the new senior vice president of Department of Defense programs at VMD Systems Integrators, a federal government contractor with significant IT and aviation contracts.

2000s

Kevin Braun, ’09, was selected to serve the remainder of the term of Kansas Senator Steve Fitzgerald.

Jeff A Chaltas, ’09, has published a book of original one-paneled cartoons titled “Dogbone Boulevard.”

Kenneth Dale Collins, ’01, has been elected to represent the Second District in the Kansas State House of Representatives.

Erin Degroot, ’07, won a first-place award from the Kansas City Press Club for graphics she designed, along with a colleague, to illustrate an article titled “Two Perspectives” in the Kansas Leadership Center’s publication, The Journal.

Amy Derstein, ’01, expanded her business, the Paquita Dance Center, to the first space of its own. The center, previously run from her home, is located at Westlink at Central and Tyler in Wichita. She also served as choreographer for Christian Youth Theatre’s production of “My Fair Lady” in January.

Lauren Fitzgerald, ’07, had artwork published in “The Art of Being Bill: Bill Murray and the Many Faces of Awesome” as well as a solo show titled “Fiendish Flora” on display at City Arts. She serves as an artist in residence at Friends.

David Lord, ’04, is the owner of Air House Music Academy in Wichita. His album, Forest Standards vol. 1, was featured on “bandcampdaily” as one of the “10 best jazz albums you definitely need to hear” and in the Nov. 28 issue of dustedmagazine.tumblr.com. The academy is also offering a House of Rock Performance Program that will offer Wichita area youth and adults opportunities to practice as a band and present a live-music venue at the end of each season.

Geoff Louvar, ’01, accepted a job at Newman University as the admission digital marketing manager.

Nicole (Young) Cochener, ’01, is a mixed media artist who combines post-consumer materials and traditional fine art techniques to create her distinctive paintings. Her pieces combine layers of collaged paper, acrylic and other media to create representational images of the natural world, juxtaposing organic imagery and symbolism with our modern disposable culture. Her work has been included in private and corporate collections in more than 20 countries worldwide. Her pieces have been featured by CNN, Marin Magazine, San Joaquin Magazine, Pregnancy and Newborn, Green Mom and more. Cochener currently owns her own gallery and working studio, Squishy Studio, located in the Las Vegas Arts District.

FOCUS | CLASS NOTES

Dustin Parker, ’03, had an exhibition, “Mishmash,” at City Arts in Wichita last fall. The exhibition showcased a new series of paintings and illustrations.

Tony Pasquariello, ’07, co-owns Hot Asana Yoga Studio with his wife, Gina.

2010s


Dr. Lacey (Warn) Diebold, ’11, purchased Sweetbriar Veterinary Clinic in July 2018 after graduating from Kansas State University with her doctorate of veterinary medicine in 2016.
Michael David Edwards, ‘14, is the senior director of sales at Charter Communications in San Antonio, Texas.

Carrie Gillett, ‘18, has joined Thrive Counseling, a private practice in Wichita.

Asher Isaac, ‘17, served as an accent coach for Christian Youth Theater’s production of “My Fair Lady” in January.

Graeham Jarvis, ‘18, had an exhibition titled "Wired Cortex" at City Arts.

Kaelie Ann Kendall, ‘18, is working as a designer at Corban University, a small Christian university in Oregon. She also does freelance work as well. She fondly remembers her time as a student graphic designer in the marketing and communications office.

During summer 2018, Jacquelyn Kleinhoffer, ‘14, studied ongoing research projects such as radio tracking, cheetah conservation and ecosystem management as well as the design of school and community programs in Namibia. She lives in Naples, Fla., and is a graduate student in Miami University’s Advanced Inquiry Program.

Angela Loganbill, ‘12, served as music director of Christian Youth Theater’s production of “My Fair Lady” in January.

Maggie Newlin, ‘16, and Ellie Newlin, ‘16, produced artwork that was selected for the Douglas Design District, Avenue Art Days in Fall 2018.

Keith Murrow, ‘11, was hired to support statewide efforts for increased wildlife habitat on private lands in Kansas, working to positively influence pheasant and bobwhite populations through the Pheasants Forever & Quails Forever organization.

KIM RUTH BAILEY, ‘10, was named to the Missouri State Board of Education in August. She has served as the president of the Raymore-Peculiar R-II school board. She is a licensed mental health professional and trauma specialist and is an approved supervisor through the American Association of Marriage and Family Therapists. From 2008-15, she served as the Dean of Women for Calvary Bible College and Theological Seminary in Kansas City and has a private practice as a therapist in Raymore.

TYLER WALSTON, ‘10, has been promoted to vice president of Kansas Global Trade Services in Wichita. He works with small to medium-sized businesses to help them export their products. Tyler was selected as a 40 Under 40 award recipient by the Wichita Business Journal in 2017 and serves on a variety of community committees that promote exports, education and certification programs.

FOCUS | CLASS NOTES
Baxter Schmidt, ’14, is an elementary education teacher at Riverside Leadership Magnet in Wichita.

Suzanah Schoen, ’16/’18, and Ana Liza Skinner, ’18, started the Therapeutic Alliance Group in Wichita after attending classes with the Small Business Association. They continue working full-time while building their private practice. Skinner is working at Four County Mental Health as an outpatient therapist, and Schoen is working at South Central Mental Health in the Augusta location as an outpatient therapist.

Amy Shelden, ’17, served as the assistant director and stage manager for “My Fair Lady” in January.

Lyndee Trease, ’18, and Jonathan Reynolds, ’18, have joined The Rock Counseling in Derby.

Ellen Wieczorek, ’18, studied the ecology of steppe ecosystems, with a focus on the Pallas’ cat, Przewalski’s horse and participatory conservation media in Mongolia in summer 2018. She lives in Wichita and is a graduate student in Miami University’s Earth Expeditions.

JAMES SHURTS, ’18, was named new chief operating officer of Tribine Harvester based in Newton. He oversees engineering, production, marketing and finance. He has more than 20 years of experience with Caterpillar, CNH and AGCO. He also remains involved in his family’s farm, Shurts Farms, in Beloit.

KENYA MICHELLE WILSON, ’13, is an eLearning/Distance Learning professional in the state of Texas. She received the Outstanding Commitment to Excellence and Innovation in Distance Learning by an Individual from the Texas Distance Learning Association recently and was part of a team that won the Blackboard Catalyst Award for “Inclusive Education” from Blackboard Inc. in 2017.

FACULTY/STAFF/BOARD NOTES

Dr. Mark Bartel, associate professor of music and director of choral music, presented a paper titled “Choirs and Peacebuilding: Living the Song” at the Relevance Symposium sponsored by North Dakota State University and the American Choral Directors Association, Oct. 12-13 in Fargo, N.D. He led the Wichita Chamber Chorale in an educational and benefit concert focusing on homelessness, in partnership with Family Promise of Wichita and the Wichita Community Children’s Choir. He was the guest conductor and clinician for the Mennonite Society of Musical Heritage festival held in Denver, Colo., June 22-24, 2018. As president of the Kansas Choral Directors Association, he planned and hosted the annual association professional development convention in Topeka July 12-14, 2018.

Marc Bosworth, adjunct faculty member, had artwork on display for the City Arts “Bibs & Forks 2: Concession Edition.” His work was also in a group exhibit titled “2 x Many=25” at the Fiber Studio Gallery.
Dr. Amy Bragg Carey, president, wrote an op-ed column for The Wichita Eagle about the need for Wichita to provide more support for higher education in August 2018.

Anne Crane, director of the library, and Patricia Neufeldt, library assistant, gave the presentation “A Historical Journey of Friends University” at the new Advanced Learning Library in downtown Wichita Sept. 12. The event was part of the Wichita Public Library’s “Senior Wednesday” series. Dr. Harold Cope's daughter, Elizabeth, shared some of her memories of her father’s term as president of Friends University (1972-1979), and a former librarian under President Ray Ray shared her own memories of moving to, what was then, the new library.

Dr. Rebecca Culver-Turner is now serving as associate professor of MFT and Wichita site program director. She was previously located in Kansas City as the associate professor of MFT and Kansas City site clinical director and clinical internship supervisor.

Dr. Russell Arben Fox, professor of political science, director of the honors program and model UN sponsor, planned, coordinated and served as moderator for a Higher Education Forum at Friends in September. Panel members from several other universities and government organizations discussed the role of higher education. He also wrote a column for Politico Magazine in August.

Ray Garvey, Global MBA adjunct faculty member, is a Certified Global Business Professional (CGBP), a recognition he achieved by passing a three-hour, fast-paced exam.

Dr. Dona R. Gibson, professor of education and psychology and director of the Master of Education in Teaching and Learning and the Master of Education in Special Education, presented “Clinical Partnerships: One University’s Journey” at the World Federation of the Associations of Teacher Education international conference in Melbourne, Australia, in July.

Dr. Joan Griffing, the Tim and Gail Buchanan Endowed Chair of the Division of Fine Arts, performed the world premiere of “Earth and Sky” by Gwyneth Walker, a triple concerto for violin, viola, cello and orchestra at the University of Wyoming Oct. 25. Dr. Griffing’s chamber music group Musica Harmonia commissioned this work that celebrates the beauty of the natural world. It incorporates readings of the words of great Native Americans, such as Chief Seattle and Chief Joseph, as well as quotes by the New England naturalist Henry David Thoreau. She was also interviewed on a well-known jazz violinist and educator’s Creative Strings Podcast. She discussed her efforts to study how music is being used to create healing between individuals and cultures in conflict.

Dr. Stan Harstine, professor of religion, presented his research to one of four Johannine Literature sections at the Society of Biblical Literature International Meeting July 30 to Aug. 3 at the University of Helsinki, Finland. Dr. Harstine’s paper, “Rethinking the Johannine Pentecost: An Investigation into UC Von Wahlde’s Claim,” utilized a narrative methodological approach to examine whether John 20.22 does represent the new birth mentioned by Jesus to Nicodemus earlier in John 3, a claim Von Wahlde makes in his three-volume commentary published by Eerdmans in 2010. He also wrote a chapter, “The Children of God and the Sons of God in the Johannine Gospel and Epistles,” which was published in the book “Anatomies of the Gospels and Beyond: Essays in Honor of R. Alan Culpepper.” Dr. Harstine also attended the National Conference for the Society of Biblical Literature in Denver, Colo., where he participated in the editorial board meeting for Religious Studies Review and for which he serves as the Area Editor for Christian Origins.

Lisa Hittle, assistant professor of music and director of the jazz program, was guest conductor for the KMEA SW District Honors Jazz Ensemble in Dodge City Nov. 2. She also traveled to Greeley, Colo. to attend the doctoral saxophone recital of Friends alumna Courtney Long Nov. 12.

Keas Keasler, program director and assistant professor of Christian Spiritual Formation, presented a lecture at a conference named Arise City Summit in Tampa, Fla. The conference was centered around how to engage issues of justice including race, poverty and immigration from a Biblical and Christ-centered position. Keasler’s lecture was titled “Ethics and the Transformation of the Church.” He was also interviewed on the Native Speaks podcast by the hip-hop artist K.B. and his fellow host, Ameen. The episode was released Sept. 8 and is titled “Pacifists and Packers: A Talk with Keas Keasler.”

Dr. Sarah Lyon is now serving as assistant professor of MFT and Kansas City site clinical director and internship supervisor. She was previously assistant professor of MFT.

Charlotte Martin, artist-in-residence and Friends University gallery coordinator, was KMUW’s Fall Pledge Drive artist. Her works were on display at KMUW through September and at Final Friday in August.

Susan Mayo, adjunct faculty member, won the Burton Pell Award at the 49th Annual Arts Awards Nov. 1 at Century II.

Tara Parker, academic success coach, presented at the OzSec 2018 Cyber Security conference Oct. 12. Her presentation focused on how soft skills are valuable to career success.
STOCKMAN PROMOTED TO VICE PRESIDENT OF ENROLLMENT MANAGEMENT

DEB STOCKMAN was promoted to vice president of enrollment management at Friends in April. For the past five years, she has led the marketing and communications efforts at Friends. She previously served as interim vice president of enrollment management, marketing and communications for one year. Prior to Friends she served in marketing, communications and enrollment management roles at Southwestern College in their adult and graduate divisions.

In addition to her continued marketing and communications oversight, she will now also oversee recruitment activities for traditional and non-traditional students at Friends.

Stockman has a Master of Arts in Communication as well as a Bachelor of Arts in Elementary Education.

“Deb is highly organized, energetic, collaborative and goal-oriented. She is passionate about the Friends University mission, involved in the community with organizations such as Downtown Rotary and active at her church,” said Dr. Amy Bragg Carey, Friends University president. “Deb is a very capable leader, and I’m so pleased she has accepted this important assignment.”

Caitlin Penny, adjunct faculty member, had a show titled “Carved: A Printmaker’s Labor” on display at Sterling College in August and September.

Brian Powers, visiting assistant professor of business and director of the Master of Health Care Leadership program, was invited to be a Leader in Residence with LeadingAge Kansas’ Center for Leadership Oct. 23 at the Meridian Center in Newton and speak about his leadership experiences. The topic for the meeting was “Discovering Your Authentic Leadership.”

Dr. Paul Robert “Rob” Ramseyer, athletic director, presented a webinar to the Kansas Independent College Association for the Future Leaders Program Oct. 8. The goal of the presentation was to give future Kansas private college leaders an understanding of the work of student affairs professionals.

Dr. Vicki Ronn, associate professor of English, gave the presentation “The Giant is a Woman!: The ‘Dragon Wisdom’ of Ursula Le Guin” at MythCon 49 in Atlanta, Ga., July 21. MythCon is an annual conference held by the Mythopoeic Society, “a non-profit organization devoted to the study of mythopoeic literature, particularly the works of members of the informal Oxford literary circle known as the ‘Inklings.’” Dr. Ronn led a discussion of Le Guin’s non-fiction essays and her contribution to fantasy and science fiction over her long career. Dr. Ronn, in her role as awards steward for the Mythopoeic Society also announced the 2018 Mythopoeic Awards.

Dr. Matthew Schloneger, assistant professor of voice, attended The Voice Foundation’s 47th Annual Symposium May 30-June 3 and the National Association of Teachers of Singing (NATS) National Conference June 21-26. At the Voice Foundation conference, he attended the meeting of the Journal of Voice editorial board and co-chaired a voice pedagogy research presentation session. At NATS, he attended the annual board meeting of the NATS Foundation as the liaison for the NATS West Central Region, served as one of three adjudicators for the convention’s “Best Research Poster” competition, served as an adjudicator for NATS National Student Auditions national semifinals, and assisted Friends student Samantha Scantlin as she competed in the National Student Auditions national semifinals. At both conferences, he presented “Quantifying Vocal Repertoire Tessituras Through Real-Time Measures,” a research project prepared with co-authors Dr. Eric Hunter and Dr. Lynn Maxfield. He also performed in Opera Kansas’ productions of “Fantastic Mr. Fox” in September.

Karen Scroggins, assistant professor of graphics arts and director of the visual arts program, created mixed media artwork, “First Lady of the World,” which was selected to exhibit in “All Is Fair in Art and Politics” at Butler County Community College in El Dorado, Kan. This exhibit was adjudicated by Valerie Haring and Trisha Coates, co-directors of the gallery, and was on display in September and October.
FACULTY RETIREMENTS

Friends University appreciates the valuable contributions the following individuals have made to Friends University, its students and the greater community. We wish these individuals the best in their future endeavors.

▶ DR. KATHY SLEMP, professor of human resource management, is retiring after 18 years of service. Her leadership has made human resource management a viable and thriving program, earning the first and longest running endorsement in Kansas for curriculum from the Society of Human Resource Management. In addition, in 2018 the program was ranked #1 in the state of Kansas and #11 in the nation for best value and learning.

▶ LISA HITTLE, assistant professor of music and director of the jazz program, began teaching at Friends in 1991. She built an award-winning jazz program at Friends with the University's jazz bands being invited to national and international jazz festivals. She initiated the Friends University Jazz Festival in 1993 that gives young musicians from around Kansas the opportunity to learn from and perform with well-known professional jazz musicians. Hittle regularly performs gigs at venues around Wichita, often with Friends students, giving them valuable performance experience.

▶ DR. JOHN TAYLOR, professor of music, began teaching at Friends in 1989. He has taught instrumental music, music education and band. He has served as the musical director of the Wichita Wind Ensemble, the executive director of the Kansas Music Educators Association and the southwestern division president of the National Association for Music Education. He was named Kansas Outstanding Bandmaster of the Year in 2012 and was named the 2018-19 National Federation of High School Activities State and Section award winner this spring. (See page 22 for more details.)

▶ DR. JAN WILSON, professor of education, served as chair of the Division of Education and unit head for nine years. The division/unit was awarded CAEP accreditation in November 2018. She served as chair of the KSDE committee for revision of the state Professional Education Standards, on the License Review Committee, Kansas Teacher of the Year selection committee, and Horizon Teacher of the Year selection committee, among others. She published in peer-reviewed professional journals and attended numerous professional conferences, including international conferences in Granada, Nicaragua and La Manzanilla, Mexico.
Friends University has named WOODY SWAIN as its first executive-in-residence. Swain is volunteering as a mentor to business students and will organize programming, such as lunch-and-learn events, student mentoring and consultations, guest lecturing, and visits to local employers.

“Friends University developed the executive-in-residence program to provide additional learning and mentorship opportunities for our business students by developing opportunities for them to spend time with and learn from an individual who has succeeded at the highest levels of business and is now in a position to share his experience and wisdom with the next generation,” said Dr. Kenneth Stoltzfus, academic dean of Friends University.

Swain has 36 years of experience working with Koch-owned companies. Positions he has held include director of business development at INVISTA, vice president of international business development and vice president international at Koch Materials Company (KMC). At KMC, he has also been the vice president of Asia Business Development and manager of Business Development. Previously, he served at Koch Industries and Koch Fuels Inc. He was also a pilot in the U.S. Air Force and a flight test engineer at McDonnell Douglas Aircraft in St. Louis. He holds a Bachelor of Science in Mechanical Engineering from Kansas State University and has completed 15 hours of MBA studies at Wichita State University.

Since retiring from Koch Industries in June 2014, he has served on two nonprofit boards — Kansas Global Trade Services and Friends University Global MBA.
About 20 area high school juniors and seniors attended a training on business and entrepreneurship as part of BizFest 2019. Friends partners with the Wichita Hispanic Chamber of Commerce on the program that develops skills in creating a business plan, marketing, networking and soft skills.

The Friends University Falcon Women’s Indoor Track & Field team won their fifth straight KCAC Indoor Championship. Head Coach Cole Davis was also named KCAC Coach of the Year and Lauren Doll, junior in business administration, was named Women’s Athlete of the Meet.

Students from the Hispanic American Leadership Organization (HALO) won the award for the best theme at the Chili Cookoff Feb. 6. Campus Ministries won first place in the People’s Choice category for their chili, and Psychology Club won first place for chili in the Judge’s Choice category.

Upcoming Events

MAY 11
Commencement Ceremony

MAY 13
Summer School Begins

JUNE 19
Summer Blood Drive

JUNE 25-26
The Big Idea Teacher Education Conference

AUG. 19
Fall Classes Begin

THURSDAYS AT 11 AM
Chapel – visit friends.edu/chapel for a list of speakers and link to streaming video

SEPT. 26-28
Apprentice Gathering Conference

OCT. 4-6
Homecoming

OCT. 8
Fall Blood Drive
Save the Date

HOME COMING

October 4-6, 2019

friends.edu/homecoming

Friends University does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national or ethnic origin, sex, disability, or age in its programs and activities. The following person has been designated to handle inquiries regarding this policy: EEOC/Title IX Coordinator, Friends University, 2100 W. University Ave., Wichita, KS 67213, (316) 295-5000. Accredited by the Higher Learning Commission and a member of the North Central Association, 230 S. La Salle Street, Suite 7-500, Chicago, IL 60604; www.ncahlc.org; 1-800-621-7440.