

Fall 2023 Vol. 76 No. 1

# MESSENGER

MID-ATLANTIC CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY MAGAZINE



**RIISING TO THE  
OCCASION**

**INTERNSHIP  
MINISTRIES**

**THINKING  
BIBLICALLY**





Students, alumni, and the community celebrated at the ribbon cutting for Heritage Hall on November 2. Following greetings, congratulatory comments, and prayers, guests were invited to tour the new education building. Seniors Dylan Hardison and Carrington Townes expressed their gratitude to God and to supporters for the beautiful building that replaces the one that collapsed three weeks into their freshman year at MACU. The next issue of the Messenger, as well as social media, will feature more photos once classes begin in the facility. Rejoice with us for God's lovingkindness and provision and pray that we will use this incredible resource for the good and growth of His Kingdom.

Since my becoming president of Mid-Atlantic Christian University in 2018, the school has experienced numerous highs and lows. Some of the high points were a near record enrollment in 2018 of 212 students and an excellent enrollment of 197 the following year. We reinstituted our minor in Preaching Ministry, and while I long for more students who feel called to preach, 66% of male graduates in the Class of 2023 were in a ministry major.



The first graduate from our Biology degree program was accepted into Physician's Assistant (PA) school. One of our exceptional Business Administration students had a professional internship with the Norfolk Admirals Hockey franchise, which led to a full-time job with the Utah Grizzlies (ECHL). Another Business Administration graduate was hired by Smithfield Foods and has already been promoted. She is now working in Dubai, UAE.

We led our first tour of Israel and have another trip this coming April 2024. Several Elementary Education graduates have made their mark in the public school system and been recognized as teachers of the year. Since 2018 Mid-Atlantic's yearly financial audit has shown that we have operated in the black. We completed and moved into Allgood Commons, home of the Mustang Café, a year ago, and cut the ribbon on Heritage Hall before Thanksgiving. God has been extremely good to MACU, and our graduates are impacting many professions and areas of life with the gospel of Christ – business, ministry, elementary education, biology, science education, psychology and counseling, Bible translation, cross-cultural ministry, preaching ministry, youth ministry, worship ministry, and more.

To be sure, there have been some low points over the last six years. Covid delivered a tough blow to us, and then the collapse of Heritage Hall nearly delivered a knock-out punch as enrollment plummeted to 108 (full-time equivalency).




Admissions counselors worked extra hard trying to recruit students to a pile of rubble and a university that had no classrooms. Enrollment was in a steady decline and that we recruited any new students was almost miraculous. Morale among staff, faculty, and students hit an all-time low, and staff turnover ran rampant in some strategic areas such as student services and enrollment.

But through it all, God has been extremely good to MACU, and even in the worst of times our graduates have been impacting lives with the gospel of Christ. I am reminded of the words of Job when people told him to just curse God and die. Job responded, "The Lord giveth and the Lord taketh away, blessed be the name of the Lord" (Job 1:21). Let me be clear. We have been through a rough patch, but our faith and trust in the Lord have not wavered. God has brought us through the storm, and we continue to praise His name and serve the Lord Jesus Christ. The beautiful story of MACU is much like that of Job – God gave him twice what he had before (Job 42:10). It didn't make the pain and hurt go away or negate the bad that happened, but it showed the faithfulness of God through a time of suffering.

MACU is rising, thanks to the loving kindness of our Lord! God is restoring our student body. Enrollment this semester is 176 headcount and 151 FTE – the best enrollment since 2020. Students are engaged in learning and are excited about the move into Heritage Hall. They are excited about chapel and discipleship groups and growing in their faith. God is doing a mighty work on this campus as we equip extraordinary Christian leaders.

God is a God of restoration and resurrection. Jesus called Lazarus from the grave, and he walked out of it. God raised Jesus from the dead, and His word says that even though we were dead in sin we have "been brought from death to life" (Romans 6:13). Throughout my time at MACU the words of Isaiah 40:31 have been a source of hope and promise to me. As we continue to move forward in the power of Christ, it is my prayer that we will "rise up with wings like eagles" to continue the work that God has called us to do.

Let's rise together!

  
John W. Maurice, President

*Let's Rise!*  
*"Yet those who wait for the Lord*  
*Will gain new strength;*  
*They will mount up with wings like eagles,*  
*They will run and not get tired,*  
*They will walk and not become weary"*  
*(Isaiah 40:31).*



## WELCOME, NEW STUDENTS FALL 2023

Pictured are those who were present for the photo taken during orientation. **Front:** Angel Reeves, Katherine Gonzalez, Aysha Chaney, Madalyn Dabney, Irllyn Ramos, Daliyah Ratliffe, Jamie Morgan, Isabel LaPoe, Shannon Thomas, Jabri Davis, Elle Wilkins, Gracie Wooten, Lizzy Porter, Danielle Johnston, Emily Holt, Ayla Rivera, Mia Knight, Nayshka Cordero. **Second:** Dakota Inman, R.J. Cabrera, Matthew Egypt, Logan Alford, Yadi Cabrera, Joey Frazier, Malik Battle, Imanuel Nelson, Danae Goree, Nestor Cortes-Perez, Nicole Newman, Bjorn Magbanua, Ryleigh Cook. **Third:** Damond Reid, Henry Goodwin, Josh Peacock, Carlos Raven, Seth Adams, Bree Miller, Brady Osborne, Carson Edwards, Allen Williams, Chase Smith, Diego Jaquez, Adam Schell. **Back:** Josh Tyler, Jackson Colgan, Sam Boyd, Elijah Cox, Carter Robertson, Luke Garrett, Jeremiah Riley, Trent Sawyer, Alex Groen, Kendal Wilson, Tyler Getting, Erick Enamorado. **Not pictured:** Mattox Bryant, Godfrey Costa, Mackenzie Davenport, Denver Hixenbaugh, Jamison Miller, Kelsey Needham, Aedan Savage, Noah Swinney, William Valentine, Barry Wilson.





## **MISSIONS** **BRAZIL, May 19-30**

A week after school closed last May, Dr. Cláudio Divino took a group of 16 MACU students and alumni to Brazil, his home country. After leading mission trips for 20 years, this was the first time he had led a short-term mission to Brazil.

The MACU students also visited some Brazilian churches and participated in their vibrant worship. They presented some American worship songs, and two – Christian LaRue (below) and Cody Marks (right) – had the opportunity to preach.



Situated in Petrópolis and Rio de Janeiro, the team had two objectives: to learn and to serve/minister. Team members worked with Brazilian youth in the local churches, serving them and connecting with them and with their communities and culture.

They also ministered to the needy, visiting a social project for children in Petropolis with missionary Paulina Gonçalves and her team. Visiting and participating in a social project in Rio de Janeiro for poor children, with missionary Lindy Rosa, was especially impactful. Seeing the conditions where these children live was eye-opening, and the students showed a lot of love and compassion for the children. They also served in the bus ministry for homeless street people. The group conducted a VBS on Saturday afternoon, much to the delight of the Brazilian children.

On their one day off, Dr. Divino showed them around Rio de Janeiro, including the towering statue Christ the Redeemer, Sugarloaf Mountain, and Copacabana Beach. We thank God for students who want to serve and look forward to their next opportunity to share the love of Jesus in other cultures.



Front: Adam Crisp, Christian LaRue, Clairese Smith, Sarita Smith, Jajour Lambert, Phoenix Lynn.  
Middle: Rachael Revels, Rachel Hayes '14, Cody Marks '20, Allie Morris '18, Carly James.  
Top: Julian Revels, Chris Robinson, Marylou Daniels, Mary Divino, Dr. Claudio Divino.



## **ISRAEL: ANCIENT SHILOH**

For four weeks this summer, Dr. Kevin Larsen, vice president for academic affairs, joined the Associates for Biblical Research for a fifth season of archaeological work at ancient Shiloh in Judea and Samaria (Israel). Dr. Larsen serves as a supervisor over four 5x5 meter excavation squares. Each week a team of individuals from the USA and other nations do the heavy work of excavation, dry sifting, and wet sifting. One of the goals of the excavation is to better understand the time period of Joshua and Judges while the tabernacle was erected and functioning at Shiloh. Dr. Larsen's team was focused on the northwest corner of a monumental building that was in use during the time of Joshua and Judges. One significant accomplishment from the season was that Dr. Larsen's team discovered evidence that confirmed the construction of the monumental building to be during the period of the early Judges of Israel. Pictured are Dr. Larsen (center front) and one of his teams.

**Find your purpose. Make your impact.**

**Impacting the world**  
by equipping people to be  
extraordinary Christian leaders



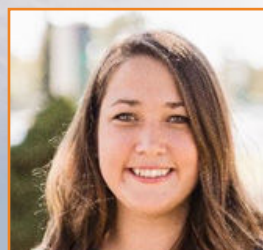
## **JORDAN: ANCIENT BAPTISTERY EXPOSED**

Dr. Robert W. Smith, professor of history and Bible, continued to supervise excavation of the Abila Pilgrimage Complex at Quwaylibah, Jordan, under the direction of Dr. David Vila of John Brown University, with the permission of the Department of Antiquities of Jordan. Excavation confirmed that the "Water Ritual Building" on the north side of the complex was indeed a baptistery. This tri-partite structure was surrounded by a mosaic-paved processional whose southern corridor directed pilgrim's attention to the waterfall that cascaded ten feet from an aqueduct down into the complex. That same high-level water supply, carried through overhead ceramic pipes, continuously fed the baptistery pool with fresh water. Excavation of the southern apodyterium (changing room) for baptismal candidates reflects architectural repairs that were necessitated by an early eighth century quake.

Baptismal candidates washed their feet and stepped through a narrow marble-paved passage to the baptismal pool. The 40-inch-wide and 45-inch-deep pool, once surfaced with marble, was located under the half-dome of the salient eastern apse of the central room and flanked by statuary niches. While the baptistery was built prior to the AD 635 victory of Islamic forces, at the nearby Battle of the Yarmuk, it continued serving the local Christian community. Repairs and modifications were necessitated by the early eighth century earthquakes. The massive AD 749 earthquake cut off the water flow through the aqueduct and devastated the building. The partially collapsed structure subsequently suffered being quarried for its marble adornments and ashlar through the Abbasid Period until it was covered by a landslide in the Mamluke Period.

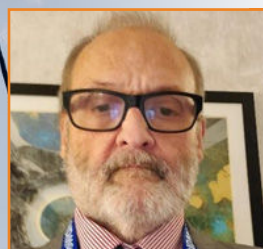






## DR. ABIGAIL R. MIRAU, ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF ENGLISH COMPOSITION

Dr. Mirau received her Ph.D. in Humanities from Faulkner University this summer. Her dissertation was titled Art as a Model of Education: Manifesting John Henry Newman's Illative Sense through the Means and Metaphor of Art. Born and raised in Minnesota, she attended Crossroads College in Rochester, Minnesota, graduating in 2010 with a Bachelor of Science degree double majoring in General Ministry, and Biblical Studies and Theology. She then completed her Master of Arts in English and Creative Writing through the online program at Southern New Hampshire University, graduating in December of 2013. She joined the faculty in 2015 as the English professor. She is passionate about helping students find a joy and love of writing and seeing how words impact and change the world. She also enjoys traveling, music, and reading.



## JOHN L. PACE, PH.D., VISITING PROFESSOR OF BIOLOGY

Dr. Pace, an adjunct instructor since 2019 and currently a visiting professor of biology, presented his scientific work this September at the ASM ESCMID (American Society for Microbiology, European Society for Clinical Microbiology and Infectious Disease) Joint Conference on Antimicrobial Resistance. Earlier this year he presented his findings at the ECCMID (European Conference on Clinical Microbiology and Infectious Disease) conference held in Copenhagen, Denmark. And in 2022 he presented at ECCMID held in Lisbon, Portugal, as well as at two conferences in Washington, DC, ASM Microbe (ASM's annual conference) and ID Week (annual conference of the Infectious Disease Society of America). Dr. Pace is an infectious disease microbiologist possessing more than 30 years' experience in both the biotech/pharma industry and academia. He holds 21 U.S. Patents related to fighting bacteria. What a unique blessing our students are getting by seeing his work up-close and even participating in it.



## DR. JOSIAH PEELER, ASSISTANT PROFESSOR OF BIBLICAL STUDIES

Dr. Peeler's dissertation was accepted for publication in the Forschungen zum Alten Testament II series by Mohr Siebeck (Tübingen, Germany). The monograph's title will be Punning in Odd or Elegant Constructions in Jeremiah: Exploring the Convergence of Linguistics, Rhetoric, and Textuality in the Hebrew Text of Jeremiah.

September 4-8, 2023 he attended a doctoral colloquium centered around the topic of "Hope Beyond Judgment" in Leuven, Belgium. He presented a paper entitled "Disappearing Syntax as a Rhetorical Device in Jeremiah 4:23-26." This paper discusses how the disappearing syntax in this text visually replicates the textual message of God de-creating and removing the world because of Judah's sin.



## DR. PATRIK SKULTETY, LMS ADMINISTRATOR & INSTRUCTIONAL DESIGNER/ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF MANAGEMENT

Dr. Skultety attended a conference at the University of Presov Conference Retreat Centre in High Tatras, Slovakia, September 21-23, 2023. The conference – AI in a Risk Society: Navigating Social, Religious, and Ethical Challenges in the Modern Era – discussed many of the global implications of artificial intelligence.

Several key topics of discussion were Ethical Considerations in AI Development, Religious Perspectives on AI and Human Values, Ensuring Fairness and Transparency in AI Systems, The Role of AI in Reinforcing or Disrupting Social Norms, and AI and Healthcare: Opportunities and Ethical Dilemmas.

The conference is co-organized by Dr. Skultety, the Greek-Catholic Theological Faculty at the University of Presov, the Evangelical Lutheran Theological Faculty at Comenius University Bratislava, and the Faculty of Social Sciences at The Pontifical University of John Paul II in Krakow.



## DR. ROBERT W. SMITH, DISTINGUISHED PROFESSOR OF HISTORY

This spring Dr. Robert W. Smith was named Distinguished Professor of History. He is worthy of this designation because of his relentless pursuit of academic excellence, both from his students and from himself. What he expects from his students, he models in his own work.

The guidelines for the designation stipulate that the faculty member should have a compelling national reputation for excellence in his discipline. In fact, he also has an international reputation in the field of history and the related discipline of archaeology. Almost yearly, Dr. Smith presents papers at national and international conferences. Just in 2022 he presented in England and Jordan. Those papers were later published.

The guidelines also stipulate that "Distinguished Professors are persons whose work not only reflects high achievement but also whose life demonstrates a comprehensive commitment to issues or themes which are central to MACU's mission." Dr. Smith's life pursuits demonstrate what MACU is about. He and his wife, Lorna, welcome campus visitors into their home as well as students for home-cooked meals. MACU has always had a heart for the local church, and Dr. Smith continues to make contributions that strengthen local churches and the larger kingdom. He serves faithfully in a local church as an elder and engages in teaching and service activities. Congratulations, Dr. Smith, Distinguished Professor!



Last summer a number of students fulfilled their internships. Those in the various ministry programs who are already serving with a congregation were able to use that position, in partnership with the congregation, to fulfill the requirement. Others in internships were:

## YOUTH AND FAMILY MINISTRY MAJOR

**NICK CROUSE**, a junior in the Youth and Family Ministry major, served as a ministry intern with Cornerstone Community Church in Joppa, MD, delivering youth messages, filming ministry videos for online content, filming a ten-part video teaching series for the online youth social media page, and delivering a five-part video teaching series for the youth social media accounts.

## CROSS-CULTURAL MINISTRY MAJOR

**KIMBERLY SAWYER CROUSE**, a senior in the Cross-Cultural Ministry major, interned with two ministries. At the Caring Kitchen in Burlington, NC, she worked in a soup kitchen and food pantry. She also served with Siloam Missionary Homes in Snow Camp, NC, a nonprofit that houses missionaries home on furlough.

## PSYCHOLOGY AND COUNSELING MAJOR

**JAJOUR LAMBERT**, a senior Psychology and Counseling major, is currently serving his internship with Believe-N-U Academic Development Center (BNU), Petersburg, VA, as a personal teacher's aide for one student. He also has occasional teaching opportunities. BNU is a small, customized year-round school that uses multi-sensory strategies with the integration of technology. It is designed to provide a nurturing, non-traditional learning environment to help students realize their fullest potential. It is licensed as a supplemental educational services provider for the Commonwealth of Virginia in November 2009 and now serves students from Virginia, North Carolina, West Virginia, Maine, New Hampshire, and Texas.

## BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION MAJORS

**SENIOR JUDEA EDMONDS** (seated, left) interned with the Bryan YMCA Hot Hoops league in Greensboro, NC. She coached a middle school boys' team. In addition to her fall semester classes, she is serving as head volleyball coach for the girls at New Life Christian Academy in Elizabeth City.

**SENIOR KAYLA KENT** who plans to own her own business, interned at Albemarle Lanes in Elizabeth City, learning all about the business from shoe rental to finances to daily operations.

**SENIOR TALIK TOTTON** worked at the Ahoskie (NC) Recreation Center.

**SENIOR TREY DAIL** and **JUNIOR SEAN HENRY** worked with the River City Skippers baseball team in their inaugural year and with the MACU Athletic Department.







## JOSIAH PEELER, PH.D., ASSISTANT PROFESSOR OF BIBLICAL STUDIES

### THE BEGINNING AND THE END

The implications of the initial Biblical phrase “in the beginning (In Hebrew: *re’shit*)” in Genesis 1:1 is manifold. In Genesis 1:1-2:3, God creates a beautiful garden characterized as “good.” Sin, however, corrupts God’s good world and people quickly (Genesis 3), producing exile (Genesis 3:22-24; Isaiah 59:1-2) and death (Genesis 5:5, 8, 11, 14, 17, 20, 27, 31; 9:29; Romans 6:23). This story demands a corrective ending. This beginning assumes a conclusion (In Hebrew: *’aharit*). The Hebrew words “beginning (*re’shit*)” and “end (*’aharit*)” are obviously antonyms (e.g., Numbers 24:20).

Texts in the Hebrew Bible describe Messiah coming in “the last (*’aharit*) days” (e.g., Genesis 49:1; Numbers 24:14; Isaiah 2:2 par. Micah 4:1). Messiah arrives in “the last days” to restore God’s world and people after the devastation caused by sin. God’s eternal kingdom established by Messiah in “the last days” in Daniel 2:28 corresponds to Rome’s dominion (Daniel 2:34-35, 44-45). Thus, the messianic age, not the end of the world, is often envisioned by the phrase “the last days” in the Hebrew Bible.

Messiah arrives “in the last days” to fix the compromised beginning. Genesis 49:8-12 envisions a king coming from Judah to conquer his foes and receive their tribute (compare Psalms 72:8-11). Balaam, in his final oracle, sees a king coming from Jacob to crush the heads of his enemies (Numbers 24:14-19; compare Genesis 3:15; Ps 2:7-9; Ps 110). “The last days” is a time when God restores all rebellious nations to himself (Isaiah 2:1-5 par. Micah 4:1-5) including Israel (Hosea 3:5) by defeating Satan. Though Israel’s rebellion leads to exile “in the last days” (Deuteronomy 31:29), their repentance results in restoration “in the last days” (Deuteronomy 4:30-31). Messiah accomplishes this restoration by defeating his Enemy (Genesis 3:15). His victory removes sin, overturns exile, and overpowers death. The Lord is the first and the last (Isaiah 41:4; 44:6; 48:12). The Lord’s Messiah, Jesus, is the beginning and the end (Revelations 1:8; 2:8; 21:6; 22:13). Jesus is the restorative conclusion to this story. He returns people to Eden (see the Edenic language in Revelations 21-22).

The phrase “the last days” in the Old Testament also sounds a warning. The arrival of Messiah will be a time where people experience either God’s judgment (Jeremiah 23:30 par. 30:24; Ezekiel 38:16) or restoration (Jeremiah 48:47; 49:39; Hosea 3:5). Even within texts discussing the blessings that flow from Messiah’s presence (Isaiah 2:1-5 par. Micah 4:1-5), people’s rejection of him is viable (Isaiah 2:5; Micah 4:5). Messiah’s arrival in the last days forces people to come to a decision. Will we accept or reject God’s resolution to the problem of sin?



### WYETT H. COLCLASURE II,

*awarded the degree Doctor of Public Service, Honorary Doctorate*

Wyett Colclasure has demonstrated exemplary leadership and service as a professional soldier, as a consultant for the nation’s strategic defense, and as a servant in the Kingdom of God. This visionary servant leader has quietly served congregations he has faithfully attended and two colleges, Eastern Christian College and Mid-Atlantic Christian University, as a trustee. He exemplifies the type of graduate Mid-Atlantic seeks to graduate according to Matthew 20:26, “whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant.” (He is joined by Dr. Kevin Larsen, vice president for academic affairs, and President John Maurice.)



### JAMES T. JONES

*recipient of the Lighthouse Award*

James Jones is a humble man who has lived a life of faithfulness to his country, his family, his employers, and, above all, his God. His children grown, he enrolled in MACU in 1980, was ordained into ministry that same year, and, now 91, has preached every Sunday since. He is well respected for his expertise and efficiency, his trustworthiness, his ability to motivate, his kindness, and his life as a humble and faithful servant of the Lord. His six children know him as a loving provider and hard worker, and the one who pointed them to Christ. (He is joined by Board of Trustees Chairman Royce Everette and President John Maurice.)



## SOUTHEAST ASIA: SUMMER 2023

For many years Linda Joyner ’71 served on the field in Southeast Asia. She then became the missions professor at RBC/MACU for 20 years and encouraged numerous students and volunteers to serve overseas. She returned to the field but came stateside again during the pandemic. Linda visited her beloved south seas nation this summer, and at various times during those months, several alumni also came to serve: Johnny ’07 and Helen ’07 Scott, Jonathan Snoots ’02, and David ’84 and Ivy ex’82 Presley. They worked and shared God’s love and Word with the faithful Christians there who, in return, blessed them in their homes, their congregations, and their Bible college.

## MACU RWANDA: EDUCATION AND MISSION COMBINED



In May, Dr. Bane Angles (third from right) returned to Rwanda to teach young men pursuing a two-year degree Introduction of Homiletics, one of the courses in the MACU program designed to help train ministers for Rwanda. This time, junior Josh Rowland (second from right) went with him in order to take one of his required courses in a setting and culture very different from campus. Josh said, “It was an eye-opening experience. Not only did I learn how to convey God’s message better [through the class], but I also got to experience more of God’s creation than I had imagined. Overall, the trip was a blessing and encouraging as I continue to study and grow in ministry.”

## CASAS POR CRISTO: DOMINICAN REPUBLIC, SPRING BREAK 2024

Over the 2024 Spring Break, March 9-16, a team of MACU students, staff, faculty, alumni, and rising high school seniors will travel to the Dominican Republic to build a home in five days or less. The trip is a project of Maritime Ministries, in cooperation with about a dozen Dominican evangelical churches and Casas por Cristo. “The local evangelical church selects a family in their neighborhood who is in the greatest need of a new home,” said Dan Smith ’14, CEO of Maritime Ministries. “I love working in partnership with other mission agencies like Casas who are building homes for the neediest in these communities. The construction goes fast – one day for the foundation, two for framing, a morning for siding, and an afternoon for roofing,” Smith continued. “My favorite part is working with local church members on the project and spending time with the future homeowner and their family.”

The budget for the trip is \$30,000 for 20 people to travel to the Dominican Republic, which covers the purchase of the building supplies and food and housing for the building team. “We will accomplish this home build with God’s help and people. The whole team will raise the funds and celebrate God’s blessing. Traveling to one of the poorest neighborhoods in this hemisphere will be an education for team members. The relationships they form will be a significant part of the blessing God has waiting for them. The joy and personal satisfaction of spreading the Gospel while blessing a family with a safe home are priceless.







Members of the Class of 2023 had a lot to celebrate on May 13. First was the successful completion of their studies at MACU, the reason for their commencement ceremony. But there was more. Three weeks after their second year began at MACU – and back on campus after Covid had shut down the previous semester – they endured the loss of their classroom building, which also housed the cafeteria, counseling center, academic offices, and IT center.

With faculty and staff, they scrambled to salvage what could be rescued and regrouped in lobbies, the chapel, the gym, a boardroom, a student center, and any other space that could be reworked as a place for a class. They received the mercy of congregations who provided food while the cafeteria staff and administrators crafted a pleasant and workable solution for food service in the riverfront lobby of Presley Hall.

By their senior year they were enjoying a new cafeteria, the Mustang Café at Alligood Commons, the first MACU building devoted to food services. Although their graduation came before the new Heritage Hall was completed, they participated in the groundbreaking and witnessed the rise of the grand facility for those who would follow them.

## HONORS AND RECOGNITIONS AT COMMENCEMENT

Honors during commencement included speeches delivered by co-valedictorians Clairese Smith and Maddison Turner.

Longevity awards were given:

**5 YEARS OF SERVICE** – Emily R. Meneely, Financial Aid Director; Dr. Beth L. Strecker, Associate Professor of Education/Director of Teacher Education; and trustees Donald P. Cummins and Connie M. Jenks.

**10 YEARS OF SERVICE** – Bobby K. Adams, Associate Professor of Chemistry and Physics

**20 YEARS OF SERVICE** – Dr. Robert W. Smith, Chairman of the Department of Arts and Sciences and Distinguished Professor of History.

Two of the school's highest awards were also presented, the Honorary Doctorate and the Lighthouse Award.

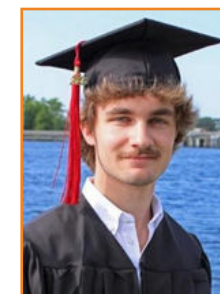


### SHIRLEY HOOGSTRA, J.D.

President of the Council for Christian Colleges and Universities, delivered the commencement address.



**Marco Antonio Cantera**  
BS, Biblical Studies



**Mark William Hardin, Jr.**  
BS, Youth & Family Ministry  
Biblical Studies



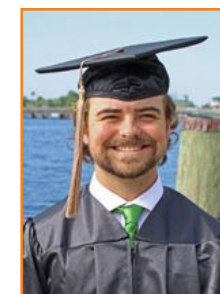
**Bailey McCarthy Jarman**  
BS, Science Education  
Biblical Studies



**Patrick Timothy McCarthy**  
BS, Bus. Admin.-Sport Mgmt.  
Biblical Studies  
*Magna Cum Laude*



**Amon Dane McElrath**  
BS, Youth & Family Ministry  
Biblical Studies



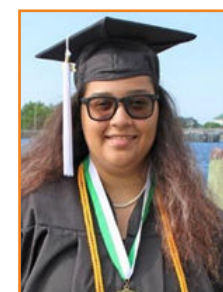
**Ryan Carl Mitchell-Bagley**  
BS, Business Administration  
Biblical Studies



**Seth Owen Moore**  
BS, Biopsychology  
Biblical Studies



**Gabriel Dristan Nobles**  
BS, Youth & Family Ministry  
Biblical Studies



**Clairese Leigh Smith**  
BS, Counseling & Psychology  
Biblical Studies  
*Magna Cum Laude*



**Maddison Gabrielle Turner**  
BS, Elem. Ed., Bib. Studies  
Certif.: Prof. Christian Ministries  
*Magna Cum Laude*



**William Hunter Warren**  
BS, Bus. Admin.-Sport Mgmt.  
Biblical Studies



**Tyeisha Nashelle Williams**  
BS, Counseling & Psychology  
Biblical Studies



**Christian Tyler LaRue**  
AA, Biblical Studies



**Britni Parker Gresham**  
BS, Elementary Education  
Biblical Studies



**Cassandra Lynn Brown**  
School of Undergraduate  
Studies  
Biblical Studies





DEAN'S LIST 2022-2023

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.

FALL 2022

Ambrose, Seth  
Bleckley, Titus Kray  
Crouse, Nicholas Ridley  
Dickerson, Jeremiah  
Franklin, Riane Ajani  
Hardison, Dylan Morgan\*  
Henry, Sean  
Hill, Emily\*  
Jarman, Bailey McCarthy  
Jones, Jalen Darnell  
Kinney, Logan James  
Lawrence, Jadya ShayAnn  
McCarthy, Patrick Timothy  
Miller, Landen  
Mitchell-Bagley, Ryan  
Nobles, Gabriel Dristan  
Prebe, Jacob T.  
Sampson, Kaylon Orlandus  
Sanders, Samuel Craig  
Smith, Clairese L.  
Torres, Anthony Jose  
Turner, Maddison Gabrielle  
Watkins, Gracie Elizabeth\*  
Wellons Jr., Geoffrey Jerome  
White, Syler

SPRING 2023

Barrier, Brandon  
Bleckley, Titus  
Colburn, Micah  
Crouse, Nicholas  
Daniels, Marylou  
Dickerson, Jeremiah  
Fonville, Vanessa  
Gresham, Britni\*  
Hardison, Dylan\*  
Jarman, Bailey\*  
Kinney, Logan  
Lambert, Jajour  
Maurer, Lancelot  
Meads, Michaela  
Miller, Landen  
Nzogiroshya, Theoneste  
Pelszynski, Jessi  
Sampson, Kaylon  
Smith, Clairese\*  
Torres, Anthony  
Turner, Maddison\*  
Watkins, Grace  
White, Syler

Several other students also earned Dean's List honors but requested nondisclosure.

JENILYN STANTON LAYFIELD '17

Transition Coordinator  
Nenana (Alaska) City  
Schools

"As a Transition Coordinator, I help high school students transition into the next phase of their lives. I create personalized plans, offer guidance on college and careers, connect students with resources, monitor their progress, and advocate for them when needed. My goal is to ensure a smooth transition to adulthood by providing support and valuable resources."



SPRING AWARDS

Presented in Honors Chapel

**Student Body President**  
Maddison Turner

**Christian Service Award**  
Trey Dail

**Christian Character Award**  
Dylan Hardison

**School Spirit Award**  
Patrick McCarthy

**Watson-Griffith Library Award**  
Jajour "Norm" Lambert

**National All-Academic Award**  
Maddison Turner  
Jajour "Norm" Lambert  
Riane Franklin  
Jeremiah Dickerson  
Jalen Jones  
Kolleen Hansley  
McKenna Griffin  
Bobby Brown

**Distinguished Student Award**  
Patrick McCarthy  
Gabriel Dristan Nobles  
Clairese Smith  
Maddison Turner

**Ministry Award**  
Dylan Hardison

**Barbara A. Williams Award for Excellence in Teacher Education**  
Maddison Turner

**Melvin Styons Outstanding Counseling Student Award**  
Clairese Smith

**Business Administration Award**  
William Warren

**Youth & Family Ministry Award**  
Brandon Barrier

**MACU-Zondervan Greek Award**  
Brandon Barrier

**Stone-Campbell Journal Promising Scholar Award**  
Jesse Hood

**Theta Alpha Kappa Honor Chords**  
Gabriel "Dristan" Nobles

**Academic Honor Chords**  
Patrick McCarthy, *magna cum laude*  
Clairese Smith, *magna cum laude* and co-*valedictorian*  
Maddison Turner, *magna cum laude* and co-*valedictorian*



NEW MINISTRIES, SERVICE

**RIC WATFORD '77** is the Preaching Minister for Gospel Light Church of Christ in Jamesville, NC.

**STAN MARTIN '92** is now Lead Minister for Bethany Christian Church in Bumpass, VA.

**LANCE PIPPIN '05** has been called as Senior Minister for Stoneybrook Christian Church, Wilson, NC.

**DANIEL LONEWOLF QUIDGEON '05** is the Cultural and Community Program Coordinator for the Mohegan Tribe, Uncasville, CT.

**BRIAN PARIS '06** and his family recently relocated from Cairns, Australia, from another South Pacific location. Cairns is homebase as he serves as the Pacific Area Director for Pioneer Bible Translators.

**DANIEL VORIS '06** is now ministering with Jamesville (NC) Christian Church.

**ROBIN MODLIN '09** is a foster care worker for the Bertie County (NC) Department of Social Services.

**RYAN DENT '13** is the Connections Minister for LifePoint Christian Church, Toano, VA.

**RACHEL HAYES '14** is now Head of Access Services at Regent University Law Library, Virginia Beach, VA.

**REED SMITH '16** is the Next Gen Minister at LifePointe Christian Church, Toano, VA, overseeing middle school and high school programs and helping to launch the college-age ministry.

**JOE RAGLAND '21** has been called to serve as youth minister for Macedonia Christian Church, Williamston, NC.

**WILL HARDIN '23** is serving at North Central Christian Academy, in Grafton, TX.

**BAILEY JARMAN '23** is teaching Earth and Environmental Science at Trinity Christian Academy in Jacksonville, FL.

**PATRICK MCCARTHY '23** is an account executive with the Utah Grizzlies professional hockey team, West Valley City, UT.

**DRISTAN NOBLES '23** is teaching eighth grade math at Elizabeth City Middle School.

**TYEISHA WILLIAMS '23** is assistant coach for the JV basketball team at Chatham Central High School in Bear Creek, NC.

**KHALID HARPER '24** (who received his degree in August) is working in foster care with the Currituck County (NC) Department of Social Services.

**SENIOR SETH AMBROSE** is Youth Minister with Stoneybrook Christian Church, Wilson, NC.







## WEDDINGS

Lucas Gresham and **Britni Parker '23**, Aug. 20, 2022  
 Calvin Carr and **Allie Hackett '21**, Oct. 1, 2022  
**Pearson DeJarnette ex'84** and Cynthia Milles, Oct. 1, 2022  
 James Cleavenger and **Vicki Johnson Knollenberg '86**, Oct. 13, 2022  
 Michael Blanchard and **Micaiah Gilkes '19**, May 13  
**Christian LaRue '23 and Clairese Smith '23**, July 19  
**Junior Nicolas Crouse and Senior Kimberly Sawyer**, Aug. 6

## BIRTHS

Ryan and **Ashlie Insley Guarracino ex'17**: Kinsley Reign, Aug. 3, 2022  
**Reed '16 and Emily Greene '17 Smith**: Magnolia Scott, Oct. 3, 2022  
 Harris and **Olivia Crehan Styons '13**: Briar Rose Styons, Dec. 2, 2022  
 Nathan and **Caitie Goss Rosillo '16**: Arabella Noel, Feb. 16

In recent weeks the alumni association secured a new president, completing the roster of officers. Be looking for renewed activity, particularly if you are on Facebook. Join the MACU Alumni Association page for frequent updates. To communicate with the association, send an email to [alumni@macuniversity.edu](mailto:alumni@macuniversity.edu). Congratulations and thanks to our officers, pictured below.



**Pictured (L-R):**  
**Vice President Franklin McAllister ex'78**  
**President Ron Lawrence '15**  
**Secretary-Treasurer Rachel Hayes '14**



## John Baker '22 Youth Minister New Life Christian Church Chantilly, Virginia

John enlisted the help of former classmates who are also in ministry to conduct a retreat on campus July 10-13. The time of worship, teaching, and recreation was such a blessing that he and others are working on expanding the campus event to include other youth groups next summer. Pictured are John (standing on the right in black), his youth, and sponsors.



## REMEMBERING RICHARD L. HOSTETTER



Richard Hostetter was not a rich man by the world's standards, but those who knew him were blessed by his wealth of godly love, service, and information he freely shared. Those who were touched by his teaching in his 11 years (1978-1989) as missions professor at RBC/MACU can testify to his determination to share the gospel with as many as possible by all means available. During his tenure, students served mission internships, made commitments to the field, and gave thousands to the school's faith promise program. Besides teaching, he often preached or taught in area churches and wrote many articles.

The child of dairy farmers, he quickly developed a strong work ethic. After his immersion into Christ, he felt called to enter ministry and earned degrees from Kentucky Christian University, Kent State University, and University of Ghana. Richard and his wife, Nancy, served congregations in Ohio and North Carolina and were missionaries in Zimbabwe and Ghana, Africa, as well as St. Vincent. He also taught at other Bible colleges. After retiring from full-time ministry, he volunteered with hospice and Servants of the Savior. His many interests and hobbies throughout his life gave even more opportunity to share the love of God and the gospel.

He was a prolific reader and writer for several Christian publications. He enjoyed historical studies, playing basketball and running, fishing, sailing, bird watching, painting, bee keeping, gardening, playing horseshoes, and wood carving. He and Nancy (d. 2018) have four children, Jake Jacob (Penny), Jeff (Sherrie), Lance (Jennifer), and Heather Cline (Patrick), nine grandchildren, and many great grandchildren. Two sons and daughters-in-law attended MACU.

Brother Hostetter passed away on July 9 at the age of 91, but his legacy lives on in the lives and kingdom work of his family and many others.

## SYMPATHY

James N. "Jimmy" Johnson ex'76, Sept. 16, 2021

Carlos Divino, Mar. 30, brother of Dr. Claudio Divino

Gena Trueblood Mitchell '89, April 18

Richard L. Hostetter, July 9, former professor

Mary Willson Stone '69, Aug. 8

Phyllis Patterson '68, Aug. 10

Steve Ogburn ex'78, Aug. 16

## ALZIRA CARVALHO DIVINO, 1962 – 2017

On July 25, Dr. Claudio Divino laid to rest his first wife, Alzira, in the columbarium located in the Jonathan Schipper Prayer Garden on West Campus. Although Alzira worked at MACU for only 14 months (2014-15), her unbounding joy touched us all. With Dr. Divino (left) are his wife, Mary, and Alzira's older brother, Pastor Jesse Carvalho (right), and wife, Leda, who came from Brazil for the interment.





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## HERITAGE HALL RIBBON CUTTING

