

# MESSENGER

MID-ATLANTIC CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY MAGAZINE

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Summer 2022

Vol. 74 No. 1

A full-page photograph of a young couple, Chirag and Lauren, smiling and holding a small, speckled dog. Chirag is wearing a dark suit and white shirt, and Lauren is wearing a white lace dress. The background is a soft-focus outdoor setting.

## LIVE IT OUT!

Chirag '21 and Lauren Cooper ex'20 Lambert are living out their passion as they make an impact in the real estate world with a business devoted to serving God as they serve their fellow workers and clients. (Story Page 3)



Senior Maddi Atkinson (A.K.A. “Bo Peep”) is sharing her servant heart and leadership skills with campers at the Texas 4-H Center at Lake Brownwood, TX, where she is on the summer staff.



Senior Anna Leidheiser, an Applied Linguistics major from Tryon, NC, is serving a summer internship in Papua New Guinea with Pioneer Bible Translators.



Sophomore Josh Rowland is making his impact by using every opportunity to learn and serve. He is on the summer staff at Roanoke Christian Camp in Washington, NC, and looking at youth ministry opportunities.

## LIVING IT OUT

At Mid-Atlantic Christian University we want to educate a generation of students that will not merely learn the Bible or receive a solid Biblical education but who will live like Jesus Christ in a world that desperately needs to see and experience Jesus.

Several months ago I read a quote on social media that went something like this: “Some Christians would get an ‘A’ in Bible yet fail Christianity.” This is not the type of graduate that we want to produce. Instead, we want to transform ordinary people into extraordinary servant leaders that will be the incarnation of Jesus in our world.

While we have students on campus in our classrooms, residence halls, and chapel services, we want them to develop a deep faith in God and meet the authentic Jesus of scripture that loved them enough to die on a cross to save them. We desire that they find their passion and purpose for life that will allow them to follow Jesus in service to all who are burdened by sin, are tired, and are wearied by the fall.

We are convicted by the words in Philippians 2:12-13: “Therefore, my dear friends, as you have always obeyed – not only in my presence, but now much more in my absence – continue to work out your salvation with fear and trembling, for it is God who works in you to will and to act in order to fulfill his good purpose.” This scripture is not making salvation a matter of “works.” Instead, it is telling Christians to “work out” the salvation from the faith that is within them. In other words, LIVE OUT your faith!

Will you pray that God will work in all of us at Mid-Atlantic to live out our faith with love, purpose, joy, and hope? Will you pray that God will lead our students to discover their purpose and calling? Just think what we can accomplish for the Kingdom of God if we LIVE OUT an authentic life of faith.

*Find your purpose. Make your impact. Live it out!*

President John Maurice



**MID-ATLANTIC**  
CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY





# MAKING THEIR **IMPACT**

## THE KINGDOM COMES FIRST IN THEIR LIFE AND BUSINESS

Lauren Cooper, a North Carolina girl, enrolls in Mid-Atlantic and meets a boy, Chirag Lambert, from the country of India. Both were chasing after God's will. Lauren tells their story:

Chirag and I met at MACU while studying in the Business Administration program. What came next was beyond my wildest dreams.

I grew up in Currituck County and knew I wanted to pursue a career serving my home community through the real estate industry. Chirag grew up in India and knew that God was preparing him for very big things. He grew up relying on God, often finding himself in unfamiliar places very far from his home and family while receiving his education and playing soccer for Liverpool's soccer academy. He kept the faith, persevered, and today is a real estate firm owner and a minister with a crazy wife, three cats, and a dog.

When we met, soccer was Chirag's only love, but that quickly changed. I will never forget the first time we saw each other. I was sitting in class intently listening when Chirag slowly walked by the doorway and looked in. I pretended not to notice, but as I looked up, I saw him walk backwards to get another look inside the classroom at me. He likes to say that I made the first move, but now you all know the truth. As our relationship grew, our focus and determination, along with God's guidance, led us to where we are today.



*(Continued)*

## Live It Out

While real estate was not a traditional career to choose, especially at the time I got into the field, I knew this is what I was meant to do. Working two jobs to save money for the real estate licensure courses and travel expenses to take the tests while also trying to pay for my MACU tuition and living expenses on my own was not easy. In addition, many people along the way discouraged me from entering this field at such a young age. Thankfully, God had other plans, and He made a way. I obtained my real estate license and began working full time as a real estate broker while Chirag finished his degree in the business administration program. We opened our own real estate firm before Chirag's senior year was over. God has led us, and without Him, and the wonderful people He put in our lives to guide us, we would not be here.

I never would have guessed the impact we would make, one that has reached well outside of my hometown. The business world is one of the biggest mission fields that you can enter. It is not for

everyone and in all honesty has been the most challenging but most rewarding experience to us. Chirag and I are leading a team of 20 real estate brokers, serving our community through our two office locations in Barco and Kitty Hawk, and ministering to all of the families that we are blessed to serve through the home buying and selling process.

Through our relationship with God and through the love and support we share in our marriage and from mentors that have become family, we are able to stand firm in God's truth and lead the area's only faith-based real estate firm. We love our brokers, our clients, and our community. We are serving the Outer Banks (Kitty Hawk office), the Inner Banks (Barco office), and even Raleigh, where one agent moved. Through this real estate firm, we will grow God's church. Please join us in prayer for the continued growth of our firm and the church that Chirag and I will be ministering to in Virginia this year.



Chirag and Lauren enjoy downtime with fellow Kingdom agent Jessica Mundinger Reeves '20 and husband Mike '20, both former classmates.



Colleagues and friends from the business community join Chirag and Lauren (front row, fourth and fifth from left) for the ribbon cutting of their second location for Kingdom Real Estate Services. Their mentors and professors Dr. Patrik Skultety (with scissors) and Dr. A.G. Gomez (second row, far right) were also in attendance.



### *Lauren expresses their gratitude for their MACU professors:*

**Thank you, Dr. Skultety, for believing in us. You not only believed in us, but you also sacrificed your time. You have poured countless hours into our life and our company, and we are forever grateful. You are truly a man of God. We proudly claim you and your family as our own.**

**Dr. Bob, you taught us what it means to serve and to strive to be like Christ through learning who He is. We will carry your teachings with us for a lifetime. You showed us a Godly example of marriage and a very high standard to strive to live up to. I always say, "I want to be just like Mrs. Lorna," and we want a home one day that models the one you two have created together. We are forever grateful to you all!**

**We love you!**



# MAKING THEIR MARK

SERVE. SHARE. SAIL. AND TEACH ENGLISH.



Kathy Smith is a sailor, an artist, a writer, and by career, Mid-Atlantic's Assistant Professor of English Composition and Director of Learning Enhancement Services. She and her husband, Dan, joined the MACU family in 2010 as dorm parents, ministering to students day and night and then adapting to changing needs and roles. Dan served in admissions and advancement. Kathy, already a nurse, earned her master's degree in English and Creative Writing, and took her full-time place with the faculty.

Dan's service and vocation turned to the water full-time as he became the president of Maritime Ministries, an organization he was already affiliated with. In 2014, a partnership was formed between MACU and Maritime: Maritime gained an operating base, and MACU gained a missions organization operating from its campus. Learn more about Maritime's mission and ministry at [maritime-ministries.org](http://maritime-ministries.org). Dan reports that as of this writing, 120 boats have stayed at the MACU docks since April 1.

This summer Dan and Kathy are bringing another boat home to the campus docks. The boat, neglected for some years, was in Tampa, FL. They trusted their source and committed her to the Lord, and in May, Dan set off to Florida to work on her.

## *Kathy continues the summer story:*

I taught English Composition II online to our students in Rwanda\* until mid-June, then joined Dan in Tampa, where the work on *Waymaker* has continued as we make her serviceable as well as beautiful and homey.

Daily God provides us with ministry opportunities, whether we're engaging with yacht neighbors, engine technicians, or staff at hardware stores. These encounters may take time, but as Captain Dan says, these "divine appointments" are time invested in the Kingdom.

We chose Isaiah 43:16-19 to choose the name of the boat. "Thus says the Lord, who makes a way in the sea, a path in the mighty waters...Behold, I am doing a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?" Her name is *Waymaker*. She has a purpose and a calling and is being used for God's glory.

Dan and Kathy, through their service with mariners and students, are living out their commitment to teach others Christ's purpose and love for them.

*\*Learn more about MACU-Rwanda on Page 11.*



# JOIN US FOR 75TH ANNIVERSARY EVENTS ON MACU CAMPUS!

**NOVEMBER 3RD, 2022 - PRESIDENT'S  
SCHOLARSHIP GALA ON CAMPUS  
WEEK OF MARCH 20, 2023 - MACU RALLY 2023**



**Other events to come!** Check-in to MACU social media and to the website [www.macuniversity.edu](http://www.macuniversity.edu) for more events and ways that you can engage with us to tell your stories of your time at MACU!





## Commencement, Honors |

President Maurice presents certificates honoring Garrett "Pop" Lewis and Melissa Lewis for their 50 years of service with Mid-Atlantic.

Dr. Beth Strecker, Director of Teacher Education, and graduate Samantha Hare, who began her teaching career immediately after completing her studies in December. Samantha received MACU's Barbara A. Williams Award for Excellence in Teacher Education at honors chapel.

Business Administration majors Estavian Fortunate (Sport Management) and Dalene Govender (Human Resource Management) with program chair, Dr. Ascension Gomez. Estavian is working with youth in sports and weight training. Dalene is employed by Smithfield Foods as a sales account manager for Smithfield Foods' Louisiana/ Mississippi territory.

# THE OVERCOMERS: A SMALL CLASS SUCCEEDS IN A BIG WAY

When they enrolled in MACU four years ago (more or less), they knew college would be exciting and challenging. They knew life would be different, that they would be away from family, make new friends, assume some duties parents may have been doing for them, and need to successfully complete a rigorous course of study. What they did not anticipate was a worldwide pandemic soon followed by the loss of their classroom and cafeteria building, which also housed their information technology center.

But, with God's leading, they overcame. On May 13 the university celebrated them at a commencement service and a message from Larry Jones, Senior Minister of Northside Christian Church in Yorktown, VA. He was speaking to a class with six men already in or entering ministries after graduation, women and men serving in the business world and in public school, and others preparing to minister through counseling. Two of the women are also ministers' wives.

*While the class may be one of the smallest in recent years, their joy, determination, and hearts for service are great.*

Valedictorian Perry Garza,  
Salutatorian Josh Vickers



## CLASS OF 2022



**John C. Baker**

Youth & Family Ministry  
Biblical Studies



**Michael L. Eckert**

Youth & Family Ministry  
Biblical Studies



**Estavian D. Fortunate**

Bus. Admin./Sport Mgmt.  
Biblical Studies



**M. Perry Garza**

Magna Cum Laude  
Youth & Family Ministry  
Biblical Studies



**Dalene Govender**

Bus. Admin./HR Mgmt.  
Biblical Studies



**Samantha N. Hare**

Elementary Education  
Biblical Studies



**R. Heath Jackson**

Christian Ministry  
Biblical Studies



**Noah R. Jarman**

Cum Laude  
Ministry/Preaching  
Biblical Studies



**Katherine B. Langley**

Counseling & Psychology  
Biblical Studies



**Charquise I. Smith-Stultz**

Youth & Family Ministry  
Biblical Studies



**Krysten L. Stowe**

Counseling & Psychology  
Biblical Studies



**Joshua S. W. Vickers**

Magna Cum Laude  
Counseling & Psychology  
Bib. Studies, Family Studies

Graduates whose degrees were presented in absentia:

**Ian M. Coburn, BA**

Ministry and Biblical Studies

**David J. Klein, BS**

School of Professional Studies  
Christian Ministry & Biblical Studies  
Conferred December 2021



## HONORS CHAPEL AWARDS

### Student Government Association President

Maddison Turner

### Servant Leadership

Charquise Smith-Stultz, Grace Watkins

### Christian Character Award

Madison Atkinson, Grace Rogers, Kayla Shoaff, Clairese Smith, Krysten Stowe; Riane Franklin

### World Changer Award

John Baker

### Academic All Americans

Tim Aydlott, Brandon Barrier, Matthew Springman, Maddison Turner

### Students of Distinction

Perry Garza, Charquise Smith-Stultz, Joshua Vickers

### General Studies Award

Dylan Hardison

### Ministry Award

Heath Jackson

### Barbara A. Williams Award for Excellence in Teacher Education

Samantha Hare

### Melvin Styons Outstanding Counseling Student Award

Joshua Vickers

### Youth and Family Ministry Award

Charquise Smith-Stultz

### MACU-Zondervan Theology Award

Noah Jarman

### Stone-Campbell Journal Promising Scholar Award (*Biblical Studies*)

Perry Garza

### Theta Alpha Kappa (TAK) Honor Society

Perry Garza, Heath Jackson, Noah Jarman, Katie Langley, Joshua Vickers

### Academic Honor Chords

Cum laude: Heather Jackson, Noah Jarman

Magna cum laude: Perry Garza, Joshua Vickers



## DEAN'S LIST SPRING 2022

The Dean's List is comprised of full-time students (12 credits or more) who earned a semester grade point average of 3.5000 or higher. \* Indicates students who earned a 4.000 GPA. Four other students earned "Dean's List" honors but requested non-disclosure under FERPA.

Baker, John Charles

Barrier, Brandon J.

Coble, Landin Quinn

Cooper, Natalie Alexandra

Crouse, Nicholas Ridley

Dail, Trey Tanner

Garza, Michael Perry

Griffin, McKenna Breann

Hardison, Dylan Morgan

Hood, Jesse Quinn

Jarman, Noah Riley\*

Jordan, Tyasia

Lambert, Jajour Shammon

Leidheiser, Anna E\*

Maurer, Lancelot R

Nobles, Gabriel D

Smith, Clairese L\*

Smith-Stultz, Charquise Iman

Springman, Matthew Cline

Stowe, Krysten Lois

Vickers, Joshua Scott Wayne

Watkins, Gracie Elizabeth

Wellons Jr., Geoffrey Jerome

White, Savannah Lee\*

Wilder, Cortavion Latrell

## THINKING BIBLICALLY AT GOD'S LEFT (Psalm 121:5)

**ROBERT W. SMITH, PH.D.,  
PROFESSOR OF HISTORY AND BIBLE**



The right hand of God is normally the place that you want to be according to most scripture passages. It is a place of honor. The right is where those judged righteous will

be directed by the Lord. The left hand of God, in contrast, is usually a position of dishonor. It is where the wicked will be directed by the Lord (Matthew 25:31-46). In Psalm 121:5, however, there is an anomalous instance in the scriptures in which individuals are blessed when they have God on their right hand, and they are at His left!

While some people get confused in remembering their right from their left, that was not the case with the psalmist. That song writer intentionally made an illusion drawn from ancient warfare to colorfully describe the constant protection of God's people that was encouraging for pilgrims as they made their way up to Jerusalem.

Infantry since before the time of Abraham fought in massed groups of soldiers that moved in close order with their shields held in their left hands and their weapons in their right. This formation of foot soldiers lined up in rank and file, known by the later Greeks as the phalanx, was particularly effective as it allowed right-handed warriors to swing and thrust their weapons while being protected by the shield held in the left hand of the fellow-warrior on their right.

The psalmist's assertion that "the LORD is your shade at your right hand; the sun will not harm you by day, nor the moon by night" (Psalm 121:5) is an allusion to God's

ever-vigilant and all-powerful position in providing constant protection.

While pilgrims to Jerusalem might have suffered sunburn and dehydration headaches or enemies that could wait in ambush along the way, those problems were minor when compared to the array of opposing spiritual forces. The Israelites' pagan neighbors believed that the lights in the sky during the day (Shamash = the sun god) and the night (Sin = the moon goddess) indicated the presence of spiritual forces that exerted power over the lives of people. "Moon-struck" persons became "lunatics" or epileptics, and the stars directed one's destiny. The composer of Psalm 121 affirmed the confidence the Lord's people of every age have with God constantly fighting at their right. He smashes foes, including spiritual forces, with His right hand and shields His people with His left.

### COVERDALES LIVE IT OUT IN DURHAM



Greg '02 and Katie Davenport '01 Coverdale and daughters Claire, Karlie, and Gracie (l-r) have moved to Durham, NC, to begin preparations for a 2023 launch in conjunction with Waypoint Church Partners. Following graduation Greg served nine years at Northampton Christian Church (Hampton, VA), and for the past 12 years as Associate Minister at Two Rivers Church, a church plant in New Bern, NC. Katie has been teaching school during their years of ministry.

### SMITH-STULTZ, GARZA PARTICIPATE IN NEXT GEN PREACHER SEARCH

Charquise Smith-Stultz (left) and Perry Garza (right) participated in a ministry training opportunity provided by the NextGen Preacher Search. Weeks after the competition, Perry learned he was named one of the six national representatives who will be preaching at various events and locations during the next year. They were two of twenty students chosen nationwide to attend this two-day training and competition. While there, the students were able to learn from coaches and record their sermons for evaluation.

Both students did an excellent job writing and preaching their sermons. In the words of the director of the program, Jeff Walling, "The future of the church is in good hands with this next generation of preachers." Pepperdine University provided the students an atmosphere of encouragement where they were challenged to be take their preaching to the next level. Dr. Bane Angles, Associate Professor of Pastoral Ministry, traveled with the students and was able to attend the videoing of the sermons. He reports the students' sermons were filled with truth, delivered with passion, and filled him with a sense of joy, hope, and worship. "I could not be more delighted about how well Perry and Charquise did in handling the Word of Truth."





## WELCOME, DR. JOSIAH PEELER



Mid-Atlantic Christian University is pleased to announce the hire of Dr. Josiah Peeler as the Assistant Professor of Biblical Studies starting this fall.

Dr. Peeler recently completed his Ph.D. in Hebrew and Old Testament Studies from the University of Edinburgh in Scotland. He holds two master's degrees, one from Abilene Christian University in Old Testament and one from Oxford University in Classical Hebrew Studies. His undergraduate degree is from Florida College in Biblical Studies. Dr. Peeler is passionate about teaching Biblical Studies and desires for others to know God as the creator and sustainer of the universe through knowing His Word and truth as presented in scripture. He is seeking to engage the MACU students and help them see how biblical knowledge is integral in every area of life. Dr. Peeler and his wife Danielle have two boys, Ezra and Gideon.

## FIELDS BECOMES SENIOR EDITOR FOR ZONDERVAN



Dr. Lee M. Fields, Distinguished Professor of Biblical Studies, completed his service with MACU in December 2021 to become a senior editor with

Zondervan Publishing Company in the academic division. His life of academic pursuit, teaching, and ministry have well fitted him for his new role.

A MACU professor since 1997, Dr. Fields was both kind and creative, a true pioneer establishing one of the few classrooms for a student to learn ancient biblical language taught as a living language in an immersive format. In other classes,

his Bible knowledge, informed by his understanding of the Greek and Hebrew texts, filled his students with deep insights. He authored *Hebrew for the Rest of Us* and with William D. Mounce co-authored Greek and *Hebrew for the Rest of Us*.

We wish Dr. Fields and wife Julie continued blessings as they serve the Lord from the state of Michigan.

## MACU-RWANDA UPDATE TEACHING OTHERS WHO WILL TEACH OTHERS

Alumni David '84 and Ivy Brothers ex'82 Presley spent two weeks in May and June traveling to Rwanda to teach and serve. They were part of a team that Rwanda Challenge arranges to teach English and computer skills to students at varying levels of performance. Ministers in Rwanda need to earn an associate degree in Bible/theology taught in English, as recently mandated by the Rwandan government, in order for a local congregation to function legally. Visit <http://www.rwandachallenge.com/> to learn more about the details and urgency of this work. MACU-Rwanda is an educational endeavor working in conjunction with Rwanda Challenge and culminating in the desired degree. MACU professors, adjuncts, and others volunteer their time and expertise to help provide this education at no cost to Rwandans who

achieve proficiency and are already serving churches or are planning to do so.

The Presleys were able to bring 11 computers to set up in a computer lab. Students were able not only to practice for their Duolingo test to get used to the time limits in the test, but also to practice on a second website, one dedicated to several English proficiency tests. While at the computers, students also practiced paragraph writing, spelling, and test-taking skills, all within the time limits of the test. This exposure to the computer, typing, and English will give them the confidence and skill they need to pass the qualifying English test that will allow them to enroll in their degree program.

All students, whether beginner, intermediate, or advanced, increased their scores by at least 10 points and many increased their scores by 20 points or better by the end of the teaching sessions.

The Presleys were able to leave the computer lab in capable hands. Andre, a MACU-Rwanda student himself, will have the computers set up and running two days a week for students to practice their English, typing, and computer skills. The lab was made possible by the generosity of those who gave computers, money to help refurbish the computers, time and expertise to repair the computers, and

(Continued)



Taking practice tests under Ivy's supervision

## Academics

prayers for the best use of the equipment given. Additionally, David and Ivy took 1,500 pairs of glasses with them to be taken to the villages and to the women's ministry, which has more than 75 children.

This fall MACU professors will continue teaching courses to Rwandans currently enrolled in the degree program. Please bathe this world-changing work in prayer as MACU teaches those who will teach others.

### MID-ATLANTIC, REGENT UNIVERSITY LAW SCHOOL CREATE PATHWAY TO JURIS DOCTOR DEGREE IN SIX YEARS



**William L. Hathaway**, Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs, Regent University; **Kevin W. Larsen**, Vice President for Academic Affairs, Mid-Atlantic Christian University; **Mark Martin**, Dean, Regent University School of Law

Last November officials from Mid-Atlantic Christian University (MACU) and Regent University (RU) signed a memorandum of understanding that creates a cooperative arrangement whereby students may earn in six years of study both a bachelor's degree from MACU and a Juris Doctor (J.D.) from RU's School of Law.

In this program, students who enroll at MACU may choose one of three majors (Biblical Studies, Business Administration, or Counseling and Psychology). Upon successfully completing 90 credit hours toward the baccalaureate degree, students will be eligible to be considered for admission to Regent's J.D. program. If

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**This is a great opportunity for individuals who want to practice law. Not only do they get a solid educational foundation from MACU, but they also get a law education from one of the leading law schools in the United States that appreciates and advocates a biblical worldview.**

admitted to the program, students will complete the first year of law studies at RU and transfer those credits back to MACU, thus finishing and earning a baccalaureate degree. After two additional years of successful course work at RU, students will earn a J.D. degree. This partnership saves a student one year of schooling. Instead of seven years for a combined baccalaureate and J.D. degree, this agreement allows a student to earn both in six years.

Kevin Larsen, Vice President for Academic Affairs, said, “This is a great opportunity for individuals who want to practice law. Not only do they get a solid educational foundation from MACU, but

they also get a law education from one of the leading law schools in the United States that appreciates and advocates a biblical worldview.”

Mark Martin, Dean of the School of Law at Regent, commented, “We welcome opportunities to partner with schools that share our values like Mid-Atlantic Christian University.”

### EASY MOVE FROM ASSOCIATE TO BACHELOR DEGREE IN ELEMENTARY EDUCATION

Mid-Atlantic and College of The Albemarle (COA) signed an articulation agreement to provide graduates from COA's Associate in Arts and Associate in Science in Teacher Preparation a seamless transfer to MACU's elementary education program. COA President Dr. Jack Bagwell and President John Maurice were joined by faculty and staff who were instrumental in developing the articulation agreement between the two institutions (pictured below).

Uniform articulation agreements are in place for North Carolina community college graduates with an Associate in Arts and Associate in Science in Teacher Preparation to transfer with junior-



COA President Dr. Jack Bagwell and MACU President John Maurice at signing of agreement



level status to institutions within The University of North Carolina that offer baccalaureate educator preparation programs and to signatory institutions of North Carolina Independent Colleges and Universities. The articulation agreement with MACU will provide an additional seamless transfer opportunity for students pursuing their baccalaureate degree in elementary education.

“MACU and COA have a long history of working together to meet the needs of students in this region,” said President Maurice. “We are thankful for the opportunity to partner together to help educate and prepare a future generation of educators to serve northeastern North Carolina. We believe that this partnership will continue to enhance the quality of education throughout our community.”

Dr. Bagwell shared, “We are thankful for our partnership with MACU and are always open to asking how we can work with our partners to provide educational pathways that meet community needs. . . . Qualified and well-trained teachers are in great demand, and this agreement provides a pathway that helps us meet this urgent need. I am very appreciative to the faculty and staff at both institutions who helped to bring this agreement to fruition.”

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**We are thankful for the opportunity to partner together to help educate and prepare a future generation of educators to serve northeastern North Carolina.**

**We believe that this partnership will continue to enhance the quality of education throughout our community.**

## TEACHING BY DOING: STUDENTS SERVE IN ZIMBABWE

Cross-cultural professor Dr. Claudio Divino led another group to serve in Zimbabwe this summer. During the two-week trip in May, Dr. Divino preached and taught in several congregations. The four students (Landin Coble, Christian LaRue, Kimberly Sawyer, and Clairese Smith) and two graduates (Allie Morris and Amanda Lemons) shared their testimonies, led youth and children in classes and activities, used skits and music in services, and visited a mission hospital.



Dr. Divino and the team, along with members of a rural congregation in northern Zimbabwe where they ministered, position themselves for a group photo.



Senior Clairese Smith and Amanda Lemons '21 have the opportunity to share their testimonies.

Team members teach a game to the young people they are serving.

### WISDOM LEADS STUDENT SERVICES



Bryan Wisdom joined the MACU family as Director of Admissions in March but had the credentials, experience, and heart that

qualified him to become Vice President for Student Services when that position opened up soon after his arrival. He has been involved in student life ministry at his alma mater for nine of the years since his graduation from Truett-McConnell College (BA) in 2011. He has been a residence life coordinator (Reinhardt University for two years), first-year experience coordinator, director of admissions, and director of student development. He also holds degrees from Liberty (MA, MRE). Vice President Wisdom shares some developments from student services in this issue.

The speed at which an academic year goes by never ceases to amaze us. We are finalizing a new freshman class, planning for orientation, and moving students in from summer break.

After a brief separation, we have brought Admissions and Student Life back together under one heading, Student Services. The primary reason is that we believe that our best recruiters are our current students and their families. If they are having a great experience, the word-of-mouth advertising that follows is immeasurable. Therefore, having our Admissions team more tied in with the current student experience helps bridge that gap. Overall, the goal of Student

Services is to support the mission of the university by creating a Christ-centered community through student-focused programs that foster academic, social, and spiritual growth.

Admissions is excited about the future. First, over a year ago we launched a partnership with Fuller Higher Education Solutions and received over 40 recommendations on how to improve our recruiting strategy. Second, in December we launched a new software called Element451 to help us streamline recruiting with better organization, tracking, and customer service as new students move through the enrollment process. Third, we have filled several vacancies and are pleased to be fully staffed again.

Regarding Student Life, we know that our students are hungry for community in this pandemic and its impact on gathering since 2020. Therefore, we cannot wait to see this next academic year unfold as we offer a robust Student Life program. By the Lord's perfect design, we are relational beings that thrive in communal environments. Therefore, be it through athletics, student activities, or campus ministry, we will be working hard this year to provide our students with a variety of opportunities to spend time with one another deepening their connection with their classmates and with the Lord. Everything we do in Student Life will point back to our goal of creating a Christ-centered community. We cannot wait to see how our students respond to being able to truly gather together again.

Student Services functions best when we hold two primary beliefs. First, we must believe in the value of a biblical education. An education that

is not founded on the Word of God is incomplete, since God is our source of knowledge and wisdom. Therefore, a MACU education that is built upon the Bible is better than one that is not. Second, we must believe our students can impact the world. This is easy to see in so many of our alumni, but we must believe it in our current and incoming students as well. We have a tremendous opportunity to make a difference for the Kingdom of God through training generations of ministers, educators, business professionals, and more who have been transformed into extraordinary Christian leaders.

*Please join us in welcoming Bryan, his wife Hannah, and their two children.*

### LEWIS, ALLIGOOD NAMED INAUGURAL MEMBERS OF ATHLETICS WALL OF FAME



Mid-Atlantic and the athletics department honored Neal Alligood '98 and Garrett "Pop" Lewis '73 by naming them to the Athletics Wall of Fame. The inaugural event was held Oct. 21 with colleagues, family, and friends in attendance.

As a student, Neal was a two-sport athlete (1995-1998). He later oversaw the program (1998-2002) and then



became the first full-time athletic director. He was the head men's basketball coach from 2011 to 2015, leading MACU to a runner-up finish at the 2014 Bible College National Invitational Tournament. He also led the university to membership in the USCAA. But significantly, Neal also ministered to countless youth through athletics and also had his players join him in weekly volunteer service in the local school system.

After his induction, Neal introduced his fellow inductee, Pop Lewis, who had been Neal's coach. Pop played MACU basketball as a student (1969-1971 and 1973) when the team was called the Preachers. He served as head men's basketball coach from 1974 to 1997 and also as part-time athletic director (1976-1986). Neal regaled the crowd with stories from the days of Pop's leading a team that operated without its own gym and without a budget for travel or uniforms. During his tenure, Pop changed the team's name to the Flames. He coupled his part-time work in sports with his full-time work of recruiting students or ministering to them as Vice President for Student Life for 20 years or as dorm dad to the men for 27 years. He is currently an admissions counselor.

*The two inductees each received a plaque and a blazer. Their names will be displayed on the MACU Athletics Wall of Fame. Congratulations, Neal and Pop!*

# SPORTS ROUNDUP

It has been an exciting year in sports at MACU. MACU and several other schools from various conferences have formed a new conference within the USCAA (United States Collegiate Athletic Association). The New South Athletic Conference (NSAC) will make scheduling and travel easier for the member schools, as well as guaranteeing post season conference games.

Those earning All-American Athletes (performance) and National All-Academic Athletes (academic recognition for student athletes) awards were named in the list of Honors Chapel awards. In addition, Senior Kevin Fletcher was the first basketball player in recent history (since the school became MACU) to score 1,000 points. Other accomplishments include the best finish for the golf team in their third year at nationals in State College, PA. The baseball team, in its third competitive season, qualified for nationals and played hard in DuBois, PA. The women's basketball team qualified for their first appearance at nationals, held in Richmond, VA.

The baseball team is pleased to announce the 2022 New South Athletic Conference All-Academic team representatives for the Mustangs: Dalon Arrington, Josiah Collado, Drew Copeland, Riane Franklin, Sean Henry, Eudy Medina, Ryan Mitchell-Bagley, Elijah Ollman, Tanner Skidmore, Matthew Springman, and Caleb Whitley. All-Academic team members must maintain a cumulative GPA of 3.2 or higher. In addition, Matthew Springman's high academic average qualified him as a USCAA All-Academic team member, a national honor and the first player in the history of the baseball program to be so named.

## SENIOR BUSINESS INTERN SERVES ATHLETICS



Mustang baseball player Ryan Mitchell-Bagley, who plays middle infield, is working on campus this summer to fulfill his internship in the Business Administration program, focusing on Organizational Leadership. The senior from Cary, NC, has been working closely with Head Baseball Coach Michael Louis. Ryan has assisted with running a baseball camp at nearby Albemarle School and organized and conducted MACU's first baseball camp. He said he has grown to appreciate the importance of "building bridges in the area" to develop community connections and person-to-person relationships.

Ryan has also been recruiting student athletes in baseball and softball camps in High Point, Cary, and Durham, as well as creating contracts for MACU's athletic department, particularly to assist student athletes have a successful campus life. In preparation for next school year, he has ordered apparel for sports teams and organized the next season of intramural games. He has also helped to develop wish lists for various sports as a part of the department's strategic plan for the next several years. Ryan is looking forward to a career in the business world of sports.

### GOTSNEAKERS FUNDRAISER FOR BASKETBALL TEAM

The Mid-Atlantic Christian University (MACU) men's basketball team is holding an athletic shoe drive fundraiser to raise money for the team leading into the 2022-2023 season. The basketball team will earn funds based on the total quantity of gently worn, used, and new sneakers collected. GotSneakers, a social enterprise, will issue funds in compensation for the collected sneakers. Those funds will benefit the university's men's basketball team and their collective opportunities during the upcoming season. Anyone can help by simply donating gently worn, used, and new sneakers.

GotSneakers has developed a unique fundraising program that asks communities to reach into their closets, not their pockets. The sneaker recycling program helps keep sneakers out of landfills, which has harmful effects on our environment, and helps organizations like ours raise much needed funds. The program is truly a win-win! Learn more about GotSneakers by visiting their website at [www.gotsneakers.com](http://www.gotsneakers.com).



"We are excited about our sneaker drive fundraiser," said Charles Sims,

MACU's new men's basketball head coach (who was previously assistant coach).

"We know that most people have extra sneakers in their closets they would like to donate rather than throw away. By doing so, we raise money for our program and help the environment. It's a win – win for everyone!"

### NEW SPORTS, COACHES ANNOUNCED



Athletic Director Andy Meneely is pleased to announce the addition of softball for the 2022-2023 school year.

#### Keith Essary

has been named softball coach. A native of Corinth, MS, Essary has coached softball and baseball for over 25 years. He has coached at multiple levels of play, including high school, collegiate, and professional teams. Coach Essary began his softball career at George County High School in Mississippi, where his team went to the Class 5A state championship series in 2016, in only his second season as a head softball coach. He was the Clarion Ledger Softball Coach of the Year and the District Coach of the Year in that same season.

Essary spent the next six years coaching both baseball and softball at high schools throughout Mississippi. In the summer of 2019, he was chosen to coach the U.S. Military All-Star Baseball Team during their Pacific Northwest Tour. He said this was one of his most memorable moments in his coaching career and a great opportunity to represent the USA and our military.

Essary earned a bachelor's degree in education from Blue Mountain College in 2012. He and his wife Emily have three children. Coach Essary is excited for the opportunity to lead the Mustang softball program in its inaugural season.

### MEDDERS NOW RECRUITING FOR WOMEN'S SOCCER FOR FALL 2023



Alvin Medders, selected to coach women's soccer, is recruiting players for the fall 2023 season. Medders was born and reared in Georgia, where he attended South

Georgia State College and joined the US Coast Guard. Now retired from the Coast Guard, he is a PE/Health and Wellness Coach at NEAAAT (Northeast Academy for Aerospace and Advanced Technologies) in Elizabeth City. Medders has coached teams in several states for 14 years. In addition to coaching high school and middle school soccer teams, he also coached an advanced team as well as different ages of rec teams in four states.

Coach Medders has a passion for developing a player's love for competitive soccer and focuses on advancing skill sets as well as good sportsmanship on and off the field. He is a volunteer coach in the soccer community through the Old Dominion Soccer Club and also coaches high school teams and NEAAAT.

Coach Medders resides in Gates County, NC, with his wife Jess and four children.





## NEW MINISTRIES, SERVICE

**Davon Huss '93** is the new preaching minister for Louisville (TN) Christian Church.

**Bryan Eure '02** is the Chief Program Officer at Impact Autism Services. Lynchburg, VA.

**Billy Dyer '07** is the Connections Minister at LifePointe Christian Church in Toano, VA.

**Jimmy McCloud ex'07**, is Lead Minister, at First Christian Church, Canton, OH.

**Wendy Ward '16** is Associate Chaplain at Riverside Regional Medical Center - Peninsula, Hampton, VA.

**Chris Santoro '17** is the Youth and Family Minister at Jarvisburg (NC) Church of Christ.

**Symphony Mullins Mitchell '19** teaches 5th-10th grade Biblical Studies at Ivy League Christian Academy in Virginia Beach, VA.

**Allie Hackett '21** is the Program Manager for the Virginia Peninsula Chamber, Hampton, VA.

**Amon McElrath '21** is Pastor of Student Ministries at Hikes Point Christian Church in Louisville, KY.

**John Baker '22** is Youth Minister with New Life Christian Church, Chantilly, VA.

**Estavian Fortunate '22** is working with youth ages 8-18 in Delaware doing sports and weight training.

**Perry Garza '22** has been called as Youth Minister for Venture Church in Wilmington, NC.

**Dalene Govender '22** was hired by Smithfield Foods as the Sales Account Manager for their Louisiana/Mississippi territory.

**Charquise Smith-Stultz '22** has been called as Student Minister for Cape Fear Christian Church in Wilmington, NC.

**Senior Seth Ambrose** is in a youth ministry internship with Philippi Church of Christ in Creswell, NC.

## BIRTHS

**Zach '15 and Taylor Holloman '15 Tanner:** Beulah Joy, Apr. 5, 2021

**Kevin '13 and Maiah McNeil:** Micah Wade, May 12, 2021

**Phil ex'06 and Kourtney Thomas:** Adelaide Octavia, Aug. 28, 2021

**Eli '18 and Alexis Russo:** Lillian Ray, Sept. 13, 2021

**Dan '08 and Meghan Dodson:** Bodie Theodore, July 13, 2021

**Beto and Steph Saufley '01 Luna:** Anthony Mathias, Oct. 25, 2021

**Buddy '12 and Danielle Ball '12 Holloway:** Evangeline Noelle, Dec. 9, 2021

**Aaron '14 and Amy Stokes:** Annabeth Jo, March 28, 2022

**Athletic Program Director Michael and Brooke Louis:** Hazel Marie, Apr. 5

**John and Kimberly Naugle ex'12 Fremont:** Molly Elizabeth and John Charles Fremont VII, Apr. 6

**Benj '18 and Jacqui Hilts '19 Nichols:** Piper Rose, Apr. 6

**Chris '17 and Abby Crouse '18 Santoro:** Theodore Nicholas Scott, May 17

**Attah '13 and Jessica Osebreh:** Mareshah Ruyi, June 12

**Jason and Emily Lynn ex'07 Ford:** Lily Ann, July 11

**Chris and Maria Caputo ex'16 Martinez:** Iliana Emilia, July 12

**Joey '16 and Whitley Davis '18 Craft:** Holland Rose, July 15

## WEDDINGS

**Christian Mitchell and Symphony Mullins '19,** Apr. 30, 2021

**Josh Nunez '11 and Cesia Mendoza,** July 8, 2021

**James Frederick and Aimee Curry '05,** Sept. 4, 2021

**Demetrius Stokley '16 and Chiquita White,** Dec. 5, 2021

**Nathan Rosillo and Caitie Goss '16,** Mar. 5, 2022

**Ryan Dent '13 and Courtney Hybiak,** April 2

**Noah Jarman '22 and Senior Bailey McCarthy,** May 9

**James Hoffman '21 and Jennifer Smith '21,** May 21

**Senior Amon McElrath and Elise Greene,** May 21

## ORDINATIONS

**Phil Thomas ex'06** was ordained by the elders at his home congregation, Bethlehem Church of Christ, Herford, NC, Jan. 16, 2022.

**Charquise Smith-Stultz '22** was ordained at his home congregation, Rich Acres Christian Church, Martinsville, VA, Mar. 6.

## OTHER NEWS 'N' NOTES

**Jamie Jernigan Sacksteder '99** has been named Executive Director of the Virginia Board of Dentistry.

**Kim Moulden ex'02** was named the 2022 Faculty Member of the Year at Beaufort Community College, Washington, NC.

**Chip Mabe '17** earned a Master of Science degree in Mental Health and Wellness with an Emphasis in Christian Ministry from Grand Canyon University.

## NOTES OF SYMPATHY

*Sympathy is expressed to family and friends of:*

**Fred Hedgepeth '86,** May 16, 2021

**Henry Ward,** May 27, 2021, husband of Wendy Ward '16

**Clyde Dalton, Sr., ex'68,** June 27, 2021

**Linda Nixon Terry '88,** July 25, 2021

**Edward Hancuff, Sr., ex '66,** Sept. 5, 2021

**Robert W. Moulden '73,** Sept. 19, 2021

**Linwood Adams, Jr., '69,** Sept. 25, 2021

**Lloyd Davis '70,** Nov. 4, 2021

**Madia Fritz,** Dec. 17, 2021, wife of Denis Fritz '77

**Ora Jane Scruggs Alligood '65,** Jan. 19, 2022

**Linda Cuthbertson,** Jan. 23, wife of David Cuthbertson '70

**Thomas Biggs '63,** Jan. 27

**Margie Anne Clark Presley '63,** Feb. 2

**Melvin D. Styons, Sr., '53,** Mar. 7

**Larry H. Prescott,** Apr. 19, 2022, Trustee

**Deloris J. "Mama D" Gibbs,** Apr. 22, cafeteria

**Linda Solly ex'84,** July 9



## AN UPDATE FROM INSTITUTIONAL ADVANCEMENT

Another year completed, and what a year it was. MACU has been continually blessed, and we are thankful to announce that we have raised over \$1,998,000 dollars for the fiscal year 2021-22. The most amazing part about that number is not only is the total more than \$656,000 higher than the previous fiscal year, but we also outpaced giving to the general fund while still raising a considerable amount for the Rise Up campaign!

However, our work is not over. To date, we have raised \$1,503,750 for the Rise Up campaign. You may be thinking, wasn't that the original goal? Yes, it was, and it is incredible to have reached the goal for the capital campaign in just 15 months.

The issue we are running into is the rising cost of materials and labor, making our original goal insufficient.

Therefore, we need to raise an additional \$500,000 to ensure that the university is in the best financial position after these buildings are complete. If costs continue to rise, we may have to raise the goal again. This goal change is not a fundraiser "trick." A fundraiser never wants to have to do more after hitting a goal. My team understands how important this mission of funding the new Heritage Hall is, and we are looking for new and creative ways to help our donors reach this goal.

One of those ways is to look for **business partners** to join us. We have done that by partnering with Sentara Albemarle Hospital for a \$75,000 grant that will help fund the science laboratory equipment inside of our four new laboratories. The laboratories are needed for students in our biology program and related studies. Just this past year, one of our first biology graduates was admitted into a program



Pouring footers for the new Heritage Hall, August 1, 2022

to become a physician's assistant. We are excited for the other medical professionals or teachers who may use these labs in the coming years.

In additional news, **Dr. Bane Angles** has agreed to serve as the Director of Church Relations. He will be the person for churches to contact for any needs they have as well as be the focal person for the school's outreach to supporting churches. Dr. Angles and I are currently working on plans to visit supporting churches as well as offer a leadership series to address the needs of ministers and church staff in our service area.

Also, we received an exciting call at the end of June. **Dr. Jack Cottrell**, who served as a professor of theology at Cincinnati Christian University for 48 years, has decided to dedicate his personal library to Mid-Atlantic Christian University. Dr. Cottrell, who has been a titan of the Restoration Movement, saw MACU as the place that held closest to the teaching that he professed for all those years at Cincinnati Christian. That acknowledgement speaks highly not only of our faculty but also of our alumni and the work they are doing for the Kingdom of God. We will move his library to Elizabeth City soon to be housed in a special section of the Watson-Griffith

Library. We are grateful for his decision and for what it will do for our current students, as well as for our alumni and others who may wish to consult the collection.

Please note that some **gift reporting changes** have transpired. In January we switched software that tracks donations. In doing so, we realized that the industry standard as it relates to gift reporting is an end-year reconciliation of gifts. We have been spending thousands of dollars a year mailing monthly gift receipts, so there is a considerable cost savings to moving to a one-time-a-year method. We are looking at creative ways to thank you for gifts and, as always, should you need more information about your gift, please contact our office and we will be happy to send you documentation.

It is hard to believe that 2022-2023 is **MACU's 75th year** of service. Be watching for the ways we will be celebrating.

Thank you for your continued support of this great institution. Your generosity is one of the reasons we are able to educate the next generation of Christian leaders who will impact the world in their ministries in both the church and the marketplace.

**Call Institutional Advancement at 252-334-2008 or e-mail at [advancement@macuniversity.edu](mailto:advancement@macuniversity.edu) for questions or information on how to take advantage of this opportunity.**



## TRIBUTE GIFTS

During the past months, the university has received many tribute gifts in honor or in memory of loved ones. These have been given to the general fund, the Rise Up Campaign, and to the following scholarship funds:

Jimmy & Shelby Bennett Scholarship Fund  
Odis & Ruby Bennett Memorial Scholarship  
Al Blanton Scholarship  
Charles L. Braswell Scholarship  
Al & Ann Clark Scholarship Fund  
Cooper Missions Scholarship  
Vickie Andrews Cox Memorial Scholarship  
J. David Cuthbertson Fund  
Eastern Christian College Alumni Scholarship  
Lee M. Fields Scholarship Fund  
Fritz/Flint Memorial Scholarship  
Frank B. Fuller, Sr. Scholarship Fund  
Loma & Ella Hassell Scholarship Fund  
Bobby & Jean Higginbotham Scholarship Fund  
Dorothy Langley Memorial Scholarship Fund  
Ken & Linda Lewis Scholarship Fund  
Matthew Maurice Scholarship Fund  
Men for Ministry Fund

Moore Scholarship  
Robert W. Moulden Fund  
Marshall & Viola Murphy Memorial Scholarship  
Oak Grove Christian Church Fund  
Presidential Merit Scholarship  
C.G. & Edith Presley Preaching Scholarship  
Grace Presley Scholarship Fund  
Jonathan B. Sawyer Memorial Scholarship  
John & Helen Scott Cross-Cultural Scholarship Fund  
J.T. & Addie Maye Seagroves Scholarship  
Seniors by the Sea Scholarship  
Brenda T. Stanley Memorial Scholarship  
Melvin & Dorothy Styons Fund  
West Park Church of Christ Scholarship  
John P. & Jean B. West Fund  
Harley T. Wood Scholarship

## DATES AND EVENTS

### **Aug. 15-19**

New students arrive; orientation

### **Aug. 22**

Final registration; classes begin at 2 p.m.

### **Aug. 23**

Convocation

### **Aug. 28**

@MACU

### **Nov. 3**

Foundation Board of Directors

### **Nov. 3**

Foundation Scholarship Gala

### **Nov. 3, 4**

Board of Trustees

### **Nov. 12**

Open House

### **Dec. 12-15**

Final exams

### **Week of March 20, 2023**

MACU Rally 2023 - 75th Anniversary Celebration



The MESSENGER is published quarterly  
by **Mid-Atlantic Christian University**  
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Elizabeth City, NC 27909  
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Editors: John Maurice, Melissa Lewis

(USPS 467-260)

*Mid-Atlantic Christian University is  
Accredited by the Southern Association  
of Colleges and Schools Commission  
on Colleges to award certificates and  
associates and baccalaureate degrees.  
Contact the Commission on Colleges at  
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## **TRAVEL TO THE LAND OF THE BIBLE, FEB. 1-10, 2023**

President John Maurice will host a 10-day tour to Israel that will include Mount Carmel, Mount of Beatitudes, a boat ride on the Sea of Galilee, Jericho, Masada, the Dead Sea, the Western Wall Tunnel, and the Church of the Holy Sepulcher (Golgatha). We hope you will join us as we walk the land of Jesus. For more information, contact President Maurice at [president@macuniversity.edu](mailto:president@macuniversity.edu) or call 252.334.2002.